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7. Short News

1. 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum

India is hosting the 13th edition of the BRICS Urbanisation Forum in New Delhi on June 11–12, 2026, under its 2026 BRICS Chair ship.

1. **Core Purpose**– It is a ministerial-level platform for BRICS member states to discuss urban challenges, share experiences, and boost collaborative urban development.
2. **Theme & Vision**– Guided by the theme "*Cities for People- BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures*" and driven by a "*Humanity First*" vision.
3. **Key Focus Areas**– Concentrates on inclusive urbanisation, climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure, municipal governance, and digital innovation.
4. **Expanded Membership**– Will feature delegations from all 11 current members– Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia.
5. **India's Legacy**– This marks the fourth time India is hosting this forum. India hosted the inaugural session in 2013, effectively putting urbanisation on the core BRICS agenda.

2. Codeine Cough Syrup Abuse in Bihar

A decade after Bihar implemented strict liquor prohibition in 2016, codeine-based cough syrups have rapidly emerged as a primary substitute for alcohol abuse.

1. **What it is**– Codeine is a naturally occurring opioid drug derived from morphine, conventionally used as a central nervous system (CNS) depressant to treat persistent dry coughs and mild pain.
2. **Mechanism & Risks**– It works by binding to opioid receptors to alter pain perception and suppress the cough reflex. Misuse leads to severe drowsiness, respiratory depression, and life-threatening overdose.
3. **Legal Classification**– Due to rampant abuse, the Bihar government has officially classified codeine-based formulations as "intoxicants" under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016.
4. **Strict Penalties**– Unauthorized possession, sale, or distribution of these cough syrups attracts severe fines, asset confiscation, and imprisonment.
5. **Public Health Challenge**– The trend highlights a shift in addiction patterns where over-the-counter or smuggled pharmaceutical drugs replace prohibited traditional alcohol.

3. Project UDAYAK (Border Roads Organisation)

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK on June 1, 2026, in Assam, marking its role in establishing vital security infrastructure.

1. **Identity & Jurisdiction**– Established in 1989, Project UDAYAK is a strategic wing of the BRO (Ministry of Defence). It manages over 1,457 km of roads across Assam and eastern Arunachal Pradesh.
2. **Geopolitical Significance**– The project drives infrastructure development directly along the highly sensitive Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and the Indo-Myanmar border.
3. **Core Mandate**– Currently prioritized to build critical border roads and execute border fencing to secure frontiers and curb cross-border issues like smuggling or illegal infiltration.
4. **Recent Breakthroughs**– In 2025 alone, the project successfully delivered 12 bridges, a strategic road network, and a helipad to enhance the mobility of the Indian Armed Forces.

5. **About the BRO-** Formed in 1960 under the Ministry of Defence, the BRO constructs and maintains complex infrastructure (tunnels, bridges, airfields) in India's toughest border terrains.

4. Malaysia Bans social media for Under-16s

Malaysia has launched nationwide enforcement banning children under the age of 16 from holding social media accounts.

1. **Primary Drivers-** The ban aims to protect minors from cyberbullying, online predators, scams, and exposure to violent or age-inappropriate content.
2. **Mental Health Mitigation-** Driven by mounting scientific data linking excessive platform usage with depression, anxiety, and platform-driven screen addiction among adolescents.
3. **Platform Obligations-** Social media companies with more than 8 million Malaysian users must deploy robust age-verification systems and block users under 16 or face fines up to 10 million ringgit (\$2.5 million).
4. **Safety by Design-** New rules mandate that platforms engineer safety features into their software layout to remove manipulative algorithms designed to maximize compulsive scrolling.
5. **Implementation Nuances-** Existing under-16 users are given a transition period to download or transfer their data. Crucially, parents will not be penalized if children bypass these verification checks.

5. Majuli Island

Scientists from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences recently conducted a study reconstructing nearly 4,000 years of climate, vegetation, and river dynamics of Majuli Island.

1. **Geographical Identity-** Located in Assam within the Brahmaputra River system, Majuli is globally recognized as the world's largest inhabited river island, spanning roughly 875 sq. km.
2. **Physical Topography-** Formed by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, its unique fluvial (river-formed) landscape consists of alluvial plains, braided channels, wetlands (*Beels*), and sandbars (*Chaporis*).
3. **Cultural Epicenter-** It is the hub of the Neo-Vaishnavite culture started by saint Srimanta Sankardeva. It houses around 30 *Sattras* (monasteries) that govern local culture, education, and religion.
4. **Demographics-** The island is home to unique indigenous tribal communities, prominently including the Mising, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari tribes.
5. **Ecological Threats-** The island is highly vulnerable and faces shrinking landmass due to recurrent catastrophic seasonal floods, severe riverbank erosion, and deforestation.

6. AUKUS Alliance

The trilateral security alliance marked its fifth anniversary and announced deep expansions into maritime defense cooperation and advanced technological integration.

1. **Origin & Mandate-** Launched in September 2021 by Australia, the UK, and the US, AUKUS is a strategic security partnership aimed at maintaining stability and countering geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific.
2. **Pillar I (Submarine Fleet)-** Focuses on helping Australia acquire conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs). The US will supply at least three Virginia-class submarines.
3. **Strategic Milestone-** Upon completion of Pillar I, Australia will become only the seventh country in the world to operate nuclear-powered submarines.

4. **Pillar II (Advanced Tech)**– Mandates deep trilateral cooperation in cutting-edge fields like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, cyber capabilities, and advanced hypersonic weaponry.
5. **Maritime Drone Focus**– The alliance is currently fast-tracking the deployment of collaborative Uncrewed Undersea Vehicles (UUVs) and advanced underwater drone systems for maritime surveillance.

7. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

The Government of India received an overwhelming response for ECLGS 5.0, picking up over 2.62 lakh applications worth ₹1.71 lakh crore to assist stressed industries.

1. **Context & Target**– Launched in 2026, this iteration addresses financial distress caused by economic disruptions from the ongoing West Asia conflict, specifically targeting MSMEs and the aviation industry.
2. **Credit Support Mechanism**– Eligible businesses can secure additional operational funds up to 20% of their existing working capital limits. The total financial envelope is capped at ₹2,55,000 crore.
3. **Guarantee Structure**– The government offers a 100% credit guarantee for MSMEs and a 90% guarantee for non-MSME and aviation sector loans, routed through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
4. **Repayment Terms**– Standard MSME/Non-MSME loans have a 5-year tenure (including a 1-year moratorium). The airline sector receives a relaxed 7-year tenure (including a 2-year moratorium).
5. **Pandemic Legacy**– The scheme is an evolved version of the original ECLGS framework rolled out during the COVID-19 pandemic to shield businesses from sudden cash-flow collapses.

India's seafood export sector achieved an all-time record high in both total volume and financial value during the fiscal year 2025-26.

1. **The Record Figures**– Despite weak and volatile global market demands, India exported 19.72 lakh metric tonnes of seafood, bringing in an unprecedented USD 8.46 billion.
2. **Dominant Commodity**– Frozen shrimp remained the undisputed king of Indian seafood exports, single-handedly generating nearly two-thirds of the nation's entire seafood export revenue.
3. **Primary Markets**– The United States retained its position as the top buyer of Indian frozen shrimp, closely followed by China and the European Union (EU).
4. **Growth Segments**– Frozen fish stood as the second-largest exported group. Meanwhile, dried seafood products took third place but marked a massive 78.05% growth in rupee value.
5. **Key Exit Gateways**– The maritime ports of Visakhapatnam, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Maharashtra, and Kochi in Kerala emerged as the top three hubs handling this record-breaking cargo.