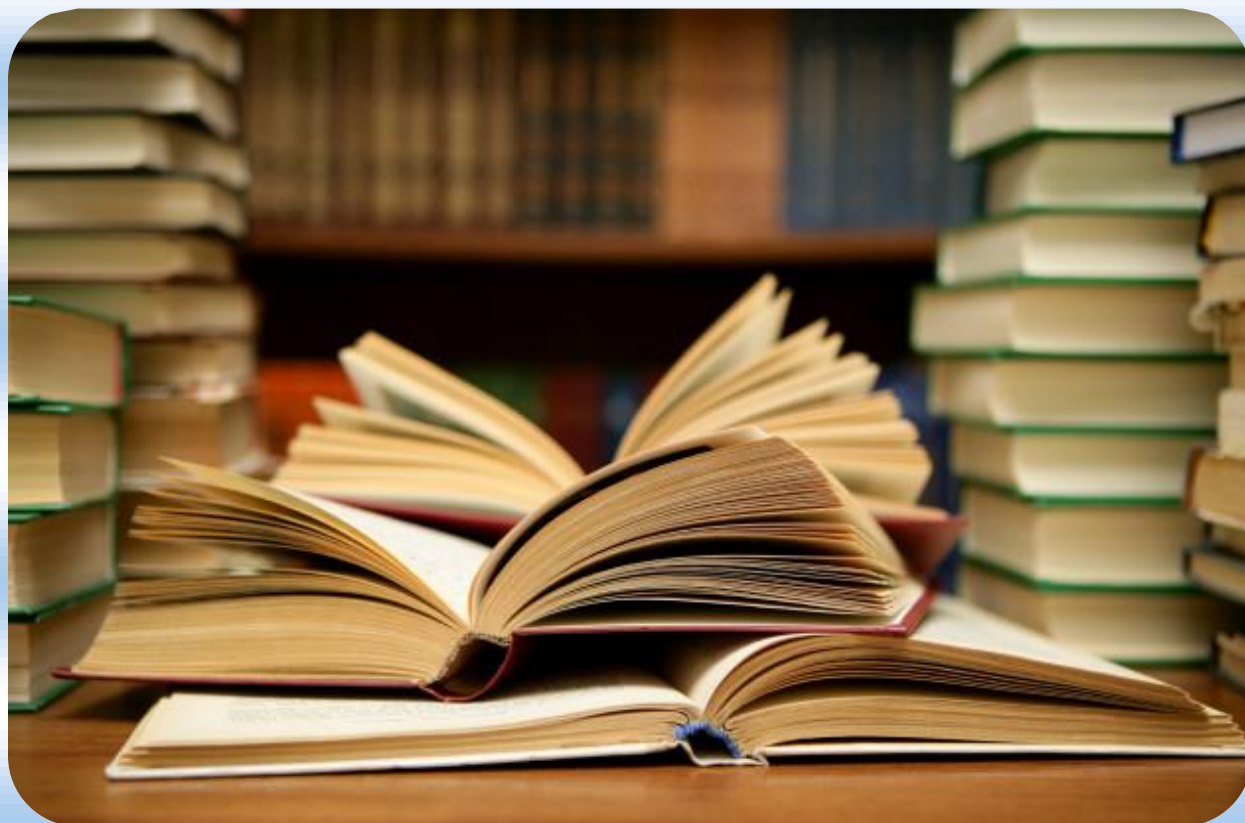


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



JUNE-2025

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

India Secures Presidency of IIAS for 2025–2028 Term

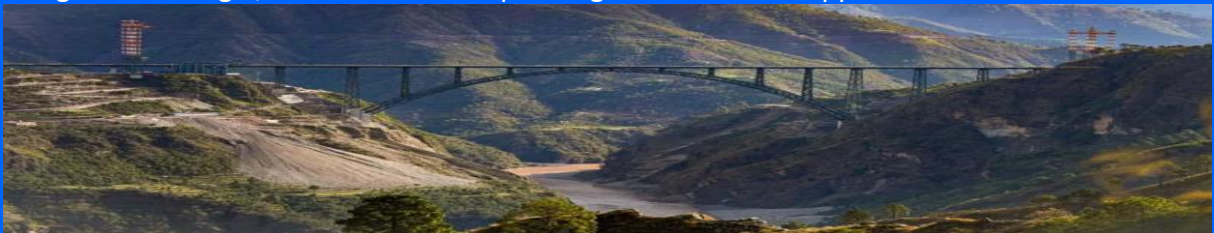
New Delhi: In a marker of India's internal governance reforms and the country's rising stature in global governance, the country has been elected to lead the prestigious International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025-2028 term. This is the first time in the nearly 100-year history of the Belgium-based institute that India will hold the presidential post. This marks a significant recognition of India's administrative evolution and reform-oriented governance, sources said.

Nomura Forecasts India's GDP to Slow to 6.2% in FY26

India's real GDP growth in FY26 will slide further to 6.2 per cent in FY26 from 6.5 per cent in FY25, a Japanese brokerage said on Monday. In a research report, Nomura said there is a "divergence" between the growth in GST collections and across other high-frequency growth indicators like auto sales and bank credit growth. As per the official data released last week, the real GDP growth came down to 6.5 per cent in FY25 from 9.2 per cent in FY24.

PM Modi Inaugurates World's Highest Railway Arch Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the world's highest single- arch railway bridge in Indian-administered Kashmir. The term "single-arch bridge" typically refers to a bridge with a single, continuous arch spanning between two supports.



Aadhaar Authentications Cross 211 Crore in May 2025, Driving India's Digital Growth

NEW DELHI: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recorded over 211 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions in May 2025, reflecting the growing reliance on India's digital identity infrastructure for welfare delivery and service access. This marks an increase over both April 2025 and the 201.76 crore transactions recorded in May last year. With this, the cumulative number of Aadhaar authentications since its inception has crossed 15,223 crore.

RBI Premieres 5-Part Docuseries 'Unlocked: Beyond the Rupee' to Demystify India's Central Bank

The Reserve Bank of India, in collaboration with JioHotstar, has launched a five-part documentary series titled RBI Unlocked: Beyond the Rupee. The project has been produced by Chalkboard Entertainment. The project was commissioned by RBI to visually document its 90-year history, with the objective of creating awareness about its various functions and roles. The RBI, as a full-service central bank, performs a wide range of functions including currency management, monetary policy, regulation and supervision of banks and NBFCs.

S Mahendra Dev Appointed as Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council

Former Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Vice Chancellor S Mahendra Dev has taken charge as the new Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The eminent economist replaced Niti Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery, who was holding the additional charge of EAC-PM.



Microsoft Expands LinkedIn CEO Roslansky's Role to Oversee Office Suite

Microsoft is making significant changes to its leadership team, with LinkedIn CEO Ryan Roslansky taking on additional oversight of the company's core Office products, including Word and Excel, as well as its flagship AI tool, Copilot.



India-England Test Series Renamed Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy

The England Men's and India Men's Test teams will honour Sir James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar with a new trophy dedicated to their remarkable achievements in Test cricket. The next edition of this great rivalry takes place this summer, with the Rothesay five-match Test series getting underway at Headingley on Friday 20 June. The Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy, a joint initiative between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), will now represent all future Test series between England and India.

Amit Shah Launches Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag to Promote Indian Languages in Governance

NEW DELHI: Continuing with his govt's 'decolonisation' project, Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday launched an Indian languages section within the department of official language as a step towards dispensing with the role of English in official communication. "It would prove to be a milestone in the path to freeing administration from the influence of foreign languages," Shah said as he announced the formation of Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag.

RBI Raises Gold Loan LTV Ratio to 85% for Loans Below ₹2.5 Lakh

Providing relief to small borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for gold-backed loans up to ₹5 lakh, while the LTV for loans below ₹2.5 lakh has been set at 85 per cent, and those between ₹2.5 lakh and ₹5 lakh at 80 per cent. However, all loans above ₹5 lakh will have an LTV of 75 per cent, the central bank specified in its final guidelines for lending against gold and silver collateral.

Starlink Gets Green Light to Launch Satellite Internet in India

Big news for internet in India! Elon Musk's Starlink, which offers super-fast internet from satellites, just got a major approval from the Indian government on June 6th, reports Reuters. This means Starlink can now get ready to launch its service in India. Starlink is already available in over 100 countries and promises to bring high-speed internet to places where regular internet doesn't work well. It's like saying goodbye to areas with no internet!

Muhammad Waseem and Chloe Tryon Named ICC Players of the Month for May 2025

The United Arab Emirates batter Muhammad Waseem and South Africa all-rounder Chloe Tryon have been named as the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2025. Waseem wins the award for the second time after a string of good performances in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 and a home T20I series against Bangladesh. The 31-year-old scored 169 runs in five ODIs batting in the middle order and was the Player of the Series in the series against Bangladesh in Sharjah which his side won 2-1.

Kerala's Public Health Lab Develops Molecular Test Kits for Deadly Amoeba

T'puram: In a significant development, the state confirmed its first case of amoebic meningoencephalitis through the newly established molecular lab in the state. Health Minister Veena George announced that the diagnosis was made as part of a dedicated effort to detect amoebic brain fever, a rare but often fatal condition. State public health lab (SPHL) earlier set up a PCR lab capable of detecting five types of amoebae known to cause brain fever in humans — Naegleria fowleri, Acanthamoeba sp., Vermamoeba vermiformis, Balamuthia mandrillaris, and Paravahlkampfia francinae.

PM Modi to Attend G-7 Summit in Canada, Signaling Thaw in Bilateral Ties

Mark Carney has invited his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to the upcoming G7 summit in Alberta, marking a shift in Canada-India relations that had soured in recent years. The two spoke over the phone on Friday, during which the Canadian prime minister extended the invite to Modi and agreed to stay in contact, according to a readout released by Carney's office. Modi confirmed the invite and thanked Carney in a post on X, adding that he looked forward to meeting him at the summit in mid-June.

By 2030, Mumbai, Delhi & 6 Other Cities to See Twofold Rise in Heatwaves

Delhi is one of eight Indian cities projected to experience a two-fold increase in the number of heatwave days by 2030, according to a latest research report. Mumbai, Chennai, Surat, Thane, Hyderabad, Patna, and Bhubaneswar are the seven other cities that are at a similar risk.



SEBI Opens Settlement Window for Stock Brokers in Algo Trading Violation Cases

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday announced a settlement scheme for stock brokers associated with certain algorithmic trading (algo) platforms that were found to be in violation of regulatory norms. The matter pertains to regulatory scrutiny faced by over 100 brokers for their association with algo platforms that allegedly promised guaranteed returns. It was alleged that the brokers had allowed the application programming interfaces (APIs) of algo provider TradeTron — which claimed to offer assured returns — to be used by their clients.

Aadhaar OTP Must for Tatkal Bookings from July 15: Railways Issues New Rules

Beginning July 1, individuals looking to book Tatkal train tickets through the IRCTC website must have their Aadhaar linked to their IRCTC profile. Indian Railways has advised travelers to connect their Aadhaar numbers with their IRCTC accounts to prevent any disruptions. Meanwhile, the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and IRCTC have been directed to carry out the necessary system updates and notify all Zonal Railways and concerned departments about the changes. The Railway Ministry stated that the changes are aimed at “promoting fair and transparent access to Tatkal tickets while protecting the rights of genuine passengers.”

India's First Underwater Museum to Be Built Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra

In a groundbreaking move, the decommissioned Indian Navy warship INS Guldar is set to become India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef, nestled near Nivati Rock in Sindhudurg's Vengurla taluka, Maharashtra. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has virtually launched a landmark project focused on marine conservation and tourism, setting the stage for a transformative initiative.

IREDA Raises ₹2,005.90 Crore via QIP to Power Renewable Energy Push

NEW DELHI: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has successfully raised Rs 2,005.90 crore through a Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP), said a statement from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on Wednesday. The capital was mobilised by issuing 12.15 crore equity shares at a price of Rs 165.14 per share, which includes a premium of Rs 155.14 per share over the face value of Rs 10. The issue price of Rs 165.14 reflects a discount of 5.00% to the floor price of Rs 173.83 per equity share.

RBI Eases KYC Norms: Allows BCs and Video Uploads

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks and NBFCs to allow all transactions from so called low risk customers even if their KYC is pending. These customers have time till June 30, 2026 to update their KYC but transactions on their accounts will not be halted, RBI said. Banks and NBFCs have to give at least three advance notices and at least one by a letter at appropriate intervals to customers through available communication options/ channels for complying with the requirement of periodic updation of KYC.

Scapia & Federal Bank Launch Dual-Network RuPay-Visa Credit Card

Travel fintech firm Scapia has launched a dual credit card in partnership with private sector lender Federal Bank, based on a single credit line for customers. Scapia users can see a unified credit card statement, and a single bill is generated at the end of the billing cycle. The company targets young millennials and Gen Z customers who are looking for travel offers and rewards. The cobranded card issued and managed by Federal Bank has a Visa version that is expected to be used internationally.

Apna.co Launches AI Job Prep Tool to Transform Interview Preparation

Apna.co, a jobs platform, has launched AI Job Prep — a new AI-powered interview preparation tool designed to address the preparation gap in the country's job market. "Over 7.6 lakh AI interviews have been completed on Apna's platform, across over 900 cities and towns, logging more than 39 lakh minutes of interviews — signalling a growing demand for smarter, tech-enabled ways of interview preparation," the firm said.

India's 16th Census Announced for 2027

The much-delayed 16th Census exercise, along with caste enumeration, will be carried out with a reference date of October 1, 2026 in snow-bound areas like Ladakh, and March 1, 2027 in the rest of the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced on Wednesday. According to officials, the process will begin with the issuance of a notification, which is tentatively scheduled to be published in the official gazette on June 16, 2025, under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948. The final phase of enumeration will begin in February 2027 and conclude on March 1, 2027, which will serve as the national reference date.

Meta Appoints Arun Srinivas as India Head to Lead Business Expansion

Meta has announced the appointment of Arun Srinivas as the new managing director and head for India. This development comes on the heels of Sandhya Devanathan assuming an expanded role, where she now leads both India and South East Asia. Srinivas will formally step into his new role on July 1, 2025, and will continue to report to Devanathan. In this expanded capacity, Srinivas will be responsible for aligning Meta's business, innovation, and revenue priorities to better serve its partners and clients in India. His mandate includes driving the long-term growth of Meta's operations in the country and deepening its

TCS Joins Hands with CEB to Streamline Financial Operations

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to modernise and automate the bank's reconciliation processes. TCS will implement its TCS BaNCS for reconciliations platform, leveraging artificial intelligence and automation to streamline complex transactions, improve transparency, and reduce manual effort, according to a regulatory filing.



Maruti Suzuki Partners with Equitas Bank to Boost Retail Car Financing

Leading car maker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has partnered with private sector Equitas Small Finance Bank to offer vehicle financing options to its customers, a company official said on Friday. A memorandum of understanding between the two entities was signed with an aim to provide retail financing options for new cars, used cars and commercial vehicles. "The collaboration is set to enhance the accessibility and affordability of Maruti Suzuki vehicles for a broader range of customers," a company statement here said.

Maruti Suzuki Opens India's Largest In-Plant Railway Siding at Manesar

Railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday inaugurated India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding, developed under the PM Gati Shakti mission, at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd's Manesar facility in Haryana. The Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal, with a loading capacity of 450,000 vehicles per annum, is a key infrastructure development that significantly enhances the logistics efficiency of automobile transportation.

Govt Launches ₹3000 FASTag Annual Pass for Private Vehicles

Soon, road users driving through national highways will be able to make 200 trips by paying only ₹3,000 as toll fee over a period of 12 months, according to an announcement by Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. He said a FASTag-based annual pass would be introduced to address concerns over rising toll fees across the country.



Bihar Pioneers India's First Mobile-Based e-Voting System

Bihar State Election Commissioner Deepak Prasad on Friday (June 27, 2025) had shared the information to media that for the first time, voters in the Bihar municipal elections would be able to cast vote through mobile for six councils in Patna, Rohtas and East Champaran district on Saturday (June 28, 2025). The facilities are available for those people who are unable to go to polling booths to cast their votes. Senior citizens, disabled people and pregnant women can avail this option.

RBI Hikes Agency Commission for Banks on Government Transactions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the agency commission for banks conducting government business such as revenue receipts and payments, pension payments, among others. This is possibly aimed at encouraging the agency banks to bring in more efficiency in putting through government-related transactions. The revised agency commission rate for banks putting through revenue receipt and payment transactions on behalf of the Central/State Governments in electronic (e-) mode has been upped to ₹12 per transactions against ₹9.

Anantha Chandrakasan Becomes First Indian-Born Provost of MIT

Prof. Anantha Chandrakasan has been named Massachusetts Institute of Technology's new provost. The Consulate General of India in New York congratulated Prof. Chandrakasan, noting that he is the first Indian-American to have achieved this feat.



Hyderabad Becomes Google's Cybersecurity Hub with GSEC Launch

HYDERABAD: Tech giant Google unveiled its first safety engineering centre (GSEC) in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region and its fourth globally after Munich, Dublin, and Malaga (Spain), in Hyderabad on Wednesday. GSEC India is housed within what is Google's largest base outside the US and was also its first port of call in India in 2004. An official statement said GSEC India will not only address the rapidly evolving threat landscape of India, which faces projected cybercrime losses of up to Rs 20,000 crore by 2025.

Starlink Gets Licence Nod in India as Airtel and Jio Join Hands with Space

The wait for Starlink's India entry is over. In a crucial move for the Indian telecom sector, the Indian government has finally granted the operating permission to Elon Musk's SpaceX-owned Starlink satellite internet service. In an official post from Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, it is confirmed that the operating license has been granted to Starlink, thus enabling SpaceX's official entry into India. Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia shared that he had a "constructive discussion" with Gwynne Shotwell, the President and COO of SpaceX, which owns Starlink.

TVS iQube Debuts in Indonesia: A Milestone in Global EV Expansion

TVS Motor Company on Tuesday (June 17, 2025) announced its foray into the Indonesian electric two-wheeler market with its all-electric scooter iQube. The company's arm PT TVS Motor has opened bookings for iQube in Indonesia at an introductory price of Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) 29.9 million (around ₹1.6 lakh), TVS Motor Company said in a statement. "Electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the two-wheeler segment of Indonesia has seen a strong growth of 101% CAGR (compound annual growth rate) in the last three years. We are pleased to partner.

Jio Financial Becomes Sole Owner of Jio Payments Bank

Jio Financial Services has purchased 7,90,80,000 equity shares of Jio Payments Bank from the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs 104.54 crore. Post-transaction, Jio Payments Bank has become a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, the company said in an exchange filing.



Reliance Infra & Dassault Aviation to Build Falcon 2000 Jets in India

French manufacturer of military aircraft and business jets, Dassault Aviation, and Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary, Reliance Aerostructure Limited (RAL) on Wednesday (June 18, 2025) announced a landmark strategic partnership to manufacture Falcon 2000 business executive jets in India for the global markets with a final assembly line in Nagpur.



QS World Rankings 2026: Top 10 & Best Indian Universities

In a significant leap for Indian higher education, the QS World University Rankings 2026, released early this morning, saw nearly half of the listed Indian institutions improve their positions, with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) emerging as India's top-ranked institute. The global list continues to be led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), marking its 14th consecutive year at the top.

DPIIT Partners with YourStory to Empower 1 Million Entrepreneurs Across India

To further promote inclusive entrepreneurship and strengthen the startup ecosystem, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a private digital platform, YourStory Media Private Limited, with a focus on startups, innovation, and entrepreneurship. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, this partnership aligns with DPIIT's vision of fostering grassroots entrepreneurship and supporting emerging talent across Tier II, Tier III, and rural India.

Ambani Heirs Dominate India's Under-40 Wealth Icons List 2025

India is witnessing a dynamic shift in its wealth landscape, led by a new generation of under-40 wealth creators. According to the inaugural '360 ONE Wealth Creators List' launched by 360 ONE Wealth (WAM) in collaboration with CRISIL, over 2,000 Indian individuals have amassed wealth worth nearly Rs 100 trillion. These young business leaders are reshaping industries with their innovation and enterprise.

UPSC Launches 'Pratibha Setu' to Connect Top Candidates with Private Employer

NEW DELHI: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has launched a strategic initiative that allows verified employers, including central government and private organisations, to connect with top talent from India's most competitive examinations, officials said on Thursday. UPSC's 'Pratibha Setu', which was earlier known as Public Disclosure Scheme (PDS), provides access to the details of non-recommended willing candidates who cleared all stages of exams conducted by it but didn't make it to the final merit list, they said.

NPCI Launches New API to Streamline PAN-Bank Account Validation on Income Tax Portal

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a new facility regarding PAN and Bank Account validation on the income tax e-filing website. The new facility will help taxpayers in quick validation on their PAN-Bank account linking on the income tax e-filing website. "The main goal of this is simplifying real-time verification of PAN details, bank account status, and account holder identities straight from banks' Core Banking Systems (CBS)," the NPCI circular stated. The new facility was announced in a circular dated June 17, 2025.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Paris Diamond League 2025 with Massive 88.16m Throw

At some point this year, or maybe at a really big event in the future, Neeraj Chopra will leave an event both satisfied with the distance his javelin travelled in its parabola and the fact that it was sufficient for him to win the event on the day. For now, he'll have to wait for that.



Bajaj Allianz Launches State-Specific Health Insurance Plans

Pune (Maharashtra) [India], June 19: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of India's leading private general insurers, has unveiled a pioneering initiative -- the 'State-wise Health Insurance Policy', a first-of-its-kind health insurance product thoughtfully tailored to address the distinct healthcare realities of each Indian state. More than just another health plan, this product reflects the company's commitment to making quality healthcare truly accessible.

Pant Becomes First Indian Keeper to hit centuries in both Test innings

Rishabh Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper and second overall on Monday to score hundreds in both innings of a Test match. After an entertaining 134 in the first innings against England in the ongoing first Test, the Indian vice-captain hit another in the second innings on Day 4 to etch his name in the history books. Only Zimbabwe's Andy Flower had the privilege of scoring two hundreds in a same Test match when he scored 142 and 199 not out against South Africa in 2001 in Harare.

S&P Global Ratings Boosts India's GDP Forecast to 6.5% Amid Global Economic Uncertainties

S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year (FY26) to 6.5 per cent, citing expectations of a normal monsoon, lower crude oil prices, and monetary policy easing. This comes as a positive shift after S&P had trimmed its forecast just last month due to global uncertainties. In its latest Asia-Pacific Economic Outlook report, S&P emphasised that domestic demand resilience is playing a key role in supporting India's economic momentum.

Adani Group Pioneers India's Clean Energy Future with First Off-Grid Green Hydrogen Plant

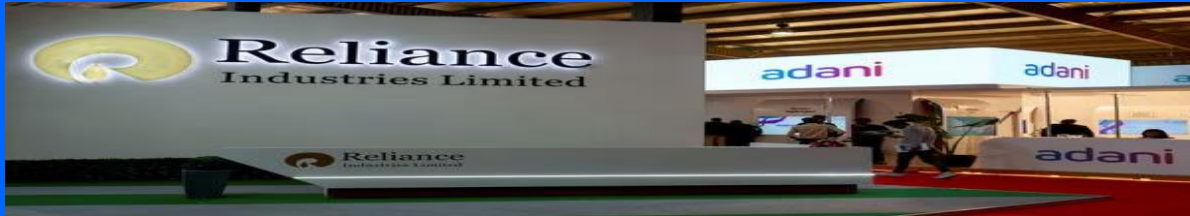
Adani Group has commissioned India's first off-grid 5 megawatt green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat, the conglomerate said in a statement on Monday (June 23, 2025). An off-grid green hydrogen plant is a facility that produces hydrogen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind, and is not connected to the main electrical grid.

Tata Group Becomes India's First \$30-Billion Brand: Brand Finance 2025

Tata Group (brand value up 10 per cent to \$31.6 billion) has once again secured its position as India's most valuable brand, becoming the first Indian brand to cross the \$30 billion threshold, according to a report by Brand Finance. "This historic milestone underscores India's expanding economic clout and the Tata Group's multi-sector dominance, with strategic investments in electronics, EVs, semiconductors, AI and renewables," the report stated.

Adani and Reliance Join Forces to Share Fuel Infrastructure

Mumbai: Adani Total Gas Ltd and Reliance Industries Ltd arm Jio-bp have partnered to sell auto fuel across select outlets, the companies said in a statement on Wednesday. Select ATGL outlets will sell Jio-bp's petrol and diesel, and the Jio-bp outlets will integrate ATGL's compressed natural gas (CNG) dispensing units, the statement said.



IFFCO Sets Up First Overseas Nano Fertiliser Plant in Brazil

IFFCO to set up its first overseas nano fertiliser plant in Brazil via joint venture with NANOFERT. The facility will produce 4.5 million litres annually, boosting global reach and reducing costs. Nano fertilisers show promise in boosting crop yields while cutting conventional fertiliser use. Four years after the launch of nano urea in the country, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative IFFCO is setting up its first plant abroad for manufacturing nano-soil nutrients in Brazil.

JioBlackRock Broking Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Brokerage Operations

Jio BlackRock Broking Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Pvt Ltd, has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to commence operations as a brokerage firm. JioBlackRock Broking aims to bring affordable, transparent, and technology-driven execution capabilities for investors, the company said in a statement.

Adani Green Becomes First Indian Firm to Cross 15 GW Renewable Energy Milestone

Adani Group's renewable arm, Adani Green Energy (AGEL), has become the first Indian company in its field to surpass 15,000 megawatts (MW) or 15 gigawatts (GW) of installed operational capacity. In an exchange filing on Monday, the company announced that its total capacity stood at 15,539.9 MW as of June 2025.



INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bangladesh Unveils New Banknotes, Drops Mujibur Rahman's Portrait

For the first time in more than five decades, the image of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, has been removed from new banknotes. The redesigned notes, released on Sunday (June 1), now feature motifs of Hindu and Buddhist temples, traditional landmarks, and celebrated national artwork.



Nicaragua Becomes 101st WTO Member to Accept Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

On 2 June, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala received Nicaragua's instrument of acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies from Nicaragua's WTO Ambassador Rosalía Bohorquez Palacios. Just ten more acceptances are needed for the Agreement to enter into force.



Magnus Carlsen Clinches Norway Chess 2025 Title After Dramatic Finale

Stavanger (Norway), June 7 : World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen added another accolade to his legendary career by winning the Norway Chess 2025 title in his hometown of Stavanger on Friday. The five-time World Champion secured the crown after a dramatic final round that saw his closest challenger, reigning World Champion D. Gukesh, falter at the last hurdle.



David Beckham to Be Knighted in King Charles III's Birthday Honours

David Beckham is set to be awarded a knighthood in King Charles' Birthday Honours. The former England football captain, 50, was appointed an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2003.



Carlos Alcaraz Clinches Historic Comeback Victory at 2025 French Open Final

Carlos Alcaraz rallied from two sets down and saved three match points to beat Jannik Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) in an all-time classic win at the French Open – a title the Spaniard won for a second straight year.



Russia to Build Eight Nuclear Reactors in Iran, Confirms Iranian Atomic Chief

TEHRAN - Iranian atomic chief has announced that Russia will construct eight nuclear power plants in Iran under a previously signed contract between the two countries, the official news agency IRNA reported. President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami made the remarks on Monday during a visit by members of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee to the AEOI headquarters in Tehran.

Snap to Launch Consumer Smart Glasses in 2026 to Rival Meta

NEW YORK - Snap will launch its first-ever smart glasses for all consumers in 2026, ratcheting up competition with bigger rival Meta in the wearable technology market. The augmented reality (AR) smart glasses, called Specs, will be lightweight.



Operation Rising Lion: Israel Targets Iranian Nuclear Sites in Escalated Strikes

New Delhi: In pre-dawn strikes termed Operation Rising Lion, dozens of Israeli jets launched a sweeping aerial assault across Iranian territory on Friday, hitting multiple high-value nuclear and military targets.



Blaise Metreweli Becomes MI6's First Female Chief in Historic Appointment

MI6 will be led by a woman for the first time in the foreign intelligence service's 116-year history. Blaise Metreweli, who joined the Secret Intelligence Service in 1999, will become the 18th chief of the organisation and take over from Sir Richard Moore later this year.



OpenAI Secures \$200 Million AI Contract with U.S. Defense Department

The US Department of Defense on Monday awarded OpenAI a \$200m contract to put generative artificial intelligence (AI) to work for the US military. The San Francisco-based company will “develop prototype frontier AI capabilities to address critical national security challenges in both warfighting and enterprise domains”, according to the defense department’s posting of awarded contracts.

Top 10 airlines in the world 2025: IndiGo Ranked Among World's Best Low-Cost Airlines in Skytrax 2025 Awards

Top 10 Airlines in the World 2025: As global aviation rebounds in 2025 with rising passenger traffic, airlines are investing heavily in quality service, safety, and innovation in an effort to transform air travel into a more comfortable, enjoyable experience.



Pakistan Secures \$1 Billion Syndicated Financing Backed by ADB Guarantee

Pakistan signed a five-year long-term syndicated financing facility for \$1 billion, indicating strong support from leading financiers amid the country's ongoing economic crisis. The Dubai Islamic Bank acted as the Sole Islamic Global Coordinator while Standard Chartered Bank is the Mandated Lead Arranger and Book-runners, a finance ministry statement said on Wednesday.

Global Cybersecurity Alert: 16 Billion Logins Exposed in Historic Data Breach

Internet users have been told to change their passwords and upgrade their digital security after researchers claimed to have revealed the scale of sensitive information – 16bn login records – potentially available to cybercriminals. Researchers at Cybernews, an online tech publication, said they had found 30 datasets stuffed with credentials harvested from malicious software known as “infostealers” and leaks.

Gold Becomes World's Second-Largest Reserve Asset After U.S. Dollar

A recent report by the European Central Bank reveals that gold has overtaken the Euro as the second-highest foreign exchange reserve asset for the central banks. Well, this should not shock any of us. Gold has drawn a lot of attention from central banks in the past many years. It was only a matter of time before central bankers preferred gold to at least some of the paper currencies.



Shubhanshu Shukla Pilots Axiom-4 on SpaceX Falcon 9 to ISS

“Kya kamaal ki ride thi (what an amazing ride),” India's astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla remarked as SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft entered the orbit around the earth within 10 minutes of launch from NASA's spaceport in Florida. Group Captain Shukla, who became the second Indian to travel to space.



G7 Nations Agree to Exempt U.S. Firms from Global Minimum Tax

The Group of Seven nations said on Saturday (June 28, 2025) they have agreed to exempt U.S. multinational companies from a global minimum tax imposed by other countries — a win for President Donald Trump's government, which pushed hard for the compromise. The deal will see U.S. companies benefit from a "side-by-side" solution under which they will only be taxed at home, on both domestic and foreign profits.

