

28/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Char Dham Yatra 2026:*

Context: The Ministry of Civil Aviation proudly takes note of the safe and successful conduct of helicopter operations during the first phase of the Char Dham Yatra 2026, reaffirming the Government's unwavering commitment to ensuring safe, seamless and reliable air connectivity for the pilgrims. The first phase of helicopter operations commenced with the opening of the Char Dham Yatra in April 2026 and concluded on 26 June 2026. During this period, approximately 400 helicopter movements were conducted daily.

About Char Dham Yatra:

- ❖ Char Dham in Uttarakhand is a collective term used for the religious circuit covering Holy hindu pilgrimage centres of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- ❖ All four temple shrines are located in Garhwal Himalayas range of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This is considered as the most sacred religious place to be visited by Hindus, to get rid of their sins and pave path to the ultimate goal of human life – the Moksha.
- ❖ Yamunotri :- This temple is dedicated to River Yamuna. It is situated in Garhwal Region of Uttarakhand State.
- ❖ Gangotri :- The temple is devoted to Goddess Ganges.
- ❖ Kedarnath :- The temple is devoted to God Shiva. There is 12 main Jyotirlinga of shiva & Kedarnath is one of the main jyotirling.
- ❖ Badrinath:- The temple is dedicated to God Vishnu.

2. *ICGS Akshay:*

Context: Bharatiya Tatrakshak marked another milestone in its force modernisation with the commissioning of ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), at Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, on June 27, 2026.

About ICGS Akshay:

- ❖ Named Akshay, meaning Indestructible, the Fast Patrol Vessel embodies the enduring spirit, resilience and unwavering commitment of Bharatiya Tatrakshak towards safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.
- ❖ The ship reinforces the Service's resolve to ensure safe, secure and clean seas while protecting India's vast maritime domain.
- ❖ The vessel is equipped to undertake a wide range of Coast Guard operations, including maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection and assistance to mariners in distress, thereby enhancing the operational capability of Bharatiya Tatrakshak.
- ❖ Designed and constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited, ICGS Akshay is another significant achievement in indigenous shipbuilding and reflects the Government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖

3. *Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP):*

Context: GCMP has been launched by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

About Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP):

- ❖ Aim: Reduce global pollution by strengthening developing countries' capacity to monitor hazardous chemicals and support evidence-based policymaking.
- ❖ Funding: US\$23.5 million initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with US\$50 million in co-financing.
- ❖ GEF: Established during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit as the financial mechanism for five major international environmental conventions.
- ❖ Supports: Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- ❖ Projects: Six projects will generate scientific evidence on chemical pollution, improve data, strengthen cooperation, and enhance long-term monitoring of POPs and mercury.
- ❖ WHO Concern: World Health Organization lists POPs and mercury among the top chemicals of major public health concern.
- ❖ POPs: Toxic, carbon-based synthetic chemicals that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate in food chains, and spread over long distances.
- ❖ Mercury: A naturally occurring toxic element that damages the nervous, digestive, and immune systems, as well as the lungs, kidneys, skin, and eyes.

4. *Seismic Doublet:*

Context: Two powerful earthquakes (Magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5), known as doublets, struck western Venezuela near Yumare, about 160 km west of Caracas region.

More details:

- ❖ Earthquake: Sudden shaking of the Earth's surface caused by the rapid release of energy when rocks slip along a fault.
- ❖ Hypocentre (Focus): The point inside the Earth where the earthquake rupture begins.
- ❖ Epicentre: The point on the Earth's surface directly above the hypocentre.
- ❖ Typical Earthquake Sequence: A major earthquake is usually followed by a series of smaller aftershocks.
- ❖ Earthquake Doublets: Two earthquakes of similar magnitude occurring in quick succession from closely related but distinct fault ruptures.
- ❖ Cause of Doublets: Stress transferred by the first rupture triggers a second major earthquake on a nearby fault segment.
- ❖ Venezuela's Seismic Vulnerability: Due to its location along the Caribbean–South American plate boundary, with active strike-slip faults such as the Boconó Fault and San Sebastián Fault.

5. *Golden Langurs:*

Context: Seven Golden Langurs rescued from an alleged interstate wildlife trafficking network in Assam were released in Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park.

About Golden Langurs:

- ❖ Conservation Status: Golden Langur is Endangered (IUCN), listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Appendix I of CITES.
- ❖ Distribution: Endemic to Bhutan and Assam, found between the Manas River, Sankosh River, and Brahmaputra River along the Indo-Bhutan border.
- ❖ Habitat: Inhabits moist evergreen, riverine, moist deciduous, temperate, and subalpine forests, and sometimes degraded secondary forests.
- ❖ Key Characteristics: A leaf-eating, arboreal, diurnal primate with a ruminant-like multi-chambered stomach, descending to the ground only occasionally.
- ❖ Major Threats: Habitat destruction, forest fragmentation, and illegal wildlife trafficking.
- ❖ Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park, Assam's 8th national park, is a biodiversity-rich area spanning across the Chirang and Kokrajhar districts in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

6. *Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity:*

Context: India's External Affairs Minister recently addressed Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026 highlighting need for strengthening cooperation between India and South Korea.

About Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity:

- ❖ Origin: Launched in 2001 (formerly the Jeju Peace Forum) as a global dialogue platform.
- ❖ Objective: Promotes peace, international cooperation, and multilateral dialogue to address global challenges.
- ❖ Hosted By: Jointly hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, the International Peace Foundation, and the East Asia Foundation, and organized by the Jeju Peace Institute.
- ❖ Significance: Brings together global leaders, policymakers, scholars, and experts to discuss geopolitical, climate, technology, and economic issues.
- ❖ Role: Serves as a key international forum for fostering peace

7. *Global Unicorn Index 2026:*

Context: India with 61 unicorns, slipped one place to 4th position in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026.

About Global Unicorn Index 2026:

- ❖ Record Growth: The Global Unicorn Index 2026 recorded 1,603 unicorns with a combined valuation of US\$8 trillion, driven primarily by the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ AI Dominance: AI unicorns account for 36% of the total global unicorn valuation, making AI the leading driver of startup growth.

- ❖ India's Performance: India's most valuable unicorns are Zerodha, Zepto, and Razorpay; Bengaluru remained the country's unicorn capital with 25 unicorns, followed by Mumbai with 13.
- ❖ Indian Diaspora: Indians have co-founded 156 unicorns outside India, highlighting the global entrepreneurial impact of the Indian diaspora.

8. *Helina missile:*

Context: Helina is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for helicopter launch platforms. It uses an Imaging Infrared seeker, supports lock-on before launch, and can engage armoured targets from 500 metres to 7 kilometres.

About Helina missile:

- ❖ Helina is a fire-and-forget missile system, which means it can be launched after target acquisition without continuous guidance from the operator.
- ❖ The missile can engage targets in direct hit mode and top attack mode, and it is designed for use against armoured vehicles.
- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is preparing live fire trials of Helina from the Light Combat Helicopter, also known as Prachand. These trials are planned as the first launch of Helina from the LCH, after earlier successful trials from the Advanced Light Helicopter in 2022.

9. *GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):*

Context: India conducted its first satellite-based landing system approach on a jet engine aircraft on 27 June 2026 at Udaipur airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation used an IndiGo Airbus A320 for the approach through GAGAN, which is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System for civil aviation.

About GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):

- ❖ GAGAN is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by Indian Space Research Organisation and Airports Authority of India.
- ❖ Objective: It enhances GPS accuracy, integrity, and reliability for civil aviation and improves air traffic management over Indian airspace.
- ❖ Global Significance: India is the first country in the Asia-Pacific to develop an indigenous SBAS and one of only four regions with operational SBAS, alongside WAAS (USA), EGNOS (Europe), and MSAS (Japan).
- ❖ Ground Segment – INRES: A network of 15 Indian Reference Stations (INRES) collects GPS data from satellites.
- ❖ Error Correction: GAGAN corrects errors caused by ionospheric disturbances, satellite orbit inaccuracies, and clock errors.
- ❖ Control & Uplink: The Indian Master Control Centre (INMCC) generates correction messages, which are transmitted via the Indian Land Uplink Station (INLUS).
- ❖ Space Segment: The corrections are broadcast through GSAT-8, GSAT-10, and GSAT-15, all carrying GAGAN payloads.
- ❖ Aircraft Navigation: Aircraft equipped with compatible GPS receivers receive these correction messages for high-precision navigation.

- ❖ Coverage: GAGAN provides navigation coverage from Africa to Australia and is interoperable with international SBAS systems for seamless regional navigation.
- ❖ Expansion: The system has the capability to expand through 45 reference stations, enabling wider regional coverage, including neighbouring countries.

10. Teesta river Project:

Context: The Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project is a river management initiative in Bangladesh that involves dredging, embankment construction, land reclamation, and road development. Bangladesh and China discussed the project during a visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Beijing from 24 to 26 June 2026.

About Teesta river Project:

- ❖ The Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier in the Eastern Himalayas in the state of Sikkim, India.
- ❖ It flows southward through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal, eventually entering Bangladesh.
- ❖ In Bangladesh, it merges with the Brahmaputra River (known locally as the Jamuna River).
- ❖ Major tributaries: Rangpo River, the Rangit River, and the Great Rangit River.
- ❖ The proposed project includes dredging 140 million cubic metres of riverine sediment and reclaiming 171 square kilometres of land.
- ❖ It also includes repairing 110 kilometres of embankments, constructing 124 kilometres of new embankments, developing a 224-kilometre road network, and building 82 jetty facilities.

Mains specific articles:

1. Which document proves Indian citizenship?

- ❖ Passport: A passport is a travel document and strong evidence of nationality, but not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship.
- ❖ MEA Clarification: The MEA clarified that this is not a new policy; it reflects the existing legal position.
- ❖ Passport Manual: The Passport Manual treats a passport as evidence of nationality, not definitive proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Legal Position: Citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, whereas passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967.
- ❖ Maneka Gandhi Case (1978): The Supreme Court held that passport issuance is based on proof of Indian nationality and entitles the holder to diplomatic protection abroad.
- ❖ Passport Refusal: Under Section 6(2)(a) of the Passports Act, a passport can be refused if the applicant is not an Indian citizen.
- ❖ Exception: Under Section 20 of the Passports Act, the government may issue a passport to a non-citizen in public interest.
- ❖ Aadhaar: Aadhaar is only proof of identity and address, not proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Aadhaar Eligibility: Legally resident non-citizens are also eligible to obtain Aadhaar.

- ❖ Supreme Court (2026): The Court held that Aadhaar cannot be relied upon to prove citizenship, though it may establish identity.
- ❖ Voter ID: An Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or inclusion in electoral rolls does not conclusively prove citizenship.
- ❖ Lal Babu Hussein Case (1995): Inclusion in electoral rolls creates a presumption of citizenship, which can be rebutted only through the prescribed legal process.
- ❖ Supreme Court on SIR (2026): The Election Commission decides voter eligibility, not citizenship under the Citizenship Act.
- ❖ Passport in SIR: The Election Commission listed the passport as one of the 11 indicative documents for citizenship verification during the SIR exercise.
- ❖ Citizenship Certificate: A citizenship certificate issued after registration or naturalisation is conclusive proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Citizens by Birth/Descent: Most Indians do not possess a citizenship certificate and rely on birth, parentage, and other supporting documents.
- ❖ Born (26 Jan 1950–1 Jul 1987): Citizenship is by birth irrespective of parents' nationality; proof of date and place of birth is generally sufficient.
- ❖ Born (1 Jul 1987–3 Dec 2004): Must prove date/place of birth and that at least one parent was an Indian citizen.
- ❖ Born (On/After 3 Dec 2004): Must prove one parent is an Indian citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant.
- ❖ Universal Proof: India does not prescribe a single universal document as conclusive proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Need Ahead: Experts recommend stronger civil registration, universal birth registration, and reliable archival records to avoid citizenship disputes.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ International MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises) Day is observed annually on June 27. The 2026 global theme is "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development,"
- ☐ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has facilitated the first commercial export of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes from Madhya Pradesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking a significant milestone in promoting India's unique agricultural products in global markets.
- ☐ INS Ikshak, Indian Navy's indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL), arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 26 Jun 2026, as part of her operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region. This visit coincides with the 50th National Day celebrations of Seychelles, underscoring the enduring maritime partnership and long-standing friendship between India and Seychelles.
- ☐ On 26th June, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal, in Panaji, inaugurated Goa's new Captain of Ports Terminal Building, a ₹48.87-crore waterfront

facility designed to strengthen maritime administration, improve vessel monitoring and navigation, and support the state's vision of sustainable maritime development.

- ☐ The US has notified a US\$428 million sale of support services for India's Apache AH-64E attack helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers. The Apache AH-64E is among the world's most advanced combat helicopters, designed for precision strike and battlefield support missions, featuring advanced sensors, targeting systems, unmanned aircraft control, and digital connectivity. The M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzer is a lightweight artillery gun that can be airlifted for rapid deployment, making it especially suitable for operations in mountainous regions.
- ☐ The President of India interacted with Cheetah Mitras and members of the Sahariya Tribe at Kuno National Park. Cheetah Mitras are specially trained local volunteers, often from indigenous communities, who were established under Project Cheetah to support cheetah conservation. The Sahariya Tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), is primarily concentrated in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, is also known as Seher, Sair, Savar, Saonar, and Sahra, and is renowned for its traditional Saharia Swang dance performed during Holi.
- ☐ Volcán de Fuego, located southwest of Guatemala City, recently experienced a violent eruption. It is an active stratovolcano (composite volcano) rising to 3,799 m and is one of the three volcanoes overlooking Antigua Guatemala. It was formed by the subduction of the Cocos Plate beneath the Caribbean Plate as part of the Central American Volcanic Arc. The volcano developed after the collapse of the ancestral Meseta volcano around 8,500 years ago and is characterized by predominantly basaltic, Vulcanian, and Strombolian eruptions. Its major hazards include ashfalls, lava flows, pyroclastic flows, and lahars; its devastating 2018 eruption killed over 100 people and severely affected nearby communities.
- ☐ The first-ever National Rural Development Conference is scheduled for 28-29 June 2026 in New Delhi, India.
- ☐ India launched Operation Amistad on 26 June 2026 to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to Venezuela after two earthquakes caused deaths and injuries.
- ☐ India inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat on 26 June 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- ☐ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over a 'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to strengthening the archipelago nation's maritime capabilities. Mr. Modi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie participated in the handover ceremony at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, Seychelles, during Mr. Modi's three-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the vessel, PS LESPWAR, will strengthen Seychelles' maritime surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities.

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