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Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan Completes 10 Years: A Decade of Safer Motherhood in India

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA) has completed 10 years of providing the quality antenatal healthcare services to pregnant women across India. It was launched on 9th June, 2016 and this flagship maternal health initiative has been emerged as the country's one of the impactful public health program. Over the last 10 years, around more than 7.5 crore pregnant women has received the specialized antenatal care under PMSMA, help to reduce pregnancy-related risks and improve the maternal health outcomes.

What is Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA)?

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan is the nationwide initiative that provides the free and comprehensive antenatal care services to pregnant women, particularly those in their second and third trimesters.

Under the program the special antenatal care sessions are conducted on the 9th day of every month at designated government healthcare facilities across India.

The primary objective of the scheme is to identify the high-risk pregnancies at an early stage, provide timely medical intervention and also ensure safer pregnancies and childbirth outcomes for every woman regardless of her geographical location or the economic background.

Key Services Provided Under PMSMA

The program offers the comprehensive package of the maternal healthcare services designed to improve pregnancy outcomes. Services include the clinical examinations, blood and urine investigations, ultrasonography, essential medicines, nutritional counselling, birth preparedness guidance and pregnancy-related health education.

There are Pregnant women are examined by the specialists such as Obstetricians, Gynaecologists or doctors trained in the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) and Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC).

The program also facilitates the referral services for women requiring advanced medical care and ensures that high-risk pregnancies are linked to the First Referral Units (FRUs) for safe delivery management.

Focus on High-Risk Pregnancy Identification

One of the PMSMA's most important features is the systematic identification and management of the High-Risk Pregnancies (HRPs).

The program screens pregnant women for the 25 high-risk conditions which including the severe anaemia, gestational diabetes, pregnancy-induced hypertension, HIV, syphilis, hypothyroidism, tuberculosis, multiple pregnancies, teenage pregnancies, previous Caesarean deliveries and other medical complications.

Early identification allows the healthcare providers to monitor these pregnancies closely and provide timely treatment and reducing the risk of maternal and neonatal complications.

Who Can Avail PMSMA Services?

The program is available to all the pregnant women who are residing in India who are in their second or third trimester of pregnancy.

Women between 13 and 27 weeks of pregnancy and those beyond 28 weeks until delivery can access the PMSMA services at designated government health facilities on the 9th of every month.

Special attention is also given to women identified as high-risk cases while those who have missed the routine antenatal check-ups are actively encouraged to participate and receive healthcare support.

Extended PMSMA: Strengthening Follow-Up Care

To ensure the high-risk pregnancies receive the continuous medical attention, the Government has launched the Extended PMSMA Strategy in January 2022.

Under this initiative, women identified as high-risk receive additional antenatal check-ups, regular monitoring and continuous follow-up until a safe delivery.

Every high-risk pregnancy is tracked individually and the financial incentives are provided to both beneficiaries and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for up to three additional visits. SMS-based alerts are also sent to the pregnant women and ASHA workers to ensure timely follow-up and medical support.

Impact of PMSMA Over the Last Decade

Over the last ten years, PMSMA has significantly expanded the its reach and strengthened the maternal healthcare services across India.

More than 7.50 crore pregnant women have received the antenatal care services under the program in addition to routine antenatal care.

This initiative has contributed to improved early detection of pregnancy complications, increased access to the specialist care and better pregnancy outcomes across urban and rural regions.

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Improvement In Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

After this scheme implementation there has been significant improvement in Maternal Mortality Ratio.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (Per 1 Lakh Live Births)

- From 2014-16: 130
- From In 2022-24: 87
- Total Reduction: 43 Points

The decline demonstrates the effectiveness of the targeted maternal healthcare interventions and improved healthcare accessibility.

Relation With Other Maternal Health Program

There are several complementary schemes which support maternal health at different stages of pregnancy and childbirth.

Major Maternal Health Schemes in India

Scheme	Objective
Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)	Promotes The Institutional Deliveries
Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)	It provides Free Healthcare Services for Mothers and Newborns
POSHAN Abhiyaan	Improves Maternal and Child Nutrition
Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)	Ensures The Quality Maternal Healthcare
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	Provides Maternity Benefits
LaQshya Initiative	Enhances The Quality of Labour Room Services

Celebrating the 10 Years of PMSMA

To commemorate the completion of the ten years, the Government is organizing multiple special activities across the country.

Quality antenatal care services are being provided through the 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

Community awareness program are also being conducted via Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs), Jan Arogya Samitis and Self-Help Groups.

Special PMSMA sessions are also being organized at the district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, First Referral Units and other designated healthcare facilities.

National Affairs

- The **National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi**, launched the **NZP Saathi App** and **self-ticketing kiosks** to improve visitor convenience and digital accessibility. The app offers **interactive zoo maps, smart navigation**, educational content, and personalized tour options such as **Express Tour, Family Tour, and Grand Zoo Tour**. To further enhance

visitor experience, the zoo has introduced **UPI-enabled ticketing kiosks** and **free Wi-Fi** facilities. These initiatives aim to promote cashless transactions, reduce waiting times, streamline entry procedures, and provide a more engaging and technology-driven experience for visitors.

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** will launch the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** on June 9, 2026, to modernize operations at India's land ports. The platform will digitize **cargo, passenger, and vehicle processing** through features like **online slot booking, digital payments, cargo tracking, single-window clearance, and real-time monitoring**. LPMS will be integrated with **ICEGATE**, the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform**, and vehicle databases to improve efficiency in cross-border trade and travel. Additionally, new stakeholder facilities at **Dawki** and **Srimantapur Land Ports** will enhance services for traders, transporters, and passengers.
- India's public broadcaster **Akashvani** completed **90 years** of broadcasting service on June 8, 2026. Originally renamed **All India Radio** in 1936 and officially adopting the name Akashvani in 1956, it has become one of the world's largest broadcasting networks. Operating under **Prasar Bharati**, it runs **591 stations**, covers nearly **98% of India's population**, and broadcasts in **23 languages** and **146 dialects**. Over nine decades, Akashvani has played a key role in **news dissemination**, education, disaster communication, cultural preservation, and national integration while reaching audiences in more than 100 countries.
- The latest **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)** revealed that the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** recorded India's lowest **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** of **0.9**, down from 1.3 in NFHS-5. This figure is significantly below the replacement level of **2.1**, indicating potential long-term population decline. The survey also highlighted a shrinking child population and a growing proportion of elderly residents, signaling demographic ageing. Experts attribute this trend to factors such as **higher female education**, better economic conditions, improved access to healthcare and family planning services, and increasing financial independence among women.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the first commercial export of fresh mangoes from **Jharkhand** to the **United Kingdom** on June 4, 2026. The consignment consisted of **1.5 metric tonnes of Amrapali mangoes** grown in **Simdega district** and supplied by **Beura Farmer Producer Company Ltd.**, an all-women FPC. The export became possible through APEDA's capacity-building initiatives and business linkages with **JGB Agrofresh Pvt. Ltd.** This achievement is expected to provide better prices to farmers, encourage export-quality production, strengthen Jharkhand's horticulture sector, and create new opportunities for agricultural exports.

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched **Project Ganga**, a major digital connectivity initiative aimed at providing **high-speed internet access** to nearly **20 lakh rural families**. Initially covering **21 districts**, the project seeks to bridge the digital divide and create **8,000–10,000 Digital Service Providers (DSPs)**, generating over **one lakh employment opportunities**. Implemented with support from the **Hinduja Group's OneOTT Entertainment Limited**, it is integrated with the **CM Yuva Scheme**, offering interest-free loans of up to **₹5 lakh**. The initiative will support digital education, telemedicine, e-governance, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment across rural areas.
- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** entered the **Guinness World Records** by creating the world's tallest **underwater human tower**, measuring **73 feet (22.3 metres)** at **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**. The remarkable feat was achieved by **14 trained scuba divers** who formed a perfectly coordinated vertical structure underwater. The record required exceptional buoyancy control, synchronized movements, precise positioning, and effective underwater communication through hand signals. Despite challenging conditions, including underwater currents and limited visibility, the formation remained stable long enough to satisfy Guinness World Records criteria, showcasing exceptional teamwork and diving expertise.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** celebrated **12 years of Skill India**, highlighting its contribution to building a skilled workforce for **Viksit Bharat 2047**. The number of **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** increased from **9,776 in 2014 to 13,888 in 2026**, while over **56.08 lakh apprentices** participated since 2016. More than **1.64 crore candidates** were trained under **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** and **1.5 crore users** joined the **Skill India Digital Hub**. AI-focused programs, **30 Skill India International Centres**, and India's rise from **29th to 13th position in WorldSkills rankings** reflect the initiative's growing global impact.
- Union Minister of State **Shobha Karandlaje** represented India at the **114th International Labour Conference (ILO)** in **Geneva**, showcasing the country's achievements in **inclusive growth, labour welfare, gender equality, skill development, and digital governance**. India highlighted digital employment platforms, worker registration systems, and efforts to create legal migration pathways with mutual recognition of skills. Bilateral meetings with countries including **Nepal, France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, the United States, and Canada** focused on labour mobility and social protection. The conference remains the world's leading platform for discussions on labour standards, employment policies, and workforce development.
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** launched **Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra**, India's first **WhatsApp-based AI advisory platform** for oilseed farmers. Developed by the **ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research**, the service provides free multilingual, 24×7 guidance on crop selection, sowing, irrigation, pest control, disease management, post-harvest practices, and seed availability. It covers major oilseed crops including **soybean, mustard, groundnut, sunflower, sesame, and niger**. The initiative supports **Digital Agriculture Mission**, aims to improve farm productivity, strengthen digital agriculture, reduce dependence on edible oil imports, and connect scientific research directly with farmers.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** introduced **IS 20201:2026**, India's first comprehensive standard for **Community Seed Bank Management**. Developed under the **Biodiversity Sectional Committee**, the framework provides guidelines for seed collection, storage, viability testing, quality assurance, documentation, regeneration, and risk management. The standard aims to conserve **indigenous crop varieties**, enhance food security, strengthen climate resilience, and preserve traditional agricultural knowledge. It particularly benefits small and marginal farmers while supporting biodiversity conservation. The initiative complements the **National Food Security and Nutrition Mission** and promotes sustainable agricultural practices across the country.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog** under the theme "**Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047.**" The meeting witnessed participation from all **28 State Chief Ministers** and representatives of five Union Territories. The Prime Minister emphasized **cooperative federalism**, skill development, employment generation, education reforms, and investment-led growth. Key focus sectors included **artificial intelligence, renewable energy, data centres, defence manufacturing, and digital governance**. He also called for expansion of the **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative and increasing the number of **Lakshpati Didis** from 3 crore to 6 crore.
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** emerged as India's highest-ranked container port in the **2025 Container Port Performance Index (CPPI)** released by the **World Bank** and **S&P Global Market Intelligence**. JNPA improved its global ranking to **22nd position**, reflecting better vessel turnaround time, logistics efficiency, and cargo handling performance. **Pipavav Port** ranked 28th, **Mundra Port** secured 30th place, while **Visakhapatnam Port** stood at 104th position. The achievement highlights India's improving maritime infrastructure and logistics capabilities despite global challenges such as freight cost increases, port congestion, and supply-chain disruptions.

- In a landmark judgment, the **Supreme Court of India** fixed a notional monthly income of **₹30,000 for homemakers** while calculating compensation in motor accident claims. The bench comprising **Justice Sanjay Karol** and **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** recognized homemakers as “**nation builders**” and acknowledged their crucial role in childcare, household management, elderly care, and family welfare. The ruling also introduced “**loss of domestic care**” as a separate category of damages. The judgment provides formal economic recognition to unpaid domestic work and is expected to ensure more equitable compensation for families affected by accidents.
- The **19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF 2026)** will be held from **15–21 June 2026** in Mumbai, showcasing **346 films from 46 countries**. Organized by **NFDC**, the festival received **1,459 entries**, with selections in both competition and non-competition categories. Highlights include **AI Cinema Hackathon**, **WAVES Doc Bazar**, international masterclasses, and regional showcases like **Marathi Films** and **Echoes from Northeast**. The event will also honour **David Attenborough** with centenary screenings and offers a **₹45 lakh prize pool** across 18 awards. MIFF 2026 aims to promote innovation, global collaboration, and documentary storytelling excellence.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposed the **Telecommunications (TV, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026** to create a unified broadcasting framework. TV channels must air **30 minutes of public-interest content daily**, while FM radio stations must broadcast **one hour of socially relevant programming** covering education, health, agriculture, and national integration. The rules modernize outdated regulations, replacing colonial-era laws. FM stations will continue airing Akashvani bulletins but cannot independently broadcast news. The draft aims to improve ease of doing business and public service broadcasting, with stakeholder feedback open until **27 July 2026**.

- India became the **world’s 3rd largest domestic aviation market**, reaching **15.6 million seats capacity**, driven by rising demand, infrastructure growth, and regional connectivity schemes. From **2014 to 2025**, airports increased from **74 to 164**, while IndiGo expanded its market share to **62%**. Low-cost carriers dominate with **78.4% capacity share**. India’s aviation sector grew at **6.9% annually (2014–2024)**, boosting tourism, trade, employment, and economic expansion. The milestone strengthens India’s position as a global aviation hub, behind only the United States and China.

States in the News

- The **Kerala Forest Department** launched **HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel)**, India's first **judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system**. Developed with support from the **Wildlife Trust of India** and **NTT Data**, the platform digitally tracks wildlife crime cases from the filing of offence reports to final court judgments. By integrating with the **District Court Management System**, HAWK enables **real-time case monitoring**, investigation tracking, witness management, and crime trend analysis. The initiative enhances transparency, accountability, and efficiency in wildlife law enforcement while strengthening efforts to protect biodiversity and curb wildlife-related crimes.
- **West Bengal** became the **36th State/UT** to implement **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** through an agreement with the **National Health Authority**. The scheme provides **health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually** for secondary and tertiary healthcare services. It is recognized as the world’s largest publicly funded health assurance programme. The move will benefit millions of residents by ensuring **cashless treatment** at empaneled hospitals across India, reducing out-of-pocket medical expenses, improving access to quality healthcare, and enabling nationwide portability of benefits.
- A new **Regional Meteorological Centre** was inaugurated in **Lucknow** by **Yogi Adityanath** and **Jitendra Singh** to strengthen weather forecasting services across **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand**, and nearby regions. The facility will provide localized weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate-related services to improve disaster preparedness. During the event, it was highlighted that India’s **Doppler Weather Radar** network has expanded from **17 radars in 2014 to 50 operational radars**, with 50 additional radars planned under **Mission Mausam**. The initiative will enhance resilience against floods, heatwaves, thunderstorms, landslides, and other extreme weather events.

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- The **Tamil Nadu Government** launched the **Singappen Special Task Force** on June 9, 2026, to strengthen the safety of women and children. Operating under the supervision of **Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay**, the all-women unit comprises **36 personnel** led by **IGP K. Bhavaneeswari**. The force will focus on surveillance, preventive patrolling, and rapid response mechanisms in vulnerable locations such as **bus stands, railway stations, educational institutions, and IT hubs**. The initiative aims to improve preventive policing, increase public confidence, ensure safer public spaces, and provide enhanced security for women and children across the state.
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the first-ever export of **GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi** from **Assam to Dubai**, marking a significant agricultural export achievement. The one-metric-tonne consignment showcased the international demand for premium Indian fruits and highlighted the export potential of **Northeast India**. Known for its sweetness, aroma, and bright-red appearance, Tezpur Litchi includes varieties such as **Bombaya, Bilati, Elaichi, Piyaji, and Sahi**. Farmers reportedly earned nearly **10% higher prices** than domestic markets, encouraging export-oriented cultivation and improving incomes through access to global markets.
- India achieved a major infrastructure milestone with the successful breakthrough of the **Zojila Tunnel** main tunnel in **Kargil district**. The nearly **14-km tunnel**, being constructed between **Baltal and Minamarg** on **National Highway-1** at a cost of around **₹6,800 crore**, will provide all-weather connectivity between **Kashmir Valley and Ladakh**. The project will reduce travel time between **Sonamarg and Minamarg** from nearly two hours to about 30 minutes. Equipped with advanced safety systems, the tunnel is expected to boost tourism, trade, regional development, and strategic military mobility in the Himalayan region.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched **Project Ganga**, a major digital connectivity initiative aimed at providing **high-speed internet access** to nearly **20 lakh rural families**. Initially covering **21 districts**, the project seeks to bridge the digital divide and create **8,000–10,000 Digital Service Providers (DSPs)**, generating over **one lakh employment opportunities**. Implemented with support from the **Hinduja Group's OneOTT Entertainment Limited**, it is integrated with the **CM Yuva Scheme**, offering interest-free loans of up to **₹5 lakh**. The initiative will support digital education, telemedicine, e-governance, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment across rural areas.
- The **Gujarat Information Commission** directed the **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)** to introduce **QR-coded certificates** for street food vendors to improve transparency and food safety. Vendors register online and receive a unique QR code that customers can scan to verify registration details, rate cleanliness, provide feedback, and report hygiene concerns directly to authorities. More than **8,700 vendors** have registered, while over **7,200 stalls** have already installed QR stickers. Originating from an **RTI application**, the initiative aims to strengthen accountability, public participation, food safety compliance, and consumer confidence in Ahmedabad's street food ecosystem.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved **Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A**, a **₹2,169.04 crore** project extending the metro network by **6.032 km** from **Koteshwar Road to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport**. The corridor will feature **five stations**, including four elevated stations and one underground airport station. Scheduled for completion within four years, the project will improve airport connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and provide an environmentally friendly transportation alternative. Once completed, the **Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro network** will expand to **77.63 km**, generating employment opportunities and supporting regional economic growth through improved urban mobility.
- **Kerala** intensified health surveillance following a suspected **Nipah virus** case in **Kozhikode district**, where a 43-year-old businessman tested positive in preliminary screening and remains under medical care. Authorities initiated extensive contact tracing, quarantine measures, and enhanced monitoring while samples were sent for confirmation. **Nipah virus** is a zoonotic disease primarily transmitted through **fruit bats** and can also spread between humans. Symptoms include fever, headache, respiratory distress, and severe encephalitis. Health officials advised strict hygiene practices, avoiding contact with bats and infected animals, and following infection-control protocols to prevent further transmission.
- The **Kerala Cabinet** approved the **Priyadarshini Free Travel Scheme**, providing free travel for **women and transgender persons** on ordinary **KSRTC buses** from **15 June 2026**. The scheme aims to enhance mobility, reduce transportation costs, and improve access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. It offers universal eligibility regardless of age, income, or social background and will initially operate on a **100-day trial basis**. The government will compensate **KSRTC** for revenue losses. The initiative promotes gender equality, social inclusion, economic empowerment, and greater utilization of public transport services across the state.
- The **Government of Assam** and the **European Union** launched the **Blue Valley Cluster** in **Guwahati** to promote sustainable industrial growth in the **Flavours, Fragrances, and AYUSH sectors**. The initiative seeks to strengthen innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, exports, and value chains across Assam and the Northeast. Key focus areas include **agarwood, essential oils, herbal medicines, and wellness products**. An MoU between the **Assam Industrial Development Corporation** and the **Federation of European Businesses in India** will facilitate investment and technology transfer. The project is expected to enhance exports, industrial competitiveness, and sustainable economic development.

- Under **Operation Milap**, **Gujarat Police** successfully traced **1,470 missing persons** during a month-long campaign launched on **7 May 2026**. The operation utilized mobile tracking, digital intelligence, social media monitoring, field investigations, and interstate coordination to resolve both recent and long-pending cases. Among those located were **852 women, 342 men, 234 minor girls, and 42 minor boys**. Investigations revealed reasons such as family disputes, labour migration, educational challenges, and personal relationships. **Surat City Police** recorded the highest recoveries. The operation strengthened family reunification efforts and enhanced public confidence in law enforcement agencies.
- **Invest India** and **Invest UP** signed a strategic partnership to boost **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** and accelerate industrial development in **Uttar Pradesh**. The collaboration focuses on converting investment proposals into operational projects through investor facilitation, project monitoring, land acquisition support, and faster approvals. Invest UP will leverage its **Nivesh Sarathi platform** and single-window clearance system to improve ease of doing business. The initiative supports Uttar Pradesh's ambition of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy**, while attracting technology-driven industries, strengthening investor confidence, creating employment opportunities, and promoting sustainable economic growth.
- **Assam** and **Nagaland** signed a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to jointly explore crude oil and natural gas resources along their shared border. Signed in the presence of **Amit Shah** and **Hardeep Singh Puri**, the agreement covers six disputed hydrocarbon-rich fields and more than **1,000 square kilometres** of border area. The pact introduces a **50:50 revenue-sharing mechanism** and seeks to unlock energy resources that remained underutilized due to long-standing boundary disputes. The initiative is expected to enhance domestic energy production, attract investment, generate employment, and support economic development in Northeast India.
- The **Odisha government** approved restoration of original Odia names for **64 places across 26 districts** to strengthen cultural identity. The decision reverses colonial spellings and promotes **Odia Asmita**. Examples include **Cuttack → Kataka**, **Balasore → Baleshwar**, and **Berhampur → Brahmapur**. A committee led by **Pratibha Ray** reviewed historical and linguistic records before finalizing changes. The government will issue a Gazette notification and update official records. The move aims to preserve linguistic heritage, promote Odia language usage, and reinforce cultural identity in administration and education.

International Affairs

- 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.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will undertake a six-day visit to **France and Slovakia** from **June 13–18, 2026**, aimed at strengthening India's strategic partnerships in Europe. In France, he will hold talks with President **Emmanuel Macron** on defence, technology, artificial intelligence, clean energy, trade, and space cooperation. Both leaders will inaugurate the **Bharat Innovates** event to promote innovation and startup collaboration. Modi will also make the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to independent **Slovakia**, meeting **Robert Fico** and **Peter Pellegrini**, while participating in the **G7 Summit 2026** to discuss global challenges.
- 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.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Fitch Ratings** lowered India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** to **6.4%** from its earlier estimate of **6.7%**, citing rising energy prices and inflationary pressures linked to tensions in the **Middle East**. The revised projection represents a slowdown from the **7.4% growth** recorded in FY26. Fitch noted that higher oil prices could weaken consumer demand by reducing household purchasing power and increasing transportation and production costs. Despite the downgrade, India is expected to remain among the world's fastest-growing major economies. Inflation is projected to rise to around **5.3%** by the end of the fiscal year.
- India recorded a **current account surplus of \$7.1 billion** (0.7% of GDP) in **Q4 FY26**, according to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. This marks a significant improvement from the **\$13.2 billion deficit** recorded in the previous quarter. The surplus was driven by strong growth in **services exports**, with net receipts reaching **\$60.4 billion**, and record **remittances of \$43.5 billion** from overseas Indians. Despite a merchandise trade deficit of **\$83.4 billion**, the overall **Balance of Payments (BoP)** returned to a surplus of **\$7.2 billion**, reflecting resilience in India's external sector.

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** secured a **10-year marine services contract** for **Argentina's first LNG export project**, marking its entry into the South American market. The contract was awarded to its subsidiary **Adani Harbour International FZCO** through a consortium with **Meridian Group**. The consortium will provide tugboat operations, offshore logistics, supply support, and crew transfer services for the **Southern Energy FLNG Project in San Matías Gulf**. The project will deploy multiple specialized vessels and involve an estimated investment of **\$70 million**, strengthening APSEZ's global maritime services footprint.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** approved the merger of **REC Limited** with **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**, creating one of India's largest public-sector financial institutions focused on energy and infrastructure financing. The merger follows PFC's acquisition of the government's **52.63% stake in REC** in 2019. Under the arrangement, all assets, liabilities, and obligations of REC will be transferred to PFC, and REC will cease to exist as a separate entity. The consolidation aims to improve operational efficiency, strengthen lending capacity, support energy-transition projects, and enhance financing capabilities for infrastructure development across India.
- India and Nepal launched a **cross-border remittance service** by linking India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with Nepal's **National Payments Interface (NPI)**. Operational since **6 June 2026**, the facility enables instant person-to-person money transfers through mobile banking applications and digital wallets. Implemented by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL)**, the service offers secure, low-cost, and efficient transactions for migrant workers, travelers, businesses, and families. The initiative strengthens regional financial integration and further expands the international footprint of India's digital payment ecosystem.
- The Government of India 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 **State Bank of India (SBI)**. A **1994-batch IAS officer** of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, he assumed charge as DFS Secretary on **1 June 2026**. Lohiya replaces **Nagaraju Maddirala** on the RBI Central Board. The appointment ensures strong DFS representation in India's key financial institutions and supports banking reforms, financial inclusion initiatives, insurance expansion, pension sector development, and modernization of the financial system.
- The **World Bank** raised India's **GDP growth forecast** to **6.6% for FY2026–27** and **7.2% for FY2027–28**, citing robust domestic demand, improving rural consumption, stronger urban spending, and increasing foreign investment. The forecast aligns with the **Reserve Bank of India's** growth outlook and reflects confidence in India's economic

resilience despite global uncertainties. Ongoing trade negotiations with partners such as the **European Union, Oman, and New Zealand** are expected to boost exports and attract additional investment. However, rising energy prices and geopolitical tensions in **West Asia** remain significant risks.

- India's **CPI inflation rose to 3.93% in May 2026**, driven mainly by food price increases, especially **tomatoes (48.43%) and ginger (32.49%)**. Fuel price hikes also added pressure. Rural inflation (**4.25%**) remained higher than urban (**3.53%**), reflecting supply challenges and consumption patterns. Telangana recorded the highest inflation, while Delhi reported the lowest. Despite the rise, inflation remains within RBI's tolerance range, though food and energy costs remain key concerns for policymakers.
- India ranked **first globally in digital wallet downloads (2025)** with over **440 million downloads**, driven by platforms like **PhonePe, Paytm, and BHIM**. According to Sensor Tower, India accounted for a major share of global activity, supported by **UPI**, which processed **228.5 billion transactions worth ₹299.7 trillion**. Despite a 12% decline in app downloads, transaction volumes increased, showing deeper adoption of digital payments. Expansion of UPI to countries like **UAE, Singapore, and France** further strengthened India's leadership in fintech innovation.

Appointments/Resignations

- 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 Bhoje, 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.

Defence News

- 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.

Test Prime

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- 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-IDDM)** 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-IDDM)** 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.

Awards and Recognitions

- The **e-Jagruti** 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.

Ranks & Reports News

- According to the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026** published by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**, **Iceland** remained the world's safest country for the **19th consecutive year**. The index evaluates **163 countries** across indicators related to security, conflict, and militarization. Global peacefulness declined for the **12th consecutive year**, with **61 active conflicts** recorded worldwide. **India** ranked **127th** with a score of **2.409**, while **Bhutan** emerged as the most peaceful nation in South Asia at **16th position**. **Russia** was ranked the least peaceful country, highlighting increasing global instability and conflict.

Sports News

- 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.

Summits & Conferences News

- **Indore** is hosting the **BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026** under India's presidency from **June 9–13, 2026**. The event includes the **Agriculture Working Group Meeting** and the **Agriculture Ministers' Meeting**, focusing on **food security, farmer welfare, climate-resilient agriculture, digital farming, artificial intelligence, robotics, agricultural trade, and supply-chain resilience**. Representing nearly **half of the world's population** and over **42% of global agricultural production**, BRICS nations are working to strengthen cooperation in sustainable agriculture and innovation. The meeting is expected to conclude with a joint declaration outlining future collaboration and shared priorities in agriculture.

Schemes News

- The Union Government announced an interim allocation of **₹95,692.31 crore** for the newly launched **VB-G RAM G Scheme (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin)**. Scheduled to begin on **July 1, 2026**, the programme aims to provide up to **125 days of annual employment** while focusing on durable asset creation under the principle of "**Rozgar Bhi, Samman Bhi.**" The scheme emphasizes water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood generation, and climate-resilient development. It also promises faster **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** wage payments and seeks to strengthen long-term rural economic growth under the **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

- **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 initiative, more than **4 lakh Rapido captains** took a road safety pledge, creating a **Guinness World Record**. The campaign, launched in the presence of **Nitin Gadkari**, aims to improve emergency response systems and save lives. Rapido will leverage its presence across **400+ cities** through digital campaigns, in-app awareness programmes, and community outreach to strengthen India's road safety ecosystem.

Science and Technology News

- 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.

Important Days News

- **World Oceans Day** was observed on **June 8, 2026**, with the theme **"Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean."** The observance emphasized the importance of oceans, which cover more than **70% of Earth's surface**, produce at least half of the world's oxygen, regulate climate, and support biodiversity and livelihoods. It also highlighted major environmental challenges, including **plastic pollution, overfishing, coral reef degradation, ocean acidification**, and biodiversity loss. The day supports **Sustainable Development Goal 14**, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using marine resource
- **World Day Against Child Labour** is observed annually on **12 June** to raise awareness about child exploitation and promote efforts to eliminate child labour worldwide. The **2026 theme**, **"Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults,"** emphasizes the importance of education and decent employment opportunities. Established by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** in 2002, the observance highlights the continued challenge of child labour, with **138 million children** still engaged in work globally, including **54 million** in hazardous occupations. The campaign advocates stronger labour laws, education, and social protection measures

Obituaries News

- Renowned Malayalam actor and filmmaker **Salim Kumar** passed away on June 6, 2026, at the age of **56** following a cardiac arrest. Beginning his career as a **mimicry artist** and stage performer, he rose to become one of Malayalam cinema's most respected actors, appearing in over **300 films**. He won the **National Film Award for Best Actor** for his

performance in **Adaminte Makan Abu** and earned widespread acclaim through films such as **C.I.D. Moosa** and **Meesa Madhavan**. He also worked as a director and writer, leaving a lasting legacy in Indian cinema.

- Veteran filmmaker **Bharathiraja** passed away in **Chennai** on June 10, 2026, at the age of **84** following a prolonged illness. Widely regarded as a pioneer of rural storytelling in **Tamil cinema**, he revolutionized the industry by bringing authentic village life, culture, and emotions to the silver screen. His realistic narratives and distinctive filmmaking style influenced generations of directors and reshaped **Kollywood**. During his illustrious career, he won **six National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards, and six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards**, leaving behind a lasting legacy in Indian cinema.
- Legendary Indian shooter and coach **Jaspal Rana** passed away on **11 June 2026** at the age of **49**, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian sports. A highly decorated pistol shooter, he won numerous medals at the **Asian Games** and **Asian Championships**, significantly contributing to India's rise in international shooting. After retirement, he became an influential coach, mentoring athletes such as **Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary, Anish Bhanwala, and Chinki Yadav**. His contributions earned him prestigious honors including the **Arjuna Award, Padma Shri, and Dronacharya Award**, making him one of India's most respected sporting figures.
- David Hockney, one of the most influential contemporary artists, died in **London** on 11 June 2026 at the age of 88. Born in 1937 in **Bradford**, he studied at the Royal College of Art and rose to fame in the 1960s with vibrant **Pop Art** and iconic **swimming pool paintings**. His work expanded into photography, collage, stage design, and pioneering **digital art** using iPads. Exhibited globally in institutions like Tate, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Serpentine Galleries, his legacy of color, light, and innovation continues inspiring artists worldwide today.

Test Prime

ALL EXAMS ONE SUBSCRIPTION

IBPS, IAS, UPSC, SSC, Railway

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath , Governor: Anandiben Patel , Capital: Lucknow
Assam	CM: Himanta Sarma , Governor: Laxman Acharya, Capital: Dispur
Tamil Nadu	CM: Joseph Vijay, Governor: R Arlekar, Capital: Chennai
West Bengal	CM: Suwendu Adhikari, Governor: RN Ravi , Capital: Kolkata
Kerala	CM: VD Satheesan, Governor: R Arlekar , Capital: Thiruvananthpuram
Odisha	CM: Mohan Majhi, Governor: Hari Babu Khambhupati , Capital: Bhubnshwar
Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel , Governor: Acharya Devrat, Capital: Gandhinagar
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz Capital: Berlin
France	Emmanuel Macron (President), Capital: Paris
Japan	PM: Fumio Kishida, Capital: Tokyo
RBI	Sanjay Malhotra Governor
ICC (International Cricket Council)	Chairman: Jay Shah
Nepal	PM: Balen Shah, Capital: Kathmandu
World Bank	President: Ajay Banga
Minister of Home	Amit Shah
Minister of Finance	Nirmala Sitharaman
Minister of Commerce & Industry	Piyush Goyal
Minister of External Affairs	Subramanyam Jaishankar
Minister of Agriculture	Shivraj Singh Chouhan

