

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 15 June 2026



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RAJASTHAN



World's First RTI Living Museum: Narbad Kheda (Beawar)



Why in News?

- The world's first 'RTI (Right to Information) Living Museum' is being established in Narbad Kheda (Beawar).

विश्व का पहला RTI लिविंग म्यूजियम : नरबद खेड़ा (ब्यावर)



Key Points:

- **Construction:** This museum is being constructed and operated by the 'School for Democracy' and the 'Mazdoor Kisaan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)'.

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- It is noteworthy that the country's first protest, demanding the implementation of the 'Right to Information' law took place in Beawar on April 6, 1996; during this event, the 'Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan' staged a 40-day sit-in protest to demand transparency in information.
- The newly constructed RTI museum is being designed to document the history of the RTI movement alongside the provisions of the Right to Information Act. **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:**
- **Passed by Parliament:** On June 15, 2005.
- **Implementation:** All its sections became fully effective and operational across the country on October 12, 2005.
- **Main Objective:** To empower citizens and promote transparency and accountability in government functioning. This Act enables Indian democracy to truly work for the people.
- This Act is enforceable at all levels of government, including central, state, and local bodies.
- Section 8(2) (Principle of Public Interest) and Section 22 (Overriding effect of the Act) of the RTI Act, 2005, are its most significant and powerful provisions, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Note:** The RTI application filed by Shahid Raza Burney, a resident of Pune (Maharashtra), was the first one filed under this law.
- **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019:** Under the original RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners held office for a term of 5 years or until attaining the age of 65, whichever was earlier, and their salaries and service conditions were equivalent to those of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners; however, under the Amendment Act, their tenure is now determined by the Central Government.

Daily Current Affairs



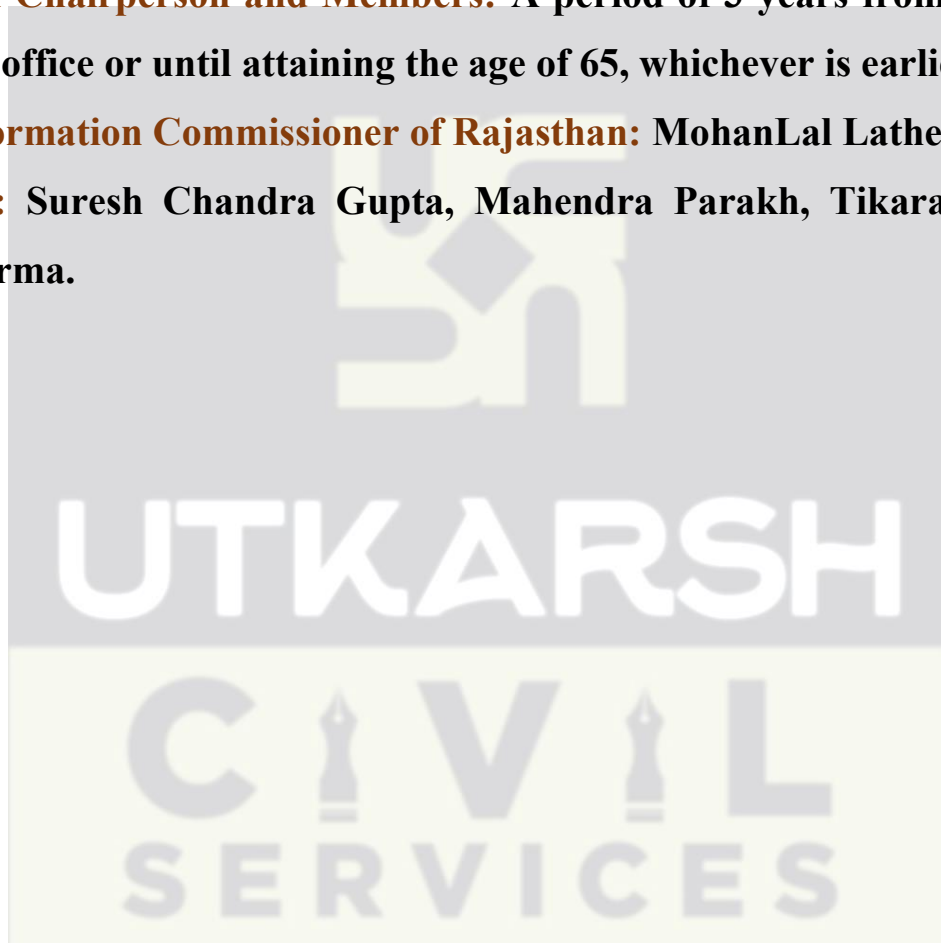
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Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan State Information Commission:

- **Constitution:** On April 18, 2006, under Section 15 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- **Tenure of Chairperson and Members:** A period of 3 years from the date of assuming office or until attaining the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- **Chief Information Commissioner of Rajasthan:** MohanLal Lather.
- **Members:** Suresh Chandra Gupta, Mahendra Parakh, Tikaram Sharma, Sunil Sharma.



Rajasthan Ranks First Nationwide in 12 National Programs/Schemes



Why in News?

- Demonstrating excellence in governance and policy implementation, Rajasthan has secured the top position nationwide across 12 major national programs and schemes.

(**Data:** Based on impact features published by the Government of Rajasthan in newspapers, up to June 2026.)



Key Points:

S. No.	Programme / Scheme Name	Description
1	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	18 crore policies issued during the Kharif Season 2025 and 1.71 crore policies during the Rabi Season 2025–26.
2	PM-KUSUM Scheme (Component-A)	Implementation and installation of renewable and solar energy projects.
3	PM-KUSUM Scheme (Component-C)	Performance measured based on the number of solar-powered feeders established.
4	International Day of Yoga 2025	Participation of 8.5 million people across 62,915 locations.
5	Organ Donation and Transplantation	Achieved National Award and secured First Position in 2025.
6	SBM (G) – Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2025	Ranked first in the transformation of targeted units.
7	Fit India Freedom Run 2024	Out of 10,443 events conducted nationwide, 6,202 were organized in Rajasthan alone.
8	Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra	Organized 11,209 camps and facilitated 5.94 lakh new LPG connections under the Ujjwala scheme.
9	Tribal Welfare and Empowerment	Recognized as the Best Performing State under the Dharati Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.
10	Tobacco Control Programme	Received the Special Tobacco Control Award 2026 from the World Health Organization for outstanding work.
11	Mineral Blocks	Demonstrated exemplary performance in auction processes.
12	Poshan Pakhwada 2026	Secured First Position in campaign activities.

Rajasthan (Allotment of Plots in Salt Areas) Amendment Rules, 2026



Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan (Allotment of Plots in Salt Areas) Amendment Rules, 2026, were implemented by the state government to boost the salt industry and protect the interests of salt producers.



Key Points:

- Significant changes have been made to the existing allotment processes and lease rules. Under the new rules, plot allotment for the salt industry will now be conducted via e-auction; previously, the process was lottery-based.
- According to the amendment rules, in districts where saline land is available for salt production, the allotment process can only proceed after the survey, demarcation, and measurement of the plots.
- Previously, approximately 300 salt-producing units in the state were unable to renew their leases because there was no provision for renewal after the lease had expired. The state government has provided relief to these salt producers by granting a one-time six-month exemption.
- Major saltwater lakes of Rajasthan:** Saltwater lakes are predominantly found in the northwestern region of the state due to the presence of mica-schist rocks.

Lake Name	Associated District
Sambhar Lake	Jaipur, Nagaur, and Ajmer
Rewasa Lake	Sikar
Pachpadra Lake	Balotra
Didwana Lake	Didwana–Kuchaman
Kachhor Lake	Sikar
Kuchaman Lake	Didwana–Kuchaman
Lunkaransar Lake	Bikaner
Nawa Lake	Didwana–Kuchaman
Phalodi Lake	Phalodi
Kavod Lake	Jaisalmer
Degana Lake	Nagaur

- Note:** 80–90 percent of Rajasthan's salt production comes from Sambhar Lake alone. Sambhar is the largest saltwater lake in Rajasthan and the third-largest in the country.

Rajasthan's First 'Defence and Aerospace Park': Udaipur Khurd (Kishangarh)



Why in News?

- Rajasthan's first 'Defence and Aerospace Park' is being developed at Udaipur Khurd in Kishangarh (Ajmer)



Key Points:

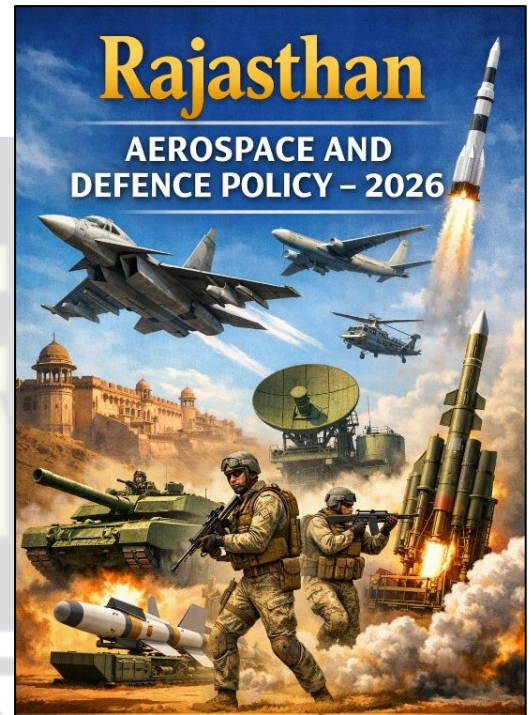
- Spanning 59 hectares, this hub will house state-of-the-art manufacturing units and testing ranges for sniper rifles, weapons, drones, and aircraft components.

Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026:

- The 'Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026' has been implemented with the aim of promoting defence and space technology in Rajasthan and establishing the state as a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.
- **Approval:** By the Rajasthan Cabinet on January 21, 2026.
- **Launch:** By the Chief Minister on March 18, 2026, during the 'Entrepreneur Dialogue Ceremony' (Udyami Samvad Samaroh) held in Jaipur.

Provisions:

- This policy places special emphasis on the development of MSMEs, startups, and an innovation-based ecosystem.
- The policy covers aerospace and defence manufacturing units, equipment and component manufacturers, suppliers, and precision engineering units.
- MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) units will be promoted.
- This policy represents a significant step towards promoting defence and space technology in the state and establishing Rajasthan as a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.



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- **Classification of projects based on investment:** The policy issued by the Rajasthan Government classifies projects based on the investment amount.

Manufacturing Sector:

- ₹50–300 crore – Large Project.
- ₹300–1000 crore – Mega Project.
- Above ₹1000 crore – Ultra Mega Project.

Service Sector:

- ₹25–100 crore – Large Project.
- ₹100–250 crore – Mega Project.
- Above ₹250 crore – Ultra Mega Project.

Key Incentives:

- **Asset Creation Incentive:** Under the policy, eligible aerospace and defense manufacturing and service enterprises established in Aero & Defence Parks (A&DP) will be granted an investment subsidy in the form of a 75% reimbursement of state taxes for 7 years as an asset creation incentive.
- Enterprises will have the option to choose between either a capital subsidy (distributed over 10 years, ranging from 20% to 28% for manufacturing enterprises and 14% to 20% for the service sector) or a turnover-linked incentive (ranging from 1.2% to 2%, payable in annual installments over 10 years).
- Additionally, benefits such as a 10–15% 'Employment Booster' (as a top-up on these incentives), a 25% 'Sunrise Booster' for the first three Mega or Ultra Mega units, a 10% 'Anchor Booster', and a 20% 'Thrust Booster' will also be provided.
- Mega and Ultra Mega manufacturing enterprises acquiring land from RIICO will be eligible for benefits including flexible land payment terms for 10 years and a 25% lease rental subsidy for office space for 5 years.
- The policy also includes provisions for special incentives, such as waivers on banking, wheeling, and transmission charges; a flexible land payment model; office-space lease rental subsidies; and the inclusion of 51% of the investment made in captive power plants as 'eligible fixed capital investment'.

Governing Council Meeting of West Zone Cultural Center (WZCC)



Why in News?

- Recently, the Governing Council meeting of 'West Zone Cultural Centre' was held in Goa.



Key Points:

- **Meeting chaired by:** Rajasthan Governor, Haribhau Bagde.
- **Objective:** To make effective efforts for the preservation of endangered visual and performing arts.
- It is noteworthy that the Governing Council consists of persons nominated by the Government of India not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, persons nominated by the participating State Governments and eminent personalities from various art forms.

Facts for Prelims (West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur):

- **Establishment:** Between 1985 and 1987.
- **Chairman:** Governor of Rajasthan.
- **Headquarters:** Bagor Ki Haveli, Udaipur.
- **Objective:** To preserve the cultural diversity of Western India through performing arts, visual arts, folk arts, traditional arts and tribal arts.
- **States and UTs included:** Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- West Zone Cultural Center was the first center in India to establish 'Shilpgram'.
- This center organizes 'Shilpgram Utsav' every year in the last week of December at Shilpgram in Udaipur.
- **Note:** From April 01, 2024 to March 31, 2026, 5961 artists have been benefited by organizing 114 core cultural programs by the West Zone Cultural Centre.

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NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	Yuva Aapda Mitra Yojana ■ The 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Yojana' is a significant initiative run by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Rajasthan Police/SDRF, aimed at training youth in disaster management and relief-and-rescue operations. ■ Under this scheme, 12,650 volunteers across 13 disaster-prone districts of the state are being provided with specialized 7-day residential training. ■ At the training camps, youth associated with the NCC, NSS, Nehru Yuva Kendra, and Scouts & Guides are receiving training in search and rescue, first aid, rope rescue, and emergency response. ■ Venue: NCC Complex, Jaipur.
2.	Khushvi Chaudhary: Got her name Entered in 'India Book of Records' ■ Khushvi Chaudhary, a 5-year-old skater from Barmer, recently inscribed her name in the India Book of Records by covering a distance of 100 meters in 19 seconds on roller skates.
3.	Obesity Summit India – 2026 ■ Event: Held in Jaipur on June 13 and 14, 2026. ■ Organizer: Endocrine Society of India (Rajasthan Chapter). ■ Note: The Medical Department of Rajasthan has launched 'Mission Obi-Loss' to curb the threat of obesity and prevent

obesity-related ailments such as high blood pressure, heart disease, fatty liver, knee pain, diabetes, and cancer.

4.

Rajasthan at Cadet National Judo Championship

- **Event:** Held in Chandigarh from June 10 to 13.
- **Rajasthan's Performance:** One gold, two silver, and three bronze medals.

5.

'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' Tax-Free in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government has officially declared the film 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata', starring actress and MP Kangana Ranaut, tax-free.
- The film is based on the true events of the 2008 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. It depicts the extraordinary courage and patriotism displayed by doctors, nurses, and medical staff at Mumbai's Cama Hospital in saving the lives of approximately 400 patients during the terrorist attack.

CIVIL SERVICES



NATIONAL



Dhiraj Seth

[Source: PIB]



Key Points:

- The government has appointed the current Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, as the next Chief of Army Staff, effective June 30, 2026. He will succeed the incumbent Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi.
- Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

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Jaspal Rana

[Source: AIR]



Key Points:

- Indian shooter and Asian Games gold medalist Jaspal Rana has passed away in New Delhi.
- Rana served as a coach for Indian pistol shooters. He trained Manu Bhaker in shooting and helped her win two bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



Economic Developments



Employment Scenario of India

[Source: Indian express]



Why in News?

- Recent public debates and youth-led protests have drawn renewed attention to the issue of employment in India.



Key Points:

Employment Indicators

- **Unemployment Rate (UER):** The unemployment rate measures the percentage of unemployed individuals in the labor force.
- It is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed persons who are actively looking for work by the total labor force.
- **Labor force participation rate (LFPR):** LFPR refers to the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or actively looking for employment.
- **Employment rate (ER):** The employment rate measures the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

Key Trends of Employment in India (2016-17 to 2025-26)

- **Decline in overall employment rate:** India's employment rate is projected to decline from about 42.7% in 2016-17 to 38.7% in 2025-26.
- Although the number of employed persons increased from about 406 million to 438 million, the growth in employment failed to keep pace with the expansion of the working-age population.
- **Trends by gender:** The employment rate for men declined from about 70.5% to 64.8%.



- The female employment rate declined from approximately 11.8% to 9.4%.
- **Age-wise trends:** Employment rates have declined across most age groups, with only marginal improvements recorded in the 25-29 years and 55-59 years categories.
- **Educational groups affected:** Employment rates declined at all educational levels, although the decline was sharper among those with lower educational attainment and relatively smaller among graduates.

Major reasons for employment related challenges

- **Jobless growth:** Economic growth has been concentrated in capital-intensive sectors, which generate limited employment opportunities. The labor-intensive manufacturing sector has not expanded enough to accommodate the growing workforce.
- **Challenges of structural change:** A large share of workers still depend on low-productivity agriculture and the transition from agriculture to manufacturing and modern services has been slower than expected.
- **Skills mismatch:** Educational outcomes often do not match industry requirements.
- **Slow globalization:** Increasing protectionism, trade restrictions and global economic uncertainties have reduced export-based employment opportunities.
- **Technological disruption:** Automation and artificial intelligence are transforming labor markets. Routine and repetitive tasks are becoming increasingly vulnerable to technological replacement.
- **Low participation of women in the workforce:** Social norms, safety concerns, inadequate child care facilities and pay disparities continue to limit women's participation in the workforce.

Why is employment more important than GDP growth?

- GDP growth reflects the expansion of economic output, but it is not directly related to job creation.
- Sustained job creation improves incomes, reduces poverty, increases social mobility and strengthens domestic demand.
- Employment-intensive growth is essential to realize India's demographic dividend.

Government Initiatives for Employment Generation

- **National Career Services Portal:** A digital platform that provides all facilities at one place for job seekers to get career counselling, vocational guidance and information on both government and private vacancies.
- **Rural Self-Employment and Training Institutes:** Provide entrepreneurship and vocational training for self-employment.
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihood Mission:** Enhances livelihood opportunities for the urban poor through skill development and self-employment support.
- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbahar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):** This scheme provides working capital loans without any guarantee to street vendors to support their livelihood and promote self-employment.
- **PM Vishwakarma Yojana:** The scheme provides skill development, credit assistance and market linkages to traditional artisans and craftsmen to increase their income and employment opportunities.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:** Provides loans without any guarantee to micro and small enterprises to promote entrepreneurship and employment generation.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** Industry-related skill training is provided to youth to increase employability and workforce participation.

16th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- The 16th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers, held under India's presidency, concluded successfully on June 12 and 13, 2026, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



Key Points:

- Detailed deliberations on 4 priorities:
 1. Priority 1 – Food security, nutrition, and livelihoods
 2. Priority 2 – Agricultural trade and cooperation
 3. Priority 3 – Regenerative farming, climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture
 4. Priority 4 – Strengthening cooperation for innovation and investment to future-proof agriculture and food systems

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Outcomes: Joint Declaration – BRICS Indore Declaration:

1. **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence for Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture:** An agreement to establish a BRICS network of Centres of Excellence for agroecology and regenerative agriculture, with initial coordination by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, India.
2. **'Network on Digital Agriculture':** Member countries also agreed to establish a 'Network on Digital Agriculture'. This platform will foster cooperation in artificial intelligence, geospatial technologies, digital public infrastructure, and data-driven agricultural solutions.
3. **'Global Platform on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems':** This includes the launch of a 'Global Platform on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems', aimed at protecting and promoting farmers' rights while acknowledging traditional knowledge, seed heritage, and the contributions of farmers.
4. **'BRICS Agrin':** BRICS member countries also agreed to establish the 'BRICS Agrin' (Agro-inputs, Genetic Resources and Information Network) framework to strengthen cooperation regarding seeds, agricultural inputs, and genetic resources.

'Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra'

[Source: PIB]



Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra

Your WhatsApp Friend for Right Knowledge & Sustainable Farming

Have questions about Oilseed crops?
Just ask on WhatsApp!

Available 24x7 | Answers in your own language | Guidance on Cultivation of Oilseeds

Trusted Scientific Knowledge

Get Instant Answers & Advisory



Save this number as "Kisaan Mitra"

WhatsApp Now: +91 4024598180

An Initiative of
ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad

Knowledge partners: ICAR-NSRI, IIGR, DMR, PC-Unit (Sesame & Niger) & AICRPs
Bringing smart farming information directly to every farmer's phone



Why in News?

- 'Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra' a WhatsApp-based AI advisory service developed by the Hyderabad-based ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research is emerging as a powerful tool. It delivers reliable, research-based knowledge regarding oilseed cultivation directly to farmers' mobile phones, anytime and in their own languages.



Key Points:

- **Launch:** The service was launched by the Secretary of DARE and the Director General of ICAR during the National Oilseeds Conference held in New Delhi on February 6, 2026.
- **Development:** By ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad.
- **Collaboration:** The knowledge base was created in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Soybean Research (Indore), Indian Institute of Groundnut Research (Junagadh), Indian Institute of Rapeseed-Mustard Research (Bharatpur), and the PC-Unit (Sesame and Niger), comprehensively covering all major oilseed crops across India's diverse agro-climatic zones.

Key Features of the Platform:

1. **Comprehensive coverage for oilseed crops:** It provides accurate, location-specific advice for all major domestic oilseed groups, including groundnut, mustard, sesame, sunflower, soybean, and niger.
2. **Full multilingual integration:** It features a Natural Language Processing (NLP) architecture that understands and instantly responds in all official Indian regional languages (including Hindi, Kannada, Gujarati, Telugu, and Malayalam).
3. **Complete guidance for the crop cycle.**

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

World Wind Day, 2026

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- World Wind Day is observed annually on June 15 to promote wind energy and highlight its role in combating climate change.



Key Points:

- India hosted the World Wind Day 2026 conference in Goa on June 15, 2026, under the theme "Wind Energy: Ambition to Acceleration."
- **Objective:** Wind energy is crucial for India's goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity and net-zero emissions by 2070, with interim targets of 100 GW by 2030 and 155 GW by 2035.

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India's Wind Energy Landscape:

- India's estimated gross wind energy potential is 695.5 GW at a height of 120 meters and 1,163.9 GW at 150 meters above ground level.
- The majority of the estimated energy potential at 150 meters is concentrated in eight high-resource states: Rajasthan (284.2 GW), Gujarat (180.8 GW), Maharashtra (173.9 GW), Karnataka (169.3 GW), Andhra Pradesh (123.3 GW), Tamil Nadu (95.1 GW), Madhya Pradesh (55.4 GW), and Telangana (54.7 GW).
- India's vast wind resource base provides a strong foundation for achieving wind capacities of 100 GW by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036.

Wind Capacity and Generation Growth:

- India ranks fourth globally in installed wind energy capacity.
- Installed wind energy capacity rose from 21.04 GW in March 2014 to 56.09 GW by March 2026, a 2.66-fold increase with an additional 28 GW currently under development.
- India recorded its highest-ever annual increase in installed wind energy capacity of 6.05 GW in 2025-26, surpassing the previous record of 4.15 GW set in 2024-25.
- Wind turbine manufacturing capacity increased from 10 GW in 2014 to approximately 24 GW by March 2026.
- The sector has achieved 70–80% indigenization across all critical components.

Key Government Initiatives:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** VGF of ₹6,853 crore was approved for 1,000 MW of offshore wind projects, comprising 500 MW each off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- **Green Energy Open Access Rules:** These rules were implemented to facilitate the direct procurement of renewable energy by industries.

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- **Global Partnerships in Wind Energy:** India is strengthening wind energy collaborations with the UK, Denmark, and Belgium to accelerate the sector's growth.
- 1. **India-United Kingdom:** The India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce was launched in February 2026 under 'Vision 2035' and the 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue.
- 2. **India-Belgium:** At the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026, India and Belgium reaffirmed their cooperation in offshore wind, research and development, and green taxonomy.
- 3. **India-Denmark:** In 2019, India signed a cooperation agreement with Denmark's Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate for offshore wind capacity building.



Reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Agricultural Biodiversity: Dr. P.L. Gautam

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has reconstituted the Expert Committee on Agricultural Biodiversity for a period of one year under Section 13(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The committee aims to provide expert guidance on the conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit-sharing, and related matters concerning agricultural biodiversity.



Key Points:

- **Background:** The Expert Committee on Agricultural Biodiversity has been a vital advisory body to the NBA since 2005 and is periodically reconstituted to address emerging issues related to agricultural genetic resources.
- **New Chairperson:** Dr. P.L. Gautam, a Padma Shri awardee in the field of agricultural sciences.
- **Members:** The reconstituted committee comprises eminent experts and senior representatives from key institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the National Bureaus of Plant, Animal, and Fish Genetic Resources, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the National Innovation Foundation, NALSAR University of Law, and other prominent research and academic organizations.
- **Significance:** This committee will assist in achieving India's updated NBSAP Targets 4 and 13. It will also contribute to the realization of SDG-2 (Zero Hunger), SDG-13 (Climate Action), and SDG-15 (Life on Land) through the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural genetic resources, indigenous crop varieties, and livestock diversity.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Project Kusha

[Source: THE HINDU]



Why in News?

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence system as a potential game-changer for India's security architecture.



Key Points:

Project Kusha

- Project Kusha is an indigenous, long-range surface-to-air missile system being developed by the DRDO to provide a multi-layered air defence against various types of aerial threats.
- The system is designed to rival advanced platforms like Russia's S-400 Triumf and will feature three interceptor variants:
 - o M1 interceptor with a range of approximately 150 km.
 - o M2 interceptor with a range of approximately 250 km.
 - o M3 interceptor with a range of 350–400 km.
- The system aims to counter threats such as fighter aircraft (including stealth platforms), drones, cruise missiles, precision-guided munitions, and certain ballistic missiles.
- This project is also linked to the broader "Mission Sudarshan Chakra," an initiative launched with the objective of creating a multi-layered air and missile defence shield for India by 2035.
- It is expected to become operational between 2028 and 2030.

India's First Indigenous 'Varya' Video AI Model

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has officially unveiled "Varya," India's first indigenous AI model capable of generating short video stories.



Key Points:

- **Introduction:** Varya is a groundbreaking, indigenous foundation AI video model engineered using advanced machine learning distillation.
- It functions as a generative text-to-video and image-to-video platform, designed to transform simple written ideas, prompts, or uploaded images into high-quality, dynamic digital stories.
- **Objective:** The model aims to create and understand culturally rich visual representations reflecting India's diverse regions, festivals, communities, cuisine, attire, public spaces, and everyday life.
- **Development:** By the AI-driven transformation company 'Avataar'.

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Key Features:

1. **Cost-Efficiency:** According to Avataar's internal cost-estimation benchmarks, Varya can generate video at a cost of ₹0.48 per second, making it 10 times more cost-efficient than many leading global video models.
2. **Power of Distilled Video Generation:** It reduces the video generation process from 50 steps to just 4 steps while maintaining comparable output quality.
3. **Workflow:** The product experience is based on a simple premise: Idea → Video → Story. Users can write their ideas, upload images, and generate videos.

Other Important Points:

- **Avataar:** Avtar is an AI-driven transformation company that builds domain-specific AI products. These products help enterprises enhance efficiency, develop new operational models, and build secure, IP-based capabilities.
- **Distilled Video Generation:** Distilled video generation is a model compression technique in machine learning where a compact "student" model replicates the output of a large, slow "teacher" model, thereby transferring capabilities while eliminating unnecessary computations. Varya is utilizing this groundbreaking technology for video for the first time in India.