

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>>> 24 JUNE 2025**



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

### 1. PM Modi Launches ₹24,400 Crore Projects in Bihar, Odisha & Andhra Pradesh During 2-Day Visit from June 20–21, 2025.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bihar, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh from June 20 to 21, 2025, where he launched and laid the foundation stone of major infrastructure and governance-related projects worth over ₹24,400 crore.

- On June 20, 2025, in Siwan, Bihar, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of 28 development projects amounting to ₹5,200 crore. These initiatives include infrastructure upgrades such as the new Vaishali–Deoria railway line project (₹400 crore) and the virtual flag-off of the Patliputra–Gorakhpur Vande Bharat Express, India's 71st semi-high-speed train, which will run 384 km in about 7 hours.
- During the Bihar visit, he also flagged off the first export locomotive manufactured at the Marhowrah Diesel Locomotive Factory in Saran, Bihar, for shipment to Guinea (West Africa), showcasing India's Make-in-India capabilities in rail infrastructure.
- On June 20, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PM Modi marked one year of the Odisha State Government's formation by launching 105 development projects worth ₹18,600 crore. These included infrastructure,

housing, urban development, and energy sector initiatives.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The event also featured the release of the 'Odisha Vision Document', followed by the flag-off of 100 electric buses for Bhubaneswar and the launch of the first passenger train service on the newly built Boudh district rail line.
- (ii) On June 21, 2025, PM Modi attended the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, emphasizing wellness and the global reach of India's yoga tradition.
- (iii) This two-day visit highlighted the central government's commitment to accelerating infrastructure, housing, clean energy, rail connectivity, and public transportation reforms in the eastern and southern regions of India.

### 2. IIT Delhi Launches First Special PhD Admission Drive for SC/ST Candidates to Improve Inclusivity in Doctoral Research.



Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) launched its first-ever Special PhD Admission Drive exclusively for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates on June 20, 2025, to address under-representation.

- This drive was launched in response to data presented during a Parliamentary Standing Committee visit in April 2025, which revealed that SC enrollment in IIT Delhi's PhD programs between 2015–2024 ranged from only 8.88% to 9.69%, and ST enrollment from 0.97% to 3.28%, both significantly below the mandated reservation norms of 15% (SC) and 7.5% (ST) in central institutions.

- The special drive will remain open from June 20 to June 30, 2025, with candidates required to apply through the official PG Admissions Portal of IIT Delhi. The aim is to enhance diversity in doctoral programs and ensure that minimum reservation percentages are effectively implemented through direct, exclusive outreach.

- Under the revised eligibility criteria, SC/ST candidates with degrees such as M.Tech/ME/MD/M.Des can now apply with a minimum 55% marks or 5.5 CGPA, and those with MSc/MA/MBA/MBBS degrees need 65% marks along with valid national-level qualifications like GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering), UGC-NET (University Grants Commission - National Eligibility Test), or CSIR-NET (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Eligibility Test).

#### Key Points:-

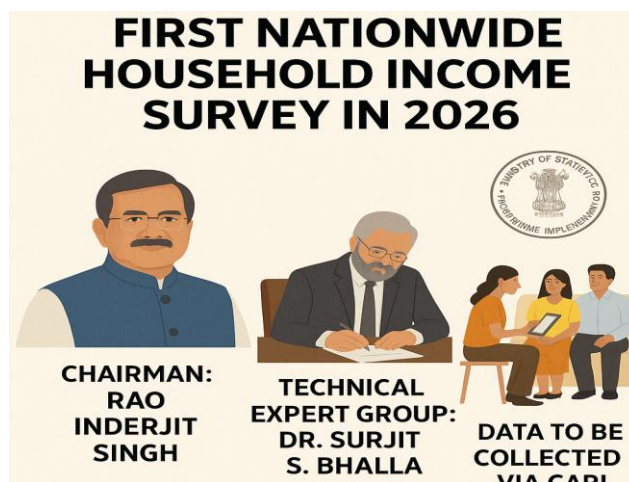
(i) Departments have been instructed to accept eligible SC/ST applicants even if no seats were originally advertised, under a supernumerary model. This allows inclusion of eligible students without affecting existing general category seat allocations, promoting equity without reducing merit-based intake elsewhere.

(ii) The selection process under this drive mandates that no department shall impose higher or additional criteria on SC/ST candidates beyond the minimum qualifications set by the institute. This is to avoid systemic exclusion and ensure

genuine access based on merit and potential.

(iii) Through this initiative, IIT Delhi aims to not only correct historical disparities but also set a precedent for other Indian Institutes of Technology and centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) to take proactive, data-driven steps towards academic equity and inclusion.

### 3. India to Conduct First Nationwide Household Income Survey in 2026 Under MoSPI to Strengthen Data on Inequality and Welfare.



India will launch its first-ever All-India Household Income Survey in 2026 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), aiming to gather direct data on household earnings across sectors.

- The initiative is being led by Minister of State (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, with MoSPI forming a Technical Expert Group (TEG) in June 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, former Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This decision follows decades of demand for granular income data to supplement the regular consumption-based National Sample Surveys (NSS).

- The 2026 survey will be the first comprehensive national attempt to estimate household income from

all sources—formal wages, informal earnings, agriculture, self-employment, remittances, rental income, pensions, and more. Earlier efforts in the 1950s, 60s, and the 1983–84 NSS round were either limited in scope or methodologically inconsistent, failing to provide usable national income distribution estimates.

- The Technical Expert Group includes key economists like Alope Kar (ISI Kolkata), Prof. Sonalde Desai (NCAER), Prof. Praveen Jha (JNU), Prof. Srijit Mishra, Tirthankar Patnaik (NSE), Rajesh Shukla (People Research on India's Consumer Economy), and Prof. Ram Singh (Delhi School of Economics). Their responsibilities include drafting the questionnaire, designing sampling methods, ensuring comparability with international data standards, and formulating protocols for field operations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The household income survey is expected to launch in early 2026, tentatively in the February to June window. The National Statistical Office (NSO), a wing of MoSPI, will carry out the fieldwork using modern digital tools like Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Enumerators will be trained extensively, and supervisory mechanisms will be in place to maintain accuracy, especially in estimating income from informal sectors.

(ii) This survey is part of MoSPI's broader statistical reforms. Alongside it, MoSPI is preparing to revise base years of major macroeconomic indicators—Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP)—by early 2026. Other complementary surveys like the Quarterly Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey and Quarterly Construction Sector Employment Survey are also in progress, aimed at building a richer, high-frequency statistical ecosystem.

(iii) The new Household Income Survey will help policymakers address inequality more effectively, improve targeting for schemes like PM-KISAN, PM-Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, and PMAY, and guide progressive taxation reforms. It will also align India with international best practices in evidence-based policymaking, offering an essential tool for planning, welfare design, and economic analysis.

#### 4. Assam Grants OBC/SEBC Status to Transgender Community and Reserves 50% Supervisor Posts for Anganwadi Workers.



On 22 June 2025, the Assam government approved two transformative policies: granting OBC/SEBC status to local transgender persons and reserving 50% supervisor posts in the Women & Child Development Department for experienced Anganwadi workers.

- The cabinet resolved to officially include transgender individuals as part of the Other/Socially & Educationally Backward Classes (OBC/SEBC), in alignment with the Supreme Court's NALSA verdict. Only those who are permanent residents of Assam will receive identity cards after verification by District Commissioners.



- Meanwhile, the government raised the reservation quota for supervisor-level positions in Anganwadi centres from the previous 25% to 50%, exclusively for workers with at least 10 years of service. The remaining positions will be filled through standard state-level recruitment channels.

- These reforms coincide with the launch of the Shradhanjali scheme, aimed at providing dignified repatriation of deceased low-income migrants from other states, to start from 1 October 2025 under the Assam Police Special Branch.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Other simultaneous cabinet approvals included: establishment of the Rabha Development Council; designation of Urpada Beel (1,256 ha) and Hasila Beel (245 ha) as proposed reserve forests; a ₹900 crore 900 MW pumped storage project in West Karbi Anglong by Hinduja Renewables; and a ₹3,000 crore Assam Industrial & Green Growth Fund seeded with ₹500 crore.

(ii) The decision to grant OBC status to transgender persons is based on recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

(iii) This Act ensures identity, equal opportunity, and protection from discrimination for transgender individuals. Under its mandate, all state governments are required to constitute a Transgender Welfare Board, which the Assam government is expected to formally notify soon.

#### 5. MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary Unveils ICETAB Export-Inspection Device at CBIC Conclave in New Delhi.



On 20 June 2025, during the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) Conclave in New Delhi, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary launched the ICETAB handheld device to enhance export examination efficiency, reduce costs, and boost India's Logistics Performance Index.

- The ICETAB device is a secure, tablet-based mobile terminal enabling customs officers to digitally record export consignment inspections, capture up to four images per shipment, and upload reports in real time, eliminating paperwork and aiding seamless trade procedures.

- CBIC extended ICETAB use to all major seaports, airports, and Inland Container Depots (ICDs) from 19 June 2025, following pilot success in import checks. This aligns with CBIC's Turant Customs and the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2020–25.

- MoS Chaudhary noted that ICETAB is expected to lower transaction costs and shorten turnaround times, improving exporters' experience and bolstering India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

#### Key Points:-

(i) At the conclave, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman praised CBIC's efficiency—highlighting 94.3% GSTR-3B filing, 85% refund

processing within 60 days, and 86% cargo facilitation via RMS.

(ii) She directed further enhancements in grievance redressal, GST registration, customs dwell-time reduction, and faster investigations.

(iii) The launch marks a major step toward India's paperless, faceless customs vision, ensuring faster clearance, transparency, and reduced warehousing delays for exporters. Ongoing training and system upgrades aim to maximize ICETAB adoption nationwide.

## 6. Government Launches NAVYA Scheme to Train Adolescent Girls in Emerging Non-Traditional Skills.



The Government of India recently launched the NAVYA pilot initiative to provide skill development for adolescent girls in non-traditional, high-demand job roles. This scheme aims to empower girls aged 14–18 through training, financial support, and industry linkage.

● **The NAVYA initiative—Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls—was officially launched on 28 August 2024 through a joint effort by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). The orientation session for the pilot was held in New Delhi, marking**

the formal rollout of the program under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0.

● **The scheme initially targets 4,000 adolescent girls aged 14 to 18, across 27 aspirational districts in 19 states. These districts were identified under the Aspirational Districts Programme to address regional development gaps.**

● **Training partners such as PM Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs), and ITIs have been roped in to deliver certified vocational courses in alignment with industry demand and government skill frameworks.**

### Key Points:-

(i) A major feature of NAVYA is the comprehensive support system it offers. Enrolled girls receive a ₹1,000 monthly transport allowance via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Additionally, the curriculum includes life skills modules, digital literacy, financial education, legal awareness (covering POCSO and workplace safety), and career counselling—making it a holistic empowerment initiative.

(ii) Top government officials, including Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of MSDE, and Shri Anil Malik, Secretary of MWCD, have emphasized the long-term vision of the scheme. It aims to raise India's female labour force participation rate, currently around 37%, closer to global benchmarks of 55–60%. Both ministries highlighted NAVYA as a critical pillar for women-led development and achieving the objectives of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

(iii) NAVYA empowers adolescent girls by training them in non-traditional sectors like drone technology, smartphone repair, CCTV setup, and digital design—challenging gender norms in technical fields. The program is digitally monitored via Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) and is set for national scale-up with plans for apprenticeships,

entrepreneurship, and industry linkage.

### 7. President Droupadi Murmu Opens Rashtrapati Tapovan & Niketan in Dehradun , Launches Public Access and Yoga Events.

President Droupadi Murmu stayed in Uttarakhand from 19–21 June 2025, inaugurating public spaces at Rashtrapati Tapovan and Niketan, releasing commemorative items, and culminating her visit with mass Yoga Day celebrations.

- On 19 June, President Murmu inaugurated a 200-seat amphitheatre, laid foundation stones for staff quarters, stables, and barracks, and unveiled public amenities such as the Visitor Facilitation Centre, cafeteria, and souvenir shop at Rashtrapati Niketan—formerly the Presidential Retreat—underscoring heritage-led civic access.

- She also graced the inauguration of Rashtrapati Tapovan, opening its 19-acre Himalayan-foothill forest trails to visitors from 24 June. The estate features 117 native plant species, 52 butterfly species, 41 bird varieties, and 7 wild mammals, blending ecology with public well-being.

- Rashtrapati Udyan, a 132-acre net-zero park, was initiated on 20 June with a foundation stone laying ceremony. Designed to be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, the park will include walking and cycling tracks, butterfly domes, boating facilities, and a large amphitheatre aimed at community engagement.

#### Key Points:-

(i) On the same day, President Murmu released a commemorative postage stamp marking 125 years of Raj Bhavan, Nainital, and launched a biodiversity coffee table book documenting over 300 flora and 170 fauna species across Niketan, Tapovan, and Udyan. She also visited the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual

Disabilities, moved by a performance from differently-abled children that brought tears to her eyes.

(ii) The visit concluded on 21 June, International Yoga Day, when President Murmu led a mass yoga session at State Police Line Maidan, Dehradun. Her presence highlighted the intersection of wellness, public access, and cultural inclusion in state-level governance.

(iii) These initiatives reflect a transformative shift in heritage management—opening once-private Presidential estates to public engagement, ecological education, and inclusive infrastructure under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, reinforcing the government's commitment to accessibility and sustainable citizen-centric outreach.

### 8. Amit Shah Lays Foundation for ₹268 Crore NFSU & CFSL Campus in Raipur, Includes Innovation i-Hub Launch.



On 22 June 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the foundation stones for the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) campuses in Nava Raipur, including a new i-Hub to boost youth entrepreneurship.



- The combined investment of ₹268 crore covers a ₹145 crore NFSU campus and a ₹123 crore CFSL, built on 40 acres and 6–7 acres respectively. Part of a broader plan to expand NFSU to 26 national campuses, the initiative will produce 32,000 forensic experts annually, surpassing current demand.

- Amit Shah emphasised that graduating from NFSU is akin to a job guarantee, thanks to increased forensic demand. He highlighted new criminal laws mandating forensic team visits to crime scenes for offenses with sentences above seven years, reinforcing evidence-based policing.

#### Key Points:-

(i) An i-Hub (innovation hub) was launched to support start-up culture in Chhattisgarh. It provides technological guidance, mentorship, financial access, and incubation facilities. Shah underlined that only a science-backed criminal justice system is complete without entrepreneurial India support.

(ii) Local CFSL facilities will eliminate the need to send samples to Delhi. With four existing state labs in Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Durg, and Jagdalpur, the new CFSL enhances investigative capacity within Chhattisgarh and Central India.

(iii) During his two-day Raipur visit, Amit Shah also chaired a high-level security meeting with DGPs and ADGPs of seven states to review anti-Naxal operations, stressing that raids would continue even during the monsoon. He visited a BSF camp in Narayanpur and reiterated a zero-tolerance policy toward insurgency.



On June 23, 2025, South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung, in a move to reassert civilian control, appointed veteran lawmaker Ahn Gyu-back as the country's first civilian Defence Minister since 1961.

- Ahn Gyu-back, a five-term member of South Korea's National Assembly and former chair of its Defence Committee, most recently led a parliamentary investigation into last December's martial-law controversy. His appointment fulfills a major promise by President Lee to restore democratic oversight over the military.

- This appointment breaks a 64-year tradition of military-appointed defence chiefs, back to the 1961 military coup. Lee's action was widely cheered by civilian-nature governance advocates across the country as a critical step toward democratic consolidation.

- Ahn Gyu-back's selection coincides with Lee's broader cabinet restructuring that includes nominating Cho Hyun, former UN ambassador, as Foreign Minister, and veteran diplomat Chung Dong-young for the Cabinet-level Ministry of Unification—emphasizing a policy shift toward diplomatic prudence.

#### Key Points:-

(i) This move comes after former President Yoon Suk-Yeol was dismissed in April 2025 and ex-Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun was put on trial

## INTERNATIONAL

**1. South Korea Appoints Ahn Gyu-back as First Civilian Defence Minister in 64 Years Under President Lee Jae-Myung.**



for insurrection linked to the December 2024 martial-law crisis, which triggered national protests and led to renewed civilian oversight in defence leadership.

(ii) The legislative hearing for Ahn Gyu-back is expected to be a formality, given President Lee's Democratic Party's majority in the National Assembly. His expected confirmation is seen as a signal of renewed civilian primacy in defence matters.

(iii) Ahn Gyu-back's appointment comes amid heightened regional tensions, particularly over North Korea's escalating missile tests and closer military ties between Pyongyang, Moscow, and Beijing. His civilian leadership is expected to prioritize strengthening South Korea's independent defence capabilities, revamping military oversight mechanisms, and restoring public confidence in national security management, especially after the 2024 martial-law scandal that shook civil-military trust across the Korean Peninsula.

## 2. OECD Predicts Global Drought Losses to Surge Over 35% by 2035, Warns of USD 307 Billion Annual Impact Without Urgent Adaptation.



The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), headquartered in Paris and

led by Secretary-General Mathias Cormann, released its report titled "Global Drought Outlook: Trends, Impacts and Policies to Adapt to a Drier World" on June 15, 2025. The study presents a comprehensive risk analysis of global drought events through the lens of policy, economy, and climate science.

- According to OECD's analysis, the economic cost of droughts is expected to rise by over 35% globally by 2035, unless urgent adaptation measures are implemented. Droughts already cost the world an estimated USD 307 billion per year, and this figure is projected to increase substantially in the coming decade.

- The report revealed that 40% of global land has faced heightened drought intensity and frequency in the last two decades, largely due to shifting rainfall patterns, rising heatwaves, and reduced soil moisture caused by global warming trends.

### Key Points:-

(i) Between 1900 and 2020, the total land area affected by drought has doubled, while since 1980, 37% of the Earth's soil has lost significant moisture content, creating long-term degradation in agricultural and ecological productivity.

(ii) Droughts are now directly impacting infrastructure and economies. The report warns that fluvial water volumes may drop by up to 40%, and hydropower output may decline by over 25%, thereby disrupting energy grids, industrial operations, and supply chain resilience.

(iii) The OECD emphasized that effective drought adaptation policies—such as nature-based solutions (NbS), ecosystem restoration, sustainable water use, and improved land governance—can generate \$10.1 trillion in annual global benefits by 2030 and return \$27 for every \$1 invested.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. India Simplifies FPI Regulations in G-Secs to Boost Global Bond Participation.



On 18 June 2025, SEBI unveiled a suite of relaxed regulations for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing solely in Indian Government Securities (G-Secs), aimed at boosting long-term participation and aligning with global bond frameworks.

- SEBI introduced the new “GS-FPI” category under which FPIs investing exclusively in sovereign bonds will no longer need to disclose investor group details—simplifying compliance for government-only investing.
- The frequency of Know-Your-Customer (KYC) updates for GS-FPIs has been harmonized with RBI standards—significantly lowering regulatory effort. Additionally, material changes now require disclosure within 30 days, up from 7 days.
- SEBI now allows NRIs, OCIs, and Resident Indians to directly participate in GS-FPI structures, removing earlier restrictions and enhancing Indian investor inclusion in sovereign debt.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Foreign holdings in G-Secs under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) have surged past ₹3 trillion (≈ US \$35 billion) by March 2025—nearly

doubling from ₹1.74 trillion in March 2024. Inclusion in global indices like JPMorgan and FTSE Russell has been pivotal in attracting these flows.

(ii) This reform was part of SEBI's 18 June 2025 board meeting, which also relaxed startup ESOP norms, simplified PSU delistings, and reformed AIF/AIF co-investment frameworks—signaling flexibility and global readiness.

(iii) By aligning FPI compliance with sovereign bond risks and easing processes, SEBI aims to deepen India's debt markets, lower borrowing costs, and attract stable global capital—strengthening the fiscal engine and financial ecosystem.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. India to Revise CPI Basket and Base Year to Improve Inflation Accuracy and Reflect Modern Consumption.



The Government of India, via MoSPI, has decided to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by revising its base year to 2024 and refreshing market coverage, aiming for more precise inflation tracking from 2026 onward.

- MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation) proposes updating the CPI base from 2012 to 2024, using the latest Household Consumption

Expenditure Survey (HCES 2022–23). This will refresh weightings based on current spending, covering ~2,900 markets—a marked increase from ~2,300 earlier.

- Current CPI misses key modern consumption trends—notably e-commerce, digital subscriptions, and ride-hailing usage. The revision also revisits the treatment of PDS (Public Distribution System) goods and other non-monetary transactions, aligning with IMF guidance for cleaner economic measurement.

- A high-level committee led by Biswanath Goldar (NSO) is overseeing the process. The new base year is expected to roll out between 2026–27, after validating data and ensuring continuity of the current series. CPI will align with new base years for GDP and IIP.

#### Key Points:-

(i) RBI uses CPI as its primary inflation benchmark—with a target range of  $4 \pm 2\%$ . Enhanced accuracy will better inform monetary policy, subsidy design, and indexing of pensions and salaries, leading to improved welfare targeting.

(ii) Moving base years every 5–7 years is best international practice. Updated indices better reflect emerging consumption patterns—such as increased spending on digital services, healthcare, and education, vital for aligning inflation data with current lifestyles.

(iii) The HCES survey rounds for 2023–24 are underway to fine-tune item weights. MoSPI will consult stakeholders before finalizing, followed by a smooth migration strategy to ensure data continuity—minimizing disruptions in key economic indicators like real GDP, WPI, and CPI trends.

## 2. India's Coffee Exports Soar 25% in Early FY26, Driven by Sustainability and Global Demand.



In the first months of FY2025-26, Indian coffee exports have surged by 25% compared to the same period last year, underscoring global demand for Indian beans amid a broader 40% annual growth in 2024–25.

- According to the Coffee Board of India, exports rose from USD 1.29 bn in FY2023–24 to USD 1.803 bn in FY2024-25, marking a 40.2% annual increase. Early FY26 continues this robust trend, with another 25% jump.

- India stands as the 7th largest coffee producer (3.5% of global output) and the 5th largest exporter (~5% share). Key markets include Europe, with Italy, Germany, Belgium, and also Japan, Korea, and the Middle East.

- The Coffee Board is aggressively promoting shade-grown, hand-picked, and sun-dried coffees. It also secured Geographical Indication tags for five regional and two specialty varieties to highlight distinct qualities.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The new Atal Incubation Centre (AIC-CCRI-CED) in Bengaluru supports 63 startups and has trained over 3,000 people, aiding scale-up in value-added segments. The Coffee Board also subsidizes value-add machinery (up to ₹15 lakh) and issues digital RCMC, origin, and export



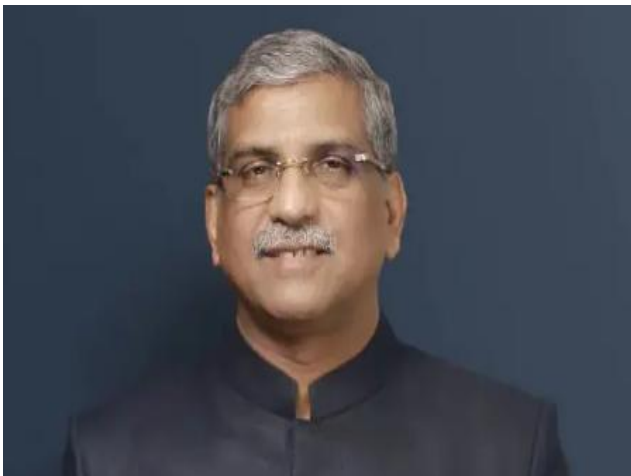
permits.

(ii) Global supply constraints in Brazil/Vietnam have boosted demand for Indian Robusta, which now dominates with a 70:30 split versus Arabica. Robusta exports have seen record prices—Rs 23k/50 kg compared to Arabica at Rs 28k—indicating strong global premium.

(iii) With FY26 allocations raised to ₹280 crore (+12%) for the Coffee Board, and EU's deforestation compliance coming into effect in December 2025, India is enhancing traceability and carbon-footprint mapping—partnering with ISRO—to meet global market standards.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. K. Paul Thomas Appointed as Chairperson of Sa-Dhan During 27th AGM in Bengaluru.



In June 2025, Kadambelil (K.) Paul Thomas, the Managing Director and CEO of ESAF Small Finance Bank, was elected as the new Chairperson of Sa-Dhan, India's apex Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for microfinance institutions.

- The election took place during the 27th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of Sa-Dhan held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The AGM also witnessed the induction of new governing body members, including G. Kiran Kumar

(Swaamaan Financial Services), Rahul Gupta (Avanti Finance), Jagadish Ramadugu (Pragati Finserv), and Pravin Thigale (Fingel Management Services).

- K. Paul Thomas, who hails from Thrissur, Kerala, brings over three decades of experience in community-based banking and financial inclusion.

#### Key Points:-

(i) K. Paul Thomas founded the Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF) in 1992, which transitioned into ESAF Microfinance and later became ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB) in 2017, one of India's leading inclusive finance institutions.

(ii) Under his leadership, ESAF became the first Indian member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) and was twice shortlisted for the European Microfinance Award.

(iii) He is known for promoting ethical, sustainable, and value-driven financial services aimed at underserved communities, particularly in rural and semi-urban India.

## SPORTS

### 1. India Tops Medal Chart at Archery Asia Cup 2025 Stage 2 in Singapore with 9 Medals.



India's Under-21 archery team delivered a historic performance at the Archery Asia Cup 2025 Stage 2

held in Singapore, clinching a total of 9 medals, including 2 golds, 6 silvers, and 1 bronze. The event ran from 15 to 20 June 2025 at Bukit Gombak Stadium.

- **The Archery Asia Cup 2025 Stage 2 was organized by the World Archery Asia (WAA). India emerged as the overall top medal winner in this stage, outshining countries like Indonesia (5 medals) and Kazakhstan (3 medals). More than 200 archers from 21 nations participated in the competition, making India's performance even more significant.**

- **India's total medal tally included 2 golds, with standout wins in both the men's and women's compound individual events. The Indian contingent, composed entirely of Under-21 athletes, showed exceptional skill and depth, securing podium finishes across various team and individual events, although they faltered in five crucial finals.**

- **In the Men's Individual Compound event, India's Kushal Dalal clinched the gold medal by defeating Australia's Joshua Mahon with a score of 149–143. This victory marked Kushal's second consecutive Asia Cup gold medal, having previously won at the Bangkok leg of the tournament earlier in 2025.**

#### Key Points:-

(i) In the Women's Individual Compound category, Tejal Rajendra Salve earned gold after defeating fellow Indian archer Shanmukh Naga Sai Budde in an all-India final. Tejal secured the title with a narrow 146–144 win, continuing her consistent international rise on the junior circuit.

(ii) India's Compound Women's Team, consisting of Tejal Salve, Shanmukh Budde, and Tanishka Malvankar Thokal, set a new Under-21 World Record with 2,101 points, surpassing the previous record of 2,076 points set in 2023. Their victory is a milestone in India's junior archery development, reflecting strong bench strength and international

competitiveness.

(iii) Despite losing five finals in various other events, India's overall performance ensured they topped the medal table. The Archery Association of India (AAI) praised the efforts of the junior squad, highlighting this as a major step towards podium readiness for future international events, including the Asian Games and Youth Olympics.

## 2. Rishabh Pant Creates History as First Indian Keeper with Twin Test Centuries.



On 23 June 2025 at Headingley, Leeds, Rishabh Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper to score centuries in both innings of a Test match, achieving historic twin tons (134 & 118) against England, marking a landmark moment in Indian cricket.

- **Pant's remarkable performance in the first innings included a blistering 134 off 178 balls, featuring 12 fours and 6 sixes, taking India to a commanding position. His continued form in the second innings with 118 runs underlined his exceptional batting prowess and resilience.**

- **This achievement made him only the second wicketkeeper-batsman in Test history—after Zimbabwe's Andy Flower in 2001—to hit centuries in both innings of the same Test and the first Indian to accomplish the feat on English soil.**

- Notably, Pant's cumulative 252 runs surpassed Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara's Asian record, where Sangakkara had amassed 244 in a match, making Pant's twin centuries even more momentous.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar urged Pant to perform his signature somersault celebration after his second century, adding a light-hearted personal touch to this historic milestone. Pant graciously declined, focusing on the significance of the achievement.
- (ii) Former cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar praised Pant's feat, calling him "India's greatest wicketkeeper-batter ever," highlighting this performance among his seven Test centuries and framing it as a game-changing moment.
- (iii) Pant's twin centuries helped India set a target of 371 in the fourth innings, placing England under pressure at 21/0 by stumps, with day five set for a thrilling conclusion.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. Canada Hosts 51st G7 Summit 2025 in Alberta, Marking 50 Years of G7 Partnership.



The 51st G7 (Group of Seven) Summit was held from June 15 to 17, 2025, in Kananaskis, located in

the Alberta province of Canada. The summit was chaired under Canada's G7 Presidency and hosted by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

- This summit commemorated the 50th anniversary of G7 partnership since its inception in 1975.
- The summit marked 50 years of G7 cooperation, tracing its origin back to the 1975 Rambouillet meeting in France. It brought together the world's major advanced economies to deliberate on pressing global issues, sustainability, and international cooperation. The 52nd G7 Summit is scheduled for June 2026 in Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France.
- Participants in the 2025 G7 Summit included top global leaders such as Mark Carney (Canada), Emmanuel Macron (France), Friedrich Merz (Germany), Giorgia Meloni (Italy), Shigeru Ishiba (Japan), Keir Starmer (UK), Donald Trump (USA), António Costa (European Council), and Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission).

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Guest Nations invited for the Outreach Sessions included: India, Brazil, Australia, Mexico, South Korea, Ukraine, and South Africa.
- (ii) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Canada from June 16–17, 2025, and participated in the Outreach Session of the G7 Summit. This marked his sixth appearance at a G7 gathering.
- (iii) The summit focused on international resilience and critical mineral security, with leaders adopting a declaration on securing rare earth and critical mineral supplies through diversified sources. Notably, Canada and the EU pledged over USD 2.3 billion for projects under the Energy Resilience Partnership (ERP), while the U.S. pledged USD 2 billion to support low-carbon mineral sourcing.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. UN Observes International Widows Day 2025 on June 23 to Highlight Global Injustices Faced by Widowed Women.



The United Nations (UN) observed International Widows Day 2025 on June 23, aiming to amplify the voices of widows worldwide and to raise awareness about the widespread challenges they face—including discrimination, poverty, and violation of human rights, particularly in developing countries.

- (i) Observed annually since its UN recognition, this day promotes the urgent need for legal, social, and economic reforms to ensure widows are no longer invisible in global policymaking. It emphasizes empowerment, inclusion, and sustainable support systems for widowed women and their dependent children.
- (ii) International Widows Day was initially established in 2005 by the Loomba Foundation, a UK-based charitable organization that works globally to advocate for the rights and welfare of widows. The Foundation began its work on widow welfare after its formal establishment in 1997, and continues to partner with governments and institutions.
- (iii) The United Nations General Assembly officially recognized the day in 2010 through resolution

A/RES/65/189, passed on 21 December 2010. This resolution marked 23 June as the global day to acknowledge the neglected issues of widows, calling for global attention and collective action to address their plight.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The first UN-recognized International Widows Day was observed on 23 June 2011, commemorated by a dedicated event held at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States. The day brought together diplomats, NGOs, and global advocates to discuss the legal and economic challenges affecting widowed women across different regions.
- (ii) According to UN Women, widows in many parts of the world continue to suffer from stigma, property disinheritance, gender-based violence, and poverty. The 2025 observance once again renewed calls for data-driven policymaking, legal aid reforms, access to education, and protection from exploitation—focusing especially on marginalized and rural widows.
- (iii) The observance in 2025 called on UN member states and civil society to create inclusive national frameworks that uphold the dignity and fundamental rights of widows, aligned with UN SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), highlighting their essential role in building resilient, equitable societies.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. DRDO Offers 28 Indigenous Weapons for Emergency Procurement to Strengthen Armed Forces' 'Make-in-India' Push.



In June 2025, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) announced a selection of 28 homegrown weapon systems—ranging from hypersonic missiles to anti-drone tech—for fast-track emergency procurement by the Indian Armed Forces.

- DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat unveiled a diverse list encompassing hypersonic missiles, next-gen BrahMos variants, air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, surface-to-air and counter-drone systems, mobile artillery, and light tanks.
- These offerings align with emergency procurement mechanisms—approved for rapid acquisition of indigenously made equipment—allowing contracts up to ₹300 crore and delivery within 6–12 months.
- The indigenous systems recently outperformed Chinese-equivalent weapons during Operation Sindoor. DRDO Chairman confirmed systems like Nagastra-1 loitering munition and BrahMos propulsion units played key roles, reinforcing confidence in domestic tech.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) DRDO emphasised the vital role of private integrators like BrahMos Aerospace and Solar Defence & Aerospace Ltd in scaling up production and advancing Make-in-India goals.
- (ii) India aims to plug critical capability gaps by

fast-tracking systems like VSHORAD (Very Short-Range Air Defence), MPTAGM (Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles), and advanced torpedoes—all part of the 28-item list intended for urgent adoption.

(iii) Aligned with PM Modi's strategic vision, this move reinforces defence self-reliance. With ₹7,300 crore worth of emergency orders through indigenous channels already underway, DRDO signals a seismic shift in India's defence procurement strategy.

## 2. BSNL Becomes First Indian Operator to Launch Indigenous SIM-less Quantum 5G FWA Service in Hyderabad.



On June 18, 2025, BSNL soft-launched India's first fully indigenous Quantum 5G FWA (Fixed Wireless Access) service at Ameerpet Exchange, Hyderabad. Inaugurated by Shri A. Robert J. Ravi, CMD of BSNL/MTNL, the launch marks a strategic milestone in India's 5G rollout—featuring SIM-less, direct-to-device 5G radio with indigenous technology.

- This launch positions BSNL as the first Indian telecom operator to offer a SIM-less 5G architecture, where the user's device connects directly without a physical SIM. Built on BSNL's Direct-to-Device platform, the solution eliminates the need for SIM

cards, showcasing innovation in 5G authentication and pushing India towards global telecom standards.

- Quantum 5G FWA is developed with a fully indigenous stack—including the core, radio access network (RAN), and customer premises equipment (CPE)—designed and integrated under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. All hardware and software components were produced by Indian vendors, aligning with national goals of telecom self-reliance and domestic capability in advanced connectivity solutions.

- The soft launch in Hyderabad delivered gigabit-class performance, achieving 980 Mbps download and 140 Mbps upload speeds, with sub-10ms latency. These speeds support ultra-HD streaming, cloud gaming, and real-time video collaboration. BSNL's wireless installation model also removes the need for fiber trenching, making deployment faster and cost-efficient across urban and semi-urban areas.

#### Key Points:-

(i) BSNL has deployed a self-install gateway that connects to 85% of Hyderabad households using existing BSNL tower infrastructure. This rapid-installation method allows the operator to bypass traditional cable deployment, enabling instant broadband access across homes and offices, thereby accelerating broadband penetration in India's most digital-ready city ecosystems.

(ii) The rollout roadmap includes pilot expansions to Bengaluru, Pondicherry, Visakhapatnam, Pune, Gwalior, and Chandigarh, with field trials going live by September 2025. BSNL announced introductory tariffs starting at ₹999/month for 100 Mbps and ₹1499/month for 300 Mbps—bringing affordable, high-speed broadband to both residential and commercial users nationwide.

(iii) BSNL will also deploy its Enterprise Edge-Cloud solution using the same 5G SA core,

enabling SLA-based connectivity for MSMEs and industrial IoT. The project will support smart manufacturing, remote operations, and network slicing. Nationwide rollout will begin after feedback from pilot cities, making BSNL a leader in India's indigenous 5G revolution.

### 3. HAL Becomes India's Third Rocket Manufacturer After Securing ₹511 Crore ToT Deal from ISRO to Build and Operate SSLV.



Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Defence PSU based in Bengaluru, has received a ₹511 crore Transfer of Technology (ToT) contract from ISRO to build and operate the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), making HAL India's third rocket manufacturing entity.

- With this agreement, HAL becomes the third Indian rocket producer after private firms Skyroot Aerospace (Telangana) and Agnikul Cosmos (Tamil Nadu). The deal signifies the first-ever complete rocket technology transfer by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to an Indian company, marking a strategic milestone in India's space manufacturing capabilities.

- The ₹511 crore ToT agreement allows HAL to take full control of SSLV design, manufacturing, integration, and launch operations. The selection was made by a three-member expert committee led by former



Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Vijay Raghavan and ex-ISRO Director Suresh, with HAL emerging as the top bidder.

- Under this deal, ISRO will train HAL over the next two years in technical know-how, post which HAL will independently manufacture and operate between 6–12 SSLVs annually. This phased transition plan ensures sustainable knowledge transfer and capacity building within the public sector.

**Key Points:-**

(i) Commercial operations for SSLV launches will be handled by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm. Regulatory approvals and launch authorization will be overseen by IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre), based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

(ii) The SSLV is a three-stage solid-fuel vehicle with a length of 34 meters and diameter of 2 meters. It is capable of launching up to 500 kilograms of payload to a 500-km Low Earth Orbit (LEO), making it suitable for quick-turnaround missions, space startups, and small satellite launches.

(iii) This collaboration is expected to bolster India's space economy, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. By enabling a public-sector entity like HAL to produce launch vehicles, India strengthens its self-reliance in space tech and diversifies its launch capabilities beyond ISRO and private startups.

## Static GK

<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Chief minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu	Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
<b>MoSPI</b>	Minister : Rao Inderjit Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Assam</b>	Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor: Lakshman Acharya
<b>South Korea</b>	President: Lee Jae-myung	Currency: South Korean won
<b>Canada</b>	Prime minister: Mark Carney	Capital: Ottawa
<b>the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</b>	Secretary General : Mathias Hubert Paul Cormann	Headquarters : Paris, France
<b>DRDO</b>	Chairman: Samir V. Kamat	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>SEBI</b>	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>Sa-Dhan</b>	Founded: 1999	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>BSNL</b>	Founded: 2000	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	Chief Minister (CM) : Pushkar	Governor :

	Singh Dhami	Gurmit Singh
<b>HAL</b>	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD): Dr. D.K. Sunil	Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
<b>Coffee Board of India</b>	Chairman: Sri. M. J. Dinesh	Chief Executive Officer & Secretary: Dr. K.G. Jagadeesha