



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>>> 12 JUNE 2025**



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

### 1. "PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Completes 9 Years and Maternal Risk Reduction (MRR) Drops by 50 Points.



In June 2025, the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI), marks its 9th anniversary.

- The objective of PMSMA is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by enabling early detection and timely management of high-risk pregnancies.
- As of May 2025, more than 6.19 crore pregnant women have benefitted from antenatal check-ups under PMSMA across the country.
- India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has shown a significant decline of 50 points — from 130 per 100,000 live births during 2014–2016 to 80 per 100,000 live births during 2021–2023 — reflecting notable improvement in maternal healthcare outcomes.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Launched in June 2016, PMSMA was introduced to offer assured, comprehensive, and quality Antenatal Care (ANC) services at no cost to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month,

particularly during the second and third trimesters.

(ii) The initiative aligns with the broader goals of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under the National Health Mission (NHM).

(iii) It follows a systematic model of private sector collaboration by inviting private practitioners to volunteer, contribute to awareness efforts, and participate actively in delivering services at government health facilities under the Abhiyan.

### 2. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Clean Plant Programme' in Pune, Maharashtra.



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), announced the launch of the 'Clean Plant Programme' to establish 9 horticultural facilities across India during the concluding session of India's 1st International Agri Hackathon held from June 01 to June 03, 2025, in Pune, Maharashtra.

- The programme aims to enhance the availability of disease-free and high-quality planting material to support horticultural growth and improve farmers' productivity across the country.
- India's focus on enhancing horticultural research and development has led to the identification of nine



Central Plantation Crops (CPCs) that are cultivated and researched across various regions. These include: Grapes (National Research Centre, Pune, Maharashtra); temperate fruits such as Apple, Almond, and Walnut (Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar, J&K and Mukteshwar, Uttarakhand); Citrus fruits like Oranges (ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur, Maharashtra and ICAR-Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner, Rajasthan); Mango, Guava, and Avocado (ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, Karnataka); Mango, Guava, and Litchi (ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh); and Pomegranate (National Research Centre, Sholapur, Maharashtra). Eastern India will also see the development of facilities for tropical and sub-tropical fruits.

- Among the total nine CPC-specific facilities, three will be set up in Maharashtra. These are located in Pune (for Grapes), Nagpur (for Oranges), and Solapur (for Pomegranates). The combined development cost for these three Maharashtra-based horticultural research centers is estimated at ₹300 crore.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The Clean Plant Initiative will receive expert technical support from international partners, including Israel and the Netherlands.
- (ii) The initiative will also complement the development of advanced nurseries, with funding of Rs 3 crore for large nurseries and Rs 1.5 crore for mid-sized nurseries.
- (iii) During the event, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that the state government will utilize its Rs 120 crore Startup Fund of Funds (FoF), along with support from the Government of India (GoI), to provide incubation and financial assistance to turn participant ideas into scalable startups.

### 3. Bengaluru Declared India's 'Leopard Capital' with 85 Wild Leopards Roaming Free.



In June 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) was declared India's 'Leopard Capital' following a year-long camera-trap survey (2024–2025) conducted by the Holématti Nature Foundation (HNF), headquartered in Bengaluru. The survey, led by renowned conservation biologist Dr. Sanjay Gubbi, revealed that Bengaluru hosts the highest population of free-ranging wild leopards among India's metropolitan cities, surpassing Mumbai (Maharashtra).

- The study estimated 80–85 leopards across the forests and scrublands surrounding Bengaluru, exceeding Mumbai's 54 leopards recorded within Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Maharashtra.
- The survey covered an area of 282 square kilometers (sq km) using over 250 camera traps, capturing data across mixed habitats including Turahalli, B.M. Kaval, U.M. Kaval, Roerich Estate, and Bannerghatta National Park (BNP).
- Of the total leopard count, 54 individuals were recorded inside Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), while over 30 leopards were found in reserved, deemed, and private forest lands on the outskirts of the city.

**Key Points:-**

- (i) With this, Bengaluru earned the title of 'Leopard Capital of India', becoming the only Indian metro whose periphery supports a complete assemblage of large mammals including tigers, dholes, elephants, gaur, and sambar, alongside leopards.
- (ii) The study documented 34 mammal species, including 4 Endangered and 4 Near Threatened species, as classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- (iii) Additionally, 22 species were listed under Schedule I, and 5 under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

#### 4. Puducherry Becomes 19th Legislature to Adopt NeVA Platform.



On 9th June 2025, Dr. L. Murugan, Union Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MPA), inaugurated the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) for the Puducherry Legislative Assembly in Puducherry.

- The inauguration event was graced by Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry K. Kailashnathan, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, and Speaker of the Puducherry Legislative Assembly R. Selvam.

- NeVA, a Mission Mode Project under the Digital India programme, is developed to digitise legislative processes, promote paperless governance, and enhance citizen-centric legislative functioning.

**Key Points:-**

- (i) NeVA supports real-time access to legislative proceedings, aligning with the vision of "One Nation, One Application." It allows legislators and the public to engage more efficiently with parliamentary activities through digital means.
- (ii) The platform is funded with 100% Central Assistance by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MPA).
- (iii) The platform features digital access to legislative documents such as budget speeches, notices, and questions, enables paperless operations, and integrates AI/ML-powered real-time translation through BHASHINI (BHASHA INterface for India). It also includes live streaming of proceedings to foster transparency, public engagement, and accountability.

#### 5. Assam CM Unveils 'Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana' Scheme to Support Research Scholars.



In June 2025, Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana Scheme during an event held at Lok

Sewa Bhawan in Guwahati, Assam. The scheme is designed to empower research scholars across the state by offering one-time financial assistance, with special emphasis on Divyang (differently-abled) scholars, aiming to foster a new era of research and development in Assam.

- Under the Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana Scheme, full-time research scholars will receive ₹25,000, while Divyang (differently-abled) scholars will be granted ₹40,000 as one-time financial assistance.
- The scheme is applicable to permanent residents of Assam pursuing research in public institutions, including both state and central universities.
- It aims to support scholars in completing their research without financial stress, thereby boosting research output and improving their employment prospects in academic institutions.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) CM Himanta Biswa Sarma also launched the Swagata Satirtha Portal, designed to streamline the transfer process for government employees, making it more efficient, transparent, and time-bound.
- (ii) Over 9,004 Grade III and IV employees have already benefited from the portal, which facilitates mutual transfers to enhance convenience and boost overall productivity in government services.

#### 6. Government Revises GFR Norms to Streamline Procurement of Scientific Equipment.



In June 2025, the Government of India (GoI) raised financial thresholds for the procurement of scientific instruments and consumables by various scientific institutions, including those engaged in defence-related research, to reduce delays and simplify procurement procedures.

- The amendments aim to accelerate scientific innovation and research activities by easing administrative bottlenecks.
- The Ministry of Finance (MoF) amended the Special Provisions under the General Financial Rules (GFRs) with the objective of streamlining procurement processes and enhancing the operational autonomy of research bodies.
- Vice Chancellors and Directors of Research and Development (R&D) institutions can now procure scientific equipment and consumables (single-use or short-lifespan research materials) up to Rs. 2 lakhs without the requirement of obtaining quotations.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The financial ceiling for purchases made by institutional purchase committees has been raised from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs.
- (ii) The procurement limits under Limited Tender Enquiry (LTE) and Advertised Tender Enquiry methods have been doubled from Rs. 50 lakhs to



Rs. 1 crore.

(iii) These revisions are expected to enhance efficiency in scientific procurement and foster a more enabling environment for research and development in India.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Sarbananda Sonowal Embarks on 5-Day Visit to Norway and Denmark to Boost Maritime Ties.



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, heading the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), embarked on a 5-day official visit to Norway and Denmark, starting from June 2, 2025, with the objective to strengthen maritime cooperation and strategic partnerships.

- During the visit, he participated in the High-Level Meeting on Oceans held as part of the 60th edition of the Nor-Shipping event in Oslo, Norway, a premier global maritime forum.
- As part of his engagements, the Minister held bilateral meetings with his ministerial counterparts from Japan, Norway, and Denmark, focusing on collaborative opportunities in port development, green shipping, and maritime innovation.
- He also interacted with leading European shipping companies, component manufacturers, and

technology developers to explore avenues for adopting advanced maritime technologies, fostering sustainable shipping, and boosting India's maritime sector growth.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal (MoPSW) visited Norway from June 2–4, 2025, to strengthen maritime ties. He led India's delegation at Nor-Shipping 2025 in Oslo, marking its 60th edition. During the India @Nor-Shipping session, he announced India's commitment of USD 20 billion (₹1.67 trillion) for infrastructure, focusing on logistics, port connectivity, and trade facilitation.
- (ii) As part of the visit, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) signed an MoU with Kongsberg Maritime AS, a Norway-based firm, to co-design and build India's first-ever Polar Research Vehicle (PRV) indigenously. The PRV will be constructed at GRSE's shipbuilding facilities in Kolkata, West Bengal, marking a significant step in India's polar and maritime research capabilities.
- (iii) Following the Norway visit, Minister Sonowal travelled to Denmark to further strengthen bilateral maritime ties. He held a bilateral meeting with Morten Bødskov, Minister of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Government of Denmark. Both ministers exchanged views on enhancing cooperation under the Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) and the existing MoU on Maritime Affairs, aiming to boost sustainable maritime practices and technology exchange between the two nations.

### 2. Global Data Centre Rankings 2025: Mumbai Ranks 6th Worldwide; Virginia, USA Tops the List.



In June 2025, Cushman & Wakefield Inc. (C&W), headquartered in Illinois, United States of America (USA), released its '2025 Global Data Center Market Comparison' report.

- According to the report, Mumbai (Maharashtra) secured the 6th global rank with 335 Megawatts (MW) of data centre capacity under construction as of end-2024.
- Virginia (USA) topped the global list with 1,834 MW capacity under construction, followed by Atlanta (USA) with 1,078 MW, and Columbus (USA) with 546 MW.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The report ranked 97 cities globally based on their data centre capacity currently under construction.
- (ii) Mumbai, the only Indian city in the global top 10, also leads the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, and is ranked as the 7th most established data centre market in APAC.
- (iii) Pune (Maharashtra) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) are ranked 4th and 5th respectively among APAC's emerging data centre markets, highlighting India's growing significance in the global digital infrastructure landscape.

### 3. World Bank Sets New Poverty Line at USD 3/Day; India's Extreme Poverty Falls to 5.3%.



In June 2025, the World Bank, headquartered in Washington, United States of America (USA), released its Global Poverty Update, revising the global poverty threshold to USD 3 per day (daily consumption under USD 3), up from the earlier USD 2.15 per day (based on 2017 prices).

- As per the report, India's extreme poverty rate declined significantly from 27.1% to 5.3%.
- The International Poverty Line (IPL) was introduced by the World Bank in 1990 to standardize poverty measurement globally. It represents the minimum expenditure needed for basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter, and is adjusted using Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to enable fair cross-country comparisons of living standards.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) From 2011-12 to 2022-23, the number of people in India living in extreme poverty reduced from 344.47 million to 75.24 million, indicating that around 269 million people moved out of poverty during this period.
- (ii) Five states—Uttar Pradesh (UP), Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal (WB), and Madhya Pradesh (MP)—which collectively accounted for 65% of India's extreme poor in 2011-12, were responsible

for two-thirds of the total poverty reduction by 2022-23.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. SEBI Unveils New ESG Debt Framework for Social, Sustainability & Linked Bonds.



In June 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the capital markets regulator headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, introduced a new regulatory framework to govern the issuance and listing of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) debt securities in India.

- The comprehensive framework applies specifically to social bonds, sustainability bonds, and Sustainability-Linked Bonds (SLBs), while notably excluding green bonds from its purview. These new regulations officially came into effect on June 5, 2025.

- This initiative aims to strengthen India's ESG debt ecosystem by enhancing transparency, credibility, and investor confidence, thereby supporting the nation's broader sustainable development goals (SDGs) and promoting responsible financing.

- In June 2025, SEBI launched a new ESG debt framework under its 2025–2028 Sustainable Finance Roadmap. It covers social, sustainability, and Sustainability-Linked Bonds (SLBs), excluding green

bonds. The framework aligns with global standards like ICMA Principles and ASEAN guidelines, requiring social bonds to fund projects in areas such as essential services, infrastructure, employment, and food security.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The framework mandates detailed pre- and post-issuance disclosures. Issuers must share objectives, project selection, and target beneficiaries upfront. After issuance, annual reports must outline fund use, unused proceeds, and impact metrics. This ensures transparency and allows stakeholders to assess the social and environmental impact of ESG projects, strengthening accountability in the ESG debt market.

(ii) SEBI's framework mandates independent third-party verification for all ESG-labelled bonds. For bonds to qualify as social, sustainability, or SLBs, proceeds must fund projects aligned with ESG goals. SLB issuers must disclose sustainability strategies, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and Sustainability Performance Targets (SPTs). Third-party reviewers assess whether these goals are credible and achievable, reinforcing investor confidence by ensuring that the bonds genuinely support sustainable development objectives.

(iii) The framework defines three ESG debt types: Social Bonds fund projects like housing, education, and healthcare; Sustainability Bonds support both environmental and social goals; SLBs are tied to issuers meeting set sustainability targets (SPTs), with rewards or penalties based on results. These categories align India's capital markets with global sustainability norms.

## MOUs and Agreement

### 1. BHASHINI and CRIS Ink MoU to Develop Multilingual AI Tools for Indian Railways.





On 9 June 2025, the Digital India Bhashini (BHASHA Interface for India) Division (DIBD), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi, to collaboratively develop and deploy multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions across key public-facing platforms of Indian Railways.

- The MoU was officially signed in New Delhi by Amitabh Nag, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BHASHINI, and G.V.L. Satya Kumar, Managing Director (MD) of CRIS.
- The collaboration aims to enable passengers to access essential railway services in 22 Indian languages, thereby removing language barriers and improving the inclusivity of public service delivery.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The MoU focuses on enhancing linguistic inclusivity and accessibility by integrating BHASHINI's advanced language AI technologies into major Indian Railways digital platforms, including the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and the RailMadad application.
- (ii) The integration will involve BHASHINI's language technology stack, including Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Text-to-Text (TTT)

Translation, Text-to-Speech (TTS), and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) into CRIS-managed railway systems.

- (iii) The partnership also aims to co-develop multilingual chatbots, voice assistants, and over-the-counter enquiry interfaces, significantly enhancing user experience for diverse linguistic audiences across Indian Railways (IR).

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. S Mahendra Dev Appointed as New Chairperson of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM).



In June 2025, the Government of India appointed eminent economist Prof S Mahendra Dev as the Chairperson of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a two-year term, succeeding Suman Bery, who took charge after Bibek Debroy's demise in November 2024.

- Following his appointment, Prof Mahendra Dev resigned from the Board of Directors of Axis Bank, as the Chairperson role is a full-time position.
- The reconstitution of the EAC-PM was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and notified by the Cabinet Secretariat. The new part-time members include Soumya Kanti Ghosh, K V Raju, Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, Pulak Ghosh, and Gourav Vallabh, while Poonam Gupta was excluded.

**Key Points:-**

(i) Prof Dev began his academic journey at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in 1988 and served as its Director and Vice-Chancellor from 2010 to 2022.

(ii) Prof Dev served as an Independent Director at Kotak Mahindra Bank (2013–2021) and Axis Bank (2021–2025). He is currently the Chairman of the Institute of Development Studies, Andhra Pradesh (part-time) and Editor of Economic and Political Weekly since August 2023.

(iii) The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is a non-constitutional, non-statutory, independent advisory body that provides economic insights and recommendations directly to the Prime Minister of India. It comprises a Chairperson, along with full-time and part-time members.

- India delivered a stellar performance, clinching 16 medals, which included 12 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze.

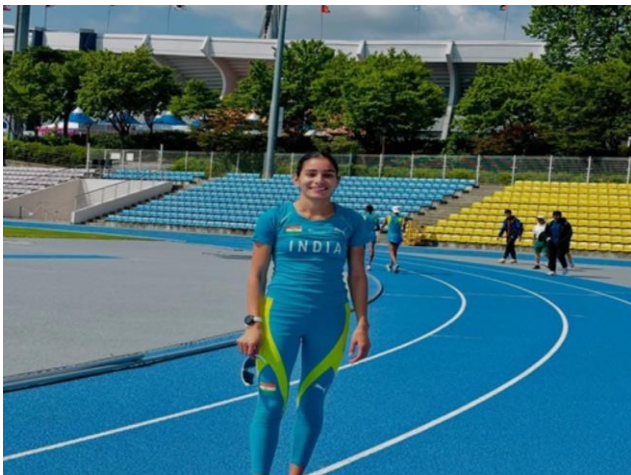
- India surpassed strong contenders Australia and Japan, who secured the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively in the final medal standings.

- In the 2024 Taiwan Athletics Open, India had won a total of 7 medals, comprising 3 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze, showing a remarkable improvement in 2025.

**Key Points:-**

(i) A 34-member Indian contingent displayed exceptional performances across various track and field disciplines.

(ii) Notable athletes like Annu Rani (Javelin Throw), Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw), Jyothi Varraji, and Pooja (800m) were among the top performers, with several delivering record-breaking achievements.

**SPORTS****1. India Shines at 2025 Taiwan Athletics Open, Bags 16 Medals Including 12 Gold.**

The 2025 Taiwan Athletics Open, a part of the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze (Category C), was held from June 7 to June 8, 2025, at Taipei Municipal Stadium, Taipei City, Taiwan.

**2. Indonesia Open 2025: Anders Antonsen Clinches Men's Singles Title and An Se-young Triumphs in Women's Singles.**

On June 8, 2025, Denmark's World No. 3 shuttler Anders Antonsen secured his maiden Indonesia Open men's singles title by defeating Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen in the final match held at the

Gelora Bung Karno Sports Complex, Jakarta, Indonesia.

- In the women's singles category, World No.1 An Se-young from South Korea triumphed over World No.2 Wang Zhiyi of China, earning her second Indonesia Open title.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The 43rd edition of the Indonesia Open, officially known as the Kapal Api Indonesia Open 2025, took place from June 3–8, 2025, at Istora Gelora Bung Karno, Jakarta, Indonesia. It was a premier badminton tournament offering a total prize pool of USD 1,450,000.

(ii) Organized annually since 1982 by the Badminton Association of Indonesia (PBSI), the event is part of the BWF World Tour and attracts top global players.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. Portugal Clinches Second UEFA Nations League Title After Penalty Shootout Win Against Spain.



In June 2025, Portugal secured their second UEFA Nations League title after defeating Spain 5-3 on penalties following a 2-2 draw in the final. The match was held at Allianz Arena, Munich, Germany,

concluding the fourth edition of the tournament, which ran from September 2024 to June 2025.

- Spain took the lead with goals by Martin Zubimendi (21st min) and Mikel Oyarzabal (45th min). Portugal equalized through Nuno Mendes (26th min) and Cristiano Ronaldo (61st min), taking the match into extra time and eventually penalties, where Portugal triumphed.

- Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 138th international goal, becoming the oldest player (aged over 40) to score in a UEFA Nations League final, surpassing Luka Modrić, who held the previous record at age 37 in the 2023 final.

- With this win, Portugal became the first country to win the UEFA Nations League title twice — first in 2019 (vs. Netherlands) and now in 2025 (vs. Spain).

#### Key Points:-

(i) Nuno Mendes was awarded Player of the Match for his standout performance, scoring a key goal in the final and contributing significantly in the semi-final match as well.

(ii) Despite the loss, Spain set a record by scoring 25 goals during the 2024–25 UEFA Nations League — the most by any team in a single edition of the tournament.

(iii) Both Portugal (Group F) and Spain (Group E) will now shift their attention to the FIFA World Cup 2026 European qualifiers, which are scheduled to resume in September 2025.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. UN Observes First-Ever International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations on 10 June 2025.





The first-ever United Nations (UN) International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations was globally observed on 10 June 2025. The observance aimed to raise awareness about the importance of intercultural understanding, mutual respect, and global solidarity in a world facing growing division and crises.

- The day underlines the essential role of dialogue in promoting peace, development, trust, effective governance, and the protection of universal human rights.
- On 7 June 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/78/286 during its 88th plenary meeting, proclaiming 10 June of every year as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.
- The resolution was proposed by China and received co-sponsorship from over 80 countries, reflecting widespread international support for intercultural dialogue.

#### Key Points:-

(i) To commemorate the day, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO, organized a special symposium titled "Youth Dialogue on the Future along the Silk Roads" on 5 June 2025.

(ii) The event was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, highlighting the role of youth in shaping future pathways of intercultural cooperation and understanding.

## 2. International Level Crossing Awareness Day 2025 Observed on June 5 to Promote Railway Safety.



The International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) 2025 was globally observed on June 5 to raise awareness about the dangers posed by level crossings—where railway lines intersect with roads—and to promote safer behavior among road users and pedestrians.

- These intersections are high-risk zones for collisions, making education and vigilance essential.
- The 17th edition of ILCAD was marked on 5 June 2025, following the Trespass Prevention Awareness Day (TRESPAD), which was observed on 4 June 2025.
- TRESPAD focuses on reducing rail-related trespassing incidents, a significant contributor to railway fatalities worldwide.

#### Key Points:-

(i) ILCAD is coordinated by the International Union of Railways (UIC) (Union Internationale des Chemins de fer in French) and is actively supported by railway organizations across the

globe.

(ii) In 2025, the launch conference for ILCAD and TRESPAD was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK)-based Network Rail and the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) at the National Railway Museum in York, UK.

(iii) The theme for ILCAD 2025 is "Helping people make good decisions", with the slogan: "Safe decisions every time", aiming to encourage thoughtful and responsible behavior at level crossings to prevent accidents and save lives.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Dhruva Space Collaborates with France's Sodern ArianeGroup for HORUS Star Tracker Mission.



In June 2025, Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Dhruva Space Private Limited announced a strategic collaboration with Limeil-Brévannes (France)-based Sodern, a subsidiary of ArianeGroup, to deploy Sodern's high-accuracy HORUS star tracker onboard a Dhruva Space-hosted payload mission, scheduled for launch in 2026.

- The mission will be part of the 'Launching Expeditions for Aspiring Payloads' (LEAP) initiative.
- The partnership was officially revealed during the High-Level Committee for India Manufacturing (HCIM)

Business Delegation to Europe, led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

- The HORUS star tracker will be integrated into Dhruva Space's indigenously built P-30 nanosatellite platform. This platform, based on a modular architecture, was previously space-qualified during ISRO's PSLV-C58 POEM-3 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module -3) mission in January 2024, validating its capabilities for future satellite missions.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Sodern's HORUS payload features a cutting-edge Active Pixel Sensor (APS) space detector, designed for high-precision, autonomous attitude sensing in telecommunications platforms.
- (ii) This technology enhances spacecraft orientation accuracy, contributing to improved mission performance in low-Earth orbit (LEO) operations.
- (iii) Additionally, Sodern's radiation-hardened Auriga star tracker—developed in California (USA)—has been selected by Dhruva Space as the preferred Attitude Determination and Control System (ADCS) for a series of its forthcoming satellite missions, strengthening the Indo-French aerospace cooperation.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Scientists Discover New Wasp Species 'Losgna Occidentalis' in Chandigarh.



In June 2025, a study published in Zootaxa, a peer-reviewed scientific journal for animal taxonomy, reported the rediscovery of the *Losgna* genus of wasps in India after nearly 60 years.

- The new species, discovered in Chandigarh, was named *Losgna Occidentalis*, marking the westernmost occurrence of this genus, previously found only in the tropical forests of eastern India and parts of Southeast Asia.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In a related milestone for Himalayan biodiversity, a new bat species named *Myotis himalaicus* (Himalayan long-tailed *Myotis*) was discovered in the high-altitude forests of Uttarakhand, particularly within the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.

(ii) This discovery, also published in Zootaxa, was led by a five-member team comprising Uttam Saikia from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Rohit Chakravarty from the Nature Conservation Foundation. It was part of a broader reassessment of bat fauna in the western Himalayas.

(iii) These discoveries underscore the ecological richness and the importance of continued biodiversity research across diverse Indian habitats.



## Static GK

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|---|---|--|
| <b>Denmark</b>  | Capital: Copenhagen                       | Prime minister: Mette Frederiksen                        |
| <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b>  | Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey           | Headquarter : Mumbai                                     |
| <b>Dhruva Space</b>                                   | Founded: 2012                             | Headquarters: Hyderabad                                  |
| <b>Athletics Federation of India (AFI)</b>            | President: Bahadur Singh Sagoo            | Headquarters: New Delhi                                  |
| <b>Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)</b> | President : Aleksander Čeferin            | Headquarters : Nyon, Switzerland                         |
| <b>International Union of Railways (UIC)</b>          | Director General (DG): François Davenne   | Headquarters: Paris, France                              |
| <b>Assam</b>  | Chief Minister (CM) : Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor : Lakshman Acharya                              |
| <b>World Bank</b>                                     | President: Ajay Banga                     | Headquarters: Washington, United States of America (USA) |
| <b>Badminton World Federation (BWF)</b>               | President: Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul  | Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia                     |