

Rekham Academy:

Current Affairs on 12 th June 25

Social Protection Cover in India (ILO)

According to the latest data from International Labour Organization's (ILO) ILOSTAT, India's social security coverage in 2025 stood at 64.3%, up from 19% a decade ago.

Key Initiatives in India for Social Protection:

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM): To provide old age protection and social security to unorganized sector workers (e.g., street vendors, rickshaw pullers, construction workers, domestic workers).
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJBY): To provide affordable life insurance cover.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY): To provide a guaranteed pension for unorganized sector workers.

Dr. G Madhavi Latha – The Geotechnical Pioneer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest single-arch railway bridge.

G Madhavi Latha, a professor at IISc Bengaluru, played a key geotechnical consulting role in the bridge's 17-year-long construction journey.

CROPIC Initiative

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched CROPIC, a tech-driven initiative using AI to monitor crop health and automate crop loss assessment.

The pilot phase will cover Kharif 2025 and Rabi 2025–26 in 50 selected districts.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX)

The Indian Navy and UK Royal Navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the North

Arabian Sea.

Taliban Sanctions Committee & 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee

Pakistan has been appointed Chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee and Vice Chair of the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee as part of its term as a non-permanent UNSC member (2025–26).

Salmonella Outbreak

A Salmonella outbreak in the US has infected 79 people and led to a recall of 1.7 million egg cartons by the California-based August Egg Company.

What is Salmonella?

- A bacterial infection that causes salmonellosis, affecting the intestinal tract.
- It spreads through contaminated food, water, or direct contact with infected humans or animals.

Causes of Salmonella Infection:

- Raw or undercooked eggs and poultry (especially chicken).
- Contaminated meat, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and even processed items like nut butters.
- Pets and reptiles can carry and spread the bacteria.
- Poor hygiene during food preparation or after bathroom use.

IALA (International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation)

India participated in the 2nd Session of the IALA Council in Nice, France, as the Vice President.

India also invited members for the 3rd General Assembly (2025) and 21st IALA Conference (2027) in Mumbai.

About IALA:

- IALA is an intergovernmental technical body responsible for standardizing and enhancing marine aids to navigation (AtoN).
- Established in 1957, became intergovernmental in 2021.
- HQ: Saint-Germain-en-Laye, near Paris, France.

India's Role:

- Council member since 1980; elected Vice President (2023–2027).

Objectives:

- Develop international standards and guidance.
- Promote safety of navigation, marine protection, and harmonization.

Lokpal of India

The Lokpal of India adopted a new motto: “Empower Citizens, Expose Corruption”.

About Lokpal:

- Independent statutory body under Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- Came into effect on 16th January 2014.
- HQ: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

Khankhuuluu Mongoliensis

Khankhuuluu mongoliensis, called the “Dragon Prince”, lived around 86 million years ago — 20 million years before T. rex.

It roamed during the Cretaceous period and its name means “Dragon Prince of Mongolia”.

TOI-6894b

TOI-6894b is a gas giant planet roughly the size of Saturn, found orbiting a tiny red dwarf star.

This rare pairing challenges existing models which state small stars lack enough disk material to form such large planets.

Ohler's Spiny Frog

Ohler's Spiny Frog is a newly discovered large frog with a spiny chest, found at a waterfall in Vietnam.

It belongs to Quasipaa or related genera, known for spiny chests and large size.