



TestCoach

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Weekly Current Affairs

(14th JUNE - 21st JUNE)



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

NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. **Blaise Metreweli – MI6's First Female Chief**

- Blaise Metreweli has been appointed the first woman to lead the **UK's foreign intelligence service, MI6**, in its 116-year history
- She will be the 18th head (code-named "C"), officially taking office on 1 October 2025, succeeding Sir Richard Moore

2. **India Reappoints Ambassador to North Korea After Four Years**

- **New Ambassador:** **Aliawati Longkumer**, a 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as India's Ambassador to North Korea. She is currently serving as the Charge d'affaires at the Indian Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay.
- **Embassy Status:** India reopened its embassy in Pyongyang in December 2024, after closing it in July 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions
- **Previous Ambassador:** The last Indian ambassador to North Korea was **Atul Malhari Gotsurve**, who served until the embassy's closure in 2021

3. **Amitabh Kant Resigns as G20 Sherpa**

What is Sherpa?

- The term "Sherpa" originates from the **Sherpa people** in Nepal, who are known for guiding climbers through challenging mountain terrains, like Mount Everest. In a metaphorical sense, the Sherpa guides and prepares the path for the leaders during international negotiations.
- A **Sherpa** is a term used in diplomacy and international relations to refer to a senior official who is responsible for preparing the agenda and discussions for major international summits or meetings, especially the G20 or G7 summits.
- The Sherpa's primary role is to lead the preparatory work and negotiations for the head of state or government (e.g., the Prime Minister or President) ahead of the summit.

4. **First Woman (Aide-de-Camp) ADC to President of India**

- **Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee** has been appointed as the first woman officer from the Indian Navy to serve as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.

What is Aide-de-Camp (ADC)?

- An **Aide-de-Camp (ADC)** is a personal assistant or military officer who serves as an aide to a senior leader, typically a head of state, government official, or military commander.
- The role of the ADC is to provide administrative and logistical support, assist with various official duties, and represent the leader in certain functions. The term "Aide-de-Camp" is of French origin and literally means "assistant to the field."

5. List of Brand Ambassador in news

S.No	Brand Ambassador	Company	Extra Information
1.	Cristiano Ronaldo	Esports World Cup 2025	Ronaldo will spearhead the tournament's global promotional campaign, embodying the theme " Rise Above. "

SPORTS UPDATES

1. South Africa Clinch Maiden Test Championship in Thrilling Chase

Key Highlights

- **Historic Victory:** South Africa secured their first ICC World Test Championship title by defeating Australia by five wickets in the final at Lord's, London, on June 14, 2025.
- This victory marks South Africa's first ICC title since the 1998 Champions Trophy, ending a 27-year wait for an ICC trophy

Match Summary:

- **Australia:** 212 & 207
 - **South Africa:** 138 & 282/5 (target: 282)
 - South Africa achieved the target on Day 4, with Kyle Verreynne hitting the winning runs
- Player of the Match:** Aiden Markram for his outstanding 136-run innings in the second innings, anchoring the chase.

ICC World Test Championship Winners (2019–2025)

- New Zealand
- Australia
- South Africa

2. Priyanka Goswami Wins Gold at Austrian Race Walking Championships

Date: June 9, 2025

Location: Innsbruck, Austria

Event: Women's 10km Race Walk

Time: 47 minutes 54 seconds

Significance: This marks Priyanka Goswami's first win of the 2025 season.

Men's 35km Race Walk:

- **Silver:** Sandeep Kumar – 2:38:45
- **Bronze:** Ram Baboo – 2:41:47
- **Gold:** Jaromír Morávek (Czech Republic) – 2:34:41

3. 2025 FIFA Club World Cup

Tournament Overview

- **Dates:** June 15 – July 13, 2025
- **Host Country:** United States
- **Host Cities:** 11, including New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia
- **Final Venue:** MetLife Stadium, New Jersey
- **New Trophy Design:** The tournament introduces a redesigned trophy, created by Tiffany & Co., featuring a golden finish and NASA-inspired elements

4. MCC Bans 'Bunny Hop' Boundary Catches

Overview

- **Governing Bodies:** Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and International Cricket Council (ICC)
- **Rule Update:** Law 19.5.2 of the Laws of Cricket
- **Effective Date:**
 - ICC Playing Conditions: June 17, 2025
 - MCC Laws of Cricket: October 2026

What Is a 'Bunny Hop' Catch?

- **Definition:** A boundary catch where a fielder makes multiple airborne contacts with the ball while outside the boundary

Rule Change Details

- **Previous Law (19.5.2):** Allowed fielders to make multiple airborne contacts with the ball outside the boundary if their first contact with the ground was inside the boundary.
- **Updated Law:**
 - **19.5.2.1:** A fielder may only touch the ball once while airborne after jumping from outside the boundary.
 - **19.5.2.2:** After any airborne contact from outside the boundary, the fielder must land inside the field of play to complete the catch.
 - **Relay Catches:** If the first fielder jumps from outside the boundary and parries the ball, they must land inside the field before any subsequent contact.

5. Russell Wins in Canadian GP as McLaren Collide

- **George Russell** secured his first victory of the 2025 Formula 1 season at the **Canadian Grand Prix**, driving for Mercedes.
- **Max Verstappen** finished in second place, while **Kimi Antonelli**, in his rookie season, achieved a remarkable third-place finish, marking his first-ever F1 podium .

6. Ankita Raina Clinches 32nd Doubles Title with Alice Robbe at Guimaraes ITF

Event Overview

- **Tournament:** \$40,000 ITF Women's Tournament
- **Location:** Guimaraes, Portugal
- **Winners:** Ankita Raina (India) & Alice Robbe (France)
- **Opponents in Final:** Hiromi Abe & Kanako Morisaki (Japan)

7. Hockey India Masters Cup 2025

- The inaugural Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 commenced on June 18, 2025, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- This tournament celebrates the legacy and contributions of veteran Indian hockey players aged Men's (40+ age group) and Women's (35+ age group)
- The event is scheduled to run until June 27, 2025

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

1. TCS Partners with CEB to Modernize Financial Reconciliation

Partnership Overview:

- **Organizations Involved:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)
- **Objective:** To automate and streamline CEB's financial reconciliation processes using advanced technology

About Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Mission:** Promote social inclusion and development across 43 European member states
- **Focus Areas:** Financing investments in sectors such as education, healthcare, and affordable housing, with a strong emphasis on serving vulnerable communities

2. Maruti Suzuki Partners with Equitas Small Finance Bank to Enhance Vehicle Financing

- Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has entered into a strategic partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) to provide comprehensive retail financing solutions for new cars, used cars, and commercial vehicles.
- This collaboration aims to make vehicle ownership more accessible and affordable for a broader range of customers across India, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, as well as semi-urban and rural areas.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

S.No.	Summits, Conferences & Events	Venue	Extra Information
1.	Lok Samvardhan Parv	Birsa Munda Lawn, Gandhi Darshan, Raj Ghat, New Delhi	Organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs , Government of India, Lok Samvardhan Parv focused on empowering, inclusivity, and celebrating the cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of minority communities. Theme: Empowerment, Inclusion, and Cultural Pride
2.	2025 Bonn Climate Change Conference	World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany	It was Organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the conference aims to advance global climate negotiations and preparations for COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

3.	International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	New Delhi, India	It was Presided by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, with ministerial delegations from Bhutan, Cambodia, Eswatini, Guinea, India, Liberia, Suriname, Somalia, and Kazakhstan in attendance.
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AWARDS & HONOURS

1. **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III**

- **Awarded to:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Conferred by:** President Nikos Christodoulides of Cyprus
- **Date:** June 16, 2025
- **Location:** Presidential Palace, Nicosia, Cyprus
- **Significance:** This is Cyprus' highest civilian honour, recognizing exceptional contributions to the nation and its people.

Highest Civilian Honours received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- **Order of King Abdulaziz** – Saudi Arabia (April 2016)
- **Order of Amanullah Khan** – Afghanistan (June 2016)
- **Grand Collar of the State of Palestine** – Palestine (February 2018)
- **Order of Izzuddin** – Maldives (June 2019)
- **Order of Zayed** – United Arab Emirates (April 2019)
- **Order of the Renaissance** – Bahrain (August 2019)
- **Legion of Merit** – United States (December 2020)
- **Order of Fiji** – Fiji (May 2023)
- **Order of Logohu** – Papua New Guinea (May 2023)
- **Order of the Nile** – Egypt (June 2023)
- **Legion of Honour** – France (July 2023)
- **Order of Honour** – Greece (August 2023)
- **Order of the Dragon King** – Bhutan (March 2024)
- **Order of St. Andrew** – Russia (July 2024)
- **Order of the Niger** – Nigeria (November 2024)
- **Dominica Award of Honour** – Dominica (November 2024)
- **Order of Mubarak the Great** – Kuwait (December 2024)
- **Order of Freedom of Barbados** – Barbados (March 2025)
- **Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean** – Mauritius (March 2025)
- **Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana** – Sri Lanka (April 2025)
- **Order of Makarios III** – Cyprus (June 2025)

2. 2025 Food Planet Prize

- **Awarded to:** Swedish AgTech startup NitroCapt
- **Prize:** \$2 million
- **Presented by:** Curt Bergfors Foundation
- **Date:** June 13, 2025
- **Location:** Stockholm, Sweden
- **Technology:** Plasma-based nitrogen fertiliser production using air and renewable electricity
- **Impact:** Reduces energy consumption by up to 90%, eliminates fossil fuel dependency, and allows for local, decentralized production

3. 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards:

- **IndiGo was ranked 3rd in the World's Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025 by Skytrax, following AirAsia and Scoot.**
- The airline was also named the Best Low-Cost Airline in India & South Asia.
- It ranked 39th in the World's Top 100 Airlines 2025, up from 42nd in 2024.

4. Honorary Leopard Award

- American filmmaker Alexander Payne will receive the **Pardo d'Onore** (Honorary Leopard Award) on August 15, 2025, at the 78th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland,
- It will be presented by Manor, with his films *The Descendants* (2011) and *Nebraska* (2013) being showcased, followed by a discussion with the festival audience.

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	International Albinism Awareness Day 2025	June 13, 2025	Theme: "Demanding our rights: Protect our skin, Preserve our lives"
2.	World Blood Donor Day 2025	June 14, 2025	Theme: "Give blood, give hope: together we save lives"
3.	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2025:	June 15, 2025	Theme: "Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action"
4.	International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) 2025:	June 16, 2025	Theme: "Remittances Financing Development"
5.	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025	June 17, 2025	Theme: "Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities"
6.	International Domestic Workers' Day 2025	June 16, 2025	Theme: "Recognizing Care, Advancing Dignity and Rights for Domestic Workers"

7.	International Yoga Day	June 21, 2025	Theme for 2025 is “Yoga for One Earth, One Health,”
8.	International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures	June 16, 2025	-----
9.	Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2025	June 18, 2025	Theme: “Local Seeds, Local Eats”
10.	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	June 18, 2025	Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue. Addressing the impact of artificial intelligence on the spread of hate speech

REPORTS & INDEXES

1. SIPRI Report: India Increases Its Nuclear Arsenal

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2025, India's nuclear arsenal has slightly expanded, with an estimated 180 warheads as of January 2025, surpassing Pakistan's estimated 170 warheads. However, China's arsenal remains significantly larger, with approximately 600 warheads, including 24 deployed on missiles or stationed at military bases.

Key Developments in India's Nuclear Arsenal

- Expansion of Arsenal:** India's nuclear stockpile increased from 172 warheads in 2024 to 180 in 2025, marking a steady growth in its strategic capabilities
- Modernization Efforts:** India continues to develop advanced nuclear delivery systems, including canisterized missiles that can be transported with mated warheads, enhancing readiness and potentially enabling multiple warhead capabilities.
- Nuclear Triad:** India maintains a credible nuclear triad comprising land-based missiles, aircraft, and nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), ensuring a robust second-strike capability.

2. Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI)

Key Highlights

- The **Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI)** is a metric developed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. It evaluates the quality of data submitted by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) based on four key parameters: **accuracy**, **timeliness**, **completeness**, and **consistency**
- sDQI Overview:** The sDQI assesses data quality across key financial parameters, including asset quality, capital adequacy, and liquidity, focusing on accuracy, timeliness, completeness, and consistency.

- **Coverage:** The index evaluates 87 SCBs and their returns, encompassing metrics like asset-liability and off-balance sheet exposures, operating results, risk-based supervision returns, and liquidity returns
- **Performance by Bank Category:**
 - **Public Sector Banks:** Scored 88.8
 - **Private Sector Banks:** Scored 89.6
 - **Foreign Banks:** Scored 89.1
 - **Small Finance Banks:** Scored 90.6

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. Operation Rising Lion

- **Operation Rising Lion, launched by Israel in June 2025**, targeted Iran's key nuclear facilities, including Natanz, Isfahan, and Arak, aiming to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure.
- The operation, involving over 200 fighter jets, has escalated tensions, with Iran vowing retaliation.
- The strikes have intensified geopolitical instability, raising concerns about further regional conflict.

2. Operation True Promise III

- **Initiated by:** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- **Date:** June 13, 2025
- **Context:** A direct response to Israel's Operation Rising Lion, which targeted Iranian nuclear and military facilities, resulting in the deaths of several high-ranking IRGC officials and scientists.

Key Targets and Impact

- **Israeli Military Installations:** Missiles struck the Kirya (IDF headquarters) in Tel Aviv, the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, and the Israeli Military Intelligence School at Camp Moshe Dayan, causing significant damage.
- **Civilian Areas:** Bat Yam, Tamra, Ramat Gan, and Rishon LeZion were hit, resulting in numerous casualties, including fatalities among foreign nationals.
- **Infrastructure:** The Bazan Oil Refinery Complex and Haifa Power Plant were damaged, leading to fires and operational shutdowns.

3. Rudrastra VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing)

- The Indian Army has successfully tested the indigenous Rudrastra VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) drone, **developed by Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited (SDAL)**, at the Pokhran Firing Range in June 2025.

Key Features of Rudrastra

- **Design:** Hybrid VTOL UAV combining vertical lift-off like a helicopter with long-range flight capabilities akin to a jet.
- **Payload:** Equipped with an 8 kg precision-guided anti-personnel/light-armour warhead that airbursts at low altitude.

- **Surveillance:** Features a dual-channel Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) gimbal and laser designator for real-time video feed.
- **Autonomy:** Capable of autonomous return-home logic, enabling silent Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) loitering or "find-fix-finish" strike missions.

4. **Exercise Tiger Claw 2025**

- India and the United States have successfully concluded "Exercise Tiger Claw 2025," marking their first independent Special Forces drill.
- Held from May 26 to June 10, 2025, at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre in Chandinagar, Uttar Pradesh**, the exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and strengthen defense cooperation between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF)

5. **Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2025:**

Overview

- **Initiated by:** Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)
- **Duration:** June 16 – June 27, 2025
- **Participants:** Over 100 personnel from national security agencies, defence forces, and cybersecurity stakeholders
- **Objective:** Enhance national cyber resilience by simulating real-world cyber threats and testing response capabilities.

6. **Iran's Fattah-1 Missile**

- **Developed by Iran**, the Fattah is **an intermediate-range ballistic missile** capable of reaching **hypersonic speeds** up to 15 times the speed of sound, enabling it to bypass missile defense systems.
- With a range of 1,400 kilometers and solid propellants, it offers enhanced maneuverability.
- The missile is also designed to carry various warheads for diverse operational purposes.

7. **Exercise Shakti 2025:**

- Exercise Shakti 2025, the 8th edition, will take place from June 18 to July 1, 2025, at **Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France**.
- The exercise will involve 90 personnel from the Indian Army, primarily from a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, along with members from other arms and services, and 90 personnel from the French Army's 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE).
- The objective is to enhance joint military capabilities for multi-domain operations in sub-conventional scenarios under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

8. **INS Arnala**

- **On June 18, 2025, the Indian Navy inducted INS Arnala, its first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.**

- The 77-meter-long vessel, designed for shallow-water operations, is equipped with advanced sonar, mine-laying capabilities, and a 30mm Naval Surface Gun system.
- INS Arnala is the first of 16 indigenously built ASW-SWC vessels, aligning with India's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative to enhance coastal defense.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. "India Suspends Rare Earth Exports to Japan to Strengthen Domestic Supply Chain"

- India has directed state-run miner IREL (Indian Rare Earths Limited) to suspend its 13-year-old rare earth export agreement with Japan's Toyotsu Rare Earths India.
- This decision aims to prioritize domestic supply and reduce dependence on China amid global supply chain disruptions.

About IREL (Indian Rare Earths Limited)

- **Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL)** is a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), established on August 18, 1950.
- Headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, IREL specializes in the mining, processing, and refining of rare earth elements and other strategic minerals essential for India's energy, defense, and electronics sectors.

2. COVID-19 subvariant "Nimbus" (NB.1.8.1)

- The new COVID-19 subvariant "Nimbus" (NB.1.8.1), a **descendant of Omicron**, has been classified as a "**Variant Under Monitoring**" by WHO due to its increased transmissibility.
- Detected in over 20 countries, including the US, UK, and India, it accounts for up to 10–37% of recent global cases.
- Though symptoms like a severe "razor-blade" sore throat are notable, the variant poses low risk with no significant rise in hospitalizations.

3. Nano-cups for photothermal therapy (PTT)

- Indian scientists from **INST Mohali, IIT Bombay, and ACTREC-Tata Memorial Centre** have developed **gold nano-cups** for advanced **photothermal cancer therapy**.
- These nano-cups are synthesized using a **green, one-step method** with Vitamin C and ZIF-8 MOF, avoiding toxic chemicals and high temperatures.
- They convert near-infrared light into localized heat to **non-invasively destroy cancer cells**, with successful results in preclinical breast cancer models.
- This innovation enhances **biocompatibility**, **reduces relapse**, and opens new possibilities in hybrid therapies, diagnostics, and biosensing.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. Digital India Programme

- **Digital India Programme**, launched on **1st July 2015**, aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

- It focuses on three key areas: digital infrastructure, governance & services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.
- Major initiatives include **Aadhaar**, **BharatNet**, **DigiLocker**, **UMANG**, and **DBT**, with over ₹44 lakh crore transferred across 322 schemes.
- While it has boosted digital inclusion, challenges like the digital divide, cybersecurity, and digital literacy still persist.

2. **ESIC Sanath Nagar Campus Emerges as Model of Excellence in Public Healthcare and Medical Education**

- The ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad, has emerged as a leading institution in public healthcare and medical education. Established with the goal of providing affordable and accessible services, it now stands as a national benchmark with state-of-the-art facilities.

About Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

Overview:

- **Established:** 24th February 1952 under the **Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948**
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Nature:** Autonomous body for social security

Objective:

To provide **social security and health insurance** to **workers and their families** in the organized sector, ensuring protection against medical, maternity, disability, and employment-related contingencies.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**

- **It was launched on 10th September 2020**, PMMSY aims to boost fish production, promote sustainable aquaculture, and double fishers' income by 2024-25 under the Blue Revolution 2.0.
- It involves a **record investment of ₹20,050 crore**, making it the largest-ever initiative in India's fisheries sector.
- **Targets by 2024-25** include 22 million metric tonnes of fish production, ₹1 lakh crore in exports, and ~55 lakh jobs.
- It includes **Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes**, focusing on inland/marine fisheries, cold chains, insurance, and digital governance.
- In 2025, the Union Minister emphasized **collaborative implementation** and use of tech like **drones, biofloc, and RAS**, as India becomes the **2nd largest global fish producer**.

4. **India's First Agri-Drone Hub Inaugurated in Chennai**

- **Union Minister Kamlesh Paswan** inaugurated India's first **Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility** in Chennai on 14 June 2025, built by Garuda Aerospace across a **35,000 sq ft** campus
- The hub enables end-to-end development—design, manufacturing, and testing—of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for agriculture, aligning with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision by producing seven subsystems and 33 parts locally

- Alongside the facility, **300 Centres of Excellence** were launched nationwide, and a **DGCA-approved Train-the-Trainer programme** was flagged off to build a skilled rural drone workforce
- The event highlighted government-backed initiatives such as **drone-didi training**, PLI and subsidy schemes, with Garuda Aerospace already producing **4,000 drones**, aiming for **100,000 Made-in-India drones by 2026**

5. **50 years of the Crocodile Conservation Project on World Crocodile Day**

- On 17 June 2025 (World Crocodile Day), India marked **50 years of the Crocodile Conservation Project**, which began in 1975 with UNDP and FAO support
- **Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP) – Key Highlights**
- **Launched in 1975** at Bhitarkanika, Odisha, supported by **UNDP & FAO**, with the “rear and release” method to rebuild wild populations of gharials, muggers, and saltwater crocodiles
- **Odisha is the only state** with all three native crocodilian species; saltwater crocs in Bhitarkanika rose from ~95 (1975) to ~1,800+ by 2025, alongside gharial and mugger recoveries.
- **Expanded nationwide:** breeding centres and sanctuaries established in states like Uttar Pradesh (Kukrail, Satkosia, etc.), Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, enabling widespread captive breeding and reintroduction.
- **Population rebound:** approx. 3,000 wild gharials, ~2,500 saltwater crocodiles, and ~300 muggers in key habitats as of 2025; CCP seen as a global conservation model.
- **Emerging challenges:** human–crocodile conflicts and climate change threats, prompting safety measures (barricades, warnings), habitat monitoring, and a shift toward research-based coexistence

6. **DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched the largest-ever tribal empowerment campaign **DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**, a massive benefit-saturation drive across **549 tribal districts** and **207 PVTG-dominated districts**, covering over **100,000 villages** from 15–30 June 2025
- Aimed at delivering **doorstep access to entitlements**, the campaign includes Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat cards, Jan Dhan accounts, PM-Kisan registrations, pensions, scholarships, insurance, skill training, and livelihood programs
- Designed under the **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh** initiative and aligned with **PM-JANMAN**, it promotes **last-mile delivery**, **community participation**, and **dignified tribal empowerment**
- Coordinated by over **125 district administrations**, the participatory model ensures officials and tribal community leaders mobilize eligible households and provide on-spot registrations
- The campaign has been described as **unprecedented in scale and planning**, signalling a new benchmark in **inclusive, convergence-based governance** for tribal upliftment

7. FASTag ₹3,000 annual pass for private vehicles

- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced** the introduction of a **FASTag-based annual pass** for private cars, jeeps, and vans—priced at **₹3,000**, valid from **August 15, 2025**, for either **one year** or **200 toll trips**, whichever comes first
- The pass is applicable **only on National Highway and Expressway toll plazas managed by NHAI** and is **non-transferable**, tied to a single vehicle's FASTag
- **Frequent highway commuters** can save up to **₹7,000 annually**, bringing the average toll cost down to ₹15 per trip, while also **reducing congestion** and wait times at toll booths.
- Activation and renewal will be available via the **Rajmarg Yatra app**, as well as the official **NHAI/MoRTH websites**, with no need for a new FASTag if the existing tag meets the criteria

What is FASTag?

- **FASTag is an RFID-based electronic toll collection system introduced by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enable automatic and cashless toll payments on national highways.**
- Affixed to a vehicle's windshield and linked to a prepaid account or digital wallet, it allows seamless passage through toll plazas without stopping.
- Made mandatory for all four-wheelers since February 15, 2021, FASTag helps reduce congestion, save time and fuel, and promote transparent, digital transactions in line with the Digital India initiative.

(MISCELLANEOUS) ONE LINER CURRENT AFFAIRS:

1. India has launched its first **cherry cargo train**, a refrigerated parcel rake operating between **Katra (Jammu & Kashmir) and Mumbai**, carrying **24 tonnes of cherries** in just over **30 hours**—a journey that previously took 6–7 days by road.
2. On **1 June 2025** in Pune, the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the MCA**, in partnership with **SEBI**, launched the first-ever “**Niveshak Shivir**”—a one-stop investor empowerment camp aimed at resolving unclaimed dividends and shares, facilitating KYC and nomination updates, and assisting with IEPF claim forms via 19 dedicated kiosks for over 450 participants
3. The **Jagannath Rath Yatra 2025** began with **Snana Purnima** on June 11, where the deities were bathed with 108 pots of sacred water. This marks the start of their **15-day seclusion (Anavasara)**, before reappearing for the grand chariot procession on **June 27**.
4. Archaeologists have unearthed the foundation of an **800-year-old Pandya-era Shiva temple** in **Udampatti village, Madurai district**, Tamil Nadu. Inscriptions link it to **Maravarman Sundara Pandya I** (circa 1217–1218 CE), mentioning the village's old name “Attur” and recording details like a “**half a kalam levy**”.

5. Sri Lanka celebrated **Poson Poya** on **10–11 June 2025**, marking over **2,000 years since Buddhism's introduction** by Arahata Mahinda at Mihintale—a pivotal moment in the nation's spiritual history. The full-moon observance included pilgrimages to Mihintale and Anuradhapura, temple rituals, meditation, almsgiving, and community activities like free food stalls ("dansals") and lantern decorations.
6. On June 5, 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin declared **Dhanushkodi lagoon** as the **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary**, covering **524.7 hectares** within the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Located at the southern tip of Rameswaram Island, it lies on the **Central Asian Flyway**, hosting over **10,700 migratory wetland birds** from 128 species, including flamingos, herons, and sandpipers.
7. India's first **E-Waste Recycling Eco-Park** is set to be established in **Holambi Kalan, Delhi**, across **11.4 acres** under a public-private partnership using the DBFOT model.
8. Bangladesh's **interim government**, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has amended the **National Freedom Fighters Council Act (JAMUKA)** to **remove the title "Father of the Nation"** for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the words referencing him from the law's text.
9. Bangladesh's central bank, under the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, unveiled a new series of banknotes on **June 1, 2025**, which notably **omit the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, the nation's founding father. The redesigned **₹20, ₹50, and ₹1,000 notes** now feature **natural landscapes, temples, mosques, historic palaces, and artwork**, replacing human imagery entirely.
10. DFCC Bank of Sri Lanka became the **first foreign entity** to list green bonds on **NSE IX at GIFT City**, marking a major milestone in cross-border sustainable finance.
11. Maruti Suzuki inaugurated **India's largest in-plant railway siding** at its Manesar facility—a fully electrified, 8.2 km multimodal cargo terminal capable of dispatching 450,000 vehicles annually—significantly advancing green logistics with projected savings of 60 million liters of fuel and 175,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.
12. The **UN General Assembly**, in a resolution adopted on **May 2, 2024 (A/RES/78/279)**, officially declared **2026** as the **International Year of the Woman Farmer** to honour women's pivotal role in global food production and sustainable agriculture.