

22/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Kuno National Park:*

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh today (June 21, 2026). She took a tour of the Cheetah Management Area of the National Park and was briefed by the Divisional Forest Officer about the Project Cheetah.

About Kuno National Park:

- ❖ The Project Cheetah, launched on September 17, 2022, under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, embodies India's steadfast commitment to biodiversity restoration. This project aims to reintroduce the cheetah in India after its extinction in the country.
- ❖ Under Project Cheetah, the Kuno National Park has been developed as India's first cheetah reintroduction site as it offers ideal habitat, abundant prey, and minimal human disturbance.
- ❖ In the Kuno National Park, the first batch of Cheetah arrived in September 2022 from Namibia, the second batch arrived in February 2023 from South Africa, and the third batch arrived in February 2026 from Botswana.
- ❖ Located in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh near the Vindhyan Hills.
- ❖ Named after the Kuno River, a tributary of the Chambal River, which flows through the park.
- ❖ Established as Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981 and declared a National Park in 2018.
- ❖ Features diverse terrain comprising plateaus, valleys, and seasonal rivers.
- ❖ Vegetation includes tropical dry deciduous forests, savannah grasslands, and riverine forests.
- ❖ Home to species such as leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, dhole, and over 120 bird species.
- ❖ Selected as the site for India's Cheetah Reintroduction Project under the Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India.

2. *Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup:*

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian women's hockey team for emerging as winners of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup.

About Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup:

- ❖ The Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup is an international women's field hockey tournament organised annually by the International Hockey Federation.
- ❖ The tournament serves as the qualification tournament for the Women's FIH Pro League.
- ❖ The tournament was founded in 2019 and the first edition was held in December 2022 in Valencia, Spain.
- ❖ The tournament features the eight highest ranked teams in the FIH Women's World Ranking not participating in the Women's FIH Pro League.
- ❖ The winner of the tournament will be promoted to the following year's FIH Pro League to replace the bottom team who will be relegated.
- ❖ India has the most number of titles (2).
- ❖

3. *Deuterated compounds:*

Context: Department of Atomic Energy & Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, inaugurated the Versatile Deuterated compounds Production Plant (VDPP) and commissioned the 24 kA Prototype Sodium Cell at the Heavy Water Board Facilities (HWBF), Vadodara, on 21 June 2026.

More details:

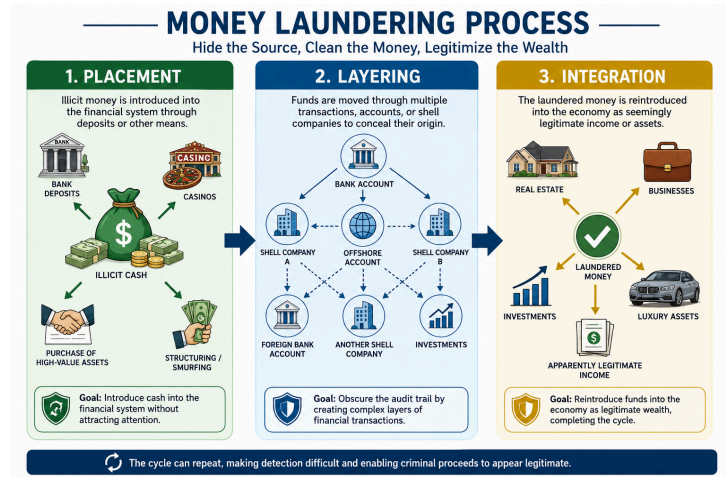
- ❖ Deuterated compounds are chemical compounds in which one or more ordinary hydrogen atoms (^1H) are replaced by deuterium (^2H or D), a stable isotope of hydrogen.
- ❖ Research & Analysis: Used as tracers in chemical/biological studies and as solvents in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy for clearer results.
- ❖ Pharmaceutical Applications: Deuterated drugs can have slower metabolism and longer therapeutic action.
- ❖ Nuclear Energy: Heavy water (D_2O), a deuterated compound, is used as a moderator in certain nuclear reactors.
- ❖ The development of indigenous nuclear-grade sodium production capability is particularly important for supporting the future growth of India's Fast Breeder Reactor Programme.
- ❖ The Versatile Deuterated Compounds Production Plant has been established to enhance the country's indigenous capability for the production of specialised deuterated compounds required for advanced scientific research, strategic applications and frontier technological programmes.
- ❖ The facility is aimed to play a vital role in meeting national requirements in this critical domain through the indigenous production of high-purity deuterated solvents.
- ❖ The commissioning of the 24 kA Prototype Sodium Cell marks a major technological achievement towards the indigenous industrial-scale production of nuclear-grade sodium, a critical material for India's Fast Breeder Reactor Programme.

4. *Layering in banking:*

Context: 7 held for defrauding a man of ₹95 lakh in online trading scam. Police analysis revealed that the fraud proceeds had been routed through 45-layered bank accounts and subsequently arrested the seven accused.

About Layering:

- ❖ Layering is the process of conducting multiple complex financial transactions to conceal the origin and ownership of illegally obtained funds during money laundering.
- ❖ Layering is the second stage of money laundering, where illegally obtained money is moved through multiple complex financial transactions to hide its original source and make tracing difficult.



5. Seed pelletisation:

Context: With the possibility of erratic weather conditions due to El Nino posing a challenge to rainfed agriculture, farmers have been advised on climate-resilient farm practices.

About Seed pelletisation:

- ❖ Seed pelletisation is the process of coating seeds with inert materials (such as clay, lime, charcoal powder, gypsum, polymers, nutrients, biofertilizers, or pesticides) to increase their size, improve shape, and enhance sowing efficiency.
- ❖ The pellets protect seeds from birds and insect pests and can germinate even when the soil receives only 10 to 15 mm of rainfall.
- ❖ The pellets could remain viable for up to six months under low-moisture conditions and that seedlings emerging from them could withstand water stress for 25 to 40 days, making the technique suitable for drought-prone areas.
- ❖ Improves seed handling and precision sowing.
- ❖ Enhances seed germination and seedling establishment.
- ❖ Enables delivery of nutrients, biofertilizers, or plant protection chemicals directly with the seed.
- ❖ Protects seeds from pests, diseases, and adverse environmental conditions.

6. Project Nimbus:

Context: On June 14, Google CEO Sundar Pichai's speech at Stanford was disrupted as more than 100 students walked out in protest. Some carried Palestinian flags, others draped black-and-white patterned keffiyeh as scarves, and they shouted, "Free, free Palestine!" The students were protesting against Google's Project Nimbus, a tech contract between the search giant and the Israeli government that is linked with violence against Palestinian civilians.

About Project Nimbus:

- ❖ Project Nimbus is a \$1+ billion cloud computing contract between the Israeli government and tech companies Google and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

- ❖ Launched in 2021, the project provides cloud infrastructure, data storage, and digital services to Israeli government ministries, authorities, and state-owned enterprises.
- ❖ The contract has an initial duration of 7 years, with provisions for extension by the Israeli government for up to 23 additional years.
- ❖ Investigations in 2024 reported that the Israeli military stored surveillance-related data on AWS servers and increasingly relied on cloud and AI services from Google, AWS, and Microsoft Azure.
- ❖ Critics argue that Project Nimbus could facilitate surveillance of Palestinians, strengthen state monitoring capabilities, and support military operations in occupied territories.
- ❖ The project has triggered significant employee protests within Google, Amazon, and Microsoft, with workers opposing the companies' involvement due to concerns over human rights and the Israel–Palestine conflict.

7. *Right to vote in India:*

Context: The right to vote should be recognised as a fundamental right to ensure the highest level of judicial review and protection, along with safeguards against voter suppression or arbitrary exclusions during exercises such as the special intensive revision (SIR), senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh

About Right to vote in India:

- ❖ Article 325 prohibits exclusion from electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex, ensuring a single general electoral roll.
- ❖ Article 326 provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of universal adult suffrage (currently 18 years and above).
- ❖ The Right to Vote is a Constitutional Right flowing from Article 326 and governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ The Right to Contest Elections (Right to be Elected) is a statutory right, not a fundamental or constitutional right, and is subject to qualifications and disqualifications prescribed by law.
- ❖ In *Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal*, the Supreme Court held that the right to vote and the right to contest elections are statutory rights. Later, in *Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India*, the Court reiterated that voting rights are not fundamental rights but are exercised under constitutional and statutory provisions.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, successfully hosted the First BRICS MSME Forum and the Third SME Working Group Meeting on 19 June 2026 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh, under the overarching theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- ☐ India will host the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting on 25–26 June 2026 in Gurugram, Haryana, under its BRICS Chairship 2026. The meeting will bring together Energy Ministers and senior officials from all BRICS member countries to advance cooperation on energy security. India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 is guided by the overarching theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)."

- ☐ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has sent a 30-member Team India (15 competitors and 15 experts) to participate in the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) 2026 in Australia from 23–29 June 2026. Organised by WorldSkills Australia, the event is a full-scale international simulation of the 48th WorldSkills Competition to be held in Shanghai, providing Indian participants with valuable exposure and preparation ahead of the global competition.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Right to vote and to be elected in India is a (CSP 2017)

- (a) Fundamental Right
- (b) Natural Right
- (c) Constitutional Right
- (d) Legal Right.

Consider the following statements regarding Kuno National Park:

1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is named after a tributary of the Chambal River.
3. It was declared a National Park in 2018.
4. It is India's first cheetah reintroduction site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

What is the significance of Deuterated Compounds, often mentioned in science news?

1. They are used as tracers in chemical and biological studies.
2. They are used in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy.
3. Deuterated drugs can have longer therapeutic action.
4. Heavy water used in some nuclear reactors is a deuterated compound.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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