



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

June 15, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Prime Minister Modi Holds Bilateral Talks with French President Macron

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on an official visit to France, held bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in the city of Nice.

(i) Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), defense, and trade.

(ii) Prime Minister Modi began a week-long official visit to France and Slovakia on June 13. He first arrived in Nice, the Mediterranean port city of France, where he received a warm welcome at both the airport and his hotel.

(iii) Modi and Macron jointly inaugurated the “Bharat Innovates” event in Nice, an Indian initiative aimed at bringing together leading innovation companies from India, France, and other countries.

(iv) The two leaders then held high-level discussions on strengthening bilateral relations across various sectors and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

(v) Next Phase of Bilateral Relations

According to a post by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal:

- India-France relations have reached a new level of strategic partnership.
- Modi and Macron discussed progress in their global strategic partnership.
- They reviewed cooperation in innovation, trade, investment, sustainable development, defense, culture, and people-to-people ties.

(vi) France as a Major Investor in India

- India-France bilateral trade reached US\$15.81 billion in 2025–26, compared with US\$15.19 billion in the previous year.
- Between April 2000 and March 2025, France invested US\$12.25 billion in India through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- France is currently India’s 11th-largest investor.

2. Lewis Hamilton Wins Barcelona Grand Prix

British driver Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari won the Barcelona Grand Prix, the seventh race of the current Formula One season.

(i) This marks Hamilton’s first victory since moving from Mercedes to Ferrari two years ago. It was also his first win in the last 40 races.

(ii) The victory ended the five-race winning streak of Italian driver Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes. Notably, all three drivers on the podium were from Britain.

(iii)

- Lewis Hamilton – 1st place
- George Russell (Mercedes) – 2nd place
- Lando Norris (McLaren and reigning champion) – 3rd place

With this victory, Hamilton increased his career Formula One win tally to 106 victories.

3. India Approves Use of 100% Ethanol Fuel in Vehicles

India's Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has signed and approved the use of 100% ethanol fuel in vehicles across India.

(i) Speaking at the Indian Ethanol Biofuel Conference in Nagpur, Gadkari said:

- He signed the approval file for 100% ethanol fuel on the night of June 13.
- This grants legal approval for the use of 100% ethanol fuel in India.
- The move opens the door for vehicles designed to run on ethanol-based fuel.

(ii) Companies including Maruti Suzuki, Toyota, Hyundai, and MG Motor are expected to introduce compatible vehicles within the next month.

(iii) Although termed "100% ethanol fuel," the fuel will actually contain about 93–95% ethanol, along with petrol and other chemical additives to facilitate easier engine starting.

(iv) Existing vehicles using 20% ethanol-blended fuel (E20) can be adapted more easily for the new fuel. However, engines and fuel systems will require modifications to fully support ethanol fuel.

(v) According to Gadkari, 100% ethanol fuel could become an effective long-term solution to challenges such as crude oil shortages and price increases caused by geopolitical conflicts, including tensions in West Asia.

4. India's Imports of Russian Crude Oil Continue to Rise

India's imports of crude oil from Russia continue to increase. In May alone, India purchased Russian crude oil worth approximately ₹59,000 crore.

(i) According to a report by the European think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA):

- India's imports of Russian crude oil increased by 8% in May.
- 83% of India's crude oil imports came from Russia.
- India purchased crude oil worth ₹52,813 crore from Russia.

(ii) In addition, India imported:

- Petroleum products worth ₹6,051 crore
- Coal worth ₹4,720 crore

from Russia.

(iii) Government-owned refineries, which had reduced purchases from Russia in November 2025, have resumed large-scale imports.

(iv) The Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited increased its purchases by 13% in May compared with the previous month.

(v) The Visakh Refinery increased purchases by 42%.

- (vi) The Paradip Refinery in Odisha recorded its highest level of Russian crude oil purchases in two years.
- (vii) India is the second-largest buyer of Russian crude oil globally. Russia directs 36% of its crude oil exports to India.
- (viii) China remains the largest buyer, accounting for 50% of Russia's crude oil exports.
- (ix) Other major buyers include:
- Türkiye – 6%
 - European Union – 5%
- (x) Russia faces economic sanctions from the United States and several other countries because of its war against Ukraine. The United States has imposed additional tariffs on products from countries purchasing Russian crude oil. However, due to concerns about possible global oil shortages arising from the conflict involving Iran, the U.S. has allowed India to continue importing Russian crude oil.

5. Societal value of housewives, the judicial recognition of their labor, and the paradox of rising domestic violence despite existing legal protections.

(i) Economic Value and Recognition of Housewives

- The Supreme Court has stated that housewives are the true builders of the nation.
- In a significant ruling, the Court estimated the monthly value of a housewife's work to be approximately ₹30,000.
- It is estimated that the unpaid labor of women in household management contributes between 15% and 17% of India's total economic production.
- The Court suggested that instead of just "housewife" or "home maker" these women should be recognized as "nation builders" to reflect their true contribution.

(ii) Judicial Context: Accident Compensation

- The discussion stems from a 2001 vehicle accident case in Punjab involving a mother of three.
- While a lower tribunal awarded ₹2.42 lakh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court increased it to ₹8.43 lakh with interest.
- Judges Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh emphasized that a housewife's loss significantly impacts household maintenance costs, justifying the higher valuation of their work when calculating compensation.

(iii) Statistics on Domestic Violence

- According to 2024 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 4.41 lakh crimes against women were registered in India, with 1.20 lakh of those being cases of domestic violence. State-wise Breakdown:
 - Uttar Pradesh ranks first with 21,266 cases.
 - West Bengal follows with 19,330 cases.
 - Tamil Nadu registered 3,344 cases of domestic violence.
- Specific Crimes in Tamil Nadu: The state's figures include 2,042 cases of dowry harassment and 34 deaths resulting from dowry harassment.

(iv) The Crisis of Suicides Among Housewives

Tamil Nadu has ranked first in India for suicides among housewives for four consecutive years.

- 2021: 3,221 suicides in TN (out of 23,179 nationally).
- 2022: 3,093 suicides in TN (out of 25,309 nationally).
- 2023: 3,080 suicides in TN (out of 24,048 nationally).
- 2024: 2,821 suicides in TN (out of 22,113 nationally).

(v) Effectiveness of Legal Protections

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 is currently in force to protect women from threats, physical injury, sexual harassment, emotional abuse, and economic deprivation.
- While there is sufficient legal protection on paper, the continued prevalence of domestic violence suggests that these laws are not being implemented strictly.