

27/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:*

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today, paid tributes to the great Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti, remembering him as a towering literary luminary whose writings ignited the spirit of patriotism and cultural pride among generations of Indians.

About Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:

- ❖ Born in 1838, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was a novelist, poet, journalist, and one of the leading intellectuals of 19th-century India.
- ❖ He is widely regarded as the Father of Modern Bengali Literature for pioneering the Bengali novel.
- ❖ As a member of the Brahmo Samaj, he supported social and religious reforms within Hindu society.
- ❖ His writings combined literary excellence with themes of social reform, nationalism, and Indian identity.
- ❖ Though influenced by European literature and philosophy, his works remained deeply rooted in Indian culture, history, and Hindu mythology.
- ❖ His novels portrayed realism, human emotions, and the conflict between tradition and modernity.
- ❖ His philosophical and literary works inspired the growth of Indian nationalism and resistance against colonial rule.
- ❖ *Rajmohan's Wife* (1864) was his first novel and the first Indian novel written in English by an Indian author.
- ❖ *Durgeshnandini* (1865) and *Kapalkundala* (1866) established him as a pioneering Bengali novelist through historical and social themes.
- ❖ *Anandamath* (1882), based on the Sannyasi Rebellion, is his most celebrated work and introduced the patriotic song "Vande Mataram."
- ❖ *Vande Mataram*, first sung at the Indian National Congress session in 1896, later became India's National Song and a symbol of the freedom movement.

2. *'Easy Connect' flight:*

Context: In a significant milestone towards realising the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on June 25, 2026 launched India's first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi.

More details:

- ❖ The Hub-and-Spoke strategy aims at making India the aviation hub of choice for Indian passengers by 2030 and for the world by 2047.
- ❖ The benefits extend beyond aviation. Improved international connectivity is expected to facilitate trade, tourism, investment and regional economic development.
- ❖ Under the Hub-and-Spoke model, international passengers complete check-in, immigration, and customs formalities at the spoke airport itself.

- ❖ The spoke airport becomes the first point of departure for the passenger's international journey.
- ❖ Passengers then travel to a designated hub airport (e.g., Delhi) to board the international flight without repeating departure formalities.
- ❖ Both the domestic and international flight segments are treated as international operations.
- ❖ Separate boarding passes with 'D' (Domestic) and 'I' (International) identifiers are issued to prevent passenger intermixing.
- ❖ International passengers under this model do not have access to customs declaration facilities at the hub airport.
- ❖ The model enhances operational efficiency, passenger convenience, and security for international travel.

3. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Notification of Threatened Species:

Context: In a major step towards strengthening biodiversity conservation in the country, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Notification of Threatened Species under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

More details:

- ❖ The SOP aims to facilitate a uniform, transparent and scientifically robust process for the identification, assessment and notification of threatened species by States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 empowers the Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Government, to notify any species that is on the verge of extinction or is likely to become extinct in the near future as a Threatened Species.
- ❖ The notification regulates or prohibits its collection and provides for appropriate measures for its rehabilitation and conservation.
- ❖ The Central Government may also delegate these powers to the State Governments.
- ❖ So far, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified 159 plant species and 173 animal species as threatened species pertaining to 17 States and 3 Union Territories.
- ❖ The SOP has been developed to assist State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils in undertaking the identification of threatened species in a consistent, transparent and scientifically rigorous manner and recommending the same to the State Government for notification.
- ❖ The SOP promotes the use of the best available scientific evidence, field-based assessments and traditional knowledge while ensuring the participation of local communities, Biodiversity Management Committees.

4. SARAS Aajeevika mela:

Context: SARAS Aajeevika to Showcase the Spirit of Women-Led Rural Enterprise at Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan. To provide a permanent retail platform for quality SHG products, the Ministry established the SARAS Aajeevika Gallery at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi

About SARAS Aajeevika mela:

- ❖ SARAS Mela is an initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ It aims to provide a platform for rural women Self-Help Group (SHG) members to showcase and sell their products and establish market linkages.
- ❖ The event is organized by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).
- ❖ DAY-NRLM is the Government of India's flagship rural poverty alleviation programme, targeting 10 crore rural poor households by organizing one woman member from each household into SHGs.
- ❖ SHGs promote financial inclusion by facilitating access to bank credit, livelihood opportunities, and government entitlements.
- ❖ The mission aims to ensure household food security and multiple sustainable livelihood sources for every rural poor family.
- ❖ DAY-NRLM is implemented through four core pillars: social mobilization and institution building, financial inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and social inclusion with convergence.

5. ***Project Hawk Eye:***

Context: Project Hawk Eye is a surveillance and security initiative launched in Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir, for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

About Project Hawk Eye:

- ❖ Project Hawk Eye was launched on 25–26 June 2026 for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.
- ❖ The Amarnath cave shrine is located in the Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir, and the pilgrimage route includes the Pahalgam and Baltal axes.
- ❖ The arrangement uses drones, CCTV cameras, facial recognition systems, elevated observation posts, and sniper teams for route security and monitoring.
- ❖ The project uses a multi-layered security and surveillance grid for round-the-clock monitoring. Five drones are deployed at key locations for aerial surveillance and real-time observation.
- ❖ The deployment also includes 28 Machan Morchas, which are elevated observation posts, and 22 specially trained sniper teams at designated points along the route.
- ❖ HawkEye 360 is a United States-based technology company known for radio-frequency geospatial intelligence.
- ❖ In 2025, the United States approved the sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India, and the approval was reaffirmed in June 2026.
- ❖ The system is intended to strengthen maritime domain awareness and detect vessels that disable their tracking systems, often called dark ships.

6. ***Toshakhana:***

Context: The Ministry of External Affairs has opened about 300 Toshakhana gifts for public e-auction under the revised Toshakhana Rules, 2024. The auction began on 8 June 2026 and is scheduled to end on 30 June 2026.

About Toshakhana:

- ❖ Toshakhana is a system for the receipt, valuation, and disposal of gifts received by public officials during official visits and diplomatic engagements.
- ❖ In India, the Toshakhana Section functions under the Establishment Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ The e-auction is being conducted through the Ministry of External Affairs' Toshakhana Auction Portal.
- ❖ The proceeds from the auction are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, which is the principal government account under Article 266 of the Constitution of India.

7. *Kirthai-II hydroelectric project:*

Context: The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended in-principle approval of forest land for the 820 MW Kirthai-II hydroelectric project.

About Kirthai-II hydroelectric project:

- ❖ Kirthai-II is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project proposed on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The project involves the construction of a 121-metre-high concrete gravity dam.
- ❖ It is the third hydroelectric project on the Chenab River to receive approval after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd (CVPPL), a joint venture of NHPC and the Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC).
- ❖ Kirthai-I lies upstream, Kiru Hydroelectric Project lies downstream, and other major Chenab projects include Sawalkote, Dulhasti-II, Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru, and Kirthai-I.

8. *Sustainable Development Report 2026:*

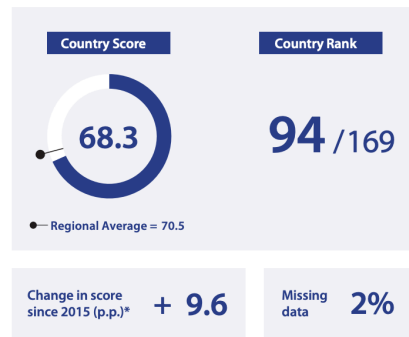
Context: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026 Implementing Sustainable Development: 2030 and Beyond was released recently.

About Sustainable Development Report 2026:

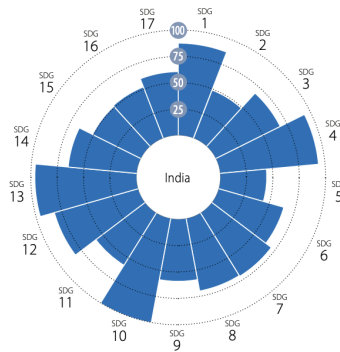
- ❖ It reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015.
- ❖ It is published by the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- ❖ Prepared by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); ranks all UN Member States based on progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The SDG Index is a composite score (0–100) measuring a country's overall progress across all 17 SDGs. A score of 100 indicates full achievement of all SDGs.
- ❖ The index uses multiple indicators covering the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable development.
- ❖ Top 3 Countries (SDR 2026): Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), and Denmark (3rd).
- ❖ Bottom 3 Countries (SDR 2026): Central African Republic (164th), South Sudan (165th), and Chad (166th).

India's performance:

Overall Performance



Average Performance by SDG



SDG Dashboard and Trends



9. Katchatheevu Islands:

Context: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday targeted the Congress over what it called the “surrender” of Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka during its rule on June 26, 1974, without taking any stakeholders into confidence.

About Katchatheevu Islands:



- ❖ Katchatheevu is an un-inhabited offshore island in the Palk Strait.
- ❖ The island is located between Neduntheevu, Sri Lanka and Rameswaram, India.

- ❖ It was formed due to volcanic eruptions in the 14th century.
- ❖ Today, the uninhabited island is administered by Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Fishermen of both countries have been fishing in each other's waters without conflict for a very long time.
- ❖ The issue emerged when both countries signed four Maritime Boundary Agreements between 1974-76.
- ❖ The agreement marked the international maritime boundary of India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In 1974, then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi accepted Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan area under the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime Agreement" aimed at resolving the maritime boundaries in the Palk Strait.
- ❖ Another agreement signed in 1976 restricted both the countries' fishermen from fishing in the other's exclusive economic zones.
- ❖ The agreement aimed to facilitate resource management and law enforcement in the Palk Strait.
- ❖ Now, Indian fishermen were only allowed to use the island for resting, net drying and the annual St. Anthony's festival.
- ❖ They are not permitted to use the island for fishing.
- ❖ However, Indian fishermen continued trespassing the Sri Lankan water boundary, searching for better catch in the area.

10. National Food Security Act (NFSA):

Context: The story so far: The Union Food and Public Distribution Department on Wednesday published a draft of the proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The draft is uploaded on the department's website. The public can comment on the amendments till July 13.

About National Food Security Act (NFSA):

- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme enacted in 2013 by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Consumer Affairs Ministry.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide subsidized food grains to poor families.
- ❖ Union procures food grains from farmers at MSP and sells it to the states at Central Issue Price (CIP).
- ❖ States then sell the grains to the beneficiaries through fair price shops/PDS shops.
- ❖ 67% of the Indian population is covered under the scheme, including 75% rural population and 50% urban population (both Below Poverty Line and few Above Poverty Line families are covered).
- ❖ The beneficiaries are provided rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Rs 1/kg

New proposed changes:

- ❖ Proposed Change: Under the amended Section 3 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, each AAY beneficiary will receive 7 kg of free foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.
- ❖ Earlier Provision: Previously, every AAY household received a fixed 35 kg per month, irrespective of the number of family members.

- ❖ Reason for Amendment: The fixed household allocation created inequity, as smaller families received more food per person than larger families.
- ❖ Objective: The amendment aims to ensure fairer per-capita distribution, align foodgrain allocation with nutritional needs, and remove disparities among AAY households.
- ❖ Benefit: Larger AAY families will receive a more equitable allocation, while the 35 kg household ceiling continues to apply.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Embassy of India in Reykjavik, in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), organised Indian Mango Promotion Events on 24 June 2026 in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, and on 25 June 2026 in Akureyri, North Iceland, showcasing the rich diversity and export potential of Indian mangoes. These were the first-ever Indian mango promotion events held in Iceland.
- ☐ The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi addressed the SCO Women's Forum 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic today , through a video message, reaffirming India's commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its principles of mutual respect, equality, and consensus, and to strengthening the partnership and advancing the Organisation's shared development goals.
- ☐ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent with the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) on 25 June 2026 in New Delhi to launch a fellowship initiative. The partnership is linked to the Embark India Development Fellowship and involves two fellows for policy research and governance-related work.
- ☐ Airport developer GMR Airports Ltd. took over the operations of Nagpur's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport on Friday.

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