

1. MoSPI Launches Embark India Development Fellowship

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM).
- Embark India Development Fellowship is an 18-month program engaging two fellows.
- Fellows will focus on public policy, capacity building, data governance, and program implementation.
- Stipend: ₹65,000 per month.

2. Passport Fees Revised Effective July 1, 2026

- First revision since 2012.
- Effective July 1, 2026.
- Normal 30-page passport fee increased from ₹1,500 to ₹2,500.
- Tatkal service fee increased from ₹3,500 to ₹5,000.

3. Ministry of Petroleum Introduces New LPG & PNG Guidelines

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas introduced strict rules:
 - o "30-Day Rule": Mandates surrendering an LPG cylinder within 30 days if the consumer has a PNG (Piped Natural Gas) connection.
 - o "90-Day Rule": Mandates shifting to PNG within 90 days if a piped natural gas network covers the consumer's area.

4. India's first offshore airport (developed on water near the coast) will be constructed at Kore Beach, Palghar district, Maharashtra.

5. Gujarat Police signed an MoU with Bharat Taxi — India's first cooperative ride-hailing platform.

6. Drug-Free India Week (Nasha Mukht Bharat Saptah) Observed

- Ran from June 17 to June 26, under the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat Vikasit Bharat Prayan."
- Organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

7. Health Minister JP Nadda launched the SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan) Roadmap 2030 at the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.

8. 16th BRICS National Security Advisors (NSA) Meeting held in New Delhi (June 22–23), chaired by India's NSA Ajit Doval.

- Theme: "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today."
- BRICS HOSA (Heads of Space Agencies) Meeting — Bengaluru.
- 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting — Gurugram, June 25; Theme: "Sarvesha Urjanam" (Energy for All), focusing on solar/biofuels.
- 1st BRICS MSME Forum — Agra.
- BRICS 20th Anniversary Week — Moscow.

9. India-Israel Audit Pact Signed

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), K. Sanjay Murthy, signed an MoU with Israel's Supreme Audit Institution to advance data analytics and digital auditing technologies.

10. Italy declared UNESCO World Heritage Capital, possessing 61 heritage sites (55 cultural, 6 natural), including Rome, Venice, and Vatican City.

- China follows with 60 sites; Germany and France have 54 each; Spain has 50; India has 44 sites.
- UNESCO established in 1945, headquartered in Paris.
- India has 44 World Heritage sites (newest being Maratha military landscapes) and 16 intangible heritage sites (newest being Diwali, Garba dance, Durga Puja).

11. WEF Travel & Tourism Index — India Ranks 8th in Tourism Economy

- India ranks 8th globally in generating a tourism economy (contributing \$231 billion) and 39th in general tourism metrics, per the WEF biennial report.

12. India Drops to 4th in Latest Unicorn Rankings

- In the latest Unicorn Index, India dropped to 4th globally with 61 unicorns (out of 1603 worldwide), trailing the USA, China, and the UK.

13. Protests Erupt in Albania — "Flamingo Revolution"

- Albania's capital is Tirana; currency Lek; joined NATO in 2009.
- In India, the Flamingo Festival is celebrated at Pulicat Lake (Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu).

14. RBI Introduces New Framework for Digital Fraud Compensation

- Customers losing up to ₹50,000 in digital fraud (UPI, phishing, sim-swap) are eligible for compensation.
- Compensation limit: 85% of fraud amount or ₹25,000, whichever is lower.
- Resolution time: 45 days (domestic), 60 days (international/cross-border).
- Domestic Payment Split: 65% paid by RBI via the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund, 10% by the customer's bank, 10% by the beneficiary bank, and 15% is the customer's loss.
- International Split: 65% borne by RBI, 20% by the customer's bank.

15. jUMPP, India's first power conversational fintech platform, received NPCI approval to operate as a TPAP for UPI, with YES Bank as its PSP.

16. Central Bank of India opened an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

17. S&P Global Projects India's GDP Growth

- S&P Global projected India's GDP growth to be 7.2% for FY26 and 6.6% for FY27

18. World's First Hydrogen-Producing Facility Announced in Tamil Nadu

- Department of Atomic Energy announced the world's first hydrogen-producing facility using copper-chlorine thermochemical water splitting.
- Located at the Fast Breeder Test Reactor in Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant, Tamil Nadu (regulated by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre / Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research).

19. DRDO developed HELINA (Helicopter Launched NAG), an anti-tank missile (operational range: 500 metres to 7 km).

20. BRO's Project Brahmanak Completes 16 Years

- Border Roads Organisation's (BRO) infrastructure development mission in Northeast India, Project Brahmanak, completed 16 years on June 29, 2026.

21. US and Japan hosted "Valiant Shield" and "Resolute Dragon 26" drills in the Western Pacific (Mariana Islands and Philippine Sea).

22. US hosted the 30th edition of RIMPAC, the world's largest maritime exercise, featuring 30 countries. Theme: "Partners, Integrated and Prepared."

23. Dr. U.P. Rajeev (former Associate Director) appointed as the new Director General of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), succeeding retired Dr. A. Rajarajan.

- VSSC established in 1963; headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

24. Committee Formed to Evaluate Indian Cinema Sector

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a high-level study group to examine the future of the Indian cinema sector.
- Headed by Prasoon Joshi, Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

25. Colombia: Abelardo Gabriel de la Espriella Otero took charge as President. (Capital: Bogotá; Currency: Peso).

26. Ethiopia: Abiy Ahmed Ali re-elected for a second consecutive five-year term as Prime Minister. (Capital: Addis Ababa; Currency: Birr).

27. Two Indian Women Win 2026 Whitley Award ('Green Oscar')

- Two Indian women conservationists won the 2026 Whitley Award (£50,000 project funding each), presented by Princess Anne in London
- Parveen Shaikh (Bombay Natural History Society): Recognized for her community-led "Guardians of the Skimmer" project in the Chambal River ecosystem, increasing the Indian skimmer bird population from 400 to nearly 1,000.
- Dr. Barkha Subba: Recognized for protecting the rare Himalayan salamander and fragile wetlands in the Darjeeling Himalayas.

28. 7 Indian Schools Shortlisted for World's Best School Prizes 2026

- Organized by T4 Education (UK), 7 Indian schools were shortlisted:
 1. PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School (Pune)
 2. Army Goodwill School (J&K)

3. Healthy Planet TG Early Year School (Noida)
4. Inventure Academy (Bengaluru)
5. Seth MR Jaipuria School (Lucknow)
6. Euro School Bannerghatta (Bengaluru)
7. Seth Anandram Jaipuria School (Lucknow)

29. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book "Sanskritik Ratna Bhandar" (also referred to as "Bhavya: Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar"), about Bhawaiya folk music from North Bengal and Assam.

- Authored by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy and Sangeeta Roy.

30. Mintage World launched a 200-page coffee table book titled "Stamps, Coins and Banknotes issued during the premiership of Shri Narendra Modi."

- Conceptualized and curated by Sushil Kumar Agarwal (CEO, Mintage World).

31. 14-year-old Ethan Vaz from Goa became India's 96th Chess Grandmaster.

- He is the third GM from Goa (after Anurag Mhamal and Leon Mendonca).
- Harshavardhan GB became the 97th GM.

32. India Wins Historic First Gold at World Rowing Cup

- India won its historic first Gold medal at the World Rowing Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland.
- The Indian Army duo of Lakshya and Ujjwal Kumar Singh won the lightweight men's double sculls event, beating teams from Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

33. Fencing Association of India Signs MoU with International Fencing Federation

34. IMPORTANT DAYS

- June 28 — National Insurance Awareness Day
- June 30 — International Day of Parliamentarism
- June 30 — International Asteroid Day