

23/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Rakhigarhi:*

Context: Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana recently have been formally handed over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute of repute under Ministry of Culture

About Rakhigarhi:

- ❖ Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognized as the largest known settlement of the Indus-Saraswati Civilization.
- ❖ Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods, including planned settlements, drainage systems, craft production centres, trade networks, and burial grounds.
- ❖ Location: Rakhigarhi is located in Hisar district, Haryana, in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.
- ❖ Harappan Site: It is one of the largest and oldest settlements of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization, dating back to around 6500 BCE.
- ❖ Significance: Along with Dholavira, it is one of the two major Harappan cities located within present-day India.
- ❖ Discovery: The site was discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India in the 1960s and consists of seven archaeological mounds spread over about 350 hectares.
- ❖ Harappan Features: Excavations revealed a planned township with mud-brick and burnt-brick houses, a well-developed drainage system, and evidence of Early and Mature Harappan occupation.
- ❖ Major Findings: Artifacts include Harappan seals, red ware pottery, terracotta objects, shell bangles, beads, copper objects, animal figurines, toy carts, and fire altars, indicating advanced craftsmanship and ritual practices.
- ❖ DNA Evidence: Rakhigarhi is renowned for yielding the only DNA evidence recovered so far from the Harappan Civilization, making it crucial for understanding the ancestry and genetics of Harappan people.

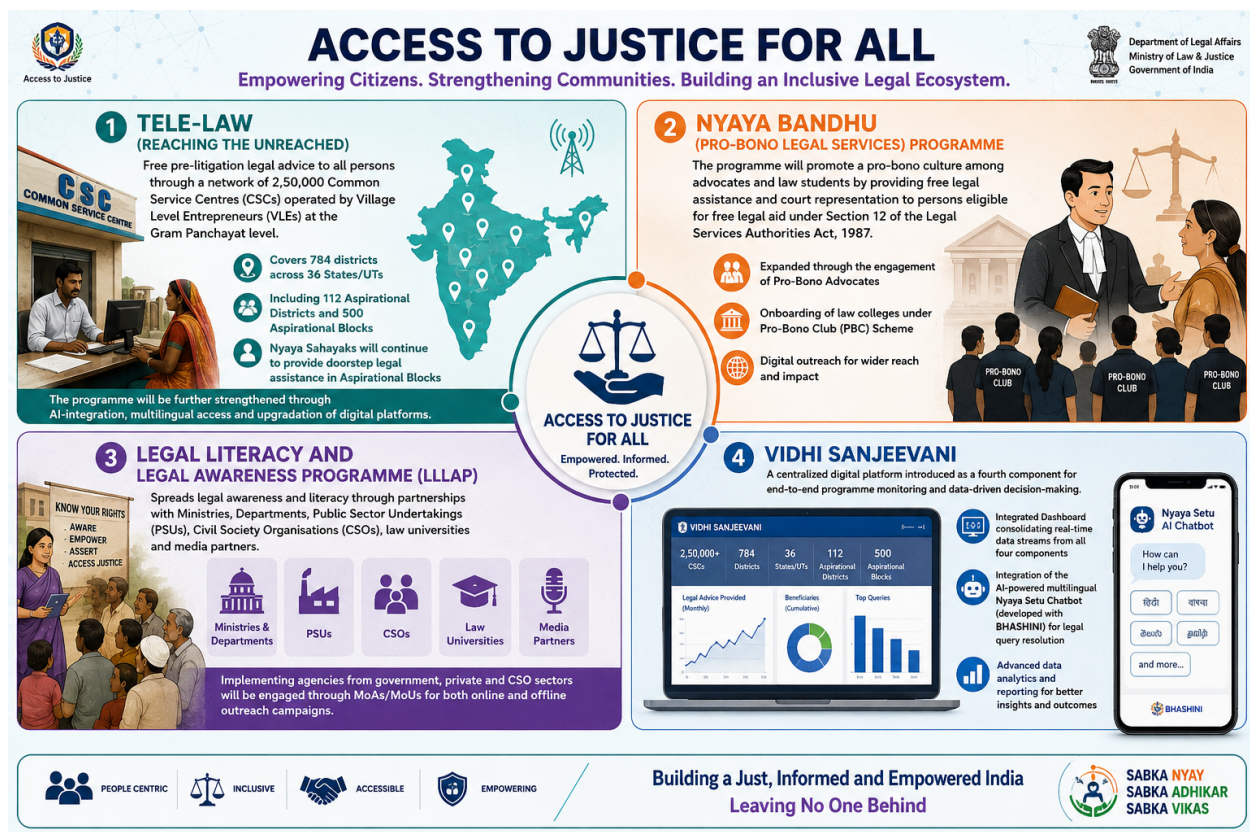
2. *‘Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice’ (DISHA):*

Context: Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme ‘Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)’ restructured as DISHA 2.0 for a period of five years from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2031 co-terminus with the XVI Finance Commission cycle.

About ‘Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice’ (DISHA):

- ❖ DISHA 2.0 (2026–31) is a Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Justice aimed at ensuring Access to Justice for all citizens.
- ❖ The scheme has a total outlay of ₹255 crore, funded entirely through 100% Gross Budgetary Support of the Government of India.
- ❖ It was appraised and recommended by the Standing Finance Committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Justice.

- ❖ DISHA 2.0 is a restructured and rationalized version of the existing DISHA Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to fulfil the constitutional mandate under Articles 14, 21, and 39A and the Preamble of the Constitution.
- ❖ It supports the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
- ❖ A new component, VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) Sanjeevani, has been added.
- ❖ VIDHI-Sanjeevani will provide a centralized digital platform for technology-enabled justice delivery.
- ❖ The scheme will introduce an AI-powered “Nyaya Setu” chatbot to improve legal information and citizen access to justice.
- ❖ DISHA 2.0 combines legal empowerment with digital and AI-based innovations to strengthen justice delivery in India.



3. Kavach system:

Context: In a major step towards strengthening railway safety through indigenous technology, Indian Railways has approved the provision of Kavach on 631 Route Kilometres (Rkm) of East Coast Railway at a cost of ₹270 crore.

About Kavach system:

- ❖ Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- ❖ Kavach aids the Loco Pilot in running of trains within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the trains to run safely during inclement weather.
- ❖ It is certified with the highest railway safety standard, Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4), which means it has an extremely high reliability in preventing accidents.
- ❖ Kavach was adopted as the National ATP system in July, 2020.
- ❖ It is developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
- ❖ Implementation of Kavach System involves following key Activities:
 - a. Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station, block section.
 - b. Installation of RFID Tags throughout the track length.
 - c. Installation of telecom Towers throughout the section.
 - d. Laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the track.
 - e. Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.

4. ***Khurasani Imli:***

Context: Khurasani Imli (fruit of the Baobab tree) from Mandu, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The fruit is rich in Vitamin C and antioxidants and is used in traditional medicine for digestive ailments.

About Baobab tree:

- ❖ Baobab is popularly known as the “Upside-down Tree” because its leafless branches resemble roots growing upwards.
- ❖ It is native to Africa and is highly adapted to arid and semi-arid environments.
- ❖ The tree is characterized by a massive water-storing trunk, enabling it to withstand prolonged drought conditions.
- ❖ Baobab is considered a keystone species, meaning it has a disproportionately large impact on ecosystem functioning by providing food, shelter, and resources to many organisms.
- ❖ In India, Baobab trees are found in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

5. ***Lead Bank Scheme:***

Context: The Reserve Bank of India issued a revised circular on the Lead Bank Scheme on 19 June 2026 through Press Release 2026-2027/502. The circular supersedes earlier instructions on the Lead Bank Scheme and sets revised norms for district-level credit planning, committee meetings, and financial inclusion work.

About Lead Bank Scheme:

- ❖ Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in December 1969 based on the recommendations of the Nariman Committee.
- ❖ It aims to coordinate banks and development agencies to increase the flow of credit to priority sectors and rural areas.
- ❖ Under LBS, one bank is designated as the Lead Bank for each district.

- ❖ The Lead Bank acts as a coordinator between banks, government agencies, and development institutions in the district.
- ❖ The scheme promotes district-level credit planning and financial inclusion.
- ❖ A Lead Bank Officer, now called the Lead District Manager (LDM), was introduced in 1979.
- ❖ The LDM is responsible for preparing District Credit Plans and monitoring their implementation.
- ❖ LBS links branch-level banking activities with district and state-level development planning.
- ❖ Under the revised framework, every district must have one exclusive Lead District Manager.
- ❖ Lead District Manager offices are required to have dedicated staff, IT infrastructure, vehicles, and separate budgets.
- ❖ Multi-district assignments for LDMs are allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

6. *Jonnagiri Gold mine:*

Context: India is set to witness its first large-scale private gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

About Jonnagiri Gold mine:

- ❖ Location: The Jonnagiri Gold Mine is located in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Significance: It is being developed as India's first major private-sector gold mining project.
- ❖ Developers: The project is led by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. with support from Thriveni Earthmovers and Deccan Gold Mines Ltd..
- ❖ Scale: The mine spans approximately 598 hectares and has attracted investments exceeding ₹400 crore.
- ❖ Production Capacity: It is expected to produce 750–1000 kg of gold annually for about 15 years based on certified reserves.
- ❖ Technology: The project employs modern techniques such as open-pit mining, crushing, carbon-in-leach (CIL) processing, and smelting for gold extraction.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ India has emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, ranking first globally. India's share of global ship recycling increased to 35.4% in 2025 from 30.1% in 2024, according to the latest report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ☐ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the re-appointment of Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India for a further term of three years.
- ☐ India uses administrative and population-based criteria to classify urban areas, and a new category for functional urban settlements is under consideration in 2026. The existing framework includes Census Towns with a population above 5,000 and Statutory Towns with municipal bodies.
- ☐ India won the gold medal in the women's 4x100m relay at the Asian Relays Championships 2026 in Shangyu, China, on 21 June 2026.
- ☐ The Meghalaya State Zoo recorded its first successful birth of a Stump-tailed Macaque, or *Macaca arctoides*, in June 2026. The Stump-tailed Macaque is a primate species found in South and South-East Asia. Its scientific name is *Macaca arctoides*, and it is listed as Vulnerable on the

IUCN Red List. The species faces threats from habitat loss and human disturbance. It is one of the macaque species used in conservation breeding programmes in zoological parks.

- ☐ A 90-kilogram bronze statue of Maharshi Sushruta was unveiled at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in Scotland, United Kingdom, on 19 June 2026.
- ☐ WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

INDIAN HERITAGE, GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP

Indian Prime Minister gifted various products to foreign dignitaries during recent visits to France and Slovakia, showcasing the richness of India's art, culture and traditions.



Showcasing
Indian Heritage



Handcrafted
with Love



Made in India



Timeless
Traditions



Strengthening
Global Ties

ABOUT INDIAN ART AND HANDICRAFT IN NEWS

1 KALAMKARI PAINTING (Andhra Pradesh)  Traditional hand-painted textile artwork that uses intricate pen-drawing techniques; depicting scenes from the Mahabharata etc.	2 POCHAMPALLY SILK (Telangana)  Handwoven Ikat textile known for distinct Ikat resist-dyeing technique, geometric and floral patterns.	3 KASHMIRI SILK CARPET  Exquisite handwoven silk carpet featuring floral and paisley motifs.	4 DOKRA METAL CASTING  Tribal metal-craft artwork made using the ancient lost-wax casting technique. Practiced by tribal artisans across Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.	5 THEWA ART (Rajasthan)  Traditional Jewellery craft combining engraved gold sheets with coloured glass.	6 HIMROO SILK (Maharashtra)  Originating under historical Deccan court patronage, unique silk-cotton blend, famous for its reversible weave and floral motifs.	7 THEKUA (Bihar & Jharkhand)  Traditional sweet from Bihar and Jharkhand, prepared especially during Chhath Puja.
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