

Weekly One Liners 15th to 21st June, 2026

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

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

India's Strongest-Ever Presence in QS Rankings

The QS World University Rankings 2027 has evaluated more than 1,500 institutions across the 106 countries which makes it as one of the most comprehensive global higher education assessments.

Also, India's representation has grown dramatically over the years. From just 14 institutions in the 2017 edition, the country now has 52 ranked universities in 2027 which is an impressive 271 percent increase over a decade.

This achievement places India behind only the countries like,

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

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

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

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

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

The top-performing Indian institutions include the,

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

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Logos: IBPS, IITs, and other educational institutions.

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

Top Global Universities in QS Rankings 2027

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

Top 20 Universities Worldwide

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

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

India's Growing Research Strength

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

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

Research Achievements

- Eleven Indian universities rank among the world's top 100 for the Citations per Faculty.

- India continues to expand its global research footprint across science, technology, engineering and healthcare disciplines.
- With the increased collaboration between academia, industry and government is driving innovation.

Strong Performance in Employer Reputation

Indian institutions are also gaining the recognition among employers worldwide.

The QS rankings show that,

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

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

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

How India Compares with Other Major Education Systems

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

Performance Comparison

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

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

Factors Driving India's Rise

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid the historic State Visit to Slovakia on 15th June 2026 at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. This visit marked the significant milestone as it was the first visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country got independence in the year 1993.

This visit opened a new chapter in India-Slovakia relations, it resulting the elevation of the bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Partnership and the signing of the multiple agreements across defense, technology, education, labor mobility, culture, healthcare and research.

India and Slovakia Elevate Relations to Comprehensive Partnership

One of the most major outcomes of the visit was the decision to elevate the bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Partnership.

This new framework aims to deepen the cooperation across the strategic, economic, technological and cultural sectors.

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

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

Key Agreements Signed During the Visit

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

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

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

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

Agreements and MoUs Signed Between Both Countries

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

Major Announcements During the Visit

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

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

PM Narendra Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest National Award

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

PM Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest Honour

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

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

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

What is the Order of the White Double Cross?

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

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

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

Significance of the Award

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

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

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

Strengthening India-Slovakia Relations

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

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

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

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

Historic Visit to Slovakia

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

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

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

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

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

New Chapter in India-France Strategic Relations

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

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

List of 13 Major Key Outcomes

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

India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 Unveiled

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

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

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

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

Why These Agreements Matter

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

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

- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Innovation
- Space Technology
- Healthcare Research
- Startup Ecosystems

- Economic Security
- Green and Sustainable Development

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

National Affairs

- The **FSSAI** has intensified monitoring of food packaging claims such as “**Healthy,**” “**Organic,**” “**Zero Maida,**” “**Plant-Based,**” and “**Vegan**” to prevent misleading advertisements. Companies must ensure that all claims are supported by scientific evidence and comply with the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** and labelling regulations. Organic products must carry valid certification and the **Jaivik Bharat Logo**. The regulator can impose penalties, order label modifications, suspend licences, or recall products. The initiative aims to enhance **consumer protection, transparency,** and trust in India's growing health-conscious food market.
- India created a new **Guinness World Record** through the Ministry of **Ayush** by attracting **435,831 verified live viewers** for a YouTube Yoga session ahead of **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026**. The programme showcased the **Common Yoga Protocol** and promoted the **Yoga 365 Campaign**, encouraging daily Yoga practice. Conducted with support from the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga**, the event highlighted Yoga’s role in preventive healthcare and wellness. The achievement reflects India's leadership in promoting Yoga globally and supports the theme “**Yoga for Healthy Ageing.**”
- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme has completed 11 years of promoting **gender equality**, improving the **Child Sex Ratio**, and enhancing girls’ education. Since its launch in 2015, India’s **Sex Ratio at Birth** improved from **918 to 929**, while girls’ secondary school enrolment increased from **75.51% to 80.2%**. The programme addresses gender discrimination through awareness campaigns, healthcare support, nutrition, and education initiatives. Implemented through coordination among multiple ministries, BBBP has evolved into a nationwide movement supporting **women-led development**, inclusive growth, and the empowerment of girls.
- India has deployed its first **Tunnel Hood Technology** on the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor**. These specially designed structures are installed at tunnel entrances and exits to manage air-pressure waves generated by trains travelling above **300 kmph**. The system reduces the “**Tunnel Boom**” effect, lowers noise pollution, improves passenger comfort, and enhances operational safety. Inspired by technologies used in **Japan, France, and China**, the innovation reflects India’s adoption of global best practices in high-speed rail infrastructure and strengthens the efficiency of the **Bullet Train Project**.

- At the **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting** in Indore, member nations adopted a **Joint Declaration** emphasizing **food security, climate-resilient agriculture**, and support for small farmers. Key initiatives include the **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology**, a **Digital Agriculture Network**, and a **Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems**. The meeting also approved the **BRICS AGRIN Framework** and transformed the Agricultural Research Platform into a **Knowledge-to-Action Hub**. These measures aim to strengthen agricultural cooperation, innovation, sustainability, and farmer welfare across BRICS countries.
- The **Department of Posts** has launched a **drone-based mail transmission service** in Himachal Pradesh between **Mandi and Rehardhar**. A journey that previously took more than two hours can now be completed in just **seven minutes**. The initiative improves connectivity in remote and mountainous regions, ensuring faster delivery of mail, parcels, financial services, and government documents. Following successful trials, the government plans to expand drone operations to around **150 routes** in Himachal Pradesh and Assam. The project promotes **digital logistics**, service efficiency, and regional inclusion.
- India's **Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** has achieved a significant milestone with the addition of **three new chicks**, increasing the captive population to **94 birds**. Scientific breeding methods, including **artificial insemination**, natural breeding, and the **jumpstart intervention strategy**, have contributed to the programme's success. The critically endangered **Great Indian Bustard**, one of the world's heaviest flying birds, faces threats from habitat loss and power-line collisions. Conservation efforts in Rajasthan aim to improve genetic diversity, support wild populations, and secure the long-term survival of this iconic species.
- The **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting** held in **Indore** concluded with the adoption of the **Indore Declaration**, focusing on **Food Security, Nutrition, Farmer Welfare, Climate-Resilient Agriculture, and Digital Agriculture**. Special emphasis was placed on **Small and Marginal Farmers, Women, and Youth**. Four major initiatives were launched, including the **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agro-Ecology**, **BRICS Digital Agriculture Network**, **Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems**, and **BRICS AgrIN Framework**. The declaration aims to strengthen agricultural innovation, cooperation, sustainability, and trade among BRICS nations.
- The Government of India has extended the tenure of the **Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal** and the **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal** by one year to continue resolving long-standing **Inter-State River Water Disputes**. Constituted under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**, these tribunals address water-sharing issues among states dependent on common river systems. The move highlights the importance of **Cooperative Federalism**, equitable water

distribution, and institutional dispute resolution. Their decisions significantly impact agriculture, industry, drinking water supply, and sustainable management of water resources.

- **Indian Railways** has accelerated the deployment of **Kavach 4.0**, its indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system designed to prevent collisions, overspeeding, and **Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD)** incidents. The expansion covers major railway divisions including **Ahmedabad** and **Ambala**, along with key corridors in southern India. Supported by a new **LTE-Based Communication System**, Kavach enables real-time train monitoring and automatic braking. The initiative is expected to improve railway safety, reduce human-error-related accidents, enhance operational efficiency, and strengthen India's railway modernization programme.
- India has announced an ambitious target of achieving **155 GW Wind Energy Capacity by 2035**, with an intermediate goal of **100 GW by 2030**. Currently, installed capacity exceeds **56 GW**, making India the world's **Fourth-Largest Wind Energy Producer**. To support sector growth, the government launched the **WT-MARUT Portal**, aimed at improving supply-chain transparency and boosting domestic manufacturing. Wind energy remains central to India's clean energy transition, energy security goals, green job creation, and commitment to reducing carbon emissions while achieving sustainable development.
- The **19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026** commenced in Mumbai, reaffirming its position as Asia's leading festival dedicated to **Non-Feature Cinema**. Organized by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**, the festival showcases documentaries, short films, animation, and digital storytelling. A major highlight this year is the inclusion of **AI-Generated Films**, reflecting the growing influence of **Artificial Intelligence** in filmmaking. MIFF 2026 serves as a global platform for creativity, cultural exchange, technological innovation, and emerging storytelling formats.

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- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has temporarily restricted access to **Telegram** until **22 June 2026** ahead of the **NEET UG 2026 Re-Examination**. The decision was taken following recommendations from the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** to prevent the circulation of fake question papers, answer keys, and misleading content. Authorities also directed Telegram to disable its message-editing feature temporarily. The measure aims to maintain examination integrity, support investigations into alleged malpractice, and ensure a fair and transparent examination process.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** has launched the **Yoga Park Portal**, a nationwide digital platform aimed at transforming public parks into community wellness centres. Introduced during the countdown to **International Day of Yoga 2026**, the initiative encourages local bodies, **NGOs**, **Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)**, and corporate entities to develop dedicated spaces for **Yoga**, **Meditation**, and healthy lifestyle activities. The portal provides implementation guidelines, registration support, and resources for creating wellness infrastructure. The initiative promotes **Preventive Healthcare**, public participation, and the integration of yoga into daily life across urban and rural India.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has made a valid **Doctor's Prescription** mandatory for purchasing syrup-based medicines, including cough syrups, under the **Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026**. Popular products such as **Benadryl**, **Glycodin**, and **Grilinctus** will now require medical authorization. The move follows the removal of syrup formulations from **Schedule K** of the **Drugs Rules, 1945**. The regulation aims to improve **Drug Safety**, prevent misuse, strengthen monitoring of liquid medicines, and ensure proper medical supervision to safeguard public health.
- A major breakthrough has been achieved in the long-pending **Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project** after six states—**Himachal Pradesh**, **Uttarakhand**, **Delhi**, **Uttar Pradesh**, **Haryana**, and **Rajasthan**—agreed to proceed with a Memorandum of Understanding. The project aims to improve **Water Security**, enhance the ecological health of the **Yamuna Basin**, support drinking water supply, and generate hydropower. The Centre will fund **90%** of the water component cost. The initiative is expected to strengthen **Inter-State Cooperation**, river rejuvenation, and sustainable resource management in northern India.
- The Government of India has appointed **Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay** as Chairperson and **Prof. Shubhabrata Das**, **Satyendra Bahadur Singh**, and **Madhavan Mukund** as Members of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**. Established in 2005, the NSC serves as India's apex statistical advisory body, responsible for improving data quality, transparency, and statistical standards. The new appointments are expected to strengthen **Data-Driven Governance**, enhance coordination among statistical agencies, and improve the credibility and effectiveness of India's official statistical system for policymaking and development planning.
- India and the United Kingdom implemented the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention** on 15 June 2026. The agreements aim to boost bilateral trade, investment, and professional mobility. Under CETA, Indian exporters gain **Zero-Duty Access** on nearly 99% of tariff lines, while the social security pact exempts Indian professionals from dual contributions during overseas assignments of up to five years. The agreements are expected to enhance economic cooperation and create opportunities for businesses and skilled workers.
- The Government of India has approved **₹22 Crore** in financial assistance for nine startups under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. Announced by Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**, the funding supports innovation in **Hydrogen Production**, **Storage**, **Transportation**, and related technologies. The government also launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India** to ensure transparency and compliance. The initiative contributes to India's target of producing **5 Million Metric Tonnes of Green Hydrogen Annually by 2030**, strengthening the country's clean energy transition and sustainability goals.
- The historic **Qadian–Beas Railway Line Project** in Punjab has been revived after nearly a century. The **39.68-km broad-gauge corridor** will connect Qadian and Beas through key towns including **Ghuman**, **Butala**, and **Sathiala**. Equipped with **Kavach safety technology**, advanced signalling systems, major bridges, and road underpasses, the project will improve regional connectivity and provide an alternative route to the **Amritsar–Pathankot section**. It is expected to enhance access to religious destinations, boost tourism, strengthen infrastructure development, and support economic growth across Punjab's **Majha region**.
- **Bharat Buildcon 2026** was inaugurated at **Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi**, under the theme "**One Nation, One Expo.**" The event attracted participants from over **90 countries** and showcased innovations across **24 sectors**, including construction materials, smart infrastructure, steel, cement, ceramics, and electrical systems. The exhibition aims to promote **technology adoption**, **international trade**, **innovation**, and **manufacturing excellence**. Leaders highlighted the role of global trade agreements such as the **India–UK CETA** in creating export opportunities and enhancing India's competitiveness as a global construction and infrastructure hub.

- The **Supreme Court of India** delivered a landmark judgment declaring that the **right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths** is a **fundamental right** protected under **Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), 19(1)(c), 19(1)(d), and Article 21** of the Constitution. The verdict was delivered by a bench comprising **Justice P. S. Narasimha** and **Justice Atul S. Chandurkar** while hearing a motor accident case involving the death of a **five-year-old child** who was struck by a tanker on a road lacking a footpath and pedestrian crossing. The Court restored and enhanced compensation to **₹11.44 lakh**, emphasized that **pedestrian rights** must be integral to urban planning, and directed **urban development authorities, municipal bodies, panchayats, and local governments** to provide and maintain **safe, well-maintained, and encroachment-free footpaths**. It also observed that citizens can seek constitutional remedies for violations and urged the government to enact a dedicated law protecting the **Right to Walk**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of India's first **commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate project** at **Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district, Odisha**. The **₹25,016-crore** project will be developed by **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL)**, a joint venture between **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** and **Coal India Limited (CIL)**. Using **indigenous coal gasification technology**, the plant will convert coal into **syngas** and produce **2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate per day**. Spread across **350 acres**, the project has received **₹1,350 crore** under the Ministry of Coal's incentive scheme. It aims to reduce dependence on imported chemicals, strengthen **energy security**, increase value addition from domestic coal reserves, generate employment, and support the government's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and coal gasification targets.
- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced Rajasthan's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system** at **Daultapura Toll Plaza** on the **Delhi-Jaipur stretch of NH-48**. The barrier-less tolling system combines **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** technology with **FASTag-based electronic toll collection**, allowing vehicles to pass without stopping. High-resolution cameras capture registration numbers and automatically deduct toll charges from linked FASTag accounts. The initiative aims to reduce **traffic congestion**, shorten travel time, improve **fuel efficiency**, lower **vehicle emissions**, and enhance commuter convenience. Following its successful rollout, NHAI plans to extend MLFF technology to **Shahjahanpur** and **Manoharpur** toll plazas, creating a more seamless and technology-driven travel experience along one of India's busiest highway corridors.
- India is set to enhance its **energy security** with the development of a new **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** facility at **Mangaluru**. The project has been entrusted to **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, which will construct an underground crude oil storage cavern with a capacity of

1.75 million metric tonnes (MMT) at an estimated cost of **₹15,000 crore**. Strategic Petroleum Reserves serve as emergency stockpiles to manage supply disruptions caused by geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters, or market volatility. India currently operates SPR facilities at **Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur**, with a combined capacity of **5.33 MMT**. The new facility will increase storage capacity by nearly one-third. Of the total project cost, approximately **₹5,000 crore** will be spent on infrastructure and **₹10,000 crore** on crude oil procurement and storage.

States in the News

- Bihar will establish a **₹31.21 crore Integrated Aqua Park** in Bhojpur to strengthen the fisheries sector. The facility will include hatcheries, feed plants, diagnostic laboratories, biofloc units, and training centres. Alongside this, the **NFDB Regional Centre** in Patna will promote modern aquaculture technologies and entrepreneurship. Supported by fisheries projects worth **₹902.84 crore**, Bihar has become the **fourth-largest inland fish-producing state** in India. The initiative aims to boost fish production, improve livelihoods, promote sustainable fisheries management, and support rural economic development.
- Jharkhand's **Bhagaiya Silk, Kuchai Silk, Munda Jewellery, and Bamboo Craft** have received **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags**. The recognition protects the authenticity of these products and highlights their cultural and regional significance. GI status helps prevent imitation, improves market value, boosts exports, and creates better income opportunities for artisans. The development strengthens Jharkhand's traditional handicrafts and sericulture heritage while promoting sustainable rural livelihoods and preserving indigenous knowledge systems for future generations.
- Kerala has launched the **Priyadarshini Free Bus Travel Scheme**, providing zero-fare travel in ordinary **KSRTC** buses for women and transgender persons. The scheme is universal, requiring no registration or income criteria, and currently covers around **3,125 buses**. By reducing transportation costs, the initiative aims to improve access to education, employment, healthcare, and public services. It is expected to enhance workforce participation, social inclusion, and gender empowerment while supporting Kerala's broader welfare and public transport objectives.
- Kerala has unveiled **Vision 2031**, a comprehensive roadmap to become India's most **women-friendly state**. The strategy focuses on women's safety, economic empowerment, mobility, legal reforms, and gender-responsive governance. Proposed measures include fast-track trials for crimes against women, expansion of women police stations, a **Distress Alert App**, pink buses, and support programmes such as **Avalkoppam**. With a gender budget allocation of **₹5,586.99 crore**, the initiative aims to create a safer, more inclusive, and economically empowering environment for women and transgender persons.

- President **Droupadi Murmu** highlighted the significance of **Raja Parba**, Odisha's traditional festival celebrating **nature, agriculture**, and the arrival of the monsoon. The festival honours **Mother Earth**, fertility, and ecological balance through cultural events, swings, folk songs, and traditional foods such as **Poda Pitha** and **Manda Pitha**. Raja Parba reflects Odisha's agrarian heritage and promotes harmony between humans and nature. The celebration also reinforces environmental awareness, cultural preservation, and community bonding.
- Assam has secured **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** for **Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products**. Supported by **NABARD**, the recognition protects traditional knowledge and regional identity while improving market access for artisans. The GI certification strengthens cultural preservation, promotes rural entrepreneurship, and enhances economic opportunities for local communities. With these additions, Assam now has **12 NABARD-supported GI-certified products**, highlighting the state's rich heritage and craftsmanship.
- The **Maharashtra Cabinet** has approved the **High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project (HEMCP)** in **Nagpur** with an investment of **₹300 Crore**. The facility will establish a **Radiopharmaceutical Innovation Hub** for producing radioisotopes used in **PET-CT Scans**, nuclear medicine, and cancer treatment. The project will reduce dependence on external suppliers and improve healthcare access across Central India. Alongside this, the state also approved the **Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026**, focusing on sustainable water management, digital monitoring, and improved rural water supply systems.
- The traditional musical instrument **Tripura Sarinda** has received a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, recognizing its unique cultural significance among Tripura's indigenous communities. Handcrafted from a single block of wood and played with a bow, the Sarinda is an important part of folk music, ceremonies, and oral traditions. The recognition protects the instrument from imitation, supports local artisans, and promotes cultural heritage preservation. With this addition, Tripura now has **four GI-tagged products**, showcasing its rich artistic and cultural traditions.
- The **Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur**, has introduced two new chilli varieties—**LCA-625** and **LCA-643**—to provide alternatives to the popular **Teja** and **Byadgi** chillies. LCA-625 is a high-pungency dry chilli variety, while LCA-643 is suitable for both green and dry chilli cultivation and shows moderate resistance to pests and diseases. The development aims to improve productivity, support spice processing industries, and enhance farmer incomes. The release reinforces Andhra Pradesh's position as a leading chilli-producing state.
- The Odisha government approved investment projects worth **₹76,611.86 Crore** across 20 proposals through the **High-Level Clearance Authority** chaired by Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi**. The projects span sectors such as **Renewable Energy, Healthcare, Steel, Railways, Critical Minerals**, and Infrastructure. Expected to generate more than **50,500 Jobs**, the investments include proposals from major companies and mark Odisha's entry into **Lab-Grown Diamond Manufacturing** and advanced materials. The initiative supports industrial diversification, employment generation, and sustainable economic growth.
- The Madhya Pradesh government plans to introduce a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill** during the Monsoon Session of the State Assembly in July 2026. The proposed law seeks to establish common civil regulations governing **Marriage, Divorce, Inheritance, Adoption, and Succession**. A committee headed by former Supreme Court judge **Ranjana Prasad Desai** prepared the draft after extensive consultations. The move aligns with **Article 44** of the Constitution and aims to promote legal uniformity while generating significant public and political debate.
- Forest officials recorded the first-ever video evidence of a herd of **Mishmi Takin (Budorcas taxicolor)** in **North Sikkim's Tingda Reserve Forest**. A group of eight individuals was documented, marking the largest recorded sighting in the area. Classified as **Vulnerable** by the **IUCN**, the Mishmi Takin is an important indicator of alpine ecosystem health. The discovery highlights the rich biodiversity of the **Eastern Himalayas** and underscores the importance of habitat conservation and ecological connectivity for the survival of rare mountain species.
- The Odisha government approved **20 investment proposals worth ₹76,611.86 crore**, expected to generate over **50,500 jobs** across nine districts. Investments span sectors such as **renewable energy, healthcare, railways, steel, infrastructure, and critical minerals**. Major companies including **Tata Power Renewable Energy, L&T, Rashmi Metallurgical Industry, and Shyam Metalics** are involved. The approvals also introduce Odisha to **lab-grown diamond manufacturing** and advanced materials production. The initiative supports industrial diversification, sustainable development, employment generation, and strengthens Odisha's position as a major investment destination.
- According to the **Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026**, Bengaluru ranks **second in Asia** among **AI-native startup clusters**, behind Beijing. The city hosts **606 AI startups**, around **600,000 AI professionals**, and 30 unicorns, making it one of the world's most dynamic innovation ecosystems. Bengaluru attracted **\$39 billion** in venture capital funding between 2021 and 2025 and was ranked **15th globally** among startup ecosystems. The recognition reinforces India's leadership in **artificial intelligence, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven economic growth**.

- Delhi inaugurated its first **all-women police station** in the **Subzi Mandi area** of North Delhi. Staffed entirely by women personnel, the station focuses on crimes such as **domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and assault against women**. Beyond law enforcement, it will conduct counseling sessions, legal awareness campaigns, and community outreach programmes. The initiative aims to create a more **gender-sensitive policing system**, improve accessibility for women seeking help, and strengthen public confidence in law enforcement while promoting women's safety and empowerment.
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** laid the foundation stone for development projects worth **₹1,246 crore** in **Meghalaya** in the presence of Chief Minister **Conrad K. Sangma**. The projects cover key sectors such as **road connectivity, logistics, tourism infrastructure, education, and livelihood development**. A major component is the **Meghalaya Logistics and Connectivity Improvement Project**, aimed at strengthening transportation networks, reducing logistics costs, improving rural connectivity, and enhancing farm-to-market linkages. Additional investments will improve access to remote regions, facilitate trade, support tourism, and expand access to healthcare and education. Tourism-focused initiatives will promote **eco-tourism** and generate opportunities for local enterprises, while investments in education and livelihood programmes will strengthen human capital, support entrepreneurship, and create employment opportunities across the state.
- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has approved the establishment of **five dedicated Renewable Energy Zones** under the **Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited** to accelerate renewable energy development across the state. The zones will be headquartered in **Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, and Madurai** and will oversee projects within designated electricity distribution circles. The initiative aims to streamline approvals, improve coordination among stakeholders, strengthen infrastructure, and support the integration of renewable energy into the power grid. Each zone will be led by **Assistant Executive Engineers** responsible for project administration, power evacuation systems, and operational management. The zones will facilitate the expansion of **wind energy, solar energy, and hybrid renewable energy projects**, reinforcing Tamil Nadu's leadership in clean energy and supporting India's broader climate and sustainability goals.
- The **Government of India** has discussed **constitutional safeguards for Ladakh** under **Article 371** in talks with the **MHA, Ladakh Apex Body, and Kargil Democratic Alliance** (May 22, 2026). The focus is on a **customized governance model** ensuring **local participation, cultural protection, land rights, and administrative accountability**. Options include an **elected UT-level body** with limited powers, while the **Sixth Schedule demand** remains under consideration but not accepted. Article 371 provisions in other states guide these discussions to balance **regional autonomy** with **national interests**.

International Affairs

- Reports indicate a tentative understanding between the **United States** and **Iran**, supported by regional diplomacy involving **Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia**. Proposed measures include easing maritime restrictions, reopening the **Strait of Hormuz**, and supporting a broader regional ceasefire framework. The development could improve energy security, stabilize oil markets, reduce shipping costs, and lower geopolitical tensions. For India, smoother energy supplies and reduced crude oil price volatility could positively impact economic stability and trade.
- India and France announced **13 major outcomes** during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit, strengthening their **Special Global Strategic Partnership**. Key initiatives include the **India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030**, a **Joint AI Working Group**, expanded **UPI services**, startup collaborations, defence cooperation, railway projects, and space research partnerships between **ISRO** and **CNES**. Both nations also agreed to work toward doubling bilateral trade within five years, highlighting their commitment to innovation, technology, economic security, and sustainable development.
- The **India-France ATL Bridge** has been launched to connect young innovators, schools, and entrepreneurs from both countries. Developed through cooperation between the **Atal Innovation Mission** and **La Fondation Dassault Systèmes**, the initiative will support student exchanges, innovation projects, and entrepreneurship programmes. France will also establish its first **School Innovation Lab** based on India's **Atal Tinkering Lab** model. The programme strengthens educational collaboration, promotes innovation, and deepens people-to-people ties between India and France.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit to **Slovakia** marked the first state visit by an Indian Prime Minister since Slovakia's independence in 1993. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, defence, innovation, automobiles, railways, and labour mobility. Bilateral trade has grown significantly, while defence collaboration and people-to-people connections continue to strengthen. The visit reflects growing strategic engagement and positions Slovakia as an important partner for India in Central Europe.
- The **52nd G7 Summit** in **France** brought together leaders of major advanced economies to discuss economic growth, energy security, critical minerals, supply chains, and geopolitical challenges. The summit gained significance amid reports of a possible **US-Iran understanding** and the reopening of the **Strait of Hormuz**, which could stabilize global oil markets. India participated as a partner country, highlighting its increasing role in international diplomacy and global governance discussions.

- The **Bharat Innovates 2026** summit in France showcased India's growing **deep-tech ecosystem**, featuring over **120 startups**, **20 institutes**, and **350 global investors**. Innovations were presented across artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, biotechnology, space technology, defence, and clean energy. The event strengthened India-France collaboration in innovation and highlighted India's ambition to become a global technology and startup hub through research, entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.
- Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf is one of Iran's most influential political figures, serving as the **Speaker of Parliament** and playing an important role in the country's policymaking and strategic affairs. A former **IRGC Commander**, **Police Chief**, and **Mayor of Tehran**, he has decades of experience in governance and security. His influence extends across domestic politics and foreign policy discussions, making him a significant figure in shaping Iran's future political and diplomatic direction.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Slovakia marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since Slovakia's independence. Both nations elevated ties to a **Comprehensive Partnership** and signed **11 agreements** covering **Defence**, **Digital Technology**, **Healthcare**, **Research**, **Education**, **Tourism**, and **Labour Mobility**. New initiatives include cooperation in **Artificial Intelligence**, **Quantum Communication**, and **Counter-Terrorism**, reflecting a deeper strategic partnership and expanding economic and technological collaboration.
- India and Japan have adopted the implementation framework for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**. The mechanism enables collaboration on low-carbon projects through technology transfer, investment, and capacity building, with resulting **Carbon Credits** shared between both nations. The framework establishes transparent procedures for project approval, monitoring, verification, and credit issuance while preventing double counting of emission reductions. The initiative supports both countries in achieving their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and advancing climate goals.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mark Carney agreed to launch negotiations for a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** and accelerate efforts to conclude a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in 2026. The proposed agreements will strengthen cooperation in **Defence**, **Intelligence Sharing**, **Trade**, **Energy Security**, **Critical Minerals**, and **Technology Partnerships**. The development reflects growing strategic engagement and economic cooperation between India and Canada.
- At the **G7 Summit 2026**, India joined global efforts to address the resurgence of **Ebola** and strengthen international action against **Cancer**. Along with partner nations, India supported initiatives related to **Vaccine Development**, **Disease Surveillance**, **Diagnostic Research**, and public health preparedness. The summit also emphasized affordable healthcare access, early cancer detection, and international research collaboration. India's participation highlights its expanding role in **Global Health Diplomacy** and multilateral cooperation in addressing worldwide health challenges.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** by launching services at **Galleries Lafayette Nice Massena**. The initiative was facilitated by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, enabling Indian visitors to make seamless QR-based payments in France. UPI is now operational in **Nine Countries**, including France, Singapore, UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia. The expansion strengthens India's leadership in digital payments and promotes cross-border financial connectivity.
- The United States has officially renamed the **United States Indo-Pacific Command** back to the **United States Pacific Command**. Originally established in 1947, the command was renamed in 2018 to reflect the Indo-Pacific strategic concept. While the historical name has been restored, its mission, personnel, and operational responsibilities remain unchanged. The command continues to oversee one of the world's most strategically important regions, stretching from the U.S. West Coast to the western boundary of India.
- The United States and Iran announced the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim framework aimed at reducing regional tensions and facilitating broader diplomatic negotiations. The agreement includes commitments to avoid military escalation, reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, and engage in discussions on sanctions relief and regional stability. The development is expected to support global energy markets, improve maritime security, and encourage continued diplomatic engagement between the two countries.
- India expanded the international footprint of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** with its launch at **Galleries Lafayette Nice Massena** in France. Implemented through collaboration between **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **Lyra Collect**, the integration allows Indian visitors to make instant QR-code-based digital payments abroad. UPI is now operational in **nine countries**, enhancing convenience for travellers and supporting global acceptance of India's digital payment ecosystem. The expansion also strengthens **India-France digital cooperation** and showcases India's leadership in financial technology innovation.

- The United States officially restored the name **United States Pacific Command**, reversing the 2018 change to **Indo-Pacific Command**. While the name has changed, the command's mission, operational structure, personnel, and geographical responsibilities remain unchanged. Established in **1947**, it is the oldest and largest U.S. combatant command. The move is considered largely symbolic and administrative, reflecting a return to historical nomenclature while maintaining the same strategic focus across the Asia-Pacific region, including areas extending to India's western boundary.
- The United States and Iran signed the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding**, a 14-point interim agreement designed to reduce regional tensions. The pact establishes a **60-day negotiation framework**, commitments to avoid military escalation, and plans to reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, a crucial global energy route. Discussions on sanctions relief and Iranian oil exports are also included, while Iran reaffirmed its commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons. The agreement is expected to contribute to regional stability, diplomatic engagement, and improved global energy market confidence.
- Addressing the Indian diaspora in Paris, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** emphasized that India is increasingly recognized as a **trusted global partner**. He highlighted India's progress in digital transformation, infrastructure, innovation, and inclusive growth while stressing the importance of trust in international relations. Referring to discussions at the **G7 Summit 2026**, he advocated inclusive global governance, responsible technology use, and stronger representation for developing nations. He also highlighted growing **India–France cooperation** in defence, space, climate action, trade, and scientific research.
- **Uzbekistan** became the first Central Asian country to join the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established by the **BRICS nations**. After completing accession procedures, Uzbekistan became the bank's **10th member**, gaining access to long-term financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Since its establishment in 2015, the NDB has approved projects worth nearly **US\$43 billion**. The membership supports Uzbekistan's modernization goals and reflects its growing role in regional and global economic cooperation.
- France is set to inaugurate its first traditional **Hindu Temple** built entirely using stones sourced from India and crafted by Indian artisans. The temple follows authentic Hindu architectural principles and will be inaugurated with a **15-day cultural and religious celebration**. It is expected to serve as a spiritual and cultural hub for the Indian diaspora while promoting cultural exchange and preserving Indian traditions abroad. The project symbolizes growing **India–France cultural relations** and highlights the global presence of Indian heritage.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced a landmark child safety regulation establishing **15 years** as the minimum age for social media use. The policy mandates **AI-based age verification**, digital identity checks, stronger privacy settings, parental controls, and restrictions on interactions with strangers. Platforms must identify and remove underage accounts. The UAE becomes the first Arab nation to implement such nationwide rules, reflecting growing concerns about online safety, harmful content exposure, screen addiction, and digital privacy among children and teenagers.
- **Professor Dr. Bimal Patel** has been elected as a Judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**, marking a major achievement for India's international legal diplomacy. Established under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, ITLOS is an independent judicial body headquartered in **Hamburg, Germany**, which resolves disputes related to maritime boundaries, navigation rights, fisheries, marine resources, environmental protection, and detained vessels. Patel currently serves as the **Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University**, is a member of the **United Nations International Law Commission**, and serves on India's **National Security Advisory Board**. His election strengthens India's role in global maritime governance and complements the presence of **Neeru Chadha**, who currently serves as **Vice President of ITLOS**.
- **Jonathan**, a **Seychelles giant tortoise** living on the South Atlantic island of **Saint Helena**, has been officially recognized as the **world's oldest known terrestrial animal** and the **oldest turtle ever recorded**. Estimated to have been born around **1832**, Jonathan is approximately **194 years old**. During his lifetime, he has witnessed major historical events, including the **Victorian era**, the construction of the **Eiffel Tower**, the invention of automobiles and airplanes, and the rise of computers, the internet, and space exploration. Despite his remarkable age, Jonathan remains relatively healthy and active. Scientists believe his longevity is linked to a **slow metabolism**, low-stress lifestyle, favorable genetics, and efficient biological systems. Researchers are studying his DNA to gain insights into **healthy aging, longevity, cellular repair, and age-related diseases**.

Test Prime

ALL EXAMS ONE SUBSCRIPTION

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India has introduced a revised **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** series with **2022–23** as the new base year, replacing the previous 2011–12 series. The updated framework expands the commodity basket from **697 to 957 items** and introduces **Producer Price Indices (PPIs)** to improve inflation measurement. New sectors such as **Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Nuclear Energy** have been included. The modernization aligns India's inflation tracking system with international standards and provides better insights into producer-level price movements across goods and services.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has eased investment regulations for **NRIs, OCIs**, and other overseas investors by introducing **Designated Repatriable Rupee Accounts**. The reform simplifies investment transactions, dividend receipts, sale proceeds, and fund repatriation under **FEMA Regulations**. It also reduces compliance requirements and expands certain investment opportunities to all eligible **Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs)**. The move is expected to attract higher foreign investments, deepen capital markets, and strengthen India's investment ecosystem.
- India's trade pattern in early **FY27** indicates a growing surplus with countries in **Asia and Africa**, driven by stronger exports to markets such as **Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka**. While trade with traditional markets like the United States and Europe remains important, the shift highlights increasing **South-South Trade Cooperation** and diversification of export destinations. However, the widening trade deficit with **China** remains a concern, emphasizing the need to reduce import dependence and strengthen domestic manufacturing.
- A review by the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** revealed that **18 out of 28 states** exceeded the prescribed **3% Fiscal Deficit Ceiling** in FY25. Several states also crossed recommended debt thresholds due to rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments. The report highlights concerns about declining revenue surpluses and increasing borrowing requirements. It underscores the need for improved **Fiscal Discipline**, efficient expenditure management, subsidy reforms, and stronger revenue generation to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- Sarvam AI has entered the unicorn club after raising **\$234 Million** in a Series B funding round, reaching a valuation of approximately **\$1.5 Billion**. Founded in 2023, the Bengaluru-based company develops **Sovereign AI Solutions** tailored to India's linguistic and business requirements. The fresh investment will support the development of advanced AI models, computing infrastructure, and enterprise AI solutions, strengthening India's growing artificial intelligence ecosystem.
- India's trade patterns in early FY27 reveal a growing surplus with countries in **Asia and Africa**, including Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka. The shift reflects stronger South–South trade linkages and diversified export markets. While exports to some European nations remain robust, the trade deficit with **China** continues to widen due to dependence on imported electronics and machinery. The trend highlights opportunities for expanding global trade partnerships while emphasizing the need to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.
- A **CAG report** revealed that **18 states** exceeded the prescribed **3% fiscal deficit limit** of GSDP in FY25. States such as Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Sikkim recorded particularly high deficits, while overall state debt rose significantly. Rising expenditure on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments, coupled with slower revenue growth, contributed to fiscal stress. The report underscores the need for better expenditure management, subsidy rationalisation, and revenue enhancement measures to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability across states.
- India's **net direct tax collections** increased by **14.64%** year-on-year to **₹5.21 trillion** between April and June 2026. Growth was driven by strong **corporate tax** and **non-corporate tax** collections, reflecting improved compliance, higher advance tax payments, and resilient economic activity. Gross collections reached ₹6.1 trillion, while refunds also increased. The robust tax performance highlights continued economic formalisation, stronger profitability among businesses, and improved efficiency in tax administration.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licence of **Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank** in Karnataka due to weak financial health, inadequate capital, and inability to repay depositors. The bank has been directed to cease banking operations, while a liquidator will oversee winding-up proceedings. Under **DICGC insurance**, approximately **97.9% of depositors** are expected to receive full repayment up to the insured limit of **₹5 lakh**. The decision aims to protect depositors and maintain confidence in the banking system.
- The **RBI** approved a **three-month extension** for **Keki Mistry** as the interim chairman of **HDFC Bank** until September 2026 or until a permanent chairman is appointed. The extension ensures leadership continuity during the transition following the resignation of former chairman **Atanu Chakraborty**. Mistry's continued role is expected to provide stability in governance and support the bank's strategic and operational continuity during the selection process for a permanent successor.

Appointments/Resignations

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed **Hitesh Joshi** as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of General Insurance Corporation of India. A seasoned insurance professional and Fellow of the Insurance Institute of India, he brings expertise in **Reinsurance, Risk Management, Finance, and Digital Transformation**. His appointment is expected to strengthen GIC Re's leadership and enhance India's insurance and reinsurance sector.
- **Sundarraj Pattilingam**, a 2003-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as **Inspector General** in the National Investigation Agency. Known for his extensive experience in **Anti-Naxal Operations** in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, he played a crucial role in coordinating security operations against Maoist insurgency. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the NIA's counter-terrorism and national security capabilities.
- **Bata India** appointed **Sanjay Rao** as its new **Managing Director and CEO**, succeeding **Gunjan Shah**. With over two decades of international retail experience, including leadership roles at **Nike** and involvement in expanding **Zara India**, Rao brings expertise in retail growth, consumer engagement, and brand management. His appointment is expected to support innovation, improve customer experience, and drive Bata India's long-term expansion strategy.
- India achieved a historic milestone with the election of **Vivek Aggarwal** as **Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, making him the first Indian to hold this influential position. Elected at the **FATF Plenary Meeting in Paris**, he will serve from **July 2026 to June 2027**. A **1994-batch IAS officer** of the **Madhya Pradesh cadre**, Aggarwal currently serves as **Union Culture Secretary** and has extensive experience in financial intelligence and regulatory affairs. He previously served as **Director of FIU-IND, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry**, and head of India's FATF delegation. Established in **1989**, FATF develops global standards to combat **money laundering, terrorist financing, and emerging financial threats**, making Aggarwal's election a significant boost to India's influence in global financial governance.

Defence News

- In a landmark step towards **Gender Inclusion** in the armed forces, the first batch of **17 Women NDA Cadets** was commissioned as officers in June 2026 after completing rigorous training alongside male cadets. Of these, **9 joined the Indian Army, 5 joined the Indian Air Force, and 3 joined the Indian Navy**. Inducted into the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** in 2022, the cadets successfully completed the same training standards and leadership programmes. The milestone reflects India's commitment to **Equality, Merit-Based Selection**, and the modernization of its military structure.

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the indigenous **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha** on 15 June 2026. Developed under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, the missile is designed to strike strategic land targets with high precision over long distances. Unlike ballistic missiles, it follows a **low-altitude guided flight path**, making detection and interception difficult. The successful trial enhances India's **Long-Range Precision Strike Capability**, strengthens indigenous defence technology, and highlights the growing role of cruise missiles in modern warfare.
- The Indian Navy inducted **INS Agray**, the fifth vessel of the **Arnala-Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** programme. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, the vessel is equipped with **Hull-Mounted Sonar, Variable Depth Sonar (VDS)**, anti-submarine torpedoes, and rockets. Featuring over **80% Indigenous Content**, INS Agray supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** mission and enhances coastal surveillance, mine warfare, and anti-submarine operations. The induction strengthens India's maritime security, coastal defence, and strategic presence in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, scheduled from **20 July to 7 August 2026** in Australia. Hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, the multinational exercise will involve more than **100 Aircraft** and personnel from **19 Countries**. The event focuses on advanced air combat operations, interoperability, tactical integration, and multinational coordination. Participation will strengthen India's defence cooperation with partner nations and enhance operational readiness in complex combat environments.
- An Indian Army contingent will participate in **Exercise Khaan Quest 2026** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from **20 June to 3 July 2026**. The multinational exercise focuses on **United Nations peacekeeping operations**, including joint planning, patrolling, civilian evacuation, counter-IED drills, and casualty evacuation. Participation enhances interoperability with partner militaries and reflects India's commitment to global peacekeeping and international security cooperation.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹425-crore contract** with **Bharat Forge Limited** for the procurement of **12 sets of 1.25 MW Marine Gas Turbine Generators (MG TGs)** for the **Indian Navy**. Signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, the contract falls under the **Buy (Indian)** category and mandates more than **60% indigenous content**. MG TGs are critical onboard power-generation systems that provide electricity to **combat management systems, radar and surveillance equipment, communication networks, electronic warfare systems, and advanced weapon platforms**. The project supports the government's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** initiatives, strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities, reduces dependence on imports, and enhances the operational effectiveness of modern Indian naval warships.

- India achieved a major milestone in maritime defence with the induction of **H-561**, the first indigenously built **Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV)**, into the **Indian Coast Guard** on **18 June 2026**. Developed by **Chowgule & Company Private Limited** in Goa, the hovercraft is the first of six ACVs ordered by the Coast Guard. Unlike conventional vessels, it operates on a **cushion of air** generated by powerful lift fans, enabling movement over **shallow waters, mudflats, marshlands, sandy beaches, estuaries, and wetlands**. This capability makes it ideal for securing India's **7,500-kilometre coastline**. Built under the **Make in India** initiative, H-561 will strengthen coastal surveillance, rapid-response operations, and maritime security while showcasing India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.
- The **Indian Navy** will commission three indigenously built warships—**INS Dunagiri, INS Agray, and INS Sanshodhak**—on **21 June 2026** in **Kolkata**. Designed by the **Indian Navy Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, these vessels represent India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. **INS Dunagiri**, a **Project 17A stealth-guided missile frigate**, is capable of surface, air, and anti-submarine warfare and can deploy **BrahMos missiles**. **INS Agray** is equipped with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets for underwater threat detection. **INS Sanshodhak**, the final vessel of the **Sandhayak-class programme**, is designed for hydrographic surveys, seabed mapping, and underwater data collection using **Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)** and **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)**.

Awards and Recognitions

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) from Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during his visit to Bratislava. The honour recognizes his contribution to strengthening **India-Slovakia Relations** and promoting international cooperation. This became the **33rd International Honour** conferred on PM Modi by a foreign nation, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.
- The **Navi Mumbai International Airport** and **Terminal 2 of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport** were included in the prestigious **Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026**. The recognition was awarded for outstanding **Architecture, Sustainability, Innovation, and Passenger Experience**. Navi Mumbai Airport impressed with its **Lotus-Inspired Design**, while the Guwahati terminal was recognized for its **Bamboo Orchid-Inspired Architecture** reflecting Northeast India's cultural heritage. The achievement highlights India's growing focus on world-class, environmentally sustainable airport infrastructure.
- Indian-origin theoretical physicist **Jainendra K. Jain** became the first person of Indian origin to receive the prestigious **Wolf Prize in Physics** for his pioneering discovery of

composite fermions, which transformed the understanding of the **fractional quantum Hall effect**. The award was presented in **Jerusalem** by **Isaac Herzog**. In **1989**, while at **Yale University**, Jain proposed that electrons could combine with quantum vortices to form composite fermions, providing a unified explanation for previously unexplained fractional conductivity states. His theory led to the prediction of the famous "**Jain States**" and became a cornerstone of **condensed matter physics**. Born in **Sambhar, Rajasthan**, he studied at **IIT Kanpur**, earned a PhD from **Stony Brook University**, and is currently a professor at **Pennsylvania State University**.

Sports News

- Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton claimed his maiden victory for Scuderia Ferrari at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix 2026, ending Mercedes' recent dominance. Hamilton executed a successful three-stop strategy to finish ahead of George Russell, while Lando Norris secured third place, creating the first all-British podium since 1968. Championship contender Kimi Antonelli retired late due to technical issues, intensifying the title race. The result highlights Ferrari's resurgence and adds momentum to Hamilton's championship campaign.
- The Union Government has established a **Search-cum-Selection Committee** under the **National Sports Governance (NSG) Act, 2025** to recommend candidates for the **National Sports Board**. Chaired by **T. V. Somanathan**, the committee includes renowned sports personalities and administrators. The proposed board will serve as India's apex sports governance regulator, overseeing **Sports Federations**, governance standards, financial transparency, and ethical administration. The initiative marks a major step towards creating a more **Transparent, Professional, and Accountable Sports Ecosystem** in the country.
- Smriti Mandhana became the only Indian athlete to feature in the **TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026** list. Recognized for her exceptional achievements in international cricket, she is the first Indian woman to score centuries in all three formats—**Tests, ODIs, and T20is**. Mandhana also shares the record for the most centuries in women's international cricket and has achieved significant success as captain of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** franchise. Her inclusion reflects the growing global influence of **Women's Cricket** and India's prominence in the sport.
- Deepti Sharma equalled the record for the most wickets in **Women's International Cricket** by claiming her **355th International Wicket** during the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**. She now shares the record with Jhulan Goswami and Katherine Sciver-Brunt. The achievement highlights Deepti's consistency, longevity, and importance to Indian cricket, further strengthening India's growing reputation in women's international cricket.

- Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra**, in collaboration with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, launched the **Clean Sports Campaign** to promote awareness against doping. The initiative includes athlete-led outreach, workshops, digital education tools, and grassroots programmes. It aims to educate athletes about banned substances, encourage ethical sporting practices, and strengthen India's sporting reputation, especially as the country pursues its ambition of hosting the **2036 Olympic Games**.

Science and Technology News

- India's rapidly expanding **Space Economy** is projected to grow from the current **USD 8–9 Billion** to nearly **USD 40–45 Billion** within the next decade. Speaking at the **RISE Conclave 2026**, Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** highlighted the role of liberalization reforms and over **400 Space Startups** driving innovation in satellites, launch systems, AI-based geospatial analytics, and downstream services. Major missions such as **Chandrayaan-3** and the upcoming **Gaganyaan Mission** have strengthened India's global position. Space technology is also supporting governance initiatives like **PM Gati Shakti**, contributing to the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** has warned about **Kali365**, a sophisticated **Phishing-as-a-Service (PhaaS)** platform targeting **Microsoft 365** users. Instead of stealing passwords, the platform captures **OAuth Tokens** through device-code authentication attacks, enabling attackers to bypass **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** and maintain account access. Kali365 provides AI-generated phishing templates, automated tools, and monitoring dashboards, making advanced cyberattacks accessible to less-skilled criminals. The threat highlights the growing importance of identity security, access controls, and cybersecurity awareness in cloud-based systems.
- Led by **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)**, India has launched **BharatGen**, a sovereign multilingual AI ecosystem under the **IndiaAI Mission**. Supported by a **₹10,000 Crore** government initiative, BharatGen is designed to understand and generate content across all **22 Scheduled Indian Languages**. The platform integrates capabilities such as **Speech-to-Text, Text-to-Speech, Document Intelligence**, and multilingual content generation. By reducing dependence on foreign AI systems, BharatGen supports **Digital Sovereignty**, promotes indigenous innovation, and enables AI applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture, and public services.
- The **Usutu Virus (USUV)**, a mosquito-borne **Flavivirus** related to **West Nile Virus** and **Japanese Encephalitis**, has been detected for the first time in **Scotland**. Found in blackbirds on the **Isle of Arran**, the virus primarily affects wild birds and can cause neurological disorders and mortality among avian populations. Human infections are rare and usually mild. The discovery highlights the importance of wildlife surveillance and monitoring of

emerging **Zoonotic Diseases** in changing environmental and ecological conditions.

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is developing an advanced lunar lander capable of surviving **100–200 days on the Moon**, significantly longer than the **Vikram Lander** of **Chandrayaan-3**. Developed in collaboration with the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, the lander will use advanced thermal management systems to withstand extreme lunar-night temperatures below **–100°C**. The project aims to facilitate long-term scientific studies near the Moon's south pole, including research on **Water Ice** and lunar geology. It supports India's **Space Vision 2047**, which includes establishing a space station by 2035 and sending astronauts to the Moon by 2040.

Important Days News

- Observed on **15 June**, **Global Wind Day 2026** is being celebrated under the theme **“Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration.”** India is focusing on expanding renewable energy capacity through **Onshore Wind, Offshore Wind**, domestic manufacturing, and international partnerships. The country's installed wind power capacity has increased from **21.04 GW in 2014** to **56.09 GW in 2026**, making India the **World's Fourth-Largest Wind Energy Producer**. With an estimated potential of **1,163.9 GW**, ongoing offshore projects in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu**, and growing indigenisation, India is steadily progressing towards its ambitious **100 GW Wind Energy Capacity** target.
- World Crocodile Day** is observed annually on **17 June** to raise awareness about the conservation of crocodiles and related species such as **Gharials, Alligators, and Caimans**. The 2026 theme, **“Legacy in Every Scale,”** highlights the evolutionary significance of crocodylians and the need to protect their habitats. As apex predators, crocodiles play a crucial role in maintaining aquatic ecosystem balance. India is regarded as a global conservation success story through initiatives like the **Crocodile Conservation Project (1975)** and protected areas such as Bhitarkanika National Park and National Chambal Sanctuary, which safeguard the **Mugger Crocodile, Saltwater Crocodile, and Gharial**.

Test Prime

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- **Autistic Pride Day** was observed worldwide on **18 June 2026** under the theme “**Recognition, Representation, and Reform.**” The observance promotes **Neurodiversity**, inclusion, and equal opportunities for autistic individuals. First celebrated in 2005, the day encourages society to recognize autism as a natural variation of human neurology while advocating improved access to education, healthcare, employment, and public participation. The **Rainbow Infinity Symbol** continues to represent the diversity and strengths of autistic communities.
- Observed annually on **17 June**, the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026** carried the theme “**Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.**” The day highlighted the importance of **Grasslands, Savannahs, Shrublands**, and other rangeland ecosystems in supporting biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience. In India, awareness and restoration activities were undertaken across **813 Project Areas** under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0**, promoting sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration.
- Observed on **19 June**, **World Sickle Cell Day 2026** focused on the theme “**Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease.**” The day raises awareness about **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**, a hereditary blood disorder caused by abnormal hemoglobin. India continues efforts to eliminate SCD as a public health challenge by **2047** through the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**, large-scale screening programmes, awareness campaigns, and genetic counselling initiatives, particularly targeting tribal populations where the disease is prevalent.
- **World Refugee Day** is observed annually on **20 June** to honor millions of people displaced by **conflict, persecution, violence, and human rights violations**. The **2026 theme, “Until Everyone is Safe,”** emphasizes that safety includes **legal protection, shelter, healthcare, education, employment, social inclusion, and dignity**. Established by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2000**, the day promotes awareness of refugee challenges and reinforces global commitments to their protection. It recognizes the resilience of refugees and encourages humanitarian support, inclusion, and opportunities for rebuilding lives in safety and dignity.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary, Governor: Arif Khan, Capital: Patna
Jharkhand	CM: Hemant Soren, Governor: Santosh Gangwar, Capital: Ranchi
Kerala	CM: VD Satheesan, Governor: R Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Odisha	CM: Mohan Majhi, Governor: Haribabu Khambhupati, Capital: Bhubneshwar
Assam	CM: Himnata Sarma, Governor: Laxman Acharya, Capital: Dispur
Karnataka	CM: DK Shivakumar, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, Capital: Bengaluru
Maharashtra	CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma, Capital: Mumbai
Andhra Pradesh	CM: Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: Abdul Nazeer, Capital: Amravati
Madhya Pradesh	CM: Mohan Yadav, Governor: Mangubhai Patel, Capital: Bhopal
Meghalaya	CM: Konrad Sangma, Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar, Capital: Shillong
Tamil Nadu	CM: Joesph Vijay, Governor: R Arlekar, Capital: Chennai
France	President: Emmanuel Macron
England	Prime Minister: Keir Starmer
United States	President: Donald Trump
Germany	Chancellor: Friedrich Merz
Italy	Prime Minister: Georgia Meloni
RBI	Chairman: Sanjay Malhotra
SEBI	Chair person: Tuhin Kanta Pandey