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Weekly Current Affairs

(8th JUNE - 14th JUNE)

NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. **Ashwani Lohani Appointed as Director of Prime Ministers Museum and Library**

- **Appointing Body**: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- **Date of Order**: 4 June 2025.

- **Tenure**: Three years from assumption of charge.

- **About** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet:

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** is a high-level decision-making body of the Government of India responsible for appointments to several top posts in the bureaucracy and public sector undertakings. It is **not a constitutional body** but functions under the **Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961**.

- The ACC is **headed by the Prime Minister** of India. The **Union Home Minister** is the only other permanent member of the committee. The committee may also consult other ministers or departments on specific matters, but the final decision lies with the core ACC members.

- The ACC approves appointments to key posts such as **Cabinet Secretary**, **Chiefs of the Armed Forces**, **Heads of Public Sector Enterprises**, **Secretaries to the Government of India**, and **top-level officials of statutory and autonomous bodies** like the CBI, RBI, UPSC, and more.

2. **Five countries elected to serve on UN Security Council**

- **Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia, and Liberia** were elected on Tuesday to serve as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, with two-year terms beginning in January 2026.
  Election of Non-Permanent Members
  The UN Security Council has **15 members**:

- **5 permanent members (P5)**: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (with veto power).

- **10 non-permanent members**: Elected for **2-year terms** on a **regional rotation basis**.

- **Election Authority**:
  The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** elects the non-permanent members.
  Voting Process:

- Elections are held **annually**, usually in **June**, to elect **5 new members** (as the term of 5 outgoing members ends on 31 December).

- Each UN member state casts a **secret ballot**.

- To be elected, a country must receive a **two-thirds majority** of the votes **cast and present** in the General Assembly.

- If no candidate receives two-thirds majority in the first round, **subsequent rounds** are held until the required threshold is met.

- A country **cannot be immediately re-elected** after completing a two-year term.

- The 10 non-permanent UNSC seats are regionally allocated as: Africa - 3, Asia-Pacific - 2, Latin America & Caribbean - 2, Western Europe & Others - 2, and Eastern Europe - 1.

3. **Sailesh Mehta elected as new Fertiliser Association of India chairman**
About Fertiliser Association of India

- The **Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)** is a **non-profit, non-trading company** established in **1955** to represent the interests of fertiliser manufacturers, distributors, importers, equipment makers, research institutes, and input suppliers

Objectives

- Promote food security through the balanced and efficient use of plant nutrients.

- Enhance operational efficiency across the fertiliser value chain.

- Serve as a platform for policy dialogue, technical guidance, research, and best practices

4. **R Doraiswamy to be appointed Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**
The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended R Doraiswamy for the position of Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
About Financial Services Institutions Bureau

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau** is an **autonomous government body** constituted by the Centre on **1 July 2022** (replacing the Banks Board Bureau) under the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**

- Its primary mandate is to **recommend candidates for senior leadership roles**—namely **Whole-Time Directors (WTDs)** and **Non-Executive Chairpersons (NECs)**—on the boards of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, **Public Sector Financial Institutions (FIs)** like NABARD, SIDBI, IFCI, Exim Bank, and **Public Sector Insurance companies (PSIs)**

5. **S Mahendra Dev Appointed as Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council**
What is the EAC-PM?

- The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**, also known as PMEAC or EAC-PM, is a **non-constitutional, non-permanent, and independent body** set up to advise the Prime Minister on economic and related matters

- Its **Terms of Reference** include analyzing any economic issue (suo moto or referred), submitting periodic and monthly reports, addressing macroeconomic challenges, and undertaking tasks as directed by the PM

- While its guidance is **not binding**, it plays a key role in shaping public discourse and policy formulation through well-respected reports like the **Economic Outlook** and **Review of Economy**

6. **India Secures IIAS Presidency (2025–2028)**

- On June 3, 2025, India was elected to the presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025–2028 term, winning 87 out of 141 votes (61.7%) and defeating Austria in the final round.

- **Shri V. Srinivas**, Secretary (DARPG, Govt. of India), was elected as **President of IIAS** for the 2025–2028 term
About International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

- **International Institute of Administrative Sciences** (IIAS), founded in **1930**, is a global non-profit headquartered in **Brussels**, dedicated to **research, education, and best practices in public administration**
- Operates as a federation comprising **31 member states**, **20 national sections**, and **15 academic research centers**, and collaborates with the **UN's CEPA and UNPAN**

7. **List of Brand Ambassador in news**

S.No.	Brand Ambassador	Company	Extra Information
1.	**Rohit Sharma**	TCL India	Indian cricket captain **Rohit Sharma**, represented by Rise Worldwide, has been reappointed as **brand ambassador** of **TCL India** for a **second consecutive year**
2.	**Katrina Kaif**	Maldives' new Global brand ambassador for tourism	The development comes a month before PM Modi's scheduled visit to the island country
3.	**Mahendra Singh Dhoni,**	**Dettol's new Icy Cool**	-------------------------------

SPORTS UPDATES

1. **Magnus Carlsen Clinches Seventh Norway Chess Title**
- Held from **26 May to 6 June 2025** in **Stavanger, Norway**, this was the **13th edition** of Norway Chess
- **Winner**- Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
- **Runner Up**- Fabiano Caruana (Italy)
- **2nd Runner Up**- Gukesh Dommaraju (India)
  Women Category Winners:
- **Winner**- Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine)
- **Runner Up**- Lei Tingjie (China)
- **2nd Runner Up-** Humpy Koneru(India)

2. **ICC Player of the Month May:**
- United Arab Emirates batter **Muhammad Waseem** and South Africa all-rounder **Chloe Tryon** have been named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2025
  About International Cricket Council (ICC):
- **Full Form**: International Cricket Council
- **Founded**: **15 June 1909** (as the *Imperial Cricket Conference*)
- **Headquarters**: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
- **Current Chairman**: **Jay Shah** (India)
- **CEO**: **Geoff Allardice** (Australia)
- **Motto**: *"Cricket for Good"*

3. India-England Test Series Renamed Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy

- The traditional **Pataudi Trophy** (contested in England) has been officially renamed the **Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy**, ahead of the 2025 five-Test series
- The renaming honours two modern legends: **James Anderson** (England's all-time leading fast-bowler) and **Sachin Tendulkar** (all-time top Test run-scorer)
  Why Anderson and Tendulkar?
- **James Anderson**: England's premier Test fast bowler with **704 wickets in 188 Tests**, a record unmatched among pace bowlers
- **Sachin Tendulkar**: Accumulated **15,921 Test runs across 200 matches**, making him the highest run-scorer in Test history

4. Indonesia Open 2025
It was held from June 3 to 8, 2025, at Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Anders Antonsen (Denmark)	Chou Tien-chen (China)
Women's Singles	An Se-young (South Korea)	Wang Zhiyi (China)
Men's Doubles:	Kim Won-ho / Seo Seung-jae (Korea)	Sabar Karyaman Gutama & Muhammad Reza Pahlevi Isfahani (Indonesia)
Women's Doubles:	Liu Shengshu/Tan Ning (China)	Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Malaysia)
Mixed Doubles:	Thom Gicquel/Delphine Delrue (France)	Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Supissara Paewsampran (Thailand)

5. French Open 2025

- The 2025 French Open, a major tennis tournament was played on outdoor clay courts, took place at **Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from May 25 to June 8, 2025.**
- This epic match between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner is the **longest French Open final in history**, and the **second-longest** men's Grand Slam final ever

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)
Women's Singles	Coco Gauff (USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus
Men's Doubles:	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)	Joe Salisbury & Neal Skupski
Women's Doubles:	Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini (Italy)	Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) & Aleksandra Krunić (Serbia)
Mixed Doubles:	Sara Errani & Andrea Vavassori (Italy)	Taylor Townsend & Evan King (USA)

6. UEFA Nations League 2025 (2024–25 edition)

- The **UEFA Nations League** is an international football competition organized by the **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)** for the senior men's national teams of Europe

- Portugal became the first nation to clinch the UEFA Nations League title twice, with victories in 2019 and 2025.
- The **UEFA Nations League 2024–25 final** between **Portugal and Spain** was held on **June 8, 2025**, at the **Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany**
- **Champion**: Portugal (2nd title; also won in 2019)
- **Runner-up**: Spain (defending champions since 2023) .
- **Third place**: France and **Fourth**: Germany .
- **Final's Man of the Match / Finals Player**: Nuno Mendes
- **Final tournament top scorers**: Mbappé, Ronaldo, Yamal (2 goals each)

7. Retirements:
- **Nicholas Pooran**, West Indies' explosive wicket-keeper batter, **retired from international cricket** on **June 9, 2025**, at age **29**

8. MS Dhoni Enters ICC Hall of Fame
- The **ICC Hall of Fame** is a prestigious recognition awarded by the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** to honor the **greatest cricketers in the history of the game** for their extraordinary achievements and contributions
- Along with Dhoni ,alongside players like **Matthew Hayden**, **Graeme Smith**, **Hashim Amla**, **Daniel Vettori**, **Sarah Taylor**, and **Sana Mir were also inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame**
- MS Dhoni became the **11th Indian player** to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. Other India players inducted into the list are **Sunil Gavaskar** (2009), **Bishan Singh Bedi** (2009) , **Kapil Dev** (2010) , **Anil Kumble** (2015) , **Rahul Dravid** (2018) , **Sachin Tendulkar** (2019) , **Virender Sehwag** (2023) , **Neetu David** (2023) , **Diana Edulji** (2024) and **Vinoo Mankad** (2021)

9. PSA Awards 2024-25
- The **PSA Awards** are annual honors presented by the **Professional Squash Association (PSA)** to recognize the **top-performing athletes and emerging talents** in global professional squash.
- Indian squash sensation **Anahat Singh(17 Years)** clinched the **PSA Women's Challenger Player of the Season award** and jointly secured the **PSA Women's Young Player of the Season** title alongside Egypt's Amina Orfi.
- Egyptian duo Nour El Sherbini and Ali Farag have been named as the 2024-25 PSA Players of the Season

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

1. **Nicaragua Joins as 101st WTO Member to Accept Fisheries Subsidies Agreement**
- Nicaragua strengthened global marine conservation by becoming the 101st WTO member to formally **accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, marked by the submission of its acceptance to WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

About the World Trade Organization (WTO)

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is the **only global international organization** that deals with the **rules of trade between nations**. Its main goal is to **ensure smooth, fair, and predictable trade flows** across the world.

Attribute	Details
Established	1 January 1995
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Members	164 countries (as of 2024)
Director-General	**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (since March 2021)
Predecessor	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

2. **BHASHINI and CRIS Sign MoU to Build Next-Gen Multilingual AI Solutions for Indian Railways**

Purpose of the Agreement

To integrate **BHASHINI's advanced language-AI stack**—including ASR, TTS, OCR, and text translation—into CRIS platforms like **NTES** and **RailMadad**.

Key Features & Benefits

- Enables **railway services in 22 Indian languages**, increasing accessibility.
- Supports multilingual **voice assistants**, **chatbots**, and **over-the-counter interfaces**.
- Platforms impacted include websites, mobile apps, kiosks, and call centers.
- Implements solutions via **cloud and on-prem infrastructure**, with **pilot workshops** upcoming

3. **Thomas Cook Expands Reach with Muthoot Group Partnership**

Partnership Scope

- **Objective:** Thomas Cook India collaborates with Muthoot Forex (the forex arm of Muthoot Group) to enhance the distribution of its prepaid forex cards across India.
- **Products Involved:**
  o **Borderless Travel Card**
  o **Study Buddy Card**

Strategic Impact

- **Extended Reach:** Brings international-payment solutions to **Tier II–IV regions**, increasing accessibility.
- **Consumer Convenience:** Streamlines forex card access for travellers and students abroad.
- **Collaborative Strength:** Merges Thomas Cook's forex expertise with Muthoot's wide Indian presence

4. **CAQM, CSIR-CRRI, SPA sign MoU to reduce dust pollution via urban road redevelopment**

- **Objective:**

Roll out a standardized framework for urban road rebuilding to cut down road dust pollution across Delhi–NCR.

- **Key Issue:** Road dust is a major contributor to air pollution in the NCR.
- **Phase 1 Coverage:**
  Nine NCR urban/industrial hubs targeted:
  Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Sonipat, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Bhiwadi, and Neemrana.
  About Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)
- A **statutory body** formed under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**, effective **August 2021**
- Replaced the earlier Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), granted **penal powers**, unlike its advisory predecessor
  Mandate & Jurisdiction
- Oversee **air quality coordination, research, regulation, and enforcement** across the **Delhi-NCR region**, including adjoining areas of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan
- All **directions are binding**, capable of overriding state-level pollution control bodies and CPCB in cases of conflict

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

S.No.	Summits, Conferences & Events	Venue	Extra Information
1.	G-7 SUMMIT	Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada	The current **G7 member countries** are: **Canada**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Japan**, **United Kingdom** and **United States**
2.	**International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T) Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence Native for Telecommunication Networks (FG-AINN)**	New Delhi	From 11 to 13 June 2025, the event was held in New Delhi and was hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its technical arm, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC).

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. **David Beckham set to receive knighthood in King Charles III's birthday honours**
- Upon knighthood, he'll formally be **Sir David Beckham**, and his wife Victoria will now be styled **Lady Beckham**
  Honour Criteria
- **This knighthood recognises:**
  - A **stellar football career**: 115 appearances for England and major league titles in England, Spain, the US, and France

o Significant **philanthropic work**: Two decades as a **UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador**, establishing The David Beckham UNICEF Fund (2015), and more recently ambassadorial roles with The King's Foundation

2. **National e-Governance Awards 2025**

- **Rohini Gram Panchayat**, a tribal village in Dhule district, Maharashtra, **won the Gold Award** at the National e-Governance Awards 2025 for its outstanding implementation of digital services in rural governance.

- Other notable awardees in the category were W**est Majlishpur Gram Panchayat from Tripura,** which received the **Silver Award**, **while Palsana (Gujarat) and Suakati (Odisha) Gram Panchayats were honoured with Jury Awards.**

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	**World Oceans Day 2025**	June 8, 2025	**Theme:** Emphasizes the awe-inspiring role of oceans and the urgent need to preserve them
2.	**World Brain Tumour Day**	June 8, 2025	**Theme:** "Empowering Lives Through Brain Tumor Awareness",
3.	**World Food Safety Day**	June 7, 2025	**Theme:** *"Food Safety: Science in Action"*
4.	**International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**	June 5, 2025	The UN General Assembly officially declared it in December 2017, during its 72nd session
5.	**International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations**	June 10, 2025	On **June 7, 2024**, the UN General Assembly adopted **Resolution A/RES/78/286**, designating **June 10** as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations
6.	**Birsa Munda's 125th Death Anniversary**	June 9, 2025	**15 November** - his birthday - is celebrated as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day)** since 2021
8.	**International Day of Play (IDOP)**	11 June 2025	**Theme**: "Choose Play – Every Day
8.	**World Accreditation Day**	9 June 2025	**Theme:** "Accreditation: Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)"
9.	**World Day Against Child Labour 2025**	June 12, 2025	Theme: "Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts

1. EnviStats India 2025

- Released on **June 5, 2025**, by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** during a national workshop in New Delhi focused on frontier technologies in policy-making

  Key Environmental Trends (2013–14 to 2023–24)

- **Power Production**:
  o Thermal power generation rose from **792,053 GWh to 1,326,549 GWh**.
  o Renewable electricity jumped from **65,520 GWh to 225,835 GWh**, underscoring growth in green energy.

- **Fisheries Output**:
  o Inland fish production more than doubled—from **6.14 to 13.91 million tonnes**.
  o Marine fish output increased from **3.44 to 4.50 million tonnes** .

  Climate & Biodiversity Metrics

- **Temperature Rise (2001–2024)**:
  o Average annual temperature increased from **25.05 °C to 25.74 °C**.
  o Minimum and maximum temperatures also showed upwards trends pib.gov.in.

- **Rainfall Patterns**:
  o Notable annual fluctuations, but **no clear long-term increase or decrease** in total rainfall.

- **Species Diversity**:
  o Of **2.48 million marine species worldwide**, India hosts **20,613**.
  o Freshwater species tally at **9,436**, mangrove species at **5,023**, estuarine at **3,383**, and a remarkable **22,404** in soil ecosystems.
  o In total, India supports **104,561 of the global 1.67 million faunal species**

2. World Population Prospects 2024 report

- This report has been releases by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
  Findings of the report:

- As per the **UNFPA's State of World Population 2025 report**, India's population has surpassed **1.46 billion**, making it the most populous country, overtaking China.

- The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has dropped to **1.9 births per woman**, which is **below the replacement level** of 2.1 needed to maintain population levels without immigration.

- In **urban areas**, the TFR is even lower—between **1.6 and 1.7**, especially among the **educated middle-class** in regions like **Delhi, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu**

- The **southern states** are witnessing the sharpest fertility declines, while some **northern states** still hover near the replacement rate.

- India's population is projected to **peak around 1.7 billion by 2065** and then begin declining. If the fertility rate continues below the replacement level, it could drop to **930–940 million by the year 2100**.

3. Extreme poverty in India down to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank
  Findings of the report:

- According to the World Bank, India's extreme poverty rate dropped dramatically from **27.1% in 2011–12** to just **5.3% in 2022–23**
- In absolute terms, the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from approximately **344.5 million to about 75.2 million** over the same period
- This translates into nearly **270 million individuals** being lifted out of extreme poverty
- The World Bank raised the global poverty threshold to **US $3 per day (2021 PPP)** from $2.15, prompting a stricter benchmark

4. **Holématthi Nature Foundation (HNF) Survey**
   Bengaluru Now India's Leopard Capital defeating Mumbai
- A recent year-long camera-trap survey by Holématthi Nature Foundation (HNF), led by Dr. Sanjay Gubbi, has found **80–85 free-ranging leopards** in the forests surrounding Bengaluru, surpassing Mumbai's count of approximately **54**
- This makes Bengaluru the **metropolis with the highest known urban leopard population** in India

5. **'Global Data Center Market Comparison 2025' by Cushman & Wakefield report**
- A **Cushman & Wakefield report** covering 97 global cities places **Mumbai in 6th position** for data centre capacity under construction, surpassing global tech hubs like London and Dublin
  Globally, the top five cities by under-construction capacity are:
  - Virginia (1,834 MW)
  - Atlanta (1,078 MW)
  - Columbus (546 MW)
  - Dallas (500 MW)
  - Phoenix (478 MW)

  In the same report, **Pune** and **Bengaluru** emerged as the **4th** and **5th** fastest-growing APAC data centre hubs, respectively
  Within the **Asia-Pacific**, Mumbai ranks as the **7th most established** data centre market

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. **India's First Underwater Museum and Artificial Coral Reef to Be Developed Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra**
- India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef will be developed around the decommissioned warship INS Guldar near **Nivati Rocks at Vengurla in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.**
- The initiative, supported by the central government, aims to boost marine conservation and tourism, offering scuba diving and future submarine tours. **The Union Tourism Ministry has approved 46.91 crore rupees for the project.**
  About INS Guldar
- **INS Guldar (L21)** was a **Kumbhir-class tank landing ship** built in Poland and commissioned into the Indian Navy on **30 December 1985** by Gdańsk/Gdynia Shipyard.

- Served initially with the **Eastern Naval Command (1985–1995)**, later transferring to the **Andaman & Nicobar Command** until decommissioning
- Officially **decommissioned on 12 January 2024**, alongside INS Cheetah and INS Kumbhir, closing nearly **40 years of distinguished service**

2. Exercise Khaan Quest 2025

- The **Indian Army is participated** in the 22nd edition of **Exercise Khaan Quest**, which is being held from **14th to 28th June 2025** at the **Five Hills Training Area** near **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- **Mongolia and the United States initially launched** Khaan Quest as a bilateral exercise in 2003. By 2006, it had expanded into a **multinational peacekeeping drill** involving several nations under the **United Nations mandate**.
- A **40-member Indian contingent**, primarily from the **Kumaon Regiment**, has joined the exercise. The team includes **one woman officer and two women soldiers**, reflecting India's commitment to gender inclusion in international peacekeeping.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Elon Musk's Starlink To Make Debut In India

The Indian Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite license to SpaceX-owned Starlink, making it the third satellite-internet provider in India—alongside Airtel-OneWeb and Reliance Jio Satellite Communications.

What is Starlink?

- **Starlink** is a satellite internet constellation project developed and operated by **SpaceX**, the private aerospace company founded by **Elon Musk**. Its primary aim is to provide **high-speed, low-latency broadband internet** across the globe, especially in **rural and remote areas** where traditional internet infrastructure is limited or unavailable.
- It aims to deliver internet access worldwide through a constellation of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites.
- Starlink is **already operational** in North America, Europe, Australia, parts of South America, Japan, and now entering **India, Southeast Asia**, and **Africa**.

2. Axiom 4 Space Mission:

- A private astronaut mission, **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**, organized by **Axiom Space** in partnership with **NASA** and **SpaceX**, will send four astronauts—including the first Indian astronaut to the ISS since 1984—to the International Space Station for up to 14 days
- The mission will launch aboard the SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket using the Crew Dragon C213 spacecraft, which is the fifth and final capsule in the Dragon series.

Crew Composition

- Peggy Whitson (USA)
- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (India):**
- Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland)
- Tibor Kapu (Hungary)

3. **Russia to build eight nuclear plants in Iran: Atomic chief**
- Iranian Atomic Energy Organization chief Mohammad Eslami confirmed that **Russia will construct eight nuclear reactors in Iran** under a pre-existing agreement
- **Bushehr Focus**: Four of the new reactors will be built in **Bushehr Province**, complementing the ongoing construction of **Units 2 & 3** at the operational Bushehr plant
- **Implementing Agency**: Russia's **Rosatom**, in cooperation with Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation (AEOI)

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. **"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0"**
- **Name & Tagline:** "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" — plant a sapling in honor of one's mother, symbolizing environmental care and cultural values
- **Launch Date:** Phase 2 kicked off on **World Environment Day (June 5, 2025)** by PM Modi and officially supported by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on June 5 and Delhi CM Rekha Gupta on June 9
- The campaign aims to plant **10 crore saplings across India by September 30, 2025,** including 70 lakh saplings in Delhi's urban areas during 2025–26.

2. **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag**
   On 5 June 2025 in New Delhi, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag, a dedicated section under the Department of Official Language.
   Key Highlights:
- This initiative elevates the **Department of Official Language** to a fully-fledged department focused on Indian languages.
- It marks a **milestone** in reducing administrative dependence on foreign languages.
- The platform offers **structured support** for India's multilingual diversity and linguistic heritage

3. **PM Modi inaugurating the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River:**
- On **6 June 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the iconic **Chenab Railway Bridge**, completing the final segment of the **Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link**—officially connecting the Kashmir Valley to India's railway grid after nearly **28 years** of phased construction
- The Chenab Railway Bridge, at 1.315 km long and 359 m high, stands **taller than the Eiffel Tower,** making it the world's highest railway arch bridge.
- The bridge enables all-weather rail connectivity to Kashmir, reducing Katra–Srinagar travel time to around 3 hours via the Vande Bharat Express.

4. **Khichan and Menar wetlands receiving Ramsar designation**
   Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) in Rajasthan were officially designated as **Ramsar Sites** on 4 June 2025, just before World Environment Day. This brings India's total to **91 Ramsar wetlands**, the highest in Asia and third globally

What is the Ramsar Convention

- An international treaty signed in **1971 in Ramsar, Iran**, for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- India became a **signatory in 1982**.
- Ramsar Sites are **wetlands of international importance**, recognized for their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological, or hydrological significance.

KEY FACTS:

Feature	Data
Total Ramsar Sites in India	**91** (after inclusion of Khichan & Menar, Rajasthan)
India's Global Rank	**3rd highest** in number of sites (after UK & Mexico)
Largest Ramsar Site	**Sundarbans Wetland**, West Bengal (~4,23,000 ha)
Smallest Ramsar Site	**Renuka Wetland**, Himachal Pradesh (~20 ha)
First Ramsar Sites (1981–82)	**Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo NP (Rajasthan)**

5. Population Census 2027

- The Government of India has announced that the **16th decennial Population Census**, scheduled for **March 1, 2027 (reference date)**, will be held in **two phases** and will **include caste enumeration for the first time since 1931**
- The 2027 Census will include data on castes and sub-castes, including OBCs, making it the first detailed caste census since 1931.
  What is the Census of India?
- The **Census of India** is a **decennial (once every 10 years)** national exercise to collect comprehensive data on population, housing, demography, socio-economic conditions, and more.
- It is **conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It is the **largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world**.
  What is a Caste Census?
- A **caste census** refers to the **collection of data on castes, sub-castes, and social categories** during a national population survey.
- The last full caste enumeration was conducted in 1931, while post-independence censuses from 1951 to 2011 excluded caste data for OB except for SCs and STs.
- The 2027 Caste Census will be conducted in two phases starting March 1, 2027 (Oct 1 for hilly regions), using digital devices in 16 languages to enumerate OBCs, sub-castes, and SC/ST data.

6. Swachhata Pakhwada 2025:

The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under the Ministry of Science & Technology conducted **Swachhata Pakhwada** from **1–15 May 2025**, organizing **188 cleanliness and awareness activities** across its HQ, institutions, and PSUs nationwide

What Is Swachhata Pakhwada?

- A **fortnight-long cleanliness campaign** initiated in **April 2016**, observed across government ministries, departments, PSUs, and educational institutions to reinforce sanitation and hygiene principles

- Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 featured infrastructure upgrades like e-waste bins and sanitary units, health drives including CPR training and plastic awareness, and public engagement through clean-up drives, tree planting, and community activities.

7. Ladakh Reservation & Language Regulations 2025

On **June 3, 2025**, President Murmu used Article 240 powers to issue three major regulations adjusting reservation, domicile, language, and governance in Ladakh

Key Regulations

Reservation Amendment 2025

- Caps reservation for SC/ST/OBC and socially backward groups to **85%**, excluding 10% EWS.

- Applies to both government jobs and professional college seats, boosting total reservation to **95%**.

Domicile Certificate Rules 2025

- Defines domicile criteria: 15+ years residence, 7 years schooling in Ladakh, or children of Central Govt employees serving 10+ years.

- Tehsildars issue domicile certificates; Deputy Commissioners handle appeals

Official Languages Regulation 2025

- Recognizes English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi as official languages.

- Promotes Shina, Brokskat, Balti, and Ladakhi to preserve cultural-linguistic diversity

LAHDC Amendment Regulation 2025

- Reserves **one-third of seats** in Leh and Kargil hill councils for women, with rotational reservations

8. UMEED Portal for Waqf Management

- The UMEED portal was launched on June 6, 2025, by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju along with Minister of State George Kurian.

What is the UMEED Portal?

- **UMEED** stands for **Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development**.

- It is a **centralised digital platform** to register, monitor, geo-tag, and manage all Waqf properties in real time
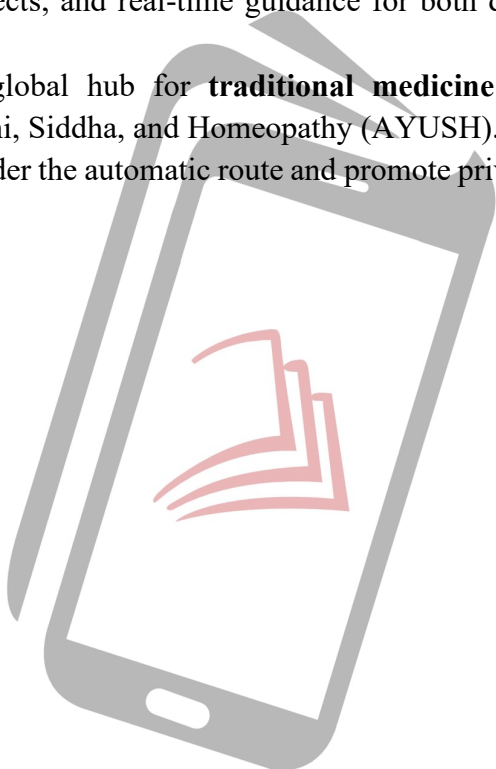
Key Features

- **Geo-tagged digital inventory** of waqf properties with unique IDs

- **Online grievance redressal** mechanism

- **Transparent leasing and usage tracking** integrated with GIS/e-governance tools

- **Public access** to verified records and reports for accountability

9. Ayush Nivesh Saarthi

- The Ayush Nivesh Saarthi portal was launched on May 29, 2025, during the Ayush Stakeholder & Industry Interaction Meet at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The portal was launched by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav, in the presence of Ayush Secretary Rajesh Kotecha and DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Bhatia.

What is Ayush Nivesh Saarthi?

- A **digital investor facilitation platform** developed by the Ministry of Ayush in partnership with Invest India.
- Offers a **unified interface** that integrates policy guidelines, incentive schemes, investment-ready projects, and real-time guidance for both domestic and international investors Objectives
- Position India as a global hub for **traditional medicine and wellness**, spanning Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH).
- Attract **100 % FDI** under the automatic route and promote private-sector participation in the Ayush ecosystem