



TestCoach

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Weekly Current Affairs

(1st JULY - 7th JULY)



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NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Ravi Agrawal's Tenure Extended as CBDT Chairman

- **Ravi Agrawal**, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been **reappointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** on a **contract basis till 30th June 2026** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.
- His extension ensures **continuity in tax administration reforms**, including **faster refunds, faceless assessments**, and resolution of **over 2.25 lakh pending appeals**.
- Agrawal had taken over as CBDT Chairman on **1st July 2024**, and his reappointment reflects the government's **trust in his leadership** to steer the evolving direct tax ecosystem.

About CBDT – Central Board of Direct Taxes

1. **Statutory Authority:** The CBDT is a part of the **Department of Revenue** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India. It functions as the **apex body for direct tax administration** in India and is governed under the **Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963**.
 2. **Main Responsibilities:**
 - Formulates **policy and planning** of direct taxes (like Income Tax, Corporate Tax).
 - Oversees **implementation and enforcement** of tax laws.
 - Supervises the **Income Tax Department** and handles **litigation, investigation, and compliance** matters.
- ### 2. Amitabh Kant Joins Fairfax as Senior Adviser After G20 Sherpa Tenure
- **Amitabh Kant**, former G20 Sherpa and ex-CEO of NITI Aayog, has been appointed as **Senior Adviser to Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.**, a Canadian investment firm.
 - Fairfax aims to leverage his expertise in **economic policy, innovation, and India's development goals**, especially the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision of transforming India into a \$30 trillion+ economy.
 - With over **45 years in public service**, Kant played key roles in initiatives like **Make in India, Startup India, UPI rollout, and G20 consensus building**, earning praise for his integrity and leadership.

3. Zou Jiayi Appointed as AIIB President

- **Zou Jiayi**, former Chinese Vice Finance Minister and senior anti-corruption official, has been elected as the **new President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. She will succeed founding president Jin Liqun and begin her **five-year term on 16 January 2026**.
- By becoming AIIB's **first female leader** and second president overall, Zou—nicknamed the **"tiger-fighting lady general"**—is expected to drive further expansion into global financial centers (Hong Kong, Singapore, London) and strengthen ties with major institutions like the World Bank.

About AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank)

- **Founded in 2016**, the AIIB is a **multilateral development bank** headquartered in **Beijing, China**, with the goal of financing **infrastructure and sustainable development projects** across Asia and beyond.
- As of 2025, AIIB has **110 member countries** and an **authorized capital of US \$100 billion**, making it one of the largest development banks globally.
- The bank holds a **AAA credit rating** from top agencies and focuses on sectors like **transport, energy, digital infrastructure, urban development, and climate finance**.
- **Zou Jiayi** has been appointed as the **new President** (from January 2026), becoming the **first woman to lead AIIB**, succeeding founding President **Jin Liqun**.
- AIIB is increasingly involved in **global cooperation**, working with the **World Bank, ADB, and EIB**, and has committed over **50% of its portfolio to climate-focused projects**.

4. **Kesavan Ramachandran Appointed as RBI Executive Director**

- Kesavan Ramachandran has been appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India, effective **July 1, 2025**
- **About RBI (Reserve Bank of India)**
- **Established on April 1, 1935**, the **RBI** is India's **central bank**, created under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and **nationalized in 1949**.
- Headquartered in **Mumbai**, it is responsible for **formulating monetary policy**, ensuring **price stability**, and maintaining the **financial system's integrity**.
- The RBI is the **sole issuer of Indian currency** and regulates **commercial banks, NBFCs, and cooperative banks** to ensure safe banking practices.
- It acts as the **banker to the Government of India**, manages **foreign exchange** under FEMA, and maintains India's **forex reserves**.
- Currently led by **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, RBI also promotes **financial inclusion, digital payments, and economic development** across the country.

5. **Zohran Mamdani Wins NYC Democratic Mayoral Primary**

- **Zohran Mamdani**, a 33-year-old **democratic socialist and assemblyman**, defeated **former Governor Andrew Cuomo** in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary.
- Mamdani's campaign, dubbed "**Zohranomics**", included bold promises like **rent freezes, free public buses, universal childcare, and public grocery stores**, funded by taxing the wealthy.
- If elected in the general election, Mamdani will become **NYC's first South Asian and Muslim mayor**.

6. **Pakistan Takes Over UNSC Presidency for July 2025**

- On **July 1, 2025**, Pakistan officially took over the monthly rotating **Presidency of the UN Security Council**, as part of its **two-year non-permanent membership** that began in January 2025
- This marks Pakistan's **eighth time** serving on the UNSC and its **first presidency since 2013**

About the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- The UN Security Council (UNSC) is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations**, responsible for **maintaining international peace and security**.
- It has **15 members**:
 - **5 permanent members (P5)** with veto power: **China, France, Russia, the UK, and the USA**.
 - **10 non-permanent members**, elected for **2-year terms** by the UN General Assembly on a regional basis.

Presidency of the UNSC

- The **Presidency of the UNSC rotates monthly** among all 15 members in **alphabetical order of member states' names (English)**.
- Each **Presiding Member** holds office for **one calendar month** and is responsible for:
 - Setting the agenda for UNSC meetings
 - Presiding over meetings and open debates
 - Issuing press statements
 - Representing the UNSC to other UN bodies and the media
- While the role is **procedural and symbolic**, it allows the presiding nation to **highlight specific issues**, influence discussions, and enhance its **diplomatic visibility**.

SPORTS UPDATES

1. UzChess Cup 2025

Event Details

- **What:** UzChess Cup Masters (2nd edition)
- **Where:** "Panaram's" Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **When:** June 19–27, 2025 — a 9-round classical round-robin followed by tiebreak blitz matches

Champion & Podium Finishers

1. **R. Praggnanandhaa (India)** – Won after prevailing in a three-way blitz tiebreak against **Nodirbek Abdusattorov** and **Javokhir Sindarov**.
2. **Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)** – Shared top spot in classical stage and came second in tiebreak.
3. **Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan)** – Also tied in classical rounds; clinched third in the playoff.

2. ICC Introduces Stop Clock Rule in WTC 2025–27 to Tackle Slow Over Rates

- For the first time in Test cricket, a **stop-clock** has been implemented in the WTC to combat **slow over rates**.
- Fielding teams now have **60 seconds between overs**, with an electronic display counting up to 60 seconds
- The rule came into effect starting with the **Sri Lanka vs. Bangladesh Test in June 2025**, marking its formal inclusion in the WTC playing conditions.

Penalties: Warnings and Five-Run Deductions

- Teams get **two warnings** for delays; upon a third infraction, the batting side is awarded **five penalty runs**.
- Warnings reset after each block of **80 overs**, ensuring fairness across long sessions

3. Gujarat to Host 2029 World Police & Fire Games: A Historic First for South Asia

- Gujarat, India, has officially **won the bid** to host the **2029 World Police & Fire Games**, marking the first time a **South Asian** country will host this global event since its inception in 1985
- The Games will be held across **three cities: Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar (Kevadia)**, leveraging existing and upcoming infrastructure
- The Games will also build on the success of the **2022 National Games** and complement Gujarat's bid for future mega-events like the **2036 Olympics**

About World Police & Fire Games (WPFG)

- **Established in 1985**, with the inaugural edition hosted in **San Jose, California, USA**
- Held **every two years (biennially)**
- Open to **police officers, firefighters, customs officials, and correctional personnel**
- Draws participation from **over 70 nations**, featuring more than **10,000 athletes**
- Includes **60+ sporting events**, such as **athletics, swimming, martial arts, cycling**, and **profession-specific competitions** like tactical challenges

4. Union Cabinet clearing India's new National Sports Policy 2025 (Khelo Bharat Niti)

- On **July 1, 2025**, the Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, approved the **National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025**, commonly known as **Khelo Bharat Niti**, replacing the 2001 policy.
- It aims to position India as a **global sporting powerhouse**, targeting **excellence at the 2036 Olympic Games**

Five Key Pillars

- **Excellence on the Global Stage:** Strengthen talent identification, training, world-class infrastructure, and strengthen sports federations.
- **Sports for Economic Growth:** Promote sports tourism, boost manufacturing and startups, and encourage **private sector investment** through PPP and CSR.
- **Sports for Social Development:** Inclusive participation—women, vulnerable groups, traditional games, and dual-career pathways.
- **Sports as a People's Movement:** Mass fitness campaigns, fitness indices in schools/workplaces, widespread facility access.

- **Integration with Education (NEP-2020):** Embed sports in curricula and train educators
- **Strategic Implementation Framework**
- Policy details a comprehensive mechanism: **governance reforms**, legal measures, **private funding**, **AI and data analytics** for performance monitoring, **state-level models**, and a **whole-of-government approach**.

Infrastructure, Events & Host Ambitions

- Emphasizes development of sporting infrastructure in **urban and rural areas**, creation of competitive **leagues**, and hosting **major international events**.

- Aligns with India's Olympic aspirations, including feasibility talks for hosting **Olympics/Paralympics in Ahmedabad** and strategic positioning for **2036 Olympics**
- **Governance & Private Sector Role**
- Introduces planned establishment of a **Sports Regulatory Board** to oversee federations.
- Encourages corporate participation via **PPPs, CSR, and ROI-centric funding**.
- Strengthens **sports manufacturing and entrepreneurship** to foster a sustainable sports economy

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

1. G7 Nations Approve Exemption for U.S. Firms from Global Minimum Tax Under New "Side-by-Side" Framework

- **Unique "Side-by-Side" System Introduced**

G7 nations agreed to a "side-by-side" approach, excluding U.S.-parented multinationals from applying the 15% global minimum tax rules (Pillar 2), instead allowing them to adhere to U.S. domestic minimum tax regimes

- **Section 899 "Revenge Tax" Removed**

In exchange, the U.S. will drop Section 899 from its "One Big Beautiful Bill," eliminating the threat of a retaliatory tax on foreign jurisdictions 1.

- **Aimed at Stabilizing International Tax Framework**

The compromise is intended to maintain continuity in the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework, avoiding disruptions to the global minimum tax system while accommodating U.S. tax laws.

- **Raises Concerns Over Fairness & Precedent**

Critics argue the carve-out favors U.S. multinationals, undermines the 15% global minimum tax's integrity, and could encourage other countries to seek similar exemptions

About the G7

- The **G7** is a forum of **seven major advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. The **European Union** also participates in all meetings.
- It focuses on **economic policy coordination, climate action, global security, development, and addressing emerging global challenges** like pandemics and AI regulation.
- The **G7 presidency rotates annually** among members. The presiding country hosts the **G7 Summit** and sets the agenda for global discussions.
- The G7 has **no permanent headquarters or binding authority**. It operates through consensus and cooperation rather than enforceable decisions.
- Unlike the **broader G20**, which includes developing economies like **India and China**, the G7 represents the **world's richest democracies**, shaping elite global policy decisions.

2. Iran suspending cooperation with the IAEA

- Iran's parliament passed legislation on **June 25, 2025**, mandating the suspension of collaboration with the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**. This law requires

any future inspections to receive approval from Iran's **Supreme National Security Council**

- The move follows **June airstrikes** by U.S. and Israeli forces on key Iranian nuclear facilities, including Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan. Iran accused the IAEA of biased reporting that justified the attacks
- On **July 2**, President **Masoud Pezeshkian** signed the legislation, halting IAEA cooperation until **security guarantees** are provided for Iran's nuclear sites and scientists. He emphasized the change in operational oversight

About the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency):

- The **IAEA** is the **world's central nuclear watchdog**, established in **1957** as an autonomous agency under the United Nations. It promotes **safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies**.
- Headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**, the IAEA has **175 member states** (as of 2025) and works globally to ensure nuclear energy is not diverted for military purposes.
- The IAEA inspects nuclear facilities to ensure NPT compliance, monitors nuclear safety, supports emergency response, and promotes peaceful nuclear applications in health, agriculture, and energy.
- In **2005**, the IAEA and its then-Director General **Mohamed ElBaradei** were awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes.

3. SatSure–Dhruva Space partnership for end-to-end Earth Observation-as-a-Service (EOaaS):

- Bengaluru-based **SatSure**, a leader in Earth observation and analytics, has signed a **MoU** with Hyderabad-based **Dhruva Space**, marking a major step to offer integrated satellite-to-insight services
- The partnership combines **upstream operations** (satellite platform, launch, ground infrastructure) from Dhruva with **downstream services** (payload analytics via SatSure's subsidiary KaleidEO) to deliver truly end-to-end EO solutions

4. India Asserts Strategic Autonomy at SCO 2025 by Refusing to Sign Defence Communiqué over Terrorism Silence

- On June 25, 2025, during the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting** held in **Qingdao, China**, India refused to sign the joint defence **communiqué**, marking a rare and significant diplomatic move. The decision was prompted by the **absence of explicit condemnation of terrorism**, particularly the omission of reference to the **April 22 Pahalgam terror attack** that claimed the lives of 26 civilians.

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is a **regional intergovernmental organization** founded in **2001** in **Shanghai**, primarily focused on **political, economic, and security cooperation** in Eurasia.

- As of 2025, the SCO has **9 full members**: **China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran** (joined in 2023). It also includes **observer states** (e.g., Afghanistan, Belarus) and **dialogue partners** (e.g., Turkey, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia).
- The SCO focuses on counter-terrorism, regional security, economic and energy cooperation, trade and cultural exchange, and operates through its anti-terror body RATS based in Tashkent.
- The SCO operates on the principle of consensus, with key bodies including the Council of Heads of State, Council of Foreign Ministers, and the SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
- The SCO covers **over 40% of the world's population** and around **30% of global GDP**.

5. **Adani–Reliance partnership to share fuel infrastructure**

- **Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL)** and **Reliance's Jio-bp** have signed a landmark agreement to share fuel infrastructure across select outlets, blending their strengths in CNG and petrol/diesel retail
- ATGL stations will now sell **Jio-bp's premium petrol and diesel**, while Jio-bp outlets will add **ATGL's CNG dispensing units**, enhancing both networks
- This marks the **second major partnership** between Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani in under two years, following Reliance's 26% stake in Adani Power—signaling increasing synergy among India's top private conglomerates

6. **NABARD–ICAR-NIRCA training initiative for chilli and turmeric farmers**

- On **June 25, 2025**, **NABARD** partnered with **ICAR-NIRCA** to offer post-harvest management and advanced processing training in **East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh**
- The program specifically targets **chilli and turmeric**, both moisture-sensitive and economically significant spices prone to post-harvest losses
- Farmers and FPOs received instruction on **scientific drying, grading, storage, packaging, and advanced dehydration equipment**, delivered through interactive sessions by experts including NIRCA's Director

7. **Wilmington Declaration**

The **Wilmington Declaration** outlines the **strategic vision and commitments** of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) towards a **free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific**. It marks a **milestone in institutionalising Quad cooperation**, shifting from diplomatic dialogue to **concrete action**, especially in maritime and security domains.

Key Highlights:

1. **Quad-at-Sea Initiative:** Launch of the first **joint maritime observer mission**, involving cross-embarkation of coast guard officers from all four countries.
2. **Strong Stand on China:** Explicit criticism of China's coercive activities and militarization in the South and East China Seas, and endorsement of UNCLOS.
3. **Humanitarian & Global Conflict Response:** Emphasis on peaceful resolution in **Ukraine and Gaza**, and commitment to humanitarian aid and rule of law.

4. **Launch of MAITRI:** A new **Maritime Training Initiative** to boost regional capabilities in disaster response, piracy prevention, and search-and-rescue.
5. **Other Initiatives:** Cooperation on health (e.g., mpox vaccine), climate, critical infrastructure, and technology (e.g., AI governance and supply chains).

8. India–UAE strategic partnership in green steel and aluminium:

- **New Industrial Partnership:**
India and the UAE have launched a strategic collaboration in **green steel and aluminium production** under the CEPA framework, focusing on **sustainable and low-carbon technologies**.
- **Key Ministerial Dialogue:**
India’s Steel Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and UAE’s Economy Minister Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri met to strengthen industrial and mineral cooperation.
- **Ras Al Khaimah’s Role:**
Ras Al Khaimah (UAE) will supply **low-silica limestone** and host green steel projects; Indian PSUs like **SAIL, NMDC, and MECON** are actively involved.
- **Green Manufacturing Goals:**
The partnership aims to boost **clean energy usage**, implement **smart manufacturing**, and support India’s goal of **300 million tonnes steel production by 2030**.
- **Joint Working Group Setup:**
A dedicated **working group under CEPA** will identify projects, ensure logistics, and promote investment in **green hydrogen, aluminium, and sustainable metal exports**.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

S.No.	Summits, Conferences & Events	Venue	Extra Information
1.	ASEAN–India Cruise Dialogue	Chennai, India	India is boosting maritime ties and the blue economy through Sagarmala and the Act East Policy.
2.	BhashaSetu Challenge	Mumbai, India	On June 30, 2025, the I&B Ministry launched the WaveX “BhashaSetu” Challenge to promote AI-based real-time translation in 12 Indian languages.
3.	QUAD Meeting 2025	Washington, USA	The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) is a strategic forum comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia.

4.	First National Conference of Urban Local Body (ULB) Chairpersons	Gurugram	The theme was “ Role of Urban Local Bodies in Strengthening Constitutional Democracy and Nation Building ”, featuring workshops on democracy, inclusion, Vision 2047, women’s empowerment, and urban innovation
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AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Radhanath Swami Receives New York City Honor for Interfaith and Humanitarian Service

- **NYC Honour for Spiritual Leadership:**

Radhanath Swami was honoured by **New York City officials** for his contributions to spiritual and community leadership at an interfaith event titled “*Foundation of Future*”.

- **Award Presented by Deputy Commissioner:**

The recognition was presented by **Dilip Chauhan**, Deputy Commissioner of International Affairs, on behalf of **Mayor Eric Adams**, at the Bhakti Center in Manhattan.

- **Promoting Interfaith Harmony:**

The event celebrated his role in promoting **devotional practices, spiritual unity, and interfaith dialogue** in one of the world’s most diverse cities.

- **Global Humanitarian Contributions:**

Radhanath Swami is known for leading social initiatives like **Govardhan Ecovillage** and the **Annamrita (midday meal) program**, serving education, health, and food security goals.

- **Indian-American Spiritual Bridge:**

Originally born as **Richard Slavin in Chicago**, his journey to becoming a Gaudiya Vaishnava monk highlights the **global influence of Indian spiritual traditions**.

2. Kerala Sahitya Akademi Announces 2024 Literary Award Winners Across Multiple Genres

The Kerala Sahitya Akademi has unveiled the 2024 winners of its annual literary awards, spotlighting the richness and diversity of Malayalam literature.

Best Novel: *Aano* by **G R Indugopan** won the prestigious award in the novel category.

Poetry & Short Story Awards:

- Poetry went to *Muringa Vazha Kariveppu* by **Anitha Thampi**.

- Short Story honour awarded to **V Shinilal** for *Garisappa Aruvi Athava Oru Jalayathra*.

Essay Recognition: **M Swaraj** received the essay award (Sibi Kumar Endowment) for *Pookkalude Pusthakam*.

Fellowship & Lifetime Achievement:

- Fellowship conferred to **K V Ramakrishnan**.

- Lifetime Contribution Awards bestowed on **Ezhacheri Ramachandran** and six veterans including P K N Panicker and Mallika Yuni

3. PM Modi Conferred Ghana's Highest Civilian Honour

- On **July 2–3, 2025**, during his historic visit—the first by an Indian PM in 30 years—PM Modi was awarded Ghana's **Officer grade of the Order of the Star of Ghana** by President John Dramani Mahama, honouring his distinguished global leadership

About Ghana:

- Location & Capital:**
Ghana is a West African nation with its capital at **Accra**, bordered by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Independence & Governance:**
It was the **first African country to gain independence** from colonial rule in 1957 and follows a **democratic presidential system**.
- Language & Religion:**
English is the official language; the population is predominantly **Christian**, with Muslim and traditional beliefs also present.
- Economy:**
Ghana has a resource-rich economy, known for **gold, cocoa, and oil**, and is one of the **top cocoa producers** globally.
- India–Ghana Relations:**
India and Ghana share strong ties in **trade, defense, digital infrastructure, and development cooperation**.

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	National Doctor's Day	July 1, 2025	Theme "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"
2.	National Statistics Day	June 29, 2025	Theme: "75 Years of National Sample Survey"
3.	International Day of the Tropics	June 29, 2025	This day was officially declared by the UN General Assembly in 2016 and marks the launch of the original State of the Tropics report in 2014
4.	Micro, Small & Medium - sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day	June 27, 2025	Theme: "Enhancing the role of MSMEs as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation"
5.	International Day of Deafblindness 2025	June 27, 2025	Theme: "Cultivating Leadership: Together We Grow"
6.	Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day	July 1, 2025	Theme: "GST: Simplifying Taxes; Empowering Citizens"
7.	National Chartered Accountants Day	July 1, 2025	Theme: "VISHWASNIYA" , reflecting a focus on trust, integrity, and leadership within the accounting and finance profession

8.	World Asteroid Day	June 30, 2025	Declared by the United Nations in 2016 , it's observed worldwide to raise awareness about asteroid impact risks and promote planetary defense
9.	World Sports Journalists Day	July 2, 2025	Theme: “Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact”

REPORTS & INDEXES

1. GoIStats App

- **Launch & Occasion**

MoSPI's National Sample Survey Office released the **GoIStats app** on **June 29, 2025**, coinciding with **India's 19th National Statistics Day**

- **Android First, iOS Coming Soon**

The app is currently available free on **Android**, with the **iOS version expected shortly**

- **“Key Trends” Interactive Dashboard**

It features a dynamic dashboard displaying critical socio-economic data—like **GDP, inflation, employment**—through interactive charts and visuals

- **Advanced Search & Data Download**

Offers **detailed filtering, comprehensive metadata**, mobile-optimized tables, CSV downloads, and an advance release calendar for datasets

- **Promotes Transparency & Data Literacy**

GoIStats enhances **real-time access, data-driven policymaking**, and **public engagement**, aligning with India's move toward a **digital Viksit Bharat**

2. “State of the Climate in Asia 2024 released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Key finding of the report

- **Rapid Warming** Asia's temperature rose $\sim 1.04^\circ\text{C}$ above the 1991–2020 average in 2024—warming nearly twice as fast as the global average (1991–2024 vs 1961–1990).
- **Ocean Heat Extremes:** Sea surface temperatures increased by about 0.24°C per decade—double the global rate of 0.13°C —leading to record-breaking marine heatwaves affecting ~ 15 million km^2 .
- **Glacier & Sea-Level Crisis:** Rapid warming is accelerating glacier melt in the Himalayas and Tian Shan, increasing the risk of glacial floods. Sea levels along the Pacific and Indian Oceans are rising faster, threatening coastal zones.
- **Extreme Weather Impact:** The region experienced widespread heatwaves, cyclones, floods, and droughts in 2024—resulting in heat-related deaths, crop losses, and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure
- **Urgent Adaptation Needed:** The WMO emphasized strengthening meteorological services, early warning systems, and policy action for adaptation and resilience to shield populations from escalating climate threats

3. UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025

- The report is the **10th edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025**, published by the **SDG Transformation Center under the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**

Top 5 Countries

1. **Finland**
2. **Sweden**
3. **Denmark**
4. **Germany**
5. **France**

Bottom 5 Countries

167. **South Sudan**
166. **Central African Republic**
165. **Chad**
164. **Somalia**
163. **Yeme**

- India ranked **99th out of 167** in the **SDG Index 2025** with a **score of 67.0**, marking its **first-ever entry into the top 100**, up from **109th in 2024**.

4. Global Unicorn Index 2025

The **Global Unicorn Index 2025** is published by the **Hurun Research Institute** under the **Hurun Report** banner.

Top 5 Countries with the Most Unicorns

1. **United States** – 758 unicorns
2. **China** – 343 unicorns
3. **India** – 64 unicorns **United Kingdom** – 61 unicorns
4. **Germany** – 36 unicorns

India ranks **3rd globally with 64 unicorns**, led by **Bengaluru (#7)**, **Mumbai (#22)**, and **Gurugram (#27)**, with top sectors like **FinTech** and **gaming** featuring unicorns such as **Zerodha (\$8.2B)**, **Dream11 (\$8B)**, and **Razorpay (\$7.5B)**.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. INS Tamal

- **INS Tamal**, a stealth guided-missile frigate, was commissioned on **1 July 2025** at **Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia**.
- It is the **last foreign-built major warship** for India, marking a shift to indigenous naval production under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Part of the **Talwar-class/Tushil-class**, it features **BrahMos missiles**, advanced radar systems, and a displacement of **~3,900 tonnes**.
- The ship was built with **26% indigenous components**; follow-up ships are being constructed at **Goa Shipyard Ltd**.

- **Captain Sridhar Tata** commands the vessel, which will join the **Western Naval Command**, enhancing India's maritime strength.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes First Indian to Visit International Space Station

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, a test pilot selected under ISRO's first astronaut group, became the **634th human to orbit Earth** after docking with the ISS on **June 26, 2025** aboard Axiom Mission 4.
- He made history as the **first Indian to visit the International Space Station** and the **second Indian in space** after Rakesh Sharma in 1984

About the International Space Station (ISS):

The **International Space Station (ISS)** is a large, habitable **space laboratory** orbiting Earth at an altitude of approximately **400 km**. It is a **multinational collaborative project** involving five major space agencies: **NASA (USA), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada)**.

Key Facts:

- **Launched:** First module launched in **1998**
- **Orbit:** Completes an orbit of Earth approximately **every 90 minutes**
- **Crew:** Supports **6 astronauts** at a time from various countries
- **Purpose:** Scientific research in **microgravity**, Earth observation, space medicine, and technology testing
- **Modules:** Includes laboratories like **Destiny (US), Columbus (Europe), Kibo (Japan)**
- **Lifespan:** Extended to operate till **2030**, with newer commercial stations expected thereafter

Indian Citizens and Indian Origin Who Flew in Space

- **Rakesh Sharma** – First Indian in space (1984), flew aboard Soviet Soyuz T-11.
- **Shubhanshu Shukla** – First Indian to reach the ISS (2025), 634th human in space.
- **Kalpana Chawla** – First woman of Indian origin in space; flew on STS-87 (1997) and STS-107 (2003).
- **Sunita Williams** – Indian-American astronaut; over 600 days in space, 9 spacewalks.
- **Raja Chari** – Indian-American astronaut; flew on SpaceX Crew-3, part of NASA's Artemis team.
- **Sirisha Bandla** – Flew on Virgin Galactic Unity-22 suborbital mission (2021); India-born US aerospace engineer.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

S.No.	Book Name	Author	Extra Information
1.	The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan	It offers an unfiltered, deeply personal look at his cricket journey—from self-doubt and injuries to his rise as India's beloved opener

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. India Post to Roll Out UPI Payments Nationwide by August 2025

- **India Post** will enable **UPI payments at all post office counters nationwide by August 2025**.
- The move follows a successful **pilot in Karnataka**, including Mysore and Bagalkot.
- Payments will use **dynamic QR codes**, generated per transaction for enhanced security.
- This upgrade is part of the **IT 2.0 initiative**, boosting digital access across rural and urban India.
- It aligns with the **Digital India mission**, offering cashless convenience for postal services.

2. Adi Karmyogi' initiative:

- **Adi Karmyogi** is a new initiative by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to **train grassroots officials** for effective implementation of tribal welfare schemes.
- It aims to transform **mindsets, motivation, and accountability** among 20 lakh+ frontline workers.
- The programme will create **over 18,000 trainers** across state, district, and block levels.
- It targets **1 lakh tribal villages**, focusing on improving service delivery and inter-departmental coordination.
- It supports tribal startups, strengthens Tribal Research Institutes, and addresses health issues like **sickle cell disease**.

3. Global Potato Research Hub in Agra

- **Union Cabinet approved** the establishment of the International Potato Center's South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) in Singna, Agra, with a ₹111.5 crore investment.
- **Hosted by CIP**—a premier Peru-based R&D organization under CGIAR—specializing in potato and sweet potato research
- **Objective:** Enhance food security, farmer incomes, and rural jobs through improved crop productivity, post-harvest management, and value addition
- **Focus on innovation:** Developing high-yielding, climate-resilient, nutrient-rich potato and sweet potato varieties and boosting R&D in South Asia
- **Regional impact:** Will serve India's main potato-growing states (UP, Bihar, WB) and neighboring South Asian countries, strengthening regional agriculture

4. CBSE Rolls Out Biannual Board Exam System for Class 10 from 2026–27

- **Starting 2026–27**, CBSE will conduct Class 10 board exams **twice annually**—a **mandatory first phase (Feb–Mar)** and an **optional second phase (May)** for improvement
- Students may retake **up to three subjects**, choosing the **better score** from both attempts for final evaluation
- This reform aligns with **NEP-2020**, aiming to reduce high-stakes pressure and provide **flexibility and support** to students
- **Internal assessments** will continue to be held **once per year**, before the first exam

- While hailed as “**rooted in compassion**” by principals, some educators warn it may increase **workload and stress** for students and **teachers**

5. “India Rolls Out Passport Seva 2.0 with Secure e-Passports Nationwide”

- **Nationwide e-Passport Launch:** India launched e-passports with embedded RFID chips, enhancing security and enabling faster immigration clearance at global checkpoints.
- **Tech-Driven Upgrades:** Passport Seva 2.0 integrates AI, cloud computing, digital verification, and chatbots to streamline passport processing and improve transparency.
- **Faster Police Verification:** The mPassport Police App, now active in 25 states/UTs, has reduced police verification time to just 5–7 days.
- **Wider Access & Reach:** Over 450 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) and mobile passport vans have expanded services to rural and remote areas.
- **Global Standards Compliance:** e-Passports meet ICAO norms, putting India in line with 120+ countries already using biometric passports.

6. SPREE Scheme (Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees)

Its main features include:

- **Voluntary Registration Drive:** SPREE is a special initiative by ESIC to encourage unregistered employers and employees—including contract and temporary workers—to register under the ESI Act.
- **No Penalties or Inspections:** Employers registering during the SPREE window are exempted from retrospective penalties, interest, or inspection for prior non-registration.
- **Simplified Compliance:** Registration is made easy and digital, promoting hassle-free onboarding of establishments and boosting participation in social security schemes.
- **Fixed Coverage Date:** Coverage under ESI begins from the date of declaration made by the employer during the scheme period—ensuring clarity and no retrospective liability.
- **Objective:** To expand formal workforce coverage, reduce informal employment, and enhance social protection through broader ESI inclusion.

7. Kerala Tops Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) Rankings (2020–2025)

- According to the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**, Kerala achieved the highest **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)** score of **76.22%**, making it the **only state** rated “**Very Good**” among all Indian states
- **Eravikulam National Park** (Kerala) and **Dachigam National Park** (Jammu & Kashmir) tied for the top score at **92.97%**, marking them as India’s best-managed parks

Other Kerala parks with outstanding rankings:

- **Mathikettan Shola National Park:** 90.63%
- **Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary:** 89.84%

What is Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2020–2025?

- The **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)** is a framework developed to **assess the performance** of India’s **Protected Areas (PAs)** such as **National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Community Reserves** in conserving biodiversity and ecosystems.

- It uses a **32-criteria framework** aligned with global IUCN standards to rate parks as **Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor**.

8. **C-FLOOD Platform (India's First Unified Flood Forecasting System)**

- **Launched on July 2, 2025** by Union Jal Shakti Minister **C. R. Patil**, C-FLOOD is India's first unified web-based **flood forecasting platform** offering **village-level inundation alerts** up to **48 hours in advance**.
- Developed collaboratively by **C-DAC**, **Central Water Commission (CWC)**, and **NRSC**, it uses **2D hydrodynamic models** powered by **high-performance computing (HPC)** under the **National Supercomputing Mission**.
- Initially covers **three river basins**—**Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi**—with plans to scale up to additional basins across India.
- The platform integrates with the **National Disaster Management Emergency Response (NDEM)** portal for real-time disaster response coordination.
- C-FLOOD enhances **early warning accuracy** through **satellite data validation** and on-ground feedback, enabling better preparedness for flood-prone districts.

9. **RECLAIM Framework launched by India's Coal Ministry for sustainable mine closure**

- The **"Rehabilitation & Ensuring a Community-Led Approach for Inclusive and Just Mine Closure"** (RECLAIM) **Community Engagement & Development** Framework was officially launched on **4 July 2025** by Union Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**, signaling the Coal Ministry's drive toward more sustainable and just mine closures
- Designed as a **comprehensive, step-by-step guide**, it structures **community engagement and development** during both pre-closure, closure, and post-closure phases of coal mines, ensuring **participation from affected populations**
- Emphasis is on **gender-inclusivity**, representation of **vulnerable groups**, and integration with **Panchayati Raj institutions**, aiming to foster fair, locally relevant socio-economic outcomes
- Through ecological interventions like **land reclamation**, **green cover**, controlling soil/gas hazards, **water table replenishment**, and livelihoods skilling, it seeks to convert defunct mines into **thriving green and economic zones**
- The framework includes a practical **toolkit of templates and field-tested methodologies**, crafted in partnership with the **Coal Controller Organisation and Heartfulness Institute**, and guided by global best practices like **ICMM Standards** and **SDGs**

10. **PM-MITRA**

- **PM-MITRA** stands for **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel**. Launched in **2021**, it aims to create **7 world-class textile parks** across India—either on new (greenfield) or existing (brownfield) sites—with a total outlay of **₹4,445 crore** for fiscal years 2021–22 to 2027–28.
- Following the Prime Minister's **"5F" vision**—Farm to Fibre → Fibre to Factory → Factory to Fashion → Fashion to Foreign—each park is designed to integrate the **entire**

textile value chain (spinning, weaving, processing, printing, garmenting) at a single location

- Selected states and cities include **Virudhunagar (TN)**, **Warangal (Telangana)**, **Navsari (Gujarat)**, **Kalaburagi (Karnataka)**, **Dhar (MP)**, **Lucknow (UP)**, and **Amravati (Maharashtra)**

Financial Support Structure under PM MITRA:

- **Development Capital Support (DCS):** Covers up to **30% of project cost**, capped at **₹500 crore for greenfield** and **₹200 crore for brownfield** parks.
- **Competitive Incentive Support (CIS):** Additional **₹300 crore per park** to attract early investments.

Places In News:

1. Ghana

- **Location:** West Africa; bordered by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, and the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Strategic Port:** Home to **Tema and Takoradi ports**, crucial for West African trade.
- **Natural Resources:** Major producer of **gold, cocoa, and oil**.

2. Trinidad & Tobago

- **Location:** Southern Caribbean; near the Venezuelan coast.
- **Diaspora Link:** Large **Indian-origin population (~37%)**, with cultural ties to UP/Bihar.
- **Energy Hub:** Major exporter of **LNG and petrochemicals**.

3. Argentina

- **Location:** Southern South America; stretches from the Andes to the Atlantic.
- **Natural Riches:** Rich in **lithium, beef, soybeans, and wine**.
- **Patagonia & Pampas:** Known for vast grasslands and glacial landscapes.

4. Brazil

- **Location:** Largest country in South America; bordered by 10 countries
- **Amazon Basin:** Houses 60% of the **Amazon Rainforest**, critical for global climate.
- **Agro Powerhouse:** Global leader in **soy, coffee, and sugar exports**.

5. Namibia

- **Location:** Southern Africa; bordered by Angola, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa.
- **Geographic Features:** Features **Namib Desert, Etosha National Park**, and rich uranium reserves.
- **Conservation Partner:** India and Namibia are collaborating on **cheetah translocation projects**.

MISCELLANEOUS (ONE LINER CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Turmeric Board headquarters** in **Nizamabad, Telangana**, aiming to boost turmeric exports and farmer welfare

2. India unveiled its **longest animal overpass corridor** on the **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway**, enhancing wildlife safety and connectivity.
3. India **banned jute imports from Bangladesh** via land and sea ports to protect domestic producers and regulate quality standards.
4. **Sri Lanka's Kataragama Esala Festival 2025** began with a **grand flag hoisting ceremony**, celebrating centuries-old religious harmony.
5. The **Ambubachi Mela 2025** at Assam's **Kamakhya Temple** celebrates the annual **menstruation cycle of Goddess Shakti**, blending spirituality with womanhood.
6. **Adani Green Energy** became the **first Indian company** to surpass **15 GW renewable energy capacity**, marking a key milestone in India's green energy push.
7. **India's first butterfly sanctuary** was inaugurated in **Kerala's Aralam forest**, aiming to conserve over 300 species and promote eco-tourism.
8. **India's first wooden Gurdwara** opened in **Fazilka, Punjab**, showcasing an eco-friendly design symbolizing devotion and architectural innovation.
9. **Ladakh hosted its first astro-tourism festival**, promoting **scientific tourism and stargazing** amid the region's clear skies and high altitudes.
10. The **RailOne app** was launched by Indian Railways to **unify all passenger services**, including booking, tracking, and grievances, under one platform.
11. The Union Cabinet approved the **ELI Scheme** aimed at **generating 3.5 crore jobs** across India by boosting large-scale electronics manufacturing.
12. **Operation MELON** was a high-profile operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau that successfully busted India's largest darknet drug syndicate led by the vendor alias "Ketamelon," resulting in the seizure of over 1,100 LSD blots, ketamine, and ₹70 lakh worth of cryptocurrency, marking a major breakthrough in cyber-narcotics trafficking.
13. **Indore has launched India's first QR-based digital house address system**, installing unique QR-coded plates at homes (pilot in Sudama Nagar) linked with the national DigiPin system to enable GPS-based address identification and digital civic services
14. **Slice has opened India's first fully UPI-powered physical bank branch and ATM in Koramangala, Bengaluru**, offering a cardless, paperless banking experience using only UPI for deposits, withdrawals, account opening, and even a robot assistant
15. **Shefali Jariwala**, renowned as the "Kaanta Laga girl," passed away on **June 27, 2025**, in Mumbai at the age of **42**, reportedly due to **cardiac arrest**