

18/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will disburse incentives worth around ₹2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) at a special programme to be held on 19 June 2026 at 5 PM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):

- ❖ It is the Government of India's flagship employment-linked incentive scheme aimed at accelerating job creation, promoting formalisation of employment, enhancing employability, and expanding social security coverage across sectors.
- ❖ PM-VBRY is designed to encourage both workers and employers to participate in the formal economy. Under the scheme, first-time employees are eligible for an incentive of up to ₹15,000, providing crucial support as they enter the workforce.
- ❖ Employers generating additional employment are eligible for incentives of up to ₹3,000 per month per additional employee, thereby encouraging sustained job creation.
- ❖ Recognising the strategic importance of manufacturing in driving economic growth, employers in the manufacturing sector are eligible to receive incentives for a period of four years, while employers in all other sectors can avail incentives for two years.
- ❖ PM-VBRY came into effect on 1 August 2025. With a total outlay of ₹99,446 crore, the scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over a two-year period.
- ❖ Of these, approximately 1.92 crore beneficiaries are expected to be first-time entrants into the workforce.

2. *Defence production for 2025-26:*

Context: Defence production soars to a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in Financial Year 2025-26.

Details about Defence production for 2025-26:

- ❖ India's indigenous defence production reached a record ₹1.79 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ Defence production grew by 15.6% over the previous year's output of ₹1.54 lakh crore.
- ❖ Defence production increased by 110% compared to ₹84,643 crore in FY 2020–21.
- ❖ Indigenous defence production has grown nearly fourfold since FY 2013–14 (₹43,746 crore).
- ❖ Defence PSUs and other public sector units contributed 76% of total defence production.
- ❖ The private sector accounted for 24% of defence production in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ The private sector's share rose from 22% in FY 2024–25 to 24% in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ Private sector defence production touched an all-time high of about ₹42,000 crore.
- ❖ Rising defence production supported record defence exports of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ The achievement reflects the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing.

3. *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):*

Context: The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17 June under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The day serves as a global platform to raise awareness and promote action against desertification, land degradation and drought. The theme for the 2026 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."

About United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- ❖ It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- ❖ The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- ❖ It was established in 1994.
- ❖ India for the first time hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
- ❖ It aims to protect and restore land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future.
- ❖ It's committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification.

4. *Battle of Haldighati:*

Context: 450 years to the Battle of Haldighati in the Aravalli hills (present-day Rajsamand, Rajasthan), fought on 18 June 1576. Maharana Pratap, led Mewar's forces against the army of Mughal emperor Akbar, led by Asaf Khan I and Man Singh I of Amber. Chetak, Maharana Pratap's trusted horse, delivered him to safe grounds before breathing his last.

About Battle of Haldighati:

- ❖ The Battle of Haldighati was fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap and the Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh I.
- ❖ The battle took place at Haldighati Pass, located between present-day Pali and Rajsamand districts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The conflict arose because Maharana Pratap refused to accept Mughal suzerainty, unlike many other Rajput rulers who allied with Akbar.
- ❖ The roots of the battle lay in Akbar's policy of consolidating Rajput states and the Siege of Chittorgarh (1568), which weakened Mewar.
- ❖ After ascending the throne in 1572, Maharana Pratap rejected several Mughal diplomatic missions sent by Akbar, including those led by Man Singh, Raja Bhagwant Das, and Todar Mal.
- ❖ Another major cause was Akbar's desire to secure a strategic trade route connecting North India with Gujarat through Mewar.
- ❖ The Mughal army consisted of about 28,000 troops, including cavalry, infantry, elephants, and artillery.
- ❖ Maharana Pratap commanded a smaller force of about 4,000 Rajput cavalry and 3,000 Bhil warriors, supported by Hakim Khan Sur.
- ❖ The Rajputs initially gained an advantage by using the rugged terrain and guerrilla warfare tactics, causing heavy pressure on Mughal forces.

- ❖ Due to numerical inferiority and rising casualties, Maharana Pratap made a strategic retreat, avoiding capture and preserving his resistance movement.
- ❖ The battle ended without a decisive victory, though the Mughals secured the route to Gujarat and retained control of the battlefield.
- ❖ The Battle of Haldighati became a symbol of Rajput bravery, resistance, sacrifice, and the struggle for sovereignty, while also demonstrating the effectiveness of guerrilla warfare later adopted by leaders such as Shivaji and Malik Ambar.

5. ***Brain-eating Amoeba:***

Context: Kerala seeing surge in ‘brain-eating amoeba’ cases mainly due to Acanthamoeba, a free-living amoeba found mainly in contaminated water.

About Brain-eating Amoeba:

- ❖ Brain-eating amoeba refers to Naegleria fowleri, a free-living, single-celled organism found in warm freshwater and soil.
- ❖ It is commonly found in warm lakes, rivers, ponds, hot springs, and contaminated soil across the world.
- ❖ Among free-living amoebae, three medically important species are: Acanthamoeba – causes Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE), Naegleria fowleri – causes Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) and Balamuthia mandrillaris – causes severe brain infections.
- ❖ Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare but highly fatal infection of the brain and its surrounding membranes.
- ❖ Infection occurs when contaminated water enters the nose, usually during swimming, diving, or water-related activities.
- ❖ After entering through the nose, the amoeba travels along the olfactory nerve to the brain, where it destroys brain tissue and causes severe inflammation.
- ❖ The disease is called "brain-eating amoeba infection" because it rapidly damages and destroys brain tissue.
- ❖ Drinking contaminated water does not cause infection, as the amoeba must enter through the nasal passage.
- ❖ PAM is non-communicable and does not spread from one person to another.
- ❖ Early symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting.
- ❖ Advanced symptoms include stiff neck, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, coma, and rapid neurological deterioration.
- ❖ PAM has an extremely high fatality rate, and currently there is no consistently effective treatment, making early prevention and awareness crucial.

6. ***Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project:***

Context: Six states i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan agreed to sign MoU for Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project implementation.

About Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project:

- ❖ Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project is proposed on the Tons River along the Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border.
- ❖ The project involves construction of a 236-metre-high Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) gravity dam.
- ❖ It is one of the major storage projects planned in the Yamuna River Basin.
- ❖ The dam will have an installed hydropower generation capacity of 660 MW.
- ❖ The Central Government will provide 90% financial assistance for the water component of the project.
- ❖ The remaining 10% cost of the water component will be shared by six beneficiary states.
- ❖ The project aims to provide drinking water supply to water-deficit regions.
- ❖ It will enhance irrigation potential across beneficiary states.
- ❖ The dam is expected to play a significant role in flood moderation and flood control.
- ❖ It will also improve downstream hydropower generation through regulated water releases.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh's share of water will be supplied to Delhi and Rajasthan.
- ❖ In return, Delhi and Rajasthan will share the cost of Himachal Pradesh's portion of the power component of the project.

7. ***Ganges Water Treaty 1996:***

Context: 1996 Ganges Water Treaty is going to expire in December 2026.

About Ganges Water Treaty 1996:

- ❖ The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was signed between India and Bangladesh on 12 December 1996.
- ❖ The treaty governs the sharing of Ganga (Ganges) River waters during the dry season at the Farakka Barrage.
- ❖ Its main objective is to regulate water diversion to the Hooghly River for maintaining the navigability of Kolkata Port while ensuring Bangladesh receives its share.
- ❖ The treaty is valid for 30 years and can be reviewed every 5 years, or earlier if either country requests.
- ❖ Water sharing applies during the lean season (1 January–31 May) and is calculated for every 10-day period.
- ❖ If flow at Farakka is below 70,000 cusecs, water is shared equally (50:50) between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ If flow is 70,000–75,000 cusecs, Bangladesh receives 35,000 cusecs, and India gets the remainder.
- ❖ If flow exceeds 75,000 cusecs, India receives 75,000 cusecs, while Bangladesh gets the balance.
- ❖ If flow falls below 50,000 cusecs, both countries must hold immediate consultations for emergency adjustments.
- ❖ A Joint Committee with equal representation from both countries monitors flows at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge, submits annual reports, and ensures implementation of the treaty, including the fail-safe provision guaranteeing at least 90% of Bangladesh's share.

About Farraka Barriage:

- ❖ Farakka Barrage is built on the Ganga River in Murshidabad District, about 18 km from the Bangladesh border.
- ❖ The barrage became operational on 21 April 1975 after nearly 12 years of construction.
- ❖ The project was completed at an estimated cost of ₹130 crore.
- ❖ Its primary purpose is to divert water from the Ganga into the Farakka Feeder Canal.
- ❖ The barrage diverts approximately 40,000 cusecs of water into the feeder canal.
- ❖ The diverted water helps flush out silt from the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system.
- ❖ Desiltation improves river flow and ensures the navigability of Kolkata Port.
- ❖ Farakka Barrage plays a crucial role in maintaining inland water transport and port operations in eastern India.
- ❖ The barrage has been a key subject of water-sharing discussions between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ Major agreements related to its operation include the 1977 Farakka Agreement and the 1996 India–Bangladesh Ganga Water Sharing Treaty.

8. *Blending CBG with CNG:*

Context: The Centre is on track to meet the goal of blending 3% compressed biogas (CBG) with CNG and domestic piped natural gas for FY27 with the blending percentage having already nearly doubled to about 2% at present.

More details:

- ❖ Compressed Biogas (CBG) is a purified form of biogas produced from agricultural residues, animal waste, municipal solid waste, sewage, and other organic matter.
- ❖ Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is a fossil-fuel-based gaseous fuel primarily composed of methane.
- ❖ Blending CBG with CNG involves mixing compressed biogas with conventional natural gas for use as a transport and industrial fuel.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce dependence on imported natural gas and promote indigenous renewable energy sources.
- ❖ CBG has properties similar to CNG, making it suitable for blending without major modifications to existing infrastructure.
- ❖ Blending helps lower greenhouse gas emissions and supports India's climate and clean-energy goals.
- ❖ It promotes waste-to-wealth conversion by utilizing agricultural, municipal, and organic wastes.
- ❖ The policy supports the objectives of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative.

9. *Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS):*

Context: The India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of

3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is like any LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

About Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS):

- ❖ RELOS defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airspace and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries and the organisation of logistics and technical support of military formations of warships, military aircraft, and other equipment.
- ❖ The agreement was signed in Moscow on February 18, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the federal law ratifying it on December 15, 2025.
- ❖ Broadly, RELOS covers joint military exercises, training, HADR missions, port and repair services, medical support, as well as delivery of food and technical resources and reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ship and aircraft personnel.
- ❖ One important aspect is that RELOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand cooperation there, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming.
- ❖ A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel.
- ❖ The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief situations.
- ❖ As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.
- ❖ India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the LEMOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries — the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia — concluded on similar lines, which provide logistics support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these remain the same.

10. Mombasa declaration:

Context: 15 Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific adopted a declaration to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing. The Mombasa declaration calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership and licensing.

About Mombasa declaration:

- ❖ The Mombasa Declaration was adopted at the Our Ocean Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- ❖ Fifteen countries endorsed the declaration to strengthen transparency in fisheries and combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- ❖ The declaration commits signatory nations to modernize vessel registries, publish fishing authorizations, and improve information-sharing.
- ❖ It aims to enhance accountability, monitoring, and enforcement across the global seafood value chain.
- ❖ The initiative was developed with support from the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency, established in 2022.

- ❖ The declaration supports implementation of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency (2023) framework.
- ❖ IUU fishing is estimated to cost the global economy around USD 50 billion annually and contributes to fish stock depletion, food insecurity, and loss of livelihoods.
- ❖ Greater transparency is expected to help tackle human rights abuses, including forced labour and unsafe working conditions in the fishing industry.
- ❖ Signatory countries include Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and South Korea.
- ❖ The declaration promotes international cooperation, ocean governance, sustainable fisheries management, and a resilient blue economy.
- ❖ Signatories have pledged to implement the declaration and encourage more countries to join before the next Our Ocean Conference in Canada.
- ❖ The Mombasa Declaration highlights the growing global consensus that fisheries transparency is essential for sustainable oceans, food security, and coastal livelihoods.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005 to serve as a nodal body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical co-ordination. The Commission consists of a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members having specialization and experience in areas of statistics, and the CEO, NITI Aayog as an ex-officio Member. Secretary, MoSPI is the Secretary to the NSC.
- ☐ ASKAP J1745–5051 is a newly discovered binary star system that may help scientists understand the mysterious Long-Period Transients (LPTs)—rare radio signals detected across the Milky Way. The system consists of a white dwarf (the dense remnant of a dead star) and a red dwarf (a small, low-mass star). These two stars orbit each other extremely closely, completing one orbit in just over an hour. The intense magnetic interactions between them generate powerful, repeating radio bursts that can be detected from Earth. Because its signals resemble those of previously unexplained LPTs, ASKAP J1745–5051 is being described as a "stellar Rosetta Stone" that could help decode the origin of these enigmatic cosmic radio emissions.
- ☐ The Reserve Bank of India launched “RBI Reelathon 2026” on 16 June 2026 at its office in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The campaign targets college students and covers cyber-enabled financial frauds, timely reporting, smart borrowing practices, and safe digital banking habits.
- ☐ The United States renamed the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command back to the U.S. Pacific Command on June 16 or June 17, 2026, depending on the local time of the announcement.
- ☐ India launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services at Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena in Nice, France, on 16 June 2026. Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena is a major retail destination in Nice and offers more than 600 brands.
- ☐ A new species of lynx spider, *Hamataliwa mawlyngot*, was discovered in Mawlyngot village in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya in June 2026.

- ☐ Bengaluru-Karnataka ranked second among Asia's AI-native startup clusters in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026, after Beijing.
- ☐ The Pentagon is restoring the name of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the U.S. Pacific Command, it said on Tuesday, reversing a 2018 decision. The renaming will not change the command's area of responsibility, which stretches from the western part of India to America's Pacific coastline, the Department of War said in a statement.
- ☐ Elon Musk's artificial intelligence tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the United States government revealed in a legal briefing. Grok is an artificial intelligence chatbot and large language model (LLM) developed by xAI, the AI company founded by Elon Musk.
- ☐ India and the United Kingdom have overcome last-minute differences over steel import duties to finally announce July 15 as the implementation date for the trade deal between the two countries, the two governments announced on Wednesday. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed by the two countries in July 2025 and was all set to be implemented by April or early May 2026. However, a fresh regulation by the U.K. announced in May and applicable to all countries cut the quota for duty-free steel imports by 60% and doubled the tariff on above-quota imports to 50%. These new rules are to come into effect from July 1, 2026.

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