WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

1 article

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.

2. Awards & Honours

1 article

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			
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.)

Award	Film	Country / Language	Winner
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.

3. Appointments

2 articles

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.

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.

4. Summits & Conferences

1 article

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.

5. Schemes & Committees

9 articles

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

6. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

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

7. Defence

5 articles

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).

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.

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).

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.

8. Science & Tech

2 articles

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.

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.

9. Environment

2 articles

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.

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.

10. Economy

2 articles

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.

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%.

11. National

4 articles

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.

12. International

3 articles

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-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.

13. Polity & Governance

2 articles

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

No.	Composition
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.

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.

14. History & Culture

2 articles

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).

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.