

## 1. Historic Appointment: MI6 Gets First Woman Chief

### Introduction

Blaise Metreweli has been named as the next chief of MI6, making her the first woman to lead the British foreign intelligence agency in its 116-year history. She will report to the Foreign Secretary. The announcement was made by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Metreweli, 47, currently heads MI6's Q section, responsible for tech and innovation.



**UK's spy agency MI6 gets first female chief, marks a first in 116 year history**

### Slow Progress Compared to Sister Agencies

Unlike MI6, sister agencies MI5 and GCHQ appointed women leaders much earlier.

How British Intelligence Agencies Work

#### 1. MI5 – Domestic Intelligence

- Official name: Security Service
- Focus: Domestic counterintelligence and counter-terrorism
- Indian equivalent: Intelligence Bureau (IB)

#### 2. MI6 – Foreign Intelligence

- Official name: Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)
- Focus: Espionage abroad, foreign intelligence gathering
- Originated from the Foreign Section of the Secret Service Bureau
- Codename "C" used since its first chief, Sir Mansfield Cumming
- Indian equivalent: Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)
- Became publicly acknowledged only in 1994

#### 3. GCHQ – Signals Intelligence

- Focus: Electronic surveillance and securing UK's communications
- Formerly known as the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS)
- Famous for cracking the Enigma code in World War II
- Exposed in 2013 by Edward Snowden for illegal data collection

### Conclusion

Blaise Metreweli's appointment marks a milestone for British intelligence, symbolizing progress in gender representation at the top levels of national security. While MI6 lagged

behind its peers in appointing a female chief, her leadership may set a new tone for the traditionally secretive agency.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025 Begins

### Introduction

Over 5,000 government delegates and stakeholders have gathered in Bonn, Germany, for the annual Bonn Climate Change Conference. The meeting began on June 17 and will continue until June 26.



### What Is the Bonn Climate Change Conference?

The conference is an annual mid-year meeting held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

It is formally called the Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) and serves as a key follow-up to the main Conference of the Parties (COP) held later in the year.

### Who Attends?

- Government representatives from UNFCCC member countries
- Indigenous leaders
- Scientists and researchers
- International organisations
- Civil society and environmental groups

### Why Is the Bonn Conference Important?

- It helps prepare the technical and scientific groundwork for COP (usually held in November).
- Decisions and recommendations made here directly influence the outcomes of the upcoming COP.
- It also reviews progress on agreements made at previous COPs.

### Key Bodies Leading the Conference

Two main bodies under the UNFCCC lead the discussions:

#### 1. Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)

- Tracks how countries are implementing climate agreements
- Discusses financial and technical support for developing nations

#### 2. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

- Provides scientific input to guide climate policies
- Acts as a bridge between the IPCC scientists and climate negotiators

### Main Focus in 2025: Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

This year, a key issue is finalizing a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

- GGA was first mentioned in the Paris Agreement (2015)
- After limited progress for years, a framework was adopted at COP28 (Dubai)
- The Bonn meeting aims to define clear targets for global adaptation, similar to how keeping global warming below 1.5°C is the main goal for mitigation

### Conclusion

The Bonn Conference plays a crucial behind-the-scenes role in global climate governance. It shapes future negotiations, supports climate science and policy links, and sets the direction for major decisions at COP conferences.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Environment

Source: The Hindu

## 3. India Supports Peaceful Resolution of Cyprus Dispute: PM Modi

### Introduction

During his visit to Cyprus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's support for the unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and called for a peaceful resolution of the long-standing Cyprus question.

### Background: The Cyprus Question

- Since 1974, Cyprus has been divided between the Republic of Cyprus (internationally recognised) and the Türkiye-backed Northern Cyprus.
- This division is known as the Cyprus question.
- India supports a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality as per UN resolutions.

### Indirect Message to Türkiye

- PM Modi's visit to Cyprus is seen as a subtle message to Türkiye, a strong ally of Pakistan.
- The joint statement called for avoiding unilateral actions (a reference to Türkiye's role) and stressed negotiations to resolve the conflict.

### Strengthening Bilateral Ties



- Cyprus conferred its highest civilian honour — the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III — on PM Modi.
- Modi dedicated the award to the friendship and shared values between India and Cyprus.
- The two countries reaffirmed support for each other:
  - Cyprus backs India's bid for a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.
  - India supports Cyprus's position on the Cyprus issue.

### **Strategic Timing and EU Connection**

- This was PM Modi's first foreign visit after Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.
- The visit comes ahead of Cyprus's Presidency of the European Council in early 2026.
- Modi called Cyprus a trusted partner in the EU, pointing to increased cooperation.

### **Support on Terrorism and Kashmir**

- Cyprus has consistently supported India's position on Kashmir and condemned cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.
- It also denounced the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025.

### **Conclusion**

PM Modi's visit to Cyprus reaffirms India's strategic outreach, diplomatic support, and strong bilateral relationship with Cyprus, while also sending a subtle message to adversarial powers like Türkiye and Pakistan.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

Source: Indian Express

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