



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

»» 27 JUNE 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

1. NeGD & IIT Delhi Launch Two-Day AI in Governance Training for Government Officials.



On 26–27 June 2025, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under MeitY, held a two-day training programme on 'Artificial Intelligence in Governance' at IIT Delhi's Department of Management Studies. Officials from central and state governments were equipped to use AI responsibly in public service delivery.

- The AI training falls under Capacity Building Scheme (CB Phase III) of the Digital India Programme, aiming to develop both institutional and individual competencies in digital governance across all governmental levels.

- The programme was inaugurated by Rajnish Kumar (COO & Director, NeGD), Sunil Sharma (Director, NeGD), and Prof Surya Prakash Singh, Head of DMS, IIT Delhi—signifying a strong partnership between government and academia.

- A cohort of 59 government officials from various central ministries, state departments, and autonomous bodies attended. The workshop targeted policy-makers, managers, and tech leads poised to drive AI initiatives within their departments.

Key Points:-

(i) The training covered AI policy frameworks, ethics and legal dimensions, digital transformation methodologies, and real-world AI applications in governance. It included interactive modules like group exercises and use-case analyses tailored to departmental use.

(ii) Emphasising AI for efficient decision-making and enhanced citizen engagement, the programme equips officers to integrate emerging tools into public service—aligning with India's vision of a technologically-driven, accountable governance ecosystem.

(iii) Conducted at the Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, the workshop marries academic rigor with practical governance needs. It exemplifies NeGD's strategic outreach to premier institutes for contextual and high-impact training delivery.

2. Union Cabinet Approves Key Infrastructure and Historical Resolutions in Meeting Chaired by PM Modi.



On 25 June 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a Union Cabinet meeting that cleared major decisions including approval of Pune Metro Phase II, establishment of a global potato research centre at Agra, and a resolution marking 50 years of the Emergency, among other national priorities.

- The Cabinet approved the Pune Metro Rail Project Phase II, which includes two elevated corridors—Vanaz to Chandni Chowk (Corridor 2A) and Ramwadi to Wagholi-Vitthalwadi (Corridor 2B). The ₹3,626-crore project is expected to significantly reduce congestion and support the city's economic growth.
- A new International Potato Centre has been sanctioned near Agra, Uttar Pradesh. Focused on culinary and agricultural research, the centre aims to enhance global potato production and develop agritech innovations.
- To mark 50 years since the imposition of the Emergency on 25 June 1975, the Cabinet passed a resolution condemning the suspension of constitutional freedoms, reaffirming India's commitment to democratic values.

Key Points:-

- As part of the Emergency resolution, ministers observed a two-minute silence in remembrance of those who defended the Constitution and democratic ethos during that critical period.
- The resolution highlighted how the Emergency represented an attack on federalism, fundamental rights, and liberties. It urged citizens—especially the youth—to draw lessons from this period and safeguard democratic values.
- Combined with the metro and research centre grants, the Cabinet's 25 June session showcased a balance between urban infrastructure development, agricultural research, and historical-constitutional reflection, reinforcing a vision for progress rooted in heritage.

3. India Debuts First AI-Driven Smart Traffic System on Dwarka Expressway, Elevating Highway Safety.



On June 25 2025, India introduced its pioneering AI-powered Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) along a 56.46 km stretch of the Dwarka Expressway and NH-48. Developed by Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) under NHAI, it marks India's stride into intelligent, safe highway infrastructure.

- The ATMS operates over nearly 56.46 km, including 28 km from Shiv Murti to Kherki Daula on NH-48, and 28.46 km on the Dwarka Expressway. This marks it as the largest AI-traffic deployment in India.
- Equipped to detect 14 traffic violations—including overspeeding, triple riding, seatbelt and helmet violations—the system ensures adherence to the Motor Vehicles Act and supports law enforcement.
- The system integrates 110 high-resolution PTZ cameras at 1 km intervals, Video Incident Detection & Enforcement System (VIDES), radar units, speed display boards, variable message signboards, and a centralized command centre.

Key Points:-

- The ATMS links with the National Informatics Centre's e-challan portal and local police for instant fines. The control room dispatches alerts and oversees incidents, while public awareness campaigns complement technical enforcement.
- Covering accident-prone zones, the system

helps reduce crashes, prevent wrong-way entries, and respond swiftly to emergencies—facilitating safer, smoother commutes on a crucial suburban corridor.

(iii) As a pilot aligned with NHAI's 2023 smart highway guidelines, this ATMS serves as a blueprint for future corridors—potentially expanding to UER-II and other major expressways across India.

4. GOI Approves ₹417 Crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP under EMC 2.0 Scheme.



On June 25, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹417 crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh—covering 206 acres near Jewar International Airport—to strengthen domestic electronics production, support MSMEs and start-ups, and drive regional economic growth.

- The central government allocated ₹417 crore under the EMC 2.0 scheme for development over 206.4 acres in Sector 10, Gautam Buddha Nagar, managed by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA). This forms part of the government's "Make in India" and Viksit Bharat strategies.

- The cluster is expected to attract an additional ₹2,500 crore in private investments and generate around 15,000 direct employment opportunities. It will incubate electronics-focused MSMEs and startups by offering plug-and-play infrastructure.

- Industries in consumer electronics, automotive electronics, medical devices, computer hardware, and communication equipment will be catered to at the cluster. Havells India Ltd has been selected as the anchor tenant with a dedicated 50-acre allotment.

Key Points:-

(i) The site includes essential shared amenities: factory sheds, water and electricity provision, sewage treatment, skill-development centre, health centre, and hostel—reducing setup barriers for smaller firms.

(ii) Strategically located along the Yamuna Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, and upcoming Palwal–Khurja Expressway, and near Jewar International Airport, the site offers superior multimodal connectivity and access to industrial zones like the Medical Device Park and MSME & Apparel Park.

(iii) This cluster adds to India's EMC landscape, which has already attracted 520 companies with cumulative investments of over ₹30,000 crore, creating more than 86,000 jobs to date. It reinforces India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub, reducing import dependence and boosting exports.

5. AMRUT Mission Completes 10 Years of Urban Transformation Since Launch in June 2015.



Launched on 25 June 2015, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) has completed 10 years of transforming Indian cities with improved water, sanitation, mobility, and green spaces. Over ₹2.73 lakh crore has been sanctioned, bringing tangible change to millions of urban residents.

- Over a decade, AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 sanctioned 14,828 projects totaling ₹2.73 lakh crore. Of this, ₹1.12 lakh crore worth of physical work has been completed, significantly enhancing urban infrastructure across 485 cities.

- The campaign resulted in 2.03 crore new household tap connections and 1.50 crore sewer connections, making basic utilities more accessible and helping over 67 lakh households shift to underground drainage in AMRUT 2.0 towns.

- AMRUT constructed modern stormwater systems to reduce urban flooding. It eliminated 1,700+ flood-prone spots in phase-I, with AMRUT 2.0 targeting complete underground drainage in 500 cities, backed by geo-tagged projects.

Key Points:-

(i) Citizens gained access to over 9,500 acres of parks and 544 rejuvenated water bodies, promoting recreation, biodiversity, and urban cooling—an important step towards sustainable

urban living.

(ii) AMRUT 2.0 introduced geo-tagged water action plans, Pey Jal Survekshan city rankings, and encouraged Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) in cities of over one million population—strengthening transparency and competitiveness.

(iii) Through the Technology Sub-Mission, AMRUT shortlisted 120 start-ups for urban solutions in 82 cities. The AMRUT Mitra initiative saw over 10,000 women from Self-Help Groups contribute to 1,762 urban projects, promoting entrepreneurship and inclusive growth.

INTERNATIONAL

1. UAE–India CEPA Council Launches ‘Start-up Series’ to Power Cross-Border Innovation.



On 24 June 2025, the UAE–India CEPA Council (UICC), in partnership with the UAE Embassy in India, launched the first-ever “UAE–India CEPA Start-up Series” in New Delhi. Backed by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), this initiative aims to help 5 selected Indian start-ups scale globally through UAE ecosystem support.

- The Start-up Series is a key CEPA deliverable, designed to foster innovation-led trade and help Indian start-ups internationalise by providing access to

UAE investors, licensing, and ecosystem support—solidifying innovation cooperation under the bilateral trade pact.

- Held at the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel, the event was led by UAE Ambassador Dr Abdulnasser Alshaali, who emphasized that “start-ups are central to the UAE–India economic corridor,” reinforcing the UAE’s strategic focus on entrepreneurship.
- The programme culminates in a high-profile pitch event in New Delhi where five Indian start-ups will receive UAE soft-landing packages—including incubation, mentorship, licensing, and access to UAE free-zone investors.

Key Points:-

- (i) MoUs were signed with institutions like PRIME Meghalaya, IDEATE Lab at O.P. Jindal Global University, and Jamia Hamdard, to support regional innovation exchanges, research partnerships, and entrepreneurship across states.
- (ii) India-UAE trade has surged—FY 2023–24 trade hit USD 83.6 billion, non-oil exports rose 20%, and UAE FDI in India tripled to USD 3.35 billion, making it India’s 4th largest foreign investor.
- (iii) Applications are open till 31 July 2025 via the CEPA Start-up Series microsite. Over 100 investors, corporates, and ecosystem players attended the launch, signaling strong cross-border engagement.

2. Botswana Becomes 1st African Nation to Achieve WHO Gold Tier Status for Ending HIV Transmission.



In May 2025, Botswana achieved a major global health milestone by becoming the first African country and one of the highest HIV-burdened nations in the world to be recognized with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Gold Tier certification for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

- This recognition was granted under WHO’s Triple Elimination Initiative, implemented in partnership with UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), and national health authorities. It focuses on integrated maternal and child health to eliminate HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B transmission.

- Botswana had previously become the first country in the world to qualify for WHO’s Silver Tier certification in 2021. Its consistent progress in reducing vertical HIV transmission has now placed it in the top category of global HIV control.

Key Points:-

- (i) According to WHO, Botswana met all stringent benchmarks required for Gold Tier status—such as reducing new pediatric HIV infections below 50 per 100,000 live births, and bringing overall HIV transmission rates to less than 5% among HIV-positive mothers.
- (ii) As per the UNAIDS Spectrum Report 2024,

Botswana has around 360,000 people living with HIV. However, nearly 98% of HIV-positive pregnant women in the country now receive effective antiretroviral treatment, reducing child transmission to just 1.2%, and fewer than 100 infants were born with HIV in 2023.

(iii) Globally, Cuba was the first country to achieve WHO's HIV and syphilis elimination certification in 2015. As of 2025, 16 countries and territories have been awarded certification for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, with 11 of them in the Caribbean region.

India's USD 114 billion greenfield inflows—surpassing all other Global South economies.

- Coming from second place in prior years, India has now topped the ranking of greenfield investment recipients in the Global South, underscoring heightened confidence among international investors.
- Key sectors fueling this growth include electronics manufacturing, data centres, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals—aligned with India's national initiatives like Make in India and Digital India.

Key Points:-

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI Reported "India Named Top Destination in Global South for Greenfield Investment at USD 114 Billion".



According to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study released in June 2025, India attracted a record USD 114 billion in greenfield investments—making it the number one destination in the Global South. This reflects India's growing appeal in sectors such as electronics, data centers, renewable energy, and manufacturing.

- Greenfield investments involve establishing new facilities or assets in a host country. The RBI's June 2025 "Data on Overseas Investment" report highlights

(i) While FDI equity inflows reached USD 50 billion in FY25—earning India the 15th global rank, according to UNCTAD—the magnitude of greenfield projects illustrates broader interest in capital-intensive facilities and infrastructure.

(ii) These investments contribute to enhanced industrial capacity, job creation, technology transfer, increasing exports, and reducing import dependency—vital for India's transition to a manufacturing-led growth model.

(iii) To build on this success, India is focusing on improving ease of doing business, upgrading its logistics and energy infrastructure, offering production-linked incentives (PLI), and strengthening bilateral economic partnerships with countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

2. Bank of Baroda Unveils 'bob Flexi Systematic Deposit Plan' for Smart, Flexible Savings.



On 25 June 2025, Bank of Baroda introduced its 'bob Flexi Systematic Deposit Plan (SDP)', a modern recurring-deposit scheme that allows monthly investments starting at just ₹500—flexible up to ₹1 lakh—and locks in fixed interest rates on each contribution for the entire tenure.

- Customers can begin with a core instalment of ₹500 and subsequently scale up the monthly deposit up to 10× (in multiples of ₹100), capped at ₹1 lakh per month—ideal for those with fluctuating income or bonus inflows.
- Each monthly contribution locks in a fixed interest rate for the full deposit period, irrespective of when it's made. Example: a 2-year plan offers 6.50% p.a. for regular customers, 7.00% for senior citizens, and 7.10% for super senior citizens.
- This scheme blends disciplined savings with flexibility and assures higher returns than typical fixed-deposit accounts, without any market risk—making it perfect for goals like education, travel, or emergency funds.

Key Points:-

- (i) Customers can avail of a loan or overdraft facility up to 95% of the accumulated balance, offering financial flexibility even as they save. Additionally, a nomination facility is available.
- (ii) Open to all resident individuals—including

minors (above 10 years), and senior or super senior citizens—with a total deposit limit of ₹3 crore. The plan includes nomination, flexible tenures (6 months to 5 years), and no market exposure.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Tata Tops Brand Finance India 100 Ranking 2025 with USD 31.6 Billion Value and Becomes First Indian Brand to Cross USD 30 Billion.



On 25 June 2025, Brand Finance released its India 100 2025 rankings, revealing a total combined value of USD 236.5 billion for India's top 100 brands. The Tata Group retained its No. 1 position with a record brand value of USD 31.6 billion—the first Indian brand to cross the USD 30 billion milestone.

- Tata Group's brand value rose by 10% to USD 31.6 billion, securing the top rank and making it the first Indian brand ever to exceed USD 30 billion in value—driven by diversification into electronics, EVs, semiconductors, AI, and renewables.
- Infosys (IT) jumped to USD 16.3 billion (+15%), HDFC Group (banking) reached USD 14.2 billion (+37%), and LIC (insurance) expanded to USD 13.6 billion (+35%)—all holding strong positions among the top five Indian brands.

- **Adani Group** recorded the highest year-on-year brand-value growth at 82%, driven by its aggressive expansion in infrastructure, green energy, and enhancement of stakeholder confidence.

Key Points:-

- (i) Taj Hotels retained the title of India's strongest brand with a AAA+ Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.2, followed by Asian Paints (92.0) and Amul (91.2), demonstrating sustained leadership in brand excellence.
- (ii) The cumulative brand value of India's top 100 firms reached USD 236.5 billion—signaling broad-based gains across sectors such as technology, finance, infrastructure, hospitality, and specialty manufacturing.
- (iii) With India's GDP expected to grow between 6%–7% in FY 2025–26, robust domestic demand, enhanced capital expenditures, and stronger public-private collaboration are amplifying brand value and overseas influence.

landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi. The agreement aims to skilling, empower, and boost entrepreneurship among rural women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM and the Lakhpati Didi mission.

- **MoRD Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** and **MoS (Skills) Jayant Chaudhary** endorsed the MoU, aligned with **Viksit Bharat@2047** and **Lakhpati Didi** targets. The partnership seeks to skill and empower three crore SHG women across rural India through targeted training and entrepreneurial support.
- The MoU mandates customised skilling modules for SHG women in emerging sectors—digital, financial literacy, compliance, and market access. Trainings will be delivered via institutions like Jan Shikshan Sansthan, RSETIs, NIESBUD, and NSTIs, with certification backed by the Skill India Digital Hub.
- Designed to foster viable rural enterprises, the initiative supports SHGs in agri and non-agri domains. Joint livelihood fairs, awareness campaigns, mentorship programmes, and quarterly reviews by a Joint Committee are central to its rollout.

MOUs and Agreement

1. MoRD & MSDE Sign MoU to Empower Rural Women SHGs with Skilling, Entrepreneurship & Market Access.



On 25 June 2025, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a

Key Points:-

- (i) The MoU creates institutional convergence—MoRD's DAY-NRLM grassroots network and MSDE's capacity development ecosystem—bringing both ministries into a synchronized skilling-entrepreneurship delivery model. This establishes a cohesive “last-mile” empowerment system.
- (ii) Valid for three years, the MoU establishes a Joint Review Committee for quarterly oversight. MoRD Secretary Shailesh Kumar Singh and MSDE Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari, along with officials, will lead implementation, ensuring timely progress and accountability.
- (iii) With over 10 crore women across 91 lakh SHGs already mobilised under DAY-NRLM,

Minister Chouhan noted that rural women are driving change. This capacity building is essential to transform socio-economic paradigms and reach goals like 'Millionaire Didis' in future phases.

SPORTS

1. ICC Introduces 'Stop-Clock' and New Playing Conditions for WTC 2025–27.



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has brought in major playing-condition changes for the 2025–27 World Test Championship cycle—including the first-ever stop-clock in Tests and new tactical rules to speed up play and improve fairness.

- The ICC now requires fielding teams to begin each over within 60 seconds of the previous one's completion. Violations earn two warnings; a third breach results in a five-run penalty awarded to the batting side. The clock resets after every 80 overs.
- The stop-clock rule mirrors white-ball cricket's 'powerplay' system and aims to check slow-paced overs in Tests—a recurring problem that disrupted match flow. It's already active in WTC matches since the Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh series in Galle.

Key Points:-

(i) In cases of deliberate short runs, fielding teams can now choose which batter will take strike

next—adding tactical depth and discouraging unfair batting tactics.

(ii) The ICC also refined DRS protocols: if an umpire's out decision is upheld by tracker as "umpire's call," the decision now remains out. Additionally, umpires are no longer required to change the ball just because saliva was used—although the saliva ban stays.

(iii) The updated rules now allow the third umpire to verify a catch taken off a no-ball. If deemed fair, the batting side earns a run; if not, they get the runs completed before the catch—reducing contentious decisions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Refrigeration Day 2025 Observed on 26 June to Celebrate Cool Skills.



On 26 June 2025, World Refrigeration Day highlights the vital role of refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat pumps, and sustainable heating in modern life. With this year's theme, "Cool Skills," the day celebrates the professional expertise behind temperature-controlled systems essential to health, safety, and climate resilience.

- Observed annually since 26 June 2019, World Refrigeration Day commemorates the birth date of Lord Kelvin (born 1824), a pioneer in thermodynamics.

It was launched by consultant Stephen Gill and garnered early support from ASHRAE and UNEP.

- This year's focus celebrates the essential competencies—from technicians to researchers—that enable modern refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat pump, and sustainable heating systems. It highlights the need for skilled professionals in energy-efficient and low-carbon cooling solutions.

- Cooling technologies ensure vaccine integrity, enable fresh food preservation, support data centres, and provide comfortable indoor environments. Refrigeration plays a central role in healthcare, food security, and economic resilience.

Key Points:-

(i) Refrigeration systems account for approximately 20% of global building energy usage. Improving energy efficiency, adopting low-carbon refrigerants, and employing trained professionals are critical steps in meeting climate goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

(ii) ASHRAE champions "Cool Skills" through education, certification, and sustainability checklists in collaboration with UNEP's OzonAction programme. IIR (International Institute of Refrigeration) hosted events in Paris, bringing together policymakers, industry experts, engineers, and scientists.

(iii) As the demand for cold chain services and sustainable cooling rises—driven by food preservation needs, climate resilience, and digital infrastructure—World Refrigeration Day 2025 aims to inspire a new generation of HVAC&R professionals through awareness campaigns, career drives, webinars, and technical demonstrations.

2. India Observes MSME Day 2025 on June 27 to Honour Small Businesses Driving Growth.



India observed the International Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day on 27 June 2025, highlighting the sector's key role in innovation, employment generation, and sustainable economic development. This day is celebrated globally following a 2017 UN resolution.

- The day marks the 8th edition of MSME Day, declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in April 2017 through Resolution A/RES/71/279. It has been celebrated annually since 2018 to recognise the importance of small businesses in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- India's MSME sector accounts for over 30% of GDP, 45% of exports, and employs more than 110 million people through 6.3 crore units. It is a key pillar of the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2025, the theme was "Enhancing the role of MSMEs as drivers of sustainable growth and innovation." The Ministry of MSME conducted events across India, including awareness campaigns, exhibitions, and skill training initiatives.

(ii) President Droupadi Murmu addressed a national MSME conclave in New Delhi and

launched a National Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal to help resolve commercial disputes faced by small businesses more efficiently.

(iii) Despite strong contributions, the sector continues to face issues like access to formal credit, digital adoption, and market linkages. The government reiterated its commitment to improving the ease of doing business for MSMEs through targeted policy reforms.

3. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Observed on 26 June 2025.



On 26 June 2025, the world marked the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking—also known as World Drug Day—to strengthen global action and cooperation in combatting the widespread impact of drug abuse and the organized crime that fuels it.

- The United Nations General Assembly officially designated 26 June as the Day in December 1987 under Resolution 42/112. It commemorates China's decisive action against the opium trade in 1839 and aims to mobilize public health strategies and multilateral collaboration to create a drug-free society.
- The theme for 2025—"Break the Cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime"—highlights the inextricable link between drug trafficking and organized criminal

networks. It underscores the urgent need for sustained interventions in prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement.

Key Points:-

(i) As per the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), around 292 million individuals age 15–64 used illicit drugs in 2022—a 20% increase over the past decade. This increase fuels demand, strengthens criminal networks, and perpetuates public health and socio-economic strains.

(ii) UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized prevention as the "most essential strategy" against organized drug crime. He called for balanced investments across justice, education, healthcare, harm reduction, and viable alternative livelihoods.

(iii) Across India—including Delhi, Nagaland, Kochi, Belagavi, and Patna—local authorities and NGOs hosted awareness rallies, school programmes, and public pledges. Delhi CM Rekha Gupta urged citizens to report suspicious activities—highlighting over 1,100 arrests made in early 2025—and reiterated India's vision of becoming drug-free by 2047.

4. UN Observed International Day in Support of Torture Victims on June 26, 2025.



The United Nations observed the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26, 2025, to raise global awareness against torture and reaffirm commitment to justice, rehabilitation, and accountability for victims.

- The day marks the anniversary of the enforcement of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which came into force on 26 June 1987. The observance promotes the complete prohibition of torture under international law.

- The United Nations General Assembly officially proclaimed this day on 12 December 1997 through resolution 52/149. It serves to mobilize support for survivors of torture and ensure their legal and psychological rehabilitation through international mechanisms.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2025, the global theme focuses on “Torture: A Crime Against Humanity,” emphasizing that torture is strictly prohibited in all circumstances and must be treated as a punishable international offense, not just a domestic matter.

(ii) The day is supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which provides humanitarian, medical, legal, and social assistance to survivors. Over 600 organizations in more than 80 countries benefit from this UN initiative annually.

(iii) June 26 also shares significance with the signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945, reflecting a broader commitment to human dignity, rule of law, and international peace.

DEFENCE

1. Reliance Defence Secures ₹600 Crore Ammunition Export Order from Germany's Rheinmetall.



On 25 June 2025, Reliance Defence Ltd (a subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure) clinched a major export contract worth ₹600 crore with Germany-based Rheinmetall Waffe Munition GmbH—a milestone deal signaling India's rise in private-sector defence exports.

- The ₹600 crore order is among the largest-ever export deals by an Indian private defence firm in the high-tech ammunition category, marking a key achievement under the recently launched strategic partnership with Rheinmetall.

- Reliance Defence will manufacture and supply medium- to large-calibre ammunition—such as artillery shells, explosives, and propellants—through a new greenfield facility under the Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City (DADC) project in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

- The Ratnagiri facility, in the Watad Industrial Area, will be one of South Asia's largest ammunition plants—annually producing up to 2 lakh artillery shells, 10,000 tonnes of explosives, and 2,000 tonnes of propellants.

Key Points:-

(i) In response to the announcement, shares of Reliance Infrastructure rose nearly 5%—reflecting positive market sentiment and international validation of India's defence manufacturing capabilities.

(ii) The export deal bolsters Prime Minister Modi's vision of self-reliant defence manufacturing, strengthening India's global supply chain presence and advancing its status as a reliable defence exporter.

(iii) This major contract comes on the heels of a similar ₹10,000 crore ammunition pact with Germany's Diehl Defence in June 2025. Together, these agreements bring India closer to achieving its ₹50,000 crore defence export target by 2029.

● Captain Shukla was officially designated the 634th astronaut by Axiom-4 commander Peggy Whitson during docking. He will fulfil the role of mission pilot for the two-week ISS experiment and technology showcase mission.

● The Crew Dragon capsule Grace docked with the ISS on 26 June. The 4-person Axiom-4 crew was welcomed by Expedition 73 members, and Shukla has already begun conducting microgravity experiments during the 14-day stay.

Key Points:-

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes 634th Astronaut to Reach Space on Axiom-4 Mission.



On 25–26 June 2025, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla—an Indian Air Force test pilot and ISRO astronaut—launched aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon for Axiom-4. He became the 634th human in space and the first Indian to dock at the International Space Station (ISS) in over four decades.

● Shubhanshu Shukla is only the second Indian in orbit—following Rakesh Sharma in 1984—and the first to reach the ISS. He brings pride to India, marking a new chapter in the country's human spaceflight journey.

(i) ISRO is monitoring Shukla's mission from Houston, gaining crucial operational learnings for its Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme planned for 2027. The training, docking, and research data pave the way for India's autonomous crewed missions.

(ii) On 28 June, PM Narendra Modi phoned Shukla aboard the ISS. The call included joyful conversations—even about floating “gajar ka halwa” in zero gravity—and evoked nostalgic resonance with Rakesh Sharma's iconic broadcast.

(iii) From CM Yogi Adityanath's congratulations to global enthusiasm for India's re-entry into human space missions, the public response has been heartening. Lucknow, Shukla's hometown, and ISRO officials celebrated the milestone.

Static GK

National e-Governance Division (NeGD)	CEO : Nand Kumarum	Headquarters: New Delhi
MSDE	Minister : Jayant Chaudhary	Headquarters: New Delhi
Uttar Pradesh	Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath	Governor: Anandiben Patel
UAE	Capital: Abu Dhabi	President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
Bank of Baroda	CEO : Shri Debadatta Chand	Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara
Tata Group	Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Headquarter : Mumbai
Botswana	President: Mokgweetsi Masisi	Capital: Gaborone