



TestCoach

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Weekly Current Affairs

(1st JUNE - 7th JUNE)



W W W . T E S T C O A C H . I N

NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. DRDO chief Dr Samir Kamat's tenure extended again by 1 year

About DRDO:

Established: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Parent Agency: Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Motto: “Balasya Mulam Vigyanam” (The source of strength is science)

Mandate

- Develop defence technologies for Indian Armed Forces
- Enhance self-reliance in defence systems
- R&D in fields like missiles, electronics, naval systems, AI, and cyber warfare

Key Contributions

- Missiles: Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Nag, BrahMos (with Russia)
- Aircraft: Tejas (LCA), Rustom UAV, Netra drone
- Combat Vehicles: Arjun Main Battle Tank
- Mission Shakti: Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile test (2019)
- Electronics: Radars, communication & EW systems
- Life Sciences: Soldier gear for extreme environments

2. Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India has assumed office as the President of CII for 2025-26.

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):

Basic Facts

- **Established:** 1895 (originally as Engineering and Iron Trades Association)
- **Renamed as CII:** 1992
- **Type:** Non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led organization
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Parent Body:** Independent, supported by Indian industry
- **Motto:** 'Business for Livelihood'

Objectives & Role

- Promote industrial development, entrepreneurship, and policy advocacy
- Bridge between government and industries
- Facilitate reforms in business environment, skill development, and innovation
- Support MSMEs, startups, and export competitiveness

Key Functions

- **Policy Advocacy:** Advises government on economic, industrial, and trade policies

- **Business Development:** Organizes trade fairs, B2B meets, and international forums
- **Capacity Building:** Offers training, consultancy, and skill development
- **Sustainability:** Promotes clean energy, ESG, CSR, and SDG-linked practices

3. Luís Montenegro reappointed as Portugal's prime minister

- He is the president of the **Social Democratic Party (PSD)** and he leads the 24th Constitutional Government.

About Portugal

Basic Facts

- **Capital:** Lisbon
- **Official Language:** Portuguese
- **Currency:** Euro (€)
- **Continent:** Europe (Iberian Peninsula)
- **Borders:** Only with Spain
- **Population:** ~10.2 million (2024 estimate)

Political System

- **Type:** Parliamentary Republic
- **President:** Ceremonial head of state (Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa as of 2024)
- **Prime Minister:** Executive head (Luís Montenegro in 2024–25)
- **Parliament:** Unicameral – Assembly of the Republic
- **Major Parties:** Social Democratic Party (ruling), Socialist Party (opposition)

4. Karol Nawrocki is the new elected president of Poland

- Karol Nawrocki won Poland's presidency in a tight runoff on June 1, 2025, with 50.89% of the vote, **narrowly defeating Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski**. He will be sworn in on August 6, succeeding President Andrzej Duda.

Poland Geographical Location

- **Continent:** Europe (Central Europe)
- **Borders:** Germany (West), Czech Republic & Slovakia (South), Ukraine & Belarus (East), Lithuania & Russia (Northeast), Baltic Sea (North)
- **Capital:** Warsaw
- **Currency:** Polish Zloty (PLN)

Political System

- **Government Type:** Parliamentary Republic
- **President (2025):** Karol Nawrocki (elected June 2025, succeeding Andrzej Duda)
- **Prime Minister (2025):** Donald Tusk
- **Parliament:** Bicameral (Sejm – Lower House, Senate – Upper House)

5. Lee Jae-myung has been elected as the new president of South Korea

- He secured 49.42% of the vote, **defeating conservative candidate Kim Moon-soo**, who received 41.15%.
- The election was necessitated by the impeachment and removal of **former President Yoon Suk Yeol** after his controversial declaration of martial law in December 2024 .

Political Structure

- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **President (2025):** Lee Jae-myung (elected June 2025)
- **Prime Minister:** Appointed by President with National Assembly consent
- **Legislature:** Unicameral (National Assembly)

6. Annalena Baerbock has been elected President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

- Annalena Baerbock, **former German Foreign Minister**, was elected President of the 80th UN General Assembly on by defeating Helga Schmid
- She will Succeed **Philémon Yang of Cameroon**.
- She becomes the **fifth woman** to hold this position since the UN's founding

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) – Overview

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** is one of the six principal organs of the **United Nations (UN)** and serves as its **main deliberative, policymaking, and representative body**.

Key Features:

- **Established:** 1945, under the UN Charter
- **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
- **Membership:** All 193 UN member states
- **Voting:** Each member has **one vote**
- **Sessions:** Regular sessions begin in **September** each year; special and emergency sessions can be called

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7. Lt Gen Dinesh Singh Rana becomes new chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command
About Andaman & Nicobar Command

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** is **India's first and only integrated tri-service theater command**, established in October 2001.
- Headquartered at **Sri Vijaya Puram** (formerly Port Blair), it unifies the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard under a single command structure to safeguard India's strategic interests in the eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- **Commander-in-Chief (CINCAN):** As of June 1, 2025, **Lieutenant General Dinesh Singh Rana** serves as the 18th CINCAN, overseeing all tri-service operations in the region

8. List of Brand Ambassador in news

S.No.	Brand Ambassador	Company	Extra Information
1.	Neeraj Chopra	Audi India	Neeraj Chopra is a renowned Indian javelin thrower who won Olympic gold in 2020 and silver in 2024.
2.	Shubman Gill	Oakley	He has partnered with Oakley for their latest campaign titled "Artifacts from the Future."
3.	Shraddha Kapoor	Eureka Forbes	-

SPORTS UPDATES:

1. American tennis player **Serena Williams** has been granted the **2025 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports**

- The **Princess of Asturias Awards** are prestigious **Spanish honors** established in **1981** to recognize exceptional contributions in fields like Arts, Literature, Sports, Social Sciences, and more.
- Presented annually in Oviedo, the awards include a €50,000 prize and a Joan Miró sculpture.
- Presented by Princess Leonor of Spain, the award honours outstanding achievements in areas including: Arts, Literature, Social Sciences, Scientific Research, Sports

2. **Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 will be held in Ahmedabad from April 1 to 10**

- **Event:** 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships
- **Dates:** April 1–10, 2026
- **Venue:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- **Organizer:** Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)
- Originally allocated to Gandhinagar, the venue was shifted to Ahmedabad for better infrastructure and logistics.

3. India's Mahendra Gurjar sets world record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland

- **Event:** World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025
- **Location:** Nottwil, Switzerland
- **Date:** May 23–25, 2025
- **Athlete:** Mahendra Gurjar (India) set a new world record in the men's **F42** category javelin throw with a distance of **61.17 meters**.

4. Hyderabad's 16-year-old Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti becomes the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits challenge.

The Seven Summits Achieved by Vishwanath Karthikey:

1. **Mount Everest (Asia)** – 8,848 meters
2. **Denali (North America)** – 6,190 meters
3. **Aconcagua (South America)** – 6,961 meters
4. **Mount Elbrus (Europe)** – 5,642 meters
5. **Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa)** – 5,895 meters
6. **Mount Vinson (Antarctica)** – 4,892 meters
7. **Mount Kosciuszko (Australia)** – 2,228 meters

5. Retirements:

- **Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell** has announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket, concluding a distinguished 13-year career. He will continue to play T20 Internationals for Australia.
- **South African wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen** has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket at the age of 33

6. RCB's Historic Maiden IPL Title

- After **18 seasons**, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) clinched their first-ever IPL championship by **defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS)** by 6 runs in a thrilling final held at the **Narendra Modi Stadium** in Ahmedabad on June 3, 2025

Individual Accolades and Performances

- **Orange Cap (Most Runs):** Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans) – 759 runs in 15 matches.
- **Purple Cap (Most Wickets):** Prasidh Krishna (Gujarat Titans) – 25 wickets.
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP):** Suryakumar Yadav (Mumbai Indians) – 320.5 points.
- **Emerging Player:** Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans).
- **Super Striker of the Season:** Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals) – Strike Rate of 206.6.
- **Maximum Sixes:** Nicholas Pooran (Lucknow Super Giants) – 40 sixes.

- **Maximum Fours:** Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans) – 88 fours.
- **Final Player of the Match:** Krunal Pandya (RCB) – 2 wickets for 17 runs in 4 overs.
- **Most Dot Balls:** Mohammed Siraj (Gujarat Titans) – 151 dot balls.
- **Perfect Catch of the Season:** Kamindu Mendis (Sunrisers Hyderabad).
- **Fairplay Award:** Chennai Super Kings

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

1. Microsoft and Yotta join hands in a bid to expand AI infrastructure in India

Key Stakeholders:

- **Microsoft:** Global technology company providing Azure AI services.
- **Yotta Data Services:** Indian data center and cloud service provider operating the Shakti Cloud platform.

Objective of the Partnership:

- To accelerate the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across India by integrating Microsoft's Azure AI services into Yotta's Shakti Cloud, a sovereign AI cloud platform

Key Features of the Collaboration:

- **Integration of Azure AI with Shakti Cloud:** Combining Microsoft's AI models, applications, and development tools with Yotta's cost-effective, high-performance AI compute platform.
- **Support for IndiaAI Mission:** Aligning with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's initiative to foster a robust AI ecosystem in India.
- **Empowerment Across Sectors:** Aiming to drive innovation in critical sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, finance, manufacturing, retail, and media.

2. India's first AI SEZ to come up in Nava Raipur

Project Overview:

- **Location:** Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- **Developer:** RackBank Datacenters Pvt. Ltd. (Indore-based)
- **Investment:** ₹1,000 crore
- **Area:** 6 acres
- **Facility:** 1.5 lakh sq. ft. data center equipped with high-performance computing systems for AI applications
- **Capacity:** Four high-density data centers with a combined capacity of 80 megawatts

Objectives:

- Establish India as a producer and host of AI services, not just a consumer
- Support large-scale digital operations and AI development
- Attract global tech giants like Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, and Meta to host their AI services from India

3. ADB commits \$10 bn plan for India's urban transformation

- During a high-level meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 31, 2025, **Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa** announced a significant \$10 billion investment plan spanning five years, aimed at accelerating urban transformation and improving urban mobility across India.

About Asian Development Bank

- **Established:** 1966
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines
- **Members:** 68 countries (49 from Asia and the Pacific)
- **President (as of 2025):** Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- **Official Languages:** English
- **Currency Used in Operations:** US Dollar (USD)
- **Voting power in ADB is based on capital subscriptions, with Japan and the USA being the largest shareholders.**
- India is a **founding member** of ADB.

4. India to build its First Polar Research Vehicle

- On June 3, 2025, Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Norway's Kongsberg Maritime to co-design and build India's first indigenous Polar Research Vessel (PRV).
- **The MoU was signed in Oslo in the presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.**

What is a Polar Research Vessel (PRV)?

A PRV is a specialized ship designed for conducting research in polar regions, including the Arctic and Antarctic. These vessels are equipped with advanced scientific instruments to facilitate studies in oceanography, marine ecosystems, climate change, and other related fields.

Maritime Development Fund (MDF)

The Indian government has established a ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund to boost the maritime sector. The fund aims to support shipbuilding, enhance port infrastructure, and promote sustainable maritime practices. The development of the PRV aligns with the objectives of the MDF

India's Existing Polar Research Stations

Antarctica:

- **Maitri:** Operational since 1989, focusing on geological and atmospheric research.

- **Bharati:** Commissioned in 2012, facilitating studies in oceanography and continental breakup.

Arctic:

- **Himadri:** Established in 2008 in Svalbard, Norway, conducting research in atmospheric sciences, glaciology, and biology.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

S.No.	Summits, Conferences & Events	Venue	Extra Information
1.	Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav-2025	Dehradun	It aims to promote intellectual property (IP) awareness in India. This event is part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative and was first started in July 2023.
2.	International Air Transport Association's 81st Annual General Meeting	New Delhi	The International Air Transport Association (IATA) will host its 2025 AGM and World Air Transport Summit in New Delhi from June 1–3, marking India's first time hosting the event in 42 years since 1983.
3.	78th World Health Assembly	Geneva	India played a key role in adopting the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 , reinforcing its commitment to global integration of traditional medicine
4.	Lavender Festival 2025	Bhaderwah, Jammu and Kashmir	It was Organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) , the festival highlighted the success of the 'Aroma Mission' in promoting lavender farming

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Miss World 2025

- **Winner:** Opal Suchata Chuangsri (Thailand)
- **1st Runner-Up:** Hasset Dereje Admassu (Ethiopia)
- **2nd Runner-Up:** Maja Klajda (Poland)
- **3rd Runner-Up:** Aurélie Joachim (Martinique)
- **Date & Venue:** May 31, 2025, at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, India.
- **Significance:** Opal became the first Thai woman to win the Miss World title in the pageant's 72-year history.
- **Hosts:** Stephanie Del Valle (Miss World 2016) and Indian presenter Sachin Kumbhar.

2. Monica Kezia Sembiring Wins Miss World 2025 Talent Competition

Event Overview

- **Event:** Miss World 2025 Talent Final
- **Date:** May 22, 2025
- **Venue:** Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad, India
- **Winner:** Monica Kezia Sembiring (Indonesia)
- **Runners-up:**
 - 1st Runner-up: Issie Princesse
 - 2nd Runner-up: Chiara Esposito

3. Sadhguru Honored with the “Global Indian of the Year 2024” by Canada India Foundation

Key Highlights

- **Awardee:** Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Foundation.
- **Awarding Body:** Canada India Foundation
- **Date & Venue:** May 22, 2025, in Toronto, Canada.
- **Recognition:** For his significant contributions to raising human consciousness and promoting ecological sustainability through initiatives like the Conscious Planet movement.
- **Award Details:** The award includes a cash prize of CAD 50,000, which Sadhguru dedicated to the 'Cauvery Calling' project, aimed at revitalizing the Cauvery River and supporting farmers in the region.

About the Canada India Foundation (CIF)

- **It was established in the year 2007**
- **Headquarters:** Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
- **Objective:** To strengthen Canada-India relations through public policy advocacy and recognizing individuals of Indian origin who have made significant global impacts.

4. National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025

Overview

- **Event:** National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025
- **Date:** May 30, 2025
- **Venue:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- **Presented by:** President Droupadi Murmu
- **Organized by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Purpose:** To honor exceptional nursing professionals for their outstanding contributions to public health and community welfare.

Award Details

- **Instituted:** 1973
- **Eligibility:** Registered Nurses, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) from government and voluntary sectors.
- **Award Components:**
 - Certificate of Merit
 - Medal
 - Cash Prize of ₹1,00,000

5. Raja Kumari Makes History at the American Music Awards 2025

Key Highlights

- **Award:** Winner of the 'Favorite Soundtrack' category at the 51st American Music Awards (AMAs) held on May 26, 2025, in Las Vegas.
- **Song:** "Renegade (We Never Run)" from *Arcane: League of Legends* Season
- **Collaborators:** Stefflon Don (UK) and Jarina de Marco (Dominican-Brazilian).
- **Significance:** First Indian-origin artist to win an AMA, marking a milestone for South Asian representation in global music.

6. Kumar Mangalam Birla Receives USISPF Global Leadership Award 2025

- **Event:** USISPF Leadership Summit 2025
- **Date:** June 2, 2025
- **Venue:** Washington, D.C.
- **Awarding Body:** U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

Awardees:

- **Kumar Mangalam Birla** – Chairman, Aditya Birla Group
- **Arvind Krishna** – Chairman & CEO, IBM
- **Toshiaki Higashihara** – Executive Chairman, Hitachi

These leaders were honored for their significant contributions to strengthening economic ties among the U.S., India, and Japan, and for promoting cross-border innovation and strategic collaboration.

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	World No Tobacco Day 2025	May 31, 2025	Theme- “Bright Products. Dark Intentions. Unmasking the Appeal”
2.	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories 2025	May 25–31, 2025	It was established through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/91, adopted in 1999.
3.	World Hunger Day 2025,	May 28, 2025	Theme: “ <i>Sowing Resilience</i> ”
4.	Menstrual Hygiene Day 2025,	May 28, 2025	Theme: “ <i>Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld</i> ”
5.	Maharana Pratap Jayanti 2025	Hindu Calendar: Jyeshtha Shukla Tritiya	-----
6.	Hindi Journalism Day 2025,	May 30, 2025	It Marks the anniversary of the publication of <i>Udant Martand</i> , India’s first Hindi newspaper, which was first issued on May 30, 1826.
8.	International Everest Day	May 29	It is celebrated annually on May 29 to commemorate the historic first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal in 1953.
9.	World Bicycle Day 2025	June 3	-----
10.	Global Day of Parents	June 1.	The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 1 as the Global Day of Parents in 2012 , recognizing the vital role of parents in the upbringing and protection of children

11.	Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th Birth Anniversary	May 31, 2025	-----
12.	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	June 4.	Established by the UN in 1982, the day recognizes the suffering of children affected by abuse, especially in armed conflicts.
13.	World Milk Day 2025	June 1, 2025	Theme: “Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy”
14.	World Environment Day 2025	June 5, 2025	Theme “Beat Plastic Pollution. The Republic of Korea is hosting World Environment Day 2025

REPORTS & INDEXES

1. Hub Connectivity Index:

- The Hub Connectivity Index was introduced in the 2025 edition of the ACI rankings.
- The Hub Connectivity Index assesses aspects such as destination count, flight frequency, and transfer opportunities.
- It is released by Airports Council International Asia-Pacific & Middle East (ACI APAC & MID)
- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) (10th Rank) is the only Indian airport to feature in the top 10 list.**

Top 3 Airports in the List:

1. Dubai International Airport (UAE)
2. Shanghai Pudong International Airport (China)
3. Hamad International Airport (Qatar)

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. Maiden Visit of EUNAVFOR Ships to India

- **Date:** May 26 – June 1, 2025
- **Location:** Mumbai, India

Participating Ships:

- **ESPS Reina Sofia** (Spanish Navy), commanded by Cdr Salvador Moreno Regil
- **ITS Antonio Marceglia** (Italian Navy), commanded by Cdr Alberto Bartolomeo

Significance:

- First-ever visit of European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ships to India.

- Follows discussions between Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and EU President Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, emphasizing shared commitment to international peace and security.

Key Activities:

- **Harbour Engagements:**
 - Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs)
 - Table Top Exercise (TTX) focusing on tactical-level cooperation at sea
- **Planned Joint Sea Exercise:**
 - Involving EUNAVFOR ships and Indian Navy's ships and aircraft
 - Aimed at enhancing interoperability to combat non-traditional threats in the Indian Ocean Region

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Siemens Delivers India's First 9,000 HP Electric Freight Locomotive

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian Railways' first indigenously built 9000 HP electric freight locomotive in Dahod, Gujarat, developed in collaboration with Siemens India to boost freight efficiency.
- India's first 9000 HP single-unit electric locomotive for freight operations.
- Manufactured at the newly established facility in Dahod, Gujarat.
- **Equipped with 'Kavach'** – India's indigenous Train Collision Avoidance System.
- Jointly developed with Siemens India under a global procurement initiative.
- Engineered for efficient haulage of longer and heavier freight trains.

2. India Embarks on Indigenous Development of Electric Hansa (E-Hansa) Trainer Aircraft

Key Highlights:

- **Project Overview:** India has initiated the development of the Electric Hansa (E-Hansa), a next-generation **two-seater electric trainer aircraft**.
- **Development Agency:** The aircraft is being indigenously developed by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) in Bengaluru**
- **Cost Efficiency:** The E-Hansa is expected to cost approximately ₹2 crore, roughly half the price of comparable imported trainer aircraft.
- **Program Integration:** E-Hansa is part of the broader HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft program, aiming to provide cost-effective and indigenous options for pilot training in India.

- **Environmental Impact:** The development aligns with India's green aviation goals, promoting the use of clean energy fuels in aircraft operations.

3. China Launches Tianwen-2 Asteroid Sample-Return Mission

Launch Date: May 28, 2025

Launch Vehicle: Long March 3B rocket

Launch Site: Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Sichuan Province

Mission Duration: Approximately 10 years

Mission Objectives:

- Collect samples from near-Earth asteroid 469219 Kamoʻoalewa (2016 HO3) and return them to Earth by 2027.
- Conduct a flyby study of main-belt comet 311P/PANSTARRS around 2035.

Scientific Significance:

- Kamoʻoalewa is a quasi-satellite of Earth, exhibiting lunar-like spectral characteristics, suggesting a possible origin from the Moon's Giordano Bruno crater.
- Studying these celestial bodies aims to provide insights into the early solar system and the origins of water on Earth.

Technological Highlights:

- Employs multiple sampling techniques: hover sampling, touch-and-go (TAG), and anchored drilling.
- Equipped with 11 scientific instruments for comprehensive analysis.
- Utilizes solar electric propulsion for efficient deep-space maneuvering.

Strategic Importance:

- Positions China as the third nation to retrieve asteroid samples, following the U.S. and Japan.
- Serves as a precursor to the Tianwen-3 Mars sample-return mission planned for 2028.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

S.No.	Book Name	Author	Extra Information
7.	Indira Gandhi and the Years That Transformed India	Srinivasa Raghavan	-----

OBITUARIES

1. **Valmik Thapar, eminent tiger conservationist and author, passed away at the age of 73 in New Delhi on May 31, 2025.**

2. Étienne-Émile Baulieu, Inventor of the Abortion Pill, Passes Away at 98

- Étienne-Émile Baulieu, who passed away at 98 in Paris on May 30, 2025, was a **pioneering French scientist** best known for developing the **abortion pill RU-486 in 1982**.
- He also made significant contributions to steroid hormone research and introduced the concept of neurosteroids, advancing studies on aging and brain health.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. India Post Launches DIGIPIN and Geo-Fenced PIN Code Portals

Date of Launch: May 27, 2025

Launched By: Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications

Key Highlights:

- **DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number):** A geo-coded, grid-based digital address system developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). It provides precise location identification and aims to redefine address management across sectors through Address-as-a-Service (AaaS).
- **'Know Your DIGIPIN' Portal:** Allows users to retrieve their DIGIPIN using geolocation or by entering latitude and longitude coordinates. This enhances location accuracy, simplifies logistics, and facilitates accurate service delivery. [e](#)
- **'Know Your PIN Code' Portal:** Enables users to determine the correct PIN Code based on their location and provide feedback on its accuracy. This user input helps refine and update the national PIN Code dataset.

2. Goa becomes India's second fully literate state under ULLAS Scheme

- Goa, which was elevated from a union territory (UT) to a state in 1987, became the second state, after Mizoram, to be declared a fully functionally literate state.

About ULLAS Scheme

Overview:

- ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Education in April 2022.
- Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, it aims to achieve 100% adult literacy by 2030.

Objectives:

- Empower adults aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling.
- Promote functional literacy, numeracy, and essential life skills.

Key Components:

1. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

2. **Critical Life Skills:** Financial literacy, digital literacy, health awareness, etc.
3. **Basic Education:** Equivalency for preparatory to secondary stages.
4. **Vocational Skills Development:** Aiming for local employment opportunities.
5. **Continuing Education:** Courses in arts, sciences, technology, and more.

Implementation Strategy:

- Operates on a volunteer-based model, encouraging community participation.
- Utilizes digital platforms like the ULLAS Mobile App and DIKSHA Portal for learning resources.
- Surveyors identify non-literates and potential volunteer teachers within a 5 km radius for effective outreach

3. **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS): Additional Benefits for Retired Central Government NPS Subscribers**

Announcement Date: May 30, 2025

Announced By: Ministry of Finance

Eligibility: Central Government NPS subscribers who retired on or before March 31, 2025, with a minimum of 10 years of qualifying service, or their legally wedded spouses.

Key Benefits:

1. **Lump Sum Payment:** A one-time payment equivalent to one-tenth of the last drawn basic pay plus dearness allowance for each completed six months of qualifying service.
2. **Monthly Top-Up:** Calculated as the admissible UPS payout plus dearness relief minus the representative annuity amount under NPS.
3. **Arrears:** Payable with simple interest at rates applicable to the Public Provident Fund (PPF).

4. **Launch of C CARES Version 2.0 by CMPFO**

Date of Launch: June 3, 2025

Launched By: Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy

Developed By: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

Objective:

To streamline Provident Fund (PF) and pension disbursements for coal sector workers by integrating coal workers, coal management, and CMPFO onto a unified digital platform.

Key Features:

- **Real-Time Claim Tracking:** Enables users to monitor their PF and pension claims in real-time, reducing settlement times.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Facilitates direct disbursement of PF and pension amounts into beneficiaries' accounts, developed in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

- **Mobile Application:** Provides members access to their profiles, employment details, claim status, grievance redressal, and updated PF balances. Includes a chatbot assistant for information retrieval.
- **Prescriptive Dashboard:** Offers coal companies and CMPFO custom reports and analytics on PF/pension claim settlements to improve service delivery.

5. UP govt announces 20 per cent reservation to Agniveers in various Police Services

About Agnipath Scheme

The term "**Agniveer**", meaning *Fire-Warrior*, refers to a new military rank introduced under the **Agnipath recruitment scheme**. This initiative aims to enlist individuals below officer rank — such as soldiers, sailors, and airmen — into the **Indian Armed Forces** on a **short-term contractual basis**.

Under this scheme:

- Recruits (Agniveers) serve for **4 years**.
- After this period, **up to 25%** of them may be selected for **permanent service (15 years)**, based on **merit and organizational requirements**.
- Currently, **all non-officer personnel**, except for the technical cadre of the medical branch, are inducted through this system.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age Limit:** 17.5 to 23 years (upper limit raised from 21).
- **Gender:** Girls within the eligible age group may apply; however, **no specific reservation** for women is provided under the scheme.

Pay & Benefits

- **Death in Service:** The family receives a total compensation of **₹1 crore**, including the **Seva Nidhi package** and the remaining salary.
- **Disability Benefits:** In case of disability due to or aggravated by military duty, an Agniveer may receive up to **₹44 lakh**, depending on the severity.
- **Pension:**
 - **No pension** is provided to Agniveers after the 4-year tenure.
 - Only the **25%** who are selected for permanent commission will be eligible for **regular pension benefits**.

6. IICA Establishes First Regional Campus in Shillong to Boost Corporate Governance in Northeast India

- **Date of Announcement:** June 3, 2025
- **Location:** New Shillong Township, Meghalaya
- **Investment:** ₹100.95 crore under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE)

About Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE) scheme- Overview:

- **Launch:** Announced in the Union Budget 2022–23 and approved by the Cabinet on October 12, 2022.
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme with 100% central funding.
- **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- **Duration:** 2022–23 to 2025–26 (aligned with the 15th Finance Commission period).
- **Total Outlay:** ₹6,600 crore

Objectives

1. Fund infrastructure projects in alignment with the PM GatiShakti initiative.
2. Support social development projects addressing the specific needs of the North Eastern Region (NER).
3. Enable livelihood activities for youth and women.
4. Address developmental gaps in various sectors.

Key Features

- **Project Size:** Projects typically range between ₹20 crore and ₹200 crore.
- **Focus Areas:** Infrastructure, health, education, tourism, connectivity, and livelihood enhancement.
- **Exclusions:** Projects involving Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) or those providing long-term individual benefits are ineligible



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