

14/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA):*

Context: National Institute of Urban Affairs marks 50 years of shaping India's urban transformation.

About National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA):

- ❖ It is a premier think tank under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, in supporting integrated and sustainable urban development.
- ❖ Established in 1976 as an autonomous institute under the Societies Registration Act to promote urban research and development in India.
- ❖ Headquartered in New Delhi and functions as a premier national institution for urban policy research, training, and knowledge dissemination.
- ❖ Supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), State Governments, urban development authorities, and other organizations dealing with urban issues.
- ❖ The Institute's policies and directions are determined by the Governing Council consisting of a President, who is appointed by the Government of India, two Vice-Presidents, three members of the Government of India in their ex officio capacity, twelve other members, and the Director, the Chief Executive of the Institute, as the member-secretary.
- ❖ Acts as a center for advanced studies on urban problems and provides training, capacity building, and research facilities to urban professionals and institutions.
- ❖ Evaluates urban development plans and programmes, including their social, administrative, financial, and implementation aspects.
- ❖ Provides technical expertise and consultancy services by mobilizing specialists in urban affairs and supporting governments and agencies.
- ❖ Serves as a knowledge and information hub through documentation, publications, workshops, seminars, training programs, and dissemination of research on urban affairs.

2. *ILO Convention No. 193:*

Context: The ILO Convention No. 193 'Concerning Decent Work in the Platform Economy' was adopted at the 114th session of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

About ILO Convention No. 193:

- ❖ International Labour Organization adopted the world's first binding international convention to establish labor standards for gig and platform workers.
- ❖ The convention covers all platform workers, including both online workers and location-based workers such as delivery personnel and taxi drivers, in formal and informal sectors.
- ❖ It will come into force 12 months after ratification by at least two member states, requiring countries to create effective enforcement and dispute-resolution mechanisms.
- ❖ Governments must ensure correct classification of gig workers, preventing their misclassification as independent contractors when they function as employees.

- ❖ Workers are guaranteed timely payment, and those classified as employees must receive at least the statutory minimum wage.
- ❖ The treaty protects fundamental labor rights, including freedom of association, non-discrimination, social security coverage, and the right to refuse unsafe work without penalties.
- ❖ It mandates algorithmic transparency, requiring platforms to disclose automated monitoring systems and provide workers the right to seek human review of major automated decisions such as account suspension or withheld payments.
- ❖ The convention strengthens data privacy protections and includes special safeguards for migrant and refugee workers against recruitment and employment-related abuses.

About International Labour Organization:

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work.
- ❖ Its mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- ❖ ILO's mandate as the basis for peace is expressed today as Decent Work for all.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP), a coalition of UN organization aimed at helping meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice.
- ❖ In 1946, the ILO became a specialized agency of the newly formed United Nations.
- ❖ The ILO has 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands.
- ❖ It is the only tripartite U.N. agency, that brings together governments, employers and workers' representatives of 187-member States.

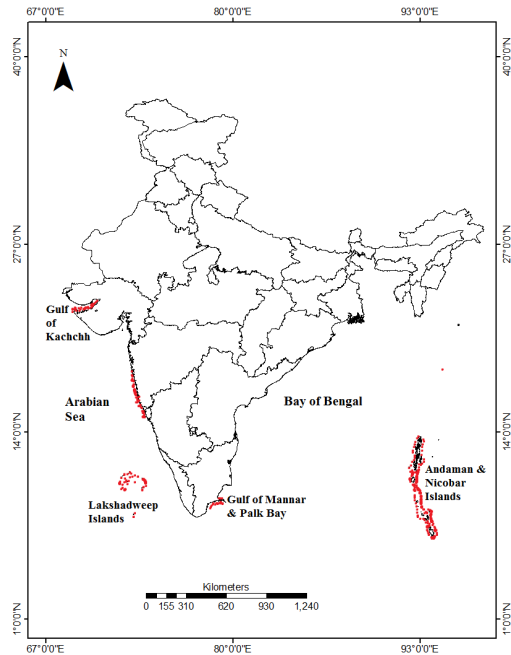
3. Coral Translocation:

Context: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Identifies Four News Sites for Coral Translocation in Great Nicobar Island. These sites would include Coral colonies and giant clams that will be impacted due to transshipment port proposed at Galathea under Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega project.

About Coral Translocation:

- ❖ Coral Translocation is the process of physically relocating corals from areas with unfavorable conditions to suitable habitats where they can survive and grow better.
- ❖ The objective is to restore degraded coral reefs, enhance biodiversity, improve reef quality, and increase the structural complexity of marine ecosystems.
- ❖ It is an important coral conservation and reef restoration technique, especially in regions affected by climate change, pollution, coastal development, or other environmental stresses.
- ❖ India's first coral translocation project was undertaken in the Marine National Park, Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, to transplant and restore corals in a turbid (sediment-rich) marine environment.

About Coral reefs:



- ❖ Coral reefs are underwater ecosystems made up of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates known as coral.
- ❖ They are underwater formations composed of coral polyps bound together by calcium carbonate.
- ❖ Coral reefs serve a vital function in marine ecosystems by providing habitat for marine plants and wildlife.
- ❖ Coral has a symbiotic relationship with 'zooxanthellae,' microscopic algae that live on coral.
- ❖ Through their photosynthetic activities, zooxanthellae aid the coral in nutrient production.
- ❖ In exchange, the host coral polyp provides its zooxanthellae with a safe environment to live in as well as a steady supply of carbon dioxide for photosynthetic processes.

4. ***ANCHOR: Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human brainstem with 3D Reconstruction:***

Context: Indian Institute of Technology Madras creates ANCHOR: Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human brainstem with 3D Reconstruction.

About ANCHOR:

- ❖ Scientists have developed the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem, providing comprehensive multi-modal maps from the prenatal stage to childhood and adulthood.
- ❖ The atlas includes more than 200 brainstem nuclei and fiber tracts, reconstructed from hundreds of serial tissue sections, making it the most detailed brainstem mapping effort to date.
- ❖ The brainstem is the part of the brain that connects the cerebrum with the spinal cord and cerebellum.
- ❖ It consists of three major parts: Midbrain, Pons, and Medulla Oblongata (from top to bottom).
- ❖ The brainstem regulates vital functions such as breathing, consciousness, heart rate, blood pressure, and sleep, and contains important collections of white matter and grey matter.

5. *Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK):*

Context: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is again in the throes of civilian unrest as protests for economic justice and equitable political representation rage across the region. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which called for the protests, has since been banned by the regional government, for “engaging in terrorism”.

About Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK):



- ❖ **Definition:** Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) refers to the part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir that came under Pakistan's control after the 1947–48 India-Pakistan War.
- ❖ **Administrative Divisions:** PoK comprises two regions—Azad Jammu and Kashmir (capital: Muzaffarabad) and Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ❖ **Strategic Location:** Gilgit-Baltistan is geographically larger and shares borders with China and Afghanistan, making it strategically significant.
- ❖ **Accession to India:** In 1947, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession.
- ❖ **First Indo-Pak War:** The 1947–48 war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir led to a ceasefire and division of the territory.
- ❖ **Line of Control (LoC):** A UN-mediated ceasefire resulted in the establishment of the LoC, which effectively divided the former princely state.

- ❖ Karachi Agreement (1949): The ceasefire line was formalized through the Karachi Agreement between India and Pakistan.
- ❖ Continuing Dispute: Subsequent conflicts, including the 1965 War, 1971 War, and the Kargil War, highlighted the continuing dispute over the region.
- ❖ India's Constitutional Position: India considers the entire erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, including PoK, as an integral part of its sovereign territory.
- ❖ 1994 Parliamentary Resolution: The Indian Parliament unanimously passed a resolution in 1994 declaring PoK an inseparable part of India and rejecting Pakistan's administrative control over the region.

6. *Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO):*

Context: The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) collaboration in China has published its first results. Based on 59 days of data collected in late 2025, the group calculated how often particles called neutrinos from nuclear reactors change their flavour, or type, as they travel.

About Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO):

- ❖ The observatory is located 700 meters underground to block interfering particles.
- ❖ The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) is located 700 meters underground in Kaiping, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province, in Southern China
- ❖ Neutrino observatories are placed underground because Earth's crust shields them from most particles like muons.
- ❖ JUNO's main goal is to determine the mass hierarchy among the three neutrino types.
- ❖ The three neutrino types are electron, muon, and tau neutrinos.
- ❖ JUNO also aims to precisely measure neutrino oscillation frequency (how neutrinos change from one type to another).

About neutrinos:

- ❖ Neutrinos are subatomic “ghost particles” with no charge, no size, and extremely tiny mass.
- ❖ They are the second-most abundant particles after photons in the universe.
- ❖ They are hard to detect because they interact only through the weak nuclear force and gravity.
- ❖ Neutrinos aren't affected by magnetic fields and travel in straight lines at nearly the speed of light.

INDIAN NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY (INO)

India's gateway to the mysterious world of neutrinos

INO is a proposed particle-physics mega project to study neutrinos—the most abundant yet least understood particles in the Universe.

WHAT IS INO?
INO is a proposed underground laboratory to detect and study neutrinos, tiny subatomic particles that can pass through matter almost without interacting.

UNDERGROUND LABORATORY
Research to be conducted in a 1,200-metre-deep underground laboratory to shield experiments from cosmic rays and other background noise.

CONCEIVED AND DEVELOPED BY INDIAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS
The project was initially conceived by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc).
Later taken up and is being advanced by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

PROPOSED SITE
Aiming to put India on the global map of fundamental physics research.
Pottipuram Village, Theni District, Tamil Nadu

INSIDE THE UNDERGROUND LABORATORY (CONCEPTUAL)
The lab will house a large detector to capture neutrinos from natural and man-made sources.

WHY STUDY NEUTRINOS?
Neutrinos are fundamental particles that hold the key to many unanswered questions in physics.
Help us understand the origin of the Universe, formation of stars, supernovae explosions, and black holes.
May explain why matter exists in the Universe (matter-antimatter asymmetry).

NEUTRINOS ARE EVERYWHERE
From the Sun, From cosmic rays, From the atmosphere, From nuclear reactors, From supernovae.
Neutrinos interact extremely weakly with matter. Studying them can reveal deep secrets of the Universe.

KEY FEATURES
1,200 m underground depth to reduce cosmic ray interference.
Large, state-of-the-art detector to study neutrino properties with high precision.
Will study neutrino oscillations, mass hierarchy, and other fundamental properties.
A multi-institutional collaboration of Indian universities and research labs.
Cutting-edge technology and world-class infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA AND THE WORLD
• One of the largest and deepest underground labs in Asia.
• Will place India among the few countries contributing to global neutrino research.
• Will foster advanced technology, scientific expertise, and innovation.
• Inspire and train the next generation of scientists.
• Strengthens India's leadership in frontier areas of science.

INO is not just a scientific project—it is a vision for India's future in fundamental science.

The Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO) will open a new window to the Universe and answer some of the biggest questions of existence.

7. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

Context: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that the anomaly in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had been resolved. Dr. Singh said on the sidelines of the Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru, that a national-level expert committee constituted to review the reason for the anomaly had submitted its report and the problem had been detected.

About Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

- ❖ PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) is India's 3rd-generation launch vehicle, developed indigenously by ISRO in the 1990s.
- ❖ It is the first Indian launch vehicle equipped with liquid stages.
- ❖ After its first successful launch in October 1994, PSLV became the "Workhorse of ISRO" due to its high success rate and reliability.
- ❖ PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle that uses solid and liquid propulsion systems alternately.
- ❖ The 1st and 3rd stages are solid-fuelled, while the 2nd and 4th stages are liquid-fuelled.
- ❖ The 2nd-stage Vikas engine is derived from France's Viking engine.
- ❖ The PS4 (4th stage) is the uppermost stage and consists of two Earth-storable liquid engines.
- ❖ PSLV can place satellites into Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSO) and Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- ❖ It can carry up to 1,750 kg payload to a 600 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit and can launch small satellites into GTO.
- ❖ PSLV has launched around 345 satellites for 34 countries, showcasing India's commercial launch capabilities.

- ❖ Major missions launched by PSLV include Chandrayaan-1 (2008), Mars Orbiter Mission (2013), and AstroSat (2015).
- ❖ In PSLV-C37 (2017), PSLV created a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.
- ❖ PSLV launched all seven satellites of NavIC (IRNSS) and most recently launched XPoSat through PSLV-C58 (2024) to study cosmic X-rays.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The BRICS Agriculture Ministers and officials-level meetings held in Indore concluded today with the adoption of a unanimous 'Indore Declaration' that includes several historic decisions giving new direction to food security, farmer welfare, climate-resilient farming, agricultural trade and digital agriculture.
- ☐ Department of Posts has launched drone-based transmission of mail and parcels between Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh, effective from 12th June 2026.
- ☐ The Government has appointed Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30, 2026. The present Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM retires from service the same day.
- ☐ The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) successfully conducted a three-day offline Skill Training Programme on "Basics of Koha Software". Koha is a globally recognized open-source Integrated Library Management System.
- ☐ Supreme Court constituted the National Task Force in 2025 in Amit Kumar V. Union of India case. to address the Mental Health Concerns of students and prevent commission of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).
- ☐ The Masroor Rock Cut Temples, known as the "Ellora of the Himalayas," are early 8th-century monolithic rock-cut temples located in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Valley. Built in the Nagara style, the complex is carved from a single rock and features shikharas, a sacred water tank, and temples arranged in a mandala pattern around a central shrine. Dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, Devi, and Surya, it showcases rich Vedic and Puranic carvings and is considered one of India's unique rock-cut architectural masterpieces.
- ☐ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex within the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ☐ India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market in April 2024, with airline capacity of 15.6 million seats. The market moved ahead of Brazil and Indonesia and stood behind the United States and China in global domestic traffic.
- ☐ Divyanshi is set to become the first woman cadet trained at the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune to be commissioned into the Ground Duty branch of the Indian Air Force, marking a significant moment in the armed forces' journey towards greater inclusion of women.

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