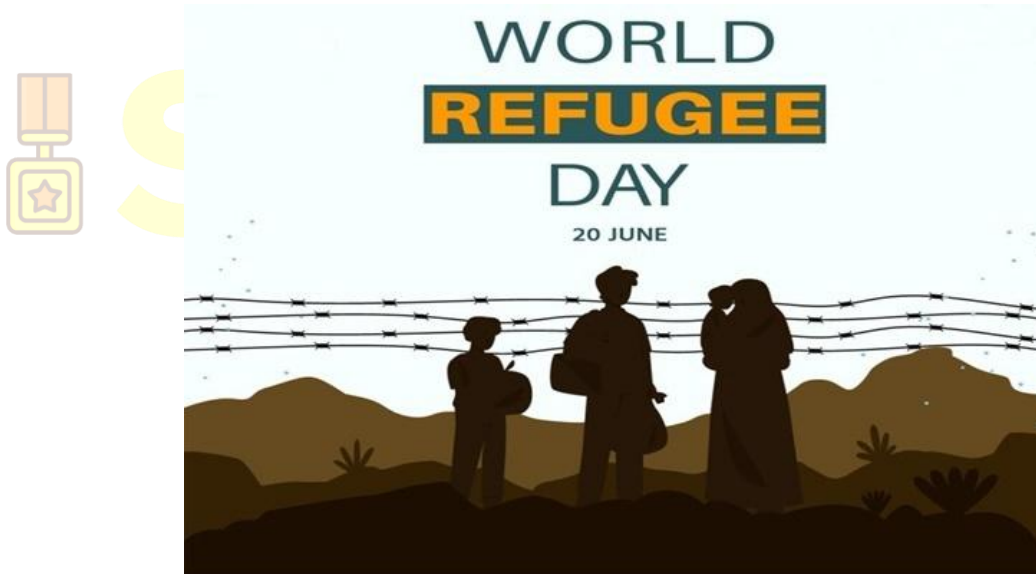


Daily Current Affairs

20 June 2025

World Refugee Day

- **World Refugee Day is being observed today globally.** This international day is designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. The day honours the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.
- **The theme for this year is “Solidarity with Refugees”,** which urges people to move beyond words and take meaningful steps to support those forced to flee. As part of its celebrations, the UNHCR India organised an event at the UNESCO headquarters in New Delhi



PM Modi Congratulates Divya Deshmukh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated **top Indian Chess player Divya Deshmukh on defeating the World No. 1, Hou Yifan**, in the 2nd leg of the Blitz semifinal at the **World Team Blitz Championships in London**.
- In a social media post, Mr Modi said that Divya’s success highlights her grit and determination, and **it also inspires many upcoming chess players**. PM also wished Divya for her future endeavours. In her reply to PM’s message, in a social media post, Divya said, It is a great honour and encouragement for me to be recognised by the Prime Minister.



Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Congratulations to Divya Deshmukh on defeating the World No. 1, Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships, London. Her success highlights her grit and determination. It also inspires many upcoming chess players. Best wishes for her future endeavours.

@DivyaDeshmukh05



MoPR Signs Mou With Bhashini

- The agreement between the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini** will not only break language barriers but also promote inclusion among states across the country. Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. SP Baghel said this while presiding over the MoU signing ceremony in New Delhi.



- He said that this **collaboration will enhance language accessibility** across key portals and platforms of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Lauding Bhashini initiative, the Minister said this agreement will strengthen the unity, integrity, and brotherhood of India.
- The **MoU aims to promote the use of AI-enabled public digital infrastructure** to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions and strengthen participatory democracy at the grassroots level.

QS Rankings 2026

- **A record 54 Indian Institutes have been featured** in the QS World University Rankings, with the Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi emerging as the country's top-ranked Institute.
- **IIT Delhi's global ranking has seen a significant jump** from the earlier 150th position to the **current 123rd rank in the latest edition** of the rankings of higher education institutions across the world. This is also the highest QS World University Ranking achieved so far by the Institute.



- In a social media post, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that from **just 11 universities in 2014 to 54 in the latest rankings**, this five-fold jump is a testament to the transformative educational reforms ushered in under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He added that the **National Education Policy 2020 is not** just changing India's educational landscape, it is revolutionising it. The Minister highlighted that it is a

matter of immense pride that India is also the fastest growing education system among G20 countries and the fourth most represented behind only the US, UK and China.

- For the 14th consecutive year, the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** has secured the #1 position globally, affirming its reputation for academic rigor, research excellence, and innovation leadership. MIT continues to lead across indicators such as academic reputation, faculty/student ratio, and employer reputation.

Institutions	Overall Rank in 2026	Overall Rank in 2025
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	1	1
Imperial College London	2	2
Stanford University	3	6
University of Oxford	4	3
Harvard University	5	4
University of Cambridge	6	5
ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)	7	7
National University of Singapore (NUS)	8	8
UCL (University College London)	9	9
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	10	10

- In a press release, **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** confirmed that nearly **500 institutions** have improved their positions compared to the previous year. This improvement is based on metrics like citations per faculty, international student ratio, and sustainability.
- **Among the fastest-rising institutions, Sunway University** from Malaysia stood out, jumping over 120 places from its previous ranking. This significant rise underscores Asia's growing prominence in global education, driven by investment in research infrastructure, international collaborations, and a diverse academic ecosystem.
- **The 2026 edition includes institutions from more than 100 regions**, offering insights into the best universities across North America, Europe, Asia, Australia,

Latin America, and Africa. It continues to serve as a valuable tool for students, researchers, and policy-makers alike.

Institutions	Overall Rank in 2026	Overall Rank in 2025
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	123	150
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	129	118
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	180	227
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP)	215	222
Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore	219	211
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	222	263
University of Delhi	328	328
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	334	344
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	339	335
Anna University	465	383

THE Impact Rankings 2025

- In a major boost to **India's global academic reputation**, **four Indian universities** have secured spots in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, which assess universities on their contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham** (Rank 41) and **Lovely Professional University** (Rank 48) are the **highest-ranked Indian institutions**, with JSS Academy and Shoolini University also earning global praise for their sustainability-led educational initiatives.
- **THE Impact Rankings 2025 were released recently**, highlighting universities that excel in meeting the UN SDGs. Four Indian institutions made it to the global top 100, showcasing the country's progress in sustainability and inclusive education. **Over 135 Indian institutions participated this year**, with Amrita and LPU securing positions in the global top 50. The rankings underscore a shift towards Asian leadership in sustainability efforts in higher education.
- Overview of Indian Institutions in Top 100



- **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Tamil Nadu): Rank =41**
- Strong in SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Clean Energy)
- 100/100 in lifelong learning and water sustainability
- **Lovely Professional University (LPU) (Punjab): Rank =48**
- Global Rank: 5th in SDG 7 (Clean Energy)
- 6th in Sustainable Cities, 8th in Zero Hunger
- Overall score: 92.6



- **JSS Academy of Higher Education (Karnataka): Rank =56**
- **Shoolini University (Himachal Pradesh): Rank =96**
- Noted for climate action (Rank 38 globally)
- Strong in clean water and clean energy
- Broader Indian Representation
- Total Indian Participants: 135

- **Institutions ranked 101–400 include:**
- Anna University, KIIT, Manipal, IIT Gandhinagar, Shiv Nadar University, etc.
- **Global Trends**
- Western Sydney University retains top rank globally for the 4th consecutive year
- Asian universities dominate top 50 with 22 entries
- Notable institutions: Kyungpook National University (South Korea, Rank 3), Universitas Airlangga (Indonesia, Rank =9)
- **Ranking Methodology**
- Focused on 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Evaluation parameters: Research, Outreach, Teaching, Campus Operations
- Key SDGs: Quality Education, Gender Equality, Climate Action, Clean Water, Clean Energy

Centre Approves ₹2,006.40 Crore Assistance To HP

- In a significant step towards **supporting Himachal Pradesh's post-disaster recovery efforts**, the central government has approved ₹2,006.40 crore for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the wake of devastating floods, landslides, and cloudbursts during the 2023 monsoon.



- The assistance will be provided under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** and was cleared by a high-level committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

- The **Union Government** has approved a **₹2,006.40 crore** recovery plan for Himachal Pradesh. The aid is meant to support reconstruction after severe natural disasters that struck during July–August 2023. Over 550 lives were lost, and extensive damage to infrastructure was recorded.



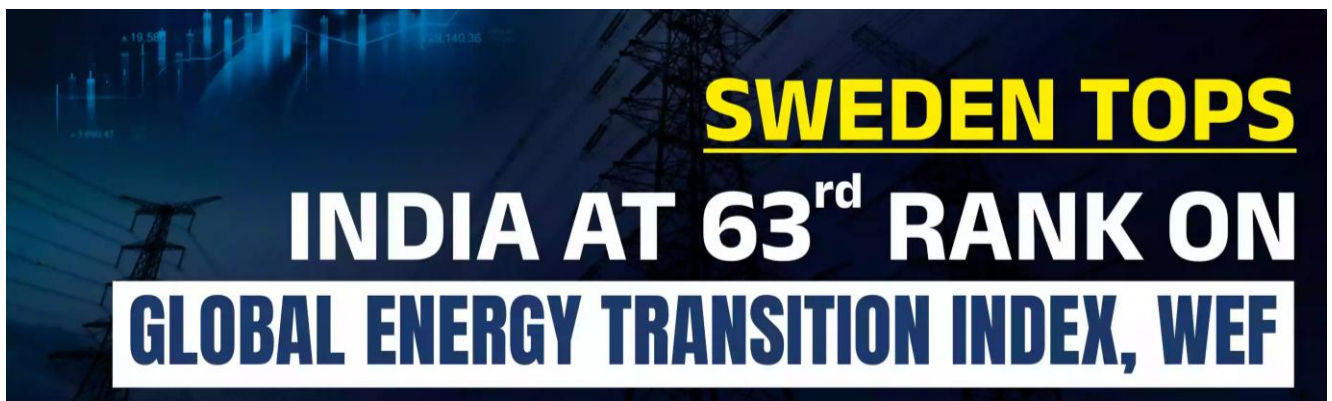
- **₹2,006.40 crore, out of which ₹1,504.80 crore is the Centre's share** from the Recovery and Reconstruction funding window of the NDRF.
- **Committee Involved** , Headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Includes, Union Finance Minister, Union Agriculture Minister, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- **Background & Significance**
- 2023 Monsoon Devastation in Himachal
- Heavy rainfall triggered landslides, floods, and cloudbursts.
- More than 550 casualties and large-scale infrastructure damage.
- The Congress-led state government had requested ₹9,042 crore under Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

India's Energy Transition Index Ranking In 2025

- **India's position in the global Energy Transition Index** has shifted to **71st in 2025**. This ranking was released by the World Economic Forum, which assesses the energy transition **performance of 118 countries**.
- **Despite a drop from 63rd last year**, alongside China, has shown improvements in energy access and transition readiness. Sweden leads the Energy Transition Index, followed by Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland. Other notable rankings include **China at 12th and the United States at 17th**.



- **Pakistan ranks 101st, while Congo holds the last position.** The top five economies play important role in shaping global energy transitions due to their substantial share of global GDP, population, and emissions. India has made considerable advancements in energy equity. Increased access to energy and clean fuels has been a priority.
- **The country has also improved energy regulations and invested in** renewable technologies. These efforts have been essential in enhancing energy security and equity. The **World Economic Forum marks several factors** influencing India's ranking. Improvements in grid reliability and energy access in rural areas are vital. Reducing reliance on imported energy is also crucial for enhancing energy security. Continued investments in infrastructure and renewable energy are necessary for further progress.



- **India has excelled in energy efficiency and investment capacity.** The country has lowered energy intensity and methane emissions. Favourable energy

regulations have encouraged clean energy investments. These improvements reflect India's commitment to a sustainable energy future.

- **The report notes that 77 out of 118 countries** improved their scores in 2025. However, only **28% advanced across all three energy dimensions** – security, sustainability, and equity. The United States leads in energy security, while India has progressed in efficiency and investment.
- Despite progress, challenges remain. Rising geopolitical tensions and investment gaps threaten to stall advancements. There is also a disconnect between clean energy innovation and its deployment in necessary areas. These issues could undermine the momentum of global energy transitions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Refugee Day Celebrated On

- A. 19 June
- B. 20 June
- C. 21 June
- D. 22 June

ANSWER: B

2. IIT Delhi Rank In QS Rankings 2026

- A. 111
- B. 123
- C. 126
- D. 165

ANSWER: B

3. Divya Deshmukh Seen In News Related To

- A. Badminton
- B. Cricket
- C. Chess
- D. Football

ANSWER: C

4. National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

ANSWER: A

5. Where Was The 113th International Labour Conference (ILC) 2025 Held

- A. Paris, France
- B. Geneva, Switzerland
- C. London, United Kingdom
- D. New Delhi, India

ANSWER: B

6. Kali Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: B

7. What Type Of Debt Instrument Pays No Periodic Interest But Is Issued At A Discount Rate To Its Face Value

- A. Convertible Bonds
- B. Treasury Bills
- C. Zero-Coupon Bonds
- D. Floating Rate Bonds

ANSWER: C

8. What Is The IUCN Status Of Emperor Penguin

- A. Endangered
- B. Critical Endangered
- C. Near Threatened
- D. Vulnerable

ANSWER: C

9. Which State Become India's Second Fully Literate State Under ULLAS Scheme

- A. Goa
- B. Gujarat
- C. Punjab
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: A

10. Mount Lewotobi Lakilaki, is located in which country

- A. Indonesia
- B. Japan
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Philippines

ANSWER: A

11. Which U.S. State Became The First To Introduce A Climate Impact Fee Called The Green Fee

- A. California
- B. Texas
- C. Alaska
- D. Hawaii

ANSWER: D

12. International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) Is Associated With Which Country

- A. France
- B. Australia
- C. United States
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: C

13. Extended Trajectory-long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM) Is Developed By Which Organization

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

ANSWER: B

14. NISAR Mission Is A Joint Earth-observing Satellite Mission Between Which Two Space Agencies

- A. NASA & ISRO
- B. ISRO & European Space Agency
- C. JAXA & China National Space Administration
- D. NASA & European Space Agency (ESA)

ANSWER: A

15. What Kind Of Disease Is “Valley Fever”

- A. Viral infection
- B. Bacterial infection
- C. Fungal infection
- D. Parasitic infection

ANSWER: C

16. Kali Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: B

17. SMILE (Support For Marginalised Individuals For Livelihood And Enterprise) Scheme Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: A

18. Which Tiger Reserve Has Become The Top Tiger Habitat In India Based On Ungulate Population

- A. Rajaji Tiger Reserve
- B. Pench Tiger Reserve
- C. Kanha Tiger Reserve
- D. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

ANSWER: C

19. Which Two Countries Have The Largest Number Of Nuclear Weapons, As Per The SIPRI Yearbook 2025

- A. France and United Kingdom
- B. Russia and United States
- C. China and India
- D. Israel and North Korea

ANSWER: B

20. In The Maurya Empire, Who Looked After Markets And Check Wrong Practices

- A. Samsthadhyaksha
- B. Sitadhyaksha
- C. Akaradhyaksha
- D. Manadhyaksha

ANSWER: A

