

WEEKLY GK NOTES- 23 to 29th JUNE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. U.S. Embassy in India Mandates Public Social Media Profiles for Student & Exchange Visa Applicants:

The U.S. Embassy in India has announced an expanded vetting policy: all applicants for F-1, M-1, and J-1 non-immigrant visas, primarily students and exchange visitors, must now set their personal social media accounts to public before their visa interviews. This change is part of a broader U.S. State Department directive (issued June 18, 2025) requiring more comprehensive online screening to establish “identity and admissibility”, including signs of “hostile attitudes” toward the U.S. and aims to bolster national security. Visa appointments, which were briefly suspended in late May to expand vetting protocols, have now resumed. However, applicants who fail to conform to the public-profile requirement may face delays, refusals, or heightened scrutiny. The directive underscores that a U.S. visa remains a privilege, not a right, with every application treated as a national-security decision.

2. Iran Launches “Operation Basharat al-Fath,” Striking U.S. Bases in Qatar:

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched at least six ballistic missiles at the U.S. Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar on June 23, 2025, as part of a retaliatory campaign dubbed “Operation Basharat al-Fath” (“Annunciation of Victory”) in response to U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites the previous weekend. Qatar temporarily closed its airspace and activated air defences ahead of the strike. Qatari and coalition Patriot missile systems intercepted all incoming projectiles. 13 were shot down, and one landed harmlessly off-target, resulting in zero casualties or damage. Iran reportedly issued a warning to both the U.S. and Qatar to avoid casualties, framing the barrage as a symbolic response rather than an escalation.

3. South Korea Appoints First Civilian Defence Minister in 64 Years:

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South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has appointed veteran lawmaker Ahn Gyu-back as the country's first civilian Defence Minister in 64 years, fulfilling a key campaign pledge made after last December's martial law crisis under former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Lee, who took office on June 4 following a snap election triggered by Yoon's removal, also named ten other cabinet members, including former UN ambassador Cho Hyun as Foreign Minister and diplomat-turned-politician Chung Dong-Young as Unification Minister, signalling a drive to strengthen civilian oversight and diplomatic focus. While subject to legislative hearings, the nominations are expected to proceed smoothly thanks to the Democratic Party majority in the National Assembly. This landmark appointment breaks a longstanding tradition since 1961, all Defence Ministers had been military generals, marking a deliberate shift toward greater institutional control by elected leadership. It comes after the December martial law attempt, where Yoon deployed troops to the legislature, prompting public and legislative outcry. Ahn, who chaired the parliamentary investigation into that crisis during his tenure on the National Defence Committee, is seen as instrumental in restoring trust in military governance.

4. Asia Warming Nearly Twice as Fast as Global Average, WMO Warns:

According to the World Meteorological Organisation's State of the Climate in Asia 2024 report, Asia's land and ocean regions warmed nearly twice as fast as the global average, registering about 1.04 °C above the 1991–2020 baseline in 2024, making it the warmest or second-warmest year on record for the continent. This accelerated warming has fueled more frequent and intense heatwaves across East, Southeast, and Central Asia, including record temperatures in Japan, South Korea, China, and Myanmar, reaching 48.2 °C. Sea surface temperatures also surged, contributing to the worst marine heatwaves on record and surpassing global sea-level rise rates along Asia's coastlines. The report highlights cascading impacts: accelerated glacier melt in the Himalayas and Tian Shan (23 of 24 glaciers losing mass), escalating risks of lake outburst floods and landslides, disruptions to water security, and heightened frequency of extreme rainfall, droughts, tropical cyclones, and floods taking a heavy toll on regional economies, ecosystems, and societies.

5. Israel Confirms Pilots Returning, Ceasefire with Iran Now in Effect:

Israel has reported that its pilots are returning home from Iranian airspace, signalling that the ceasefire between Israel and Iran is now in effect. The pause in hostilities, brokered notably by

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former U.S. President Trump, follows intense exchanges of airstrikes and missile attacks between the two nations. Both sides had initially agreed to stand down, with U.S. intervention prompting Israeli jets to turn back mid-flight, leading to the formal cessation of active air operations. U.S. officials and allies are urging Israel and Iran to uphold the truce and resume diplomatic talks.

6. Fire-Ravaged Morning Midas Sinks Off Alaska:

The *Morning Midas*, a Liberian-flagged car carrier, caught fire on June 3 near the Aleutian Islands while transporting around 3,000 vehicles (including ~70 EVs and ~680 hybrids) to Mexico. Its crew of 22 was safely rescued after abandoning ship. Despite firefighting efforts, the blaze, likely sparked by lithium-ion batteries, severely damaged the vessel, which then sank on June 23 in waters about 5,000 m deep, roughly 415 miles off Alaska, due to heavy weather and water ingress. While no oil slick has been spotted, salvage tugs and pollution-response teams remain on-site as a precaution.

7. India Declines to Sign SCO Defence Communiqué over Terrorism Clause:

India, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, refused to endorse the joint communiqué at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, citing the omission of explicit language condemning terrorism, particularly the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which India attributes to Pakistan. This disagreement, triggered by objections from a "particular country", prevented the SCO from issuing any final statement, underscoring India's insistence on a unified, strong stance against terrorism within the group. As a result, no joint declaration was adopted, spotlighting persistent tensions among member states and India's prioritisation of clear counter-terror language in multilateral defence frameworks.

8. India Rejects Arbitration Over Kishenganga & Ratle Dams as "Illegal":

India's Ministry of External Affairs has firmly refused to recognise the jurisdiction of the Hague-based Court of Arbitration under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, calling its recent "supplemental award" on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects "illegal" and a "charade at Pakistan's behest". The MEA reiterated that the tribunal was constituted in violation of treaty provisions and declared that India has never legally acknowledged its status. Following the April Pahalgam terror

attack, India placed the treaty in abeyance and maintains that **no arbitration body retains authority** during this suspension.

9. ISIS India Chief Saquib Nachan Dies in Custody from Brain Haemorrhage:

Saquib Abdul Hamid Nachan, the alleged head of ISIS operations in India and former SIMI office-bearer, died at age 57 in Safdarjung Hospital on June 28, 2025, after suffering a brain haemorrhage while under judicial custody at Tihar Jail since his arrest in December 2023 during an NIA probe into an ISIS terror module. Nachan's health deteriorated on June 22, leading to his transfer first to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and subsequently to Safdarjung, where he passed away at 12:10 pm. He was convicted in earlier cases related to the 2002-03 Mumbai blasts and imprisoned for ten years before his release in 2017.

10. U.S. Senate Slashes Proposed NRI Remittance Tax to 1%:

The U.S. Senate's updated One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA) has trimmed the remittance tax for NRIs from a proposed 3.5% down to 1%, offering significant relief to the Indian diaspora. Transfers made from U.S. bank accounts or with U.S.-issued debit/credit cards are fully exempt, meaning most formal remittances won't be hit by the tax. Experts note that because everyday transfers via regulated channels fall outside the tax scope, the majority of NRIs likely won't be affected, especially if they stick to digital or bank-based remittance platforms.

11. Parliament Warns Against China's Expanding Footprint in Indian Ocean:

A Parliamentary Standing Committee report has raised alarm over China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), highlighting strategic threats including dual-use ports, survey vessels, and debt-driven infrastructure under the Belt and Road Initiative. With China now possessing military-capable facilities across the region and deploying research and surveillance ships, India faces increasing pressure to enhance its maritime presence. The panel urges India to expand naval deployments, strengthen domain awareness using space, unmanned systems, and regional intelligence-sharing, and deepen strategic ties with IOR nations through capacity-building and joint exercises efforts already seen in Africa-India drills, as key countermeasures.

12. YouTube Raises Live Streaming Age to 16 to Boost Teen Safety:

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YouTube will require users to be at least 16 years old to host live streams, up from the previous minimum of 13, effective July 22, 2025. Teens aged 13–15 can still stream but only with a visibly present adult, or they'll lose live chat functionality, be blocked from going live, and risk temporary or permanent suspension of streaming privileges. This update strengthens YouTube's strategy to protect younger users from potential risks like cyberbullying, privacy threats, and unsupervised real-time engagement. It also aligns with broader efforts by platforms like TikTok and Instagram to enhance digital safety for minors.

13. Russia Launches Largest Aerial Strike on Ukraine—500+ Weapons Deployed:

Overnight, Russia carried out its largest aerial assault to date, firing approximately 537 aerial weapons, including 477 drones and 60 missiles, targeting western, central, and southern Ukraine, with explosions heard in Lviv, Poltava, Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Cherkasy, and Kyiv. Ukraine's air defences shot down or jammed around 475 drones and 38 missiles. The attacks wounded at least six civilians, including a child, and caused significant damage to homes, schools, industrial sites, and infrastructure. In the fierce defence, Ukraine also lost its third F-16 fighter jet. Lt. Col. Maksym Ustymenko reportedly downed seven enemy targets before his aircraft was struck; the pilot did not survive.

NATIONAL NEWS

14. Adani's ANIL Unveils India's First Off-Grid 5 MW Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant in Kutch:

Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL), the clean-energy arm of Adani Enterprises, has successfully commissioned India's first off-grid 5 MW green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat. Completely solar-powered and backed by a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), the plant operates independently of the grid, a pioneering step in decentralised hydrogen production. The facility uses a fully automated, closed-loop electrolyser system capable of dynamically responding to fluctuating solar inputs, enhancing operational flexibility, efficiency, and safety. This breakthrough not only demonstrates technical feasibility but also sets a benchmark for clean hydrogen applications in hard-to-abate industries.

15. One-Third of Maoists Killed in Chhattisgarh Since 2024 Were Women:

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Since 2024, over one-third of Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh during security operations have been women, 74 out of 217 in 2024 and 82 of 195 up to mid-June 2025, highlighting both a rise in female Maoist participation and intensified counterinsurgency efforts. This surge coincides with the Union Home Ministry's directive to eradicate Maoism by March 2026, prompting escalated operations such as those in Bastar and Karregutta Hills. The ministry attributes the high number of women cadres to the coercion of Adivasi families, particularly through the recruitment of girls into "Bal Dastas", where many serve as frontline fighters or human shields, leading to their increased casualties. In a related development, recent operations in the Karregutta Hills resulted in 31 Maoists killed, including 16 women, while a Narayanpur raid neutralised 27 cadres—12 of whom were women in the security detail of top Maoist leader Basavaraju.

16. RPF Uses CEIR Tracking for Lost Phones Under 'Operation Amanat':

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched Operation Amanat, leveraging the Department of Telecommunications' Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal to block and trace lost or stolen mobile phones across India. Now, travellers who report missing devices either via the RailMadad app or by calling helpline 139 can have their phone's IMEI flagged in real-time. Once a flagged device is activated with a new SIM, the CEIR system alerts RPF officers, enabling them to trace and recover the phone for the owner. A successful pilot in the Northeast Frontier Railway has led to a nationwide rollout, significantly boosting the chances of phone recovery and discouraging theft.

17. India to Host International Potato Centre's South Asia Hub in Agra:

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) in Agra's Singna region, aimed at boosting potato and sweet potato research and farmer welfare in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and beyond. The facility will be set up on 10 hectares provided by the UP government, with India contributing ₹111.5 crore and CIP adding ₹60 crore part of a ₹171 crore initiative. Guided by the Agriculture Ministry and welcomed by UP CM Yogi Adityanath, the centre will develop high-yielding, climate-resilient tuber varieties, improve seed systems, post-harvest management, pest control, value-addition, and farmer training. Strategically positioned, the CSARC aims to turn India into a regional leader in tuber crop innovation, enhancing food security, incomes, jobs, and sustainability across South Asia.

18. India's First Sugarcane School Opens in Noida to Champion Sustainable Construction:

A pioneering school wing built entirely from Sugarcane blocks made from sugarcane bagasse has officially opened at Panchsheel Balak Inter College in Noida. The project is a collaboration between the University of East London (UEL), Indian firm Chemical Systems Technologies (CST), and PBIC, marking a major leap forward in low-carbon architecture in India. Developed in 2023 by UEL researchers, Sugarcane requires six times less carbon than traditional clay bricks and offers outstanding fire resistance, sound insulation, and thermal performance. The Noida structure, a durable classroom on a concrete base, assembled with interlocking blocks and lime mortar, features a ventilated clerestory roof and sheltered veranda, optimised for India's climate. Backed by additional workshops, monitoring collaborations with Delhi Technological University, and further Sugarcane projects in Hisar, the effort demonstrates both environmental and social innovation.

19. Adani Airports Secures \$1 Billion for Mumbai Expansion:

Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL), India's largest private airport operator, has secured \$1 billion in project financing for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL). The deal features issuance of \$750 million in notes maturing in July 2029, with an option to raise an additional \$250 million, aiming to support development, modernisation, and capacity expansion at MIAL. This transaction marks India's first investment-grade private bond issuance in the airport infrastructure sector, led by Apollo-managed funds and backed by major institutional investors, including BlackRock and Standard Chartered. The funding reinforces Adani's financial strength and global capital access, positioning the group to further its commitment to sustainable airport operations and net-zero goals by 2029.

20. India's DRDO Developing Hypersonic K-6 SLBM for S-5 Subs:

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is actively developing the K-6, a three-stage, solid-fuel submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) designed for the upcoming S-5 class nuclear submarines, with seaborne tests expected soon. The K-6 will be over 12 m long and 2 m in diameter, carrying a 2–3 tonne payload and equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs). It boasts a potential intercontinental range of around

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8,000 km and can travel at hypersonic speeds of Mach 7–7.5, making interception highly challenging. Development began in 2017 at DRDO's Advanced Naval Systems Laboratory in Hyderabad, building on experience from K-4 and K-5, to bolster India's sea-based nuclear deterrent and complete its nuclear triad.

21. CBSE to Hold Class 10 Board Exams Twice Yearly from 2026:

CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj has confirmed that starting 2026, Class 10 board exams will shift to a two-phase model: a mandatory February session and an optional May session, with the best score from either exam counting towards the final result. Internal assessments will occur just once per year, streamlining evaluation processes.

22. Cabinet Marks Emergency Anniversary, Green-lights Metro, Jharia Fire Plan & Agra Potato Hub:

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Modi, observed 50 years since the 1975 Emergency, adopting a resolution honouring citizens who resisted authoritarian rule, marking the moment with a two-minute silence and recalling early democratic movements like the Navnirman Andolan and Sampurna Kranti Abhiyan. In the same meeting, it approved major development projects: ₹3,626 crore for the Pune Metro expansion, a ₹5,940 crore revised master plan to extinguish century-old coal fires in Jharia, and ₹111 crore for creating the International Potato Centre's South Asia hub in Agra aimed at urban mobility, environmental restoration, and agricultural innovation.

23. India Has 1.44 Million “Zero-Dose” Children, Highlights Lancet Study:

A study published in *The Lancet* reveals that in 2023, 1.44 million children in India did not receive even a single dose of the DTP vaccine, the second-highest global figure after Nigeria, and are classified as “zero-dose” infants. Globally, there were 15.7 million zero-dose children in 2023, marking a troubling resurgence after decades of progress being made before 2010. The study notes that while immunisation coverage saw strong gains through 2010, it has stagnated or declined over the past decade, worsened by disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic and rising misinformation. Notably, measles vaccine coverage dropped in 100 of 204 countries between 2010 and 19, and diphtheria, polio, and TB vaccinations also fell, even in high-income nations.

24. Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Makes History With ISS Docking:

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On June 26, 2025, the Dragon capsule Grace from Axiom Mission-4 successfully docked with the International Space Station, marking a historic achievement as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to enter the ISS. After launching from Kennedy Space Centre aboard a Falcon 9, Grace achieved soft docking at approximately 4:02 PM IST, followed by full docking by 4:16 PM IST. The mission, which spans 14 days under the command of veteran NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, represents a significant leap for India's human spaceflight aspirations and complements ISRO's Gaganyaan programme.

25. UP to Build a 1,000-acre International Film City in Greater Noida:

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the International Film City project near the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida, in collaboration with filmmaker Boney Kapoor and the Bhutani Group. Spanning 1,000 acres, the development will be executed in four phases over eight years, with Phase One covering 230 acres, featuring 13–14 sound stages, a film and media institute, outdoor shooting sets, and even an underwater studio. YEIDA has approved the reclaimed land after resolving earlier planning issues, and construction, including the first phase costing around ₹1,510 crore, is slated to begin soon. The mega-project is projected to create up to 500,000 jobs, leverage local talent through training programs, enhance the region's media infrastructure, and position itself as a global filming destination near the upcoming Jewar airport

26. Ayodhya to Get 300-Bed Super-Speciality Hospital Along Ram Path:

Ayodhya's administration has announced plans to convert the old Sitapur Eye Hospital site in Sahabganj into a 300-bed super-speciality hospital, ideally located between Ayodhya Cantt and Ayodhya Dham on the prominent Ram Path, offering improved access for patients and referrals. District officials confirmed that the 3.16-acre site across 48 land parcels will be transferred free of cost, with the first ₹48 crore instalment of a ₹163.7 crore budget already released under an EPC contract, including doctors' housing on campus. The central location—just 2.5 km from the district hospital, 4 km from Shri Ram Hospital, 6 km from the medical college, and 5 km from the Ram Janmabhoomi will notably enhance emergency transport and healthcare support for pilgrims and locals alike.

27. India's Camikara 3YO Wins Gold at Rum & Cachaça Masters 2025:

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India's first-ever pure cane juice aged rum, Camikara 3YO, crafted by Piccadilly Agro Industries, has won a Gold Medal in the prestigious Rum & Cachaça Masters Awards 2025 held in London, becoming the first Indian rum ever to do so. Made entirely from fresh sugarcane juice without molasses, additives, colour or sugar and aged in oak barrels, Camikara is inspired by the Rhum Agricole style and showcases India's rising prominence in premium spirits. Shalini Sharma, Head of Marketing, said it signals "a moment of pride for India," proving that Indian homegrown spirits can lead on the global stage rather than follow. This gold medal underscores a shift in the perception of Indian rum from being molasses-based to one rooted in native, artisanal craftsmanship.

28. UP Mandates Postmortems Within Four Hours, Says Deputy CM:

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Brajesh Pathak, with Principal Secretary Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma, has introduced statewide guidelines requiring postmortems to be completed within four hours of a body's arrival at mortuaries to reduce trauma for grieving families. In high-caseload districts, multiple doctor teams must be deployed, and 24/7 postmortem facilities with 1,000-watt lighting must be ensured; night autopsies for sensitive cases (murder, suicide, sexual assault, mutilation, suspicious deaths) are allowed only with DM approval, otherwise deferred. For deaths involving police encounters, police custody, crimes against women, or women within ten years of marriage, videography is mandatory, with costs borne by government bodies, not families, and female doctors must be present on panels. Additional mandates include online report uploads, DNA sampling for unidentified bodies, and each district must maintain two mortuary vans and IT staff at postmortem centres. These measures aim to enhance efficiency, transparency, and dignity in handling postmortems across the state.

29. India Post to Accept UPI Payments at Counters from August 2025:

The Department of Posts will roll out UPI-enabled dynamic QR code payments at all post office counters across India starting August 2025, after upgrading its IT system under the "IT 2.0" initiative. A successful pilot in Karnataka (Mysore and Bagalkot) demonstrated smooth integration, paving the way for nationwide adoption, eliminating cash dependency and enhancing convenience for rural and urban customers alike.

30. New Dual-Colour Number Plates Proposed for Hydrogen-Powered Vehicles:

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The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has drafted a notification to introduce dual-colour number plates for hydrogen vehicles, aiding identification and supporting green mobility efforts. Commercial hydrogen vehicles will feature a green top and blue bottom with yellow figures, while private vehicles will have the same background with white figures. Rental cabs running on hydrogen will display a black top and blue bottom plate with yellow figures.

31. Bihar Launches Special Electoral Roll Revision Amid Controversy:

Bihar has begun its first full-scale Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls since 2003, launching a month-long door-to-door exercise requiring 2.93 crore voters, about 37% of the state's electorate, to provide proof of birth and parentage documents, particularly those born after 1987. Opposition parties, including the INDIA bloc and Congress, warn that the tight timeline and documentation requirements may disenfranchise poor, Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim, and migrant communities, branding the move "exclusionary" and likening it to a backdoor National Register of Citizens. Tejashwi Yadav described it as a "mountainous challenge" for vulnerable voters. The Election Commission, however, defends the revision as essential under Article 326 of the Constitution to maintain clean and accurate electoral rolls. It highlights that around 4.96 crore voters already listed in 2003 only need to verify details, not submit documents. Over 1 lakh volunteers and 77,895 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been deployed to assist vulnerable groups.

32. Parag Jain Appointed New RAW Chief, Succeeds Ravi Sinha:

Senior IPS officer Parag Jain (1989-batch, Punjab cadre) will assume charge as Chief of India's external intelligence agency, R&AW, from July 1, 2025, succeeding Ravi Sinha. Known for his pivotal role in Operation Sindoor, which led to precision strikes on militant camps in Pakistan, Jain brings extensive experience in both human and technical intelligence. His strategic acumen has been sharpened through sensitive assignments in Jammu & Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Punjab, positioning him to lead R&AW during a critical period of regional security challenges.

33. Suicide the Second Leading Cause of Death for Young Indians (15–29):

According to data from India's Sample Registration System (SRS) on causes of death for 2020–22, suicide accounted for 17.1% of all deaths among individuals aged 15–29, making it the second

most common cause after road accidents in that age group. This alarming trend reflects a persistent crisis: for nearly two decades, suicides and motor vehicle accidents have consistently ranked as the top killers of Indian youth. Furthermore, SRS historical data (2017–19) show that road accidents accounted for 18.4% of deaths in this demographic, with suicide responsible for 17.4%, closely following behind.

34. India to Begin Two-Phase Census with Housing Data from April 2026:

The Registrar General of India has announced that the 16th Census will be conducted in two phases: the Houselisting Operation starts April 1, 2026, collecting data on housing conditions, amenities, and assets, followed by Population Enumeration on February 1, 2027, gathering demographic, socio-economic, cultural, and caste details. Over 3.4 million enumerators and supervisors will be appointed across the country, supported by around 130,000 census functionaries. States and districts will assist in recruitment planning ahead of the April 2026 launch. This marks the first caste enumeration since 1931, aligning with constitutional and administrative imperatives and laying the groundwork for future national demographic updates.

35. Delhi Plans First-Ever Artificial Rain to Combat Pollution:

Delhi will conduct its first cloud seeding trials between July 4 and 11, 2025, aiming to induce artificial rain to wash away air pollutants. IIT Kanpur has submitted a flight plan to IMD Pune, and the DGCA has been approached for backup scheduling flexibility, as confirmed by Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa. If successful, this ₹3.21 crore pilot could pave the way for wider use of weather modification to tackle the capital's frequent smog crises

SPORTS

36. Neeraj Chopra Wins Ostrava Golden Spike Javelin with 85.29 m:

Reigning world champion Neeraj Chopra claimed his third victory of the season at the 64th Ostrava Golden Spike (World Athletics Continental Tour – Gold) event, launching the javelin 85.29 m on his third attempt to secure gold. South Africa's Douw Smit and Grenada's Anderson Peters finished second and third with throws of 84.12 m (a personal best) and 83.63 m, respectively. Chopra will

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next compete in the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium on July 5.

37. Lando Norris Wins Austrian GP as Verstappen Crashes Out:

Lando Norris secured his seventh career F1 victory at the Austrian Grand Prix on June 29, holding off a fierce challenge from McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to complete a commanding 1–2 finish for the team. Norris started from pole and battled wheel-to-wheel with Piastri throughout the race, ultimately closing the championship gap to 15 points. The race took a dramatic turn on Lap 3 when Max Verstappen collided with Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli, forcing both out of contention, ending Verstappen's challenge at his home track.

Final top three:

1. Lando Norris (McLaren)
2. Oscar Piastri (McLaren)
3. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)

Weekly Quiz (23rd June – 29th June)

1. What new visa policy was introduced by the U.S. Embassy in India for student applicants?
 - a) Mandatory in-person interviews
 - b) Proof of family income
 - c) Public social media profiles
 - d) Physical health certification
2. What was the name of Iran's retaliatory strike on U.S. bases in Qatar?
 - a) Operation Zulfiqar
 - b) Operation Shahid Soleimani
 - c) Operation Basharat al-Fath
 - d) Operation Martyrs of Quds
3. Who became South Korea's first civilian Defence Minister in 64 years?
 - a) Chung Dongyoung
 - b) Cho Hyun
 - c) Ahn Gyuback
 - d) Kim Tae-hyo
4. What caused the fire on the Morning Midas ship off Alaska?
 - a) LPG leakage
 - b) Lithium-ion battery failure
 - c) Oil engine explosion
 - d) Diesel tank ignition
5. Why did India refuse to sign the SCO Defence Communiqué?
 - a) Territorial dispute
 - b) Lack of trade agreements
 - c) Omission of terrorism clause
 - d) Absence of nuclear non-proliferation reference

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6. What decision did India take on the arbitration ruling over Kishenganga & Ratle dams?
 - a) Accepted with reservations
 - b) Agreed to renegotiate
 - c) Rejected as illegal
 - d) Temporarily paused implementation
7. Which Indian city will host the International Potato Centre's South Asia hub?
 - a) Patna
 - b) Lucknow
 - c) Agra
 - d) Varanasi
8. What is "Sugarcrete," recently used in a Noida school?
 - a) Sugar-based flooring
 - b) Recyclable plastic cement
 - c) Sugarcane bagasse brick
 - d) Bioengineered fibre wall
9. Which project marks India's first off-grid green hydrogen pilot plant?
 - a) ReNew Prithvi
 - b) Adani ANIL Kutch
 - c) Reliance H2 Mahape
 - d) NTPC Green Tech
10. What new safety measure has RPF adopted under 'Operation Amanat'?
 - a) Facial recognition
 - b) CEIR phone tracking
 - c) Biometric locker access
 - d) AI CCTV analytics
11. What medal did India's Camikara 3YO rum win at the Rum & Cachaça Masters 2025?
 - a) Platinum
 - b) Bronze

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- c) Gold
 - d) Silver
12. What budget has been sanctioned for Jharia's coal fire extinguishing plan?
- a) ₹3,000 crore
 - b) ₹4,560 crore
 - c) ₹5,940 crore
 - d) ₹6,800 crore
13. What change has YouTube announced regarding live streaming from July 2025?
- a) Mandatory ads for teens
 - b) Live chat removed for all minors
 - c) Minimum host age raised to 16
 - d) No real-time comments allowed
14. What is the expected range of India's hypersonic K6 SLBM under development?
- a) 4,000 km
 - b) 6,500 km
 - c) 8,000 km
 - d) 10,000 km
15. Which city will host India's 1,000-acre International Film City?
- a) Mumbai
 - b) Lucknow
 - c) Hyderabad
 - d) Greater Noida
16. Who has been appointed the new RAW chief, succeeding Ravi Sinha?
- a) Alok Joshi
 - b) Parag Jain
 - c) Samant Goel
 - d) Rajiv Mathur

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17. What is the cause of death for 17.1% of young Indians (15–29), according to SRS data?
- a) Cardiac arrest
 - b) Drug overdose
 - c) Road accidents
 - d) Suicide
18. When will India conduct its Population Enumeration under the 16th Census?
- a) April 2026
 - b) January 2027
 - c) February 2027
 - d) March 2027
19. Who won the Austrian GP 2025 after Verstappen crashed out?
- a) Charles Leclerc
 - b) Lando Norris
 - c) Oscar Piastri
 - d) Lewis Hamilton
20. Neeraj Chopra won gold at the Ostrava Golden Spike with what throw distance?
- a) 86.12 m
 - b) 84.94 m
 - c) 85.29 m
 - d) 83.71 m

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Answer Key

1. c (Public social media profiles)
2. c (Operation Basharat al-Fath)
3. c (Ahn Gyuback)
4. b (Lithium-ion battery failure)
5. c (Omission of terrorism clause)
6. c (Rejected as illegal)
7. c (Agra)
8. c (Sugarcane bagasse brick)
9. b (Adani ANIL Kutch)
10. b (CEIR phone tracking)
11. c (Gold)
12. c (₹5,940 crore)
13. c (Minimum host age raised to 16)
14. c (8,000 km)
15. d (Greater Noida)
16. b (Parag Jain)
17. d (Suicide)
18. c (February 2027)
19. b (Lando Norris)
20. c (85.29 m)

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