

THE HINDU REVIEW



JUNE 2026

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Most Important Current Affairs of June 2026

QS World University Rankings 2027: India Rises to 5th Spot Globally

India has secured the fifth position worldwide in the QS World University Rankings 2027 and around 52 featured in the list. It showcases the country's growing academic influence, expanding research capabilities and it improves the global reputation. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi leads the Indian contingent as it emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institution at the 118th spot worldwide.

India's Strongest-Ever Presence in QS Rankings

The QS World University Rankings 2027 has evaluated more than 1,500 institutions across the 106 countries which makes it as one of the most comprehensive global higher education assessments. Also, India's representation has grown dramatically over the years. From just 14 institutions in the 2017 edition, the country now has 52 ranked universities in 2027 which is an impressive 271 percent increase over a decade.

This achievement places India behind only the countries like,

- United States (184 institutions)
- United Kingdom (93 institutions)
- China (85 institutions)
- Germany (60 institutions)

India now ranks as the fifth most represented higher education system in the world.

IIT Delhi Emerges as the India's Top-Ranked Institution

Among the Indian institutions, IIT Delhi has secured the highest position at 118th globally.

The institute retained its status as India's leading university and it matched the best global ranking ever achieved by an Indian institution in QS rankings.

The top-performing Indian institutions include the,

- IIT Delhi
- IIT Bombay
- IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

These institutions continue to strengthen the India's global academic reputation via excellence in the areas like teaching, research, innovation and industry engagement.

Top Global Universities in QS Rankings 2027

The global rankings continue to be dominated by the institutions from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Top 20 Universities Worldwide

Rank	University	Country
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States
2	Stanford University	United States
3	Imperial College	London, United Kingdom

Rank	University	Country
4	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
5	Harvard University	United States
6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
7	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	United States
8	UCL	United Kingdom
8	ETH	Zurich, ETH
10	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
11	The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
13	Peking University	China
14	Tsinghua University	China
15	University of Pennsylvania	United States
16	Yale University	United States
16	Cornell University	United States
18	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
19	UNSW	Sydney, Australia
20	Johns Hopkins University	United States
20	University of California, Berkeley	United States

This rankings also highlights the growing strength of the Asian universities and particularly from Singapore, China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan.

India's Growing Research Strength

One of the most important highlights from the rankings is the India's growing research performance.

According to QS, India now possesses the world's third-largest research output base that reflects the significant growth in the scientific publications and academic contributions.

Research Achievements

- Eleven Indian universities rank among the world's top 100 for the Citations per Faculty.
- India continues to expand its global research footprint across science, technology, engineering and healthcare disciplines.
- With the increased collaboration between academia, industry and government is driving innovation.

Strong Performance in Employer Reputation

Indian institutions are also gaining the recognition among employers worldwide.

The QS rankings show that,

Six Indian universities feature among the global top 100 for Employer Reputation.

This metric measures how the employers perceive graduates from various institutions and reflects industry confidence in the quality of the Indian higher education.

Strong employer reputation is increasingly important as the students seek universities that offers a better career opportunities and global employability.

How India Compares with Other Major Education Systems

India's improvement rate stands out when it get compared with the several established higher education systems.

Performance Comparison

Country Ranked	Institutions Improved
China	85 72%
India	52 52%
UK	93 35%
Germany	60 16%
USA	184 13%

While many institutions in the United States and Germany experienced the ranking declines, India has recorded one of the strongest improvement rates among major education systems.

Factors Driving India's Rise

QS attributed the India's progress to several key factors.

India possesses one of the world's youngest populations which creates a strong demand for higher education.

Increased enrollment and the broader access to higher education have strengthened the country's academic ecosystem.

Initiatives such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 have also encouraged the institutional reforms, internationalization, multidisciplinary learning and research excellence.

Indian institutions are increasingly partnering with the international universities that boost the academic quality and research impact.

PM Modi's Historic Slovakia Visit: India and Slovakia Elevate Ties to Comprehensive Partnership

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid the historic State Visit to Slovakia on 15th June 2026 at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. This visit marked the significant milestone as it was the first visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country got independence in the year 1993. This visit opened a new chapter in India-Slovakia relations, it resulting the elevation of the bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Partnership and the signing of the multiple agreements across defense, technology, education, labor mobility, culture, healthcare and research.

India and Slovakia Elevate Relations to Comprehensive Partnership

One of the most major outcomes of the visit was the decision to elevate the bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Partnership. This new framework aims to deepen the cooperation across the strategic, economic, technological and cultural sectors.

Both the countries have agreed to strengthen the existing cooperation mechanisms while exploring the new opportunities for collaboration in emerging technologies, innovation, security, trade and investment.

This move reflects the mutual confidence and a shared vision for the long-term engagement.

Key Agreements Signed During the Visit

India and Slovakia has signed the 11 important agreements and memorandums covering the wide range of sectors.

The agreements includes the cooperation in labor migration, digital technologies, higher education and research, audio-visual production, defense cooperation, quantum communication and the critical infrastructure protection.

A significant development was the establishment of the first-ever ICCR Chair in to the Artificial Intelligence at the Technical University of Kosice which highlights the growing focus on to the advanced technologies and academic collaboration.

Other agreements included the cooperation between the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune and Slovak Health Spa Piestany, as well as the partnerships between IIT Delhi and Slovak Technical University for student exchange program, scholarships and joint research.

Agreements and MoUs Signed Between Both Countries

S.No.	Agreement/Initiative
1	MoU on Labour Migration
2	Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation
3	MoU on Digital Technologies
4	MoU on Higher Education and Research
5	MoU on Audio-Visual Creation
6	ICCR Chair in Artificial Intelligence at Technical University of Kosice
7	MoU on Quantum Communication and Critical Infrastructure Protection
8	MoU between National Institute of Naturopathy and Slovak Health Spa Piestany
9	IIT Delhi-Slovak Technical University Cooperation Agreement
10	Tourism Cooperation between Tour Operators
11	Scientific Cooperation between INSA and SAS

Major Announcements During the Visit

There are also three major diplomatic announcements were made during the visit of PM Modi.

Announcement	Significance
Elevation of Bilateral Relations to Comprehensive Partnership	Expands strategic cooperation across sectors
Establishment of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism	Enhances security cooperation
Establishment of Consular Dialogue	Improves people-to-people and diplomatic engagement

PM Narendra Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest National Award

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Slovakia's highest national honour, i.e. The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) during his first official visit to Bratislava on 15th of June 2026. This award was presented by the Peter Pellegrini in recognition of the Modi's contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Slovakia.

PM Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest Honour

During a ceremonial event in Bratislava, President Peter Pellegrini awarded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), the highest civilian and military state decoration granted by the Slovakia to foreign citizens.

Expressing the gratitude, PM Modi has dedicated the award to the people of India and described it as the symbol of the enduring friendship between India and Slovakia.

He emphasized that the recognition reflects the warmth, trust and mutual respect shared by the both countries.

What is the Order of the White Double Cross?

Order of the White Double Cross is Slovakia's is the highest national award presented exclusively to the foreign nationals.

The decoration is awarded to the distinguished individuals who have made the exceptional contributions to strengthening relations between Slovakia and other countries, promoting international cooperation and advancing the mutual understanding.

Receiving this honor places the PM Modi among a select group of global leaders recognized by Slovakia for their diplomatic contributions.

Significance of the Award

This is the 33rd international honor conferred upon to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by a foreign nation which highlights the India's expanding global influence and diplomatic outreach.

This award also coincides with the historic moment in bilateral relations, as it marks the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country's independence.

The recognition underscores the growing importance of the India-Slovakia cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, defense, innovation, education and people-to-people exchanges.

Strengthening India-Slovakia Relations

During the visit, India and Slovakia elevated their relationship to the Comprehensive Partnership and opened a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

Both countries have signed the 11 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering key sectors, including the,

- Labor migration
- Defense cooperation
- Digital technologies
- Higher education and research
- Innovation and technology partnerships

These agreements are expected to deepen the collaboration and will create new opportunities for economic and strategic engagement.

Historic Visit to Slovakia

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Slovakia is considered historic because it is the first official visit by any Indian Prime Minister to the country after it got independence.

The visit forms the part of his broader European outreach aimed at to enhancing the cooperation with European partners in trade, technology, security, innovation and sustainable development.

The conferment of the Slovakia's highest national award further symbolizes the strengthening of the bilateral ties and the shared commitment of both nations to future cooperation.

PM Modi's France Visit: India, France Unveil 13 Key Outcomes & Adopt Innovation Roadmap 2030

India and France have strengthened their long-standing strategic partnership by announcing the 13 key outcomes during Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France. This agreements will covers the wide range of sectors which includes the artificial intelligence, innovation, trade, digital payments, education, healthcare, railways, defense and space exploration.

New Chapter in India-France Strategic Relations

The latest outcomes marks an important milestone in the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership. Both countries have emphasized the importance of collaboration in critical and emerging technologies, economic security, innovation ecosystems and strategic sectors.

The agreements also align with the broader objective of the enhancing bilateral cooperation while creating the new opportunities for businesses, researchers, startups and academic institutions in both countries.

List of 13 Major Key Outcomes

1. Adoption of India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 to guide cooperation in technology, innovation, research and education
2. Creation of a Joint India-France AI Working Group focused on AI governance and responsible artificial intelligence
3. MoU to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Allied Sectors at NSTI, Kanpur
4. Expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) usage in France to strengthen digital payments cooperation
5. Incubation of 10 additional Indian startups at Station F, France's leading startup campus
6. Establishment of a Centre of Digital Sciences between India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and France's INRIA
7. ICCR India Chair on "AI, Innovation and Culture" at Université Paris-Saclay to deepen academic collaboration
8. Letter of Intent between ICMR and France's Health Data Hub on cooperation in digital health research
9. Agreement to set up a High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade over the next five years
10. Institution of an Economic Security Dialogue to enhance cooperation in supply chains and critical sectors

11. Declaration of Intent on railway and high-speed rail development in India
12. General Security Agreement on exchange and protection of classified information between the two countries
13. Letter of Intent between ISRO and France's CNES on microgravity research and human space exploration

India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 Unveiled

One of the most important announcements was the adoption of the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030.

The roadmap will serve as the long-term framework to guide cooperation in to the,

- Technology development
- Research and innovation
- Scientific collaboration
- Education and skill development
- Startup ecosystems

The initiative also aims to strengthen innovation-driven growth and position both countries as the leaders in emerging technologies.

Why These Agreements Matter

The 13 outcomes collectively demonstrate the expanding scope of the India-France relations beyond the traditional diplomatic and defense ties.

The agreements focus on to the future-oriented sectors such as the,

- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Innovation
- Space Technology
- Healthcare Research
- Startup Ecosystems
- Economic Security
- Green and Sustainable Development

They also reinforce the shared vision of the both countries to shape global technological and economic developments with the collaborative leadership.

Hurun India 500 Report 2026: Top 10 Companies Account for 27% of Total Valuation

According to the latest Hurun India 500 Report 2026, India's corporate landscapes continues to be dominated by the select group of the highly valuable companies. This report released in partnership with the Axis Bank and Burgundy Private and this report highlights that the India's top ten most valuable companies collectively account for the 27% of the total valuation of the 500 firms that are featured in the ranking. Although this combined value of corporate giants declined from the ₹97 trillion to ₹86 trillion over the past year as they remain as the backbone of the India's corporate economy.

What Is the Hurun India 500 Report?

The Hurun India 500 is the annual ranking of the India's most valuable companies based on their market valuation.

The report serves as an important indicator of the,

- Corporate wealth creation
- Sectoral trends
- Investor sentiment
- Long-term business performance
- India's evolving economic landscape

The 2026 edition highlights how the relatively small group of the companies continues to dominate corporate value creation in India.

Top 10 Companies Control ₹86 Trillion in Value

According to this report, the ten most valuable Indian companies are collectively worth around ₹86 trillion (approximately \$908 billion).

Key highlights includes the,

- Top 10 companies account for the 27% of the total value of the Hurun India 500.
- Also the combined valuation declined from the ₹97 trillion in the previous year.
- Total value of the top 10 companies has grown 3.5 times over the last decade.
- Seven companies have maintained their position among the top 10 for five consecutive years.

This findings also underline the concentration of the corporate wealth among India's largest enterprises.

Top Ten Firms In Hurun India 500 Report

Ran k	Company	Value (INR Cr.)	Headquart ers	CEO/MD
1	Reliance Industries	19,36,239	Mumbai	Mukesh Ambani
2	HDFC Bank	11,87,800	Mumbai	Shashidhar Jagdeesan
3	Bharti Airtel	11,49,650	New Delhi	Shashwat Sharma
4	ICICI Bank	9,04,460	Mumbai	Sandeep Suraj Bakhshi
5	Tata Consultancy Services	8,95,080	Mumbai	Kunchitham Kritivasan
6	Bajaj Finance	5,83,050	Pune	Rajeev Jain
7	Larsen & Toubro	5,52,170	Mumbai	S. N. Subramanyam
8	National Stock Exchange of India	4,86,140	Mumbai	Ashish Kumar Chauhan
9	Infosys	4,79,270	Bengaluru	Salil Parekh
10	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	4,33,880	Mumbai	Kirti Ganorkar

Reliance Industries Retains the Top Spot

Reliance Industries led by Mukesh Ambani remains as the leader in this ranking.

Key Highlights

- Valuation: ₹19.36 trillion
- Highest absolute value creator during the year
- Added more than around ₹1.8 trillion in value
- Accounts for nearly one-fifth of the valuation of the top 10 companies

Reliance's continued leadership reflects the its diversified business model spanning energy, telecom, retail, digital services and emerging technologies.

HDFC Bank Maintains Second Position

HDFC Bank retained the second spot despite the decline in valuation.

Although its valuation fell by 17% during this year, the bank remains as one of the India's most valuable companies and it is the key pillar of the country's financial sector.

Bharti Airtel Emerges as a Major Winner

One of the biggest success stories in this year's rankings is the Bharti Airtel.

As it climbed to third position and the valuation has reached to the ₹11.5 trillion.

Also the valuation surged the 198% over the past five years

The company's rise showcases the growing investor confidence in the India's digital infrastructure and telecommunications sector.

Financial Services Strengthen Their Dominance

The report shows that the financial services remain as one of the strongest drivers of the corporate wealth creation in India.

Major financial institutions featured prominently in the rankings includes the,

ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank has climbed to the fourth place with a valuation exceeding ₹9 trillion.

Bajaj Finance

Bajaj Finance has also entered the top 10 for the first time.

Key achievements includes the,

- Valuation increased by the 37% in one year
- Reached to the ₹5.83 trillion valuation
- Highest value creator in the percentage terms during the year

National Stock Exchange (NSE)

National Stock Exchange of India also joined the top tier and it reflecting the rapid expansion of the India's capital markets and retail investing ecosystem.

These developments showcases how the financialization has become the defining theme of India's economic growth story.

IT Giants Lose Ground

This report also highlights the notable shift in investor preferences away from the traditional IT services companies.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Tata Consultancy Services has been also slipped to fifth place.

Its valuation has also declined by the 44% during the year and it fell 2% over the last five years.

Infosys

Infosys has dropped to the ninth position.

And its valuation has declined by 36% over the five-year period.

Why Are IT Companies Losing Relative Ground?

There are several factors are contributing to the changing fortunes of the IT firms.

- Slower Global Technology Spending
- Rise of Artificial Intelligence
- Shift Toward Domestic Growth Themes

These sectors are seen as the better positioned to benefit from India's long-term economic expansion.

Top 15 Companies by Absolute Value Creation

Rank 2025	5-Year Rank (2021)	Company	Industry	Value 2025 (₹ Cr)	5 Year Change (₹ Cr)
1	3	Bharti Airtel	Telecommunications	11,49,650	7,63,917
2	11	Adani Power	Energy	4,27,840	3,85,896
3	4	ICICI Bank	Financial Services	9,04,460	3,66,727
4	8	National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)	Financial Services	4,86,340	3,18,140
5	7	Larsen & Toubro	Construction & Engineering	5,52,170	3,01,937
6	2	HDFC Bank	Financial Services	11,87,800	2,82,161
7	15	Mahindra & Mahindra	Automobile & Auto Components	3,85,190	2,74,944
8	1	Reliance Industries	Energy	19,36,230	2,70,849
9	10	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	Healthcare	4,33,880	2,35,911
10	16	Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone	Transportation & Logistics	3,81,840	2,30,302

Rank 2025	5-Year Rank (2021)	Company	Industry	Value 2025 (₹ Cr)	5 Year Change (₹ Cr)
11	28	Shriram Finance	Financial Services	2,20,530	1,81,853
12	12	Titan Company	Consumer Goods	3,89,320	1,70,916
13	22	Bajaj Auto	Automobile & Auto Components	2,79,330	1,70,051
14	13	Axis Bank	Financial Services	3,94,160	1,52,890
15	6	Bajaj Finance	Financial Services	5,83,050	1,51,745

What Is Absolute Value Creation?

The Absolute value creation measures the total increase in the company's market valuation over the specified period.

Unlike the percentage growth, which favors the smaller firms, absolute value creation highlights the companies which have generated the largest amount of the wealth for the shareholders in rupee terms.

This metric is particularly useful because it reflect the,

- Long-term business growth
- Investor confidence
- Wealth creation at scale
- Sustainable market leadership

The Hurun India 500 ranking tracks the valuation gains between the year 2021 and 2025.

Indian Athletics Awards 2025: Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary Win Top Honours

In the inaugural Indian Athletics Awards 2025, Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named as the Best Male Athlete of the Year at the ceremony, which was held in New Delhi. Also, the national record holder, Parul Chaudhary, received the Female Athlete of the Year award.

This award was organised by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and it recognizes the athletes, coaches, officials, state associations and contributors who have played an important role in the growth of athletics in the country.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Best Male Athlete of the Year

India's most celebrated track and field athlete and Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra added another prestigious honour to his illustrious career by winning the Best Male Athlete of the Year award.

The two-time Olympic medallist continued to perform at the highest level despite facing injury challenges.

After recovering from the back injury suffered before the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Chopra has returned strongly to international competition.

One of his major achievements came when he became the first Indian athlete to cross the 90-metre mark in the javelin throw and registered the remarkable throw of 90.23 metres at the Doha Diamond League.

Parul Chaudhary Named Best Female Athlete

Distance runner and steeplechase specialist Parul Chaudhary was awarded the Best Female Athlete of the Year title.

Parul enjoyed the highly successful season and winning the gold medals in both the women's 3000m steeplechase and 5000m events at the Asian Championships.

She remains one of India's leading long-distance runners and continues to set benchmarks in middle and long-distance athletics.

PT Usha Among Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

One of the most emotional moments of the ceremony came when the legendary sprinter and Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

She is widely regarded as one of India's greatest athletes, and PT Usha's contributions to Indian sports span several decades.

She has inspired the generations of athletes and continues to contribute to sports administration and athlete development.

Other recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award included the,

- Gurbachan Singh Randhawa – Former Asian Games decathlon champion
- Bahadur Singh Chauhan – Former national athletics coach
- Anju Bobby George – World Championships bronze medallist in the long jump

Emerging Athletes Receive Recognition

The Indian Athletics Awards also focused on to encouraging the next generation of talent.

- Best Emerging Male Athlete: Shahnavaz Khan
- Best Emerging Female Athlete: Pooja Singh

Both the athletes have shown exceptional promise and they are considered as the future stars of Indian athletics.

Other Major Award Winners

There are several individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions to the sport.

- Best Coach of the Year: Parveer Singh
- Best Technical Official of the Year: Dr. Kuldeep Singh
- Best State Association of the Year: Tamil Nadu Athletics Association
- Best State Supporting Athletics: Government of Odisha

The awards acknowledge not only athletes but also the coaches, administrators, officials, and institutions that help build a strong athletics ecosystem.

Indian Athletics Awards 2025 Winners List

Category	Winner
Best Male Athlete of the Year	Neeraj Chopra
Best Female Athlete of the Year	Parul Chaudhary
Best Emerging Male Athlete	Shahnavaz Khan
Best Emerging Female Athlete	Pooja Singh
Best Coach of the Year	Parveer Singh
Best Technical Official	Dr. Kuldeep Singh
Best State Association	Tamil Nadu Athletics Association
Best State Supporting Athletics	Government of Odisha
Lifetime Achievement Award	PT Usha, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, Bahadur Singh Chauhan, Anju Bobby George

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting June 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its latest monetary policy decisions after the **61st meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** held from **June 3 to June 5, 2026**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.

Amid rising geopolitical uncertainty, elevated energy prices, global supply chain disruptions, and inflation concerns, the committee decided to maintain the existing policy rate while continuing with a neutral policy stance.

The decision reflects RBI's balanced approach of supporting economic growth while remaining vigilant against inflationary risks.

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting June 2026: Key Decisions

After reviewing domestic and global macroeconomic developments, the Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided to:

- Keep the **Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%**
- Maintain the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate at 5.00%**
- Keep the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate at 5.50%**
- Continue with the **Neutral Policy Stance**

The decision indicates that RBI is currently adopting a wait-and-watch approach before making further adjustments.

Members of the Monetary Policy Committee

The meeting was attended by:

- Shri Sanjay Malhotra – Governor, RBI
- Dr. Nagesh Kumar
- Shri Saugata Bhattacharya
- Prof. Ram Singh
- Dr. Poonam Gupta
- Shri Indranil Bhattacharyya

All members voted unanimously in favour of keeping the repo rate unchanged.

What is Repo Rate?

Repo Rate refers to the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends money to commercial banks.

Changes in repo rate influence:

- Loan interest rates
- Deposit rates
- Inflation levels
- Economic growth
- Consumer spending

A lower repo rate generally encourages borrowing and economic activity, while a higher repo rate helps control inflation.

Why Did RBI Keep Repo Rate Unchanged?

RBI noted that both growth and inflation risks have increased due to changing global conditions.

Major concerns highlighted include:

- Prolonged conflict in West Asia
- Rising crude oil prices
- Supply chain disruptions
- Commodity price increases
- Global financial market volatility

Although inflation remains under control at present, future price pressures remain uncertain.

The RBI concluded that additional clarity is needed before making further monetary policy adjustments.

Global Economic Outlook

The RBI observed that the global economy continues to face increasing uncertainty.

Key global developments include:

- Energy market volatility
- Declining crude oil reserves
- Rising commodity prices
- Tightening monetary conditions in advanced economies
- Strengthening US dollar

Global central banks are expected to remain cautious as inflation pressures persist.

India's Domestic Economic Outlook

Despite global uncertainty, India's economy has remained relatively resilient.

Major domestic indicators showed:

- Stable economic activity
- Strong private consumption
- Continued investment momentum
- Growth in merchandise exports
- Robust services exports

However, the effects of higher input costs and supply disruptions are beginning to emerge.

RBI Growth Forecast for FY 2026–27

Taking all factors into consideration, RBI projected:

Real GDP Growth: 6.6%

Quarter-wise projections:

- Q1: 6.6%
- Q2: 6.3%
- Q3: 6.5%
- Q4: 6.8%

The central bank highlighted that growth risks remain due to:

- Global supply disruptions
- Financial market volatility
- Weather-related uncertainties

Inflation Outlook for FY 2026–27

RBI revised inflation expectations upward due to higher food and energy prices.

Projected CPI Inflation:

5.1% for FY 2026–27

Quarter-wise estimates:

- Q1: 4.2%
- Q2: 5.1%
- Q3: 5.9%
- Q4: 5.4%

Core inflation is projected at:

4.7%

RBI stated that inflation may increase further because of rising fuel prices and second-round effects on production costs.

Major Inflation Risks Identified by RBI

The Monetary Policy Committee highlighted several emerging risks.

These include:

- Increase in petrol and diesel prices
- Higher transportation costs
- Rising industrial input prices
- Global energy shocks
- Supply chain bottlenecks
- Weak monsoon conditions

The possibility of broader inflation spreading across the economy remains an important concern.

Impact of Monsoon and El Niño on Policy Outlook

RBI also identified weather conditions as a major risk.

Concerns include:

- Deficient southwest monsoon
- El Niño conditions
- Pressure on agricultural production
- Rural demand uncertainty

However, mitigation measures such as:

- Crop diversification
- Water conservation
- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Short-duration crops

are expected to reduce some risks.

Government Measures Supporting Economic Stability

RBI acknowledged several government initiatives that strengthened resilience.

These include:

- Support for MSMEs
- Export promotion measures
- Domestic energy production expansion
- Import diversification
- Infrastructure investment

These measures are helping reduce vulnerability to global shocks.

What Does Neutral Stance Mean?

A neutral stance means RBI remains flexible.

The central bank may:

- Increase rates if inflation rises
- Reduce rates if growth weakens
- Maintain rates if conditions remain balanced

This approach allows RBI to respond quickly to future developments.

Why is RBI Monetary Policy June 2026 Important?

The June 2026 policy decision is important because it reflects RBI's strategy of balancing:

- Inflation control
- Economic growth
- Financial stability
- Global uncertainty
- Domestic demand

The decision also signals that future policy actions will remain **data-dependent**.

When is the Next RBI MPC Meeting?

The Reserve Bank of India announced that the next Monetary Policy Committee meeting is scheduled from:

August 3 to August 5, 2026

The minutes of the June 2026 meeting will be released on **June 19, 2026**.

The RBI's latest policy demonstrates cautious optimism—supporting growth while preparing for possible inflationary pressures and external shocks in the coming months.

52nd G7 Summit 2026: Key Outcomes

The 52nd G7 Summit was held in Évian-les-Bains, France, under the presidency of France. The summit brought together leaders of the world's leading advanced economies along with invited partner countries to discuss pressing global challenges, including geopolitical conflicts, artificial intelligence (AI), climate change, global economic stability, energy security, and supply chain resilience. The theme for the 2026 summit was "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity", highlighting the need for stronger international cooperation in an increasingly fragmented global order.

India participated in the high-level Outreach Session of the summit and used the platform to present the concerns and aspirations of the Global South. During the discussions, India emphasized inclusive global governance, equitable development, climate justice, stronger representation for developing nations, and the transformation of traditional development partnerships into relationships based on equality and mutual trust.

The summit concluded with several important decisions on Ukraine, artificial intelligence, climate action, resilient supply chains, and partnerships with emerging economies. It also reaffirmed India's growing importance as a strategic partner in global economic and geopolitical affairs.

Why is the G7 Summit 2026 in News?

governance, global economic uncertainties, and the need to strengthen partnerships with emerging economies. India's active participation as an invited partner further highlighted its growing diplomatic influence and leadership among developing nations.

The summit also marked France's final year as G7 President before the presidency is transferred to the United States in 2027.

Theme of the 52nd G7 Summit

The official theme of the summit was:

"Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity."

The theme reflected the collective commitment of G7 countries to rebuild trust among nations, strengthen multilateral cooperation, promote sustainable development, and address common global challenges through inclusive partnerships.

What are the G7 Outreach Sessions?

The Outreach Sessions are special meetings organized by the G7 host nation, where invited countries and international organizations participate alongside G7 members.

These sessions were introduced to address criticism that the G7 primarily represents developed economies while excluding emerging and developing nations. Countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and others are invited to share their perspectives on issues including climate change, food security, global governance, development finance, technology, and sustainable economic growth.

India's participation in these outreach sessions reflects its increasing importance in global decision-making.

Major Outcomes of the 52nd G7 Summit

Strengthening Support for Ukraine

The G7 leaders reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine and pledged continued military, financial, and humanitarian assistance. They committed to enhancing Ukraine's defence capabilities while strengthening the country's energy resilience amid the ongoing conflict.

The summit also discussed the evolving security situation in the Middle East, welcomed preliminary diplomatic engagements between the United States and Iran, and called for efforts toward achieving a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Global Framework for Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence emerged as one of the central topics of discussion.

The G7 leaders agreed to develop common technical and ethical frameworks to ensure the safe, secure, and responsible deployment of AI technologies. The proposed framework aims to encourage innovation while addressing concerns related to cybersecurity, misinformation, privacy, transparency, and responsible AI governance.

The leaders emphasized that AI should remain accessible, trustworthy, and beneficial for societies worldwide.

Building Resilient Global Supply Chains

Recognizing the vulnerabilities exposed by recent geopolitical crises and pandemics, the G7 agreed to diversify global manufacturing networks and reduce excessive dependence on single-country supply chains.

The leaders committed to expanding manufacturing partnerships with emerging economies such as India, Vietnam, and Mexico. These initiatives are expected to strengthen global production networks, improve economic resilience, and enhance critical mineral and semiconductor supply chains.

Climate Action and Environmental Security

Climate change remained one of the summit's highest priorities. The G7 reviewed progress under the G7 2030 Nature Compact and officially recognized land degradation, desertification, and drought as systemic global security threats.

The leaders emphasized stronger international cooperation in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, climate adaptation, and environmental restoration.

Greater Engagement with the Global South

A major focus of the summit was expanding cooperation with developing countries.

India and other invited nations advocated for reforms in global development finance by replacing the traditional donor-recipient model with equal partnerships based on trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

Developing nations also called for greater representation in international institutions and more inclusive global governance structures.

India's Key Messages at the G7 Summit

Rebuilding Global Trust

India emphasized that declining trust among nations has become one of the biggest barriers to solving global challenges.

It argued that transparency, dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility are essential for rebuilding international cooperation.

Partnership-Based Development

India strongly advocated moving beyond traditional aid-based relationships.

Instead, it called for development partnerships based on equality, mutual benefit, capacity building, and long-term collaboration.

Stronger Voice for the Global South

India reiterated that developing countries require greater representation in international decision-making institutions rather than merely financial assistance.

It urged reforms in global governance to better reflect current geopolitical and economic realities.

India-Africa Development Partnership

India highlighted its long-standing cooperation with African nations through South-South Cooperation, technology transfer, skill development, healthcare, education, digital infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives.

The country reaffirmed its commitment to supporting sustainable and locally driven development across Africa.

About the G7

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of the world's leading advanced economies.

Its members include:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States

The European Union also participates in G7 discussions.

Unlike formal international organizations, the G7 has no permanent secretariat or legally binding authority. Decisions are reached through consensus.

Objectives of the G7

The primary objectives of the G7 include:

- Promoting global economic stability
- Supporting sustainable economic growth
- Coordinating responses to financial crises
- Addressing climate change
- Strengthening global health security
- Enhancing food and energy security
- Promoting democratic values
- Supporting a rules-based international order
- Coordinating geopolitical and security policies

How Does the G7 Function?

The presidency rotates annually among member countries.

The presiding country hosts the annual summit, determines the agenda, and coordinates ministerial meetings throughout the year.

Partner countries and international organizations are often invited to Outreach Sessions to broaden global participation.

Although G7 decisions are not legally binding, they significantly influence international economic, diplomatic, and security policies.

Evolution of India–G7 Relations

India's engagement with the G7 has expanded steadily over the past two decades.

The partnership began in 2003 under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in multiple G8 Summits between 2005 and 2009.

Since 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited regularly to G7 Outreach Summits, reflecting India's growing geopolitical importance.

As the global economic share of traditional G7 economies has declined with the rise of emerging economies, India has become an increasingly important strategic, economic, and technological partner.

Why is India Important for the G7?

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and possesses a large consumer market, expanding manufacturing base, and highly skilled workforce.

It serves as the leading voice of the Global South on issues such as climate justice, development finance, food security, and global governance reforms.

India also plays a critical role in the Indo-Pacific region through initiatives such as the Quad and contributes significantly to regional maritime security.

Its growing digital economy, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), renewable energy leadership, International Solar Alliance, and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes make India an attractive partner for investment, technology cooperation, and supply chain diversification.

India's strategic autonomy also enables it to maintain constructive relations with both Western nations and countries such as Russia, enhancing its diplomatic relevance.

Challenges Before India

Despite growing global influence, India faces several important challenges.

Balancing strategic autonomy while maintaining strong ties with both Western countries and Russia remains a complex diplomatic task.

Increasing trade protectionism in developed economies could affect India's exports and manufacturing competitiveness.

Geopolitical conflicts in Europe and West Asia continue to threaten India's energy security, trade routes, and supply chains.

Rapid developments in Artificial Intelligence require stronger data protection, cybersecurity frameworks, and ethical governance.

India must also balance its climate commitments with the developmental needs of a rapidly growing economy while advocating climate justice and financial support from developed nations.

Limitations of the G7

Although the G7 remains influential, it faces several structural limitations.

Its membership is restricted to advanced economies, limiting representation of emerging powers.

The forum lacks legally binding decision-making authority.

Many developing nations criticize its Western-centric agenda.

The G7 has limited ability to resolve major geopolitical conflicts despite imposing sanctions or issuing joint declarations.

Its share of global GDP has gradually declined with the rise of countries such as India and China, increasing the importance of broader platforms like the G20.

Differences among member countries on trade, climate policy, and relations with China often reduce policy coordination.

National News

Cabinet Approvals

- **Cabinet approves Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme:** The Union Cabinet approved a two-year scheme with a financial outlay of **₹9,585 crore** to reduce air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region by replacing old BS-IV and earlier trucks and buses with **BS-VI or electric vehicles (EVs)**. The scheme will be funded through the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** and implemented by the Ministries of Road Transport & Highways and Petroleum & Natural Gas in collaboration with Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Around **2.07 lakh commercial vehicles** are expected to benefit through interest subsidies, fuel vouchers, tax concessions, OEM discounts, and a fully digital implementation portal.
- **Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore ATF Price Stabilization Fund:** The Union Cabinet approved a **one-time budgetary support of up to ₹10,000 crore** for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to stabilize **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** prices for scheduled Indian airlines amid fuel price volatility caused by the West Asia crisis. The support will be provided as **interest-free advances**, ensuring predictable ATF pricing, protecting airlines from sudden fuel price spikes, reducing fare volatility, and maintaining domestic and international air connectivity. The mechanism will remain operational for **36 months** with annual review and recovery of funds once international fuel prices normalize.
- **Civil Aviation Minister welcomes ATF support:** Civil Aviation Minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** welcomed the Cabinet's decision, stating that the ₹10,000 crore ATF stabilization mechanism would provide major relief to airlines by reducing uncertainty in fuel costs while benefiting passengers through more stable airfares. He highlighted that previous government measures included **₹5,000 crore support under ECLGS**, a cap on domestic ATF price increases, reduced airport charges, and lower VAT on ATF by Delhi and Maharashtra.
- **Cabinet approves NH-347B highway project in Madhya Pradesh:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the upgradation of the **Hiwarkhedī-Roshni-Ashapur-Rudhy** section and widening of the **Deshgaon-Julwaniya** section of **NH-347B** in Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of **₹4,415.60 crore** under the Hybrid

Annuity Model (HAM). Covering **233.65 km**, the project will improve connectivity across **Betul, Khandwa, Khargone, and Barwani**, reduce congestion, improve road safety, connect multiple economic and logistics hubs, and generate over **42 lakh person-days** of employment.

- **Cabinet approves NH-63 and NH-563 widening in Telangana:** The CCEA approved widening of the **Armoor-Jagtial-Mancherial** section of **NH-63** and the **Jagtial-Karimnagar** section of **NH-563** to four lanes in Telangana with a total investment of **₹7,597.16 crore**. The **190.76-km** project, to be executed under HAM and BOT (Toll) models, will reduce travel time by over **two hours**, improve logistics, ease congestion, enhance regional connectivity, and generate more than **77 lakh man-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Khagaria-Purnea highway project in Bihar:** The CCEA approved the four-laning of the **Khagaria-Purnea** section of **NH-31 and NH-231** in Bihar under the **BOT (Toll)** model at a cost of **₹3,936.05 crore**. The **143.53-km** project includes a **6.73-km Greenfield Purnea Bypass**, aims to reduce travel time to about **two hours**, strengthen connectivity to key economic and logistics nodes, and generate over **73 lakh person-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Odisha Coastal Highway project:** The CCEA approved construction of the **Rameshwar-Paradeep Coastal Highway** in Odisha under the Hybrid Annuity Model at a total cost of **₹8,300.79 crore**. The **160.18-km** corridor, comprising a four-lane section from **Rameshwar to Konark** and a two-lane paved shoulder section from **Konark to Paradeep**, will improve connectivity across coastal Odisha, reduce travel time by **2.5 hours**, strengthen port connectivity, and generate over **120 lakh man-days** of employment.
- **Cabinet approves Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A:** The Union Cabinet approved **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Phase 2A**, comprising a **6.032-km corridor** with **five stations** connecting **Koteshwar Road to Ahmedabad Airport** at a total cost of **₹2,169.04 crore**. Once completed, the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro network will expand to **77.63 km**, providing improved airport connectivity, reducing traffic congestion, promoting sustainable urban transport, and generating around **2,500 jobs** during construction and operations.

- **Union Cabinet adopts resolution on Prime Minister Narendra Modi:** The Union Cabinet adopted a resolution marking **10 June 2026** as a historic milestone as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** became the **longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India**, completing **4,399 consecutive days** in office and surpassing the previous record of **Jawaharlal Nehru**. The resolution praised his leadership over **12 years of the NDA government**, highlighting achievements in poverty reduction, infrastructure, national security, women empowerment, startup growth, social welfare, economic reforms, and India's global standing while expressing confidence in achieving the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Cabinet approves GPRA project in Amaravati:** The CCEA approved construction of the **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** campus in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**, at a cost of **₹1,234.91 crore**. Spread across **17 acres**, the project will provide **1,504 residential units** for Central Government employees with modern civic amenities and GRIHA 4-Star green building standards. The project is expected to generate around **7 lakh man-days annually** during construction and **50,000 man-days annually** during operations.
- **Cabinet approves Central Government Office Complex in Amaravati:** The CCEA approved construction of the **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation (CGGPOA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,299.08 crore**. The office complex will accommodate around **8,000 Central Government employees**, provide modern office infrastructure with sustainable green building features, improve inter-departmental coordination, and create approximately **7 lakh man-days** of employment during construction.
- **Cabinet approves additional ₹30,000 crore investment in NIIF:** The Union Cabinet approved an additional **₹30,000 crore investment commitment** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, taking the Government of India's total commitment to **₹60,000 crore**. The investment will support **NIIF Infrastructure Fund II** and future strategic funds, enabling investments in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, climate projects, and e-mobility while attracting institutional capital, strengthening public-private partnerships, generating employment, and accelerating India's infrastructure development towards the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur, introduced two new chilli varieties—**LCA-625** and **LCA-643**—to provide alternatives to the popular Teja and Byadgi chillies. The varieties aim to improve productivity, pest resistance, spice processing, and farmers' income.

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase 2A?** (*Not Andhra Pradesh – ignore*)
- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of **Central Government General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,234.91 crore**. The project will include **1,504 residential units**, green building features, and generate around **7 lakh man-days** of employment annually during construction.
- The Union Cabinet also approved the construction of the **Central Government General Pool Office Accommodation (CGGPOA)** in **Amaravati** at a cost of **₹1,299.08 crore**. The office complex will accommodate nearly **8,000 Central Government employees** and follow GRIHA 4-Star green building standards.

Assam

- The Government launched **Mission Senehgori** with an investment of around **₹396–411 crore** to transform Assam's **Muga Silk** into a global luxury textile brand by strengthening the silk value chain, exports, branding, and GI authentication.
- **APEDA** facilitated the first-ever export of **GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi** from Assam to Dubai, improving farmers' incomes and promoting export-oriented agriculture.
- The Government of Assam and the **European Union** launched the **Blue Valley Cluster** in Guwahati to promote sustainable industries in **Flavours, Fragrances, and AYUSH** sectors.
- Assam and Nagaland signed a **tripartite MoU** to jointly explore crude oil and natural gas reserves along their shared border using a **50:50 revenue-sharing model**.
- Assam received **GI Tags** for **Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihiu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products**, strengthening traditional crafts and rural livelihoods.

Bihar

- The Cabinet approved the **₹3,936.05 crore Khagaria–Purnea NH-31/NH-231 Four-Lane Project** under the BOT (Toll) model to improve connectivity and logistics.
- Bihar will establish a **₹31.21 crore Integrated Aqua Park** in Bhojpur with hatcheries, feed plants, training centres, and diagnostic laboratories to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture.

Delhi

- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹9,585 crore Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme** to replace old BS-IV and earlier trucks and buses with **BS-VI or Electric Vehicles** to reduce pollution.
- Delhi inaugurated **18 Namoo Oxygen Parks** under the **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam** campaign and announced plans to plant **15 lakh trees** and develop **100 oxygen parks**.
- Delhi inaugurated its **first All-Women Police Station** in North Delhi to strengthen women-centric policing.

Gujarat

- The Gujarat Information Commission directed **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation** to introduce **QR-coded certificates** for street food vendors to improve food safety and transparency.
- Under **Operation Milap**, Gujarat Police traced **1,470 missing persons** through digital intelligence and interstate coordination.
- The Union Cabinet approved **Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A** worth **₹2,169.04 crore**, extending metro connectivity to Ahmedabad Airport.

Haryana

- The **World Bank** approved a **₹4,000 crore loan** for the **Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project**, focusing on canal modernization, groundwater recharge, micro-irrigation, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh

- India inaugurated its **7th Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu** to strengthen weather forecasting for **Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh**.
- India achieved a major milestone with the successful breakthrough of the **Zojila Tunnel** main tunnel, ensuring all-weather connectivity between **Kashmir and Ladakh**.
- The Government discussed **constitutional safeguards for Ladakh under Article 371**, focusing on local governance, land rights, and cultural protection.

Jharkhand

- Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery, and Bamboo Craft** received **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags**, strengthening traditional handicrafts and rural livelihoods.

Karnataka

- D.K. Shivakumar** was unanimously elected Congress Legislature Party leader and later took oath as the **18th Chief Minister of Karnataka**, succeeding Siddaramaiah.
- According to the **Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026**, **Bengaluru** ranked **2nd in Asia** among AI-native startup ecosystems.

Kerala

- Kerala launched **HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel)**, India's first judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system.
- Kerala intensified surveillance after a **suspected Nipah virus** case in Kozhikode.
- Kerala launched the **Priyadarshini Free Bus Travel Scheme**, offering free KSRTC bus travel to women and transgender persons.
- Kerala unveiled **Vision 2031**, aiming to make the state India's most women-friendly through gender-responsive governance and safety initiatives.

Madhya Pradesh

- The Cabinet approved the **₹4,415.60 crore NH-347B Highway Project** covering **233.65 km**.
- Madhya Pradesh plans to introduce a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill** during the Monsoon Session 2026.
- Khurasani Imli (Baobab Fruit)** from Mandu received a **GI Tag**.

Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the **Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farmer Debt Relief Scheme**, offering crop loan waivers up to **₹2 lakh**.
- Maharashtra approved the **₹300 crore High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project** in Nagpur for cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- The state also approved the **Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026**.

Meghalaya

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** laid the foundation stone for projects worth **₹1,246 crore**, focusing on logistics, roads, tourism, and livelihoods.
- Lakadong Turmeric** gained international recognition after being showcased at the **G7 Summit 2026**.

Odisha

- The Cabinet approved the **₹8,300.79 crore Rameshwar–Paradeep Coastal Highway Project**.
- A rare sighting of a **melanistic tigress with three cubs** was recorded in **Similipal Tiger Reserve**.
- Odisha restored the original **Odia names of 64 places** across 26 districts.
- Odisha approved **20 investment projects worth ₹76,611.86 crore**, expected to generate over **50,500 jobs**.
- Odisha launched the **GO-EAST Investment Policy** and revised **IPR 2022** to attract industries in backward districts.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** highlighted the significance of **Raja Parba**, Odisha's traditional festival.

Punjab

- Punjab notified the **VB-G RAM G Rural Employment Scheme 2026**, guaranteeing **125 days** of employment annually.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan constituted a **five-member committee** headed by **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** to draft the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.

Sikkim

- Forest officials recorded the **first-ever video evidence** of a herd of **Mishmi Takin** in **North Sikkim**, highlighting Himalayan biodiversity.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu launched the **Singappen Special Task Force**, an all-women police unit for women's safety.
- Tamil Nadu approved the establishment of **five Renewable Energy Zones** to accelerate clean energy projects.

Telangana

- The Cabinet approved the **₹7,597.16 crore NH-63 & NH-563 Four-Lane Highway Project**, improving connectivity across Nizamabad, Jagtial, Mancherla, and Karimnagar.

Tripura

- **Tripura Sarinda**, a traditional bowed musical instrument, received a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.

Uttar Pradesh

- A new **Regional Meteorological Centre** was inaugurated in **Lucknow**.
- Uttar Pradesh launched **Project Ganga**, aiming to provide high-speed internet to **20 lakh rural families**.
- **Invest India** and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to boost **FDI**.
- Uttar Pradesh continues implementing the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana**, providing **₹25,000** to eligible girls from birth to higher education.

West Bengal

- West Bengal became the **33rd Legislature** to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**.
- West Bengal became the **36th State/UT** to implement **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**.
- The state presented the **West Bengal Budget 2026–27** with an outlay of **₹4.38 lakh crore**.
- The government proposed creating **five new districts: Kolkata, Basirhat, Sundarban, Jangipur, and Arambagh**.

June Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **Government Launches Samadhan Didi:** The Government of India launched **Samadhan Didi**, an AI-powered multilingual voice chatbot integrated with the **CPGRAMS** grievance portal. Developed with **Bhashini**, it enables citizens to register complaints in **22 constitutional languages**, automatically identifies the concerned department, and enhances transparency, accessibility, and digital governance.
- **Government Launches Khet Bachao Abhiyan:** Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Khet Bachao Abhiyan** to promote sustainable farming through soil conservation, balanced fertilizer use, efficient water management, and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The campaign also encourages Soil Health Cards, farmer training, and awareness against fake fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Chandigarh University Launches IndiaAI Data Lab:** Chandigarh University, in collaboration with **Intel India**, launched India's first private **IndiaAI Data Lab** to provide hands-on training in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, and emerging technologies. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry while developing skilled AI professionals.

- **MSDE Launches Navachar Mantra:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched **Navachar Mantra** at IIT Delhi to support rural innovators and startups through mentorship, investor access, intellectual property support, and market linkages. The programme primarily targets entrepreneurs from Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and aspirational districts.
- **India Establishes First Model Border Village:** India established its first **Model Border Village** at **Chumur in Ladakh** under the Vibrant Village Programme. The project focuses on climate-resilient housing, infrastructure development, tourism promotion, livelihood generation, and strengthening border security in remote Himalayan regions.
- **Government Begins Fotu La Tunnel Project:** The Government initiated bidding for the **₹824 crore Fotu La Tunnel Project** on the Srinagar–Kargil–Leh Highway. The twin tunnels will provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh, improve military logistics, boost tourism, and reduce travel disruptions caused by heavy snowfall.
- **NAMO Airport Terminal Inaugurated at Daman:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the new **NAMO Airport Terminal** in Daman, along with development projects worth around **₹2,970 crore**. The modern terminal is expected to improve regional air connectivity, tourism, trade, and passenger convenience.
- **National Zoological Park Launches NNP Saathi App:** The National Zoological Park, New Delhi, launched the **NNP Saathi App**, self-ticketing kiosks, UPI-enabled payment facilities, and free Wi-Fi to enhance visitor experience through digital ticketing, smart navigation, and interactive educational content.
- **Government Launches Land Port Management System (LPMS):** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** to digitize operations at India's land ports. The platform offers online slot booking, digital payments, cargo tracking, and single-window clearance to improve cross-border trade and passenger movement.
- **ICAR Launches Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched **Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra**, India's first WhatsApp-based AI advisory platform for oilseed farmers. It provides free multilingual guidance on crop cultivation, pest management, irrigation, post-harvest practices, and seed availability.
- **Department of Posts Launches Drone Mail Service:** The Department of Posts launched a **drone-based mail delivery service** in Himachal Pradesh between **Mandi and Rehardhar**, reducing delivery time from more than two hours to just seven minutes and improving connectivity in remote mountainous regions.

- **Ministry of Ayush Launches Yoga Park Portal:** The Ministry of Ayush launched the **Yoga Park Portal** to transform public parks into community wellness centres by promoting Yoga, meditation, preventive healthcare, and public participation ahead of the International Day of Yoga 2026.
- **Government Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Portal:** Under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, the Government launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal** to ensure transparency and compliance in green hydrogen production while supporting innovation and clean energy development.
- **Government Launches Aadhaar App:** The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** launched the upgraded **Aadhaar App**, offering face authentication, biometric lock/unlock, QR-based Aadhaar sharing, authentication history, and secure digital identity management.
- **Government Launches NAFEX.in and Digital Platforms:** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched **NAFEX.in**, the **NAFED-KALYAN Scholarship Scheme**, **DRISHTI Portal**, and an **ERP Portal** to modernize agricultural marketing, procurement, logistics, and governance through digital technologies.
- **Government Launches Digital Policing Applications:** The Government launched four advanced digital policing platforms—**Abhigyan**, **CrPI**, **e-Prosecution 2.0**, and **e-Forensics 2.0**—to strengthen the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), improve investigations, and enhance coordination among law enforcement agencies.
- **Government Launches Air Suvidha 2.0:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched **Air Suvidha 2.0**, a fully digital health declaration system for international passengers to strengthen airport screening, disease surveillance, and contactless travel.
- **Ministry Launches SHATAYU Dashboard:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the **SHATAYU Dashboard**, a centralized digital platform connecting senior citizens with certified geriatric caregivers to improve elderly care services across India.
- **Government Launches Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029):** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029)** to strengthen anti-drug enforcement, rehabilitation, awareness campaigns, and inter-agency coordination for building a drug-free India.
- **Supreme Court Orders Removal of Encroachments from Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve:** The Supreme Court directed authorities to remove illegal encroachments and unauthorized structures from the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve** in the Western Ghats. The order aims to restore degraded forest land, strengthen biodiversity conservation, and protect one of India's ecologically sensitive regions.
- **Bhavitha Mandava Named in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia:** Hyderabad-born model **Bhavitha Mandava** was featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026** list under the Rising Talents category. She became the first Indian model to open **Chanel's Métiers d'Art Show** and was later appointed as Chanel's Indian brand ambassador, enhancing India's presence in the global fashion industry.
- **India Becomes World's Second Largest Solar Growth Market:** India emerged as the **world's second-largest solar growth market** in 2025 after surpassing the United States in annual solar capacity additions. The country crossed **155 GW** of installed solar capacity, supported by initiatives such as the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, reinforcing India's leadership in renewable energy and climate action.
- **India Gets Its 100th Ramsar Site:** The **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in Uttar Pradesh was designated as **India's 100th Ramsar Site** on World Environment Day 2026. The recognition highlights India's commitment to wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable ecosystem management.
- **APEDA Facilitates First Export of Botanical Millet Functional Foods:** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated India's first export of **botanical-infused millet functional foods** from Karnataka to New Zealand. The milestone promotes value-added millet products, strengthens agricultural exports, and enhances farmers' income.
- **FSSAI Introduces Official Vegan Logo:** The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** introduced India's official **Vegan Logo** to help consumers identify certified vegan products. The logo will become mandatory from **1 July 2027**, improving food labeling transparency and promoting plant-based food choices.
- **ASI Restores Historic Mantapa at Hampi:** The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** restored the historic **Virupaksha Temple Mantapa** at Hampi by removing later constructions and restoring its original architectural design. The restoration improves heritage conservation while preserving the cultural and historical significance of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **India Announces Introduction of E85 Fuel:** The Government announced the rollout of **E85 fuel**, consisting of **85% ethanol and 15% petrol**, to promote clean energy and reduce dependence on imported crude oil. The initiative is expected to lower carbon emissions, strengthen India's biofuel economy, and increase farmers' income through higher ethanol production.

Miscellaneous National News

- **Indian Air Force Uses Bambi Buckets in Kasauli Forest Fire:** The Indian Air Force deployed **Mi-17V-5** helicopters equipped with **Bambi Buckets** to combat the Kasauli forest fire in Himachal Pradesh. The helicopters carried out over **150 sorties**, dropping more than **62,500 litres of water** to control the blaze. The operation highlighted the importance of aerial firefighting technology in tackling forest fires in difficult mountainous terrain.

- **Akashvani Completes 90 Years:** India's public broadcaster **Akashvani (All India Radio)** completed **90 years** of broadcasting service. Operating under **Prasar Bharati**, Akashvani continues to be one of the world's largest radio broadcasting networks, playing a vital role in news dissemination, education, and cultural preservation.
- **NFHS-6 Highlights Lowest Fertility Rate:** According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)**, the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** recorded India's lowest **Total Fertility Rate (0.9)**. The findings indicate changing demographic trends, including declining birth rates and an ageing population.
- **India Becomes World's Third Largest Domestic Aviation Market:** India became the **world's third-largest domestic aviation market**, driven by rapid airport expansion, increased passenger traffic, and regional connectivity initiatives such as **UDAN**. The milestone reflects the country's growing aviation infrastructure and economic development.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Completes 11 Years:** The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** programme completed **11 years** of implementation. Since its launch in 2015, the scheme has contributed to improvements in the child sex ratio, girls' education, women empowerment, and awareness against gender discrimination.
- **India Deploys Tunnel Hood Technology:** India introduced **Tunnel Hood Technology** on the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Corridor** to reduce air pressure waves, minimize noise pollution, improve passenger comfort, and enhance the efficiency of high-speed rail operations.
- **Indian Railways Expands Kavach 4.0:** Indian Railways accelerated the deployment of **Kavach 4.0**, its indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system. The technology is designed to prevent train collisions, overspeeding, and signal-passing-at-danger incidents, significantly improving railway safety.
- **India Targets 155 GW Wind Energy by 2035:** India announced a target of achieving **155 GW of Wind Energy Capacity by 2035**, with an intermediate target of **100 GW by 2030**. The initiative supports India's renewable energy transition, energy security, and climate commitments.
- **Government Temporarily Restricts Telegram:** The Government temporarily restricted access to **Telegram** ahead of the **NEET UG 2026 Re-Examination** to prevent the circulation of fake question papers, answer keys, and misleading content, thereby ensuring examination integrity.
- **Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right:** The Supreme Court ruled that the **Right to Walk on Safe and Encroachment-Free Footpaths** is protected under **Article 21** of the Constitution. The Court directed authorities to prioritize pedestrian-friendly urban planning and maintain safe public walkways.
- **India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation:** India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation** in 2025, achieving the **Maritime India Vision 2030** target ahead of schedule. The achievement reflects the success of modernized recycling facilities and sustainable maritime policies.
- **India Releases Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026:** India released the **Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026**, becoming the **first country** to establish dedicated quality standards for **blood and blood components**. The new standards aim to improve transfusion safety, quality control, and healthcare outcomes.
- **India Announces Seven New Bullet Train Corridors:** The Government announced **seven new High-Speed Rail Corridors** under the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), expanding India's bullet train network beyond the Mumbai–Ahmedabad route to improve connectivity and economic growth.
- **India Launches Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN):** India expanded **Bhu-Aadhaar (Unique Land Parcel Identification Number - ULPIN)** by assigning unique digital identities to over **36 crore land parcels**. The initiative modernizes land records, reduces disputes, and improves transparency in land administration.
- **India Crosses Five Lakh Organ Donation Pledges:** India crossed **5 lakh voluntary organ donation pledges**, reflecting increased public awareness and improved digital registration through the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**. The milestone supports ethical organ transplantation and better healthcare access.
- **India Ranked 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027:** India secured the **13th position globally** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**, reflecting its growing capabilities in Artificial Intelligence, digital technologies, innovation, startup ecosystems, and future workforce readiness.

GOVT SCHEMES

PM SVANidhi Scheme Completes Six Years:

The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme completed six years since its launch in June 2020. The scheme provides collateral-free working capital loans to urban street vendors to help them restart and expand their businesses. Over the past six years, it has benefited more than 75.5 lakh vendors, sanctioned over 1.12 crore loans, and disbursed more than ₹17,800 crore. It has also digitally onboarded over 55 lakh vendors and facilitated access to financial services, digital payments, and multiple welfare schemes. More than 34.81 lakh women vendors have benefited,

making the scheme a significant contributor to financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment.

West Bengal Joins Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY:

West Bengal became the 36th State/Union Territory to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) after signing an agreement with the National Health Authority (NHA). The scheme provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary hospitalization. It enables cashless treatment at empanelled hospitals across India and aims to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses while expanding access to quality medical care.

PMSMA Completes 10 Years:

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA) completed 10 years since its launch on 9 June 2016. The programme provides free comprehensive antenatal care to pregnant women on the 9th of every month at government health facilities. More than 7.5 crore pregnant women have benefited under the scheme. It has played a crucial role in identifying high-risk pregnancies at an early stage and contributed to reducing India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 130 (2014–16) to 87 (2022–24).

Government Extends CGSMFI-2.0:

The Government extended the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) until 31 August 2026 and increased the maximum eligible loan amount for large NBFC-MFIs and MFIs from ₹300 crore to ₹1,000 crore. The scheme provides government-backed credit guarantees through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), encouraging banks to increase lending to microfinance institutions and improving access to affordable credit for low-income borrowers and women entrepreneurs.

Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme:

The Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) is an interstate irrigation project constructed across the Tungabhadra River, a major tributary of the Krishna River. It supplies irrigation water to Telangana, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, supporting agriculture in drought-prone regions. Recently, the scheme came into focus due to discussions on the long-pending Tungabhadra river water-sharing dispute and proposals to improve water utilization, reservoir capacity, and interstate coordination.

Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana:

The Mukhyamantri Kisan Sahay Yojana (MKSY), launched by the Government of Gujarat in 2020, provides financial assistance to farmers whose Kharif crops are damaged due to natural calamities without charging any insurance premium. Farmers receive ₹20,000 per hectare for crop losses between 33% and 60%, and ₹25,000 per hectare for losses above 60%, subject to a maximum coverage of four hectares. Nearly 50 lakh farmers have benefited under the scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Government Launches Air Suvudha 2.0:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Air Suvudha 2.0, a fully digital and contactless health declaration platform for international travellers in collaboration with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL). The upgraded system enables passengers to submit health information online before arriving in India, strengthening airport health surveillance and improving disease screening, immigration clearance, and coordination among health authorities.

UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana 2026:

The UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana, also known as the UP Rojgar Sangam Yojana, is an employment support initiative of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme provides a monthly

unemployment allowance of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 to eligible educated unemployed youth until they secure employment. Through the Sewayojan UP Portal, beneficiaries also receive access to job fairs, employment notifications, career counselling, and placement assistance.

Government Launches PM Family Care Tracker:

The Government launched the PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) as a pilot project in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to digitally monitor maternal and child welfare from pregnancy until 18 years of age. The platform uses Birth Registration Numbers or ABHA IDs to track health, nutrition, education, immunization, and welfare benefits while integrating around 18 government schemes. It generates real-time alerts for missed services and ensures timely delivery of benefits.

Government Launches PM Research Chair Scheme 2026:

The Government launched the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026 to attract Indian-origin researchers, scientists, technologists, and innovators from around the world. The scheme focuses on strategic sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, cybersecurity, defence, space, and climate change. It offers Young Research Fellow, Senior Fellow, and Research Chair categories and will be implemented through leading institutions including IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and IISc Bengaluru.

Cabinet Approves Delhi-NCR Clean Mobility Scheme:

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹9,585 crore scheme to reduce air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region by encouraging the replacement of BS-IV and older commercial vehicles with BS-VI or electric vehicles. The scheme will benefit around 2.07 lakh truck and bus owners through interest subsidies, tax concessions, fuel vouchers, purchase discounts, and digital monitoring, helping reduce transport-related emissions and improve regional air quality.

Government Launches VB-G RAM G Scheme:

The Government announced an interim allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore for the VB-G RAM G Scheme (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin), scheduled to launch on 1 July 2026. The programme guarantees up to 125 days of annual wage employment while focusing on durable asset creation, water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood generation, climate-resilient development, and faster Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments.

Rapido Partners with MoRTH for Rahveer Scheme:

Rapido partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to promote the Rahveer Scheme, which encourages citizens to assist road accident victims during the critical Golden Hour. As part of the campaign, more than 4 lakh Rapido captains took a road safety pledge, creating a Guinness World Record. The initiative aims to improve *emergency response systems, promote road safety awareness, and strengthen India's overall road safety ecosystem.*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** announced the **World No Tobacco Day 2026 Awards**, recognizing outstanding contributions to **tobacco control** and public health worldwide. Awardees included individuals, researchers, government agencies, and organizations from all six WHO regions. The **WHO Director-General Special Award** was conferred on **Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani** of Yemen. India received recognition through **Rajasthan's Health Department** and the **ICMR–National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research** for their efforts in tobacco awareness, prevention initiatives, and policy implementation aimed at reducing tobacco consumption and improving public health outcomes.
- India has extended **emergency medical assistance** to African nations affected by the **Ebola outbreak** by supplying essential healthcare materials through the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention**. The assistance includes diagnostic kits, medicines, protective equipment, infection-control supplies, and case-management materials. The support is intended to strengthen healthcare responses in affected communities, particularly in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. The initiative reflects India's commitment to **global health security**, humanitarian assistance, and **South-South cooperation**, while reinforcing long-standing partnerships with African nations in public health and emergency response efforts.
- Forbes 2026 ranking placed **Elon Musk** as the world's richest person with **\$835 billion**, followed by **Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos, and Larry Ellison**. The top 10 also includes **Michael Dell, Mark Zuckerberg, Jensen Huang, Bernard Arnault, and Steve Ballmer**. The list highlights continued dominance of the **technology sector**, especially companies like **Tesla, SpaceX, Alphabet, Amazon, Oracle, and Meta**. Rapid growth in **AI, cloud computing, and digital innovation** significantly influenced global wealth creation. The ranking reflects how tech-driven enterprises continue to shape global financial power and ultra-high-net-worth individual distribution worldwide.
- Venezuela's Acting President **Delcy Rodríguez** will visit India from **3–7 June 2026** for high-level discussions with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The talks will focus on strengthening cooperation in **energy, trade, investment, technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, transportation, and renewable energy**. The visit reflects deepening **India–Venezuela relations**, particularly in the context of rising crude oil imports from Venezuela. Accompanied by senior ministers, the visit aims to expand **South–South cooperation** and diversify India's energy partnerships. It highlights efforts to strengthen bilateral engagement and enhance strategic economic collaboration between the two countries.
- **Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh** has been elected President of the **81st UN General Assembly session**, defeating Cyprus candidate **Andreas Kakouris**. He will assume office in **September 2026** for a one-year term. His priorities include **peace and security, SDGs, climate action, human rights, emerging technologies, and UN reforms**. The session theme is **"Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation."** His election comes at a critical time for global governance, reflecting increased focus on **multilateral cooperation, UN reform, and global development challenges**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** elected five new **non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (2027–2028 term)**: **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe**. Their tenure begins on **1 January 2027**. Notably, Kyrgyzstan secured its **first-ever UNSC seat**, marking a historic achievement. The election reflects shifting global diplomatic dynamics and strengthens representation from diverse regions. The new members will contribute to discussions on **global peace, security, and international cooperation** during a critical period for multilateral governance.
- The **University of Liverpool** received approval from India's Ministry of Education to establish its **first Indian campus in Bengaluru** under the **NEP 2020 framework**. This development enhances **India–UK higher education collaboration**, promoting global-quality education, research partnerships, and academic internationalization. The initiative was supported by senior Indian and UK officials, reflecting growing educational ties. The campus will provide students access to **international curricula and research opportunities**, strengthening India's position as a global education hub.
- India and the UK launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in New Delhi to monitor and strengthen supply chains of **critical minerals** used in **clean energy, EVs, semiconductors, and advanced technologies**. Developed by institutions including **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and the University of Cambridge**, the platform tracks **resource availability, geopolitical risks, and market disruptions**. It enhances cooperation in strategic resource security and supports sustainable industrial growth in emerging technologies.
- The **UN General Assembly** elected five **non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2027–2028**, including **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe**. Their term begins in **January 2027**. Kyrgyzstan achieved a historic first-ever seat. The election reflects global diplomatic balance and strengthens representation in international security governance. These members will contribute to decisions on **global peace, conflict resolution, and international stability** during a crucial geopolitical period.

- The **University of Liverpool** received approval to establish its first India campus in Bengaluru under **NEP 2020**. The move strengthens **India-UK education cooperation**, enabling access to global-quality higher education within India. The campus will promote **research collaboration, academic exchange, and internationalization of education**, enhancing India's position as a global education hub. It reflects growing foreign university participation in India's higher education system.
- India and the UK launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in New Delhi to monitor global supply chains of **critical minerals used in EVs, semiconductors, and clean energy technologies**. Developed with institutions like **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and University of Cambridge**, the platform tracks **resource availability, market risks, and geopolitical vulnerabilities**. It strengthens cooperation in **strategic resource security and sustainable technology development**.
- India secured continued access to the **European Union market** for exports of **aquaculture products, honey, eggs, and animal casings** beyond September 2026. The inclusion of India in the list of authorized exporting countries under **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189** ensures uninterrupted trade with one of the world's largest markets. The revised regulations focus on stricter food safety standards and addressing **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** concerns. This development is particularly significant for India's fisheries sector, whose exports to the EU are valued at approximately **USD 1.59 billion**, strengthening trade prospects and export earnings.
- The **Bonn Climate Conference 2026**, held from **June 8–18** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, began with calls for stronger climate action and increased adaptation finance. The **Global Climate and Health Alliance** urged governments to raise public adaptation funding to at least **\$120 billion annually by 2035**. Discussions at the conference focus on adaptation finance, fossil-fuel transition strategies, loss-and-damage funding, and just transition measures. Health experts emphasized strengthening healthcare systems, disaster preparedness, food security, and climate resilience, particularly in vulnerable and developing nations facing growing climate risks.
- According to the **Japan Meteorological Agency**, **El Niño** has returned in 2026 and is expected to strengthen through the year, with the possibility of developing into a **Super El Niño**. Triggered by unusually warm waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, the phenomenon significantly alters global weather patterns. It may weaken India's monsoon, affecting agriculture, water availability, and food production. Globally, major crops such as **rice, wheat, coffee, cocoa, and cotton** could face reduced yields. Scientists also warn of increased risks of droughts, floods, heatwaves, and rising global temperatures.
- At the **SAPLING High-Level Policy Dialogue** held in **Ahmedabad**, the **World Bank Group** highlighted that transforming South Asia's food systems could create millions of jobs and attract billions of dollars in investments. The event emphasized that the region's **\$700 billion agriculture sector** faces challenges such as low value addition and food wastage exceeding **30%**. Experts recommended greater investment in food processing, cold-chain infrastructure, logistics, and exports. India's rapidly growing food-processing sector, supported by schemes like **PMKSY, PMFME, and PLI**, was identified as a key driver of employment generation and economic growth.
- According to the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, global refugee numbers declined by **3% to 41.6 million** at the end of **2025**, marking the first decrease in over a decade. The reduction was driven largely by returns to **Afghanistan, Syria, and Sudan**, with around **14.7 million people** returning home, including **4.4 million refugees** and **10.3 million internally displaced persons**. Despite this progress, nearly **70% of refugees** remain trapped in prolonged displacement situations. Through its **"50 by 35" initiative**, UNHCR aims to reduce aid dependency by promoting employment, education, and self-reliance among displaced populations.
- India pledged **\$2.5 million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** as the first installment of its annual **\$5 million assistance package** for Palestinian refugees. The contribution will support education, healthcare, social welfare, and humanitarian relief services. At the **United Nations Security Council**, India reiterated support for a **two-state solution** as the only sustainable path to resolving the **Israel-Palestine conflict**. India also called for a ceasefire in Gaza, protection of civilians, unrestricted humanitarian access, and renewed peace negotiations, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to peace, stability, and humanitarian assistance in the region.
- Ahead of the **G7 Summit 2026**, **France** identified **India** as one of its key strategic priorities, highlighting the growing importance of bilateral relations. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is scheduled to visit France for discussions with President **Emmanuel Macron** on defence cooperation, innovation, maritime security, climate action, space collaboration, and civil nuclear energy. Established in **1998**, the India-France Strategic Partnership has expanded significantly across multiple sectors. Discussions are expected to include the **Rafale programme, Bharat Innovates platform**, and enhanced nuclear cooperation, reflecting India's increasing influence in the **Indo-Pacific** and global affairs.

- Scientists discovered the world's largest **whale graveyard** in the **Diamantina Fracture Zone** of the southeastern **Indian Ocean**, at depths exceeding **7,000 metres**. Led by the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** using the **Fendouzhe submersible**, researchers identified more than **485 fossil sites** across a 1,200-kilometre underwater rift. Fossils dating from **120,000 years to 5.3 million years old** were uncovered, including remains of extinct whale species. The discovery provides valuable insights into whale evolution, deep-sea biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and long-term carbon storage, making it a significant breakthrough in marine paleontology.
- **Elon Musk** reportedly became the world's first **trillionaire** after the **SpaceX IPO**, which valued the company above **\$2 trillion**. Shares debuted at **\$135**, peaked at **\$161.11**, and raised nearly **\$75 billion**, making it the largest IPO in history. SpaceX's success in reusable rockets and Starlink satellite internet drove investor confidence. Musk's business empire, including **Tesla**, **xAI**, and **X**, further strengthened his financial milestone, marking a major shift in global technology and space economy leadership.
- The initiative "**Bharat Innovates 2026**" will be jointly launched by **PM Narendra Modi** and **President Emmanuel Macron** in France as part of the India-France innovation partnership. The event will host **120 startups**, **15 institutions**, and **500 investors**, focusing on sectors like **semiconductors**, **AI**, **space**, **biotechnology**, and **energy**. It aims to boost collaboration, investment, and research between India and France. The platform strengthens the **1998 strategic partnership** and enhances India's global position in deep-tech innovation and startup ecosystems.
- Reports indicate a tentative understanding between the **United States** and **Iran**, supported by regional diplomacy involving **Pakistan**, **Qatar**, **Turkey**, and **Saudi Arabia**. Proposed measures include easing maritime restrictions, reopening the **Strait of Hormuz**, and supporting a broader regional ceasefire framework. The development could improve energy security, stabilize oil markets, reduce shipping costs, and lower geopolitical tensions. For India, smoother energy supplies and reduced crude oil price volatility could positively impact economic stability and trade.
- India and France announced **13 major outcomes** during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit, strengthening their **Special Global Strategic Partnership**. Key initiatives include the **India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030**, a **Joint AI Working Group**, expanded **UPI services**, startup collaborations, defence cooperation, railway projects, and space research partnerships between **ISRO** and **CNES**. Both nations also agreed to work toward doubling bilateral trade within five years, highlighting their commitment to innovation, technology, economic security, and sustainable development.
- The **India-France ATL Bridge** has been launched to connect young innovators, schools, and entrepreneurs from both countries. Developed through cooperation between the **Atal Innovation Mission** and **La Fondation Dassault Systèmes**, the initiative will support student exchanges, innovation projects, and entrepreneurship programmes. France will also establish its first **School Innovation Lab** based on India's **Atal Tinkering Lab** model. The programme strengthens educational collaboration, promotes innovation, and deepens people-to-people ties between India and France.
- The **52nd G7 Summit** in **France** brought together leaders of major advanced economies to discuss economic growth, energy security, critical minerals, supply chains, and geopolitical challenges. The summit gained significance amid reports of a possible **US-Iran understanding** and the reopening of the **Strait of Hormuz**, which could stabilize global oil markets. India participated as a partner country, highlighting its increasing role in international diplomacy and global governance discussions.
- The **Bharat Innovates 2026** summit in France showcased India's growing **deep-tech ecosystem**, featuring over **120 startups**, **20 institutes**, and **350 global investors**. Innovations were presented across artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, biotechnology, space technology, defence, and clean energy. The event strengthened India-France collaboration in innovation and highlighted India's ambition to become a global technology and startup hub through research, entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.
- Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf is one of Iran's most influential political figures, serving as the **Speaker of Parliament** and playing an important role in the country's policymaking and strategic affairs. A former **IRGC Commander**, **Police Chief**, and **Mayor of Tehran**, he has decades of experience in governance and security. His influence extends across domestic politics and foreign policy discussions, making him a significant figure in shaping Iran's future political and diplomatic direction.
- India and Japan have adopted the implementation framework for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**. The mechanism enables collaboration on low-carbon projects through technology transfer, investment, and capacity building, with resulting **Carbon Credits** shared between both nations. The framework establishes transparent procedures for project approval, monitoring, verification, and credit issuance while preventing double counting of emission reductions. The initiative supports both countries in achieving their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and advancing climate goals.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mark Carney agreed to launch negotiations for a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** and accelerate efforts to conclude a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in 2026. The proposed agreements will strengthen cooperation in **Defence, Intelligence Sharing, Trade, Energy Security, Critical Minerals, and Technology Partnerships**. The development reflects growing strategic engagement and economic cooperation between India and Canada.
- At the **G7 Summit 2026**, India joined global efforts to address the resurgence of **Ebola** and strengthen international action against **Cancer**. Along with partner nations, India supported initiatives related to **Vaccine Development, Disease Surveillance, Diagnostic Research**, and public health preparedness. The summit also emphasized affordable healthcare access, early cancer detection, and international research collaboration. India's participation highlights its expanding role in **Global Health Diplomacy** and multilateral cooperation in addressing worldwide health challenges.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** by launching services at Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena. The initiative was facilitated by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, enabling Indian visitors to make seamless QR-based payments in France. UPI is now operational in **Nine Countries**, including France, Singapore, UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia. The expansion strengthens India's leadership in digital payments and promotes cross-border financial connectivity.
- The United States has officially renamed the **United States Indo-Pacific Command** back to the **United States Pacific Command**. Originally established in 1947, the command was renamed in 2018 to reflect the Indo-Pacific strategic concept. While the historical name has been restored, its mission, personnel, and operational responsibilities remain unchanged. The command continues to oversee one of the world's most strategically important regions, stretching from the U.S. West Coast to the western boundary of India.
- The United States and Iran announced the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim framework aimed at reducing regional tensions and facilitating broader diplomatic negotiations. The agreement includes commitments to avoid military escalation, reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, and engage in discussions on sanctions relief and regional stability. The development is expected to support global energy markets, improve maritime security, and encourage continued diplomatic engagement between the two countries.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with its launch at **Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena** in France. Implemented through collaboration between **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, the integration allows Indian visitors to make instant QR-code-based digital payments abroad. UPI is now operational in **nine countries**, enhancing convenience for travellers and supporting global acceptance of India's digital payment ecosystem. The expansion also strengthens **India–France digital cooperation** and showcases India's leadership in financial technology innovation.
- The United States officially restored the name **United States Pacific Command**, reversing the 2018 change to **Indo-Pacific Command**. While the name has changed, the command's mission, operational structure, personnel, and geographical responsibilities remain unchanged. Established in **1947**, it is the oldest and largest U.S. combatant command. The move is considered largely symbolic and administrative, reflecting a return to historical nomenclature while maintaining the same strategic focus across the Asia-Pacific region, including areas extending to India's western boundary.
- The United States and Iran signed the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim agreement designed to reduce regional tensions. The pact establishes a **60-day negotiation framework**, commitments to avoid military escalation, and plans to reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, a crucial global energy route. Discussions on sanctions relief and Iranian oil exports are also included, while Iran reaffirmed its commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons. The agreement is expected to contribute to regional stability, diplomatic engagement, and improved global energy market confidence.
- Addressing the Indian diaspora in Paris, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** emphasized that India is increasingly recognized as a **trusted global partner**. He highlighted India's progress in digital transformation, infrastructure, innovation, and inclusive growth while stressing the importance of trust in international relations. Referring to discussions at the **G7 Summit 2026**, he advocated inclusive global governance, responsible technology use, and stronger representation for developing nations. He also highlighted growing **India–France cooperation** in defence, space, climate action, trade, and scientific research.
- **Uzbekistan** became the first Central Asian country to join the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established by the **BRICS nations**. After completing accession procedures, Uzbekistan became the bank's **10th member**, gaining access to long-term financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Since its establishment in 2015, the NDB has approved projects worth nearly **US\$43 billion**. The membership supports Uzbekistan's modernization goals and reflects its growing role in regional and global economic cooperation.

- France is set to inaugurate its first traditional **Hindu Temple** built entirely using stones sourced from India and crafted by Indian artisans. The temple follows authentic Hindu architectural principles and will be inaugurated with a **15-day cultural and religious celebration**. It is expected to serve as a spiritual and cultural hub for the Indian diaspora while promoting cultural exchange and preserving Indian traditions abroad. The project symbolizes growing **India–France cultural relations** and highlights the global presence of Indian heritage.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced a landmark child safety regulation establishing **15 years** as the minimum age for social media use. The policy mandates **AI-based age verification**, digital identity checks, stronger privacy settings, parental controls, and restrictions on interactions with strangers. Platforms must identify and remove underage accounts. The UAE becomes the first Arab nation to implement such nationwide rules, reflecting growing concerns about online safety, harmful content exposure, screen addiction, and digital privacy among children and teenagers.
- **Professor Dr. Bimal Patel** has been elected as a Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**, marking a major achievement for India's international legal diplomacy. Established under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, ITLOS is an independent judicial body headquartered in **Hamburg, Germany**, which resolves disputes related to maritime boundaries, navigation rights, fisheries, marine resources, environmental protection, and detained vessels. Patel currently serves as the **Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University**, is a member of the **United Nations International Law Commission**, and serves on India's **National Security Advisory Board**. His election strengthens India's role in global maritime governance and complements the presence of **Neeru Chadha**, who currently serves as **Vice President of ITLOS**.
- **Jonathan**, a **Seychelles giant tortoise** living on the South Atlantic island of **Saint Helena**, has been officially recognized as the **world's oldest known terrestrial animal** and the **oldest turtle ever recorded**. Estimated to have been born around **1832**, Jonathan is approximately **194 years old**. During his lifetime, he has witnessed major historical events, including the **Victorian era**, the construction of the **Eiffel Tower**, the invention of automobiles and airplanes, and the rise of computers, the internet, and space exploration. Despite his remarkable age, Jonathan remains relatively healthy and active. Scientists believe his longevity is linked to a **slow metabolism**, low-stress lifestyle, favorable genetics, and efficient biological systems. Researchers are studying his DNA to gain insights into **healthy aging, longevity, cellular repair, and age-related diseases**.
- **Keir Starmer** resigned as **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** and leader of the **Labour Party**, less than two years after winning the **2024 General Election**. He informed **King Charles III** and will remain caretaker Prime Minister until a new Labour leader is elected. His resignation followed poor local election results, internal party differences, declining public support, and economic challenges. Since **Labour** holds a parliamentary majority, its next elected leader will automatically become Prime Minister. The leadership transition is expected to prioritize **economic recovery, public services**, and future electoral strategy.
- India will host the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under its **BRICS Chairship** with the theme **"Energy for All."** Ministers will discuss **energy security, renewable energy, energy transition, smart grids, energy storage, artificial intelligence**, and **sustainable development**. **BRICS**, comprising **11 member countries**, represents nearly half of the global population and around **40% of world GDP**. India will showcase initiatives including the **International Solar Alliance** and **Global Biofuels Alliance**, while promoting cooperation for affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy among emerging economies.
- India hosted the **BRICS National Security Advisers Meeting** on **22–23 June 2026** under **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**. Delegates discussed **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence risks, terrorism, information warfare, critical infrastructure protection, digital security**, and **transnational crime**. Representatives from **China, Russia, Iran**, and other **BRICS** members reviewed the progress of **Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism**, emphasizing intelligence sharing, cyber resilience, and responsible technology use. The meeting reinforced international cooperation in addressing evolving non-traditional security threats while highlighting **India's** commitment to collaborative global security initiatives.
- Following the resignation of **Keir Starmer**, **Andy Burnham** emerged as a leading contender in the **Labour Party** leadership discussions. Born in **1970**, Burnham served as **MP for Leigh, Secretary of State for Health, Secretary of State for Culture**, and **Mayor of Greater Manchester** from **2017 to 2026**. Widely known as the **"King in the North,"** he championed regional autonomy, public service reforms, and economic development. Returning to Parliament as **MP for Makerfield**, Burnham is viewed as a strong advocate of decentralization and community-focused governance.
- Renowned American economist **Alan Greenspan** passed away on **22 June 2026** at the age of **100**. Popularly called **"The Maestro,"** he served as **Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve** from **1987 to 2006** under four presidents. Greenspan guided the American economy through the **1987 Black Monday Crash**, the **Dot-com Boom**, and the post-**9/11** recovery. Famous for his cautious **"Fedspeak"** communication style, his monetary policies shaped global financial markets, though his legacy remains debated for financial deregulation preceding the **2008 Global Financial Crisis**.

- The **European Union (EU)** officially joined the **Pax Silica Initiative**, a **United States-led** strategic framework promoting cooperation in **artificial intelligence**, **semiconductors**, and critical technologies. The initiative strengthens resilient supply chains, AI infrastructure, digital connectivity, energy security, critical minerals, and export coordination among partner nations. As part of the agreement, the **EU** plans to procure at least **\$40 billion worth of AI chips** from the United States. Current participants include **India, Japan, South Korea, Australia**, and several European countries, fostering secure technology ecosystems and international industrial collaboration.
- **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** warned of the worsening **global climate crisis**, urging immediate action to reduce **methane emissions** from **fossil fuels, agriculture, and waste management**. Speaking in **London**, he launched the **UN Call to Action on Methane**, highlighting methane's warming impact, nearly **80 times stronger than carbon dioxide** over twenty years. He also expressed concern about emissions from **artificial intelligence** and **data centres**. Additionally, the **Global Urban Data Centres Pact**, involving **36 cities**, was launched to promote sustainable digital infrastructure and climate-resilient urban development.
- **Bangladesh** became the **27th member** of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, strengthening global cooperation for the conservation of endangered big cat species. Launched by **India** in **2023** and headquartered in **New Delhi**, the alliance focuses on protecting the **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**. Bangladesh's membership enhances conservation of the **Sundarbans**, promotes **transboundary wildlife management**, anti-poaching efforts, habitat protection, scientific research, and biodiversity conservation while strengthening regional collaboration for preserving endangered species.
- The **second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C.**, where **35 countries**, including India, signed the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity** to promote responsible and innovation-friendly artificial intelligence policies. The US-led initiative focuses on trusted AI governance, resilient semiconductor supply chains, and international technology cooperation. Key announcements included the **Pax Pass** system for secure AI trade and the **Foundry School**, supported by US funding to develop AI-skilled professionals. India participated through **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** officials, reinforcing its role in global AI governance and digital policy frameworks.
- India launched **Operation Amistad**, a humanitarian mission to support Venezuela after a devastating earthquake. The **IAF deployed C-17 aircraft** carrying relief supplies, medical aid, and a rescue team of over 40 members. The mission includes hospitals, medical kits, and emergency support. It reflects India's role as a **first responder in global disasters**. India expressed solidarity and pledged continued assistance. The operation strengthens India's global humanitarian leadership under its **HADR framework**.
- The **SCO Women's Forum 2026** was held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, focusing on women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equality. India highlighted its women-led development model through **Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and SHGs covering 100 million women**. Over 30 million women achieved income milestones under **Lakshpati Didi scheme**. The forum promotes cooperation on education, health, and livelihoods under **SCO 2035 Strategy**. It strengthens regional collaboration among member states on women's social and economic empowerment.
- Japanese PM **Sanae Takaichi** will visit India (1–3 July 2026) for the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit**. She will meet PM Narendra Modi to review cooperation in defense, technology, infrastructure, energy, and trade. Japan is a major investor in India and supports projects like the bullet train and industrial corridors. Both countries cooperate under QUAD, G20, and Indo-Pacific frameworks. The visit strengthens strategic ties, supply chains, and regional security cooperation.
- India conducted its first **mango promotion events in Iceland**, organized by **APEDA and Indian Embassy in Reykjavik**. Held in Reykjavik and Akureyri, the event showcased varieties like **Dasheri, Chausa, Langra, and Kesar**. It aims to expand agricultural exports in Nordic markets. Discussions highlighted opportunities under **India-EFTA TEPA agreement**. Iceland imports mangoes from countries like Thailand and Brazil, with market value of around **USD 3.3 million (2025)**. The initiative boosts India's agri-export diversification.

BANKING & FINANCE

BANKING & FINANCE

UPI Achieves Record 23.20 Billion Transactions in May 2026

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded its highest-ever monthly performance in **May 2026**, processing **23.20 billion transactions** worth **₹29.90 trillion**. Compared to April 2026, transaction volume and value witnessed steady growth, with the platform averaging nearly **748 million transactions per day**. UPI continues to dominate India's digital payment ecosystem by enabling instant, secure, and cashless transactions across sectors such as retail shopping, food delivery, utility bill payments, transportation, e-commerce, and peer-to-peer transfers. The remarkable growth reflects increasing consumer confidence, wider merchant acceptance, and the government's continued push towards a digital economy and financial inclusion.

GST Collections Reach ₹1.94 Lakh Crore in May 2026

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached **₹1.94 lakh crore** in **May 2026**, reflecting sustained economic growth and robust domestic demand. The increase was driven by higher taxable supplies, improved tax compliance, and a significant rise in import-related GST revenues. Strong collections indicate healthy industrial production, rising consumption, and expanding business activity across sectors. During the month, the government also issued substantial GST refunds, improving liquidity for exporters and businesses. The performance demonstrates the growing efficiency of India's indirect tax system and its contribution to strengthening government revenues.

Project Shikhar Launched to Help MSMEs Raise Capital

E-commerce platform **Meesho**, in partnership with the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, launched **Project Shikhar** to help MSMEs and digital-first businesses access capital markets. The initiative provides guidance on corporate restructuring, regulatory compliance, governance standards, financial reporting, and listing procedures required for the **BSE SME Platform**. By preparing emerging enterprises for public listing, Project Shikhar aims to improve access to long-term capital, increase business transparency, enhance investor confidence, and support India's growing startup and MSME ecosystem.

India Records Highest-Ever Seafood Exports

India achieved its **highest-ever seafood exports** during **FY 2025–26**, exporting **19.72 lakh metric tonnes** worth **₹73,890 crore**. Frozen shrimp remained the largest export product, contributing the highest share of export earnings, while the **United States** emerged as the largest export destination by value and **China** by quantity. Other major export items included frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, fishmeal, and fish oil. The record performance reflects India's growing competitiveness in global seafood markets and highlights the importance of the marine products sector in generating foreign exchange earnings and supporting coastal livelihoods.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Grows 4.9%

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** registered a **4.9% growth** in **April 2026**, primarily driven by strong manufacturing sector performance. The Government also introduced a new **base year (2022–23)** for the IIP, replacing the earlier **2011–12** series to better capture structural changes in the economy. The revised index includes emerging sectors such as renewable energy, gas distribution, water supply, rare earth minerals, vaccines, aircraft components, and medical devices, providing a more accurate picture of India's industrial and manufacturing landscape.

Indian Banks Among Asia-Pacific's Best Capitalised

According to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**, Indian banks rank among the most well-capitalised banks in the Asia-Pacific region. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** topped the list with a leverage ratio of **16.56%**, followed by **HDFC Bank (11.14%)**, **ICICI Bank (10.84%)**, and **Axis Bank (9.28%)**. **Union Bank of India** recorded the highest improvement among public sector banks. The report highlights India's strong banking regulations, improved asset quality, Basel III compliance, and prudent risk management practices, demonstrating the resilience and stability of the Indian banking sector.

MoSPI Releases District Domestic Product Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the final guidelines for estimating the **District Domestic Product (DDP)** with **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of **Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP)**, **Net District Domestic Product (NDDP)**, and **Per Capita Income** across districts using a bottom-up approach. The initiative will improve the accuracy and comparability of district-level economic data, supporting evidence-based policymaking, decentralized planning, and efficient allocation of development resources.

India Becomes World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

According to the **SIDE 2026 Report**, India became the **world's fifth most digitalised economy**, improving from **eighth position in 2025**. The ranking is based on the **CHIPS Framework (Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain)**. India also secured the **fourth position globally in AI Readiness**, reflecting rapid growth in digital infrastructure, fintech innovation, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and technology adoption. The report highlights India's emergence as a global leader in digital transformation and innovation.

UPI Launched in Cambodia

The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, in partnership with **ACLEDA Bank**, launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** services in **Cambodia**, making it the **ninth country** to adopt India's digital payment system. Indian travellers can now make QR-code-based payments at over **4.5 million merchants** integrated with Cambodia's **KHQR** and **Bakong** payment networks. The initiative strengthens cross-border digital payments, promotes tourism, enhances financial connectivity, and expands India's global fintech footprint.

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25%

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** during the **June 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting. The central bank cited concerns over inflationary pressures arising from volatile crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and supply chain disruptions. RBI projected **6.6% GDP growth** for FY27 and **5.1% CPI inflation**, while maintaining a neutral monetary policy stance. The decision reflects a balanced approach to controlling inflation without adversely affecting economic growth.

RBI Monetary Policy Maintains Neutral Stance

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** maintained its **neutral policy stance**, emphasizing a data-driven approach to monetary management amid uncertain global economic conditions. The RBI reiterated its commitment to balancing inflation control with sustainable economic growth while ensuring adequate liquidity and financial stability. The decision reflects India's prudent macroeconomic management in the face of external risks and volatile global markets.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Wins Finacle Innovation Award 2026

Jammu & Kashmir Bank received the **Gold Award** at the **Finacle Innovation Awards 2026** for developing an AI-powered analytics platform that integrates machine learning, predictive analytics, and business intelligence. The platform enables the bank to improve customer insights, strengthen fraud detection, enhance risk management, and optimize operational efficiency. The recognition highlights the bank's commitment to digital transformation and the adoption of advanced technologies to deliver customer-centric banking services.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$682.32 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves increased to **\$682.32 billion**, mainly due to a rise in foreign currency assets despite a decline in gold reserves. The large reserve position strengthens India's ability to manage external shocks, stabilize the rupee during global volatility, finance imports, and maintain investor confidence. It also enhances the country's macroeconomic stability and provides a strong buffer against geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuations in global crude oil prices.

India Targets \$30 Billion Seafood Exports by 2031

The Government of India has set an ambitious target of increasing seafood exports from **\$8.5 billion to \$30 billion by 2031**. The strategy focuses on value addition, improved processing facilities, quality certification, branding, sustainable aquaculture, and expanding exports of high-value products such as frozen shrimp. The initiative aims to enhance India's global competitiveness while increasing the income of fishermen, aquaculture farmers, and seafood processing industries.

India Records Current Account Surplus in Q4 FY26

India recorded a **Current Account Surplus of \$7.1 billion (0.7% of GDP)** during the fourth quarter of FY26. The improvement was primarily driven by robust growth in services exports, which

generated net receipts of **\$60.4 billion**, and record inward remittances of **\$43.5 billion** from overseas Indians. Despite a merchandise trade deficit of **\$83.4 billion**, the country's overall Balance of Payments (BoP) remained in surplus, reflecting the resilience of India's external sector.

India-Nepal Launch Cross-Border UPI Remittance Service

India and Nepal jointly launched a **cross-border remittance service** by linking India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with Nepal's **National Payments Interface (NPI)**. Developed by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL)**, the service enables instant, secure, and low-cost money transfers between the two countries. The initiative is expected to benefit migrant workers, tourists, students, and businesses while strengthening regional financial integration.

Sanjay Lohiya Appointed to RBI and SBI Boards

The Government appointed **Sanjay Lohiya**, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), as a Director on the Boards of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. A 1994-batch IAS officer, Lohiya replaced Nagaraju Maddirala on the RBI Central Board. His appointment is expected to strengthen coordination between the government and key financial institutions while supporting banking reforms, financial inclusion, and modernization of India's financial sector.

World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and **7.2% for FY2027–28**, citing strong domestic demand, improving rural consumption, rising urban spending, and increasing foreign investment. The report also highlighted ongoing trade negotiations with countries such as the European Union, Oman, and New Zealand, which are expected to boost exports and attract additional investments despite global economic uncertainties.

India's CPI Inflation Rises to 3.93%

India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** increased to **3.93% in May 2026**, primarily due to higher food prices, particularly tomatoes and ginger, along with rising fuel costs. Rural inflation remained higher than urban inflation because of supply-side challenges and consumption patterns. Although inflation remained within the RBI's target range, food and energy prices continue to be closely monitored due to their impact on household expenditure.

India Leads Global Digital Wallet Downloads

India ranked **first globally** in digital wallet downloads during **2025**, recording more than **440 million app downloads**. Platforms such as **PhonePe**, **Paytm**, and **BHIM** continued to dominate the market, while UPI processed over **228.5 billion transactions worth ₹299.7 trillion** during the year. The achievement reflects India's leadership in digital payments, fintech innovation, and financial inclusion.

India Introduces New Wholesale Price Index Series

The Government introduced a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with **2022–23** as the new base year, replacing the earlier **2011–12** series. The updated index expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and introduces **Producer Price Indices (PPIs)** to improve inflation measurement. New sectors such as solar energy, wind energy, and nuclear energy have also been incorporated, making the index more representative of India's evolving economy.

RBI Simplifies Investment Rules for NRIs and OCIs

The Reserve Bank of India introduced **Designated Repatriable Rupee Accounts** to simplify investment procedures for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**, **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)**, and other overseas investors. The reforms reduce compliance requirements, simplify dividend and sale proceeds, facilitate easier fund repatriation, and expand investment opportunities under FEMA regulations. The initiative is expected to attract higher foreign investment into India's capital markets.

CAG Flags Fiscal Deficit Concerns

A report by the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** revealed that **18 out of 28 states** exceeded the prescribed **3% fiscal deficit ceiling** during FY25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report emphasized the need for fiscal discipline, subsidy rationalization, improved revenue generation, and prudent expenditure management to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Sarvam AI Enters Unicorn Club

Bengaluru-based startup **Sarvam AI** became a **Unicorn** after raising **\$234 million** in a Series-B funding round, reaching a valuation of approximately **\$1.5 billion**. Founded in **2023**, the company develops sovereign AI solutions tailored to India's multilingual and enterprise requirements. The fresh funding will be used to build advanced AI models, computing infrastructure, and enterprise AI products, strengthening India's growing artificial intelligence ecosystem.

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 14.64%

India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **14.64%** year-on-year to **₹5.21 trillion** during April–June 2026. Growth was driven by higher corporate tax collections, improved advance tax payments, stronger business profitability, and better tax compliance. The robust collections indicate continued formalization of the economy and improved efficiency in tax administration.

RBI Cancels Licence of Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank

The **Reserve Bank of India** cancelled the banking licence of **Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank** in Karnataka due to weak financial health, inadequate capital, and inability to repay depositors. Around **97.9% of depositors** are expected to receive their deposits up to **₹5 lakh** under the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** insurance scheme, ensuring protection of small depositors.

Asian Development Bank to Invest Nearly \$1 Billion in India's Private Sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced plans to invest nearly **\$1 billion** in India's private sector during 2026 to accelerate infrastructure development, renewable energy projects, urban transport, healthcare, financial services, and digital infrastructure. The investment aims to mobilize additional private capital, promote sustainable economic growth, and support India's long-term development goals. ADB also reiterated its commitment to strengthening climate resilience and financing green infrastructure projects across the country.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Granted Navratna Status

The Government of India conferred **Navratna status** on **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)**, making it one of India's leading Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The upgraded status provides greater financial and operational autonomy, allowing the company to undertake larger investments, form joint ventures, establish overseas subsidiaries, and make strategic business decisions without prior government approval. The recognition is expected to strengthen CPCL's competitiveness in the petroleum and energy sector.

SEBI Launches GARUDA Framework for Alternative Investment Funds

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the **GARUDA (Governance, Accountability, Reporting, Uniformity, Disclosure and Audit)** framework to improve transparency and governance in the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) industry. The framework standardizes reporting requirements, strengthens disclosure norms, enhances investor protection, and promotes better risk management practices. It also seeks to improve regulatory oversight while encouraging greater participation in India's alternative investment ecosystem.

RBI Introduces Digital Fraud Compensation Framework

The Reserve Bank of India introduced a new **Digital Fraud Compensation Framework** to strengthen customer protection against unauthorized digital banking transactions. Under the revised guidelines, banks and regulated entities are required to establish faster complaint resolution mechanisms and ensure timely compensation for eligible victims of digital fraud. The framework also mandates stronger cybersecurity measures, real-time fraud monitoring, and enhanced customer awareness to reduce cyber-related financial risks.

BHIM App Records Over 206% Growth in UPI Transactions

The **BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)** application recorded a remarkable **206% year-on-year growth** in transaction volume during FY2025–26. The growth was driven by increasing adoption of UPI payments in rural and semi-urban areas, expansion of merchant acceptance, and improvements in digital payment infrastructure. The continued success of BHIM highlights the government's efforts to promote financial inclusion, digital payments, and cashless transactions across the country.

RBI Extends Keki Mistry's Tenure as Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India approved the extension of **Keki Mistry's** tenure as the **Part-Time Chairman** of **HDFC Bank**. The extension ensures continuity in leadership while the bank continues its post-merger integration following the merger of HDFC Ltd. with HDFC Bank. Under his leadership, the bank is expected to focus on strengthening governance, expanding digital banking services, improving operational efficiency, and maintaining strong corporate governance standards.

RBI Revises Kisan Credit Card Guidelines

The Reserve Bank of India revised the operational guidelines for the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme to improve credit access for farmers, dairy farmers, fisheries, and allied agricultural activities. The revised norms simplify loan processing, encourage greater financial inclusion in rural areas, and support timely availability of institutional credit. The initiative is expected to reduce farmers' dependence on informal moneylenders and strengthen agricultural productivity.

RBI Revises Scale-Based Regulation Framework for NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India updated the **Scale-Based Regulation (SBR)** framework for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to strengthen financial stability and improve risk management. The revised framework introduces stricter governance norms, enhanced disclosure requirements, improved capital adequacy standards, and stronger supervisory mechanisms based on the size and risk profile of NBFCs. The move aims to build a more resilient and transparent non-banking financial sector.

RBI Injects ₹1.41 Lakh Crore Through Variable Rate Repo Auction

The Reserve Bank of India infused **₹1.41 lakh crore** into the banking system through a **Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction** to address temporary liquidity shortages. The liquidity injection was aimed at ensuring sufficient availability of funds in the banking system, stabilizing short-term interest rates, and supporting smooth credit flow to businesses and consumers. Such operations are part of RBI's liquidity management strategy to maintain financial market stability.

REC Limited to Merge with Power Finance Corporation

The Government approved the merger of **REC Limited** with **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to create a stronger public sector financial institution dedicated to infrastructure financing. The merger is expected to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance lending capacity, and strengthen financing support for India's power, renewable energy, and infrastructure sectors. The combined entity will play a key role in financing large-scale energy transition projects and supporting the country's infrastructure development goals.

India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation

India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation**, achieving the target under the **Maritime India Vision 2030** five years ahead of schedule. Major ship recycling activities are concentrated at **Alang Ship Breaking Yard** in Gujarat, which has adopted environmentally sustainable and globally compliant recycling practices. The achievement strengthens India's position in the global maritime sector while promoting resource recovery, employment generation, and circular economy principles.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, placing it among the world's leading countries in sustainable business activities. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, waste management, and energy-efficient manufacturing emerged as major contributors. The report highlights India's growing role in the global green economy and its commitment to achieving climate goals and net-zero emissions.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

Recent trade data indicates that India's merchandise exports are increasingly shifting towards **Asia, Africa, and emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional markets such as Europe and North America. The diversification has been supported by expanding trade agreements, stronger regional partnerships, and increasing exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electronics, and agricultural commodities. The shift is expected to improve export resilience and strengthen India's global trade competitiveness.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly**, highlighting trends in India's international trade, export diversification, import dependence, and emerging global market opportunities. The report emphasizes the importance of expanding manufacturing exports, improving logistics efficiency, strengthening supply chains, and leveraging Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to achieve India's long-term export targets. It also identifies sectors with high export potential, including electronics, renewable energy equipment, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

India's Banking Sector Continues to Strengthen

India's banking sector continued to demonstrate strong financial resilience during FY2025–26, supported by improved asset quality, higher profitability, robust capital adequacy, and steady credit growth. Public and private sector banks reported healthy earnings, while digital banking services witnessed rapid expansion. Continued regulatory reforms by the RBI, stronger corporate governance, and increased adoption of financial technology have further strengthened the stability and competitiveness of India's banking ecosystem.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Economy Grows 7.8% in Q4 FY26; FY26 Growth Revised to 7.7%

India's economy recorded a robust **7.8% GDP growth** during the fourth quarter (January–March) of FY2025–26, driven by strong performance in manufacturing, construction, financial services, and agriculture. With this, the country's overall GDP growth for FY2025–26 was revised upward to **7.7%**, making India one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Higher government capital expenditure, resilient domestic consumption, increasing exports of services, and improved investment activity contributed significantly to economic expansion. The strong growth reinforces India's position as a key global growth engine despite geopolitical uncertainties and global economic slowdown.

World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and **7.2% for FY2027–28**, citing strong domestic demand, rising public and private investments, and sustained infrastructure development. The report highlighted India's resilience despite global economic challenges and emphasized that continued structural reforms, digital transformation, and manufacturing expansion will support long-term economic growth. The World Bank also noted that India remains one of the fastest-growing large economies globally.

Fitch Ratings Revises India's Growth Outlook

Global rating agency **Fitch Ratings** revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27, citing geopolitical tensions, higher crude oil prices, and global trade uncertainties. However, Fitch maintained that India's economy remains relatively resilient due to strong domestic demand, improving banking sector health, government capital expenditure, and rising investments. The agency also highlighted India's stable macroeconomic fundamentals and healthy fiscal management despite external challenges.

S&P Global Projects Strong Economic Growth

S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP to grow at **6.6% in FY2026–27**, supported by strong domestic consumption, improving investment climate, healthy banking sector performance, and government-led infrastructure spending. The agency stated that India's relatively lower dependence on exports compared to several Asian economies provides protection against global economic volatility. Continued reforms, digitalization, and rising manufacturing activity are expected to sustain long-term growth.

GST Collections Reach ₹1.94 Lakh Crore

India's **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections reached **₹1.94 lakh crore** in **May 2026**, reflecting improved tax compliance, rising domestic consumption, and higher economic activity.

Growth in GST revenues was supported by increased imports, expansion in manufacturing and services, and stronger digital tax administration. Higher collections improve the government's fiscal position and provide greater resources for infrastructure development and welfare programmes.

Consumer Price Inflation Rises to 3.93%

India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** increased to **3.93%** in May 2026, mainly due to higher food prices, particularly vegetables and pulses, along with increased fuel costs. Although inflation remained within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, policymakers continue to closely monitor food inflation and global crude oil prices. Stable inflation supports consumer purchasing power while allowing the RBI greater flexibility in monetary policy decisions.

Government Introduces New Wholesale Price Index Series

The Government introduced a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with **2022–23** as the new base year, replacing the previous **2011–12** series. The updated index expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and includes emerging sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and advanced manufacturing. The revision provides a more accurate measure of wholesale inflation and reflects structural changes in India's economy.

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Rise 14.64%

India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **14.64%** during the first quarter of FY2026–27, reaching **₹5.21 lakh crore**. Growth was driven by higher corporate tax collections, advance tax payments, and improved compliance among taxpayers. The increase reflects stronger corporate profitability, expanding formalization of the economy, and improved efficiency of tax administration through digital initiatives.

India Records Current Account Surplus

India recorded a **Current Account Surplus of \$7.1 billion (0.7% of GDP)** during the fourth quarter of FY2025–26. The surplus was primarily driven by record services exports, higher software earnings, and strong inward remittances from overseas Indians. Despite a significant merchandise trade deficit, India's external sector remained resilient due to healthy growth in service exports and rising foreign exchange inflows.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$682.32 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves increased to **\$682.32 billion**, providing a strong buffer against global financial volatility and external economic shocks. The increase was mainly driven by higher foreign currency assets despite fluctuations in gold reserves. Large forex reserves strengthen the Indian Rupee, improve investor confidence, enhance import financing capacity, and provide stability during periods of global uncertainty.

India Becomes World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy

According to the **SIDE 2026 Report**, India became the **fifth most digitalised economy** globally, improving from eighth position in the previous year. The country's rapid expansion in digital public infrastructure, fintech, artificial intelligence, broadband connectivity, and digital governance contributed to the improved ranking. India also secured fourth place globally in AI readiness, highlighting its growing leadership in digital innovation.

India Leads Global Digital Wallet Downloads

India ranked **first globally** in digital wallet downloads during 2025, recording more than **440 million downloads**. The growth was driven by widespread adoption of UPI-enabled applications such as PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm, and BHIM. The achievement reflects increasing digital payment adoption, financial inclusion, and India's emergence as a global leader in digital financial services.

Index of Industrial Production Grows 4.9%

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** registered a **4.9% growth** in April 2026, led by strong manufacturing output, mining activity, and electricity generation. The Government also introduced a revised IIP series with **2022–23** as the base year, incorporating new industries such as renewable energy equipment, electric vehicles, medical devices, and advanced electronics. The revised index provides a more comprehensive picture of India's evolving industrial economy.

Government Releases District Domestic Product Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released national guidelines for estimating **District Domestic Product (DDP)** using **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP), Net District Domestic Product (NDDP), and Per Capita Income across all districts. The initiative will strengthen district-level planning, improve policy formulation, and support balanced regional economic development.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated approximately **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, making it one of the world's leading green economies. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, and waste management emerged as major contributors. The report reflects India's growing commitment to climate action, clean energy transition, and sustainable economic development.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

India's export strategy increasingly shifted towards **Asia, Africa, and emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional markets such as Europe and North America. Rising exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electronics, and agricultural commodities supported this diversification. The changing trade pattern is expected to improve export resilience, strengthen supply chains, and expand India's presence in high-growth global markets.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly**, highlighting key trends in India's exports, imports, trade agreements, and global competitiveness. The report emphasized strengthening manufacturing exports, improving logistics infrastructure, expanding Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and promoting high-value sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy equipment, and food processing. It also outlined strategies to help India achieve its long-term export and economic growth targets.

CAG Flags Rising Fiscal Deficit in States

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** reported that **18 states** exceeded the recommended fiscal deficit limit of **3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** during FY2024–25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report stressed the importance of fiscal discipline, efficient expenditure management, and enhanced revenue mobilization to ensure sustainable public finances and long-term economic stability.

BUSINESS NEWS

Project Shikhar Launched to Help MSMEs Raise Capital

Meesho, in collaboration with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), launched **Project Shikhar** to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and digital-first businesses access capital markets. The initiative provides guidance on financial reporting, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and listing procedures for the **BSE SME Platform**. By preparing eligible businesses for public listing, Project Shikhar aims to improve access to long-term capital, enhance transparency, strengthen investor confidence, and accelerate the growth of India's startup and MSME ecosystem.

India Records Highest-Ever Seafood Exports

India achieved its **highest-ever seafood exports** during FY2025–26 by exporting **19.72 lakh metric tonnes** of marine products valued at **₹73,890 crore (around US\$8.78 billion)**. Frozen shrimp remained the largest export commodity, contributing the highest share of export earnings, while the **United States** emerged as the largest export destination by value and **China** by quantity. The record performance reflects India's growing competitiveness in global seafood markets and supports employment, foreign exchange earnings, and the livelihoods of millions associated with the fisheries sector.

India Sets Target of \$30 Billion Seafood Exports by 2031

The Government of India has set an ambitious target of increasing seafood exports to **US\$30 billion by 2031**. To achieve this objective, the government plans to expand sustainable aquaculture, modernize seafood processing infrastructure, promote value-added marine products, improve quality certification, and strengthen cold-chain logistics. The initiative is expected to enhance India's global market share, boost exports, increase fishermen's incomes, and generate additional employment across the fisheries value chain.

Adani Ports Wins Argentina LNG Marine Services Contract

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) secured a long-term marine services contract for a major **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** project in Argentina. Under the agreement, the company will provide comprehensive port management, pilotage, towage, and marine logistics services for the LNG export terminal. The contract marks Adani Ports' continued global expansion and strengthens India's presence in international port infrastructure and maritime logistics services.

REC Limited to Merge with Power Finance Corporation

The Government approved the merger of **REC Limited** with **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to create one of India's largest infrastructure financing institutions. The merger aims to improve operational efficiency, reduce duplication, enhance lending capacity, and strengthen financing support for power generation, renewable energy, transmission, distribution, and other infrastructure projects. The combined entity will play a significant role in supporting India's clean energy transition and infrastructure development.

Sarvam AI Becomes Unicorn

Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup **Sarvam AI** entered the Unicorn Club after raising **US\$234 million** in a Series-B funding round, taking its valuation to around **US\$1.5 billion**. Founded in **2023**, the company focuses on building sovereign AI models tailored to Indian languages and enterprise applications. The fresh investment will be used to develop advanced AI infrastructure, large language models, and enterprise AI solutions, strengthening India's artificial intelligence ecosystem and technological innovation.

Asian Development Bank to Invest Nearly \$1 Billion in India's Private Sector

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** announced plans to invest nearly **US\$1 billion** in India's private sector during 2026. The investment will support renewable energy, transport, healthcare, financial services, digital infrastructure, and climate-resilient projects. The funding aims to mobilize additional private investment, promote sustainable economic growth, create employment opportunities, and accelerate India's infrastructure development while supporting its net-zero and climate commitments.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Granted Navratna Status

The Government of India granted **Navratna** status to **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)**, making it one of the country's premier Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The upgraded status provides CPCL with greater operational and financial autonomy, enabling it to undertake larger investments, establish joint ventures, expand overseas operations, and make strategic business decisions without prior government approval. The move is expected to strengthen India's petroleum refining sector and improve the company's competitiveness.

India Becomes World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation

India became the **world's largest ship recycling nation**, achieving the target under **Maritime India Vision 2030** five years ahead of schedule. The achievement is largely driven by the **Alang Ship Recycling Yard** in Gujarat, one of the world's largest ship-breaking facilities. Adoption of environmentally sustainable recycling practices, improved worker safety standards, and compliance with international regulations have significantly strengthened India's position in the global maritime recycling industry while promoting the circular economy.

India Generates US\$110 Billion in Green Revenues

According to the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**, India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025, making it one of the leading contributors to the global green economy. Renewable energy, electric mobility, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, and waste management emerged as the primary drivers of green revenue generation. The report highlights India's growing commitment to sustainable development, climate action, and clean energy transition.

India's Trade Pattern Shifts Towards Asia and Africa

India's merchandise exports are increasingly shifting towards **Asia, Africa, and other emerging markets**, reducing dependence on traditional export destinations such as Europe and North America. Rising exports of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, electronics, petroleum products, chemicals, and agricultural commodities have supported this diversification. The evolving trade strategy is expected to improve export resilience, strengthen regional trade partnerships, and enhance India's competitiveness in global markets.

Kunal Shah Appointed Global Head of WhatsApp at Meta

Meta appointed **Kunal Shah** as the **Global Head of WhatsApp**, strengthening the company's leadership in one of its fastest-growing communication platforms. In his new role, he will oversee product strategy, business expansion, user engagement, and innovation across global markets. His appointment reflects Meta's focus on expanding WhatsApp's ecosystem, including business messaging, digital payments, and AI-powered communication services.

India's Corporate Sector Shows Strong Growth Momentum

India's corporate sector continued to witness robust growth during FY2025–26, supported by rising domestic demand, higher private investments, improved corporate profitability, and increasing adoption of digital technologies. Growth in manufacturing, infrastructure, renewable energy, financial services, and technology sectors has strengthened business confidence and attracted both domestic and foreign investments. Government initiatives such as **Make in India**, **Digital India**, **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**, and **Ease of Doing Business** reforms continue to drive corporate expansion and enhance India's position as a global investment destination.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

India and United States Sign Bilateral Framework for Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation

India and the **United States** signed a **Bilateral Framework on Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation** on the sidelines of the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting** to strengthen collaboration across the entire critical minerals value chain. The agreement focuses on **exploration, mining, processing, refining, recycling, technology transfer, and investments** related to critical minerals that are essential for **electric vehicles (EVs), semiconductors, clean energy technologies, aerospace, defence systems, telecommunications, and high-tech electronics**. The framework builds upon India's participation in the **US-led Pax Silica Initiative**, which India joined on **20 February 2026**, and aims to diversify global supply chains at a time when **China controls nearly 90% of global critical mineral processing**. The partnership is expected to enhance **economic security, supply chain resilience, technological cooperation, strategic investments, and energy transition**, while reducing dependence on a single supplier for minerals that are vital for future industries and national security.

National Skill Development Corporation Partners with Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation

The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** signed a strategic partnership with **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC), Japan**, to facilitate safe and transparent employment opportunities for skilled Indian professionals in Japan. Under the collaboration, **NSDC Trust's Credibility Check Framework** will verify candidates' identities, educational qualifications, employment history, criminal background (where legally permissible), and document authenticity before they are deployed overseas. The initiative supports the **India-Japan Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange and Cooperation**, which aims to facilitate the movement of at least **50,000 skilled Indian professionals to Japan over the next five years**. The partnership seeks to improve **global skill recognition, workforce mobility, international recruitment standards, and employment transparency**, while addressing Japan's growing demand for skilled manpower in sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, construction, hospitality, and information technology.

Gujarat Government Signs MoU with Meta Platforms

The **Government of Gujarat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Meta Platforms Inc.** to provide **WhatsApp-based government services** through the **Sugam Digital Gujarat Platform**, making citizen services more accessible through a single digital interface. Under the initiative, nearly **20 public services** from five major government departments will be integrated into a multilingual **WhatsApp chatbot** available in **Gujarati and English**. Citizens will be able to access services such as **Income Certificates, Caste Certificates, Economically Weaker**

Section (EWS) Certificates, Ration Card updates, Revenue Records, Official Affidavits, and Grievance Redressal, while also tracking their application status in real time. The partnership aims to strengthen **digital governance, ease of access, transparency, citizen convenience, and last-mile service delivery**, especially in rural and remote areas, supporting Gujarat's vision of becoming a digitally empowered state.

Odisha, Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions Sign \$3.3 Billion Semiconductor Agreement

The **Government of Odisha, Intel Corporation, and 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS)** signed a **\$3.3 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in the **Bhubaneswar-Khurda region**, making it one of the largest semiconductor investments in India. The facility will manufacture **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrates, High-Density Interconnect (HDI) Substrates, and Next-Generation Semiconductor Components**, while Intel will provide advanced manufacturing expertise and technological support. Glass core substrates offer significant advantages, including **higher chip density, better thermal performance, improved electrical efficiency, enhanced signal integrity, and lower power consumption**, making them ideal for **Artificial Intelligence (AI), High-Performance Computing (HPC), and advanced semiconductor applications**. The project aligns with the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** and is expected to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, reduce import dependence, attract global investments, and position India as a major player in the global semiconductor supply chain.

India and Myanmar Strengthen Strategic Partnership

During the official visit of **Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing** to India from **30 May to 3 June 2026**, India and Myanmar agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation across strategic sectors including **trade, connectivity, security, agriculture, energy, banking, information technology, infrastructure, education, and cultural exchanges**. India reaffirmed Myanmar's importance under its **Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and the MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Initiative**. Both countries emphasized the early completion of key connectivity projects such as the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway**, which are expected to enhance regional trade and connectivity. The leaders also highlighted the operational **Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism**, expanded **ICCR scholarships** for Myanmar students from **36 to 100 annually**, and reaffirmed cooperation on border security, regional stability, and economic development, further strengthening India's engagement with Southeast Asia.

RITES Limited Signs MoU with CRISIL

RITES Limited signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)** to jointly provide **data-driven infrastructure consultancy solutions** for projects in India and abroad. The collaboration combines **RITES' engineering and transport infrastructure expertise** with **CRISIL's research, analytics, financial advisory, and market intelligence capabilities** to improve planning and execution of major infrastructure projects. The partnership will support sectors such as **railways, metro systems, highways, airports, ports, ropeways, bridges, tunnels, urban transport, hydropower, water resources, wastewater management, and industrial infrastructure**. Through advanced **data analytics, valuation support, due diligence, market research, and financial modelling**, the initiative aims to enhance evidence-based decision-making, improve project efficiency, strengthen infrastructure planning, and promote sustainable development across multiple sectors.

Tata Consultancy Services Partners with Mistral AI for Enterprise Artificial Intelligence Solutions

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) entered into a strategic partnership with **Mistral AI**, a leading French artificial intelligence company, to accelerate the adoption of **enterprise-grade Artificial Intelligence (AI)** solutions across industries. Through this collaboration, TCS became the **first Global Systems Integrator (GSI)** for **Mistral Forge**, an enterprise AI platform that enables organizations to develop secure and customized AI models using proprietary business data. TCS will leverage the platform to build AI-powered solutions for sectors such as **Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), Manufacturing, Healthcare, and the Public Sector**. As part of the agreement, TCS will establish a dedicated **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** to develop industry-specific AI applications, train professionals, support project implementation, and accelerate AI adoption among global enterprises. The partnership is expected to strengthen digital transformation, enhance productivity, and position India as a key contributor to the global AI ecosystem.

India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Comes into Force

The **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** officially came into force on **1 June 2026**, marking a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The agreement provides **zero-duty market access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines**, covering nearly **99.38% of India's exports**, thereby creating new opportunities for Indian exporters in sectors such as **engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, marine products, textiles, leather, chemicals, electronics, automobiles, and gems & jewellery**. CEPA also facilitates **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** by Indian companies in several service sectors in Oman and includes provisions related to **investment, professional mobility, traditional medicine (AYUSH), Halal certification, organic product recognition, pharmaceutical approvals, and regulatory cooperation**. The agreement is expected to boost bilateral trade, deepen investment flows, generate employment, and further strengthen India's strategic economic engagement with the Gulf region.

Centre Signs MoUs with Five States and One Union Territory under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

The **Central Government** signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Puducherry, and later Sikkim** under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0)** to strengthen rural drinking water infrastructure across the country. The reform-linked agreements promote a **Gram Panchayat-led, community-based, and service-oriented approach** for ensuring sustainable water supply management. The mission aims to provide **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** to all **19.36 crore rural households** by **December 2028** while certifying every Gram Panchayat as a "**Har Ghar Jal**" village. With an enhanced financial outlay of **₹8.69 lakh crore**, the second phase of the mission focuses on regular supply of safe drinking water, community participation, operation and maintenance of water supply systems, and long-term sustainability, thereby improving public health and rural quality of life.

India and United Kingdom Launch Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory

India and the **United Kingdom** jointly launched the **India–UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in **New Delhi** to strengthen cooperation in securing global supply chains for critical minerals. The initiative was launched by **Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy** and **UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper** and has been developed through collaboration between **TEXMiN at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** and the **University of Cambridge**. The observatory will monitor global supply chains using **data analytics, research, and intelligence**, helping governments identify supply disruptions, geopolitical risks, market trends, and emerging opportunities related to critical minerals. Since these minerals are essential for **electric vehicles, semiconductors, renewable energy, defence systems, telecommunications, and advanced manufacturing**, the initiative is expected to strengthen strategic planning, support the **National Critical Mineral Mission**, diversify supply sources, and enhance India's long-term resource security.

West Bengal Legislative Assembly Joins National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, becoming the **33rd Legislature** in India to adopt the digital platform. Developed as a **Mission Mode Project** by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**, NeVA aims to modernize legislative functioning through the vision of "**One Nation – One Application**." The platform enables paperless management of legislative business, including **questions, bills, notices, committee proceedings, House debates, bulletins, legislative records, and official documents**, while allowing Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) to access information digitally from anywhere. The initiative supports the **Digital India Mission** by improving transparency, efficiency, accessibility, record management, citizen engagement, and reducing administrative costs through a fully digital legislative ecosystem.

Reliance Industries and Meta Partner to Develop AI-Enabled Hyperscale Data Centre

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and **Meta Platforms** announced a strategic partnership to establish an **AI-enabled Hyperscale Data Centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, with an initial capacity of **168 Megawatts (MW)**. The facility, expected to become one of India's largest AI infrastructure projects, will serve as **Meta's first built-to-suit data centre in India**, supporting its rapidly expanding **Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, and high-performance computing (HPC)** requirements. The project will leverage **renewable energy, desalinated seawater-based cooling systems, and Jio's fibre connectivity** to ensure sustainable operations while reducing carbon emissions and freshwater consumption. Reliance will develop and operate the infrastructure, while Meta will lease capacity for AI workloads. The partnership is expected to strengthen India's AI ecosystem, attract advanced technology investments, and position the country as a major global hub for digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence.

Himachal Pradesh Signs MoU with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The **Government of Himachal Pradesh** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to promote **climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development** across the state. The partnership focuses on key sectors including **circular economy, biodiversity conservation, waste management, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and electric mobility for waste collection**. The initiative also emphasizes the participation of **women, marginalized communities, and informal workers** in environmental governance and sustainable development. Alongside the agreement, the state launched the **Safai Mitra Scheme** to improve the dignity, safety, and socio-economic conditions of sanitation workers engaged in waste management. The collaboration is expected to strengthen ecological conservation, promote green development, and support Himachal Pradesh's long-term environmental sustainability goals.

Air India and Riyadh Air Sign Strategic Partnership

Air India and **Riyadh Air** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen air connectivity between **India, Saudi Arabia, and other international destinations**. Subject to regulatory approvals, the airlines will introduce **codeshare and interline agreements**, enabling passengers to travel on a single ticket with seamless connectivity across their combined networks through hubs in **Delhi, Mumbai, and Riyadh**. The partnership will also explore cooperation in **cargo services, loyalty programmes, operational support, digital technologies, and customer experience enhancement**. The agreement is expected to boost tourism, facilitate business travel, improve bilateral connectivity, and strengthen aviation cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia, while supporting Air India's ongoing global expansion strategy.

Rapido Partners with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to Promote Rahveer Scheme

Rapido partnered with the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to promote nationwide awareness of the **Rahveer Scheme**, a Government of India initiative that encourages citizens to assist road accident victims during the critical **Golden Hour**. As part of the campaign, more than **4 lakh Rapido captains** took the **Rahveer Pledge**, creating a **Guinness World Record** for the largest road safety pledge. Through digital campaigns, community outreach, and in-app awareness programmes, Rapido will educate citizens about providing timely assistance to accident victims without fear. The initiative aims to improve emergency response, increase public participation in saving lives, strengthen road safety awareness, and support the Government's vision of reducing fatalities caused by road accidents across India.

Invest India and Invest UP Sign Strategic Partnership to Boost Foreign Direct Investment

Invest India and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to accelerate **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** and promote industrial development in Uttar Pradesh. The collaboration focuses on improving investor facilitation, faster implementation of investment proposals, project monitoring, grievance redressal, and global investment outreach. It also aims to strengthen **ease of doing business**, improve regulatory clearances, facilitate land acquisition, and encourage investments in **technology-driven and employment-intensive sectors**. The partnership supports Uttar Pradesh's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** by attracting domestic and foreign investments, generating employment opportunities, and strengthening the state's position as one of India's leading investment destinations.

Assam and Nagaland Sign Tripartite MoU for Joint Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

The Governments of **Assam** and **Nagaland** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in the presence of the **Union Home Minister** and the **Union Petroleum Minister** for the joint exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas along their shared border. The agreement covers **six hydrocarbon-rich disputed fields** spread across more than **1,000 square kilometres** and establishes a formal framework for coordinated petroleum exploration after decades of limited activity due to boundary disputes. Under the agreement, revenue generated from oil and gas production will be shared equally through a **50:50 revenue-sharing model**. The initiative is expected to unlock significant hydrocarbon reserves, strengthen India's energy security, attract investments, create employment opportunities, and promote economic development in the North-Eastern region.

BSNL and IIT Kanpur Collaborate on Next-Generation Telecom Technologies

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** to jointly develop next-generation telecom technologies. The collaboration focuses on **research, development, testing, deployment, and commercialization** of advanced communication technologies such as **Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) broadcasting, indigenous 4G technology, and advanced spectrum research**. The partnership seeks to promote innovation, strengthen indigenous telecom capabilities, improve digital connectivity in rural areas, and contribute to **Digital India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives. The collaboration is expected to accelerate India's self-reliance in telecommunications while enhancing future-ready digital infrastructure.

Tata Consultancy Services Signs Digital Transformation Agreement with Canada Life

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed a **multi-year digital transformation and managed services agreement** with **Canada Life**, one of Europe's leading life insurance and pension companies. Under the agreement, TCS will modernize Canada Life's **IT infrastructure, data centres, end-user computing environment, and software lifecycle management** by leveraging its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Cognix platform**. The partnership also includes expanding TCS's infrastructure services talent across the **United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and the Isle of Man**, while investing in employee training and certification. The collaboration is expected to strengthen TCS's presence in the European **Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)** sector and support compliance with the **Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA)** of the European Union.

India and Slovakia Elevate Bilateral Relations to Comprehensive Partnership

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the **first Indian Prime Minister** to visit **Slovakia** since its independence in 1993, marking a historic milestone in bilateral relations. During the visit, India and Slovakia elevated their ties to a **Comprehensive Partnership** and signed **11 Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** covering **defence cooperation, labour migration, higher education, digital technologies, healthcare, tourism, scientific research, cultural exchanges, and quantum communication**. A significant outcome was the establishment of the **first Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at the **Technical University of Kosice**. Both countries also agreed to establish a **Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism** and a **Consular Dialogue Mechanism**, further strengthening cooperation in strategic, technological, educational, and security sectors.

India–United Kingdom CETA and Double Contribution Convention Come into Force

The **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)** between **India** and the **United Kingdom** came into force on **15 June 2026**, significantly strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations. CETA provides **zero-duty market access on nearly 99% of India's tariff lines** and covers sectors such as **goods, services, investment, digital trade, financial services, intellectual property rights, government procurement, innovation, and sustainability**. It also offers enhanced mobility opportunities for Indian professionals, including **IT experts, engineers, healthcare professionals, chefs, yoga instructors, and musicians**. Under the **Double Contribution Convention**, Indian employees on temporary assignments in the UK are exempt from making dual social security contributions for up to **five years**, benefiting over **75,000 professionals** and reducing costs for more than **900 Indian companies** operating in the UK.

MoRTH Signs Agreements with Vehicle Manufacturers for Delhi-NCR Fleet Modernisation

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Ashok Leyland, Switch Mobility, and Tata Motors** to implement the Government's **Delhi-NCR Fleet Modernisation Scheme** aimed at reducing vehicular pollution. The initiative encourages owners of **BS-IV and older trucks and buses** to replace them with **BS-VI or electric vehicles** by offering multiple incentives, including an **8% manufacturer discount, 5% interest subsidy on vehicle loans, monthly fuel vouchers, motor vehicle tax concessions, and waiver of registration fees**. Together, the participating manufacturers account for nearly **50% of India's truck and bus market**, making the programme a major step toward cleaner transportation, improved air quality, and sustainable urban mobility in the National Capital Region.

Gujarat Signs ₹1 Lakh Crore Infrastructure Financing Agreement with HUDCO

The **Government of Gujarat** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)** for financial assistance of up to **₹1 lakh crore** over two years to accelerate infrastructure development across the state. The funding will support major projects including **Gujarat Metro Rail Phase-II and Phase-III, expressways, sports infrastructure, and the development of Dholera Smart City**. HUDCO will provide flexible financing with repayment moratoriums, while the state government will facilitate approvals for smooth implementation. Additionally, Gujarat signed another MoU with **IIM Ahmedabad** for conducting feasibility studies, preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and evaluating projects under the **Viksit Gujarat 2047** vision.

IITM and ARIES Collaborate to Establish Himalayan Climate Observation Station

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **long-term Climate Observation Station** at **Devasthal, Uttarakhand**, under the **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)**. The station will monitor **meteorological parameters**,

greenhouse gases, atmospheric chemistry, soil moisture, and short-lived climate pollutants over a period exceeding **50 years**. Developed under **Mission Mausam**, the initiative aims to strengthen climate research, improve **Earth System Models (ESMs)**, enhance climate forecasting, and deepen scientific understanding of the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, thereby supporting India's long-term climate resilience and environmental planning.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- The Central Government approved the appointment of **five new judges** to the **Supreme Court of India** following an increase in the Court's sanctioned strength. The appointments were recommended by the **Supreme Court Collegium** and are expected to strengthen judicial capacity and reduce case pendency. A notable development is the elevation of **Senior Advocate V. Mohana**, who becomes only the second woman to be directly elevated from the Bar to the Supreme Court. The expansion aims to improve the efficiency of justice delivery and enhance the functioning of the country's highest judicial institution.
- Justice **Meenakshi Madan Rai** has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of the **Patna High Court** following Supreme Court Collegium recommendation. Currently serving in the **Sikkim High Court**, she will assume office after the retirement of Chief Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo. She began her judicial career in 1990 and became the first woman from Sikkim appointed as Judicial Magistrate First Class-cum-Civil Judge. Elevated as a permanent judge in 2015, she has served in multiple judicial roles. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in her over three-decade-long judicial career and strengthens gender representation in the judiciary.
- Lokhande Prashant Sitaram** has been appointed as Chairperson of **CBSE**, while **Varun Bhardwaj** becomes its Secretary. Sitaram, a 2001-batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, replaces Rahul Singh. Bhardwaj succeeds Himanshu Gupta and will serve until September 2027. The leadership change comes amid concerns over the **On-Screen Marking system**, including evaluation issues and delays. CBSE, established in 1929, is India's largest school board conducting Class 10 and 12 examinations for over **30,000 schools**. The appointments aim to strengthen administrative efficiency and improve examination and evaluation processes in India's central education system.
- Senior diplomat **Vipul** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to **Saudi Arabia**. A 1998-batch **Indian Foreign Service officer**, he currently serves as Ambassador to Qatar. He has earlier held key diplomatic roles in **Cairo, Colombo, Geneva, Dubai**, and MEA postings including Gulf affairs. An alumnus of **IIT Delhi and ISB**, he brings strong expertise in Gulf diplomacy. His appointment is significant as India and Saudi Arabia expand cooperation in **trade, energy, investment, defence, and technology** under their strategic partnership, strengthening India's diplomatic engagement in the West Asian region.
- Neelkanth Mishra** has been appointed as India's next **Executive Director at the World Bank**, representing the South Asian constituency including **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka**. A noted economist and former **Axis Bank Chief Economist**, he brings extensive experience in **policy research, financial markets, and economic advisory roles**. His appointment strengthens India's representation in global financial governance institutions.
- The government extended the tenure of **Tarun Kapoor as Advisor to the Prime Minister** for one year. A former IAS officer, he plays a key role in **energy, infrastructure, and policy coordination** within the PMO. His continuation ensures stability in strategic governance and development planning.
- Saurabh Vijay** has been appointed **CEO of the IndiaAI Mission**, while Sudeep Shrivastava becomes COO. The appointments strengthen India's push in **AI innovation, computing infrastructure, indigenous models, and responsible AI development** under the **IndiaAI Mission 2024**, positioning India as a global AI leader.
- The **President of India** approved the appointment of six additional judges as **permanent judges of the Bombay High Court** under **Article 217(1)** of the Constitution. The appointed judges are **Justice Nivedita Prakash Mehta, Justice Prafulla Surendrakumar Khubalkar, Justice Ashwin Damodar Bhohe, Justice Rohit Wasudeo Joshi, Justice Advait Mahendra Sethna, and Justice Pravin Sheshrao Patil**. These appointments are expected to strengthen judicial capacity, improve case disposal efficiency, reduce pendency, and address existing vacancies. The move will enhance the functioning of one of India's busiest constitutional courts and improve access to timely justice.

- **Kumar Shanker** was appointed as the new **Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** with effect from June 5, 2026. Nominated by **GAIL (India) Limited**, he brings over **31 years of experience** in the natural gas and energy sector. A **Chemical Engineering graduate from BITS Pilani**, he has played an important role in gas marketing, infrastructure expansion, tariff reforms, and policy initiatives. He succeeds **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal** and is expected to lead IGL's future growth strategy, strengthen city gas distribution networks, and support the expansion of clean energy infrastructure in India.
- **Banwarilal Purohit** was unanimously elected **President of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan**, succeeding **Surendralal Mehta**, who stepped down due to health reasons. Associated with the institution for more than **22 years** as a Trustee, Executive Committee member, and Vice-President, Purohit brings extensive administrative and public service experience. He has previously served as **Governor of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Meghalaya**. **Deepak Parekh** was elected Vice-President. Founded in **1938** by **Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi**, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan remains one of India's leading educational and cultural organizations.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** appointed two senior **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officers as ambassadors to African nations. **Lakshmanan Ramesh Babu**, currently serving as Consul General in Atlanta, was appointed Ambassador to **Côte d'Ivoire**, while **Vinay Kumar** was appointed Ambassador to **São Tomé and Príncipe**. Both officers are expected to assume their responsibilities shortly. The appointments reflect India's growing engagement with Africa through cooperation in trade, investment, technology, maritime security, energy, capacity building, and development partnerships, supporting New Delhi's broader diplomatic strategy of strengthening political and economic ties across the continent.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** appointed **Rudra Gaurav Shresth**, a **1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer**, as India's next **Ambassador to Türkiye**. Previously serving as India's Ambassador to **Iran**, he will be based in **Ankara** and tasked with strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, culture, and strategic affairs. Türkiye's location between **Europe and Asia** gives it considerable geopolitical significance. His appointment reflects India's continued focus on expanding diplomatic engagement with key Eurasian partners and deepening bilateral relations in areas such as commerce, regional connectivity, and strategic cooperation.
- The Government of India appointed **Dinesh Pant and Girija Subramanian** as members of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. Dinesh Pant has been designated as **Member (Actuary)**, responsible for actuarial standards, insurance risk assessment, and long-term financial sustainability of insurance products. Girija Subramanian has been appointed as **Member (Distribution)**, focusing on expanding insurance penetration, strengthening distribution networks, and improving customer outreach. Both appointments carry a tenure of up to five years or until the age of 65. Additionally, the government extended the tenure of senior officials **Deepak Sood and Rajay Kumar Sinha** by two years.
- India appointed **Dinesh Trivedi**, former Union Railway Minister, as its new **High Commissioner to Bangladesh**, marking a significant diplomatic development in South Asia. He assumed charge in Dhaka on **12 June 2026** after receiving his credentials from President **Droupadi Murmu**. This is one of the rare political appointments to a high diplomatic post, reflecting the strategic importance of India-Bangladesh relations. Trivedi succeeded **Pranay Verma** and will lead India's diplomatic mission in Dhaka, focusing on strengthening cooperation in trade, connectivity, energy, border management, and regional security. His appointment aligns with India's **Neighbourhood First Policy**, aiming to deepen bilateral ties and enhance people-to-people connections between the two countries.
- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** reconstituted its **Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee** for one year, appointing **Dr P. L. Gautam** as Chair under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. The committee will guide conservation of **crop genetic resources, livestock breeds, and traditional knowledge**, focusing on **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**. It includes experts from **ICAR, PPVFRA**, and other institutions. The move aims to promote **climate-resilient agriculture**, protect **native crop varieties**, and support India's commitments under the **ITPGRFA**, strengthening **food security** and sustainable agriculture.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Hitesh Joshi** as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of General Insurance Corporation of India. A seasoned insurance professional and Fellow of the Insurance Institute of India, he brings expertise in **Reinsurance, Risk Management, Finance, and Digital Transformation**. His appointment is expected to strengthen GIC Re's leadership and enhance India's insurance and reinsurance sector.
- **Sundarraaj Pattilingam**, a 2003-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as **Inspector General** in the National Investigation Agency. Known for his extensive experience in **Anti-Naxal Operations** in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, he played a crucial role in coordinating security operations against Maoist insurgency. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the NIA's counter-terrorism and national security capabilities.

- **Bata India** appointed **Sanjay Rao** as its new **Managing Director and CEO**, succeeding **Gunjan Shah**. With over two decades of international retail experience, including leadership roles at **Nike** and involvement in expanding **Zara India**, Rao brings expertise in retail growth, consumer engagement, and brand management. His appointment is expected to support innovation, improve customer experience, and drive Bata India's long-term expansion strategy.
- India achieved a historic milestone with the election of **Vivek Aggarwal** as **Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, making him the first Indian to hold this

influential position. Elected at the **FATF Plenary Meeting in Paris**, he will serve from **July 2026 to June 2027**. A **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Madhya Pradesh cadre**, Aggarwal currently serves as **Union Culture Secretary** and has extensive experience in financial intelligence and regulatory affairs. He previously served as **Director of FIU-IND**, **Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry**, and head of India's FATF delegation. Established in **1989**, FATF develops global standards to combat **money laundering, terrorist financing, and emerging financial threats**, making Aggarwal's election a significant boost to India's influence in global financial governance.

AWARDS

- **Soma Mandal**, a science teacher from **GD Goenka Public School**, became the first Indian to win the global **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award 2026**. She was recognized for developing a climate-focused and inquiry-based science curriculum that promotes environmental awareness, problem-solving, and sustainable thinking among students. The award celebrates outstanding educators worldwide and acknowledges innovative teaching practices that positively impact student learning. Her achievement highlights the growing global recognition of Indian educators and their contributions to shaping future generations through quality education and environmental consciousness.
- **Valluvan**, a farmer from **Pollachi, Tamil Nadu**, was recognized as a **FAO Soil Farmer Hero** for successfully transforming his coconut farm into a profitable multi-crop agroforestry enterprise. By adopting crop diversification and sustainable farming practices, he significantly improved both income levels and soil health. His model demonstrates the benefits of agroforestry, environmental conservation, and climate-resilient agriculture. The recognition showcases how innovative farming techniques can improve productivity, increase farmer earnings, and contribute to long-term sustainability while preserving natural resources.
- Indian students **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta** became the first Indian team to win **The Earth Prize** for developing **Plas-Stick**, an innovative biodegradable material made from tamarind seed powder. The solution helps remove **microplastics** from contaminated water by binding plastic particles into larger clumps that can be easily separated. Designed as a low-cost and eco-friendly technology, it addresses the growing challenge of water pollution and environmental degradation. Their achievement highlights the role of youth innovation in developing sustainable solutions for global environmental problems.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will present the **National Panchayat Awards 2025** to 42 Panchayats in New Delhi. The awards under **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan** recognise excellence in **local governance, sustainable development, infrastructure, and social inclusion**. Selection is based on

Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0, evaluating transparency, women empowerment, and environmental sustainability. Awards include categories covering **SDG-linked themes and best-performing Panchayats**. The initiative promotes grassroots democracy, citizen participation, and good governance, strengthening rural development systems and encouraging innovation in local self-governance across India.

- **David Beckham** will receive a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame** on 12 June 2026. The recognition honours his outstanding contributions to **football and global sports culture**. Beckham played for clubs including **Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan, and PSG**, winning multiple titles. He also earned **115 international caps for England**, captaining the team 59 times. The honour comes ahead of the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, highlighting his lasting influence on global football and sports icon status across generations.
- British actor and activist **Idris Elba** was knighted by King Charles III at Windsor Castle for services to **youth development and community work**. He was honoured for his efforts through the **Elba Hope Foundation** and association with **The King's Trust**, which supported his early career. Known for roles in **The Wire and Luther**, he has contributed significantly to entertainment and philanthropy. The knighthood recognises his commitment to **education, empowerment, and social upliftment**, making him one of the prominent cultural figures combining arts and social impact.
- **Dalai Lama** received his **Grammy Award for the audiobook "Meditations"** at his residence in Dharamshala. The project featured collaboration with **sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash**. The audiobook had won in the **Best Audiobook category**. The recognition highlights themes of **peace, compassion, and unity**, promoting spiritual and cultural harmony. The award ceremony emphasised artistic collaboration and global appreciation of spiritual teachings through modern media formats, reinforcing the Dalai Lama's message of non-violence and universal well-being.

- **Lionel Messi** has become the first footballer to receive the **Princess of Asturias Sports Award 2026**. The award recognises his excellence in football and contributions to **humanitarian work, leadership, and sportsmanship**. His achievements include the **FIFA World Cup 2022, Copa América titles, Olympic gold medal, and eight Ballon d'Or awards**. The honour highlights his global influence in sport and society, celebrating both his athletic success and social impact.
- India's youth platform **MY Bharat** entered the **Guinness World Records** for the highest number of users completing an online quiz in a week. Over **3.9 lakh participants** completed the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Quiz**, promoting youth engagement in the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047**. The initiative reflects strong participation of young citizens in national development and digital learning.
- The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** won a **Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2026** for promoting **data-driven governance and digital transformation** in rural administration. It strengthens **transparency, accountability, and evidence-based planning** in Panchayats.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi** honored **51 artistes** for contributions to **music, dance, theatre, and folk arts**. The recognition highlights efforts to preserve **India's cultural heritage, traditional arts, and performing art documentation**.
- The **e-Jagriti** platform, developed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, won the **Silver Award at the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** under the category of Government Process Re-engineering through Digital Transformation. Launched in January 2025, the AI-powered platform integrates four legacy consumer dispute systems into a single paperless ecosystem. It has registered more than **4.15 lakh users**, handled **2.29 lakh cases**, and achieved a **90.75% disposal rate**. Features such as **AI chatbots**, multilingual support, real-time tracking, and online hearings have significantly improved consumer grievance redressal and access to justice.
- **Sudarsan Pattnaik**, a renowned sand artist from **Puri, Odisha**, became the first Indian to win the prestigious **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026**, held at the **II International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Russia** on 11 June 2026. The event featured 12 international sculptors, where Pattnaik was honored for his outstanding contribution to **sand art** and his impactful sculpture on **global warming**. His three-metre artwork depicted Earth's contrasting faces of **environmental degradation and conservation efforts**. The award was presented by **Alena Aleksandrovna**, recognizing his global influence in promoting **climate awareness, sustainability, and humanitarian messages** through art.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) from Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during his visit to Bratislava. The honour recognizes his contribution to strengthening **India-Slovakia Relations** and promoting international cooperation. This became the **33rd International Honour** conferred on PM Modi by a foreign nation, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.
- The **Navi Mumbai International Airport** and **Terminal 2 of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport** were included in the prestigious **Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026**. The recognition was awarded for outstanding **Architecture, Sustainability, Innovation, and Passenger Experience**. Navi Mumbai Airport impressed with its **Lotus-Inspired Design**, while the Guwahati terminal was recognized for its **Bamboo Orchid-Inspired Architecture** reflecting Northeast India's cultural heritage. The achievement highlights India's growing focus on world-class, environmentally sustainable airport infrastructure.
- Indian-origin theoretical physicist **Jainendra K. Jain** became the first person of Indian origin to receive the prestigious **Wolf Prize in Physics** for his pioneering discovery of **composite fermions**, which transformed the understanding of the **fractional quantum Hall effect**. The award was presented in **Jerusalem** by **Isaac Herzog**. In **1989**, while at **Yale University**, Jain proposed that electrons could combine with quantum vortices to form composite fermions, providing a unified explanation for previously unexplained fractional conductivity states. His theory led to the prediction of the famous **"Jain States"** and became a cornerstone of **condensed matter physics**. Born in **Sambhar, Rajasthan**, he studied at **IIT Kanpur**, earned a PhD from **Stony Brook University**, and is currently a professor at **Pennsylvania State University**.
- Indian conservationists **Parveen Shaikh** and **Dr. Barkha Subba** received the **2026 Whitley Awards**, popularly known as the **'Green Oscars'**, presented by the **Whitley Fund for Nature** in London. Each recipient received **£50,000** to support conservation projects. Parveen Shaikh was recognised for protecting the **Indian Skimmer** along the Chambal River through community-based conservation initiatives. Dr. Barkha Subba was honoured for conserving the **Himalayan Salamander** in Darjeeling through habitat restoration and scientific monitoring. The awards recognise outstanding grassroots environmental leadership worldwide.
- India achieved a record by securing **7 schools in Top 10 finalists** of the **World's Best School Prizes 2026** by T4 Education. Schools from Pune and Jammu & Kashmir were shortlisted in innovation and community categories. The awards recognize excellence in leadership, sustainability, and education innovation. Winners will be announced in November 2026. The achievement highlights India's global leadership in transformative education and inclusive learning practices.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

India to Host Five-Day BRICS Agriculture Meeting in Indore

India, under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**, host a **five-day BRICS Agriculture Meeting** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, from **9–13 June 2026**. The event comprises the **BRICS Agriculture Working Group Meeting (9–11 June)** followed by the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (12–13 June)**. Announced by **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the meeting will bring together agriculture ministers, policymakers, and senior officials from BRICS member nations to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food security. Discussions will focus on **food security, farmer welfare, nutrition security, climate-resilient agriculture, smart farming, artificial intelligence, robotics, digital agriculture, agricultural research, international agricultural trade, and resilient supply chains**. As BRICS countries account for nearly **42% of global agricultural land**, over **42% of agricultural production**, and around **70% of the world's small and marginal farmers**, the meeting is expected to play a key role in shaping future agricultural cooperation. A **Joint Declaration** outlining shared priorities for sustainable agriculture, innovation, and farmer welfare is expected to be adopted at the conclusion of the meeting.

Highlights

- Venue: Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Dates: 9–13 June 2026
- Host: India under BRICS Presidency 2026
- Key Focus: Food security, climate-resilient agriculture, AI, robotics, digital farming, farmer welfare
- Expected Outcome: Joint Declaration on agricultural cooperation

India Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Labour Reforms at 114th International Labour Conference

Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment and MSME, Shobha Karandlaje, represented India at the **114th International Labour Conference (ILC)** held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, on **9 June 2026**. Organized by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the conference brought together governments, employers, and workers from **187 member countries** to discuss global labour standards and employment policies. During the conference, India highlighted its achievements in **inclusive economic growth, gender equality, workforce welfare, digital labour platforms, skill development, and social dialogue**. On the sidelines of the event, India held bilateral meetings with **Nepal, Angola, Mauritius, France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, the United States, and Canada** to strengthen cooperation in **labour mobility, skill recognition, vocational training, digital**

governance, legal migration pathways, and employment opportunities for Indian professionals. India also reaffirmed its **Neighbourhood First Policy** while expanding labour cooperation with Nepal and supporting Mauritius in developing digital public infrastructure for employment services.

Highlights

- Event: 114th International Labour Conference (ILC)
- Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
- Organized by: International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Indian Representative: Shobha Karandlaje
- Focus Areas: Labour reforms, skill development, gender equality, digital employment, worker welfare
- Key Bilateral Partners: Nepal, Mauritius, Angola, UK, USA, France, South Korea, Canada

India to Host BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting Under BRICS Chairship 2026

India will host the **two-day BRICS National Security Advisers (NSA) Meeting** on **22–23 June 2026** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**. The meeting, chaired by **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**, will bring together National Security Advisers and senior security officials from BRICS member countries to strengthen cooperation on emerging global security challenges. The central theme of the meeting is **"Non-Traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today."** Discussions will focus on **cybersecurity, artificial intelligence-related risks, information warfare, terrorism, cross-border organized crime, critical infrastructure protection, digital security, and emerging technologies**. The meeting will also review the outcomes of the **BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**, with emphasis on intelligence sharing, combating terror financing, preventing radicalization, and enhancing cybersecurity cooperation. Senior leaders, including **Ajit Doval (India), Wang Yi (China), Sergei Shoigu (Russia), and Nezamipour (Iran)**, are expected to participate. The meeting reflects India's growing leadership in strengthening BRICS cooperation on regional and global security issues.

Highlights

- Dates: 22–23 June 2026
- Chair: Ajit Doval
- Theme: Non-Traditional Security Challenges
- Focus Areas: Cybersecurity, AI, terrorism, digital security, information warfare
- Key Outcome: Enhanced BRICS security and counter-terrorism cooperation

India Hosts 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram

India successfully hosted the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** on **25 June 2026** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**. Held under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**" and the Energy Track theme "**सर्वेषां ऊर्जम् (Energy for All)**", the meeting brought together Energy Ministers, senior officials, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, and the **New Development Bank (NDB)**. Discussions focused on **energy security, renewable energy, hydrogen value chains, smart grids, energy storage, digitalization, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and affordable clean energy**. India highlighted major achievements such as becoming the **world's third-largest producer and consumer of electricity**, crossing **540 GW installed power capacity**, achieving **over 50% non-fossil fuel capacity**, and expanding solar capacity to **154 GW**. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Joint Communiqué**, the launch of the **BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE) for Smart Grids and Energy Storage**, and the adoption of the **BRICS Guiding Principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage**.

Highlights

- Venue: Gurugram, Haryana
- Date: 25 June 2026
- Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- Major Launch: BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE)
- Key Focus: Renewable energy, hydrogen, smart grids, AI, energy storage
- Outcome: Joint Communiqué adopted

35 Countries Sign Joint Statement on AI Opportunity at Second Pax Silica Summit

The **Second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C., USA**, on **25–26 June 2026**, bringing together representatives from **35 countries**, including India, to strengthen international cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The summit concluded with the adoption of the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity**, reaffirming commitments to **trusted AI governance, resilient supply chains, industrial cooperation, innovation-friendly regulation, and secure AI ecosystems**. The **Pax Silica Initiative**, launched by the **United States in December 2025**, seeks to build secure and resilient AI supply chains and promote international collaboration in AI technologies. India, represented by **S. Krishnan (Secretary, MeitY)** and **Nagraj Naidu (Ministry of External Affairs)**, highlighted its commitment to responsible AI governance and global digital cooperation. Major announcements included the launch of the **Pax Pass** platform to facilitate secure movement of AI-related technologies and the **Stanford-led Foundry School**, supported by a **US\$50 million commitment**, to develop advanced manufacturing skills for AI industries. The summit reinforced India's growing role in shaping global AI governance and emerging technology partnerships.

Highlights

- Event: Second Pax Silica Summit
- Venue: Washington, D.C., USA
- Dates: 25–26 June 2026
- Participating Countries: 35
- Key Outcome: Joint Statement on AI Opportunity
- Major Initiatives: Pax Pass, Stanford-led Foundry School
- India's Representatives: S. Krishnan and Nagraj Naidu
- Focus Areas: AI governance, trusted supply chains, innovation, digital cooperation

INDEX**RANKING****Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority Emerges as India's Best-Performing Container Port in CPPI 2025**

The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** emerged as India's highest-performing container port in the **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025**, jointly published by the **World Bank** and **S&P Global Market Intelligence**. JNPA secured the **22nd position globally**, improving by one rank from the previous edition and continuing its position as India's leading container port. The recognition reflects significant improvements in **vessel turnaround time, cargo handling efficiency, operational performance, and supply chain management**. Among other Indian ports, **Pipavav Port** ranked **28th**, becoming the highest-

ranked private container port by overtaking **Mundra Port (30th)**, while **Visakhapatnam Port** secured the **104th position**. The CPPI evaluates ports based on operational efficiency, cargo handling speed, turnaround time, and overall logistics performance.

Highlights

- Report: Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025
- Published by: World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence
- India's Best Port: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)
- Global Rank of JNPA: 22nd
- Highest-ranked Private Indian Port: Pipavav Port (28th)
- Parameters: Turnaround time, cargo handling, operational efficiency, supply chain performance

Global Peace Index 2026: Iceland Retains Top Spot, India Ranked 127th

The **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** released the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026**, ranking **163 countries** based on **societal safety and security, ongoing conflict, and militarisation**. The report noted that global peacefulness declined for the **12th consecutive year**, with **99 countries** recording deterioration in peace levels and **61 active state-based conflicts**, the highest since **World War II**. **Iceland** retained its position as the **world's most peaceful country** for the **19th consecutive year**, followed by **New Zealand** and **Switzerland**, while **Russia** was ranked the least peaceful nation. **India** secured the **127th position** with a score of **2.409**, primarily due to internal security challenges and regional tensions. In South Asia, **Bhutan** emerged as the most peaceful country, ranking **16th globally**.

Highlights

- Report: Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026
- Released by: Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- Most Peaceful Country: Iceland
- Least Peaceful Country: Russia
- India's Rank: 127th
- South Asia's Best Performer: Bhutan (16th)

Elon Musk Becomes the World's First Trillionaire After SpaceX IPO

Elon Musk became the **world's first trillionaire** following the historic **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** of **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)** in **June 2026**. The company, which operates in **space exploration, satellite communications, and artificial intelligence**, achieved a valuation exceeding **US\$2 trillion** after its shares surged following listing. SpaceX launched its IPO at **US\$135 per share**, opened at **US\$150**, and closed at approximately **US\$161.11**, raising nearly **US\$75 billion**, making it the **largest IPO in history**, surpassing **Saudi Aramco's** 2019 record. Musk's stake in SpaceX was valued at around **US\$866 billion**, pushing his total estimated net worth beyond **US\$1.1 trillion**. Founded in **2002**, SpaceX has transformed the global space industry through reusable rocket technology and ambitious missions aimed at reducing launch costs and enabling future human settlement on Mars.

Highlights

- Person: Elon Musk
- Achievement: World's First Trillionaire
- Company: SpaceX
- IPO Size: US\$75 Billion (Largest Ever)
- Company Valuation: Over US\$2 Trillion
- Estimated Net Worth: Over US\$1.1 Trillion

Reliance Industries Tops Hurun India 500 Report 2026

The **Hurun India 500 Report 2026**, released in partnership with **Axis Bank** and **Burgundy Private**, ranked **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** as India's most valuable company with a valuation of **₹19.36 lakh crore**. **HDFC Bank** and **Bharti Airtel** secured the second and third positions, respectively. The report revealed that the **top 10 companies accounted for 27%** of the total valuation

of all 500 companies, while **Bharti Airtel** emerged as the **highest wealth creator** over the past five years, generating wealth worth **₹7.64 lakh crore**. The report also highlighted the growing dominance of the **Financial Services sector** in India's corporate landscape and noted that the total valuation of the top 10 companies has increased **3.5 times over the last decade**.

Highlights

- Report: Hurun India 500 Report 2026
- Released with: Axis Bank and Burgundy Private
- Most Valuable Company: Reliance Industries
- Second: HDFC Bank
- Third: Bharti Airtel
- Highest Wealth Creator (2021–25): Bharti Airtel

India Ranked 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027

India secured the **13th position globally** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**, released by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, highlighting the country's growing readiness for an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven economy**. The index assessed **89 countries** using indicators related to **higher education, labour markets, AI readiness, and economic transformation**. India scored **89.4 out of 100** and was recognised for its "**exceptional system scale**", supported by a large digital workforce, expanding technology ecosystem, growing AI adoption, and a strong startup environment. India ranked **5th globally in the Future of Work pillar**, **18th in Skills Alignment**, **22nd in Academic Readiness**, and **14th in Economic Transformation**, making it one of the strongest-performing lower-middle-income economies in preparing for AI-led growth. The **United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom** occupied the top three positions.

Highlights

- Report: QS World Future Skills Index 2027
- Released by: QS Quacquarelli Symonds
- India's Rank: 13th
- Score: 89.4/100
- Best Pillar: Future of Work (5th)
- Top Three Countries: United States, Australia, United Kingdom

World Economic Forum Releases Energy Transition Index 2026

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released the **Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026**, evaluating **120 countries** on **energy system performance and transition readiness** using **44 indicators**. The report observed a **global decline in energy transition readiness** for the first time in over a decade due to geopolitical tensions and uneven clean energy investments. **Sweden** retained the top position, followed by **Finland** and **Denmark**, while **India improved two places to rank 70th**, recording a **1.9% year-on-year improvement**. India's progress was driven by improvements in **energy infrastructure, affordability, sustainability, financial investments, and human capital development**. The report also noted a **24% increase in low-carbon jobs** during 2024, with renewable energy employment reaching **1.3 million**, led by the hydropower sector. The WEF identified India as one of the key drivers of the next phase of the global energy transition.

Highlights

- Report: Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026
- Released by: World Economic Forum (WEF)
- India's Rank: 70th
- Top Three Countries: Sweden, Finland, Denmark
- India's Key Strengths: Energy infrastructure, sustainability, renewable energy, low-carbon jobs
- Key Global Priorities: Energy security, grid expansion, clean energy investments

REPORT**SIDE 2026 Report: India Becomes the World's Fifth Most Digitalised Economy**

According to the **SIDE (State of India's Digital Economy) Report 2026**, India emerged as the **world's fifth most digitalised economy**, improving from the eighth position in the previous year. The report highlighted India's remarkable progress in digital public infrastructure, fintech innovation, artificial intelligence, broadband connectivity, and digital governance. India also secured the **fourth position globally in AI readiness**, reflecting rapid advancements in digital technologies and innovation. The report underscores India's growing leadership in the global digital economy and its efforts to build an inclusive and technology-driven society.

World Bank Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast

The **World Bank**, in its latest **Global Economic Prospects Report**, raised India's GDP growth forecast to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and projected **7.2% growth for FY2027–28**. The report attributed India's strong economic outlook to robust domestic demand, sustained public infrastructure investment, expanding manufacturing activity, and increasing private consumption. It also noted that India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies despite global economic uncertainties and geopolitical challenges.

Fitch Ratings Revises India's Economic Outlook

Global credit rating agency **Fitch Ratings** revised India's GDP growth outlook for FY2026–27 while highlighting risks arising from geopolitical tensions, rising crude oil prices, and global trade uncertainties. Despite these external challenges, the agency emphasized India's strong domestic demand, healthy banking sector, resilient macroeconomic fundamentals, and continued infrastructure investments. Fitch maintained confidence in India's long-term growth potential driven by structural reforms and policy stability.

S&P Global Projects India's Strong Growth

S&P Global Ratings projected India's economy to grow by **6.6% during FY2026–27**, supported by strong domestic consumption, improving investment activity, government capital expenditure, and a stable financial sector. The report observed that India's relatively lower dependence on exports compared to several other Asian economies makes it more resilient to global economic slowdowns. Continued reforms, digitalization, and manufacturing expansion are expected to support sustained long-term growth.

Indian Banks Among Asia-Pacific's Best Capitalised

According to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**, Indian banks ranked among the **best-capitalised banks in the Asia-Pacific region**. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** secured the top position with the highest leverage ratio, followed by **HDFC Bank**, **ICICI Bank**, and **Axis Bank**. The report highlighted improvements in capital adequacy, asset quality, Basel III compliance, and risk management practices, reflecting the growing resilience and stability of India's banking sector.

London Stock Exchange Group Green Revenue Report

The **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)** released its latest Green Revenue Report, stating that India generated nearly **US\$110 billion** in green revenues during 2025. Renewable energy, electric vehicles, clean technology, sustainable manufacturing, and waste management emerged as the largest contributors. The report highlights India's increasing role in the global green economy and its commitment to achieving climate goals, clean energy transition, and sustainable development.

NITI Aayog Releases 8th Trade Watch Quarterly

NITI Aayog released the **8th edition of the Trade Watch Quarterly**, providing an assessment of India's export performance, import trends, global trade developments, and emerging market opportunities. The report emphasized export diversification, improved logistics infrastructure, stronger supply chains, and expansion of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). It also identified high-growth sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy equipment, engineering goods, and food processing as key drivers of India's future export growth.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Report on State Finances

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** released a report highlighting fiscal challenges faced by Indian states. According to the report, **18 states** exceeded the recommended fiscal deficit limit of **3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** during FY2024–25. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments contributed to higher borrowing requirements. The report recommended stronger fiscal discipline, efficient expenditure management, and enhanced revenue mobilisation to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report Highlights AI Readiness

The **SIDE 2026 Report** also highlighted India's rapid progress in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, ranking the country **fourth globally in AI readiness**. The report attributed this achievement to India's expanding digital infrastructure, availability of skilled technology professionals, growing startup ecosystem, supportive government policies, and widespread adoption of AI across sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, and governance. The findings reinforce India's ambition to become a global AI and digital innovation hub.

Global Digital Payments Report Highlights India's Leadership

A global digital payments report identified **India as the world's leading digital payments market**, driven by the widespread adoption of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. India recorded the highest number of digital wallet downloads and processed over **228 billion UPI transactions** during 2025. The report highlighted India's successful digital public infrastructure model, which has become a global benchmark for secure, low-cost, and inclusive digital payment systems.

MoSPI Releases District Domestic Product (DDP) Guidelines

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released national guidelines for estimating **District Domestic Product (DDP)** using **2022–23** as the base year. The framework standardizes the calculation of Gross District

Domestic Product (GDDP), Net District Domestic Product (NDDP), and Per Capita Income across districts. The guidelines are expected to improve district-level economic planning, support evidence-based policymaking, and promote balanced regional development across the country.

New Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Series Released

The Government released a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** series with **2022–23** as the new base year. The updated series expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and incorporates emerging sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, and digital technologies. The revised index provides a more accurate measure of wholesale inflation and better reflects structural changes in India's economy.

DEFENCE

- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan** assumed charge as the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command**. With over three decades of service in the **Indian Navy**, he brings extensive operational and strategic experience to one of the country's most important naval commands. A specialist in **Gunnery and Missile Systems**, he has commanded several frontline naval platforms and held key leadership positions related to defence planning, modernization, and force development. His appointment is expected to strengthen operational readiness and contribute to India's maritime security objectives.
- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** assumed office as the **27th Chief of the Naval Staff**, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi. A specialist in **Communication and Electronic Warfare**, he brings nearly four decades of experience across operational, training, and strategic assignments. He has commanded major warships, including **INS Vikramaditya**, and previously led the **Western Naval Command**. Recognized with prestigious military honours, his leadership is expected to support naval modernization, capability enhancement, and the advancement of India's maritime interests in an increasingly complex security environment.
- **General N.S. Raja Subramani** assumed charge as India's new **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**. As the senior-most military officer and principal military adviser to the Government of India, he will oversee joint military planning, defence reforms, and coordination among the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. Known for his expertise in regional security matters, he has served in several important military and strategic positions. His appointment is expected to accelerate defence modernization, strengthen integrated military structures, and enhance national security preparedness in response to evolving challenges.
- **Project UDAYAK** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** completed **37 years** of service, marking its contribution to infrastructure development in India's strategic North-East region. The project is responsible for maintaining extensive road networks and strategic bridges in **Arunachal Pradesh** and parts of **Assam**, enhancing connectivity near the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and the **Indo-Myanmar border**. Its efforts support both national security and regional development by improving transportation, accessibility, and military logistics in remote border areas.
- **Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry** assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command**. With over three decades of experience in operational, strategic, and diplomatic roles, he has contributed significantly to defence acquisitions, modernization initiatives, and capability development within the **Indian Air Force**. His appointment is expected to strengthen operational preparedness and strategic planning within one of the country's most important air commands.
- **Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty** assumed charge as the **Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**, India's only integrated tri-service command. Located near the strategically important **Strait of Malacca**, the command plays a vital role in maritime security and Indo-Pacific stability. With extensive experience in naval operations and tri-service coordination, he will oversee joint operations involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, further strengthening India's strategic presence in the region.
- India successfully tested the **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** developed by **DRDO and the Indian Air Force**. The missile accurately struck its target during flight trials under operational conditions, validating its **guidance, navigation, and targeting systems**. Developed by **RCI Hyderabad and multiple DRDO labs**, it enhances India's long-range precision strike capability. The system strengthens **standoff attack capability, reduces dependence on foreign weapons**, and supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing. This advancement significantly boosts India's indigenous defence technology and operational strength in modern warfare scenarios.

- **INS Sudarshini** departed Antigua and Barbuda under the **Lokayan-26 expedition**, strengthening India's maritime outreach. During its port call, it engaged with local leadership including **Gaston Browne** and military officials to enhance cooperation. The ship showcased India's **maritime heritage and cultural diplomacy**. The mission supports India's **MAHASAGAR vision and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam philosophy**. It will next participate in the **International Naval Review and SAIL 250 celebrations in the United States**, marking 250 years of American independence, strengthening global naval cooperation and maritime partnerships.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** has been appointed as the next **Vice Chief of the Air Staff (IAF)**, assuming office on **1 July 2026**. A highly experienced officer commissioned in 1986, he has over **3,300 flying hours** and expertise in **experimental testing, fighter modernization, and indigenous defence projects**. His leadership strengthens India's **air power modernization and strategic air operations capability**.
- According to the **SIPRI Yearbook 2026**, India's nuclear arsenal increased to an estimated **190 warheads**, compared to Pakistan's **170 warheads**. The report highlighted India's continued modernization of strategic capabilities, particularly through the development of **long-range missile systems**. SIPRI also noted that India is increasingly focusing on strategic challenges posed by regional security dynamics. Additionally, India's **defence expenditure** increased by **8.9% to \$92.1 billion** in 2025, making it the world's **fifth-largest military spender**. The findings reflect India's growing emphasis on strengthening national security and defence preparedness.
- The **Indian Navy** invited domestic defence manufacturers to develop and produce **indigenous 80-mm aero rockets** for **MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB** carrier-based fighter aircraft deployed on **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**. Through an **Expression of Intent** issued by the Naval Armament Inspectorate, the Navy aims to replace imported rockets with locally developed alternatives. These dual-purpose weapons are designed to target armoured vehicles, military infrastructure, and troop concentrations. The initiative supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** programme, enhances defence indigenisation, strengthens domestic manufacturing capabilities, and improves operational readiness of naval aviation assets.
- **Lieutenant Commander Suraj Prashar** of the **Marine Commandos (MARCOS)** was awarded the **Shaurya Chakra**, India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award, by President **Droupadi Murmu** during the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**. He received the honor for displaying exceptional courage and professionalism during **Operation Chuntawadi**, a joint anti-terror operation conducted in **Bandipora district** in November 2024. The award recognizes his bravery, devotion to duty, and outstanding contribution while serving in one of India's most elite special operations forces, highlighting the professionalism of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a **₹449 crore** contract with **Accord Software and Systems Private Limited** for the procurement of **20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy**. Signed under the **Buy (Indian-IDDMM)** category, the project mandates at least **75% indigenous content**, reinforcing **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives. These advanced electronic warfare systems can disrupt enemy satellite navigation through signal interference, spoofing, and deceptive jamming techniques. The acquisition will significantly enhance India's maritime security, operational effectiveness, and naval electronic warfare capabilities.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹449 crore contract** for procurement of **Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers** for the **Indian Navy** under the **Buy (Indian-IDDMM)** category. Developed with at least **75% indigenous content**, the system aligns with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. These advanced electronic warfare systems are designed to disrupt enemy satellite navigation by interfering with signals, spoofing, and deceptive jamming techniques. The deployment of these systems will significantly enhance India's maritime surveillance, operational security, and electronic warfare capabilities, strengthening naval readiness in sensitive maritime zones and reinforcing India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- **Rajnath Singh**, Defence Minister, inaugurated the **Advanced Weapon System Complex** at the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** in **Hyderabad**, under the **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex**, strengthening India's **indigenous missile technology** and defence innovation. He praised **DRDO** scientists for their role in national security and highlighted indigenous systems like the **Akash Missile System** and **BrahMos Missile**, showcased during **Operation Sindoor**. He also stressed **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**, aimed at building a three-layer **missile defence shield**, and called for advancement in **AI, hypersonic weapons**, and **autonomous systems** under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing.
- In a landmark step towards **Gender Inclusion** in the armed forces, the first batch of **17 Women NDA Cadets** was commissioned as officers in June 2026 after completing rigorous training alongside male cadets. Of these, **9 joined the Indian Army**, **5 joined the Indian Air Force**, and **3 joined the Indian Navy**. Inducted into the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** in 2022, the cadets successfully completed the same training standards and leadership programmes. The milestone reflects India's commitment to **Equality, Merit-Based Selection**, and the modernization of its military structure.

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the indigenous **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha** on 15 June 2026. Developed under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, the missile is designed to strike strategic land targets with high precision over long distances. Unlike ballistic missiles, it follows a **low-altitude guided flight path**, making detection and interception difficult. The successful trial enhances India's **Long-Range Precision Strike Capability**, strengthens indigenous defence technology, and highlights the growing role of cruise missiles in modern warfare.
- The Indian Navy inducted **INS Agray**, the fifth vessel of the **Arnala-Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** programme. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, the vessel is equipped with **Hull-Mounted Sonar, Variable Depth Sonar (VDS)**, anti-submarine torpedoes, and rockets. Featuring over **80% Indigenous Content**, INS Agray supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** mission and enhances coastal surveillance, mine warfare, and anti-submarine operations. The induction strengthens India's maritime security, coastal defence, and strategic presence in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, scheduled from **20 July to 7 August 2026** in Australia. Hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, the multinational exercise will involve more than **100 Aircraft** and personnel from **19 Countries**. The event focuses on advanced air combat operations, interoperability, tactical integration, and multinational coordination. Participation will strengthen India's defence cooperation with partner nations and enhance operational readiness in complex combat environments.
- An Indian Army contingent will participate in **Exercise Khaan Quest 2026** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from **20 June to 3 July 2026**. The multinational exercise focuses on **United Nations peacekeeping operations**, including joint planning, patrolling, civilian evacuation, counter-IED drills, and casualty evacuation. Participation enhances interoperability with partner militaries and reflects India's commitment to global peacekeeping and international security cooperation.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹425-crore contract** with **Bharat Forge Limited** for the procurement of **12 sets of 1.25 MW Marine Gas Turbine Generators (MGTGs)** for the **Indian Navy**. Signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, the contract falls under the **Buy (Indian)** category and mandates more than **60% indigenous content**. MGTGs are critical onboard power-generation systems that provide electricity to **combat management systems, radar and surveillance equipment, communication networks, electronic warfare systems, and advanced weapon platforms**. The project supports the government's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives, strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities, reduces dependence on imports, and enhances the operational effectiveness of modern Indian naval warships.
- India achieved a major milestone in maritime defence with the induction of **H-561**, the first indigenously built **Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV)**, into the **Indian Coast Guard** on **18 June 2026**. Developed by **Chowgule & Company Private Limited** in Goa, the hovercraft is the first of six ACVs ordered by the Coast Guard. Unlike conventional vessels, it operates on a **cushion of air** generated by powerful lift fans, enabling movement over **shallow waters, mudflats, marshlands, sandy beaches, estuaries, and wetlands**. This capability makes it ideal for securing India's **7,500-kilometre coastline**. Built under the **Make in India** initiative, H-561 will strengthen coastal surveillance, rapid-response operations, and maritime security while showcasing India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.
- The **Indian Navy** will commission three indigenously built warships—**INS Dunagiri, INS Agray, and INS Sanshodhak**—on **21 June 2026** in Kolkata. Designed by the **Indian Navy Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, these vessels represent India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. **INS Dunagiri**, a **Project 17A stealth-guided missile frigate**, is capable of surface, air, and anti-submarine warfare and can deploy **BrahMos missiles**. **INS Agray** is equipped with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets for underwater threat detection. **INS Sanshodhak**, the final vessel of the **Sandhayak-class programme**, is designed for hydrographic surveys, seabed mapping, and underwater data collection using **Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)** and **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will acquire **nine retired SEPECAT Jaguar** fighter aircraft from the **United Kingdom** to obtain spare parts, engines, and avionics for its existing fleet. The aircraft will not enter operational service but will support maintenance of India's aging **Jaguar** squadrons. India remains the only country operating Jaguars in frontline service, making spare parts scarce. The acquisition will sustain operational readiness until newer platforms, including **Tejas**, additional **Rafale** fighters, and future indigenous aircraft, are inducted in greater numbers.
- India will receive its first **indigenously assembled Airbus C295 transport aircraft** in **September 2026**, marking a major milestone under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. Manufactured by **Tata Advanced Systems Limited** in partnership with **Airbus**, it is India's first privately produced military aircraft. Under the **₹21,935-crore contract**, **56 aircraft** will be procured, with **40 manufactured in Vadodara**. The **C295** can transport **71 troops or 9 tonnes of cargo** and will replace the aging **Avro fleet**, enhancing troop transport, disaster relief, medical evacuation, and indigenous aerospace manufacturing capabilities.

- DRDO-developed **HELINA anti-tank guided missile** is being integrated with the **Light Combat Helicopter (Prachand)**. It is a third-generation **fire-and-forget missile** with an infrared seeker and 7 km range. HAL is conducting live trials after earlier tests on ALH in 2022. Bharat Dynamics Limited received contracts worth over **₹1,100 crore** for systems and launchers. HELINA enhances India's anti-armour capability with precision strike ability. It strengthens indigenous defence production and supports operational readiness of the Indian Army and Air Force.
- India successfully performed its first **GAGAN-based jet landing** using an **IndiGo Airbus A320 at Udaipur**. GAGAN is an **ISRO-AAI developed SBAS system** that improves GPS accuracy and enables precise landing guidance. It supports **LPV approaches**, especially at airports without Instrument Landing Systems. DGCA has mandated GAGAN compatibility for new aircraft since 2021. This achievement enhances aviation safety, reduces dependency on foreign navigation systems, and strengthens India's position in satellite-based aviation technology in the Asia-Pacific region.
- HELINA missile integration is advancing with **Su-30MKI and LCH platforms**. Around 40 Su-30MKIs now carry **BrahMos**, while HELINA strengthens helicopter-based anti-tank capability. Developed by **DRDO**, it uses imaging infrared guidance and fire-and-forget technology. It can strike armored targets at up to 7 km. HAL is conducting trials with LCH Prachand. The system improves battlefield precision and supports India's defense modernization and self-reliance goals under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- IAF integrated **BrahMos supersonic missile** with around **40 Su-30MKI aircraft**, enhancing long-range strike capability. The missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, has a range of **450 km** and speed of Mach 3. The system enables stand-off precision attacks on land and naval targets. Su-30MKI, built by HAL, forms the backbone of IAF. Future integration will expand fleet capability. **BrahMos-NG** is under development with AI-based guidance and improved precision.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Astronomers have discovered the first strong evidence of winds blowing from **Sagittarius A***, the supermassive black hole at the center of the **Milky Way**, solving a mystery that persisted for nearly five decades. Using over **100 hours of observations** from the **Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)** in Chile, researchers identified a cone-shaped cavity lacking cold carbon monoxide gas. The findings suggest that gentle hot winds from the black hole are pushing surrounding material away. Published in **The Astrophysical Journal Letters**, the study advances understanding of black hole influence on star formation and galaxy evolution.
- **Reliance Industries Limited** and **Meta Platforms** announced a partnership to establish India's first **AI-enabled hyperscale data centre** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**. The facility will have an initial capacity of **168 MW** and is expected to be completed within two years. Meta will lease capacity to support its expanding AI, cloud computing, and data-processing requirements. Powered by renewable energy and cooled using desalinated seawater, the project highlights India's growing importance in global digital infrastructure. Reliance will oversee design, development, connectivity, operations, maintenance, and renewable energy integration for the project.
- **NASA** announced the crew for the historic **Artemis III Mission**, scheduled for **2027**. The primary crew includes **Randy Bresnik, Luca Parmitano, Andre Douglas, and Frank Rubio**, with **Bob Hines** serving as backup. The mission will test critical rendezvous, docking, navigation, and crew-transfer technologies aboard the **Orion spacecraft** launched by the **Space Launch System (SLS)**. Artemis III will also conduct docking demonstrations with lunar lander systems from **Blue Origin** and **SpaceX**. Notably, **Luca Parmitano** becomes the first astronaut from the **European Space Agency (ESA)** assigned to an Artemis mission.
- The **United States** operationalized **SOLAR-1**, its first dedicated satellite for continuous **space weather monitoring**. Operated by **NOAA**, the satellite was launched aboard **Falcon 9** and positioned at the **Sun-Earth L1 point**, approximately **1.6 million kilometres** from Earth. Equipped with advanced sensors and a coronagraph, SOLAR-1 monitors **solar flares, solar wind, and coronal mass ejections** in real time. The system can transmit critical data within 30 minutes, helping protect satellites, communication networks, power grids, aviation systems, GPS infrastructure, and astronauts from potentially damaging space weather events.
- Researchers at **IIT Bhubaneswar** developed **ArsenSafe**, a portable device capable of rapidly detecting **arsenic contamination** in drinking water without laboratory assistance. Developed in collaboration with **Nano Semic Pvt Ltd**, the technology combines **reduced graphene oxide field-effect transistor (rGO-FET)** sensors, nanotechnology, and machine learning for highly accurate testing. The device delivers results in just **17.4 seconds** and recovers within **11.76 seconds**, making it suitable for rural and remote areas. Published in **Environmental Science: Nano**, the innovation offers an affordable solution for improving water quality monitoring and reducing arsenic-related health risks.

- Japan successfully launched the **H3-30 rocket**, a low-cost variant of its next-generation **H3 launch vehicle**, developed by **JAXA** and **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**. Launched from the **Tanegashima Space Center**, the rocket successfully deployed its payload into orbit. Designed to replace the **H-IIA rocket**, the H3-30 uses three **LE-9 liquid-fuel engines** and eliminates solid rocket boosters to reduce complexity and costs. Incorporating **3D-printed components** and commercial technologies, the rocket is expected to lower launch expenses by nearly **50%**, enhancing Japan's competitiveness in the global satellite launch market.
- Researchers from **AIIMS**, **ICMR institutes**, and the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** successfully validated **Truenat HR-HPV-Plus**, India's indigenous **HPV screening test** developed by **Molbio Diagnostics**. Among four HPV DNA tests evaluated, it was the only indigenous test to fully meet **WHO** and **IARC** validation standards. The test detects **eight high-risk HPV strains** responsible for nearly **95% of cervical cancer cases** and demonstrated accuracy comparable to globally recognized tests. Evaluated using **1,159 cervical samples**, this affordable point-of-care technology can significantly improve screening accessibility in rural areas and support India's cervical cancer elimination efforts.
- Avataar.ai launched **Varya**, an indigenous AI-powered video generation model under the **IndiaAI Mission**, marking a major advancement in India's artificial intelligence ecosystem. Varya enables users to create high-quality videos from text and image inputs at significantly reduced computational cost, estimated at just **₹0.48 per second of video generation**. The system reduces processing steps from around **50 to 4**, making it up to **10 times more efficient** than leading global models. Designed for applications in education, governance, advertising, MSMEs, and digital storytelling, Varya supports multilingual and culturally relevant content creation. The innovation strengthens India's push toward self-reliant AI infrastructure, empowering startups, educators, and government institutions while enhancing India's position in the global generative AI landscape.
- India's rapidly expanding **Space Economy** is projected to grow from the current **USD 8–9 Billion** to nearly **USD 40–45 Billion** within the next decade. Speaking at the **RISE Conclave 2026**, Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** highlighted the role of liberalization reforms and over **400 Space Startups** driving innovation in satellites, launch systems, AI-based geospatial analytics, and downstream services. Major missions such as **Chandrayaan-3** and the upcoming **Gaganyaan Mission** have strengthened India's global position. Space technology is also supporting governance initiatives like **PM Gati Shakti**, contributing to the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** has warned about **Kali365**, a sophisticated **Phishing-as-a-Service (PhaaS)** platform targeting **Microsoft 365** users. Instead of stealing passwords, the platform captures **OAuth Tokens** through device-code authentication attacks, enabling attackers to bypass **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** and maintain account access. Kali365 provides AI-generated phishing templates, automated tools, and monitoring dashboards, making advanced cyberattacks accessible to less-skilled criminals. The threat highlights the growing importance of identity security, access controls, and cybersecurity awareness in cloud-based systems.
- Led by **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)**, India has launched **BharatGen**, a sovereign multilingual AI ecosystem under the **IndiaAI Mission**. Supported by a **₹10,000 Crore** government initiative, BharatGen is designed to understand and generate content across all **22 Scheduled Indian Languages**. The platform integrates capabilities such as **Speech-to-Text**, **Text-to-Speech**, **Document Intelligence**, and multilingual content generation. By reducing dependence on foreign AI systems, BharatGen supports **Digital Sovereignty**, promotes indigenous innovation, and enables AI applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture, and public services.
- The **Usutu Virus (USUV)**, a mosquito-borne **Flavivirus** related to **West Nile Virus** and **Japanese Encephalitis**, has been detected for the first time in **Scotland**. Found in blackbirds on the **Isle of Arran**, the virus primarily affects wild birds and can cause neurological disorders and mortality among avian populations. Human infections are rare and usually mild. The discovery highlights the importance of wildlife surveillance and monitoring of emerging **Zoonotic Diseases** in changing environmental and ecological conditions.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is developing an advanced lunar lander capable of surviving **100–200 days on the Moon**, significantly longer than the **Vikram Lander** of **Chandrayaan-3**. Developed in collaboration with the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, the lander will use advanced thermal management systems to withstand extreme lunar-night temperatures below **–100°C**. The project aims to facilitate long-term scientific studies near the Moon's south pole, including research on **Water Ice** and lunar geology. It supports India's **Space Vision 2047**, which includes establishing a space station by 2035 and sending astronauts to the Moon by 2040.
- **Teplizumab** became the first medicine approved under the **National Health Service (NHS)** to delay the onset of **Type 1 Diabetes**, marking a breakthrough in preventive healthcare. The immunotherapy is administered through a **14-day intravenous infusion** and slows the immune system's attack on insulin-producing **beta cells**, delaying clinical diabetes by nearly **three years** in high-risk individuals. Unlike conventional treatments, it focuses on early disease intervention rather than symptom management. The approval is expected to postpone insulin dependence, reduce complications, and encourage early screening for **Type 1 Diabetes**.

- The **Five Eyes Alliance**—comprising the **United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**—warned about emerging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-driven cybersecurity threats. Supported by agencies including the **National Security Agency (NSA)** and **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, the advisory highlighted AI's potential to strengthen phishing, malware creation, vulnerability exploitation, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure. Simultaneously, AI can improve vulnerability detection and incident response. The alliance recommended **multi-factor authentication**, rapid software patching, resilience testing, and stronger cybersecurity practices to address evolving digital threats.
- India announced the transfer of **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** technology to eligible private firms through the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**, boosting private participation in the space sector. Qualified Indian companies meeting financial and technical criteria will develop and operate **PSLV-based launch services**. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will provide technical support for up to **30 months** or until completion of two successful launches. Supported by **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the initiative strengthens commercialization, innovation, and competitiveness in India's expanding space economy.
- India is hosting the **BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting 2026** in **Bengaluru**, organized by **ISRO** and the **Department of Space**. Representatives from all **11 BRICS nations** are discussing cooperation in **satellite applications, Earth observation, space exploration**, and emerging technologies. Key agenda items include **space sustainability, space debris mitigation, orbital congestion management**, and expansion of the **BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation**. Delegates are also considering the establishment of a **BRICS Space Council** to strengthen technology sharing, policy coordination, disaster management, and capacity-building among member countries.
- China's **LineShine** has become the **world's fastest supercomputer**, topping the **67th TOP500 Rankings** with a performance of **2.198 exaflops**. Installed at the **National Supercomputing Center, Shenzhen**, it surpassed the United States' **El Capitan** system. The CPU-only machine features nearly **13.79 million processing cores** powered by a custom **304-core processor** and consumes about **42.2 megawatts** of electricity. Capable of performing over **two quintillion calculations per second**, LineShine marks China's return to the top of global supercomputing rankings for the first time since **2017**.
- The **second Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington, D.C.**, where **35 countries**, including India, signed the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity** to promote responsible and innovation-friendly artificial intelligence policies. The US-led initiative focuses on trusted AI governance, resilient semiconductor supply chains, and international technology cooperation. Key announcements included the **Pax Pass** system for secure AI trade and the **Foundry School**, supported by US funding to develop AI-skilled professionals. India participated through **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** officials, reinforcing its role in global AI governance and digital policy frameworks.
- India inaugurated the **world's first nuclear heat-based hydrogen production facility** at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam**, using the **Copper-Chlorine cycle**. Developed by **BARC**, it uses heat from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)** to produce clean hydrogen. The system generates zero-carbon fuel and supports India's **Green Hydrogen Mission**. It demonstrates advanced nuclear applications beyond electricity generation and enhances energy security, sustainability, and decarbonization efforts. The project positions India as a leader in nuclear-based clean energy technologies.

SPORTS

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** successfully defended their **IPL 2026** title by defeating **Gujarat Titans** in the final. The victory was powered by an unbeaten innings from **Virat Kohli**, who played a crucial role in the successful run chase. Several players received individual honours during the season, reflecting outstanding performances across batting, bowling, and fielding categories. The triumph marked another milestone for the franchise and demonstrated its consistency at the highest level of franchise cricket while enhancing the league's competitive appeal.
- **RCB** secured their second consecutive **Indian Premier League** title after defeating **Gujarat Titans** by five wickets in the championship match. Strong bowling performances restricted Gujarat to a manageable total before RCB completed a successful chase. Contributions from key players in both departments helped the team maintain control throughout the contest. The victory reinforced RCB's dominance in the tournament and added another historic achievement to the franchise's record, while Gujarat Titans finished the season as deserving runners-up under the leadership of **Shubman Gill**.
- Indian badminton stars **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** created history by winning the **Singapore Open 2026 Men's Doubles Title**. The pair became the first Indian doubles team to achieve this feat after defeating an Indonesian duo in a hard-fought final. The victory ended a two-year wait for a major **BWF World Tour** title and added another prestigious achievement to their careers. Their success strengthens India's growing reputation in international badminton and highlights the country's increasing competitiveness in doubles events at the global level.

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** suspended **Cricket Canada** due to serious governance and membership violations. The decision followed concerns related to governance irregularities, administrative misconduct, and institutional instability. Despite the suspension, Canadian men's and women's teams remain eligible to participate in international competitions under ICC supervision. Continued funding for cricket development will be monitored by the ICC, while reinstatement will depend on the implementation of governance reforms, financial transparency measures, and compliance with international cricket administration standards.
- Hero MotoCorp launched India's first **flex-fuel motorcycles**, the **Splendor Plus Flex Fuel** and **HF Deluxe Flex Fuel**. These bikes run on **E20 to E85 ethanol blends**, reducing **fuel imports and carbon emissions**. Powered by a **97.2cc engine**, they support India's **biofuel and clean mobility goals**. Sales begin in **July 2026**, marking a major step in sustainable transport.
- Indian Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** defeated **Magnus Carlsen three times in classical chess**, including twice at **Norway Chess 2026**. This achievement places him among the world's elite players. A former chess prodigy and winner of major international tournaments, he continues to strengthen India's position in **global chess excellence**.
- The first **World Yogasana Championship 2026** was inaugurated in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, marking a global push to recognize **Yogasana as a competitive sport**. The event promotes international participation and highlights yoga's role in **fitness, discipline, and holistic well-being**. It strengthens India's cultural leadership in promoting **yoga as a global sporting discipline**.
- **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the first Indian to win the **Norway Chess 2026** title, defeating top global players including **Magnus Carlsen twice**. His victory marks a major milestone in **Indian chess history**, showcasing rising dominance in global chess and strengthening India's reputation in international sports.
- India emerged as champions of the **Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026** after defeating host nation **Japan 4-1** in the final at Kakamigahara. The Indian team displayed exceptional consistency, discipline, and attacking strength throughout the tournament. Their dominant performance in the final secured the **gold medal**, while Japan settled for silver and Pakistan claimed bronze. The victory highlights India's growing strength in youth hockey and reflects the success of its grassroots development programmes. The triumph establishes India as the leading team at the U18 level in Asian hockey.
- India won the **SAFF Women's Championship 2026** by defeating defending champions **Bangladesh 3-1** in the final. The victory ended India's **seven-year wait** for the title and secured a record **sixth SAFF Women's Championship crown**. Goals from **Pyari Xaxa**, **Sanfida Nongrum**, and **Lynda Kom Serto** sealed the win. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, winning all four matches, scoring **18 goals**, and conceding only one. **Sanfida Nongrum** was named MVP, **Panthoi Chanu Elangbam** won Best Goalkeeper, and **Aveka Singh** finished as the tournament's top scorer.
- Italian driver **Kimi Antonelli** won the **Monaco Grand Prix 2026**, securing his **fifth consecutive Formula 1 victory** of the season and extending his lead in the Drivers' Championship standings. Starting from pole position, the **Mercedes** driver controlled the race from start to finish despite a late red flag and standing restart. **Lewis Hamilton** finished second for Ferrari, while **Isack Hadjar** secured third place. Championship contenders **Max Verstappen** and **Lando Norris** retired from the race, strengthening Antonelli's title prospects. Monaco remains one of Formula 1's most prestigious and demanding circuits.
- The **French Open 2026** witnessed several historic achievements at **Roland-Garros, Paris**. **Alexander Zverev** captured his maiden **Grand Slam** title by winning the men's singles championship, while **Mirra Andreeva**, aged 19, secured her first Grand Slam crown in women's singles. In doubles, **Marcel Granollers** and **Horacio Zeballos** successfully defended the men's title, while **Katerina Siniakova** and **Taylor Townsend** won the women's doubles championship. In mixed doubles, **Sara Errani** and **Andrea Vavassori** retained their title, becoming the first pair since 2019 to achieve the feat.
- India emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural **World Yogasana Championship 2026**, held at **EKA Arena** from June 4–8, 2026. The Indian contingent dominated the competition, finishing at the top of the medal table with **114 medals**, including **102 gold, 9 silver, and 3 bronze medals**. The championship featured **522 athletes from 79 countries** competing in traditional, artistic, rhythmic, and specialized Yogasana events. **Japan** finished second, while **Argentina** secured third place. The event highlighted the increasing global acceptance of Yogasana and reinforced India's leadership in promoting its ancient yoga heritage worldwide.
- Indian chess player **Savitha Shri Baskar** won the **Asian Women's Individual Chess Championship 2026** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, after an unbeaten performance of **7.5 points from nine rounds**. Entering the tournament as the **sixth seed**, she displayed remarkable consistency and composure against top competitors. Although she finished level on points with **Afruza Khamdamova of Uzbekistan**, she secured the gold medal through superior tiebreak scores. The victory represents the biggest achievement of her chess career and earned her qualification for the **FIDE Women's World Cup 2027**, further strengthening India's growing presence in international women's chess.

- Former New Zealand captain **Kane Williamson** announced his retirement from international cricket after a distinguished **16-year career**, leaving behind an outstanding legacy in world cricket. He accumulated **9,515 Test runs in 110 matches**, averaging over **54**, along with significant contributions in ODIs and T20Is. As captain, he led New Zealand to victory in the **2021 ICC World Test Championship Final**, one of the country's greatest sporting achievements. Widely regarded as part of cricket's "Fab Four" alongside **Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, and Joe Root**, Williamson was known for his technical excellence, consistency, leadership, and sportsmanship. His retirement marks the end of an era in New Zealand cricket and leaves a lasting impact on international cricket history.
- Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton claimed his maiden victory for Scuderia Ferrari at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix 2026, ending Mercedes' recent dominance. Hamilton executed a successful three-stop strategy to finish ahead of George Russell, while Lando Norris secured third place, creating the first all-British podium since 1968. Championship contender Kimi Antonelli retired late due to technical issues, intensifying the title race. The result highlights Ferrari's resurgence and adds momentum to Hamilton's championship campaign.
- The Union Government has established a **Search-cum-Selection Committee** under the **National Sports Governance (NSG) Act, 2025** to recommend candidates for the **National Sports Board**. Chaired by **T. V. Somanathan**, the committee includes renowned sports personalities and administrators. The proposed board will serve as India's apex sports governance regulator, overseeing **Sports Federations**, governance standards, financial transparency, and ethical administration. The initiative marks a major step towards creating a more **Transparent, Professional, and Accountable Sports Ecosystem** in the country.
- Smriti Mandhana became the only Indian athlete to feature in the **TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026** list. Recognized for her exceptional achievements in international cricket, she is the first Indian woman to score centuries in all three formats—**Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**. Mandhana also shares the record for the most centuries in women's international cricket and has achieved significant success as captain of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** franchise. Her inclusion reflects the growing global influence of **Women's Cricket** and India's prominence in the sport.
- Deepti Sharma equalled the record for the most wickets in **Women's International Cricket** by claiming her **355th International Wicket** during the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**. She now shares the record with Jhulan Goswami and Katherine Sciver-Brunt. The achievement highlights Deepti's consistency, longevity, and importance to Indian cricket, further strengthening India's growing reputation in women's international cricket.
- Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra**, in collaboration with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, launched the **Clean Sports Campaign** to promote awareness against doping. The initiative includes athlete-led outreach, workshops, digital education tools, and grassroots programmes. It aims to educate athletes about banned substances, encourage ethical sporting practices, and strengthen India's sporting reputation, especially as the country pursues its ambition of hosting the **2036 Olympic Games**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the first cricketer, male or female, to play **200 T20 Internationals (T20Is)** during India's **Women's T20 World Cup 2026** match against **South Africa** at **Old Trafford, Manchester**. Since her international debut in **2009**, she has established herself as one of India's finest captains and batters through consistent performances and impactful leadership. Before the milestone match, she was felicitated by **head coach Amol Muzumdar** and **vice-captain Smriti Mandhana**. The achievement reflects her longevity, consistency, leadership, and immense contribution to women's cricket.
- The **Indian women's hockey team** won the **FIH Nations Cup 2026** after defeating **New Zealand 2–0** in the final on **21 June 2026**. **Navneet Kaur** and **Sunelita Toppo** scored the winning goals, helping India claim its second Nations Cup title after the inaugural triumph in **2022**. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, defeating the **United States, Japan, Uruguay, Chile, and New Zealand**. The victory secured India's promotion to the prestigious **FIH Pro League**, providing greater international exposure and strengthening the nation's position in world women's hockey.
- Teenage batter **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** recorded the fastest **List-A fifty** by reaching his half-century in just **11 balls** during the **Tri-Series Final** between **India A** and **Sri Lanka A** at the **Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium**. He surpassed the previous world record of **12 balls**, held by **Kaushalya Weeratne** since **2005–06**. His explosive innings transformed the match after a relatively quiet tournament and earned widespread praise from cricket experts. The remarkable feat established Sooryavanshi as one of India's brightest young batting talents with immense future potential.
- Argentina unveiled the **world's tallest statue** of football legend **Lionel Messi** in **Manuel Savio, Neuquén Province**. Standing **26 metres** tall and weighing around **70 tonnes**, the monument depicts Messi holding the **FIFA World Cup Trophy** while wearing Argentina's national jersey. Designed by Argentine artist **Aldo Beroisa**, the structure celebrates Messi's achievements, including the **2022 FIFA World Cup** triumph. Besides honoring one of football's greatest players, the monument is expected to boost tourism, local economic activity, and Argentina's cultural identity through sports heritage.

- **Lionel Messi** became the **highest goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history** during the **2026 FIFA World Cup** by scoring twice against **Austria**, taking his tally to **18 goals** and surpassing **Miroslav Klose's** record of **16 goals**. Earlier, Messi also scored a **hat-trick** against **Algeria**, reaching five goals in the tournament. His World Cup journey spans from **2006 to 2026**, with the **2022 edition** being his most prolific. The milestone strengthened Argentina's campaign and further cemented Messi's legendary football legacy.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** created football history during the **2026 FIFA World Cup** by becoming the **first player** to score in **six different FIFA World Cup tournaments**. He achieved the milestone during **Portugal's 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan**, scoring twice. At **41 years and 138 days**, Ronaldo also became the **second-oldest goal scorer** in World Cup history. His goals increased his World Cup tally to **10**, surpassing Portuguese legend **Eusébio's** record of **nine goals**, further strengthening his legacy as one of football's greatest players.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam Released

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President **P.T. Usha** and Hockey India President **Dr. Dilip Tirkey** released the book *India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam* in **New Delhi**. Authored by renowned hockey historian **K. Arumugam**, the book was published by **Hockey India** and **Stick2Hockey** to commemorate the **98th anniversary of India's first Olympic gold medal in hockey**. It recounts India's historic triumph at the **1928 Amsterdam Olympics**, where the Indian men's hockey team defeated the **Netherlands** to win its maiden Olympic gold during the British colonial era. The launch event was attended by legendary hockey players **Harbinder Singh, Jagbir Singh, Zafar Iqbal, and Ashok Kumar**, while the publication marks the **16th book** authored by K. Arumugam on Indian hockey history.

Air Chief Releases Memoir of Astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, released the memoir *The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts* in **New Delhi**. Written by **Group Captain**

Shubhanshu Shukla, the memoir chronicles his inspiring journey from an **Indian Air Force fighter pilot** to becoming an **astronaut**, culminating in his historic mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** as part of the **Axiom-4 Mission**. The book launch also commemorated the **first anniversary of the Axiom-4 mission**, which was launched on **25 June**, highlighting India's growing achievements and aspirations in the field of **human spaceflight**.

Vice President Releases Book on Bhawaiya Folk Music Heritage

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book *Sanskritir Ratna Bhandar: Bhaowaiyar Itibritto (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey)* at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. The book explores the rich cultural heritage and historical evolution of **Bhawaiya**, a traditional folk music genre associated with **North Bengal, Assam, and adjoining regions**. Speaking at the event, the Vice President emphasized the importance of preserving India's diverse folk traditions, stating that safeguarding the country's cultural heritage is essential for strengthening its **civilizational identity** and passing these invaluable traditions on to future generations.

OBITUARY

Raja Randhir Singh Passes Away at 79

Renowned Indian shooter, five-time Olympian, and veteran sports administrator **Raja Randhir Singh** passed away at the age of **79** in **New Delhi**. Born on **18 October 1946** in **Patiala, Punjab**, he was one of India's most accomplished shooters and represented the country at **five Olympic Games**—Mexico City (1968), Munich (1972), Montreal (1976), Moscow (1980), and Los Angeles (1984). He also served as a reserve shooter at the **1964 Tokyo Olympics**.

He created history by winning the **Gold Medal in Men's Trap Shooting** at the **1978 Asian Games**, becoming the **first Indian shooter to win an Asian Games gold medal**. Honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in **1979**, he later served as the **Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and became the **first Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**. His contribution as both an athlete and sports administrator remains unparalleled.

K. P. Dhanapalan Passes Away at 76

Senior Congress leader and former **Member of Parliament K. P. Dhanapalan** passed away at the age of **76** in **Kerala**. Beginning

his political career through the **Kerala Students Union (KSU)**, he later became a prominent Congress leader and represented the **Chalakyady constituency** in the **15th Lok Sabha (2009–2014)**. He also served as President of the **Ernakulam District Congress Committee (DCC)** and Chairman of **MILMA**, contributing significantly to Kerala's political and cooperative sectors.

Suman Kalyanpur Passes Away at 89

Veteran playback singer **Suman Kalyanpur** passed away at the age of **89**, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian music. Renowned for her melodious voice, she was among the most respected singers of the **1960s and 1970s** and made immense contributions to **Hindi, Marathi, and several regional film industries**. Beginning her playback career in **1954**, she became famous for timeless songs and memorable duets with **Mohammed Rafi**. Besides film music, she excelled in **devotional songs, ghazals, and thumris**. In **2023**, she was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan** for her outstanding contribution to Indian music.

Peabo Bryson Passes Away at 75

Legendary **R&B singer Peabo Bryson**, a **two-time Grammy Award** winner, passed away at the age of **75**. Best known for Disney classics like "**A Whole New World**" and "**Beauty and the Beast**," he became one of the defining voices of contemporary R&B. Beginning his career in the **1970s**, he collaborated with renowned artists such as **Roberta Flack** and **Angela Bofill**, leaving behind a timeless musical legacy.

Marcia Lucas Passes Away at 80

Academy Award-winning film editor **Marcia Lucas** passed away at the age of **80**. She was best known for editing the original **Star Wars** trilogy, winning the **Academy Award for Best Film Editing** for **Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope**. She also worked on **American Graffiti** and **Taxi Driver**. Her pioneering editing style significantly influenced modern cinematic storytelling and Hollywood filmmaking.

Pahlaj Nihalani Passes Away at 76

Veteran Bollywood producer and former **CBFC Chairperson Pahlaj Nihalani** passed away at the age of **76** due to a liver-related illness. He produced several successful films, including **Ilzaam**, **Aankhen**, **Aag Hi Aag**, and **Rangeela Raja**, while also launching actor **Govinda's** Bollywood career. He served as **Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (2015–2017)** and remained a prominent yet controversial figure in Indian cinema.

Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap Passes Away at 97

Former **Lok Sabha Secretary-General** and eminent constitutional expert **Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap** passed away at the age of **97**. Widely regarded as a leading authority on the **Indian Constitution and Parliamentary System**, he authored **more than 100 books** and played a significant role in constitutional reforms, including the "**One Nation, One Election**" initiative. His work continues to serve as an invaluable resource for students, lawmakers, and civil services aspirants.

Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal Passes Away at 67

Arjuna Awardee and former Asian Games medal-winning shot putter **Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal** passed away at the age of **67**. A **10-time National Champion**, he won the **Bronze Medal** at the **1982 Asian Games**, set an **Asian Record** in **1986**, and later dedicated himself to coaching young athletes. His outstanding contribution earned him the **Arjuna Award**, **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award**, and a place in the **Limca Book of Records**.

Jagannath Prasad Das Passes Away at 90

Eminent **Odia writer**, former **IAS officer**, and distinguished cultural personality **Jagannath Prasad Das** passed away at the age of **90**. He made significant contributions to **Odia literature**, public administration, and social welfare, particularly through famine relief initiatives in **Kalahandi**, earning widespread respect across Odisha.

Marjane Satrapi Passes Away at 56

Internationally acclaimed **graphic novelist, filmmaker, and illustrator Marjane Satrapi** passed away at the age of **56**. Best

known for her autobiographical graphic novel **Persepolis**, she explored themes of **identity, revolution, freedom, and human rights**, leaving a lasting impact on global literature and cinema.

A.C. Sreehari Passes Away at 56

Renowned **Malayalam poet, academic, and literary critic A.C. Sreehari** passed away at the age of **56**. His contributions to **modern Malayalam poetry**, literary criticism, and higher education enriched Kerala's literary and academic landscape.

Salim Kumar Passes Away at 56

Veteran Malayalam actor, comedian, writer, and filmmaker **Salim Kumar** passed away at the age of **56**. Beginning his career as a mimicry artist, he appeared in **over 300 films** and became one of Malayalam cinema's finest performers. He won the **National Film Award for Best Actor** for **Adaminte Makan Abu** and received multiple **Kerala State Film Awards**, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian cinema.

Bharathiraja Passes Away at 84

Legendary filmmaker **Bharathiraja** passed away at the age of **84** in **Chennai**. Widely regarded as the pioneer of **rural storytelling in Tamil cinema**, he transformed Indian filmmaking through authentic depictions of village life. Over a career spanning several decades, he directed **over 40 films**, won **six National Film Awards**, multiple **Filmfare Awards South**, and several **Tamil Nadu State Film Awards**, becoming one of India's greatest filmmakers.

Jaspal Rana Passes Away at 49

Padma Shri, Arjuna Award, and Dronacharya Award recipient **Jaspal Rana** passed away at the age of **49**. One of India's most decorated pistol shooters, he won numerous medals at the **Asian Games** and **Asian Championships** before becoming a highly respected shooting coach. As **High-Performance Pistol Coach**, he mentored athletes including **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary**, playing a major role in India's international shooting success.

David Hockney Passes Away at 88

Celebrated British contemporary artist **David Hockney** passed away at the age of **88** in **London**. A leading figure of the **Pop Art movement**, he became internationally renowned for his vibrant swimming pool paintings, photography, collage, stage design, and pioneering digital artworks. His artistic innovations continue to influence contemporary art across the world.

François Englert Passes Away at 93

Belgian theoretical physicist and **2013 Nobel Prize in Physics** laureate **François Englert** passed away at the age of **93**. Along with **Peter Higgs**, he developed the **Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism**, explaining how fundamental particles acquire mass through the **Higgs field**. The theory was experimentally confirmed by the discovery of the **Higgs Boson at CERN in 2012**, becoming one of the greatest milestones in modern particle physics.

Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi Passes Away at 84

Former **Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)** Lieutenant General **Vijay Oberoi** passed away at the age of **84**. Despite losing his right leg during the **1965 India–Pakistan War**, he rose to become one of the Indian Army's most respected officers. He played a key role in **post-Kargil military reforms**, served as **DGMO** and **Vice Chief of Army Staff**, and later founded the **Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)** and the **War Wounded Foundation**.

Robert A.F. Thurman Passes Away at 84

Renowned American scholar of **Tibetan Buddhism** and **Padma Shri** awardee **Robert A.F. Thurman** passed away at the age of **84**. A distinguished author, educator, and translator, he became the **first American ordained in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition** under the **14th Dalai Lama**. He authored over **20 books**, co-founded **Tibet House US**, and received the **Padma Shri** in **2020** for promoting Buddhist studies and literature.

Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj Passes Away at 73

Veteran Tamil filmmaker, actor, screenwriter, and director **Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj** passed away at the age of **73**.

Popularly known as the **"Screenplay King,"** he directed **more than 25 films**, acted in **over 75 films**, and influenced generations of filmmakers with his unique storytelling style.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol Passes Away at 47

Thailand's **Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol** passed away at the age of **47**. A **UN Goodwill Ambassador**, she was internationally recognised for her work in **justice reform, prison rehabilitation, and women's rights**. She played a major role in promoting the **UN Bangkok Rules** and launched the **Kamlangjai Campaign** to improve the welfare of incarcerated women.

Gavri Devi Passes Away at 98

Renowned **Mand folk singer Gavri Devi** passed away at the age of **98** in **Rajasthan**. Best known for her iconic rendition of **"Kesariya Balam,"** she devoted nearly **eight decades** to preserving Rajasthan's rich folk music tradition. She received the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Rajasthan Ratna Award**, and several lifetime achievement honours for her outstanding contribution to Indian folk music.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
2 June	Telangana Formation Day	Observed to commemorate the creation of Telangana as India's 29th state in 2014 . It celebrates the success of the statehood movement led by K. Chandrashekar Rao and the implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 .
3 June	World Bicycle Day	Theme: "Cycling for a Greener Future." The day promotes cycling as an eco-friendly, sustainable, and healthy mode of transport while encouraging environmental protection and sustainable urban mobility.
5 June	World Environment Day	Theme: "Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future." Hosted by Azerbaijan (Baku) , the observance focused on climate action, ecosystem restoration, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation.
8 June	World Oceans Day	Theme: "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean." The day highlighted ocean conservation, marine biodiversity, climate regulation, and the importance of achieving SDG-14 (Life Below Water) .
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme: "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults." Observed to raise awareness against child labour and promote education, social protection, and decent employment opportunities.
15 June	Global Wind Day	Theme: "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration." The day highlighted India's progress in wind energy, where installed capacity reached 56.09 GW , making it the world's fourth-largest wind energy producer .
17 June	World Crocodile Day	Theme: "Legacy in Every Scale." The observance promotes crocodile conservation and highlights India's successful conservation efforts for the Gharial, Mugger Crocodile, and Saltwater Crocodile .
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme: "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore." The observance focused on restoring grasslands and rangelands to strengthen biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience.
18 June	Autistic Pride Day	Theme: "Recognition, Representation, and Reform." The day promotes neurodiversity, inclusion, equal opportunities, and acceptance of autistic individuals worldwide.
19 June	World Sickle Cell Day	Theme: "Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease." The observance raises awareness about Sickle Cell Disease and supports India's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission targeting elimination by 2047 .

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
20 June	World Refugee Day	Theme: "Until Everyone is Safe." The day recognizes the resilience of refugees and emphasizes protection, healthcare, education, employment, dignity, and humanitarian support.
23 June	Olympic Day	Theme: "You Can Do This. Let's Move." Celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and promote fitness, inclusion, and Olympic values.
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	Theme: "Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing Innovation, Participation, and Inclusion." The day recognizes the contribution of public servants and promotes innovation, transparency, and citizen-centric governance.
24 June	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	Observed to recognize women's contributions to diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and international cooperation while promoting gender equality in diplomatic leadership.
25 June	World Vitiligo Day	Theme: "From Stigma to Strength." Slogan: "Many Shades, One Voice." The day promotes awareness about vitiligo, encourages early diagnosis, combats stigma, and supports social inclusion.
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Observed to raise awareness about drug abuse, strengthen prevention, rehabilitation, and international cooperation against illicit drug trafficking.
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	Observed to reaffirm the global commitment to eliminating torture, promoting justice, rehabilitation, accountability, and protection of human rights.
27 June	World MSME Day	Theme: "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development." The day recognizes the contribution of MSMEs in employment generation, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic growth.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Myanmar	President: Min Aung Hlaing Capital: Naypyidaw
Cambodia	Prime Minister: Hun Manet Capital: Phnom Penh
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodríguez Capital: Caracas
Norway	Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Støre Capital: Oslo
France	President: Emmanuel Macron Capital: Paris
United Kingdom (England)	Prime Minister: Keir Starmer Capital: London
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz Capital: Berlin
Japan	Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida Capital: Tokyo
Nepal	Prime Minister: Balen Shah Capital: Kathmandu
United States	President: Donald Trump
Italy	Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni
Karnataka	Chief Minister: D. K. Shivakumar Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot Capital: Bengaluru
Maharashtra	Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma Capital: Mumbai
Assam	Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya Capital: Dispur
Gujarat	Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel Governor: Acharya Devvrat Capital: Gandhinagar

Aspect	Details
Delhi	Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta Lieutenant Governor: Taranjit Singh
West Bengal	Chief Minister: Suwendu Adhikari Governor: R. N. Ravi Capital: Kolkata
Uttar Pradesh	Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath Governor: Anandiben Patel Capital: Lucknow
Tamil Nadu	Chief Minister: Joseph Vijay Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Chennai
Kerala	Chief Minister: V. D. Satheesan Governor: R. Arlekar Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Odisha	Chief Minister: Mohan Majhi Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati Capital: Bhubaneswar
Bihar	Chief Minister: Samrat Chaudhary Governor: Arif Khan Capital: Patna
Jharkhand	Chief Minister: Hemant Soren Governor: Santosh Gangwar Capital: Ranchi
Andhra Pradesh	Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer Capital: Amaravati
Madhya Pradesh	Chief Minister: Mohan Yadav Governor: Mangubhai Patel Capital: Bhopal
Meghalaya	Chief Minister: Conrad K. Sangma Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar Capital: Shillong
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey
International Cricket Council (ICC)	Chairman: Jay Shah
World Bank	President: Ajay Banga
Ministry of Home Affairs	Minister: Amit Shah
Ministry of Finance	Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Minister: Piyush Goyal
Ministry of External Affairs	Minister: S. Jaishankar
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command	Vice Admiral: Sanjay Vatsayan
Chief of the Naval Staff (27th)	Admiral: Krishna Swaminathan
Chief of Defence Staff	General: N. S. Raja Subramani
Commander-in-Chief, Andaman & Nicobar Command (20th)	Vice Admiral: Vineet McCarty
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command	Air Marshal: Tarun Chaudhry