



# TestCoach

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## Weekly Current Affairs

(22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE - 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE)



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

## NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. Sivasubramanian Ramann appointed PFRDA Chairperson

- Sivasubramanian Ramann took charge as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on **20th June 2025**.
- He was appointed by the **Government of India** via a notification dated **8th April 2025**.
- His tenure is for **five years** or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further government orders.

#### About PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)

- **Established:** 23 August 2003 (as an interim body); became a statutory body under the **PFRDA Act, 2013**
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- It promotes long-term retirement planning, digital inclusion, and manages a ₹14.4 lakh crore corpus with 8.4 crore subscribers as of April 2025.

### 2. Anantha Chandrakasan Appointed as First Indian-born Provost of MIT

- Prof. Anantha P. Chandrakasan, a Chennai-born electrical engineering expert, has been appointed as **the first Indian-born Provost of MIT, effective 1 July 2025**.
- He will oversee academic programs, faculty affairs, and strategic planning at MIT, having earlier served as Dean of the School of Engineering and Chief Innovation & Strategy Officer.
- His appointment marks a historic milestone for Indian-origin leadership in global academia and reflects MIT's commitment to diversity, innovation, and international collaboration.

### 3. South Korea Appoints First Non-Military Defence Minister Since 1961

- **Veteran lawmaker Ahn Gyu-back has been appointed South Korea's first civilian Defence Minister in 64 years, breaking a tradition of military appointments since 1961.**
- He was nominated on 23 June 2025 and will assume office after confirmation hearings.
- The move fulfills **President Lee Jae-myung's** promise to restore civilian control following the 2024 martial law crisis and aims to rebuild public trust in democratic institutions.
- This historic shift underscores South Korea's commitment to transparency, reducing military influence, and reinforcing democratic governance.

### 4. Olympic Icon Kirsty Coventry Takes Over as 10th President of IOC

- Kirsty Coventry, a former Olympic swimmer from Zimbabwe and seven-time medalist, took office as the 10th President of the IOC on 23 June 2025, becoming the **first woman and first African to hold the post**.
- Elected in March 2025 for an 8-year term (renewable once), she won 49 votes in the first round during the 144th IOC Session in Greece.

- Her leadership focuses on collaboration, inclusivity, athlete empowerment, and restoring public trust amid global challenges facing the Olympic movement.

#### **About the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

- **Established:** 23 June 1894
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Founder:** Pierre de Coubertin (Father of the Modern Olympics)
- **Current President (2025):** Kirsty Coventry – First woman and first African to hold the position
- **Nature:** Non-governmental, non-profit international organisation
- **Members:** Up to 115 members, including former athletes, sports leaders, and national representatives
- **Motto:** “*Citius, Altius, Fortius*” (Faster, Higher, Stronger)

#### **5. Prof. Satish Kumar to Lead Queen’s University’s Landmark GIFT City Expansion**

- Professor M. Satish Kumar, a senior academic at Queen’s University Belfast, has been appointed **the first Dean of its GIFT City campus and will assume charge in July 2025.**
- The GIFT City campus, QUB’s first international branch and the first by a UK Russell Group university in India, will welcome its first batch in early 2026.
- Prof. Kumar brings over 25 years of experience and has held leadership roles including Director of Queen’s Academy India and visiting professorships at BHU, JNU, and Calcutta University.
- His appointment marks a strategic step in strengthening UK–India academic ties through world-class education and institutional partnerships.

#### **6. Dr. G. Sampath Kumar Appointed First Indian MD of Nippon Koei India**

- Dr. G. Sampath Kumar has been appointed as the **first Indian Managing Director of Nippon Koei India Pvt Ltd**, a subsidiary of Japan’s ID&E Holdings
- Dr. G. Sampath Kumar **succeeds Katsuya Fukasaku**, who becomes the Chairman of Nippon Koei India.
- His appointment marks a strategic shift toward localized leadership and expanding the company’s footprint across India and Asia-Pacific

### **SPORTS UPDATES**

#### **1. Oklahoma City Thunder Clinch First-Ever NBA Championship**

- Oklahoma City Thunder won their first-ever NBA Championship on 22 June 2025 by **defeating the Indiana Pacers 103–91 in Game 7 of the Finals.**
- This is the franchise’s **first title since relocating from Seattle in 2008.**
- Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was named Finals MVP with 29 points and 12 assists.
- Thunder became the youngest team since 1977 to win the title and ended the season with an NBA-best 68–14 record.

## 2. **Alcaraz Wins Second Queen's Club Title Ahead of Wimbledon**

- Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jiri Lehecka 7–5, 6–7 (5), 6–2 to claim his second Queen's Club title on 22 June 2025, extending his winning streak to 18 matches.
- He is the first player since Rafael Nadal in 2008 to win both the French Open and Queen's Club in the same year, solidifying his position as a top Wimbledon favorite.
- The **2025 Queen's Club Championships**, also known as the **HSBC Championships**, took place at the iconic **Queen's Club in West Kensington, London**

## 3. **Neeraj Chopra Wins Paris Diamond League Title**

- Neeraj Chopra won the Paris Diamond League javelin title on 20 June 2025 with a first-throw effort of 88.16 m, defeating Germany's Julian Weber (87.88 m)
- The event was held at **Stade Sébastien Charléty** in Paris on **20 June 2025**, the Paris Diamond League marked the eighth leg of the Diamond League series
- This victory extended his **18-match unbeaten run**, marking his **first Diamond League win of 2025** and his **fifth career Diamond trophy**.

## 4. **Bumrah becomes first Asian bowler to 150 Test wickets in SENA countries**

- During the first Test at Headingley, Leeds, Jasprit Bumrah became the first Asian fast bowler to claim **150 Test wickets in SENA countries** (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia)
- He surpassed Wasim Akram's previous record of 146 wickets in those countries, making history on Day 2 of the Test.
- **Bumrah also became the seamer with the most five-wicket hauls in World Test Championship history during this match**

## 5. **New Delhi 2025 World Championships mascot and official logo revealed**

- On 20 June 2025, the Paralympic Committee of India unveiled the **official logo and mascot "Viraaj"** in New Delhi, marking the 100-day countdown to the World Para Athletics Championships.
- The mascot Viraaj is depicted as a young elephant with a blade prosthesis, symbolizing strength, optimism, resilience, and the para-athletes' indomitable spirit.



- **The 12th World Para Athletics Championships 2025 will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from 27 September to 5 October 2025.**

## MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

### 1. Dassault Aviation Partners with Reliance Group to manufacture Falcon 2000 Business Jets in India for Global Market

- Reliance Aerostructure Ltd (a Reliance Infrastructure arm) has partnered with France's Dassault Aviation to manufacture Falcon 2000 LXS business jets in India—the first time Dassault will assemble this jet outside France—announced at the Paris Air Show on 18 June 2025
- A final assembly line and Centre of Excellence will be established at the MIHAN SEZ in **Nagpur** by Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL), with the first 'Made in India' Falcon 2000 expected to roll out by 2028
- This collaboration aligns with India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives and places India alongside the US, France, Canada, and Brazil as business-jet producers.

### 2. CSIR and NECTAR Collaborate to Launch Vegan Leather Industry in Northeast

- **CSIR-NIIST (Thiruvananthapuram)** has signed an MoU with **NECTAR** to transfer its plant-based vegan leather technology—made from agro-waste—to establish manufacturing units in Northeast India
- The initiative focuses on converting rice straw, banana stems, pineapple waste, etc., into sustainable leather alternatives, cutting chemical usage by 50–70% compared to synthetic counterparts.

#### About CSIR – Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- **Established:** 26 September 1942
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
- **Current Director General (2025):** Dr. N. Kalaiselvi (first woman DG of CSIR)

#### About NECTAR

- **Full Name:** North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)
- **Established:** 2012, as an autonomous society under India's **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**
- **Headquarters:** Shillong, Meghalaya (with offices in New Delhi & Agartala)

### 3. IAEA and Romania to Launch Global Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise

- The IAEA and Romania jointly hosted **ConvEx-3 2025**, the world's largest full-scale nuclear emergency exercise, from 24 to 25 June at the **Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant**.
- Over 75 countries and 10 international organizations participated in the 36-hour drill, simulating a severe nuclear accident with transboundary implications.
- The exercise tested global readiness in real-time decision-making, cross-border coordination, evacuations, iodine prophylaxis, medical response, and crisis communications via platforms like **USIE** and **IRMIS**.



- For the first time, it integrated nuclear security and cyber-threat scenarios alongside traditional emergency protocols, while also using social-media simulators to test public information strategies.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### 1. Desi Oon wins Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at International Animation Festival at Annecy 2025

- **Suresh Eriyat's** stop-motion short **Desi Oon**, centered on Deccani wool, won the prestigious **Jury Award in the Commissioned Film** category—a significant win for Indian animation
- Additionally, four Indian animated stories took the spotlight in **Namaste MIFA**, showcasing nationwide talent

#### Awards & Official Line-up

- **Best Feature Film (Cristal):** *Arco* by Ugo Bienvenu
- **Contrechamp Grand Prix:** *Endless Cookie* by Seth & Peter Scriver
- **Jury Award for Feature:** *ChaO* by Yasuhiro Aoki
- **Best Short Film (Cristal):** *The Night Boots* by Pierre-Luc Granjon
- **Jury Award for Short:** *Les Bêtes* by Michael Granberry

### 2. The Hindu named 'The Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025'

- The Hindu was crowned **Champion Publisher** at the Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025, presented by WAN-IFRA in Chennai, securing **10 awards across 12 categories**
- **The Hindu** won **4 Golds** (Video, Native Ad for *Made of Chennai*, AI in Revenue, Podcast), **3 Silvers** (Data Viz, AI in Revenue, Digital Subscription), and **3 Bronzes** (Audience Engagement, Hooch Tragedy Data Viz, Digital Subscription).

### 3. Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025

#### Recipients by Language for 2025

<b>Assamese</b>	<i>Kushiarama</i> (Short Stories)	Supraksam Bhuyan
<b>Bengali</b>	<i>Ekadha Chinish Toliامي</i> (Poetry)	Sudeshna Moitra
<b>Bodo</b>	<i>Ang Aisu</i> (Poetry)	Amar Khungur Boro
<b>English</b>	<i>Siddhartha — The Boy Who Became the Buddha</i> (Novel)	Advait Kolarkar
<b>Gujarati</b>	<i>Naranch Tekari</i> (Essays)	Mayur Kharadi
<b>Hindi</b>	<i>Phir Ugna</i> (Poetry)	Parvati Tirkey
<b>Kannada</b>	<i>Paccheya Jagat</i> (Criticism)	R. Deepkumar
<b>Kashmiri</b>	<i>Harfas Harfas Zaagi</i> (Criticism)	Saiba Sehar
<b>Konkani</b>	<i>Gaavgaamhas</i> (Short Stories)	Glynis Dias
<b>Maithili</b>	<i>Banaras Aa Hum</i> (Poetry)	Neha Jha Maini

<b>Malayalam</b>	<i>Ram Oru Anandhi</i> (Novel)	Akhil P. Dharmajan
<b>Manipuri</b>	<i>Khoyum Nongdan Coy</i> (Epic)	A. K. Jiten
<b>Marathi</b>	<i>Khel Khel Dukhana Dele</i> (Novel)	Pradeep Kokane
<b>Nepali</b>	<i>Junko Aansu</i> (Poetry)	Subash Thakuri
<b>Odia</b>	<i>Kademsabana</i> (Short Stories)	Subrat Kumar Senapati
<b>Punjabi</b>	<i>Girka Hostel</i> (Poetry)	Mandeep Aulakh
<b>Rajasthani</b>	<i>Ankhs ni sangmat</i> (Poetry)	Poonam Chand Godara
<b>Sanskrit</b>	<i>Panchbhautikshahol-swavasyam</i> (Criticism)	Dhiresna Kumar Pandey
<b>Santali</b>	<i>Ara Sajo te</i> (Poetry)	Fagui Baaskey
<b>Sindhi</b>	<i>Pandhyado</i> (Poetry)	Manjham Bachani
<b>Tamil</b>	<i>Kuttaaru Kuthuvi</i> (Short Stories)	Latarhinhar
<b>Telugu</b>	<i>Maralawatha</i> (Novel)	Prasad Suri
<b>Urdu</b>	<i>Maulard Haqeqat, Thereek-e-Azadi...</i> (Novel)	Neetu Rubabi

### Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters)

Founded on **12 March 1954** in **New Delhi**, it is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Culture**, dedicated to promoting Indian literature in 24 recognized languages.

#### History & Purpose

The Akademi was established with the guidance of leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru** (first President), **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**, and **Abul Kalam Azad**, aiming to foster literary excellence and a universal outlook.

The term 'Sahitya Akademi' merges Sanskrit *Sahitya* (literature) and Greek *Akademi* (assembly), symbolizing its inclusive literary mission.

#### Structure & Governance

- **Registered under:** Societies Registration Act, 1860
- **General Council:** Annual meetings; elects the President and Vice-President; includes language representatives
- **Executive Board:** Oversees policy, administration, and budget
- **Finance Committee:** Ensures financial discipline and accountability

#### 4. Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025

- **Instituted in 2010**, it recognises original children's literature in the 24 languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi (including 22 Scheduled languages + English, Rajasthani)
- **Prize:** ₹50,000, engraved copper plaque, shawl, and citation

## Recipients by Language for 2025

Language	Title (Genre)	Author
Assamese	<i>Mainaahantar Padya</i> (Poetry)	Surendra Mohan Das
Bengali	<i>Ekhono Gaye Kanta Daye</i> (Stories)	Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
Bodo	<i>Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai</i> (Stories)	Binay Kumar Brahma
Dogri	<i>Nanhi Tor</i> (Poetry)	P. L. Parihar “Shauq”
English	<i>Dakshin: South Indian Myths and Fables Retold</i>	Nitin Kushalappa MP
Gujarati	<i>Tinchak</i> (Poetry)	Kirtida Brahmabhatt
Hindi	<i>Ek Batey Bara</i> (Short Stories)	Sushil Shukla
Kannada	(Title not in excerpt)	K. Shivalingappa Handihal
Kashmiri	(Title not in excerpt)	Izhar Mubashir
Konkani	<i>Belabaicho Shankar Aani Haer Kanyo</i> (Stories)	Nayana Adarkar
Maithili	(Title not in excerpt)	Munni Kamat
Malayalam	(Title not in excerpt)	Sreejith Moothedath
Manipuri	(Title not in excerpt)	Shanto M
Marathi	<i>Aathamanga</i> (Poetry)	Suresh Sawant
Nepali	<i>Shanti Van</i> (Novel)	Sangmu Lepcha
Odia	<i>Kete Phula Phutachi</i> (Poetry)	Rajakishore Parhi
Punjabi	<i>Jadoo Patka</i> (Novel)	Pali Khadim (Amrit Pal Singh)
Rajasthani	<i>Panahravansh Ni Pira</i> (Drama)	Bhogilal Patidar
Sanskrit	<i>Balviyaam</i> (Poetry)	Preeti Pujara
Santali	<i>Sona Mou-ag Sandesh</i> (Poetry)	Haralal Murmu
Sindhi	<i>Asman Hari</i> (Poetry)	Heena Agnani ‘Heer’
Tamil	<i>Ottrai Siragu Oviya</i> (Novel)	Vishnupuram Sarvanan
Telugu	<i>Kakurla Devatha</i> (Story)	Gangiseti Sivakumar
Urdu	<i>Quami Sitare</i> (Articles)	Ghazanfar Iqbal

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### 5. Padma Bhushan Conferred on Veteran Journalist Ram Bahadur Rai

- Veteran journalist and IGNCA Trust President **Ram Bahadur Rai** was conferred the **Padma Bhushan**, India’s third-highest civilian honour.
- The award was presented at **IGNCA, New Delhi** by MHA’s Satpal Chauhan, as he couldn’t attend the Rashtrapati Bhavan ceremony.

#### About Padma Bhushan:

- **Padma Bhushan**, instituted in **1954**, is India’s **third-highest civilian award**, announced annually on **Republic Day**.



- It honors **distinguished service of a high order** in fields like arts, literature, science, public affairs, and more. It is eligible for all citizens (except PSUs), it may also be conferred **posthumously**.
- Winners receive a **medallion and certificate**, presented at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** with no monetary reward.

#### 6. India Post Payments Bank Wins Digital Payments Award 2024–25

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been honored with the **Digital Payments Award 2024–25** by India's **Ministry of Finance**, recognized for its leadership in expanding digital transactions and advancing financial inclusion across India

##### What is IPPB India Post Payments Bank?

- **Established:** Launched on **September 1, 2018**, as a wholly-owned payments bank under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India
- **Mission:** Drive **financial inclusion** by offering doorstep, affordable, and technology-driven banking services across India's 5.57 lakh villages and towns, leveraging around 155,000 post offices and 300,000+ postal workers

### IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	World Refugee Day	20 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> Solidarity with Refugees
2.	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	19 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> "Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars: Addressing the Intergenerational Effects of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence"
3.	World Kidney Cancer Day 2025	Third Thursday in June	<b>Theme:</b> "Show Your Kidneys Some Love"
4.	International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures	4 Dec 2025	Adopted on <b>17 June 2025</b> through UN General Assembly Resolution (A/79/L.93)
5.	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	18 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> "Local Seeds, Local Eats"
6.	United Nations Public Service Day	23 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> "Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future"
7.	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	24 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> "Eliminating structural barriers to women's leadership in diplomacy"
8.	International Widows Day 2025	23 June 2025	<b>Theme:</b> "Empower Her: From Loss to Leadership"

9.	Day of the Seafarer 2025	25 June 2025	Theme: “My Harassment-Free Ship”
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## REPORTS & INDEXES

### 1. Global Investment Curiosity

- **Global Positioning:** India stands at **13th**, with **2,629 investment-related searches per million users per month**, trailing behind leaders like Australia, Singapore, and Kenya
- The report was published by a **digital analytics firm** that tracks global online interest in investment categories—such as stocks, crypto, forex, ETFs, and general investing—using data on Google search volumes per million users

#### Top 5 Countries by Searches:

1. Australia – 29,359
2. Singapore – 22,527
3. Kenya – 17,288
4. New Zealand – 16,061
5. Canada – 14,566

### 2. 360 ONE Wealth Creators List (2025)

- **Scope & Scale:** Compiled by **360 ONE Wealth** in collaboration with **Crisil**, featuring **2,013 individuals** (each with a minimum ₹500 crore net worth), whose combined wealth totals approximately **₹100 trillion**—around one-third of India’s GDP

#### Top 5 Under-40 Wealth Creators:

- Aakash Mukesh Ambani/Reliance Industries
- Anant Mukesh Ambani/Reliance Industries
- Isha Mukesh Ambani/Reliance Industries
- Varun Jaipuria/Varun Beverage
- Nikhil Kamath/Zerodha

### 3. India is the 3rd-largest power-generation grower globally (last 5 years)

- **India is the 3rd-Largest Power Generator (2020–2025)**  
Ranked after **China and the USA**, India recorded the **third-highest growth** in electricity generation over the past five years, as per the IEA.
- **Massive Growth in Clean Energy Investment**  
**83% of India’s power sector investment in 2024** went into **clean energy**, with **solar PV** leading the way.  
India also received **\$2.4 billion in development finance** for clean energy in 2024.
- **3rd-Largest Generator of Wind & Solar Energy**  
In 2024, India **overtook Germany** to become the **third-largest generator** of electricity from **wind and solar**, after China and the US.
- **Coal Still Dominates Power Supply**

Despite renewable growth, **around 66%** of electricity demand in 2024 was met by **coal**. Fossil fuels still hold **~50% of installed capacity** (as of May 2025).

- **Ambitious Targets for 2030**

India aims to reach **500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity** by 2030. As of June 2025, it has achieved **~476 GW total installed capacity**, with **~235 GW (~49%)** from non-fossil sources.

#### 4. **Energy Transition Index 2025**

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, in partnership with Accenture, published the **Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2025** report on 18 June 2025

**Top 5 performers:**

1. Sweden
  2. Finland
  3. Denmark
  4. Norway
  5. Switzerland
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ranked 118th – Lowest globally, reflecting major systemic gaps.**
  - India ranked **71st out of 118 countries** in the Energy Transition Index 2025, marking a decline from its **63rd position in 2024**.

#### 5. **All-India Household Income Survey (2026)**

- The **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has announced India's first **nationwide Household Income Survey**, to be conducted in **February 2026**, marking a historic step toward filling gaps in income data
- It aims to collect accurate **income data across households**, including digital and informal sources.
- A **Technical Expert Group**, chaired by **Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla**, will guide the methodology.  
The data will help improve **welfare targeting, tax policy**, and align with **global best practices**.

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#### 6. **Global Peace Index 2025**

The **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, a global think tank based in Australia, published the **Global Peace Index 2025**, ranking 163 countries on safety, conflict, and militarisation

**Top 5 Most Peaceful Countries**

1. **Iceland** – remains #1 since 2008
2. **Ireland** – second most peaceful
3. **New Zealand** – top in Asia-Pacific

4. **Austria** – consistently peaceful
5. **Switzerland** – joint 5th with Austria

#### **Bottom 5 Least Peaceful Countries**

159. Yemen
  160. Democratic Republic of the Congo
  161. Sudan
  162. Ukraine
  163. **Russia** – now the least peaceful nation
- **India ranks 115th out of 163 countries**, up from 116th in 2024, with a GPI score of 2.229—reflecting slight improvements in internal safety and handling of conflicts

#### **7. Global SDG Index 2025:**

- It is published by the **Sustainable Development Report** under the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**, in collaboration with Bertelsmann Foundation, as part of the **2025 Sustainable Development Report**

#### **Top 5 Countries (SDG Index Scores)**

1. **Finland** – 87.0
2. **Sweden** – 85.7
3. **Denmark** – 85.3
4. **Germany** – 83.7
5. **France** – 83.1

#### **Bottom 5 Countries (Lowest SDG Scores)**

167. **South Sudan** – 41.6
  166. **Central African Republic** – 45.2
  165. **Chad** – 46.0
  164. **Somalia** – 46.1
  163. **Yemen** – 47.7
- India ranked **99th** out of 167–193 countries in the SDG Index 2025 with a **score of 67.0**, entering the **top 100 for the first time**, up from **109th** in 2024.
  - No country is currently on track to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030, with only 17% of global targets progressing as planned.
  - However, East and South Asia, including India, have shown the fastest SDG progress since 2015.

## **DEFENCE & SECURITY**

1. **INS Tamal to Be Commissioned on July 1: Last Foreign-Built Stealth Frigate Marks Shift to 'Builder's Navy'**
  - **INS Tamal**, a stealth guided missile frigate, will be **commissioned on July 1, 2025**, in Kaliningrad, Russia.

- It is the **last Indian Navy warship to be built abroad**, marking a shift to the indigenous “Builder’s Navy” model.
- The frigate is equipped with **BrahMos missiles**, advanced sensors from BEL, and Russian Shtil-1 SAM systems.
- Over **250 Indian crew members** trained in Russia will operate the ship, which has completed sea trials successfully.
- It enhances India’s **blue-water naval capability** and strengthens the **Western Naval Command**.

## 2. Operation Midnight Hammer

- **Operation Midnight Hammer** was a U.S. airstrike on **June 21, 2025**, targeting Iran’s key nuclear sites — **Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan**.
- The strike involved **7 B-2 bombers, 125 aircraft, and Tomahawk missiles**, marking the **largest-ever B-2 operational mission**.
- **GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs** were used for the first time in combat to penetrate Iran’s underground facilities.
- U.S. claims “**severe damage**”, but intelligence reports suggest Iran’s nuclear program may only be **delayed by a few months**.
- The operation has **escalated global tensions**, raised oil market fears, and triggered international calls for IAEA inspections.

## 3. Rakshak Plus Scheme

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) disbursed **₹17.02 crore** to families of **26 martyred defence personnel** under the **Rakshak Plus Scheme** as of June 2025.
- The **Rakshak Plus Scheme** offers **₹1 crore accidental insurance** and **₹1.5 crore air accident coverage** to uniformed personnel.
- It also provides **partial disability compensation** for injuries sustained during service.
- The scheme covers **defence, paramilitary, police, Agniveers, and intelligence officials**.
- PNB reaffirmed its **commitment to honouring the sacrifices** of India's uniformed forces with timely financial support.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### 1. One Nation, One Time

- **Policy Launch:** On **June 18, 2025**, Minister Pralhad Joshi introduced the new “One Nation, One Time” initiative, positioning **Indian Standard Time (IST)** as the **sole legal time reference** for all legal, commercial, digital, and administrative operations in India
- **Legal Framework:** The forthcoming **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025** will **ban alternative time sources** (e.g., GPS) unless explicitly permitted. Financial sectors, telecom, utilities, and infrastructure providers have already been instructed to transition



- **Technical Backbone:** Deploying five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad, Guwahati) equipped with **atomic clocks** and **NTP/PTP protocols**, IST will be synchronized to **millisecond–microsecond precision**
- **Strategic Goals:** The move seeks to bolster **digital security**, eliminate vulnerabilities (e.g., GPS spoofing), standardize billing and timestamps, and enhance **national coordination and efficiency**
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Over 100 stakeholders—including banks, stock exchanges, telecoms, railways, and utilities—and three key agencies (Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, ISRO) participated, following 60+ consultations since 2018.
- **Citizens' Benefits:** Consumers can expect **secure digital transactions, accurate utility billing, reliable transportation logs, and cybercrime resilience**, all under a unified and trusted time standard

## 2. **Pinaka missile system: India to Induct Extended-Range Pinaka Variants**

- India will soon induct **Pinaka-3 and Pinaka-4** with ranges of **120 km and 300 km** respectively, developed by DRDO.
- The current Pinaka MBRL can **fire 12 rockets in just 44 seconds** with quick “shoot-and-scoot” capability
- DRDO is also developing **air- and sea-launched variants** to enhance India's standoff strike capabilities.

### **About Pinaka missile:**

- **Pinaka** is an indigenous multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) developed by **DRDO**, capable of firing **12 rockets in 44 seconds**.
- It has evolved from a range of **40 km (Mk-I)** to upcoming versions like **Pinaka-3 (120 km)** and **Pinaka-4 (300 km)**
- The **guided variant** uses GPS/INS for precision with a **Circular Error Probability (CEP) of less than 20 meters**.
- First used in the **Kargil War**, it is now a key part of India's artillery modernization, replacing older systems like Grad and Smerch
- DRDO is also developing **air- and sea-launched variants**, enhancing India's long-range and standoff strike capabilities.

## **OBITUARIES**

### 1. **Padma Shri Awardee ‘Aranya Rishi’ Maruti Chitampalli Passes Away at 93**

- Padma Shri awardee **Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli**, fondly known as “**Aranya Rishi**”, passed away at the age of 93 in Solapur on June 18, 2025. A revered forest officer and prolific Marathi writer, he served in the Maharashtra Forest Department for 36 years, retiring as Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests.
- He authored over 20 books on wildlife and nature, significantly contributing to environmental awareness through literature. Honoured with the **Padma Shri in April**

2025, Chitampalli was celebrated for blending ecological science with cultural storytelling. Tributes call for translating his work and establishing a biodiversity park in his memory.

## 2. **Legendary Indian Spinner Dilip Doshi Dies at 77**

- Former India left-arm spinner **Dilip Doshi** passed away in **London on June 23, 2025**, at the age of **77**, due to cardiac arrest
- He claimed **114 wickets in 33 Tests** and **22 wickets in 15 ODIs** (1979–1983), debuting at the age of 32 and starring in India's 1981 Melbourne Test win despite a broken foot
- A classical craftsman known as a "gentleman to the core," Doshi earned respect from peers like Sachin Tendulkar and Ravi Shastri; the BCCI and international teams observed a moment of silence in his honor

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

### 1. **Yoga Bandhan – A Signature Pre-IDY 2025 Event**

- The **Ministry of AYUSH** launched the “Yoga Bandhan” initiative on 17 June 2025 through MDNIY in Delhi.
- **It aims to promote global unity via institution-to-institution collaboration in yoga before International Day of Yoga 2025.**
- Key dignitaries like AYUSH Secretary Rajesh Kotecha and ICCR DG K. Nandini Singla addressed the event.
- Activities included yoga demonstrations, institutional visits, and discussions to strengthen cultural diplomacy.

### 2. **Pratibha Setu**

A rebranded version of the **Public Disclosure Scheme**, launched by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** on **June 19–20, 2025**. It connects **high-performing candidates**—who completed all stages of UPSC exams but narrowly missed the final merit list—with potential employers in both government and private sectors

#### **Who's Eligible?**

- Non-recommended candidates who **voluntarily opted in** and cleared **all stages** (Prelims, Mains, interview) of UPSC exams such as:
  - Civil Services (CSE), Indian Forest Service (IFoS), CAPF, Engineering Services (IES),
  - Combined Medical Services, Geo-Scientist, CDS, IES/ISS

#### **How Pratibha Setu Works**

- Candidates who clear all UPSC stages and give consent during the exam application are included in the talent pool.
- Verified employers (ministries, PSUs, private firms) register on the Pratibha Setu portal using CIN and MCA-verified email.

- They receive login credentials to access candidate biodata, including education, exam records, and contact info
  - Employers can filter, shortlist, and recruit from this curated pool, offering a structured second chance to top performers.
- 3. India's First Locomotive Export Flagged Off by PM Modi to Guinea from Bihar**
- **Launch & Location:** On 20 June 2025, PM Narendra Modi flagged off India's first export-bound diesel locomotive from Marhowrah Diesel Locomotive Factory, Saran, Bihar.
  - **Export Deal:** India will export **150 high-tech locomotives** to Guinea over 3 years in a deal worth over **₹3,000 crore**, supporting the Simandou iron ore project.
  - **Advanced Features:** The **4500 HP ES43ACmi** locomotives include AC propulsion, regenerative braking, ergonomic cabins, microwaves, toilets, and fire safety systems.
  - **Manufacturing & Jobs:** The Indian Railways–Wabtec JV plant in Marhowrah has delivered 700+ locos and can produce 100/year, creating **2,000–2,500 jobs** locally.
  - **Strategic Impact:** This marks India's entry into the global locomotive export market, reinforcing the **"Make in India, Make for the World"** vision and India-Africa ties.
- 4. Operation Sindhu: India's Swift Evacuation of Citizens from Conflict-Hit Iran and Israel**
- The Ministry of External Affairs launched **Operation Sindhu** on 18 June 2025 to evacuate Indians from conflict-hit **Iran and Israel**.
  - A total of **4,415 people** were evacuated — **3,597 from Iran** and **818 from Israel** — including students, workers, and pilgrims.
  - The operation involved **19 special flights**, including **3 IAF C-17s**, and land evacuations via Armenia, Turkmenistan, Egypt, and Jordan.
  - Evacuees shared harrowing experiences of **nonstop missile strikes** and **14-hour bombardments** in cities like Mashhad and Tehran.
  - India coordinated closely with host nations, showcasing its strong diplomatic response and commitment to citizen safety abroad.
- 5. DU's JAIHIND Scheme**
- **Delhi University** launched the **JAIHIND Scheme** (Janajati Immersive Holistic Intervention for Novel Development) on **18 June 2025**.
  - It targets **Scheduled Tribe (ST) students** from classes **9 to 12**, with the first batch of **25 students** from the **Tangkhul Naga tribe** in Ukhrul, Manipur.
  - The programme focuses on **digital literacy**, **CUET exam orientation**, **life skills**, and exposure to higher education.
  - It runs for **two weeks (17–29 June)** at the Delhi University campus.
  - Students are also trained in **local vocational skills** like **container pisciculture** and **fish-feed production**.
  - The scheme aims to empower tribal youth by bridging the **digital and educational divide** in remote regions.

## 6. NPCI's NACH 3.0 launch

- NPCI will roll out **NACH 3.0** in **July 2025** to speed up recurring transactions like **salaries, EMIs, SIPs, subsidies, and pensions**.
- It introduces **faster processing** of salary credits and automated debits, reducing settlement delays for individuals and businesses.

### About NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

- **Established:** 2008, under the joint initiative of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**.
- **Objective:** To operate retail payment and settlement systems in India and develop a robust digital payments infrastructure.
- **Ownership:** NPCI is a **not-for-profit company** under Section 8 of the Companies Act, owned by a consortium of **major Indian banks**.

### Key Products/Services:

- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)**
- **RuPay Card Network**
- **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service)**
- **BHIM App**
- **AePS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System)**
- **NACH (National Automated Clearing House)**

**Significance:** NPCI plays a **pivotal role in driving India's digital payments revolution**, making transactions faster, safer, and accessible to all.

### About NACH (National Automated Clearing House)

- **Full Form:** National Automated Clearing House
- **Launched By:** NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- **Purpose:** A centralized system for **bulk, recurring transactions** like salaries, pensions, EMIs, subsidies, utility bills, insurance premiums, and SIPs.

### Key Features:

- Automates **high-volume interbank transactions**.
- Supports both **credit (e.g., salary, pension)** and **debit (e.g., EMI, SIP)** payments.
- Operates on **T+0 and T+1 settlement cycles** for faster fund transfers.

### Variants:

- **NACH Credit:** For bulk disbursement of funds.
- **NACH Debit:** For recurring customer payments

## 7. India's Rare Blood Donor Registry with e-Rakt Kosh

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will integrate the **ICMR–(National Institute of Immunohaematology) NIIH Rare Blood Donor Registry** with the **e-Rakt Kosh** digital platform.
- The registry has **4,000+ donors** tested for over **300 rare blood antigens**, including Bombay and Rh-null types

- **e-Rakt Kosh**, under the National Health Mission, connects blood banks across **2,280+ locations** in India.
- The integration aims to **reduce time, cost, and travel** for patients needing rare blood during emergencies.
- It will enhance **inventory management** and improve access to rare blood types nationwide.

## 8. **SECI Green Ammonia Tender**

- **Issued by SECI**, a Navratna PSU under the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**, on **7 June 2024**.
- The tender seeks a **production and supply of 724,000 tonnes per annum** of green ammonia across **13 fertilizer plants**, under SIGHT Scheme Mode 2A.
- **Bid submissions** close on **26 June 2025**, with SECI to act as demand aggregator under **10-year offtake contracts**.
- Aims to **decarbonize India's fertilizer sector**, reducing reliance on fossil-fuel-based ammonia and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.
- Backed by **PLIs under National Green Hydrogen Mission** (₹8.82/kg year 1, ₹7.06/kg year 2, ₹5.30/kg year 3; total ₹1,533.4 crore) and a **payment security mechanism** to mitigate supplier risks.

### **About SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India)**

- **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** is a Navratna PSU under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, established in **2011** to promote renewable energy.
- It acts as a **project developer and aggregator** for solar, wind, hybrid, battery storage, and green hydrogen initiatives across India.
- SECI implements key schemes like the **National Solar Mission** and **Green Hydrogen Mission**, including recent tenders for **green ammonia and RTC power**.

## 9. **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA) 2025:**

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **DAJA 2025** (Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan) on 15 June, targeting **5.5 crore tribal citizens** in **1 lakh+ villages** across **31 states/UTs**.
- Over **22,000 camps** delivered Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM-Kisan, Ujjwala, and Jan Dhan benefits to **53 lakh+ people** in just 9 days.
- It provides holistic services including **FRA claims, pensions, nutrition, tribal start-ups, legal aid**, and cultural programs.
- DAJA follows five key pillars: **community participation, saturation, cultural inclusion, convergence, and last-mile delivery**.
- The mission uses **real-time dashboards** for monitoring and aims for inclusive tribal development at the grassroots level.



#### 10. **EPFO Raises Auto-Advance Withdrawal Limit to ₹5 Lakh for Faster Fund Access**

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has increased its **auto-settlement limit** for advance claims from **₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh**, announced by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- This enhancement applies to urgent needs such as **illness, education, marriage, and housing**, benefiting over **70 million** subscribers.
- Claims up to ₹5 lakh will now be **auto-processed within 3 days**, eliminating the need for manual verification

### **MISCELLANEOUS (ONE LINER CURRENT AFFAIRS)**

1. **Honda Japan successfully tested a reusable rocket**, marking its formal entry into the global space technology sector and private space race.
2. **Maharashtra government has introduced Hindi as the third compulsory language** in schools, to be implemented from the academic year 2025–26.
3. **Gold has overtaken major currencies to become the world's second-largest reserve asset**, next only to the U.S. Dollar, according to global financial reports.
4. **Boudh district in Odisha got connected to the Indian Railways network for the first time**, with the inauguration of a new railway line improving regional connectivity.
5. **Tripura was declared fully literate** under the **Ullas (New India Literacy Programme)**, achieving 100% adult functional literacy across the state.
6. **IIT Delhi launched its first-ever special Ph.D. admission drive exclusively for SC/ST candidates**, aimed at promoting diversity and equitable research opportunities.
7. **Assam granted OBC status to the transgender community** and announced **reservation benefits for Anganwadi workers**, promoting inclusive welfare measures.
8. **East Coast Railway launched the 'ECOR Yatra' mobile app** to assist pilgrims with real-time train updates and services during the **Rath Yatra 2025** in Puri.
9. **Dangeti Jahnvi became the first Indian to complete NASA's prestigious International Air and Space Program (IASP)**, representing India in global space research.