

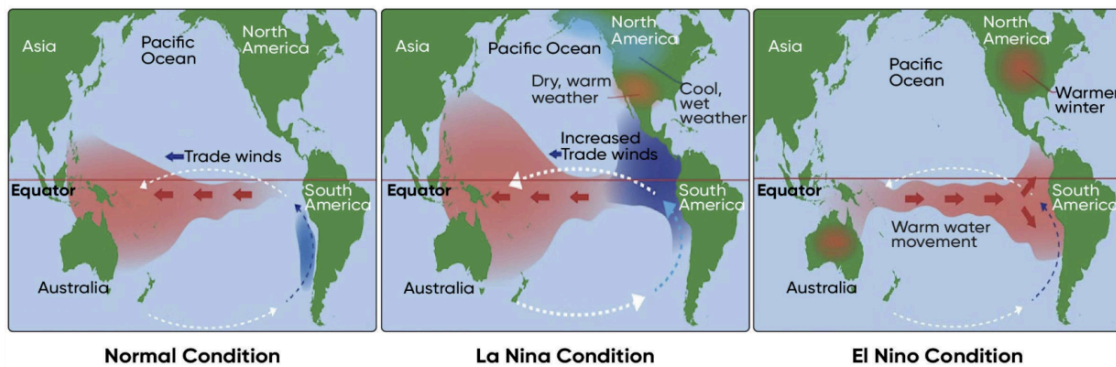
17/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. Super El Nino:

Context: Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35%. While a rainfall deficit in June, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year.

About Super El Nino:

- ❖ A "Super" El Niño is an informal term used by forecasters to describe an exceptionally strong phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It occurs when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean spike by 2°C or more above average.



El Niño (Warm Phase)	La Niña (Cold Phase)
Warm waters shift eastward toward central & eastern Pacific	Cooler-than-normal waters spread across central & eastern Pacific
Weakening of trade winds	Stronger-than-normal trade winds
Reduced or reversed trade winds	Enhanced east-to-west water movement
Increased rainfall in Peru & South America; drought in Australia/Indonesia	Increased rainfall in Australia/Indonesia; drier conditions in western Americas
Warm phase of ENSO cycle	Cold phase of ENSO cycle

2. Group of Seven (G7) countries:

Context: With a message that trust was in short supply globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday participated in a session with the Group of Seven (G7) countries and others on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity".

About G7 Group:

- ❖ The G7 originated from a 1973 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Paris, France.
- ❖ The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- ❖ In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- ❖ These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- ❖ These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.
- ❖ The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office. The agenda of G7 is set by the presiding nation.
- ❖ It cannot pass any laws because it is made up of separate nations with their own democratic processes.
- ❖ However, decisions taken by G7 have global effects as the member countries are political and economic heavyweights.

3. ***Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR):***

Context: Samagra Shiksha State Project Director (SPD) B. Srinivasa Rao on Tuesday said eight schools from Andhra Pradesh had won the national-level 'Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating' (SHVR)-2025.

About Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR):

- ❖ SHVR is an initiative of the Central government launched to promote safe water management, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and environmental sustainability in schools.
- ❖ The drive is conducted in alignment with the Centre's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) principles, and the national assessment had recognised only 191 schools across the country.
- ❖ Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR) provides a ready opportunity to inculcate relevant fundamental duties; citizenship skills and values among the students with linkage to environmental awareness including water, sanitation and hygiene, resource conservation as visualized under the National Education Policy 2020.
- ❖ SHVR package – Water, Toilets, Handwashing with Soap, Operational and Maintenance, Behavior Change and Capacity building, Mission LiFE activities.
- ❖ Functions - Effective monitoring using ICT tools, behavior change communication, new financing options and forging partnerships.
- ❖ SHVR based situation analysis is instrumental to identify infrastructure and service level gaps leading to development of school level Swachhata Action Plan (SAP), as envisaged under Samagra Shiksha.
- ❖ Key stakeholders (Rural/ Urban Local Body, Government Agencies such as Districts and States/UTs, Civil Society Organizations)
- ❖ SHVR is applicable to Government Schools, Government Aided Schools and Private Schools in both Urban and Rural areas.

4. **GRAPES-3 experiment (or Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3):**

Context: Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 telescope to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space. By analysing 22 years of data, they developed a way to use these measurements to monitor changes in the upper atmosphere in real-time with high accuracy.

About GRAPES-3:

- ❖ It is located at Ooty in India started as a collaboration of the Indian Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Japanese Osaka City University, and now also includes the Japanese Nagoya Women's University.
- ❖ The GRAPES-3 telescope in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope.
- ❖ Instead, it is a muon detector. Muons are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere.
- ❖ The facility consists of 16 independent modules spread over a large area.
- ❖ GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.

5. *Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test:*

Context: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has said that no woman athlete shall be eligible to compete in any of its events from next year without undergoing the Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test. In order to ensure fairness, World Athletics (WA) introduced the once-in-a-lifetime test for athletes wishing to compete in the women's category at the Tokyo World Championships last year.

What is Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test?

- ❖ SRY (Sex-determining Region Y) gene is located on the Y chromosome and plays a key role in sex determination.
- ❖ The presence of a functional SRY gene generally triggers the development of a male fetus.
- ❖ Absence or mutation of the SRY gene can lead to female development.
- ❖ The SRY gene produces the SRY protein, a DNA-binding regulatory protein.
- ❖ The SRY protein activates genes required for male sexual differentiation.
- ❖ It promotes the formation of male gonads (testes) and suppresses the development of female reproductive structures.
- ❖ Human cells contain 46 chromosomes arranged in 23 pairs, including one pair of sex chromosomes.
- ❖ Females have two X chromosomes (XX), while males have one X and one Y chromosome (XY).
- ❖ Biological sex is determined at fertilization, depending on whether the fertilizing sperm carries an X or a Y chromosome.
- ❖ An X-bearing sperm produces a female zygote (XX), whereas a Y-bearing sperm produces a male zygote (XY), with the SRY gene directing male development.

6. *Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):*

Context: Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told.

About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):



- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organisation established to promote economic cooperation and regional integration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ IORA member states work on various initiatives related to trade, investment, and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- ❖ It was established on 7 March 1997 with a secretariat based in Ebène, Mauritius.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan have adopted the 'Rule of Implementation' of the Joint Crediting Mechanism on 08.06.2026, under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ☐ Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the national launch of 'Viksit Bharat – Rozgar aur Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB - G RAM G)' will take place from Andhra Pradesh on July 1, 2026.
- ☐ The National Level of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.
- ☐ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Slovakia's highest state decoration, the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, in Bratislava on 15 June 2026.
- ☐ Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based full-stack sovereign AI startup, raised 234 million in the first close of its Series B funding round on 15 June 2026. The round valued the company at 1.5 billion post-money and placed it in India's unicorn club, which includes privately held companies valued at \$1 billion or more.

- ☐ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a new lunar lander with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 2026. The project aims to extend lander operations on the Moon from about 14 days in Chandrayaan-3 to 100 to 200 days.
- ☐ Usutu virus (USUV), a mosquito-borne flavivirus, was identified in blackbirds in Scotland for the first time in summer 2025.
- ☐ The Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur, released two chilli varieties, LCA-625 and LCA-643, on 16 June 2026. The two varieties were developed as alternatives to Teja and Byadgi chilli types, which are widely used in Indian chilli cultivation.
- ☐ The Kerala government will create a calendar to map seasonal and regional patterns of disease outbreaks in the State in a bid to give the public health system's response an added edge in the future.
- ☐ The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory from July 20.

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