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National

NITI Aayog Releases 'Future of India's Semiconductor Industry' Roadmap

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released India's first comprehensive 10-year roadmap titled '**Future of India's Semiconductor Industry**', outlining a long-term vision to strengthen India's position in the global semiconductor value chain.

- The roadmap was unveiled by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance(MoF) and Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MCA), and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways(MoR), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY).

Key Highlights of Roadmap:

Objective: The initiative aims to transform India from one of the world's largest consumers of semiconductor products into a globally recognized leader in semiconductor manufacturing, chip design, advanced packaging, testing, and innovation.

Vision: The roadmap lays out a clear and actionable vision for India to build a **USD 120-150 Billion (Bn)** semiconductor value chain by 2035.

Growth Targets: The report projects India could capture **10-13%** of the global semiconductor market by 2035.

Strategy Focus: It advocates a distinct '**More-than-Moore**' strategy, focusing on building deep manufacturing strength in mature logic nodes, advancing Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) packaging, and developing specialised wide-bandgap compound materials for next-generation semiconductor applications.

Imports Outlook: India imported nearly **USD 150 billion** worth of semiconductor products during Financial Year (FY) 2017–FY 2025. If current trends continue, annual imports could rise to around **USD 240 billion** by 2035, indicating increasing demand and import dependence in the sector.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Releases Commemorative Volume on Operation Sindoor

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence(MoD), released a commemorative volume titled "**Operation Sindoor**", documenting the experiences and testimonies of 100 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces who participated in the operation, during a ceremonial event held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event was attended by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, and Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh.

About Commemorative Volume:

Testimonies: The volume presents first-hand accounts from Army, Navy, Air Force, and integrated defence personnel involved in Operation Sindoor, offering insights into modern joint warfare operations.

Compilation: The commemorative volume was compiled under the guidance of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General **Anil Chauhan**.

- Contributions were coordinated by defence communication agencies, while publication support was provided by the United Service Institution of India (USI).

Operation Sindoor: Operation Sindoor, launched on 7 May 2025 following the **Pahalgam terror attack**, targeted terror infrastructure and showcased India's integrated multi-domain warfare capabilities.

HUL Inaugurated 3rd Fragrance R&D in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), India's largest Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company, inaugurated its new Unilever Fragrance Hub (**UFH**) at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (**IIT-B**) campus, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, marking the **3rd** such global facility after the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

- The newly launched centre was developed as part of **HUL's EUR 100 million** investment programme that aims to advance in-house, digitally-enabled fragrance creation capabilities.

Key Details of UFH:

Technology Integration: The new fragrance hub, with estimated cost of Rs 95 crore integrates consumer insights, advanced science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support fragrance innovation across product categories.

Key Target: The new facility aims to achieve 20% reduction in product development cycles for HUL.

Significance: The facility is expected to expand India's Research and Development (R&D) footprint by nearly 25% in the sensory segment and support over 30 local and premium brands.

India issues Letter of Request to France for Rs 3.25 lakh crore to Acquire 114 Rafale Jet

Government of **India** (GoI) issued a Letter of Request (**LoR**) to Government of **France** for a government-to-government deal worth around **Rs.3.25 lakh crore** for the acquisition of **114 Rafale fighter jets** for the Indian Air Force (**IAF**).

- Under the proposed deal, Out of the 114 Rafale jets, around 94 aircraft are proposed to be manufactured in India by French manufacturer Dassault Aviation in partnership with an Indian company.

Key Details of Agreement:

Letter of Request (LoR): LoR is a formal govt-to-govt document used to initiate a defence procurement, under the United States (US) Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program or similar international agreements.

- The first Rafale-M jets are expected in 2028

Objective: India's Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (**MRFA**) programme aims to procure 114 fighter jets to address the IAF capability gap, as its squadron strength has declined to **29 squadrons** against the sanctioned requirement of **42.5 squadrons**.

Chandigarh University Becomes India's First Private University to Establish 'IndiaAI Data Lab'

Chandigarh University (CU), in Ajitgarh, Punjab, became India's first private university to launch an IndiaAI Data Lab in partnership with Intel India, to enhance students' employability by providing industry-relevant skills in Artificial Intelligence (**AI**), **Data Science**, and emerging technologies.

About IndiaAI Data Lab:

Objective: Provide students of computing and computer science engineering with a simulated apprenticeship platform to gain practical skills, hands-on experience, and work on real-world AI projects.

Significance: The IndiaAI Data Lab equips students with practical AI experience, bridges academia-industry skill gaps, strengthens research capabilities, and enhances career readiness through hands-on, industry-aligned projects.

Focus Areas: AI research, innovation, faculty development, hackathons, and industry-academia collaboration.

Key Programs: Master of Computer Applications (MCA), Data Science and Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), Data Science programs launched in collaboration with Intel India, including **Intel Certifications** every semester to enhance industry readiness.

India Emerges As World's 5th Most Digitalised Economy: SIDE 2026 Report

The ICRIER (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations)-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE) released the report “**State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2026**”, in which it ranked **India** as the world's **fifth** most digitalised economy.

Key Highlights

SIDE Report: This report is an annual publication from **2023** to assess and evaluate India's digital and AI (Artificial Intelligence) progress in comparison with other countries using a more comprehensive framework called **CHIPS**.

CHIPS Index: The report also ranked India fourth globally in the Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain (**CHIPS**) index for artificial intelligence (AI), behind only the United States of America (**USA**), China and Singapore.

Ranking: India's rank rose from 8th in 2025, in a sample of 32 countries to **5th in 2026** in a larger sample of 71 countries.

- Internet users in India increased by **8.8%**, compared with an average growth rate of 2.1% among the other nine countries in the top 10.

Global AI Users: India accounts for **19.9%** of global AI users and it possesses the **second largest** concentration of AI talent in the world.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book “When Audit Matters” Edited by Former CAG Vinod Rai

Vice-President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, released the book titled ‘**When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference**’ edited by **Vinod Rai**, former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, at Uprashtapati Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book was published by Rupa Publications India Private Limited.

About the Book:

Objective: Through real-life cases and experiences, the book demonstrates how effective auditing can enhance government systems and reinforce public trust.

Insights: The publication presents governance and accountability issues in an accessible manner, drawing on the experiences of former audit officials and insights from a South Asia-focused study by the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

Key Contributions: It compiles perspectives from auditors, policymakers, and governance

experts on the growing role of audit institutions in strengthening democratic governance and public trust.

India Joins Anthropic's Project Glasswing, Gains Access to Claude Mythos AI

India joined 'Project Glasswing', a global cybersecurity initiative led by Anthropic PBC, gaining access to **Claude Mythos AI**, an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) model designed to identify software vulnerabilities and strengthen cyber defences for critical infrastructure.

- The initiative aims to help participating countries enhance cybersecurity resilience and protect critical digital infrastructure.

About Claude Mythos AI

Overview: Mythos is an AI-powered security auditor that analyses large software codebases, detects vulnerabilities, identifies security weaknesses, generates remediation patches, and can uncover flaws at a scale beyond traditional tools, including decades-old vulnerabilities.

Coverage: The expansion includes Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, India, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), along with organisations such as Okta, Samsung Electronics, SK Hynix, SK Telecom, Euroclear, Intercontinental Exchange, Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory Launched in New Delhi

Union Minister Gangapuram (G.) **Kishan Reddy**, Ministry of Mines (MoM) & Ministry of Coal and **Yvette Cooper**, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, United Kingdom (UK), jointly launched the **India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The initiative strengthens bilateral cooperation in critical minerals, supporting clean energy transitions, electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

About Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO):

Observatory: It is a joint platform led by

- Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), a Technology Translation Research Park (TTRP), under Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, (MoS&T), at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad, Jharkhand, and
- the University of Cambridge.

Objective: Strengthens India's critical mineral supply chain intelligence and evidence-based policymaking through India-UK collaboration to build resilient, secure, and diversified mineral value chains.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Launches India's First Flex-Fuel Passenger Vehicle by Maruti Suzuki

The Union Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG),

launched **India's first** passenger Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV), the **Maruti Suzuki Wagon R**, capable of running on ethanol-petrol blends from 20% ethanol (E20) to E100, advancing India's ethanol-based mobility.

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**, MoRTH, also launched Hero MotoCorp Limited's first flex-fuel motorcycles – Splendor+ Flex Fuel and HF (Hero Family) Deluxe Flex Fuel, in New Delhi, Delhi.

About Maruti Suzuki Wagon R:

Technology: The vehicle features an advanced Engine Control Unit (ECU), modified fuel-system components, optimized injection mapping, and a cold-start system that adapts to varying ethanol concentrations. **Standards:** E85 has been designated as the mono-fuel standard for FFVs under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, while ethanol-based FFVs are classified as Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog due to their near-zero particulate matter (PM) emissions.

Surha Taal in UP's Ballia designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) officially designated **Surha Taal**, which is officially known as Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, located in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) as **India's 100th Ramsar Site** and the **13th Ramsar Site** in UP, recognizing it as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

- The announcement was made at the World Environment Day (observed June 05) programme, organised in Lucknow, UP.
- This milestone has made India the country with the highest number of Ramsar Sites in **Asia** and one of the leading nations globally in terms of Ramsar-recognized wetlands.

Key Highlights:

Total Ramsar Sites in India: With this latest addition, the total number of Ramsar sites in India has increased from 26 to **100** (in the last 11 years), while the number of Ramsar sites in UP has increased to **13**.

- As of June 2026, the total number of Ramsar sites in the world is **2,595** (Surha Taal as 2,595th such site globally).

Surha Taal: It is a natural perennial oxbow lake, situated in the Ganga and Saryu river, was formed from a meander of the Ganga river and receives freshwater inflow through three channels.

- It is a key winter resting site for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, hosting species like: Bar-headed Goose, Eurasian Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Green Sandpiper, among others.

Overview of President of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing's Visit to India from May 30 to June 3, 2026

U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar undertook a 5-day official Visit to India from **30 May to 3 June 2026**, at the invitation of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. This marked his 1st-ever official tour to India as well as 1st foreign trip since he was sworn-in as Myanmar's President in April 2026.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Visit to Bodh Gaya: On May 30 2026, Myanmar President Hlaing arrived at the airport in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. He offered prayers at Mahabodhi Temple, Mahabodhi Meditation Centre and Sujata Temple.

High-level Meetings in Delhi: During his visit to New Delhi, the President of Myanmar held bilateral talks with PM Narendra Modi, during which they reviewed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and explored ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

India-Myanmar Business Forum: Myanmar's President Hlaing attended the India-Myanmar Business Conclave, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), in New Delhi.

Overview of PM Modi's Visit to Gujarat & UTs Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on June 5, 2026

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, where he inaugurated, dedicated, and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over **Rs 21,700 crore** across infrastructure, healthcare, connectivity, aviation, and industrial sectors.

Highlights of Visit:

Visit to Surat : PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 1st-ever World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad (Gujarat), a UNESCO recognised World Heritage City as its host.

- During his visit to Surat, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth **around Rs 18,800 crore** aimed at strengthening road connectivity, power infrastructure and industrial development in Gujarat.
- Some of the key projects are: Packages VI and VII of the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway (Rs 7,689 crore); 200-bed ESIC Hospital (Rs 212 crore); a transmission network expansion project (Rs 4,546 crore); Chemical and Bulk Drug Zone projects in Valsad and Bharuch (Rs 1,063), among others.

Visit to Daman: PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 56 development projects worth around Rs 2,970 crore in Daman, aimed to boost healthcare, air connectivity, tourism, and public infrastructure in the UT.

- During his visit to Dama, PM Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of NAMO Airport and dedicated NAMO Hospital to the nation. Both these projects were developed at a cost of **Rs 1,340 crore**.

Kerala Launches India's First Judiciary-Integrated Wildlife Offence System 'HAWK'

The Kerala Forest Department, under the Forests and Wildlife Department of the Government of **Kerala**, launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (**HAWK**), India's first fully digitised and judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system.

- The platform links wildlife crime records with the judicial system to improve prosecution, monitoring, and intelligence gathering against wildlife crimes and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT).

About HAWK System:

Overview: It is a cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that manages wildlife crime data and supports investigation, intelligence gathering, and enforcement against wildlife offences.

Integration: It links forest records with the District Court Management System through an Application Programming Interface (API), making Kerala the first state in India with a judiciary-integrated wildlife offence management system.

Collaboration: HAWK was developed by the Kerala Forest Department in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Data Corporation (NTT Data).

MeitY Selected 6 Firms Including TCS, NEC India, Kyndryl, For GoI-backed AI projects

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), an independent business division under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) selected 6 firms including, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), NEC Corporation India (NEC India) and Kyndryl Solutions, to provide Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) solutions and services for projects undertaken by central ministries and agencies.

- This move of Government of India (GoI) aims to drive the adoption of AI across government departments and public sector organisations.

Key Details:

Other 3 Selected Companies: Apart from TCS, NEC India, and Kyndryl, the final list includes: Innifu Labs Private Limited, CoRover.ai(CoRover Pvt Ltd.) and Cactus Technology Solutions Private Limited (CTSPL), were selected from the pool of over 80 bidders (including Deloitte, Ernst and Young(EY) among others).

Term: The empanelment of these companies will remain valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issuance of the letter, which may extend up to 1 year.

Terms of Reference (ToR): As per MeitY, the selected companies are expected to assist government bodies in areas like: AI model development, advisory services, capacity building and project execution, depending on departmental requirements.

Rapido and MoRTH Partnered to Promote RahVeer Scheme for Road Accident Victims

Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited operating under brand name **Rapido**, partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (**MoRTH**) in New Delhi, Delhi to promote the **RahVeer Scheme** through digital and on-ground awareness initiatives, encouraging timely assistance to road accident victims during the critical golden hour.

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**, MoRTH, and **Aravind Sanka**, Co-founder of Rapido.

About the Partnership between Rapido and MoRTH:

Record: The initiative engaged over 4 lakh Rapido captains across 400+ cities, reached millions of users, and earned a Guinness World Record (GWR) as more than 4 lakh captains took the RahVeer Pledge simultaneously.

Significance: The partnership strengthened road safety awareness, encouraged civic responsibility and timely emergency action, and demonstrated how technology and mobility networks can support public safety solutions.

RahVeer Scheme: It was launched in April 2025 by MoRTH, as a reward-based initiative that encourages citizens to assist road accident victims during the critical Golden Hour by assuring protection from legal or procedural concerns and providing a reward of Rs.25,000 along with a certificate of appreciation to eligible individuals who help save lives by taking victims to a hospital.

Adani Ports Secures USD 70 Million Marine Services Contract for Argentina's LNG Export Project

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (**APSEZ**) announced that it had secured a **10-year marine services contract** for Argentina's first Liquefied Natural Gas (**LNG**) **export** project. The contract, valued at an estimated **USD 70 million**, marks APSEZ's entry into South America.

- The contract was awarded to APSEZ's subsidiary, **Adani Harbour International Free Zone Company (FZCO)**, in partnership with Argentina-based Meridian Group.

Key Details of Contract:

Execution: The contract will be executed through Meridian Transportes Marítimos S.A., a joint venture(JV) between Adani Harbour International FZCO (51%) and Argentina-based Meridian Group (49%).

Services: The Adani–Meridian consortium will provide marine services for the Southern Energy Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) Project, supported by four tugboats, one anchor handling tug supply vessel, and one crew boat.

Timeline: The Southern Energy FLNG Project in San Matías Gulf, Argentina, will begin operations in September 2027 and produce 2.45 Million Tonnes (MT) of LNG annually, (around 28 cargoes per year) making it Argentina's first LNG export project.

Export: With this agreement, Argentina plans to export up to **10 MT** of LNG annually to India from 2027.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Issues LoA to Three Global Universities for Campus Expansion

Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education (MoE) issued three Letters of Approval (**LoA**) to globally reputed foreign higher education institutions, namely the **University of Bristol** (UoB), United Kingdom (UK), the **University of York** (UoY), United Kingdom (UK), and the **University of New South Wales** (UNSW), **Australia** to set up campuses in India.

- This initiative supports the **Internationalisation of Education** under the National Education Policy (**NEP 2020**).

New Campus Locations:

University of Bristol: It will be established in **Mumbai** Enterprise Campus, Maharashtra, offering programmes in Immersive Arts, Finance, Data Science, Economics, Business Management, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation.

University of York: It will establish its **first overseas campus in Mumbai**, offering programmes in Finance, Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cyber Security, Business, Economics, Creative Industries, and Management.

University of New South Wales: It will establish **UNSW Bengaluru** at Manyata Business Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka, scheduled to open in **August 2026**, offering programmes in

Business, Computer Science, and Cyber Security, along with deeper collaboration in renewable energy, health, transport, and education.

Overview of Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez Visit to India

Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez, Acting President of Venezuela was on a 5-day working visit to India from **3 – 7 June 2026**, with a focus on strengthening bilateral energy cooperation.

- This Visit marking her sixth visit to India after earlier visits as Foreign Minister (2015) and Vice President (2019, 2023, 2024, and 2025).

Key Highlights of Visit:

Bilateral Meeting: During the visit, Venezuela's Acting President Rodríguez held bilateral talks with Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, Delhi

- During the meeting, leaders of both countries reviewed the full spectrum of India–Venezuela relations and explored ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas like: energy security, trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, health care, transportation, and Renewable Energy (RE).

Other Key Engagements: She also held a meeting with **Union Minister S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi.

- Later, she paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi.

Visit to Jamnagar: She visited Jamnagar oil refinery, world's largest single-point oil refining facility, owned by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Bilateral Trade: The bilateral trade between India and Venezuela reached USD 678.94 million in Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26). Also, Venezuela became India's 3rd largest supplier of crude oil in May 2026, after Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Varanasi Becomes First City Under India's Easy Connect Model for International Travel

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA), announced that Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh, UP) as the first city integrated into India's Easy Connect hub-and-spoke aviation model, enabling international travellers to complete immigration and baggage formalities before Delhi and connect seamlessly to 17 global destinations.

About Easy Connect Model:

Overview: Easy Connect is a hub-and-spoke aviation model that allows passengers to complete international immigration and baggage formalities at their origin airport and transit seamlessly through Phase-1 hub airports Delhi, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Rajkot (Gujarat).

Connectivity: The model provides access to 17 international destinations, including London Heathrow Airport (United Kingdom, UK), Frankfurt (Germany), Milan (Italy), Rome (Italy), Zurich (Switzerland), Manila (Philippines), Singapore (Singapore), Phuket (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), and Dubai (United Arab Emirates, UAE).

Implementation: The initiative is implemented by the MCA and operated by **Air India**, the service will commence on the Varanasi–Delhi route (AI-1111) from 25 June 2026, enhancing regional airport connectivity and operational efficiency.

Benefits: The Easy Connect model simplifies international travel, reduces hub congestion,

improves connectivity, and strengthens regional airport integration through phased expansion.

Meta-Reliance Partner to Develop 168 MW AI-Enabled Data Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat

Meta Platforms Inc., (**Meta**) partnered with Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) to develop its first large-scale Artificial Intelligence (**AI-enabled Data Centre**) in India at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

About AI Enabled Data Centre:

Overview: Meta will lease 168 MegaWatts (**MW**) of AI-ready data centre capacity from RIL, with operations expected to begin by 2028.

Sustainability: The data centre will run on **100%** Renewable Energy(**RE**), supported by nearly 925 MW of clean energy capacity (837 MW from CleanMax and 88 MW from Fourth Partner Energy), and will use desalinated seawater for cooling.

End-to-End Services: RIL will provide end-to-end lifecycle services for the data centre, including design, utility management, renewable power supply, network connectivity, and fully managed operational support.

Connectivity: The data centre will be linked to **Project Waterworth**, Meta's global subsea cable network, to enhance internet connectivity and reliability.

Existing partnership: The project builds on Meta's **USD 5.7 billion** investment in Jio Platforms Limited in 2020, through which it acquired a 9.98% stake.

Tata & Airbus Completed 1st Test Flight of Maiden 'Made in India' C295 Aircraft

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (**TASL**) and **Airbus SE** successfully completed the first test flight of **India's maiden** domestically manufactured **Airbus C295 military transport aircraft** from the Final Assembly Line in Vadodara, Gujarat, marking India's first large-scale private-sector military aircraft programme.

- It is a part of manufacturing project under the **Rs.21,935-crore** Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) contract to supply 56 C295 aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF), including 16 in fly-away condition from Spain and 40 aircraft to be assembled in India with deliveries scheduled from 2026 and completion by 2031.

About C295 India Programme:

Objective: The programme is aimed to replace the ageing **Avro-748 fleet** and gradually phasing out the **Antonov An-32 fleet** and strengthen indigenous aerospace manufacturing, support multiple military and humanitarian missions.

Partnership: The project is being executed by Airbus Defence & Space and TASL through the Tata Aircraft Complex Final Assembly Line (FAL) at Vadodara, Gujarat, inaugurated on 28 October 2024 by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez.

IndiaAI Mission-Supported Avataar.ai Launches Indigenous AI Video Model 'Varya'

Avataar.ai, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-native transformation company, launched **Varya**, India's first indigenous distilled video story-generating AI model, with support from the **IndiaAI Mission**.

- The model was unveiled at an event in New Delhi, Delhi, in the presence of S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Highlights of the AI Video Model 'Varya':

Overview: Avataar.ai, selected under the IndiaAI Mission, developed Varya using national

AI compute infrastructure, strengthening India's indigenous AI and deep-tech ecosystem.
Launch: Launched on **12 June 2026**, Varya enables AI-powered video creation across education, e-commerce, and content sectors through simple prompt-based story generation.

Features: Varya uses distilled video generation technology to reduce video creation from **50 steps to 4**, generating videos at around **Rs 0.48 per second** and up to **10 times** greater efficiency, while enabling users to create and extend videos through its **Idea → Video → Story** workflow using text prompts or images.

Design: Varya is trained on Indian cultural contexts and generates region-specific visuals reflecting festivals, traditions, and everyday life.

India Post Launches Drone-Based Mail Service in Himachal Pradesh

The Department of Posts (**DoP**) under the Ministry of Communications launched its **first drone-based mail and parcel transmission** service between the Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh(HP).

- The initiative aims to enhance last-mile connectivity, especially in remote and difficult terrains, by reducing delivery time and improving efficiency.

About Drone Based Delivery Service:

Background: The initiative was introduced based on feedback from Gramin Dak Sevaks (**GDS**) and Postal Assistants to improve postal connectivity in remote areas.

Features: The drone-based service has reduced transit time on the Mandi–Rehardhar route from over 2 hours to about 7 minutes, with real-time tracking and eco-friendly transport.

Expansion: The DoP plans to extend drone-based mail transmission to around 150 routes in HP and Assam within the next 2–3 months.

DPIIT releases new series of WPI and PPI with base year 2022-23: MoC&I

The office of Economic Adviser under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**) released the revised series of “Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI)” with base year 2022-23.

Transition to PPI

Index Revision: The new WPI series will replace the existing **2011-12** base year series.

- It also released a new series of Output Producer Price Index (**OPPI**), Input Producer Price Index (**IPPI**) and Service PPI of seven services: Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom.

Index Transition: The revised WPI (base year 2022–23) will continue to be published alongside **PPI** for five years.

- After this transition period, WPI will be discontinued, and PPI will become the primary producer-price measure.

IIT Hyderabad to Set up ‘CODENE’, India’s first Nuclear Engineering Design Centre

The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (**IIT-H**), Telangana, will establish ‘**CODENE**(Centre for Design and Engineering in Nuclear Energy)’, India’s 1st Centre of Design Excellence in Nuclear Engineering at its campus in Hyderabad, Telangana.

About CODENE:

Background: The initiative is part of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between **IIT-H**, Coastal Engineering and Equipments (India) Pvt. Limited (**CEEPL India**), and **France's Dassault Systemes SE**, during Bharat Innovates 2026 held in Nice, France.

Focus Areas: The centre will focus on next-generation reactor technologies, nuclear safety systems, computational modelling, and advanced materials, while also strengthening capacity building through training in nuclear science and engineering.

Technology: The proposed facility will use advanced 3D modeling and digital twin technologies of Dassault Systemes.

Significance: The new centre is expected to bolster India's capabilities in nuclear engineering design and generate skilled workforce for the country's expanding nuclear energy programme.

Kerala CM V D Satheesan Inaugurated Free Bus Travel Scheme 'Priyadarshini' for Women & Transgenders

The Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala **V D Satheesan**, inaugurated the '**Priyadarshini**' free bus travel scheme across Kerala, enabling women and transgender persons to travel free of cost on 3,125 ordinary Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (**KSRTC**) buses across the state.

- The scheme aims to enhance mobility, reduce transportation costs, and promote the socio-economic empowerment and social inclusion of women and transgender persons.

About the Launch of Priyadarshini Scheme:

Eligibility: All women and transgender persons are eligible for the scheme irrespective of income, caste, social status, or age.

Implementation: Beneficiaries receive zero-value tickets through an Electronic Ticket Machine (ETM) while travelling on designated KSRTC buses.

Significance: The scheme is the first major welfare promise implemented under the United Democratic Front (UDF) Government's Indira Guarantees programme, with the Kerala Government reimbursing KSRTC for revenue losses at an estimated cost of over **Rs.60 crore per month** and **Rs.800 crore** annually, while placing Kerala alongside Tamil Nadu (TN), Andhra Pradesh (AP), Karnataka, and Telangana in providing free bus travel for women and transgender persons.

Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena Approves Constitution of SHAN Conservation Society

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** has approved the constitution of the first-of-its-kind "**Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature**" (SHAN) Conservation Society in Ladakh to safeguard the endangered big cat and its fragile mountain habitat.

- The **Society**, under the **Department of Environment and Forests, Ladakh**, will serve as a dedicated institutional mechanism for wildlife conservation, biodiversity management, and community-led environmental stewardship across Ladakh.

Key details of Approval:

Objective: The Society serves as a multi-stakeholder platform to conserve Ladakh's alpine fauna and flora, wetlands, and cold desert ecosystems through eco-development in snow leopard habitats and eco-tourism promotion.

Significance: The initiative highlights the conservation of the **snow leopard**, the State

Animal of Ladakh and a keystone species of the Trans-Himalayan ecosystem, revered as the “Ghost of the Mountains” essential for maintaining mountain habitats, prey populations, and regional watersheds, and an indicator of ecosystem health.

- According to the 2024 Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India, there are 718 snow leopards in the country, **including 477 in Ladakh.**

India assumes Vice-Presidency of FATF for the first time; appoints Vivek Aggarwal

India was elected as **Vice-President** of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for the first time, responsible for combating money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, following the FATF Plenary meeting held in **Paris, France.**

- **Vivek Aggarwal**, Secretary, Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India (GoI) has been appointed **Vice-President** of the **FATF** for the term **July 2026 to June 2027** and succeeds **Giles Thomson**, United Kingdom (UK),
- The Plenary also appointed **Giles Thomson** as the next FATF President starting July 1, 2026. He will succeed Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico.

Key Details of Appointment:

Framework: The FATF Presidency runs on a two-year term, and the vice-president assists the president in carrying out the organisation’s mandate and shaping global policy responses to emerging financial threats.

- The Vice-President of the FATF is elected by the FATF Plenary from among its **40 members** and a global network of **over 200 jurisdictions.**

Evaluation: Aggarwal has headed India’s delegation to the **FATF** and led a multidisciplinary team during the Mutual Evaluation process.

- The FATF global network validated India’s regulatory compliance tracking and legal framework resilience.

Osmania University Becomes India’s First University to Achieve Four ISO Certifications Simultaneously

Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana became the first university in India to receive four International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) Management System Certifications simultaneously from the Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**), the National Standards Body of India under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD).

- The four certifications are: ISO 21001:2018 (Educational Organisations Management System, EOMS), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System, EMS), ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System, EnMS), ISO 22000:2018 (Food Safety Management System, FSMS).

About Certification:

Dignatories: The Certificates of Grant of Licence were presented at a ceremony held at the Senate Hall of Osmania University by Sandeep Kumar Kanojia, Scientist-F and Deputy Director General (Southern Region), BIS.

Evaluation: The certifications were awarded after a comprehensive assessment and BIS of the university's management systems and processes.

Accreditation: The achievement reflects Osmania University's commitment to quality education, environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, food safety and adherence to globally accepted management practices.

MoD Approves Defence Land for Gandhi Sarovar Project at Bapu Ghat, Hyderabad

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) granted working permission to the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (**MRDCL**) to use 83.814 acres of **defence land** under the Artillery Centre, Golconda, Hyderabad, Telangana, valued at **Rs.533.42 crore**.

- The land has been allocated for the **Gandhi Sarovar Project** at Bapu Ghat, Hyderabad, Telangana, under the Equal Value Infrastructure (EVI) Policy.

About Gandhi Sarovar Project:

EVI Policy: The policy requires MRDCL to create infrastructure assets of equivalent value for the Indian Army (IA) in exchange for the use of defence land, balancing development needs with defence interests.

Project: Gandhi Sarovar is a major riverfront and heritage development initiative under the Musi Riverfront Development Programme (**MRDP**) at the confluence of the Esa and Musi rivers in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Significance: The project site is historically important as the place where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed in 1948 and aims to transform the Musi river corridor into an ecological, cultural, and public asset.

Components: Key features include riverfront rejuvenation, environmental restoration, flood management, public spaces, the Statue of Peace, Gandhi Museum, National Museum, educational and research facilities, a handloom training centre, viewing platforms, and cultural tourism infrastructure.

Union Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal Approves DISHA 2.0 Scheme to Boost Digital Justice Delivery

Union Minister of State (MoS) Independent Charge (I/C) **Arjun Ram Meghwal**, Ministry of Law and Justice (**MoL&J**), approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) restructured as **DISHA 2.0**, with an outlay of Rs. 255 crore for five years from 1st **April 2026** to 31st **March 2031**.

- The total funding of DISHA 2.0 was entirely through **100% Gross Budgetary Support** of the Government of India (**GoI**) and recommended by the Standing Finance Committee meeting chaired by **Niraj Verma**, Secretary, Department of Justice (DoJ), MoL&J.

About DISHA 2.0:

Constitutional mandate: DISHA 2.0 will strengthen “**Access to Justice**” under the Preamble and **Articles 14, 21, and 39A** of the Constitution of India, and supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (**SDG-16**) on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and aligns with the Viksit Bharat vision of 2047.

Target: DISHA 2.0 aims to achieve a cumulative outreach of 3.00 crore beneficiaries.

Components: DISHA 2.0 comprises four components and will be implemented on a pan-India scale across all States and Union Territories.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Launches Book on India's IIT Ecosystem

Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** launched the book titled '**IIT: The Story of India's Most Prestigious Educational Ecosystem**' authored by **Prabhat Kumar**, Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Chairman of PanIIT Alumni India, during a special event held in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT -Delhi), Delhi.

- The book was published by HarperCollins India.

Key Insights of Book:

Legacy: The publication marks the milestone of 75 years of the IIT ecosystem and coincides with the launch of the global PanIIT Book Club.

Objective: The book traces the seven-decade evolution of India's premier technical education network, from its origin at the Hijli Detention Camp (IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal (WB)) in 1951 to a growing system of 23 campuses across the country today.

India Becomes World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in 2025 with 35.4% Global Share

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) announced that **India** became the **world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025**, raising its global share to **35.4%** from 30.1% in 2024 and increasing volumes to **2.99 million gross tons (GT)**, a nearly 60% rise from 1.86 million GT, thereby surpassing its Maritime India Vision (**MIV**) **2030** target five years ahead of schedule.

- This achievement was reported in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) **report** titled 'Review of Maritime Transport 2025'.

About India Ship Recycling Leadership 2025:

Scheme: The Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme (SbCN) offers credits worth 40% of scrap value (usable up to 5% of new vessel cost) along with **Rs.53.5 crore** modernization support enabling 115 Hong Kong International Convention (HKC)-compliant facilities.

BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting 2026 Held in New Delhi, Delhi

The **16th BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) **National Security Advisers' (NSA)** Meeting was held in New Delhi, Delhi, on 22-23 June 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship, chaired by **Ajit Doval**, National Security Advisor of India (NSA), to strengthen cooperation on regional and global security issues.

- The meeting was held under the theme "Non-Traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today".

2026 BRICS Event:

HOSA Meeting 2026: The BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting was held in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, on 23-24 June 2026, hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Department of Space (DoS) with support from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) with participation from all BRICS members.

Energy Ministers' Meeting: The 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was held on 25 June 2026 in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" and the Energy Track theme "Energy for All".

DAE Launches World's First Nuclear Process Heat-Based Hydrogen Production Facility at IGCAR in TN

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) inaugurated the world's first **Hydrogen Production Facility**, based on the Copper–Chlorine (Cu–Cl) Thermochemical Cycle utilizing nuclear process heat generated from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- The facility was inaugurated by **Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, Secretary of DAE and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), in the presence of Sreekumar G. Pillai, Director, IGCAR.

About World's First Hydrogen Production Facility

Technology Demonstration: The newly commissioned plant will function as a technology demonstration facility while supporting ongoing research and development for the broader adoption of nuclear-based hydrogen production in the future.

Collaboration: BARC and IGCAR jointly commissioned the facility, developed indigenously by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), after completing extensive research, process development, engineering, fabrication, installation and testing.

ACM Amar Preet Singh Released Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's Memoir 'The Second Orbit' in New Delhi

Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), released Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla's** memoir, **The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts**, in New Delhi, Delhi, commemorating the first anniversary of his Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

- The event was attended by **Sanjay Kumar**, Secretary, School Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), and **Seema Jain**, Member (Finance), Department of Space (DoS).

About Memoir The Second Orbit:

Overview: Published by Vintage Books under Penguin Random House India, the memoir chronicles Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's journey from Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot to astronaut on the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), covering astronaut selection, rigorous training, mission preparation, life aboard the ISS, and personal reflections.

Objective: It aims to inspire the next generation, highlight India's growing participation in international human spaceflight, make space exploration accessible to young readers, and promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

- He was conferred the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, on Republic Day 2026 in recognition of his contributions to the nation's space programme.

International

Microsoft Unveils AI-Designed 'Majorana 2' Quantum Chip

Microsoft Corporation, the global technology company, revealed its Majorana 2, a second-generation topological quantum computing chip developed with the support of its **agentic AI** (Artificial Intelligence) platform, **Microsoft Discovery**, aiming to overcome long-standing engineering challenges in quantum computing, succeeding the 2025 Majorana 1 processor, during Microsoft Build 2026.

- It plans to develop commercially useful quantum systems by **2029**.

About Majorana 2:

Material: Microsoft's Majorana 2 chip uses lead-based materials, unlike Google and IBM's aluminum designs, to better shield qubits from environmental and cosmic interference.

Performance: The quantum chip achieves 1,000-fold higher qubit reliability, with qubits holding states for ~20 seconds (up to 1 minute), operating at microsecond speeds within a compact 0.01 mm (millimeter) qubit size.

Prototype: It currently contains 12 topological qubits as a small-scale prototype for scalable systems.

Other Launches: Microsoft also launched Scout, an AI-powered Microsoft 365 assistant that autonomously manages schedules, emails, and meetings.

T-Hub Launches Third ORBIT Space-Tech Cohort, Onboards 13 Startups

Startup incubator Technology Hub(**T-Hub**) launched the **third cohort of ORBIT**, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-supported Atal Innovation Incubation Centre (AIC)-T-Hub Space-Tech Accelerator Programme, inducting **13 startups** focused on developing innovative solutions for the space sector.

- With the launch of Cohort 3, ORBIT has now supported **36** space-tech startups, while T-Hub's wider spacetechn initiatives have engaged over 100 startups.

About 3rd Cohort of ORBIT:

Space Domains: The selected startups are engaged in building propulsion systems, orbital servicing, satellite intelligence, sovereign compute, satellite intelligence, space energy systems, satellite connectivity and downstream geospatial technologies.

Selected Startups: 13 startups selected under the Cohort are: Sanyak Space Technologies, Trishul Space, Kessler Dynamics, Velotrax, Zoove Space, Space OS, Humanity Space, Landlens, STAR Labs, Red Balloon Aerospace, Astro Voltaics, Orbit Grid and Nibiaa Devices.

Mentorship: These selected startups will get guidance from industry experts, investors, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) leaders through specialised mentorships, masterclasses and industry programmes.

Key Progress: So far, the previously ORBIT Cohorts have collectively raised nearly **Rs 30 crore** in funding and contributed to 18 published Intellectual Properties (IPs).

UNGA Elected Five countries As Non-Permanent Members of UNSC

The United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) elected 5 countries namely: **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago(T&T), and Zimbabwe**, as non-permanent members of the 15-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC), during the closely contested elections held at UN Secretariat in New York, the United States of America (USA).

- These newly elected non-permanent members will serve on the council for a **two-year term**, starting from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028.
- The election marks **Kyrgyzstan's first-ever term** on the UNSC since becoming a member of the UN in 1992.

About UNSC Elections:

Countries Replaced: These 5 new non-permanent members will replace countries: **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia**, whose term ends on December 31, 2026.

Participating Candidates: This year, a total of 7 candidates contested the elections for UNSC's 5 non-permanent member seats and these were: Germany, The Philippines, Austria, Portugal, Zimbabwe and Trinidad and Tobago and Kyrgyzstan.

Other 5 Non-Permanent Members: The 5 elected countries will join the current non-permanent members namely: Colombia, Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Latvia and Liberia, who will continue to serve on the council until December 31, 2027.

SIPRI Report 2025: India Among World's Top 5 Military Spenders, Holds 190 Nuclear Warheads

Global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual assessment of the state of armaments, disarmament and international security i.e. "SIPRI Yearbook 2026: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security". According to the report, **India** was the world's **fifth-largest military spender** in 2025, with defence expenditure reaching **USD 92.1 billion**, an increase of 8.9% compared to 2024.

- The report also estimated that India's nuclear arsenal increased from 180 warheads in 2025 to **190 warheads** as of January 2026, reflecting a gradual expansion of its nuclear capabilities.

Key Findings:

Global Military Expenditure: The report estimated global military expenditure surged for the 11th consecutive year i.e. to **USD 2.9 trillion** in 2025, representing 2.5% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Top Global Military Spenders: According to the report, the United States of America (USA) retained its position as the world's largest military spender, its expenditure reached USD 954 billion in 2025. It was followed by **China** with USD 336 billion and **Russia** with USD 190 billion, ranking second and third globally, respectively.

Total Nuclear Warheads: As of January 2026, the report estimated that all 9 nuclear states, including the USA, Russia, the United Kingdom (UK), France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel, together possessed **nearly 12,187** nuclear weapons, of which about 9,745 were in military stockpiles for potential use.

Elon Musk Becomes World's First Trillionaire on Paper Following SpaceX's Record-Breaking USD 75 Billion IPO

Elon Musk, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX), became the world's first trillionaire on paper after SpaceX raised a record USD 75 billion through its June 2026 Initial Public Offering (IPO), listed on Nasdaq Stock Exchange, New York, United States of America (USA).

- The IPO surpassed the 2019 Saudi Aramco IPO to become the largest public offering in history, significantly boosting Musk's paper net worth beyond the USD 1 trillion mark.

About SpaceX Trillion-Dollar Milestone:

Record Valuation: The company sold 555.6 million Class A shares at USD 135 each, valuing SpaceX at approximately USD 1.77 trillion and significantly boosting Musk's net worth.

Wealth: Elon Musk's SpaceX stake was valued at about USD 866.5 billion and, combined with Tesla holdings worth about USD 286.2 billion, raised his paper wealth to approximately **USD 1.1 trillion**, making him the first trillionaire on paper.

Control: He retained 84.4% voting power through approximately 849.5 million Class A shares and 5.57 billion Class B shares, while some stock awards remain contingent on long-term milestones such as a permanent Mars colony and large-scale space-based data-centre infrastructure.

Russian President Offers Sukhoi Su-57 Stealth Aircraft & Joint Production in India

Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, offered India the advanced Sukhoi Su-57, 5th generation stealth aircraft and also proposed its joint production in India.

- The announcement was made on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Key Details:

Background: In 2007, India and Russia initiated the joint Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) program to jointly develop an advanced stealth fighter jet derived from Russia's Sukhoi Su-57 platform.

- Later, India formally withdrew from the program in 2021 due to unresolved issues related to costs, technology transfer, and performance.

Technology Transfer: The proposal includes full technology transfer and the establishment of manufacturing facilities in India, supporting the country's 'Make in India' and defence indigenisation initiatives.

Sukhoi Su-57 (Felon): It is a 5th-generation stealth multirole fighter jet developed by Russia's Sukhoi Design Bureau, a subsidiary of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), to compete rival advanced the United States of America (USA) aircraft such as: F-35

- It performs both air superiority and precision strike missions by combining advanced stealth technology, supermaneuverability, and sustained supersonic speeds.

NASA Announces Artemis III Crew with 3 USA & 1 Italian Astronaut to Test SpaceX & Blue Origin Moon Landers

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced the **four-member Artemis III crew** comprising United States of America (USA) astronauts **Randy Bresnik** (Commander), **Andre Douglas**, **Frank Rubio**, along with European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut **Luca Parmitano** of Italy, for a late-2027 Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) mission.

- The mission will test dockings between SpaceX's **Starship**, Blue Origin's **Blue Moon lander**, and NASA's **Orion capsule**, launched by the Space Launch System

(SLS), demonstrating operational readiness for future human lunar landings and planned lunar operations.

About Artemis III Mission:

Overview: Artemis III is a NASA mission that will conduct a two-week LEO mission without approaching the Moon to test docking mechanisms, interoperability, and operational capabilities required for future crewed lunar landings.

Crew: The crew includes veteran astronauts Randy Bresnik, a former test pilot and three-time spaceflier, Frank Rubio, who holds the USA record for a 371-day continuous stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), first-time spaceflier Andre Douglas, and Luca Parmitano, a veteran of two space missions who will become the first ESA astronaut and the second non-USA astronaut to participate in an Artemis mission.

2026 Global Peace Index: Iceland Retains Top Spot, India Drop to 127th

Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the 20th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI). As per the Index, **Iceland** retained its position as the world's most peaceful country for the **19th** consecutive year, with an overall score of **1.161**.

- However, India dropped to **127th position** (in 2026) with an overall score of **2.409**, from 115th position (in 2025), marking a decrease of 2.9% in its overall score compared to the previous year.

About 2026 GPI:

Coverage: The latest edition of GPI has assessed **163** independent states and territories, ranking them according to their level of peacefulness, covering 99.7% of the world's population.

Key Indicators: The report used 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the state of peace across three main segments, including the level of Societal Safety and Security; the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict, and the degree of Militarization.

Top 5 Countries: Other than Iceland, New Zealand (rank 2nd; overall score of 1.343); Switzerland (rank 3rd ; overall score of 1.363); Slovenia (rank 4th; overall score of 1.369); and Ireland (rank 5th, overall score of 1.371) were among the top 5 countries in 2026 GPI.

Bottom 5 Countries: As per IEP's latest GPI, Russia ranked lowest in the index (163rd spot) with an overall score of 3.367 and emerged as the least peaceful country in the world; followed by Sudan (162nd), Democratic Republic Congo (DRC) (161st), Ukraine (160th) and Israel (159th).

Jio Platforms Enters WIPO Global Top 20 Patent Rankings, Becomes Only Indian Company on List

Jio Platforms(JPL) , the technology arm of Reliance Industries Limited(RIL), entered into the global top 20 in the latest Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) rankings for 2025 released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**).

- It is the only Indian technology innovator to break into the Global Top-20 coveted list.
- **China** topped the world in 2025 PCT filings with 73,718 applications, while **India** ranked **12th** globally with 3,070 PCT applications.

Key Findings:

Top Countries: The top five origins accounted for over **78.2%** of all PCT applications filed in 2025.

- China topped the global rankings in 2025 PCT applications, followed by the USA (52,617) and Japan (47,922).

Top PCT Patent Applicants: For the ninth consecutive year, **Huawei Technologies** (China) remained the world's top Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applicant, filing 7,523 applications in 2025.

- It was followed by Samsung Electronics (Republic of Korea) with 4,698 applications and Qualcomm (USA) with 3,227.

Top Research Applicant: With 342 published applications, China's **Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology** remained the leading applicant among government and public research organizations (PROs) in 2025.

Uzbekistan Becomes 10th Member & First Central Asian Country to Join NDB

The Republic of **Uzbekistan** became the **10th member** and shareholder of the New Development Bank (**NDB**) after ratifying the NDB Articles of Agreement (AoA), marking the **first entry** of a **Central Asian country** into the bank.

About Uzbekistan's Membership:

Accession Law: Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the law approving Uzbekistan's accession to the NDB on May 21, 2026.

Projects: NDB plans to prepare its first projects in Uzbekistan, focusing on energy, water management, transport, municipal infrastructure and social infrastructure.

Mechanisms: The NDB will support projects through financing in national currencies, national procurement procedures, environmental risk assessment mechanisms, and efficient project preparation and implementation.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to France in June 2026

Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** undertook a 6-day official visit to France in June 2026, focusing on strategic cooperation, innovation, technology partnerships on global issues.

- PM Modi visited Nice, France from June 13 to June 14, 2026, as part of the 1st leg of his two-nation tour, at the invitation of **Emmanuel Macron**, President of France.
- During his Europe tour, PM Modi participated at the 52nd Group-7 (G-7) summit held in Evian-les-Bains, France.
- Later, On June 18, 2026, PM Modi visited Paris, the capital city of France as the final leg of his visit to attend the VivaTech 2026 Technology Summit, alongside President Macron.

Key Highlights:

Visit to France: During his visit, PM Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron at Villa Kerylos in Nice, France marking the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders since India-France ties were elevated to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" in February 2026.

- **Bharat Innovates:** During his visit, PM Modi along with French President Macron inaugurated the inaugural edition of **Bharat Innovates 2026** at the Palais des Expositions de Nice in Nice, France. The 3-day long event was organised by the Ministry of Education (MoE) under the India-France Year of Innovation.
- **Key Outcomes:** PM Modi visit to Nice, France resulted in 13 key outcomes such as: adoption of India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030; establishment of Joint Working Group (JWG) on AI Governance; Expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in France; and double bilateral Trade over the next 5 years, among others.

QS World University Rankings 2027: IIT Delhi Tops India, MIT Retains Global Top Spot

London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based global higher education analytics firm **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** released the QS World University Rankings 2027, in which the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi ranked **118th globally** with an overall score of **65.7**, improving five places from **123rd** and emerging as India's highest-ranked institution for the second consecutive year.

About QS World University Rankings 2027:

Coverage: The 23rd edition evaluated more than 1,500 universities across 106 countries and territories, including 52 Indian universities.

Global: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (**MIT**), **Cambridge**, Massachusetts, (United States of America, USA) retained 1st place globally with a score of 100, while **Imperial College London**, United Kingdom (UK) and **Stanford University**, (USA) jointly ranked 2nd with scores of 99.2.

Indian Institutes: After IIT Delhi, the highest-ranked Indian institutions are IIT Bombay (Maharashtra, 134), IIT Madras (Tamil Nadu, TN 170), IIT Kharagpur (West Bengal, WB 205), and IISc Bangalore (Karnataka, 221).

Bengaluru ranks 15th Among Global Startup Ecosystems: GSER 2026

Startup Genome, in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network released the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026, in which it ranked Bengaluru, Karnataka ranked **15** among the top 40 global startup ecosystems.

- It has also emerged the **second-best AI-native** cluster in Asia continent after Beijing, China.

GSER Highlights 2026

Purpose: It is an annual global ranking and research report that evaluates and compares startup ecosystems across the world based on their startup performance, funding, talent, innovation and business environment.

Coverage: It is based on an analysis of over **5.5 million (Mn)** startups across 350+ global startup ecosystems and policy insights from **200+** organizations across **80+** countries.

Edition: GSER 2026 is the **14th edition** of the Global Startup Ecosystem Report.

Global Ecosystem ranking: **Silicon Valley** (United States of America, USA), **New York City (USA)**, and **London (United Kingdom, UK)** retain their top three positions, holding steady with no change in rankings.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Slovakia in June 2026

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** undertook official visit to Slovakia in June 2026, focusing on strategic cooperation, innovation, technology partnerships on global issues.

- He visited Slovakia from June 14 to June 16, 2026.
- During his Europe tour, PM Modi participated at the 52nd Group-7 (G-7) summit held in Evian-les-Bains, France.

Slovakia's Highest Honor: During his visit to Slovakia, PM Modi was honoured with “The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)”, Slovakia's highest national award, presented by Peter Pellegrini, President of Slovakia in Bratislava. This marked PM Modi's 33rd global honour during his 12 years long tenure as PM of India.

Comprehensive Partnership: One of the key outcomes of PM Modi visit to Slovakia was the elevation of bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership (CP).

Counter-terrorism: India and Slovakia have agreed to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism.

Consular Dialogue: Apart from establishing JWG on counter-terrorism, they have also agreed to launch a Consular Dialogue mechanism to strengthen cooperation in consular matters.

ICCR Chair in AI: Both countries announced the establishment of the first-ever ICCR Chair in AI at the Technical University of Kosice in Slovakia.

Overview: Following the bilateral talks held between PM Modi and his Slovak counterpart, Robert Fico, both countries formalized 11 key agreements to expand bilateral cooperation in areas: skill mobility, defence, higher education, emerging technologies (like in AI and quantum), among others.

WEF's Energy Transition Index 2026 : Sweden Leads Global Rankings, India at 70th

World Economic Forum (WEF) released its annual report titled “Energy Transition Index(ETI 2026): Insight Report June 2026”. India jumped to 2 places in ETI 2026 ranking i.e. to 70th spot with an overall score of 54.9 (up by 1.9% over 2025), emerging as one of the top gainers in the index.

- Sweden topped the ETI 2026 with a score of 75.3, followed by Finland in second place with 74.1 points and Denmark in third place with a score of 72.6.

About ETI 2026:

Published by: For the last 16 years, WEF in collaboration with Accenture, has been publishing the ETI.

Global Investment: Global energy transition readiness declined by 0.76%, marking its first drop in over a decade, despite total energy investments reaching USD 3.3 trillion, including USD 2.3 trillion in clean energy.

Other countries in Top 10: Estonia ranked 4th in the WEF ETI 2026 with a score of 70.9, followed by Norway at 5th with 70.5, Switzerland at 6th with 70.2, Latvia at 7th with 70.0, Austria at 8th with 69.7, Germany at 9th with 69.6, and France at 10th with 68.3.

Bottom 5 Countries: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) ranked last (120th) with a score of 39.8, followed by Botswana (119th, 41.8), Jamaica (118th, 43.6), and Yemen and Mongolia, which shared the next lowest scores of 45.3, ranking 117th and 116th, respectively.

Overview of 52nd G7 Summit held in France from June 15-17, 2026

The 52nd Group of Seven (G-7) Summit was held from June 15 to 17, 2026 in Évian-les-Bains city located in Haute-Savoie, France. The 3-day long summit was hosted under France's G7 Presidency, led by French President **Emmanuel Macron**.

- The G7 Summit 2026 organized under the theme “**Working Together to Address Major International Challenges**”, brought together leaders from the world's leading advanced economies to address global issues like: energy supply, peace and security.

Highlights of G7 Summit:

Focus Areas: The French Presidency outlined key focus areas for this year's summit, including, reducing macroeconomic imbalances, strengthening critical mineral value chains, settling major geopolitical crises, and curbing organised crime.

India's Participation: India participated at the G7 Summit 2026 as a partner country on the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** represented India at the summit, marking the country's **13th** appearance at the summit as a partner country.

Key Outcomes: Some of the key outcomes or announcements of the summit were: adoption of the “Leaders’ Declaration on Tackling Migrant Smuggling”, to curb migrant smuggling and human trafficking;

- The 53rd edition of G7 Summit will be hosted by the USA.

FAO's SOFIA 2026 Report: India World's 2nd Largest Aquatic animals Producing Country After China

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the latest edition of a report titled “State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026” under the theme of “Blue Transformation: Turning Vision into Impact”. As per the report, India emerged as the **world's 2nd largest** producer of aquatic animals only after China, contributing **9%** of the world's total aquatic animals in 2024.

- Globally, India is ranked 1st in inland water catches, producing **2.2 MT** from rivers, lakes and freshwater systems, ahead of Bangladesh's 1.4 MT.

Key Findings:

Global Dominance in Aquaculture: India, along with China, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Bangladesh, is among the world's top 5 countries that account for **82%** of global production of all farmed aquatic animals.

Global Production: The report showed global fisheries and aquaculture production reached a new high of **235 Million Tonnes (MT)** in 2024, including 195 million tonnes of aquatic animals and 40 million tonnes of algae, registering a growth of 5.2% increase compared to 2022.

Aquaculture Production: The Aquaculture production alone reached a record high of **142 MT** in 2024, reflecting its role as the key driver of growth in aquatic animal production.

World's Top 5 Countries: China, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam and Bangladesh were among the world's top five aquaculture producing countries. Together, these countries accounted for **84%** of the total global output.

TOP 500 Supercomputer Rankings 2026: China's LineShine Emerged World's Most Powerful Supercomputer

The **67th** edition of the TOP500 Supercomputer Rankings 2026, a biannual list of the world's most powerful supercomputers, was released at the International Supercomputing (ISC) **High Performance 2026 conference** in Hamburg, Germany. As per the latest rankings, **China's LineShine machine**, based at the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen, emerged as the world's most powerful supercomputer, replacing the United States of America (USA)'s **El Capitan**.

- LineShine is nearly 26 times faster than India's most powerful supercomputer '**Shakti Cloud**', which secured **32nd** spot on the list, with a performance of 84.31 petaflops.

Key Findings:

Other Top 5: The USAs' Frontier (3rd) and Aurora (4th), followed by Germany's Jupiter, which ranks 5th.

New Entrant: Apart from China's LineShine, Eni S.p.A.'s new HPC7 system (Italy) featured for the 1st time on the list, securing 6th spot with computing speed of 571.5 petaflop/s.

Most Represented Countries: The **USA** with 161 systems, topped among the countries with the highest share of systems on the list, followed by Japan (44), Germany (41), China (31), among others.

- India is ranked **16th**, with 7 supercomputers(PARAM Siddhi-AI, Pratyush, Mihir, Aditya, SahasraT, Arka, and Param Bramha).

Bangladesh Joins India's International Big Cat Alliance as 27th Member

Bangladesh officially joined India's International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its 27th **member** country, aiming to enhance joint conservation strategies, habitat protection, and transboundary wildlife management.

- Bangladesh's accession is expected to strengthen regional cooperation in protecting big cat species, combating wildlife crime, promoting scientific research, and conserving shared ecosystems across national borders.

About Bangladesh's Accession to IBCA:

Membership: Bangladesh joined IBCA after Cabinet approval on May 22, 2026, based on a proposal from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, following India's invitation during diplomatic discussions between Indian High Commissioner **Pranay Verma** and Bangladesh Environment Minister **Abdul Awal Mintoo** in April 2026.

Conservation: The accession strengthens transboundary conservation of the Bengal tiger and leopard in the Sundarbans, promotes South Asian ecosystem protection, and enhances coordinated monitoring, data sharing, and anti-poaching efforts.

USA Announces USD 482.2 Million Package For India's M777A2 Howitzers and AH-64E Apache Helicopters

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) which administers the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the United States of America (USA), notified the proposed sale of sustainment support services and related equipment for India's **Attack Helicopters 64**

Echo (AH-64E) Apache helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers at an estimated cost of **USD 482.2 million**.

- As per the notification, the US government has announced **USD 230 million** long-term sustainment package for M777A Howitzers and **USD 198.2 million** for Apache Helicopters.

Key Details:

Principle Contractors: American defence manufacturing companies, Boeing Company and Lockheed Martin, will be the principal contracts for Apache helicopters support services, while, the principal contractor for M777 Howitzer will be BAE Systems, located in Cumbria, the United Kingdom (UK).

M777 Howitzers: In 2017, the US Department of Defence granted USD 542 million contract to BAE systems to supply 145 M777 ultra-lightweight howitzers to the Indian Army (IA) under the FMS signed between Government of India (GoI) and the Government of the USA.

- 155 millimeter (mm)-long M777, lightweight towed artillery system, is designed for a rapid deployment and high mobility.

Apache Helicopters: These are multi-role attack helicopters operated by the IA, designed for precision strikes and all-weather, day and night missions.

- In December 2025, the IA received the final batch of 03 Apache helicopters from Boeing.

The Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026 by THE: MAHE Achieves Top Global Ranking

Times Higher Education (THE) released the 8th edition of Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026, with the University of Manchester, United Kingdom(UK) secured the top position overall and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has secured 1st rank in SDG-5 (Gender Equality) retaining its place in the 101–200 global band.

- The results were announced at the Global Sustainable Development Congress in Jakarta, Indonesia, showcasing universities' efforts in sustainability and social impact

About Sustainable Impact Ratings 2026

- **Purpose:** This is the only global ranking measuring how institutions worldwide advance sustainability in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Assessment:** The 2026 rankings evaluate **1,646** universities from 116 countries and territories across 17 individual SDG tables and one overall ranking.
- **New Countries:** The 2026 edition also marked the debut of Mali, Nicaragua, Niger and Tajikistan in the global rankings.

Defence

DRDO, IAF Successfully Tests Indigenous RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile in Chandipur, Odisha

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) successfully conducted flight-tests of the ‘**RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile(ASM)**’ from an airborne platform.

- The RudraM-II missile successfully hit a predefined target under extreme release conditions, validating all subsystems, as confirmed by flight data from the Integrated Test Range (**ITR**), **Chandipur, Odisha**.

About RudraM-II ASM:

Capabilities: It is an indigenous air-launched missile for Suppression/Destruction of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD/DEAD) missions, carrying a 200 kilogram(kg) warhead.

- It achieves speeds up to **Mach 5.5** and a range of **300 kilometer(km)**, doubling the reach of RudraM-I (150 km).

Launch: The missile may be deployed from **Sukhoi Su-30MKI** fighter aircraft at altitudes of **3–15 km**, allowing the IAF to engage enemy radar and air-defence installations with precision.

Development & Collaboration: The missile was indigenously developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad(Telangana), serving as the nodal DRDO laboratory for the project. Several other DRDO laboratories contributed.

Key Force Multiplier: The RudraM-II air-to-surface missile will enhance precision-strike capabilities and is set to replace the older Russian-origin **Kh-31 missiles** in service.

MoD Commissions First Batch of 17 NDA Women Cadets as Officers in Indian Armed Forces

The Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) commissioned the **first batch of 17 women cadets** trained at the National Defence Academy (**NDA**) into the Indian Army (**IA**), Indian Navy (**IN**) and Indian Air Force (**IAF**) after completing pre-commission training at their respective service academies, marking a historic milestone in gender inclusion in India’s Defence Forces.

- The women cadets joined the NDA in August 2022 as part of the 148th Course following the Supreme Court’s 2021 decision permitting women to enter the NDA, successfully completing tri-service training at Khadakwasla, Pune, Maharashtra.

About First NDA-Trained Women Officers Commissioning:

Commissioning: The IA commissioned nine women officers at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- The IAF commissioned five women officers at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad, Telangana, and IN commissioned three women officers at the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, Kerala.

Judgment: The Supreme Court (SC) held that excluding women from NDA admissions violated constitutional equality provisions under Articles 14 and 16, resulting in the opening of NDA entry to women.

Significance: The commissioning marks a milestone in women’s participation in the armed

forces and reflects India's commitment to equal opportunity, merit-based selection, women's empowerment, and military modernisation.

DRDO successfully conducts 3 consecutive flight-tests of multi-layered ballistic missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** of India's integrated multi-layered **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** system, demonstrating interception capability against **long-range** (5,000 km) and **medium-range** (2,000 km) missiles and the maiden flight-test of the indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Medium Range (NASM-MR).

- The flight trials of two advanced interceptor missiles were conducted from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha

Key Details of Trial:

Significance: The successful demonstration positions India among an elite group of nations with operational Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) capability, enabling interception and neutralisation of ballistic missile threats up to the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) class.

Simulation: DRDO successfully conducted **Phase-II of the BMD System** test, where the target missile, simulating an adversary ballistic weapon, was launched from Launch Complex-IV (LC-IV), Dhamra, Odisha and was detected by land- and sea-based radars, intercepted by the air defence interceptor system.

Indian Army Participates in 23rd Edition of Military Exercise 'Khaan Quest' in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Indian Army (IA) participates in the 23rd edition of multilateral joint military exercise 'KHAAN QUEST', hosted by Mongolia, at the Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 20 June to 3 July 2026.

About Exercise Khaan Quest 2026:

Objectives: To enhance peacekeeping readiness, improve joint operational capabilities and coordination, and strengthen cooperation among participating nations in a multinational environment.

Participation: India is represented by a **40-member** IA contingent, including troops from the JAT (Indian Army Infantry) Regiment and other Arms & Services, the 23rd edition brings together over 1,000 personnel from **18 countries**, reflecting India's commitment to global peacekeeping and defence cooperation with Mongolia.

PM Narendra Modi Commissions Three Indigenously Built IN platforms INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak & INS Agray in Kolkata, WB

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi commissioned 3 indigenously built frontline platforms: 'Indian Naval Ship(INS) Dunagiri', advanced guided missile frigate; 'INS Sanshodhak', 4th Survey Vessel (Large); and 'INS Agray', Anti-Submarine Warfare-Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) into the Indian Navy (IN), during a ceremony held at Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

Key Details:

Design and Construction: These new vessels were designed by the Indian Navy (IN)'s Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata (WB).

Local Content: These newly commissioned naval platforms feature **over 75%** indigenous content, with extensive participation by the Indian industry, including more than 200 Micro,

Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in their construction.

Significance: These new state-of-the-art platforms are expected to enhance the country's operational capabilities, maritime security against geopolitical threats, and domain awareness.

ISRO Successfully Conducts Test Trial of Next-Generation Rocket Engine at Record Thrust Level

The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully conducted a hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (**PHTA**) at **88%** of its target thrust (175 tonnes) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPC) at Mahendragiri, in Tamil Nadu (TN).

Key Details of Test:

8th in Series: As per ISRO, this marked the 8th one in a series of hot tests using PHTA. Previously, test trials had been conducted at 47% and 60% of full thrust, equivalent to 94 and 120 tonnes respectively.

Key Engine: **SE2000**, produces 2,000 kilonewtons (KN) of thrust, will power a new propulsion stage known as the 'SC120' which is further expected to replace the **L110 core** stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark III (LVM3) rocket.

Significance: The advanced stage is projected to increase the launch vehicle's payload capacity and enhance operational efficiency and would use liquid oxygen and kerosene-based fuel.

Semi-cryogenic: It refers to the condition that only one of two propellants (liquid oxygen) needs to be stored at extremely low temperatures.

GEORGIANS
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Assigned Additional Charge as DRDO Chairman, Defence R&D Secretary

Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD) was assigned the additional charge of **Secretary**, Department of Defence Research and Development (**DDR&D**) and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), in addition to his existing responsibilities in the MoD.

- Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed additional responsibilities on May 31, 2026, following the completion of **Dr. Samir V. Kamat**'s tenure.

About Rajesh Kumar Singh:

Profile: He is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre.

Secretary Roles: He served as Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-designate) on August 20, 2024, before formally taking over as Defence Secretary.

- Prior to this, he served as Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoC&I) from April 24, 2023, to August 20, 2024.
- He has also served as Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying(MoFAHD).

Bangladesh's FM Rahman Elected as 81st President of UNGA

Khalilur Rahman, Foreign Minister (FM) of Bangladesh, was elected the President of the **81st** session of United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**), for a one-year term, after defeating **Andreas Kakouris**, Special Envoy of Cyprus's FM for Multilateralism, in a closely contested vote held at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America(USA).

- He will succeed **Annalena Charlotte Alma Baerbock**, former FM of Germany, whose tenure ends in September 2026.

About Khalilur Rahman:

Diplomatic Career: He has over four decades of diplomatic and multilateral experience. He started his career as diplomat by joining Bangladesh's foreign service in 1979.

Key Role: He has been serving as FM of Bangladesh since February 2026, previously served as National Security Adviser (NSA) and High Representative on the Rohingya Issue to the Bangladesh Government.

Previous Role in UN: In 1991, he joined the UN Secretariat as a Special Adviser at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Later, for next 25 years, he continued to serve in a series of senior positions in New York and Geneva(Switzerland), including chief of the programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the UN Secretariat, chair of the UN system in interagency group on non-tariff barriers to global trade.

ACC Appoints Lokhande Prashant Sitaram as Chairperson of CBSE

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of **Prashant Sitaram Lokhande**, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA), as the **Chairperson** of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

- He succeeds **Rahul Singh**, who has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare(DoAFW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), as Additional Secretary.

Key Details of Appointment:

Other Appointment: The ACC also appointed **Varun Bhardwaj**, Director in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education(MoE) as CBSE Secretary, succeeding Himanshu Gupta.

OSM System: The appointments come amid a controversy over CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) for Class 12 exams 2026, involving scanned answer sheets and alleged irregularities in private contracts.

D K Shivakumar from INC Sworn in as 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka

Doddalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar (**D.K. Shivakumar**), from the Indian National Congress (INC), Kanakapura constituency, was sworn in as **25th Chief Minister (CM)** of Karnataka after **Siddaramaiah** stepped down following directions from the Congress high command.

- The swearing-in ceremony took place at the **Raj Bhavan**, Bengaluru, where Governor **Thawar Chand Gehlot** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shivakumar and his newly appointed cabinet ministers under **Article 164**.

About D K Shivakumar:

Legislative Career (1989–Present): • Elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for the first time from Sathanur constituency in 1989 at the age of 27.

- Retained the Sathanur seat in the 1994, 1999, and 2004 Assembly elections.
- Shifted to the Kanakapura constituency and won consecutive elections in 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2023.

Ministerial Positions: Served as Minister of Prisons and Home Guards in the S. Bangarappa-led government from 1990 to 1992, becoming one of Karnataka's youngest cabinet ministers.

Mette Frederiksen Sworn in as Denmark's PM for Third Consecutive Term

Mette Frederiksen, leader of the Social Democrats, secured a third consecutive term as Prime Minister(PM) of Denmark after successfully forming a new centre-left coalition government following the March 2026 parliamentary elections.

About Mette Frederiksen:

Early Career: Before entering politics, she worked briefly as a trade unionist, gaining experience in labour and social welfare issues.

Political Career: She was elected to the Danish Parliament (Folketing) in 2001. She later served as Minister of Employment(2011) and Minister of Justice(2014) under Prime Minister(PM) Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

- After the Social Democrats lost the 2015 election, she became the party leader and Leader of the Opposition.

PM: After the Social Democrats emerged as the largest party in the **2019** Danish general election, Mette Frederiksen was appointed PM in June 2019 and became the head of a Social Democrat-led minority government. She was subsequently re-elected in 2022.

- She is the **second woman** to serve as PM of Denmark, after Helle Thorning-Schmidt, and remains the **youngest** person ever to hold the office.

Visa Appoints Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador for its 'Infinitely More' Campaign

Global digital payments company Visa Incorporated (Inc.) announced its new '**Infinitely More**' campaign in India and appointed Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador for the Indian market.

- The campaign highlights a shift towards experience-led living, with a focus on travel, lifestyle, and memorable experiences.

About 'Infinitely More' campaign:

Aim: Through the campaign, Visa aims to showcase how digital payments can enable consumers to access a wider range of experiences seamlessly and securely.

Focus: The campaign highlights a growing shift among Indian consumers from ownership-driven aspirations to experience-led lifestyles, with a focus on travel, dining, wellness, and entertainment.

New Platform Launch: Visa also launched **Visa.co.in**, a platform that offers curated lifestyle benefits and rewards to eligible cardholders.

- The platform brings together exclusive privileges from Visa's global network, spanning over 200 countries and territories and 175 million merchant locations worldwide.

ACC Appoints Neelkanth Mishra as ED of World Bank

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Economist **Neelkanth Mishra** as Executive Director(ED) of the World Bank (WB) for a **three-year** tenure.

- ACC also approved a one-year tenure extension for **Tarun Kapoor**, as Advisor to Prime Minister (PM), in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), effective from June 10, 2026.

About Neelkanth Mishra:

Predecessor: He will succeed **Parameswaran Iyer**, (1981 batch retired Indian Administrative Service, IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh, UP cadre) whose tenure has been extended beyond June 19, 2026, until he assumes office.

Professional Experience: He is currently the Chief Economist at Axis Bank and Head of Global Research & Whole-Time Director at Axis Capital.

- He joined the Axis Group in 2023 after nearly two decades at Credit Suisse, where he served as Co-Head of Asia Pacific Strategy and India Strategist.

UIDAI CEO Saurabh Vijay takes Additional Charge as CEO of IndiaAI Mission

Saurabh Vijay, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), assumed additional charge as the new **CEO of IndiaAI** (Artificial Intelligence) **Mission**, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- He succeeds **Abhishek Singh**, who has assumed charge as Director General (DG) of the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- **Sudeep Shrivastava**, Joint Secretary, MeitY, has assumed charge as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of IndiaAI Mission.

About Saurabh Vijay:

Profile: He is a 1998-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Maharashtra cadre.

Previous Role: Before joining UIDAI, he served as Principal Secretary (Expenditure) in the Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra.

State Government Roles (Maharashtra): Served across pivotal departments, including Principal Secretary (Planning and Development Commissioner), Principal Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Medical Education), and Secretary (Higher and Technical Education).

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung Nominates Han Seong-sook as Next PM

South Korean President **Lee Jae Myung** nominated **Han Seong-sook**, current Minister for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), as the country's next Prime Minister (**PM**). The nomination follows reports that incumbent PM **Kim Min-seok** is stepping down from the position.

- Upon parliamentary approval, Han Seong-sook will become the **second woman PM** in South Korea's history, following Han Myeong-sook, who served from 2006 to 2007.

About Han Seong-sook

Early Career: She began her career in 1989 as a reporter with Mincom and later worked for PC Line. In 1995, she headed public relations at Nanum Technology.

Leadership: In 2017, Han Seong-sook became the **first woman CEO** of Naver Corporation, South Korea's leading internet company, after serving as the company's Vice President.

Ministerial Role: She assumed her current role as Minister for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) when the Lee Jae Myung administration took office in 2025.

GoI Nominates DFS Secretary Sanjay Lohiya as Director on RBI, SBI Central Boards

The Government of India (**GoI**) nominated **Sanjay Lohiya**, Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), as a **Non-Executive Director** on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) and State Bank of India (**SBI**). The nomination came into effect from **11 June 2026** and will remain valid until further orders.

- Sanjay Lohiya succeeded **M. Nagaraju** as Secretary, DFS, on 1 June 2026 and subsequently replaced him on the RBI Central Board.

About Sanjay Lohiya:

Profile: He is a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam-Meghalaya Cadre.

Previous Role: Prior to his appointment as DFS, he served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Mines (MoM).

Other Key Roles: During his 30 year-long career in administration, he held several senior positions such as: Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister (CM) of Assam; Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW); and Director in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

GoI Appoints Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth as Chief of the Army Staff from 30 June 2026

The Government of India (GoI) appointed **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Dhiraj Seth**, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS), as the next **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with effect from **June 30, 2026**.

- He will succeed **General Upendra Dwivedi** following his retirement on June 30, 2026.

About Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth:

Military Career: Commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986 after graduating from the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune, Maharashtra, he has commanded an Armoured Regiment, Armoured Brigade, Counter-Insurgency Force, Sudarshan Chakra Corps, and later the Delhi Area.

Honours: He has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (**PVSM**) in 2025, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (**UYSM**) in 2026, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (**AVSM**) in 2022, and several Army commendations.

DFS Appoints Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi as CMD of GIC Re

The Department of Financial Services (**DFS**) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) approved the appointment of **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi** as **Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD)** of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), India's national reinsurer, effective from 16 June 2026, with a tenure up to 30 September 2028.

- He succeeded **Narayanan Ramaswamy**, whose two-year tenure as CMD of GIC Re ended on 30 September 2025.

About Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi:

Experience: Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi brings over three decades of experience in the insurance and reinsurance sector and had been serving as interim CMD of GIC Re since 1 October 2025.

Career: He previously served as Executive Director (ED) of GIC Re, overseeing international business operations, human resources, information technology (IT), actuarial services, business intelligence, and office support services.

Expertise: During his tenure at GIC Re, he handled diverse functions including domestic and international reinsurance, retrocession, risk management, strategic planning, finance, internal audit, credit rating, investor relations, and budgetary control.

RBI Approves Extension of Keki Mistry's as Interim Chairman of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the extension of **Keki Mistry's** tenure as Interim Part-Time Chairman of **HDFC Bank** Limited for a period of three months. The approval allows him to continue in the position until **18 September 2026**.

- He succeeded **Atanu Chakraborty** as Interim Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank on **19 March 2026**

About Keki Mistry:

Appointment: He was appointed as the Interim Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank with effect from 19 March 2026, after receiving Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for an initial tenure of three months until 19 June 2026.

Previous Roles: He previously served as the Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Limited and later as Vice Chairman of HDFC Bank Limited.

Indian Jurist Bimal N. Patel elected UN's ITLOS Tribunal Judge for 2026-2035 Term

Renowned Indian jurist **Bimal N. Patel** has been elected as a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the **2026-2035** term.

- He will officially take over the office on **October 1, 2026**, succeeding **Neeru Chadha**, whose 9-year long term expires in September 2026.

Key Details:

Election: Bimal N. Patel was elected during the 36th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), held at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America (USA).

Total New Judges Elected: Among 172 signatories of UNCLOS, 7 new judges, representing India, Vietnam, Ghana, Tunisia, Russia, Brazil and the Netherlands, were elected for 2026-2035 term.

ACC Reappoints Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General for Another 3-Year Term

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the reappointment of Solicitor General of India (SGI) **Tushar Mehta** for a further three-year term effective from **1 July 2026**, making him one of the longest-serving Solicitors General in India's history.

- Additionally, the ACC reappointed five Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) for the Supreme Court: Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj, Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati and Chetan Sharma.

About Tushar Mehta:

Profile: Tushar Mehta is a senior advocate from Gujarat, India, known for his expertise in constitutional and public law.

Appointments: He joined the Centre's legal team as **ASG** in 2014 and was elevated as **SGI** in October 2018, becoming the second-highest law officer of the country.

Areas of Representation: He has represented the Union Government in key cases involving constitutional law, national security, taxation, electoral reforms, citizenship, and Centre-State disputes before constitutional courts.

Solicitor General of India: The SGI is the second-highest law officer of the Union Government after the Attorney General for India (AGI).

- The office is part of the Union's law officer framework, which also includes Additional Solicitors General and other government counsel.

CRED founder Kunal Shah joined Meta to lead WhatsApp globally

CRED Founder **Kunal Shah** reportedly joined **Meta Platforms Inc.** and was appointed to lead WhatsApp globally, while stepping away from his operational role as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CRED.

- Kunal Shah will lead WhatsApp globally at Meta, which remains a minority investor in CRED with no access to user data and **Miten Sampat**, who has been leading strategy and finance since 2020, will serve as interim CEO.

About Kunal Shah:

Entrepreneurial Journey: He is an Indian entrepreneur and investor, best known as the Founder and CEO of CRED, a Bengaluru-based fintech company, and he also founded FreeCharge, one of India's early digital payments platforms, which was later acquired by Snapdeal.

CRED & Fintech Contribution: He launched CRED with USD 1 million after exiting FreeCharge, and between 2019–2025 it grew to 17 million users and raised over USD 900 million.

Expansion: CRED expanded into payments, lending, insurance, commerce, wealth, and credit services with Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) buybacks and regulatory licences.

Financial Milestones: CRED recorded its first profitable quarter in 2026, raised USD 900 million from Meta, and announced its fifth ESOP buyback.

Air India Appoints Pradeep Singh Kharola as Executive Advisor to Chairman

Pradeep Singh Kharola, former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India and former Secretary of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), has rejoined Air India as Executive Advisor to the Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, effective immediately.

- He will also serve as a full-time member of the Air India Management Committee, supporting the airline during a leadership transition phase.

Key Details:

Previous Tenure: Pradeep Singh Kharola served as Air India CMD (2017–2019) and was involved in the airline's privatisation, which was completed in 2022 under the Tata Group.

Leadership Transition: This appointment comes as Air India prepares for a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) transition following the announced departure of **Campbell Wilson**.

Background: Air India is undergoing restructuring after its 2022 Tata Group acquisition, focusing on modernization, expansion, and operational efficiency.

ACC Appoints Mahesh Dixit as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB)

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Mahesh Dixit, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh (AP) cadre, as the next Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), India's premier internal intelligence agency for **two years**.

- He will succeed **Tapan Kumar Deka**, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh (HP) cadre, who has served as Director of the IB since July 2022 and whose second extended tenure is scheduled to end on **30 June 2026**.

Highlights of the Appointment:

Background: Mahesh Dixit, currently Special Director and second-in-command of the IB, qualified as a medical doctor before joining the IPS and was promoted as Additional Director in 2022 and Special Director in 2024.

Awards: He has been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (2016), the Police Medal for Meritorious Service (2009), and the Police Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak (2004).

Jaime de la Espriella Wins Colombia's Presidential Election

Jaime Abelardo de la Espriella, a political newcomer backed by the Defenders of the Homeland (Defensores de la Patria) alliance, won Colombia's presidential runoff election, defeating left-wing candidate Iván Cepeda to become the **President-elect of Colombia** for the 2026–2030 term.

- He will assume office on 7 August 2026, succeeding incumbent president **Gustavo Petro**.

Election Result:

Election Result: Secured 49.66% of the vote, defeating Iván Cepeda of the Historic Pact (Pacto Histórico), who received 48.70%; will assume office on 7 August 2026.

Vice President: Former cabinet minister José Manuel Restrepo Abondano was elected as Vice President of Colombia.

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Appoints Dr. U.P. Rajeev as Director

Dr. U.P. Rajeev was appointed as Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, one of the key centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- He succeeds **Dr. A. Rajarajan**, who retired as Director of VSSC upon attaining the age of superannuation (60 years).

About Dr. U.P. Rajeev

Profile: With decades of experience in rocket control and guidance systems, Rajeev has led the mission design and simulation of major launch vehicles of the ISRO.

Current Role: Prior to this, he served as Associate Director (Research and Development) at VSSC

Responsibilities: He will lead the centre responsible for developing India's launch vehicle technologies.

About VSSC: Established in 1963 as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), it was later renamed VSSC. Headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, VSSC is ISRO's premier centre for the design and development of India's launch vehicles.

Honours/ Awards

India Receives Two Labbaytum Excellence Awards for Outstanding Haj Coordination and Communication

Indian Haj Mission under the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) received two Labbaytum Awards in the categories of Coordination and Communication, from the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia in recognition of its exemplary management of Haj operations and pilgrim services during Haj 2026.

- This was the **first time** India received two Labbaytum Awards in a single Haj season, with the honours presented during the official closing ceremony of Haj 2026.

About Labbaytum Awards:

Award Overview: Every year, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah presents the Labbaytum Awards to outstanding Haj Missions during the Khitamahu Misk Ceremony held in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, recognizing excellence in Haj management and pilgrim services.

2026 Pilgrim Movement: Haj 2026 from India commenced on 18 April 2026, with over 1.75 lakh pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia through 17 embarkation points across the country.

Initiatives: India's recognition was strengthened by technology-driven measures such as

- **Haj Suvidha Application**, digital access to travel and emergency services
- **Smart Wristbands**, real-time tracking and locating pilgrims in crowded holy sites.

Forbes World's Top 10 Richest People 2026: Elon Musk, Larry Page and Jeff Bezos Ranked Leads Globally

Forbes, an American business magazine and global media company, released its latest World's Top 10 Richest People rankings – June 2026, **Elon Musk**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla and SpaceX, continued to retain the top spot since May 2024, with an estimated net worth of USD 835 billion as of June 1, 2026.

- **Larry Page**, co-founder of Alphabet Inc. (parent company of Google), emerged as the world's 2nd richest person, with estimated net worth of USD 309 billion; followed by **Sergey Brin**, who is also co-founder of Alphabet Inc. (Google) ranked at 3rd position with estimated net worth of USD 285 billion.

Key Findings:

Jeff Bezos (4th Rank): Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and Blue Origin, secured the 4th position among the world's richest people with an estimated net worth of USD 277 billion as of June 2026.

Larry Ellison (5th Rank): Larry Ellison, co-founder and Chairman of Oracle Corporation, ranked 5th globally with an estimated net worth of USD 276 billion as of June 2026.

Other Top 10 Richest Person: Michael Dell (rank 6th, USD 260.1 billion); Mark Zuckerberg (rank 7th, USD 206.1 billion); Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA (rank 8th, USD 193.7 billion); Bernard Arnault (rank 9th, USD 149.1 billion) and Steve Ballmer, former CEO of tech giant Microsoft (rank 10th, USD 143.5 billion) featured among the world's top 10 richest people (as of June 2026).

APCNF Won 2026 Food Planet Prize from Sweden's Curt Bergfors Foundation

Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), an initiative of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government, won the **2026 Food Planet Prize**, one of the world's largest environmental awards focused on transforming food systems, for its work in promoting farming practices that reduce dependence on synthetic inputs and support climate-resilient agriculture.

- The award was presented by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation** in Båstad, Sweden.

About Food Planet Prize 2026:

Selection Process: APCNF was selected from a pool of over 1,000 nominations received from various countries and was among four finalists selected from a longlist of 35 initiatives across 19 countries and six continents.

Prize: APCNF as winner of Food Planet Prize for year received a monetary prize of **USD 1.5 million**, while each of the other 3 finalists: Conscious Kitchen (the United States of America, USA); NoPalm Ingredients (The Netherlands); and the Savana Institute (the USA), received USD 150,000.

About APCNF: It is one of the world's largest community-driven initiatives promoting agroecology and natural farming, launched in 2016 by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) under the Agriculture Department of the AP government

- Currently, APCNF's methods are being adopted over 20 Indian states, as well as in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Zambia.

Argentina's Lionel Messi Becomes First Footballer To Win Princess Of Asturias Award

Argentine footballer **Lionel Messi**, captain of Inter Miami CF (Football Club) and reigning World Champion, won the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2026**, becoming the **first individual footballer** to earn the honour for his exceptional sporting achievements, global influence, and charitable efforts supporting education and healthcare for disadvantaged children.

- The award will be presented by the Princess of Asturias Foundation (FPA) in a ceremony on 23 October 2026 at the Campoamor Theatre in Oviedo, Spain.

Highlights of Messi being Honoured:

Achievements: Messi was recognised for his success with Argentina national football team, FC Barcelona, and Inter Miami CF, including multiple league titles, 4 UEFA Champions League trophies, Copa América titles (2021, 2024), an Olympic gold medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, 47 career trophies, and 8 Ballon d'Or awards.

Other Winners: The 2026 Princess of Asturias Awards recognised Patti Smith (Arts), Studio Ghibli (Communication and Humanities), David Klennerman, Shankar Balasubramanian, and Pascal Mayer (Scientific and Technical Research), Svalbard Global Seed Vault (International Cooperation), and Timothy Garton Ash (Social Sciences), while the Literature and Concord award recipients are yet to be announced.

Major Prabhat Mishra of IA Wins Two Major Awards at USA Army CGSOC Graduation

Major Prabhat Mishra of the Indian Army (IA) received the Birrer-Brookes Award for Outstanding Master of Military Arts and Science (MMAS) Thesis and the **General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award** during the graduation ceremony of the United States of America (USA) Army Command and General Staff College's Command and General Staff Officer Course (**CGSOC**), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA.

- He received the awards among 951 graduates, including 120 international officers from 92 countries, who completed the prestigious 10-month programme.

About Major Prabhat Mishra at CGSOC:

Officer: Major Prabhat Mishra of the IA's 22 Kumaon Regiment secured 4th rank among 1,185 officers (top 1%), becoming the **first Indian officer** to simultaneously win both the awards, and receive the Golden Pen Award for scholarly excellence.

Thesis: His award-winning Master of MMAS dissertation was titled "India's Pursuit of Military Strategic Autonomy in a Multipolar World."

Awardees: Other international award recipients included Major Aleksander Granberg of Norway and Lieutenant Colonel Taleh S. F. H. Alrashid of Kuwait.

About CGSOC: It is a 10-month professional military education programme for mid-career officers focused on senior leadership, command, staff responsibilities, military arts and science, strategic leadership, and professional writing.

India's First Food-Led Metabolic Recovery System 'GRASA' Won Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026

GRASA Millets & Food Private Limited, India's 1st food-led metabolic recovery system, was awarded the Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026 for "Emerging Health Tech & Nutrition Innovation Startup of the Year", in recognition of its innovative approach for metabolic health based on the science of millets and fermentation.

- The award was presented by Padma Shri awardee and renowned actor and politician **Kangana Ranaut**, who attended the event as Chief Guest, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026:

Aim: To recognise outstanding individuals and organisations across India's dynamic service sector.

Categories: The winners were honoured across a wide range of categories such as: technology, real estate, education, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, professional services, products, hospitals, businesses, and service providers.

Key Launch: The event saw the launch of Bharat Innovations & Startups Facilitator (**BISF**): **Enabling India's Next Wave of Entrepreneurs**, a platform designed to nurture and empower the next generation of Indian entrepreneurs.

President Murmu Conferred 51 Gallantry Awards to the personnel of the Defence Forces, CAPF and State/UT Police

President Droupadi Murmu conferred 51 gallantry awards, including 07 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras, to personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and State/ Union Territory (UT) Police during Phase-I of the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- The awards were bestowed on personnel for displaying exceptional acts of courage, unparalleled bravery, and operational excellence.

Prominent Winners:

Posthumous Winners: The Gallantry Awards presented during the ceremony, included 06 posthumous winners i.e. 02 (Kirti Chakra); 03 (Vir Chakra) and 01 (Shaurya Chakra).

Gaganyaan Astronaut: Air Commodore (Indian Air Force, IAF) Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair (call sign “Papa”), one of the 4 astronauts selected for India’s 1st human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, was awarded the Kirti Chakra award for his contribution to the Axiom-4 mission on which he was a backup astronaut as part of India’s 1st launch to the International Space Station (ISS).

Padma Shri Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik Becomes First Indian to Win Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026

Padma Shri awardee **Sudarsan Pattnaik**, a sand artist from Puri, Odisha, won the **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026** at the II International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Kaliningrad, Russia, becoming the **first Indian** to receive the honour.

- His three-metre (m)-high sand sculpture depicted two contrasting faces of Earth, symbolising **environmental degradation** on one side and **ecological restoration** through afforestation and conservation on the other.

About Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026:

Overview: The competition brought together 12 internationally renowned sand sculptors from different countries, who showcased artistic excellence and creativity through large-scale sand sculpture installations.

Recognition: Pattnaik received the award for his sculpture highlighting global warming, climate change, and environmental conservation, with the international jury unanimously acknowledging his artistic excellence and sustained efforts to raise social and environmental awareness through sand art.

Previous Awards: He received **Padma Shri**, India’s fourth-highest civilian award, in 2014 in the field of Arts for his contribution in Sand Arts, won the People’s Choice Award at the Sand Sculpting World Cup 2014 in Atlantic City, United States of America (USA), the Italian Sand Art Award in 2019, (Italy) and the Fred Darrington Sand Master Award in London (United Kingdom, UK) in 2025.

Sarvam AI Becomes India’s 130th Unicorn After Raising USD 234 Million

Sarvam AI, India’s full-stack sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup, became India’s 130th unicorn after raising USD 234 million (i.e. nearly 2,210 crore) as part of its USD 300 million Series B funding round.

- Following this, the company’s valuation reaches **USD 1.5 billion**, making it India’s only AI startup to achieve this feat.

Key Details:

Milestone: With the latest funding round, SarvamAI became the **fifth startup** to join India’s unicorn club in 2026, following KreditBee, Neysa, Juspay, and Aerospace.

Investors: HCL Tech and Bessemer Venture Partners led the funding round, with participation from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners.

Acquisition: As part of the deal, HCL Technologies Limited (**HCLTech**) will acquire a minority stake (**10.46%**) in SarvamAI worth Rs 1,427.25 crore (approximately USD 150 million).

TIME's 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026: Smriti Mandhana Named as Only Indian

The 103-year-old global media brand **TIME** has released the inaugural edition of “TIME 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026” list, recognising athletes, coaches, investors, and advocates who have made a significant impact on the world of sports. **Smriti Mandhana**, a two-time International Cricket Council (ICC) Women’s Cricketer of the Year award winner, emerged as the only Indian featured on the list. She was included in the “**Titans**” category alongside football stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland, and South African cricket captain Temba Bavuma.

Key Details of List:

Key Categories: The List has been divided into 04 different categories: Leaders, Icons, Innovators, and Titans.

Women Representation: This year’s list features women making an impact across athletics, media, business, ownership, and the leadership including: Alex Morgan, Michele Kang, Clara Wu Tsai, Mellody Hobson, 6-time Winter Olympic Medallist Elana Meyers (the USA), among others.

Global Sports Personalities: Some of the global sports icons featured in the list are: American basketball legend LeBron James (icons category), Cristiano Rolando (Titans); Gianni Infantino, President of International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), among others.

Jainendra K Jain becomes first person of Indian origin to receive Wolf Prize in Physics

Indian-origin theoretical physicist **Jainendra K. Jain** received the prestigious 2025 Wolf Prize in Physics, awarded by the , Israel, and presented by **Isaac Herzog**, President of Israel, at a ceremony held at the Knesset in Jerusalem. He was honoured for his pioneering discovery of **Composite Fermions**, which revolutionized the understanding of the Fractional Quantum Hall Effect (FQHE).

- He shared the 2025 Wolf Prize in Physics with James P. Eisenstein and Mordehai Heiblum, becoming the **first person of Indian origin** to receive the award since its inception in 1978.

About Jainendra K Jain:

Profile: Born on 17 January 1960 in Rajasthan, India, Jainendra K. Jain is an Indian-American theoretical physicist and the Evan Pugh University Professor and Eberly Family Chair in Physics at Pennsylvania State University, USA.

Research Contribution: Jainendra K. Jain proposed the concept of Composite Fermions in 1989, providing a unified explanation for the Fractional Quantum Hall Effect (FQHE) and leading to the Jain Sequences and Jain States.

Publications: He authored *Composite Fermions* (2007) and co-edited *Fractional Quantum Hall Effects: New Developments* (2020).

Awards & Honours: His major recognitions include the Oliver E. Buckley Prize (2002), election to the US National Academy of Sciences (2021), Foreign Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (2025), and the Wolf Prize in Physics (2025).

Leadership: He is the Founding Director of the Lodha Theoretical Physics Institute (LTPI), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India’s first fully privately funded institute for theoretical physics research.

AFI's 1st Indian Athletics Award 2025: Neeraj Chopra, Parul Chaudhary Named as Best Athlete of the year

Two-time Olympic medallist and renowned Indian Javelin Thrower, **Neeraj Chopra**, was named as the Best Male Athlete of the Year at the inaugural **Indian Athletics Awards 2025** ceremony, organised by Athletics Federation of India (**AFI**) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- And, **Parul Chaudhary**, a national record-holder in the 3000 meter (m) steeplechase, was honoured with the Best Female Athlete of the Year award.
- The awards were presented by the **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), in the presence of several eminent guests, including Adille J. Sumariwall, Vice President of World Athletics.

About Indian Athletics Awards 2025:

Aim: To recognise excellence in athletics and honour the individuals/association/ other stakeholders who continue to drive the sport forward at a global platform.

Categories: The awards featured a total of 10 categories, including Best Male Athlete, Best Female Athlete, Best Coach, Emerging Male Athlete, Emerging Female Athlete, Lifetime Achievement, Best State Association, among others,

Cash Prize: Winners of Best Athlete of the Year (Male and Female) received a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh each, while winners of Emerging Athlete of the Year (Male and Female) received a cash prize of Rs 2.50 lakh each.

- In addition, each recipient of the Lifetime award received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

Other Prominent Winners: include: Shanavaz Khan and Pooja Singh as the Best Emerging Athletes of the Year 2025 in “male” and “female” category, respectively.

- 03 Lifetime Achievement Awards: Legendary sprinter and President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA); Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambi (PT) Usha; Anju Bobby George; Gurbacha Singh Randhawa (decathlon) and Bahadur Singh Randhawa (Shotput)

Five-Time World Champion Viswanathan Anand Conferred SJFI Gold Medal

Viswanathan Anand, India's first Chess Grandmaster (GM) and Deputy President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), was conferred the Sports Journalists' Federation of India (**SJFI**) **Gold Medal** for his exceptional contribution to Indian chess and outstanding achievements in the sport.

- Viswanathan Anand received the SJFI Gold Medal from former India captain **Krishnamachari Srikkanth** at the Madras Cricket Club(MCC), Chennai, in a ceremony organised by the SJFI and Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists Association (TNSJA).

About SJFI Gold Medal:

Overview: Instituted in **2019**, the SJFI Gold Medal honours sportspersons for their outstanding contributions to the long-term growth and development of their respective sports.

Recognition: Viswanathan Anand became the **6th recipient** of the SJFI Gold Medal, joining sporting legends Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Amritraj, Prakash Padukone, P. T. Usha, and Milkha Singh (posthumous).

Acknowledgement: During the event, Viswanathan Anand releasing a 44-page electronic book(e-book) featuring articles by India's leading Grandmasters and eminent chess writers.

French meteorologist Dr. Florence Rabier Awarded WMO's Top IMO Prize for Contributions to Numerical Weather Prediction

The World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) announced the 71st International Meteorological Organization (**IMO**) Prize to French meteorologist **Dr. Florence Rabier**, for pioneering contributions to numerical weather prediction and operational meteorology, strengthening global forecasting capabilities.

- She will receive the IMO Prize and deliver the IMO Prize Lecture at the 20th World Meteorological Congress (**Cg-20**) in 2027.

About Florence Rabier:

Overview: Dr. Florence Rabier is a former Director-General (DG) of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) from 2016–2025, former Head of Research at Météo-France, current Non-Executive Director (NED) of the United Kingdom (UK) Met Office, and President of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) in 2026.

Forecasting: She advanced Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP), transformed satellite observation data assimilation, and introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based forecasting to improve forecast accuracy, reduce hemispheric forecast discrepancies, and enhance computational efficiency.

Two Indian Women Conservationists Won 2026 Green Oscar Awards

Two Indian women conservationists, **Parveen Sheikh** and **Barkha Subba**, among 6 who were honoured with **2026 Whitley Award** often known as “**Green Oscar**” in recognition of their exemplary work in protecting Endangered (EN) species.

- The awards were officially presented by Princess Anne, at the Royal Geographical Society in London, the United Kingdom (UK).

Key Details:

Parveen Sheikh: She was recognised for her community-led conservation efforts to protect the EN Skimmer along India's river systems. Sheikh in partnership with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), launched the “**Guardians of the Skimmer**” initiative on the Chambal river.

- Her efforts resulted in the increase of the Skimmer population from about 400 birds (in 2017) to **nearly 1,000 birds**, while nest survival rates improved significantly.

Barkha Subba: She is a conservationist from the Darjeeling Himalayas, works with the Federation to protect the rare Himalayan salamander and its fragile wetland.

- Her project titled “Survivor of a Lost World: Saving the Himalayan Salamander and its Wetlands”, focuses on restoration of critical breeding wetlands, removal of invasive species, and tracking of amphibian diseases, and involvement of local communities in conservation efforts.

Green Oscar: The award, presented annually by Whitley Fund Nature (WFN), aims to recognise grassroots conservation efforts.

- Each winner receives **£ 50,000** in project funding over one year.
- However, in 2020, WFN introduced continuation funding for nature-based solutions i.e. up to **£ 100,000** over two years.

Other Key Winners: Moreangels Mbizah (Zimbabwe); Issah Seidu (Ghana); Marina Kameni (Cameroon); Paola Sangolqui (Ecuador) and Farwiza Farhan (Whitely Gold Award).

Harsh Vardhan Receives Global Prestige Award at UK Parliament for Viksit Bharat 2047 Contribution

Harsh Vardhan, President of the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA), was honoured with the **Global Prestige Award** at the House of Lords, United Kingdom(UK) Parliament, in London, the UK for his significant contribution towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

About Global Prestige Award:

2026 Recognition: The honour was presented under the theme ‘Visionaries of Change: Charting the Course to Viksit Bharat 2047’, which celebrated global leaders contributing to development, innovation, peace, and justice.

Significance: The Global Prestige Award recognises distinguished individuals across the world for their leadership, innovation, and dedication in their respective fields, along with their contribution towards global peace, justice, and development.

Leadership: Harsh Vardhan was elected unopposed as the youngest President in the history of the BCA in September 2025.

GEORGIAN
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Sports

IPL 2026: RCB Clinched Their Second IPL Title by Defeating Gujarat Titans

The **19th** edition of the Indian Premier League (**IPL**) **2026**, branded as **TATA IPL 2026**, concluded with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (**RCB**) securing their **second IPL title** after defeating Gujarat Titans (**GT**) by 5 wickets in the final with 12 balls to spare in the final held at Narendra Modi Stadium, in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

- GT set a target of 156 after being put in to bat, but RCB comfortably chased it down in 18 overs, led by an unbeaten 75 off 42 balls from RCB's Virat Kohli.
- RCB clinched the title with **Rs.20 crore** prize money and a trophy while runner-up GT received **Rs. 12.5 crore**.

About IPL 2026:

Overview: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) conducted IPL 2026 from 28 March to 31 May 2026 as a Twenty20 (T20) franchise league featuring 74 matches across 13 venues in India.

Virat Kohli: Indian Cricketer representing RCB, became the **first player** to complete 9,000 IPL runs, the first batter to cross 4,000 runs in run chases, the first IPL batter to score 800 boundaries (807 fours and 303 sixes), and the first to register four successive 600-plus run seasons.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi: Indian Cricketer representing RR, had a record-breaking IPL 2026 season, becoming the **youngest player** in T20 cricket history to aggregate 1,000 runs at just 15 years and 29 days.

- He also won the Emerging Player of the Season, Most Valuable Player (MVP), Best Strike Rate Award, Fantasy Player of the Season, and Most Sixes Award.

Norway Chess 2026: R Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win in Open Section; Bibisara Assaubayeva Wins Women's Title

Norway Chess 2026, the 14th edition of the annual international chess tournament, featuring both the **Open section** and the **3rd Norway Chess Women's tournament**, was held in **Oslo, Norway**, from 25 May to 5 June 2026, bringing together some of the world's leading chess players.

- Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** won the Open section, becoming the first Indian to claim the prestigious title after defeating **Vincent Keymer** of Germany in the 10th and final round.
- GM **Bibisara Assaubayeva** of Kazakhstan clinched the Women's title after securing first place in Round 9 with a draw against defending champion Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine).

About Norway Chess 2026:

Overview: The tournament featured six players from five nations in the Open section and six players from four nations in the Women's section.

Prize money: Each of the Norway Chess and Norway Chess Women tournaments carried a prize fund of NOK 1.69 million (Norwegian Krone), with the winner receiving NOK 700,000.

Triumph: R Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the Norway Chess Open section with 18 points, staging a remarkable comeback from last place after six rounds to finish ahead of GMs Wesley So (United States of America, USA), Alireza Firouzja (France), and Magnus Carlsen (Norway).

India Clinches SAFF Women's Championship 2026 After Defeating Bangladesh in Goa

The 2026 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship was the 8th edition of the international women's football tournament for South Asian national teams, held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in **Margao, Goa**, India, from 25 May to 6 June 2026.

- The Indian women's national football team (**Blue Tigresses**) governed by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), defeated **Bangladesh** 3-1 in the finals, finishing the tournament with 18 goals scored and only 1 conceding.

About SAFF Women's Championship 2026:

Winner: With this victory, India secured its 6th SAFF Women's Championship title and ended a seven-year wait for the regional crown.

Organiser: Governed by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF), the tournament is held approximately every two years.

Awards: Sanfida Nongrum (India) was named Most Valuable Player (MVP), Aveka Singh (India) finished as Top Scorer with 4 goals, Panthoi Chanu Elangbam (India) was awarded Best Goalkeeper, and Nepal received the Fair Play Award.

French Open 2026: Alexander Zverev & Mirra Andreeva won men's & women's singles title

The 2026 French Open, a Grand Slam tennis tournament also known as **Roland-Garros**, was the 125th edition of the tournament, held at Stade Roland Garros in **Paris, France**, from 24 May to 7 June 2026.

- **Alexander Zverev** (Germany) won the men's singles title defeating Flavio Cobolli (Italy) 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 while **Mirra Andreeva** (Russia) won Women's singles title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Maja Chwalińska of Poland.

About 2026 French Open:

Organiser: The tournament is organized each year by the French Tennis Federation or Fédération française de tennis (FFT) at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

Men's Doubles: Marcel Granollers (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) retained the Men's Doubles (Jacques-Brugnon Cup) title by defeating Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (United Kingdom, UK) 6-4, 6-2.

Women's Doubles: Kateřina Siniaková (Czechia) and Taylor Townsend (United States of America, USA) won the Women's Doubles (Simonne-Mathieu Cup), while Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Italy) captured the Mixed Doubles (Marcel-Bernard Cup).

Mixed Doubles: Italian Duo Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori retained their French Open mixed doubles title by defeating America's Evan King and Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski.

India Tops Inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026 with 114 Medals Including 102 Gold in Ahmedabad

The **World Yogasana Championship 2026**, the inaugural global competitive Yogasana event, was held at EKA Arena in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, from June 4-8, 2026, where **India** dominated the medal tally with **114 medals (102 Gold, 9 Silver, 3 Bronze)**, fielding a 122-member contingent across six age categories.

- **Japan** ranked 2nd with 3 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals, totaling 11 medals, while **Argentina** ranked 3rd with 2 gold and 3 silver medals, totaling 5 medals.

About World Yogasana Championship 2026:

Organisers: The championship was organised by World Yogasana, Yogasana Bharat, and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Mascot: 'Veer the Lion' represented strength, courage, leadership, and athletic excellence.

India's Gold Medallists: India's gold medal winners included Abhay Burman (India's first gold of the championship) and several athletes across Traditional, Artistic, and Rhythmic Yogasana events, including Ishika Guchhait & Ishanvi, Ayush Bhowmik & Om Dehankar, Indu Mathuria & Devi, Shilpa Das, Gokarna Sharma, Subhajit Karmakar, and Riya.

Monaco Grand Prix 2026: 19-year-old Italian Antonelli becomes youngest winner

Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italian Formula One (F1) driver representing Mercedes F1 Team, won the 2026 Monaco Grand Prix (GP), officially known as the Formula 1 Louis Vuitton Grand Prix de Monaco 2026, held at the Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

- Kimi Antonelli became the **youngest** Monaco Grand Prix winner in history.
- Andrea Kimi Antonelli marks his **fifth consecutive** GP triumph in the 2026 F1 season (following wins in China, Japan, Miami, and Canada).

Key Highlights:

- **Performance:** Kimi Antonelli finished **6.271 seconds ahead** of Lewis Hamilton with a race time of **2:23:31.243**, extending his Drivers' Championship lead to **66 points**, while his teammate George Russell ended in **12th place**.
- **Podium:** Lewis Hamilton of Scuderia Ferrari finished second and Isack Hadjar of Red Bull Racing finished third.

Former New Zealand Captain Kane Williamson Announces Retirement From International Cricket

Former captain of the New Zealand national cricket team, **Kane Stuart Williamson**, announced his **retirement** from **international cricket** with immediate effect, ending a distinguished 16-year career spanning 378 matches and two International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup finals.

- He finished as New Zealand's all-time leading run-scorer with 19,346 international runs, 48 centuries and six double-centuries, and captained the 'Black Caps' to their maiden ICC World Test Championship title in 2021.

About Kane Williamson:

Profile: He is a former New Zealand international cricketer, former captain, right-handed batsman, occasional off-spin bowler, and is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen, captains, and cricketers of his generation, having already retired from Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) in November 2025.

Statistics: He scored 9,515 runs and 33 centuries in 110 Tests, 7,256 runs and 15 centuries in One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 2,575 runs in T20Is, becoming New Zealand's second-highest T20I run-scorer.

Recognition: He won the ICC Cricketer of the Year award in 2015, ICC Test Player of the Year in 2019, ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Player of the Tournament in 2019, ICC Spirit of Cricket Award in 2018, and the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal four times.

Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix 2026: Lewis Hamilton Claims First Ferrari Victory

Seven-time Formula One (F1) World Champion **Lewis Hamilton** of Scuderia Ferrari HP clinched his **first**-ever race victory for Ferrari, at the **2026 Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix** (Spanish Grand Prix) held at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. This victory marks his **106th** F1 career win

- George Russell of Mercedes AMG Petronas finished second and Lando Norris of McLaren Mastercard finished third marking the first all-British F1 podium since 1968.

Overview of Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix 2026:

Strategy: Lewis Hamilton started on Soft tyres, while most drivers chose Medium tyres. In track temperatures of 51 degrees Celsius(°C), Ferrari adopted a three-stop strategy, switching from Soft to Hard and then to Medium tyres, helping Hamilton gain up to 2.5 seconds per lap over George Russell by Lap 24.

Performance: He won the race with a time of 1:32:28.105, finishing 19.561 seconds ahead of the runner-up and earning 25 championship points.

Retirement: Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes) retired on Lap 62 due to electrical/power unit failure while fighting for a podium, while Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) exited due to loss of power steering among 7 drivers.

2026 Doha Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra Finishes 4th; Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage Tops Men's Javelin

The **2026 Doha Diamond League**, 28th edition of the annual outdoor track and field meeting, held at Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium, **Doha, Qatar** on 19 June 2026, where Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** finished fourth in the men's javelin throw with a best throw of **85.69 metres (m)**

- Sri Lanka's **Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage** won the men's javelin throw with 88.68 m ahead of **Anderson Peters** of Grenada (86.38 m) and **Curtis Thompson** of the United States of America (USA) (85.99 m).

About 2026 Doha Diamond League:

Overview: The 2026 Doha Diamond League was the seventh of 14 qualifying meetings in the 2026 Diamond League season, which will conclude with a season finale after events held across four continents.

Organiser: The event is organised under the Wanda Diamond League framework by World Athletics (WA) in collaboration with local host organisers in Qatar, including the Qatar Athletics Federation (QAF).

Indian Women's Hockey Team Clinches FIH Women's Nations Cup 2025–26 Title, Defeats New Zealand in Final

The International Hockey Federation (**FIH**) **Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025–26** held at Auckland, **New Zealand** on 21 June 2026, where the **Indian Women's Hockey Team** clinched the **championship title** by defeating hosts **New Zealand** with a 2–0 victory in the final.

- The victory earned India promotion to the **Women's FIH Pro League 2026–27** after its 2024–25 relegation and strengthened its path toward qualification for the Los Angeles (LA) 2028 Olympics (Games of the XXXIV Olympiad).

About FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025–26:

Overview: The Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup is an annual international women's field hockey tournament organised by FIH and serves as the qualification tournament for the Women's FIH Pro League.

Cash Reward: Hockey India announced a cash reward of **Rs.3 lakh** for each player and **Rs.1.5 lakh** for each support staff member following the team's triumph.

Scorers: Navneet Kaur and Sunelita Toppo scored India's goals in the final, finding the net in the 4th and 15th minutes respectively.

England Test Captain Ben Stokes Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Ben Stokes, England Men's Test captain and star all-rounder, announced his **retirement** from **all formats of international cricket**, during the third Rothesay Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, the United Kingdom (UK), marking the end of a 15-year international journey.

About Ben Stokes:

Career: He made his Test debut during the 2013–14 Ashes at Adelaide Oval, Australia, and captained England's Test team from April 2022 until his retirement.

Benchmark: He retired with **7,273 Test runs** and **252 wickets**, becoming only the second cricketer after Jacques Kallis of South Africa to achieve the Test double of 7,000 runs and 250 wickets.

Total Matches: He finished his career with 122 Tests (44 as captain), 114 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and 43 Twenty20 (T20).

2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup: He scored an unbeaten 52 in the Final to help England win the title.

GEORGIAN
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Obituary

Senior Congress Leader and Former Kerala MP, K. P. Dhanapalan Passed Away

Senior Congress leader and former Member of Parliament(MP) **K.P. Dhanapalan** passed away at the age of 76 in Paravur, Ernakulam district, Kerala.

- He was born on 14 April 1950 in Ernakulam, Travancore-Cochin (present-day Kerala).

About K. P. Dhanapalan:

Early Life: He began his public life through student politics with the Kerala Students Union (KSU) and gradually rose through the ranks of the Congress party to become a prominent leader in central Kerala.

Political Career: He entered electoral politics as a North Paravur Municipal Councillor in 1979 and went on to become a prominent Congress leader in Kerala.

- He served as President of the Ernakulam District Congress Committee (DCC) and held key positions in the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). He was also a Member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Parliamentary Career: He was elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from Chalakudy in 2009 and served as MP until 2014.

- He served as the Chairman of Milma and contributed significantly to local governance and regional banking.

Veteran Singer and Padma Bhushan Awardee Suman Kalyanpur Passed Away

Veteran Indian playback singer and Padma Bhushan awardee **Suman Kalyanpur** passed away at the age of 89 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born as Suman Hemmady, on January 28, 1937 in Dhaka, Bengal Presidency, British India (present-day Dhaka, Bangladesh).

- In January 2023, she was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, India's 3rd highest civilian honor, by the Government of India (GoI) in the field of 'Arts', recognising her significant contributions to Indian music.

About Suman Kalyanpur:

Musical Legacy: Suman Kalyanpur was one of India's most celebrated playback singers, renowned for her melodious voice and immense contribution to Hindi, Marathi, and several regional film industries.

Career: She began her playback singing career in 1954 with films such as Shukrachi Chandini and Mangu. She rose to prominence during the 1950s and 1960s, gaining widespread recognition for her soulful songs and memorable duets with legendary playback singer Mohammed Rafi.

Notable Work: During her illustrious musical career spanning over 60 years, some of her notable works include: "Aajkal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche", "Na Na Karte Pyar Tumhin Se", "Tumne Pukara Aur Hum Chale Aaye" and others.

Other Genres of Music: Other than film music, she was also known for her devotional songs, ghazals and thumris.

Former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash C. Kashyap Passes Away

Noted Constitutional expert, renowned author and former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, **Subhash C. Kashyap**, passed away at the age of **97**, in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on May 10, 1929 at Chandpur, Bijnor district, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, British India (present-day Uttar Pradesh, UP).

- In 2015, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, India's 3rd highest civilian honor, by the Government of India (GoI) in the field of Public Affairs.

About Subhash C. Kashyap:

Parliamentary Roles: He joined the Parliament Secretariat in 1953 and served as Secretary General of the 7th, 8th, and 9th Lok Sabhas (1983–1990), with a parliamentary association spanning over three and a half decades.

Other Leadership Roles: Served as a member and Drafting Committee Chairman of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (**NCRWC**) (2000–2002), Honorary constitutional advisor on Panchayati Raj reforms (2000s), and appointed to the high-level committee on One Nation, One Election (2023).

Literature works: He authored over **100 books** on India's political system, Constitution, and parliamentary procedures, which were widely used by law and political science students and civil services aspirants.

Padma Shri Jaspal Rana, former Asian Games gold medallist Passed Away

Renowned Indian shooting coach, former Asian Games gold medallist and Padma Shri Jaspal Rana passed away at the age of 49 in New Delhi. He was Born in 1976 in Uttarakhand.

- The Government of India (**GoI**) awarded the **Padma Shri** in the field of **Sports** to Jaspal Rana in **2002** for his contributions to Indian shooting.

About Jaspal Rana:

Profile: Rana was a dominant force in international pistol shooting throughout the 1990s and 2000s, building one of the most decorated athletic resumes in the country leaves behind a remarkable legacy spanning more than three decades.

Post-retirement Role:

Coach: Rana served as junior national coach in 2012 and later as India's high-performance pistol coach in 2025 by National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), mentoring Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary.

Mentorship: He played a pivotal role in Bhaker's success at the Paris 2024 Olympics, where she won two bronze medals after a temporary fallout before the Tokyo Olympics. titles

Awards: Conferred Arjuna Award in 1994, Dronacharya Award in 2020.

Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, UN Goodwill Ambassador Passed Away

Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, a lawyer, diplomat, and the eldest child of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, passed away at the age of 47 at a hospital in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Princess Bajrakitiyabha was widely recognized for her contributions to justice reform, women's rights, and prison rehabilitation initiatives in Thailand and internationally.

About Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol

Royal Background: Her full royal name and title were Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati, popularly known as "Bha" or "Patty", was the eldest daughter of King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand.

Education & Career: She studied law at Cornell University, served at Thailand's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, United States of America (USA) and later worked as attorney general in Udon Thani Province.

Diplomatic Role: She served as Thailand's Ambassador to Austria (2012–14) and was appointed United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Goodwill Ambassador in 2017.

Key Contributions: She played a significant role in the adoption of the UN Bangkok Rules on the treatment of female prisoners and launched the "Kamlangjai" campaign for the rehabilitation and empowerment of imprisoned women in Thailand.

About Thailand: It's a Southeast Asian country with its capital at Bangkok. Its currency is the Thai Baht (THB), and King Maha Vajiralongkorn is the current monarch.

Renowned Mand Folk Singer Gavri Devi Passes Away

Renowned Mand folk singer **Gavri Devi**, passed away at the age of 98 in Gavri Nagar, Desuri, Pali district, Rajasthan. She was born on 14th April 1928 in Koran village in the Barmer district of Rajasthan,

- She popularised Mand music through her iconic rendition of 'Kesariya Balam', which became a symbol of Rajasthan's cultural identity and hospitality. .

About Gavri Devi:

Early Life: Born into a family of folk artists, she became renowned for preserving and promoting the traditional Mand music form, a key part of western Rajasthan's cultural heritage.

Career: Over a musical journey spanning nearly eight decades, she performed across India and abroad, becoming one of the foremost exponents of Mand singing and gaining recognition through platforms like All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Recognition: She received the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1986 and the Rajasthan Ratna in 2013.

- She was also honoured with the Veer Durgadas Rathore Lifetime Achievement Award for preserving and promoting Rajasthan's rich folk and cultural heritage.

Note: Mand is a traditional folk music genre of Rajasthan, particularly associated with the Marwar region.

Veteran Tamil Filmmaker K. Bhagyaraj Passed Away at 73

Veteran Tamil filmmaker, actor, screenwriter and director **Krishnaswamy Bhagyaraj** passed away at the age of 73 in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born on 7 January 1953 in Gobichettipalayam, Erode district TN.

About Bhagyaraj:

Career: He began his career as an assistant director under **Bharathiraja**, making his acting debut in **16 Vayathinile (1977)** before establishing himself as a screenplay and dialogue writer.

- During his career spanning nearly five decades, he directed more than 25 films and acted in over **75 films**.

Directional Journey: He made his directorial debut with **Suvarilladha Chiththirangal (1979)** and became one of the few filmmakers to handle story, screenplay, dialogues, direction and lead acting in his films, earning the title "**Screenplay King**", with several of his films were remade in Hindi and Telugu.

Important Days with theme

World No Tobacco Day 2026 – May 31

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is annually observed across the globe on **May 31** to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and promote policies aimed at reducing tobacco consumption worldwide.

- **2026 Theme:** “Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction”

Background:

Establishment: The Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) established WNTD in **1987** to raise awareness about preventable diseases and deaths caused by tobacco.

Resolutions: In 1987, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted Resolution WHA40.38, designating 7 April 1988 as the first ‘World No-Smoking Day,’ and in 1988, the WHA passed Resolution WHA42.19, declaring that WNTD would be observed annually on 31 May.

2026 Event in India: In May 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), through the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), launched the pilot version of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (**ToFEI Application (App)**) and released a Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**) for tobacco product sample collection in New Delhi, Delhi.

World Milk Day 2026 – June 1

World Milk Day (WMD) is observed annually across the globe on **June 1** to promote the nutritional value of milk, encourage its consumption, and recognize the dairy sector’s contribution to global nutrition, economic development, and sustainability.

- **2026 Theme:** “Celebrating Women Farmers.”

Background:

Establishment: WMD was established in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) to promote milk’s benefits and celebrate the global dairy sector.

1st Observance: The first WMD was observed on June 1, 2001.

Date Selection: June 1 was chosen as many countries celebrate National Milk Day around the same time, facilitating a unified global observance.

World Bicycle Day 2026 – June 3

The United Nations (UN’s) **World Bicycle Day** is observed annually on **June 3** to promote the bicycle as an affordable, healthy, and environmentally sustainable mode of transport that supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **2026 Theme:** “Cycling for a Greener Future”

Background:

Origin: The idea for World Bicycle Day was initiated by Polish-American social scientist **Leszek J. Sibilski**, who launched a global campaign advocating for a UN-designated day to recognize the significance of bicycles.

Adoption: On April 12, **2018**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/72/272, sponsored by Turkmenistan, co-sponsored by 56 countries, and supported by

all 193 member states, declaring June 3 as World Bicycle Day.

Inauguration: The first World Bicycle Day was celebrated globally on **June 3, 2018**.

Global Support: Since 2016, the World Cycling Alliance (WCA) and the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) have supported the UNGA resolution that officially designated the annual observance.

World Environment Day 2026 – June 5

The United Nations (UN's) **World Environment Day (WED)** is observed annually across the globe on **5 June** to raise awareness and encourage action for environmental protection and sustainability.

- 5 June 2026 marks the **54th** anniversary of the WED.
- **2026 Theme:** “Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future,”

Background:

Origin: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/2994 (XXVII) on 15 December 1972, officially designating 5 June as WED.

1st Observance: The first WED was observed on **5 June 1973**.

Date Significance: The date marks the opening of the United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the Stockholm Conference, held from 5–16 June 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden, the first major United Nations (UN) conference devoted exclusively to global environmental issues.

2026 Hosts: The Republic of Azerbaijan is hosting the global WED 2026 celebrations in Baku, Azerbaijan, while India hosted the global celebrations for the first time in 2011.

World Food Safety Day 2026 – June 7

World Food Safety Day (WFSD) is observed annually across the globe on 7 June to raise awareness about the importance of safe food and to encourage actions that prevent, detect, and manage foodborne diseases.

- **2026 Theme:** “From Burden to Solutions: Safe Food Everywhere”

Background:

Origin: The 40th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Conference in July 2017, approved a resolution supporting the establishment of World Food Safety Day, which was subsequently endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in December 2017.

UNGA Proclamation: On 20 December 2018, the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/73/250, officially proclaiming 7 June as WFSD.

Inaugural Event: The first World Food Safety Day was observed on **7 June 2019**, and was later formally recognized by the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) through Resolution WHA73.5 in August 2020.

2026 Observance in India: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) marked World Food Safety Day 2026 on 7 June, 2026 through awareness campaigns, workshops, and webinars promoting safe food practices across the food chain.

World Oceans Day 2026 – June 8

The United Nations (UN's) **World Oceans Day (WOD)** is observed annually across the globe on **8 June** to highlight the importance of oceans, raise awareness about human

activities affecting marine ecosystems, and promote global efforts towards ocean conservation and sustainable management.

- **2026 Theme:** “Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean”

Background:

Origin: The idea of WOD was first proposed by Canada on 8 June 1992 during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

UN Recognition: On 5 December **2008**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/63/111, officially designating 8 June as WOD.

First Celebration: The inaugural WOD celebration was observed on **8 June 2009**.

UNESCO Support: The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization sponsors the **World Ocean Network**, supporting global ocean-awareness initiatives since **2002**.

World Blood Donor Day 2026 – June 14

World Blood Donor Day (**WBDD**) is observed annually across the globe on **14 June** to recognize and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving contributions and to raise awareness about the need for safe and sufficient blood supplies worldwide.

- **2026 Campaign:** “One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.”

Background:

Origin: WBDD was established in **2004** to raise awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation.

- It was jointly organized by the WHO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations (IFBDO), and International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

First Observance: WBDD was first observed on **June 14, 2004**.

Recognition: In 2005, the 58th World Health Assembly (WHA), the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO), adopted Resolution **WHA58.13**, officially designating 14 June as the annual observance of WBDD.

Commemoration: World Blood Donor Day is observed on 14 June to commemorate the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO Blood Group System.

National Reading Day 2026 – June 19

National Reading Day was observed across India on **19 June** to promote reading habits and honour **P.N. Panicker**, the Father of Kerala’s Library and Literacy Movement.

- Reading Week 2026 is observed from 19–25 June 2026, followed by Reading Month 2026 from 19 June to 18 July 2026 to promote reading habits and literacy awareness.

Background:

Origin: The first ‘Vayanadinam’ (Reading Day) was observed in Kerala on **19 June 1996** to commemorate the first death anniversary of P.N. Panicker.

National Recognition: In 2017, Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi declared 19 June as National Reading Day across India during the 22nd National Reading Month celebrations.

Nodal Organizations: The PN Panicker Foundation and PN Panicker Vigyan Vikas Kendra have been designated by National Institution for Transforming India(NITI) Aayog to coordinate Reading Day, Reading Week, and Reading Month celebrations nationwide.

World Refugee Day 2026 – June 20

The United Nations (UN's) **World Refugee Day** is annually observed on **June 20** to honor the strength, courage and resilience of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, violence, human rights violations and other crises.

- Refugee Week 2026 was observed from 15–21 June 2026.
- **2026 Theme:** “Until Everyone Is Safe”

Background:

Resolution: In December 2000, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/55/76, designating June 20 as World Refugee Day.

First Observance: The inaugural World Refugee Day was observed on **June 20, 2001**.

- The 2001 observance marked the **50th anniversary** of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Coordinator: The annual observance is coordinated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations.

International Day of Yoga 2026 – June 21

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Yoga (IDY)** is observed annually across the globe on **June 21** to raise global awareness about the benefits of yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, while promoting healthier lifestyles and overall wellness.

- **2026 Theme:** “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”

Background:

Declaration: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/69/131 on 11 December **2014** declaring 21 June as IDY, following a proposal by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during the 69th session of the UNGA on 27 September 2014 that was endorsed by 175 member states.

1st Observance: The first IDY was observed on **21 June 2015**.

National Event: The 12th IDY was celebrated worldwide on 21 June 2026 with PM Narendra Modi leading the national observance at Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB), where thousands participated in the Common Yoga Protocol session.

International Day of the celebration of Solstice 2026 – June 21

The United Nations(UN)'s **International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice** is annually celebrated across the globe on **21st June** to create awareness about the importance and significance of the solstice in various religions and ethnic cultures across the globe.

Background:

Resolution: The International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) on 20 June **2019** under Resolution A/RES/73/300.

First Observed: The International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice was first observed on **21 June 2020**.

Global Milestones: The initiative was driven by the understanding that solstices and equinoxes represent shared celestial events that transcend national borders.

World Music Day 2026 – June 21

World Music Day or *Fête de la Musique* is observed annually across the world on **21 June** to promote music through public performances worldwide and to spread unity and creativity.

- The 2026 observance marked the **44th** anniversary of World Music Day.

Theme:

2026 Theme: “Music for Peace”

Focus: This year’s theme promotes peace, unity, and harmony through the universal language of music.

Background:

Inspiration: It is inspired by the French slogan ‘*Faites de la musique* (Make Music)’, which encourages self-expression and participation through music.

Origin: World Music Day was started in France in **1982** by **Jack Lang**, then French Minister of Culture, and Maurice Fleuret, a music journalist and composer.

First Celebration: The first World Music Day was celebrated on **21 June 1982** in Paris, coinciding with the summer solstice.

Expansion: In 1985, during the European Year of Music, the celebration spread to other European countries, marking its international expansion.

European Charter: In 1997, the European Charter of *Fête de la Musique* was signed in Budapest, Hungary, promoting cross-border participation and wider global reach.

International Olympic Day 2026 – June 23

International Olympic Day is annually observed across the globe on **23 June** to encourage people worldwide to participate in sports and promote values like excellence, friendship, and respect through various activities and events.

- **2026 Theme:** ‘You Can Do This. Let’s Move’

Background:

Proposal: The idea of International Olympic Day was first proposed in 1947 by Dr. Josef Gruss, a member of the IOC from Czechoslovakia, during the 41st IOC Session in Stockholm, Sweden, to promote the Olympic spirit.

1st Observance: The first International Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June 1948.

Commemoration: The day commemorates the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 23 June **1894** at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, led by **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**, which later resulted in the revival of the Olympic Games and the first modern Olympics in 1896 in Athens.

Passport Seva Divas 2026 – June 24

Passport Seva Divas is observed annually on **24 June** across India to mark the enactment of the Passports Act, 1967, which came into force on 24 June 1967.

- 2026 marks the **14th** observance of the Passport Seva Divas.

Background:

Launch: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) designated 24 June as Passport Seva Divas in 2013.

Observation: Since its inception in 2013, Passport Seva Divas has been observed annually to promote and recognize citizen-centric passport services across India.

2026 Event: The MEA organised the Annual Regional Passport Officers' (RPO) Conference from 17–19 June 2026 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

Day of the Seafarer 2026 – June 25

The United Nations (UN) Day of the Seafarer (DotS) is observed annually on 25 June to recognize the vital contribution of seafarers to international maritime trade and the global economy.

- 2026 marks the **16th edition** of the DotS.
- **2026 Theme:** “Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks.”

Background:

Resolution: The Day of the Seafarer (DotS) was established through Resolution 2 adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Manila, Philippines, from 21–25 June 2010, which also adopted the Manila Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention).

Entry Into Force: The Manila Amendments entered into force globally on 1 January 2012 under the tacit acceptance procedure.

First Observance: The **first Day of the Seafarer** was observed on 25 June 2011.

World MSME Day 2026 – June 27

The United Nations (UN's) **World Micro-, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) Day** is annually observed across the globe on 27 June to celebrate the contributions of MSMEs to innovation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **2026 Theme:** “Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development”

Background:

UN Resolution: On 6 April 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/71/279, officially designating 27 June as World MSME Day.

First Observance: The first World MSME Day was observed on 27 June 2017.

2026 Event:

- **International Forum:** The 2026 MSMEs Day celebrations feature the **9th Anniversary International Forum** on 26 June 2026 at the UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America (USA).
- **National Event:** Vice President (VP) of India Chandrapuram Ponnusamy (**C. P. Radhakrishnan**) presided over ‘MSME Day 2026 – Udyami Bharat’ at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.