

## Weekly Current Affairs 21st June to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### CONTENTS

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| NATIONAL.....           | 2  |
| INTERNATIONAL .....     | 11 |
| AWARDS AND HONOURS..... | 19 |
| APPOINTMENTS .....      | 21 |
| SCIENCE AND TECH.....   | 21 |
| IMPORTANT DAYS .....    | 22 |
| SPORTS.....             | 23 |



## IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

### NATIONAL

#### Shah launches temple corridor project in Kolhapur, says India witness cultural renaissance

**In the News:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the Shri Ambabai Temple Development Project in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The project is valued at over ₹1,445 crore and focuses on the development of the temple precinct. The Home Minister said the project would preserve heritage while improving facilities for devotees and boosting religious tourism.

#### Key Points:

- **Temple and Location:** Shri Ambabai Temple is located in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, in the historic region of Karveer. The temple is a major centre of faith and attracts devotees from different parts of the country. It is also closely associated with the cultural and religious identity of western Maharashtra.
- **Project Value:** The development project is worth over ₹1,445 crore. It aims to improve temple infrastructure, pilgrim movement, amenities and the overall visitor experience. The project is designed to preserve the historical, cultural and spiritual character of the temple area.
- **Religious Tourism:** The project is expected to strengthen Kolhapur's position as a religious tourism centre. Better facilities around the temple precinct can increase pilgrimage footfall and support the local economy. Such projects often create employment opportunities in transport, hospitality, small trade and tourism services.
- **Heritage Conservation:** The project has been presented as part of a wider effort to conserve important religious and historical sites. It seeks to combine modern infrastructure with the preservation of traditional architecture and sacred spaces. This makes it relevant to heritage management, cultural policy and tourism-based urban development.

#### Can police-open prob without court approval

**In the News:** The Supreme Court recently decided *Palinismwamy Veeraraja & Ors. v. The State of Karnataka & Anr.* The Court reiterated that police must obtain permission from the Magistrate before conducting further investigation after filing a closure report. The Court quashed the FIR and subsequent proceedings because further investigation had proceeded without proper Magistrate approval.

#### Key Points:

- **Core Legal Issue:** The main question before the Court was whether investigating authorities could reopen investigation after closure reports had already been filed. The case involved further investigation into the same set of allegations after two closure reports. The Court examined whether such action could continue without express permission from the Magistrate.
- **Relevant Provision:** The case involved Section 173(8) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. This provision deals with further investigation after submission of a police report. The Court also referred to the corresponding framework under the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita*.
- **Supreme Court's View:** The Court held that permission from the concerned Magistrate has developed into a legal requirement. Even where the statutory text may not expressly demand prior permission in every situation, judicial practice has recognised such permission as necessary. This ensures judicial supervision over repeated or delayed investigation.
- **Facts of the Case:** The dispute arose from a business relationship involving textile exports and alleged financial wrongdoing. Closure reports had been filed earlier, but investigation was later continued and a chargesheet was filed. The Court noted that no order specifically granting permission for the later investigation was placed on record.
- **Outcome and Importance:** The Supreme Court quashed the FIR and subsequent proceedings. It also observed that the dispute had a civil character and continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to abuse of process. The ruling is important for criminal procedure, police powers, Magistrate oversight and protection against prolonged investigation.

## INS Dunagiri, Sanshodhak, Agray: Indian Navy to commission three indigenous warships and survey vessel in Kolkata

**In the News:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned three Indian Navy frontline platforms, INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray, in Kolkata on June 21, 2026. The vessels are indigenously designed and built, with major involvement of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers. The commissioning strengthens India's maritime combat capability, hydrographic surveying capacity and shallow-water anti-submarine warfare readiness.

### Key Points:

- **Tri-Commissioning:** The three platforms were commissioned into the Indian Navy at a ceremony in Kolkata, West Bengal. The event brought together a stealth frigate, a survey vessel and an anti-submarine warfare shallow-water craft. It marked an important addition to the Navy's operational and surveillance capabilities.
- **INS Dunagiri:** INS Dunagiri is the fifth Nilgiri-class frigate under Project 17A. It is an advanced stealth frigate equipped for high-end maritime operations. The platform includes advanced weapons, sensors, surface-to-surface missiles, air defence systems and anti-submarine warfare capability.
- **INS Sanshodhak:** INS Sanshodhak is the fourth Survey Vessel (Large) class ship. It is designed for coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys and collection of oceanographic and geophysical data. Its induction is significant because June 21 is also observed globally as World Hydrography Day.
- **INS Agray:** INS Agray is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft. It is designed for operations in littoral waters and is equipped with sonar, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets and a combat management system. Its role is important for underwater detection, mine warfare support and coastal security operations.
- **Indigenous Shipbuilding:** The three ships were designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers. They were constructed by GRSE with participation from Indian industry and more than 200 MSMEs. The platforms have indigenous content of over 75 percent, showing the growing capacity of India's naval shipbuilding ecosystem.

## Haldia Seaport Designated as Immigration Post

**In the News:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs designated Haldia seaport in West Bengal as an immigration post on 22 June 2026 under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. With this notification, Haldia became the 41st seaport immigration post along India's coastline. Haldia is an important riverine port located in Purba Medinipur district and is linked with the Hooghly estuary.

### Key Points:

- **Administrative Role:** An immigration post is a notified entry or exit point where immigration clearance is carried out for Indian citizens and foreign nationals. Such posts are administered under the immigration framework of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs through the Bureau of Immigration.
- **Location of Haldia:** Haldia is located in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. It functions as a riverine port connected to the Hooghly estuary and supports maritime activity on India's eastern coast.
- **Haldia Dock Complex:** The Haldia Dock Complex was built to reduce pressure on Kolkata Port. It started international operations in 1977 and is known for handling bulk cargo and supporting port-based industries.
- **Recent Port Additions:** Before Haldia, Dahej, Sikka and Tuna Tekra in Gujarat were designated as immigration posts on 29 May 2026. Haldia's inclusion expands India's notified immigration network along the coastline.

## Haj Policy 2027 Announced

**In the News:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs announced the Haj Policy 2027 on 22 June 2026. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju released the policy, and applications for Haj 2027 were opened through the Haj Committee of India portal and the Haj Suvidha App.

### Key Points:

- **Nodal Framework:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs is the nodal ministry for Haj-related arrangements from India. The Haj Committee of India handles pilgrimage arrangements for Indian pilgrims through the official Haj system.

- **Quota Sharing:** Under the policy, 70% of India's Haj quota will be allocated to the Haj Committee of India. The remaining 30% will be allocated to Haj Group Organisers.
- **Application Process:** Haj Application Forms can be submitted online through the Haj Committee of India website or through the Haj Suvidha mobile application. The app also provides training, flight, baggage, emergency helpline, grievance redressal and related information.
- **Priority Categories:** The policy gives priority to pilgrims aged 65 or above, Ladies Without Mehram, top 20% final waitlisted applicants of Haj 2026 and fresh applicants of Haj 2027. Selection in over-subscribed categories is done through Qurrah, or computerised draw of lots.
- **Short Haj Package:** The policy allows a Short Haj Package of 20 days in Saudi Arabia for up to 10,000 pilgrims. It will operate from selected embarkation points including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

### Indori Malwi Potato, Garadu and Balam kakdi from Madhya Pradesh Get GI Tag

**In the News:** The Indori Malwi potato, Malwa Garadu and Sailana Balam Kakdi from Madhya Pradesh received Geographical Indication recognition in June 2026. The GI Registry records Sailana Balam Kakadi, Malwa Garadu and Malwai Aloo among registered GI products.

#### Key Points:

- **GI Registration:** The official GI Registry lists Sailana Balam Kakadi with application number 1148 and Malwa Garadu with application number 1149. It also lists Malwai Aloo with application number 1167.
- **Indori Malwi Potato:** Malwi potato is known for low sugar and low starch content. It retains a light colour after frying, making it useful for chips, wafers, French fries and Indore's popular street-food preparations.
- **Garadu:** Garadu is a starchy tuber associated with the Malwa region. It is especially popular as a winter food item and is commonly served fried with spices and lemon.
- **Balam Kakdi:** Sailana's Balam Kakdi is linked with Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh. It is known for its local identity, taste and agricultural value, which helped it secure GI recognition.
- **Benefit of GI Tag:** GI recognition gives legal protection to products whose qualities are linked with a specific geographical area. It can improve branding, prevent misuse of product names and help farmers secure better market value.

### Khurasani Imli Gets GI Tag: History, Significance and Unique Features of Mandu's Heritage Fruit

**In the News:** Khurasani Imli of Mandu in Madhya Pradesh received the Geographical Indication tag in June 2026. It is the fruit of Mandu's iconic Baobab tree and is closely associated with the region's heritage landscape.

#### Key Points:

- **GI Registry Name:** The GI Registry records the product as Mandu Ki Khurasani Imali with application number 1169. This gives the fruit formal recognition as a geographically linked product of Mandu.
- **Product Identity:** Khurasani Imli grows on the Baobab tree found in and around Mandu. It has a sweet-sour taste and is locally valued as a heritage fruit rather than an ordinary tamarind variety.
- **Historical Association:** Mandu is known for its medieval architecture and cultural history. The Baobab trees of the region are part of this landscape and are often linked with historic trade and settlement patterns.
- **Livelihood Value:** The GI tag is expected to support tribal communities that have preserved and used the fruit for generations. Better branding can increase demand for the fruit and its value-added products.
- **Conservation Link:** Recognition of Khurasani Imli can encourage protection of Baobab trees in Mandu. It also adds ecological and cultural value to Madhya Pradesh's list of GI-linked products.

### Exercise Khaan Quest 2026

**In the News:** The Indian Army contingent participated in Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026 in Mongolia. The exercise is scheduled from 20 June to 3 July 2026 at the Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar. It is a multilateral exercise focused on United Nations peacekeeping and peace support operations.



**Key Points:**

- **Host Country and Venue:** Exercise Khaan Quest is conducted in Mongolia. The 2026 edition is being held at Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar from 20 June to 3 July 2026.
- **Nature of Exercise:** It is a multilateral military exercise involving defence forces from different countries. The exercise prepares participating troops for peacekeeping missions in a multinational environment.
- **UN Peacekeeping Link:** The 2026 edition focuses on peace support operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. This chapter deals with action relating to threats to peace, breaches of peace and acts of aggression.
- **Origin and Evolution:** Khaan Quest began in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between the USA and Mongolian Defence Forces. From 2006, it became a multilateral peacekeeping exercise, and the 2026 edition is the 23rd iteration.
- **Indian Contingent:** India sent a 40-member Army contingent, represented by troops from a battalion of the JAT Regiment along with personnel from other arms and services. Training activities include joint planning, checkpoints, patrolling, counter-IED drills, combat first aid and casualty evacuation.

**Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited Granted The Navratna Status**

**In the News:** Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited was granted Navratna CPSE status by the Government of India in June 2026. With this elevation, CPCL became the 28th Navratna CPSE at the time of approval. The decision was approved by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and announced by the Department of Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Finance.

**Key Points:**

- **About CPCL:** Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited is a public sector company in the oil refining sector. It is associated with Indian Oil Corporation and has a major refining presence in Tamil Nadu. Its operations are relevant to petroleum refining, petrochemicals and downstream energy supply.
- **Navratna Status:** Navratna status is granted to select high-performing Central Public Sector Enterprises. It provides greater financial and operational autonomy to the board of the company. This allows quicker decisions on capital expenditure, joint ventures and expansion plans.
- **Administrative Link:** The announcement was made by the Department of Public Enterprises, which functions under the Ministry of Finance. CPCL is connected with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas sectorally. This distinction between administrative classification and sectoral ministry is useful in government-body-based questions.
- **Autonomy Powers:** Navratna CPSEs enjoy enhanced powers for investments and business decisions within prescribed limits. Earlier government norms allowed Navratna CPSEs to invest up to 15 percent of net worth in one project, subject to a ceiling of Rs 1,000 crore.

**George Kurian Resigns as Union Minister After BJP Denies Rajya Sabha Renomination**

**In the News:** Union Minister of State George Kurian resigned from the Union Council of Ministers on June 23, 2026. His resignation followed the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure and the BJP's decision not to renominate him to the Upper House. President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under Article 75(2) of the Constitution.

**Key Points:**

- **Portfolios Held:** George Kurian served as Minister of State for Minority Affairs. He also held charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. These portfolios place the development in the Union executive and social-sector governance context.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 75 deals with the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. Article 75(2) states that ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President. Article 75(5) states that a minister who is not a member of either House of Parliament for six consecutive months ceases to be a minister.
- **Rajya Sabha Context:** Kurian's Rajya Sabha tenure ended on June 21, 2026. The BJP did not include him in its list for the June 18 Rajya Sabha elections. This made his continuation in the Council of Ministers politically uncertain.

- **Political Background:** George Kurian is a senior BJP leader from Kerala. His resignation was formally processed through Rashtrapati Bhavan after the Prime Minister's advice. The development is relevant for questions on ministerial tenure, Rajya Sabha membership and Union executive procedure.

### India's First Private Gold Mine Begins Commercial Operations

**In the News:** India's first large-scale private gold mine began commercial operations on June 24, 2026. The mine is located at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. Ahead of the launch, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved renaming Jonnagiri village as Swarnagiri.

#### Key Points:

- **Project Location and Operator:** The gold mine is located in the Jonnagiri area of Kurnool district. It is developed by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd., with private-sector backing from entities including Thriveni Earthmovers and Deccan Gold. The project marks a rare private entry into India's gold mining sector.
- **Scale of the Project:** The Jonnagiri Gold Project covers nearly 598 hectares and has attracted investment of over Rs 400 crore. It is expected to produce up to 1,000 kg of refined gold annually at peak capacity. Certified resources have been reported at about 13.1 tonnes of gold, with further exploration potential.
- **Mining and Processing Method:** The project uses open-pit mining, crushing, carbon-in-leach processing and smelting. These processes convert gold-bearing ore into doré bars. The use of modern processing methods is a key feature of the project.
- **Gold Production Context:** India remains heavily dependent on gold imports, while domestic gold production has been limited. Hutti Gold Mines in Karnataka has been one of the major domestic producers, while Kolar Gold Fields was closed earlier. The Jonnagiri project therefore adds an important private-sector dimension to domestic mineral production.

### Bengaluru Hosts BRICS Space Agencies Meeting

**In the News:** Bengaluru hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies meeting on June 23–24, 2026. The meeting was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 and brought together heads and senior representatives of space agencies from BRICS member countries. The agenda focused on space sustainability, the BRICS satellite constellation and future mechanisms for cooperation among space agencies.

#### Key Points:

- **Host and Chairship:** The meeting was hosted by ISRO and the Department of Space with support from the Ministry of External Affairs. India's BRICS Chairship 2026 carries the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." India is hosting several BRICS meetings during its 2026 Chairship.
- **BRICS Membership:** BRICS currently comprises 11 countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. These countries together represent a major share of global population and economic output.
- **Satellite Constellation Agenda:** A major focus was the expansion of the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation arrangement. The earlier framework aimed at a virtual constellation of remote sensing satellites for natural resource management and disaster management.
- **Space Sustainability Focus:** The meeting discussed sustainable space operations, domestic governance frameworks and debris-free space missions. It also considered future cooperation mechanisms such as a proposed BRICS Space Council. Indian space-tech companies also interacted with delegates through IN-SPACE-facilitated presentations.

### What is Project Hawk Eye Surveillance Technology?

**In the News:** Anantnag Police in Jammu and Kashmir launched Project Hawk Eye for the safe conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. The initiative aims to provide technology-linked surveillance from the sky to the ground across the yatra route. It was introduced ahead of the pilgrimage scheduled from July 3 to August 28, 2026.

**Key Points:**

- **Purpose of the Initiative:** Project Hawk Eye is a comprehensive surveillance and security framework. It is meant to maintain round-the-clock vigilance along the Amarnath Yatra route, especially the traditional Pahalgam route in south Kashmir.
- **Use of Drones:** Five drones have been deployed at key locations for real-time aerial monitoring. These drones help security personnel assess emerging situations quickly and coordinate with ground units.
- **Ground-Level Security Grid:** The project includes 28 Machan Morchas, which are elevated observation posts placed at vulnerable and sensitive locations. These posts strengthen area domination and help personnel monitor movement along the route.
- **CCTV and Facial Recognition:** The surveillance network includes 416 high-resolution CCTV cameras and a Facial Recognition System at critical points. These systems are intended to identify suspicious movements and support preventive security measures.
- **Wider Security Context:** The yatra routes, including Pahalgam and Baltal axes, were declared a No-Fly Zone from July 1, 2026, till completion of the yatra. Helicopter services for pilgrims were also not available this year due to security concerns.

**If passport not a proof of citizenship, what is? What India's various laws say**

**In the News:** A public debate began after the Ministry of External Affairs clarified that an Indian passport is a travel document, not conclusive proof of citizenship. The issue raised a larger question because India does not issue a universal citizenship certificate to every citizen.

**Key Points:**

- **Citizenship as Legal Status:** Indian citizenship is governed by Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, 1955. Citizenship depends on legal facts such as birth, descent, registration, naturalisation or incorporation of territory, not merely on one identity document.
- **Passport's Legal Role:** The Passports Act, 1967 provides for passports and travel documents and regulates departure from India. Section 20 of the Act also allows the Central Government to issue passports or travel documents to persons who are not citizens of India in specified situations.
- **Aadhaar Position:** Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 clearly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile. Aadhaar establishes identity for service delivery purposes, but it does not determine nationality.
- **Common Documents:** Voter ID, PAN, driving licence and passport may be relevant identity or supporting documents, but they are not treated as final citizenship certificates by themselves. Citizenship claims are assessed under the Citizenship Act and related rules.
- **Citizenship Certificates:** Certificates are issued in specific cases such as citizenship by registration or naturalisation. Persons who are citizens by birth generally rely on birth records, parentage, domicile and other legal evidence depending on the applicable period under law.

**Legal Status of the RSS**

**In the News:** The legal status of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh came into discussion again after questions were raised about its registration, finances and accountability. The debate centres on whether a large organisation can function without registration under statutes such as the Societies Registration Act, Indian Trusts Act or Companies Act.

**Key Points:**

- **Registration Not Generally Mandatory:** India does not have a general law requiring every association of citizens to register. Laws relating to societies, trusts, companies and trade unions provide legal forms that organisations may choose, especially when they need specific legal privileges.

- **Body of Individuals:** The RSS has argued that it is a recognised body of individuals and not an incorporated legal entity. Earlier tax proceedings also referred to the organisation in this manner while dealing with donations such as guru dakshina.
- **Juristic Personality Issue:** An unregistered association generally does not have a separate legal personality like a company or registered institutional body. Property, contracts and legal proceedings usually operate through office-bearers, trustees or representatives.
- **Importance of Registration:** Registration gives an organisation a clearer governance structure and makes it easier to own property, open bank accounts, employ staff, receive grants and maintain continuity beyond individual office-bearers.
- **Societies Registration Act:** The Societies Registration Act, 1860 provides a statutory framework for literary, scientific and charitable societies. It includes provisions on registration, annual lists of managing bodies, property of societies and suits by or against societies.

### India's 7 New Bullet Train Corridors: Full List with Expected Travel Time

**In the News:** India is preparing to expand its high-speed rail network with seven proposed bullet train corridors announced under Union Budget 2026-27. These corridors will connect major metropolitan, industrial, cultural and technology hubs across different regions. The plan marks the next phase of India's high-speed rail development beyond the ongoing Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.

#### Key Points:

- **Seven Proposed Corridors:** The seven new corridors are Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Hyderabad, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri via Patna. Together, they are planned to strengthen long-distance inter-city mobility. The network is expected to improve travel between major economic regions.
- **Expected Travel Time:** Chennai-Bengaluru is expected to take about 1 hour 13 minutes, Bengaluru-Hyderabad around 2 hours, and Chennai-Hyderabad around 2 hours 55 minutes. Mumbai-Pune may take around 48 minutes, while Pune-Hyderabad may take around 1 hour 55 minutes. Delhi-Varanasi is expected to take about 3 hours 50 minutes and Varanasi-Siliguri about 2 hours 55 minutes.
- **Budget and Scale:** The corridors are expected to span nearly 4,000 km and involve very large capital investment. They are part of a broader railway modernisation plan focused on faster passenger movement, improved service quality and dedicated high-speed infrastructure. These corridors are planned as growth connectors between high-demand city pairs.
- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Project:** Mumbai-Ahmedabad remains India's first high-speed rail project and is separate from the seven newly proposed corridors. It covers about 508 km and is being implemented by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited. The experience from this corridor is expected to support future high-speed rail planning.

### Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS)

**In the News:** The Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme came into focus after Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy urged the Central Government to help resolve the long-pending Tungabhadra water-sharing issue. Telangana has argued that it is unable to utilise its full water share under the scheme. The issue involves irrigation rights, inter-State coordination and river-water management.

#### Key Points:

- **About RDS:** Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme is an inter-State irrigation project built across the Tungabhadra River. It consists of an anicut located in Raichur district of Karnataka. The project was sanctioned during the erstwhile Nizam period, with construction beginning in 1946 and being completed in 1958.
- **Beneficiary Areas:** The scheme supplies water through a 143 km RDS canal. It benefits villages in Karnataka, Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh. Official project details mention an ayacut of about 87,500 acres and around 75 beneficiary villages.



- **Water Share Issue:** Telangana has stated that it is entitled to 15.9 TMC of Tungabhadra water but currently receives only about 5–6 TMC. The shortfall has affected irrigation in drought-prone areas, especially in Jogulamba Gadwal and the former Mahabubnagar region. The matter has remained sensitive because it affects farmers directly.
- **Cause of Dispute:** Telangana has pointed to heavy siltation, incomplete modernisation works and poor diversion efficiency as major reasons for reduced water availability. A 2004 expert committee had reportedly recommended desilting, but the issue remains unresolved. The state has sought action from the Centre and cooperation from neighbouring states.
- **River-Water Governance:** The dispute involves Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, making it an inter-State river-water issue. Telangana has requested strengthening of the Tungabhadra Board under the Central Water Commission. The subject is linked with Article 262, inter-State river-water disputes and the Krishna river basin.

### Ministry of Culture Commemorates 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' to Mark 50 Years of the Emergency

**In the News:** The Ministry of Culture commemorated Samvidhan Hatya Diwas on June 25, 2026, to mark 50 years of the Emergency period. A special programme was organised by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training in New Delhi. Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat led the commemoration.

#### Key Points:

- **Purpose of Observance:** Samvidhan Hatya Diwas is observed annually on June 25 to mark the imposition of the Emergency in 1975. The observance is intended to remember those who suffered during the Emergency. It also highlights the importance of constitutional values, democratic rights and civil liberties.
- **50-Year Commemoration:** The Government announced a two-year commemoration from June 25, 2024, to June 25, 2026. Programmes were organised across states and Union Territories. The activities included exhibitions, seminars, public engagement events, student competitions and discussions on the Constitution.
- **Emergency Background:** The Emergency was imposed in India on June 25, 1975, during the tenure of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The period is associated with suspension of civil liberties, press censorship and large-scale arrests of political opponents. It remains one of the most significant constitutional and political events in post-Independence India.
- **Recent Programme:** The 2026 programme included the exhibition "Long Live Democracy," a short film on Samvidhan Hatya Diwas and a cultural presentation on the spirit of democracy. The event also highlighted the Digital District Repository, which documents district-level stories related to India's freedom struggle. Students and institutions participated in large numbers.

### India Inaugurates Nuclear-Heat Hydrogen Facility

**In the News:** India inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat on June 26, 2026. The facility has been set up by the Department of Atomic Energy at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. It uses nuclear heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor to produce hydrogen through the Copper–Chlorine thermochemical cycle.

#### Key Points:

- **Facility and Location:** The facility was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. It was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission. Kalpakkam is a major centre for India's nuclear research and fast breeder reactor programme.
- **Technology Used:** The facility is based on the Copper–Chlorine thermochemical cycle. It uses nuclear process heat generated from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor. The process has been developed indigenously by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.
- **Role of Hydrogen:** Hydrogen is considered an important energy carrier for future clean-energy systems. Nuclear-assisted hydrogen production can reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It can also help avoid greenhouse gas emissions linked with conventional hydrogen production methods.

- **Institutional Contribution:** The project has been developed through the combined efforts of BARC and IGCAR. Their work included research, process development, engineering design, fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning. The facility will help gather operational experience for improving nuclear-assisted hydrogen production technologies.

### Odisha Launches GO-EAST Policy to Accelerate Industrial Growth and Attract Investments

**In the News:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the GO-EAST platform at the CII Eastern Regional Council Meeting 2026 in Bhubaneswar. The initiative aims to accelerate industrial growth in Odisha and eastern India by attracting investments from eastern and northeastern states. GO-EAST stands for Government of Odisha - Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force.

#### Key Points:

- **GO-EAST Platform:** The platform has been designed to help industries expand operations in Odisha while retaining their existing industrial base and markets in their home states. It is aimed at strengthening Odisha's position as a major industrial hub in eastern India. The initiative will focus on faster facilitation and smoother investment implementation.
- **Special Task Force and GO-EAST Cell:** The Odisha government will set up a high-level special task force to accelerate investment projects. A dedicated GO-EAST Cell will also be created within IPICOL, the state's industrial promotion agency. A special GO-SWIFT module will track investment approvals and processes in real time.
- **Focus on Border Districts:** The initiative will focus on Odisha's border districts to develop new industrial growth centres. This is expected to support balanced regional development and create employment opportunities in less-industrialised areas. The plan seeks to move industrial growth beyond the traditional mineral-based zones.
- **IPR-2022 Amendments:** Odisha announced amendments to the Industrial Policy Resolution 2022 to promote non-mineral-based industries in 15 economically backward districts. Districts such as Balangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Boudh and Gajapati will be included in the thrust sector or priority category.
- **Investment and Approval Targets:** Since June 2024, Odisha has approved 477 projects worth nearly ₹9.5 lakh crore, with expected employment for about six lakh people. The state has reduced the time required to set up industries from around 400 days to less than 160 days. The government now aims to bring the approval period below 100 days.

### Air Suvidha 2.0 Explained: New Health Rules for International Travellers in India

**In the News:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Delhi International Airport Limited launched Air Suvidha 2.0 on June 25, 2026. It is an upgraded contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal for international arrivals in India. The portal was launched to strengthen public health surveillance at Points of Entry in response to the Ebola/Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak.

#### Key Points:

- **Purpose of the Portal:** Air Suvidha 2.0 is meant to improve health screening of international passengers arriving in India. It replaces physical health forms with a paperless and contactless online process. The system helps authorities identify at-risk travellers before they complete immigration clearance.
- **Background of the Move:** The launch followed the WHO's declaration of the Ebola/Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on May 17, 2026. The outbreak has been treated as a concern under the International Health Regulations 2005.
- **Information Required:** International arriving passengers must submit a Health Self-Declaration Form before immigration clearance. The form covers 21-day travel history, exposure history and related symptoms, if any. This information helps health authorities detect possible risk at an early stage.
- **Agencies Involved:** The portal was developed in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It enables real-time data sharing with Airport Health Officers, the Bureau of Immigration, IDSP and State Surveillance Officers.
- **Submission Timeline:** Passengers can complete the Air Suvidha Self-Declaration Form up to 24 hours before arrival in India. They are requested to fill it before boarding or during web check-in. On arrival, they only need to show the downloaded SDF at the International Travel Health Desk or Immigration counter.

## ICGS Akshay Commissioned at Goa Shipyard

**In the News:** The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel, at Goa Shipyard Limited in Goa on June 27, 2026. The vessel was inducted into the Bharatiya Tatrakshak Fleet as part of the Coast Guard's force modernisation programme.

### Key Points:

- **About the Vessel:** ICGS Akshay is a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel designed for Coast Guard operations. The name "Akshay" means indestructible. The vessel represents the Coast Guard's role in protecting India's maritime interests and maintaining safe, secure and clean seas.
- **Built by Goa Shipyard Limited:** The vessel was designed and constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited. Its induction strengthens India's domestic shipbuilding capability and supports indigenous defence manufacturing. The commissioning also adds to the operational capacity of the Indian Coast Guard.
- **Operational Roles:** ICGS Akshay can undertake maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection and assistance to mariners in distress. These roles are central to the Indian Coast Guard's work across India's maritime zones.
- **Commissioning Ceremony:** The vessel was commissioned by Smt. Parama Sen, Additional Secretary (Personnel), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Senior Coast Guard officials, including Inspector General Bhisham Sharma and Inspector General Jyotindra Singh, were present at the ceremony.
- **Adamy-class FPV:** ICGS Akshay has been reported as the fourth vessel in the Adamy-class series of eight Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the Indian Coast Guard. The vessel carries over 65 percent indigenous content and is equipped with advanced Controllable Pitch Propeller propulsion systems.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Bangladesh issues countrywide alert fearing unrest on anniversary of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League

**In the News:** Bangladesh issued a nationwide security alert ahead of June 23, the founding anniversary of the Awami League, the party associated with former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Authorities said intelligence inputs suggested possible attempts to create unrest around the anniversary. Police and other agencies were directed to remain on maximum alert across the country.

### Key Points:

- **Reason for Alert:** Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said intelligence agencies had flagged possible instability around June 23. Law enforcement agencies were asked to prevent sabotage, unrest and public-order disruption. Dhaka Metropolitan Police said there was no specific threat, but security agencies remained on alert.
- **Awami League Background:** The Awami League was formed in 1949 and is among Bangladesh's oldest political parties. It played a central role in the 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and later Sheikh Hasina remain closely associated with the party's political history.
- **Political Context:** The alert comes after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5, 2024, following student-led protests known as the July Uprising. The interim government later disbanded the Awami League. Authorities feared flag-hoisting, processions and street demonstrations by party workers.
- **Possible Law-and-Order Concerns:** Police headquarters warned that Awami League activities could lead to clashes with rival political groups. The student-led National Citizen Party was specifically mentioned in reports as one group that could be involved in confrontation. Such tensions make the anniversary politically sensitive.

### Iran says it closed Strait of Hormuz as Israeli strikes on Lebanon continue

**In the News:** Iran's Tasnim news agency reported that the Strait of Hormuz would not reopen unless the Lebanon ceasefire was respected and waivers for Iranian oil sales were issued. The statement came amid continuing tensions linked to Israeli

strikes in Lebanon. The development drew attention because Hormuz is one of the world's most important oil and gas transit routes.

#### Key Points:

- **Immediate Trigger:** Iran linked the Strait of Hormuz issue with the Lebanon ceasefire and sanctions-related oil waivers. Reuters reported that Tasnim cited a source close to Iran's negotiating team. The issue also came during renewed diplomatic activity involving Iran, the United States and regional mediators.
- **Geographical Location:** The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran and Oman. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. This makes it a narrow but highly strategic waterway for energy exports from West Asia.
- **Energy Importance:** Around 25% of the world's seaborne oil trade passed through the Strait of Hormuz in 2025. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain rely heavily on this route for oil exports. Only Saudi Arabia and the UAE have operational crude pipelines that can partly bypass the strait.
- **Maritime Law Angle:** The Strait of Hormuz is treated as a strait used for international navigation. Under Article 38 of UNCLOS, ships and aircraft enjoy the right of transit passage through such straits. Any prolonged obstruction can raise questions of freedom of navigation and international maritime law.

### India to Host BRICS National Security Advisers Meeting Beginning June 22

**In the News:** India hosted the two-day BRICS National Security Advisers Meeting in New Delhi from June 22, 2026. The meeting was chaired by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval under India's BRICS Chairship. The discussions focused on non-traditional security challenges, counter-terrorism, cyber security and emerging technologies.

#### Key Points:

- **Meeting and Chair:** The meeting brought together National Security Advisers and Heads of Delegation from BRICS member countries. It was chaired by India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. The meeting formed an important part of India's 2026 BRICS diplomatic calendar.
- **Main Theme:** The theme of the meeting was "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today." It covered issues such as cyber threats, organised crime, misuse of technology and terrorism financing. The theme reflects the expanding meaning of national security beyond conventional military threats.
- **Counter-Terrorism and ICT Security:** The meeting reviewed the outcomes of BRICS working groups on Counter-Terrorism and Security in the use of ICTs. These areas are important because digital infrastructure, data systems and online networks are now central to national security. BRICS countries have increasingly discussed coordinated responses to cybercrime and cross-border terrorism.
- **BRICS Membership Context:** BRICS includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Indonesia. The grouping expanded in 2024, while Indonesia joined in 2025. India is chairing BRICS for the fourth time in 2026, after earlier chairships in 2012, 2016 and 2021.
- **India's Chairship Theme:** India's BRICS Chairship 2026 is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The NSA meeting fits into this framework through discussions on resilient security systems and technological cooperation. It also highlights India's role in shaping security dialogue among major emerging economies.

### Keir Starmer Resignation Explained: Why Britain's Prime Minister Stepped Down

**In the News:** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced that he would step down as Prime Minister and Labour Party leader. His resignation came less than two years after Labour's major victory in the 2024 general election. The decision followed growing pressure from Labour MPs, poor election results and falling public support for his leadership.

#### Key Points:

- **Immediate Reason:** Starmer said that his party was questioning whether he was the right person to lead Labour into the next general election. He accepted the position of his parliamentary party and announced his resignation. He is expected to remain in office temporarily until a successor is chosen.
- **Electoral Pressure:** Labour faced major setbacks in the May 2026 elections, including losses in England and weak results in Scotland. The party also suffered politically in Wales, adding to internal pressure on Starmer's leadership. The rise of Nigel Farage's Reform UK increased concerns about Labour's electoral position.



- **Policy and Leadership Issues:** Starmer's government faced criticism over policy reversals, welfare-related decisions and communication failures. Controversies around political appointments also weakened his standing within the Labour Party. Many Labour MPs began to see his leadership as politically fragile despite Labour's 2024 mandate.
- **Succession Process:** A new Labour leader will be chosen through the party's leadership process. Under the UK parliamentary system, the ruling party's new leader can become Prime Minister without a fresh general election. This makes the transition different from a presidential system, where the head of government is elected separately.

### Kunal Shah Net Worth in Rupees: How Rich Is the CRED Founder and WhatsApp's New Chief?

**In the News:** CRED founder Kunal Shah came into focus after Meta announced a major investment in CRED and tapped him to lead WhatsApp globally. The development links India's fintech ecosystem with one of the world's largest messaging platforms. Media reports have also highlighted Shah's estimated net worth, placing it around ₹15,000 crore, though such figures are based on public estimates and private shareholding assumptions.

#### Key Points:

- **Meta-CRED Deal:** Meta Platforms will invest \$900 million in CRED, valuing the Indian fintech company at about \$4.5 billion. The deal gives Meta a minority stake in the Bengaluru-based company, without access to CRED customer data.
- **Leadership Change:** Kunal Shah will head WhatsApp globally, while Will Cathcart will move to another role within Meta. Miten Sampat, CRED's strategy and finance head, has been named interim CEO of CRED.
- **CRED Profile:** CRED was founded in 2018 and operates as a members-only platform for users with high credit scores. Its services include credit card bill payments, lending, insurance, wealth management and lifestyle offerings.
- **Wealth Estimate:** Reports estimate Kunal Shah's net worth at around ₹15,000 crore. His wealth is linked to his stake in CRED, the earlier FreeCharge exit, and angel investments in several Indian startups.
- **Startup Ecosystem Link:** Shah had earlier co-founded FreeCharge, which was acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. His transition from Indian fintech to global platform leadership is significant for questions on startups, digital payments, UPI-linked services, and global Big Tech strategy.

### World's Tallest Lionel Messi Statue Unveiled in Argentina as a Historic Tribute

**In the News:** A 26-metre-tall statue of Lionel Messi has been unveiled in Cutral Co, Argentina, as a tribute to the football icon. The statue is being described as the largest monument dedicated to Messi. It was inaugurated during the 2026 FIFA World Cup period, adding symbolic value to Argentina's football celebrations.

#### Key Points:

- **Location of Statue:** The statue stands in Cutral Co, a town in Argentina's Neuquén province in Patagonia. It is located near National Route 22, making it visible to travellers and football fans visiting the region.
- **Artist and Structure:** The monument was designed by Argentine artist Aldo Beroisa. It is around 26 metres, or 85 feet, tall and is made using steel and iron, with reports noting its weight at about 70 tonnes.
- **Depiction of Messi:** The statue shows Messi with the FIFA World Cup trophy, recalling Argentina's 2022 World Cup victory in Qatar. The pose links the monument to the emotional moment after Argentina defeated France in the final.
- **Cultural Significance:** Messi is widely seen in Argentina as a national sporting symbol, alongside figures such as Diego Maradona. The statue reflects how football achievements are often converted into public memory, tourism and national identity.
- **Tourism Angle:** The monument is expected to increase tourist interest in Cutral Co and Neuquén. Such installations are also linked with sports heritage tourism, where statues, murals and stadium sites become public attractions.

### 65 Years of Antarctic Treaty

**In the News:** June 23, 2026 marks 65 years since the Antarctic Treaty entered into force. The treaty was signed in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1959 and came into effect on June 23, 1961. It remains one of the most important international agreements on peaceful scientific cooperation and demilitarisation.

**Key Points:**

- **Core Objective:** The Antarctic Treaty reserves Antarctica for peaceful purposes and scientific investigation. It prohibits military activity, nuclear explosions and disposal of radioactive waste in the treaty area.
- **Geographical Scope:** The treaty applies to the area south of 60° South latitude, including ice shelves. It does not settle territorial claims but freezes disputes by preventing new claims or enlargement of existing claims.
- **Original Signatories:** The treaty was originally signed by 12 countries active in Antarctic research during the International Geophysical Year. These included the United States, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium and South Africa.
- **India's Role:** India signed the Antarctic Treaty on August 19, 1983 and received consultative status on September 12, 1983. India later enacted the Indian Antarctic Act, 2022 to regulate Indian activities in Antarctica.
- **Related Institutions:** The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is the main decision-making forum under the treaty system. The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat is located in Buenos Aires, Argentina, while India's Antarctic programme is coordinated through institutions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**India Ranks 13th in World Future Skills Index**

**In the News:** India has been ranked 13th in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027. The index assesses how ready countries are to meet future labour-market demands shaped by artificial intelligence, digital technologies and green transformation. India's overall score was reported at 89.4 out of 100.

**Key Points:**

- **Publisher and Coverage:** The index is released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, a London-based higher education analytics organisation. The 2027 edition assessed 89 countries on talent supply and talent demand parameters.
- **India's Overall Rank:** India ranked 13th globally and emerged as the leading lower-middle-income economy in the index. The United States topped the ranking, followed by Australia and the United Kingdom.
- **Indicator Framework:** The index uses four major indicators: Skills Alignment, Academic Readiness, Future of Work, and Economic Transformation. These indicators are designed to assess education quality, workforce preparedness and economic capacity.
- **India's Indicator Performance:** India ranked 5th globally in Future of Work and 14th in Economic Transformation. It ranked 18th in Skills Alignment and 22nd in Academic Readiness, showing strength in workforce transformation but gaps in education-to-employment alignment.

**UN Chief António Guterres Launches Global Methane Action Plan Amid Escalating Climate Crisis**

**In the News:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a global Call to Action on Methane during London Climate Action Week. The initiative urges governments, industries and financial institutions to rapidly cut methane emissions this decade. The announcement came amid worsening climate risks, energy insecurity and rising concern over short-term warming.

**Key Points:**

- **Launch and Context:** The methane action call was announced during the UN Secretary-General's special address at London Climate Action Week. It forms part of a wider push for faster clean-energy transition, reduced fossil-fuel dependence and stronger global climate cooperation.
- **Why Methane Matters:** Methane is responsible for nearly one-third of current global warming. Unlike carbon dioxide, it stays in the atmosphere for a shorter period, so sharp reductions can deliver quicker climate benefits within a generation.
- **Targeted Sectors:** The plan focuses on fossil fuels, agriculture, landfills, wastewater, food waste and open dumping. In the oil and gas sector, it calls for fixing leaks, ending routine flaring and moving towards near-zero methane emissions across the value chain.

- **Technology and Monitoring:** UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory and Methane Alert and Response System use satellite-based detection to identify major methane leaks. These systems are intended to help countries and operators investigate and reduce super-emitter events.
- **UNEP-Bloomberg Support:** UNEP and Bloomberg Philanthropies announced efforts to help countries raise response rates to major methane leaks to 80 percent by 2030. This strengthens the practical implementation side of the global methane reduction agenda.

### Bangladesh Joins International Big Cat Alliance

**In the News:** Bangladesh joined the International Big Cat Alliance as a new member in June 2026, taking the membership count of the treaty-based global body to 27. The move is linked to Bangladesh's efforts to protect the Sundarbans, one of the key habitats of the Royal Bengal Tiger. The development also strengthens regional cooperation on wildlife conservation and anti-poaching measures.

#### Key Points:

- **New Member Country:** Bangladesh became the latest member of the International Big Cat Alliance. Its entry expands the membership base of the India-led global conservation platform and strengthens South Asian participation.
- **About IBCA:** The International Big Cat Alliance is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in India. It was launched by India in 2023 to promote conservation cooperation among countries associated with major big cat habitats.
- **Seven Big Cats Covered:** The alliance focuses on the conservation of seven big cat species: lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. These species are linked with large landscapes and play an important role in maintaining ecological balance.
- **Bangladesh's Conservation Link:** Bangladesh's decision is closely connected with the Sundarbans, a major habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger. The country aims to strengthen protection against poaching, illegal wildlife trade and habitat-related threats.
- **Cooperation Framework:** IBCA promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building, scientific cooperation and transboundary conservation practices. It also supports coordinated action among range countries and interested non-range countries.

### IAEA Plans Inspections of Iran Nuclear Sites

**In the News:** The International Atomic Energy Agency has said that inspections of Iran's nuclear sites will take place soon. IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that the agency is working on the dates, procedures and locations for the inspections. The development comes after a US-Iran interim understanding that includes a 60-day window for further negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme.

#### Key Points:

- **IAEA Inspection Plan:** Rafael Grossi said the inspections "will indeed take place" and that the agency is preparing the modalities with Iran. The proposed inspections are linked to nuclear facilities and nuclear material covered under the recent US-Iran framework understanding.
- **Iran's Response:** Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said there were no current plans to allow access to attacked nuclear sites or nuclear material. Iran has indicated that such access would depend on a final agreement with Washington and practical steps on lifting US sanctions.
- **Sites Under Focus:** The issue mainly concerns Iran's sensitive nuclear facilities, including enrichment-related sites that have faced restricted access after earlier US-Israeli attacks. The IAEA has inspected some other sites, but access to the most sensitive facilities remains the main point of dispute.
- **Enriched Uranium Concern:** A major concern is Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% purity, which is close to weapons-grade level. Weapons-grade uranium is generally associated with enrichment of around 90% or more, making verification of Iran's stockpile important for global non-proliferation monitoring.

- **Role of IAEA:** The IAEA monitors nuclear activities through safeguards and verification mechanisms. Its Iran-related work includes inspection activities, reports and statements connected with the application of safeguards in Iran. The agency's role is central to checking whether declared nuclear material remains under peaceful use.

### Largest Economies in the World 2026: Top 10 Countries by Nominal GDP and Where India Stands

**In the News:** The IMF's April 2026 World Economic Outlook provided updated projections for the world economy, including GDP estimates in current prices. Based on nominal GDP in current US dollars, the United States remains the world's largest economy in 2026, followed by China. India is placed sixth globally with an estimated nominal GDP of about USD 4.15 trillion.

#### Key Points:

- **Top Three Economies:** The United States ranks first with a nominal GDP of around USD 32.38 trillion. China ranks second with about USD 20.85 trillion, while Germany stands third with nearly USD 5.45 trillion.
- **Middle of the Top Ten:** Japan ranks fourth with about USD 4.38 trillion, followed by the United Kingdom at fifth with around USD 4.26 trillion. India ranks sixth with an estimated nominal GDP of about USD 4.15 trillion.
- **Ranks Seven to Ten:** France ranks seventh, Italy eighth, Russia ninth and Brazil tenth in the 2026 nominal GDP list. These rankings are based on GDP measured in current US dollars, not purchasing power parity.
- **India's Position:** India is the sixth-largest economy by nominal GDP in 2026. Its GDP growth estimate is higher than most major economies, but its per capita GDP remains much lower because of its large population base.

### India-EU Human Rights Dialogue Held in New Delhi

**In the News:** The 12th India-European Union Human Rights Dialogue was held in New Delhi on June 24, 2026. The dialogue was co-chaired by Piyush Srivastava, Additional Secretary in India's Ministry of External Affairs, and Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India.

#### Key Points:

- **12th Dialogue Held:** The 12th India-EU Human Rights Dialogue was held in New Delhi on June 24, 2026, co-chaired by Piyush Srivastava from India's MEA and Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador to India.
- **Rights Discussed:** The dialogue covered civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, along with freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, migrant rights, gender rights, LGBTQI+ rights and child rights.
- **AI and Human Rights:** Both sides discussed trustworthy, sustainable and human-centric artificial intelligence, linking it with digital rights, online freedoms and responsible technology governance.
- **Civil Society Focus:** India and the EU recognised the role of national and international human rights institutions, civil society actors, journalists and other stakeholders in protecting democratic freedoms.
- **Different Positions:** The EU reiterated its opposition to capital punishment, while India reaffirmed the Right to Development as a distinct, universal, inalienable and fundamental human right.

### 35 Nations Sign AI Opportunity Statement at Pax Silica Summit

**In the News:** At the second Pax Silica Summit in Washington, D.C., 35 nations including India signed the Joint Statement on AI Opportunity. The statement supports trusted and resilient supply chains for artificial intelligence technologies.

#### Key Points:

- **Nature of the Initiative:** Pax Silica is a US-led technology and supply-chain initiative linked with AI, semiconductors, compute capacity, energy and strategic technology ecosystems. The latest statement emphasised a pro-growth and pro-innovation approach.
- **Indian Representation:** India was represented by S. Krishnan, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Nagraj Naidu, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. Indian industry representatives also participated.



- **Areas of Cooperation:** The Indian delegation discussed collaboration in semiconductors, artificial intelligence and resilient technology supply chains. These areas are central to future digital infrastructure and advanced manufacturing.
- **New Participants:** Argentina, Germany, the Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Kazakhstan, Panama and the European Union joined the Pax Silica initiative on the sidelines of the summit. This widened the grouping's technology diplomacy footprint.
- **India's Earlier Entry:** India joined Pax Silica in February 2026 on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. The June summit expanded the initiative from a smaller group into a wider coalition around AI opportunity and supply-chain resilience.

### Jaipur Among World's Best Cultural Cities

**In the News:** Jaipur was ranked 18th globally in Time Out's Best Cities for Art and Culture 2026 list. It became India's highest-ranked city in the list, which included only the top-performing city from each country.

#### Key Points:

- **Global Ranking:** London topped the 2026 list, followed by Paris, New York City, Berlin and Cape Town. Jaipur was placed at rank 18, making it part of the global top 20 cultural cities.
- **Methodology:** Time Out surveyed over 24,000 people across more than 150 cities. The ranking considered quality and affordability of cultural offerings and combined public responses with inputs from editors, writers and cultural experts.
- **Jaipur's Scores:** Jaipur recorded a 77 percent quality score and a 69 percent affordability score for its culture scene. Around 73 percent of residents rated the city highly for its festival scene.
- **Cultural Assets:** Jaipur's ranking was linked to its forts, bazaars, heritage hotels, crafts and museums. Institutions such as the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing and the Museum of Meenakari Heritage were highlighted for preserving traditional art forms.
- **Festivals and Living Traditions:** The city's cultural profile includes Jaipur Literature Festival, Jaipur Art Week and traditional performances such as The Manganiyar Seduction. Time Out also noted renewed interest in baolis as venues for traditional music and dance.

### Operation Amistad Sends Indian Aid to Venezuela

**In the News:** India launched Operation Amistad to send humanitarian assistance to earthquake-hit Venezuela. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said two Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft carried urgent relief support, including an Indian Army Field Hospital Unit, medicines, medical equipment and BHISHM Cubes. "Amistad" means friendship in Spanish, reflecting India's solidarity with Venezuela.

#### Key Points:

- **Purpose of the Operation:** Operation Amistad was launched after powerful earthquakes caused heavy damage in northern Venezuela. The mission is part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief response. It focuses on emergency medical care, relief supplies and support for affected communities.
- **Aircraft and Relief Material:** Two IAF C-17 Globemaster aircraft were deployed for the mission. The aid included over 35 tonnes of relief supplies, medicines and medical equipment. Two BHISHM Cubes were also sent as part of the emergency medical package.
- **Medical Team:** India sent a 41-member Indian Army medical team from the 60 Para Field Hospital. The team includes medical officers and healthcare personnel trained in emergency response. It is equipped for trauma care, emergency surgeries, critical care and other life-saving services.
- **BHISHM Cube:** The BHISHM Cube (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) is a modular and rapidly deployable field hospital. It has been developed under India's Aarogya Maitri Project. It can support advanced trauma care, emergency surgeries and intensive care for up to 200 patients.

## United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2026

**In the News:** The United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was observed on 26 June 2026. The UN General Assembly proclaimed the day through Resolution 52/149 on 12 December 1997. The day supports victims and survivors of torture and calls for the total eradication of torture worldwide.

### Key Points:

- **Date and UN Resolution:** The day is observed every year on 26 June. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 52/149. The observance brings attention to torture survivors, rehabilitation and accountability.
- **Legal Background:** The date is linked to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987 after the required ratifications. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984.
- **Theme for 2026:** No separate official UN-declared theme for the 2026 observance is listed on the official UN/OHCHR observance pages used here. The broader focus remains support for victims, rehabilitation, accountability and ending torture. Recent OHCHR listings mention past themes such as accountability and protecting protests.
- **Important Institutions:** OHCHR and UN anti-torture mechanisms play a major role in the observance. The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture supports rehabilitation and assistance for survivors. The Committee against Torture monitors implementation of the Convention by States Parties.
- **India Link:** India signed the Convention against Torture on 14 October 1997 but has not ratified it. This distinction is important because signature and ratification have different legal consequences under treaty law. The topic is also linked with custodial violence, human rights protection and criminal justice reforms in India.

## Genocidal intent': What a new UN commission report means for cases against Israel

**In the News:** The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel released a report on Palestinian children. The report said Israeli authorities and security forces deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza. Israel rejected the report and denied intentionally targeting children.

### Key Points:

- **Commission Details:** The report was released by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. The commission was established by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2021. It is currently chaired by Justice S. Muralidhar of India, with Florence Mumba of Zambia and Chris Sidoti of Australia as members.
- **Main Findings:** The report said Palestinian children were deliberately targeted and killed during the Gaza conflict. It found that around 30% of those killed in Gaza were children. Between 7 October 2023 and 7 October 2025, at least 20,179 children were reported killed.
- **Genocide Law:** Article II of the Genocide Convention defines genocide as specified acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. The same definition appears in Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The legal question often turns on proving specific intent, which has a high evidentiary threshold.
- **Impact on Legal Cases:** The commission itself cannot impose penalties. Its findings can, however, be used as documentary evidence before international courts. The report may add to the evidence considered in South Africa's genocide case against Israel before the International Court of Justice and in proceedings connected with the International Criminal Court.
- **ICJ and ICC Difference:** The ICJ deals with disputes between States, such as South Africa v. Israel under the Genocide Convention. The ICC deals with individual criminal responsibility for crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. India and the United States are not parties to the Rome Statute, while many other States are ICC members.

## India Sets Record with 7 Schools Shortlisted for World's Best School Prizes 2026

**In the News:** India has achieved a historic milestone with seven schools shortlisted for the World's Best School Prizes 2026. The shortlist was announced in London, and India recorded the highest number of schools shortlisted by any country in a single year in the four-year history of the prizes. The awards are organised by T4 Education, a UK-headquartered global education organisation.

### Key Points:

- **Record Representation:** Seven Indian schools were named in the Top 10 shortlist across different prize categories. This is the highest representation by any country in one edition of the World's Best School Prizes. The achievement highlights India's growing visibility in global school education.
- **Indian Schools in Innovation:** PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School, Kasarwadi, Pune, and Army Goodwill School Wuzur, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, were shortlisted under the **Innovation** category. This category recognises new approaches in learning, school leadership and community-based education.
- **Community Collaboration Category:** Healthy Planet TGA Early Years School, Noida; Inventure Academy, Bengaluru; and Seth MR Jaipuria School, Vineet Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, were shortlisted under **Community Collaboration**. This category recognises schools that build strong partnerships with families and local communities.
- **Other Indian Entries:** EuroSchool Bannerghatta, Bengaluru, was shortlisted for Environmental Action, while Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Lucknow, was shortlisted for Supporting Healthy Lives. The five overall prize categories include Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity and Supporting Healthy Lives.
- **Selection Process:** The winners will be chosen by an expert Judging Academy, and the top finalists and winners are scheduled to be announced in November 2026. All 50 shortlisted schools will also participate in a public vote for the Community Choice Award. Shortlisted schools and winners are expected to be invited to the World Schools Summit in London in January 2027.

## India Launches World's First Nuclear Process Heat-Based Hydrogen Production Facility

**In the News:** The Department of Atomic Energy has inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the Copper-Chlorine thermochemical cycle using nuclear process heat. The facility is located at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. It uses process heat generated from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor.

### Key Points:

- **Location and Inauguration:** The facility was inaugurated at IGCAR, Kalpakkam, by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. It marks a major step in using nuclear energy beyond electricity generation.
- **Technology Used:** The plant is based on the Copper-Chlorine thermochemical cycle, also written as the Cu-Cl cycle. It uses nuclear process heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor to support hydrogen production. This makes it different from conventional hydrogen production methods that depend mainly on fossil fuels or electricity.
- **Role of BARC and IGCAR:** The Cu-Cl thermochemical process was developed indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. The facility was established through joint efforts of BARC and IGCAR, including research, design, fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning.
- **Technology Demonstrator:** The facility has been set up as a technology demonstrator to validate hydrogen production using nuclear energy. It is meant to prove the technical feasibility of integrating nuclear process heat with clean hydrogen generation. This is significant for future large-scale carbon-free hydrogen production.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Indian Athletics Awards 2025: Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary Win Top Honours

**In the News:** Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary won the top honours at the inaugural Indian Athletics Awards ceremony held in New Delhi. Neeraj Chopra was named Best Male Athlete of the Year 2025, while Parul Chaudhary was named Best

Female Athlete of the Year 2025. The awards were organised by the Athletics Federation of India to recognise excellence in Indian track and field.

#### Key Points:

- **Top Award Winners:** Neeraj Chopra received the Best Male Athlete of the Year 2025 award for his performances in javelin throw. Parul Chaudhary received the Best Female Athlete of the Year 2025 award. Parul is associated with the 3000m steeplechase and 5000m events.
- **Organising Body:** The awards were launched by the Athletics Federation of India, the national governing body for athletics in India. AFI is responsible for organising national athletics competitions and selecting Indian teams for major international events. The ceremony recognised athletes, coaches, officials and supporting organisations.
- **Neeraj Chopra's 2025 Season:** Neeraj Chopra's 2025 season included a national record throw of 90.23 metres at the Doha Diamond League. He also won the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru. His performances kept javelin throw at the centre of Indian athletics.
- **Lifetime Achievement Awards:** The ceremony honoured Indian athletics legends including P. T. Usha, Anju Bobby George, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa and Bahadur Singh Chauhan. These names are important in Indian athletics history. P. T. Usha is linked with sprint events, while Anju Bobby George is known for long jump.
- **Emerging Talent Recognition:** The awards also recognised young athletes such as Shahnavaz Khan and Pooja in emerging athlete categories. This shows the widening focus on future talent in Indian athletics. Such awards help document the growth of athletics beyond established Olympic and Asian Games names.

#### President Murmu Confers 65 Padma Awards; Rohit Sharma, Mammooty, R Madhavan Among Recipients

**In the News:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the Padma Awards 2026 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. A total of 65 awardees were honoured in this second ceremony. Notable recipients included Rohit Sharma, Mammooty, R. Madhavan, Alka Yagnik, Vijay Amritraj and other distinguished personalities from different fields.

#### Key Points:

- **Second Investiture Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu conferred 65 Padma Awards in the second Civil Investiture Ceremony of 2026. These included two Padma Vibhushan, seven Padma Bhushan and 56 Padma Shri awards. The ceremony was attended by senior dignitaries, including the Vice President, Prime Minister and Union Home Minister.
- **Major Recipients:** Mammooty and Alka Yagnik received the Padma Bhushan for their contributions to the field of Art. Rohit Sharma received the Padma Shri in the Sports category, while R. Madhavan, officially listed as Madhavan Ranganathan, received the Padma Shri in Art. Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj was among the Padma Bhushan recipients in the Sports category.
- **Padma Awards 2026 Count:** For 2026, the President approved 131 Padma Awards in total. The list comprises five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards. It also includes 19 women awardees, six persons from the Foreigners, NRI, PIO and OCI category, and 16 posthumous awardees.
- **Categories and Importance:** Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service. Padma Bhushan is awarded for distinguished service of a high order, while Padma Shri is awarded for distinguished service in any field. These awards are among India's highest civilian honours and cover areas such as art, public affairs, sports, medicine, science, social work and literature.
- **Selection and Rules:** Padma Awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day. Nominations are examined by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year and headed by the Cabinet Secretary. The awards do not amount to titles and cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.



## APPOINTMENTS

### Tushar Mehta Reappointed as Solicitor General of India for Three Years

**In the News:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the reappointment of Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India. His fresh term will begin on July 1, 2026, for a period of three years. With this extension, he will continue as the Union Government's second-highest law officer in the Supreme Court.

#### Key Points:

- **Reappointment Approval:** Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as Solicitor General of India for a further term of three years. The approval was given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, and the new tenure will be effective from July 1, 2026.
- **Role of Solicitor General:** The Solicitor General is the second-highest law officer of the Government of India after the Attorney General for India. The office assists the Attorney General and represents the Union Government in important matters before the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- **Tenure and Continuity:** Tushar Mehta first assumed office as Solicitor General in October 2018. With the latest extension, his tenure will continue beyond eight years and may reach nearly eleven years by the end of the fresh term.
- **Legal Framework:** The Attorney General for India is a constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution. The posts of Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General are governed through the Law Officers system and are not separately mentioned as constitutional offices.
- **Additional Solicitors General:** Along with the reappointment of the Solicitor General, the tenure of several Additional Solicitors General has also been extended. Additional Solicitors General assist in representing the Union Government before the Supreme Court and various High Courts.

### Mahesh Dixit Appointed New Intelligence Bureau Chief

**In the News:** Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau. He is a 1993-batch IPS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre and was serving as Special Director in the IB. He will succeed Tapan Kumar Deka, whose extended tenure is ending on June 30, 2026.

#### Key Points:

- **Appointment Details:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Mahesh Dixit's appointment as Director, Intelligence Bureau. His tenure will be for two years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders. The appointment also involves an extension in service to enable him to hold the post.
- **Officer Profile:** Mahesh Dixit belongs to the 1993 batch of the Indian Police Service and the Andhra Pradesh cadre. He has served as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. He is also described as a doctor-turned-IPS officer with long experience in internal security and intelligence work.
- **Security Experience:** He has handled sensitive assignments in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, the Northeast and anti-Naxal-related areas. He earlier headed the Kashmir Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau. His experience in counter-terrorism and internal security is central to the appointment.
- **About Intelligence Bureau:** The Intelligence Bureau is India's domestic intelligence agency and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It deals with internal security, counter-intelligence, terrorism-related inputs and threat assessments. It is distinct from R&AW, which deals mainly with external intelligence.
- **Predecessor:** Mahesh Dixit will replace Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.

## SCIENCE AND TECH

### What Is Boss Scam? Government Advisory Warns Against CEO Impersonation Fraud

**In the News:** The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued an advisory on an emerging cyber fraud called the "Boss Scam" or CEO impersonation fraud. The scam targets senior executives and

high-ranking officials through email or WhatsApp messages carrying malicious files. Once the device or WhatsApp Web session is compromised, fraudsters impersonate the executive and instruct employees to transfer money.

#### Key Points:

- **Meaning of Boss Scam:** The Boss Scam is a form of executive impersonation fraud in which cybercriminals misuse the authority of a CEO, boss or senior official. The victim employee is made to believe that the payment request has come from a genuine superior. It relies heavily on urgency, hierarchy and trust within an organisation.
- **Modus Operandi:** Fraudsters first contact a CEO or senior official through email or WhatsApp, often pretending to be a regulator such as the RBI. They send a compressed ZIP file containing malicious executable files. Once opened on a Windows system, the malware can compromise the device and active WhatsApp Web session.
- **Financial Fraud Pattern:** After gaining access, the attacker uses the executive's real WhatsApp account to contact finance or accounts employees. The employees are instructed to make urgent payments to mule bank accounts. In some variants, the attacker changes contact details on the compromised device and saves a fraudulent number as "CEO".
- **Safety Measures Suggested:** Companies have been advised to verify urgent payment requests through voice calls or in-person confirmation. Employees should avoid installing executable files received from unverified sources. Organisations should also audit WhatsApp linked devices and use updated endpoint security systems.
- **Reporting Mechanism:** Victims can report cyber fraud incidents through the national cybercrime helpline number 1930 or the cybercrime reporting portal. The advisory is significant because it shows the growing use of malware, social engineering and business communication platforms in financial fraud.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Yoga Day 2026: Date, Theme, History, Importance and Celebrations

**In the News:** The 12th International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21, 2026. The official theme for 2026 was "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." The main national celebration was held at Kolkata's historic Red Road, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Common Yoga Protocol session.

#### Key Points:

- **Date and Theme:** International Day of Yoga is observed every year on June 21. The 2026 theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," focused on adopting yoga as a lifelong practice. It highlighted physical health, mental resilience, emotional well-being and active ageing.
- **UN Recognition:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/69/131 on December 11, 2014. The resolution proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The UN record notes that the resolution was adopted without vote at the 69th plenary meeting.
- **India's Role:** The idea of observing an International Day of Yoga was proposed by India at the United Nations in 2014. The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21, 2015. Since then, it has become a major global cultural and health observance associated with India's soft power.
- **2026 Main Celebration:** The main national event for IDY 2026 was held at Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Ministry of Ayush announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would lead the national celebration. Countdown events were held at New Delhi, Lonar, Kanha Shanti Vanam and Khajuraho.
- **Major Initiatives:** The Ministry of Ayush promoted programmes such as Yoga Sangam, Harit Yoga, Yoga Samavesh, Yoga Park and Yoga Unplugged for IDY 2026. The multilingual IDY Handbook 2026 was released in English, Hindi and 21 regional languages. It also included Common Yoga Protocol resources for public participation.

### International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2026

**In the News:** International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 26. In 2026, the UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs marked the day with a special event titled "World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses." The event also included the launch of the World Drug Report 2026.

**Key Points:**

- **Date and UN Background:** The day is observed annually on June 26. It was established through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 42/112 of December 7, 1987. The objective is to strengthen action and cooperation for an international society free of drug abuse.
- **2026 Theme:** The 2026 theme is “World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses.” It highlights changing drug markets, new trafficking patterns and the need for evidence-based responses. The theme also reflects concern over synthetic drugs and evolving global drug supply chains.
- **UNODC and CND Role:** The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the lead UN body working on drug control, crime prevention and related international cooperation. The 2026 special event was held by the Chair of the 69th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The World Drug Report 2026 was a key feature of the event.
- **India's Observance:** India observed the occasion through Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah from June 17 to June 26, 2026. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised the campaign under the theme “Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan.” Activities included pledge drives, rallies, youth campaigns, webinars and community outreach.
- **Nodal Ministry in India:** The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal department for drug demand reduction in India. The 2026 campaign focused on schools, colleges, higher educational institutions, Panchayati Raj institutions, NSS volunteers, MY Bharat volunteers, Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers. The campaign also used the hashtag #NashaMuktaBharat.

**SPORTS****Olympic Day 2026: Theme, History, Significance and Celebrations**

**In the News:** Olympic Day 2026 was observed on June 23, 2026 across the world. The theme for 2026 was “You Can Do This! Let's Move.” The day was promoted by the International Olympic Committee to encourage physical activity, sports participation and Olympic values.

**Key Points:**

- **Theme of 2026:** The 2026 theme “You Can Do This! Let's Move” focused on encouraging people, especially young people, to begin physical activity. The message recognised that hesitation, self-doubt and lack of confidence often prevent participation in sport. It aimed to make sport more accessible and less intimidating.
- **Historical Background:** Olympic Day is observed every year on June 23. The date marks the foundation of the International Olympic Committee in 1894. The first Olympic Day was celebrated on June 23, 1948, making it an important annual event in the Olympic Movement.
- **Olympic Movement Link:** The modern Olympic Movement is associated with Pierre de Coubertin, who played a major role in reviving the Olympic Games. The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. The Olympic values are excellence, friendship and respect.
- **Celebrations in 2026:** Olympic Day 2026 included mass participation events, digital activities and sports programmes across different countries. National Olympic Committees, sports federations and Olympic partners organised activities to encourage people to move and play sport. More than 150 opportunities to participate were highlighted globally.
- **Institutional Facts:** The International Olympic Committee is the main authority of the Olympic Movement. Its headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland. Olympic Day is connected with public health, youth participation, sports education and international sporting cooperation.

**History Created! Harmanpreet Kaur Becomes First Cricketer Ever to Play 200 T20**

**In the News:** Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur became the first cricketer, male or female, to play 200 T20 Internationals. She achieved the milestone on June 21, 2026, during India's Women's T20 World Cup match against South Africa. The match was played at Old Trafford, Manchester.

**Key Points:**

- **Historic T20I Milestone:** Harmanpreet Kaur became the first player in world cricket to reach 200 T20 International appearances. The record covers both men's and women's international cricket. The milestone underlines her long career and consistency in the shortest international format.
- **Match Context:** The landmark came during India's match against South Africa in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. She led India in the Group A match at Old Trafford. The occasion was recognised by the Indian team before the start of the game.
- **Felicited by Team Management:** Harmanpreet was presented with a special "200" jersey and cap. The presentation was made by head coach Amol Muzumdar and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. This marked the formal recognition of her achievement by the Indian dressing room.
- **Career Background:** Harmanpreet made her international debut in 2009 and played her first T20I in June 2009 against England at Taunton. Her T20I career has lasted more than 17 years. She has been one of the central figures in the rise of Indian women's cricket.

