



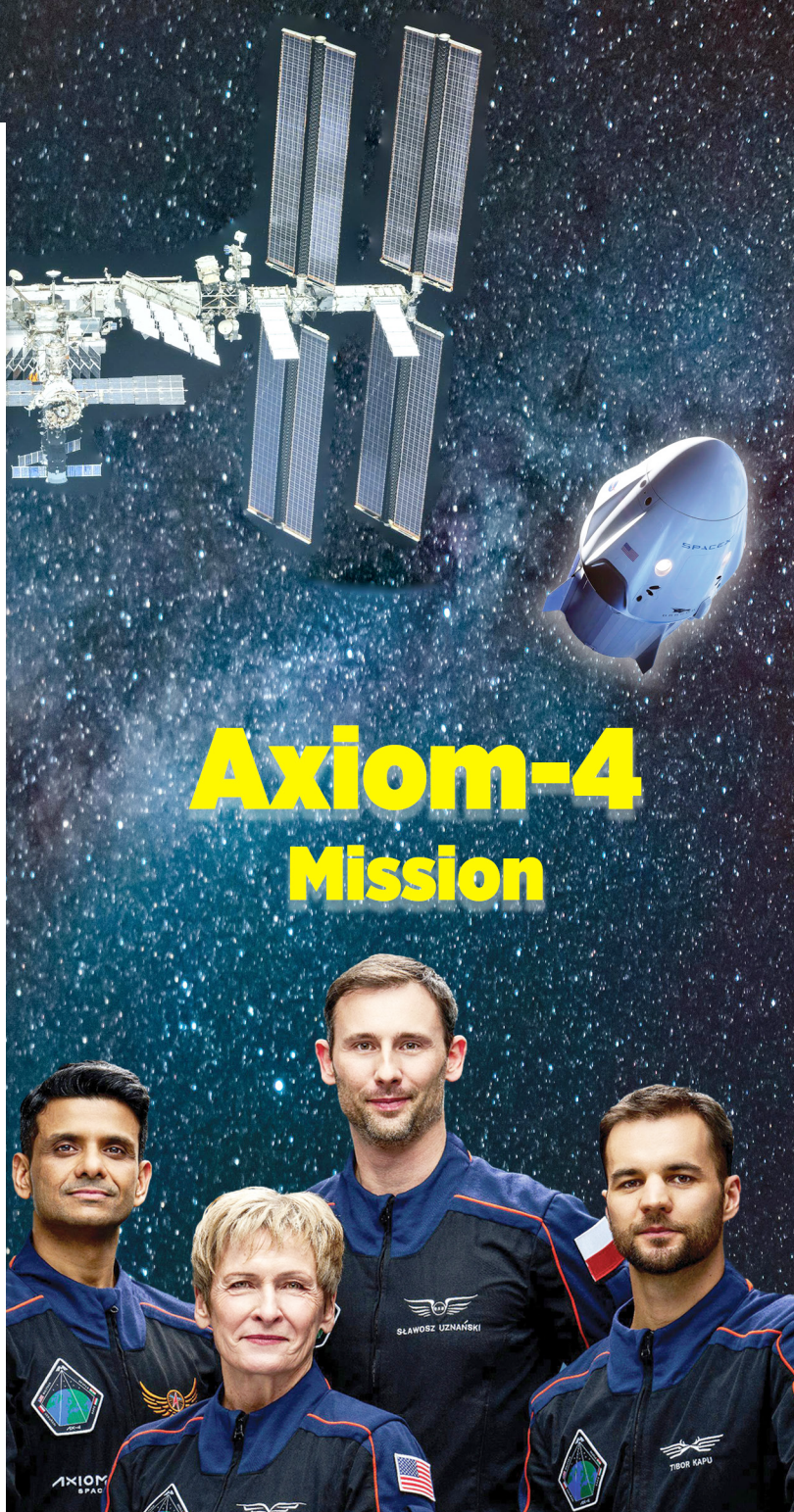
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

25th June - 01st July, 2025

★★ Useful for ★★

**UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**



 www.madeeasy.in

25th JUNE 2025

Axiom-4 Mission

- **Context:** Recently, an Indian Astronaut with three others from the USA, Hungary and Poland, soared into space aboard the Axiom-4 mission (NASA's fourth all-private astronaut mission).

Key Highlights

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS) and only the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission.
- Axiom-4 involves scientific experiments, team coordination, and real-time problem-solving — skills essential for Gaganyaan, India's first indigenous crewed mission.
- The Axiom-4 Mission includes over 60 experiments from 31 countries, with India contributing to studies on muscle atrophy and stem cell behavior in microgravity.
- These align with ISRO's growing interest in space medicine and long-duration missions, including diabetes management, muscle health, and cancer research. It is vital for understanding human physiology in space and preparing for future lunar or Martian expeditions.
- The mission underscores India's deepening ties with international space agencies.
- Axiom-4 demonstrates India's readiness to engage in commercial and scientific space diplomacy, coordinated with NASA, SpaceX, and Axiom Space.

About International Space Station (ISS)

- It serves as a permanently crewed orbital laboratory where astronauts from around the world live and work while orbiting Earth approximately every 90 minutes.
- It is located about 400 km from the Earth and moving at 28,000 kmph.
- The first ISS module was launched in 1998; it has been continuously inhabited since 2000.

- It has been operated by an international coalition of space agencies—NASA (USA), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe), JAXA (Japan), and CSA (Canada).
- ISS program unites international flight crews, various launch vehicles, worldwide operations and training facilities, communication networks, and the global scientific research community.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index

- **Context:** India has, for the first time, secured a position among the top 100 countries in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index.

Key Highlights

- The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015.
- This edition also includes for the first time an assessment of which countries have made the most progress on the SDGs using a headline SDG Index (SDGi).
- 190 out of 193 UN member states have participated in the Voluntary National Reviews process since the adoption of Agenda 2030.
- East and South Asia is the fastest progressing region since 2015.
- Finland, Sweden and Denmark hold the top three positions. 19 out of the top 20 performers are European countries. Challenges remain even for top countries — particularly in climate action and biodiversity goals.
- **India ranked 99th out of 167 nations.**
 - It places India with a score of 67 on the SDG Index, a significant improvement from its 109th rank in 2024.
 - **Since, the adoption of the SDGs, India has steadily improved its standing:** it ranked 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, and 120th in 2021.

- Among India's neighbours, China ranks 49th (74.4), Bhutan ranks 74th (70.5), Nepal 85th (68.6), Bangladesh 114th (63.9), and Pakistan 140th (57). Maldives and Sri Lanka stand at 53rd and 93rd places respectively.
- None of the 17 SDGs are currently on track to be achieved globally by 2030.
 - Only 17% of SDG targets are on track worldwide.
 - **Major obstacles:** Conflicts, structural vulnerabilities, limited fiscal space.

About Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The United Nations General Assembly, during its 70th Session in 2015, adopted the document titled "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."
- This document outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets.
- The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, came into force with effect from 1st January 2016.
- The SDGs serve as a comprehensive blueprint aimed at achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.
- The goals call for action on addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.
- The SDGs are universal, applying to all nations—developed, developing and least developed countries.
- The SDGs are not legally binding, but they have effectively become international obligations and have the potential to reorient domestic spending priorities in countries.

Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP)

- **Context:** Major public and private sector banks are collaborating to develop the Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP) as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP)

- It aims to strengthen fraud risk management by enabling real-time data sharing and intelligence gathering to detect and prevent fraudulent digital transactions.
- The institutional framework is being jointly developed by public and private banks, recognizing fraud as a shared threat.
- The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is building a prototype in collaboration with 5–10 banks using advanced technologies.
- The platform is expected to become operational in the next few months.
- Cybercrime, particularly digital financial fraud, is a growing threat in India, affecting millions and causing massive financial losses.
- RBI's FY25 report highlights a threefold rise in bank frauds to ₹36,014 crore from ₹12,230 crore in FY24.
 - Public sector banks reported ₹25,667 crore in frauds (mainly in loans/advances).
 - Private sector banks saw the highest number of frauds in digital payments (card/internet).
- The DPIP is thus a proactive step to secure India's growing digital financial ecosystem.
- It will tackle the rising digital payment frauds and aims to enhance fraud detection and prevention through real-time data sharing and intelligence gathering.

26th JUNE 2025

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting

- **Context:** India has refused to sign a joint declaration at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China.

Key Highlights

- India is not satisfied with the language of the joint document and there was no mention of cross-border terrorist activities especially recent Pahalgam Terror attack.

- The refusal to endorse the document resulted in the conclave ending without a joint communique.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Shanghai Five emerged in 1996 from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks between 4 former USSR republics and China.
- Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.
- With the accession of Uzbekistan to the group in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- **Objective:** To enhance regional cooperation for efforts to curb terrorism, separatism, and extremism in the Central Asian region.
- **Members:** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and the four Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
 - India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the rotating chairmanship in 2023.
 - Member countries contribute around 30 per cent of the global GDP and about 40 percent of the world's population.
- **Observer status:** Afghanistan and Mongolia.
- **Language:** The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
- **Structure:** The supreme decision-making body of the SCO is the Council of Heads of States (CHS) which meets once a year.
- **The Organization has 2 standing bodies** — the Secretariat in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.

Bihar's First Nuclear Power Plant

- **Context:** Bihar is set to host its first nuclear power plant, making it one of the first six states to benefit from the Government of India's National Nuclear Energy Mission.

Key Highlights

- The announcement comes as part of a broader push to diversify India's energy mix, strengthen

regional energy security, and integrate advanced technologies like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

- The Government has also approved a 1,000 MW battery storage capacity project in Bihar, aimed at enhancing grid stability and supporting renewable energy integration.
- The government will provide viability gap funding of Rs 18 lakh per MW for this initiative.

About Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

- Small modular reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, roughly one-third the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power plants.
 - Small – physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor.
 - Modular – making it possible for systems and components to be factory-assembled and transported as a unit to a location for installation.
 - Reactors – harnessing nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy.
- There are four main types of SMR i.e., light water, high temperature gas, liquid +---metal, and molten salt.
- SMRs utilize passive safety mechanisms, such as natural convection and gravity-driven cooling, which help prevent overheating without relying on external power or human intervention.
- The modular nature of SMRs allows for incremental power additions, which is ideal for growing energy needs.
- SMRs compact design makes them adaptable for smaller grid systems and applications like district heating and water desalination.

About Nuclear Energy Mission

- **Capacity Target:** 100 GW by 2047 (Current capacity: 8 GW).
- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** ₹20,000 crore allocation for R&D and indigenous SMR development.
- **Goal:** Five operational SMRs by 2033.

- **Proposed amendments to key legislations:**

- **Atomic Energy Act, 1962:** Framework for nuclear energy development and regulation.
- **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010:** Ensuring compensation mechanisms for nuclear incidents.
- **10 new reactors** (totaling 8 GW) under construction across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Approval** for a 6×1208 MW nuclear plant in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with the USA.
- **Collaboration with the private sector** to develop Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) and Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs).

NITI Aayog's Future Front Series Report

- **Context:** NITI Aayog today released the third edition of its quarterly insights series Future Front, titled "India's Data Imperative: The Pivot Towards Quality."

Key Highlights

- This report underscores the urgent need for robust data quality to fortify digital governance, cultivate public trust, and ensure efficient service delivery.
- India's digital infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat) has scaled massively. However, as platforms mature, quality of data has become a national imperative.
- A single error (wrong digit, mismatched name) can cause serious issues: halted pensions, subsidy mis-delivery, or inflated welfare costs.
- **Fiscal Leakage:** Errors and duplication lead to 4–7% annual welfare overspending.
- **Policy Distortion:** Inconsistent or outdated data causes misdirected schemes and delays.
- **Erosion of Trust:** Citizens lose faith due to mismatched records and claim rejections.
- **Institutionalising Ownership:** Designate data custodians at national/state/district levels.
 - Make quality a shared responsibility—programme heads, IT teams, field staff.
 - Ensure a single point of accountability for maintaining data integrity end-to-end.

- **Incentivising Data Quality:** Go beyond speed; reward accuracy and completeness.

- Track indicators like error rates, completion levels and timeliness.
- Integrate these into programme reviews as a measure of delivery strength, not just audit compliance.

First Quantum Computing Valley of India

- **Context:** The first Quantum Computing Valley of India will be launched in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh by January 2026.

Key Highlights

- The park is designed to employ lakhs of professionals, supporting research, innovation, and industrial growth.
- It will be accessible to states, government bodies, and institutions across India.
- The goal is to ensure quantum technology benefits all of human society.
- The project aligns with the National Quantum Mission (NQM).
- **Focus:** Productivity enhancement and wealth creation via quantum technologies.

About National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- The government approved the NQM in 2023 from 2023-24 to 2030-31.
- The Mission aims to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
- This will accelerate QT led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA).
- The Mission objectives include developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.

- NQM has the potential to elevate the country's Technology Development ecosystem to a level of global competitiveness.
- The Mission would greatly benefit various sectors including communication, health, financial, energy with applications in drug design, space, banking, security etc.
- The Mission will also provide a huge boost to National priorities like Digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The United Nations at 80

- **Context:** June 26, 2025 marks 80 years of the signing of the UN Charter in 1945, considered the founding treaty of the United Nations.

Key Facts

- The Charter came into force on October 24, 1945, now observed as United Nations Day.
- The UN Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, by 50 nations in the aftermath of World War II.
- It was based on proposals developed by China, the USSR, the UK, and the USA during the Dumbarton Oaks Conference (1944).
- It comprises a Preamble and 111 Articles, organized into chapters.
- **Key Functions of the UN Charter:**
 - Maintaining international peace and security
 - Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms
 - Encouraging social progress and better standards of life
 - Fostering international cooperation
- **Principal Organs of the United Nations:** The General Assembly (GA), The Security Council (SC), The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The Trusteeship Council, The International Court of Justice (ICJ), and The UN Secretariat.

About UN80 Initiative

- Launched in March 2025 by UN Secretary General António Guterres, the UN80 Initiative is a system wide reform effort marking the UN's 80th anniversary, aimed at modernizing the Organization to better serve today's global challenges.
- **Three Core Pillars of Reform:**
 - **Efficiency & Effectiveness:** Remove duplication, red tape; optimize operations (e.g., reallocating functions to lower-cost duty stations).
 - **Mandate Review:** Out of ~40,000 accumulated mandates, the UN will employ AI tools to streamline, prioritize, and eliminate obsolete directives.
 - **Structural Realignment:** Reassess UN system architecture, realign programmes, and potentially reshape institutions.

Need for Reform in UN

- UN faces a multi-year liquidity crisis due to late or missing dues—only 75 of 193 Members paid full 2025 assessments on time.
- Thousands of overlapping or outdated mandates hinder UN agility and efficacy.
- **The UN needs to adapt to new challenges:** tech governance (AI), pandemics, climate crises, and multifaceted conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, etc.
- Growing geopolitical polarization and declining public faith in global institutions heighten the urgency for multilateral reforms.

India's Position

- India strongly supports UN reform, especially Security Council expansion, stating the existing structure is obsolete and unrepresentative.
- Member of G4 nations (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan), advocating inclusion of emerging powers and greater regional representation — Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific.
- India has served eight times as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

27th JUNE 2025

South Asia Unit of International Potato Centre

- **Context:** The Centre cleared a proposal to set up the South Asia regional centre of the Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP) in India.

Key Highlights

- The CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) will come up in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- It will not only serve farmers in potato-belt states like UP, Bihar and West Bengal but also cater to South Asian countries.
- **Objective:** To increase food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweetpotato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition.
- China set up its regional CIP centre eight years ago known as the China Center for Asia Pacific (CCCAP) serving the entire East Asia and the Pacific region.

Potato Cultivation

- India is the world's second top producer and consumer of potato; in 2020, it saw a production of 51.30 million tonnes.
- At the top is China, with its potato output in 2020 at 78.24 million tonnes.
- Together, the China and India account for over one-third of the global potato production (359.07 MT).
- Among the states in India, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal lead the production, followed by Bihar.
- Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab are the other significant potato producers.

India's Poverty Estimation under New Global Poverty Line

- **Context:** The recent revision of the International Poverty Line by the World Bank has reignited the

global debate on how poverty should be defined and tracked.

Key Facts

- The World Bank has announced a major revision to global poverty estimates, raising the International Poverty Line (IPL) from \$2.15/day (2017 PPP) to \$3.00/day (2021 PPP).
- While the change led to a global increase in the count of extreme poverty by 125 million, India witnessed a massive reduction in poverty.

About Poverty Line

- A poverty line is a threshold level of income or consumption used to determine whether an individual or household is poor.
- Anyone living below this threshold is considered unable to afford basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and healthcare.
- It helps the government to gauge the extent of poverty and shape welfare policies for the poor, and to understand whether a set of policies has actually worked over time to reduce poverty and improve wellbeing.

India's Revised Poverty Profile

- India's latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) adopted the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP) method, replacing the outdated Uniform Reference Period (URP). This shift:
 - Used shorter recall periods for frequently purchased items.
 - Captured more realistic estimates of actual consumption.
- In 2011–12, applying MMRP reduced India's poverty rate from 22.9% to 16.22%, even under the older \$2.15 poverty line.
- In 2022–23, poverty under the new \$3.00 line stood at 5.25%, while under the older \$2.15 line it dropped further to 2.35%.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- **Context:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs conducted a one-day biometric authentication drive for beneficiaries of the Jiyo Parsi scheme in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- **Launched:** 2013–14
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs
- **Objective:** To address the sharp demographic decline of the Parsi (Zoroastrian) community and ensure its long-term survival and cultural continuity.
- **Key Components:**
 - **Medical Assistance** – Provides financial aid for infertility treatments such as IVF, ICSI, surrogacy, and post-conception care.
 - **Health of the Community** – Offers monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children as well as to dependent elderly members.
 - **Advocacy** – Promotes timely marriage, fertility awareness, and family support within the community.

■ DO YOU KNOW: _____

The population of the Parsi community, one of India's smallest yet most prosperous communities, declined by 22%—from 69,601 in the 2001 Census to 57,264 in the 2011 Census. Maharashtra has a Parsi population of 44,854, the highest among all States, followed by Gujarat with 9,727.

28th JUNE 2025

India's First Maritime NBFC

- **Context:** The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) inaugurated Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL).

About Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited

- It was formerly known as Sagarmala Development Company Limited.

- It is a Mini Ratna, Category-I, Central Public Sector Enterprise and has been formally registered as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It is India's first NBFC in the maritime sector.

Importance of SMFCL

- It is aligned with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and aims to bridge financing gaps and offer tailored financial solutions for ports, MSMEs, startups, and maritime institutions.
- It will support strategic areas like shipbuilding, renewable energy, cruise tourism, and maritime education, helping to drive economic growth and logistics efficiency.
- The launch marks a key step in making India a global maritime power, creating a dedicated financial ecosystem for inclusive and sustainable maritime development.

About Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

- A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013
- It is primarily engaged in financial activities like loans, advances, and investments in securities.
- It excludes companies whose main business is agriculture, industry, trade in goods or services, or real estate.
- Companies that collect deposits under various schemes are classified as Residuary NBFCs.
- Banks and NBFCs differ in key ways despite both engaging in lending and investments:
 - NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
 - NBFCs are not part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques.
 - Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Current Account Surplus

- **Context:** According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's current account balance recorded a more than expected surplus of \$13.5 billion in Q4 (January-March) of FY25.

Key Fact

- The CAB surplus is higher than expected is underscored by the fact that India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) had estimated it at around 7 billion (0.7 per cent of GDP) in the reporting quarter.

About Current Account Balance

- The Current Account Balance is a key component of a country's Balance of Payments (BoP) and reflects its transactions with the rest of the world in goods, services, income, and transfers.
- The Current Account comprises trade in goods, trade in services, primary income (investment income), and secondary income (transfers and remittances).
- A surplus in the current account occurs when inflows exceed outflows.
- **Significance of CAB Surplus:**
 - Indicates Strong External Position.
 - Strengthens Foreign Exchange Reserves.
 - Improves Investor Confidence.

Operation Deep Manifest

- **Context:** Under the Operation Deep Manifest, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) made a major breakthrough by seizing 1,115 metric tonnes of Pakistani-origin goods, illicitly routed via Dubai.

Key Highlights

- After the Pahalgam Terror Attack, India imposed a total ban on direct or indirect import/transit of Pakistani-origin goods even if routed through third countries like UAE, Singapore, etc.
- Total bans serve as economic deterrents and signal India's zero-tolerance stance.
- The case highlights risks of "grey routing"—where goods of hostile origin are rerouted through benign intermediaries.

29th JUNE 2025

Jahnavi Dangeti: First Indian Astronaut on Titans Space Mission in 2029

- **Context:** Jahnavi Dangeti, has been selected as an Astronaut Candidate (SCAN) for the space mission of the Titan Space Industries (TSI), a U.S.-based private agency engaged in space research.

About Titans Space Mission in 2029

- It is a U.S.-based mission that will last approximately five hours, during which the crew will orbit the Earth twice, witnessing two sunrises and two sunsets.
- It will offer nearly three hours of uninterrupted zero gravity, creating a groundbreaking setting for scientific research and advancements in human spaceflight.
- The mission will be commanded by veteran NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Army Colonel William McArthur Jr., who currently serves as the Chief Astronaut at Titans Space.

DO YOU KNOW:

Jahnavi Dangeti became the youngest Analog Astronaut programme from the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) at Krakow in South Poland..

Adamyia

- **Context:** Recently, 'Adamyia' was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa.

About Adamyia

- It is the first Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) under the eight-FPV project at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- It is the first vessel of its class in the ICG fleet to feature Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs) and indigenously developed gearboxes, providing superior maneuverability, enhanced operational flexibility, and improved performance at sea.

- It is equipped with cutting-edge technology and includes a 30mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7mm stabilized remote-controlled guns with fire control systems, an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and Automated Power Management System (APMS).
- These advanced features significantly boost the ICG's ability to carry out missions with greater precision, speed, and efficiency across India's vast maritime boundaries.
- 'Adamya' showcases India's advancing shipbuilding prowess and aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- These FPVs will strengthen the ICG's fleet as force multipliers, ensuring rapid response capabilities for maritime law enforcement, coastal patrol, search and rescue missions, and safeguarding the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Adi Karmyogi Programme

- **Context:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Adi Karmyogi Programme.

About Adi Karmyogi Programme

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- It **aims** to capacitate nearly 20 lakh stakeholders involved in tribal welfare delivery, including bureaucrats, block officials, and frontline workers.
- The program will **focus** on improving outcomes in critical areas such as:
 - Healthcare gaps (with special attention to Sick Cell Disease)
 - School staffing shortages
 - Poor access to public services in tribal belts
- While "Adi Karmyogi" is specifically for tribal affairs, it aligns with the broader "Mission Karmayogi" (launched in 2020) – the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).

30th JUNE 2025

India's External Debt Rises to \$736 Billion

- **Context:** India's external debt rose to \$736.3 billion, or 19.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), at the end of March 2025 from \$668.8 billion, or 18.5 per cent of GDP, a year ago.

About External Debt

- External debt is the portion of a country's debt borrowed from foreign lenders, including sovereign governments, international financial institutions, and private commercial entities.
- **It can be categorized into:**
 - Long-term debt (original maturity over one year)
 - Short-term debt (original maturity up to one year)

Key Data

- The long-term debt at end-March 2025 was placed at \$601.9 billion, an increase of \$60.6 billion over its level at end-March 2024.
- The share of short-term debt in total external debt declined to 18.3 per cent at end-March 2025 from 19.1 per cent at end-March 2024. However, the ratio of short-term debt (original maturity) to foreign exchange reserves increased to 20.1 per cent at the end of FY25.
- **The debt structure:** Loans (34 per cent) remained the largest component of external debt, followed by currency and deposits (22.8 per cent), trade credit and advances (17.8 per cent), and debt securities (17.7 per cent).
- US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.2 per cent.

Bihar: First State to Vote Using Mobile App

- **Context:** Bihar has become the first state in the country to launch e-Voting facilities using mobile applications in municipal bodies elections and by-polls.

Key Highlights

- Polling is taking place in Six Nagar Panchayat and 36 different other municipal bodies.
- 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.
- Voters have to install the E-SECBHR app which is now currently available only for Android users.

Methods to Prevent Tampering

- Only two registered voters are allowed to log in using one mobile number. Verification of each voter is being done by entering the vote id number.
- Blockchain technology ensures that votes are recorded and saved in a secure, immutable system
- Facial recognition and matching assist in the verification of voter identities during login and voting.

National Turmeric Board

- **Context:** Union Home Minister, inaugurated the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Telangana.

Key Facts

- It is a dedicated body established in 2025, to promote turmeric cultivation, research, and exports, ensuring holistic growth in the turmeric sector.
- **Headquarters:** Nizamabad, Telangana.
- **Ministry:** Operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Aim:** To enhance turmeric production.

- Support farmers and improve their livelihoods.
- Boost global exports of turmeric and value-added products.
- **Functions:** The Board will also look into creating awareness on the essential and medical properties of turmeric, ways to increase its yield and boost logistics and supply chain to foster trade into newer markets.

Turmeric

- Turmeric is a part of Curcuma Long botanic group and it is a perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae).
- It is used as a seasoning, dye, drug with diverse applications and also used in the cosmetics industry.
- Turmeric is also known as 'Golden Spice'.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- In 2023-24, India was responsible for over 70% of global turmeric production and there are 30 varieties of turmeric produced in India.
- Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Assam are some of the important states cultivating turmeric.

1st JULY 2025

Akash Air Defence System

- **Context:** Brazil has expressed interest in purchasing India's Akash Air Defence System, a significant development ahead of the 17th BRICS Summit.

About Akash Air Defence System

- Akash is a medium-range, mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- Its primary purpose is to neutralize aerial threats like enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles in both defensive and offensive operations, protecting critical points and areas.

- The Akash system is a product of the “Make in India” initiative, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Its objective is to strengthen India's layered air defense by bridging the gap between short and long-range interceptors.
- It has a range of 4.5 km to 25 km, altitude coverage of 100 m to 20 km, & it can travel with supersonic speed (Mach 1.8 to 2.5).

Sea Ship Observer Mission

- **Context:** The Coast Guards of India, Japan, United States, and Australia have launched the first-ever 'QUAD at Sea Ship Observer Mission.'

Key Facts

- The observer-at-sea engagement marks a first-of-its-kind initiative among the Indian Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard, and Australian Border Force.
- It is based on the Wilmington Declaration adopted at the QUAD Leaders' Summit in 2024.
- The mission reflects the collective resolve of the QUAD to strengthen a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- India's involvement underlines its strategic SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine and supports its broader Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

