



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>>> 26 JUNE 2025**



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

### 1. EXIM Bank Organises Trade Conclave 2025 in New Delhi to Accelerate Export-Led Growth for 'Viksit Bharat' Vision.



On 24 June 2025, the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) organised the Trade Conclave 2025 in New Delhi to drive India's export growth and support the Government's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' goal. The event gathered policymakers, industry leaders, MSMEs, financial experts, and international stakeholders to discuss global trade, finance, and infrastructure support.

- India recorded its highest-ever exports of USD 825 billion in FY2024–25, registering a 6.3% annual growth, compared to the global average of 4%. This performance reinforces India's rising status in global trade and was a key backdrop for discussions at the conclave.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the event, highlighting five focus areas: improving logistics, empowering MSMEs, reforming trade finance, promoting fintech platforms like GIFT City, and completing major Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the EU, UK, and USA.

- EXIM Bank launched three new regional and global offices in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and São Paulo (Brazil). These centres aim to offer on-ground support to exporters, increase trade

facilitation, and improve India's reach in emerging and Latin American markets.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Under its Ubharte Sitaare Programme, EXIM Bank has extended over ₹1,522 crore in financial support to 85 high-potential MSMEs. It also announced new partnerships with IIT Kanpur and IISc Bengaluru to mentor technology startups with strong export potential.

(ii) The Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) launched in 2022 has grown significantly. As of June 2025, it has supported 1,100+ trade transactions in 51 countries, in collaboration with 100+ overseas banks, helping Indian exporters safely enter and operate in high-risk or emerging markets.

(iii) The conclave emphasised digital trade financing tools like International Trade Financing Services (ITFS) and Exim Finserve (based in GIFT City, Gujarat). Speakers also discussed how PLI (Production Linked Incentive) schemes have contributed exports worth ₹5.3 lakh crore, accelerating India's position as a manufacturing hub.

### 2. India Launches First Butterfly Sanctuary at Aralam, Kerala to Boost Conservation & Eco-Tourism.



On 18 June 2025, the Kerala State Wildlife Board officially redesignated the 55 km<sup>2</sup> Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district as India's first dedicated Butterfly Sanctuary. The move acknowledges the region's exceptional butterfly diversity and aims to enhance conservation, research, and eco-tourism.

- Aralam is home to over 266 butterfly species, representing more than 80% of Kerala's known types, including 27 endemic species and several endangered ones protected under schedules of India's Wildlife Protection Act.

- Since 2000, the Malabar Natural History Society and Kerala Forest Department have conducted annual butterfly surveys at Aralam. Their detailed records—now spanning 25 consecutive years—played a crucial role in securing the sanctuary's butterfly-specific designation.

- Between December and February, migratory butterflies—especially Common Albatross and Danaine species—descend en masse into the sanctuary. Observations have recorded up to 12,000 butterflies passing a single point within five minutes.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The official butterfly sanctuary status unlocks new funding avenues for habitat protection, supports ongoing scientific research, and boosts eco-tourism. Aralam is now part of India's global biodiversity spotlight, welcoming nature lovers, students, and researchers.

(ii) Located within the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot, Aralam features tropical and semi-evergreen forests spanning 55 km<sup>2</sup>. It lies in the Brahmagiri valley, nourished by mineral-rich riverbanks—ideal conditions for butterfly populations.

(iii) The sanctuary houses a robust research framework, including a Butterfly Migration Study

conducted each January–February, and provides a platform for ecological studies, species monitoring, and educational tours focused on insect conservation.

### 3. AICF Launches Top National Players Stipend Scheme to Support Young Chess Talent



On 25 June 2025, the All India Chess Federation (AICF) launched the 'Top National Players Stipend Scheme' (TNPSS), aimed at financially supporting India's rising chess stars. In its first phase, ₹42.3 lakh was disbursed as quarterly stipends to 42 promising players across age groups from U-7 to U-19.

- Under TNPSS, 42 top-performing young chess players—from U-7 to U-19, equally represented across boys and girls—received stipends ranging between ₹60,000 and ₹1.5 lakh for the April–June 2025 quarter.

- In the first wave of payouts, AICF transferred a total of ₹42.30 lakh directly into the players' bank accounts, reflecting a historic milestone in Indian chess support structures.

- The scheme addresses key challenges faced by budding chess prodigies, such as expenses for training, travel, coaching, and competition. AICF President Nitin Narang stated this initiative is meant to "demonstrate belief in every young chess player in Bharat."

**Key Points:-**

- (i) The scheme is projected to run for two years with a budget exceeding ₹6.15 crore, ensuring sustained financial aid and long-term investment in nurturing top junior talent.
- (ii) Beneficiaries were chosen anonymously based on their national championship performance during 2024, ensuring inclusivity across age groups, regions, and gender. Each category—both boys and girls—has three top players per age group under the scheme.
- (iii) TNPSS is part of AICF's larger vision—supported by a ₹65 crore overall budget—to elevate India as a global chess powerhouse. This vision dovetails with national policy objectives aimed at identifying and investing in young sporting talent from grassroots to elite levels.

**4. CBSE to Introduce Biannual Class 10 Board Exams from 2026-27—First Exam Mandatory, Second Optional.**



In a significant shift aligned with NEP-2020, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will, starting 2026, conduct Class 10 board examinations twice a year—a mandatory first phase in February–March, and an optional second

phase in May. Students can choose the best scores from either attempt for final results.

- Under the new scheme, CBSE will conduct the first compulsory examination between February 17 and March 6, followed by an optional second session from May 5 to 20. Students can improve marks in up to three subjects by taking the second exam.
- The move reflects NEP 2020's emphasis on frequent, low-stakes assessments and reducing exam pressure. It gives students flexibility, alleviates stress, and encourages consistent learning rather than a one-shot high-stakes exam culture.

**Key Points:-**

- (i) Under the biannual board exam system, students' best scores from the two attempts will be considered for final results, ensuring fairness and offering a second chance for those impacted by illness or poor performance during the first exam. While the concept is widely appreciated for reducing academic pressure, educators have raised concerns about practical challenges such as managing regular classes during exam periods, the need for additional invigilators, and a heavier evaluation workload for teachers.
- (ii) CBSE has approved draft norms, which have been released for public comments. Finalised guidelines are expected soon. Approximately 26.6 lakh students are projected to register for Class 10 exams starting in 2026.
- (iii) The revised system—applicable to Class 10 from 2026-27—also explores introducing Basic & Advanced levels for core subjects and a Global Curriculum for CBSE-affiliated foreign schools from the same session.



## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. WHO report 2025: Tobacco control measures now protect 6.1 billion people worldwide.



On 23 June 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the 10th edition of its “Global Tobacco Epidemic Report,” revealing that tobacco control measures now protect over 6.1 billion people globally—approximately 75% of the world’s population. Despite this progress, more than 1.2 billion people still remain unprotected, and emerging threats like e-cigarettes continue to challenge public health systems.

- The Global Tobacco Epidemic Report is published biennially by WHO to track the implementation of the MPOWER strategy, launched in 2007. MPOWER stands for Monitor tobacco use, Protect people from smoke, Offer help to quit, Warn about dangers, Enforce ad bans, and Raise taxes. As of 2025, 155 countries have adopted at least one of these measures at the highest level.

- When the MPOWER strategy began in 2007, only about 1 billion people were covered by at least one recommended measure. In 2025, that number has surged to 6.1 billion people globally—indicating a sixfold increase in population coverage for tobacco control. However, 1.2 billion people—mainly in low-income regions—still lack protection.

- Only four countries—Brazil, Türkiye, Mauritius, and the Netherlands—have fully implemented all six MPOWER strategies at the highest level. Nations like New Zealand and Ireland are just one measure short. However, 40 countries have not adopted any best-practice MPOWER strategy, while over 30 still allow cigarettes to be sold without graphic health warnings.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The report notes that 110 countries now require graphic health warnings on cigarette packages, covering 62% of the world’s population, up from just 9 countries in 2007. Moreover, 25 countries have adopted plain packaging policies. Comprehensive smoke-free laws are in place in 79 countries, saving an estimated 1.3 million lives annually from second-hand smoke exposure.

(ii) Despite being the most effective measure, tobacco taxation remains weak globally. Only 15% of the global population is protected by best-practice tax policies (i.e., >75% retail price as tax). Additionally, only 33% of countries provide government-supported cessation services like quit lines and nicotine replacement therapy, which are crucial to help smokers quit.

(iii) The report raises serious concerns over the rise of e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and nicotine pouches, especially among youth. WHO urges countries to regulate these emerging products strictly. With tobacco still causing over 7 million deaths each year, the organization calls for accelerated implementation of all six MPOWER measures to reach global health goals.

### 2. Wildlife Institute of India Hosts ICCON 2025 to Tackle Biodiversity Challenges and Boost Conservation Research.



From June 25 to 27, 2025, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, will host the Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON) 2025, India's flagship platform for environmental science and policy. Over 500 delegates from India and Global South nations will gather to exchange ideas and promote cross-sectoral solutions to urgent biodiversity issues.

- ICCON 2025 is being organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. The conference will be inaugurated by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, MoEFCC, on June 25, 2025, at the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- The three-day summit brings together scientists, researchers, Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers, youth, NGOs, and global policymakers to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and innovation for biodiversity conservation, with an emphasis on India's most pressing ecological challenges.

- First launched in 2023 during Project Tiger's golden jubilee, ICCON has grown into a key event promoting advanced conservation science and cross-sectoral dialogue. It also complements global initiatives like the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), announced in 2023.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The 2025 edition of ICCON will host over 17 thematic sessions, oral presentations, posters, spotlight lectures, and 10 workshops. It will feature TechBridge, India's first wildlife technology forum to showcase digital innovations and real-world tools for field conservation.

(ii) ICCON 2025 stands out for its inclusive focus on students and early-career researchers, offering mentorship, travel bursaries, and an opportunity to network with leading conservation experts, thus promoting equitable participation and capacity building in the sector.

(iii) The conference reaffirms India's commitment to conservation leadership, sustainable biodiversity strategies, and South-South cooperation, reinforcing its growing role in global environmental diplomacy.

### 3. India and South Africa Hold 9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting in Johannesburg.



India and South Africa conducted the 9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, to deepen bilateral defence cooperation. Senior defence officials from both nations engaged in strategic discussions to boost military collaboration, focusing on policy, acquisitions, and future technologies.

- The Indian delegation was led by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and included senior representatives from the Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force), and the Indian High Commission in South Africa. Their focus was on institutional-level coordination and enhancing joint capabilities.

- The South African delegation was headed by Thobekile Gamede, Acting Secretary for Defence. South Africa's participation emphasized expanding defence ties and aligning strategic military goals with India. Discussions centered around emerging threats and mutual security priorities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- On 23 June 2025, the opening day, both sides' co-chairs initiated the session with formal remarks. They outlined a structured agenda and provided direction to two sub-committees: (i) Defence Policy and Military Cooperation and (ii) Defence Acquisition, Production, Research, and Development. These groups were tasked with reporting on operational strategies.

#### Key Points:-

(i) A major highlight of the second day's discussions was the mutual agreement on strengthening cooperation in submarine domain technologies. Both sides explored areas such as naval architecture, deep-sea surveillance systems, and interoperability in future joint exercises. These outcomes are aimed at enhancing undersea defence capabilities.

(ii) The countries also reviewed defence industry opportunities, including Make in India initiatives and defence exports to South Africa. Technology transfer, joint R&D, and personnel exchange programs were proposed to improve military production and sustainability.

(iii) The 9th JDC meeting concluded with a shared

vision of promoting regional stability, increasing maritime domain awareness, and enhancing training cooperation. It also reaffirmed both nations' commitment to multilateral platforms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and BRICS Defence Ministers' Dialogues.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. World Bank Launches \$426 Million Project to Strengthen Water Security in Bengaluru.



In June 2025, the World Bank approved a \$426 million project titled the "Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program," aiming to enhance water availability and climate resilience for over 4 million people in Bengaluru, Karnataka, one of India's fastest-growing urban centres.

- The approved funding will be provided through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), headquartered in Washington, D.C., USA. The loan comes with a tenure of 20 years, including a 5-year grace period, reflecting long-term support for India's urban sustainability efforts.

- The programme is designed to tackle the challenges of water scarcity, poor water infrastructure, and unpredictable monsoons. It will implement city-wide reforms in water governance, promote climate-



adaptive infrastructure, and improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation in underserved zones.

- The initiative is a part of Karnataka's broader state-level push for climate resilience, urban infrastructure transformation, and sustainable urbanization under the state's Resilient Cities Mission. The programme will integrate advanced water resource management tools and predictive modelling technologies.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In a parallel development, the World Bank has also sanctioned a separate loan of \$150 million under the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety (TNWES) Programme. This initiative seeks to improve employment outcomes and access to workplace opportunities for 1.6 million women across Tamil Nadu.

(ii) This second loan from IBRD has a longer tenure of 25 years with a 5-year grace period. It aims to enhance women's access to skilling, entrepreneurship, and formal jobs by modernizing state-level policies, strengthening institutions, and encouraging employer-led upskilling efforts.

## 2. HDFC Life and SINE-IIT Bombay Launch 'InsUReka' Startup Challenge to Drive Innovation in Life Insurance.



In June 2025, HDFC Life in collaboration with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay, launched 'HDFC Life InsUReka'—a nationwide startup challenge designed to invite breakthrough digital innovations in customer experience, operational efficiency, and risk management within the life insurance sector.

- This challenge aims to identify and support early- and growth-stage startups working on cutting-edge technologies such as AI, health tech, gamification, and data analytics that can be applied in the life insurance domain. The initiative aligns with India's larger digital transformation goals and the mission of "Insurance for All by 2047."

#### Key Points:-

(i) Through InsUReka, shortlisted startups will receive mentorship, access to workshops hosted at IIT Bombay, and opportunities to develop proof-of-concept solutions in collaboration with HDFC Life. The selected startups will also gain exposure to enterprise scaling frameworks and industry networks.

(ii) Applications opened on 6 May 2025 and will close by 7 July 2025. The programme includes ideation, pitching rounds, and a bootcamp phase, with the final cohort expected to be onboarded in September 2025. The challenge reflects the strong public-private-academic model of fostering insurance innovation in India.

(iii) HDFC Life COO Sameer Yogishwar stated that this initiative taps into India's thriving startup ecosystem, while SINE CEO Shaji Varghese emphasized the importance of translating research and entrepreneurial talent into industrial insurance solutions.

## 3. IMF Declares India's UPI a Global Model for Digital Payment Transformation.





The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently praised India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a blueprint for digital payment innovation, recognizing India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) model as a replicable framework for countries aiming to boost financial inclusion and economic resilience.

- The IMF highlighted India's modular digital architecture—comprising UPI, Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and Account Aggregator—as a powerful, interoperable ecosystem that promotes innovation and reduces costs in financial services. It called this structure a 'building block approach' that enables scalability across developing economies.

- India's UPI system accounted for nearly 84% of total digital payment volumes in the country during FY 2024–25, processing over 186 billion transactions amounting to ₹261 trillion.

- This makes UPI responsible for nearly 48% of all real-time digital payments globally, according to the RBI and NPCI reports.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The IMF noted that UPI's design—based on open APIs and real-time settlement—has encouraged competition among payment service providers while ensuring universal access for users and merchants. Its zero-MDR (Merchant

Discount Rate) model further promotes merchant adoption, especially in small-town and rural India.

(ii) The success of UPI is also attributed to its role in strengthening India's welfare delivery mechanisms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India leveraged UPI along with Aadhaar and Jan Dhan to implement rapid Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes, helping over 300 million citizens receive timely support.

(iii) India's DPI model is now being replicated globally, with UPI-based payment systems already adopted or piloted in countries like Singapore, UAE, Bhutan, Nepal, and France. The RBI and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) aim to expand UPI to over 20 countries by 2029 under the Global DPI Export Strategy.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. India's First Micro Substation Commissioned in Delhi by Tata Power-DDL and Japan's Nissin Electric.



In June 2025, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), in partnership with Japan's Nissin Electric Company, commissioned India's first-ever micro substation in Delhi. The project aims to reduce power infrastructure costs and improve electricity access in urban and difficult terrains.

- This milestone project uses Japan's advanced Power Voltage Transformer (PVT) technology, which enables direct voltage step-down from high transmission levels (66 kV) to usable levels (240 V), eliminating the need for traditional multi-stage power substations and reducing both cost and land use.
- The micro substation was developed under Japan's International Demonstration Project on Energy Efficiency Technologies, funded through NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization). Tata Power-DDL and Nissin Electric had signed the agreement in August 2024 to begin the collaboration.

#### Key Points:-

- The first installation is located at Tata Power-DDL's Smart Grid Lab in Rohini, New Delhi. With a compact 40 m<sup>2</sup> footprint, the micro substation delivers 100 kVA capacity, powering approximately 50–60 urban households and serving as a pilot for future city-wide deployment.
- This technology brings down infrastructure costs by around 96%, from ₹50–60 crore for traditional setups to as low as ₹2 crore, while also minimizing land requirements—making it ideal for dense urban zones with high energy demand and limited space.
- The innovation supports India's broader energy goals by improving last-mile connectivity and providing reliable electricity to load centres in hilly or difficult regions. It also helps in accommodating rapid urbanisation while reducing the need for complex grid infrastructure.

## 2. RBI report says India's FDI Inflows Surge to \$8.8 Billion in April 2025.



As per the RBI Bulletin released in June 2025, India received \$8.8 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in April 2025. This marks a 22% rise compared to April 2024, showing strong investor interest in India.

- India got \$8.8 billion FDI in April 2025, higher than \$5.9 billion in March and \$7.2 billion in April last year. This shows foreign companies are investing more in India.
- India's net FDI (after subtracting outgoing investments) was \$3.9 billion, which is more than double compared to \$1.8 billion in April 2024. It means more investors are sending money into India than taking it out.
- Most of the money came into manufacturing and business services. These sectors are becoming popular among foreign investors for long-term growth.

#### Key Points:-

- The RBI said that India has low inflation, stable policies, and strong domestic demand, which are good signs for investors. However, global uncertainty still remains.
- Due to high FDI, India's foreign exchange reserves increased and reached around \$699 billion, helping to keep the Indian rupee stable and strong.

(iii) RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that India remains a top investment destination. In FY 2024–25, total FDI inflows were around \$81 billion, showing trust in India's economy.

## SPORTS

### 1. Neeraj Chopra Clinches Gold at Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 with 85.29 m Throw.



Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra recently won the men's javelin title at the Ostrava Golden Spike meet in the Czech Republic, recording an impressive 85.29 m throw—his second international victory in under a week, showcasing elite-level consistency.

- Neeraj Chopra's top effort of 85.29 m, achieved in his third attempt, was enough to win the men's javelin event at Ostrava—a prestigious World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meet.
- This victory came just days after his Paris Diamond League triumph (88.16 m), reinforcing a stellar season that includes a 90 m+ throw in Doha and the recent win in Ostrava.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The 27-year-old Olympic gold medallist has now recorded his 24th consecutive top-two finish in international meets, positioning him alongside legends like Jan Železný and Sergey Makarov.

(ii) South Africa's Douw Smit earned silver with a personal-best throw of 84.12 m, while Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze at 83.63 m, both unable to surpass Chopra's leading mark.

(iii) Despite the gold, Neeraj Chopra noted he wasn't fully satisfied, vowing to aim higher in future competitions. He now sets his sights on the Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru on July 5, continuing his season's upward trajectory.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. India Hosts 7th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit 2025 in Pune to Boost Regional Aviation and Aero-Infrastructure.



In June 2025, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra (GoM), organized the 7th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit in Pune. The event, co-hosted by Pawan Hans Limited and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), aimed at strengthening India's low-altitude aviation ecosystem through technological, policy, and operational reforms.

- The summit was officially inaugurated by Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), while MoS Murlidhar Mohol attended as Guest of Honour. The event focused on



improving regional air connectivity and integrating smaller aviation platforms into India's broader air transport network.

- A major announcement included the creation of a dedicated Helicopter Directorate under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to provide a single-window regulatory platform. The directorate aims to improve helicopter safety, certification standards, and streamline regulatory procedures for both public and private operators.

- More than 20 state governments, along with industry leaders, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Airport Authority of India (AAI), and Pawan Hans participated in the summit. Experts discussed sustainable growth, safety innovations, and regulatory challenges.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Key initiatives discussed included the Heli Seva Portal, introduced to digitize rotorcraft operations and improve transparency in route approvals and slot management. The portal is expected to reduce operational delays and improve service standards across helicopter operations.

(ii) The event featured technical sessions on DGCA's evolving safety regulations, lease financing models by IFSCA, and the operational hurdles faced by OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers). The summit also emphasized on pilot training expansion and certification systems for small aircraft.

(iii) Additionally, participants discussed new policies to promote UDAN 5.1 routes for helicopters, regional airstrips, and seaplanes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). The summit showcased RCS-UDAN helicopter route expansion across India, marking progress in regional mobility and tourism-oriented air access.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. World Vitiligo Day Observed on 25 June 2025.



World Vitiligo Day (WVD) 2025 was observed on June 25 to promote global awareness about vitiligo, an autoimmune disorder that causes the destruction of skin pigment cells, leading to white patches and visible skin depigmentation.

- **World Vitiligo Day** is also referred to as **Vitiligo Awareness Day** or **Vitiligo Purple Fun Day**, with purple as the symbolic color representing support and solidarity with vitiligo patients worldwide.

- The official theme for WVD 2025 is: “Innovation for Every Skin, Powered by AI”, highlighting the role of technology and artificial intelligence in improving care and treatment for vitiligo.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The day was conceptualized by Steve Haragadon, founder of Vitiligo Friends Network, and Ogo Maduewesi, founder of VITSAF (Vitiligo Support and Awareness Foundation), Nigeria, in 2011.

(ii) The first World Vitiligo Day was marked on June 25, 2011, in memory of Michael Jackson, who lived with vitiligo and passed away on June 25, 2009.

## 2. Day of the Seafarer 2025 Celebrated Globally on June 25.



The United Nations' International Day of the Seafarer (DotS) was observed on June 25, 2025, marking its 15th annual celebration. The day honours the crucial role of seafarers in powering global trade and sustaining the maritime economy.

- **Organized each year by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)—a UN agency headquartered in London, United Kingdom (UK)—this day acknowledges the commitment of seafarers navigating oceans to deliver essential goods and services.**

### Key Points:-

- (i) The 2025 campaign theme is “My Harassment-Free Ship,” focusing on ensuring safe, respectful, and inclusive work environments for all seafarers worldwide.
- (ii) The idea for the observance was formalized during a diplomatic conference in Manila, Philippines, held from June 21–25, 2010, where the Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention were adopted to improve seafarer training and working standards.
- (iii) Following Resolution 2 of that conference, June 25 was officially designated as the Day of the Seafarer, and the first global observance was

held in 2011.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. China Discovers Two New Bat Viruses in Yunnan with Human Infection Potential.



Chinese researchers have identified two novel henipaviruses—closely related to Nipah and Hendra—in fruit bats in Yunnan province. Study results, published in PLOS Pathogens, warn of possible spillover to humans or livestock via contaminated fruit or urine.

- **In a study conducted from 2017 to 2021, virologists in southwest China analyzed kidney tissue from 142 bats across five locations in Yunnan. They identified 22 viruses, including 20 previously unknown strains. Of greatest concern are two newly discovered henipaviruses that bear genetic similarities to the deadly Nipah and Hendra viruses.**
- **The viruses were located in bat kidneys, indicating possible shedding in urine. Since fruit bats often inhabit orchards near villages, bat urine could contaminate fruits or water sources—creating a realistic route for virus spillover into humans or domestic animals.**
- **Henipaviruses are notorious for causing encephalitis and respiratory failure in humans, with high fatality**

rates (up to 75%). Although no human cases have been reported yet, the close genetic relation to Nipah/Hendra viruses raises significant alarm for public health experts.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Researchers emphasize the urgency of comprehensive surveillance—especially within bat habitats and fruit-growing regions. They recommend expanding sampling beyond bat droppings to include organs like kidneys, where hidden pathogens may reside.
- (ii) This study builds on earlier concerns related to coronaviruses like HKU5-CoV-2 in bats, which can bind to human ACE2 receptors and lie “a small mutation away” from infecting people. While coronaviruses spark headlines, henipaviruses pose a similarly severe but less visible threat.
- (iii) Following the COVID-19 crisis, experts are warning that viral surveillance is critical. The discovery of these two bat-derived henipaviruses reinforces the need for proactive zoonotic disease monitoring, stricter biosafety standards, and strengthened ‘One Health’ strategies linking human, animal, and environmental health.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### 1. Amit Shah Unveils ‘The Emergency Diaries’ Chronicling PM Modi’s Underground Role During 1975–77 Emergency.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently released “The Emergency Diaries – Years That Forged a Leader”, a deeply researched account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resistance during India’s Emergency (1975–77), launched on the 50th anniversary of its imposition in New Delhi.

- The book provides fresh insights into the Emergency imposed on June 25, 1975, describing it as a “dark chapter” in India’s history. It details how a 25-year-old Narendra Modi, then an RSS Pracharak, went underground across Gujarat to resist the crackdown, aligned with leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh.
- Amit Shah highlighted Modi’s various disguises—posing as a sadhu, Sikh, hippie, incense-stick vendor, and newspaper seller—to evade arrest. Modi risked operating in secret while distributing banned newspapers and visiting families of those detained under MISA, keeping the democratic spirit alive.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Held in New Delhi as part of “Samvidhan Hatya Diwas”, the 50th Emergency anniversary, the ceremony featured dignitaries like Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena, and CM Rekha Gupta. Amit Shah emphasized that remembering this era is vital to stop any future drift towards authoritarianism.



(ii) Amit Shah urged young Indians to read the book and learn about the dangers that arise when democratic systems are suspended. He called the Emergency not just a national crisis, but also “a personal crisis to save dynastic rule,” asserting that remembering this helps prevent the repetition of such authoritarian episodes.

## 2. Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches Veteran Journalist Prem Prakash's Book 'History That India Ignored'.



In June 2025, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh, unveiled a new book titled "History That India Ignored", authored by renowned journalist and ANI Chairman Prem Prakash. The launch event was hosted by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation in New Delhi.

- Published by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited, the book sheds light on neglected narratives from India's freedom movement, relying on archival records, eyewitness accounts, and detailed chronological analysis. It revisits events such as the Vellore Mutiny of 1806 and the Barrackpore uprising of 1824, which predate the 1857 revolt.

- The book honours lesser-known freedom fighters including Mangal Pandey, Madan Lal Dhingra, Veer

Savarkar, and Subhas Chandra Bose, along with his Indian National Army (INA). It also highlights the role of the INA trials (1945–46) and the Royal Indian Naval Mutiny of 1946, arguing their impact was pivotal in hastening India's independence.

- Author Prem Prakash is a veteran journalist with vast international experience, having worked with broadcasters such as Gaumont Actualités (France), Deutsche Wochenschau (Germany), and Warner-Pathé News (USA). His early international reporting career earned him global recognition.

### Key Points:-

(i) In 1957, Prem Prakash co-founded Visnews, the world's first global television news agency, based in London. This organization laid the foundation for global news video syndication long before satellite networks became dominant.

(ii) He reported from the frontlines during landmark events in Indian history, including the 1962 Indo-China War, the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan Wars (including Haji Pir and Sialkot), the Tashkent Summit (1969), Emergency (1975–77), and Indira Gandhi's assassination (1984)—marking a lifetime of journalistic excellence.

(iii) In recognition of his six-decade-long contribution to journalism, Prem Prakash was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Global Education Mentor Awards held in New Delhi in July 2023.

## Static GK

<b>Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)</b>	MD : Harsha Bangari	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>Kerala</b>	Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
<b>Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)</b>	Minister : Shri H D Kumaraswamy	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>AICF (All India Chess Federation)</b>	President: Nitin Narang	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>WHO</b>	Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
<b>South Africa</b>	President: Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa	Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)
<b>World Bank</b>	CFO: Anshula Kant	Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
<b>Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL)</b>	MD & CEO : Praveer Sinha	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>RBI</b>	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>China</b>	Capital: Beijing	President: Xi

		Jinping
<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)</b>	Minister : Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu	Headquarter : New Delhi
<b>CBSE</b>	Chairperson: Rahul Singh, IAS	Headquarter : New Delhi
<b>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b>	Established : 1944	Headquarters: Washington D.C., United States