

20/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Indigenous naval platforms:*

Context: The Indian Navy is scheduled to commission three indigenously built frontline platforms – Dunagiri, Sanshodhak, and Agray – in Kolkata on 21 Jun 2026.

About Indigenous naval platforms:

- ❖ Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, the vessels represent key operational capabilities across maritime combat, hydrographic surveying, and anti-submarine warfare.
- ❖ Dunagiri, the fifth Project 17A stealth frigate, is equipped with advanced weapons and sensors, including BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile system, significantly enhancing the Navy's combat capability.
- ❖ Sanshodhak, the fourth Survey Vessel (Large), is designed for coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys and collection of oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civil applications, and is equipped with advanced survey systems including Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles.
- ❖ Agray, the fourth of the Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers, and shallow-water sonar systems to detect and engage underwater threats in littoral waters.

2. *Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON):*

Context: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences signed an MoU on 18 June 2026 to strengthen collaborative climate research. The partnership focuses on long-term monitoring of climate variables, including meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, short-lived climate forcers, and soil moisture. Under the agreement, a Climate Observation Station will be established at Devasthal. The station will become part of the Bharat Climate Observation Network, enhancing India's climate observation capabilities.

About Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON):

- ❖ About BCON: Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON) is a national climate observation initiative conceptualized and implemented by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Objective: It aims to establish a long-term, high-precision climate monitoring framework across India.
- ❖ Data Generation: BCON will create a robust national database on climate variables and environmental parameters.
- ❖ Climate Research: The network will help detect long-term climate trends and strengthen climate change research.
- ❖ Policy Support: It will enhance India's capacity for climate assessment and evidence-based policymaking.

- ❖ **Model Validation:** High-accuracy datasets from BCON will be used to validate and benchmark Earth System Models, including IITM Earth System Model (IITM ESM), improving future climate projections.
- ❖ **ARIES, Devasthal,** a high-altitude hilltop, offers a unique environment for advanced atmospheric observations. Its relatively pristine setting provides ideal conditions for capturing baseline atmospheric features, studying the greenhouse gases, transport of climate-relevant pollutants, and understanding the dynamics of climate processes over the Himalayan region.

3. ***Energy Transition Index 2026:***

Context: World Economic Forum (WEF) released Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 which tracks energy transition progress across 120 countries.

Major highlights:

- ❖ **Report Finding:** Global energy transition readiness declined for the first time in over a decade due to rising geopolitical risks.
- ❖ **Top Rank:** Sweden retained the 1st position in energy transition readiness.
- ❖ **Second Rank:** Finland secured the 2nd position.
- ❖ **Third Rank:** Denmark retained the 3rd position.
- ❖ **India's Rank:** India improved by two places to rank 70th.
- ❖ **Reason for India's Improvement:** Growth was driven by investments in energy security and affordability.
- ❖ **System Performance:** Assesses energy systems across equity, security, and sustainability dimensions.
- ❖ **Transition Readiness:** Measures a country's preparedness to achieve a successful energy transition.
- ❖ **Core Enablers:** Include regulation, political commitment, finance, and investment.
- ❖ **Enabling Factors:** Include innovation, infrastructure, education, and human capital.

4. ***Turquoise Nexus Initiative:***

Context: Turkey's Presidency of 2026 UNFCCC COP31 and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have unveiled the Turquoise Nexus Initiative.

About Turquoise Nexus Initiative:

- ❖ **Aim:** The initiative supports developing countries in integrating food-water-climate approaches into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate action plans under the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ **Implementation:** It is implemented under the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ **Launch:** The FAST Partnership was launched at COP27 in Egypt.
- ❖ **Objective:** It seeks to accelerate the sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems through enhanced climate action.
- ❖ **Key Focus:** The partnership promotes collective action to increase both the quantity and quality of climate finance for agriculture and food systems.

5. *Border Gateway Protocol hijacking:*

Context: Telegram founder claimed that access to the app was being compromised through BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) hijacking.

About Border Gateway Protocol hijacking:

- ❖ Border Gateway Protocol (BGP): BGP is the Internet's routing protocol that enables networks worldwide to find the best path to reach specific IP addresses.
- ❖ About BGP Hijacking: Also known as prefix hijacking, route hijacking, or IP hijacking.
- ❖ How it Works: It occurs when a network falsely advertises ownership of IP address routes, causing traffic to be redirected.
- ❖ Impact: BGP hijacking can misdirect internet traffic, disrupt online services, enable data interception, and affect website accessibility.

6. *Yarsagumba:*

Context: Yarsagumba Harvest Season Draws Thousands in Himalayas.

About Yarsagumba:

- ❖ About: Yarsagumba (Yartsa Gunbu) is a high-altitude entomopathogenic fungus used in traditional medicine.
- ❖ Scientific Name: It is scientifically known as *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* and belongs to the genus *Ophiocordyceps*.
- ❖ Unique Growth: The fungus grows from the larvae of ghost moth caterpillars, completing part of its life cycle inside the host.
- ❖ Habitat: It is found in cold alpine grasslands of the Himalayas at elevations above 3,000 metres.
- ❖ Distribution: Occurs in Nepal, India, Bhutan, and the Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ Harvest Season: In Nepal, collection typically takes place from April to June in districts such as Mugu, Dolpa, Jumla, and Gorkha.
- ❖ Economic & Medicinal Importance: Yarsagumba is a highly valued medicinal product in traditional medicine, and recent studies are exploring its compounds for potential applications in cancer and tumour-related research.

7. *Mekedatu project:*

Context: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday unanimously adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, opposing the Karnataka government's proposal to construct a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery at Mekedatu.

About Mekedatu project:

- ❖ It multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district of Karnataka.
- ❖ The reservoir will have a capacity of 284,000 million cubic feet (TMC).

- ❖ Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.



- ❖ It is named after the village where the project is expected to be constructed.
- ❖ The project is proposed at the confluence of Cauvery with its tributary Arkavathi.

8. *Financial Action Task Force (FATF):*

Context: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary has appointed Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal as the next Vice-President of the global anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing watchdog for the 2026-2027 term.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- ❖ It is an inter-governmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ❖ It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- ❖ In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- ❖ It is headquartered at Paris, France.
- ❖ FATF members include 39 countries, including the United States, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, and the EU as such.
- ❖ India became a member of FATF in 2010.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, Kolkata witnessed enthusiastic participation in “Daud Se Dhyani 2026 – From Movement to Stillness”, a unique initiative organised under the Swachhata Se Swagat Programme, bringing together the core values of health, cleanliness, civic responsibility and overall well-being.
- ☐ The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a Rs 25,016 crore coal gasification project at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district, Odisha, on June 20, 2026. It will be India’s First Commercial-Scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in Odisha. The process converts coal into

synthesis gas (syngas), which can be used to produce a wide range of value-added products such as methanol, urea, ammonium nitrate, synthetic natural gas, and other chemical feedstocks.

- ☐ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, facilitated the first export consignment of fresh Uttarakhand litchi from Dehradun to Italy on 18 June 2026.
- ☐ NHAI Successfully Launches Rajasthan's first Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling System at Daulatpura Toll Plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur Section of NH-48
- ☐ Report by UNICEF highlights globally, 1.1 billion children are exposed to at least three overlapping climate hazards and this combined with their physical vulnerabilities and gaps in the social services, increases their risk of harm. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is a UN Fund established in 1946, with HQ in New York, responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- ☐ The Hunger Hotspots Report is a biannual assessment jointly released by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme through the Global Network Against Food Crises. The report identifies countries and regions at highest risk of acute food insecurity and hunger over the coming months, helping governments and humanitarian agencies prioritize early action and resource allocation. The latest edition covers the period from June to November 2026.
- ☐ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Northeast's largest organic spice processing plant on 19 June 2026 at Bhoirymbong in the Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya. The facility was established by the Eastern Ri Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company and has an annual processing capacity of 10,346 metric tonnes of spices.
- ☐ Fossils dating back nearly 15 million years were discovered near Baripada in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on 18 June 2026. The find includes shark teeth, shark vertebrae, fish bones, mollusc shells, and microscopic marine organisms from the Baripada Fossil Bed along the Budhabalanga river.
- ☐ The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Friday approved \$1.5 billion financing to India to support structural reforms aimed at boosting private sector-led job creation and economic growth, it said in a statement. It added the financing, being provided under Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation, can create job opportunities for 11 million youth who would be entering the labour market every year over the next two decades. The Bank's DPF seeks to rapidly disburse financing to help a borrower country address existing or anticipated development financing requirements.

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