

Schemes (3)

• **PM SVANidhi — Six Years of Street Vendor Credit Scheme**

Body: Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, 1 June 2026.

Detail: PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) completes 6 years; provides **collateral-free working capital loans** to urban street vendors: **■10,000** (first term) → **■20,000** → **■50,000** (on timely repayment); includes a **cash-back incentive** for digital transactions; beneficiaries also registered on PM SVANidhi portal for social security access.

Law: PM SVANidhi launched June 2020 under MoHUA; no specific standalone Act — implemented under the 'Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014'.

Lineage: Covid-relief origin (disrupted street vendors); ~60 lakh loans disbursed by 2025-26; Digital transactions incentivized via UPI/RuPay cashback; beneficiaries covered under PM Svanidhi se Samridhi social security survey.

Exam hook: PM SVANidhi = launched June 2020 / collateral-free / three loan tranches (**■10k** → **■20k** → **■50k**) / MoHUA as nodal ministry / Street Vendors Act 2014 as legal basis.

PIB 2267404 · 2026-06-01

• **West Bengal Becomes 36th State/UT to Join AB PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat)**

Body: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 7 June 2026.

Detail: West Bengal signed the MoU to implement **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** — India's flagship health insurance scheme providing **■5 lakh/year** per family for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation, covering ~55 crore beneficiaries nationally; West Bengal had previously operated its own 'Swasthya Sathi' scheme and resisted PM-JAY; becoming the 36th State/UT to join brings West Bengal's ~2.3 crore additional families under the scheme.

Law: AB PM-JAY is a centrally sponsored scheme under the National Health Authority (NHA); launched September 2018; NHA administers the scheme; states implement through State Health Agencies (SHAs).

Lineage: AB PM-JAY launched 2018 as the world's largest government-funded health assurance scheme; last holdout states were WB, Delhi, Odisha; Odisha joined 2024; now WB joins.

Exam hook: AB PM-JAY = **■5 lakh/year/family** / ~55 crore beneficiaries / National Health Authority (NHA) / launched September 2018 / WB = 36th State/UT / Swasthya Sathi was WB's own parallel scheme.

PIB 2270056 · 2026-06-07

• **ANRF — ■200-Crore MAHA Water Mission for Water-Tech Startups**

Body: Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), 1 June 2026.

Detail: ANRF launched the **MAHA Water Mission** with a **■200-crore** outlay to fund water-technology startups in Maharashtra — areas: water purification, wastewater recycling, groundwater management, irrigation efficiency; ANRF provides grants and mentorship to early-stage deep-tech water startups.

Law: ANRF Act 2023; also aligned with the Jal Jeevan Mission (MoJS) and National Water Mission (one of the 8 NAPCC missions) goals on water security.

Lineage: ANRF was given a **■50,000 crore** 5-year allocation; sectoral missions (water, defence, climate) are a new ANRF mode of funding; linked to India's water-stress challenge (India has 18% global population but ~4% freshwater resources).

Exam hook: ANRF Act 2023 / MAHA Water Mission = **■200 crore** for water-tech startups / India's freshwater share (~4% with 18% population) / National Water Mission = one of 8 NAPCC missions / Jal Jeevan Mission = rural tap water (MoJS).

PIB 2267551 · 2026-06-01

Welfare (2)

• **NHRC Suo Motu: 53 Maternal Deaths in Sidhi District, Madhya Pradesh**

Body: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), 2 June 2026.

Detail: NHRC took **suo motu cognizance** of reports of **53 maternal deaths** within a year in **Sidhi district, Madhya Pradesh** due to lack of adequate healthcare facilities; issued notices to MP Chief Secretary and state Health Secretary; NHRC can recommend compensation and structural remedies but cannot enforce — its recommendations are advisory to the government.

Law: Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 establishes NHRC; Chairman = retired CJI (or retired SC judge); NHRC's suo motu power = PHRA 1993 Section 12(1)(a) — can initiate on its own if public interest demands.

Lineage: India's MMR progress notwithstanding, high-MMR aspirational districts like Sidhi persist; NHRC has issued similar maternal-health notices to Bihar and UP in earlier years.

Exam hook: NHRC = Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 / Chairman = retired CJI / suo motu = self-initiated action / NHRC recommendations are advisory (not binding) / Sidhi MP = example of aspirational-district maternal-health gap.

PIB 2267786 · 2026-06-02

• **National Panchayat Awards 2025 — Conferred for Excellence in Local Governance**

Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2 June 2026.

Detail: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh conferred **National Panchayat Awards 2025** recognising the best-performing gram panchayats across nine themes: poverty-free village, healthy village, child-friendly village, water-sufficient, clean, self-sufficient, good governance, women-friendly and infrastructure-equipped village; aligned with the **Localization of SDGs** agenda.

Law: 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992 — established Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs); 11th Schedule lists 29 functions to be devolved; Gram Panchayat is the basic unit of rural self-governance.

Lineage: National Panchayat Awards (earlier called Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme / RGPSSA awards); now aligned to SDG localization; MoPR's eGramSwaraj portal is the digital governance tool for panchayats.

Exam hook: 73rd Amendment year = 1992 / 11th Schedule = 29 panchayat functions / 9 award themes / eGramSwaraj = MoPR digital tool / SDG Localization = taking global goals to village level.

PIB 2267843 · 2026-06-02

Polity/Bodies (4)

• **Supreme Court — Five New Judges Appointed by President**

Body: Ministry of Law & Justice; President Murmu approved collegium recommendations, 1 June 2026.

Detail: Five judges elevated to the Supreme Court — appointments on recommendation of the **Supreme Court Collegium** (Chief Justice + 4 senior-most judges); total SC strength raised closer to the sanctioned strength of **34 judges** (1 CJI + 33 others).

Law: Article 124(2) — Supreme Court judges appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice and other SC/HC judges as the President deems necessary; 'consultation' has been interpreted as 'concurrence' by the collegium post-Second Judges Case (1993).

Lineage: Collegium system since **Second Judges Case, 1993**; Third Judges Case, 1998 (advisory opinion) expanded and clarified; NJAC (99th Amendment, 2014) struck down by SC in 2015.

Exam hook: SC sanctioned strength = 34 / collegium composition (CJI + 4 senior-most) / Article 124(2) / NJAC struck down year (2015) / Second Judges Case 1993.

PIB 2267354 · 2026-06-01

• CCPA Acts Against Dark Patterns on Digital Platforms

Body: Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, 3 June 2026.

Detail: CCPA issued notices/actions against e-commerce and digital platforms for **dark patterns** — deceptive design elements that trick users into purchases, subscriptions or data sharing (e.g., hidden charges, forced enrolment, trick questions, disguised advertising); CCPA's 2023 Guidelines on Dark Patterns in e-Commerce define 13 types.

Law: Consumer Protection Act, 2019 creates the CCPA under Section 10; CCPA can issue recall/withdrawal orders, impose penalties up to ₹10 lakh; dark patterns guidelines issued under the CPA 2019 framework.

Lineage: CCPA constituted 2020; first major dark-pattern enforcement action 2023; 2026 action is an escalation targeting larger platforms.

Exam hook: CCPA = statutory body under Consumer Protection Act 2019 / 13 dark-pattern types / CCPA vs NCPC (National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission — quasi-judicial) / CPA 2019 replaced CPA 1986.
PIB 2268302 · 2026-06-03

• UPSC Face Authentication Protocol — Used in Prelims 2026

Body: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), 4 June 2026.

Detail: UPSC deployed a **face-authentication system** (facial recognition + AI matching) at Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2026 centres to verify candidate identity and prevent impersonation; a constitutional body under Article 315 — can set its own examination procedures.

Law: Article 315 — UPSC is a constitutional body; Article 320 — functions include recruitment to civil services; UPSC's autonomy: members' removal only by Presidential inquiry under Article 317.

Lineage: UPSC had earlier introduced OMR-based security; face-auth is the latest tech upgrade; India's Digital India framework underpins biometric authentication at national scale.

Exam hook: UPSC = constitutional body under Art 315 / UPSC chair and members removal = Art 317 (President, Inquiry) / CSE = Civil Services Examination (IAS/IPS/IFS) / face-auth as anti-impersonation measure.
PIB 2268879 · 2026-06-04

• Elections to Council of States and State Legislative Councils 2026

Body: Election Commission of India (ECI), 1 June 2026.

Detail: ECI announced schedule for biennial Rajya Sabha elections (18 seats retiring) and Legislative Council elections in states with bicameral legislatures (UP, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka, AP, Telangana); Rajya Sabha members elected by State Legislative Assemblies through Single Transferable Vote (STV) with proportional representation.

Law: Article 80 — composition of Rajya Sabha; Article 171 — State Legislative Councils; Fourth Schedule — allocation of seats to states in Rajya Sabha; Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Lineage: Rajya Sabha has a maximum of 250 members (238 elected + 12 nominated by President); it is a permanent House (never dissolved).

Exam hook: Rajya Sabha election method = STV (MLAs vote) / Fourth Schedule seats / Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved / nominated 12 = from art/science/literature/social service / states with Legislative Councils (6 states).
PIB 2267512 · 2026-06-01

Economy (5)

• IIP — New Series with Base Year 2022-23 Released

Body: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), 1 June 2026.

Detail: The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** series has been revised with the new **base year 2022-23** (replacing old 2011-12 base); three components: mining, manufacturing (largest, ~77% weight), electricity; new base captures structural shifts in India's industrial composition post-pandemic.

Law: Base year revision is a standard statistical practice (RBI, CSO guidelines); IIP is released monthly with a 6-week lag by MoSPI.

Lineage: Previous IIP base = 2004-05 → revised to 2011-12; now revised again to 2022-23; each revision recalibrates weights to reflect current industrial structure.

Exam hook: IIP base year = 2022-23 (new) / three components (mining, manufacturing, electricity) / released by MoSPI / manufacturing has largest weight (~77%).
PIB 2267531 · 2026-06-01

• WPI Base Year Revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23

Body: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 2 June 2026.

Detail: The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** base year revised from 2011-12 to **2022-23**; WPI measures average change in prices of goods at the wholesale/factory gate; three broad groups: primary articles, fuel & power, manufactured products (largest, ~64% weight); used for GDP deflator and as indicator of inflationary pressures upstream.

Lineage: CPI (Consumer Price Index, base 2012) is the RBI's inflation targeting anchor — NOT WPI; WPI and CPI often diverge (input cost inflation vs retail price pass-through lag).

Exam hook: WPI base year = 2022-23 (new) / three groups / released by Office of EA, MoC&I (NOT MoSPI — CPI is MoSPI) / WPI vs CPI distinction / fuel & power component and its link to energy prices.
PIB 2267963 · 2026-06-02

• GDP Provisional Estimates 2025-26: 6.5% Growth

Body: MoSPI (National Statistical Office), 5 June 2026.

Detail: India's GDP (at constant 2011-12 prices) grew an estimated **6.5%** in 2025-26; GVA (Gross Value Added) growth was broadly aligned; services (finance, IT, trade) and manufacturing were key drivers; agriculture growth moderated; GDP deflator and nominal GDP also released.

Lineage: GDP Provisional Estimate is the second estimate (First Advance in Jan, Second Advance in Feb); CSO convention — the first estimate typically revised upward in subsequent releases; India's GDP growth target for 2025-26 was ~6.5-7%.

Exam hook: GDP base year still 2011-12 (even after WPI/IIP base revision) / difference between GDP (includes net taxes) and GVA (excludes taxes + subsidies) / MoSPI releases GDP / provisional estimate timing.
PIB 2269282 · 2026-06-05

• G-Sec Market Deepening and FPI Reforms in Equity Segment

Body: Ministry of Finance / RBI / SEBI, 5 June 2026.

Detail: Major reforms: (a) increase in **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)** limit for FPI in G-Secs; (b) rationalisation of **Fully Accessible Route (FAR)** category for G-Sec investment; (c) relaxation for FPIs in equity segment — higher short-term holding limits.

Law: FEMA 1999 and RBI Master Direction govern FPI investment in debt; SEBI regulates FPI in equity; G-Secs (Government Securities) are sovereign bonds issued by RBI on behalf of GOI.

Lineage: India was included in JP Morgan GBI-EM bond index (2024) — creating structural inflow demand for G-Secs; reforms build on FAR track (introduced 2020) to accommodate index-linked foreign investment.

Exam hook: FAR (Fully Accessible Route) = FPI route for G-Secs with no investment limit / JP Morgan GBI-EM inclusion (2024) / difference between G-Sec (sovereign bond) and T-Bill (short-term sovereign instrument).
PIB 2269169 · 2026-06-05

• India-US Section 301 Proceedings — India Remains Engaged

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 3 June 2026.

Detail: India confirmed continued engagement with the US on **Section 301** proceedings — a US trade-law mechanism (Trade Act of 1974) that allows the USTR (US Trade Representative) to investigate and impose retaliatory tariffs on countries whose trade practices are deemed 'unfair'; India was previously under Section 301 review for IP protection, market access for digital trade and data-localisation norms; India and US separately working on a 'framework agreement'.

Lineage: India was removed from the US GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) in 2019; India-US TIFA (Trade and Investment Framework Agreement) is the umbrella for bilateral trade talks; Bilateral Trade Deal negotiations ongoing.

Exam hook: Section 301 = US unilateral trade action mechanism (Trade Act 1974) / USTR = US Trade Representative / GSP (removed 2019) / TIFA framework / India-US trade in goods ~USD 200 billion.
PIB 2268256 · 2026-06-03

IR/Diplomacy (5)

• India-Oman CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement)

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry; signed 1 June 2026.

Detail: India's bilateral CEPA with Oman — covers goods (tariff elimination on ~97% of lines), services and investment; Oman is India's largest trade partner in the Gulf Cooperation Council by share of Indian merchandise exports; India's main exports: gems/jewellery, machinery, chemicals; Oman's exports to India: petroleum, aluminium, chemicals.

Lineage: India's CEPAs so far: UAE (2022), Australia (ECTA, 2022), UK (in negotiation); Oman becomes the 4th GCC country India has a preferential trade deal with (after UAE); India-GCC FTA talks ongoing in parallel.

Exam hook: full form CEPA / what it covers / Oman = GCC nation, capital Muscat, currency Rial Omani / distinguish CEPA (comprehensive) vs FTA (goods only) vs DTAA (tax only).

PIB 2267513 · 2026-06-01

• India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2nd Edition)

Body: Ministry of Defence; Raksha Mantri and Australian Deputy PM & Defence Minister co-chaired in New Delhi, 1 June 2026.

Detail: Second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue; areas covered: maritime security, defence industry co-production, cyber defence, joint exercises; Australia is a Quad partner alongside India, US and Japan.

Lineage: India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020); Defence Cooperation Agreement; AUSINDEX (bilateral naval exercise) and Malabar (Quad naval exercise) as existing frameworks.

Exam hook: Quad members (India, US, Japan, Australia) / Comprehensive Strategic Partnership year (2020) / AUSINDEX = India-Australia naval exercise / what 2nd Dialogue signals about deepening ties.

PIB 2267486 · 2026-06-01

• India-South Africa: AI, Digital Infrastructure & Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

Body: Ministry of Science & Technology; joint statement after bilateral meeting, 3 June 2026.

Detail: India and South Africa agreed to scale up cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, digital infrastructure and advanced manufacturing; framework for knowledge exchange, co-investment in emerging tech sectors.

Lineage: India-South Africa are BRICS partners; India holds BRICS Chairship 2026; South Africa's Brics membership adds intra-BRICS tech cooperation dimension; India-Africa Forum Summit track (last held 2015, renewal expected).

Exam hook: BRICS 2026 chair = India / South Africa = founding BRICS member / capital Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial) / currency Rand.

PIB 2268311 · 2026-06-03

• India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory

Body: Ministry of Mines and UK Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office; launched by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and UK FS Yvette Cooper, 4 June 2026.

Detail: A new joint Observatory to track and analyse global critical-mineral supply chains — cobalt, lithium, rare earths, nickel needed for EV batteries, semiconductors and defence systems; India and UK will share data, research and policy analysis.

Law: India's Critical Minerals Mission (2024) under the Ministry of Mines; UK's Critical Minerals Strategy (2022).

Lineage: India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022); India-UK FTA negotiations ongoing as of 2026 — critical minerals framed as a strategic supply-chain cooperation.

Exam hook: which 'critical minerals' (lithium, cobalt, REE) / India-UK FTA status / Critical Minerals Mission (India 2024) / UK capital London / currency Pound Sterling.

PIB 2268900 · 2026-06-04

• India-Venezuela Energy Diplomacy — Diversification of Crude Imports

Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held talks with Venezuela's Acting President, 5 June 2026.

Detail: India reaffirmed Venezuela's importance in its energy diversification strategy; West Asia tensions (Hormuz) make Latin American crude diversification strategically vital; Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves (~303 billion barrels, OPEC data).

Lineage: India resumed crude imports from Venezuela in 2023 after a gap; PDVSA (Venezuela's state oil company) is the counterpart; India's crude import basket: Middle East (~60%), Russia (~35%), rest diversified.

Exam hook: Venezuela = largest proven oil reserves globally / PDVSA / capital Caracas / Hormuz dependence context / India's crude import diversification rationale.

PIB 2269161 · 2026-06-05

Defence (3)

• Raksha Mantri Doubles Financial Powers of Field Commanders

Body: Ministry of Defence, 4 June 2026.

Detail: Raksha Mantri approved a **two-fold increase in the financial ceiling** for Field Commanders (Corps Commanders and equivalent) for emergency procurement — enabling faster acquisition of equipment, stores and services during operational situations without referring to higher authority; part of delegating financial authority to war-fighting formations.

Lineage: India's defence procurement reforms under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020; prior financial delegation rounds in 2018 and 2022; enhances 'Mission Mode' operational readiness; linked to the post-Galwan reforms accelerating acquisition.

Exam hook: Field Commander = Corps Commander level and above / DAP 2020 = Defence Acquisition Procedure (replaced DPP 2016) / delegated financial authority = faster emergency procurement / context: Galwan 2020 as trigger for faster procurement reforms.

PIB 2268807 · 2026-06-04

• INS Chilka — Passing Out Parade, 01/26 Batch

Body: Indian Navy, 5 June 2026.

Detail: **INS Chilka** is the Indian Navy's premier **Recruit Training Establishment** located at **Chilka Lake, Odisha** — the largest coastal lagoon in Asia; the 01/26 batch of naval recruits completed basic training and passed out; INS Chilka trains all new naval entrants before assignment to ships and establishments.

Lineage: Commissioned in 1978; INS Chilka is a 'stone frigate' (shore establishment named as a warship by tradition); Chilka Lake is a **Ramsar site** (wetland of international importance, listed 1981 — India's first).

Exam hook: INS Chilka = Navy recruit training / location = Chilka Lake, Odisha / Chilka = largest coastal lagoon in Asia + India's first Ramsar site (1981) / 'stone frigate' = shore naval establishment.

PIB 2269289 · 2026-06-05

• Major Abhilasha Barak — UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

Body: Ministry of Defence / United Nations, 7 June 2026.

Detail: **Major Abhilasha Barak** (Indian Army) conferred the **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award** — awarded by the UN Secretary-General to military personnel serving in UN Peacekeeping Operations who have shown commitment to implementing UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) and integrating gender perspective; Major Barak is the **first Indian woman to receive this award**.

Law: UNSCR 1325 (2000) — landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security; India is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping (troops + police).

Lineage: India's largest UN peacekeeping contributions include missions in Congo (MONUSCO), South Sudan (UNMISS), Lebanon (UNIFIL); Indian women in peacekeeping since 2007 (all-female FPU in Liberia).

Exam hook: UNSCR 1325 = Women, Peace and Security (year 2000) / India's UN peacekeeping rank (top 3 troop/police contributors) / Major Barak = first Indian woman to win this award / UN SG confers this award.

PIB 2269987 · 2026-06-07

Environment (3)

• India's 100th Ramsar Site — Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Bihar)

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), 5 June 2026.

Detail: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Kanwar Lake, Begusarai district, Bihar) designated as India's **100th Ramsar site** — a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention (1971); Kanwar Lake is one of Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lakes, a critical habitat for migratory birds including the bar-headed goose, northern pintail and Eurasian wigeon.

Law: Ramsar Convention — signed 1971, in force 1975; India signed 1982; sites listed under Ramsar's 'List of Wetlands of International Importance'.

Lineage: India's first Ramsar sites: Chilka Lake & Keoladeo Ghana (both 1981); India now has 100 sites — largest in the world by number (overtook UK in 2022); total Ramsar-protected area ~1.35 million hectares.

Exam hook: India's 100th Ramsar = Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, Bihar / India's first Ramsar sites = Chilka (Odisha) + Keoladeo (Rajasthan), 1981 / India = most Ramsar sites globally / Ramsar Convention year = 1971.

PIB 2269189 · 2026-06-05

• CAQM Enforcement Review — 245 Inspections in NCR, May 2026

Body: Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), 6 June 2026.

Detail: CAQM's Enforcement Task Force conducted **245 inspections** across NCR (Delhi, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan) between 11–29 May 2026; inspected industries, brick kilns, construction sites, diesel generator sets; significant violations in Haryana and UP districts; CAQM can direct closure of units and impose penalties under the CAQM Act 2021.

Law: CAQM Act, 2021 — statutory body replacing the EPCA (Environment Pollution Prevention & Control Authority, a Supreme Court-created body); CAQM has powers overriding state governments within NCR; penalties under Environment Protection Act 1986 also invoked.

Lineage: EPCA replaced by CAQM via the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021; first such statutory body for regional air quality management in India.

Exam hook: CAQM Act = 2021 / replaced EPCA / CAQM jurisdiction = Delhi + NCR districts of Haryana, UP, Rajasthan / CAQM > state governments on air quality in NCR (overriding power) / GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is CAQM's enforcement tool.

PIB 2269842 · 2026-06-06

• 18 Namo Oxygen Parks Inaugurated in Delhi on World Environment Day

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change + Delhi Government, 5 June 2026.

Detail: Union Environment Minister inaugurated **18 Namo Oxygen Parks** in Delhi — green lung spaces with high-density plantation, oxygen-releasing tree species, walking paths and air quality monitoring stations; Delhi's PM2.5 levels are among the worst in the world; green cover enhancement is a key CAQM mandate for NCR.

Lineage: World Environment Day = **5 June** every year (UN); theme 2026: 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience'; India's first National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) 2008 includes the Green India Mission; Urban Forestry guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Exam hook: World Environment Day = 5 June / WED theme 2026 / Namo Oxygen Parks as a green-lungs initiative / Delhi's PM2.5 levels / Green India Mission (one of 8 NAPCC missions).

PIB 2269191 · 2026-06-05

Sci/Tech (3)

• CSIR Green Hydrogen Catalyst — 'Catalyst That Transforms to Perform'

Body: CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) / DST, 4 June 2026.

Detail: CSIR researchers developed a novel **catalyst for green hydrogen production** via water electrolysis — a key technical challenge in making green hydrogen (produced using renewable electricity) cost-competitive with grey hydrogen (from natural gas); the catalyst achieves higher efficiency at lower cost using earth-abundant materials.

Law: National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), 2023 — targets 5 MMT of green hydrogen production per year by 2030; MNRE as nodal ministry; SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) as the implementation framework.

Lineage: India's NGHM 2023 envisions **■19,744 crore** outlay; green hydrogen exports as a long-term goal; CSIR-NCL and CSIR-IIP are key labs in this effort.

Exam hook: Green hydrogen = produced via electrolysis using renewable energy (vs grey hydrogen from natural gas, blue hydrogen = grey + CCS) / NGHM 2023 target = 5 MMT by 2030 / MNRE as nodal ministry / CSIR = Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

PIB 2268866 · 2026-06-04

• ANRF Launches Portal for Patent Filing and Research Paper Training

Body: Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Ministry of Science & Technology, 4 June 2026.

Detail: ANRF launched a dedicated portal to train researchers in **patent filing** (both national — Indian Patent Office — and international — PCT under WIPO) and research-paper writing; aims to raise India's patent filing rate and improve quality of publications; ANRF also announced a **■200-crore** MAHA (Maharashtra) Water Mission for startup support in water tech.

Law: ANRF Act, 2023 (replaced the Science and Engineering Research Board / SERB Act 2008); ANRF is a statutory body chaired by the PM and governed by a Governing Board including DST, DBT, CSIR; **■50,000 crore** allocation over 5 years.

Lineage: SERB (2009-2023) → ANRF from 2023; ANRF's mandate: fund, promote and mentor S&T research across academia, industry and govt labs.

Exam hook: ANRF = replaced SERB / ANRF Act 2023 / PM chairs ANRF Governing Board / PCT = Patent Cooperation Treaty (WIPO-administered) / IPO = Indian Patent Office (under DPIIT, not DST).

PIB 2268946 · 2026-06-04

• 100 Years of Solar Observation Data — New Clues on Sun's 11-Year Activity Cycle

Body: ISRO / Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (Centenary celebration); 5 June 2026.

Detail: A century of solar observation data from the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory** (Tamil Nadu, operated by IIA — Indian Institute of Astrophysics) revealed new clues on how sunspot numbers at the Sun's surface track the **11-year solar activity cycle** (Schwabe Cycle); implications for space weather, satellite communications, GPS accuracy and terrestrial climate.

Lineage: Kodaikanal Solar Observatory established 1899 (British era); the IIA (Bengaluru) is a Government of India autonomous institute under DST; India's Aditya-L1 (launched 2023, at L1 Lagrange point) is India's first solar observatory satellite — ongoing parallel mission.

Exam hook: 11-year solar cycle = Schwabe Cycle / sunspot activity = proxy for solar output / Kodaikanal Solar Observatory = 1899 / Aditya-L1 = India's first solar mission (Lagrange point L1) / IIA = Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bengaluru, DST).

PIB 2269294 · 2026-06-05

Infra (5)

• Third Mountain Tunnel Breakthrough — Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project

Body: National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL), Ministry of Railways, 2 June 2026.

Detail: Third mountain tunnel breakthrough achieved in the **Maharashtra section** of the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor** — the 508 km bullet-train project using **Shinkansen (E5 series)** technology from Japan, with a design speed of **320 km/h**; the Maharashtra section includes a 21-km undersea tunnel under Thane Creek (India's first, and Asia's longest undersea rail tunnel).

Lineage: MAHSR agreement signed 2017 (PM Modi and Japanese PM Abe); JICA provides 81% of cost as soft loan at 0.1% interest; target opening 2026 (delayed; revised); NHSRCL is the implementing agency.

Exam hook: MAHSR = 508 km / Shinkansen E5 technology / JICA loan (81%, 0.1%) / undersea tunnel under Thane Creek (21 km, India's first / Asia's longest undersea rail tunnel) / NHSRCL = National High Speed Rail Corporation.

PIB 2267962 · 2026-06-02

• First Flex-Fuel Passenger Vehicle Launched in India — E85 Fuel Initiative

Body: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; Hardeep Singh Puri launched the first flex-fuel passenger vehicle, 4 June 2026.

Detail: India's first commercially available **Flex-Fuel passenger vehicle** (FFV) launched — capable of running on any blend from E20 (20% ethanol) to **E85 (85% ethanol)** without modification; E85 is priced ~₹20 below petrol; FFVs are mandatory in Brazil and widely used in the US; India's Ethanol Blending Programme targets E20 by 2025 for mainstream fleet.

Law: National Biofuel Policy 2018 (revised 2022) mandates ethanol blending; E20 notified as standard automobile fuel for regular vehicles; FFVs require no engine modification for ethanol blends up to E85.

Lineage: India's EBP reached ~14% blending in 2023-24 (vs target 20%); E85 is the next step for the FFV segment; sourced from sugarcane, maize, damaged foodgrains; farmer income support is a key co-benefit.

Exam hook: E85 = 85% ethanol blend / FFV = flex-fuel vehicle (can run E20 to E85) / EBP target = E20 by 2025 / National Biofuel Policy 2018 / ethanol from sugarcane/maize/grain = farmer income link.

PIB 2268889 · 2026-06-04

• NFDC Restores 8 Ritwik Ghatak Films in 4K

Body: National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) / National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 3 June 2026.

Detail: NFDC-NFAI undertook 4K digital restoration of **eight iconic films** by **Ritwik Ghatak** (1925-1976) — one of India's greatest parallel-cinema directors; films include *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), *Komal Gandhar* (1961), *Subarnarekha* (1962); restoration involves frame-by-frame digital repair, colour grading and audio remastering; films will be released for global audiences at international film festivals.

Lineage: NFAI is the national archive of Indian cinema (Pune); under the NFDC; India's film heritage preservation is aligned with UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme; Ghatak's work is considered foundational for Bengali parallel cinema and influenced Satyajit Ray era.

Exam hook: Ritwik Ghatak (1925-1976) = parallel cinema pioneer / *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, *Komal Gandhar* = iconic works / NFDC = National Film Development Corporation (MIB) / NFAI = National Film Archive of India (Pune) / 4K restoration = heritage preservation.

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• Pragganandhaa at Norway Chess 2026 — Indian Challenge in Super Tournament

Body: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; PM felicitated, 6 June 2026.

Detail: **R. Pragganandhaa** (born 2005, Tamil Nadu) — India's youngest Grandmaster at the time of his GM title (2018) — performed strongly at **Norway Chess 2026** (Stavanger), one of the world's elite chess tournaments; Norway Chess is rated as one of the strongest open-round-robin super-tournaments alongside Tata Steel (Wijk aan Zee) and Grand Chess Tour events.

Lineage: India's chess rise: Viswanathan Anand (5-time World Champion, first non-Russian/Soviet world champion in modern era); Pragganandhaa reached World Chess Championship Final (2023, lost to Ding Liren); Magnus Carlsen (Norway) is the world's highest-rated player; India = dominant force in team chess (Chess Olympiad 2022 gold, 2024 gold).

Exam hook: Pragganandhaa = India's chess prodigy, youngest GM at 12 years 10 months (2018) / FIDE = governing body of world chess (headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland) / Chess Olympiad 2022 = India won both open and women's gold / World Chess Championship 2023 = Ding Liren beat Pragganandhaa.

PIB 2269739 · 2026-06-06

• SAFF Women's Championship 2026 — Indian Women's Football Team Champions

Body: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; PM congratulated, 7 June 2026.

Detail: Indian Women's Football Team won the **SAFF Women's Championship 2026** (South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship) — a regional tournament for South Asian nations including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan; India is the dominant force in the championship; AIFF (All India Football Federation) governs Indian football.

Lineage: SAFF = South Asian Football Federation (Dhaka, Bangladesh); India has won the SAFF Women's Championship multiple times; global women's football body = FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association, Zurich); India's women's team ranked in the Asia zone by AFC (Asian Football Confederation).

Exam hook: SAFF = South Asian Football Federation / SAFF Women's Championship 2026 = India won / AIFF = All India Football Federation / FIFA HQ = Zurich, Switzerland / AFC = Asian Football Confederation / SAFF members (7 nations).

PIB 2269986 · 2026-06-07