



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**4<sup>th</sup> June - 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2025**

★★ Useful for ★★

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



**Chenab Rail Bridge**

**World's Highest Rail Bridge**  
inaugurated in J&K

 [www.madeeasy.in](http://www.madeeasy.in)

4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## Census

- **Context:** The Union Government announced that the much-delayed Census 2021 will be held in two phases beginning October 1, 2026 and March 1, 2027.

### Key Facts

- The census, typically conducted every ten years to update the National Population Register (NPR), was scheduled for 2021 but had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic.
- The delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to be carried out on the basis of the first Census after 2026.
- This will be India's first digital Census and will be the first Census since 1931 to capture granular caste data, beyond the broader classifications of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) that have been enumerated in every post-Independence Census.

### Census in India

- A census is a survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics including age, sex and occupation.
- Under W.C. Plowden, the Census Commissioner of India, the first synchronous decennial (every ten years) census was conducted in 1881.
- Independent India's first census was held in 1951 and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- The Constitution mandates that enumeration is carried out but the Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity.
- The population census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## About Caste Census

- A caste Census involves collecting data on the population size and socio-economic conditions of various caste groups.
- First detailed caste Census conducted in 1871-72 across major regions like Bengal and Madras.
- However arbitrary classification led to confusion, as noted by W. Chichele Plowden in the 1881 Census report.
- 1931 Caste Census identified 4,147 castes, exposing challenges like different identities claimed by the same caste in different regions.
- 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) identified over 46.7 lakh castes/sub-castes with significant errors.

## Motion of Impeachment

- **Context:** The Union Government will move an impeachment motion against Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court in the upcoming Monsoon Session.

## Constitutional Provisions

- Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution allow the President to remove Supreme Court or High Court judges for 'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity' after both Houses of Parliament pass a motion with a special majority.
- While these terms aren't defined in the Constitution, the Supreme Court interprets misbehaviour as misconduct like corruption or moral wrongdoing, and incapacity as a physical or mental medical condition.

## Process

- The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 outlines the removal process for judges.
- A removal motion must be signed by at least 50 Rajya Sabha or 100 Lok Sabha members.

- The Speaker or Chairman may admit or reject it. If admitted, a three-member committee investigates.
  - If the judge is cleared, the motion is dropped.
  - If found guilty, both Houses must pass the motion with a special majority (Two-thirds of members present and voting, and majority of total membership) for the removal.
- Once both Houses pass the motion, it is sent to the President, who gives the final order for removal.

### ■ DO YOU KNOW: \_\_\_\_\_

No judge has been impeached till date, though motions have been initiated earlier.

## MSC Irina

- **Context:** MSC Irina, biggest container vessel in the world, first time reached the Vizhinjam International Seaport.

### About Vizhinjam International Seaport

- It is developed by the Kerala government under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- It is a deepwater transshipment port for container and multipurpose cargo.
- It is India's first transshipment port capable of handling ultra-large container ships.
- It is located near Sri Lanka's Colombo Port, which currently handles 70% of India-bound transshipment cargo.
- It aims to reduce India's dependence on foreign ports like Colombo.
- Its natural 24-meter depth allows it to berth the world's largest ships without extensive dredging.

5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## World Environment Day 2025

- **Context:** World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5, is a global initiative to raise awareness and drive action for environmental protection.

### About The World Environment Day

- First UN Conference on the Human Environment held in 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden, with the theme of 'Only One Earth'.

It resulted in the adoption of the Stockholm Declaration and the Action Plan for the Human Environment.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designated 5th June of every year as World Environment Day in 1973 to encourage global participation in addressing environmental challenges.

#### • World Environment Day 2025:

- **Host Country:** Republic of Korea
- **Theme:** #BeatPlasticPollution, emphasizing the urgent need to tackle plastic waste and its devastating impact on ecosystems.

## Ramsar Sites

- **Context:** On World Environment Day 2025 (observed annually on June 5 since 1973 and led by the UN Environment Programme), two wetlands from Rajasthan—Khichan and Menar—were designated as new Ramsar Sites, taking India's total sites to 91.

### About Wetlands

- The Ramsar Convention's definition for wetlands includes: "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres".
- Human-made wetlands: Fish and shrimp ponds, farm ponds, irrigated agricultural land, salt pans, reservoirs, gravel pits, sewage farms and canals.

### About Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.

- It was signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran and came into force in 1975.
- India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.

### Newly Designated Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan

- **Menar Wetland, Udaipur:** A freshwater monsoon wetland complex comprising:
  - **Three ponds:** Braham Talab, Dhand Talab, and Kheroda Talab
  - Seasonal agricultural lands that flood during monsoon.
  - **Biodiversity:** White-rumped vulture, Long-billed vulture, Indian flying foxes.
- **Khichan Wetland (Phalodi), Jodhpur:** Located in the northern Thar Desert. It comprises; Ratri Nadi (river), Vijaysagar Talab (pond), Riparian zones and scrublands.
  - **Biodiversity:** It supports 150+ bird species and is notable for migratory demoiselle cranes with over 22,000 individuals arriving each winter.

6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

### International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

- **Context:** India has won the Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025–2028 term.

#### About International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

- It is a global federation comprising 31 Member Countries, 20 National Sections, and 15 Academic Research Centres, collaborating on scientific research in public administration.
- Key member countries include India, Japan, China, Germany, Italy, Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain, Qatar, Morocco, and Indonesia, among others.

- India has been a Member State of the IIAS since 1998, represented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
- It is not a formally affiliated body of the United Nations; it actively engages with the UN's work in the field of public administration.
- It maintains a close working relationship with the United Nations, and participates in the UN's Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

### Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

- **Context:** Recently, India was elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for the period from 2026-28.

#### About Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Established in 1945 by the UN Charter as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It is the United Nations' main body for coordinating and reviewing policies on economic, social, and environmental issues, as well as overseeing the implementation of global development goals.
- It serves as a central platform for UN system activities in these fields, supervises subsidiary and expert bodies, and fosters debate and innovation on sustainable development.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

### Chenab and Anji Rail Bridges

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab and Anji rail bridges in Jammu and Kashmir, marking a historic moment for infrastructure and connectivity in the region.



## About The Chenab Rail Bridge

- The Chenab Rail Bridge, situated 359 meters above the Chenab River, is the world's highest railway arch bridge.
- It is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions.
- A key impact of the bridge will be in enhancing connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. It will take just about 3 hours to travel between Katra and Srinagar.

## About The Anji Rail Bridge

- The Anji Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, is located in the Reasi district, spanning 473 meters across the Anji River, a tributary of the Chenab.
- The bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project.
- The bridge will enhance connectivity to the Kashmir Valley, playing a crucial role in improving trade, travel, and defense logistics in the area.

## Aravalli Green Wall Project

- **Context:** The Prime Minister launched the Aravalli Green Wall project to combat the threat of desertification.

## About Aravalli Green Wall Project

- It is a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat land degradation.
- The project aims to establish a 5 km wide green buffer along the entire 700 km stretch of the Aravalli Range (one of the oldest in the world), which runs through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi.
- It is an afforestation and reforestation initiative, focusing on native species, water harvesting, and community involvement.

- The project directly contributes to India's commitments under various international conventions, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## S. Mahendra Dev: New Chief of EAC-PM

- **Context:** Economist S. Mahendra Dev has been appointed as Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), replacing current head Suman Bery.



### Key Facts

- S. Mahendra Dev is an expert in agriculture and rural economy and is also editor of Economic and Political Weekly and chairs the Institute for Development Studies, Andhra Pradesh.
- Previously, he served as director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research and held roles at Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Dev holds a PhD from Delhi School of Economics and completed post-doctoral research at Yale University.

## About Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- It is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.
- Its functions include analyzing economic or other issues referred by the Prime Minister, addressing macroeconomic matters, providing advice, and undertaking any additional tasks requested by the Prime Minister.
- These tasks can be initiated by the Council itself or on referral.

8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## New Base Year for GDP, CPI, IIP

- **Context:** As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) will see a new base from next year onwards.

### Key Highlights

- In 2024, MoSPI has set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics to decide the base year for GDP data.
  - Biswanath Goldar has been appointed as its chairman.
- For GDP, the new series is scheduled to be released on February 27, 2026 with financial year 2022-23 as base year.
- For IIP, 2022 -23 has been tentatively identified as the revised base. IIP on revised base would be released from 2026-27.
- For CPI, 2024 has been identified as the revised base year as the item basket and the weightage of the items would be decided based on the NSO's Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES) conducted in 2023-24.
  - The new CPI series is expected to be published from the first quarter of 2026.

### About Base Year

- A base year is a benchmark year used for comparison in economic and statistical calculations.
- It provides a reference point against which current values of indicators like GDP, CPI, and IIP are measured to track real changes over time.
- Significance:
  - It allows us to remove the effect of inflation and see real growth.
  - Helps in creating index numbers (like CPI = 100 in base year).

- Ensures that the data reflects the current structure of the economy, consumption patterns, and prices.

### Need for the Change of the Base Year

- It is usually changed every 7–10 years to reflect:
  - New consumption patterns;
  - Changes in economic structure;
  - Introduction of new goods and services.
- Ensures data remains relevant and accurate.
- This will give a clearer picture about the state of the economy which will help the government to design its economic policies.

### Economic Datasets

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** GDP is the total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country's domestic territory during a specific period (usually a quarter or a year).
  - It is calculated by adding up all the expenditures made in the economy, including expenditures by Indians in their individual capacity, expenditures by governments, expenditures by private businesses, etc.
  - This provides a picture of the demand side of the economy.
  - Current base year used 2011–12.
  - Released By: National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** IIP measures the volume of production in the industrial sector, including mining, manufacturing, and electricity.
  - It is a volume-based index, not value-based like GDP.
  - Indicates industrial activity, helping assess the short-term economic momentum.
  - Published monthly and the base year currently is 2011–12 (revision to 2022–23 is underway).
  - Released By: NSO, MoSPI.

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** CPI measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services over time — i.e., it tracks retail inflation.
  - Tracks cost of living and purchasing power.
  - Includes items like food, housing, clothing, transport, etc.
  - It is published monthly, the current base year: 2012 (to be revised to 2024).
  - Released By: NSO, MoSPI.

## ULLAS Program

- **Context:** Mizoram and Goa declared themselves “fully literate” under the ULLAS adult literacy programme, with literacy rates of 98.2% and 99.72%, respectively.

### About ULLAS Program

- ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, also known as the **New India Literacy Programme (NILP)**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored initiative** that aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- It aims to provide functional literacy (reading, writing, numeracy) and life skills to adults aged 15+ who missed formal education, enabling their social integration and contribution to national growth.
- The programme is driven by volunteerism, promotes social responsibility ('Kartavya Bodh'), and offers educational content in regional languages via the DIKSHA platform and ULLAS app.
  - Learners and volunteers receive certificates to encourage motivation and ongoing learning.

9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## AI RAM Initiative

- **Context:** The UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia, in collaboration with the IndiaAI Mission and Ikigai Law, organized the 5<sup>th</sup> and final Stakeholder

Consultation on AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in India.

### About AI RAM Initiative

- The initiative aims to develop an India-specific AI policy report that maps strengths, identifies growth opportunities and offers actionable recommendations for the ethical and responsible adoption of AI across sectors.
- The AI RAM acts as a diagnostic tool to support governments in strengthening regulatory and institutional capacity in AI.

#### • Significance of the initiative

Aligns with the INDIAai Mission, launched with over ₹10,000 crore funding.

Prioritises the “Safe and Trusted AI” pillar focused on:

- Ethical AI development,
- Indigenous governance frameworks,
- Self-assessment guidelines,
- Capacity-building for AI innovation.

## World Accreditation Day 2025

- **Context:** World Accreditation Day (WAD) 2025 was celebrated by the Quality Council of India (QCI) on June 9<sup>th</sup>, with the theme “Accreditation: Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)”.

### About Quality Council of India (QCI)

- QCI is an autonomous body established in 1997 under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The chairperson is appointed by the Prime Minister based on recommendations from the industry.
- Its mandate is to develop and manage the National Accreditation Structure (NAS) for conformity assessment bodies across sectors like health and education, and to promote quality.

- QCI has two primary accreditation boards:
  - National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)
  - National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

### ■ NOTE:

Accreditation is a formal process that verifies an institution's adherence to quality standards in areas such as testing, inspection, or certification.

10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## UNFPA State of World Population 2025

- **Context:** India's population has reached an estimated 146.39 crore by April 2025, according to the United Nations report titled "State of the World Population 2025: The Real Fertility Crisis."

### India's Status as per the 2025 Report

- **Current Population Status:** India is the world's most populous country with 146.39 crore people, surpassing China (141.61 crore).
- The population is expected to peak at 170 crore before beginning to decline in approximately 40 years.
- **Decline in Fertility Rate:** TFR is now 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1.
  - Among the states that had fertility rates higher than national average were Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.9), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26), and Manipur (2.2).
- **Demographic Composition:**
  - Working-age population (15–64 years): 68%
  - Children (0–14 years): 24%
  - Youth (10–24 years): 26%
  - Elderly (65+ years): 7% (expected to rise)

### About Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

- The average number of children born to a woman during her childbearing years.
- A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level needed to maintain a stable population.

### Axiom-4 Mission

- **Context:** The launch of the Axiom-4 mission has been postponed again due to a technical issue with SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

### About Axiom-4 Mission

- It will spend 14 to 21 days on the ISS, conducting over 60 experiments in collaboration with 31 countries, covering fields like biomedical research, Earth observation, and materials science.
- Some experiments involve ISRO, offering India key insights for its upcoming Gaganyaan mission, now expected in 2027.
- The Ax-4 crew includes members from India, Poland, and Hungary, marking each nation's first mission to the space station in history and second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years.
- Shubhanshu Shukla will be India's second national astronaut to go to space since 1984.
- The mission highlights Axiom Space's role in advancing international access to low-Earth orbit.

### About International Space Station (ISS)

- It was designed between 1984 and 1993, with construction of its components beginning in the late 1980s across the US, Canada, Japan, and Europe.
- The ISS program unites international flight crews, various launch vehicles, worldwide operations and training facilities, communication networks, and the global scientific research community.