

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

30 JUNE 2025



NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

1. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Chairs 196th ESIC Meeting in Shimla and Launches Key Schemes for Social Security Reform.



In June 2025, Union Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the 196th meeting of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The meeting highlighted major policy initiatives focused on social security expansion, healthcare improvements, and easing employer compliance.

- The high-level ESIC meeting was presided over by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who also holds the Youth Affairs & Sports portfolio. The gathering aimed to assess current schemes under the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) and introduce new strategies to broaden the ESIC's reach and impact.
- A major highlight of the meeting was the re-launch of the SPREE initiative—Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees. This scheme is designed to expand ESIC coverage across India by encouraging more businesses and workers to register under the social insurance system.
- The re-launched SPREE scheme will be active from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. During this period, incentives and support mechanisms will be provided

to increase voluntary registrations, thereby enhancing the ESIC network.

Key Points:-

- Another key decision from the meeting was the approval of the Amnesty Scheme 2025, a one-time dispute resolution framework for employers. This window will be open from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, allowing businesses to resolve outstanding compliance issues without penalties.
- ESIC also announced a significant reform in its damages framework. The existing graded penalty system has been replaced by a simplified flat rate structure, aimed at reducing legal and financial burdens on defaulting employers and promoting easier resolution.
- The maximum rate of damages has been substantially reduced—from 25% per annum to 1% for every month on the default amount. This shift is expected to increase compliance and lessen the financial strain on small and medium enterprises.

2. Amit Shah Inaugurates National Turmeric Board Headquarters in Nizamabad, Telangana.



On 29 June 2025, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the newly-

established National Turmeric Board headquarters in Nizamabad, fulfilling a four-decade-long demand of turmeric farmers and revitalizing India's turmeric sector with investment, branding, and export focus.

- In his address, Mr. Shah emphasized that Nizamabad, known as India's "turmeric capital," will now see a unified effort in cultivation, processing, packaging, branding, and marketing—effectively dismantling middlemen. This move aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2023 election promise to bolster the turmeric industry.

- He stated turmeric prices have recently ranged between ₹18,000–₹19,000 per quintal and promised a further increase of ₹6,000–₹7,000 over the next three years. In 2023–24, turmeric was grown over approximately 3 lakh hectares, yielding around 10.74 lakh tonnes of crop nationwide.

- Mr. Amit Shah also revealed a central allocation of ₹200 crore toward improving crop quality, research infrastructure, and farmer incomes in Telangana. The board aims to build an end-to-end supply chain, including GI-tagged organic turmeric, and target USD 1 billion worth of turmeric exports by 2030.

Key Points:-

(i) Present at the inauguration were Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BJP MPs K. Laxman and D. Arvind. D. Arvind expressed pride in fulfilling his Lok Sabha election promise, while local campaigners highlighted the conversion of a former MLA camp office into the board's temporary premises.

(ii) The new board will offer farmer skill development, geotagging support, and strengthen India's turmeric brand globally. Mr. Shah described turmeric as a "wonder drug," emphasizing its antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer benefits.

(iii) This inauguration represents a watershed

moment for India's turmeric growers—marking a transition from fragmented production systems to a scientifically backed, globally connected supply network that uplifts farmer welfare and supports export ambitions.

3. MoRTH Makes ABS and Dual Helmets Mandatory for All Two-Wheelers from January 1, 2026.



The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued draft rules mandating Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) on all two-wheelers produced from January 1, 2026. The measure, aimed at reducing accidents and enhancing rider safety, also includes a requirement for two BIS-certified helmets with every new vehicle purchase.

- Previously, ABS was mandatory only on two-wheelers above 125 cc. Under the new rules, every new two-wheeler, irrespective of engine size, must install ABS beginning 1 January 2026. This landmark decision reflects MoRTH's intensified focus on road safety.

- In addition to ABS, dealerships must now include two BIS-certified helmets per purchase—one each for the rider and the pillion—ensuring better protection for both passengers.

Key Points:-

(i) Statistics reveal that two-wheelers contributed to over 44% of total road fatalities in 2022. Studies show ABS can reduce crash risk by 35–45%, particularly on wet or uneven surfaces, by preventing wheel lock during emergency braking.

(ii) India sold nearly 1.96 crore two-wheelers in FY 2025; about 78% were sub-125 cc models. As ABS becomes standard even in entry-level bikes, sticker prices may rise by ₹2,500–7,000, depending on bike category and ABS type.

4. Pralhad Joshi Inaugurates India's First 5 GWh Automated BESS Plant in Bengaluru to Boost Clean Energy Storage.



On 27 June 2025, Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi inaugurated a state-of-the-art Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility at Bidadi Industrial Area, Bengaluru. With a 5 GWh annual capacity, this automated plant is poised to bolster India's clean energy transition, grid stability, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals.

- Operated by PACE Digitek (formerly Lineage Power), the Bengaluru plant is among India's largest BESS manufacturing units, featuring a fully automated “cell-to-pack” assembly line. This precision engineering

ensures high quality with minimal human intervention.

- The 5 GWh capacity directly addresses the variability of solar and wind power, enhancing grid resilience, managing peak load, and stabilizing frequency. MoNRE has set a target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, making BESS essential to that goal.

Key Points:-

(i) Minister Joshi announced an additional ₹5,400 crore under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme to catalyse 30 GWh of BESS projects—augmenting the existing ₹3,700 crore funding that supports 13.2 GWh. Total investment in energy storage is projected to reach ₹4.79 lakh crore by 2032.

(ii) Highlighting India's potential to become a global hub for energy storage, Joshi noted plans to add 47 GW of BESS capacity with ₹3.5 lakh crore investment by 2032, backed by strong policy support and private sector engagement.

(iii) The new facility is expected to generate high-value jobs and spur innovation in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

5. Jayant Chaudhary Releases “Skills for the Future” Report to Reshape India's Workforce Landscape.



On 27 June 2025, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Jayant Chaudhary, unveiled the report titled “Skills for the Future: Transforming India’s Workforce Landscape” in New Delhi. The report, developed by the Institute for Competitiveness, highlights urgent reforms required in India’s skill ecosystem to meet future job demands.

- The report draws from recent datasets including the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24, PMKVY 4.0, and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) dashboards. It offers a diagnostic view of India’s current workforce composition, vocational training coverage, and education levels—highlighting the need for major restructuring in skill alignment with job markets.

- According to the findings, nearly 88% of India’s workforce is engaged in low-competency roles, while only 10–12% occupy high-skill positions.

- Moreover, less than 10% of workers have education beyond secondary level, and more than half remain at the primary education level or below. This educational gap severely constrains employability and income potential.

Key Points:-

(i) The report flags a serious skill-job mismatch in

India: highly educated youth are often working in low-skill jobs, and underqualified individuals occupy technically demanding roles. This misallocation reduces labour productivity, discourages innovation, and hampers India’s economic competitiveness, particularly as the country aims to expand its formal workforce in emerging sectors.

(ii) It also identifies five core sectors—IT/ITeS, electronics, textiles, healthcare, and beauty & wellness—that account for over 66% of vocational training coverage in India. However, regional disparities remain stark. While Kerala and Chandigarh show high shares of level 3 and 4 trained workers, states like Bihar and Assam continue to lag behind in skilling outcomes.

(iii) To bridge these gaps, the report proposes creating a national employability index, modernising the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) curriculum, incentivising certified hiring, and recognising informal learning. Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasised that India’s skilling policies must shift from supply-driven models to demand-led, industry-aligned strategies to equip the youth for Vision 2047.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Restricts Jute Imports from Bangladesh to Nhava Sheva Port Only, Banning All Land Route Entries.



Effective 27–29 June 2025, India’s Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has banned the import of certain jute and allied products from Bangladesh through land routes, mandating that such imports must enter exclusively via Nhava Sheva seaport. This strategic move aims to bolster regulatory oversight and safeguard the domestic jute industry.

- The DGFT notification covers a range of exports from Bangladesh—including jute products, flax tow and waste, raw or retted jute, jute yarns (single and multifold), and woven/unbleached fabrics. These items are now barred at all India–Bangladesh land crossing points, as well as most sea and air ports.

- While land ports are closed, imports via the Nhava Sheva seaport in Maharashtra remain permitted. This single-port policy enables tighter quality checks, fraud control, and enforcement of anti-dumping safeguards.

Key Points:-

(i) Bangladesh exports approximately \$150 million worth of jute products yearly—around 23% of its jute exports, with 117 exporters heavily reliant on land routes. Alternative sea logistics could increase costs and delay deliveries, potentially undermining Bangladesh’s competitiveness.

(ii) This restriction aligns with India’s earlier April–May curbs on Bangladeshi garments and

processed foods, and follows diplomatic tensions sparked by remarks from Bangladesh’s interim Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus regarding India’s northeastern connectivity.

(iii) India aims to protect its jute industry from dumped and subsidized imports. The move is expected to reshape trade dynamics, strengthen bilateral trade terms, and shift jute routing via monitored sea channels, reinforcing regulatory oversight and reciprocal export measures.

2. Salkhan Fossils Park Added to UNESCO Tentative List, Highlighting 1.4-Billion-Year-Old Geological Marvel.



On June 22, 2025, Uttar Pradesh’s Salkhan Fossils Park in Sonbhadra was officially inscribed on UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. The 25-hectare park features ancient stromatolite fossils, underscoring its global significance in the study of Earth’s early life and natural history.

- Located near Robertsganj in the Kaimur Range, Salkhan Fossils Park spans roughly 25 hectares and houses stromatolites and algae fossils estimated to be around 1.4 billion years old—making them among the earliest known evidence of life on Earth.

- Inclusion on the Tentative List is the first formal step toward World Heritage status. A dossier, backed by

scientific studies led by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, will now be prepared for UNESCO review; full designation is expected within two years.

- The park's stromatolite formations—domal, columnar, and stratiform—capture successive environmental changes in the Precambrian era, especially during the Great Oxidation Event, thereby filling a significant gap in the fossil record.

Key Points:-

- (i) With UNESCO recognition, regional tourism is projected to surge. The site's inclusion can enhance eco-tourism infrastructure, generate employment, and promote sustainable development in the underdeveloped Vindhyan region.
- (ii) Geological exploration began in the 1930s, with notable contributions in 2002 and subsequent research. High-caliber international collaborations—including workshops and paleo-research—underscore its enduring scientific value.
- (iii) The UP government, led by CM Yogi Adityanath, has backed the initiative with tourism infrastructure plans, eco-development funds, and a focused push toward securing UNESCO's permanent listing by preparing a robust nomination dossier.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI Announces Stricter AePS Rules to Strengthen KYC and Curb Fraud from January 2026.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines to enhance the security framework of the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS). Effective from January 1, 2026, these rules aim to combat growing fraud risks by mandating robust KYC compliance, operator verification, and real-time monitoring of banking touchpoints.

- To prevent identity theft and fraud in Aadhaar-enabled financial services, the RBI has mandated that all AePS Touchpoint Operators (ATOs), including Bank Mitras and BC agents, undergo full Know Your Customer (KYC) and Customer Due Diligence (CDD) checks before being onboarded. Acquiring banks must comply with the KYC norms notified under the 2016 RBI Master Direction, thereby standardizing identity verification practices across rural and semi-urban financial networks.
- Operators who remain inactive for three consecutive months will be required to complete fresh KYC verification before resuming AePS services. This policy is designed to prevent misuse of dormant IDs and to tighten control over non-operational agents, which has been a major loophole exploited in previous fraudulent transactions. It will ensure only actively monitored agents continue service delivery.
- RBI has also clarified that each AePS operator may be associated with only one acquiring bank. This move prevents multiple registrations under different

banking partners, thereby simplifying audit trails and reducing duplication of operator identities. It improves transparency in the system and allows banks to implement focused supervision on each registered operator.

Key Points:-

(i) In addition to onboarding compliance, acquiring banks are directed to establish risk-based transaction monitoring systems. These systems must include transaction limits based on the agent's risk profile, geographic location, and operational history. Real-time alerts and regular review of activity thresholds will enable banks to flag suspicious patterns and prevent large-scale frauds.

(ii) RBI has also called for strong technical and API safeguards, including access controls and endpoint monitoring. APIs used for AePS must be isolated from other core banking operations and used strictly for permitted activities. These measures follow a surge in AePS-related cyber frauds, which contributed to over 11% of India's financial cybercrime in 2023.

(iii) These reforms, issued under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, reflect RBI's proactive approach in securing digital payment infrastructure. With over 1,100 crore AePS transactions annually, particularly in rural India, the 2026 guidelines aim to restore trust in Aadhaar-linked banking by making it safer, more transparent, and accountable.

2. RBI Imposes Penalties on Four Co-operative Banks for Violating Banking Regulation Act.



On June 27, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) penalized four co-operative banks located in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka for breaching multiple provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The action highlights RBI's increasing focus on regulatory compliance and governance within the co-operative banking sector.

- The RBI, exercising powers under the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949, has imposed monetary penalties on four urban cooperative banks (UCBs) for non-compliance with specific regulatory directions. These penalties are aimed at ensuring that co-operative banks align with RBI's supervisory expectations regarding transparency, lending practices, and customer verification norms.

- The penalized banks include Hyderabad District Cooperative Central Bank (HDCCB) and Karimnagar District Cooperative Central Bank (KDCCB) in Telangana, Chittoor Cooperative Town Bank (CCTB) in Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka Co-operative Bank (KCB) based in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Each of these banks was found to be in violation of one or more regulatory provisions relating to risk governance and KYC adherence.

- Both HDCCB and KDCCB were fined ₹1 lakh each for contravening Section 20 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. These sections pertain to restrictions on granting loans and advances to

related parties, and ensure responsible credit allocation within cooperative institutions.

Key Points:-

(i) CCTB (Chittoor Co-operative Town Bank) was also fined ₹1 lakh for non-compliance with RBI's instructions specifically applicable to Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The violations were related to failure in adhering to prudential exposure norms and Know Your Customer (KYC) obligations mandated by the RBI to prevent money laundering and fraud.

(ii) KCB (Karnataka Co-operative Bank) faced a penalty of ₹1 lakh as well, for breaching multiple provisions under Section 47A(1)(c), 46(4)(i), and 56 of the BR Act. These provisions involve non-compliance with RBI guidelines regarding operational transparency, governance mechanisms, and documentation standards required in cooperative banking operations.

(iii) This regulatory action by RBI underscores its commitment to strengthening the supervisory framework of the co-operative banking system, which plays a key role in rural and semi-urban credit delivery. These penalties serve as a warning to other UCBs to enhance due diligence, adopt robust internal controls, and maintain full regulatory compliance.



On June 28, 2025, the National Statistics Office (NSO) released its annual Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors, revealing that India's farm output reached ₹29.49 lakh crore in FY 2023–24 at constant 2011–12 prices—a 54.6% rise since FY12.

- The Gross Value of Output (GVO) from agriculture and allied activities climbed from ₹19.08 lakh crore in FY12 to ₹29.49 lakh crore in FY24 (constant prices), indicating a robust 54.6% increase over twelve years.

- At current prices, Gross Value Added (GVA) surged by approximately 225%, up from ₹15.02 lakh crore in FY12 to ₹48.78 lakh crore in FY24—showcasing the sector's amplified economic contribution.

- The crop segment remained the primary driver with ₹15.95 lakh crore GVO in FY24, accounting for 54.1% of total agricultural output. Cereals, fruits, and vegetables represented over 52% of crop output value.

Key Points:-

(i) Among cereals, paddy and wheat made up approximately 85% of cereal GVO. In the fruits category, banana (₹47,000 crore) overtook mango (₹46,100 crore), while potato led the vegetable GVO at ₹37,200 crore in FY24.

(ii) Production in floriculture nearly doubled, rising from ₹17,400 crore in FY12 to ₹28,100 crore in FY24. Similarly, livestock, forestry, and fisheries

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. India's Farm Output Reaches ₹29.49 Lakh Crore in FY24, Shows NSO Report.

sectors saw healthy growth, reflecting the diversification of India's agri-allied economy.

(iii) Five agricultural powerhouses—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana, and Haryana—contributed around 53% of total cereal output GVO in FY24. Uttar Pradesh retained its lead, though its share slightly reduced from 18.6% (FY12) to 17.2% (FY24).

2. HDFC Mutual Fund Acquires 0.65% Stake in Sundram Fasteners for ₹137 Crore via Open Market Deal.



HDFC Mutual Fund, a subsidiary of HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC), recently purchased 13.70 lakh equity shares of Sundram Fasteners Ltd in June 2025, equating to a 0.65% stake. The ₹137.02 crore investment was carried out through an open market transaction at an average share price of ₹1,000, raising HDFC MF's total holding in the company from 4.27% to 5.02%.

- Sundram Fasteners Ltd, headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, is a major automotive component supplier under the TVS Group. Founded in 1966, the company has grown to become a leading manufacturer for both domestic and global automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs),

with a strong reputation for innovation, engineering, and diversified product lines.

- The company's product portfolio spans fasteners, powertrain components, sintered metal products, radiator caps, cold extruded parts, water pumps, oil pumps, and wind energy components. It also maintains a robust international presence with manufacturing units in India, China, and Europe, and serves clients across North America and European markets.

Key Points:-

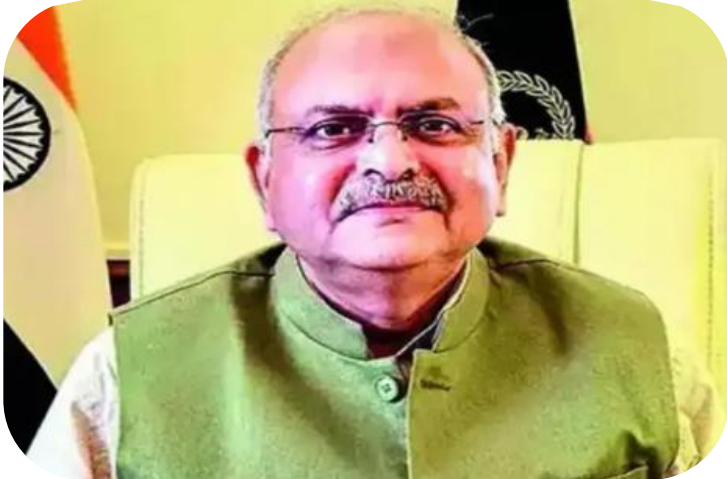
(i) HDFC MF's strategic investment comes amid a broader recovery in India's auto ancillary sector, which is being driven by rising electric vehicle (EV) production and a global shift towards diversified, resilient supply chains. Sundram Fasteners' strong balance sheet, export capability, and investments in R&D position it well to benefit from sectoral tailwinds.

(ii) In a related market event, Singapore-based Cube Mobility Investments offloaded a 0.59% stake (approximately 79.25 lakh units) in Cube Highways Trust—an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh—for ₹101 crore at ₹127.50 per unit.

(iii) Cube Highways Trust, which invests in toll roads and highway assets, remains attractive to long-term institutional investors seeking stable returns through InvITs.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Centre Extends Ravi Agrawal's Tenure as CBDT Chairman Until June 2026.



On June 28, 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved a one-year extension of Ravi Agrawal's tenure as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). His new term runs from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026, reinforcing continuity in India's direct tax leadership.

- Ravi Agrawal, an IRS officer from the 1988 batch, originally assumed charge as CBDT Chairman in June 2024 and was retained on a contractual basis through June 2025. The latest extension, effective July 1, 2025, sustains experienced leadership amid ongoing reforms in direct tax administration.

- A key reason for the extension is continuity in resolving complex tax disputes and fulfilling the government's commitment to tax justice. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently urged Income Tax officials to prioritize transparency, taxpayer-friendly processes, and speedy disposal of over 577,000 pending tax appeals.

- Under his stewardship, the CBDT oversees policy and administrative planning for the Income Tax Department, including senior appointments, departmental transfers, and representation in global tax forums such as the OECD and UN. Agrawal's deep expertise has positioned him as a trusted advisor to the Finance Ministry.

Key Points:-

(i) Ravi Agrawal reappointment continues the practice of employing experienced IRS officers on contract basis, with relaxed rules allowing re-employed central government officials to serve beyond retirement age. These terms ensure regulatory flexibility and institutional memory in the tax machinery.

(ii) The CBDT, led by Agrawal, is also directing Principal Chief Commissioners of Income Tax to exercise effective supervision, ensure relevant questioning in assessments, and eliminate frivolous scrutiny notices. This aligns with the broader push for simplicity and transparency in the tax system.

(iii) Agrawal's contract extension caps a distinguished career spanning over 35 years in the Income Tax Department and reinforces the government's focus on stability within the apex tax policy body. His continued leadership is seen as critical to strengthening tax compliance and dispute resolution efforts in FY2025–26.

SPORTS

1. ICC Approves New Playing Conditions for International Cricket Effective from July 2025.



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently introduced a comprehensive set of changes to playing conditions across all

international formats, effective from June–July 2025. These changes aim to improve the pace of play, enhance player safety, and ensure fairness in decision-making through new technology and procedural updates.

- In a major shift for Test cricket, the ICC has introduced a 60-second stop clock rule between overs starting from June 17, 2025. If a fielding side exceeds this limit more than twice in an innings, a five-run penalty will be imposed. The rule encourages quicker over rates and maintains match momentum.

- From July 2, 2025, ODIs will return to using only one ball for the final 16 overs. After the 34th over, captains must choose one of the two used balls to continue. This change is aimed at restoring reverse swing and balancing the bat-ball contest during death overs.

- The ICC has clarified the rule regarding boundary catches. Fielders can now only make contact with the ball once while airborne beyond the boundary, and must land fully inside the rope to complete a catch. This eliminates grey areas and ensures uniform interpretation across matches and formats.

Key Points:-

(i) New provisions have been added to the Decision Review System (DRS). If a batter is ruled out in one mode, like caught, fielding teams may still review for a second mode, like LBW. Also, in cases of multiple dismissal types, decisions will now be evaluated in a logical, chronological sequence.

(ii) In a strong move to protect players, teams are now required to name five concussion substitutes before matches. If a player is diagnosed with a concussion during the match, they will be ruled out for a minimum of seven days. Domestic leagues will also trial full-time like-for-like injury replacements.

(iii) The ICC has continued its ban on saliva for

ball polishing but has relaxed the automatic ball replacement requirement. Umpires will now assess if the ball condition is visibly changed. Any deliberate use of saliva will result in a five-run penalty, reinforcing hygiene without unnecessary disruption to gameplay.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs Annual Performance Review of PSB Chiefs in New Delhi.



On 27 June 2025, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman convened the annual review meeting with MDs and CEOs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in New Delhi. The discussion centered on financial health, lending growth, inclusion strategies, digital banking, and cybersecurity to bolster PSBs' performance.

- The Minister opened by recognizing the remarkable growth in FY 2024–25, where PSBs posted a record net profit of ₹1.78 lakh crore, up from ₹1.04 lakh crore in FY 2022–23. Total business surged from ₹203 lakh crore to ₹251 lakh crore, while net NPAs plunged to just 0.52%. Capital adequacy remained strong at a 16.15% CRAR, and total dividends increased to ₹34,990 crore.

- She emphasized strengthening deposit mobilization to sustain credit expansion, urging PSBs to leverage their branch network and ramp up outreach, especially in semi-urban and rural zones. A new financial inclusion campaign will commence on 1 July 2025, spanning three months and covering 2.7 lakh gram panchayats and urban local bodies. Its focus includes KYC/re-KYC, unclaimed deposits, and flagship schemes like PM Jan Dhan, PMJJBY, and PMSBY.

- On credit front, Sitharaman directed banks to prioritize renewable and sustainable energy financing—including small modular nuclear reactors—and to back emerging growth sectors while maintaining rigorous underwriting standards. Agriculture lending was highlighted through the PM Dhan Dhanya Yojana, targeting 100 low-productivity districts.

Key Points:-

(i) Under the MSME portfolio, the new credit assessment model launched on 6 March 2025 has already supported ₹60,000 crore across 1.97 lakh loans. Additionally, 2.28 lakh loans worth ₹51,192 crore under Stand Up India, and 6,682 education loans totalling ₹1,751 crore under PM Vidya Lakshmi were sanctioned. Banks have been instructed to further strengthen these models for inclusive credit access.

(ii) Customer experience and innovation were key agenda points. PSBs were instructed to enhance grievance redressal, adopt multilingual digital platforms, maintain clean branches, speed up vacancy recruitment, and extend physical presence in metro and underserved northeastern regions. Focus was also placed on boosting cyber resiliency.

(iii) Lastly, Sitharaman urged banks to deepen their footprint in GIFT City to access international finance opportunities, including the India International Bullion Exchange, and continue

participation in flagship schemes like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli and PM Vishwakarma.

App and Web Portal

1. MoSPI Unveils GoStats App for Real-Time Access to Official Data.



On the occasion of Statistics Day 2025, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) officially launched the GoStats mobile application. Developed by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO), this app is designed to provide seamless, real-time access to government statistics through a user-friendly, interactive platform for citizens, researchers, and policymakers.

- The launch took place on June 29, 2025, coinciding with the 19th Statistics Day which commemorates the birth anniversary of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, widely regarded as the father of Indian statistics. The event was also marked by the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS), making it a significant milestone for India's official statistical system.

- Union MoS (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh launched the GoStats app, highlighting its role in boosting evidence-based policymaking and

transparency through tech-driven data access aligned with the government's digital vision.

- The GoStats app features a range of data services including an interactive “Key Trends” dashboard showcasing visuals on GDP, inflation, unemployment, and more. It offers downloadable tables, CSV files, infographics, and metadata. A dedicated “Products” section allows users to access official data with just one tap, supported by a full library of NSO publications and push notifications for updates.

Key Points:-

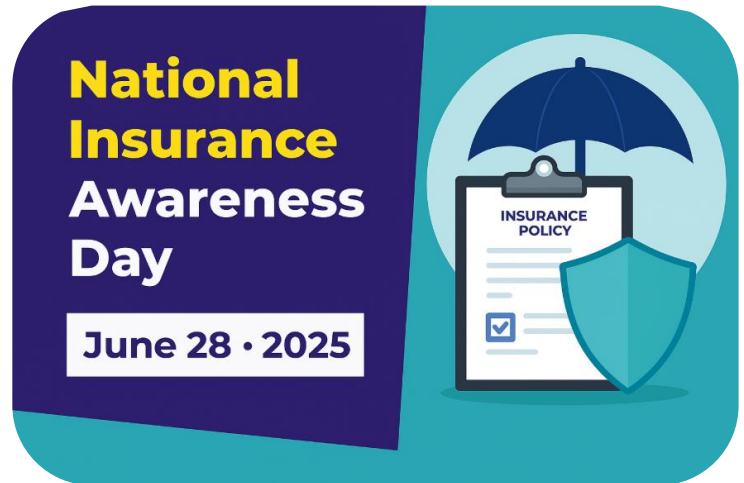
(i) Currently available on the Google Play Store, the GoStats app has been downloaded over 1,000 times within days of its release and has a compact file size of only 24 MB. MoSPI has confirmed that an iOS version will also be released soon to ensure wider accessibility and cross-platform usage.

(ii) The app's launch is part of MoSPI's broader digital reform strategy under the “Viksit Bharat 2047” vision. The ministry is investing in AI-based statistical modelling, cybersecurity for data systems, and modernized collection tools. The app complements these efforts by making data more accessible and interpretable for the common public.

(iii) Ahead of the launch, MoSPI, in collaboration with MyGov, organized a national hackathon titled “Innovate with GoStats” from February 25 to March 31, 2025. The event encouraged youth and data professionals to build visualizations and analytics tools using real datasets. Winners received prize money up to ₹2 lakh and the best innovations were showcased during the Statistics Day celebration.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Insurance Awareness Day observed on 28 June 2025.



National Insurance Awareness Day is observed every year on June 28 to spread awareness about the importance of insurance as a financial tool that safeguards individuals, families, and businesses from unexpected financial burdens and emergencies.

- This day encourages people across India to evaluate their current insurance policies, understand their coverage terms, and consider updating or purchasing policies to suit their evolving needs and risks.

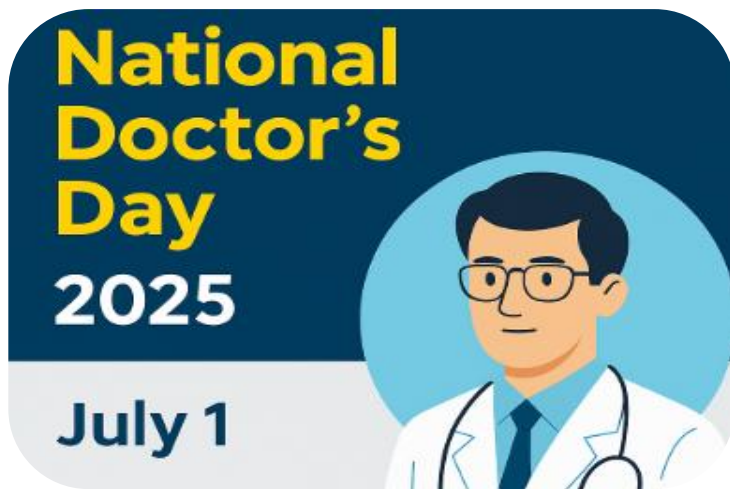
- Insurance operates as a legal agreement between the insurer (insurance provider) and the insured individual or entity, defined by policy conditions and terms. It ensures risk transfer from the policyholder to the insurer, offering financial compensation during unforeseen losses.

Key Points:-

(i) Historically, India's formal insurance sector began with the founding of the Oriental Life Insurance Company in 1818 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), located in present-day West Bengal (WB). This event marked the early footprint of structured life insurance in the country.

(ii) In India, insurance policies offer substantial tax benefits under the Income-tax Act, 1961. For instance, policyholders can claim deductions of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh on life insurance premiums under Section 80C, while death benefits received under a policy are exempt under Section 10(10D) of the Act.

2. National Doctor's Day 2025 Observed on July 1 to Honour Medical Professionals Across India.



On July 1, 2025, India observed National Doctor's Day to recognize the selfless service, dedication, and contributions of doctors in safeguarding public health. The day is commemorated every year in honour of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a legendary physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal, who was born and died on July 1.

- The theme of National Doctor's Day 2025 is "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?", highlighting the emotional and psychological challenges faced by doctors. It aims to start a national dialogue on supporting doctors' mental health, wellness, and work-life balance, especially after increased stress during recent health crises like COVID-19.

- National Doctor's Day was first celebrated in 1991 by the Government of India, in memory of Dr. B. C. Roy, who was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1961. His birth

and death on the same date—July 1—make the day symbolically powerful and a lasting tribute to India's medical community.

Key Points:-

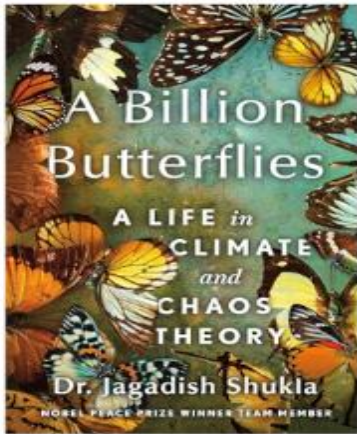
(i) The day is marked by medical institutions, hospitals, and government bodies organizing health check-up camps, awareness seminars, blood donation drives, and felicitation ceremonies to honour outstanding doctors. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and state health departments also run special campaigns recognizing doctors' dedication toward patient care.

(ii) As of 2025, India has a doctor-to-population ratio of 1:811, better than the WHO-prescribed norm of 1:1000. However, challenges remain, especially in rural areas. The day also raises concern about medical infrastructure gaps, burnout, long work hours, and rising assaults on healthcare workers.

(iii) National Doctor's Day 2025 serves as a platform to advocate for better medical policies, investments in healthcare infrastructure, training, and fair working conditions. The observance reinforces trust in the doctor-patient relationship and urges the public to recognize the humanity behind the profession and extend support to caregivers.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Jagadish Shukla Releases Memoir "A Billion Butterflies" on Climate and Chaos Theory.



research.

Jagadish Shukla, a renowned Indian meteorologist, has authored a memoir titled “A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory”, recently published by Pan Macmillan India. The book chronicles his personal and scientific journey in understanding climate dynamics, predictability, and the evolution of meteorological science.

- In the book, Shukla shares his rise from a rural Indian village to becoming a leading global climate scientist. He introduces the concept of “billion butterfly” experiments, which challenged long-standing ideas about the unpredictability of weather, emphasizing the role of chaos theory in climate forecasting.

Key Points:-

(i) The memoir highlights his leadership role in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. That same year, he received the prestigious IMO Prize, the highest global honor in meteorology.

(ii) Jagadish Shukla was conferred the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2012 for his contributions to science and engineering. He currently serves as a Professor at George Mason University, Virginia, USA, and continues to be an influential voice in global climate policy and

Static GK

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation) | Director General : Ashok Kumar Singh | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| MoRTH | Union Minister : Nitin Gadkari | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| RBI | Governor : Sanjay Malhotra | Headquarter : Mumbai |
| MoSPI | Minister : Rao Inderjit Singh | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| Bangladesh | President: Mohammed Shahabuddin | Currency: Bangladeshi Taka |
| UNESCO | Director-General: Audrey Azoulay | Headquarters: Paris, France |
| ICC | Founded: 1909 | Headquarters: Dubai |