

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

»»» 25 JUNE 2025



NATIONAL AFFAIRS / GOVERNMENT SCHEME

1. Tripura Surges to 95.6% Literacy and Becomes India's Third Fully Literate State After Goa & Mizoram.



Tripura has achieved a 95.6% literacy rate under the ULLAS adult education programme, earning official recognition on 23 June 2025 as the country's third "fully literate" state—a major step beyond basic literacy, embracing functional skills.

- On 23 June 2025 at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhawan in Agartala, CM Manik Saha formally announced Tripura's attainment of a 95.6% literacy rate. This surpasses the 95% threshold set by the Ministry of Education and UNESCO for "fully literate" status.

- Unlike earlier efforts centered on signature skills, the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme emphasized functional literacy: reading, writing, arithmetic, digital proficiency, financial education, and life skills for adults aged 15+.

- Tripura's literacy story reflects steady progress—from a mere 20.24% in 1961 to 87.22% by 2011, reaching 93.7% in 2023–24, and finally soaring to 95.6% in 2024–25.

Key Points:-

(i) Launched under NEP-2020, the centrally-sponsored ULLAS scheme targets universal adult literacy by 2027. In Tripura, it combined door-to-

door surveys, multilingual content (Bengali, English, Kokborok), and a mobile app-based learning platform.

(ii) The campaign deployed 2,228 volunteer teachers, established 943 Social Awareness Centres, and mobilized the Youth Literacy Corps. Literacy outreach even extended to market squares, courtyards, and remote hills.

(iii) This milestone aligns Tripura with Goa and Mizoram, bolsters India's mission to achieve full literacy by 2030 under SDG 4, and supports the government's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, emphasizing self-reliance through education.

2. India's Total Installed Power Capacity Reaches 476 GW and Nearly 49% Now from Non-Fossil Fuel Sources.



In June 2025, the Government of India (GoI) released updated data revealing that India's total installed power generation capacity has reached 476 Giga Watts (GW), up from 305 GW in 2015–16. Notably, nearly 49% of this capacity now comes from non-fossil fuel sources, marking a major shift in India's energy profile.

- India's total installed power generation capacity as of June 2025 stands at 476 GW, showing a growth of nearly 56% over a 10-year span. The transformation

aligns with India's broader goal of energy diversification, sustainable growth, and reduced carbon dependency. The power sector is led by both fossil and non-fossil sources, with a sharp rise in renewables.

- Of the total installed capacity, 49% (235.7 GW) is now sourced from non-fossil fuel technologies, including 226.9 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro, and 8.8 GW of nuclear energy. This marks a major policy and infrastructure achievement towards the government's 2030 clean energy goals.

- Meanwhile, thermal energy continues to be a dominant contributor, accounting for 50.52% (240 GW) of total capacity. Within this, coal-based plants alone contribute more than 91% of the thermal capacity, highlighting the crucial role coal still plays in meeting the country's peak power demand and ensuring base load availability.

Key Points:-

(i) India's electricity generation output has also grown substantially, rising from 1,168 Billion Units (BU) in 2015–16 to an estimated 1,824 BU in 2024–25. This reflects both increased industrial demand and improved household electrification under schemes like Saubhagya and Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

(ii) The country has also witnessed a significant improvement in energy access. Per capita electricity consumption rose by 45.8%, from 957 kilowatt-hour (kWh) in 2013–14 to 1,395 kWh in 2023–24. This growth reflects better power reliability, 24x7 supply targets, and growth in rural and semi-urban electricity penetration.

(iii) The installed renewable energy capacity has nearly tripled, from just 76.37 GW in March 2014 to 226.9 GW by June 2025. Solar capacity alone rose dramatically from 2.8 GW to 110.9 GW, and

wind energy has touched 51.3 GW. India is on track to reach 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030, as committed under its COP26 climate targets.

3. Indian Railways Introduces ₹1 Crore Accident Insurance for Employees with Zero Premium Cost.



In June 2025, Indian Railways rolled out a landmark welfare initiative offering its employees ₹1 crore in accident compensation—without any premium deductions—through their salary package bank accounts, strengthening financial security for staff in high-risk roles.

- This newly launched scheme provides a ₹1 crore compensation payout to railway employees' families in case of accidental death, with no insurance premiums deducted from salaries. Eligibility requires only a Salary Package Account with a partner bank (e.g., SBI).

- The scheme's debut claim was granted to the family of Sushil Lal, a loco pilot from Moradabad division who tragically died in a March 2025 accident. Northern Railway officials handed over a ₹1 crore cheque on 21 June in Delhi.

- Post-accident, the partner bank verifies the claim and directly disburses the ₹1 crore to the nominee, irrespective of whether the fatality occurs on or off

duty. This streamlined process underscores speed and ease.

Key Points:-

- (i) The scheme applies to all railway employees nationwide. Indian Railways is collaborating with major unions—All India Railway Men’s Federation (AIRF) and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR)—and using posters and awareness campaigns to promote enrolment.
- (ii) Recognising the occupational hazards faced by railway staff, this initiative provides critical financial support to families and boosts staff morale. It signals Indian Railways’ commitment to its workforce’s well-being.
- (iii) This ₹1 crore scheme complements standard ex-gratia payments and existing insurance programmes, offering a more comprehensive safety net for employees and ensuring broader welfare coverage.

4. Adani Commissions India’s First Off-Grid 5 MW Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant in Kutch, Gujarat.



On 23 June 2025, Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, commissioned India’s first 5 megawatt (MW) off-grid green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat. The facility is fully solar-powered, off-grid, and

marks a major step towards India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission and clean energy transition.

- India’s first off-grid 5 MW green hydrogen pilot plant has been built by Ahmedabad-based ANIL (Adani New Industries Ltd), a 100% subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd. The project is located in Kutch, Gujarat, and is entirely powered by solar energy—functioning independently from the main grid with an integrated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- The plant utilizes electrolysis technology, splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen without any carbon emissions. This results in the generation of green hydrogen, which is seen as a clean fuel alternative for the industrial, transport, and energy sectors. It aligns with India’s push to replace grey hydrogen and fossil fuels in heavy industries.
- What sets this facility apart is its fully automated, closed-loop electrolyser system, which dynamically adapts to real-time solar energy inputs. This makes the plant highly efficient, safe, and resilient against fluctuations in solar power generation, representing a technological innovation in hydrogen production.

Key Points:-

- (i) The plant produces 25 kilograms of hydrogen per refill, which can fuel hydrogen vehicles for a distance of approximately 300 kilometers. As a proof of concept (POC), it lays the groundwork for a larger Green Hydrogen Hub that ANIL is developing in Mundra, Gujarat, aimed at industrial-scale hydrogen and derivative production.
- (ii) This pilot plant is expected to reduce 350 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, which is equivalent to planting 13,000 trees every year. It directly supports the objectives of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) launched in 2023 with a budget of USD 2.4 billion, targeting net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and energy

independence by 2047.

(iii) ANIL's broader green energy ecosystem at Mundra will include integrated production of green hydrogen, green ammonia, green methanol, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). Additionally, the plant will support domestic manufacturing of solar modules, wafers, wind turbine generators, and electrolyzers, reducing imports and supporting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) mission.

5. 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' Observed Nationwide to Mark 50 Years Since Emergency (25 June 1975–77).



On 25 June 2025, India commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1975–77 Emergency by observing 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' (Constitution Murder Day), a national initiative highlighting the suspension of democratic freedoms and honouring those who bravely defended the Constitution.

- The Government of India—under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah—declared 25 June as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' beginning July 2024. A year-long programme (June 2024–June 2026) includes state-level events, seminars, cultural activities, and educational outreach to promote civic awareness.

- On 25 June 1975, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, under Article 352 (National Emergency) citing "internal

disturbance," imposed a nationwide Emergency. It marked the only use of "internal disturbance" grounds, which was later removed by the 44th Constitutional Amendment in 1978.

- During the 21-month Emergency, fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21 were suspended, press censorship was enforced, and around 1.1 lakh people—including opposition leaders, journalists, activists—were detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Forced mass sterilization programmes and centralisation of power were major atrocities.

Key Points:-

(i) Several state-level commemorations and ceremonies were held across India to mark 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' on 25 June 2025. In Chandigarh, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria led a solemn event at Tagore Theatre, where journalists, students, and activists were honoured, and the role of Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan's mass movement against the Emergency was recalled. In Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel described the Emergency as a "blemished event in India's democratic history," while retired Justice Ravikumar Tripathi delivered a talk on the misuse of constitutional provisions during that period. Meanwhile, in Kurukshetra, Union Minister of State (MoS) S.P. Singh Baghel compared the Indian Constitution to sacred texts like the Gita, Guru Granth Sahib, and the Bible, emphasizing that constitutional reforms should be made in the national interest, not for political convenience.

(ii) On 25 June 2025, the Union Cabinet—chaired by PM Narendra Modi—passed a resolution honouring "countless individuals" who opposed the Emergency and suffered its excesses, formally recognizing their contributions to democracy.

(iii) The Ministry of Culture and state governments (e.g., Odisha) are hosting exhibitions, film

screenings, workshops, and academic events aimed at young audiences. These programmes emphasize civil liberties, constitutional safeguards, and the historical lessons from the Emergency era.

6. EAM S. Jaishankar Launches 'Passport Seva 2.0' and Rolls Out E-Passports Nationwide.



On 25 June 2025, on the occasion of the 13th Passport Seva Divas, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled Passport Seva 2.0—coupled with the nationwide rollout of biometric chip-enabled e-Passports—to streamline services and enhance security frameworks.

- **Passport Seva 2.0 is the upgraded version of India's passport issuance platform, under the Passport Seva Programme (PSP). It introduces enhanced user experience with AI-backed services, improved digital integration, and secure workflow to handle increasing passport demand efficiently.**

- **The initiative officially launched the issuance of chip-enabled electronic passports (e-Passports), which are embedded with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips and store encrypted biometric data, including the passport holder's photograph and fingerprints. The nationwide rollout of e-Passports began on 25 June 2025 and is now fully operational across all Passport**

Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) in India.

- **As part of the Passport Seva 2.0 initiative, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar introduced the EASE framework, which stands for Enhanced, AI-powered, Smooth, and Enhanced Security. Under this framework, the government aims to ensure digitized service delivery (E), integrate AI support in passport operations (A), facilitate seamless overseas travel through chip-enabled e-Passports (S), and implement strong encrypted data safeguards to protect citizens' personal information (E).**

Key Points:-

(i) The new PSP 2.0 aligns with India's Digital India goals. Key integrations include the mPassport Seva app, DigiLocker connectivity, mPassport Police app, and an "apply-from-anywhere" feature. Passport Seva Kendra count grew from 77 in 2014 to 523 today.

(ii) The newly launched e-Passports are designed to accelerate immigration procedures by being fully compatible with ICAO-compliant e-gates (International Civil Aviation Organization standards). These passports incorporate advanced encryption technologies such as Basic Access Control (BAC) and Extended Access Control (EAC), ensuring high levels of data security and authenticity. This significantly helps in minimizing cases of passport fraud, forgery, and identity theft. Importantly, existing traditional passports will remain valid and usable until their designated expiry date, ensuring a smooth transition for all passport holders.

(iii) Jaishankar praised the dedicated work of passport officers and international mission staff. He urged all issuing authorities to uphold quality, accessibility, reliability, and transparency in passport services.

INTERNATIONAL

1. IFFCO to Set Up India's First Overseas Nano-Fertiliser Plant in Brazil, Four Years After Launching Nano Urea.



In June 2025, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) announced plans to establish its first overseas nano-fertiliser production facility in Paraná, Brazil—capitalizing on the success of its nano-urea launch in India in 2021 and the April 2023 nano-DAP rollout.

- IFFCO will partner with Nanoventions Brasil, investing USD 12 million to set up a plant in Paraná, Brazil, by October 2025. This marks the cooperative's first nano-fertiliser manufacturing unit abroad, after receiving trial approvals in both Brazil and the USA.
- Since launching India's first nano-urea in June 2021 and liquid nano-DAP in April 2023, IFFCO has sold ~26 million nano-urea bottles in FY25. Field trials showed 5.7% yield increases, and initial nano-fertiliser exports to Brazil, the USA, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan have already begun.
- The Brazilian plant will include an R&D centre aimed at developing formulations suited to local soil and crop needs. The collaboration with local universities and government agencies such as Brazil's Tecnológico Paraná (Tecpar) will support technology adaptation.

Key Points:-

- (i) The facility will initially produce 5 million litres per year of nano-fertilisers, with plans to double capacity within five years. This compact format helps reduce logistics costs, landfill waste, and enhances nutrient efficiency in crop usage.
- (ii) Nano-fertilisers, with nanoparticle sizes between 20–50 nm, provide better absorption (uptake >80%) compared to traditional urea (30–50%), reducing nutrient wastage, greenhouse gas emissions, and chemical runoff.
- (iii) Setting up local nano-fertiliser production in Brazil strengthens “Atmanirbhar Bharat” globally and supports sustainable agriculture internationally. It also positions IFFCO as a global leader in nanotechnology-based agri-inputs, reducing dependence on conventional fertiliser imports.

2. India Shines as 10 Start-ups Selected in WEF's 2025 Technology Pioneers List, Highlighting Deep-Tech Innovation.

On June 23, 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, unveiled its 2025 cohort of the prestigious 'Technology Pioneers' programme. Among the 100 cutting-edge start-ups selected globally, 10 are from India, underscoring the country's rising role in deep-tech innovation across sectors like space, clean energy, and AI.

- The 2025 Technology Pioneers cohort by WEF features 100 early-stage start-ups from 28 countries, selected for their potential to address global challenges through disruptive technologies. India's selection of 10 start-ups marks one of the highest representations among developing nations.
- The 10 selected Indian start-ups span across space tech, healthtech, robotics, clean energy, and fintech. Notably, Agnikul Cosmos, GalaxEye Space, and The

ePlane Company—all incubated at IIT Madras—represent India’s growing capability in aerospace and electric mobility innovation.

- Launched in 2000, the Technology Pioneers programme supports early-stage companies developing breakthrough solutions with global societal impact. The WEF offers these start-ups access to its expert networks, global platforms, and strategic collaborations to scale impact-driven innovations.

Key Points:-

(i) over 1,200 start-ups have been recognized under this programme—including industry giants such as Google, Airbnb, PayPal, Dropbox, and Spotify. These companies have transformed sectors like digital finance, content sharing, and communication.

(ii) Themes for 2025 Cohort : The selected firms reflect WEF’s 2025 focus areas: AI for Good, Climate Tech, Inclusive FinTech, Cybersecurity, Clean Mobility, and Health Access. The Indian cohort particularly aligns with India’s national priorities like Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Startup India.

(iii) The inclusion of Indian start-ups in WEF’s platform highlights India’s growing global reputation as a tech-driven economy. With strategic incubators like IITs, IISc, and BIRAC backing deep-tech research, India is positioning itself as a global leader in Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies.



In June 2025, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) released its 10th Sustainable Development Report, revealing Finland as the highest-ranked country. For the first time ever, India secured a place in the top 100—achieving 99th rank with a score of 66.95.

- **Finland leads the global SDG Index for 2025 with a score of 87.02, followed closely by Sweden (85.74) and Denmark (85.26). Of the top 20 nations, 19 are European, highlighting the region’s continued dominance despite ecological challenges.**

- **In a notable improvement, India jumped from 109th in 2024 to 99th in 2025 among 193 UN member states. With a score of 66.95, this marks India’s first appearance in the top 100—a milestone driven by strengthened performance in energy access, sanitation, and healthcare.**

- **Among India’s neighbours, Bhutan ranks 74th (70.5), Nepal 85th (68.6), Maldives 53rd, Sri Lanka 93rd, Bangladesh 114th, and Pakistan 140th, illustrating regional disparities in SDG progress.**

Key Points:-

(i) The report highlights that only 17% of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are currently on track at the global level. Critical areas such as climate action, biodiversity preservation, press freedom, and the fight against obesity are

3. Finland Tops Sustainable Development Report 2025; India Enters Top 100 for the First Time.

significantly lagging behind. However, the most notable progress has been observed in essential services, particularly in universal access to electricity (SDG 7), improved healthcare systems (SDG 3), and digital connectivity and infrastructure (SDG 9).

(ii) East and South Asia lead global SDG improvements since 2015, with Nepal (+11.1 points), Cambodia (+10), Philippines (+8.6), Bangladesh (+8.3), and Mongolia (+7.7) registering significant gains. This reflects sustained socioeconomic advancement.

(iii) Ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville (30 June–3 July 2025), the report urges reforms in the Global Financial Architecture to redirect capital towards emerging economies, enhancing their ability to meet SDG targets.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI to Withdraw ₹1 Trillion from Banks Through 7-Day Reverse Repo to Control Excess Liquidity.



On 27 June 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 7-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction to absorb ₹1 trillion from the banking system. This move aims to reduce excess money in the system and align short-term interest rates with the RBI's policy rate.

- Banks currently have too much extra money, which can affect interest rates. The RBI is using this reverse repo auction to temporarily take back ₹1 trillion from the banking system and reduce the excess liquidity.

- In a reverse repo, RBI borrows money from banks for a few days and pays them interest. This helps RBI control the amount of money in the economy and keeps interest rates stable.

- After the announcement, the overnight lending rate (call rate) rose to 5.30%, and short-term treasury bill rates also increased. This helps bring market interest rates closer to the RBI's main policy rate.

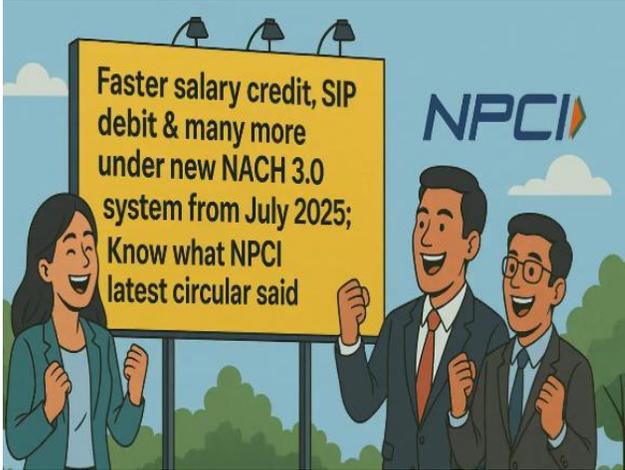
Key Points:-

(i) Recently, RBI also cut the repo rate by 50 basis points and announced a cut in CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) to support growth while managing liquidity levels. This reverse repo move complements those steps.

(ii) Banks with extra money can now park it safely with RBI and earn interest. This helps avoid risky lending and keeps the banking system healthy and more controlled.

(iii) RBI said it will use such short-term auctions when needed but won't do long-term bond selling (OMO) unless there's pressure on capital flows. This gives RBI flexibility to manage liquidity smartly.

2. NPCI Launches National Automated Clearing House (NACH) 3.0 for Faster Salaries, EMIs & SIPs with Enhanced Security.



On 23 June 2025, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced the launch of NACH 3.0—an upgraded version of its bulk payment platform. This will enhance the speed, reliability, and security of recurring payments like salaries, pensions, EMIs, SIPs, school fees, and subscriptions across India.

- **NACH is a centralised system by NPCI that handles high-volume recurring payments such as salaries, pensions, Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs), and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). NACH 3.0 is its upgraded version designed to eliminate delays, especially during peak hours.**
- **NPCI is an umbrella organisation set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to operate retail payment systems like UPI, IMPS, RuPay, and NACH. It plays a key role in India's digital payments ecosystem.**
- **The upgraded system includes a modern Graphical User Interface (GUI) for easy use, real-time dashboards for tracking payment files, and instant notifications for mandate rejections. Banks can manage password resets and complaints without manual dependencies.**

Key Points:-

(i) NACH 3.0 introduces Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) encryption, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), and role-based access control. It also

blocks plain-text downloads and logs all user activity, significantly improving data privacy and fraud prevention.

(ii) Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) can now process recurring payments more efficiently, with lower errors, faster reconciliation, and self-managed tools for dispute resolution. Delays in EMI/SIP collections are also reduced.

(iii) Consumers will benefit from timely credit of salaries and pensions, and automatic debits of EMIs and SIPs without penalty charges. It also ensures better transparency, fewer failures, and stronger protection of financial data.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. L&T Launches India's First ESG Bond Worth ₹500 Crore Under SEBI's New Green Finance Framework.



On 23 June 2025, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) became the first Indian company to list Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) bonds on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). This ₹500 crore offering is issued under SEBI's new ESG and sustainability-linked bond framework and marks a major milestone in India's green finance journey.

- **L&T, a Mumbai-based engineering and infrastructure conglomerate, made history by listing India's first ESG-**

compliant bond on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The bond is structured as Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), raising ₹500 crore with a fixed annual coupon rate of 6.35%. It aims to channel capital toward sustainable development.

- These bonds are the first to be issued under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s newly introduced ESG and sustainability-linked bond framework, which came into effect on 5 June 2025. This framework sets guidelines for ESG-related financial instruments to align with India's climate and sustainability goals.

- The NCDs have a maturity period of 3 years, with the final redemption due on 19 June 2028. Investors will receive annual interest payments. The issuance structure ensures transparency and investor confidence, especially for ESG-conscious institutional buyers.

Key Points:-

(i) The entire transaction was executed with Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) as the sole lead arranger. HSBC's global expertise in ESG finance ensured adherence to international benchmarks and attracted foreign interest in India's sustainable finance ecosystem.

(ii) L&T has linked the bond to measurable ESG performance targets under SEBI's guidelines. These include a reduction in freshwater withdrawal intensity and a cut in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These sustainability-linked goals are aligned with L&T's vision of becoming water neutral by 2035 and carbon neutral by 2040.

(iii) As per SEBI's sustainability-linked bond framework, L&T must publish detailed disclosures, including sustainability objectives, Second-Party Opinions (SPOs), and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The company will also submit post-issuance impact reports, making this a transparent

and benchmark-setting green finance initiative.

2. S&P Projects 6.5% GDP Growth for India in FY26 and Warns of Geopolitical Risks.



On June 24, 2025, S&P Global Ratings (USA) upgraded India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for FY26 to 6.5%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.3%. This revision came through its report titled "Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2025: Resilience May Vary", reflecting optimism over India's macroeconomic outlook amid global uncertainties.

- **S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard & Poor's) has projected India's GDP to grow by 6.5% in FY26 (2025–26), citing strong domestic factors like lower oil prices, supportive monetary policy, and favourable taxation measures. The revision aligns with the RBI's own forecast of 6.5%.**

- **Alongside FY26, S&P also raised India's FY27 GDP growth estimate from 6.5% to 6.7%, reflecting continued economic momentum. The agency believes that structural reforms, domestic consumption, and global supply chain shifts towards India are key drivers.**

- **The positive outlook is driven by lower crude oil prices, monetary easing (cutting interest rates), income tax relaxations, and a normal monsoon, which**

collectively support higher rural demand, better inflation control, and capital inflow stability.

Key Points:-

(i) S&P flagged major risks such as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Iran-USA conflict, which could trigger global oil price spikes. With India importing 90% of its crude oil and 50% of natural gas, it remains highly vulnerable to external price shocks.

(ii) S&P expects India's retail inflation to average 4% in 2025, compared to 4.6% in 2024. Additionally, the Indian Rupee (INR) is projected to depreciate to 87.5 per USD by December 2025, down from 86.6 in December 2024, amid global currency pressures.

(iii) Despite rising tensions, S&P noted that international energy markets are well supplied. It does not foresee any long-term oil price disruptions, which supports stable import bills and current account management for energy-importing economies like India.

SPORTS

1. Arjuna Awardee Lalit Upadhyay Retires from International Hockey on Olympic Day.



On 23 June 2025, veteran Indian hockey forward and Arjuna Awardee Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (31)

announced his retirement from international hockey—coinciding with Olympic Day—marking the end of a remarkable decade-long career representing India on the world stage.

● **Lalit Upadhyay featured in 183 international matches, scored 67 goals, and was a key player in India's bronze-medal wins at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics. He also played in three Hockey World Cups and several major tournaments.**

Key Points:-

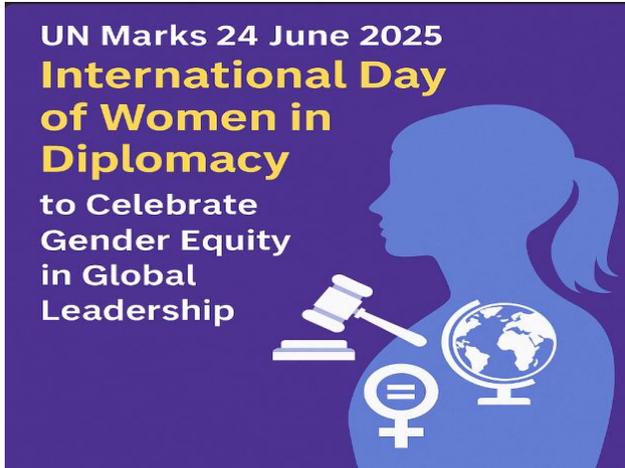
(i) In 2021, he received the prestigious Arjuna Award for his outstanding contributions to hockey. He also represented India in multiple Asian Games—securing two gold medals and one bronze—and earned a silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

(ii) Hailing from Bhagatpur village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Lalit's journey from modest beginnings to global podiums is widely praised. He became only the second player from UP to feature in three World Cups, following in legendary footsteps. He also serves as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in UP.

(iii) Following his international retirement—announced after India's FIH Pro League match on Olympic Day—Lalit plans to focus on strengthening grassroots hockey in Varanasi, mentor young players, and continue playing domestically for the UP Police team.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. UN Marks 24 June 2025 International Day of Women in Diplomacy to Celebrate Gender Equity in Global Leadership.



On 24 June 2025, the United Nations (UN) observed the 3rd International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWID), focusing on promoting inclusive leadership, equitable participation of women in foreign affairs, and dismantling long-standing structural barriers. The day commemorates the contributions of women diplomats globally and highlights the urgency of gender parity in international governance.

- The 2025 theme, "Eliminating Structural Barriers to Women's Leadership in Diplomacy," draws attention to the persistent inequalities women face in global policy, negotiations, peacekeeping, and high-level diplomatic postings.
- The theme advocates for institutional reforms, targeted policy changes, and cultural shifts within government systems that enable women to lead in international relations.
- The International Day of Women in Diplomacy was officially recognized through UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/269, passed during the 76th session on 20 June 2022. The first global observance took place on 24 June 2023, and the 2025 celebration marks the third edition of this important international day. The resolution was championed by the Maldives and co-sponsored by over 190 member states.

Key Points:-

(i) To mark the day, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women jointly released the 2025 "Women in Politics" map, an annual survey tracking gender representation in political leadership. According to the report, Nicaragua leads globally with 64.3% women in its national parliament, while India ranks 174th, with only 5.6% women representation, highlighting a major diplomatic and policy gap.

(ii) The UN reiterated that increased women's participation in diplomacy contributes to more effective conflict resolution, longer-lasting peace agreements, and diverse global representation. Yet, women continue to be underrepresented in roles such as ambassadors, foreign secretaries, and peace envoys, accounting for less than 25% of senior diplomatic positions globally.

(iii) In the Indian context, despite the rise of several notable women diplomats like Nirupama Rao and Ruchira Kamboj, overall gender parity remains low in foreign services. The 2025 IDWID observance called for stronger reforms in India and elsewhere, including implementing gender quotas, expanding training and mentorship for female diplomats, and prioritizing women's inclusion in high-stakes multilateral negotiations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Dangeti Jahnvi Becomes First Indian Astronaut Candidate for Titans Space Orbital Mission.



On June 23, 2025, 23-year-old Dangeti Jahnvi from Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh, was selected as an Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) for the Titans Space orbital mission to the Orbital Port Space Station, scheduled for launch in 2029. Her selection marks a historic milestone for India in commercial space exploration.

- Dangeti Jahnvi is the first ever Indian to be chosen for a private-sector orbital flight by Titans Space Industries, a US-based space venture. She was selected as part of the inaugural ASCAN 2025 cohort.
- A graduate in Electronics & Communication Engineering from Lovely Professional University, Punjab, Jahnvi also holds the distinction of being the first Indian to complete NASA’s International Air & Space Program (IASP).
- The Titans Space mission is a 5-hour orbital flight scheduled for 2029. It involves two complete Earth orbits, three hours of sustained zero gravity, and will travel to the Orbital Port Space Station.

Key Points:-

(i) Starting in 2026, Jahnvi will undergo a rigorous three-year ASCAN training programme—covering flight simulations, spacecraft systems, survival training, medical evaluations, and astronomy research—under the guidance of veteran NASA astronaut Colonel William McArthur

Jr.

(ii) Jahnvi is a passionate advocate for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education in India—she has led asteroid discovery projects, engaged in planetary geology training in Iceland, and delivered lectures at ISRO and NIT campuses nationwide.

(iii) Her selection has been praised by political leaders such as Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, who hailed her as an inspiration for young Indians and a shining example of India’s rising role in global space exploration.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Releases ‘Wings to Our Hopes – Volume II’: Compilation of 51 Speeches by President Droupadi Murmu.



On 23 June 2025, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released “Wings to Our Hopes – Volume II”, a curated collection of 51 impactful speeches delivered by President of India Droupadi Murmu during her second year in office (August 2023 – July 2024). The release ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

- The speech compilation reflects President Droupadi Murmu’s engagements during her second year as the Head of State. It highlights her addresses on national development, constitutional values, inclusive governance, and citizen-centric growth delivered across a variety of public forums from August 2023 to July 2024.

- The publication has been compiled by Rashtrapati Bhavan and published by the Directorate of Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). The Hindi version of the book has also been launched under the title “Aashaon Ki Udaan – Khand 2”, ensuring broader accessibility.

- The book launch event was attended by key dignitaries including Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State (MoS) for I&B Dr. L. Murugan, and senior officials from the Publications Division and MIB.

Key Points:-

(i) The compilation is positioned as a knowledge resource and reference guide for policymakers, civil service aspirants, academicians, and researchers. It provides deep insights into India's vision for social justice, digital empowerment, tribal welfare, women-led development, and environmental stewardship.

(ii) The e-book version of Wings to Our Hopes – Volume II is also available in both English and Hindi to ensure digital access for youth and knowledge-seekers across India. The content is aligned with India's 2047 development goals and the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

(iii) The first edition, Wings to Our Hopes – Volume I, covering the President’s first-year speeches (July 2022 – July 2023), was released in July 2023. Together, both volumes document Smt. Droupadi Murmu’s leadership journey and

represent a living chronicle of India’s evolving governance and developmental aspirations.

OBITUARY

1. Veteran Left-Arm Spinner Dilip Doshi Passes Away at 77 in London.



On 23 June 2025, former India left-arm orthodox spinner Dilip Rasiklal Doshi (77) passed away due to cardiac arrest in London. A late bloomer who debuted at age 32, Doshi played 33 Tests and 15 ODIs between 1979–83 and earned a reputation as one of India’s most cerebral and elegant spinners.

- **Doshi claimed 114 Test wickets in just 33 matches, including six five-wicket hauls, and added 22 wickets in 15 ODIs.**

- **He made a memorable Test debut against Australia in Chennai (1979), taking 6/103 and 2/64, becoming one of just nine Indians to record a five-for on debut.**

Key Points:-

(i) A dominant force in first-class cricket, Dilip Doshi amassed 898 wickets across 238 matches, notably for Bengal and Saurashtra. He also starred in English county cricket for Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire, playing alongside legends like Gary Sobers and Imran Khan.

(ii) Famous for his heroic performance in the 1981 Test at Melbourne—bowling through a broken toe—Doshi took five wickets and played a crucial role in India’s historic victory. His unwavering dedication earned widespread admiration.

(iii) Known as cricket’s “Prince”—both for his elegance on and off the field—Doshi was a gentleman, well-read, and respected by peers such as Mick Jagger and Amartya Sen. Even after retiring, he remained actively involved in cricketing circles worldwide.

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| Ministry of Power (MoP) | Union Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| Indian Railways (IR) | Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) | MD & CEO : Vneet S. Jaain | Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat |
| Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) | Chairperson: Ajay Kumar (IAS) | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) | CEO : Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi | Headquarters: New Delhi |
| RBI | Governor : Sanjay Malhotra | Headquarter : Mumbai |
| Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited | Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) : Sekharipuram Narayanan (SN) Subrahmanyam | Headquarter : Mumbai |
| World Economic | Founder: Klaus | Headquarters: Cologny, |

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