

25/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. ***BHARATI (Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Innovation):***

Context: APEDA Successfully Concludes First Cohort of BHARATI Programme to Accelerate Innovation-Led Growth in Agri-Food Exports.

About BHARATI:

- ❖ APEDA has launched BHARATI to support Agri Food Startups and boost India's agri Food Export.
- ❖ Aims to support 100 agri-food startups and achieve \$50 billion exports by 2030.
- ❖ 3-month acceleration programme for startups on product development, export readiness, and market access.
- ❖ Attracts startups using AI, blockchain, IoT, and agri-fintech technologies.
- ❖ Promotes innovation in GI-tagged, organic, superfoods, livestock, and AYUSH products.
- ❖ Seeks to resolve export challenges like quality, perishability, wastage, and logistics.

2. ***Index of Services Production (ISP):***

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is preparing to launch Index of Services Production (ISP) in July, 2026, which shall be a new macro indicator to measure the short-term changes in the growth of the services sector. As counterpart of the IIP which measures the economic growth of the industrial sector, ISP will cover the formal services sector and will be released on a monthly basis.

About Index of Services Production (ISP):

- ❖ MoSPI envisages to release an overall ISP alongwith sub – sectoral indices on a trial basis. The sectoral coverage of ISP includes sub sectors like wholesale and retail trade, transport, banking, insurance, telecommunications, hotels & restaurants, real estate, professional, scientific and technical services, arts, entertainment & recreation, etc.
- ❖ The base year of ISP is selected as 2024 -25. The trial monthly indices for the year 2025 -26 and for the month of April, 2026 are slated for release on 14th July, 2026.
- ❖ The Index of Services Production (ISP) is a short-term indicator designed to measure changes over time in the volume of output produced by the services sector relative to a specified base period. It measures changes in the real output of service-producing industries over time.
- ❖ ISP will provide timely information on the performance of services industries, thereby, strengthening monitoring of economic activity and supporting evidence-based policy decisions.
- ❖ In addition, ISP will serve as a high-frequency indicator of services sector growth and will provide time series data to enable better economic forecasting and business cycle analysis.
- ❖ ISP will primarily reflect the formal sector as it is compiled using outward supply of enterprises registered under GST.
- ❖ Some of the services which are not covered in ISP are those which are either related to core government activities or are dominated by non – market activities and the informal sector.

- ❖ The proposed base year of trial ISPs is 2024 -25 which meets both the recency and normal year criteria.

3. *National Innovation Challenge 2026:*

Context: Six youth-led startups from across India have been recognized as winners of the 8th edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026 for developing innovative solutions that advance sustainability through circular economy innovations, sustainable textiles and fashion, and sustainable food systems and water conservation.

About National Innovation Challenge 2026:

- ❖ Co-led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India and Citi Foundation, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), and implemented by T-Hub Foundation, the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge has emerged as one of India's foremost platforms for empowering youth-led innovation that accelerates progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The five-day immersive programme brought together ecosystem leaders, sustainability experts, investors, government stakeholders and entrepreneurs through masterclasses, mentorship sessions, site visits and peer learning opportunities designed to strengthen business models and scale impact.
- ❖ The three winning startups received seed grant support of ₹3,50,000 each, along with capacity-building opportunities and ecosystem access. The three runners-up were awarded ₹2,20,000 each in recognition of their promising contributions and potential for scale.
- ❖ T-Hub is the world's largest startup hub, supporting founders from ideation to scale through programs, partnerships, and global access anchoring some of the world's most significant incubation and innovation initiatives.
- ❖ The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyse job opportunities for youth and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant communities.

4. *QS World Future Skills Index 2027:*

Context: India ranked 13th globally in AI-economy readiness in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027, which was released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds on 23 June 2026. India scored 89.4 out of 100 in the index and ranked fifth in the Future of Work category with a score of 96.0.

About QS World Future Skills Index 2027:

- ❖ The QS World Future Skills Index is a global ranking framework that assesses countries on readiness for future skills and AI-linked economic change.
- ❖ The 2027 edition used a revised methodology, and QS stated that year-on-year comparison with the 2025 pilot edition is not meaningful.
- ❖ AI-economy readiness refers to the capacity of a country to support artificial intelligence adoption through education, workforce preparation, and digital capability.

- ❖ The report estimated that successful AI adoption could add nearly \$500 billion in economic value to India by 2030.
- ❖ USA, Australia and UK are top three countries in the list.

5. ***C295:***

Context: The Indian Air Force is scheduled to receive its first Made-in-India C295 transport aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat, on 22-23 September 2026. The aircraft is part of a 56-aircraft procurement contract signed by the Ministry of Defence with Airbus in September 2021.

About C295:

- ❖ The C295 is a twin-engine turboprop military transport aircraft used for tactical airlift, troop transport, and logistics missions.
- ❖ The aircraft has a rear ramp for loading cargo and can operate from short and semi-prepared runways.
- ❖ The programme is being executed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus at a Final Assembly Line in Vadodara.
- ❖ Under the contract, 16 aircraft are delivered in fly-away condition from Seville, Spain, and 40 aircraft are manufactured and assembled in India.
- ❖ The Made-in-India C295 aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's Avro transport aircraft, which entered service in the early 1960s. The Avro HS 748 was manufactured in India under licence by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

6. ***International Atomic Energy Agency:***

Context: On 24 June 2026, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated in Tokyo that IAEA inspectors will visit Iranian nuclear enrichment sites.

About International Atomic Energy Agency:

- ❖ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central organization for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- ❖ It is popularly associated with the motto "Atoms for Peace and Development."
- ❖ The IAEA was established in 1957 to promote peaceful nuclear applications and prevent the misuse of atomic energy.
- ❖ Its headquarters is located in Vienna.
- ❖ The agency aims to ensure that nuclear technology is used safely, securely, and exclusively for peaceful purposes.
- ❖ The IAEA is an international intergovernmental organization, not a military body or a treaty.
- ❖ It facilitates international cooperation in nuclear science, technology, safety, and security.
- ❖ Its three core functions are nuclear safety and security, nuclear science and applications, and safeguards & verification.
- ❖ Through its safeguards system, the IAEA helps verify that nuclear materials are not diverted for nuclear weapons programmes.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecom R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), a leading institution of national importance, to advance research and innovation in next-generation communication technologies.
- ☐ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) successfully conducted the 2nd Hands-on Training Programme on the Determination of Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in Oral Liquid Preparations by Gas Chromatography (GC) from 22nd to 23rd June 2026 at its campus in Ghaziabad. Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG) are highly toxic substances that are not permitted in pharmaceutical formulations. These contaminants may be introduced through adulterated or substandard excipients such as glycerin, propylene glycol, sorbitol, and polyethylene glycol. Even trace quantities can pose serious health risks, including acute kidney injury, central nervous system depression, and death. Therefore, their accurate detection, quantification, and control are essential for safeguarding public health and ensuring pharmaceutical quality.
- ☐ China's LineShine supercomputer ranked first in the 67th edition of the TOP500 list on 23 June 2026. The system is installed at the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen and recorded a performance of 2.198 exaflops, equal to more than 2 quintillion calculations per second.
- ☐ The European Union agreed on 3 June 2026 to join Pax Silica, a United States-led initiative on artificial intelligence supply chains and export controls. The accession was announced at a Pax Silica summit in Washington, D.C., in June 2026, and the initiative was launched by the United States in December 2025 as a strategic framework for allied coordination on the AI ecosystem.
- ☐ India and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 23 June 2026 for cooperation in public sector auditing. The agreement was signed between the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Supreme Audit Institution of Israel.

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