

Weekly One Liners 1st to 7th June, 2026

India and Myanmar Deepen Strategic Partnership During President Min Aung Hlaing's Official Visit

As Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing his official visit of India from 30 May to 3 June 2026 both the countries have strengthened the bilateral ties. This high level visit between nations covered the trade, connectivity, security, education, and cultural cooperation. As the Myanmar remains a key partner in India's Neighborhood First and Act East policies this visit highlight the shared vision of the both nations to deepen their relations.

India and Myanmar Reaffirm Strategic Partnership

The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Min Aung Hlaing focused on to strengthening the long standing friendship between India and Myanmar. Both the leaders have reviewed the bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest and discussed multiple ways to expand cooperation in several sectors.

Honorable Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the Myanmar's strategic importance in India's foreign policy framework and particularly under the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) initiative.

Both the leaders have agreed to maintain the close engagement and work together to advance mutual interests.

Connectivity Projects Take Center Stage

One of the major outcomes of this visit was the renewed commitment to improving the connectivity between the two countries and the wider region.

Both the sides have stressed the importance of completing the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project which is aims to connect the India's eastern seaboard with Myanmar through sea, river and road transport networks.

The leaders also highlighted the significance of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway. It is the major infrastructure initiative designed to connect South Asia and Southeast Asia. Once it get completed, the highway is expected to facilitate the trade, tourism and economic integration across the region.

Expanding Trade and Economic Cooperation

Trade and investment cooperation emerged as the another key area of discussion during the visit. Both the countries agreed to facilitate greater bilateral trade and strengthen economic partnerships.

Particularly attention was given to the Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism which became operational in the month of May 2024. This mechanism enables the various businesses in both countries to conduct transactions in their local currencies and reducing the dependence on third-country currencies and making trade more efficient.

India and Myanmar also expressed the interest in expanding cooperation in sectors such as the agriculture, agro-processing, energy, petroleum, mining, pharmaceuticals, information technology, banking, logistics and infrastructure development.

India Enhances Educational Support for Myanmar

A major announcement during the visit was India's decision to increase the number of Mekong-Ganga ICCR Scholarships available to the Myanmar students.

The annual scholarship quota will increase from 36 to 100 scholarships beginning in the year 2026. This move reflects the India's commitment to promoting the educational cooperation and people to people exchanges between both nations.

This expanded scholarship program is expected to provide greater opportunities for Myanmar students to pursue the higher education in India while strengthening cultural and academic ties between the two nations.

Strengthening Security and Border Cooperation

Security cooperation remained as the central theme of the discussions. Both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to respecting the each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The leaders also strongly emphasized the need to prevent the misuse of their territories for activities which could threaten the security interests of the other country. Myanmar reiterated the its assurance that its territory would not be used against the India's security interests.

India also reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing the defense and security cooperation including the collaboration on the border management and regional security challenges.

India's Continued Support for Peace and Development in Myanmar

India reiterated the its support for Myanmar-led efforts aimed at to achieving peace, stability, national reconciliation and socio-economic development.

Prime Minister Modi has assured the continued cooperation and assistance based on mutual respect and friendship. Myanmar also appreciated the India's constructive role and acknowledged the importance of India's support during the period of political and economic challenges.

Why Myanmar is Strategically Important for India

Myanmar occupies the unique position in the India's foreign policy and regional strategy. It serves as the India's gateway to Southeast Asia and plays a vital role in several strategic initiatives.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has also been described Myanmar at the intersection of three major Indian policy frameworks, which are,

- Neighborhood First Policy
- Act East Policy
- MAHASAGAR Initiative

Myanmar's geographic location makes it an essential partner to achieving the objectives of all three policies.

PM SVANidhi Marks Six Successful Years, Providing Lifeline to Urban Street Vendors

The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme has completed the six years of the successful implementation and marked the major milestone in India's efforts to support the urban street vendors. This scheme was launched in June 2020 by the central government and it is designed to provide the affordable collateral free working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PM SVANidhi Completes Six Years

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has celebrated the sixth anniversary of PM SVANidhi in the Agartala, Tripura. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal interacted with the beneficiaries from several Northeastern states which includes the Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

During this event, credit cards and loan sanction letters were distributed to the eligible street vendors which highlighted the scheme's continued commitment to improving the access to formal financial services.

Since its launch PM SVANidhi has become one of the India's most impactful urban livelihood program and helping the vendors access institutional credit and strengthen their businesses.

Objectives of the PM SVANidhi Scheme

The primary objective of the PM SVANidhi is to provides the collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors and enabled them to restart and expand their businesses.

However, the scheme goes beyond the just financial assistance. It seeks to the,

- Promotes the financial inclusion among urban poor.
- Encourage digital transactions and cashless payments.
- Facilitate access to the social welfare schemes.
- Improve livelihood opportunities for street vendors.
- Enhance financial security and social recognition.

According to Union Minister Manohar Lal the scheme also aims to provide not only the credit but also dignity, confidence and long-term economic empowerment.

Key Achievements of PM SVANidhi in Six Years

The scheme has achieved the remarkable success since its inception.

Major Highlights

- 75.5 lakh+ street vendors were benefited
- 1.05 crore+ loan sanctions facilitated
- ₹17,800 crore+ disbursed
- 1.12 crore collateral-free loans sanctioned
- 34.81 lakh women vendors empowered
- 51.84 lakh loans disbursed to women beneficiaries
- 55 lakh vendors digitally onboarded
- 50 lakh+ families socio-economically profiled under SVANidhi Se Samridhhi
- 1.52 crore welfare scheme sanctions facilitated

These achievements reflect the growing acceptance of the formal financial systems among street vendors across India.

Significant Impact on Women Street Vendors

One of the most major outcomes of the PM SVANidhi has been its contribution towards the women's economic empowerment. More than 34.81 lakh women street vendors have benefited under the scheme. Easy access to the institutional credit has enabled women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, increase earnings and improved the household financial stability. The scheme has also encouraged the greater participation of women in a digital transactions and formal banking and helping to bridge the financial inclusion gap.

Driving Financial Inclusion and Digital Empowerment

The main feature of PM SVANidhi is its focus on to bringing street vendors into the formal financial ecosystem. Around millions of vendors who previously relied on the informal moneylenders have now established the banking relationships. Via digital onboarding initiatives, over 55 lakh vendors have adopted the digital payment methods.

This transition has helped vendors,

- Builds the formal credit histories.
- Access to the additional sources of finance.
- Reduce dependence on high-interest informal loans.
- Participate in India's growing digital economy.

The scheme also demonstrates how the digital inclusion can complement financial empowerment.

PM SVANidhi's Impact in the North-Eastern Region

The North-Eastern states have also witnessed the significant benefits under the scheme.

According to official data,

- 2.59 lakh+ loans have been distributed in the region.
- ₹430 crore+ financial assistance has been extended to the street vendors.

In Tripura, more than,

- 9,300 loans have been also sanctioned.
- Nearly ₹15 crore has been disbursed.

These figures indicates the scheme's expanding reach even in the geographically challenging regions.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Honour Best Performing Panchayats in New Delhi

The National Panchayat Awards (NPA) 2025 will be conferred to 42 outstanding Panchayats from across the India during a ceremony in New Delhi on 3rd of June, 2026. This awards are organized by the Ministry of the Panchayati raj and it celebrates the exemplary performance in the local governance, sustainable development, infrastructure creation, social inclusion and citizen participation.

What are the National Panchayat Awards?

The National Panchayat Awards are annual awards presented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to recognize the outstanding performance by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The awards aim to,

- Promote the good governance at the grassroots level
- Encourages the community-led development
- Improve public service delivery
- Strengthen democratic decentralization
- Accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation

The awards are to be given under the Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP) component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

Two Major Categories of National Panchayat Awards 2025

The awards are distributed under the two major categories.

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar – 2025

Sr. No	Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Karnataka	1	Mudradi (Hebri, Udupi)	1.00
2	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	2	Chemmullapalli (Khajipet, Y.S.R.)	0.75
3	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Sikkim	3	Gyalshing Omchung (Gyalshing)	0.50
4	Healthy Panchayat	Tripura	1	Kanchanbari (Kumarghat, Unakoti)	1.00
5	Healthy Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Vandse (Kundapura, Udupi)	0.75
6	Healthy Panchayat	Kerala	3	Niranam (Pulikeezhu, Pathanamthitta)	0.25
7	Healthy Panchayat	Odisha	3	Potalampur (Chatrapur, Ganjam)	0.25
8	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Itgaon (Pu) (Bhandara, Bhandara)	1.00
9	Child-Friendly Panchayat Child-Friendly Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Halanayakanahalli (Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Urban)	0.75
10	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Kerala	3	(Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram)	0.50
11	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Khariwali (Khalapur, Raigad)	1.00
12	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Madamakki (Hebri, Udupi)	0.75
13	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Odisha	3	(Champua, Kendujhar)	0.50

This category recognizes the Gram Panchayats for their achievements across the nine Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes.

Around total of 34 Gram Panchayats from 17 States and the Union Territories have been selected under this category.

2. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP)

This category recognizes the overall best performing Panchayats at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat levels.

Under the NPA-2025, 8 Panchayats have been selected under this category.

Nine Themes of Sustainable Development Evaluated

The DDUPSVP awards are linked to the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 and making the assessment process data-driven and transparent.

The nine themes includes the,

1. Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods
2. Healthy Panchayat
3. Child-Friendly Panchayat
4. Water-Sufficient Panchayat
5. Clean and Green Panchayat
6. Self-Sufficient Infrastructure
7. Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat
8. Panchayat with Good Governance
9. Women-Friendly Panchayat

These themes align the Panchayat-level development with the India's commitments towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Weekly One Liners 1st to 7th June, 2026

Sr. No	Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
14	Clean & Green Panchayat	Mizoram	1	Kawrthah North	1.00
15	Clean & Green Panchayat	Assam	2	Jumarmur (Kathiatoli, Nagaon)	0.375
16	Clean & Green Panchayat	Odisha	2	Hatibandha (Lathikata, Sundargarh)	0.375
17	Clean & Green Panchayat	Chhattisgarh	3	Sardih (Bagicha, Jashpur)	0.25
18	Clean & Green Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	3	Lohardi (Balh, Mandi)	0.25
19	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Kerala	1	Melukavu (Erattupetta, Kottayam)	1.00
20	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Kerala	2	Hoogrijan (Tengakhat, Dibrugarh)	0.75
21	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	3	Gundamala (Kotha Patnam, Prakasam)	0.25
22	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Sanoor (Karkal, Udupi)	0.25
23	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shansha (Lahul, Lahaul and Spiti)	1.00
24	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Maharashtra	2	Chambharli (Khalapur, Raigad)	0.375
25	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Odisha	2	Mandar (Polosara, Ganjam)	0.375
26	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Wagoora (B.K. Pora, Budgam)	0.25
27	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Hakladi (Kundapura, Udupi)	0.25
28	Panchayat with Good Governance	Andhra Pradesh	1	Srungavaram (Nathavaram, Visakhapatnam)	1.00
29	Panchayat with Good Governance	Maharashtra	2	Nimbale (Chandwad, Nashik)	0.75
30	Panchayat with Good Governance	Telangana	3	Mothukupalle (Kotepally, Vikarabad)	0.50
31	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	1	Palem (Srikalahasti, Tirupati)	1.00
32	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Jharkhand	2	Jhikarhati East (Pakur, Pakur)	0.75
33	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Telangana	3	Fasalwadi (Sangareddy, Sangareddy)	0.25
34	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Tripura	3	Baikunthapur (Hezamara, West Tripura)	0.25

Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar – 2025

Sr. No	Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
35	Best District Panchayat	Tripura	1	Sepahijala	5.00
36	Best District Panchayat	Odisha	2	Ganjam	3.00
37	Best District Panchayat	Tamil Nadu	3	Coimbatore	2.00
38	Best Block Panchayat	Kerala	1	Harippad (Alappuzha)	2.00
39	Best Block Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	3	Kuppam (Chittoor)	1.50
40	Best Gram Panchayat	Assam	1	New Napam (Gabhoru, Sonitpur)	1.50
41	Best Gram Panchayat	Bihar	2	Telcup (Rohtas, Rohtas)	1.25
42	Best Gram Panchayat	Uttar Pradesh	3	Biraharu (Saiyan, Agra)	1.00

Special Awards Presented Earlier in 2025

On the National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 (24 April 2025), Prime Minister Narendra Modi had presented awards under three special categories.

Special Categories

1. Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)
2. Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)
3. Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)

These categories recognize the exceptional efforts in the climate resilience, self-reliance and institutional capacity building.

How the Awards Strengthen Rural Governance

The National Panchayat Awards plays the crucial role in improving governance at the grassroots level.

They encourage Panchayats to,

- Adopt the evidence-based planning
- Improve the transparency and accountability
- Enhance citizen participation
- Deliver better public services
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Empower women and vulnerable communities

The revamped framework was introduced in the year 2023 has further improved the credibility and impact of the awards through measurable performance indicators.

National Affairs

- The recent **forest fire** in **Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh**, showcased the importance of **Bambi Buckets** in aerial firefighting operations. The **Indian Air Force** deployed **Mi-17V-5 helicopters** equipped with these specialized devices, carrying out more than **150 sorties** and dropping over **62,500 litres of water** to control the blaze. Designed to collect water from nearby sources and release it accurately over affected zones, these buckets are highly effective in inaccessible and mountainous regions. Their operational flexibility makes them a vital resource for **wildfire suppression**, emergency response, and disaster management across challenging terrains.
- The Government of India launched **Samadhan Didi**, an **AI-powered voice chatbot** integrated with the **CPGRAMS** grievance redressal platform to improve citizen services. Developed in collaboration with **Bhashini**, the system enables people to register complaints in their native languages. Using **Artificial Intelligence** and **Natural Language Processing**, it understands grievances, gathers relevant details, identifies concerned departments, and files complaints automatically. Supporting **22 constitutional languages**, the initiative promotes **digital governance**, accessibility, inclusivity, and efficient public service delivery while ensuring strong data privacy and security standards within government infrastructure.

- The **Khet Bachao Abhiyan** was launched by **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** to promote **soil conservation**, balanced fertilizer use, water management, and sustainable farming practices. The campaign encourages farmers to use **Soil Health Cards**, reduce excessive chemical fertilizer usage, and adopt climate-resilient agricultural methods. It includes farmer training programs, crop demonstrations, awareness campaigns against fake fertilizers and pesticides, and support for **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and rural youth employment. The initiative aims to improve soil fertility, strengthen agricultural productivity, and promote environmentally sustainable farming across the country.
- The **Supreme Court of India** directed the removal of encroachments and illegal structures from the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve**, one of the most ecologically sensitive regions of the **Western Ghats**. Acting on findings of large-scale illegal occupation, the Court ordered time-bound eviction measures, demolition of unauthorized constructions, and restoration of degraded forest land. The decision covers protected areas including the **Srivilliputhur–Megamalai Tiger Reserve** and emphasizes accountability of officials responsible for enforcement. The ruling highlights the judiciary's commitment to **biodiversity conservation**, environmental protection, and the preservation of critical forest ecosystems.
- **Bhavitha Mandava**, a model from Hyderabad, was named in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026** list under the Rising Talents category. She gained global recognition after being discovered in New York and later became the first Indian model to open **Chanel's Métiers d'Art show**. In 2026, she was appointed **Chanel's Indian brand ambassador**, further strengthening her international profile. Her journey from an architecture student to a global fashion icon reflects the growing influence of Indian talent on the international stage and the expanding representation of Indians in global fashion and luxury industries.

Test Prime

ALL EXAMS ONE SUBSCRIPTION

IBPS, UPSC, SSC, and other exam logos.

- India emerged as the world's **2nd largest solar growth market in 2025**, surpassing the United States in annual capacity additions. The country crossed **155 GW of installed solar capacity**, moving closer to its goal of **50% non-fossil fuel electricity capacity**. A key driver is the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, which enabled rooftop solar in over **40 lakh households**. Strong **policy support, innovation, and infrastructure development** have accelerated this growth. The achievement strengthens India's position in **renewable energy leadership, climate action, and energy security**, reinforcing its commitment toward sustainable development and a low-carbon future.
- Chandigarh University has launched India's first private **IndiaAI Data Lab** in partnership with **Intel India**. The lab focuses on **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, and emerging technologies**, offering hands-on learning through projects, hackathons, and research activities. It aims to bridge the gap between **academia and industry** by providing practical exposure, certification-linked programs, and faculty development opportunities. The initiative will upskill over **2,000 students** and introduce AI-focused degree programs. This development strengthens India's **AI education ecosystem**, helping produce industry-ready digital talent and boosting innovation in advanced technologies aligned with global digital transformation needs.
- The **MSDE launched Navachar Mantra** at IIT Delhi to empower rural innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs from **Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and aspirational districts**. Implemented by **NIESBUD and FITT**, the initiative provides **mentorship, investor access, IP support, and market linkages** across sectors like **AgriTech, HealthTech, EdTech, MSMEs, and sustainability**. It aims to strengthen grassroots innovation and support startups with structured guidance. Applications remain open until **5 July 2026**, making it a key step in promoting **entrepreneurship, skill development, and rural economic transformation** in India's innovation ecosystem.
- India has established its first **Model Border Village at Chumur in Ladakh** under the **Vibrant Village Programme**. Located near the **LAC at 16,700 feet**, the village aims to become **self-reliant, climate-resilient, and economically sustainable**. The project includes **climate-resilient housing, tourism development, livelihood generation, and infrastructure improvement** for around 91 residents. It supports strategic border development and aims to improve living standards in remote regions. This initiative strengthens India's **border security, rural development, and sustainable frontier planning**, serving as a model for high-altitude village transformation.
- The government has initiated bidding for the **₹824 crore Fotu La Tunnel project** on the **Srinagar–Kargil–Leh highway**. The project includes **twin tunnels of about 2 km each** to ensure all-weather connectivity through the high-altitude **Fotu La Pass**. It will reduce disruptions caused by heavy snowfall and improve **transportation, tourism, and military logistics** in the region. Along with the upcoming **Zojila Tunnel**, it will significantly enhance strategic connectivity in Ladakh, strengthening infrastructure development and regional integration in India's sensitive border areas.
- India achieved a major environmental milestone as the **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal, Uttar Pradesh)** was designated the **100th Ramsar site** in the country on **World Environment Day 2026**. Located in **Ballia district**, the wetland supports rich **biodiversity and migratory bird habitats**, reflecting India's growing commitment to **wetland conservation and ecological protection**. The recognition strengthens global environmental credibility and highlights community participation in conservation. The achievement reinforces India's focus on **sustainable ecosystem management, biodiversity preservation, and climate-resilient environmental policies** aligned with international conservation frameworks.
- India marked a major agricultural export milestone as **APEDA facilitated the first export of botanical-infused millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand**. The **1-metric-tonne shipment** by Bengaluru-based **Infini Agrotek LLP** highlights rising global demand for **healthy, value-added millet products**. These foods combine **millet nutrition with botanical ingredients**, enhancing their functional value. The initiative strengthens **farmer income, agri-export diversification, and global millet branding**, showcasing India's leadership in promoting **sustainable and nutritious food systems** under international trade expansion efforts led by APEDA.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** introduced an official **vegan logo** to improve transparency in food labeling. The symbol features a **green square with a stylized "V" and sprouting leaf**, identifying certified vegan products. Mandatory from **1 July 2027**, the regulation ensures clarity for consumers by distinguishing foods free from **animal-derived ingredients, additives, or processing aids**. It aims to prevent misleading claims and align India with global **food safety and labeling standards**, promoting informed choices and supporting the growing shift toward **plant-based, sustainable diets**.
- India inaugurated a new **NAMO Airport terminal in Daman** on 6 June 2026, significantly strengthening **regional air connectivity and infrastructure development**. The modern terminal can handle around **180 passengers** and includes upgraded facilities to improve passenger experience. It is expected to boost **tourism, business travel, and economic activity** by improving air links with major cities like **Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Delhi**. Alongside this, the Prime Minister also launched development projects worth around **₹2,970 crore** across sectors such as **healthcare, infrastructure, tourism, and public welfare**, reinforcing integrated regional growth and development planning.

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** restored a historic **mantapa inside the Virupaksha Temple gopuram in Hampi**, removing later-added walls that had converted it into an office. The restoration reinstated its original purpose as a **resting place for devotees**, improving access to sacred structures. Supervised by ASI officials, the work enhances visibility of **Hampi's UNESCO heritage architecture** and improves pilgrim experience. The initiative has been widely appreciated for preserving **cultural authenticity, heritage conservation, and historical integrity**, strengthening India's commitment to safeguarding ancient temple architecture and promoting responsible tourism.
- India is set to introduce **E85 fuel**, a blend of **85% ethanol and 15% petrol**, marking a major step toward **clean energy and reduced oil dependency**. Launched on **World Environment Day 2026**, the fuel is designed for **flex-fuel vehicles** and expands beyond the earlier E20 programme. It is expected to be cheaper than conventional blends, reducing fuel costs. The initiative supports **crude oil import reduction, lower carbon emissions, and farmer income growth** through increased demand for crops like **sugarcane, maize, and rice**, strengthening India's **biofuel economy and energy security strategy**.

States in the News

- **D.K. Shivakumar** has been unanimously elected as the leader of the **Congress Legislature Party** and is set to assume office as the new **Chief Minister of Karnataka**. His name was proposed by outgoing Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** and supported by senior leaders during the party meeting. Following the election, he formally staked claim to form the government before Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot**. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at **Glass House, Lok Bhavan**, and is expected to be a simple event. The leadership transition marks a significant political development in Karnataka's governance landscape.
- The government launched **Mission Senehjori** to transform Assam's **Muga Silk** into a global luxury textile brand. The initiative, led by **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, involves the **Ministry of DoNER, Assam Government, and Central Silk Board**, with an investment of around **₹396–411 crore**. It focuses on strengthening the entire **silk value chain** from cultivation and production to weaving, branding, exports, and digital traceability. The mission also promotes **GI authentication, farmer empowerment, and silk tourism**, covering major silk-producing regions. It aims to boost exports and rural livelihoods, positioning Assam as a global hub for premium silk by **2028**.
- India's Ambassador to Azerbaijan **Abhay Kumar** visited Ganja, Goygol, and Shamkir to strengthen **cultural relations**. He paid tribute at the mausoleum of **Nizami Ganjavi** and

supported the creation of the **Tagore–Nizami Library** to promote literary exchange between the two countries. The visit also included exploration of **Goygol National Park, museums, and Shamkir Fortress**, highlighting heritage conservation and tourism potential. The initiative strengthens **people-to-people ties, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral engagement**, reflecting India's efforts to expand soft power and deepen historical and literary connections with Azerbaijan.

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the **Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farmer Debt Relief Scheme**, offering loan waivers up to **₹2 lakh** for eligible farmers. It covers short-term crop loans taken between **2019 and 2025**, along with a **One-Time Settlement mechanism** and incentives for timely repayment. The scheme excludes government employees, income taxpayers, and certain cooperative staff. Implementation will be done through **Aadhaar verification and AgriStack platform**, continuing until 2027. The initiative aims to reduce **farm debt stress, improve financial stability, and support agricultural sustainability** through structured relief and digital governance.
- **D. K. Shivakumar** took oath as the **18th Chief Minister of Karnataka**, succeeding **Siddaramaiah** under a Congress power-sharing arrangement. **G. Parameshwara** was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, along with 13 cabinet ministers including **Priyank Kharge, M. B. Patil, Ramalinga Reddy, and others**. The reshuffle marks a significant leadership transition in the state government. Siddaramaiah has been appointed to the **Congress Working Committee**, the party's highest decision-making body.
- West Bengal became the **33rd legislature** to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** under the "One Nation, One Application" initiative. The MoU was signed in the presence of senior Union ministers, aiming to promote **paperless governance, digital legislative records, and real-time access to proceedings**. The platform enhances **transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in legislative functioning. It supports digital transformation in governance by enabling seamless access to bills, notices, and questions, strengthening India's push toward **e-governance and modern parliamentary systems**.
- On **World Environment Day 2026**, Delhi inaugurated **18 Namu Oxygen Parks** to improve urban green cover and air quality. The initiative aims to expand **urban forestry, environmental awareness, and community participation** in conservation. The government also announced a target of planting **15 lakh trees and saplings**, along with plans for **100 oxygen parks across Delhi**. The initiative supports campaigns like "**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**", promoting citizen involvement in environmental protection and contributing to sustainable urban development and climate action.

- India inaugurated its **7th Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu**, expanding the country's **weather forecasting and disaster management network**. The centre will serve **Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh**, providing **district-level forecasts, avalanche warnings, and flash flood alerts**. It enhances **climate monitoring, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness**, especially for vulnerable mountainous regions. The initiative under **Mission Mausam** supports farmers, security forces, pilgrims, and tourism by improving weather accuracy and response systems, strengthening India's **climate resilience infrastructure**.
- A rare wildlife sighting from **Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha** captured a **melanistic tigress with three cubs**, creating a rare image of four "black tigers" together. These tigers are not a separate species but result from a genetic mutation in the **Taqpep gene**, causing dark striping patterns. Similipal remains the only known natural habitat for this trait. The sighting highlights **successful conservation, stable habitat conditions, and biodiversity richness** in the **Similipal Biosphere Reserve**, reinforcing India's progress in **wildlife protection and ecosystem conservation**.
- Delhi inaugurated **18 Namoo Oxygen Parks** under the "**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**" campaign to enhance urban greenery and environmental sustainability. The initiative aims to improve **air quality, biodiversity, and public participation in tree plantation drives**. Delhi also announced plans to plant **15 lakh saplings** and develop up to **100 oxygen parks**. Key environmental documents, including wildlife and bird conservation plans, were also released. The initiative strengthens **urban forest development, climate action, and environmental governance**, promoting sustainable city planning.
- 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**.

International News

- 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.

- 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**.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** achieved its highest-ever monthly performance in **May 2026**, processing **23.20 billion transactions** worth **₹29.90 trillion**. The platform recorded growth in both transaction volume and value compared to the previous month, averaging **748 million daily transactions**. The milestone highlights the rapid adoption of **digital payments** across sectors such as shopping, transportation, bill payments, and food delivery. Despite strong competition from traditional payment methods for larger purchases, UPI continues to strengthen its position as the backbone of India's digital economy and financial inclusion ecosystem.
- India's **GST collections** reached **₹1.94 lakh crore** in May 2026, reflecting continued economic resilience and strong domestic demand. Growth was driven by significant increases in taxable supplies of goods and services, alongside a sharp rise in **import-related GST revenues**. The strong collections indicate healthy industrial activity, expanding consumption, and improved tax compliance. Additionally, substantial **GST refunds** provided liquidity support to businesses and exporters. The performance underscores the growing efficiency of the indirect tax system and its contribution to strengthening government revenues and supporting economic growth.
- **Project Shikhar**, a joint initiative by **Meesho** and the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, was launched to help **MSMEs** and digital-first businesses access capital markets. The program will provide guidance on corporate restructuring, regulatory compliance, governance standards, and listing procedures required for participation on the **BSE SME Platform**. By addressing funding challenges faced by growing enterprises, the initiative seeks to improve access to capital, enhance transparency, and increase business credibility. Project Shikhar supports the transition of promising companies from privately owned ventures to publicly listed entities, strengthening India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- India recorded its highest-ever **seafood exports** during FY 2025–26, exporting **19.72 lakh metric tonnes** worth **₹73,890 crore**. **Frozen shrimp** remained the dominant export product, contributing the majority of export earnings. The **United States** emerged as the largest market by value, while **China** was the largest importer by quantity. Other important export categories included frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, fishmeal, and fish oil. The achievement reflects the growing competitiveness of India's marine products sector and highlights the increasing contribution of seafood exports to the country's foreign exchange earnings.
- India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **4.9%** in April 2026, driven mainly by strong growth in the manufacturing sector. The government introduced a new **IIP base year of 2022–23**, replacing the earlier 2011–12 series to better reflect the evolving structure of the economy. The revised index expands coverage to sectors such as renewable energy, gas supply, water management, and rare earth minerals. It also includes modern products like vaccines, aircraft components, and medical devices, ensuring a more accurate assessment of India's industrial performance and economic transformation.
- Indian banks are among the most **well-capitalised lenders in Asia-Pacific**, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**. Among large banks, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** ranked highest with a leverage ratio of **16.56%**, followed by **HDFC Bank (11.14%)**, **ICICI Bank (10.84%)**, and **Axis Bank (9.28%)**. The leverage ratio measures **Tier 1 capital strength and loss-absorbing capacity**. **Union Bank of India** showed the fastest improvement, reaching **7.72%**. The strong performance reflects improved **asset quality, Basel III compliance, regulatory strength, and risk management**, highlighting the resilience and stability of India's banking sector in the global financial system.
- The **MoSPI released final guidelines for District Domestic Product (DDP)** estimation with base year **2022–23**. The framework standardizes calculation of **GDDP, NDDP, and per capita income** across districts using a **bottom-up approach**. It improves **accuracy, comparability, and data consistency**, supporting decentralized planning and evidence-based policymaking. This reform strengthens **regional economic analysis, resource allocation, and development planning** across India, creating a unified system for district-level economic measurement.
- India has become the world's **5th most digitalised economy**, according to the **SIDE 2026 report**. The ranking is based on the **CHIPS framework (Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect, Sustain)**. India moved up from **8th position in 2025 to 5th in 2026**, and also ranked **4th globally in AI readiness**. Growth in **digital infrastructure, fintech, and technology adoption** has driven this progress. The report highlights India's rapid

transformation into a global leader in **digital economy and artificial intelligence capabilities**.

- The **NPCI and ACLEDA Bank** launched **UPI payments in Cambodia**, making it the ninth country to adopt India's **Unified Payments Interface**. Indian travellers can now use UPI apps at over **4.5 million merchants via QR codes**. The system integrates with Cambodia's **KHQR and Bakong networks**, enabling seamless transactions. A second phase will allow **cross-border payments from Cambodia to India**. This expansion strengthens **digital payment interoperability, tourism convenience, and global fintech connectivity**, boosting India's role in international digital finance systems.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** in its June 2026 Monetary Policy Committee meeting. The decision reflects concerns over **inflation, crude oil price volatility, geopolitical risks, and supply chain disruptions**. RBI projected **6.6% GDP growth for FY27** and **5.1% CPI inflation**, maintaining a neutral stance. The policy aims to balance **economic growth and price stability** while adopting a data-driven approach to macroeconomic management.
- The **RBI Monetary Policy Committee** maintained stability by holding key rates unchanged, reflecting cautious economic management amid global uncertainties. The decision supports **inflation control while sustaining growth momentum**. It highlights India's focus on **macroeconomic stability, monetary discipline, and data-driven policy formulation**, ensuring balanced financial conditions for investment and development.
- **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** won the **Gold Award at Finacle Innovation Awards 2026** for its **AI-powered analytics platform**. The system integrates **machine learning, business intelligence, and predictive analytics** to improve customer insights, risk management, and operational efficiency. The recognition highlights the bank's shift toward **digital transformation and data-driven banking innovation**.

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- India's foreign exchange reserves rose to **\$682.32 billion**, supported by an increase in **foreign currency assets**, despite a fall in gold reserves. The reserves provide a strong buffer against **global economic shocks, oil price fluctuations, and geopolitical risks**, reinforcing India's external financial stability and macroeconomic resilience.
- India has set an ambitious target to increase **seafood exports from \$8.5 billion to \$30 billion by 2031**. The strategy focuses on **value addition, quality standards, branding, and processed seafood exports**, especially shrimp. The initiative aims to strengthen India's global position in seafood trade while boosting incomes of **fishermen, aquaculture farmers, and processing industries**.
- India's economy grew by **7.8% in Q4 FY26**, surpassing expectations, with full-year growth revised to **7.7%**. Growth was driven by strong **investment activity, manufacturing, services, construction, and agriculture**, along with rising consumption and infrastructure expansion. The performance reflects strong economic resilience despite global uncertainties.

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.

Defence News

- **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**.

Awards and Recognitions

- **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**.

Sports News

- **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.

Schemes and Committees News

- The government launched the **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026** to attract global **Indian-origin researchers, scientists, and technologists**. It focuses on sectors like **AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, biotechnology, space, defence, and climate change**. The scheme offers categories of **Young Research Fellows, Senior Fellows, and Research Chairs**, and is open to OCI holders and PIOs. Seven premier institutions, including **IIT Delhi and IISc Bengaluru**, will host researchers. The initiative aims to strengthen India's **research ecosystem, global collaboration, and innovation capacity** aligned with **Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat** goals.
- The Union Cabinet approved a **₹9,585 crore air pollution reduction scheme for Delhi-NCR**, aimed at replacing **BS-IV and older vehicles with BS-VI or electric vehicles**. Implemented by the **National Capital Region Planning Board**, it will benefit around **2.07 lakh vehicle owners**. Incentives include **interest subsidies, tax relief, fuel vouchers, and purchase discounts**. The initiative targets transport-related emissions and will be monitored through a **digital tracking system and oversight committee**. It aims to significantly reduce air pollution and improve environmental conditions in the National Capital Region.

Science and Technology News

- Microsoft unveiled the **Fairwater AI Data Centre**, a \$7.3 billion facility designed for **sustainable AI computing**. It features a **closed-loop water recycling system, vertical architecture, and high-density GPU deployment**. The design improves efficiency while reducing environmental impact. Announced at **Microsoft Build 2026**, it supports growing AI demand while promoting **green data infrastructure and energy-efficient computing**.

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- NASA officially ended the **MAVEN mission**, launched in 2013 to study Mars' atmosphere. The spacecraft revealed how **solar wind stripped Mars' atmosphere**, discovered auroras, and produced over **800 scientific studies**. It lost contact in 2025 after entering safe mode. The mission significantly advanced understanding of **planetary evolution and climate loss on Mars**, leaving a major scientific legacy.

Important Days News

- Observed annually on **31 May, World No Tobacco Day** aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine consumption. The **2026 theme, "Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction,"** focuses on exposing marketing tactics used to attract young consumers. The campaign highlights the dangers of tobacco-related diseases, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory disorders. It encourages stronger regulatory measures, restrictions on advertising, and greater public awareness. The observance also emphasizes the significant health benefits associated with quitting tobacco use.
- **Telangana Formation Day** is observed annually on **2 June** to commemorate the creation of **Telangana** as India's 29th state in 2014. The occasion marks the success of a long-standing movement for regional identity, equitable development, and self-governance. The statehood movement gained momentum under the leadership of **K. Chandrashekar Rao** and culminated in the enactment of the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.
- **World Bicycle Day** is observed on 3 June to promote bicycles as an eco-friendly and sustainable mode of transport. The 2026 theme, **"Cycling for a Greener Future,"** highlights benefits such as reduced **carbon emissions, improved health, and sustainable urban mobility**. Declared by the **United Nations in 2018**, the day encourages cycling for environmental protection and public health. Celebrations include **cycling rallies, awareness campaigns, fitness events, and road safety programs**, promoting climate-friendly transportation and sustainable lifestyle choices globally.
- **World Environment Day 2026** was observed on **5 June** under the theme **"Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future."** Hosted by **Azerbaijan in Baku**, the event emphasized **climate action, ecosystem restoration, and pollution control**. Established in **1972 by the UN**, the day promotes global awareness on **environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development**, encouraging worldwide cooperation for a greener future.

Obituaries News

- 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 contributed extensively to both Hindi and regional cinema. Her timeless songs earned widespread admiration, while her versatility allowed her to perform in multiple Indian languages. Remembered for her humility and musical excellence, her contribution to Indian playback singing continues to inspire generations of artists and music lovers.
- R&B legend **Peabo Bryson**, two-time **Grammy Award winner**, passed away at 75. Known for iconic Disney duets like **"A Whole New World"** and **"Beauty and the Beast,"** he shaped modern R&B music. Starting his career in the 1970s, he collaborated with artists such as **Roberta Flack** and **Angela Bofill**. His soulful voice and timeless ballads left a lasting global impact. His legacy continues to inspire generations, marking him as one of the most influential R&B singers in contemporary music history.
- Oscar-winning film editor **Marcia Lucas** passed away at 80. She was known for her work on the original **Star Wars trilogy**, winning the Academy Award for **Best Film Editing for "A New Hope."** She also worked on **American Graffiti** and **Taxi Driver**. A key figure in the **New Hollywood era**, she contributed significantly to modern cinematic storytelling. Her editing techniques and narrative influence remain highly respected in global cinema, shaping blockbuster filmmaking standards for decades.
- **Pahlaj Nihalani**, former CBFC chief and film producer, passed away at 76 due to liver-related illness. He produced films like **Aankhen, Ilzaam, and Rangeela Raja** and served as CBFC chairperson from **2015–2017**. Known for controversial censorship decisions, he also launched actor **Govinda's career**. His death marks the end of a notable yet debated career in Indian cinema.
- Former Lok Sabha Secretary General **Subhash C. Kashyap**, a noted constitutional expert, passed away at the age of 97. He played a key role in strengthening **parliamentary democracy and constitutional governance** and authored over **100 books on law and governance**. His contribution to reforms like **"One Nation, One Election"** left a lasting institutional legacy.
- Arjuna Awardee **Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal**, a legendary shot putter and Asian Games medalist, passed away at 67. He was a **10-time national champion** and set an **Asian record in 1986**. Post-retirement, he contributed as a coach, shaping Indian athletics.

- Eminent Odia writer and former IAS officer **Jagannath Prasad Das** passed away at 90. A celebrated author and cultural figure, he contributed significantly to **literature, administration, and famine relief efforts in Kalahandi**.
- Graphic novelist **Marjane Satrapi**, creator of **Persepolis**, passed away at 56. Her work highlighted themes of **identity, revolution, and human rights**, leaving a global cultural impact through literature and cinema.
- Malayalam poet **A.C. Sreehari** passed away at 56, known for contributions to **modern Malayalam poetry and academic literature**. His works enriched literary criticism and education in Kerala, leaving a lasting impact on regional literature and academic scholarship.

Static Keyways

Aspect	Details
Myanmar	President: Min Aung Hlaing Capital: Nyapi Daw
Cambodia	Prime Minister: Hun Manet Capital: Phnom Penh
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez Capital: Caracas
Norway	Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Store Capital: Oslo
France	President: Emmanuel Macron Capital: Paris
England	President: Keir Starmer Capital: London
Karnataka	Governor: D. K. Shivakumar Chief Minister: Thawar Chand Gehlot
Maharashtra	Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis
Assam	Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
Gujarat	Governor: Acharya Devvrat Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel
Delhi	Lt. Governor: Taranjit Singh Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta
West Bengal	Governor: R N Ravi Chief Minister: Suwendu Adhikari
RBI	Sanjay Malhotra (Governor)
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan
27th Chief of the Naval Staff	Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
New Chief of Defence Staff	General N.S. Raja Subramani
20th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command	Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command	Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry