

13/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Bharat Innovates 2026:*

Context: The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, along with the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron, is scheduled to jointly inaugurate Bharat Innovates 2026 on 14th June 2026 at Palais des Expositions de Nice, France.

About Bharat Innovates 2026:

- ❖ Being organized by the Government of India, Bharat Innovates 2026 is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Education.
- ❖ It will feature 120 Indian innovators, 15 odd Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and over 500 investors, including leading corporates and venture capital firms, along with global CEOs and industry leaders.
- ❖ The event will cover 13 key sectors such as advanced computing, semiconductors, space technology, biotechnology, energy, healthcare, and manufacturing, highlighting India's growing innovation and Deep Tech ecosystem.
- ❖ The maiden edition of Bharat Innovates 2026 will showcase India's deep tech innovators and start-ups to the global investors and industry in Nice.
- ❖ The event is expected to serve as a high-impact platform for advancing innovation-led partnerships between India and global stakeholders.

2. *Varya:*

Context: India AI Mission launches Indigenous Varya, a Video Story Generating AI Model Claiming to Offer Quality at Affordable Price.

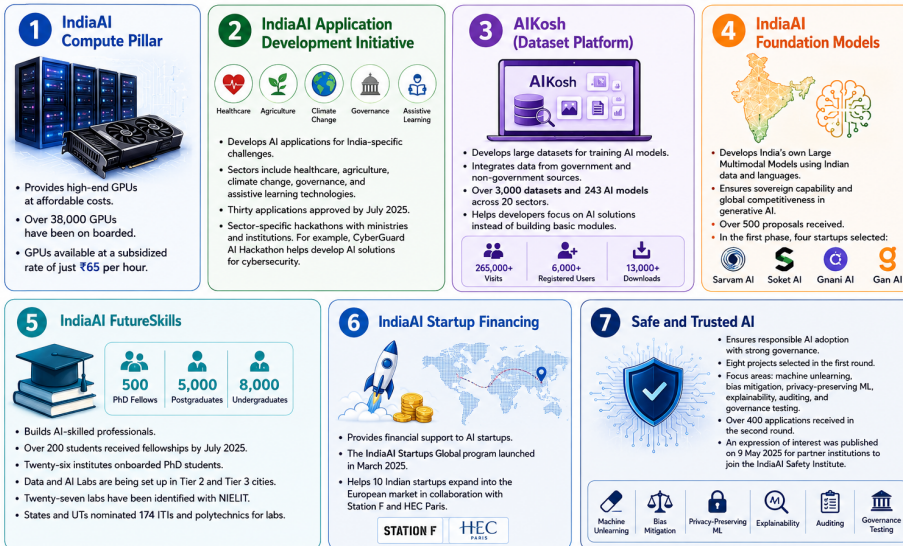
About Varya:

- ❖ Avataar, an AI-native transformation company, today announced the launch of Varya, a distilled video model built to make frontier video AI affordable, accessible and relevant for India's next generation of users.
- ❖ Varya has been designed for India's many contexts, not a generalized idea of India. The model has been built to understand and generate culturally rich visual outputs across India's regions, festivals, communities, food, clothing, public spaces and everyday life.
- ❖ From a teacher creating a visual lesson in a village classroom, to an MSME creating product ads, to a citizen accessing public information through video, Varya aims to turn a simple idea into a moving story.
- ❖ Avataar was among the companies selected by the IndiaAI Mission to build indigenous foundation AI capabilities.
- ❖ Developed with support from the IndiaAI Mission, Varya uses a distillation technique that reduces video generation from 50 steps to 4 steps, while maintaining comparable output quality.
- ❖ According to Avataar's internal inference-cost benchmarks, Varya can generate video at ₹0.48 per second, making it upto 10x more cost-efficient than several leading global video models.

India AI Mission:

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF THE INDIAAI MISSION

Powering India's AI Future with Innovation, Inclusivity and Responsibility



- ❖ **Vision:** Guided by the vision of “Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India,” the mission aims to position India as a global leader in Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ **Budget & Duration:** Approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore for a period of five years.
- ❖ **Implementation:** The mission is being implemented by IndiaAI, an independent business division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ **AI Ecosystem Development:** It seeks to build a comprehensive AI ecosystem by fostering innovation through strategic programs and partnerships between the public and private sectors.
- ❖ **Democratizing AI Access:** The mission aims to improve access to high-performance computing resources, enhance data quality and availability, and support the development of indigenous AI models and technologies.
- ❖ **Supporting Innovation & Talent:** It promotes AI startups through funding and risk capital support, attracts and nurtures AI talent, and encourages industry-academia collaboration.
- ❖ **Responsible & Inclusive AI:** The mission emphasizes ethical and responsible AI development, while supporting socially impactful AI solutions to drive inclusive growth and public welfare.

3. Amarnath Yatra 2026:

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah chaired a security review meeting in New Delhi today to assess the preparations for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. This year, the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will be conducted from July 3 to August 28, 2026.

About Amarnath Yatra 2026:

- ❖ Location and Nature - Amarnath Temple is a Hindu cave shrine located in Pahalgam tehsil of Anantnag district at 3,888 m altitude
- ❖ Accessibility - Situated about 141 km from Srinagar and 168 km from Anantnag, reachable via Pahalgam or Sonamarg routes
- ❖ Geographical Setting - Located in the Sind Valley, surrounded by glaciers and snow-covered mountains; accessible only during a short summer period
- ❖ Religious Significance - One of the holiest Hindu shrines and also considered a Shakti Peetha (associated with Sati)
- ❖ Duration of Yatra - Annual pilgrimage duration varies between 20 to 60 days depending on conditions
- ❖ Pilgrimage Season - Amarnath Yatra is held during July–August when the ice lingam forms fully.

4. *ECOFIX Technology:*

Context: A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on 10 June 2026 for functional and structural evaluation of roads, construction quality supervision, and capacity building of MCD engineers and staff. On this occasion, a Bi-partite Technology Management Agreement was also signed for implementation of ECOFIX, an iron and steel slag aggregate-based instant pothole repair technology developed by CSIR-CRRI.

About ECOFIX Technology:

- ❖ ECOFIX is a rapid and durable pothole repair technology developed using processed iron and steel slag aggregates.
- ❖ The technology supports the national vision of waste-to-wealth by utilizing industrial by-products for sustainable road maintenance improving the durability and environmental impact such as air pollution.
- ❖ Improved road conditions and timely maintenance are expected to reduce road dust generation, while the use of steel slag and recycling-based technologies promotes conservation of natural resources and supports circular economy practices.
- ❖ Exchange of MoA between authorized representatives of CSIR-CRRI and MCD for utilization of ECOFIX Technology for Instant Pothole repair.
- ❖ Steel Slag Road Technology, ECOFIX, Rejupave and MSS+ promote resource conservation, circular economy principles and reduced carbon emissions.

5. *Global Alliance for Human Rights:*

Context: The UN human rights office (OHCHR) has launched Global Alliance for Human Rights. It is designed as a long-term effort leading up to the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 2028. UDHR is a landmark UN declaration adopted in 1948 that sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms to which every person is entitled, regardless of nationality, race, gender, religion, or any other status.

About Global Alliance for Human Rights:

- ❖ Vision: To create a future where governments are accountable, societies are inclusive, economies are fair, innovation serves people, and respect guides relationships with one another and the planet.
- ❖ Aim: To place human rights at the center of decision-making at local, national, and global levels.
- ❖ Purpose-Driven Initiative: A long-term global effort with a major milestone in 2028, marking the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ❖ Inclusive and Participatory: Engages governments, civil society, businesses, and communities across regions, while promoting gender equality and participation from people of all ages and backgrounds.
- ❖ Action-Oriented and Ecosystem-Building: Focuses on measurable outcomes through collaboration, while strengthening and connecting human rights institutions, mechanisms, and networks.
- ❖ Narrative Change and Guiding Principles: Promotes accessible communication and innovative partnerships, guided by three principles—Imagine (envision a better future), Dialogue (encourage inclusive discussions), and Act (turn commitments into concrete action).

6. *Crude oil and natural gas agreement:*

Context: Union Government signs Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam and Nagaland. The MoU aims to facilitate exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in the two states.

About Crude oil and natural gas reserves in India:

- ❖ Crude Oil Reserves: India has an estimated 672.07 million tonnes of crude oil reserves, with the largest share concentrated in the Western Offshore region (31%), including the Mumbai High oil field.
- ❖ Major Oil-Reserve States: Assam holds the largest share of onshore crude oil reserves (21.5%), followed by Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ❖ Important Oil Fields: Assam's major oil fields include Digboi Oil Field (India's oldest oil field), Naharkatiya, Rudrasagar, Lakwa, and Lakhmani. Rajasthan is known for the Barmer fields, while Gujarat has Ankleshwar, Khambhat, Kalol, Mehsana, and Aliabet.
- ❖ Oil Consumption and Trade: India is the world's 3rd-largest consumer of crude oil, 4th-largest oil refiner, and 3rd-largest oil importer.
- ❖ Natural Gas Production: About 51.4% of India's total gas supply comes from domestic production, with gross production reaching 36.11 billion cubic meters (BCM) in 2024.
- ❖ Natural Gas Characteristics and Reserves: Natural gas consists mainly of methane (CH₄), along with small quantities of natural gas liquids, carbon dioxide, and water vapor. India's estimated natural gas reserves are around 1,000 BCM.
- ❖ Distribution of Natural Gas Reserves: The Western Offshore region has the largest natural gas reserves, followed by the Eastern Offshore region, while Assam is the state with the largest estimated natural gas reserves.

7. *Shree Jagannath Temple:*

Context: In a first for any Indian shrine, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has obtained trademark protection for important terms and symbols. Wordmarks secured (Protects specific words): Patitapabana (Savior of the Fallen) and Ananda Bajara (the sacred Mahaprasad dining area within the temple) Logomark secured (Protects visual symbols/ designs): Neelachakra (sacred eight-spoked metal disc atop the temple spire)

About Shree Jagannath Temple:

- ❖ Location: The temple is situated in Puri, Odisha, and is one of the most revered Hindu pilgrimage sites in India.
- ❖ Historical Background: It is believed to have been built in the 12th century CE by Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- ❖ Char Dham Significance: The temple is one of the four Char Dham pilgrimage sites, along with Badrinath Temple, Dwarkadhish Temple, and Ramanathaswamy Temple.
- ❖ Yamanika Tirtha: Puri is known as “Yamanika Tirtha”, as Hindu belief holds that the power of Yama, the god of death, is nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- ❖ Architecture: The temple is an outstanding example of Kalinga Architecture, a regional sub-style of the Nagara school of North Indian temple architecture, featuring massive walls, towers, halls, and shrines.
- ❖ Presiding Deities: The temple enshrines the holy trinity of Lord Jagannath (Vishnu/Krishna), Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra, whose idols are uniquely carved from wood rather than stone or metal.
- ❖ Ratha Yatra: The world-famous Ratha Yatra is the temple's most important festival, during which the three deities are taken out in a grand chariot procession.
- ❖ Mahaprasad Tradition: The temple is renowned for its Mahaprasad, prepared in one of the world's largest temple kitchens and distributed among devotees as sacred food.
- ❖ Unique Features: Historically known as the “White Pagoda”, the temple is also associated with the popular belief that its main structure does not cast a visible shadow on the ground at any time of the day.

8. *Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil:*

Context: Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil, born on 11th June, 1897 in Shahjahanpur was amongst the most notable Indian revolutionaries who fought against British colonialism.

About Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil:

- ❖ Birth: Born in 1897 in present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Arya Samaj Influence: Deeply influenced by the teachings of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and his work Satyarth Prakash, which shaped his nationalist and revolutionary outlook.
- ❖ Mainpuri Conspiracy (1918): Played a key role in the Mainpuri conspiracy, where revolutionaries procured funds by looting government resources to support the freedom movement.
- ❖ Founder of Matrivedi: Along with Genda Lal Dixit, he founded Matrivedi, a revolutionary organization dedicated to India's independence.
- ❖ Hindustan Republican Association (HRA): In 1924, he co-founded the Hindustan Republican Association along with Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Jadugopal Mukherjee and other revolutionaries.

- ❖ Kakori Conspiracy (1925): He was one of the principal leaders of the Kakori Train Robbery, aimed at securing funds for revolutionary activities against British rule.
- ❖ Literary Contributions: A noted poet and writer, he wrote in Hindi and Urdu under the pen names Ram, Agyat, and Bismil. His works include Man Ki Lahar and patriotic poems such as Sarfaroshi Ki Tamanna and Mera Rang De Basanti Chola.
- ❖ Association with Revolutionaries: Worked closely with prominent freedom fighters such as Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandra Shekhar Azad, and Bhagat Singh.
- ❖ Martyrdom: He was executed at Gorakhpur Jail on 19 December 1927 at the age of 30 for his role in the Kakori conspiracy, becoming a symbol of revolutionary patriotism.

9. *Global Peace Index (GPI):*

Context: The Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent and non-partisan think tank published Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026.

About Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026:

- ❖ India's Rank: India is ranked 127th in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026.
- ❖ Published By: The index is released annually by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent and non-partisan think tank.
- ❖ Coverage: The 20th edition of the GPI assesses and ranks 163 countries and territories based on their level of peacefulness.
- ❖ Purpose: The index measures the state of global peace and evaluates its social and economic impacts.
- ❖ Top-Ranked Countries: Iceland retained the 1st position for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.
- ❖ Lowest-Ranked Countries: Russia ranked last, followed by Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel.
- ❖ Methodology: Rankings are based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators grouped under three domains: Societal Safety and Security, Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict and Militarization.

10. *Approved List of Cell Manufacturers (ALCM):*

Context: Mandate on solar cell manufacturing may hit projects on books.

More details:

- ❖ ALCM came into force on June 1, 2026, requiring solar PV module manufacturers to use only those solar cells that are listed in the Approved List of Cell Manufacturers (ALCM).
- ❖ The rule is linked to the Approved List of Module Manufacturers (ALMM) framework, which aims to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.

- ❖ Major concern: India's solar module manufacturing capacity is about 190 GW, but domestic solar cell manufacturing capacity is only 25 GW, far below the annual installation requirement of around 50 GW.
- ❖ Due to this capacity gap, the industry fears a shortage of solar cells, which could delay the implementation of solar projects already in the pipeline.
- ❖ Before ALCM, manufacturers could import solar cells (subject to a 20% Basic Customs Duty), ensuring adequate supply for module production.
- ❖ With the mandatory Domestic Content Requirement (DCR), many EPC and manufacturing companies may face closure as module availability will become an issue.
- ❖ Cost impact: Imported cells reportedly cost around ₹5 per watt, whereas domestically produced cells cost about ₹13 per watt, significantly increasing project costs.
- ❖ The increased costs and limited availability may affect commercial and solar park projects, which account for nearly 70% of India's solar installations, while rooftop projects under PM Surya Ghar are less affected due to subsidy-linked domestic content requirements.
- ❖ Industry stakeholders argue for a phased implementation of ALCM until domestic cell manufacturing capacity expands substantially (around 100 GW), to avoid project delays, underutilization of module factories, and financial stress on EPC companies, developers, DISCOMs, and consumers.

11. Project Kusha:

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence programme as a “game changer” for India’s security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

About Project Kusha:

- ❖ Project Kusha is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the DRDO to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.
- ❖ Purpose: Indigenous long-range air defence system for IAF, comparable to Israel’s Iron Dome.
- ❖ Timeline: Deployment targeted for 2028–29.
- ❖ Developer: DRDO with an estimated budget of ₹21,700 crore.
- ❖ Targets: Capable of intercepting cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones.
- ❖ Radars: Equipped with advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars.
- ❖ Interceptor Missiles: Ranges of 150 km, 200 km, and 350 km for layered defence.
- ❖ Effectiveness: 80% single-shot kill chance; over 90% with dual-fire.
- ❖ Coverage: Provides both strategic and tactical air defence cover.
- ❖ Integration: Seamlessly connects with IAF’s air command and military radar network.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Indian shooting coach Jaspal Rana passes away at age 49. Jaspal Rana was an Indian sport shooter and coach. Rana won numerous medals at international competitions, including the Asian

Games and Commonwealth Games, and had been instrumental in shaping India's presence in shooting sports

- ☐ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will host the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference on 15th June 2026 in Goa, themed “Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration.
- ☐ The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) and CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI) are going to organize the Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026 on 13–14 June 2026 at the VM Ghatage Convention Centre, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru. With the theme “Innovation & Entrepreneurship Driven Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047,” the conclave will serve as a national platform for fostering collaboration among research institutions, industry leaders, start-ups, academia, investors and policymakers to accelerate innovation-led growth and technology commercialization.
- ☐ The Semiverse platform, developed by Lam Research, is a digital twin-based semiconductor fabrication and training ecosystem that combines physical and virtual learning environments. A digital twin is a virtual replica of a physical object or system that uses real-time data to simulate and reflect its real-world behavior. Through an immersive 3D virtual environment, Semiverse enables students to study semiconductor chip structures, fabrication processes, and cleanroom operations, providing hands-on industry-oriented training without requiring access to actual fabrication facilities.
- ☐ The Muscat Plan of Action, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General, aims to counter hate speech, prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes, and promote peace through mediation, dialogue, and local peacebuilding efforts. It emerged from a multi-stakeholder initiative led by Oman, the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.
- ☐ The AFSPA, 1958 empowers the armed forces with special authority to maintain public order and conduct operations in areas declared as “disturbed areas.” It allows security forces to search, arrest, and use force under specified circumstances to counter insurgency and restore law and order. According to the Union Home Minister, AFSPA is proposed to be withdrawn from most parts of Northeast India by next year, reflecting improved security conditions. At present, the Act remains in force in parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ☐ China rejected multiple consignments of Indian dried red chillies on 11 June 2026 and temporarily suspended three Indian exporting firms. The action followed detection of alleged excessive methamidophos, an organophosphate insecticide, in the consignments.
- ☐ In what could serve as a major boost to India’s nuclear energy ambitions, the Finance Ministry in an order on Thursday, waived customs duty on specific imports required for spurring generation of nuclear energy. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced extending the basic customs duty exemption on imports necessary for nuclear power projects up to 2035.

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