

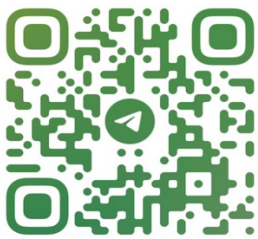
JUNE., 2026

COMPLEMENTARY DIGITAL NOTES COVERED EVERY MONTH.



30 PAGER NOTES

JUNE 2026 DECODED FOR
PRELIMS — WHERE
GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY,
SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, AND
MAPS CONVERGE INTO EXAM-
READY CLARITY.



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POLITY

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Suo Motu Cognisance	Court taking up a matter on its own initiative, without a formal petition.
Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage (IBM)	A ground for divorce where a marriage has broken down beyond repair, even without proving fault; recommended by Law Commission (2009) but not yet codified.
Moratorium (IBC)	Temporary suspension of legal proceedings against a debtor once insolvency resolution begins.



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Confused Deputy Problem	Cybersecurity concept where a system with legitimate authority is tricked into acting for an unauthorized person (used re: AI chatbot breach).
Tenth Schedule	Anti-defection law, added by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
Shadow Instruments	Circulars, notifications, and office memoranda with legal effect but limited public accessibility.

Acts & Bills

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Introduces Chapter IIIA; on cancellation/lapse of FCRA registration, foreign-funded assets provisionally vest in a government-designated authority (Section 16A); proceeds go to Consolidated Fund of India.	Critics cite Articles 14, 19(1)(c), 25, 26, 29, 30 & 300A concerns; Section 14B introduces automatic cessation of registration on delayed renewal.
FCRA Rules Overhaul (2026)	NGOs must now select from 105 government-approved permitted activities and specify exact States/UTs of operation; explicitly excludes proselytisation from permitted foreign-fund use.	Shift from broad trust-based system to purpose- and geography-specific regulation; increased disclosure (social media accounts, donor info).
Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025	Regulates online gaming; constitutionality debated alongside SC rulings upholding 28% GST on real-money gaming (retrospective) and State laws restricting online gambling.	SC held betting/gambling regulation falls under State legislative domain; skill vs. chance distinction loses relevance once money is staked.
Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2026 Amendment)	Introduces Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP) – a hybrid debtor-in-possession/creditor-in-control model; amends Section 7(5)(a), replacing “may” with “shall” for NCLT admission of applications.	Only “notified financial institutions” can initiate CIIRP, excluding smaller lenders – raises equality concerns; overturns discretion recognised in Vidarbha Industries.
Draft A&N Islands Tribal Councils (Electoral Rolls & Elections) Rules, 2026	Proposes 5-year elections for Nicobarese Village/Tribal Councils, replacing consensus-based captain selection; derives authority from A&N Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009.	Seen as risking bureaucratisation of traditional self-governance; linked by critics to opposition over the ₹91,000-crore Great Nicobar project.



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Constitutional Provisions & Federalism

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951	Introduced restrictions on free speech, protections for backward-class reservations, changes relating to the right to property, and the Ninth Schedule, which was created to protect certain laws from ordinary judicial challenge. (shielding laws from judicial review); assented to by President Rajendra Prasad, June 18, 1951. However, under I.R. Coelho (2007) , laws inserted into the Ninth Schedule after 24 April 1973 can still be reviewed if they damage the Constitution's basic structure.	Enacted in response to Champakam Dorairajan and Patna HC striking down Bihar land reforms; termed India's "Second Constitution" by Upendra Baxi.
Article 21 – Right to walk on footpaths	SC held the right to walk safely on footpaths is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.	Arose from a case involving a child's death by a tanker in Karnataka; Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 criticised for focusing on vehicles, not pedestrians.
Article 39(b)	Directs that community material resources (e.g., road space) serve the common good.	Cited in Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan to hold footpaths must have priority over motor vehicles.
Article 51A(e) – Fraternity	It is the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities, and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.	Ambedkar's Constituent Assembly warning that without fraternity, liberty and equality are mere "coats of paint."
Articles 5-11 & Citizenship Act, 1955	Citizenship is a legal status, not a single document; acquired via birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, or territorial incorporation.	A passport is an important official travel and identity document, but it is not by itself the sole or conclusive legal test of Indian citizenship. Citizenship is determined under





		Articles 5–11 of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, 1955.
Citizenship Rules, 2003 / NRC	Legal framework for a National Register of Citizens exists but is unimplemented nationwide.	Assam remains the only state with a completed NRC exercise.
Article 123 – Ordinance-making power	Temporary law-making power of the President; lapses six weeks after Parliament reconvenes unless approved.	Used to raise SC strength from 34 to 38 judges; raises concerns about judicial independence resting on executive/Parliamentary action.
Article 342 & Adivasi identity	ST status under Article 342 is not linked to religion, unlike the framework for SCs.	Backs opposition to “delisting” tribal Christians from ST status; cites 1963 Patna HC ruling in the Kartik Oraon case.
Article 131	SC’s original jurisdiction over Centre–State disputes.	Recurrent invocation by States challenging central fiscal/administrative control (federalism theme).

Governance & Judicial Reforms

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Anti-Defection Law circumvention	Tenth Schedule merger exemption (Para 4) increasingly used by legislators claiming two-thirds “legislator” mergers rather than party mergers.	K.M. Singh case (2020): SC recommended an independent tribunal (headed by judges) instead of the Speaker deciding disqualification; Law Commission (1999) recommended deleting the merger exemption.
91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003	Removed the one-third “split” exemption from the anti-defection law.	Strengthened the anti-defection framework introduced by the 52nd Amendment (1985).
Preventive Detention misuse (UP)	Allahabad HC (Chander Pal Singh case) found preventive detention powers routinely misused; ~2,500 people faced preventive proceedings	Guidelines issued requiring magistrates to justify detention orders; proposed recovery of compensation from officials’ salaries for illegal detention.





	in Ghaziabad (May 2025–Apr 2026).	
Census 2027 data integrity	Reports from Rajasthan and UP alleged enumerators asked to reclassify households (e.g., “access to a latrine” instead of recording open defecation).	Raises concerns for evidence-based policymaking tied to Swachh Bharat Mission assessment.
Gender representation in judiciary	Only the second woman lawyer (after Justice Indu Malhotra) directly elevated from the Bar to the SC (Justice V. Mohana).	Comparative models: Belgium (1/3rd gender quota for constitutional court), South Africa (constitutionally mandated diversity).
Telegram ban (NEET leaks)	Centre temporarily blocked Telegram under Section 69A, IT Act, 2000, ahead of re-conducted NEET; also ordered disabling of message-editing feature.	Reflects state action against platforms enabling exam-paper leak circulation; balances privacy vs. platform misuse.
A171 crash transparency	Only a preliminary AAIB report released a year after the crash (260 deaths); fuel control switches moved from RUN to CUTOFF – cause still debated (manual vs electrical fault).	Highlights institutional accountability and transparency gaps in accident investigation.
Instagram AI chatbot breach	Meta chatbot manipulated via a prompt injection attack to change account recovery email, enabling account takeovers.	Illustrates AI governance/cybersecurity risk of granting AI systems authority over sensitive functions without strong identity verification; incident described as a “confused deputy problem.”
PoK protests	Protests since 2023 over electricity tariffs/wheat subsidies (Mangla Dam hydropower) evolved into a movement (Joint Awami Action Committee) against 12 reserved refugee seats in the PoK Assembly.	India maintains PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan (through which CPEC passes) are integral parts of India.





Important Judgements & Rights

Case (Year)	Holding	Relevance
CP v. AP (2026)	DNA test can be directed only when paternity is directly disputed and no other reliable evidence exists.	Latest in a line balancing right to privacy (Art. 21) against right to know biological parentage; builds on Goutam Kundu (1993), Banarsi Dass (2005), Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik (2014), Dipanwita Roy (2014), K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), Aparna Ajinkya Firodia (2023), Ivan Rathinam (2025).
Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan	Footpaths are public spaces upholding the fundamental right to walk, not merely pedestrian safety zones; cited Article 39(b).	Justice P.S. Narasimha called neglect of footpaths a “civilisational problem”; urged a dedicated law/regulatory authority, similar to the RTE Act.
Palinismwamy Veeraraja v. State of Karnataka (2026)	Once a chargesheet/closure report is filed, police cannot reinvestigate without Magistrate’s permission under Section 173(8) CrPC / 193(9) BNSS.	Relied on State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal (1992), Vinay Tyagi v. Irshad Ali (2013), reaffirmed in Rama Chaudhary v. State of Bihar (2024) and Robert Lalchungnunga Chongthu v. State of Bihar (2025).
Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb (2021), applied 2026	Constitutional courts can grant bail despite UAPA Section 43D(5) restrictions when prolonged detention/trial delay threatens Article 21 rights.	Applied to grant bail to human-rights activist Khurram Parvez after ~4.5 years in custody under UAPA.
Shishupal @ Shish Ram v. Surjeet	SC raised MACT compensation for a deceased homemaker to ₹62.78 lakh, assigning notional income of ₹30,000/month for unpaid domestic work (to rise 10% every 3 years).	Builds on Lata Wadhwa (2001) and Kirti v. Oriental Insurance (2021); recognises economic value of unpaid domestic work – applies only to MACT compensation, not employment/pension status.
SC on Online Gaming GST & State Regulation	Upheld 28% GST on real-money online gaming (retrospective) and States’ power to regulate/prohibit online gambling-like activities.	Skill vs. chance distinction held irrelevant once money is staked; bears on Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.



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Naveen Kohli v. Neelu Kohli (2006), context	SC urged Parliament to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 to add Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage as a divorce ground.	Reform still pending; Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bills of 2010 and 2013 lapsed; Law Commission (2009) also recommended IBM.
Delhi HC – NewsClick case	Quashed FIR/ED money-laundering case as arbitrary and mala fide; 26% FDI cap on digital news (2019) could not apply retrospectively to a 2018 investment; RBI had already cleared the transaction under FEMA.	PMLA proceedings collapse when the predicate offence is quashed (per SC precedent); reinforces press-freedom and due-process principles.

Government Schemes / Regulatory Actions

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
CCPA action on “100%” labelling	₹1 lakh penalty each on Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities (bread was 87% atta) and Storia Foods & Beverages (reconstituted coconut water; juice with 4–16% fruit content) under Consumer Protection Act, 2019.	Confirms shift from “buyer beware” to “seller beware”; fine-print disclaimers cannot cure a misleading front-label claim; FSSAI compliance is not immunity from consumer-protection action.
Victim Protection Plan for trafficking survivors	SC-mandated plan (until Parliament legislates) emphasising consent and dignity; distinguishes trafficking victims from adults voluntarily in sex work.	Arose from a petition by Prajwala; ensures legal aid, medical care, counselling, and privacy safeguards.

ECONOMY

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Quantitative Easing (QE)	A monetary policy in which a central bank purchases government bonds or other financial assets to inject liquidity into the economy and lower long-term borrowing costs.
Current Account Deficit (CAD)	When a country pays more to the rest of the world for goods, services, income and transfers than it receives from them.



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Financialisation	Corporate prioritisation of short-term shareholder returns/dividends over long-term productive investment (e.g., R&D).
Double-Deflator Approach	GDP estimation method using separate deflators for output and inputs for more accurate real growth measurement.
Dark Fleet	Ships that disable tracking systems / use fake registration to evade international sanctions.
Agriphotovoltaics (Agri-PV)	Solar panels installed above farmland at height, allowing simultaneous crop cultivation and power generation.

Sustainable Development & Energy

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Department of Energy Resources and Security (DERS) – proposal	A proposed PMO-level coordinating body to unify India's fragmented energy governance (petroleum, coal, power, renewables, nuclear ministries).	Proposed alongside an Energy Responsibility and Security Act; triggered by Strait of Hormuz-linked energy insecurity.
Urea subsidy reform window	Global urea prices fell below pre-conflict levels (aided by China's partial export relaxation) after fears pushed 2026-27 subsidy bill toward ₹3.4 lakh crore.	India imported fertilizers/inputs worth \$27.2 billion in 2025-26; opportunity flagged for shift to direct income support to farmers over MSP-linked subsidies.
Grid bottleneck for renewables	India added 45+ GW renewable capacity in 2025, but 50+ GW of renewable projects are stranded as transmission lines (3–5 yrs) lag generation build-out (12–18 months).	Experts propose battery storage, use of coal transmission corridors, and advanced conductors to unlock ~1,000 GW without new land acquisition; grid to expand 40% over next decade.
Agri-PV (Agriphotovoltaics)	Solar panels raised above farmland let crops grow underneath while generating power – solar as a “third crop.”	Framed as converting farmers from Annadata to Urjadata; can ease DISCOM subsidy burden and strengthen energy security.
Coal Exchange Rules, 2026	Creates a regulated, market-based coal trading mechanism (akin to	Complements – not replaces – long-term contracts, Coal India auctions, and



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	power exchanges) for price discovery and access for smaller consumers.	captive mining; success depends on quality standards (calorific value, ash content) and logistics.
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Economic Trends & Fiscal Policy

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
RBI repo rate hold at 5.25%	MPC kept rates unchanged despite rising inflation risk, citing growth concerns from the West Asia conflict, oil prices, and a possible El Niño-hit monsoon.	RBI raised inflation forecasts while cutting FY27 GDP growth projections; govt/RBI jointly incentivised foreign capital (tax benefits on G-secs, FCNR deposits) instead of rate hikes.
FCNR(B) deposit swap scheme	RBI-enabled scheme letting NRIs use leverage (via bank Letters of Credit) to invest borrowed + own funds in high-yield FCNR(B) deposits.	Example: \$1mn own capital + \$10mn borrowed at 4.5% invested at 6% can generate ~19.3% effective annual return; aids external-sector stability.
Falling net FDI	Net FDI has dropped even as gross FDI stays strong, because financial investors (PE/VC) exit after profit-taking, and some inflows are mere restructuring/equity swaps, not fresh money.	Shifts focus from FDI quantity to quality/composition and long-term industrial impact.
RBI surplus transfer to Centre	RBI transferred a record ₹2.87 lakh crore surplus (FY26) to the Union government under the Economic Capital Framework; RBI balance sheet ~₹92 lakh crore.	Raises fiscal-federalism concerns since RBI profits go wholly to the Centre, bypassing the Finance Commission's divisible pool shared with States.
GDP/CPI/WPI/IIP statistical upgrade	Key indicators updated from the outdated 2011-12 base year; GDP series adopts the double-deflator approach; new Producer Price Index (PPI) introduced to replace WPI over 5 years.	Brings India's statistical practice closer to international (IMF) standards; timely Census remains essential for database accuracy.
Employment rate (CMIE data, 2016-17 to 2025-26)	Employed persons rose from ~406 million to ~438 million, but employment rate fell as working-age population grew faster —	Employment Rate (ER) argued to be a more meaningful metric than





	male ER: 70.5%→64.8%; female ER: 11.8%→9.4%.	Unemployment Rate (UER), since UER excludes discouraged job-seekers.
8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)	Debate beyond salary hikes/fitment factor – includes Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) critique and multiple pension systems (old defined-benefit vs NPS) burden.	Proposal: a permanent “National Compensation Authority” instead of a Pay Commission every 10 years.
Kerala’s fiscal stress	High borrowings used for recurring expenditure (salaries, pensions, interest) rather than capital spend, despite strong Kerala Model human development outcomes.	Reform proposals: raising retirement age, reducing pension liabilities, addressing PSU losses.
Tamil Nadu fiscal autonomy (White Paper)	Declining own-tax revenue post-GST and falling Union transfer share (Finance Commission formula + rising cesses/surcharges) squeeze fiscal space.	Compounded by fastest ageing demographic among States – shrinking workforce, rising social expenditure.
India-U.S. trade deal	Both sides negotiating ahead of a new U.S. tariff regime; India seeks lower tariffs than competitors and protection for sensitive agriculture; U.S. seeks market access.	U.S. accounts for ~1/5th of India’s exports; India’s trade surplus with the U.S. has been narrowing.
India-UK CETA	India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement enters force 15 July; UK eliminates tariffs on ~99% of tariff lines.	Introduces a Double Contribution Convention (avoids double social-security payments); dairy/cereals protected; part of Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

Sectoral Development & Infrastructure

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Zojila Tunnel	13-km tunnel at 11,758 ft, part of the 30.894-km Zojila Project, to become the world’s longest high-altitude bi-directional	Reduces Sonamarg–Drass travel by 27 km / 2+ hours; strategic for troop/supply movement along LAC/LoC; expected completion pushed to Feb 2028.





	road tunnel; built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).	
Indian seafarers & sanctioned/dark fleet vessels	India has 5 lakh+ registered seafarers (~3.2 lakh active), contributing \$6–9 billion in forex annually; deaths/arrests linked to sanctioned vessels near Hormuz/UK raised safety concerns.	DG Shipping recommends risk-disclosure over blanket bans; distinguishes UN Security Council sanctions (binding on all) from unilateral sanctions (US/UK/EU, binding only in their jurisdiction).
Indian IT sector slowdown	Accenture cut its FY26 revenue growth forecast (3-5% to 3-4%), pressuring TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Tech Mahindra shares as global tech/consulting spending stays cautious.	Signals broader softness in global IT services demand despite rising AI-related investment.
HDFC Bank overseas bond issue	\$750 million (~₹7,000 crore) 5-year dollar bond at 5.067% coupon, rated investment-grade by Moody's/S&P; to list on IFSC exchanges.	Signals banking-sector strength; may encourage SBI/Bank of Baroda to tap global debt markets; boosts India's IFSC ecosystem.
R&D underinvestment in India	Result of large domestic market (less export-competition pressure), colonial-era manufacturing decline, financialisation, and short-term-linked executive compensation.	Explains India's weak innovation intensity relative to South Korea, Japan, Germany.
Graduate unemployment / skills mismatch	~1/3rd of graduates remain unemployed despite higher-education expansion; traditional IT hiring has slowed while AI/automation reshapes required skills.	Calls for shift from manufacturing-base model to research, design, deep-tech entrepreneurship for high-value job creation.

ENVIRONMENT

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
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Maladaptation	Climate adaptation measures (e.g., seawalls) that reduce short-term risk but increase long-term vulnerability or shift risk elsewhere.
Managed Retreat	Planned relocation of people away from high climate-risk zones.
Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)	Using natural ecosystems (mangroves, wetlands, reefs) rather than grey infrastructure for climate risk reduction.
Climate Finance Taxonomy	A classification system defining what qualifies as a “green” investment, to prevent greenwashing.
Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)	A wastewater-management system in which nearly all water is recovered and reused, while the remaining pollutants are converted into solid waste, so that no liquid effluent is discharged outside the facility.
Biochar	Carbon-rich material from pyrolysis of crop/organic waste; improves soil and is carbon-negative.
Seismic Doublet	Two large earthquakes of similar magnitude striking in quick succession from separate fault ruptures (distinct from aftershocks).
Omega Block / Heat Dome	A blocked, weakened jet-stream pattern causing a high-pressure system to trap hot air over a region for prolonged periods.
RCP8.5	The now-retired “worst-case” climate scenario ($>4^{\circ}\text{C}$ warming by 2100), superseded by newer IPCC-aligned scenarios.

Laws & Policies

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Clean Mobility Scheme (Delhi-NCR)	Two-year Union scheme to replace old trucks/buses with BS-VI or higher vehicles; targets commercial vehicles for disproportionate PM _{2.5} contribution.	NCR has ~3 crore vehicles growing ~7% annually; alone cannot fix NCR air quality since dust, industry and biomass burning also contribute.
RBI green lending framework (2025)	Requires banks to integrate climate risk into lending; green activities made eligible under Priority Sector Lending (PSL).	Complements Sovereign Green Bonds; India issued ~\$56 billion in green/social/sustainability-linked debt by 2024.



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Proposed National Circular Water Mission	Aims to shift India from “use and dispose” to “reuse and restore” water management via treated-wastewater reuse.	CEEW estimates a ₹3 lakh crore market opportunity and ~1 lakh jobs by 2047; India’s per-capita water availability (~1,500 m ³) projected to fall below 1,200 m ³ by 2050.
Proposed Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI)	An Economic-Survey-style independent annual assessment of India’s environmental health, consolidating scattered data.	Motivated by findings such as ~30% land degradation and ~3-year reduction in life expectancy from air pollution.
Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notification	Gadgil Committee and Kasturirangan Committee recommendations to restrict mining/quarrying/polluting industries in ESAs remain unnotified after a decade of state pushback.	Six states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu) cite livelihood/industry concerns; Western Ghats span ~1,500 km and regulate the monsoon and peninsular rivers.
1996 Ganges Water Treaty (expiring 2026)	India-Bangladesh treaty on sharing Ganga waters at Farakka is due to expire in 2026, amid Bangladesh’s new Padma Barrage plan.	Padma Barrage (2.1 km, 180 km downstream of Farakka) aims to serve ~6.5 crore people; India faces strategic concern over suspected Chinese engineering support.

Climate Finance, Reports & Additional Notes

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
India’s climate finance requirement	~₹162.5 trillion (\$2.5 trillion) needed by 2030 to meet NDC commitments; up to \$10.1 trillion for net-zero by 2070.	Developed countries’ \$100 billion/year Paris pledge unmet; the newer NCQG (New Collective Quantified Goal) also seen as insufficient by India.
Indicators of Global Climate Change (IGCC) Report	Found human activities raised global temperature 1.37°C above pre-industrial levels in 2025.	Warns the 1.5°C carbon budget could be exhausted within 3 years at current emission rates; published in <i>Earth System Science Data</i> .



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Retirement of RCP8.5 scenario	Climate scientists dropped the “worst case” ($>4^{\circ}\text{C}$) scenario as renewables adoption reduces its plausibility; current-policy trajectory still points to $\sim 2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ by 2100.	Signals modest optimism but confirms the 1.5°C Paris target is very likely to be temporarily overshoot.
Electrification target debate (Bonn talks)	Turkey proposed 35% of global final energy consumption come from electricity by 2035, up from $\sim 20\text{--}21\%$ today.	Only $\sim 42\%$ of global electricity is from non-fossil sources, so clean electricity is just $\sim 8\%$ of total global energy use – underlines the scale of the transition gap (IRENA).
Mega Science Vision-2035 Report on Climate Research	Flags India’s dependence on imported climate-research instruments (weather, ocean, aerosol sensors) despite developed prototypes (e.g., ocean profiling floats).	Recommends indigenous sensor networks, climate-health observatories, and carbon-neutrality research.
Climate-development capital framework	Proposes evaluating investments on combined climate + health + jobs + poverty benefits, not carbon reduction alone.	Cited examples: Kolhapur foundry cluster (EU CBAM exposure) and Maharashtra biochar-cotton initiative; India needs $\sim 6\%$ of GDP annually for SDGs.
Mangroves vs seawalls (Ecosystem-based Adaptation)	Mangroves reduced storm-surge/wind impact during Cyclone Dana near Bhitarkanika, unlike grey infrastructure which often shifts erosion risk elsewhere.	Sundarbans restoration by 18,000+ women improved both cyclone resilience and livelihoods (honey, crab farming); coastal states spent ₹2,600+ crore on grey infra vs declining EbA funding.
Rainfall intensification & soil nutrients	Rain increasingly falls in short intense bursts; excess runoff reduces soil-moisture infiltration, and rainfall above ~ 700 mm/year threshold leaches nitrogen from soil.	Relevant to India’s increasingly erratic monsoon pattern and long-term agricultural productivity.
Poverty–biodiversity link (forests)	Nature Sustainability study (322 community-managed forests, 15 countries) shows limited livelihood options – not poverty per se – drives	~ 275 million Indians depend on forests; LPG access, ecotourism, and livestock insurance cited as complementary conservation-cum-welfare tools.





overreliance on forests and biodiversity loss.

Protected Areas / Species & Ecosystems in News

Name	Status/Threat	Location	Key Facts
Asiatic Lion (Gir)	Not endangered overall (~1,000 population) but geographically concentrated risk	Gir landscape, Gujarat	8 lions died of suspected Babesiosis (tick-borne parasite); experts call for multiple independent lion populations, citing the 1990s Serengeti lion epidemic as a cautionary parallel.
Sambhar Lake	Shrinking water-covered area (satellite data, 1984–2023)	Rajasthan	India's largest inland saline wetland; industrial/commercial salt-pan expansion is altering hydrology; recommendation to separate salt-production zones from the wetland.
Axolotl	Critically endangered; not found in the wild in a 2024-started census	Xochimilco canals, Mexico City	FIFA World Cup mascot symbol despite habitat collapse from urbanisation, pollution, and chinampas conversion into football grounds.
Aravalli Range	Degrading (mining, deforestation, urbanisation)	Rajasthan–Haryana–Delhi–Gujarat	Acts as a natural barrier shielding the Indo-Gangetic Plain from Thar Desert dust; “obstacle dunes” on western slopes evidence this filtering role; degradation now lets even moderate winds carry dust to Delhi-NCR.

Geography & Climate Phenomena in News

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Weak Southwest Monsoon 2026	38% rainfall deficit (June 1–17); progress stalled over Maharashtra after June 8 due to weak Arabian Sea branch and absent low-pressure systems.	Linked to an unfavourable phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO); IMD expects eastern/central India progress but Maharashtra uncertain; MJO expected to turn favourable in early July.
El Niño as economic risk	Below-normal monsoon forecast for 2026 threatens outdoor-labour productivity,	Frames climate risk as economic risk – affects informal-sector wages, rural incomes, and urban heat-island inequality.



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	agriculture (70% of farm rainfall from SW monsoon), and food inflation.	
Europe heatwave (Omega Block)	Blocked jet stream creates a high-pressure “heat dome” trapping hot air; temperatures crossed 44°C.	Europe is the fastest-warming continent (~2x global average since 1980s); Arctic ice-melt Albedo Effect (less reflective surface) compounds warming; European housing built for winter retention, not summer cooling.
Venezuela seismic doublet	Two major earthquakes (7.2 and 7.5 magnitude) struck 39 seconds apart along the Caribbean–South American Plate strike-slip boundary; shallow depth (~10 km) intensified destruction.	Strongest quake in Venezuela since 1900; comparable seismic doublets: 2023 Türkiye-Syria, 2012 Indian Ocean, and the 1988 Australian earthquake triplet (a rare “triplet”).
Northeast India as a “resource frontier”	Ministry of Mines/GSI highlighting Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram for critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, vanadium, rare earths).	Reframes the Northeast beyond border-security/insurgency lens; requires safeguarding customary land rights and community institutions to avoid new tensions.
Great Nicobar project vs ecology	Strategic Malacca Strait-adjacent infrastructure (transshipment port, airport) planned amid dense biodiversity and Shompen/Nicobarese tribal presence.	Framed as needing scientific assessment and reversible-impact planning rather than a security-vs-ecology binary.
Dark energy & accelerating universe expansion	New Type Ia supernova (“cosmic mile marker”) observations reaffirm 1998 finding that the universe’s expansion is accelerating, rejecting a recent contrary claim.	Confirms dark energy continues to dominate cosmic expansion since the Big Bang (~13.8 billion years ago).
Aircraft noise as a health issue	India’s noise-monitoring regime tracks decibel levels/contour maps but not cumulative long-term health effects (inflammation, oxidative stress, reduced heart-rate variability) found in chronically exposed Air Force personnel.	Highlights a regulatory gap between noise-compliance monitoring and public-health protection near airports.





SCIENCE TECH

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE)	Phenomenon where existing low-level antibodies help a virus (e.g., dengue) enter cells more easily, worsening disease severity on reinfection or vaccination.
Tetravalent Vaccine	A vaccine containing weakened forms of all four strains/serotypes of a pathogen (e.g., all 4 dengue serotypes).
One Health Approach	Public-health strategy integrating human, animal, and environmental health to address zoonotic disease risk.
Fibre-Optic Drone	A drone controlled via a physical fibre-optic cable instead of radio/GPS signals, making it very hard to detect or jam.
Physical AI / Embodied Intelligence	The next stage of AI where intelligence is combined with robots capable of perceiving and acting in the physical world.
Santha-Vazirani Limit (1986)	Theoretical limit stating weakly random sources cannot be converted to perfectly random numbers using classical computers alone.
Superlattice	Ultra-thin alternating atomic layers (e.g., platinum-copper) used to engineer high-frequency (THz) material vibrations for next-gen computing.

Space Missions in News

Mission Name	Space Agency	Objective	Special Feature / Relevance
NASA Lunar South Pole human-presence plan	NASA	Establish a semi-permanent base near the Moon's South Pole for research, resource exploration, and Mars-mission preparation.	South Pole has near-permanent sunlight (solar power) and permanently shadowed craters with water ice; framed against China-Russia's parallel International Lunar Research Station.
WASP-94A b weather observation	NASA (James Webb Space Telescope)	Directly studied weather on a "Hot Jupiter" exoplanet ~700 light-years away using spectroscopy during transit.	Found magnesium silicate/iron/magnesium sulphide clouds forming on the cold night side and dissolving on the hot day side; aids understanding of exoplanet atmospheres.



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China's counter-space capabilities	China (military/civil)	ASAT missiles, satellite-blinding lasers, co-orbital interference satellites alongside civil ambitions (lunar exploration, asteroid mining).	India has comparatively far fewer satellites; article calls for distributed constellations, stronger partnerships, and space deterrence strategy.
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Diseases in News

Name	Symptoms	Causing Organism	Mode of Infection	Areas Spread	Treatment	Vaccine/Prevention
Nipah Virus (recurring)	High fever, encephalitis; WHO priority pathogen with very high fatality (2018 Kerala outbreak: 23 infected, 17 died)	Nipah virus (zoonotic, from fruit bats – <i>Pteropus medius</i>)	Consumption of bat-contaminated fruit/water; then human-to-human spread	Kerala (Kozhikode); recurring; nearly annually, high-risk period April–September	Supportive care; rapid contact tracing and surveillance	No approved vaccine; contained via One Health approach and rapid response
Ebola (17th DRC outbreak)	Haemorrhagic fever	Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus	Contact with bodily fluids	Mongbwalu, Ituri Province, DRC	No approved treatment for this strain	No approved vaccine for Bundibugyo strain (existing vaccines target the Zaire strain)
Babesiosis (Asiatic Lions)	Anaemia, fever, lethargy, enlarged spleen, organ failure	Babesia parasite (tick-borne)	Infected tick bites	Gir landscape, Gujarat	Veterinary supportive care	None; population-dispersal (multiple habitats) suggested as long-term safeguard





Lung Cancer (early detection)	Often asymptomatic until advanced stage	Multifactorial (smoking, air pollution-triggered inflammation)	Non-infectious	Global	Precision treatment; Canakinumab (anti-inflammatory) linked to 50% lower risk in signature-positive individuals	14-protein blood-plasma signature predicts risk ~5 years in advance (>75% accuracy, UK Biobank study)
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Vaccines in News

Vaccine	Disease Target	Developer	Technology/Platform	Status/Relevance
DengiAll	Dengue (all 4 serotypes)	Panacea Biotec + ICMR (NIH-derived technology)	Tetravalent, live-attenuated	Phase-3 trials (10,000+ volunteers, 2-year monitoring); Brazil's similar Butantan-DV faced deaths/adverse events, reviving ADE safety concerns; echoes Dengvaxia's Philippines issue.
VPM1002 & Immuvac (PreVenTB Trial)	Tuberculosis (esp. extrapulmonary TB)	ICMR-led trial, Indian indigenous vaccines	Live-attenuated (VPM1002); Mycobacterium w-based (Immuvac)	Tested on household contacts of TB patients; showed significant protection against extrapulmonary TB, promising results in children/adolescents.

Discoveries, Innovations & Digital Technology

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
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AI solves 80-year-old maths problem	Generative AI/LLMs assisted researchers in solving a long-unsolved mathematical problem, with humans verifying and guiding the process.	Signals AI's evolving role from pattern-recognition to complex scientific reasoning.
GPLD1 liver protein (exercise-memory link)	Exercise raises GPLD1 levels, which break down the harmful protein TNAP, protecting the blood-brain barrier and improving memory in mice, including Alzheimer's models.	Published in <i>Cell</i> ; potential future strategy for neurodegenerative disease, though human application remains distant.
Homo erectus ancient protein recovery	Scientists used acid etching to extract proteins (not DNA) from ~4-lakh-year-old Homo erectus tooth enamel found in China.	Found a unique protein variant and one shared with Denisovans, suggesting genetic connections; first successful molecular data recovery from Homo erectus.
Randomness amplification (quantum)	ETH Zürich researchers used quantum entanglement (Bell Test) and a two-source extractor to convert weakly random numbers into certifiably perfect randomness, beating the classical Santha-Vazirani limit.	Published in <i>Nature</i> ; demonstrates "quantum advantage" with implications for ultra-secure cryptography.
Claude Mythos & AI cyber-risk ("Mythocalypse")	Advanced AI models could autonomously discover and chain vulnerabilities to generate sophisticated cyberattacks on critical infrastructure.	Article recommends India set up an AI Safety Institute, modernise legacy government/bank IT, and build indigenous defensive AI tools.
AI company valuations & IPOs	Anthropic (~\$965bn), OpenAI (~\$1tn) and SpaceX (~\$1.75tn, though Morningstar estimates only ~\$780bn) preparing landmark US public listings.	Indian investors can access via RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), subject to limited retail allotments.
Trusted AI Commons	Open platform (tools, datasets, benchmarks) for safe AI development, launched from the New Delhi AI Impact Summit; India as initial host.	Positioned against risk of AI governance replicating a "nuclear non-proliferation"-style concentration of power among a few states.





AI weather-forecasting limits	AI models (GraphCast, Pangu-Weather, Fuxi) outperform traditional forecasting for normal conditions but underestimate rare, record-breaking extreme events.	Physics-based models remain more reliable for unprecedented extremes since AI is trained on historical data (study in <i>Science Advances</i>).
Charles Babbage's Difference & Analytical Engines	1820s mechanical calculating machines; the Analytical Engine (programmable via punched cards) is regarded as the conceptual ancestor of modern computers.	Ada Lovelace recognised such machines could process any information, not just numbers – foundational to computer science.
Cough syrup regulation (Schedule K)	Government removed the Schedule K exemption letting small rural stores sell cough syrups without prescription.	Response to child deaths from diethylene glycol (DEG)/ethylene glycol (EG) contamination via poor-quality propylene glycol (PEG) solvent.
FDC drug ban (16 combinations)	Health Ministry banned 16 Fixed Dose Combination drugs lacking therapeutic justification, continuing a pattern from the 2016 ban of 330+ irrational FDCs.	Antibiotic FDCs flagged as contributors to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
PCPNDT Act, 1994 – ultrasound law gap	Blocks portable ultrasound use outside registered centres (meant to prevent prenatal sex-determination), inadvertently hindering breast-cancer/other diagnostic screening in rural areas.	Suggested reform: distinguish cancer-diagnostic ultrasound use from pregnancy-related use, aided by AI safeguards that block foetal-image storage.
Mango pollination economics	Insect pollinators (not wind) drive mango fruit-set; insect access raised yields ~350% in a Bengaluru study; native bees (<i>Apis dorsata</i> , <i>Apis florea</i>) outperform non-native ones.	India's Environmental Accounting Framework values pollinators at ~₹2.6 lakh crore (2021-22); threatened by neonicotinoid pesticides.
Tylosaurus rex ("T. rex of the sea")	New mosasaur marine-reptile species identified from Cretaceous-period fossils (~80 million years ago), up to 13.2 m long.	Distinct from the land-dwelling Tyrannosaurus rex despite the similar name; underscores parallel oceanic apex predators in the dinosaur era.





Defence Tech

Name / Project	Developed By	What It Is	Special Feature / Relevance
INS Dunagiri	GRSE (Project 17A)	Stealth-guided missile frigate	BrahMos-equipped, advanced radar/anti-submarine systems; blue-water operations; 75%+ indigenous content.
INS Sanshodhak	GRSE	Survey Vessel-Large (SVL)	Maps seabed/ocean depths/navigational routes – critical for warship/submarine movement and ocean research.
INS Agray	GRSE (Arnala-class)	Anti-submarine warfare vessel	Focused on shallow coastal waters; protects ports, naval bases and sea approaches.
AN-32 transport aircraft	Antonov (Soviet-origin), IAF workhorse since 1984	Twin-engine tactical transport aircraft	Carries 6.7 tonnes/~50 personnel; used in Kargil War, Operation Parakram; 2016/2019 crashes (42 deaths) renew modernisation debate.
Fibre-optic drones	Used by Ukraine, Hezbollah	Drones connected via physical fibre-optic cable instead of radio/GPS	Immune to electronic jamming since they emit no radio signal; India needs advanced radar/AI-enabled detection given India-Pakistan drone-swarm exposure.

Green Technology & Digital Economy

Name	What It Is	Sector	Purpose / Use
RTX Spark (Nvidia)	Combined CPU-GPU chip for AI-capable personal computers	Semiconductors/AI hardware	Enables on-device AI without heavy cloud dependence; intensifies competition with Intel/Apple.
Sodium-ion & alternative battery tech	Diversification away from lithium-ion imports (mostly from China)	EV/battery supply chain	Complements the National Critical Mineral Mission and ACC Battery PLI scheme to reduce EV supply-chain vulnerability.



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One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)	₹6,000 crore scheme giving access to 13,000+ journals	Scientific publishing	Solves research-access but not research-publishing dependence; article urges shift to open-access, Indian-owned publishing infrastructure.
Strain-engineered superlattices	Platinum-copper atomic superlattices vibrated at 1 THz via laser-induced electron pressure	Advanced computing/materials science	Manufacturable via existing sputtering (microchip) processes; potential for spintronics and next-gen computers.

ORGANISATIONS (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
IMEC	India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor; launched at the 2023 G20 New Delhi Summit as an alternative connectivity route via ports, rail, energy pipelines and digital links.
Flags of Convenience (FOC)	Ship registration under a foreign country (e.g., Panama, Liberia) different from the vessel's actual ownership, complicating jurisdiction over crew safety.
Horizontal Escalation	Spillover of a conflict beyond its original geography/parties – e.g., a drone strike on a NATO member during the Russia-Ukraine war risking Article 5 invocation.
Hukou System	China's household-registration system linking welfare access to place of registration; divides citizens into rural/urban categories.
CBAM	EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism – carbon-based import tax on steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, opposed by India as a trade barrier on developing countries.
PACOM / INDOPACOM	US Pacific Command; renaming from "Indo-Pacific Command" back to "Pacific Command" is read as a symbolic de-emphasis of the Indo-Pacific/Quad framing.





Organisations

Organisation	Formed (Why)	Members/Reach	Why in News (June 2026)	India's Role/Relevance
UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan)	Protect civilians amid South Sudan's civil war (post-2011 independence)	UN peacekeeping mission	Renewed Kiir-Machar conflict (2025 White Army clashes); India among largest troop contributors; Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.	Reflects India's continued major role in UN peacekeeping.
IMO & UNCLOS	Regulate international shipping safety (IMO) and maritime law (UNCLOS)	Global	Limited enforcement power exposed after US attacks on Indian-crewed tankers in the Gulf; US has not ratified UNCLOS.	India relies on diplomacy/naval presence (Operation Sankalp) rather than these institutions alone to protect its 3.5 lakh+ seafarers.
G7	Grouping of major advanced economies	US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada (+ EU)	2026 Summit in France; India invited as a partner voice on AI, critical minerals, climate finance, CBAM.	India seeks to represent developing-country concerns without exclusive alignment, ahead of hosting the BRICS Summit.
AIIB & NDB	China-created alternatives to World Bank/IMF-style institutions	Multilateral	Cited as examples of China reshaping (not replacing) the existing rules-based order alongside continued support for UN/WTO.	India is a founding member of both; illustrates the tension between reform and revisionism in global governance.





Bilateral Agreements & Relations

Body/Forum	India's Involvement	Key Facts
India-Oman CEPA	Came into force June 1, 2026	Oman granted duty-free access on 98.08% of tariff lines (covering 99%+ of India's exports by value, up from ~15% earlier); bilateral trade rose from \$8.94bn (FY24) to \$11.18bn (FY26); strategic gateway via Sohar, Duqm, Salalah ports.
India-Canada relations	Rebuilding post diplomatic strain; PM Mark Carney & Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal visits	Four pillars: economic cooperation, tech collaboration, energy security, people-to-people ties; proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) targeted for conclusion by 2030.
India-France	Elevated to "Special Global Strategic Partnership" (2025)	France was India's first Western strategic partner (1998), did not sanction India after Pokhran-II; cooperation spans Rafale jets, Scorpene submarines, ISRO-CNES space ties (60+ years), AI, and small modular nuclear reactors.
India-Myanmar	Engagement over isolation; Min Aung Hlaing's May-June 2026 visit	Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway central to Act East Policy; India seeks to counter China's growing influence post-2021 coup.
India-Nepal	New RSP-led leadership under PM Balendra Shah; Rabi Lamichhane's India visit	Boundary disputes (Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura) persist; Nepal seeks third-party involvement (rejected by India, which insists on bilateral resolution); shift toward "development diplomacy."
India-Turkey	Thaw after the Operation Sindoor (May 2025) freeze	Turkey's criticism of India post-Sindoor and Pakistan's use of Turkish drones strained ties; April 2026 resumption of foreign office consultations; Turkey assisted in extraditing Salim Dola; trade exceeds \$10 billion annually.
US H-1B visa fee	\$100,000 fee on H-1B struck down by US District Judge Leo T. Sorokin	Ruled an unconstitutional tax (only Congress can levy taxes); Indians receive ~70% of H-1B visas; many Indian professionals had already lost jobs/sponsorships before the ruling.





US-Iran MoU / ceasefire	Broader framework beyond the 2015 JCPOA – phased sanctions relief, reduced military-conflict risk	60-day verification period seen as the real test; India's interests were not central to negotiations despite ties with both sides – Pakistan gained more visible diplomatic relevance during the crisis.
India-Bhutan	PM Modi's 4,399-day tenure (longest continuously serving elected PM) praised by Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay	Cooperation includes the Gelephu Mindfulness City project; Modi's first foreign visit after 2014 was to Bhutan.

Summits & Outcomes

Summit / Forum	Key Outcomes
G7 Summit 2026 (France)	Focus on economic security, AI, energy transition, climate finance, development; India raised concerns over EU's CBAM and insufficient climate finance since the 2024 Baku pledge (mostly loans, not grants).
New Delhi AI Impact Summit	Led to the creation of the Trusted AI Commons – an open platform of tools/datasets/benchmarks for safe AI development, to be initially hosted by India.
US-Iran MoU negotiations	Broader-than-JCPOA framework for de-escalation and phased sanctions relief; opposed by Israel, criticised in the US, and faces dissent within Iran – signals major concessions on both sides.

Geopolitical Flashpoints & Reports

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Strait of Hormuz disruption	China's reduced oil imports (using reserves/inventories) freed up global supply for India, Japan, South Korea during the West Asia conflict, moderating prices.	India imports 88%+ of crude oil; illustrates indirect benefit from China's demand slowdown.
Russia-Ukraine war escalation	Ground war stalemate has shifted to long-range drone/missile exchanges; Ukraine plans 7 million drones in 2026 (up from 4 million in 2025); "fortress belt" defence around Sloviansk/Kramatorsk.	Drone strike on NATO-member Romania raises horizontal escalation and Article 5 risk.



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PACOM renaming (from INDOPACOM)	Symbolic shift possibly reflecting reduced US emphasis on the Indo-Pacific/Quad framework amid warmer US-China engagement under Trump.	Flagged concerns for India: weaker Quad relevance, US recalibration in West Asia, and growing US diplomatic outreach in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.
Sheikh Hasina's Awami League statement	Former Bangladesh PM (in exile) issued a 77th Foundation Day message asserting the Awami League's historical role (1952 Language Movement, 1966 Six-Point Movement, 1971 Liberation War) and alleging repression by the current government.	A partisan political statement, not a neutral account – relevant to Bangladesh's ongoing political transition.
UK PM transition (Keir Starmer resignation)	UK's parliamentary system allows a mid-term PM change via the ruling party's internal leadership process, without a general election.	Starmer resigned amid welfare-cut backlash, economic strain, and the rise of Reform UK (Nigel Farage); King formally invites the new party leader to form government.
FTA landscape review	India has 15 FTAs covering 27 countries (post India-Oman CEPA); 9 more under negotiation could extend coverage to 69 countries (~75% of exports).	Flags 4 structural challenges: rising trade deficits (ASEAN/Japan/Korea), low FTA utilisation by exporters, inverted duty structure, and manufacturing relocation to FTA-partner countries.
Changed reality – Strait of Hormuz leverage	Iran retained strategic leverage over Hormuz transit despite military damage in the Iran-Israel-US conflict.	India's vulnerabilities: limited strategic reserves, alternative routes, and Indian-flagged shipping capacity; revival of Chabahar Port flagged as a diversification option.

SOCIETY

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
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Financialisation of Housing	Treating homes as investment assets rather than places to live, driving prices up faster than incomes.
Double Burden of Malnutrition	Simultaneous prevalence of undernutrition (stunting, wasting) and overnutrition (obesity, diabetes) in the same population.
Trans-generational Malnutrition	A mother's nutritional/BMI status shaping her child's long-term nutritional outcomes.
One Nation, One Registration	NMC initiative (2024) for a seamless national medical registration system enabling doctors to practise across States.
MUDPFR	Proposed Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate – a guaranteed baseline disability pension regardless of State of residence.
Delisting Debate	Demand to remove ST status/benefits from tribal people who convert to Christianity/Islam.

Health, Nutrition & Demography (NFHS-6 / Census 2027)

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
NFHS-6 (2023-24) – headline findings	Conducted across ~6.8 lakh households (all States/UTs except Manipur); reports only 101 indicators vs. NFHS-5's 131 – 43 dropped (incl. anaemia, IMR, child mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, clean fuel), 13 added.	Government says some (e.g., anaemia) shift to the Diet and Biomarkers Survey (DBS) using more accurate venous blood testing; new NFHS-6 themes include digital literacy, SHG participation, DBT, Hepatitis-B/C.
NFHS-6 – child nutrition	Stunting fell from 35.5% to 29.3%; but wasting barely improved, ~1/3rd children remain underweight; UP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand show worsening indicators; exclusive breastfeeding declined.	80%+ of infants (6–23 months) still lack an adequate diet – key input for the “double burden of malnutrition” debate.
Double burden of malnutrition	~30% of Indians obese; 1 in 6 has high blood sugar; simultaneously 31%+ children underweight.	Vellore/CMC (ARUMDA-TIFR) birth-cohort study: mother's BMI strongly predicts child's nutrition trajectory – a “trans-generational” pattern.





Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decline	India's TFR at 1.9, below replacement level (2.1); some southern States as low as 1.3.	Andhra Pradesh (CM Chandrababu Naidu) announced cash incentives for 3rd/4th child; international experience (Japan, South Korea, Singapore) shows such incentives yield only temporary gains.
Contraceptive burden (NFHS-6)	Female sterilisation is 36.5% of contraceptive use vs. male sterilisation at just 0.5%.	Early marriage persists: 20.1% of women aged 20–24 married before 18 (higher in rural areas) – reduces educational/economic opportunity.
Census 2027	First Census in 16 years; includes caste enumeration (a first for independent India) and digital self-enumeration option alongside door-to-door counting.	MMR improved to 88 deaths/1,00,000 live births (2021-23); Census data will feed delimitation, Women's Reservation Act rollout, and Finance Commission allocations.
Seven-point IQ opportunity (early stimulation)	Vellore birth-cohort study: children attending preschool/Anganwadi for 18-24 months scored ~7 IQ points higher than non-attendees.	Government response: Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, Aadharshila, Navchetana – integrating nutrition with psychosocial stimulation in Anganwadis.

Social Justice, Gender & Vulnerable Groups

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Adivasi "delisting" debate	Demand to strip ST status from tribal Christian/Muslim converts; hinges on whether ST identity (Article 342) is ethnic/cultural or religious (unlike Article 341 for SCs).	Involves the Sarna faith identity question; 1963 Patna HC ruling (Kartik Oraon) held tribal identity is ethnic, not religious.
Bastar/Adivasi trust post-Maoism	Beyond security gains against Maoist insurgency, lasting peace needs focus on jal-jungle-zameen (water-forest-land) rights.	Poor implementation of PESA, 1996 flagged as the key governance gap for Gram Sabha empowerment.
Adivasi youth mental health	Distress among young Adivasis (~9% of India's population) is expressed through	Migration and smartphone dependence are weakening traditional intergenerational emotional-support spaces.





	silence, physical complaints, or withdrawal rather than clinical terms like “depression.”	
Property ownership & domestic violence	Kerala-based research: women who own property face significantly lower domestic violence – property acts as an “exit option.”	Only 18.8% of Indian households have women owning house/land (NFHS-6); Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 remain under-leveraged.
Unpaid domestic work valuation	SC’s ₹30,000/month notional valuation of homemaker labour (MACT context) recognised only posthumously – doesn’t secure lifetime property/maintenance rights.	Contrast: SC separately declined minimum wages for paid domestic workers – raises equity concerns between unpaid vs. paid care work; urban female workforce participation only ~26% vs. 73% for men (2024-25).
Disability pension inequity	Disability pensions vary by State (₹300–₹500/month under IGNDPS), covering only a fraction of India’s 4.5–6 crore PwDs; India spends ~0.02% of GDP on disability welfare.	Proposed Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR) and a National Disability Pension Authority; grounded in Article 41, RPwD Act 2016, and UNCRPD commitments.
Housing affordability crisis (UN report)	~3.4 billion people globally lack adequate housing; 44% of households spend >30% of income on rent; India (Central/South Asia) saw the sharpest house price-to-income rise (2010–2023).	Builders shifting to luxury housing over affordable housing; UN flags “financialisation of housing” as the core driver.

Education Governance

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
CBSE On-Screen Marking (OSM) controversy	Digital evaluation system meant to improve transparency instead saw blurred scans, portal glitches, and inconsistent marking.	Gen-Z whistleblowers (Vedant Shrivastava, Nisarga Adhikary, Sarthak Sidhant) exposed flaws; Sarthak testified before a Parliamentary Committee.



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High-stakes exam culture ("Exam Warriors" critique)	Excessive reliance on centralised, high-stakes exams (NEET, CBSE) is criticised as social sorting rather than social mobility.	Growing dependence on private coaching/tuition even at preschool level flagged as symptomatic of limited educational capacity.
China's Gaokao	National College Entrance Exam (since 1952), taken by 1.29 crore+ students annually; heavy anti-cheating tech (biometric checks, AI surveillance).	Comparator for India's own exam-integrity debates (NEET leaks, CBSE OSM issues); criticised for reinforcing urban-rural inequality in China too.
One Nation, One Registration (medical mobility)	Andhra Pradesh allows doctors registered in any State/UT to practise without a fresh NOC/registration.	Aligned with NMC's 2024 national vision; addresses specialist shortages via easier interstate doctor mobility.
Reconnecting public health with basic needs	Critique that Ayushman Bharat HWCs and the Digital Health Mission (ABHA card) emphasise "wellness"/digital branding over strengthening PHCs/CHCs and affordable treatment access.	Digital records ≠ improved healthcare access; core gap remains infrastructure and treatment cost.
Urban water governance	Indian cities consuming water beyond natural capacity (NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index, 2018); supply-side focus (dams, groundwater) over demand management.	China's Sponge City Project (permeable pavements, wetlands) cited as a model India could adapt via schemes like Atal Bhujal Yojana.

HISTORY

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Ulgulan (Great Tumult)	Birsa Munda's uprising against British rule and zamindari exploitation of Adivasis in the late 19th century.
Provisional Government of India (Kabul, 1915)	Considered India's first government-in-exile, formed to seek international support against British rule.
Birsait	Distinct reformist faith founded by Birsa Munda, emphasising purity, nature and community values.



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Personalities, Movements & Sites in News

Topic	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example
Birsa Munda ("Dharti Aba")	Led the Ulgulan movement (peaked at Dombari Buru, 1899) against British rule and tribal land exploitation; died in jail in 1900.	Forced colonial reforms leading to the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act, 1908, protecting tribal land rights; his legacy fed into the Jharkhand statehood movement.
Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali	Revolutionary (b. 1854, Bhopal) who became Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of India formed in Kabul (1915) – India's first government-in-exile, with Raja Mahendra Pratap as President.	In news after Barkatullah University, Bhopal proposed renaming itself, prompting debate over his under-recognised role; also linked to the Ghadar Movement; died in exile in California, 1927.
Mountbatten Plan (June 3, 1947)	Final British transfer-of-power proposal accepting Partition into India and Pakistan, with province-level partition (Punjab, Bengal) and provisions for princely states.	Enabled independence on August 15, 1947, but triggered mass migration/communal violence; roots of India-Pakistan relations and the Kashmir dispute trace back to this plan.
"Dancing Girl" of Mohenjo-daro	Bronze Harappan figurine whose "dancer" identity (coined by John Marshall) is disputed by later scholars (Gregory Possehl, Upinder Singh) for lacking clear archaeological evidence.	Recent NCERT textbook controversy over covering the torso reignited debate; post-Partition, India and Pakistan split Harappan artefacts, with Pakistan choosing the "Priest King" over the "Dancing Girl."
Beaufort Castle (Qalaat al-Shaqif), Lebanon	Crusader-built (1139) fortress on older foundations, strategically overlooking northern Israel and the Beqaa Valley; held successively by Crusaders, Saladin, Mamluks, Ottomans, French.	Used by the PLO in the 1970s; occupied by Israel (1982–2000); regained relevance in the 2026 Israel-Hezbollah conflict – illustrates history's continuity with active geopolitics.

MAPS

Places in the News – June 2026

Place / Region	Country/Area	Why in the News
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Strait of Hormuz	Between Iran and Oman, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea	Central choke point in the Iran-Israel-US conflict; India imports 88%+ of its crude oil and a major share transits here; “dark fleet” tankers switching off AIS tracking to evade risk.
Persian Gulf / Gulf region	West Asia	~23,000 Indian seafarers work here; US strikes on Indian-crewed tankers (e.g., <i>Settebello</i>) raised seafarer-safety concerns; India ran Operation Sankalp to protect merchant shipping.
Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) & Gilgit-Baltistan	Pakistan-administered territory claimed by India	PoK protests over electricity tariffs/reserved refugee Assembly seats; Gilgit-Baltistan hosts the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); India maintains both are integral to India.
Great Nicobar Island	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India, near the Malacca Strait	Strategic transshipment port/infrastructure project weighed against biodiversity and Shompen/Nicobarese tribal rights; ₹91,000 crore project.
Zojila Pass / Tunnel	Kashmir–Ladakh, India	13-km tunnel (11,758 ft) under construction via NATM; strategic all-weather link to Ladakh along the LAC/LoC; reduces Sonamarg-Drass travel by 27 km.
Aravalli Range	Rajasthan–Haryana–Delhi–Gujarat, India	Natural barrier shielding the Indo-Gangetic Plain from Thar Desert dust; degrading due to mining/urbanisation, worsening Delhi-NCR air quality.
Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan, India	India’s largest inland saline wetland; shrinking due to industrial salt-pan expansion (satellite data, 1984–2023).
Western Ghats	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notification (Gadgil/Kasturirangan recommendations) delayed over a decade amid state pushback.
Northeast India	India	Flagged by Ministry of Mines/GSI as a “resource frontier” for critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earths).





Padma River / Padma Barrage	Bangladesh, ~180 km downstream of India's Farakka Barrage	New 2.1-km barrage approved amid expiry (2026) of the 1996 Ganges Water Treaty; suspected Chinese engineering support raises strategic concerns for India.
Xochimilco canals	Mexico City, Mexico	Native habitat of the critically endangered axolotl, now absent in wild-census surveys; pressured by 2026 FIFA World Cup tourism and urbanisation.
Mongbwalu, Ituri Province	Democratic Republic of Congo	Epicentre of the 17th Ebola outbreak (Bundibugyo strain, no approved vaccine); gold-mining town where economic necessity keeps miners working despite risk.
South Sudan	East Africa (independent since 2011)	Renewed Kiir-Machar civil conflict (White Army clashes, 2025); UNMISS peacekeeping with significant Indian troop contribution.
Venezuela (Caribbean-South American Plate boundary)	South America	Site of a rare "seismic doublet" – two major earthquakes (7.2 and 7.5 magnitude) 39 seconds apart; strongest since 1900.



1 PERSIAN GULF REGION



The Persian Gulf is a shallow, semi-enclosed sea in Southwest Asia, connected to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea through the Strait of Hormuz.



Key Countries

Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman.



Strategic Importance

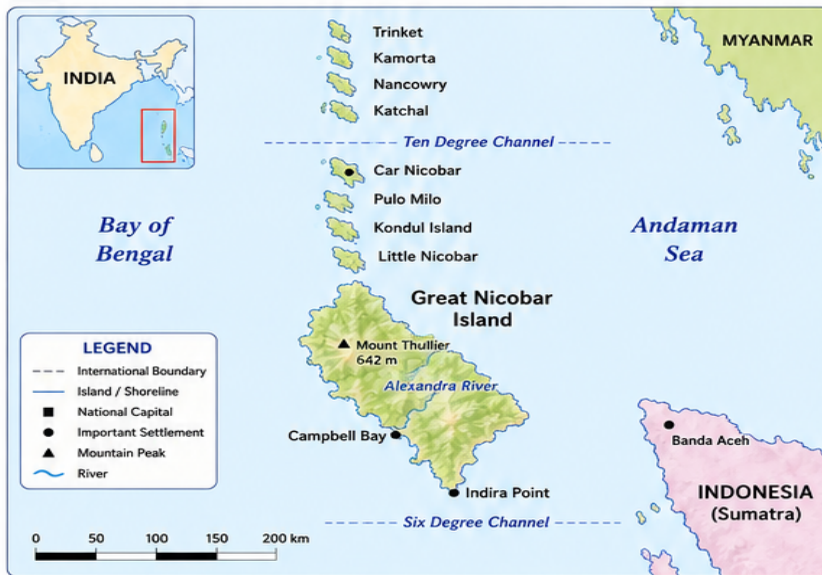
One of the world's most vital oil transit routes.



Key Feature

Strait of Hormuz – one of the narrowest chokepoints for global energy supply.

2 GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND REGION



Great Nicobar Island is the southernmost island of India's Nicobar group in the Indian Ocean near vital maritime routes connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.



Key Features

Mount Thullier (642 m), Indira Point (southernmost point of India).



Strategic Location

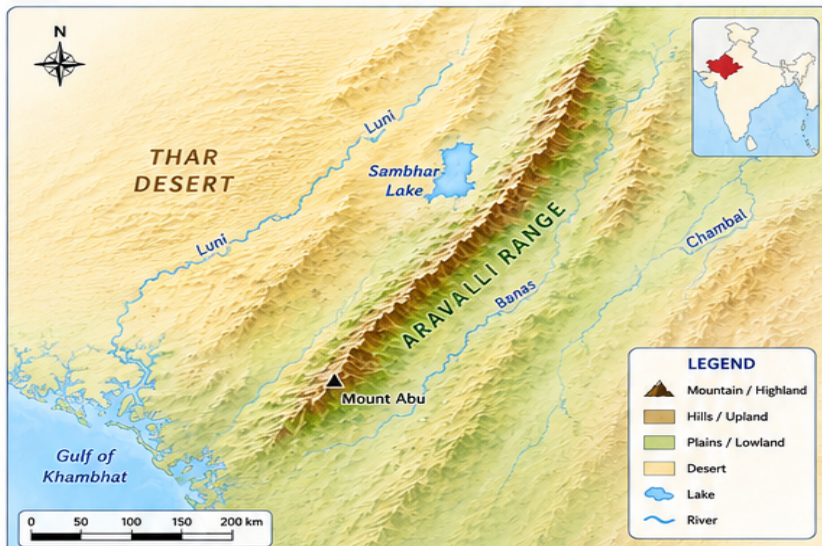
Near the Six Degree Channel – a key sea route.



Surroundings

Bounded by the Bay of Bengal (west), Andaman Sea (east) and Indonesia to the southeast.

3 ARAVALLI RANGE & SAMBHAR LAKE



The Aravalli Range is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, running southwest to northeast across Rajasthan. Sambhar Lake, a saltwater lake, is located near the Aravallis in Rajasthan.



Aravalli Range

Extends from Gujarat to Delhi; highest peak – Mount Abu.



Sambhar Lake

India's largest inland saltwater lake.



Other Rivers

Luni (west of Aravallis), Banas and Chambal (east of Aravallis).