

The week from 16 June 2025 to 22 June 2025

A new species of jumping spider, *Spartaeus karigiri*, has been discovered in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This is the first Indian record of the genera *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita*, previously known only from Southeast Asia and Africa. This discovery enhances understanding of predatory behaviour and adaptive mimicry in arachnids.

The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025 began on June 16 in Germany with over 5,000 delegates participating to review climate agreements and set the technical agenda for COP29. First held in 1995, it is an annual mid-year conference under the UNFCCC focusing on scientific, technical, and implementation aspects of climate negotiations.

The first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was held in New Delhi, chaired by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, who was also elected as the President of IBCA. The International Big Cat Alliance is a multinational initiative launched by India in 2024, aimed at protecting the world's seven major big cat species through collective action, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

The 8th edition of Exercise Shakti, a joint Indo-French military drill, is being held from June 18 to July 1 at Camp Larzac in Southern France. Exercise Shakti is a biennial Indo-French joint military exercise, launched to enhance bilateral military cooperation and interoperability.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj signed an MoU with Bhashini to integrate AI-enabled multilingual tools into rural governance platforms, enhancing access to services for citizens in their native languages. Bhashini is the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) — a digital public infrastructure enabling real-time AI-powered language translation across Indian languages.

The 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was observed on June 21, 2025, with the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health” whereby the global participation has grown from 9 crore in 2018 to more than 20 crores in 2025. Officially recognised by a UNGA resolution, it is an annual global observance promoting yoga as a holistic health practice for mind-body balance, harmony with nature, and sustainable well-being.

The Delhi Government has launched its first ₹3.21 crore artificial rain pilot project in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur and IMD to reduce air pollution through cloud seeding technology. The process uses cloud seeding by aircraft, dispersing agents like silver iodide and rock salt into clouds.

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