

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>>> 20 JUNE 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

### 1. DEPwD, NIOS & NCERT Ink Landmark Tripartite MoU to Strengthen Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in India.



On 19 June 2025, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance inclusive education for learners with disabilities across India.

- DEPwD, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, NIOS (an autonomous open schooling body under the Ministry of Education), and NCERT (India's leading curriculum developer) have come together to mainstream children with disabilities. Their combined efforts aim to integrate open schooling with evidence-based inclusive pedagogy frameworks for differentiated learning .

- NIOS will use its Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system to offer flexible, customized education to students with disabilities. NCERT will support with inclusive strategies like teacher training, accessible textbooks, Braille, and Indian Sign Language (ISL) materials to promote equitable learning.

- The MoU aligns with India's Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, and the National

Education Policy (NEP), 2020, aiming to ensure compliance and coherence in the implementation of inclusive education. Collaborative guidelines, national campaigns, and resource pooling will enforce systemic reform in both open schooling and general education systems.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The initiative includes capacity-building modules for both general and special educators via NIOS' learning centers and NCERT-run platforms. These modules will use Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, ensuring teaching methods accommodate diverse abilities—whether through digital accessibility (e.g., e-pathshala app, e-books), physical aids, or teacher support tools.
- (ii) DEPwD will establish mechanisms to identify learners with disabilities, support school infrastructure adaptations, provide assistive devices, and monitor their education using tools like PRASHAST. This will enable data-driven tracking of enrolment and retention in secondary education for learners with special needs.
- (iii) This MoU marks a milestone in India's educational equity journey. By combining DEPwD's mandate with NIOS's flexible delivery and NCERT's academic rigor, it promises to boost enrolment, inclusion, and learning outcomes for millions of learners with disabilities, strengthening India's foundation for inclusive nation-building.

### 2. Defence Cyber Agency Rolls Out 'Cyber Suraksha' Drill to Boost Military Cyber Readiness.





On 16 June 2025, India's Defence Cyber Agency (DCA)—under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)—launched “Cyber Suraksha”, a 12-day multi-phase exercise aimed at strengthening national cyber resilience and protecting critical defence infrastructure.

- “Cyber Suraksha” is a comprehensive cybersecurity drill running from 16 to 27 June 2025, designed to simulate real-world cyber threats and test defensive strategies. The 12-day exercise includes training, evaluations, and gamified testing to enhance response preparedness.

- The exercise is organized by the Defence Cyber Agency, a tri-service unit formed in 2019, and operates under the coordination of the Integrated Defence Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

- Over 100 participants—including Defence personnel and cyber experts—are taking part. The multi-phase format integrates technical training modules and threat simulations to test both individual and organisational cyber readiness.

#### Key Points:-

(i) A key feature is the Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) Conclave, uniting technical and leadership roles. It includes expert talks and culminates in immersive Table-Top Exercises to bridge strategy and on-ground response.

(ii) The exercise reinforces secure practices, sharpens analytical and defensive skills, and builds a security-first culture. It tests critical infrastructure safeguards across military and civilian defence spheres.

(iii) The DCA intends to institutionalize such exercises as regular events to maintain cyber-readiness, develop dynamic protocols, and foster jointness between military and civilian cyber entities.

### 3. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to Inaugurate Gorakhpur Link Expressway on June 21, 2025.



On 20 June 2025, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 91.35 km Gorakhpur Link Expressway, linking Jaitpur (Gorakhpur) to Salarpur (Azamgarh). The ₹7,283 cr access-controlled road boosts connectivity and catalyses eastern UP's infrastructure growth.

- The four-lane (expandable to six) expressway connects to the Purvanchal Expressway, reducing travel time between Gorakhpur and Lucknow to approximately 3.5 hours. It also traverses Sant Kabir Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, and Azamgarh districts, linking them directly to major urban centres.

- Built at a cost of ₹7,283 crore, the project includes two toll plazas, seven flyovers, 34 bridges, 389

culverts, and multiple underpasses. Backed by industrial corridor planning, it aims to attract investments in manufacturing, agriculture, and logistics, notably near Jaitpur and Azamgarh.

**Key Points:-**

(i) With this launch, Uttar Pradesh now holds about 42% of India's access-controlled expressways—1,200 km out of the national 2,900 km. Several more projects are underway, including the Ganga Expressway, lifting UP's expressway share toward 62%.

(ii) Thousands of locals lined both sides of the route, waving the tricolour and shouting "Bahut bahut aabhar Maharaj ji" in celebration. CM Yogi acknowledged their welcome before inspecting the critical Ghaghra River bridge at Kamhariaghat, accompanied by key officials.

(iii) Located just 100 km from the India–Nepal border, the expressway strengthens trade, tourism, and defence logistics. Its proximity to the Sonauli border checkpoint empowers faster mobilization and supports cross-border movement to cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Lumbini.

The 8th edition of the bilateral military exercise "Ex-SHAKTI" between India and France commenced on June 18, 2025, at Camp Larzac in La Cavalerie, France. The joint exercise will continue until July 1, 2025, focusing on joint tactical operations.

- The primary objective of Ex-SHAKTI 2025 is to strengthen military coordination between India and France in multi-domain operations and sub-conventional environments. The Indian Army contingent comprises 90 personnel led by a Battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, supported by troops from other arms and services.

- The French side is represented by 90 personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13e DBLE), a renowned unit specializing in rapid deployment and operations in semi-urban terrains. This composition reflects mutual commitment to enhancing interoperability in field-level joint missions.

- This edition of the exercise emphasizes operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with a special focus on counter-terrorism in semi-urban conditions. The exercise will include training on Tactical Drills, Techniques, Tactics and Procedures (TTPs), and next-generation military technologies.

**Key Points:-**

(i) Ex-SHAKTI 2025 also aims to build esprit de corps and promote joint military ethics and professionalism. It fosters cultural understanding and deepens mutual respect between personnel of both armed forces through shared responsibilities and coordinated mission execution.

(ii) The Ex-SHAKTI series began in 2011 in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand, and is held biennially, alternating between India and France. The 7th edition was held at Umroi, Meghalaya in May 2024 at a state-of-the-art Foreign Training Node. These exercises enhance doctrinal and

## INTERNATIONAL

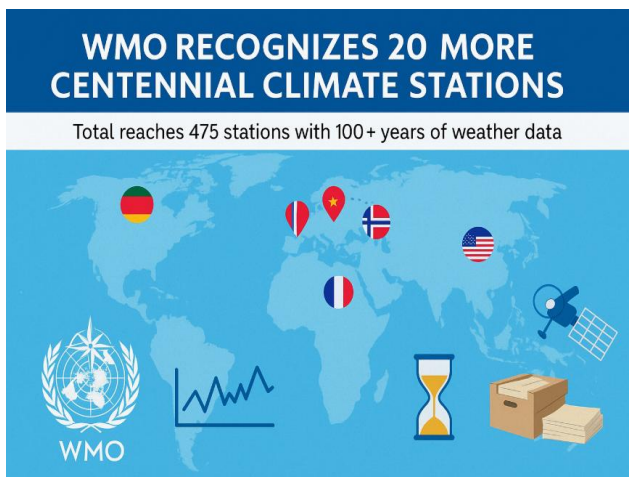
### 1. 8th Edition of India-France Joint Military Exercise 'Ex-SHAKTI' 2025 Begins in France.



procedural synergy.

(iii) Other key bilateral exercises with France include Exercise VARUNA (Navy) and Exercise GARUDA (Air Force), both of which complement Ex-SHAKTI in strengthening the India-France defence partnership. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of India is General Upendra Dwivedi, and the exercise is under the Indian Army's strategic planning division.

## 2. WMO Adds 20 New Stations to Its Centennial Recognition List to Strengthen Long-Term Climate Data Preservation.



On 17 June 2025, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Executive Council officially recognized 20 additional Centennial Observing Stations, boosting the total to 475 to preserve over a century of critical climate data globally.

- The new recognitions include five stations in Namibia, two in Vietnam, five in Portugal, four in the United States, three in Norway, and one in France—bringing the global total to 475 stations (377 meteorological, 63 hydrological, and 15 marine).

- The Susquehanna River hydrological station in the USA, established in 1786, is the oldest among these new entries, highlighting its centuries-long contribution to climate records.

- Centennial stations have uninterrupted, high-quality data for 100+ years, making them invaluable for monitoring climate trends, extreme weather events, and validating satellite and model outputs.

### Key Points:-

(i) Data from these stations feed into the WMO World Weather Watch and support annual State of the Global Climate reports, also underpinning global climate assessments under the UNFCCC.

(ii) The WMO Executive Council (EC) resolution mandates member governments to preserve these stations and their archives to ensure future generations can access authentic, long-term climate data.

(iii) While honoring historical stations, the WMO stresses integrating them with satellites, buoys, ships, aircraft, and other platforms for a comprehensive climate monitoring system, ensuring data continuity and interoperability.

## 3. 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards Qatar Airways Tops While IndiGo Excels in Low-Cost Category.



On 17 June 2025, at the Paris Air Show, the Skytrax World Airline Awards were announced. Qatar Airways retained its title as World's Best Airline for the ninth time, while India's IndiGo was named one of the top 3 low-cost carriers globally.



- Qatar Airways, based in Doha, Qatar, clinched the “World’s Best Airline” award for 2025—marking a record ninth win in over 25 years. It also secured titles for World’s Best Business Class and Best Airline in the Middle East. CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer credited the achievement to the airline’s “relentless efforts ... across every part of the business”.

- The awards, widely known as the “Oscars of the aviation industry”, were held at the Air and Space Museum, Le Bourget, Paris, on 17 June 2025. The event was attended by over 400 global delegates, including airline CEOs and aviation experts; results were based on votes from a survey of 23 million travelers across 100+ nationalities.

- Singapore Airlines claimed second place overall, along with awards for World’s Best Cabin Crew and Best First Class. Cathay Pacific, Emirates, and ANA All Nippon Airways rounded out the top five positions for 2025.

#### Key Points:-

(i) IndiGo, declared India’s largest airline and operated by InterGlobe Aviation, earned third place in the World’s Best Low-Cost Airline category, following Malaysia’s AirAsia and Singapore’s Scoot—highlighting its global competitiveness.

(ii) The Skytrax awards rely solely on passenger surveys—no airline pays to participate. The customer feedback, collected between September 2024 and May 2025, spans product offerings, staff quality, comfort, and overall satisfaction—making it a reputable benchmark in the industry.

(iii) Qatar’s consistent dominance enhances its brand prestige and strengthens its Doha–Hamad International Airport hub. Meanwhile, IndiGo’s high ranking underpins its growth strategy, which includes expanding its Airbus A320neo fleet and international services—raising India’s stature in

the low-cost segment.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. IFC Injects USD 60 Million into Motilal Oswal Alternates’ USD 750 Million India Business Excellence Fund V.



In June 2025, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, committed USD 60 million to Mumbai-based Motilal Oswal Alternates’ fifth private equity fund — the India Business Excellence Fund V — which is targeting USD 750 million, with an additional USD 150 million green-shoe option for expansion.

- The total commitment by IFC includes a USD 60 million co-investment envelope, allowing IFC to participate directly in future deals alongside the fund.

- This co-investment channel strengthens IFC’s role in India’s growing mid-market space, which has shown resilience amid global capital slowdowns. The investment also aligns with IFC’s broader strategy to support high-potential firms in underserved and semi-urban regions.

- The India Business Excellence Fund V aims to invest in 12 to 16 mid-market companies with strong growth potential and scalable business models. Its sector focus includes consumer goods, financial services, life

sciences, and manufacturing, especially in tier-2, tier-3 cities and low-income states, boosting job creation and local economic growth.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) IFC will not only invest financially but also offer strategic support to enhance women's participation in the workforce. This includes training, policy support, ESG benchmarking, and inclusive HR practices, aligning with IFC's commitment to inclusive development in emerging markets.
- (ii) This marks IFC's third investment with Motilal Oswal Alternates—after contributing USD 25 million to its second fund and USD 35 million to the fourth. With this round, IFC's total investment crosses USD 120 million, reaffirming its confidence in the firm's performance and governance.
- (iii) As of mid-2025, Motilal Oswal Alternates has deployed approximately USD 1.1 billion across 50 companies. Fund V is classified under IFC's FI-2 risk category, meaning it involves medium environmental and social risk. IFC will implement robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance, particularly in labor practices, environmental safeguards, and occupational health across portfolio companies.

### MOUs and Agreement

#### 1. MoUs Signed by Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar & Odisha for NFWPIS to Expedite Credit via AgriStack.



Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar and Odisha have signed MoUs under the National Framework for Wider Public Infrastructure Services (NFWPIS) to streamline credit access through AgriStack—linking digital farmer IDs, land records and financial services—promoting inclusive agri-credit and livelihood growth.

- Under NFWPIS, four states—Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, and Odisha—have agreed to integrate their AgriStack platforms with digital credit delivery systems. These agreements facilitate seamless use of farmer digital IDs and land record data to unlock crop loans, KCCs, and related financial services—minimizing paperwork and accelerating loan approvals.
- India now has over 6.1 crore farmers with AgriStack-linked digital IDs across 14 states. These IDs—Aadhaar-linked and connected to land records, crops, and livestock—enable rapid credit and subsidy access. AgriStack's success in Maharashtra and Bihar helped speed loan disbursement under pilot initiatives.
- Bihar and Odisha have historically received less than 10% of agricultural credit flow—Bihar at around 11% and Odisha near 4.5%—despite covering more than 12% of cropped area. The MoUs aim to bridge these gaps, empowering small farmers and reducing regional disparities in financial inclusion.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Aligned with increased Mudra loan uptake in Bihar, Odisha, and Northeast states, the AgriStack credit framework also extends financial benefits to farm-linked enterprises like dairy, fisheries, and processing. With digital land verification and e-KYC, the MoUs simplify access to KCC, Mudra loans, crop insurance, and subsidy transfers.

(ii) As part of this initiative, the Centre has allocated ₹6,000 crore to accelerate AgriStack implementation—₹4,000 crore for farmer registries (including legal-heir systems) and ₹2,000 crore for Digital Crop Surveys.

(iii) Over 61 million digital farmer IDs have already been issued across 14 states, linking land records, crop data, and bank details—enabling instant access to credit, subsidies, insurance, and PM-KISAN payments.

- The MoU was signed at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, in the presence of Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Panchayati Raj, along with key officials including Vivek Bharadwaj (Secretary, MoPR), S. Krishnan (Secretary, MeitY), and Amitabh Nag (Chief Executive Officer – CEO, Bhashini). The initiative aims to boost inclusion in grassroots governance using digital language technology.

- This agreement allows for the integration of Bhashini's AI-based translation system into the eGramSwaraj platform—MoPR's flagship initiative under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (e-Panchayat MMP). The integration will enable multilingual text and voice communication in more than 22 official Indian languages, helping both officials and citizens interact in their native languages.

- Bhashini uses cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies to deliver speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and voice-to-voice translation. This ensures that translations are context-sensitive and governance-appropriate, addressing India's complex linguistic landscape.

## 2. MoPR Signs Historic MoU with Bhashini to Empower Rural Governance in India.



On 19 June 2025, India's Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) inked a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhashini (Bhasha Internet ke Liye Abhiyan), the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to bring real-time multilingual support to rural digital platforms across India.

### Key Points:-

(i) India has over 260,000 Gram Panchayats, many of which struggle with centralized platforms operating only in English or Hindi. The Bhashini integration will support decentralized and inclusive governance, helping in local-level planning, budgeting, decision-making, capacity building, and monitoring by enabling communication in regional languages.

(ii) While launching the MoU, Prof. Baghel emphasized that governance must "speak the language of the people" for meaningful democratic engagement. He called this MoU a "leap toward digital decentralization," which will empower citizens and local bodies with transparent, accessible, and inclusive digital tools.



(iii) This initiative is aligned with the Digital India Programme, supporting local governance platforms like Common Service Centres (CSCs), Digital Panchayats, and eGramSwaraj. It complements earlier Bhashini collaborations—such as with the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)—in promoting Public Digital Infrastructure (PDI) that is linguistically inclusive and user-friendly.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. Panos Mytaros Named New Global CEO of Bata Group and Succeeds Sandeep Kataria.



Effective September 15, 2025, Panos Mytaros will take over as the Global CEO of Bata Group, succeeding Sandeep Kataria, who has led the company since 2020. Kataria will support the transition for up to six months, ensuring leadership continuity.

- Mytaros brings more than 30 years of global experience in the footwear and leather industry, having held senior leadership roles at ECCO, including serving as CEO from 2021 to 2024. Known for brand building, cross-border operations, and value chain innovation.
- The appointment signals Bata's renewed focus on workforce innovation, globalization, and digital

modernization. Mytaros is expected to spearhead employee capability building, customer-centric innovations, and modern retail expansions to strengthen the company's global footprint.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Under Kataria's leadership, Bata accelerated its digital agenda, streamlined global operations, entered new markets, and modernized its business framework.
- (ii) The baton now passes to Mytaros, whose craftsmanship-driven and people-centric approach is expected to fuel the next phase of sustainable growth.

### 2. Sachin Tendulkar Joins Reddit as Brand Ambassador and Uniting Sports Fans Globally.



Legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as Reddit's new global brand ambassador. Through this partnership, Reddit aims to connect with millions of sports enthusiasts by leveraging Tendulkar's legacy and fan following across India and other cricket-loving nations.

- Reddit officially announced Sachin Tendulkar's onboarding as global brand ambassador on June 18, 2025. He will now engage users through his verified handle [u/SachinTendulkar](#), participating in subreddit

communities like r/SachinTendulkar and r/IndiaCricket. This strategic move follows Reddit's global community expansion plan and marks its most high-profile collaboration in the Indian digital space.

- Through the partnership, Tendulkar will post match insights, exclusive content, and real-time fan interactions, creating vibrant conversations around cricket and sports culture. His presence aims to drive engagement in over 1,000 sports-related subreddits. Reddit also plans live AMAs (Ask Me Anything) and behind-the-scenes moments curated specially for fans of Indian cricket.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Reddit recorded a 73% YoY growth in r/IndiaCricket and 58% in r/MumbaiIndians, with over 3.7 billion views and 32 million interactions in the past year. Tendulkar's entry aligns with Reddit's previous global sports tie-ups with Serie A, NBA, NFL, and NASCAR—reinforcing its push into high-traffic fan domains worldwide.

(ii) Reddit's VP of International Growth, Durgesh Kaushik, called the move a milestone for expanding digital fan ecosystems. He emphasized that Tendulkar's timeless popularity bridges generations and markets, making him the ideal figure to unite cricket fans from India, the UK, Australia, and beyond under Reddit's evolving sports banner.

## SPORTS

### 1. Chennai to Host Inaugural Edition of Hockey India Masters Cup from June 18–27, 2025.



Chennai's Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium will host the inaugural Hockey India Masters Cup from June 18–27, 2025. This veteran-focused tournament features men aged 40+ and women 35+, combining league and knockout stages and spotlighting India's enduring hockey legacy.

- Hockey India officially announced its first-ever Masters Cup on May 23, 2025. The event—spanning June 18–27—marks a groundbreaking platform dedicated to veteran male and female players, celebrating their continued passion and honoring their contributions to Indian hockey.

- Men aged 40 and above and women aged 35 and above are eligible. The tournament comprises 12 men's teams and 8 women's teams, selected through State Member Unit registrations, highlighting inclusivity and nationwide veteran representation.

- Hosted by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu at the 8,670-capacity Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium—famed for hosting international events since 1995—the tournament follows a league-cum-knockout format with pool stages leading into quarter-finals, semis, and finals.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The opening match for men features Punjab vs. Puducherry at 1:30 PM on June 18, closely followed by women's fixtures such as Karnataka



vs. Kerala. Group matches will set the stage for a thrilling ten-day competition.

(ii) Former India women's captain Asunta Lakra praised the event as "deeply emotional," noting it celebrates legacy, lifelong passion, and the bond shared by veteran players. She applauded Hockey India for creating a platform that inspires younger generations.

(iii) The Masters Cup revives Chennai's status as a veteran hockey hub and shines a spotlight on active aging and veteran wellness. With veterans and former Olympians taking the field, it is set to reignite fan interest while honoring Indian hockey's illustrious past.

## 2. Nagpur to Host Inaugural Chief Minister's U-15 National Wrestling Championship from June 20–22.



Nagpur's indoor stadium at the Mankapur Divisional Sports Complex will host India's first-ever U-15 National Wrestling Championship, titled the Chief Minister's Cup, from June 20–22, 2025. Around 1,200 young wrestlers from 25 states will compete in freestyle and Greco-Roman categories.

- Organised by the Nagpur District Wrestling Association and Maharashtra Wrestling Association under the Wrestling Federation of India, the three-day event marks its debut in Nagpur. The venue is the

Mankapur indoor stadium—chosen for its capacity and infrastructure suited to national-level competitions.

- Approximately 1,200 U-15 wrestlers from 25 state associations have registered. Maharashtra's state trials on June 17–18 in Pune selected its squad. Jharkhand and Nagaland teams have also completed their selection trials ahead of competing in Nagpur.

- The championship includes both Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling with boys competing in 38–85 kg weight classes and girls in 33–66 kg. The format will be knockout, with bouts spread over morning and afternoon sessions.

### Key Points:-

(i) The event opens on June 20, and the formal inauguration is scheduled for June 21, graced by key dignitaries: WFI President Sanjay Kumar Singh; Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis; Deputy CM Ajit Pawar; Sports Minister Dattatray Bharne; and Guardian Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule. The valedictory ceremony will follow on June 22 evening.

(ii) Top performers across weight divisions will earn selection to India's U-15 national team to participate in the Asian U-15 Wrestling Championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, scheduled from July 5–13.

(iii) This edition introduces cash prizes at a national level for the first time, reinforcing the prestige of the event. It also marks a milestone for Nagpur—boosting regional sport infrastructure and encouraging grassroots engagement.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Refugee Day Observed on 20 June 2025.



Observed every year on June 20, World Refugee Day honours the strength of over 122 million displaced people globally.

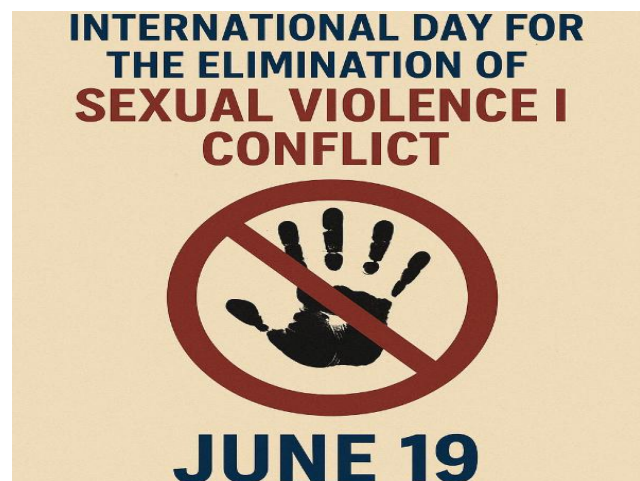
- The 2025 theme, “Solidarity with Refugees,” urges action—advocacy, empathy, and inclusive policies to uplift and protect refugees everywhere.
- With the theme “Solidarity with Refugees,” this year emphasizes actionable solidarity—listening to refugee narratives, combatting xenophobia, ensuring safety, and helping them thrive in host communities through meaningful inclusion. It's a push for sustainable support, not symbolic gestures.
- The United Nations General Assembly designated June 20 as World Refugee Day via Resolution 55/76 in December 2000, aligning it with Africa Refugee Day. It first took global effect on 20 June 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which defined refugee rights and state obligations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) World Refugee Day highlights the courage of people forced to flee persecution, war, or violence. It raises global awareness, reinforces their legal rights, and celebrates the resilience of refugees in rebuilding lives. Events range from cultural performances to fundraising drives and global media campaigns.

(ii) As of early 2025, the UNHCR reports over 122 million displaced persons: approximately 36.8 million refugees, 73.5 million internally displaced, and 8.4 million asylum seekers—despite ongoing resource shortages. These escalating figures underline the urgency of international support and funding.

## 2. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed on June 19.



Observed annually on June 19, the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict highlights combatting sexual violence used as a war tactic. The 2025 theme, “Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars”, underscores addressing the deep intergenerational wounds caused by conflict-related sexual violence.

- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 69/293, declaring June 19 as the official day to combat conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).
- This date commemorates the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1820 in 2008, which classified sexual violence in conflict as a war tactic and obstacle to peace.
- The theme “Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars: Addressing the Intergenerational Effects of Conflict-



**Related Sexual Violence” draws attention to trauma that spans generations. UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasizes the necessity of justice, trauma-informed services, survivor-centered response, and amplifying survivor voices to end cycles of violence.**

**Key Points:-**

(i) CRSV includes severe crimes such as rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, and more—perpetrated against women, men, and children in conflict zones. These violations are considered war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, underlining the urgency for awareness, support, and accountability.

(ii) On this day, the UN calls for an end to impunity and strengthened legal measures. Emphasis is placed on ensuring survivors have access to justice, medical and psychological support, protection, and socio-economic integration. There's also an urgent need to shield healthcare facilities and personnel from being targeted during conflicts.

Panicker's legacy, and promotes reading culture through events nationwide.

- **National Reading Day commemorates the death anniversary (June 19, 1995) of P. N. Panicker, a pioneering teacher who ignited Kerala's library movement beginning with the Sanadana Dharma Library in 1945 and founded the Kerala Granthshala Sangham.**

- **His efforts led to over 6,000 rural libraries by 1956 and a literacy boom in Kerala. Kerala began observing the day in 1996, and in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially declared it a national observance.**

- **Celebrations include reading sessions, book fairs, seminars, and “Reading Week” (Vayana Varam) from June 19–25, especially in Kerala. In 2025, the movement expanded across 21 states and Union Territories, with over 1 million participants, including children reading at NGMA galleries in Mumbai and Delhi.**

**Key Points:-**

**3. National Reading Day observed on June 19.**



India observes National Reading Day every year on June 19 to honor Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker, the father of the library movement in India. The day celebrates literacy, reflects on

(i) Beyond celebrating Panicker's legacy, the day emphasizes nurturing reading habits in a digital era. It's a platform to promote literacy, cultural enrichment, and community engagement, encouraging children and adults alike to discover the joy and power of reading.

(ii) National Reading Day can be celebrated in simple yet meaningful ways. People are encouraged to read a new or their favorite book to reconnect with the joy of reading. Schools organize activities like reading marathons, quizzes, and bookmark-making workshops to engage students. Libraries and museums conduct storytelling sessions and book exhibitions to promote literary awareness. Families and individuals can also take reading pledges, share inspirational quotes, or post messages on social

media to spread the message and encourage reading habits across generations.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Indian Navy Commissions First Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warship 'INS Arnala'.



On June 18, 2025, the Indian Navy commissioned INS Arnala, the first of 16 indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC), at Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard. This 1,500-tonne warship enhances coastal defence under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- **Constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in partnership with L&T Shipyard, INS Arnala features over 80% Indian-origin systems, including steel from SAIL's Bokaro plant. The collaborative production marks a key milestone in India's defence manufacturing self-reliance.**

- **The 77-meter vessel displaces about 1,490–1,500 tonnes and is propelled by a diesel engine–waterjet combo—the largest of its kind in the Navy. Its shallow draft (2.7 m), speed (~25 knots), and agility allow rapid bursts to track submarines efficiently.**

- **INS Arnala is equipped with Abhay hull-mounted sonar, variable-depth sonar, and underwater acoustic communications. Its armaments include lightweight**

**torpedoes, ASW rockets, anti-torpedo decoys, and a 30 mm Naval Surface Gun—the first indigenous platform to fire it.**

#### Key Points:-

(i) Primarily designed for sub-surface surveillance, anti-submarine tracking, search-and-rescue, mine-laying and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), the vessel secures India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and coastal chokepoints.

(ii) Commissioned on June 18 at Visakhapatnam, the event was led by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and attended by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, senior naval officials, and engineers from GRSE and L&T.

(iii) INS Arnala represents a decisive move from a "Buyer's Navy" to a "Builder's Navy." As the lead ship of a 16-vessel ASM-SWC series worth ₹12,622 crore, it boosts coastal defence and sends a strong message on maritime self-reliance.



## Static GK

<b>Indian Army (IA)</b>	Chief of Army Staff (COAS) : General Upendra Dwivedi	Headquarters : New Delhi
<b>Bata Group</b>	Founder: Tomáš Baťa	Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
<b>Reddit</b>	CEO : Steve Huffman	Headquarters: California, United States
<b>Garden Reach Shipbuilders &amp; Engineers Limited (GRSE)</b>	Chairman & Managing Director(CMD) : PR Hari	Headquarters : Kolkata
<b>National Farmers Welfare Program Implementation Society (NFWPIS)</b>	Chairman : Devesh Chaturvedi	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)</b>	Union Minister : Rajiv Ranjan Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>NCERT</b>	Director : Dinesh Prasad Saklani	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)</b>	Secretary General : Professor Celeste Saulo	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland

<b>Skytrax</b>	CEO : Edward Plaisted	Headquarters : London, the United Kingdom (UK)
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath	Governor: Anandiben Patel