



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

June 5, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

I. Five Countries Elected as Non-Permanent Members of the UN Security Council for 2027–28

The countries of Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe have been elected as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2027–28 term. They secured victory in a closely contested secret ballot held in the 193-member UN General Assembly.

(i) New Members to Take Office in 2027

- The terms of the current non-permanent members—Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia—will end in December 2026.
- The newly elected countries will assume their two-year terms from January 1, 2027.

(ii) Results in the Western European and Others Group

- In the contest for two seats, Portugal secured 134 votes and Austria received 131 votes, ensuring their election.
- Germany, which had been widely viewed as a strong contender, managed only 104 votes and was defeated.

(iii) Other Regional Elections

- Zimbabwe won comfortably with 182 votes in the African and Asia-Pacific category.
- In a fiercely contested race for another seat, Kyrgyzstan defeated the Philippines after four rounds of voting, securing 142 votes.
- This marks Kyrgyzstan's first-ever membership in the Security Council.
- In the Latin American and Caribbean group, Trinidad and Tobago was elected with 181 votes.

(iv) Permanent Members of the Security Council

- The 15-member UN Security Council consists of five permanent members with veto power:
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - China
 - France
 - Russia

(v) Composition from 2027

- The five newly elected members will serve alongside the continuing non-permanent members:
 - Bahrain
 - Colombia
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Latvia
 - Liberia

(vi) India's Future Bid

- India previously served as a non-permanent member during 2021–22.
- India has already announced its intention to contest for a seat for the 2028–29 term.

2. Maruti Suzuki Launches India's First Flex-Fuel WagonR

Maruti Suzuki has introduced India's first flex-fuel vehicle, the WagonR Flex Fuel, capable of running on fuel containing up to 100% ethanol.

(i) Flexible Fuel Capability

- The vehicle has been specially designed to operate on petrol as well as fuel blends containing 20% to 100% ethanol.

(ii) Advanced ECU Technology

- The car's advanced Engine Control Unit (ECU) can automatically detect the ethanol content in the fuel and adjust engine performance accordingly.

(iii) Reducing Oil Import Dependence

- Speaking at the launch event in New Delhi, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari stated that:
 - India imports large quantities of crude oil annually.
 - Biofuels such as ethanol can reduce import dependence while strengthening the rural economy.

(iv) 100 Ethanol Fuel Stations

- Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said:
 - Indian farmers are evolving from food providers into fuel providers.
 - Flex-fuel vehicles can save valuable foreign exchange, reduce carbon emissions, and create new opportunities for rural development.
 - The Government plans to open 100 ethanol fuel stations in Delhi and Maharashtra.
 - This number could rise to 500 by the end of this year and 5,000 by the end of next year.
- Maruti Suzuki CEO Hisashi Takeuchi reiterated the company's commitment to offering technologies that help reduce carbon emissions and oil imports.

3. Four Persons of Indian Origin to Feature in FIFA World Cup

Four players of Indian origin will represent foreign national teams in the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

(i) FIFA World Cup 2026

- The 23rd FIFA World Cup will be held from June 11 to July 19 across:
 - Canada
 - Mexico
 - United States
- A total of 48 teams will participate.

(ii) Indian-Origin Representation

- Although India has yet to qualify for the World Cup, four individuals of Indian origin will play for other nations.

(iii) FIFA Eligibility Rules

- FIFA permits a player to represent a country if:
 - Their parents or grandparents were born there.
 - They hold that country's passport.

Players of Indian Origin

1. Sarpreet Singh – New Zealand
2. Samuel Moutoussamy – DR Congo
3. Nishan Velupillay – Australia
4. Tasin Mohammed Jamshid – Qatar

First Indian-Origin World Cup Player

- The first player of Indian origin to appear in a FIFA World Cup was Vikash Dhorasoo.
- He represented France in the 2006 FIFA World Cup, where France finished as runners-up.
- His ancestors originated from Andhra Pradesh, India.
- He also played for prominent clubs such as Lyon, PSG, and AC Milan.

4. First World Yogasana Championship Inaugurated

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the first-ever World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

5. Government Builds Massive Pulse Stockpile to Counter El Niño Risks

The Central Government has taken extensive measures to prevent a rise in pulse prices due to possible production losses caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

(i) Record Stockpile

- Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare stated that:
 - The Government currently holds a record 4.3 million tonnes (43 lakh tonnes) of pulses.
 - The stockpile is intended to address risks arising from lower production and higher prices due to El Niño.
 - The reserves will be used only if the Kharif crop is adversely affected.
 - Current stocks are double those of the previous year.
 - Consumers can expect stable pulse prices.

(ii) Growth in Domestic Production

- Strong procurement policies and efforts to reduce import dependence have significantly increased domestic pulse cultivation.
- Pulses can be safely stored for two to three years, ensuring food security.

6. Government Forms Six Task Forces to Identify 100 Import-Substitution Products

The Central Government has established six sector-specific task forces to identify 100 products that should be manufactured domestically to reduce imports.

(i) Six Focus Areas

The task forces cover:

1. Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical devices
2. Chemicals and petrochemicals
3. Textiles and footwear
4. Capital goods, automobiles, electric vehicles, and advanced manufacturing equipment
5. Energy
6. Construction equipment, infrastructure, defence, space, and electronics

(ii) Participating Agencies

The groups will include officials from:

- DPIIT
- NITI Aayog
- Department of Pharmaceuticals
- Department of Economic Affairs
- Department of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Chemicals
- Ministry of Electronics and IT
- Ministry of Road Transport
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Petroleum Ministry and others

(iii) Identification Process

- The task forces will be chaired by the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- They will identify products that are either:
 - Not manufactured in India, or
 - Not produced in sufficient quantities to meet domestic demand.
- Recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat within three weeks.

(iv) Expected Benefits

- Reduced foreign exchange outflow.
- Greater self-reliance.
- Support for the value of the Indian rupee.

7. India Likely to Sign Six More Free Trade Agreements by 2027

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India is expected to sign Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with three more countries within six months and another three in 2027.

(i) Recent FTA Progress

Over the last three and a half years, India has finalized trade agreements with:

- Mauritius
- New Zealand
- United Arab Emirates
- Oman
- United Kingdom

- Australia
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- European Union
- United States

(ii) Agreements in Force

- Agreements with Mauritius, UAE, Australia, Oman, and EFTA are already operational.
- Separate agreements have been signed with the United Kingdom and New Zealand.
- Additional agreements are expected in the coming months.
- According to the minister, these developments will create significant long-term opportunities for businesses operating in India.

8. Narendra Modi Set to Surpass Nehru's Democratic Tenure Record

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to become India's longest-serving democratically elected Prime Minister in terms of continuous service, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru.

(i) Nehru's Tenure

- Jawaharlal Nehru served as India's first Prime Minister from August 15, 1947, until his death on May 27, 1964.

(ii) Longest-Serving Prime Minister

- He remained Prime Minister for nearly 17 consecutive years, making him India's longest-serving Prime Minister overall.

(iii) Post-Election Democratic Mandate

- Following India's first general election in 1952, Nehru served continuously as Prime Minister for 4,398 days.

(iv) Modi's Milestone

- Prime Minister Modi, currently serving his third consecutive term, is expected to complete 4,399 days in office on June 10.
- This will allow him to surpass Nehru's record for the longest continuous tenure by a democratically elected Prime Minister.

9. Need for environmental conservation on the occasion of World Environment Day.

(i) Purpose of World Environment Day

- World Environment Day is observed annually on June 5 to raise global awareness about the necessity of protecting the Earth.
- The primary objectives include promoting tree planting, encouraging green growth, and instilling habits that ensure a sustainable and safe planet for future generations.
- The theme for 2026 is "Inspiring Nature, Improving Climate," focusing on restoring ecosystems and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

(ii) The Global Environmental Crisis

- Despite significant scientific and technological progress, the planet faces severe degradation: forests are being destroyed, rivers are polluted, and the air is becoming toxic.
- Scientists refer to the current rapid loss of various species as the "Sixth Extinction".
- The continuous rise in Earth's temperature is leading to more frequent natural disasters, such as flash floods, severe droughts, and rising sea levels.

(iii) Impact of Human Activities on Health and Nature

- Emissions from industries and vehicles are major causes of air pollution, leading to a rise in respiratory issues like asthma and lung diseases.
- Many Indian cities, not just Delhi, are now critically described as "gas chambers" due to poor air quality.
- Plastic pollution is a severe threat; single-use plastics contaminate soil and water, causing the deaths of numerous organisms.
- Urbanization and industrial expansion have significantly reduced forest cover, leading to decreased rainfall and increased heatwaves.

(iv) The Interconnectedness of Life

- Every organism has a specific role: bees are essential for pollination, trees provide oxygen, and microorganisms maintain soil fertility.
- Human civilization is entirely dependent on these ecosystem services, and without them, survival is impossible.

(v) India's Environmental Initiatives

- India has launched several programs to combat pollution, including the "Swachh Bharat" mission, plastic bans, and river cleaning projects.
- There is an increasing national focus on renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power, to reduce carbon footprints.
- Environmental awareness is being actively promoted in schools and colleges through specialized student clubs.

(vi) Collective Responsibility for the Future

- Earth is not a property we own but a "wealth borrowed from previous generations" that we must return safely to the next.
- Environmental protection cannot be achieved by Government efforts alone; it requires every individual to make sustainable changes in their lifestyle.
- The ultimate goal for a secure future is to plant more trees, reduce pollution, and live in harmony with nature.

10. High-level diplomatic engagement aimed at securing India's energy needs and broadening bilateral ties.

(i) High-Level Diplomatic Meeting

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Venezuelan Executive Vice President Delcy Rodriguez met in New Delhi to establish a framework for long-term energy cooperation.
- The meeting involved extensive discussions on strengthening bilateral relations across multiple sectors.

(ii) Revitalizing Energy Ties

- Venezuela characterizes India as a "preferred energy partner" due to India's rapid economic growth and consistent long-term demand for energy resources.
- Prime Minister Modi expressed India's commitment to strengthening this partnership, particularly in the production and distribution of energy.
- India has resumed and is currently increasing its crude oil imports from Venezuela following the easing of certain international sanctions.
- Prior to the 2020 sanctions, Venezuela was a major supplier to India, providing more than 4 lakh (400,000) barrels of crude oil per day.

(iii) Strategic Importance and Diversification

- The cooperation is strategically significant as India seeks to diversify its energy sources amidst global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.
- Diversifying oil imports is seen as a necessary move to protect the Indian economy from the volatility of international oil markets.

(iv) Resolution of Financial and Mining Issues

- During the talks, India raised the issue of approximately \$500 million in outstanding dividends owed to the Indian firm ONGC Videsh by Venezuela.
- Both nations also explored collaborative opportunities in the mining sector, specifically regarding resources like gold, diamonds, and other critical minerals.

(v) Economic and Industrial Cooperation

- Bilateral discussions extended beyond energy to include cooperation in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, vehicle manufacturing, health, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The visit included a high-level delegation of Venezuelan ministers from sectors such as foreign affairs, economy, finance, and science and technology.