



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

7. Short News

1. 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum

1. **Why in News** – India is hosting the 13th edition of this forum in New Delhi on June 11–12, 2026, under its BRICS Chair ship.
2. **What it is** – A ministerial-level platform where BRICS nations share experiences, tackle urban challenges, and boost development cooperation.
3. **The Theme** – Hosted under the banner “Cities for People – BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures.”
4. **Core Vision** – Guided by the idea of “*Humanity First*” and focusing on sustainability, innovation, and resilience.
5. **Key Focus Areas** – Inclusive urbanization, digital innovation for managing cities, building climate/disaster-resilient infrastructure, and strengthening local municipal governance.
6. **India's Legacy** – This is India's fourth time hosting the forum. India actually placed urbanization on the BRICS agenda when it hosted the event for the first time back in 2013.

2. Codeine Cough Syrup Abuse in Bihar

1. **Why in News** – Nearly ten years after Bihar implemented strict liquor prohibition in 2016, codeine-based cough syrups have surfaced as a major, dangerous substitute for alcohol.
2. **What Codeine Is** – It is a naturally occurring opioid derived from morphine, medically used to suppress persistent dry coughs and treat mild-to-moderate pain.
3. **How it Works** – It targets the central nervous system (CNS), binding to opioid receptors to alter how the body perceives pain and reduce the cough reflex.
4. **Side Effects & Risks** – Standard side effects include drowsiness and sedation. However, severe misuse can cause dangerous respiratory depression (slowed breathing), mental health issues, and fatal overdoses.
5. **The Legal Stance** – Due to widespread abuse, Bihar has officially classified these syrups as “intoxicants” under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016.
6. **Strict Penalties** – Any unauthorized sale, possession, or distribution of codeine cough syrup in the state now attracts heavy fines, asset confiscation, and imprisonment.

3. Project UDAYAK (Border Roads Organisation)

1. **Why in News** – The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK on June 1, 2026, in Doomdooma, Assam.
2. **What it is** – Established in 1989, Project UDAYAK is a strategic wing of the BRO operating under India's Ministry of Defence.
3. **Geographic Reach** – It manages over 1,457 km of road networks across the easternmost districts of Arunachal Pradesh and sections of Assam.
4. **Geopolitical Value** – The project plays a critical national security role by strengthening connectivity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and the Indo–Myanmar border.

5. **Current Focus** – A major part of its current mandate is building vital roads and border fencing infrastructure to curb cross-border issues along the Myanmar border.
6. **Recent Success** – In 2025 alone, Project UDAYAK built 12 bridges, a strategic road, and a helipad to rapidly improve the mobility of both the Indian Armed Forces and local communities.

4. Malaysia Bans social media for Under-16s

1. **Why in News** – Malaysia has started enforcing a nationwide ban on social media account creation for children under the age of 16.
2. **The Trigger** – The ban aims to fight cyberbullying, shield children from violent or inappropriate content, and address mental health issues like anxiety and platform addiction.
3. **Platform Rules** – Social media platforms with over 8 million users in Malaysia must set up strict age-verification systems and block users under 16.
4. **Grace Period** – Minors under 16 who already have accounts will be given a transition period to safely download or manage their data before being restricted.
5. **Massive Fines** – Platforms that fail to enforce these age blocks face heavy financial penalties of up to 10 million ringgits (~\$2.5 million).
6. **The Main Concerns** – Critics worry teenagers will migrate to dangerous, unregulated corners of the internet, that verification threatens user privacy, and that it cuts off digital educational opportunities.

5. India–Australia Maritime Awareness Agreement

1. **Why in News** – During the 2nd India–Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi, leaders from both nations agreed to significantly deepen their maritime and defence ties.
2. **Surveillance Boost** – Both countries agreed to step up Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) by coordinating maritime patrol aircraft for better surveillance.
3. **Shared Vision** – They reaffirmed their joint commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, adhering to international sea laws (UNCLOS).
4. **Military Exercise Exchange** – Australia welcomed India into *Operation Render Safe 2026*, while India accepted an invite to Australia's *Black Carillon* submarine rescue exercise.
5. **Indian Ocean Cooperation** – As co-leads of an Indian Ocean Rim Association working group, they will jointly host a Search & Rescue tabletop exercise in Chennai.
6. **Air Force Integration** – The nations agreed to operationalize an Air-to-Air Refuelling arrangement during *Exercise Pitch Black*, broadening their aerial combat cooperation.

6. Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar

1. **Why in News** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tribute to the celebrated 18th-century queen on her birth anniversary.
2. **Who She Was** – Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–1795) was the famous queen of the Holkar dynasty who took over the administration of the Malwa kingdom in 1767?
3. **The "Philosopher Queen"** – She is widely revered for her enlightened, welfare-oriented, and deeply people-centric style of governance.
4. **Cultural Restoration** – She played a massive role in preserving heritage by rebuilding prominent Hindu temples, most notably the *Kashi Vishwanath Temple* and the *Somnath Temple*.
5. **Social Reformer** – Ahilyabai actively championed women's education, supported widow remarriage, opposed the practice of *sati*, and worked to uplift tribal and lower-caste communities.

6. **Economic Impact** – Under her rule, Indore and Maheshwar grew into major commercial trading hubs, and she famously nurtured the legendary Maheshwari saree weaving tradition.

7. PM SVANidhi Scheme Completes 6 Years

1. **Why in News** – The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme has officially marked six years of operation since its launch.
2. **The Purpose** – Launched on June 1, 2020, as a Central Sector Scheme to provide affordable, collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Loan Structure** – It provides credit in three progressive stages or tranches of ₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000, backed by interest subsidies.
4. **Credit Card Perk** – Vendors who successfully repay their second-stage loan become eligible for a UPI-linked RuPay credit card with a limit of up to ₹30,000.
5. **Digital Incentives** – To push for digital adoption, the scheme offers street vendors cashback rewards of up to ₹1,600 on digital retail and wholesale transactions.
6. **Holistic Safety Net** – Through the SVANidhi se Samriddhi initiative, the government maps the socio-economic profiles of beneficiaries to link them and their families to 8 other central welfare schemes.

8. The Shangri-La Dialogue

1. **Why in News** – The premier defense summit recently concluded its annual session in Singapore, serving as a critical platform for major global and regional security announcements.
2. **What it is** – Also known as the Asia Security Summit, it is Asia's premier defense and security forum, held annually at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel since 2002.
3. **The Organizers** – It is independently organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, with official logistical support from Singapore's Ministry of Defence.
4. **Core Agenda** – The forum brings together defense ministers, military chiefs, and security experts to debate traditional territorial/maritime conflicts alongside non-traditional challenges like cybersecurity and climate change.
5. **Format** – The summit relies on a structured mix of public keynote speeches, plenary sessions, open breakout discussions, and crucial private bilateral meetings between nations.
6. **The Indian Counterpart** – India's own annual flagship foreign policy and defense conference, the *Raisina Dialogue*, is conceptually modeled after the structure of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

9. India-Vietnam BrahMos Missile Deal

1. **Why in News** – At the Shangri-La Dialogue, India's Defence Secretary officially confirmed that India has signed a major \$629 million defense contract to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam.
2. **What BrahMos Is** – It is an advanced supersonic, two-stage, solid-fuelled cruise missile developed through a joint venture between India (DRDO) and Russia. Its name is a blend of the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.
3. **The Vietnam Agreement** – Valued at roughly ₹60 billion (\$629 million), the deal covers the supply of shore-based anti-ship variants for coastal defense, along with training and full logistical support for Vietnamese forces.

4. **Strategic Capability** – Traveling at speeds over Mach 2 (more than twice the speed of sound), the fire-and-forget missile features multiple target acquisition sensors to evade electronic jamming and modern naval air defense systems.
5. **Geopolitical Impact** – The sale boosts Vietnam's maritime security amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea, placing Chinese-occupied bases within striking range if deployed from Vietnamese-controlled islands.
6. **Growing ASEAN Reach** – Following the Philippines—which became the first foreign buyer of the system in 2022—Vietnam is the second ASEAN nation to purchase BrahMos, while similar talks with Indonesia are in the final stages.