

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

>>> 17 JUNE 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

1. Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Talliki Vandanam' Scheme: ₹15,000 Annual Aid per School-Going Child.



On June 12, 2025, the Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, introduced the 'Talliki Vandanam' ("Salutation to Mother") scheme—an ambitious welfare initiative under the "Super Six" manifesto. It awards ₹15,000 per year for each school-going child in a household, with ₹13,000 paid directly into mothers' or guardians' bank accounts and ₹2,000 allocated for maintaining school infrastructure, sanitation, and hygiene.

- The scheme benefits students from Class I to Intermediate (XII) across all recognized schools and junior colleges, including government, private-aided, and unaided institutions. With over 67 lakh students and approximately 43 lakh mothers eligible, the state has earmarked around ₹8,745 crore for the first-year rollout.

- A key feature is that every eligible child in a household receives support—unlike previous programs like "Ammavodi," which limited aid to only one child per family. To top it off, the scheme supplements central government scholarships for SC/ST, BC, and minority students, ensuring they get the full ₹15,000 amount.

- The beneficiaries' list was released at village and ward secretariats. Families not included can submit grievances until June 20, with resolutions by June 28. A second disbursement phase—covering newly enrolled students—will follow on July 5, including for first-grade and first-year intermediate students.

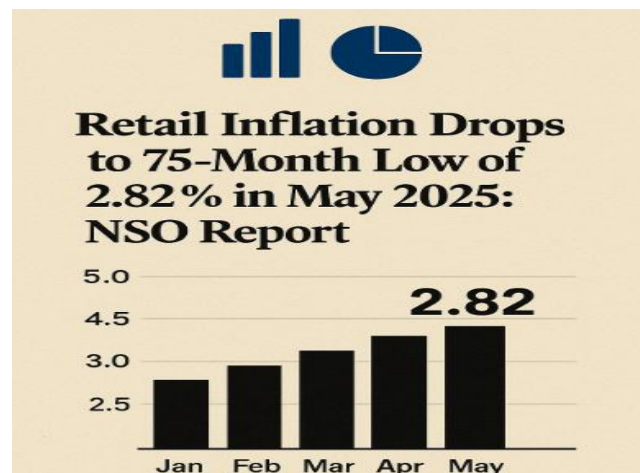
Key Points:-

(i) By June 13, funds had reached 35.44 lakh mothers' bank accounts, with notifications going out post-midnight. However, some recipients reported discrepancies: pending loans were automatically deducted by banks, reducing the ₹13,000 aid, or scammers circulated false links under the scheme's guise—prompting police alerts urging vigilance.

(ii) The Andhra Pradesh government is implementing a real-time digital dashboard and biometric attendance tracking to ensure transparency in the 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme. This system aims to eliminate duplicate beneficiaries and ensure that financial support reaches the genuinely eligible families.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. According to NSO Report "Retail Inflation Drops to 75-Month Low of 2.82% in May 2025".



June 2025 – The National Statistical Office (NSO), operating under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has released updated figures for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) covering rural, urban, and combined segments for May 2025. As per the report, India's retail inflation (measured through CPI) declined sharply to 2.82%, marking a 75-month low, a fall of 34 basis points (bps) from 3.16% in April 2025.

- The current CPI rate of 2.82% in May 2025 is the lowest year-on-year retail inflation since February 2019, when it was recorded at 2.57%. This marks the fourth consecutive month that inflation has remained below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4%, indicating a moderating inflationary trend across the economy.

- A significant drop in headline inflation was driven by a notable fall in food prices, a favourable base effect, and reduced costs of essential commodities, collectively easing inflationary pressure across rural and urban sectors.

- According to the NSO, the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) showed a year-on-year increase of just 0.99% in May 2025 compared to May 2024. This significant moderation reflects better supply chain conditions, increased availability, and relatively stable food prices at the consumer level.

Key Points:-

(i) While headline inflation eased, core inflation (which excludes the volatile food and energy segments) rose slightly to 4.28% in May 2025, up from 4.23% in April 2025. This marks the highest core inflation level since October 2022, indicating persistent price pressures in non-food sectors such as housing, healthcare, and education.

(ii) Among the states and union territories, Kerala posted the highest year-on-year retail inflation at 6.46% for May 2025, followed by Punjab at

5.21%. These state-level figures are significantly above the national average, likely due to regional consumption patterns and supply-demand imbalances.

(iii) With overall inflation staying well below the RBI's 4% target, this trend could prompt the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to maintain an accommodative stance or even consider policy rate adjustments. However, the rise in core inflation may lead to caution in policy moves, as broad-based price stability is yet to be fully achieved.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Gombojav Zandanshatar Appointed as 34th Prime Minister of Mongolia.



In mid-June 2025, Mongolia's Parliament (the State Great Khural) appointed Gombojav Zandanshatar—veteran politician, former Speaker, Foreign Minister, and banker—as the country's 34th Prime Minister, following the resignation of Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene amid anti-corruption protests and a failed confidence vote.

- On June 12, Zandanshatar received strong backing in Parliament—108 out of 117 votes (92.3%)—with support from his party, the Mongolian People's Party, signaling robust consensus.

- His predecessor Oyun-Erdene stepped down after protests sparked by allegations of lavish spending by his family and corruption, resulting in a key vote of no confidence on June 3.

- Born March 18, 1970, in Baatsagaan (Bayankhongor), Zandanshatar boasts a distinguished career: MBA-level economics education, lecturing, senior banking roles, agriculture ministry posts, Foreign Minister (2009–12), Chief Cabinet Secretary (2017–19), Speaker (2019–24), and a research stint at Stanford (2013–15)

Key Points:-

- (i) At his parliamentary address, Zandanshatar emphasized priorities such as stabilizing inflation, managing a budget shortfall, resolving energy reliability issues, and fostering human capital development via reforms in health, education, social security, and a move toward performance-based compensation
- (ii) Amid high inflation and fiscal pressure, he pledged a \$640 million budget cut and tax reforms—easing the middle class's burden while raising levies on luxury and high-income segments—to ensure equitable economic growth
- (iii) On June 13, Zandanshatar officially received the government seal from Oyun-Erdene, who urged him to continue the Vision-2050 national development plan. Zandanshatar in turn praised ongoing mega-projects and vowed to build on them.

SPORTS

1. South Africa Clinches ICC World Test Championship 2023–25 Title.



In a gripping final held at London's prestigious Lord's Cricket Ground from June 11–14, 2025, South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets, securing their inaugural ICC World Test Championship victory after a 27-year wait. This triumph marks their first major ICC title since 1998 and comes with a US \$3.6 million winners' purse (Australia received \$2.16 million).

- Chasing a target of 282, South Africa mounted a dramatic comeback on Day 4: Aiden Markram starred with a pivotal 136-run innings, earning Player of the Match honors, while Temba Bavuma contributed a gritty 66 despite battling injury.
- Winning at Lord's—the "home of cricket"—elevated the victory's prestige. Fans and officials celebrated across South Africa, with thousands greeting the team upon their return to Johannesburg.
- The 2023–25 WTC cycle spanned from June 2023 to this final, featured 9 teams in a league format with 70 matches, and concluded with South Africa toppling Australia—who were favorites—to claim the title.

Key Points:-

- (i) Head coach Shukri Conrad asserts that this success will catalyze better performances across formats. Though South Africa faces limited home fixtures and a constrained schedule until October 2026, the win reinforces their claim as a top-tier

Test nation.

(ii) Former captain AB de Villiers emphasized the need to reevaluate the WTC format after the tightly scheduled cycles. The 2025–27 cycle has already begun, with the final stages coming swiftly after the current one ended.

(iii) South Africa's triumph in the 2023–25 ICC World Test Championship isn't just about lifting a trophy—it's a landmark moment that breaks decades of ICC title drought. With heroics from Markram, Bavuma, and Rabada and celebrated on home soil, this win may be the springboard for a resurgence of Test cricket tradition in South Africa and beyond.

2. ISSF World Cup Munich 2025: India Secures Third Place with 4 Medals.



India achieved a strong third-place finish at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup 2025, held in Munich, Germany, from June 8 to 15, 2025, by winning a total of 4 medals – 2 gold and 2 bronze. This edition featured participation from 49 nations and over 330 athletes, with China and Norway taking the first and second places, respectively.

- India's gold medals came from two standout events. Suruchi Inder Singh (Phogat) clinched gold in the women's 10m air pistol with a score of 241.9, marking

her third consecutive World Cup gold this year. In the 10m air rifle mixed team event, Arjun Babuta and Arya Rajesh Borse secured gold with a convincing 17–7 victory over China.

- India's bronze medals came through strong performances by Elavenil Valarivan and Sift Kaur Samra. Elavenil won bronze in the women's 10m air rifle, after setting a new national qualification record of 635.9, while Sift secured bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions, showcasing consistent form ahead of the Asian circuit.

- India's 36-member squad reached multiple finals and outperformed their 2024 World Cup showing in Munich, where they had finished joint third. Their final tally of 2 gold and 2 bronze medals ensured an outright third-place finish, pushing ahead of countries like Hungary, France, and Germany.

Key Points:-

(i) Among the top performers, Suruchi Singh stood out with her unbeaten gold streak in the 2025 World Cup season, while Elavenil's return to the podium with a record-setting qualification underscored India's depth in shooting talent. These performances also pushed Indian shooters up in the ISSF world rankings.

(ii) India's Munich performance strengthens its global shooting presence, especially in rifle and pistol categories.

(iii) With the next ISSF leg scheduled in Ningbo, China (September 7–15, 2025), the Indian squad will aim to maintain momentum and further improve medal conversion in elite competitions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025 – Observed on June 15.



The United Nations (UN) marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on 15 June 2025, a global occasion aimed at spotlighting the increasing concerns related to abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of elderly individuals across societies.

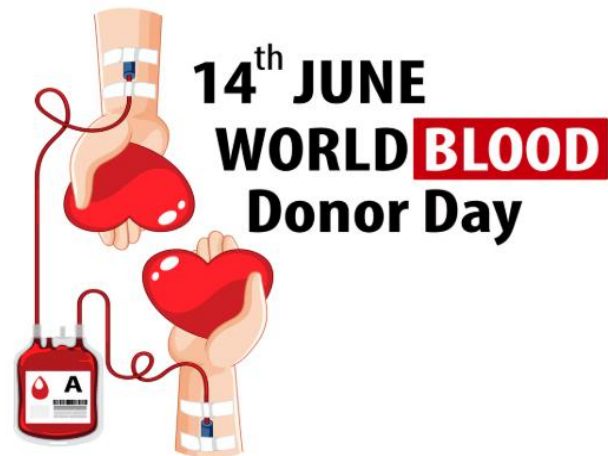
- The official theme for this year's observance was: "Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action".
- This theme emphasizes improving the quality of life for elders in nursing homes and assisted living environments, using evidence-based research to shape protective policies and practical responses.
- The awareness initiative began in the United States (New York) through the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). It was supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, which jointly recognized the urgency of elder rights and dignity.

Key Points:-

- (i) On 19 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) formally adopted Resolution A/RES/66/127, declaring June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- (ii) The inaugural official observance under UN recognition was held on 15 June 2012.
- (iii) WEAAD serves to raise a unified voice against

age-related injustice. It brings global attention to the pressing need for accountability, elder care reforms, and respect for aging populations—especially within institutional and family settings.

2. World Blood Donor Day Observed on 14 June 2025 Amid India's Crucial Blood Supply Gap.



On June 14, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners celebrated World Blood Donor Day under the theme: "Give blood, give hope: together we save lives." The day honors voluntary, unpaid donors and raises awareness about the global need for safe and sufficient blood. A single donation can save up to three lives, underscoring its vital public health impact.

- India requires around 1.2 crore units of blood annually, but only collects approximately 90 lakh, resulting in a shortfall of 30 lakh units—a deficit that can swell to 50% during summer months. Genuine voluntary donations remain below 50%, with the remainder sourced from family replacements or paid donors, contributing to safety and ethical concerns around the so-called "red market".
- On World Blood Donor Day, Maharashtra Health Minister Prakash Abitkar announced a state-level policy—"No Shortage, No Wastage"—to better coordinate blood collection and distribution. Measures

include seasonal balancing, centralized NOC (No Objection Certificate) controls, and NAT (Nucleic Acid Testing) rollout in public blood banks to enhance safety and reduce wastage

- Institutions across India marked the day by recognizing donors: the SGPGI in Lucknow felicitated 50 regular donors, while events in Ranchi collected over 500 units from new and repeat donors.

Key Points:-

(i) The WHO continues to appeal for regular voluntary, unpaid donations, urging national governments to invest in sustainable blood programs and promote universal access to transfusion services.

(ii) World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) was first launched in 2004, co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations (IFBDO), and the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

(iii) In 2005, the 58th World Health Assembly officially established June 14 as WBDD, aligning it with the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, the Nobel Prize-winning Austrian biologist whose 1901 discovery of the ABO blood group system revolutionized safe transfusions.



According to the latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data released for January 2025, India's nuclear stockpile has expanded to 180 warheads, up from 172 in 2024. This uptick represents an addition of eight nuclear weapons within a year

- With this increase, India now holds the sixth-largest nuclear arsenal globally, placing behind Russia (4,309), United States (3,700), China (600), France (290), and the United Kingdom (225), and narrowly ahead of Pakistan, which maintains 170 warheads.

- SIPRI's yearbook highlights India's adoption of next-gen canisterised missiles, such as the Agni-Prime, and preparation for MIRV-capable Agni-V/VI systems, enhancing missile readiness, storage safety, and deployment flexibility.

- India's nuclear triad is now fully operational—land-based with the Agni series, air-launched via Mirage 2000, Jaguar, and Rafale aircraft, and sea-based through SSBNs like INS Arihant and INS Arighaat—ensuring a survivable second-strike capacity.

Key Points:-

(i) New Delhi continues to uphold its "No First Use" (NFU) nuclear doctrine, emphasizing massive retaliation in response to nuclear aggression. Expanded stockpiles and delivery systems reinforce this posture, aimed at

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. SIPRI 2025: India Now Ranks 6th Globally with 180 Nuclear Warheads.

maintaining credible deterrence, especially within South Asia.

(ii) The gap between India's and Pakistan's arsenals has now widened to 10 warheads, reshaping the strategic equilibrium. Meanwhile, China's continuing expansion (now at 600 warheads) signals competition. Experts warn that global arms-control mechanisms are weakening—raising the stakes for regional and international nuclear diplomacy.

(iii) India's nuclear arsenal, now at 180 warheads, signals a decisive shift in strategic balance—outpacing Pakistan and asserting itself within the nuclear hierarchy. SIPRI's 2025 data underscores India's continued investment in modern deterrence, even as it navigates complex global and regional security dynamics.

2. ASI, IN-SPACe & ISRO Successfully Conduct Model Rocket Launch Trials in Kushinagar, UP.



On June 14–15, 2025, the Astronautical Society of India (ASI), in partnership with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), carried out successful test trials of model rockets in Rakaba Jangal Patti (Sevrahi), Tamkuhi Raj, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. These tests serve as the systems validation phase

ahead of the upcoming national-level IN-SPACe CANSAT & Model Rocketry India Student Competition (2024–25).

- For the first time in Uttar Pradesh, a 15 kg model rocket, built by private firm Thrust Tech India Pvt Ltd, launched a 1 kg CAN-sized satellite (CANSAT) to an altitude of approximately 1.0–1.1 km, marking a historic moment for the state's space initiatives

- The trials tested critical system parameters including launcher performance, communication range, safety margins, site adequacy, and post-flight recovery logistics. The rockets deployed individual parachute systems, enabling a safe descent of both the rocket body and the CAN-sat.

- Thrust Tech India's launcher and solid-fuel motor systems were rigorously evaluated, with ISRO and IN-SPACe experts confirming their suitability for the competition. These trials serve as a qualifier for private companies to take part in the student event.

Key Points:-

(i) The upcoming IN-SPACe CANSAT & Model Rocketry India Student Competition, scheduled for October–November 2025, is set to witness participation from over 900 student teams across India. This initiative offers an immersive STEM-based learning experience where students will design, construct, and launch their own model rockets and satellite payloads under the guidance of space experts. The competition aims to foster innovation, curiosity, and technical skills among the youth by providing them direct exposure to aerospace systems and experimental launches.

(ii) To boost grassroots participation, Deoria MP Shashank Mani Tripathi and Kushinagar DM Mahendra Singh Tawar facilitated a tripartite MoU with ASI and IN-SPACe. This initiative brings space education to rural India, aligning with national space policy goals of private

engagement, decentralization, and inclusive innovation.

(iii) This meticulously planned trial has successfully validated the technical readiness of model rockets and CAN-sat systems for the nationwide student competition. The initiative not only marks a milestone in regional space capability—being the first rocket satellite deployment from UP soil—but also fosters a robust STEM ecosystem by involving students, private industry, and local governments.

OBITUARY

1. Apple's Pioneering Software Designer Bill Atkinson Passed Away.



William "Bill" Atkinson, iconic software architect responsible for foundational Mac software, passed away on June 5, 2025, at his home in Portola Valley, California, due to complications from pancreatic cancer, aged 74. His death was confirmed in a family Facebook post, which shared that he was surrounded by his wife, children, siblings, and pet dog, Poppy.

- Atkinson joined Apple in 1978 as its 51st employee, recruited by Steve Jobs. His engineering talent helped transform the Macintosh and Lisa projects, propelling Apple's early success.

- He crafted pivotal elements of the graphical interface: the QuickDraw engine (enabling pixel graphics), pull-down menus, menu bar, selection lasso, round-rect shapes, and the double-click interaction model. These innovations became industry standards.

Key Points:-

(i) Atkinson authored MacPaint—one of the first bitmap graphic editors—and created HyperCard (1987), a precursor to the World Wide Web that allowed users to build hyperlinked "stacks". These tools empowered home and school users to explore creativity and logic.

(ii) His design approach, inspired by a visit to Xerox PARC in 1979, shaped UX design worldwide and laid the groundwork for modern GUIs on Windows and mobile devices. Tech luminaries like Tim Cook, John Gruber, and Wired hailed him as a "visionary" and "possibly the finest programmer ever".

(iii) After leaving Apple in 1990, Atkinson co-founded General Magic, pursued nature photography, and published *Within the Stone*, celebrating polished rocks. Diagnosed in October 2024, he wrote, "I have already led an amazing and wonderful life," continuing to travel and create until his final days.

Static GK

International Cricket Council (ICC)	Chairman : Jay Shah (India)	Headquarters : Dubai
International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)	President : Luciano Rossi (Italy)	Headquarters : Munich, Germany
Pakistan	Prime minister: Shehbaz Sharif	Capital : Islamabad
Mongolia	President : Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh	Capital : Ulaanbaatar
Andhra Pradesh	Chief minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu	Governor: Syed Abdul Nazeer
ISRO	Chairman : Dr. V. Narayanan	Headquarters: Bengaluru