

19/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *PM-KISAN scheme:*

Context: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will release the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme to the eligible beneficiaries on 20th June 2026 from Tarakeswar, located in Hooghly district, West Bengal.

About PM-KISAN scheme:

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a centrally sector scheme launched on 24 February 2019 to provide assured income support to landholding farmer families with cultivable land nationwide.
- ❖ Under the scheme, each eligible farmer family receives annual financial assistance of ₹6,000, disbursed in three equal installments of ₹2,000 through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts.
- ❖ The benefits of the scheme are provided to farmers upon seeding of land records in the PM-KISAN portal, linking bank accounts with Aadhaar, and completing e-KYC verification.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to increase the income of small and marginal farmers by providing financial support for agricultural inputs, thereby improving crop health and productivity.
- ❖ State Governments play a central role in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi by identifying eligible farmer households and developing a comprehensive beneficiary database.
- ❖ In September 2023, the Government introduced Kisan-eMitra, an AI-enabled chatbot integrated with the PM-KISAN digital ecosystem.

2. *Smart Seed Coating Technology:*

Context: In a significant step towards strengthening climate-resilient agriculture and improving farm productivity, ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, has developed and demonstrated an innovative biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology.

About Smart Seed Coating Technology:

- ❖ It is designed to enhance seed quality, crop establishment, and resilience against biotic and abiotic stresses across a wide range of agricultural crops.
- ❖ The Smart Seed Coating Technology (Indian Patent) developed by ICAR-IIOR utilizes biodegradable biopolymeric materials to create a multifunctional protective layer around seeds.
- ❖ The coating acts as a carrier system for beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, micronutrients, crop protection agents, and plant growth-promoting compounds, delivering them directly at the seed-soil interface.
- ❖ This protective microenvironment promotes rapid germination, vigorous seedling growth, enhanced root development, and improved tolerance to environmental stresses during the critical crop establishment phase.
- ❖ Unlike conventional seed treatments that serve a single purpose, the ICAR-IIOR platform functions as a comprehensive seed enhancement system capable of integrating multiple beneficial inputs into a single application.

- ❖ The technology can be customized for cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, fibre crops, fodder crops, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops, making it a versatile solution for diverse farming systems across the country

3. ***Exercise KHAAN QUEST:***

Context: The Indian Army contingent is set to depart today to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise - Exercise KHAAN QUEST. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 20 June to 03 July 2026 at Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

About Exercise KHAAN QUEST:

- ❖ The Exercise will bring together military forces from across the world to collaborate and enhance interoperability in peace support operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- ❖ The previous edition of the exercise was conducted from 14-28 June 2025 at Mongolia.
- ❖ The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Defence Forces in the year 2003.
- ❖ Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multilateral Peacekeeping Exercise with the current one being the 23rd iteration.
- ❖ The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented by troops from a Battalion of the JAT REGIMENT along with personnel from other Arms and Services.
- ❖ The aim of Exercise KHAAN QUEST is to prepare contingents of participating Defence Forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multilateral environment.

4. ***National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):***

Context: The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) will celebrate its 23rd Foundation Day on June 19, 2026, marking over two decades of strengthening India's internet infrastructure and supporting the nation's digital transformation journey.

About National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):

- ❖ The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit organization set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
- ❖ NIXI plays a critical role in strengthening India's Internet infrastructure by facilitating efficient exchange of domestic Internet traffic, managing the '.IN' and 'भारत' (.Bharat) country-code top-level domains, and promoting adoption of Internet services across the country.
- ❖ Through its initiatives, NIXI supports a secure, resilient, and inclusive Internet ecosystem aligned with India's digital growth ambitions.
- ❖ Established under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, NIXI has played a pivotal role in managing the '.IN' domain, facilitating Internet Exchange services, and delegating IP addresses (IPv4/IPv6) through the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- ❖ NIXI will launch an AI Powered WHOIS screening platform that will strengthen India's ".in" domain space for more trustworthiness.

5. *Drunix:*

Context: NPCI Rolled out Drunix, to support Blockchain and Tokenisation Ecosystems

About Drunix:

- ❖ Drunix is an enterprise-grade Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) platform developed by National Payments Corporation of India.
- ❖ It is designed to help organizations build and scale tokenization platforms, digital asset ecosystems, and multi-organization networks.
- ❖ Drunix is a custom-built private blockchain framework developed by re-engineering Hyperledger Fabric.
- ❖ Hyperledger Fabric is an open-source enterprise blockchain framework developed under the Linux Foundation.
- ❖ Drunix is NPCI's second major open-source contribution in the blockchain and tokenization space after Falcon.
- ❖ The platform aims to support secure, scalable, and interoperable blockchain-based solutions for enterprises and financial ecosystems.

About Blockchain technology:

- ❖ Blockchain is an advanced database technology that enables secure, transparent, and decentralized sharing of information across a network.
- ❖ It stores data in blocks linked together in a chronological chain, where records cannot be altered or deleted without network consensus.
- ❖ Blockchain creates an immutable (tamper-proof) digital ledger, ensuring transparency, traceability, and data integrity.
- ❖ It is widely used for tracking transactions, payments, assets, and records, while reducing fraud and unauthorized modifications.

6. *QS World University Rankings 2027:*

Context: IIT-Delhi ranked (118th globally) highest among Indian institutions in QS World University Rankings 2027 for the 2nd consecutive year.

Highlights of QS World University Rankings 2027:

- ❖ The QS World University Rankings 2027 were released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- ❖ Universities are assessed across five broad parameters: Research & Discovery, Employability & Outcomes, Global Engagement, Learning Experience, and Sustainability.
- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) secured the 1st rank globally for the 15th consecutive year.
- ❖ India has 52 universities in the rankings, making it the world's fifth most represented higher education system.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi emerged as India's highest-ranked institution.

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Indian Institute of Technology Madras also featured among the top 200 universities globally.
- ❖ The rankings serve as a globally recognized benchmark for assessing the quality, reputation, and international competitiveness of higher education institutions.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by the President of France, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, today participated in VivaTech 2026 in Paris, Europe's largest technology and start-up event. India is the AI Country Partner in VivaTech 2026. This is also India's largest ever presence at VivaTech with pavilions set up to showcase its innovation ecosystem across Artificial Intelligence, digital public infrastructure etc.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Mr. Robert A. F. Thurman. The Prime Minister described Mr. Thurman as an eminent scholar of Buddhism, a distinguished teacher and a lifelong friend of India.
- ☐ Bharat Buildcon 2026 – One Nation, One Expo, an exhibition for the building materials and construction industry, was inaugurated today at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi by the Ministry of Commerce. The exhibition showcases products, technologies and innovations across 24 segments, including ceramics and stone, hardware, cement and steel, plywood and laminates, furniture, sanitaryware, electricals, paints, construction technologies and other allied sectors.
- ☐ The first of the six indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs), being constructed by Chowgule & Company Private Limited for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was inducted into service in Goa on June 18, 2026. The hovercraft aims to enhance ICG's operational effectiveness across a broad spectrum of maritime duties and reinforce its ability to respond to emerging challenges. Its induction would further the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and serve as a reflection of the growing strength of the maritime industrial base of the country.
- ☐ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will perform the Bhoomi Pujan for the state-of-the-art 10,000-Tons Aluminium Extrusion Press at Yantra India Limited (YIL), Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari in Nagpur, Maharashtra on June 19, 2026. The proposed extrusion press will be a major national asset for the defence manufacturing sector. It will strengthen the nation's capability to produce large, high-strength and precision aluminium alloy extrusions to cater to the requirements of defence & aerospace sectors
- ☐ A delegation from the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, participated in the 16th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP) and the accompanying Stakeholders' Meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 15th to 17th June 2026. The meeting, coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), brought together representatives from leading pharmacopoeias worldwide.
- ☐ Ministry of MSME to hold First BRICS MSME Forum and Third SME Working Group Meeting in Agra on 19th June 2026 under the overarching theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

- ☐ The Government of India has earmarked ₹18,907 crore during FY 2026-27 for the construction of 26,474 kilometres of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and related rural connectivity initiatives.
- ☐ Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, reviewed preparations for the Asian Senior Fencing Championships 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, ahead of the prestigious continental championship scheduled to be held from 19 to 24 June 2026 at Hall No. 2-3, Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi. The ceremony, themed “ONE DREAM | ONE BLADE | ONE PRIDE”, will celebrate the spirit of fencing, sporting excellence and international unity. Fencing is a classic Olympic combat sport where two athletes use swords to attack and defend, scoring points by striking their opponent.
- ☐ Scientists from the western regional centre of the Zoological Survey of India in Pune announced a new forester moth species from Karnataka’s Kali Tiger Reserve on 17 June 2026. The species has been named *Mimeusemia kali* Kalawate & László, 2026, and it is the first addition to the genus *Mimeusemia* in nearly 30 years.
- ☐ The United Arab Emirates announced a social media ban for children under 15 on Thursday, joining a growing group of countries including Australia, Britain and Canada to take similar measures.
- ☐ The government has ratified 8.25% rate of interest on employees’ provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to over seven crore contributing members this month.

-----The END-----