

## Part 1: International News

### Q1. Geopolitical Frameworks

**At the G7 Summit held in Evian, France, in mid-June 2026, which strategic maritime body did the leaders highlight for immediate protection to stabilize global energy supply routes following a major diplomatic breakthrough?**

- [A] Strait of Malacca
- [B] Strait of Hormuz
- [C] Bab-el-Mandeb
- [D] Bosphorus Strait

**Correct Answer:** [B] Strait of Hormuz

#### Detailed Explanation:

During the G7 Summit in June 2026, world leaders officially welcomed a breakthrough peace framework/MOU concerning maritime logistics and regional tensions. A multinational, independent defensive maritime framework spearheaded by France and the UK was highlighted to protect commercial shipping operators, reassure the global market, and facilitate the complete resumption of unhindered maritime traffic through the **Strait of Hormuz**. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, serving as the world's most critical oil transit chokepoint.

### Q2. Environmental Accords

**In June 2026, India and which East Asian country officially adopted the "Rules of Implementation" for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement?**

- [A] South Korea
- [B] Japan
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Australia

**Correct Answer:** [B] Japan

#### Detailed Explanation:

India and Japan have finalized and adopted the Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This operational framework falls under Article 6.2 of the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement, which governs cooperative approaches and internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs). The deal strengthens bilateral green technology transfers, expands carbon market networks, accelerates Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions, and fosters sustainable low-carbon growth projects between the two nations.

### Q3. Global Health & Virology

**The Usutu virus, which causes acute neurological disorientation in birds and can occasionally spill over into humans via Culex mosquitoes, was detected for the first time in which region in June 2026?**

- [A] Northern Territory, Australia
- [B] Scotland, United Kingdom
- [C] Hokkaido, Japan
- [D] Ontario, Canada

**Correct Answer:** [B] Scotland, United Kingdom

#### Detailed Explanation:

Virologists and wildlife biologists confirmed the first-ever detection of the Usutu virus in blackbirds in Scotland. Originating primarily in Africa, this mosquito-borne flavivirus is transmitted predominantly by *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes. The detection in Scotland surprised scientists due to the historically colder climate, raising fresh alarms about climate change shifting the habitable zones of vector-borne tropical pathogens northward.



## Part 2: National News

### Q4. Land & Conservation Metrics

**According to data released around the UNCCD observance in June 2026, how much degraded land did India successfully restore between 2011 and 2020 under its global conservation commitments?**

- [A] 10.50 million hectares
- [B] 15.12 million hectares
- [C] 21.76 million hectares
- [D] 26.00 million hectares

**Correct Answer:** [C] 21.76 million hectares

#### Detailed Explanation:

A high-level institutional report revealed that India successfully restored **21.76 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land between 2011 and 2020. This milestone aligns with India's voluntary pledge under the Bonn Challenge—a global effort to bring degraded lands into restoration. The progress highlights massive community-driven afforestation, sustainable land management, and agroforestry projects pushed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

### Q5. Interstate Resource Disputes

**In June 2026, an interstate administrative agreement concluded that Himachal Pradesh's unutilized water share would be temporarily allocated to which two regions in exchange for power component cost-sharing?**

- [A] Punjab and Haryana
- [B] Delhi and Rajasthan
- [C] Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- [D] Delhi and Haryana

**Correct Answer:** [B] Delhi and Rajasthan

#### Detailed Explanation:

To optimize resource sharing and alleviate severe summer shortages, a critical allocation pact was ratified where Himachal Pradesh's unutilized Yamuna water share will be routed to Delhi and Rajasthan. In return, Delhi and Rajasthan will bear the financial burden and cost-sharing of Himachal Pradesh's portion of the associated hydroelectric power component. This operational synergy is geared towards augmenting the environmental flow and water availability in the National Capital Region and northern arid zones.

### Q6. Space & Deep Tech

**ISRO, in joint collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), announced in June 2026 that it is developing an advanced artificial heating system to extend the operational life of future lunar landers to how many days?**

- [A] 50 days
- [B] 100 days
- [C] 150 days
- [D] 200 days

**Correct Answer:** [D] 200 days

#### Detailed Explanation:

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that ISRO and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are co-developing a specialized nuclear-based artificial heating system (utilizing Radioisotope Heating Units or advanced thermal management technology). Standard lunar landers operate for only 1 lunar day (about 14 Earth days) because they freeze during the harsh lunar night where temperatures plunge below  $-180^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This indigenous technology aims to extend lander survival up to **200 days**, enabling long-duration scientific lunar exploration.

## Part 3: Economics and Banking

### Q7. Central Banking Policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reiterated in June 2026 that it is not in favor of "offshore settlement" for Indian Government Securities (G-Secs). Which domestic platform does the RBI prefer foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to utilize directly?

- [A] NSE-Prime
- [B] NDS-OM Platform
- [C] SFMS Network
- [D] Kuber-Direct

**Correct Answer:** [B] NDS-OM Platform

**Detailed Explanation:**

The RBI has maintained a firm stance against allowing Indian government bonds to be settled on international/offshore clearing platforms (like Euroclear), choosing instead to keep liquidity localized. The RBI mandates that foreign investors trade directly through the domestic **Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching (NDS-OM)** platform. This ensures concentrated local trading volume, transparent price discovery, robust monitoring of volatile capital flows, and safeguards the domestic financial system from external offshore speculative systemic shocks.

### Q8. Payment Systems & Regulation

Under the "Master Directions on Authorisation to Operate a Payment System" issued by the RBI in June 2026, regulations were formalized under which parent statutory act?

- [A] Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- [B] Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- [C] Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007
- [D] Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

**Correct Answer:** [C] Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007

**Detailed Explanation:**

The RBI issued updated, comprehensive Master Directions laying down stringent governance, net-worth compliance, and cybersecurity mandates for entities seeking licenses as Payment System Operators (PSOs). This structural oversight is derived directly from the powers conferred under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**. The updated guidelines streamline authorization protocols for digital wallets, cross-border payment gateways, and clearinghouses to prevent digital banking fraud.

### Q9. Financial Literacy & Awareness

Which state was chosen by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the launch of the high-impact "RBI Reelathon 2026" digital/cyber fraud awareness campaign across 150 higher education colleges?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Karnataka

**Correct Answer:** [B] Kerala

**Detailed Explanation:**

In mid-June 2026, the RBI rolled out a unique, youth-centric cybersecurity awareness initiative called "**RBI Reelathon 2026**" across 150 colleges in **Kerala**. The campaign leverages short-form digital media ("reels" and multimedia content) curated by students to instill safe digital banking practices, cyber hygiene, smart institutional borrowing behavior, and immediate grievance redressal mechanisms against emerging AI-driven mule account scams and phishing attacks.

Part 4: Sports News

**Q10. Sports Influencers & Media**

**Which Indian female cricketer made history in June 2026 by becoming the only Indian athlete to be featured in the prestigious global list of "Time 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026"?**

- [A] Harmanpreet Kaur
- [B] Shafali Verma
- [C] Smriti Mandhana
- [D] Jemimah Rodrigues

**Correct Answer:** [C] Smriti Mandhana

**Detailed Explanation:**

Star Indian opener and icon Smriti Mandhana created history by becoming the sole Indian athlete featured on the global **Time 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026** list. This honor recognizes her massive contribution to popularizing women's cricket globally, achieving joint-highest centuries (17) in women's international cricket milestones, and leading her franchise, the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), to dual Women's Premier League (WPL) titles in 2024 and 2026.

**Q11. International Hockey**

**The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced the host destinations for upcoming tournaments in June 2026. Which country is slated to host the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup?**

- [A] India
- [B] Netherlands & Belgium
- [C] Germany
- [D] Australia

**Correct Answer:** [B] Netherlands & Belgium

**Detailed Explanation:**

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has designated the **Netherlands and Belgium** as the joint hosts for the flagship Men's Hockey World Cup. Both European heavyweights feature world-class astroturf infrastructure, and the joint hosting mechanism aims to maximize fan engagement and television broadcasting footprints across the continent, continuing the sports' structural transformation.

**Q12. Multi-National Multi-Sport Events**

**The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) officially finalized the hosting roadmap for the scaled-back edition of the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Which city/region is hosting this event?**

- [A] Victoria, Australia
- [B] Glasgow, Scotland
- [C] Birmingham, UK
- [D] New Delhi, India

**Correct Answer:** [B] Glasgow, Scotland

**Detailed Explanation:**

Following the abrupt withdrawal of Victoria (Australia) due to cost constraints, **Glasgow, Scotland** stepped in to rescue and host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. To keep the budget viable, Glasgow is operating a highly optimized, compact model featuring fewer sporting disciplines compared to past editions, prioritizing existing state-of-the-art facilities and minimizing temporary carbon-heavy construction.

**Part 5: Appointments**

**Q13. Constitutional & National Bodies**

**Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in June 2026?**

- [A] Justice Prakash Shrivastava
- [B] Justice Dinesh Kumar

[C] Justice Sanjiv Khanna

[D] Justice Amitava Roy

**Correct Answer:** [B] Justice Dinesh Kumar

**Detailed Explanation:**

Following a high-level judicial appointment panel clearance, **Justice Dinesh Kumar** assumed charge as the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in June 2026. The NGT is a specialized statutory body established under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests, handling critical climate litigations and industrial pollution non-compliance.

#### Q14. Financial Institutions

**The Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) in June 2026 recommended the appointment of whom as the next Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI)?**

[A] Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

[B] Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh

[C] Vinay M. Tonse

[D] Alok Kumar Choudhary

**Correct Answer:** [B] Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh

**Detailed Explanation:**

The FSIB, the autonomous body responsible for vetting top-level executives for public sector financial entities, recommended **Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh** to lead India's largest commercial bank, the State Bank of India (SBI), as its Chairman. He succeeds the outgoing chief following a meticulous performance and strategic vision evaluation.

#### Q15. International Diplomatic Assignments

**Who has been appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York, taking charge in mid-2026?**

[A] Ruchira Kamboj

[B] P. Harish

[C] Arindam Bagchi

[D] Dammu Ravi

**Correct Answer:** [B] P. Harish

**Detailed Explanation:**

Senior diplomat **P. Harish**, an IFS officer with an extensive track record in multilateral diplomacy and strategic international negotiations, has assumed the high-profile post of India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. His primary mandate includes navigating India's push for long-awaited permanent UNSC structural reforms, global counter-terrorism protocols, and Global South economic alliances.

#### Part 6: Awards and Honors

#### Q16. International Civilian Honors

**In June 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)", the highest civilian honor of which European nation?**

[A] Italy

[B] Slovakia

[C] Austria

[D] Czech Republic

**Correct Answer:** [B] Slovakia

**Detailed Explanation:**

During a highly productive bilateral diplomatic tour in mid-June 2026, PM Narendra Modi was officially decorated with the **Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)** by the Government of Slovakia. This marks the **33rd international**



award/honor bestowed upon PM Modi by foreign governments. The award recognizes his role in deepening India-Slovakia bilateral tech-industrial partnerships, defense cooperation, and balancing global geopolitical dialogue.

### Q17. Literary Recognitions

**Who was awarded the prestigious International Booker Prize for a translated work of fiction in mid-2026? [**

- A] Georgi Gospodinov
- [B] Jenny Erpenbeck
- [C] Hwang Sok-yong
- [D] Samantha Harvey

**Correct Answer:** [B] Jenny Erpenbeck

**Detailed Explanation:**

Renowned German author **Jenny Erpenbeck** clinched the International Booker Prize for her profoundly evocative novel, translated seamlessly into English. The prize is awarded annually for a single book translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland, splitting the £50,000 prize money equally between the author and the translator to honor cross-border literary integration.

### Q18. Environmental Leadership Awards

**Which Indian state-run enterprise or ministry won the "Global Green Building Leadership Award 2026" for creating the most energy-efficient, net-zero carbon infrastructure footprint across rural centers?**

- [A] NTPC Limited
- [B] National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- [C] Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited
- [D] Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL)

**Correct Answer:** [C] Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited

**Detailed Explanation:**

**REC Limited** (a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power) was conferred with the Global Green Building Leadership Award. The award recognizes REC's strict compliance with GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) standards and its massive implementation of solar-powered micro-grids and sustainable, climate-resilient building architecture across its rural developmental project headquarters.

## Part 7: Books and Authors

### Q19. Strategic Affairs Literature

**The insightful strategic book titled "The New Quad: Navigating the Indo-Pacific in a Fractured World", released in June 2026, has been authored by which geopolitical expert?**

- [A] Dr. S. Jaishankar
- [B] C. Raja Mohan
- [C] Shivshankar Menon
- [D] Shashi Tharoor

**Correct Answer:** [B] C. Raja Mohan

**Detailed Explanation:**

Prominent foreign policy analyst and academician **C. Raja Mohan** released his latest analytical work, "The New Quad: Navigating the Indo-Pacific in a Fractured World". The book systematically breaks down changing security alignments, maritime safety parameters, supply chain resilience strategies, and India's vital position inside the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue amidst changing equations between major superpowers.

### Q20. Contemporary Socio-Economic Books

**Who is the author of the thought-provoking book "The Wealth of Nations Re-imagined: Cryptos, AI, and the Future of Labor", which topped the charts in June 2026?**

- [A] Raghuram Rajan
- [B] Amartya Sen
- [C] Arvind Subramanian
- [D] Viral Acharya

**Correct Answer:** [A] Raghuram Rajan

**Detailed Explanation:**

Former RBI Governor and noted economist **Raghuram Rajan** authored "*The Wealth of Nations Re-imagined: Cryptos, AI, and the Future of Labor*". The book explores how generative AI models and decentralized web ledger technologies are disrupting traditional corporate employment pipelines, and advocates for major structural fiscal overhauls in developing economies to leverage their massive youth populations.

## Part 8: Defense News

### Q21. Cruise Missile Advancements

**The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted successful trials of the "LRLACM". What does the acronym "LRLACM" stand for?**

- [A] Light Range Laser Anti-Combat Missile
- [B] Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile
- [C] Low Radiation Linear Anti-Craft Missile
- [D] Logistics Reconnaissance Long Attack Missile

**Correct Answer:** [B] Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

**Detailed Explanation:**

DRDO successfully test-fired the indigenous **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile**

(LRLACM) from an offshore mobile launcher. The LRLACM is engineered with cutting-edge **Terrain Hugging (stealth navigation)** technology, allowing it to fly at low altitudes to escape enemy radar networks. It has an operational strike range exceeding **1,000 kilometers** and can carry advanced conventional warheads.

### Q22. Deep Tech Defence Infrastructure

**In June 2026, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) granted an in-principle approval of ₹500 crores to establish a premier "National Military Drone Technology Hub" at which institution?**

- [A] IIT Madras
- [B] IIT Kanpur
- [C] Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru
- [D] IIT Bombay

**Correct Answer:** [B] IIT Kanpur

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) sanctioned an initial outlay of **₹500 crores** to set up India's standalone **National Military Drone Technology Hub** at **IIT Kanpur**, Uttar Pradesh. The hub will spearhead domestic R&D for next-generation Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), swarm drone software algorithms, anti-drone electronic jamming systems, and AI-driven autonomous battlefield reconnaissance solutions to reduce import dependency.

### Q23. Aerospace Indigenization

**The first entirely "Made in India" aircraft assembled at the newly established Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Vadodra successfully completed its maiden test flight. Which aircraft is this?**

- [A] LCA Tejas Mk2
- [B] Airbus C-295 Military Transport

[C] Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv

[D] Dornier Do-228

**Correct Answer:** [B] Airbus C-295 Military Transport

**Detailed Explanation:**

Marking a historic milestone for private-sector aerospace manufacturing in India, the first indigenous **Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft** successfully completed its initial flight from the Tata-Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL) in **Vadodara, Gujarat**. This project is replacing the Indian Air Force's aging Avro-748 transport fleet, illustrating an operational shift under the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" defense manufacturing framework.

## Part 9: Government Schemes & MoUs

### Q24. Environmental Transit Schemes

**The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed its historic first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under its new Vehicle Replacement Scheme in June 2026 with which industrial firm?**

[A] Tata Motors

[B] Ashok Leyland & Switch Mobility

[C] Mahindra & Mahindra

[D] JBM Auto

**Correct Answer:** [B] Ashok Leyland & Switch Mobility

**Detailed Explanation:**

MoRTH signed its first official corporate MoU under the newly structuralized Vehicle Replacement Scheme with commercial vehicle giant **Ashok Leyland** and its specialized electric vehicle subsidiary, **Switch Mobility**. Focused primarily on the Delhi-NCR zone initially, the policy aims to phase out aging, polluting diesel

cargo/passenger fleets by offering a 5% central interest subvention and a complete 100% state motor vehicle tax concession for up to ten years to fleet owners switching to clean electric commercial alternatives.

### Q25. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

**MeitY unveiled "Varya AI", India's first indigenous distilled video story-generating artificial intelligence model. Which national mission directly supported the development of Varya AI?**

[A] National Quantum Mission

[B] IndiaAI Mission

[C] Digital India Bhashini Mission

[D] National Cyber Security Mission

**Correct Answer:** [B] IndiaAI Mission

**Detailed Explanation:**

Developed with direct funding and algorithmic computing support under the flagship **IndiaAI Mission** (overseen by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - MeitY), **Varya AI** is a lightweight, distilled video-generation model. Unlike Western generic AI models, Varya is optimized to recognize and respect India's diverse regional linguistic nuances, historical costuming, and localized cultural conditions, converting simple vernacular text prompts directly into high-definition educational videos.

## Part 10: Important Days & Anniversaries

### Q26. Global Environmental Observances

**What was the core thematic focal area of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed globally on June 17, 2026?**

[A] Food Security through Land Restoration

[B] United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.

[C] Women's Land Rights: Her Land, Her Rights

[D] Rising up from drought together

**Correct Answer:** [B] United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.

**Detailed Explanation:**

Observed globally on **June 17**, the 2026 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought marked the **32nd anniversary** of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, established in 1994). The official 2026 global theme is "**United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.**", highlighting the urgent necessity of generational accountability, multi-nation resource scaling, and stopping desertification to protect arable topsoil layers worldwide.

## Q27. National Historic Milestones

**June 18 is historically celebrated across India to honor the martyrdom and fierce resistance against colonial rule of which iconic freedom fighter?**

[A] Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi

[B] Birsa Munda

[C] Mangal Pandey

[D] Tatya Tope

**Correct Answer:** [A] Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi

**Detailed Explanation:**

**June 18** marks the death anniversary (Martyrdom Day) of **Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi**, who died fighting British colonial forces under Captain Hugh Rose near Gwalior in 1858 during the Great Revolt of 1857. Renowned as the "Jhansi ki Rani," her legacy remains a massive pillar of national courage, patriotism, and resistance against unfair annexation policies like the Doctrine of Lapse.

## Part 11: Art, Culture, & Festivals

### Q28. Botanical Geographical Indications

**The GI-tagged "Tezpur Litchi", which was featured in trade headlines in mid-June 2026 after its first major international export consignment was successfully dispatched to Dubai, belongs to which state?**

[A] Bihar

[B] West Bengal

[C] Assam

[D] Tripura

**Correct Answer:** [C] Assam

**Detailed Explanation:**

The premium, highly aromatic, and juicy **Tezpur Litchi** originates from the Sonitpur district of **Assam** and possesses a protected Geographical Indication (GI) tag under the GI Act of 1999. In mid-June 2026, APEDA facilitated its first successful commercial international flight export consignment to Dubai markets. (Note: Shahi Litchi belongs to Bihar; Tezpur Litchi is uniquely Assamese).

### Q29. Biodiversity Discoveries

**Researchers conducting a floral expedition in the dense wet evergreen forests of Northern Kerala recently discovered a new genus of bryophyte (non-flowering plant) that grows exclusively on tree-trunk mushrooms. What is it named?**

[A] Hamataliwa mawlyngot

[B] Indocolea devendrae

[C] Phellinus fastuosus

[D] Bryum keralense

**Correct Answer:** [B] Indocolea devendrae

**Detailed Explanation:**

Botanists from Kerala identified an entirely new genus of bryophyte named **Indocolea devendrae**. Named in honor of renowned non-flowering plant expert Devendra Kumar Singh,

this botanical marvel exhibits an epibiotic relationship, growing specifically on a wood-decaying mushroom (*Phellinus fastuosus*) attached to tree bark. Bryophytes act as excellent ecological health indicators due to their high sensitivity to localized ambient moisture and air pollution variations.

### Q30. Architectural Heritage

The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum held in New Delhi adopted the "Urban Ministerial Declaration". Which central historical architectural motif or ethos did India project to the visiting delegates to showcase sustainable ancient urban planning?

- [A] Baolis (Stepwells) water-harvesting systems
- [B] Indus Valley Grid Layouts
- [C] Chola temple city planning
- [D] Mughal Charbagh symmetry

**Correct Answer:** [A] Baolis (Stepwells) water-harvesting systems

#### Detailed Explanation:

At the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs showcased historical Indian **Baolis (traditional multi-tiered stepwells)** as examples of climate-resilient architecture. The presentation highlighted how ancient Indian urban centers maintained structural water equilibrium, urban cooling, and local community spaces without carbon footprints. This ancient architectural philosophy was woven directly into the adopted *Urban Ministerial Declaration* for creating sustainable modern cities.