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1. ₹354 crore Allocated for “Singa Pen” Special Women’s Commando Force

Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay announced an allocation of ₹354 crore for the newly launched Singa Pen Special Commando Force. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Rajarathinam Stadium in Egmore, Chennai.

Key Highlights:

- ₹354 crore has been allocated in the first phase.
- An additional 2,500 police posts will be created in the second phase.
- The force will be equipped with advanced technology, modern equipment, and vehicles.
- It will work alongside the existing women’s wing of the police department.
- Its primary objective is to identify and prevent crimes against women before they occur.

2. Protests in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir Against Reserved Seats for Refugees from India

A protest was held in the Legislative Assembly of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) demanding the abolition of reserved seats for refugees who migrated from India.

Key Developments:

- The protest call was given by the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).
- Shops and business establishments in major cities remained closed in response.
- Twelve assembly seats are reserved for refugees who migrated from India after 1947.
- However, refugees residing within PoK are not eligible to contest from these reserved seats.
- With assembly elections scheduled next month, protesters demanded the complete removal of this reservation system.

Government Response:

- JAAC was banned on grounds of threatening public order and security.
- Clashes between protesters and police reportedly resulted in the deaths of more than 20 people, including police personnel.
- PoK Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore urged protesters to abandon violence and engage in dialogue.

3. Russia Launches Naval Drills Amid NATO Exercise in the Baltic Sea

As NATO countries conduct military exercises in the Baltic Sea, Russia has launched its own naval drills in the region.

Details:

- NATO’s largest joint exercise of the year is being held from June 4–20.
- The exercise involves 20 warships and around 6,000 military personnel from 15 countries.
- Russia’s drills are taking place near Kaliningrad, the Russian exclave located between Lithuania

and Poland.

- Russia deployed:
 - 10 fighter and bomber aircraft,
 - Small missile ships,
 - Other naval assets.

Kaliningrad serves as the headquarters of Russia's Baltic Fleet.

4. Ebola Death Toll in Congo Reaches 101

The death toll from the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has risen to 101.

Situation Overview:

- Although officially declared in mid-May, the disease had reportedly been spreading for several weeks beforehand.
- The outbreak is concentrated in:
 - Ituri Province,
 - North Kivu,
 - South Kivu.
- In the last 24 hours:
 - 35 new cases were confirmed,
 - 10 people died.
- Total cases have reached 550.

Challenges:

- Public distrust and attacks by armed groups are hampering containment efforts.
- Two members of a burial team were seriously injured in an attack near Bunia.
- Humanitarian and medical access remains difficult in conflict-affected areas.

Nigeria:

- In Nigeria's Borno State, a cholera outbreak that began in May has claimed 74 lives so far.

5. TCS Chairman - N. Chandrasekaran.

6. FIFA World Cup 2026 Official Match Ball - "Trionda"

The official match ball for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is called "Trionda."

- The Spanish word "Trionda" means "Three Waves."
- It symbolizes the three host nations:
 - Canada
 - Mexico
 - United States

Colors

- Green represents Mexico.
- Blue represents the United States.
- Red represents Canada.

The ball also features:

- Eagle (Mexico),
- Star (United States),
- Maple Leaf (Canada).

Design

- The ball consists of only four panels, the fewest ever used in a World Cup ball.
- It is based on a tetrahedron-inspired triangular structure.
- The design reflects the three-host-nation concept.
- Gold accents symbolize the World Cup trophy.

Technology

- A built-in sensor records every movement of the ball.
- It provides data to the VAR (Video Assistant Referee) system.
- Helps detect:
 - Handballs,
 - Offside goals,
 - Other difficult decisions.
- The ball must be charged before every match.

Special Features

- Designed to resist slipping in wet conditions.
- Maintains a stable flight path.
- Enables more accurate prediction of ball trajectory.

7. Somali Referee Removed from FIFA World Cup After U.S. Entry Denial

Somali referee Omar Ardan was denied entry into the United States and subsequently removed from FIFA's World Cup officiating list.

Background:

- He was set to become the first Somali referee to officiate at a FIFA World Cup.
- He was named Africa's best football referee in 2025.
- FIFA had included him in the referee list two months earlier.

Incident:

- Despite receiving entry authorization, he was denied admission upon arrival at Miami Airport.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection did not provide a public explanation.
- FIFA later removed him from the tournament roster.
- Somalia is among the countries facing U.S. travel restrictions introduced under the Trump administration.

8. Nepal Restricts Imports of Indian Mangoes

Nepal has imposed restrictions on importing mangoes from India, citing excessive pesticide residues.

According to Ajay Gyawali, Communications Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Land

Management, Madhesh Province:

- High levels of pesticide contamination were reportedly detected in Indian mangoes.
- Nepal lacks sufficient testing facilities at border checkpoints.
- Therefore, import restrictions have been imposed.

Impact:

- Sales of domestically grown Nepali mangoes have increased.
- However, local production remains insufficient to meet nationwide demand.

9. U.S. Court Cancels Trump's H-1B Visa Fee Hike

A U.S. court has struck down President Donald Trump's decision to increase the H-1B visa fee to \$100,000 per year.

Court's Ruling:

- The fee increase was implemented without congressional approval.
- The court ruled that it effectively constituted a tax.
- Since taxation requires congressional authorization, the measure was declared unlawful.

Background:

- H-1B visas are widely used by U.S. companies to recruit highly skilled foreign professionals, particularly in information technology.
- Many Indian professionals work in the U.S. under this program.
- Outstanding performers may eventually qualify for permanent residency (Green Card).

Legal Challenge:

- Groups from 20 U.S. states challenged the fee increase in federal court in Boston.
- Judge Leo Sorokin ruled that the administration had exceeded its authority and invalidated the increase.

10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Visit France and Slovakia (June 13–19)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake an official visit to France and Slovakia from June 13–19.

France

- Modi will arrive in Nice on June 13.
- He will hold bilateral talks with President Emmanuel Macron on June 14.
- The leaders will discuss strengthening cooperation across various sectors.
- They will jointly inaugurate "Bharat Innovates," a platform connecting Indian, French, and international startups and venture capital funds.

Slovakia

- Modi will visit Slovakia from June 14–16.
- He will become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

G7 Summit

- Modi will return to France to attend the G7 Summit in Évian on June 16–17.
- He is expected to hold discussions with several world leaders.

VivaTech

- On June 18–19, he will participate in VivaTech in Paris.

11. ₹95,692 crore Released for the 125-Day Employment Scheme

The Central Government has released ₹95,692 crore to states and Union Territories under the new 125-Day Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Tamil Nadu Allocation

- Tamil Nadu has been allocated ₹7,957.57 crore.

Background

- The scheme replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 100-day program.
- The new law was passed by Parliament in December and approved by President Droupadi Murmu.

Key Features

- Employment guarantee increased from 100 days to 125 days.
- For states and UTs with legislatures:
 - Central Government: 60%
 - State Government: 40%
- For northeastern and Himalayan states, including:
 - Uttarakhand,
 - Himachal Pradesh,
 - Jammu & Kashmir,

Funding pattern:

- Central Government: 90%
- State Government: 10%

The scheme will come into force on July 1.

12. Challenges of surging electricity demand during heatwaves and a shift toward decentralized solar energy.

(i) The Impact of the Heatwave on Power Supply

- A severe country-wide heatwave has significantly impacted electricity distribution across all states, including Tamil Nadu.
- In various urban areas of Tamil Nadu, frequent power outages have led to public frustration and street protests.
- The Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have been forced to intervene directly on the ground to manage public anger and ensure electricity board officials address the faults promptly.

(ii) Infrastructure and Distribution Challenges

- The current power cuts are primarily due to distribution and infrastructure failures rather than a total shortage of electricity.
- Key issues include "overloading" of transformers during peak evening and night hours, faults in underground cables, and an overall aging distribution network.
- The Electricity Minister, C.T.R. Nirmalkumar, has taken the step of holding press conferences to explain these technical realities to the public.

(iii) Record National Demand and the Solar Gap

- India's power demand has reached a historic record of 270 GW this year.
- For the first time, the Central Government has issued a public appeal for cautious electricity usage.
- A major strategic challenge identified is the night time gap; since solar power production drops to zero at night, it is difficult to compensate for high demand during those hours without a more stable grid.

(iv) India's Energy Mix and Reliability Issues

- Currently, India's energy production consists of 72% thermal, 9% hydro, 2% nuclear, and 17% renewables (wind and solar).
- The 17% derived from renewables is characterized as "unreliable" because production is entirely dependent on weather conditions, such as cloud cover or wind speeds.
- India should look to countries like Germany, which successfully integrate high levels of renewable energy into their grids with high precision.

(v) Tamil Nadu's Leadership in Renewables

- Tamil Nadu is one of India's top states for renewable energy, ranking alongside Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- The state has seen massive growth in solar capacity, rising from 5,067 MW in March 2022 to 13,871 MW in April 2026, a 174% increase.
- Additionally, wind energy production in the state has reached 12,159 MW.

(vi) Solution – "Solar in Every Home" Scheme

- Urging the State Government to launch a "Solar in Every Home" project.
- It suggests that providing adequate subsidies for individual household solar installations would reduce the burden on the central grid during peak summer months and prevent public unrest.
- Reallocating funds from certain welfare programs, like the women's rights grant, toward this initiative could be a more productive long-term investment for the state's energy security.