CURRENT AFFAIRS PULSE

June 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

Monthly PIB Compilation

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Government of India

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1. Sports

6 articles

India wins 19 medals, 10 gold, finishes second at 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships

01 Jun

- India won 19 medals (10 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze) at the 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships, held in Hong Kong from 28 to 31 May 2026; the Prime Minister congratulated the contingent on 1 June 2026.
- India finished second on the medal table behind China (14 gold, 25 medals in all), ahead of Japan.
- The championships are the continental under-20 meet of Asian Athletics; they began as the Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Jakarta in 1986.
- Records: the women's 4x400m relay won gold in a championship record 3:38.07, and the men's 4x400m relay set a national U20 record of 3:05.54 for bronze.

INDIA'S MEDALLISTS

Athlete	Event
Gold (10)	
Mogali Venkatram Reddy	Men's 800m
Nikhil Chandrashekar	Men's 3000m steeplechase
Nitin Gupta	Men's 5000m race walk
Basant	Men's high jump
Shahnavaz Khan	Men's long jump
Rahul Jakhar	Decathlon
Muskan	Women's 5000m
Pooja Singh	Women's high jump
Amanat Kamboj	Women's discus throw
Neeru Pathak, Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa	Women's 4x400m relay (championship record 3:38.07)
Silver (5)	
Jithin Arjunan	Men's long jump
Nishchay Phogat	Men's discus throw (junior national record)
Upkar	Decathlon
Sadhana Ravi	Women's triple jump
India	Women's 4x100m relay
Bronze (4)	
Nipam	Women's 100m
Aarti	Women's 200m
Neeru Pathak	Women's 400m
Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar, Mohammed Ashfaq	Men's 4x400m relay (national U20 record 3:05.54)

Source: PIB release (totals); athlete list compiled from The Bridge and The Pioneer results reports. The PIB release itself names no athletes.

Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win Norway Chess, Taking the 2026 Title in Oslo

06 Jun

- R Praggnanandhaa won Norway Chess 2026 (Oslo, 25 May-5 June) with 18 points, becoming the first Indian to win the tournament.
- He started the last round half a point behind Wesley So and won his classical game against Vincent Keymer with white; So finished second on 17.

- He beat Magnus Carlsen twice during the event; the Prime Minister congratulated him on 6 June 2026.

FINAL STANDINGS - OPEN SECTION

Rank	Player	Country	Points
1	R Praggnanandhaa	India	18
2	Wesley So	USA	17
3	Alireza Firouzja	France	15.5
4	Magnus Carlsen	Norway	13
5	Vincent Keymer	Germany	11
6	D Gukesh	India	8

Source: FIDE and tournament standings. Scoring: classical win 3; after a classical draw, Armageddon winner 1.5 and loser 1.

India Beat Bangladesh 3-1 to Win SAFF Women's Championship 2026, Record Sixth Title

07 Jun

- India won the SAFF Women's Championship 2026, beating defending champions Bangladesh 3-1 in the final at Margao, Goa, on 6 June 2026. The Prime Minister and the Women and Child Development Minister congratulated the team on 7 June.
- It is India's record sixth title (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2026) and its first since 2019. Bangladesh had won the 2022 and 2024 editions.
- India, coached by Crispin Chettri and captained by Sangita Basfore, won all four of its matches, scoring 18 goals and conceding one.
- The tournament is run by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF), set up in 1997 with its headquarters in Dhaka. It is a regional body of the Asian Football Confederation.

EVERY FINAL SO FAR

Year	Champion	Final score	Runner-up
2010	India	1–0	Nepal
2012	India	3–1	Nepal
2014	India	6–0	Nepal
2016	India	3–1	Bangladesh
2019	India	3–1	Nepal
2022	Bangladesh	3–1	Nepal
2024	Bangladesh	2–1	Nepal
2026	India	3–1	Bangladesh

Source: AIFF and SAFF records. The first edition (2010) was held in Dhaka.

India Men Win U-18 Hockey Asia Cup 2026; Women Take Bronze

08 Jun

- India won the Men's U-18 Hockey Asia Cup 2026, beating hosts Japan 4-1 in the final at Kakamigahara, Japan — India's third title in the event (2001, 2016, 2026).
- India's women won bronze, beating Korea 3-0; China won the women's title.
- Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated both teams at the SAI Head Office on 8 June 2026 with Rs 61.5 lakh (men) and Rs 21 lakh (women).
- Former captains Sardar Singh and Rani Rampal coached the men's and women's teams respectively.

MEN'S U18 ASIA CUP — ALL EDITIONS

Year	Host	Winner	Runner-up
2001	Ipoh, Malaysia	India	Uzbekistan
2009	Yangon, Myanmar	Pakistan	Malaysia
2011	Singapore	South Korea	Malaysia
2016	Dhaka, Bangladesh	India	Bangladesh
2025	Dazhou, China	Japan	Pakistan
2026	Kakamigahara, Japan	India	Japan

India holds the most titles (3). Women's U18 Asia Cup: 2026 was the sixth edition; India's only title came in 2000. Source: Asian Hockey Federation records via Wikipedia, Olympics.com.

India Women Win FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2026, Earn Return to FIH Pro League

21 Jun

- India's women's hockey team won the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025-26, beating hosts New Zealand 2-0 in the final at Auckland on 21 June 2026; the Prime Minister congratulated the team.
- The title earns India promotion to the next season of the FIH Hockey Pro League, from which it was relegated after finishing last in 2024-25.
- India went unbeaten in five matches and now holds a record two Women's Nations Cup titles (2022 and 2025-26).

WOMEN'S NATIONS CUP: ALL EDITIONS

Edition	Host	Winner	Runner-up
2022	Valencia, Spain	India	Spain
2023-24	Terrassa, Spain	Spain	Ireland
2024-25	Santiago, Chile	New Zealand	Ireland
2025-26	Auckland, New Zealand	India	New Zealand

Source: FIH / tournament records. The field expands from eight to ten teams from 2026-27.

India Wins Maiden AVC Men's Volleyball Cup Bronze as Host; FIVB Rank Rises to 42

29 Jun

- India won its first-ever medal at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup — bronze in 2026, as first-time hosts — beating Bahrain 3-1 in the third-place match.
- The medal lifted India's men's team 18 places in the FIVB World Ranking, from 60th to 42nd.
- India were unbeaten in the pool stage; the team was captained by Jerome Vinith Charles and coached by Dragan Mihailovi of Serbia.
- Indonesia won the title (their first AVC Cup medal of any colour), beating South Korea in the final.
- Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the squad in Gandhinagar on 29 June 2026.

2. Awards & Honours

10 articles

National Panchayat Awards 2025 conferred on 42 Panchayats; 22 are women-led

03 Jun

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2025 on 42 Panchayats in New Delhi; 22 of them are led by women.
- 34 Gram Panchayats from 17 States/UTs won the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar for the nine LSDG themes; 8 Panchayats won the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar for overall performance.
- Selection rests on Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 scores; awardees get Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore under the Incentivization of Panchayats component of RGSA.
- An e-book of awardee best practices and a compendium of State/UT best practices were released.

National Awards for e-Governance 2026: 17 projects win across seven categories

04 Jun

- 29th National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026: 17 projects selected — 10 Gold, 6 Silver and 1 Jury award — across seven categories.
- Winners include Agri Stack (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare), e-jagriti, Mahakumbh 2025 and the Panchayat Advancement Index.
- Two Gram Panchayats won: Kadepur (Sangli, Maharashtra) and Bijoy Nagar (West Tripura).
- Gold carries Rs 10 lakh and Silver Rs 5 lakh; awards to be given at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance in Jaipur.

NAEG 2026 — FULL LIST OF WINNERS

S. No.	Project	Organisation
Gold and Silver awardees		
1	Agri Stack	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
2	e-jagriti	Ministry of Consumer Affairs
3	Mahakumbh 2025	Prayagraj Mela Authority, Uttar Pradesh
4	Blood Bag Traceability and Citizen Interaction portal	Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)
5	AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support System in eSanjeevani telemedicine	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
6	District Court Case Management System (DCMS)	High Court of Kerala
7	ICMR-MINDS (screening of mental and substance-use disorders with other NCDs)	Indian Council of Medical Research
8	Security Product for Threat Intel Distribution and DNS Filtering Service	Space Applications Centre-ISRO, Ahmedabad
9	E Nagar Palika with cyber security	Urban Development and Housing Department, Madhya Pradesh
10	Integrated Cyber Security framework for a resilient Digital Banking Ecosystem	Bank of Baroda
11	E-Aarogya Dhamni	Health Department, Zilla Parishad Nandurbar, Maharashtra
12	Pune 360	Pune Municipal Commission, Maharashtra
13	Kadepur Gram Panchayat	Sangli district, Maharashtra
14	Bijoy Nagar Gram Panchayat	West Tripura district, Tripura
15	TRINETRA — AI-based video surveillance for Mahakal Rudrasagar Integrated Development Area	Mahakaleshwar Temple Trust, Ujjain
16	Panchayat Advancement Index — Data Driven Governance for Viksit Bharat	Ministry of Panchayati Raj

S. No.	Project	Organisation
Jury award		
1	Real Time Precise Positioning Services through CORS Network	Survey of India

Source: PIB release PRID 2268817. The release lists all 16 Gold and Silver winners in one table without marking which medal each won; a separate PIB release of 5 June 2026 confirms the Panchayat Advancement Index won Gold.

MY Bharat wins Guinness World Record for most users taking an online quiz in a week

04 Jun

- MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) received the Guinness World Records title for the 'Most Users to Take an Online Quiz in One Week', with 390,812 certified participants.
- The record came from the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD) Quiz, held during the assessment window of 25-31 October 2025; the quiz drew over 50.42 lakh youth from all 28 States and 8 UTs.
- MY Bharat, the Department of Youth Affairs' youth platform, has 2.19 crore registrations in three years.

Panchayat Advancement Index wins Gold at National Awards for e-Governance 2026

05 Jun

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) won the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 (Category VII, data analytics).
- The award will be presented at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance in Jaipur on 1-2 July 2026, organised by DARPG and MeitY with Rajasthan.
- PAI 2.0 ranks 2.6 lakh+ Gram Panchayats on 150 indicators across the nine themes of the Localisation of SDGs.
- In 2026, 17 projects were selected across seven categories; Gold carries a trophy, a citation and Rs 10 lakh.

Major Abhilasha Barak Wins 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

07 Jun

- Major Abhilasha Barak of the Indian Army has received the 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her work with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
- She is the third Indian to win it, after Major Suman Gawani (2019, UNMISS, South Sudan) and Major Radhika Sen (2023, MONUSCO, DR Congo).
- She serves as Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point with the Indian Battalion in UNIFIL's Sector East. In May 2022 she became the Indian Army's first woman combat aviator.

Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 Phase-I: President Confers 7 Kirti, 15 Vir, 29 Shaurya Chakras

08 Jun

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 51 gallantry awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-I), Rashtrapati Bhavan, on 8 June 2026: 7 Kirti Chakras (2 posthumous), 15 Vir Chakras (3 posthumous) and 29 Shaurya Chakras (1 posthumous).
- Recipients came from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State/UT Police. The Vice President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister attended.
- Nine of the 15 Vir Chakras went to IAF pilots for acts on 7 May 2025, the opening day of Operation Sindoor.

- Lt Cdrs Dilna K and Roopa A received the Shaurya Chakra for Navika Sagar Parikrama II. Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair received the Kirti Chakra as backup crew for the Axiom-4 mission.

COMPLETE ROSTER: PHASE-I, 8 JUNE 2026

S No	Awardee	Service	Date of act
Kirti Chakra (7, incl. 2 posthumous)			
38	Lance Naik Meenatchi Sundaram A, Regiment of Artillery, 34 RR	Army	19.12.2024
39	Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba, 2 PARA (SF)	Army	11.04.2025
40	Major Arshdeep Singh, ARMD, 1 Assam Rifles	Army	14.05.2025
41	Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	25.06.2025
42	Captain Lalrinawma Sailo, 4 PARA (SF)	Army	28.07.2025
46	Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar, Mahar Regiment, 1 RR (posthumous)	Army	06.07.2024
47	Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari, Army Service Corps, 1 Sikkim Scouts (posthumous)	Army	22.05.2025
Vir Chakra (15, incl. 3 posthumous)			
26	Colonel Koshank Lamba, 302 Medium Regiment	Army	07.05.2025
27	Group Captain Ranjeet Singh Sidhu, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
28	Group Captain Manish Arora, SC, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
29	Group Captain Animesh Patni, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
30	Group Captain Kunal Kalra, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
31	Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Joy Chandra, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
32	Lieutenant Colonel Sushil Bisht, 1988 (Independent) Medium Battery	Army	07.05.2025
33	Squadron Leader (now Wing Commander) Sarthak Kumar, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
34	Squadron Leader Siddhant Singh, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
35	Squadron Leader Rizwan Malik, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
36	Flight Lieutenant (now Squadron Leader) Aarshveer Singh Thakur, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	07.05.2025
37	Naib Subedar Satish Kumar, 4 DOGRA	Army	10.05.2025
44	Sub Inspector (GD) Mohd Imteyaj (posthumous)	MHA	07.05.2025
44	CT/GD Deepak Chingakham (posthumous)	MHA	07.05.2025
45	Rifleman Sunil Kumar, 4 JAK LI (posthumous)	Army	10.05.2025
Shaurya Chakra (29, incl. 1 posthumous)			
1	Inspector Laxman Kewat	MHA	16.04.2024
1	Inspector Rameshwar Prasad Deshmukh	MHA	16.04.2024
2	Lieutenant Colonel Neetesh Bharti Shukla, 19 SIKH	Army	13.07.2024
3	Major Aditya Pratap Singh, SM, Rajputana Rifles, 44 Assam Rifles	Army	24.10.2024
4	Major Ashish Kumar, 7 PARA (SF)	Army	01.11.2024
5	Constable/GD Sanjay Tiwari	MHA	02.11.2024
5	Constable/GD Feda Hussain Dar	MHA	02.11.2024
6	Assistant Commandant (now Deputy Commandant) Mohd Shafiq, 26 Assam Rifles	Army	05.11.2024
7	Lieutenant Commander Suraj Prashar	Navy	05.11.2024
8	Ram Goyal, SEA II (now LS)	Navy	05.11.2024
9	Constable/GD Saddam Hussain, CRPF	MHA	05.11.2024
10	Assistant Commandant Vipin Wilson, 20 Bn CRPF	MHA	11.11.2024
11	Rifleman Bhoj Ram Sahu, 3 Assam Rifles	Army	15.11.2024
12	Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhimanyu Singh, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force	21.11.2024
13	Major Bhargav Kalita, Kumaon Regiment, 50 RR	Army	02.12.2024
14	Major Leishangthem Deepak Singh, 11 PARA (SF)	Army	25.04.2025
15	Major Anshul Baltoo, JAK LI, 32 Assam Rifles	Army	29.04.2025

S No	Awardee	Service	Date of act
16	Major Shivkant Yadav, 5 PARA (SF)	Army	12.05.2025
17	Subedar P H Moses, 1 Assam Rifles	Army	14.05.2025
18	Major Vivek, Mech Inf, 42 RR	Army	15.05.2025
19	Rifleman Manglem Sang Vaiphei, 3 Assam Rifles	Army	09.06.2025
20	Lieutenant Colonel Ghatage Aditya Shrikumar, 21 PARA (SF)	Army	13.07.2025
21	Captain Yogender Singh Thakur, 6 PARA (SF)	Army	21.07.2025
22	Subedar Shamsher Singh, 4 PARA (SF)	Army	28.07.2025
23	Lance Naik (now Naik) Rahul Singh, 4 PARA (SF)	Army	28.07.2025
24	Rifleman Dhurba Jyoti Dutta, 33 Assam Rifles	Army	19.09.2025
25	Lieutenant Commander Dilna K	Navy	26.01.2026
25	Lieutenant Commander Roopa A	Navy	26.01.2026
43	L/DFR Baldev Chand, ARMD, 4 RR (posthumous)	Army	19.09.2025

Source: Ministry of Defence release, PRID 2270369. Complete list as published. Where two personnel share one serial number, the release lists them jointly under that serial.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Names 7 Fellows, 108 Awardees and 106 Yuva Puraskar Winners for 2024-25

10 Jun

- Sangeet Natak Akademi elected 7 Fellows (Akademi Ratna) for 2024-25, among them Rita Ganguly, Sudharani Raghupathy, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma and A V Anand; the fellowship is capped at 40 living holders.
- It selected 108 artists for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) and 106 young artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025.
- Purse money: Rs 3 lakh (Fellow), Rs 1 lakh (Award) and Rs 25,000 (Yuva Puraskar), each with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The President confers the Fellowship and Awards; the Akademi's Chairman confers the Yuva Puraskar.
- The selections were made at the General Council meeting of 22-26 March 2026 in New Delhi.

COMPLETE LIST OF FELLOWS AND AWARDEES

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Akademi Ratna (Fellows) — 7		
Ramlal Bareth	Fellowship	Performing arts
A V Anand	Fellowship	Performing arts
Rita Ganguly	Fellowship	Performing arts
Puru Dadheech	Fellowship	Performing arts
Chittaranjan Jyotishi	Fellowship	Performing arts
Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma	Fellowship	Performing arts
Sudharani Raghupathy	Fellowship	Performing arts
Akademi Puraskar 2024 — 53 artists		
Arun Kashalkar	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Nirmalya Dey	Music	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
Sanjay Mukherjee	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
K Vageesh	Music	Carnatic Vocal
N. Vijay Siva	Music	Carnatic Vocal
A S Krishnan	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Morchang
Komanduri Seshadri	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Violin

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Rakesh Chaurasia	Music	Creative and Experimental – Flute
Prabhati Mukherjee	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Anand Bhate	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Abhang
Samandar Khan Manganiar	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Mand
Rajeswari Sainath	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Bipul Chandra Das	Dance	Kathak
Rajkumari Thambalsana Devi	Dance	Manipuri
Veena Murthy Vijay	Dance	Kuchipudi
Bichitrananda Swain	Dance	Odissi
Prema Ozah Borbayan	Dance	Sattriya
Sreedevi Rajan	Dance	Mohiniattam
Nripen Sahis	Dance	Chhau
Shashidharan Nair	Dance	Creative and Experimental
Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan	Dance	Music for Dance – Kathakali
Surya Narayana Kumara	Dance	Music for Dance – Kuchipudi
Keremane Shivananda Hegde	Dance	Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre – Yakshagana
Satish Dave	Theatre	Direction
T S Nagabharana	Theatre	Direction
Ravi Chaturvedi	Theatre	Direction
Om Katare	Theatre	Direction
Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Theatre	Acting
Vaagai Chandrasekar	Theatre	Acting
Arun Nalavde	Theatre	Acting
Dhiren Merchant	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Dinesh Kumar Poddar	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Mukund Marathe	Theatre	Traditional Theatre, Maharashtra
Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Telangana
K Murugan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Puducherry
S C Sharma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Karnataka
Atamjeet Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
Mahendra Ram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Bihar
Butan Devi & Sombari Devi (Joint)	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Jharkhand
Ranjit Kumar Nag	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance – Sambalpuri, Odisha
Hawa Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Haryana
Veswuzo Phesao	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Nagaland – Chakesang Music
Gulabo Sapera	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Rajasthan – Kalbeliya
Lourembam Bedabati Devi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Manipur
Subhash Narayan Nakashe	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask &	Folk Dance, Maharashtra

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
	Instrument Making	
Kishorbhai Somabhai Mistry	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instrument making – Rudra Veena
T S Sathyavathi	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Music
Voleti Rangamani	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Dance
Shubhada Varadkar	Overall and others	Scholarship in Performing Arts (Dance)
Tapati Chowdhurie	Overall and others	Art Critique (Performing Arts)
Sunanda Nair	Overall and others	Overseas – Dance (Mohiniattam)
Akademi Puraskar 2025 — 55 artists		
Krishna Mohan Pathak	Music	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
Suresh Gandharv	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Shailesh Bhagwat	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Shehnai
Jyoti Hegde	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Rudra Veena
Pantula Rama	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Papanasam Ashok Ramani	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Tripoonithura N Radhakrishnan	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Ghatam
Anoor R. Anantha Krishna Sharma	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
D Srinivas	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Veena
Yugantar Sindoor	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Satchidananda Das	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Mardala
Seema Anil Sehgal	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Roja Kanan	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Krishan Mohan Mishra (Maharaj), Vaswati Mishra & Ram Mohan Maharaj (Trio)	Dance	Kathak
Kalamandalam Krishnakumar	Dance	Kathakali
Irengbam Nalini Devi	Dance	Manipuri
P. Nagajothy & Seetha Nagajothy (Joint)	Dance	Kuchipudi
Ileana Citaristi	Dance	Odissi
Mallika Kandali	Dance	Sattriya
Girija Chandran	Dance	Mohiniattam
Pagulu Jena	Dance	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
K Hariprasad	Dance	Music for Dance – Bharatnatyam
Bhaskar Jyoti Ojah	Dance	Music for Dance – Sattriya
S. Kumar	Dance	Other Major Tradition of Dance Theatre – Bhagvathmela
Kapildev Chandrakant Shukla	Theatre	Direction
Kallol Bhattacharyya	Theatre	Direction
Navdeep Kaur	Theatre	Direction
Pramod D Pawar	Theatre	Direction
Subodh Patnaik	Theatre	Direction
Chetana Das	Theatre	Acting
Suresh Kumar (Hajju)	Theatre	Acting
Makhanlal Saraf	Theatre	Acting
Ashok Patki	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
Usha Nangiar	Theatre	Major Tradition of Theatre – Nangiarkoothu

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Anup Ranjan Pandey	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Chhattisgarh
Bheru Singh Chouhan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh – Nirguni
Surjya Kumar Debbarma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Tripura – Chongpreng
Joginder Singh Habbi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Himachal Pradesh
Romalo Ram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music & Dance, Jammu & Kashmir
Harmanpreet Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Punjab
Ali Mohammad	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Ladakh – Surna
Domin Karbak	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
K. Rosiama	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Mizoram
Rani Maring	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instruments Making
Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Mask Making – Chhau
Mangla Prasad Sharma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instruments Making
Sindhe Chithambara Rao	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Shadow Puppet of Andhra Pradesh
Shiv Narayan Jha (Kunal)	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Theatre
Maneesha Sathe	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Dance (Kathak)
Rakesh Sinha	Overall and others	Overall Contribution (Art Photography)
Manjari Sinha	Overall and others	Art Critique (Performing Arts)
T S Nandakumar	Overall and others	Overseas – Music (Mridangam)
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 — 51 artists		
Krishna Bongane and Ankita Joshi (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Mahalaxmi Shenoy	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Isher Singh Namdhari	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tar Shehnai
Priyank Krishna	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Saxophone
Lahari Kolachela	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Sreedev Rajagopalan	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Peri Thyagaraju	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Violin
J.A. Jayant	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Flute
Ranchhodlalji Goswami	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Haveli Sangeet
Matru Prasad Das	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Odissi Sangeet
Vidhi Sharma	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Rahul Dev Mondal	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Namrata Rai	Dance	Kathak
Kottakal Pradeep	Dance	Kathakali
Phuritshabam Debajani Devi	Dance	Manipuri
Ajay Srinivas Chakravarthy P.	Dance	Kuchipudi
Gaurishankar Dash	Dance	Odissi

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Meenakshi Medhi	Dance	Sattriya
Gopika G Nath	Dance	Mohiniattam
Kuna Samal	Dance	Chhau – Saraikela
Lalit Khatana	Dance	Creative and Experimental
Lukram Tamphamani Singh	Dance	Music for Dance (Manipuri)
Prasanna Kumar Soni	Theatre	Playwriting
Atul Satya Koushik	Theatre	Playwriting
Bidyut Kumar Nath	Theatre	Direction
Arpita Dhagat	Theatre	Direction
Anirudh Sarkar	Theatre	Acting
K Veerammal	Theatre	Acting
Rohit Chandra	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
Kalamandalam Ravikumar	Theatre	Other Major Tradition of Theatre – Mizhavu
Debiprasad Mishra	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Dilip Hira	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Assam
Rumi Taki	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
Dilkumari Tamang	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Sikkim
Manjoor Khan Manganiyar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Rajasthan
Amrinder Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Punjab
Somvir Kathurwal	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Haryana
Sharia Hamid	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Jammu & Kashmir
Hema Negi Karasi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttarakhand
Vijesh NV	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Mudiyattu, Kerala
Bhawarth Ramchandra Dekhne	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Maharashtra – Bharod
Ovungbeni Ovung	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Nagaland
Chetan Vaman Khedekar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance and Music, Goa
Gajendra Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
Yumnam Bimota Devi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Manipur
Inder Jeet	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Himachal Pradesh
Balkrishna Ganpat Masge	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Puppetry, Maharashtra
Mahmood Khan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instrument Making – Tabla
Amit Khinchi	Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts (Kathak)
Shilpa Nanjappa	Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts (Bharatnatyam)
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025 — 55 artists		

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Rindana Rahasya and Avinash Kumar (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Rahul Mishra & Rohit Mishra (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Ramendra Singh Solanki	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
Tanmay Deochake	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Harmonium
Ranjani Vasuki	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Sriranjani Santhanagopalan	Music	Carnatic Vocal
B S Prashanth	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Mridangam
Shaik Mahboob Subhani	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Mandolin
B Suchithra	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Harikatha
Sivasri Skandaprasad	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Debajit Saikia	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Khol of Assam
V T Satchidanandan	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Devika Devendra S Mangalamukhi	Dance	Kathak
Kalamandalam Neeraj	Dance	Kathakali
Tongbram Roneld Meeitei	Dance	Manipuri
Vedantam Siddhendra Varaprasad	Dance	Kuchipudi
Namrata Mehta	Dance	Odissi
Niranjan Saikia Barbayan	Dance	Sattriya
Aswathi Sankarlal	Dance	Mohiniattam
Subhashree Swain	Dance	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
Satwika Penna	Dance	Other Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre – Andhranatyam
Pavani Pasumarthi	Dance	Music for dance
Ghanshyam Sahu	Theatre	Playwriting
Oasis Sougaijam	Theatre	Playwriting
Privendra Kumar Singh	Theatre	Direction
Swati Dubey	Theatre	Direction
Amit Sanouria	Theatre	Direction
Anand Kumar Pandey	Theatre	Acting
Tila Rupa Sapkota	Theatre	Acting
Divyang Srivastav	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Kalamandalam Manikantan	Theatre	Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Mizhavu
Raju Mog	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Tripura
Lawmsangpuia	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance and Music, Mizoram
Akram Khan Behrupiya	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Rajasthan
Shilu Singh Rajput	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttar Pradesh – Allah
Manisha Srivastava	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Bihar
Somnath Mahato	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Chhau Purulia, West Bengal
Hito Kiho	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Choir Music, Nagaland
Nirmal Kumar, Mukesh Kumar and Anjali (Trio)	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttarakhand

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Vipin Viswanatha Pulavar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Puppetry, Kerala
C Saravanan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Puducherry
Pravin Pratap Jhadav	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Maharashtra (Jagar)
Ravice Rashid	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Theatre, Jammu & Kashmir
Twisha Vyas	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Gujarat – Garba
Shanta Cyntrick	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Andaman & Nicobar
Babita Hembram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Tribal Dance, Jharkhand
Hirak Jyoti Sarma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Assam (Tukari Geet)
Sadiq Ali	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Ladakh
Himanshu Darmora	Overall	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts – Music
Sayak Mitra and Akash Mallick (Joint)	Overall	Overall Contribution in Performing arts (Theatre)

Source: Sangeet Natak Akademi press release and attached list, 10 June 2026. Joint and trio awards are one row; artist counts include every member. Discipline as stated by SNA.

Ministry of Ayush Sets Guinness World Record: 4,35,831 Viewers for YouTube Live Yoga Stream

14 Jun

- The Ministry of Ayush set a Guinness World Record for the most viewers of a YouTube live yoga stream, with 4,35,831 verified viewers on 14 June 2026.
- It beat the 2024 record of 2,46,252 by 1,89,579 viewers. The session was run with MDNIY and followed the Common Yoga Protocol.
- IDY 2026 is themed 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', with the main event in Kolkata on 21 June.

19th MIFF 2026: Polish Documentary 'Silver' Wins Golden Conch; Full Awards List

21 Jun

- The Polish documentary 'Silver', directed by Natalia Koniarz, won the Golden Conch for Best International Documentary (Rs 10 lakh) at the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF 2026), which closed on 21 June 2026.
- Silver Conch awards in the National Competition went to 'Waai' (documentary), the FTII-produced 'Small Clouds' (short fiction) and the Tamil animation 'Armstrong from Angaalamman Temple Street'.
- Silver Conch awards in the International Competition went to Iran's 'Under The Snow' (short fiction) and Germany's 'Maya's Song' (animation). 17 awards were presented in all.
- MIFF is India's biennial festival for documentary, short fiction and animation films. NFDC organises it under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, and the next edition is due in 2028.

MIFF 2026: COMPLETE AWARDS LIST

Award	Film	Country / Language	Winner
Conch awards			

Award	Film	Country / Language	Winner
Golden Conch — Best International Documentary (Rs 10 lakh)	Silver	Poland	Natalia Koniarz (dir.), Maciej Kubicki (prod.)
Silver Conch — Best International Short Fiction (Rs 5 lakh)	Under The Snow	Iran	Nafiseh Zare (dir.)
Silver Conch — Best International Animation (Rs 5 lakh)	Maya's Song	Germany	Franziska Schönenberger, Jayakrishnan Subramanian
Silver Conch — Best Indian Documentary (Rs 5 lakh)	Waai	India	Sainath S. Uskaikar (dir.), Bharatbala Ganapathy (prod.)
Silver Conch — Best Indian Short Fiction (Rs 3 lakh)	Small Clouds	India (FTII)	Shubham Sumit (dir.), Dhiraj Singh (prod.)
Silver Conch — Best Indian Animation (Rs 3 lakh)	Armstrong from Angaalamman Temple Street	India (Tamil)	Bhuvanesh M. Kumar
Technical awards			
Best Cinematography — International	Turtle Walker	India	Krish Makhija
Best Editing — International	About the Cow	Russia	Evgeny Smirnov, Maksim Smirnov
Best Sound Design — International	Deva Aaj Pan Vhay	India	Abhay Rumde
Best Cinematography — National	Small Clouds	India	Ranadhir Biswas
Best Editing — National	MAYDAY	India	Akhil Krishnan
Best Sound Design — National	Kovarty	India	Bigyna Dahal
Special awards			
FIPRESCI International Critics Prize	The Hug of Emptiness	India	Pradeep Kenchanuru
IDPA Award — Best Student Film	The Old Bull Knows, or Once Knew	India	Milan Kumar
Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award — Best Debut Director	Raaza	India	Pooja Tolani
Pramod Pati Special Jury Award — Most Innovative/Experimental Film	The Hoarders	Taiwan	Chuan-Ying Liao
Best Short Film on Viksit Bharat / 150 Years of Vande Mataram / Bharat@2026	The Last Shelter	India	Received by Bharat Arora, Rajesh Bhatia

Source: PIB releases of 21 June 2026 (PRID 2276314, 2276323). The V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award is presented separately at the opening ceremony.

President Confers 105 Distinguished Service Medals at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 Phase-II

29 Jun

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 105 distinguished service decorations — 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals, 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 12 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 56 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals — at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-II), Rashtrapati Bhavan, 29 June 2026.
- Recipients came from the Army (62), Air Force (27), Navy (15) and Indian Coast Guard (1).
- SYSM recipients include Lt Gen Pratik Sharma (HQ Northern Command) and Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai (Integrated HQ of MoD, Army); Vice Admiral (now Admiral) Krishna Swaminathan received the PVSM.
- SYSM and UYSM (instituted 1980) reward distinguished service in war, conflict or hostilities; PVSM and AVSM (instituted 1960) reward peacetime distinguished service.

FULL LIST OF AWARDEES

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (7)			
1	Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma	PVSM, AVSM, SM, The Madras Regiment, Headquarters Northern Command	Army
2	Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	PVSM, AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
3	Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai	UYSM, AVSM, SM***, The Kumaon Regiment, Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army)	Army
4	Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
5	Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh	PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retired)	Navy
6	Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari	PVSM, AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
7	Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra	AVSM, VSM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
Param Vishisht Seva Medal (30)			
1	Vice Admiral (Now Admiral) Krishna Swaminathan	AVSM, VSM	Navy
2	Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh	AVSM, YSM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
3	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	AVSM, NM	Navy
4	Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar	AVSM, NM	Navy
5	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	AVSM, VM, VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
6	Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
7	Air Marshal Seethepalli Shrinivas	AVSM, VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
8	Lieutenant General Viresh Pratap Singh Kaushik	UYSM, YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
9	Lieutenant General Michael Anthony Jude Fernandez	AVSM, VSM, The Corps of Engineers	Army
10	Lieutenant General Navneet Singh Sarna	AVSM, SM, Vsm The Regiment of Artillery	Army
11	Lieutenant General Rashim Bali	UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
12	Lieutenant General Manish Mohan Erry	UYSM, AVSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
13	Lieutenant General Harjeet Singh Sahi	UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
14	Lieutenant General Dheerendra Singh Kushwah	AVSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
15	Lieutenant General Sumer Ivan D'CUNHA	SM, The Army Air Defence	Army
16	Lieutenant General Prit Pal Singh	AVSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
17	Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin	AVSM, VSM	Navy
18	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AVSM, VSM	Navy
19	Air Marshal Vijay Kumar Garg	AVSM, VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical) (Retired)	Air Force
20	Air Marshal Surat Singh	AVSM, VM, VSM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
21	Lieutenant General Arvind Walia	AVSM, The Corps of Engineers (Retired)	Army
22	Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor	AVSM, VSM, The Armoured Corps (Retired)	Army
23	Lieutenant General Gajendra Joshi	AVSM, SM, The Infantry (Retired)	Army
24	Lieutenant General Jagmohan Singh Sidana	AVSM, The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (Retired)	Army
25	Lieutenant General K Vinod Kumar	AVSM, The Corps of Signals (Retired)	Army
26	Air Marshal Sunil Kashinath Vidhate	AVSM, YSM, VM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
27	Major General Gurpreet Singh	AVSM, SM, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
28	Major General Pankaj Malhotra	AVSM, SM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
29	Major General Charnjit Singh Mann	AVSM, VSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
30	Major General Roopesh Mehta	SM, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (12)			
1	Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth	PVSM, AVSM, The Armoured Corps, Headquarters Southern Command	Army

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
2	Air Marshal Manish Khanna	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
3	Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava	AVSM, SM, The Parachute Regiment, Headquarters 15 Corps	Army
4	Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat	AVSM, VSM, The Garhwal Rifles, Headquarters 9 Corps	Army
5	Lieutenant General Abhijit S Pendharkar	AVSM, YSM, The Assam Regiment, Headquarters 3 Corps	Army
6	Lieutenant General Gambhir Singh	AVSM, YSM, The Garhwal Rifles, Headquarters 4 Corps	Army
7	Lieutenant General Prasanna Kishore Mishra	AVSM, YSM, SM, The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, Headquarters 16 Corps	Army
8	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti	AVSM, VSM	Navy
9	Air Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
10	Air Commodore Ajay Kumar Chaudhary	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
11	Air Commodore Prabhat Malik	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
12	Group Captain Kamran Nazeer	Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (56)			
1	Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry	VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
2	Lieutenant General Neeraj Varshney	VSM, The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers	Army
3	Lieutenant General Vikas Rohella	SM**, The Corps of Engineers	Army
4	Lieutenant General Harbinder Singh Vandra	SM, The Corps of Signals	Army
5	Lieutenant General Mohinder Pal Singh	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
6	Lieutenant General Ranjeet Singh	The Regiment of Artillery	Army
7	Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar	VSM, The Infantry	Army
8	Lieutenant General Shamsher Singh Virk	SM, The Infantry	Army
9	Lieutenant General Aditya Vikram Singh Rathee	SM, VSM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
10	Lieutenant General Harpal Singh	VSM, The Corps of Engineers	Army
11	Lieutenant General Chiyyarath Gopalan Muralidharan	The Army Medical Corps	Army
12	Lieutenant General Puneet Ahuja	SM, VSM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
13	Vice Admiral Anand Y Sardesai	VSM	Navy
14	Vice Admiral Rajat Kapoor		Navy
15	Vice Admiral Srinivas Kudaravalli		Navy
16	Vice Admiral Susheel Menon	VSM	Navy
17	Vice Admiral Anil Jaggi		Navy
18	Surgeon Rear Admiral (Now Surgeon Vice Admiral) Vivek Hande	VSM	Navy
19	Air Marshal Mehtab Singh Deswal	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
20	Air Marshal Kondenkolangara Aboo Ahamed Sanjeeb	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical)	Air Force
21	Air Vice Marshal (Now Air Marshal) Settypalli Srinivasa Rao	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics)	Air Force
22	Additional Director General Donny Michael	PTM, TM	ICG
23	Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai	SM, Vsm (Retired)	Navy
24	Major General Sudhir Kumar Sharma	SM**, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
25	Major General Sujeet Shivaji Patil	VSM, The Infantry	Army
26	Major General Gurpreet Singh Choudhry	SM, VSM, The Army Air Defence	Army

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
27	Major General Ashish Shah	SM, The Armoured Corps	Army
28	Major General Amar Ramdasani	YSM, The Infantry	Army
29	Major General Vikas Choudhary	YSM, The Infantry	Army
30	Major General Tarun Agrawal	The Regiment of Artillery	Army
31	Major General Voodev Parida	VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
32	Major General Sumit Mehta	VSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
33	Major General Vikrant Suresh Deshpande	The Infantry	Army
34	Major General Kuleshwar Singh Dhadwal	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
35	Major General Vivek Narang	The Infantry	Army
36	Major General Paranvir Singh Punia	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
37	Major General Kolankara Mohan Nair	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
38	Major General Arindam Saha	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
39	Major General Mahipal Singh Rathore	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
40	Major General Awinder Pal Singh Bal	SM, The Infantry	Army
41	Major General Dhananjay Joshi	VSM, The Infantry	Army
42	Major General Mandeep Singh	SM, The Infantry	Army
43	Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna	VSM	Navy
44	Air Vice Marshal Kaushik Chatterjee	Medical	Air Force
45	Air Vice Marshal Sanjeev Vashishth	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
46	Air Vice Marshal Vadapalli Ravi Satyanarayan Raju	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical)	Air Force
47	Air Vice Marshal Sanjeev Kumar Taliyan	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
48	Air Vice Marshal Manmeet Singh	Administration/Fighter Controller	Air Force
49	Air Vice Marshal Manu Midha	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
50	Major General Rajesh Arun Moghe	VSM, The Mechanised Infantry (Retired)	Army
51	Major General Sandeep Kumar	VSM, The Judge Advocate General Department(Retired)	Army
52	Major General Parag Anant Deshmukh	The Army Medical Corps (Retired)	Army
53	Air Vice Marshal Satish Kumar Mathur	Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
54	Air Vice Marshal Nand Kumar Nair	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics) (Retired)	Air Force
55	Brigadier Pawan Dhull	VSM, The Army Medical Corps	Army
56	Subedar H Hokato Sema	9 Assam	Army

Source: PIB release PRID 2279074 (Ministry of Defence), 29 June 2026. Grouped by medal, highest first; the release lists the AVSM first, in order of presentation. Service numbers omitted.

3. Appointments

5 articles

President appoints five Supreme Court judges, including Senior Advocate V. Mohana from the Bar

01 Jun

- The President appointed five Supreme Court judges under Article 124(2) by notifications dated 1 June 2026.
- Four are High Court Chief Justices: Sheel Nagu (Punjab & Haryana), Shree Chandrashekhar (Bombay), Sanjeev Sachdeva (Madhya Pradesh) and Arun Palli (J&K and Ladakh).
- Senior Advocate V. Mohana is only the second woman elevated directly from the Bar, after Indu Malhotra (2018).
- The appointments come after a May 2026 ordinance raised the court's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38, including the CJI.

THE FIVE APPOINTEES

Judge	Post held before elevation
Justice Sheel Nagu	Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court
Justice Shree Chandrashekhar	Chief Justice, Bombay High Court
Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva	Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court
Justice Arun Palli	Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
V. Mohana	Senior Advocate (direct from the Bar)

Source: Ministry of Law and Justice release, 1 June 2026.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai appointed Chief Justice of Patna High Court

02 Jun

- Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, a judge of the Sikkim High Court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Patna High Court with effect from 5 June 2026. She is its 48th Chief Justice.
- The President made the appointment in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. It follows the retirement of Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo on 4 June 2026.
- The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended her at its meeting of 22 May 2026. In 2015 she became the first woman from Sikkim elevated to the High Court bench.

Saibal Chattopadhyay Appointed Chairperson of National Statistical Commission; Three New Members Named

17 Jun

- Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay, former Director of IIM Kolkata, has been appointed Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC); the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment on 17 June 2026.
- Three part-time Members were named with him: Prof. Shubhabrata Das (IIM Bangalore), Shri Satyendra Bahadur Singh (retired Indian Statistical Service officer, 1987 batch) and Dr. Madhavan Mukund (Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute).
- The NSC was set up on the Rangarajan Commission's recommendation by a Government resolution of 1 June 2005 and constituted with effect from 12 July 2006. It is the nodal body for India's core statistical activities, and the Secretary of MoSPI serves as its Secretary.

India Gets FATF Vice-Presidency for First Time; Vivek Aggarwal to Serve 2026-27

19 Jun

- Vivek Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IAS officer (Madhya Pradesh cadre) and Secretary, Ministry of Culture, has been elected Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force for July 2026-June 2027 - the first time India holds the post.
- The FATF Plenary elects the Vice-President from among FATF members to assist the President; the President for 2026-2028 is Giles Thomson of the United Kingdom.
- The elevation builds on India's 2024 Mutual Evaluation, which placed it in FATF's 'regular follow-up' category - the highest outcome.
- FATF, created in 1989 on a G7 initiative and based in Paris, sets global standards against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

General Dhiraj Seth Takes Over as 31st Chief of the Army Staff, Succeeds Gen Upendra Dwivedi

30 Jun

- General Dhiraj Seth took over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on 30 June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who superannuated.
- An NDA Khadakwasla alumnus commissioned into the Armoured Corps (2nd Lancers) in December 1986, he is the first Armoured Corps officer to head the Army since General Shankar Roy Chowdhury, who retired in 1997.
- He is among the few officers to have commanded two Army Commands — South Western and Southern — and earlier led the Sudarshan Chakra Corps; he was Vice Chief of the Army Staff before elevation.
- General Dwivedi's tenure (30 June 2024 to 30 June 2026) covered Operation Sindoor and the raising of new structures such as Rudra brigades, Bhairav battalions and Shaktibaan regiments.

4. Important Days

1 article

12th International Day of Yoga: 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' Draws 3.07 Crore on Yoga Sangam Portal

23 Jun

- The 12th International Day of Yoga (21 June 2026) was observed on the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'; the main national event, led by PM Narendra Modi, was at Red Road, Kolkata, with 35,000 participants.
- The Yoga Sangam portal, developed by Ayush Grid, recorded over 3.07 crore participants across 36 States/UTs and 780 districts, and registrations from more than 7.64 lakh organisations.
- MDNIY and the National Ayush Mission ran a 'Gangotri to Gangasagar' campaign of Common Yoga Protocol sessions along about 2,525 km of the Ganga.
- The Ministry of Ayush set a Guinness World Record on 14 June 2026 for the most viewers of a YouTube Live yoga stream (4,35,831).

5. Ranks & Reports

1 article

MoSPI Releases SDG-NIF Progress Report 2026 on 20th Statistics Day

29 Jun

- MoSPI released the Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework (SDG-NIF) Progress Report 2026 on 29 June 2026, the 20th Statistics Day; the NIF 2026 tracks 277 national indicators across all 17 SDGs.
- The theme of the 20th Statistics Day was 'Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data'; Statistics Day marks the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis (born 29 June 1893).
- Headline gains in the report: social protection coverage 22.0% (2016) to 65.3% (2026); MMR 122 (2015-17) to 87 (2022-24); sex ratio at birth 896 to 918.
- A new thematic bulletin, 'Transforming Lives', covers the 'People' pillar of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs 1-5); MoSPI's Vision Document 2026-2031 was also released.
- Prof. Arup Bose (ISI Kolkata, retd.) received the Sukhatme National Award in Statistics 2026.

6. Summits & Conferences

4 articles

13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum Adopts Declaration; India's Urban Knowledge Network Welcomed

12 Jun

- The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum concluded in New Delhi and adopted a Ministerial Declaration on inclusive, resilient and people-centred urban development.
- BRICS members welcomed India's proposal for a BRICS Urban Research and Knowledge Network, a virtual platform led by each year's Chair country.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs hosted the two-day forum under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship. Its theme was 'Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures'.
- It was India's fourth time hosting the forum, after New Delhi (2013), Visakhapatnam (2016) and a virtual edition (2021).

16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting Adopts Indore Declaration, Sets Up Four New Networks

13 Jun

- The 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) on 12-13 June 2026 under India's BRICS Presidency, unanimously adopted the joint declaration, named the 'Indore Declaration'.
- Four new initiatives: a BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture (ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram), a BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture (IIT Delhi), a Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems (PPV&FRA, New Delhi) and the BRICS AGRIN framework.
- Members agreed to turn the existing BRICS Agricultural Research Platform into a 'Knowledge-to-Action Hub'; India hosted a Special Dialogue on the BRICS Grain Exchange.
- It was the first BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting to bring together both member and partner countries (about 100 delegates, around 60 of them foreign).
- The Government said urea will stay at Rs 266 per bag and DAP at Rs 1,350 per bag, with the Centre absorbing the higher cost.

At G7 Evian, India Proposes IMPACT Connectivity Partnership; India-US Push Interim Trade Deal

18 Jun

- At the 52nd G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France (15-17 June 2026), PM Modi proposed IMPACT, the International Mobilization Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade.
- IMPACT would combine G7 capital, Indian talent and Global South ownership, with IMEC-style corridors linking Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.
- On AI, India set out four points: safe-by-design systems, common standards and testing, cooperation against deepfakes and cyber fraud, and benefits for the Global South.
- Modi and Trump met on 17 June, asked officials to finalise an interim Bilateral Trade Agreement and reviewed progress under the India-US COMPACT; USTR Jamieson Greer is to visit India.

11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram launches Digital CoE for Smart Grids and Storage

25 Jun

- India hosted the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram on 25 June 2026 under its BRICS Chairship; it adopted a Joint Communiqué and launched the BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence for Smart Grids and Energy Storage.
- The Energy Track theme was ' (Energy for All)', with three priorities: security and sustainability, access and equity, and technology and innovation.
- BRICS Guiding Principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage were adopted and the ERCP's updated Terms of Reference endorsed; China holds the Chairship in 2027.

7. Schemes & Committees

26 articles

ANRF and Jal Shakti launch Rs 200-crore MAHA Water Mission; JSJB Catch the Rain portal, ISRO MoU

01 Jun

- The ANRF-Ministry of Jal Shakti MAHA Water Mission was launched on 1 June 2026, with Rs 200 crore over five years for water-sector startups and research consortia.
- Selected consortia can get up to Rs 20 crore each, across five themes from drinking water to climate adaptation.
- The same workshop launched a Bharat-WIN open call for startups and MSMEs and the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB:CTR) portal and app.
- The Department of Water Resources and the Department of Space/ISRO signed an MoU to use satellite and geospatial data for water planning.

Mission Senehjori Launched to Build a Global Luxury Brand for Assam's Muga Silk

02 Jun

- Mission Senehjori, a cluster-based mission for Assam's Muga silk, was launched on 2 June 2026 by MDoNER with the Assam government, at an estimated Rs 396-411 crore over three years.
- MDoNER contributes Rs 136-151 crore; the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles and other ministries converge on the whole value chain, from host plants to exports, under one 'Senehjori' brand.

- Targets by 2028: 5,000 ha of Som and Soalu host plants regenerated, 30 FPOs, over 80% of traded Muga GI-authenticated, exports above 2,000 kg a year.
- Muga, the golden silk of Assam, was India's first GI-tagged silk; Assam produces about 90% of the world's Muga.

PM Research Chair Scheme Opens First Call for Indian-Origin Researchers Abroad

02 Jun

- The Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026 of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, opened applications on 1 June 2026 on its portal.
- It brings Indian-origin researchers from abroad (Indian nationals, OCI cardholders and PIOs) to Indian government HEIs and national labs, in 13 priority areas.
- Three categories — Young Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows and Research Chairs; seven Lead Institutions (six IITs and IISc); selection by an Empowered Committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- Hosts must be government HEIs in the NIRF top 100 (Overall or Engineering) or top 50 (Research), or national labs under DST, DBT, ICMR, CSIR and similar agencies.

PM Surya Ghar crosses 40 lakh households in two years; 75 lakh targeted by December 2026

04 Jun

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana crossed 40 lakh beneficiary households in two years; MNRE targets 75 lakh households by December 2026 (4 June 2026).
- A Utility-Linked Aggregation (ULA) model, with about 30 lakh installations planned across States, is meant to reach underserved households with 1-3 kW demand.
- Subsidy disbursed so far exceeds Rs 22,750 crore; May 2026 set a record of 3.16 lakh installations in one month.
- The scheme logo and a WhatsApp bot were launched, and two CEEW reports on household adoption and O&M were released.

West Bengal Joins AB PM-JAY as 36th State/UT, Completing Nationwide Rollout

08 Jun

- West Bengal became the 36th State/UT to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY on 8 June 2026, completing the scheme's adoption across the whole country.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) signed the MoU with West Bengal's Department of Health & Family Welfare; about 1.43 crore families (~6 crore people) will be covered.
- The State's beneficiary base: 1.24 crore eligible families, ~15.95 lakh families of senior citizens aged 70+ and ~3 lakh families of ASHAs and Anganwadi workers/helpers.
- Nationally, PM-JAY covers 62 crore+ people; 12 crore+ hospital admissions worth over Rs 1.82 lakh crore have been availed, and out-of-pocket health spending fell from 64.6% to 43.4%.
- Odisha (34th, January 2025) and Delhi (35th, April 2025) joined before West Bengal, which was the last holdout.

PMSMA Turns 10: Rs 75 Coin Released as MMR Falls to 87 per Lakh Live Births

09 Jun

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), launched on 9 June 2016, completed 10 years on 9 June 2026; Health Minister J.P. Nadda released a Rs 75 commemorative coin and a Rs 5 postal stamp.
- Per the Sample Registration System, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 130 (2014-16) to 87 (2022-24) per lakh live births; neonatal mortality fell from 24 to 18 per 1,000.
- The UN MMEIG report credits India with an 86% fall in maternal mortality since 1990, against a 48% global decline.

- NFHS-6: institutional deliveries 90.6%, antenatal care 95.9%, four or more ANC visits 65.2%.
- PMSMA has conducted 7.5 crore+ antenatal check-ups and identified about 1.2 crore high-risk pregnancies; 9,000+ private providers volunteer.

TRIFED Launches ‘RISA – Timeless Tribal’ Premium Brand and Store for Tribal Textiles and Crafts

10 Jun

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through TRIFED, launched ‘RISA – Timeless Tribal’, a premium brand for tribal textiles, embroideries and handicrafts, with a store at Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- Phase 1 covers seven textile and embroidery traditions: Eri and Muga silk (Assam), Santal cotton (Jharkhand), Changpa Pashmina (Ladakh), Kotpad cotton and Dongria embroidery (Odisha), and Toda embroidery (Tamil Nadu).
- Three handicrafts are also promoted: Longpi pottery (Manipur), Turtuk brass cutlery (Ladakh) and Dokra art (Chhattisgarh).
- Design work runs through the National Design Centre (Ministry of Textiles); NID Haryana will develop eco-friendly packaging.

PHASE 1 CRAFTS

Craft	State/UT	What to know
Eri silk	Assam	From Samia ricini, reared on castor; moth leaves the cocoon before spinning — ‘ahimsa silk’
Muga silk	Assam	Golden silk of Antheraea assamensis; GI registered 2007
Santal cotton	Jharkhand	Cotton weave of the Santal community
Changpa Pashmina	Ladakh	Fibre of Changthangi goats herded by semi-nomadic Changpas of Changthang; Ladakh Pashmina holds a GI
Kotpad cotton	Odisha	Woven by the Mirgan community of Kotpad, Koraput; dyed with Aal-tree root; Odisha’s first GI (2005)
Dongria embroidery	Odisha	Embroidery of the Dongria Kondh
Toda embroidery	Tamil Nadu	‘Pukhoor’ of Toda women, Nilgiris; red-black thread on white cotton; GI March 2013
Longpi pottery	Manipur	Ukhrul district, Tangkhul Naga; black serpentinite stone and clay, shaped without a potter’s wheel
Turtuk brass cutlery	Ladakh	Brass craft of Turtuk
Dokra art	Chhattisgarh	Lost-wax metal casting; Bastar Dhokra is GI-registered

Source: PIB release, 10 June 2026; static facts web-verified.

Ease of Living 2014-2026: JJM at 81.94% Rural Taps, 10.57 Crore Ujjwala Connections

15 Jun

- Jal Jeevan Mission: rural tap connections rose from 3.23 crore (16.72%) in 2019 to over 15.86 crore (81.94%) by June 2026; JJM 2.0 extends the mission to December 2028 with a Rs 8.69 lakh crore outlay (Rs 3.59 lakh crore central).
- Ujjwala has delivered over 10.57 crore LPG connections; national LPG coverage rose from 55.9% (April 2014) to 107.2% (April 2026).
- PMAY-G has completed 3.05 crore of 3.91 crore sanctioned houses; PMAY-U has completed over 98 lakh of 1.25 crore sanctioned.
- Installed power capacity grew from 248 GW (FY14) to over 532 GW (March 2026); peak demand hit a record 256.1 GW on 25 April 2026.
- UDAN has operationalised 665 routes; India's airports rose from 74 in 2014 to 165 by April 2026.

42nd NCRPB Meeting: Four 'Namo Cities' Under Regional Plan-2041, PARIVARTAN Fleet-Renewal Scheme Named

16 Jun

- The Centre's fleet-renewal scheme for old buses and trucks in the NCR was named PARIVARTAN at the 42nd NCR Planning Board meeting on 16 June 2026. It will replace BS-IV and older vehicles with BS-VI, CNG or electric ones.
- Under the Regional Plan-2041, four semi-greenfield 'Namo Cities' are proposed as mixed-use transit-oriented developments at Namo Bharat (RRTS) stations. They carry a Rs 5,000 crore performance-linked incentive, including a Rs 1,000 crore grant.
- The Board decided to keep the NCR's geographical extent unchanged and to frame a scheme rewarding states for raising green cover.
- RP-2041 will be notified once the issues raised are examined. The NCR's population is projected to rise from 7.86 crore to 14.73 crore by 2041.

MNRE Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India; Six States Notify Hydrogen Policies

17 Jun

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI) on 17 June 2026. Built by MNRE, the portal handles certification and compliance under the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India.
- Six States have notified dedicated green hydrogen policies and seven have folded hydrogen into their existing industrial or renewable energy policies; four more are finalising policies.
- Mission progress figures from the release: SIGHT incentives awarded for 8,62,000 MTPA of green hydrogen production and 3,000 MW per annum of electrolyser manufacturing (15 companies); 6.7 lakh MTPA of green ammonia contracted for 11 fertiliser plants.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission (approved 4 January 2023, outlay Rs 19,744 crore) targets 5 MMT per annum of green hydrogen by 2030. A Rs 100 crore start-up window has also been announced, with a first list of 9 start-ups receiving Rs 22 crore.

DFPD Launches AI/IoT Smart Warehousing System in 215 CWC Warehouses; FCI Adds 150

18 Jun

- The Smart Warehousing System, an AI- and IoT-based foodgrain storage platform, was launched by DFPD on 18 June 2026 in 215 CWC warehouses, with FCI deploying it in 150 more.
- It combines FASTag/ANPR gate automation, geo-tagged smart locks, AI bag counting, face recognition and AI detection of fire, smoke and rodents.
- Over 2.43 crore ineligible ration cards have been identified and removed through digitisation.
- The 20 best-performing CWC and FCI warehouses were felicitated under the Depot Darpan assessment framework.

PM-VBRY: PM Disburses Rs 2,400 Crore; 70 Lakh First-Time Employees Formalised Since August 2025

19 Jun

- Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) - the Employment Linked Incentive scheme with a Rs 99,446 crore outlay, run by the Ministry of Labour & Employment through EPFO - saw about Rs 2,400 crore of incentives disbursed by the PM at Vigyan Bhawan on 19 June 2026.
- Since the scheme began on 1 August 2025, over 70 lakh first-time employees have entered the formal (EPFO) workforce; women are nearly 30% of beneficiaries.

- Part A pays first-time employees one month's wage (max Rs 15,000) in two instalments; Part B pays employers up to Rs 3,000 a month per additional employee for two years (four years in manufacturing).
- The Labour Minister cited ILO data showing India's social security coverage rose from 19% to 64.3% in a decade.

VB-G RAM G Rollout: 100+ Area Officers, Rs 95,692 Crore Central Share Ahead of 1 July 2026

19 Jun

- The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)), which replaces MGNREGA, comes into force on 1 July 2026.
- The Ministry of Rural Development will deploy 100+ Area Officers as facilitators to States/UTs for the rollout.
- An interim central allocation of Rs 95,692 crore has been approved for FY 2026-27; 27 States/UTs have made budget provision and six have notified their State Schemes.
- All States/UTs are onboarded on DBT-SPARSH, ~93% of active workers have completed e-KYC, and face-authentication attendance is live nationwide.

Domicile Certificate Dropped for SC/OBC Scholarships; SETU Portal Launched on UMANG

19 Jun

- The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment launched SETU (Scholarship for Educational Transformation and Upliftment) on the UMANG platform as a single interface for scholarship services.
- The domicile certificate is no longer required for Pre- and Post-Matric Scholarships for SCs and OBCs, which reach about 1.2 crore students a year.
- The change mainly helps students studying in institutions outside their home State.

PM-KISAN 23rd Instalment: Rs 18,880 Crore to 9.44 Crore Farmers; West Bengal Joins PMFBY

20 Jun

- The 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN (over Rs 18,880 crore to 9.44 crore farmers, 2.18 crore of them women) was released on 20 June 2026 at Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal, on Paschimbanga Divas.
- Cumulative PM-KISAN transfers have crossed Rs 4.46 lakh crore over 23 instalments since the February 2019 launch; Union Budget 2026-27 allots Rs 60,000 crore to the scheme.
- West Bengal came under PMFBY and RWBCIS from Kharif 2026 (target: 1.10 crore farmers, 30 lakh ha, Rs 28,140 crore insured value), replacing its own Bangla Shasya Bima.
- The state also joined the Digital Agriculture Mission (AgriStack), got 346 natural-farming clusters, and four districts under PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana.

Nirbhay Chetna Launched to Sensitise 17.5 Lakh Male Panchayat Representatives

20 Jun

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the Nirbhay Chetna training module (developed by Transform Rural India) at a Training of Trainers held 17-19 June 2026 under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- A cadre of 28,500 master trainers will sensitise over 17.5 lakh male elected Panchayat representatives on women's safety and gender equality.
- Nirbhay Chetna is one of three parts of the Nirbhay Raho initiative (launched 11 March 2026), alongside Nirbhay Netri and Nirbhay Drishti.

NAFED Launches NAFEX.in e-Auction Portal, DRISHTI, ERP and NAFED Kalyan Scholarship

23 Jun

- Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched NAFED's e-auction portal NAFEX.in on 23 June 2026, alongside DRISHTI (pulses and oilseeds inventory), an ERP system and the NAFED Kalyan scholarship.
- NAFED serves over 74 lakh farmers with a Rs 30,000 crore turnover; its net profit rose from Rs 139 crore to Rs 405 crore and net worth from Rs 358 crore to Rs 2,050 crore.
- NAFED and NCCF are to buy pulses directly from farmers, with payment into bank accounts within 48 hours; 1% of NAFED's profit goes to scholarships for farmers' children.

MSME Day 2026: PMEGP 2.0 and Samadhaan 2.0 Portals Launched, Services in 22 Languages

27 Jun

- On International MSME Day (27 June 2026), the Ministry of MSME launched the PMEGP 2.0, Samadhaan 2.0, PMS 2.0 and MSME Global Mart 2.0 portals, plus MSME services in all 22 Scheduled languages.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan presided over the 'MSME Day 2026 – Udyami Bharat' event in New Delhi.
- NSIC was felicitated on its upgrade from a Schedule 'B' to a Schedule 'A' CPSE, notified on 26 February 2026.

DIKSHA Backgrounder: 2.25 Crore Registered Users, 135 Languages; Uttar Pradesh Leads State-wise

28 Jun

- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), the Ministry of Education's 'One Nation, One Digital Platform' for school education, had 2.25 crore registered users as on 27 June 2026, according to a PIB Backgrounder.
- The platform supports 135 languages (128 Indian and 7 foreign), carries 7,687 Energised Textbooks and 3.67 lakh e-contents, and has recorded 18.77 crore course enrolments.
- Uttar Pradesh has the most registered users (26.80 lakh), followed by Gujarat (14.64 lakh) and Bihar (12.52 lakh).
- Launched in 2017 and run by NCERT with its constituent unit CIET, DIKSHA is a pillar of PM e-Vidya and hosts NISHTHA teacher training.

REGISTERED USERS BY STATE/UT

State / UT	Registered users
Uttar Pradesh	26.80 lakh
Gujarat	14.64 lakh
Bihar	12.52 lakh
Rajasthan	11.41 lakh
Maharashtra	10.86 lakh
Madhya Pradesh	10.35 lakh
Karnataka	9.69 lakh
Punjab	6.75 lakh
Odisha	6.02 lakh
Andhra Pradesh	5.91 lakh
Tamil Nadu	5.55 lakh
Haryana	5.20 lakh
West Bengal	4.93 lakh
Delhi	4.79 lakh
Chhattisgarh	4.55 lakh
Jharkhand	4.07 lakh

State / UT	Registered users
Assam	3.72 lakh
Telangana	3.51 lakh
Kerala	3.02 lakh
Jammu and Kashmir	2.97 lakh
Uttarakhand	2.85 lakh
Himachal Pradesh	2.07 lakh
Chandigarh	82,815
Meghalaya	64,612
Manipur	55,389
Andaman & Nicobar	53,379
Tripura	51,833
Arunachal Pradesh	45,389
Nagaland	40,707
Goa	36,424
Sikkim	27,220
Mizoram	27,170
Puducherry	22,897
Ladakh	14,197
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11,885
Lakshadweep	1,881

Source: PIB Backgrounder (PRID 2278569). Complete list as published; sorted by users.

Aarogya Setu 2.0, Unified Health Interface and Drug Registry Launched Under ABDM

29 Jun

- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched Aarogya Setu 2.0 (the COVID-era app rebuilt as a national Personal Health Record app), the Unified Health Interface (UHI), a national Drug Registry, the Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot and eSushrut@Clinic under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Ten initiatives in all, also including the Ayushman App, National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX), Common LOINC Codes for India (CLCI) and Bharat Health Terminology Service (BHTS), developed under the National Health Authority (NHA) and NRCeS.
- ABDM has created over 90 crore ABHA accounts and linked more than 100 crore health records.
- UHI is ABDM's open-network service layer: patients and providers on different apps can discover and book each other through a common NHA Gateway; four services are live, including blood-bank discovery via e-RaktKosh.
- The Drug Registry, built with CDSCO and NRCeS on SNOMED CT, becomes ABDM's fourth core registry with 1,23,000+ branded drugs, 10,000+ generics and 29,000+ substances.

Anemia Mukt Bharat Becomes Abhiyaan: 7x7x7 Framework and T4 Strategy Released

29 Jun

- Anemia Mukt Bharat (2018) was formally renamed Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan as Health Minister J.P. Nadda released its Operational Guidelines at the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) meeting, Vigyan Bhawan, 29 June 2026.
- The 6x6x6 strategy becomes 7x7x7: Low Birth Weight babies (0-6 months) are the 7th beneficiary group, 'Eating Right' the 7th intervention, and a digital Monitoring and Evaluation framework the 7th institutional mechanism.

- T3 (Test, Treat, Talk) becomes T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, Track); focus shifts from prophylactic to therapeutic care, with intravenous iron (FCM, iron sucrose) for severe and non-responding pregnant and lactating women.
- Haemoglobin records from JANANI (pregnant women) and RBSK/U-WIN (children) will converge on one Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Portal; 'Jan Bhagidari' community mobilisation launched.

SUMAN Roadmap 2030 Targets MMR Below 70 With Focus on 130 Districts in 13 States

29 Jun

- Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 at the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare conference on 29 June 2026, aiming to cut India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030 (SDG target 3.1).
- Time-bound interventions in 130 districts across 13 high-focus States, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Rajasthan; strategies for all States/UTs to reach universal coverage.
- High-risk pregnancies to be tracked through four stages; ASHAs to make bi-weekly home visits in the 8th and 9th months; Birth Waiting Homes, MCH Wings, obstetric HDUs and ICUs in hard-to-reach areas.
- Builds on Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), launched 10 October 2019; India's MMR stood at 87 in 2022-24 (SRS).

SSBSK Launched: HBNC and HBYC Merged Into One Birth-to-36-Months Child Care Programme

29 Jun

- Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) at the 16th CCHFW meeting on 29 June 2026 — one programme of home and community care for every child from birth to 36 months.
- SSBSK merges Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC, 2011) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC, 2018); its motto is 'Pehle Teen Saal Sampoorna Dekhbhal'.
- Risk-stratified care: 'At-risk' newborns get up to 9 home visits in the first 42 days and 'At-risk' children up to 8 visits till 36 months, with joint ANM-CHO visits.
- New platforms: Well-Baby Sessions at every VHSND and a monthly Shishu Shivir at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs; post-partum maternal mental health screening by ASHAs.
- Digital tracking linked to JANANI, U-WIN, MPCDSR, RBSK 2.0 and POSHAN Tracker through ABHA and Baal-ABHA IDs.

Kisan Sarathi Agro-Advisory Platform Reaches 2.95 Crore Farmers, 610 Schemes

29 Jun

- Kisan Sarathi, a digital agro-advisory platform launched on 16 July 2021 (ICAR's 93rd Foundation Day), is a joint initiative of MeitY and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, implemented by IASRI and the Digital India Corporation.
- As of 25 June 2026 it has 2.95 crore registered farmers (56.16 lakh women), covers 768 districts in 36 States/UTs and lists 610 schemes, 102 of them central.
- It runs on the Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS), linking farmers to 730+ KVKs, 100+ ICAR institutes and 65+ agricultural universities, in 13 regional languages.

PMKSY at 10: 24.61 Million Hectares Irrigation Potential, 110.92 Lakh Ha Under Micro-Irrigation

30 Jun

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), launched 1 July 2015, has provided central assistance above Rs 64,407 crore, benefited over 27 million farmers and created or restored 24.61 million hectares of irrigation potential (as of August 2025).
- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) has brought 110.92 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation since inception — about 7.98% of India's net sown area.
- PMKSY was continued for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs 93,068.56 crore; Union Budget 2026-27 allocated Rs 6,587 crore.
- Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) was approved in 2025-26 as a sub-scheme of PMKSY-AIBP with an initial outlay of Rs 1,600 crore.

198th ESIC Meeting: ABVKY Extended to June 2027, ESIC to Run All New Hospitals

30 Jun

- ESIC extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), its unemployment allowance for Insured Persons, for one more year: 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- At its 198th meeting, chaired by Labour Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, ESIC decided that all upcoming and newly commissioned ESI hospitals will be managed directly by ESIC.
- It approved an MoU with the Ministry of Ayush to bring Ayush services into ESIC healthcare, and Occupational Disease Centres at five locations.
- It also approved the ESI (General) Regulations, 2026 under the Code on Social Security, 2020, and five new Sub-Regional Offices.

8. Agreements & MoUs

4 articles

India-Oman CEPA enters into force: 99.38% of India's exports get duty-free access

01 Jun

- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force on 1 June 2026. It was signed in Muscat on 18 December 2025.
- Duty-free access now covers 99.38% of India's exports to Oman by value (98.08% of Oman's tariff lines), against 15.33% under MFN tariffs.
- India is only the second country, after the United States, to have a comprehensive bilateral trade pact with Oman.
- Oman opened 127 services sub-sectors and raised the Intra-Corporate Transferee (ICT) ceiling from 20% to 50%.
- Dairy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, rubber, leather and spices are kept out of India's market-access offer.

India and UK Launch Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory in New Delhi

04 Jun

- The India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) was launched in New Delhi on 4 June 2026 by Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy and UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.
- It is a joint initiative of TEXMiN, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and the University of Cambridge: a data platform that tracks global critical-mineral supply chains and flags supply risks.

- Announced at the India-UK Prime Ministers' engagement in October 2025, it was formalised by a Research Collaboration Agreement in March 2026 and supports the National Critical Mineral Mission.
- On the same day PM Modi met Cooper and said the India-UK Vision 2035 would continue to guide the partnership.

Centre, Assam and Nagaland Sign Tripartite MoU to Open Oil Operations in Boundary Areas

11 Jun

- A tripartite MoU between the Government of India, Assam and Nagaland was signed in New Delhi on 11 June 2026. It facilitates mineral oil operations in identified 'Areas of Interest' along the Assam-Nagaland boundary.
- Nagaland told the Centre it would allow oil exploration across the whole state, not just the six designated fields. Assam agreed.
- The Home Minister said current extraction of 1,000-1,500 barrels per day could rise more than tenfold.
- The MoU sets up a coordinated framework for operational continuity, the safety of personnel and assets, and coordination among stakeholders. MHA brokered it with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Background: Nagaland's land-and-resources shield under Article 371A. ONGC left Nagaland's Changpang field in 1994. The boundary dispute has been unsettled since 1963.

India-UK CETA and Double Contribution Convention to Enter into Force on 15 July 2026

17 Jun

- The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) will both enter into force on 15 July 2026, after ratification by both governments.
- CETA gives zero-duty UK access to about 99% of India's tariff lines, covering nearly 100% of trade value; India keeps dairy, cereals, millets, edible oils, oilseeds and apples out of its concessions.
- The DCC exempts Indian workers on temporary UK assignments from paying social security twice, and the exemption has been raised from 3 years to 5 years; over 75,000 professionals and 900 companies are expected to benefit.
- CETA has 30 chapters and, for the first time in a bilateral deal for India, a chapter on government procurement; the UK's services commitments cover 137 sub-sectors.

INDIA'S RECENT TRADE PACTS

Agreement	Partner(s)	Status
India-UAE CEPA	UAE	In force 1 May 2022
India-Australia ECTA	Australia	In force 29 December 2022
India-EFTA TEPA	Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein	Signed 10 March 2024; in force 1 October 2025; USD 100 billion investment and 1 million jobs pledged over 15 years
India-UK CETA	United Kingdom	Signed 24 July 2025; in force 15 July 2026

Source: PIB and Ministry of Commerce releases

9. Defence

10 articles

DRDO and IAF flight-test RudraM-II air-to-surface missile under extreme release conditions

02 Jun

- RudraM-II, DRDO's indigenous solid-propelled air-to-surface missile, was flight-tested with the IAF on 2 June 2026 under extreme release conditions; the missiles hit a predefined target with pin-point accuracy.
- Flight data from range instruments of the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur (Odisha) confirmed all test objectives were met.
- Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad is the nodal lab, with DRDL, HEMRL, ARDE and ITR; HAL, RCMA and MSQAA took part alongside Development cum Production Partners.

DRDO Demonstrates Multi-Layered BMD up to ICBM Class; Maiden Flight-Test of NASM-MR

13 Jun

- DRDO carried out the maiden flight-test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), one of three consecutive flight-tests on 10-11 June 2026.
- The same tests showed multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) against long-range ballistic missiles: the interceptors hit their targets.
- The Ministry of Defence says the tests place India in the elite group of nations with BMD capability to engage targets up to Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs, range over 5,500 km).
- The tests build on the two-phase BMD programme: Phase-I (PAD and AAD interceptors, about 2,000 km-class threats) and Phase-II (AD-1/AD-2, about 5,000 km-class threats).

First Batch of NDA-Trained Women Cadets Commissioned into Army, Navy and IAF

13 Jun

- The first 17 women cadets trained at the National Defence Academy (148th Course, joined August 2022) have all been commissioned as officers.
- Army: 9 commissioned at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, passing out parade of the 158th Regular Course on 13 June 2026, reviewed by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Air Force: 5 commissioned at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Combined Graduation Parade of 217 Course on 13 June 2026, reviewed by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. That parade commissioned 231 flight cadets in all (194 men, 37 women).
- Navy: 3 commissioned at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Spring Term passing out parade on 28 May 2026.
- Women's entry to NDA followed the Supreme Court's interim order of 18 August 2021 in Kush Kalra v Union of India.

DRDO Flight-Tests Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island

15 Jun

- DRDO successfully flight-tested the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha on 15 June 2026; all test objectives were met.
- LRLACM is fully indigenous: sub-systems came from DRDO laboratories and Indian industry, with the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru as the nodal laboratory.
- Flight data was captured by tracking instruments of the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur; user representatives of the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force witnessed the launch.

Two New NCC State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand Raise Total to 19

15 Jun

- The Ministry of Defence approved two new independent NCC State Directorates, for Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, raising the number from 17 to 19.
- NCC came into existence on 16 July 1948 under the NCC Act, 1948, with 20,000 cadets; today it has over 20 lakh.
- NCC added 6 lakh cadets between 2014 and 2025 and is present in more than 750 districts.

Defence Production Hits Record Rs 1.78 Lakh Crore in FY26; Exports at Rs 38,424 Crore

17 Jun

- India's defence production reached an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, up 15.6% from Rs 1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25 and 110% above FY 2020-21's Rs 84,643 crore.
- The private sector's share rose to 24% (about Rs 42,000 crore, its highest ever) from 22% the year before; DPSUs and other PSUs made up about 76%.
- Defence exports hit a record Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, up from Rs 686 crore in 2013-14, going to over 80 countries; the target is Rs 50,000 crore by 2029.
- A PIB backgrounder, 'The Defence Decade', published the 2014-26 series: the defence budget rose from Rs 2.53 lakh crore (2013-14) to Rs 7.85 lakh crore (2026-27).

Indian Army Contingent Departs for 23rd Exercise Khaan Quest in Mongolia

18 Jun

- Exercise Khaan Quest 2026, the 23rd edition of the multilateral UN peacekeeping exercise, runs 20 June-3 July 2026 at the Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- India's 40-member contingent is drawn from a battalion of the JAT Regiment plus other arms and services.
- Begun in 2003 as a US-Mongolia bilateral, it became multilateral from 2006; it trains contingents for peace support operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray Commissioned Together at Kolkata

21 Jun

- PM Narendra Modi commissioned INS Dunagiri (stealth frigate), INS Sanshodhak (Survey Vessel Large) and INS Agray (anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft) at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, on 21 June 2026.
- All three were designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and GRSE and built by GRSE, Kolkata, with over 75% indigenous content and more than 200 MSMEs involved.
- This was the Navy's second tri-commissioning, 17 months after INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer were commissioned together in Mumbai on 15 January 2025.
- INS Sanshodhak's commissioning fell on World Hydrography Day (21 June).

DRDO hands IAF Final Operational Clearance for indigenous Netra AEW&C system

25 Jun

- Netra Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) system received Final Operational Clearance (FOC); DRDO handed the certificate to the IAF in Bengaluru on 25 June 2026
- Initial Operational Clearance was given in 2017 — FOC certifies the finalised, fully capable configuration
- Netra is built by DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru, on the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145 jet

- The IAF cited its use during Operation Sindoor and the Balakot strikes

ICGS Akshay, Fourth Adamya-Class Fast Patrol Vessel, Commissioned into Coast Guard

27 Jun

- ICGS Akshay ('Indestructible'), the fourth of eight Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, on 27 June 2026.
- Designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the 52-metre vessel will handle maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue and marine pollution response.
- The Adamya class is the first Coast Guard ship class with controllable pitch propeller (CPP) propulsion.

10. Science & Tech

7 articles

IMD opens seventh Regional Meteorological Centre at Jammu for J&K, Ladakh and Himachal

05 Jun

- IMD's seventh Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) opened at Jammu on 5 June 2026 to serve Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- These three were carved out of RMC New Delhi's area; a proposed RMC Lucknow will take over Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- J&K and Ladakh had no Doppler Weather Radar in 2014; four now run (Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Banihal Top) and five more are proposed under Mission Mausam.
- The centre will issue district-level and mountain forecasts plus warnings for flash floods, cloudbursts, avalanches and landslides.

IMD Opens Regional Meteorological Centre at Lucknow for UP and Uttarakhand

08 Jun

- A new IMD Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) opened at Lucknow on 8 June 2026. It covers Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and adjoining regions.
- It follows the Jammu RMC, opened on 5 June 2026 as India's seventh, and joins the older centres at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Nagpur and Guwahati.
- India's Doppler Weather Radar network has grown from 17 radars in 2014 to 50. Another 50 are proposed under Mission Mausam, for nearly 100 within two years.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Automatic Weather Stations rose from 59 to 107 and lightning sensors from 0 to 7; three Doppler radars are now working there, up from one in 2014.

IndiaAI Mission-Backed Varya, India's First Distilled Text-to-Video AI Model, Launched

12 Jun

- Varya, billed as India's first distilled video model, was launched on 12 June 2026 in New Delhi by Avataar, a company selected under the IndiaAI Mission to build indigenous foundation models.
- Distillation cuts video generation from 50 steps to 4 at comparable quality; Avataar's own benchmark puts the cost at Rs 0.48 per second of video.

- The research ran on subsidised national AI compute provided under the IndiaAI Mission (MeitY).

Tarapur Units 1 and 2, World's Oldest Operating Commercial Reactors, Get Decade-Long Life Extension

17 Jun

- Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) Units 1 and 2 in Maharashtra, commissioned in 1969, are the world's oldest operating commercial nuclear reactors. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has approved them to operate for about 10 more years.
- Units 1 and 2 have generated more than 100 billion units of electricity and avoided over 86 million tonnes of CO2-equivalent emissions. On 17 June 2026 the DAE Secretary and AEC Chairman, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, reviewed the life extension at the site and inaugurated a Primary Coolant Pump Test Facility.
- TAPS 1 and 2 are 160 MWe boiling water reactors built by General Electric under a 1963 India-US agreement. They were India's first nuclear power station and the first in Asia outside the Soviet bloc.

Drugs Rules Amended: CCS-NIAH Baghpat Can Now Test 42 Veterinary Vaccines

20 Jun

- The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended (G.S.R. 65(E), 28 January 2026) to expand the Central Drugs Laboratory functions of CCS-NIAH, Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh), from 2 to 42 veterinary vaccines.
- Newly covered vaccines include those for Canine Distemper, Canine Coronavirus, Duck Plague, Fowl Pox, Salmonella and Tetanus.
- The change is meant to speed up testing, import clearance and quality assurance of veterinary biologicals.

World's First Cu-Cl Nuclear Hydrogen Facility Opens at FBTR, IGCAR Kalpakkam

26 Jun

- On 26 June 2026 the Department of Atomic Energy inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle using nuclear process heat, at the Fast Breeder Test Reactor, IGCAR Kalpakkam.
- The process was developed indigenously by BARC, Mumbai, and the plant was built jointly by BARC and IGCAR as a technology demonstrator for scaling up nuclear-assisted hydrogen.
- It is a non-electric use of nuclear energy: reactor heat, not electricity, splits water into hydrogen, extending the fast-reactor stage of India's three-stage programme.
- It was inaugurated by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, DAE and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission.

Digital India at 11: 12 Chip Projects Worth Rs 1.64 Lakh Crore, 45,000-GPU AI Compute

27 Jun

- Digital India, launched on 1 July 2015 by MeitY, completes 11 years: under the India Semiconductor Mission, 12 projects worth about Rs 1.64 lakh crore are approved — 1 silicon fab, 2 compound-semiconductor fabs and 9 packaging units.
- The IndiaAI Mission (Rs 10,371.92 crore, approved March 2024) has built a shared compute facility of over 45,000 GPUs; its AIKosh platform hosts 12,519 datasets and 307 AI models.
- Electronics is now India's third-largest export category; production rose from Rs 1.9 lakh crore (FY15) to about Rs 12 lakh crore (March 2026).

- The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 came into force on 1 May 2026, with the Online Gaming Authority of India constituted in April 2026.
- India's Global Innovation Index rank improved from 81 (2015) to 38 (2025).

11. Environment

6 articles

Surha Tal in Ballia Becomes India's 100th Ramsar Site

05 Jun

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, is India's 100th Ramsar site — Wetland of International Importance
- The Prime Minister marked India's century of Ramsar sites on World Environment Day, 5 June 2026
- Surha Tal is a freshwater wetland of 3,432.93 hectares in the middle Ganga basin, declared a bird sanctuary by Uttar Pradesh in 1991
- Uttar Pradesh now has 13 Ramsar sites; India's first two, Chilika and Keoladeo, were listed in 1981

UTTAR PRADESH'S 13 RAMSAR SITES

Site	Year listed
Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora stretch)	2005
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	2019
Sarsai Nawar Jheel	2019
Sandi Bird Sanctuary	2019
Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	2019
Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	2019
Saman Bird Sanctuary	2019
Sur Sarovar	2020
Haiderpur Wetland	2021
Bakhira Sanctuary	—
Patna Bird Sanctuary	—
Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	—
Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)	2026

Listing years as recorded on the Ramsar list; '—' where the year could not be verified.

NBA launches VCS-I-ABS benefit-sharing certification; India's biodiversity framework and figures

05 Jun

- On World Environment Day 2026 the National Biodiversity Authority unveiled the Voluntary Certification Scheme – Incentivisation for Access and Benefit Sharing (VCS-I-ABS), the first such scheme among CBD Parties.
- The NBA also released 'Looking at Digital Sequence Information through an Indian Lens' and launched its revamped website.
- India has over 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees and 2,72,648 People's Biodiversity Registers under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Between 2017 and 2026, 12,830 ABS approvals were issued; about Rs 145 crore had reached beneficiaries by May 2026, benefiting around 11,000 BMCs.

MNRE Report Puts India’s Floating Solar Potential at Over 102 GWp; Small Hydro Portal Launched

10 Jun

- MNRE’s Report on Floating Solar PV Potential Assessment of India, released 10 June 2026, puts floating solar potential at over 102 GWp, lifting India’s total assessed solar potential to 3,445 GWp.
- MNRE is preparing a dedicated scheme for floating solar; an Online Portal for the Small Hydro Power Development Scheme was also launched, called the first major small-hydro policy intervention since 2017.
- NISE and the Military Engineer Services exchanged an MoU for NISE to give technical support to renewable energy projects in defence establishments.
- India’s solar capacity rose from 2.8 GW (2014) to 155 GW, and non-fossil capacity from 81 GW to 288 GW.

Global Wind Day 2026: India's Wind Capacity at 56.09 GW, Record 6.05 GW Added in 2025-26

14 Jun

- Global Wind Day (15 June) 2026: India's installed wind capacity stood at 56.09 GW in March 2026, up from 21.04 GW in March 2014, and India ranks 4th in the world.
- India added a record 6.05 GW of wind in 2025-26, beating the previous record of 4.15 GW set in 2024-25; another 28 GW is under implementation.
- Gross wind potential is 1,163.9 GW at 150 m hub height (695.5 GW at 120 m), led by Rajasthan (284.2 GW) and Gujarat (180.8 GW).
- Targets are 100 GW of wind by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036; Rs 6,853 crore in VGF backs India's first 1 GW of offshore wind off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- India hosts the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference in Goa on 15 June, themed 'Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration'.

WIND POTENTIAL AT 150 M, THE EIGHT HIGH-RESOURCE STATES

State	Potential (GW)
Rajasthan	284.2
Gujarat	180.8
Maharashtra	173.9
Karnataka	169.3
Andhra Pradesh	123.3
Tamil Nadu	95.1
Madhya Pradesh	55.4
Telangana	54.7

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 14 June 2026. National total: 1,163.9 GW at 150 m and 695.5 GW at 120 m. Measured through 900+ wind-monitoring stations, with maps at 50, 80, 100, 120 and 150 m.

India and Japan Adopt Rules of Implementation for Joint Crediting Mechanism Under Paris Article 6.2

16 Jun

- India and Japan adopted the Rules of Implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) on 8 June 2026, under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. MoEFCC announced it on 16 June.
- The rules create a Joint Committee of both governments, project approval procedures, third-party validation and verification, sustainable-development safeguards, and national registries to track the issuance and transfer of credits.
- They put into operation the Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 7 August 2025, which made India the 31st JCM partner of Japan.

- Some credits may count towards Japan's NDC as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs); the rest can count towards India's NDC.

India Brings 21.76 Million Hectares Under Restoration; Second Bonn Challenge Progress Report Released

17 Jun

- On World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June 2026), MoEFCC released India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge (covering 2011-2020), prepared with IUCN, and a special issue of the Indian Forester.
- India has brought 21.76 million hectares under restoration against its Bonn Challenge target of 26 million hectares by 2030; restoration has generated about 1.22 billion person-days of work.
- The 2026 theme was 'Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.', matching the UN's International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the run-up to UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Initiative beat its annual targets in FY 2025-26; 97.85 million hectares (29.77% of India) is affected by land degradation and desertification.

12. Banking & Finance

6 articles

UPI goes live in Cambodia via Bakong KHQR; Cambodia becomes ninth UPI-accepting country

03 Jun

- Cambodia became the ninth country to accept UPI after NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and ACLEDA Bank Plc. launched UPI acceptance through Bakong's KHQR, Cambodia's national QR code.
- Phase 1 lets Indian travellers pay by UPI at over 4.5 million Cambodian merchants; Phase 2 will let Cambodians scan UPI QR codes in India, making the corridor two-way.
- Launched in Phnom Penh in the presence of National Bank of Cambodia Governor Chea Serey and RBI representatives.
- The other eight UPI-accepting countries: Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar and Sri Lanka.

FEMA NDI Rules Amended: Foreign Individuals Get PIS Route; FAR Opened to 15, 30, 40-Year G-Secs

05 Jun

- DEA notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, letting any individual Person Resident Outside India invest in listed Indian equity via the Portfolio Investment Scheme — earlier open only to NRIs/OCIs
- The per-individual limit rises from 5% to 10% of a company; the aggregate limit for all individual PROIs from 10% to 24%
- The Fully Accessible Route now includes new 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs and Sovereign Green Bonds of FAR-eligible tenors
- Under the General Route, the short-term, concentration and security-wise limits are removed; overall caps of 6% (Central G-Secs) and 2% (State securities) stay
- FPIs' interest and capital gains on G-Secs are exempt from income tax from 1 April 2026; the same relief applies to the Bank for International Settlements

Jan Samarth portal turns four: 54.10 lakh loan applications worth Rs 3.01 lakh crore processed

05 Jun

- The Jan Samarth Portal, the Department of Financial Services' single-window portal for credit-linked Central schemes, completed four years on 6 June 2026. It was launched on 6 June 2022.
- By 1 June 2026 it had processed about 54.10 lakh applications worth Rs 3,00,951 crore, and banks had given digital approvals to 49.55 lakh beneficiaries for Rs 2,76,493.78 crore.
- It now offers 16 Central schemes across 8 loan categories, in 8 languages, through 269 member lending institutions.

CGSMFI-2.0 extended to 31 August 2026; large NBFC-MFI loan cap raised to Rs 1,000 crore

10 Jun

- The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) is extended to 31 August 2026, or until Rs 20,000 crore of guarantees are issued, whichever comes first.
- The maximum loan to a large NBFC-MFI/MFI rises from Rs 300 crore to Rs 1,000 crore, within the overall ceiling of 20% of its Assets under Management.
- Launched on 20 March 2026, the scheme had seen Rs 770 crore of loans sanctioned by June 2026; NCGTC provides the guarantee cover.

India-Nepal Link UPI with Nepal's National Payments Interface for Instant P2P Remittances

11 Jun

- India's UPI and Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI) were linked for peer-to-peer cross-border remittances, launched on 6 June 2026. Transfers are real-time via mobile banking apps and wallets.
- The integration was built by NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), NPCI's international arm, and Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL).
- It builds on the June 2023 NIPL-NCHL agreement and on UPI QR merchant payments in Nepal via Fonepay, live since early 2024.
- Per the release, UPI is accepted in nine countries: Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

PFC and REC Boards Approve Merger of REC into PFC; Loan Book to Exceed Rs 11 Lakh Crore

30 Jun

- The Boards of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Limited approved a Scheme of Merger under which REC merges into PFC, under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The merged power-sector lender will have an aggregate loan book of over Rs 11 lakh crore.
- REC shareholders will get 88 PFC shares for every 100 REC shares (both of Rs 10 face value), on a record date to be fixed later.
- The scheme needs shareholder, creditor, regulatory and government approvals, and the merged entity must remain a 'Government Company' with the Government of India retaining majority voting rights and control.

13. Economy

17 articles

IIP rebased to 2022-23: first new-series print shows 4.9% growth in April 2026

01 Jun

- MoSPI moved the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The first new-series print puts April 2026 growth at 4.9%.
- Sector growth in April 2026: manufacturing 6.2%, electricity and gas 4.9%, water supply-sewerage-waste 6.6%, mining -5.1%.
- Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management is a new sector in the index. Gas supply, minor minerals and rare earth minerals are now covered too.
- The basket grows to 1,042 products in 463 item groups (from 839 items in 407 groups), compiled under NIC 2025.

SECTOR WEIGHTS: OLD VS NEW SERIES

Sector	Base 2011-12	Base 2022-23	Growth, April 2026
Mining & Quarrying	14.372	11.053	-5.1%
Manufacturing	77.633	76.062	6.2%
Electricity (& Gas Supply in new series)	7.995	10.865	4.9%
Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management	— (new sector)	2.020	6.6%

Source: MoSPI release, 1 June 2026. New-series electricity splits into renewable 2.332 and non-renewable 7.839, with gas supply at 0.694.

India's seafood exports hit record Rs 73,890 crore in FY 2025-26; frozen shrimp leads

01 Jun

- India's seafood exports reached an all-time high in FY 2025-26: 19,72,018 MT worth Rs 73,890.46 crore (USD 8.46 billion), announced by MPEDA on 1 June 2026.
- Frozen shrimp stayed the top item: Rs 49,037.93 crore (USD 5,624.48 million), 40.19% of quantity and 66.52% of dollar earnings.
- The US remained the largest market by value (USD 2,328.74 million) though its imports fell 14.22% in dollar terms; China was the largest by quantity (4,90,369 MT).
- Top seafood export ports: Visakhapatnam, JNPT and Kochi.

India's first flex-fuel passenger car launched; runs on E20 to E100 blends

04 Jun

- India's first flex-fuel passenger vehicle, Maruti Suzuki's Wagon R, was launched in New Delhi on 4 June 2026 by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri; it runs on any ethanol-petrol blend from E20 to E100.
- Government estimate: if 50% of new two- and four-wheeler sales shift to flex fuel, that means 311.8 crore litres of extra ethanol demand, Rs 12,403 crore of extra farmer income and 66.4 lakh tonnes less CO_2.
- Ethanol blending rose from under 1.5% in 2013-14 to 20% in 2025-26, five years ahead of the original schedule.
- Roadmap: E85 is the BIS mono-fuel standard for FFVs. The plan is 50-100 FFV-ready outlets at first, about 500 by December 2026 and about 5,000 by end-2027.

Provisional Estimates FY2025-26: Real GDP Grows 7.7%, Q4 at 7.8% on New 2022-23 Base

05 Jun

- MoSPI's Provisional Estimates put India's real GDP growth for FY2025-26 at 7.7% (up from 7.1% in 2024-25), with real GDP at Rs 323.12 lakh crore

- Q4 (January-March 2026) real GDP grew 7.8%; real GVA grew 7.9% both in Q4 and for the full year
- Nominal GDP reached Rs 346.36 lakh crore, growing 8.9%
- These are the first Provisional Estimates on the new national accounts series with base year 2022-23, which replaced 2011-12 on 27 February 2026
- The Second Advance Estimate of February 2026 had put FY2025-26 growth at 7.6%; it has now been revised up to 7.7%

E85 high-ethanol fuel goes on sale at 48 PSU outlets for flex-fuel vehicles

05 Jun

- E85 fuel (80-85% ethanol, 14-19% petrol) went on retail sale on 5 June 2026 at 48 public-sector OMC outlets, for flex-fuel vehicles only.
- It is priced about Rs 20 a litre below petrol; outlets are to rise to 500 by December 2026 and about 5,000 by December 2027.
- The ramp-up is meant to lift India's aggregate ethanol blending to nearly 26% by 2030-31, beyond the E20 level already reached.
- Blending rose from 1.53% in 2014 to 20%, met five years ahead of the 2030 target, saving over Rs 1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange.

Farm sector in figures: record 150.18 Mt rice, Rs 1.40 lakh crore budget, MSP 2026-27

05 Jun

- Rice output hit a record 150.18 million tonnes in 2024-25, making India the world's largest rice producer; foodgrains reached 357.73 Mt.
- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare budget is Rs 1,40,528.78 crore for 2026-27, against Rs 27,663 crore in 2013-14.
- PM-KISAN has paid over Rs 4.28 lakh crore in 22 instalments to more than 9.44 crore farmer families.
- PMFBY claims of Rs 1.96 lakh crore were paid to about 24.31 crore farmers up to 31 December 2025.
- Ragi recorded the highest MSP growth since 2014-15 (236%); paddy (common) MSP for 2026-27 is Rs 2,441 per quintal.

MSP 2026-27 VS 2014-15

Crop	MSP 2014-15	MSP 2026-27	Growth
Kharif crops			
Paddy (Common)	1,360	2,441	79%
Paddy (Grade A)	1,400	2,461	76%
Jowar (Hybrid)	1,530	4,023	163%
Jowar (Maldandi)	1,550	4,073	163%
Bajra	1,250	2,900	132%
Maize	1,310	2,410	84%
Ragi	1,550	5,205	236%
Tur (Arhar)	4,350	8,450	94%
Moong	4,600	8,780	91%
Urad	4,350	8,200	89%
Groundnut-in-shell	4,000	7,517	88%
Soyabean (Yellow)	2,560	5,708	123%
Sunflower Seed	3,750	8,343	122%

Crop	MSP 2014-15	MSP 2026-27	Growth
Sesamum	4,600	10,346	125%
Nigerseed	3,600	10,052	179%
Cotton (Medium Staple)	3,750	8,267	120%
Cotton (Long Staple)	4,050	8,667	114%
Rabi crops			
Wheat	1,400	2,585	84%
Barley	1,150	2,150	87%
Gram	3,175	5,875	85%
Masur (Lentil)	3,075	7,000	128%
Rapeseed/Mustard	3,100	6,200	100%
Safflower	3,050	6,540	114%
Commercial crops			
Jute	2,400	5,925	147%
Copra (milling)	5,550	12,027	117%
Copra (ball)	5,830	12,500	114%

Source: PIB Backgrounder 'Empowering India's Annadatas', 5 June 2026. Highest growth: Ragi 236%, Nigerseed 179%, Jowar (Hybrid) 163%; Jute 147%, Masur 128%.

G-Secs Made Tax-Free for Foreign Investors; Fully Accessible Route Widened to 15-40 Year Bonds

06 Jun

- The Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated on 5 June 2026, makes interest and capital gains on Government Securities tax-free for Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs/FPIs) for income arising on or after 1 April 2026.
- Until now FPIs paid 20% on G-Sec interest, up to 30% on short-term and 12.5% on long-term capital gains under Section 210 of the Income-tax Act, 2025.
- The Fully Accessible Route (FAR) now covers new 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs and Sovereign Green Bonds of FAR-eligible tenors.
- Under the General Route, the short-term, concentration and security-wise limits are gone; the overall caps stay at 6% of Central and 2% of State Government Securities.
- FPIs held G-Secs worth Rs 3,75,171 crore on 12 May 2026, only 3.34% of the Rs 112.42 lakh crore outstanding stock.

BHAVYA Portal Launched: States Can Now Bid for 100 Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks

08 Jun

- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched the BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana) Portal on 8 June 2026. States can now apply online for plug-and-play industrial parks.
- BHAVYA, approved by the Cabinet with Rs 33,660 crore, will build 100 investment-ready industrial parks over six years, with States competing for them in a challenge mode.
- NICDC is the Project Management Agency and partners with States on a 51:49 model; States provide the land.
- Phase 1: applications from 1 June to 31 July for 20 parks; 30 more parks from applications received by 30 September.

APEDA Ships First Consignment of GI-Tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai

09 Jun

- The first export consignment of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi (Assam) — one metric tonne — was shipped to Dubai on 7 June 2026, facilitated by APEDA.
- Growers in the export supply chain got nearly 10% more than prevailing domestic market prices.
- Tezpur Litchi has held a GI tag since 2015; APEDA was set up under the APEDA Act, 1985, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Centre Notifies Diesel Supply Control Order 2026: 200-Litre Daily Cap at Retail Outlets

12 Jun

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas notified the Motor Spirit and High-Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026. It is initially valid for up to 90 days.
- Retail outlets may sell no more than 200 litres of diesel per customer or vehicle per day. Diesel may only go into vehicle tanks or PESO-approved containers, and it cannot be resold.
- Industrial, institutional and commercial bulk buyers are barred from retail outlets and must buy from consumer pumps. Retail diesel is about Rs 40 per litre cheaper than bulk diesel.
- Violations are punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The government said the order is not rationing and that there is no fuel shortage.

WPI Base Year Revised to 2022-23; New Producer Price Indices Launched, WPI to Be Phased Out

15 Jun

- The Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT, released the new Wholesale Price Index with base year 2022-23 on 15 June 2026, replacing the 2011-12 series; the basket grows from 697 to 957 items.
- It also launched Producer Price Indices on the same base: a monthly Output PPI, a trial Input PPI (manufacturing only) and a quarterly Service PPI for seven services.
- WPI will be published alongside PPI for five years and then discontinued, a switch aligned with IMF recommendations and the practice of advanced economies.
- First reading under the new series: WPI inflation of 9.68% for May 2026 (8.26% in April), driven by Fuel and Power at 30.33%.

APEDA Facilitates Odisha's First Export of Dried Whole Egg Powder, from Balangir to Austria

20 Jun

- APEDA facilitated the first-ever commercial export of dried whole egg powder from Odisha — 22.6 tonnes from Balangir to Austria, flagged off on 20 June 2026.
- The exporter, OVO Farm Pvt. Ltd., set up its spray-drying egg processing unit in Balangir in 2025; it is FSSC 22000 Version 6 certified and meets EU hygiene norms.
- APEDA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, created by the APEDA Act, 1985.

NITI Aayog Trade Watch Quarterly (Q4 FY26): India's Trade Hits $1.84 Trillion; Pharma Thematic

23 Jun

- NITI Aayog's 8th Trade Watch Quarterly (Q4 FY26, Jan-Mar 2026) records India's goods and services trade up 5.4% to $1.84 trillion in FY26; India stayed the world's 8th-largest services exporter in 2025.
- FY26: exports grew 4.2% and imports 6.5%; services exports rose 9.0%, sustaining a strong services surplus, while merchandise exports moderated.
- The edition's theme is pharmaceuticals: India exported $35.8 billion of pharma and API products in 2025 against global demand of about $1.3 trillion.
- It flags weak presence in biologics and advanced therapies and dependence on imported API inputs, mainly from China.

DPIIT Notifies Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 to Ease BIS Sourcing Norms

25 Jun

- DPIIT notified the Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, a risk-based alternative way to comply with Quality Control Orders.
- Domestic industry may now source inputs from BIS Scheme II licensees (self-declaration based) instead of only Scheme I (ISI Mark) licensees, subject to permission.
- Manufacturers with three continuous years of default-free QCO compliance also get the benefit.
- The move follows the 2025 review of QCOs by the Gauba committee and the rescinding of 14 chemical and polymer QCOs in November 2025.

MSME Sector Snapshot 2026: 31.1% of GDP, 8.7 Crore Udyam Registrations, CGTMSE Cover Doubled

26 Jun

- PIB's MSME backgrounder (January 2026 data): MSMEs contribute about 31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports, employing over 38.9 crore people, second only to agriculture.
- Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform registrations crossed 8.7 crore as of June 2026; the revised MSME definition took effect on 1 April 2025.
- CGTMSE completed 25 years and its guarantee ceiling was doubled from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore per borrower.
- PM Vishwakarma hit its 30 lakh registration target in two years instead of four; ASPIRE now runs 109 Livelihood Business Incubators across 27 States/UTs.
- Budget 2026-27 gave an additional Rs 2,000 crore to the Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund, which has invested Rs 2,851 crore in 761 MSMEs (May 2026).

First Commercial Export of GI-Tagged Rewa Sundarja Mango Shipped to UAE

27 Jun

- The first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Rewa Sundarja mangoes from Madhya Pradesh — one tonne — was shipped to the UAE on 26 June 2026, facilitated by APEDA.
- Rewa Sundarja got its GI tag on 31 January 2023, the first mango variety from Madhya Pradesh to do so.
- The exporter paid farmers Rs 150/kg against a local price of Rs 100-110/kg.

Nine Years of GST: 1.65 Crore Taxpayers; GSTAT Appeal Deadline Extended to 31 July 2026

30 Jun

- The Government extended the last date for filing appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) under Section 112 of the CGST Act from 30 June 2026 to 31 July 2026; about 30,000 appeals were filed in the preceding 15 days alone.

- A PIB backgrounder marking nine years of GST (launched 1 July 2017) put registered GST taxpayers at 1.65 crore in May 2026, up from 66.5 lakh in 2017.
- Gross GST collections rose from about Rs 7.4 lakh crore in 2017-18 to about Rs 22.27 lakh crore in 2025-26; April-May 2026 brought about Rs 4.37 lakh crore.
- The Next-Gen GST reforms (GST 2.0), approved at the 56th GST Council meeting, moved rates mainly to two slabs of 5% and 18%, with a 40% rate on luxury and sin goods, from 22 September 2025.

14. National

12 articles

University of Liverpool Gets UGC Letter of Approval for Bengaluru Campus

04 Jun

- The University of Liverpool (UK) received the Letter of Approval on 4 June 2026 to start a branch campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka, under the UGC's 2023 foreign-campus regulations.
- It had been given a Letter of Intent on 26 May 2025; the approval followed a UGC readiness and compliance check.
- The campus will offer UG and PG programmes in business management, computer science, game design, finance and biomedical sciences.

Bristol, York and UNSW Get UGC Letters of Approval for Campuses in Mumbai and Bengaluru

09 Jun

- On 9 June 2026 the University of Bristol, University of York and University of New South Wales received Letters of Approval to set up campuses in India — Bristol and York in Mumbai, UNSW in Bengaluru.
- Five Letters of Approval have now been issued under the UGC foreign-campus regulations; Southampton (Gurugram) began teaching in 2025-26 and Liverpool (Bengaluru) got its LoA on 5 June 2026.
- UGC has also issued 10 Letters of Intent to other foreign universities from the UK, US, Australia and Italy.
- York's Mumbai campus will be its first overseas campus; UNSW Bengaluru is scheduled to open from August 2026 at Manyata Business Park.

FOREIGN CAMPUSES APPROVED SO FAR

University	Country	Location	Route / status
University of Southampton	UK	Gurugram (Delhi-NCR)	UGC — first under the 2023 rules; teaching since 2025-26
University of Liverpool	UK	Bengaluru	UGC — LoA 5 June 2026
University of Bristol	UK	Mumbai	UGC — LoA 9 June 2026
University of York	UK	Mumbai	UGC — LoA 9 June 2026
University of New South Wales	Australia	Bengaluru	UGC — LoA 9 June 2026; opens August 2026
Deakin University	Australia	GIFT City	IFSCA — operating
University of Wollongong	Australia	GIFT City	IFSCA — operating
Queen's University Belfast	UK	GIFT City	IFSCA — operating

Source: PIB release, 9 June 2026; Liverpool LoA date from the Ministry of Education release of 5 June 2026. The 10 LoI holders were not named.

Zojila Tunnel Main Tube Breakthrough at Minamarg Brings All-Weather J&K-Ladakh Link Closer

09 Jun

- The main tunnel of the Zojila Tunnel Project achieved breakthrough at its eastern portal at Minamarg (Kargil district) on 9 June 2026, witnessed by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- The ~14 km bi-directional tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg on NH-1 costs about Rs 6,800 crore and is built at 2,900-3,310 m; it will give year-round road access between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It cuts Sonamarg-Minamarg travel from nearly two hours to about 30 minutes; NHIDCL is the executing agency.
- The Minister put road and tunnel works between Kargil and Leh at about Rs 18,000 crore and highway projects across J&K at about Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train: Undersea Tunnel, River Bridges and Seven New HSR Corridors

12 Jun

- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), India's first bullet-train corridor, is 508 km long with 12 stations; the first service is expected in August 2027.
- Design speed is 350 kmph and operational speed 320 kmph, cutting Mumbai-Ahmedabad travel to about 1 hour 58 minutes.
- India's first undersea rail tunnel (about 7 km under Thane Creek) is part of a 21 km tunnel section; 4.8 km between Ghansoli and Shilphata is complete.
- Bridges over 17 of the corridor's 25 rivers are complete; at the Mahi bridge 11 of 12 wells are done.
- Union Budget 2026-27 announced seven more high-speed corridors of nearly 4,000 km, with investment of about Rs 16 lakh crore.

BUDGET 2026-27: SEVEN PROPOSED HSR CORRIDORS

Corridor	Projected travel time
Delhi-Varanasi	3 h 50 min
Varanasi-Patna-Siliguri	2 h 55 min
Chennai-Bengaluru	1 h 13 min
Bengaluru-Hyderabad	2 h
Chennai-Hyderabad	2 h 55 min
Mumbai-Pune	48 min
Pune-Hyderabad	1 h 55 min

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 12 June 2026.

PIB Backgrounder on Naxal-Free India: LWE-Affected Districts Fall From 126 to 2

19 Jun

- India became effectively free of Left-Wing Extremism on 31 March 2026, meeting the deadline the Government set on 24 August 2024.
- LWE-affected districts fell from 126 in 2014 to 2 in 2026, and 'most affected' districts from 35 to zero.
- Naxal incidents fell from 870 (2014) to 234 (2025) and fatalities from 310 to 100; 2,337 cadres surrendered in 2025 alone.
- The strategy rested on three pillars: Vishwaas (security and trust), Nirman (infrastructure) and Jan Kalyan (welfare).

NCRB Launches Abhigyan, CrPI, e-Prosecution 2.0, e-Forensics 2.0 at 26th Fingerprint Conference

19 Jun

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched four National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) applications - NCRB-Abhigyan, CrPI, e-Prosecution 2.0 and e-Forensics 2.0 - at the 26th All India Fingerprint Conference, New Delhi.
- CCTNS now runs in all 17,840 police stations; NAFIS-linked records hold about 1.29 crore fingerprints.
- The apps complete a digital chain under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS): identify (NAFIS, CrPI), investigate (CCTNS, Cri-MAC), prove (e-Forensics), convict (e-Prosecution).
- Stated goal of the new criminal laws: FIR to final verdict, including appeals, within three years.

Sickle Cell Mission Meets 7 Crore Screening Target Early; 2.5 Lakh Patients Identified

19 Jun

- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM) has met its target of screening 7 crore people aged 0-40 ahead of schedule, President Droupadi Murmu said at the World Sickle Cell Day event at Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh (19 June 2026).
- Screening has found about 2.5 lakh people with sickle cell disease and over 20 lakh carriers.
- Madhya Pradesh screened over 4 lakh women under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (17 September-2 October 2025) and runs a 'Sickle Mitra' volunteer initiative launched on World Sickle Cell Day 2025.
- The national goal is to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.

Rajasthan's First Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling Goes Live at Daulatpura on NH-48

19 Jun

- NHAI launched Rajasthan's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling at Daulatpura Toll Plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur section of NH-48.
- MLFF combines Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) with FASTag; it follows Choryasi (Surat-Bharuch, Gujarat) and Mundka Bakkarwala (UER-II, Delhi).
- Unpaid fees draw an E-Notice: pay within 72 hours, or twice the normal fee applies; Shahjahanpur and Manoharpur plazas are next.

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 Launched to Screen International Arrivals for Ebola at Points of Entry

25 Jun

- AIR SUVIDHA 2.0, a contactless health self-declaration portal for international arrivals, was launched on 25 June 2026 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DIAL with DGHS.
- It responds to WHO's 17 May 2026 declaration of the Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak in DR Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- Passengers declare 21-day travel and exposure history and symptoms up to 24 hours before arrival; data flows in real time to the Airport Health Officer, Bureau of Immigration, IDSP and state surveillance officers.
- There is no licensed vaccine or specific treatment for Bundibugyo virus; the Ervebo vaccine covers only the Zaire species.

Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 Released at 10th NCORD Apex Meeting

26 Jun

- At the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) on 26 June 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029) and the NCB Annual Report-2025.

- The three-year roadmap has four pillars: Enforcement, Intelligence and Operations; Precursor and Synthetic Drug Control; Demand and Harm Reduction; and Capacity Building, Coordination and Monitoring. Its operating mantra is 'Detect, Disrupt, Destroy'.
- NCB zonal offices at Jammu and Guwahati were e-inaugurated, and an Online Drugs Disposal Fortnight was launched to destroy 2,09,500 kg of narcotics worth Rs 6,000 crore.
- The Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah (17-26 June 2026) drew over 1.31 crore participants and closed on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

India's First 'Easy Connect' Hub-and-Spoke International Flight Launched from Varanasi

26 Jun

- India's first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model left Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi on 25 June 2026. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu launched it.
- International passengers now clear check-in, immigration and customs at the spoke airport (Varanasi) before the domestic leg to a hub such as Delhi.
- The Hub-and-Spoke strategy aims to make India the aviation hub of choice for Indian passengers by 2030 and for the world by 2047.

Rajasthan-Haryana Sign Yamuna Water Project Agreement: 580 MCM via Underground Pipelines

29 Jun

- Rajasthan and Haryana signed an agreement on 29 June 2026 for the Yamuna Water Project: about 580 million cubic metres (MCM) of Yamuna water to Rajasthan each July-October through three underground pipelines.
- The project lets Rajasthan use its share under the 1994 Upper Yamuna MoU, drawing from the Western Yamuna Canal system; the framework was prepared with the Central Water Commission.
- Drinking water will reach Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan and Bhiwani and Fatehabad in Haryana.
- The agreement covers cost-sharing, water release protocols, maintenance, monitoring and a dispute-resolution mechanism.

15. International

6 articles

Modi-Macron Talks in Nice: Mechanism to Double Trade, Economic Security Dialogue, ISRO-CNES LoI

14 Jun

- PM Modi and President Macron held talks at Villa Kerylos, Nice, on 14 June 2026, their first meeting since ties were raised to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February 2026; 13 outcomes were listed.
- India and France will set up a High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade within five years, building on the existing Economic and Financial Dialogue, and instituted an Economic Security Dialogue focused on supply chains and critical minerals.
- They signed a General Security Agreement on the exchange and protection of classified information, and ISRO and CNES signed a Letter of Intent on microgravity research and human space exploration.
- The leaders said India's SHANTI Act, 2025 opens civil nuclear cooperation, including on small and advanced modular reactors.

- Other outcomes: a Declaration of Intent on railways and high-speed rail, an aeronautics skilling Centre of Excellence at NSTI Kanpur, a DST-Inria Centre of Digital Sciences, 10 more Indian start-ups at Station F, and a Joint AI Working Group on AI governance.

ALL 13 OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT

No.	Outcome	Area
1	Adoption of India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030	Technology, innovation, research and education
2	Joint India-France AI Working Group on AI governance	Technology, innovation, research and education
3	MoU on a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Allied Sectors at NSTI Kanpur	Technology, innovation, research and education
4	Expanded use of UPI in France	Technology, innovation, research and education
5	Incubation of 10 more Indian start-ups at Station F	Technology, innovation, research and education
6	Centre of Digital Sciences between DST and Inria	Technology, innovation, research and education
7	ICCR India Chair on 'AI, Innovation and Culture' at Universite Paris-Saclay	Technology, innovation, research and education
8	Letter of Intent between ICMR and France's Health Data Hub	Technology, innovation, research and education
9	High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade in five years, building on the Economic and Financial Dialogue	Trade, investment and supply chains
10	Institution of an Economic Security Dialogue	Trade, investment and supply chains
11	Declaration of Intent on railway and high-speed railway development in India	Trade, investment and supply chains
12	General Security Agreement on the Exchange and Protection of Classified Information	Strategic and space
13	ISRO-CNES Letter of Intent on microgravity research and human space exploration	Strategic and space

Source: PIB, PRID 2272781. Complete list as released.

India-Slovakia Ties Elevated to Comprehensive Partnership; Modi Gets Order of the White Double Cross

15 Jun

- Slovak President Peter Pellegrini conferred Slovakia's highest state honour, the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, on PM Narendra Modi in Bratislava on 15 June 2026.
- It was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993, and the two sides elevated ties to a Comprehensive Partnership.
- Outcomes: 11 MoUs, agreements and a Letter of Intent (labour migration, defence, digital technologies, quantum communication), plus a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and a Consular Dialogue.
- India will set up its first-ever ICCR Chair in Artificial Intelligence at the Technical University of Kosice.

India and France Adopt Innovation Roadmap 2030; Maiden Bharat Innovates 2026 Opens in Nice

15 Jun

- India and France adopted the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030, a framework built on four pillars: trusted AI, academic mobility, industry-academia linkages and AI for health.
- PM Modi and President Macron opened the maiden Bharat Innovates 2026 at the Palais des Expositions, Nice, where 30+ partnerships were signed; 13 French universities tied up with 11 IITs and IISc.
- The roadmap backs France's goal of 30,000 Indian students by 2030, a Franco-Indian aeronautics training campus in Kanpur, and an India-France ATL Bridge that takes Atal Tinkering Labs to France.

- It builds on the Horizon 2047 roadmap (2023) and the Special Global Strategic Partnership agreed on 17 February 2026.

Modi-Carney Meet at G7 Evian: India, Canada to Negotiate GSOIA, Launch Raisina Americas

16 Jun

- PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney met on 16 June 2026 on the sidelines of the 52nd G7 summit at Evian-les-Bains, France, and agreed to launch negotiations on a General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA).
- They announced 'Raisina Americas' as a new dialogue platform, and India backed Canada's bid to become a Dialogue Partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- Both sides reaffirmed the aim of concluding the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2026, and reviewed LNG, LPG and metallurgical coal arrangements.
- A Canadian trade mission to India is due later in 2026, and Modi accepted Carney's invitation to visit Canada.

India-Seychelles: Extradition Treaty, Rs 1,250 Crore Credit Line, UPI MoU; Seychelles Joins CDRI

28 Jun

- Seychelles President Dr Patrick Herminie conferred the Presidential Distinction 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' on PM Narendra Modi on 28 June 2026 — the first time the honour has been awarded.
- PM Modi's State Visit (27-29 June 2026) produced nine MoUs/agreements, including an India-Seychelles Extradition Treaty and a Rs 1,250 crore umbrella Line of Credit from the Export-Import Bank of India.
- NPCI International Payments Ltd signed an MoU with the Central Bank of Seychelles to deploy UPI, and HLL Lifecare will export generic medicines to Seychelles under the Janaushadhi scheme.
- Seychelles announced it is joining the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the National Assembly of Seychelles, in the year both countries mark 50 years of diplomatic relations.

THE NINE MOUS AND AGREEMENTS

Agreement	Parties	Purpose
Extradition Treaty	Republic of India - Republic of Seychelles	Legal framework to extradite fugitives; tackle transnational crime
Umbrella Line of Credit (Rs 1,250 crore)	EXIM Bank - Government of Seychelles	Implement Special Economic Package projects
UPI deployment MoU	NPCI International Payments Ltd - Central Bank of Seychelles	Bring UPI to Seychelles; wider payments cooperation
Janaushadhi supply agreement	HLL Lifecare Ltd - Ministry of Health, Seychelles	Export affordable generic medicines and medical supplies
Diplomatic training MoU	SSIFS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Seychelles	Exchanges, training, capacity building
Agriculture MoU + Work Plan 2026-2031	ICAR - Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Seychelles	Joint research, training, technical study
Seafarers' certification MoU	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Seychelles Ministry of Transport, Ports and Civil Aviation	Recognise Indian seafarers' training for Seychelles-flagged vessels
Outer space MoU	Government of India - Government of Seychelles	Satellite applications, space technology, capacity building
New Seychelles National Hospital MoU	Government of India - Government of Seychelles	Framework for preliminary preparations for the hospital

Source: PIB, List of Outcomes (PRID 2278656). Complete list.

Modi Becomes First Indian PM to Attend Seychelles Independence Day, as 50th-Anniversary Guest of Honour

29 Jun

- PM Narendra Modi attended Seychelles' 50th Independence Day celebrations on 29 June 2026 as Guest of Honour, the first Indian Prime Minister to attend them.
- The day also marked 50 years of India-Seychelles diplomatic ties; Assam Rifles, Indian Navy personnel and a Navy band marched in the national parade.
- Indian Naval Ships Tarkash and Ikshak docked at Port Victoria; the invitation came from President Dr. Patrick Herminie.

16. Polity & Governance

10 articles

Amit Shah Launches Land Port Management System 'VINIMAY' as Single Electronic Window for Land Ports

09 Jun

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS) 'VINIMAY' in New Delhi on 9 June 2026 — a single electronic window for cargo, passengers and vehicles at land ports, built by the Land Ports Authority of India.
- LPMS is expected to eliminate ~90% of paperwork, cut truck waiting time by 40-60% and gate processing time by 22-35% through ANPR-based gate operations.
- It shares data in real time among ICEGATE, the Motor Vehicle System, CBIC, BSF, DGFT, UIDAI and ULIP.
- Land-port trade rose from Rs 5,000 crore (2014) to Rs 83,000 crore (16-fold); 15 land ports operate and 11 more are due in 2-3 years.

Modi Becomes Longest Continuously Serving Elected PM at 4,399 Days; Cabinet Passes Resolution

10 Jun

- On 10 June 2026 Narendra Modi became India's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister, completing 4,399 days and passing Jawaharlal Nehru's 4,398 continuous days as an elected PM (1952-1964).
- The Union Cabinet passed a resolution recording the milestone, which coincides with 12 years of the NDA government under Modi.
- Nehru's full uninterrupted tenure (15 August 1947 to 27 May 1964) remains the longest overall; the record counts only service after the first general election of 1951-52.
- Modi had earlier passed Indira Gandhi's 4,077 consecutive days (1966-1977) on 25 July 2025.

11th NITI Aayog Governing Council: All 28 CMs Attend for First Time

11 Jun

- The 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog was held on 11 June 2026 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi, chaired by PM Narendra Modi. Its theme was 'Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047'.
- For the first time, the Chief Ministers of all 28 States attended. Five UTs were also represented.
- The PM asked States to double Lakhpati Didis from 3 crore to 6 crore. He also proposed 100 agriculture-focused districts run on the aspirational-district model.

- Other asks: export strategies built on ODOP, state policies for defence manufacturing, water conservation and natural farming in view of El Nino, and 100-day and five-year monitoring goals.

Drugs Rules, 1945 Amended: Cough Syrups Can No Longer Be Sold Without Licence in Small Villages

16 Jun

- The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended by notification G.S.R. 927(E) dated 29 December 2025, which omitted the word 'Syrup' from Schedule K. Cough syrups lose the exemption that let them be sold without a retail licence in villages of under 1,000 people. MoHFW announced the change on 16 June 2026.
- In such villages, cough syrups may now be sold and dispensed only through licensed pharmacies under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- The ministry's stated aim is tighter regulatory oversight of syrup formulations. The change follows diethylene glycol (DEG)-contaminated syrup deaths, including the 2025 Coldrif tragedy in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.

Centre Bans 16 Fixed Dose Combinations under Section 26A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act

20 Jun

- The Health Ministry notified a ban on the manufacture for sale, sale and distribution for human use of 16 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, with immediate effect (announced 20 June 2026).
- The ban follows a Supreme Court-directed review in which an Expert Committee constituted by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board found these FDCs lacked therapeutic justification.
- The 16 FDCs include six aloe-based skin preparations, analgesic-antispasmodic mixes and five antibiotic combinations, four of them paired with the enzyme serratiopeptidase.

THE 16 PROHIBITED FDCS

No.	Composition
Analgesic / antispasmodic	
1	Acetyl salicylic acid + Ethoheptazine
8	Dicyclomine + Paracetamol + Clidinium bromide
9	Dicyclomine + Paracetamol + Clidinium bromide + Chlordiazepoxide
11	Paracetamol + Lignocaine
Dermatological (aloe-based)	
2	Aloe extract + Allantoin + Alpha-tocopherol acetate + D-Panthenol + Vitamin A
3	Aloe extract + Vitamin E + Dimethicone + Glycerine
4	Aloe vera + Jojoba oil + Vitamin E
5	Aloe vera + Orange oil
6	Aloe vera + Jojoba oil + Wheat germ oil + Tea tree oil
7	Aloe vera + Vitamin E + Herbal
Anti-diabetic	
10	Gliclazide + Chromium picolinate
Antibiotic-based	
12	Amoxicillin + Serratiopeptidase + Lactobacillus sporogenes
13	Amoxicillin + Cloxacillin + Lactic acid bacillus + Serratiopeptidase
14	Amoxicillin + Serratiopeptidase
15	Cefadroxil + Probenecid
16	Cefuroxime + Serratiopeptidase

Source: MoHFW release of 20 June 2026 (full list). Grouping by therapeutic class is editorial.

Haj Policy 2027: 70:30 Quota Retained, Haj Inspector Ratio Tightened to 1:135

22 Jun

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs released Haj Policy 2027 on 22 June 2026, and Haj Committee of India applications opened the same day
- The Haj Committee:private split stays at 70:30 (1,22,518 and 52,507 seats); India's quota last year was 1,75,025
- The State Haj Inspector ratio tightens from 1:150 to 1:135 pilgrims, and Kolkata is added as a Short Haj Package embarkation point

DoT opens portal for service authorisations and licence migration under Telecom Act 2023

25 Jun

- Telecom authorisation and licence-migration rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 were notified on 23 June 2026; DoT began accepting applications on the Telecom eServices Portal
- Authorisation rules fall under Section 3(1)(a); migration of existing licences to authorisation terms falls under Section 3(6)
- The shift replaces the licence regime — including the Unified Licence of 2013 — with 'authorisations', built 'digital by design'
- DoT had suspended new Unified Licence, UL (VNO), standalone licence and registration applications from 10 November 2025 pending the new framework

Schedule H2 widened: QR code track-and-trace for vaccines, antimicrobials, NDPS and anti-cancer drugs

25 Jun

- The Health Ministry amended the Drugs Rules, 1945 (25 June 2026) to bring ALL vaccines, antimicrobials, NDPS-Act drugs and anti-cancer drugs under Schedule H2, which mandates a Bar Code/QR Code on the pack.
- Compliance is phased: vaccines, NDPS drugs and anti-cancer medicines from 1 July 2027; antimicrobials from 1 July 2028. Voluntary early adoption is encouraged.
- Schedule H2 (inserted in November 2022) had so far covered only the top 300 drug brands; the QR code must carry nine data elements, from the unique product identification code to excipient details.
- The measure targets spurious and substandard medicines, supports the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, and aids the Nasha Mukt Bharat effort.

Jan Vishwas Act 2026 Reforms Operationalised in Health: Minor Drug, Cosmetic, Food Offences Decriminalised

26 Jun

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare operationalised the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 changes to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, turning minor and procedural violations into administrative penalties.
- Section 29 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was omitted, Section 28A violations and low-risk cosmetic lapses moved to adjudication, while spurious or adulterated cosmetics remain criminal offences.
- Under the FSS Act, jail for interfering with seized items was cut from six to three months, and the offence of obstructing a Food Safety Officer was dropped because the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita already covers it.
- FSSAI licensing rules now confine FIFO/FEFO stock rotation and record-keeping to food manufacturers; two draft Drugs Rules amendments ease shelf-life norms for imports and test-import permissions.

MHA Launches FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI Card for Over 50 Lakh OCI Cardholders

30 Jun

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the FCRA 2.0 Portal and the e-OCI (Electronic Overseas Citizen of India) Card in New Delhi on 30 June 2026.
- FCRA 2.0 makes applications, renewals and annual returns under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act fully digital. It is hosted on the MeghRaj government cloud and incorporates the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026.
- The e-OCI Card moves the whole OCI process online and benefits more than 50 lakh OCI cardholders; the OCI booklet no longer has to be re-issued when a new passport is issued after age 20.
- About 14,500 FCRA organisations are active; the MHA receives 15,000-20,000 applications and about 17,000 annual returns a year.

17. History & Culture

2 articles

ASI Underwater Wing, National Museum of Denmark to Search for 1619 Oresund Wreck off Karaikal

15 Jun

- The Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of the Archaeological Survey of India signed an MoU with the National Museum of Denmark (Njord – Center for Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage, Copenhagen) to locate and document the wreck of the Danish ship Oresund.
- The Oresund, the first Danish ship known to have reached India, was wrecked off Karaikal, Puducherry, in 1619 CE; a year later the Danes set up their first Indian trading post at Tranquebar.
- The survey will be non-invasive; it is the UAW's first-ever collaborative project with an international organisation.

Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi: 44 UNESCO Sites, 653 Antiquities Retrieved Since 2014

18 Jun

- India now has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, up from 31; the 44th, the Maratha Military Landscapes of India, was inscribed in 2025.
- 653 antiquities have been retrieved from abroad since 2014 (as of May 2026), 613 of them in the last five years.
- ASI protects 3,686 centrally protected monuments (April 2026); NMMA has documented 1.84 lakh monuments and 17.20 lakh antiquities (March 2026).
- The Gyan Bharatam Mission (Rs 482.85 crore, 2024-31) is digitising manuscripts, and a National Manuscript Survey began in March 2026.
- PRASHAD has 54 projects sanctioned (Rs 1,726.74 crore, 32 complete), and Swadesh Darshan 2.0 has 53 projects (Rs 2,208.31 crore).