

THE PRESS PAD



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"This compilation of June 2025 Current Affairs has been meticulously curated to assist candidates in grasping the most significant and relevant events that are crucial for exams like UPSC Prelims, State PCS, Defence exams, SSC, and others."

by
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INTERNATIONAL

➤ SCO Defence Ministers meet

- Defence Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, meeting in Qingdao in China, failed to issue a joint statement on Thursday (26th June) after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declined to sign the draft statement which omitted a reference to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in J&K.
- The SCO is a grouping of 10 countries, including India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus. The **roots of the SCO lie in the “Shanghai Five”** formed in 1996, consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- The organisation has two permanent bodies: the Secretariat in Beijing, China and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. RATS assists members in the preparation and staging of counter-terrorism exercises, analyses key intelligence information coming in from the member states, and shares information on terrorist movements and drug trafficking.

Read in Detail: [Why India Refused to Sign the Joint Statement](#)

➤ G7 Summit

- The 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit was held in Kananaskis, Alberta, from June 15 to 17, 2025.
- Leaders of the Group of Seven countries meeting in Canada signed a joint statement calling for de-escalation of fighting between Israel and Iran while reaffirming that Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear bomb.
- PM Modi described his meeting with Canadian PM Mark Carney as “fruitful”, stating that the two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in key areas such as trade, energy, space, critical minerals, fertilisers and more. The two leaders “agreed to take calibrated steps to restore stability to the relationship” and decided to restore High Commissioners to each other's capitals.
- The Group of 7 (G7) is an informal group of seven countries that consists of the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Together, these countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.
- MoS MEA Kirti Vardhan Singh welcomes the first group of 110 Indian students evacuated from Iran as part of Operation Sindhu, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI via MEA)

Read in Detail: [2025 G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Canada](#)

➤ Falcon 2000 planes

- French military aircraft and business jet maker Dassault Aviation will manufacture its best-selling business executive jet—the Falcon 2000—at Nagpur in partnership with the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group company Reliance Aerostructure Ltd (RAL).
- Dassault Aviation will manufacture Falcon 2000 jets outside of France for the first time in its storied history.
- This would be the first-ever instance of a foreign aircraft manufacturer setting up a final assembly line (FAL) in India for civilian aircraft.
- Airbus, in partnership with the Tata group, will also set up an FAL, but it will be for manufacturing helicopters.

➤ International conventions in the news after the Air India plane crash

- Chicago Convention

- The Convention on International Civil Aviation, better known as the Chicago Convention, was signed in 1944 as World War II was drawing to a close.
- The Convention's technical standards are overseen by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a UN agency based in Montreal. All 193 member countries—including India, the United States, and the United Kingdom—have agreed to follow its rules.
- One of the most important of these is Annex 13, which lays out the international protocols for investigating aircraft accidents and serious incidents. Chapter 5 of Annex 13 outlines the core responsibilities for conducting such investigations. It clarifies that the goal is not to assign blame or liability, but to improve aviation safety by uncovering causes and preventing future accidents.
- According to Chapter 5, the responsibility to investigate an aircraft accident lies with the 'State of Occurrence' — the country where the accident took place. In addition, other countries connected to the aircraft have a formal right to participate.
- These include the 'State of Registry' (where the aircraft is registered), the 'State of the Operator' (which operated the flight), the 'State of Design', and the 'State of Manufacture' (of the aircraft in question).

➤ **Montreal Convention 1999, or MC99**

- The Tata Group, which owns the airlines, announced Rs 1 crore compensation to each of the kin of the victims. Air India will have to pay a compensation of around Rs 1.5 crore, as per the Montreal Convention treaty.
- The Montreal Convention 1999, or MC99, is formally known as the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air. It was finalised under the aegis of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- It provides a comprehensive and unified framework for the international carriage of passengers, baggage, and cargo by air, introducing several elements to balance the interests of travelers and the shippers of cargo and the aviation industry. India signed the Montreal Convention on Civil Aviation in 2009 to become its 91st member.
- As per the Montreal Convention treaty, Air India will have to pay a compensation of around Rs 1.5 crore each to the kin of victims of the plane crash. Air India will get adequate compensation for the lost aircraft from insurance companies.
- Compensation is calculated using Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which stood at 128,821 SDRs (approximately USD 1.33 per SDR) as of October 2024. The actual payout will depend on the coverage purchased by Air India.

➤ **India's first-ever polar research vehicle (PRV)**

- On 3rd June, Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), a Government of India undertaking, signed an MoU with Norwegian firm Kongsberg to co-design and build India's first-ever polar research vehicle (PRV) indigenously.
- A PRV is a ship that serves as a platform for research in the polar regions (areas surrounding the North and South Poles). It can also help scientists undertake research in the ocean realm.
- India currently operates three research base stations in the polar regions — Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic region.

➤ **MERCOSUR**

- Paraguay President Santiago Peña Palacios is on a three-day state visit to India.

- India has signed a preferential trade arrangement with the South American trading bloc **MERCOSUR**, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. It became operational with effect from 1st June, 2009.
- MERCOSUR was formed in 1991 with the objective of free movement of goods, services, capital, and people, and became a customs union in January 1995.
- It follows the role model of the European Union. It is the third largest integrated market after the European Union (EU) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

➤ **International Institute of Administrative Sciences**

- India won the Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025–2028 term.
- IIAS is a Federation of 31 Member Countries, 20 National Sections and 15 Academic Research Centres jointly collaborating for scientific research on public administration. It is not a formally affiliated body of the United Nations.
- India has been represented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances since 1998.

NATIONAL

➤ **International Potato Center (CIP)**

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal on Wednesday (June 25) to set up a regional wing of the [Peru-based International Potato Center \(CIP\)](#). The proposed CIP-South Asia Regional Center (CSARC) will come up at Singna in Agra district.
- The CSARC will focus on the development of new varieties that will be climate resilient, disease-free, and suitable for processing. It will bring global science expertise, an extensive global innovation network, and global genetic resources.
- The entire project costs Rs 171 crore, with India contributing Rs 111.5 crore and the remaining Rs 60 crore funded by the CIP. The UP government has provided 10 hectares of land for it.
- CIP is a premier research-for-development organisation with a focus on the potato, sweet potato, Andean roots and tubers. It was founded in 1971 and is headquartered in Lima, Peru. In 2017, it set up its first Asia centre in China.
- The proposed CSARC will be the second major international agricultural research institution to set up operations in India. In 2017, the Agriculture Ministry supported the establishment of a regional centre of the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The IRRI-SARC is established in Varanasi.
- As of now, at least two different centres of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) work on tuber crops. While the Shimla-based ICAR-CPRI (Central Potato Research Institute) is working on potato, the Thiruvananthapuram-based ICAR-CTCRI (Central Tuber Crops Research Institute) is working on sweetpotato.

About Potato

- The potato crop is native to the Peruvian-Bolivian Andes in Latin America, and was spread across the globe by the Spaniards and the Portuguese who colonised the continent. Potatoes reached India in the 17th century.

- The potato is the third most available food crop in the world, after rice and wheat, while sweet potato is in the 6th position after maize and cassava.
- China is the top potato producer and consumer in the world, followed by India. In 2020, China's production was recorded at 78.24 million tonnes, while India produced 51.30 million tonnes.
- In India, Uttar Pradesh (15 million tonnes), West Bengal (15 million tonnes) and Bihar (9 million tonnes) were the top three potato producers in 2020-21.
- Potato is a tuber that is are stem modified into an underground structure. The presence of an eye (node) in a potato indicates that the underground plant parts are modified stems.

➤ Special Intensive Revision in Bihar

WHAT WILL SERVE AS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

In addition to the enumeration form, electors added to the rolls after 2003 will have to provide the following to prove their citizenship.

■ Those born in India before July 1, 1987 will have to submit any document from the specified list to establish their date of birth and/or place of birth;

■ Those born in India between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004, will have to submit an additional document establishing one parent's date and/or

place of birth; and

■ Those born in India after December 2, 2004, will have to submit documents establishing date and/or place of birth of both parents.

These categories are based on the requirements for acquisition of citizenship in the Citizenship Act, 1955

INDIANS BORN ABROAD will have to submit proof of birth registration by an Indian Mission abroad; and

CITIZENS BY NATURALISATION will have to submit their certificate for the registration of citizenship.

- Paving the way for a nationwide exercise, the Election Commission announced Tuesday (24th June) a "special intensive revision" of the electoral roll in **poll-bound Bihar**, where all existing electors who were not on the rolls in 2003 will have to again provide documentation proving their eligibility.
- Article 324(1) of the Constitution gives the ECI the power of "superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of" elections to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Under Section 21(3) of The Representation of the People Act, 1950, the ECI "may at any time... direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit".
- Summary revisions take place every year, and a special summary revision is carried out before each Lok Sabha and state Assembly election. Intensive revisions have been carried out in 1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003, and 2004.



- In Bihar, those added to the roll after January 1, 2003 — the year of the last intensive revision — will additionally have to provide proof of citizenship. (Those already on the electoral roll before the cut-off date would be presumed to be citizens, unless Electoral Registration Officers receive any input to the contrary).
- Electors will also have the option of downloading their forms from the ECI's website or ECINET app, and submitting them online. Electors whose enumeration forms are not received by July 25 will be deleted from the roll. Deletions can be contested from August 1 to September 1.

➤ **Article 370**

- Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Saturday (28th June) said the Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, "so that the country is governed by only one Constitution", as envisioned by Dr B R Ambedkar.
- The CJI was in Nagpur for the inauguration of a 'Constitution Preamble Park' and unveiling of Ambedkar's statue at a law college.
- The CJI was part of the five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, led by then CJI D Y Chandrachud, that, in December 2023, upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370.

➤ **National Turmeric Board**

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Telangana, on 29th June.
- The Centre has established the National Turmeric Board (NTB) in January this year. The government has set a target of achieving one billion dollars in turmeric exports by 2030.
- India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric in the world, with most of the product coming from Telangana, Maharashtra and Meghalaya. India has more than 62% share of world trade.

Read in Detail: [National Turmeric Board Headquarters Inaugurated in Nizamabad](#)

➤ **Census 2027**

- The government has formally announced that the 16th Census of India will take place in **two phases**, with the reference dates set as March 1, 2027, for most of the country and October 1, 2026, for snow-bound and remote regions. This Census will include the first nationwide caste enumeration since 1931.
- The Census process is carried out in two broad phases: the House-listing and Housing Census, followed by the Population Enumeration.
- In the House-listing phase, every structure in the country is visited to record the characteristics of buildings and households. Enumerators collect data on the head of the household, the number of members, on the use of the building (residential, commercial, etc.), the materials used in its construction, the number of rooms, ownership status, sources of water and electricity, the type of toilet, fuel used for cooking, and the availability of assets like TV, phone, vehicle, etc.
- The Population Census is conducted after the housing census. It focuses on individual data: name, age, sex, date of birth, relationship to the head of household, marital status, education, occupation, religion, caste/tribe, disability status, and migration history.
- The 2027 Census will be the first digital census in India's history, with the use of mobile apps, online self-enumeration, and near-real-time monitoring.

Must Read: [India's 2027 Census: A Landmark Digital and Demographic Exercise](#)

➤ **Tribal welfare schemes**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has rolled out a large-scale outreach campaign for the implementation of its welfare schemes in over 500 districts of the country, aiming to cover 1 lakh tribal dominated villages and habitations.
- It aimed at doorstep delivery of two key flagship schemes – **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)**, launched in 2023, and **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**, which was launched in 2024.
- The outreach is also part of the Centre's ongoing year-long celebration of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh. The Centre began this celebration on November 15, 2024, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.
- PM-JANMAN was launched with a focus on particularly vulnerable tribal groups, and the Dharti Aaba scheme was launched as an umbrella initiative aimed at the implementation of welfare measures, with the convergence of 17 line ministries.

➤ **DIGIPIN**

- The Indian government has launched a new digital address system called DIGIPIN that aims to enable the precise identification of locations in the country.
- DIGIPIN is a unique ten-character alphanumeric code that can be generated for any property that is approximately 4 by 4 square meters on Indian land. This means that unique DIGIPINs can be generated for nearly all types of properties, including in urban locations and rural areas across different maritime zones.
- The Department of Posts has developed the underlying technology of DIGIPIN in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad and the National Remote Sensing Centre, which works under the aegis of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Each DIGIPIN is encoded with the geographic coordinates of that property so it does not store any personal information. The DIGIPIN will not replace the traditional six-digit PIN system. Instead, it is intended to act as an extra layer of precision built on top of existing postal addresses.

➤ **Justice Hema Committee**

- The Kerala police dropped 35 sexual assault cases which were booked after the Justice Hema Committee report was released by the Kerala government on August 19, 2024.
- In the wake of the abduction and sexual assault of a leading Malayalam film actress, in which prominent Malayalam film actor Dileep was accused, the Kerala government formed the Justice Hema Committee in July 2017 to investigate sexual harassment and gender inequality in the industry.
- This was the first such committee formed by any state in the country. After speaking to multiple women and men in the industry on various issues, the Committee submitted its report to the Chief Minister in December 2019.
- The report found that a culture of sexual harassment pervaded the Malayalam film industry. The Committee reported the existence of casting couch (wherein powerful men demand sexual favours from women in return for opportunities in films), frequent suggestive and vulgar comments made by men at the workplace, and drunk male co-actors forcing themselves into rooms of women, among other things.

ECONOMY

➤ CROPIC

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare plans to launch CROPIC, a study to gather crop information using field photographs and AI-based models.
- CROPIC stands for Collection of Real Time Observations & Photo of Crops. According to the plan, crops will be photographed four-five times during their cycle, and the pictures will be analysed to assess their health and potential mid-season losses.
- The CROPIC mobile app has been developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The CROPIC model will use an AI-based cloud platform for photo analysis and information extraction, and a web-based dashboard for visualisation.

➤ RVNL in talks with Russia's Rosatom

- Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), a public sector undertaking (PSU) of the Ministry of Railways, is in discussion with Russia's state-owned atomic energy company Rosatom to build Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to fulfill the energy requirements of its four ongoing mega projects.
- The projects include Rishikesh-Karnaprayag line, Bhanupali-Bilaspur railway line, Yavatmal-Nanded railway line and Indore-Budni Railway line.
- SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to 300 MW per unit and require less area for installation.

Do you know: In the Union Budget 2025, the Indian government announced a Nuclear Energy Mission for research & development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

➤ MSC Irina

- MSC IRINA, the world's largest container ship by capacity, docked at Vizhinjam International Seaport, which was commissioned last month. This is India's first deepwater transshipment port which was commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month.
- The port is managed by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited under a design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) model.
- A transshipment port includes terminals, where cargo containers are shifted from one vessel to another before they reach their final destination. Countries with robust global trade networks tend to use such ports to process large amounts of international cargo efficiently.
- The Vizhinjam port in the Arabian Sea is India's strategic response to over-reliance on foreign ports for transshipment cargo.

Advantages offered by the Vizhinjam port

- A. The Vizhinjam port's proximity to the congested east-west international shipping lane just 10 nautical miles away puts it in a prime location to become a major transshipment hub for the Indian subcontinent.
- B. Vizhinjam's biggest advantage is its natural depth of 18 to 20 metres only a kilometre away from the shore—deep enough for the world's largest cargo vessels to dock without dredging, a costly and environmentally disruptive process used to deepen shallow ports.
- C. Unlike most Indian ports, Vizhinjam experiences minimal sand movement along the coast (littoral drift), which reduces maintenance costs.

➤ Copper

- India's copper cathode imports declined 34 per cent year-on-year in 2024-25 (FY25), largely due to a three-month supply disruption triggered by a quality control order (QCO).
- In India, copper is classified as a **critical mineral** given limited domestic production and high demand in conventional and emerging technologies. It is also considered a bellwether of economic activity due to its extensive application across various sectors.

➤ Repo rate, Cash Reserve Ratio

- The Reserve Bank of India's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has slashed the repo rate by a bigger-than-expected 50 basis points to 5.50 per cent, marking the third consecutive reduction since February 2025.
- The central bank also cut the cash reserve ratio of banks by 100 basis points to 3 per cent, releasing Rs 2.5 lakh crore of lendable resources to the banking system.
- With this, the MPC has changed its policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' in a bid to support economic growth.
- This RBI's rate cut decision is expected to stimulate borrowing and investment, leading to a higher growth rate.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** The **CRR** is the percentage of a bank's total deposits that is required to maintain in liquid cash with the RBI as a reserve. The CRR percentage is determined by the RBI from time to time.
- **Repo rate:** The interest rate that the RBI charges when commercial banks borrow money from it is called the **repo rate**. It is used by the banks to meet their short-term funding needs.

REPORT/INDICES

➤ State of Climate in Asia 2024 report

- According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s State of Climate in Asia report 2024, Asia experienced its warmest or second warmest year on record in 2024, with its average temperature 1.04 degree Celsius above the last 30-year average.
- The impact of this high rate of warming in 2024 manifested through a range of extreme weather events such as 29 tropical cyclones, prolonged and intense heat waves and extreme rainfall events, including India.
- Glaciers continued to lose mass, as per the report, with 23 out of 24 glaciers in the High Mountain Asia region of central-south Asia spanning the Himalayas, Pamir mountains, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush.

➤ 2025 Sustainable Development Report (SDR)

- The 10th edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) was published by the Sustainable Development Solution Network's SDG Transformation Center. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- This year's SDG index covers 167 of the 193 UN member states with the focus on "Financing the SDGs by 2030 and Mid-Century".
- India, for the first time, breaks into the top 100 of the Sustainable Development Index with the rank of 99 and score of 67.

- According to the report, none of the 17 Global Goals are on track to be fully achieved by 2030, and only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are progressing as planned.
- This year, for the first time streamlined SDG Index (SDGi), which uses 17 headline indicators, one per SDG, to track overall SDG progress, was introduced.

Methodology: The SDG Index score is presented on a scale of 0 to 100 and can be interpreted as a percentage towards optimal performance on the SDGs. The difference between 100 and the country's SDG index indicates the distance that must be overcome to reach the optimum SDG performance.

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025
1	Finland	87.0
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.3
4	Germany	83.7
5	France	83.1
98	Belize	67
99	India	67
100	Mongolia	66.7
159	Niger	50.3
158	Madagascar	51.0

➤ WHO Global Tobacco Epidemic Report 2025

- WHO develops the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2025 report with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies. It focuses on six proven WHO MPOWER tobacco control measures to reduce tobacco use.
- The report revealed that the most striking gains have been in graphic health warnings, one of the key measures under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).
- As per the report, there has been a growing trend to regulate the use of e-cigarettes or ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems). The number of countries regulating or banning ENDS has grown from 122 in 2022 to 133 in 2024, a clear signal of increased attention to these products. However, over 60 countries still lack any regulations on ENDS.
- Of all MPOWER measures, large graphic health warnings on cigarette packages have seen the most progress since 2007 – both in terms of the number of countries and population covered by a best-practice policy.
- India was presented the 'O' category award for promoting tobacco cessation. Among the other countries that received the award were Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, the Philippines and Ukraine.

➤ SIPRI Report

- The latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) yearbook said that India has more nuclear warheads than Pakistan, even as China has over three times more warheads than India has.
- India has 180 nuclear stored warheads as of January 2025, while Pakistan has an estimated 170. China has 600 nuclear warheads as of January 2025, of which 24 are deployed warheads or those placed on missiles or located on bases with operational forces.
- The SIPRI report also said Russia and the US have the largest military stockpile of the nine nuclear forces at 5,459 and 5,177, respectively, including retired warheads.

➤ Global Peace Index 2025

- The 10th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The report covers 163 countries, comprising 99.7 per cent of the world's population.
- The report states that there is a deterioration of global peacefulness by 0.36 per cent, marking the 13th deterioration in peacefulness in the last 17 years, with 74 countries improving and 87 deteriorating in peacefulness.
- Iceland continues to lead and set global standards in maintaining its position as the world's most peaceful country. It is followed by Austria, New Zealand, and Switzerland. Western and Central Asia are the most peaceful regions in the world.
- India ranks **115th** globally with a GPI score of 2.229, a 0.58 per cent improvement in its level of peacefulness over the past year. This marks a gradual upward trajectory from its rankings of 116 in 2024, 126 in 2023, 139 in 2020, and 141 in 2019.

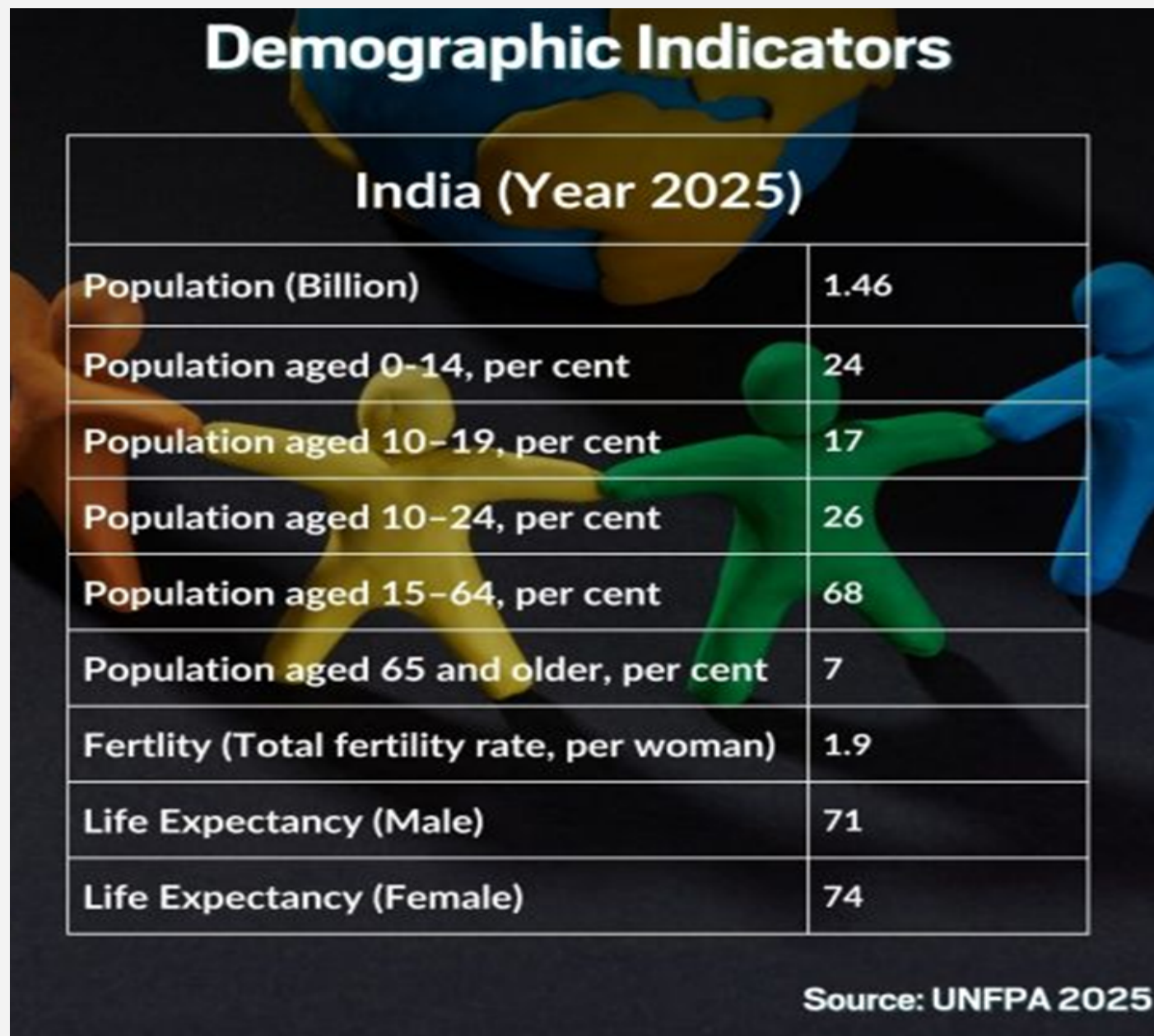
➤ Global Terrorism Index 2025

- The Global Terrorism Index 2025 is released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.
- According to the Index, "The number of countries experiencing at least one terrorist incident increased from 58 to 66, the most countries affected since 2018." Pakistan is among the countries where terrorist activities have increased since 2007.
- India ranked **14th** with a score of 6.411. Burkina Faso was at the top with a score of 8.581.

➤ Global Liveability Index 2025

- According to the recently released Global Liveability Index 2025 by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the global average livability score across the 173 cities in the index was the same as last year, at 76.1 out of 100.
- **Copenhagen** (Denmark) has claimed the top spot to become the **world's most liveable city in 2025, ending Vienna's three-year dominance** by achieving perfect scores in stability, education, and infrastructure.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s Global Liveability Index 2025 assessed 173 cities globally based on 30 indicators divided into several factors like stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education, and infrastructure, to disclose how comfortable these cities are to live in.
- For India, Delhi and Mumbai are jointly placed at 141st, underlining persistent urban challenges such as inadequate public infrastructure, air pollution, and overburdened healthcare.

➤ **State of World Population (SOWP) Report 2025**



- The report has called for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals. SOWP 2025 underlines that millions of individuals are unable to realise their real fertility goals. This is the real crisis, not underpopulation or overpopulation.
- According to the report, one in three adult Indians (36%) face unintended pregnancies, while 30% experience unfulfilled desire for having either more or fewer children. Financial limitations are one of the biggest barriers to reproductive freedom in India.
- The report finds that one in five people globally expect not to have the number of children they desire. Key drivers include the prohibitive cost of parenthood, job insecurity, housing, concerns over the state of the world, and the lack of a suitable partner.
- Replacement-level fertility, commonly defined as 2.1 births per woman, is the rate at which a population size remains the same from one generation to the next. In India, the replacement-level fertility is 2.0. But, fertility rate remains high in Bihar (3.0), Meghalaya (2.9), and Uttar Pradesh (2.7).

➤ Gender Gap Index 2025

- The 19th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), with the global gender gap at 68.8 per cent for 148 countries.
- India has ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, slipping two places from its position last year. With a parity score of just 64.1 per cent, India is among the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia. In 2024, India ranked 129.
- It benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. The index lies between 0 and 1, with 1 denoting complete parity.
- Iceland retains the world's most gender-equal economy for the 16th consecutive year, closing 92.6% of the gender gap – the only economy to reach 90% parity- followed by Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

India's performance across the components of the Global Gender Gap Index

Components	2025		2024	
	Score (0-1)	Rank	Score (0-1)	Rank
Global Gap Gender Index	0.644	131	0.641	129
Economic Participation and Opportunity	0.407	144	0.398	142
Educational Attainment	0.971	110	0.964	112
Health and survival	0.954	143	0.951	142
Political Empowerment	0.245	69	0.251	65

SCIENCE & TECH

➤ Weight loss drug Wegovy

- Danish pharma giant Novo Nordisk launched its weight loss drug Wegovy as a once-a-week injection in India. This adds to the option of weight loss drugs, with Eli Lilly's injectable Mounjaro now also available in the country.
- Wegovy is made of semaglutide, a GLP-1A receptor agonist, which mimics the naturally occurring hormone GLP-1, responsible for regulating blood sugar, reducing appetite, and slowing down gastric emptying.
- Semaglutide belongs to a new class of medicines called GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) receptor agonists. It is prescribed for the management of type 2 diabetes and obesity.
- The weight loss drugs mimic certain naturally-occurring gut hormones called incretins (GLP-1 is one such incretin) produced in the small intestine, and are hence also known as incretin mimickers.

➤ Axiom-4 Mission



Shubhanshu Shukla (second from left) with (from left) Hungary's Tibor Kapu, US's Peggy Whitson and Poland's Sławosz Uznanski-Wisniewski aboard the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on Wednesday. (@SpaceX via PTI)

- The Axiom-4 mission, set to carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station, is scheduled to be launched on June 19, said ISRO in a statement.
- Shubhanshu Shukla will create history through the Axiom-4 mission by being the second Indian astronaut to go to space. The other three astronauts are: ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski of Poland, former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary. Notably, the mission will carry the first astronauts from **Hungary** and **Poland** to the space station.
- Peggy Whitson will command the commercial mission, and ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will serve as pilot. The crew will travel to the ISS on a **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** and is scheduled to spend up to 14 days aboard the orbiting laboratory.

➤ Black box

- In what may be among the worst aviation disasters in India, an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner (VT-ANB) crashed soon after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on June 12.
- **The cause of the crash** is unclear at this stage. On June 13, one of the black boxes was recovered from the Ahmedabad crash site. Generally, an aircraft consists of two such boxes – the **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)** and the **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**.
- A black box is simply a flight recorder, with origins in the early 1950s. In 1963, following two fatal aviation disasters, Australia became the first country to make flight recorders a mandatory legal requirement.
- The film runs continuously in a box that is constructed to prevent any light from entering it, lending it the name “black box”. The name has endured, even as the outer box of the recorder has **always been orange** – a bright colour that makes it easier to identify the metal case.

➤ **Fusarium graminearum**

- The United States (US) has charged two Chinese nationals with smuggling a toxic fungus into the country, called **Fusarium graminearum**.
- The fungus is known to cause head blight in crops such as wheat, barley and oats — a disease that significantly affects the yield of the crops.
- It affects the kernel development of various grains, thereby reducing the yield. It can also cause ear rot or stalk rot in maize crops. Once infected, the fungus continues to spread as the crop matures. It is known to survive in plant tissue residues like small grain stems and roots and infect new plants.
- The fungus is also known to produce **mycotoxins** — secondary metabolites (end products of biochemical processes) that are of significance to the fungal growth but may be harmful to humans. One of the mycotoxins called **deoxynivalenol or DON** can lead to vomiting in humans and animals.

➤ **ASKAP J1832-0911**

- Scientists have discovered a mysterious object ASKAP J1832-0911 in the Milky Way, around 15,000 light years away from Earth.
- First discovered by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, ASKAP J1832-0911 belongs to a class of objects called "long period radio transients" (also known as LPT), which emit intense radio waves over tens of minutes.
- Discovered in 2022, LPTs are cosmic bodies that emit radio pulses every few minutes or hours. In the last few years, astronomers have come across 10 LPTs, but say that ASKAP J1832-0911 is unlike any other.

DEFENCE/SECURITY

➤ **Stealth frigate Tamal**

- The Navy is set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate Tamal on July 1 at Russia's Kaliningrad, making it the eighth in the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades.
- It will join the 'Sword Arm' of the Navy, the Western Fleet, under the Western Naval Command. Also, it is the second ship of the Tushil Class — the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes.

➤ **B-2 Spirit bomber**

- The B-2 Spirit bomber was used by the USA to carry out a precision airstrike on Iran's nuclear infrastructure.
- The B-2 Spirit is one of the most sophisticated and secretive aircraft ever built. Developed by Northrop Grumman during the Cold War, the bomber was designed for deep-penetration missions in contested airspace.
- Only 21 were produced after the collapse of the Soviet Union, with each unit costing an estimated \$2.1 billion.
- The B-2's combination of stealth, range, and payload makes it uniquely suited to hit heavily fortified, high-value targets — especially those buried deep underground.
- The B-2 has a range of over 6,000 nautical miles (11,000 km) without refuelling, enabling it to conduct long-range missions from the continental United States.

- Its total payload exceeds 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg) and includes both conventional and nuclear weapons.

➤ **GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, or MOP**

- In a major military escalation, the United States deployed its B-2 Spirit stealth bombers on Saturday (21st June) to carry out precision **airstrikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure**.
- The bombers were reportedly armed with the GBU-57A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), a 30,000-pound (13,600-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb designed specifically to destroy hardened underground facilities like Fordow.
- The MOP measures about 20.5 feet in length and 31.5 inches in diameter and weighs about 13,000 kgs, according to the US Air Force.
- The bomb is a "bunker buster"—a type of munition capable of penetrating and hitting targets secured in underground facilities. The MOP is widely believed to be the most powerful non-nuclear weapon.

➤ **ASW-SWC Arnala**

- The Indian Navy will induct nine to 10 warships in the coming months, with the first of these—the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow-Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Arnala**—is scheduled for commissioning on 18 June at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- It was designed and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under a Public-Private Partnership with L&T Shipbuilders.
- **Named after the historic Arnala Fort in Vasai**, Maharashtra, Arnala is equipped for a range of anti-submarine warfare operations, including subsurface surveillance, search-and-rescue missions, and low-intensity maritime tasks. It is the largest Indian naval warship to be propelled by a diesel-engine-waterjet combination.

➤ **Passage Exercise**

- The Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Tabar, a submarine, and P-8I maritime patrol aircraft participated in a passage exercise (PASSEX) with the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group in the North Arabian Sea on June 9 and 10.
- The joint exercise demonstrates the deepening cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, showcasing a shared commitment to maritime security and robust bilateral ties.

➤ **Nomadic Elephant**

- The 17th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is being conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 31st May to 13th June 2025.
- It is an annual event conducted alternately in India and Mongolia. The 2024 edition was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya.

➤ **Fuselage of the Rafale fighter aircraft**

- India is set to become the first nation other than France where the fuselage of the Rafale fighter aircraft will be manufactured.
- Under a partnership between France's Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), the latter will set up a "cutting-edge" production facility in **Hyderabad** for the manufacture of key structural sections of the Rafale, including the lateral shells of the rear fuselage, the complete rear section, the central fuselage, and the front section.
- The first fuselage sections are expected to roll off the Hyderabad assembly line in the financial year 2027-28, with the facility expected to deliver up to two complete fuselages per month.

- The Indian Air Force already operates 36 Rafales. In April this year, as part of the Rs 63,000-crore deal inked between India and France, the Indian Navy will induct 26 Rafale Marine jets by 2030.
- Rafale is a 4.5th-generation fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation.

➤ **Operation Sindhu**

- India has launched 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran as fears of an all-out Israeli-American military strike on Iran increased.

Other Important past rescue operations launched by India

- **Operation Ajay:** In October 2023, as the Israel-Hamas war escalated and countries scrambled to bring home their people trapped in the fighting or looking for a way out of the war zone, India launched Operation Ajay to repatriate its citizens from Israel and Palestine.
- **Operation Kaveri:** In April 27, 2023, India launched Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals stuck in Sudan, where an intense conflict had broken out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), rival factions of the country's military government.
- **Operation Ganga:** In 2022, when war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, the government of India had launched Operation Ganga to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.

➤ **Stealth frigate Tamal**

- Ukraine, on June 1, announced that it had **successfully undertaken a stealth operation** inside Russian enemy lines. The operation, titled Operation Spider's Web, reportedly took 18 months to plan and was executed using 117 drones.
- Several sources have said that first-person view (FPV) drones were used. The FPV drones were first smuggled to Russia, where they were placed in "mobile wooden houses". They were hidden under the roofs of houses, which were remotely opened, and the drones then flew to hit their targets.
- First-person view means that a person piloting a drone can see what the drone sees, through a camera attached to its body. The live video can be seen through specialised goggles, or on smartphones and other kinds of screens, and the drone can be manoeuvred remotely.
- All major defence powers have unmanned aerial vehicles in their arsenal, be it Israel's "kamikaze" HAROP drones or Iran's Shahed drones.

➤ **Operation Rising Lion**

- Israel launched a military operation against Iran, giving it the codename of Operation Rising Lion.
- In retaliation, Iran launched Operation True Promise 3.

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **King Cobra**

- A king cobra brought to Bhopal's Van Vihar zoo from Karnataka's Mangalore zoo in exchange for a tiger died in its enclosure on June 18.
- The king cobra, the world's longest venomous snake, can grow to 15 feet in length.
- It prefers humid, dark forests with thick undergrowth, cool swamps, and bamboo patches across diverse habitats — from highland evergreen and semi-evergreen forests to estuarine mangroves with high rainfall.

- In India, the king cobra's range includes the Western Ghats, the North Indian terai belt, Northeast India, the mangrove coastlines of West Bengal and Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar, and parts of the Eastern Ghats.
- The King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) is placed under the "vulnerable" category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (Ophio means snake, phagus stands for eating).
- New research by a wildlife biologist has found that the king cobra has four different lineages which are geographically separate and are found in the Western Ghats, Indo-Chinese region, Indo-Malayan region and Luzon in the Philippines.

➤ **Bonn Climate Change Conference**

- The annual Bonn Climate Change Conference began in Bonn, Germany. It will continue from June 16 to June 26.
- It is an annual mid-year meeting that takes place under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — an international agreement, signed in 1992, that has provided a basis for climate negotiations.
- The conference is formally known as the Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs). Along with the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), it is the only other regular climate summit hosted by the UNFCCC.
- It is attended by the members of SBs — essentially committees that assist UNFCCC's governing bodies in implementing and reviewing climate change agreements.
- The meeting is led by the SBs of the UNFCCC. There are two permanent SBs of the UNFCCC, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).
- SBI assists UNFCCC governing bodies in the assessment and review of the implementation of their decisions. It also facilitates discussions on financial and technical support to developing countries which are party to the UNFCCC.
- SBSTA advises governing bodies on scientific knowledge related to climate change. "It serves as the 'link' between scientific advisors at the IPCC and policymakers serving in party delegations at the COPs."

➤ **Oarfish**

- A rare oarfish, ominously dubbed the 'doomsday fish' in Japanese folklore, was recently caught off the Tamil Nadu coast.
- Oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*) is the world's longest bony fish, which can reach lengths of up to 36 feet (11 meters). They typically inhabit the mesopelagic zone, dwelling 660 to 3,300 feet beneath the ocean's surface, where sunlight barely penetrates.
- The silvery, ribbon-like fish with its distinctive red crest-like dorsal fin is rarely seen by humans due to its deep-water habitat. They are thin and slow due to their lack of muscles and generally swim vertically in the ocean.
- The 'doomsday fish' reputation stems from ancient Japanese folklore, where oarfish are called 'ryugu no tsukai,' meaning 'messenger from the sea god's palace.'

➤ **Green India Mission (GIM)**

- The Centre, on June 17, **released a revised roadmap** for the National Mission for Green India, also known as the Green India Mission (GIM).

- In addition to the core objectives of increasing and restoring forest and green cover, the mission will focus on restoration in the Aravalli ranges, Western Ghats, Himalayas and mangroves.
- GIM was rolled out in 2014 as one of the eight missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Its core aim is to combat climate change by increasing forest and tree cover, and the ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems and forests.

➤ **Environmental Toxicology**

- According to the study commissioned by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), shows that the level of toxicology indicators at the Deonar landfill is up to four times the permissible limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The Deonar dumping ground at Mankhurd-Shivaji Nagar in Mumbai's eastern suburbs is the oldest waste dump in the country. It has been operational since 1927, a time when this area had very little human habitation.
- The study analysed the levels of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) — all crucial indicators of environmental toxicology.
- BOD indicates the amount of dissolved oxygen required by microorganisms to break down organic matter present in a water sample; COD refers to the amount of oxygen required to chemically oxidise organic matter; TDS refers to the total concentration of all dissolved substances, including inorganic salts, minerals, and organic matter.

➤ **Wildlife Protection Act to declare the wild boars as Vermin**

- The Union government has rejected Kerala's demand to recognise wild boars as vermin under the Wildlife Protection Act. The Center is also not in favour of the state's demand to remove monkeys (bonnet macaque) from Schedule I to Schedule II.
- Section 11 of the 1972 Act regulates the hunting of wild animals. As per clause (1)(A) of the section, the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of a state may — if satisfied that a wild animal specified in Schedule I (mammals) has become dangerous to human life or disabled or diseased beyond recovery — permit hunting or killing of such animal.
- As per section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, the Union Government can notify any wild animal in Schedule II of the Act (which protects it from hunting), as vermin for a period of time in an area/state.
- An animal is declared vermin when it poses a threat to life and crops. Once declared as vermin, wild boar would lose its protection from hunting, thus enabling the state and citizens to cull the wild boar population to protect against the menace the species poses to life and livelihood.

➤ **Eurasian Otter**

- For three decades, the Eurasian otter, once an integral part of Kashmir's aquatic ecosystem, was thought to be extinct in the Valley. However, a rare sighting of the semi-aquatic mammal has now been reported in south Kashmir.
- The otter, which has been globally classified as 'near threatened' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), was spotted in the Lidder River in Srigufwara, south Kashmir.

Lidder River

The Lidder River is a tributary of the Jhelum River, which originates from the Kolahoi Glacier, located in the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir. The Jhelum River (252 km) originates

from a spring at Verinag near the Pir Panjal and flows through Wular Lake in Srinagar before entering Pakistan. It joins the Chenab near a place called Jhang in Pakistan.

- The **Eurasian otter**, locally known as Vuder, was an integral part of Kashmir's aquatic ecosystem and was abundantly found in the water bodies.
- Over the last three decades, it was not spotted in the water bodies of the Valley, and it was thought to be extinct in Kashmir. The reason for the sudden decline is attributed to increased water pollution and hunting of the mammal for its fur.
- The Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) is one of the three otter species found in India, alongside the Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and the small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*).

➤ **New Ramsar sites**

- On the eve of World Environment Day, Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur have been designated as Ramsar sites, taking the total tally to 91. Both are located in Rajasthan.
- The Menar Wetland Complex is a freshwater monsoon wetland complex formed by three ponds, Braham talab, Dhand talab, and Kheroda talab, and agricultural land that connects the latter two.
- Khichan Wetland, located in the northern Thar Desert, comprises two water bodies, Ratri nadi (river) and Vijaysagar talab (pond), riparian habitat, and scrub land. This desert ecosystem supports drought-resistant plant species that provide habitat for over 150 species of birds.
- The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. It encourages the protection and conservation of wetlands worldwide by designating them as such. Ramsar sites are also known as wetlands of international importance.

➤ **Sindoor Plant**

- On the occasion of World Environment Day (June 5), Prime Minister Narendra Modi planted a sapling of the sindoor plant at his residence in New Delhi. The Gujarat government has also decided to come up with a memorial, which will be called 'Sindoor Van' (forest), dedicated to Operation Sindoor.
- The sindoor plant is commonly known as *Bixa orellana*. It is also called 'Annatto' in English. It is a small tree or shrub with bright green leaves and pink flowers. The seeds of this plant are covered with a red-orange coating.

➤ **Greater Flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi**

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Tamil Nadu government has officially declared a Greater Flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district.
- It aims to preserve a critical stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway for thousands of migratory wetland birds.

PLACES IN NEWS

➤ **Strait of Hormuz**

- Iran's Parliament **has approved the closing of the Strait of Hormuz**, though the final decision will be taken by the Supreme National Security Council.
- The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran, connecting the Gulf of Oman with the Persian Gulf, and the Arabian Sea beyond. (A strait is a narrow water body connecting two larger bodies of water.)

- The strait is about 33 kilometres wide at the narrowest point, though shipping traffic passes through a narrower traffic separation scheme (TSS), which consists of a 3-kilometre-wide channel each for inbound and outbound traffic.
- Because of its geographic location, there is no sea route alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. So if the passage of ships through the strait were to be disrupted, it would have ramifications for oil and LNG trade worldwide, and prices would shoot up.

➤ **Coastline of India**

- The length of India's coastline used to be 7,516 km, something that was ascertained in the 1970s. But this coastline has now been measured to be 11,098 km, an increase of 3,582 km, or nearly 48%. The main reason for such a big difference is in the scale of data used for measurement.
- The earlier measurement was based on data that were of the scale of 1:4,500,000 (one to forty-five lakh), or smaller. However, the recent exercise calculated the length of the coastline using data that had a scale of 1:250,000 (one to 2.5 lakh).
- Higher resolution data can capture the coastline, its bends and curves, in more intricate details. In low-resolution data, these details get smoothened out, and appear as straight lines. The loss of bends and curves would shorten the length.

➤ **Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki**

- Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki, located in south-central Indonesia, erupted on Tuesday (17th June), sending massive columns of ash high into the sky. It is located in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province.
- According to Volcano World, Lewotobi is a stratovolcano with a recorded history of at least 19 eruptions between 1675 and 1991. A stratovolcano is a massive volcano made of layers of lava, ash, and other components.

➤ **Israel attacks Iran**

- In what is its most ambitious military operation in recent years, Israel launched a series of air strikes against Iran, targeting nuclear sites, missile facilities and other military infrastructure.
- The Natanz nuclear facility has been attacked. Located roughly 135 miles southeast of Tehran, Natanz is Iran's primary uranium enrichment site. Partially built underground to withstand airstrikes, the facility houses cascades of centrifuges used to enrich uranium more efficiently. Iran has also been tunnelling into a nearby mountain known as Kūh-e Kolang Gaz Lā (**Pickax Mountain**) — an effort seen as an attempt to fortify and expand the site.
- **Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre:** Roughly 215 miles southeast of Tehran, Isfahan is a hub of nuclear research and development. It hosts three Chinese-built research reactors and employs thousands of Iranian scientists. The site plays a crucial role in training and infrastructure for Iran's atomic programme.
- **Arak Heavy Water Reactor:** Located 155 miles southwest of Tehran, Arak is designed to use heavy water as a coolant, a process that can produce plutonium as a byproduct. While Iran has not pursued



plutonium-based weapons, Arak theoretically offers a second pathway to a nuclear bomb. As part of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, Iran agreed to redesign Arak to reduce proliferation risks.

➤ **Mata Kheer Bhawani temple**

- Several devotees offer prayers during the annual mela at the Mata Kheer Bhawani temple in Tullamulla in Ganderbal district on 3rd June.
- Kheer Bhawani temple is dedicated to the goddess Ragnya Devi. It is situated 30 km from Srinagar city, and is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Kashmiri Hindus.
- The temple gets its name from kheer, or milk and rice pudding, that pilgrims pour into the spring inside the temple complex as an offering to the goddess.
- Every year, a mela or festival is held at the temple. The festival, known as Mela Kheerbhawani, is the largest gathering of Hindus in Kashmir after the annual Amarnath Yatra.

➤ **Mt Etna**

- Italy's Mount Etna, the largest volcano in Europe, produced an explosive eruption on 2nd June, sending a huge cloud of ash, smoke and rock fragments several kilometres into the sky.
- Mount Etna, sometimes referred to simply as Etna, is an active volcano on the east coast of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, lying just off the toe of the Italian "boot". Etna's peak is the highest in Italy south of the Alps, and it is the largest of Europe's active volcanoes.
- Etna's summit has five craters, which are responsible for most of the volcano's eruptions. "Flank" eruptions also occur at the 300-odd vents of varying sizes along the slopes of the mountain.
- Etna has been a World Heritage Site since 2013, and according to UNESCO, the volcano's eruptive history can be traced back 500,000 years. At least 2,700 years of this activity have been documented.

➤ **Chenab bridge**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 6th June flagged off the Vande Bharat train service between Katra in the Jammu region and Srinagar in Kashmir.
- The train will pass over the **world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab river**, and the country's first cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad, as well as the long tunnel between Khari and Sumber.
- It is the highest arch bridge in the world, with a deck height of 359 meters from the riverbed — making it 35 meters taller than Paris's iconic Eiffel Tower.
- Connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, the bridge forms a critical part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which is being developed at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore.
- The Chenab railway bridge is a steel-and-concrete marvel spanning 1,315 meters across the river gorge. It consists of a 530-meter-long approach bridge and a 785-meter-long deck arch bridge (the part of the bridge on which vehicles run).

About USBRL

The USBRL is one of the most ambitious railway projects undertaken in independent India. Stretching 272 kilometres through the rugged Himalayas, the project has been built at a cost of Rs 43,780 crore. The 272-km USBRL is broadly divided into three parts: the 25-km Udhampur-Katra stretch, 111-km Katra-Banihal and 136-km Banihal-Baramulla. It also includes 36 tunnels that span 119 kilometres and 943 bridges that knit together valleys, ridges and mountain passes.

➤ Metropole Hotel Complex

- Last week, the Ministry of Home Affairs temporarily allotted Nainital's Metropole Hotel Complex — classified as enemy property — to the state government for use as a parking facility.
- The hotel was built in 1880 and owned by the Raja of Mahmudabad. This is where Mohammad Ali Jinnah and his wife Rattanbai honeymooned in 1918.
- The design of its roof came to be known as Nainital-pattern-roofing, which the British then used in many buildings across India.
- After Mohammad Amir Ahmed Khan, the Raja of Mahmudabad, moved to Pakistan post Partition, his considerable properties in north India, including the 11-acre Nainital hotel, were declared enemy property.
- Pandit Rahul Sanskritayan, who was an exceptional scholar with proficiency in almost 11 languages, stayed there and wrote his famous work, Kumaun.

Enemy Property

Enemy property are the assets (movable and immovable) that were left behind in India by individuals who migrated to countries designated as "enemy nations" during times of conflict.

Under the Enemy Property Act of 1968, properties designated as **enemy properties remain permanently vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property**, meaning they cannot be inherited or transferred.

PERSONS IN NEWS

➤ Parag Jain

- The government appointed Parag Jain as the new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's external intelligence agency. Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre, succeeds Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30.
- Jain was serving as the head of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC), the technical wing of R&AW, before his elevation.

➤ Amitabh Kant

- Amitabh Kant has stepped down as India's G20 Sherpa, ending a 45-year career in government service.
- Kant served as NITI Aayog's longest-tenured CEO, holding the post for over six years from February 2016 to June 2022, before being appointed India's G20 Sherpa in July 2022, succeeding Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

➤ Blaise Metreweli

- For the first time in its 116-year-old male-coded history, Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6, will be led by a woman, Blaise Metreweli. She qualifies to be the 18th Chief in the organisation.
- The first chief of the SIS, Sir Mansfield Cumming, frequently signed his directives with the letter C, giving birth to a codename that remains in use till date.

- Referred to as 'C', the Chief possesses operational responsibility for MI6, and is accountable to the Foreign Secretary, according to the government release.
- 'C' is also a part of the Joint Intelligence Committee, alongside heads of other departments and senior government officials. It receives intelligence reports, analyses ongoing situations and advises the prime minister

MI6: Military Intelligence Section 6, officially the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), is the UK's foreign intelligence agency, tasked with the collection, analysis, and dissemination of foreign intelligence, as well as conducting espionage activities outside British territory.

➤ **Lieutenant Commander Yashaswi Solankee**

- On May 9, Lieutenant Commander Yashaswi Solankee (27) became the first woman officer to be appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India.
- The President has five ADCs — three from the Army, and one each from the Navy and Air Force — none of them have been a woman officer so far.
- The President's ADC serves as the bridge to the First Citizen — liaising her appointments and call-ons, being present with her at all presidential ceremonies and events, facilitating communication with various branches of the government and military.

➤ **Lee Jae-myung**

- Lee Jae-myung, the leader of South Korea's liberal Democratic Party, has won the presidential snap election.
- He is the country's 14th president and will serve a single five-year term, as mandated by the South Korean constitution.

➤ **Ahilya Bai Holkar**

- Ahilya Bai Holkar was born on May 31, 1725, in Chondi village of Maharashtra. She ruled Malwa territory (a major part of which is now in Madhya Pradesh) from 1767 to 1795. The Holkar dynasty under the Maratha Empire achieved its peak during her tenure.
- Rooted in the civilisational ethos of samajik samrasta — a philosophical vision that aims to foster an equitable and dignified society — her policies addressed disadvantaged groups, specifically the Bhils, Gonds, and Dalits.
- She nominated Tukoji Holkar, a trustworthy soldier who had previously served under her father-in-law Malhar Rao Holkar, as head of her army.
- During her reign, numerous religious places were renovated, including Somnath, Varanasi, Trambak, Gaya, Pushkar, Vrindavan, Nathdwara, Haridwar, Badrinath, and Kedarnath.
- The Madhya Pradesh government led a nine-month-long celebration from September 2024 to May 31, 2025, leading to the 300th birth anniversary.

➤ **S Mahendra Dev**

- Economist S Mahendra Dev has been appointed as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- Dev is an expert in the fields of agriculture and rural economy, and also serves as the editor of the Economic and Political Weekly.
- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.



AWARDS

➤ World's Best School Prize 2025

- A Zilla Parishad (ZP) school in Pune district's Jalindarnagar village has been shortlisted among global finalists for the World's Best School Prize 2025 in the category of Community Collaboration in education.
- Three other Indian schools – one each from Karnataka, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh – have also been shortlisted under various categories for the award organised by UK-based international education platform T4 Education.
- Among the school's innovative approaches is the 'Vishay Mitra' (subject friend) initiative. This is a peer-learning model, where senior students mentor juniors, helping clarify doubts in a comfortable, student-led setting.

➤ 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards for Global Tobacco Control

- India is among the six countries that received 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards for Global Tobacco Control for prioritizing tobacco cessation approaches to reach a significant number of tobacco users in the country.
- The National Tobacco Control Cell of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, was presented with the award at the World Conference on Tobacco Control held in Dublin, Ireland.
- India was presented the 'O' category award for promoting tobacco cessation. The 'O' is the MPOWER policy package of the World Health Organisation (WHO) that stands for 'Offer help to quit tobacco use.'
- The WHO Global Tobacco Epidemic 2025 report, developed with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, was also launched on the occasion.
- Report reveals that the most striking gains have been in graphic health warnings, one of the key measures under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), that make the harms of tobacco impossible to ignore.

➤ Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar

- The Sahitya Akademi on June 18, 2025, announced the names of 23 writers for its 'Yuva Puraskar'. No award is given in the Dogri language this year.
- The awardees include Advait Kottary in English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Neha Rubab in Urdu, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu.

➤ Sahitya Akademi Bal Puraskar

- The Akademi announced the names of 24 authors for its Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- In English, Nitin Kushalappa MP won the award. Similarly, for Hindi and Urdu, the award was given to Sushil Shukla and Ghazanfar Iqbal, respectively.

About Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi was established by Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also its first chairperson, and was inaugurated on March 12, 1954.
- Every year, the Akademi announces awards for authors of works of outstanding literary merit in Indian languages.

- Awards are currently given for 24 languages; the most recent additions being Bodo and Santhali in 2005. Awards in English began in 1960 — the first recipient was R.K. Narayan for his novel *The Guide*.

SPORTS

➤ FIDE World Rapid Team Championship

- Team MGD1, with Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi as their star player and N Srinath as the non-playing captain, won the FIDE World Rapid Team Championship 2025 in London on 21st June, 2025.
- A Pune-based chess management firm, Team MGD1 became the first Indian team to achieve this feat in the tournament's brief three-year history.
- The FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Team Championships 2025 is an event open to any team around the globe that meets the official requirements. According to FIDE, the teams can be made of club members, members of different federations or any other chess players.
- Each team must have at least six and no more than nine players. The teams also have to include at least one female player and one recreational player who is defined as "one who never achieved FIDE Standard, Rapid or Blitz Rating of 2000 Elo points (or unrated) up to and including the March 2025 rating lists.
- The total prize fund is €500,000, with €310,000 allocated to the rapid event and €190,000 to the blitz event.

➤ Paris Diamond League 2025

- Indian javelin throw ace Neeraj Chopra won the Paris Diamond League 2025 with a throw of 88.16m.
- Germany's Julian Weber finished second with the throw of 87.88m.

➤ 2025 ISSF World Cup, Munich

- India team won a total of four medals – two gold and two bronze – which saw them end in third spot at the overall standings behind the People's Republic of China and Norway.

Winner	Category	Medal
Suruchi Singh	Women's 10m air pistol	Gold Medal
Arya Borse/Arjun Babuta	10m air rifle mixed team	Gold Medal
Sift Kaur Samra	Women's 50m rifle 3 positions	Bronze Medal
Elavenil Valarivan	Women's 10m air rifle	Bronze Medal



➤ World Test Championship

- South Africa claimed its first International Cricket Council (ICC) trophy in 27 years after beating Australia by five wickets in the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's.
- The World Test Championship points table is independent of the ICC Test rankings.
- **Point system:** Each series has 120 points. Accordingly, in a two-match series, 60 points is awarded for a win, 30 points for a tie, and 20 points for a draw. No point is awarded for a defeat.
 - In a three-match series, 40 points are awarded for a win, 20 points for a tie, and 13 points for a draw.
 - In a four-match series, 30 points are awarded for a win, 15 points for a tie, and 10 points for a draw.
 - In a five-match series, 24 points are awarded for a win, 12 points for a tie, and 8 points for a draw.

➤ UEFA Champions League

- Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) won the Champions League for the first time after defeating Inter Milan in the finals by 5-0.
- Luis Enrique, who won the 2015 Champions League with Barcelona, became the seventh coach to win the trophy with two different teams, in the footsteps of greats Carlo Ancelotti, Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho.

➤ IPL 2025

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Punjab Kings by 6 runs to win their first IPL trophy in the 18th season.
- Mumbai Indians batter and India T20I captain **Suryakumar Yadav** was named the 'Most Valuable Player' (Player of the tournament) of the Indian Premier League 2025 season.
- Both Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are two of the most successful sides in the history of IPL, having won five titles each.

➤ French Open 2025

- Wimbledon, French Open, US Open, and Australian Open are the most prestigious events on the annual tennis calendar, bestowed with the moniker of "Grand Slam", a term that has been in use for almost a century.

Winners of the French Open 2025

Category	Winners	Runner up
Women's Singles	Coco Gauff (American)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarusian)
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spanish)	Jannik Sinner (Italian)
Women's Double	Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini	Kazakh Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic



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Men's Double	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos	Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski
Mixed Double	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori	Taylor Townsend and Evan King

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