

Daily Current Affairs

26 June 2025

Axiom-4 Mission

- **Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla** will dock with the International Space Station (ISS) this afternoon. According to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), docking is scheduled at 4:30 PM IST.
- After the docking with the ISS, **Group Captain Shukla will become the first ever Indian to visit** Nasa's orbiting laboratory ISS. Axiom-4 carrying 4 astronauts lifted off from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12:01 PM IST yesterday. Group Captain Shukla, who is piloting the Axiom-4 mission to ISS, has become only the second Indian to travel to space.



- **Ax-4 team of astronauts includes former Nasa astronaut Peggy Whitson** of the US, **Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski** from Poland and **Tibor Kapu** from Hungary. Whitson, a NASA astronaut, will serve as Mission Commander, while Shukla becomes India's second astronaut to travel to space, following Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission.
- **Uznański and Kapu represent Poland and Hungary**, marking their countries' second human spaceflight missions in history.. Indian Air Force officer Shukla's trip comes 41 years after cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to fly to space aboard a Russian Soyuz in 1984. Within minutes of take off

yesterday, **Group Captain Shukla had a message for his fellow countrymen.** He said, we are **back in space after 41 years and what** an amazing ride it has been.

- **Born on 10 October 1985 in Lucknow**, Group Captain Shukla joined the Indian air force as a fighter pilot in 2006. He has flown MiGs, Sukhois, Dorniers, Jaguars and Hawks and **has more than 2,000 hours of flying experience.** Besides piloting the mission, the Indian astronaut will have a busy schedule during his two weeks on ISS.



- But most of the time, the four-member crew **will be conducting 60 scientific experiments**, seven of which come from India. ISRO's experiments will help improve our understanding of space and its effects on biology and micro-gravity. One of the key experiments will investigate the impact of spaceflight on six varieties of crop seeds.

India's Jahnvi Dangeti

- **India's Jahnvi Dangeti is set to become the first Indian astronaut** on the Titans Space mission in 2029. A graduate of NASA's International Air and Space Program, Jahnvi has trained globally and is a strong advocate for STEM education.
- The **US-based mission will take around five hours**, during which time the crew will fly around the planet twice, experiencing two sunrises and two sunsets. The mission will yield close to three hours of continuous zero gravity, providing a revolutionary environment for scientific investigation and human spaceflight development.

- The mission will be **led by veteran NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Army Colonel William McArthur Jr.**, now serving as Chief Astronaut at Titans Space.

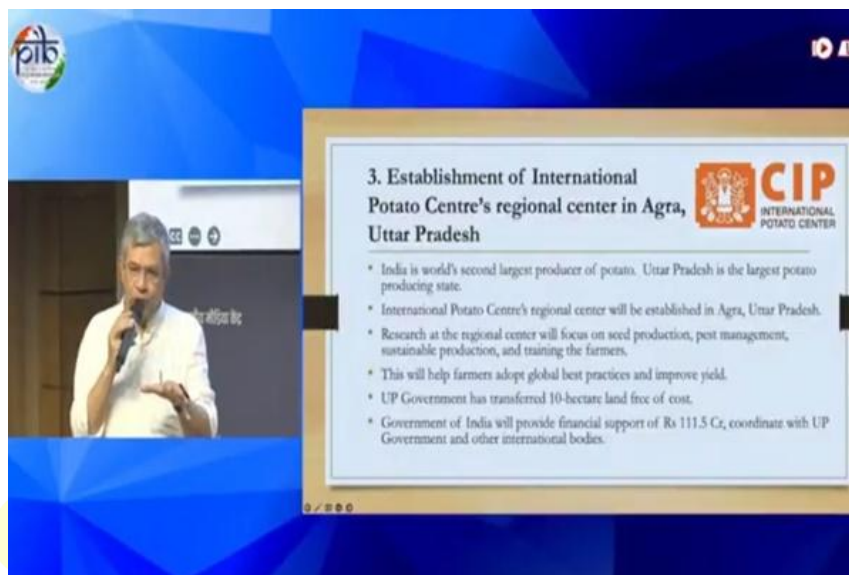


Jharia Coalfield

- Government has taken the decision for the extension of **Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-II with the cost of three thousand 626 crore rupees**. Briefing media on the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, **additional length of 12.75 kilometers** will be added as the new metro line with 13 stations. He said the **Pune Metro Rail Project** will serve IT hubs, commercial areas, educational institutions, and residential pockets, increasing the share of public transport and ridership across the network.



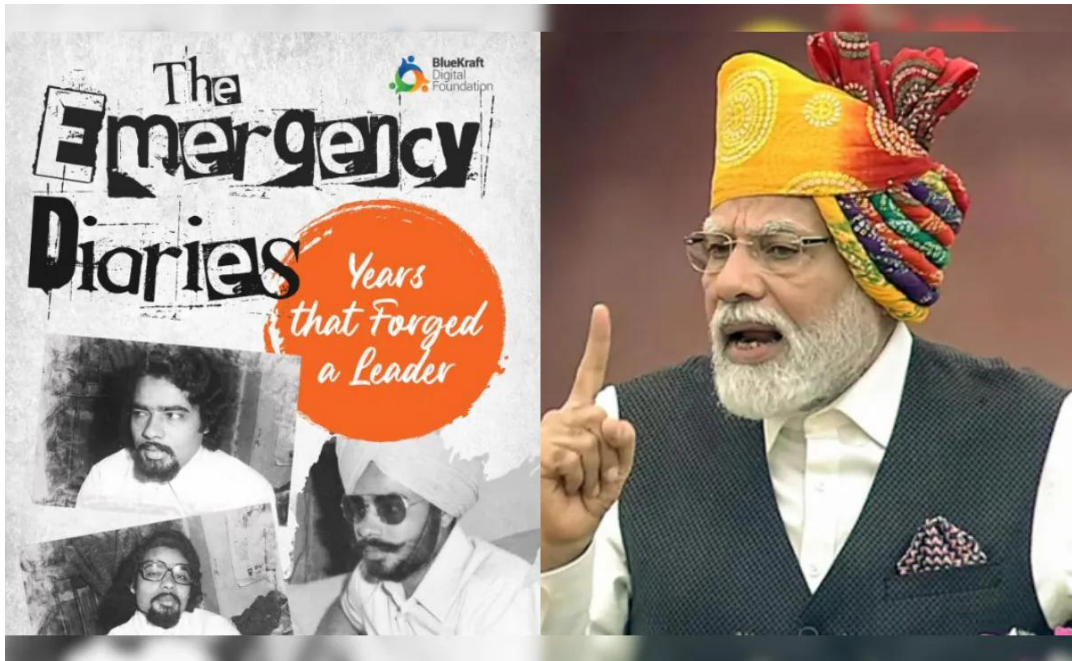
- Mr. Vaishnaw said, the government has given its nod for the **revised master plan for rehabilitation of Jharia coalfield in Jharkhand**. He said, with the implementation of the revised master plan, issues related to fire, land subsidence, and the rehabilitation of affected families in the Jharia Coalfield will be addressed. He said, the total financial outlay for the implementation of the revised plan is **five thousand 940 crore rupees**.



- Mr. Vaishnaw also informed that the government has approved the proposal for establishing the **International Potato Centre South Asia Regional Centre at Agra in Uttar Pradesh**. He said, this will help in increasing food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweet potato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition.

‘The Emergency Diaries’

- ‘**The Emergency Diaries-Years that forged a leader**’ book released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah delves into the compelling role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then a **young RSS Pracharak, played in the fight against the Emergency**.
- **Divided into five chapters**, this book uncovers how the Emergency influenced young Narendra Modi’s understanding of state power, political mobilization and the role of a healthy opposition.



- The book mentioned that the Emergency remains a powerful reference point in India's democratic journey, a shocking example of how fragile civil liberties and institutional independence can become under concentrated power whose sole aim is the perpetuation of dynastic rule.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi often recalls that the believers of democracy fought a prolonged war, and the **great nation that India is where the spirit of democracy pervades** the very being of all its people, the strength of that spirit was demonstrated when the opportunity of election came. He stressed to further fortify that legacy.
- The **book remarked that commemorating the emergency** serves as an unforgettable reminder that democracy must never be compromised and that constitution rights must always be defended.

NATO Members Agree To Spend 5% Of Their GDPs

- **All NATO Members Have Agreed To Raise Defence And Security Spending To 5 Percent Of GDP By 2035.** In The Declaration At The NATO Summit In The Hague, The Leaders Said The Defence Pledge Will Consist Of Investments **Of At Least 3.5 Percent Of GDP Per Year** In Core Defence Requirements.
- They Also Vowed **To Spend Up To 1.5 Percent Of GDP On** Security-related Expenditures, Including Protection Of Critical Infrastructure And Strengthening The Alliance's Defence Industrial Base.



- Speaking At The Summit, **NATO Chief Rutte Stated That Military Aid For Ukraine This Year Will Very Likely Exceed Last Year's 58 Billion Dollars.**
- Rutte Said Europe And Canada Would Need To Contribute More To The Military Alliance. He Also Said The **US Strike On Iran Dealt A Massive Blow To The Country.** Rutte Additionally Cited Russia As A Threat Both In The Short And Long Term. He Said NATO Needs To Rapidly Expand Defence Industrial Capacity On Both Sides Of The Atlantic.
- Speaking At The Summit, **Us President Donald Said, Additional Money Should Be Spent On Military Hardware.** Trump Also Said That It Is Possible That Russian President Vladimir Putin Has Territorial Ambitions Beyond Ukraine. The US President Said He Told Putin In A Recent Phone Call To Cooperate In Ending The War In Ukraine. He Also Clarified That He Did Not Discuss A Ceasefire With Zelenskyy During Their Meeting On The Sidelines Of The Summit.

Iran Approves Bill Suspending Cooperation With IAEA

- Iranian Parliament approved a bill **suspending cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog**, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iranian media reported that the decision followed recent U.S. strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites **in Esfahan, Fordow, and Natanz.**
- During an open session of Parliament, lawmakers agreed on the general outline of a plan calling for the suspension of cooperation with the IAEA. Of the 223 representatives present at the session, 221 voted in favor, one voted against,

and one abstained. Iran stated that it has every right to protect its sovereignty, interests, and people.



Bihar To Host Its First Nuclear Power Plant

- Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar declared that **Bihar will soon have its first nuclear power plant**, making it one of the first six Indian states to be included in the rollout of **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)**-based energy systems.
- This development follows a formal request by the Bihar government, which the Centre has now approved. Though the exact location and capacity of the project are yet to be finalized, the plan signals a transformative chapter in Bihar's energy and infrastructure landscape.



- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are an advanced form of nuclear energy technology, designed to be: Cost-effective, Compact in size, Safer and more flexible than traditional reactors
- **SMRs are especially suited for regions with smaller power grids** or challenging terrains, making them an ideal solution for energy-deficient states like Bihar. These reactors offer enhanced safety features and the ability to scale quickly based on local demand.



- The Nuclear Energy Mission: Vision and Budget
- The **nuclear plant announcement is part of the Union Budget 2025–26**, which includes a **₹20,000 crore allocation for the Nuclear Energy Mission**. The government has outlined its strategic goal to establish at least one nuclear power plant in every state, enhancing energy security, industrial growth, and sustainable development.
- Historically, **Bihar has struggled with power shortages, aging infrastructure, and unreliable electricity supply**. The upcoming SMR-based nuclear plant is expected to: Stabilize Bihar's power grid, Boost industrialization, Support the state's ambitious growth targets.
- This decision also arrives ahead of Bihar's upcoming assembly elections, underscoring the political and developmental significance of the project.
- **Battery Storage Boost: Complementing the Nuclear Mission**

- In addition to the nuclear plant, the **Centre has also sanctioned a 1,000 MW battery storage project in Bihar**, with viability gap funding of ₹18 lakh per MW. This will: Enhance grid stability, Support renewable energy integration
- This initiative builds on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Siwan (June 20, 2025), where he laid the foundation stone for a 500 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).



Ostrava Golden Spike

- In Athletics, two-time Olympic medallist **Neeraj Chopra has clinched the Javelin Throw title in the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025** meet in the Czech Republic. The **27-year-old Indian star clinched the yellow metal** with a best throw of **85.29 metres in the one-day competition**.



- **Douw Smit of South Africa**, with a throw of 84.12 metres, finished second, while **Anderson Peters of Granada**, with a throw of 83.63 metres, came third.
- The victory also marked **Neeraj's second consecutive top finish**, following his impressive performance at the Paris Diamond League last week. He crossed the **90-metre mark for the first time in his career** with a throw of 90.23 metres at that event. He will next participate in the Neeraj Chopra Classic, India's first **global javelin competition at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium**, in Bengaluru, on July 5th.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. First Indian Astronaut On The Titans Space Mission In 2029

- A. Shreshta Srivastav
- B. Jahanavi Dangeti
- C. Priya Kumar
- D. Ayesha Dangeti

ANSWER: B

2. NATO Members Agree To Spend ___ Of Their GDPs

- A. 2%
- B. 1.5%
- C. 5%
- D. 7%

ANSWER: C

3. Neeraj Chopra Won Which Medal In Ostrava Golden Spike

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Bronze
- D. None

ANSWER: A

4. What Is The Rank Of India In The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2025

- A. 77th
- B. 88th
- C. 95th
- D. 99th

ANSWER: D

5. The Ambubachi Festival Is Celebrated In Which State Annually

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: A

6. Name Of Initiative Launched By Government For Skilling Adolescent Girls

- A. SAARTHI
- B. NAVYA
- C. SHAKTI
- D. PRAGATI

ANSWER: B

7. Where Was India's First Off-grid 5 Megawatt (MW) Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant Commissioned?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: B

8. Rashtrapati Tapovan & Rashtrapati Niketan, Recently Inaugurated By President Droupadi Murmu, Are Located In Which Indian City

- A. Nainital
- B. Mussoorie
- C. Ranikhet
- D. Dehradun

ANSWER: D

9. On Which Date Is The United Nations Public Service Day Celebrated Each Year

- A. 25 June
- B. 24 June
- C. 20 June
- D. 23 June

ANSWER: D

10. What Is The Theme For International Widows' Day 2025

- A. Equality for All
- B. Restoring Hope for Widows
- C. Empowering Widows: Building Resilience, Restoring Dignity
- D. Social Security for Women

ANSWER: C

11. At Which Location Was The U23 Asian Wrestling Championships Held, Where India Achieved A Historic Double Team Title Win

- A. Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- B. Vung Tau, Vietnam
- C. Tokyo, Japan
- D. Doha, Qatar

ANSWER: B

12. What Is The Name Of The United States' Airstrike Campaign Launched In June 2025 Targeting Iran's Fortified Nuclear Sites

- A. Operation Iron Hammer
- B. Operation True Shield
- C. Operation Rising Lion
- D. Operation Midnight Hammer

ANSWER: D

13. How Many Times Has Canada Held The Rotating Presidency Of The G7

- A. Four times
- B. Five times
- C. Six times
- D. Seven times

ANSWER: D

14. When Is World Rainforest Day Observed Annually To Promote Rainforest Conservation And Climate Action

- A. 25 June
- B. 23 June
- C. 20 June
- D. 22 June

ANSWER: D

15. National Florence Nightingale Award Was Instituted By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: B

16. Where Is The Headquarters Of The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Located

- A. Tokyo, Japan
- B. New Delhi, India
- C. Beijing, China
- D. Manila, Philippines

ANSWER: D

17. Which ministry launched the Bharat Gen Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) at the BharatGen Summit

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER: A

18. Name Of Portal Introduced By Central Government For Waqf Property Registration

- A. UMEED Portal
- B. NIVESH Portal
- C. INSAAF Portal
- D. SURYA Portal

ANSWER: A

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. Capital Of Which Of The Following States Is Called "Scotland Of The East

- A. Manipur
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Sikkim
- D. Assam

ANSWER: B

