

TNPSC WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 21 – 30, 2026

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1.1 Haldia Seaport Named India's 41st Immigration Post

- Notification: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) designated **Haldia Seaport**, West Bengal, as an Immigration Post.
- Rank: Haldia becomes India's **41st seaport immigration post**, allowing entry and exit of international passengers.
- History: The Haldia Dock Complex was built in 1968 to reduce load on Kolkata Port; international operations began in 1977.
- Precedent: Dahej, Sikka, and Tuna Tekra ports in Gujarat were earlier designated as immigration posts.
- Purpose: The move aims to boost maritime trade, international connectivity, and tourism on the eastern coast.

Learn Basics:

- Immigration Post: A designated entry/exit checkpoint (land, air, or sea) authorised under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, to check international passengers.
- Exam point of view: Remember the current count (41st) and that Dahej, Sikka, and Tuna Tekra in Gujarat were earlier seaport immigration posts — TNPSC often tests the running total.

1.2 Four New Digital Apps to Speed Up Criminal Justice

- Launch: The MHA launched four apps — **Abhigyan, CrPI, e-Prosecution 2.0, and e-Forensics 2.0** — via the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Function: Abhigyan enables real-time fingerprint identification using the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) database.
- Function: CrPI uses facial recognition, iris scanning, and DNA matching to identify suspects and repeat offenders.
- Function: e-Forensics 2.0 connects forensic labs nationwide; e-Prosecution 2.0 integrates police, prosecution, and judicial systems.
- Background: NCRB was established in **1986** in New Delhi as India's central repository for crime and criminal data.

App Name	Core Function
Abhigyan	Real-time fingerprint ID via NAFIS
CrPI	Facial recognition, iris scan, DNA matching
e-Forensics 2.0	Nationwide forensic lab connectivity
e-Prosecution 2.0	Police–prosecution–judiciary integration

Learn Basics:

- NAFIS: A centralised biometric database of fingerprints used across Indian police forces for identification.

- NCRB: An MHA body that compiles crime statistics and provides technology platforms to law enforcement.
- Exam point of view: Do not confuse Abhigyan (fingerprints/NAFIS) with CrPI (facial/iris/DNA) — TNPSC often swaps these functions as distractors.

1.3 India Retains World's 2nd-Largest Road Network; Sets 155 GW Wind Target

- Road Network: As per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), India continues to have the world's **2nd-largest road network**.
- Share: Roads handle nearly **64% of freight** and **90% of passenger transport** in India.
- History: Road development evolved via the Nagpur Plan (1943-61), Bombay Plan (1961-81), and Lucknow Plan (1981-2001) under the Indian Roads Congress (IRC).
- Current Phase: Integrated planning continues through Bharatmala Pariyojana and the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (2021).
- Wind Energy: India set a target of **155 GW** installed wind capacity by 2035, with an interim target of **100 GW by 2030**.
- Progress: Installed wind capacity crossed **56.1 GW** as of 15 June 2026, making India the world's 4th-largest wind energy market; WT-MARUT portal was launched to manage the wind turbine supply chain.

Learn Basics:

- PM GatiShakti: A National Master Plan (2021) for integrated infrastructure planning across ministries using a common digital platform.
- Bharatmala Pariyojana: An umbrella road/highway development scheme focused on economic corridors and border/coastal connectivity.
- Exam point of view: Don't mix up the freight share (64%) with the passenger share (90%) of India's road network — a frequently swapped distractor pair.

1.4 India Becomes World's Top Ship-Recycling Nation, 2nd-Largest Fish Producer

- Ship Recycling: India became the world's **largest ship recycling nation** in 2025, with a **35.4%** global market share.
- Volume: India recycled **2.99 million gross tons** of ships in 2025, up from 1.86 million gross tons in 2024.
- Legal Framework: The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, aligns India with the Hong Kong International Convention, mandatory from 26 June 2025.
- Fisheries: India contributed about **9%** of global aquatic animal production in 2024, ranking **2nd after China**; it is the largest inland fish producer (2.2 million tonnes).
- Aquaculture: India is the 2nd-largest aquaculture producer, contributing 12% of global output, supported by PMMSY and FIDF schemes.

Learn Basics:

- Ship Recycling: The dismantling of end-of-life vessels to recover steel and materials; the Hong Kong International Convention sets safety/environmental standards for this process.
- PMMSY: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is India's flagship scheme for sustainable fisheries development.
- Exam point of view: India is 2nd in aquatic/aquaculture production after China, but 1st (largest) specifically in inland capture fisheries — keep these rankings distinct.

1.5 e-Zero FIR System for Cyber Fraud; Nirbhay Chetna for Women's Safety

- e-Zero FIR: Announced at the 52nd PRAGATI meeting, it converts verified cyber financial fraud complaints (above **₹10 lakh**) into Zero FIRs at any police station.
- Integration: The system links with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) for faster registration during the crime's 'golden hour'.
- Nirbhay Chetna: Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as the world's largest women's safety and gender-sensitisation initiative, funded under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- Scale: It will train over **17.5 lakh** male Panchayati Raj representatives (via 28,500 Master Trainers) and over **14.5 lakh** women representatives through Nirbhay Netri.
- Component: Nirbhay Drishti will install CCTV cameras in villages across all States and Union Territories.

Learn Basics:

- Zero FIR: An FIR that can be registered at any police station regardless of jurisdiction, later transferred to the station with actual jurisdiction.
- I4C: The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre under MHA coordinates cybercrime response across States.
- Exam point of view: Nirbhay Chetna (training male reps), Nirbhay Netri (training women reps), and Nirbhay Drishti (CCTV) are three sub-components under Nirbhay Raho — a common matching-type question.

1.6 New Rural Employment Framework Replaces MGNREGA; Free Bus Travel Reviewed

- New Act: From **1 July 2026**, the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, replaces MGNREGA, 2005.
- Guarantee: The new system guarantees **125 days** of wage employment per rural household per year, up from 100 days under MGNREGA.
- Works: An interim list of **318 permissible works** was notified under four heads — water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods, and disaster mitigation.
- Model: It introduces a 'single plan – multi funding' model using the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan.
- Free Bus Travel: **Eight States and one UT** — Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir — provide free bus travel for women via 'zero-tickets'.

Learn Basics:

- MGNREGA: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, guaranteed 100 days of unskilled wage employment per rural household per year.
- Zero-Ticket: A no-cost ticket issued for travel-record purposes after identity verification, used under free bus travel schemes.
- Exam point of view: The days-guarantee jumped from 100 (MGNREGA) to 125 (new Gramin Act) — a simple but high-yield numeric fact.

1.7 Supreme Court Expands Article 21: Trauma Care and Footpath Rights

- Trauma Care: In **SaveLIFE Foundation vs Union of India**, the SC held that the right to trauma care is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- Directions: Nine binding directions were issued, including integrating helplines (100, 101, 102, 108, 1091) into the single number **112**, GPS-enabled ambulances, and cashless treatment under the **PM RAHAT** scheme.

- **Precedents:** The ruling builds on *Parmanand Katara vs UOI* (1989) and *Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samiti vs West Bengal* (1996).
- **Footpath Rights:** In **Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz vs P. Ayyappan**, the SC held that walking on safe, demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- **Directive:** Urban local bodies must treat footpath protection as a constitutional duty; Parliament was urged to enact a dedicated pedestrian-safety law.

Learn Basics:

- **Article 21:** Guarantees the 'Right to Life and Personal Liberty'; courts have progressively expanded it to cover health, environment, and now trauma care and pedestrian safety.
- **PM RAHAT:** A scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during the crucial post-accident 'golden hour'.
- **Exam point of view:** Keep the case names straight — *SaveLIFE Foundation* (trauma care) vs *Maniyar Iliyaz* (footpath rights) are separate 2026 judgments both expanding Article 21.

1.8 Passport Not Proof of Citizenship; Indian Pharmacopoeia Sets Blood Standards

- **MEA Clarification:** The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed that a passport, issued under the **Passports Act, 1967**, is a travel document, not conclusive proof of citizenship.
- **Courts:** Bombay High Court (2013) rulings held that possession of a passport cannot be treated as final proof of citizenship; citizenship is governed separately under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- **Pharmacopoeia:** The **10th edition** of the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026) was released on 2 January 2026, introducing the world's first dedicated standards for blood and blood components.
- **Detail:** It added **20 new monographs** and 2 revised monographs to regulate blood quality, safety, and reduce transfusion-transmitted infections.

Learn Basics:

- **Indian Pharmacopoeia:** The official book of standards for drugs manufactured/sold in India, published by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (Ministry of Health).
- **Monograph:** A standardised specification (identity, purity, strength) for a particular drug or biological product.
- **Exam point of view:** A passport (Passports Act, 1967) and Aadhaar/voter ID are all travel/identity documents but none are conclusive proof of citizenship, which is governed only by the Citizenship Act, 1955.

1.9 National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission & Three Warships Commissioned

- **Mission:** The Prime Minister launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM) in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, targeting elimination by **2047**.
- **Scale:** The mission aims to screen around **7 crore** people under 40 years across India within 3 years (2023-2026), prioritising tribal health.
- **Warships:** The Indian Navy commissioned three indigenously built warships in Kolkata — **INS Dunagiri** (Project 17A stealth frigate), **INS Agray** (Arnala-class ASW craft), and **INS Sanshodhak** (hydrographic survey vessel).
- **Builder:** INS Dunagiri was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

Learn Basics:

- **Project 17A:** A class of stealth guided-missile frigates designed for surface, air, and anti-submarine warfare.

- Sickle Cell Disease: A genetic blood disorder causing red blood cells to become sickle-shaped, common among tribal populations in India.
- Exam point of view: Match each warship to its class — INS Dunagiri (Project 17A frigate), INS Agray (Arnala-class ASW craft), INS Sanshodhak (Sandhayak-class survey vessel).

1.10 Record Defence Production; New Army Uniform Code

- Defence Production: India's annual defence production reached a record **₹1.78 lakh crore** in FY 2025-26, a 15.6% rise over FY 2024-25.
- Sector Split: DPSUs/PSUs contributed about 76% of production, while the private sector's share reached its highest-ever **24%** (around ₹42,000 crore).
- Exports: India achieved a record defence export value of **₹38,424 crore** in FY 2025-26.
- Uniform Code: The Indian Army released the 174-page Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet, its first comprehensive update in eight years, introducing the indigenous Bandi jacket and a new Battle Jacket.
- Reform: The manual removes colonial-era terms such as 'Royal' from official usage.

Learn Basics:

- DPSU: Defence Public Sector Undertakings are government-owned defence manufacturing companies (e.g., GRSE, BEL, HAL).
- Exam point of view: Note the private sector's defence-production share hit an all-time high of 24% in FY 2025-26 — a figure likely to be updated and tested in future years too.

1.11 75 Years of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951

- Anniversary: 18 June 2026 marked the **75th anniversary** of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, enacted under PM Jawaharlal Nehru just 15 months after the Constitution came into force.
- Article 15(4): It inserted a provision allowing special provisions for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), SCs, and STs.
- Ninth Schedule: It added Articles 31A and 31B and created the **Ninth Schedule** to protect land reform laws from judicial review.
- Free Speech: It amended Article 19(1)(a) to permit reasonable restrictions on free speech on grounds including public order, defamation, and incitement to an offence.

Learn Basics:

- Ninth Schedule: A list of laws (added by the First Amendment) shielded from judicial review under Article 31B, primarily to protect land reform legislation.
- Exam point of view: The First Amendment (1951) is the earliest and most frequently tested amendment — remember it added Articles 31A/31B, the Ninth Schedule, and reasonable restrictions on Article 19(1)(a), all in one Act.

1.12 Other National Updates in Brief

- Transit-Oriented Namo Cities: Four greenfield cities proposed under the NCR Regional Plan 2041 in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, with a ₹5,000 crore incentive.
- Smart Warehousing: The world's largest AI/IoT deployment in public foodgrain warehousing, covering 215 CWC and 150 FCI warehouses.
- Medicinal Syrups: A doctor's prescription is now mandatory for all medicinal syrups after 300+ child deaths abroad linked to contaminated Indian cough syrups.
- Water Tribunals: Tenure of the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal and Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal extended by one year.

- Others: Qadian–Beas railway line revived in Punjab; India's first drone-based mail service launched in Himachal Pradesh; Indian Coast Guard inducted its first indigenous hovercraft **H-561**; ONGC assigned to build a Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Mangaluru; Chennai Petroleum Corporation (CPCL) became India's **28th Navratna** CPSE.

2. TAMIL NADU NEWS

2.1 Tamil Nadu Assembly Resolution Against Karnataka's Mekedatu Dam

- Resolution: The TN Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on **19 June 2026** opposing Karnataka's Mekedatu balancing reservoir proposal.
- Legal Basis: The resolution said the project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final award (5 February 2007) and the Supreme Court judgment (16 February 2018).
- Demand: TN sought constitution of a **new tribunal** under Section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- Appeal: The House urged the Union Government to withhold technical/environmental clearance and asked the Central Water Commission not to process Karnataka's Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- Reason: The resolution noted the Cauvery is a deficit basin whose available water is already apportioned among basin States.

Learn Basics:

- Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT): A tribunal constituted under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, that gave its final award on Cauvery water-sharing on 5 February 2007.
- Balancing Reservoir: A reservoir built downstream mainly to regulate/store surplus water flow rather than for fresh irrigation, which is the basis of Karnataka's Mekedatu proposal.
- Exam point of view: Distinguish Mekedatu (Karnataka's proposed dam, opposed by TN) from Rasimanal (TN's own alternative proposal in Krishnagiri) — both are on/near the Cauvery basin but serve opposite State interests.

2.2 White Paper on Tamil Nadu's Economy: Fiscal Deficit and Debt Concerns

- Warning: The State's white paper called current fiscal deficit levels **unsustainable**, as much of it funds the revenue deficit (current consumption), not asset creation.
- Tax Decline: Tamil Nadu's State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to GSDP fell from **7.92% in 2011-12** to **5.45% in 2025-26**.
- GST Impact: Despite having the 2nd-largest GSDP (₹35.29 lakh crore), TN's GST collection (₹72,008 crore) trailed Karnataka (₹87,256 crore) and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).
- Pre-committed Spending: About **64%** of 2025-26 revenue receipts are pre-committed to salaries, pensions, and interest; with non-discretionary obligations this rises to **87%**.
- Demographics: TN's median age is **34.25 years**, and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to rise from 20.6 (2021) to 32.7 by 2036 — the 'scissors effect' on future fiscal capacity.

Learn Basics:

- Revenue Deficit vs Fiscal Deficit: Revenue deficit is the gap in day-to-day (current) spending; fiscal deficit is the total borrowing requirement, including for capital/asset creation.
- Scissors Effect: A demographic-fiscal trap where a shrinking working-age population narrows the tax base even as debt and elderly welfare costs rise.

- Exam point of view: Note that GST implementation (2017) reduced States' taxation autonomy — TN's SOTR/GSDP decline is frequently tested with these exact percentage figures.

2.3 TN Electricity Department White Paper; Chennai Intelligent Transport System

- Electricity Debt: The combined debt of TNPDC, TNPGL, TNGEL, and TANTRANSCO stands at **₹2.47 lakh crore**.
- Gaps: The White Paper reported a 45% manpower shortage in the electricity department and proposed recruiting 15,000 employees; no tariff revision was announced for 2026.
- ITS Project: The Centre approved over ₹500 crore (total cost **₹645.59 crore**, JICA-funded) for the Intelligent Transport System in Chennai Metropolitan Area.
- Scope: The project includes adaptive traffic signals at 165 junctions and red-light violation detection at 50 junctions, expected fully operational by **August 2026**.

Learn Basics:

- TANGEDCO Group: TNPDC (distribution), TNPGL (generation), TNGEL (green energy), and TANTRANSCO (transmission) are the four TN power sector corporations.
- Intelligent Transport System (ITS): Technology-based traffic management combining CCTV, adaptive signals, and incident detection to improve urban mobility.
- Exam point of view: The ₹2.47 lakh crore combined power-sector debt figure and the JICA-funded ₹645.59 crore ITS cost are both recent, high-yield TN-specific numbers.

2.4 Madras High Court Rulings: Section 34-C and BC (Muslim) Status

- Section 34-C: The Madurai Bench struck down Section 34-C of the Registration Act as unconstitutional, holding that only civil courts — not Sub-Registrars — can decide property title disputes.
- Grounds: The provision was held to violate Article 14 (Equality) and Article 300A (Right to Property).
- BC (Muslim) Ruling: The Madras HC ruled that a person who converts to Islam **cannot claim** Backward Class (Muslim) status, striking down the TN Government's 2024 G.O. as unconstitutional.
- Reasoning: Recognised Muslim communities like Lebbai, Rowther, and Marakkayar are birth-based and cannot be acquired through conversion; a G.O. cannot override earlier court judgments.

Learn Basics:

- Article 300A: Guarantees the 'Right to Property' — no person can be deprived of property except by authority of law.
- Separation of Powers: A constitutional doctrine ensuring the legislature/executive cannot override or nullify a final judicial decision through an executive order.
- Exam point of view: Section 34-C was struck down for violating Articles 14 and 300A — remember both grounds, as questions may ask which specific rights were held violated.

2.5 New TN Welfare Schemes: Gold Ring for Newborns and Rasimanal Dam Proposal

- Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam: A **one-gram gold ring** will be given to babies born in government hospitals to permanent TN residents, with **₹755.83 crore** allocated annually.
- Launch Date: The scheme will be formally launched on **15 September 2026**, C. N. Annadurai's birth anniversary.

- Rasimanal Dam: Proposed in Krishnagiri district (storage capacity 66,000 million cubic feet, 360 MW hydropower) as an alternative to the Mokedatu project, envisaged as a TN-Karnataka joint venture.
- History: CM K. Kamaraj had laid the foundation stone for a dam at Rasimanal in **1961**.

Learn Basics:

- Exam point of view: Note the launch is tied to C. N. Annadurai's birth anniversary (15 September) — TNPSC frequently links TN welfare-scheme launch dates to the birth/death anniversaries of leaders.

2.6 Five Renewable Energy Zones; India's First 3D-Printed Artificial Reef

- Renewable Zones: TN approved five Renewable Energy Zones under TNGECL, headquartered at Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, and Madurai.
- Support: The zones will manage wind/solar projects, repowering of wind farms, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and PM-KUSUM 2.0.
- Artificial Reef: India's first 3D-printed artificial reef modules are set for deployment off the **Ramanathapuram** coast under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Developer: The reef modules are developed by Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions (an IIT Madras-incubated startup) with ICAR-CMFRI, to aid coastal biodiversity and fish population recovery.

Learn Basics:

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): A system that stores electricity (often from renewables) for use during peak demand or when generation is low.
- Artificial Reef: A human-made underwater structure that mimics natural reef habitats to attract marine life and rebuild fish populations.
- Exam point of view: The Ramanathapuram artificial reef project is a TN-specific first ('India's first 3D-printed') — a classic superlative fact TNPSC likes to test.

2.7 17th TN Assembly Panel of Chairpersons; Surge in Election Petitions

- Panel: Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar nominated **six MLAs** to the Panel of Chairpersons, including three from TVK, one each from DMK, AIADMK, and INC.
- Function: The panel presides over Assembly proceedings in the absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- Election Petitions: The Madras HC received about **55 election petitions** challenging the 2026 TN and Puducherry Assembly results — the highest since the Election Bench's formation.
- Trend: Petitions rose from 12 (2011) to 23 (2016), 13 (2021), and 55 (2026); petitions challenge CM C. Joseph Vijay and Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin, among others.

Learn Basics:

- Panel of Chairpersons: A group of MLAs nominated by the Speaker to preside over House proceedings when both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are absent.
- Election Petition: A legal challenge to the validity of an election result, filed under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, within 45 days of the result declaration.
- Exam point of view: The panel's party composition (3 TVK, 1 DMK, 1 AIADMK, 1 INC) reflects the 17th Assembly's post-2026-election party arithmetic — a likely current-affairs-cum-polity crossover question.

2.8 Other Tamil Nadu Updates in Brief

- Tiruvallur Ammonia Leak: A three-member committee was formed to probe an ammonia gas leak at a seafood factory near Periyapalayam that killed at least two people.
- Chief Minister's Police Medals 2026: Announced for 15 police personnel for anti-drug work, to be presented on Independence Day (15 August 2026).
- Anti-Drug Run 2026: TN CM flagged off the run in Chennai on 26 June 2026 (International Day Against Drug Abuse), with sportspersons like Sharath Kamal and Joshna Chinappa participating.
- Helpline 1091: Designated the official helpline of the Singappan Special Force (SSF), integrated with the 112 Emergency Response System.
- Others: Native fruit tree cultivation promoted in the Nilgiris (Pomological Station, Coonoor); TN Police Constable J. Gowthami qualified for the 2026 Asian Games (Nagoya) in women's 800m; TN opposed new Union guidelines on Cauvery basin water resource projects.

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

3.1 US-Iran Preliminary Peace Accord Ends Hormuz Blockade

- Accord: The US and Iran announced a preliminary peace accord to end military conflict and lift the naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.
- Nature: It is an emergency MoU serving as a **60-day de-escalation mechanism**, not a final peace treaty.
- Terms: It provides an immediate ceasefire, toll-free shipping through Hormuz, mine-removal operations, and phased release of **US\$24 billion** of frozen Iranian assets.
- Significance: Expected to improve global energy security and lower oil prices; the Strait of Hormuz is a key route for India's oil and gas imports.

Learn Basics:

- Strait of Hormuz: A narrow strait between Iran and Oman through which a large share of the world's seaborne oil passes — a major global energy chokepoint.
- Exam point of view: This is a 60-day de-escalation MoU, not a final peace treaty — a key distinction if the question asks about the accord's legal status.

3.2 EU Joins US-led Pax Silica AI Initiative

- Initiative: The European Union agreed to join **Pax Silica**, a US-led framework (launched December 2025) on AI supply chains and export controls.
- Scope: It secures the AI ecosystem supply chain — semiconductors, critical minerals, energy, and digital infrastructure — with coordinated export controls.
- Commitment: The EU's accession includes a commitment to purchase **US\$40 billion** worth of US AI chips.
- Members: The UK, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and others are already part of the initiative.

Learn Basics:

- Export Controls: Government restrictions on the sale/transfer of sensitive technologies to specific countries, often used for strategic/security reasons.
- Exam point of view: Pax Silica (launched December 2025) focuses on AI supply chains — do not confuse it with defence-alliance frameworks like NATO or the Quad.

3.3 UN Security Council Resolution 2823 on Peacekeeper Accountability

- **Adoption:** The UNSC unanimously adopted **Resolution 2823 (2026)**, co-authored by Denmark and Pakistan, to strengthen accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers.
- **Aim:** It improves identification, investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators attacking peacekeeping personnel.
- **Mechanism:** It calls for the UN Secretary-General to appoint a senior focal point on accountability and submit an annual report.
- **Precedents:** Builds on Resolution 2589 (2021) and Resolution 2518 (2020) on peacekeeper safety.

Learn Basics:

- **UN Peacekeepers:** Military/police personnel deployed by the UN under Security Council mandate to help maintain peace in conflict zones.
- **Exam point of view:** India, as a rotating UNSC non-permanent member historically and a major troop contributor, is often linked to peacekeeping questions even when not directly named in a resolution.

3.4 16th BRICS NSA Meeting Hosted by India; State of Emergency in Bolivia

- **BRICS NSA Meeting:** India, as 2026 BRICS Chair, hosted the 16th BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting in New Delhi under NSA **Ajit Doval**.
- **Theme:** India's 2026 BRICS Chairship theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'; India chairs BRICS for the 4th time (after 2012, 2016, 2021).
- **Bolivia:** Bolivia's Parliament approved a nationwide State of Emergency declared by President **Rodrigo Paz** to end a 50-day protest and highway blockade crisis.
- **Cause:** Unrest began after the government reduced fuel subsidies amid a US dollar shortage; protest groups later agreed to remove road blockades.

Learn Basics:

- **BRICS:** An intergovernmental grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and now expanded members) with a rotating annual chairship.
- **Exam point of view:** India is chairing BRICS for the 4th time (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026) — a useful sequence to memorise for year-based questions.

3.5 US Renames Indo-Pacific Command; Mombasa Declaration Against Illegal Fishing

- **Renaming:** US President Donald Trump renamed the **US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM)** back to the **US Pacific Command (USPACOM)**, restoring its pre-2018 name.
- **Scope:** Established in 1947, it is the oldest and largest of the eleven US unified combatant commands; its geographical jurisdiction remains unchanged.
- **Mombasa Declaration:** 15 countries adopted the declaration at the 11th Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa, Kenya, to curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- **Support:** It backs the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency for better sharing of vessel ownership and licensing data.

Learn Basics:

- **IUU Fishing:** Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing that violates national/international fishing regulations, threatening marine ecosystems.
- **Exam point of view:** USINDOPACOM/USPACOM is the US military's oldest and largest unified combatant command (est. 1947) — its renaming is symbolic; its area of responsibility is unchanged.

3.6 Other International Updates in Brief

- UK: Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** resigned as Labour Party leader while continuing in office until a successor is elected.
- India-UAE: The two countries are in early-stage talks on export of the BrahMos missile and Akashteer air-defence system to help secure the Strait of Hormuz.
- Turquoise Nexus Initiative: Launched by Turkey's COP31 Presidency and the FAO to integrate food security, water management, and climate adaptation into national climate plans.
- Hunger Hotspots Report 2026: FAO-WFP flagged 13 hotspots (June-November 2026), with Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Nigeria, and Somalia at highest concern; around **266 million** people already face acute hunger.
- UPI Expansion: India launched UPI services in Nice, France; UPI is now live in nine countries including UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia.

4. ENVIRONMENT NEWS

4.1 Planetary Climate Vital Signs Report 2026 Warns of Worsening Indicators

- Findings: Released during the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB64), the report found all **11 major planetary climate indicators** have worsened since the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report.
- Data: Marine heatwaves showed the sharpest deterioration (+1%), while Earth's Energy Imbalance rose by 8%.
- Warming: Human-induced warming reached **1.37°C** above pre-industrial levels in 2025; the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit could be crossed within about four years.
- Authors: Published in Earth System Science Data by about 70 scientists from 17 countries.

Learn Basics:

- IPCC: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the UN body that assesses climate science; its Sixth Assessment Report is the current baseline for comparison.
- Earth's Energy Imbalance: The difference between incoming solar energy and outgoing heat radiated back to space — a rising imbalance means more heat is being trapped.
- Exam point of view: Keep 1.37°C (2025 warming reached) separate from 1.5°C (the Paris Agreement's long-term limit, not yet crossed) — a frequently confused pair of numbers.

4.2 UNICEF Report: 392 Million Indian Children Exposed to Extreme Heat

- Exposure: The UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 found about **392 million children (92%)** in India exposed to extreme heat; 89 million face recurrent heatwaves.
- Scores: India's overall climate hazard exposure score is **9.21/10**; it records 10/10 for extreme heat and 9.94/10 for air pollution.
- Gap: The report flags gaps in child-focused Heat Action Plans, especially in schools and anganwadis.

- Drought: India's drought vulnerability score stands at 8.84/10, with overlapping heatwave, flood, and pollution risks.

Learn Basics:

- Heat Action Plan: A State/city-level preparedness plan (early warning, cooling shelters, health protocols) to reduce heatwave-related mortality.
- Exam point of view: The 392 million figure represents 92% of all children in India — remember both the absolute number and the percentage, as either could be asked.

4.3 SHAN Conservation Society Approved for Snow Leopard Protection in Ladakh

- Approval: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh approved the **SHAN (Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature) Conservation Society**.
- Focus: It will conserve alpine fauna, flora, wetlands, and fragile high-altitude ecosystems, and mitigate human-wildlife conflict.
- Status: The snow leopard is listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List; Ladakh hosts India's largest population.
- Global Methane Initiative: The UN launched a Call to Action on Methane during London Climate Action Week (23 June 2026), urging near-zero methane emissions since methane is about 80 times more potent than CO₂ short-term.

Learn Basics:

- IUCN Red List Categories: A ranked scale of extinction risk — Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, Extinct.
- Exam point of view: Snow leopard is 'Vulnerable', not 'Endangered' — a commonly mixed-up IUCN category in wildlife questions.

4.4 San Andreas Fault Stress Study

- Findings: A study in AGU Journals found the San Andreas Fault (California) has accumulated its **highest stress in 1,000 years**, especially near Cajon Pass.
- Caveat: Elevated stress indicates long-term tectonic strain accumulation, not an imminent earthquake.
- Context: The San Andreas Fault is a boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate.

Learn Basics:

- Strike-Slip Fault: A fault where two tectonic blocks slide horizontally past each other — the San Andreas Fault is a classic example.
- Exam point of view: 'Highest stress in 1,000 years' indicates long-term strain build-up, not a prediction of an imminent earthquake — avoid the common misreading of such reports.

4.5 Other Environment Updates in Brief

- Blue Swimmer Crab: ICAR-CIBA, Chennai, demonstrated India's first Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*) farming technology, using its BSCrabPlus feed.
- Wildlife Sightings: Mishmi Takin (a Vulnerable goat-antelope) spotted in North Sikkim's Tingda Reserve Forest; a Stump-tailed Macaque birth recorded at Meghalaya State Zoo.
- Big Cat Alliance: Bangladesh became the **27th member** of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), headquartered in New Delhi.
- Venezuela Earthquake: A magnitude 7.2 quake near San Felipe was followed within 39 seconds by a 7.5 quake near Morón — a rare 'seismic doublet' event.

5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

5.1 ISRO-DAE Developing Long-Duration Lunar Lander

- Project: ISRO and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are developing a new lunar lander able to operate for **100-200 days** on the Moon.
- Goal: This extends beyond the 14-day mission life of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- Challenge: Lunar nights last about 14 Earth days with temperatures below -100°C ; ISRO is developing artificial heating systems for electronics and batteries.
- Reference: Vikram landed near the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023 and operated for one lunar day using solar power.

Learn Basics:

- Lunar Day/Night: Each lasts about 14 Earth days due to the Moon's slow rotation; lunar night temperatures can fall below -100°C .
- Exam point of view: National Space Day (23 August) commemorates Chandrayaan-3's landing — a related fact often paired with lunar-lander questions.

5.2 WT-MARUT Wind Turbine Portal & IIT Hyderabad's Nuclear Design Centre

- WT-MARUT: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched India's first dedicated wind turbine supply chain portal at the Global Wind Day Conference in Goa.
- Function: It provides supply chain visibility, supplier discovery, and Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) compliance.
- CODENE: IIT Hyderabad will set up India's first **Centre of Design Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (CODENE)**.
- Goal: It supports India's national target of **100 GW nuclear power by 2047**.

Learn Basics:

- ALMM: The Approved List of Models and Manufacturers is a government-maintained list of certified renewable-energy equipment makers, ensuring quality compliance.
- Exam point of view: 2047 (100 GW nuclear power) marks 100 years of Indian independence — many long-term national energy targets are pegged to this milestone year.

5.3 Smart Seed Coating Technology by ICAR-IIOR

- Innovation: ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research developed a patented, biodegradable, biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology.
- Function: A single coating delivers beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, crop protection agents, and growth-promoting compounds near plant roots.
- Impact: Multi-location trials showed a **12% to 37%** productivity increase in crops like maize, chickpea, cotton, mustard, and pigeon pea.
- Aim: Supports climate-resilient, rainfed agriculture against drought, erratic monsoons, and pests.

Learn Basics:

- Biopolymer: A natural, biodegradable polymer (unlike synthetic plastics) used here as the carrier material for the seed coating.
- Exam point of view: ICAR-IIOR is based in Hyderabad and focuses on oilseed crops — note the parent body (ICAR) alongside the specific institute when such research bodies are asked.

5.4 Other Science & Technology Updates in Brief

- eVTOL Aircraft: Chennai-based The ePlane Company unveiled India's first full-scale electric vertical takeoff and landing prototype, the **e200X (PT-01)**.
- Supercomputer: China's **LineShine** supercomputer topped the June 2026 TOP500 list, a CPU-only system with about 13.79 million cores.
- Radar Deal: Canada signed a **US\$2.5 billion** agreement with Australia/BAE Systems for an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system based on JORN technology.
- Blockchain: NPCI rolled out **Drunix**, its second major open-source Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) platform after Falcon, for tokenisation and digital asset ecosystems.

6. ECONOMY NEWS

6.1 GARUDA Framework Speeds Up Alternative Investment Fund Launches

- Approval: SEBI approved the **GARUDA** (Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement) framework for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- Impact: It cuts the launch timeline for regular AIF schemes from about **30 days to 10 working days**.
- Special Cases: Accredited Investor-only schemes and Angel Funds can launch immediately after SEBI acknowledges documents.
- Legal Basis: Implemented by amending the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, following a May 2026 consultation paper.

Learn Basics:

- Alternative Investment Fund (AIF): A privately pooled investment vehicle (e.g., private equity, hedge funds) regulated by SEBI, distinct from mutual funds.
- Exam point of view: GARUDA cuts launch time from ~30 days to 10 working days — Accredited Investor-only schemes and Angel Funds get even faster, immediate approval.

6.2 RBI Revises Lead Bank Scheme Guidelines 2026

- Update: RBI issued revised Lead Bank Scheme guidelines on **19 June 2026**, replacing earlier instructions.
- Structure: The scheme is a district-level banking coordination system, operating through Block Level Bankers' Committees (BLBC), District Consultative Committees (DCC), and State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBC).
- Origin: Launched in **December 1969** on recommendations of the Gadgil Study Group and Nariman Committee.
- Focus: RBI retained the 60% Credit-Deposit ratio benchmark for rural/semi-urban branches, strengthening focus on Agriculture and MSME.

Learn Basics:

- Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio: The proportion of a bank's deposits that are lent out as credit; a higher ratio indicates more active local lending.

- Exam point of view: The Lead Bank Scheme (1969) predates most modern financial inclusion schemes — remember it was based on the Gadgil Study Group and Nariman Committee recommendations.

6.3 NSE and BSE Launch New Sectoral and Ethical Investment Indices

- NSE: NSE Indices Limited launched **11 new sector-specific indices** (power, retail, NBFC, insurance, hospitals, telecom), taking its total sectoral indices to 34.
- BSE Saatvik 100: BSE Index Services launched the **BSE Saatvik 100 Index**, derived from the BSE 500, for value-based/ethical (ESG-style) investing.
- Weightage: The financial services sector has the highest weight in the Saatvik 100 Index, followed by consumer discretionary and energy.

Learn Basics:

- ESG Investing: An investment approach that screens companies on Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria alongside financial performance.
- Exam point of view: NSE Indices Ltd (NSE subsidiary) launched the 11 sectoral indices, while BSE Index Services Pvt Ltd (BSE subsidiary) launched Saatvik 100 — keep the exchange-subsidiary pairing straight.

6.4 India's AI-Economy Readiness: QS World Future Skills Index

- Ranking: India ranked **13th globally** in AI-economy readiness in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027 (released 23 June 2026), scoring 89.4/100.
- Category Rank: India ranked **5th** in the 'Future of Work' category (score 96.0).
- Estimate: AI adoption could add nearly **US\$500 billion** to India's economy by 2030.
- Energy Transition Index: India ranked **70th globally** (up 2 places) in the WEF-Accenture Energy Transition Index 2026, among the strongest global improvers; Sweden, Finland, and Denmark topped the rankings.

Learn Basics:

- QS World Future Skills Index: A ranking by QS Quacquarelli Symonds assessing countries' readiness for AI-driven economic transformation and future skills.
- Exam point of view: Don't confuse India's overall rank (13th) with its category-specific rank (5th in Future of Work) — index questions often test one figure while distractors use the other.

6.5 Other Economy Updates in Brief

- ADB Investment: The Asian Development Bank will provide about **US\$1 billion** in direct financing for India's private sector in 2026, after providing over \$1 billion (private) and \$4 billion (sovereign) in 2025.
- Unicorn: Bengaluru-based **Sarvam AI** became India's 130th unicorn after raising \$234 million in a Series B round.
- Patents: Jio Platforms entered WIPO's Global Top 20 Patent Rankings under the PCT system — the only Indian tech company on the list, jumping about 320 ranks.
- Startup Ecosystem: Bengaluru was ranked the 2nd-best AI-native startup cluster in Asia and 15th globally in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.

7. STATE NEWS

7.1 Telangana's Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme Water-Sharing Dispute

- Issue: Telangana sought a permanent solution from the Centre and neighbouring States over water-sharing in the **Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS)**.
- Scale: RDS irrigates about 83,900 acres across 75 villages in the Palamuru (Mahbubnagar) region.
- Shortfall: Telangana is allocated 17.9 tmcft of water but draws only about **6 tmcft** due to silt deposition and structural issues at the canal head.
- River: RDS is an interstate irrigation project on the Tungabhadra River (a Krishna tributary), benefiting Telangana, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

Learn Basics:

- Interstate Irrigation Project: A scheme built across a river shared by multiple States, requiring inter-state coordination for water allocation and maintenance.
- Exam point of view: RDS is on the Tungabhadra (a Krishna tributary) — a common river-tributary matching question in geography-linked current affairs.

7.2 Three-Language Formula Opposed in Nagaland

- Opposition: The Association of Unaided CBSE Schools in Nagaland opposed CBSE's mandate to implement the **Three-Language Formula** under NEP 2020.
- Reason: Nagaland has **17 major tribal languages** and no single common regional language; English is the official medium of instruction.
- Origin: The formula was first recommended by the Kothari Commission (1964-66) and adopted in the National Policy on Education, 1968.
- Diversity: By the Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index, Nagaland ranks as India's most linguistically diverse State, with at least 14 recognised languages and 17 dialects.

Learn Basics:

- Three-Language Formula: An education policy recommending students learn three languages — typically the regional language, Hindi, and English/another modern language.
- Exam point of view: The formula originated with the Kothari Commission (1964-66) and was adopted in the National Policy on Education, 1968 — not with NEP 2020, which only revived/re-emphasised it.

7.3 Amaravati Quantum Valley Hits 4 Kelvin Milestone; Telangana's AI Emergency System

- Milestone: Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV), Andhra Pradesh, achieved **4 Kelvin (-269°C)** cooling using an indigenous dilution refrigerator at Medha Towers.
- Use: 4 Kelvin is used for testing superconducting devices, quantum sensors, and quantum computing components; absolute zero is 0 Kelvin (-273.15°C).
- Telangana AI: Telangana deployed AI in its 112 Emergency Response System, Dial 100, and the 1930 Cybercrime Helpline (supporting English, Telugu, Hindi).

- Platforms: Telangana's Cyber Security Bureau launched the **C-SIGHT** AI platform; Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX) is planned as India's first state-led Digital Public Infrastructure for AI.

Learn Basics:

- Dilution Refrigerator: A cryogenic device using helium-3/helium-4 isotopes to reach temperatures near absolute zero (0 Kelvin), needed for quantum computing components.
- Exam point of view: 4 Kelvin $\approx -269^\circ\text{C}$ is used for testing superconducting devices — do not confuse it with absolute zero itself (0 Kelvin = -273.15°C).

7.4 Article 371 Safeguards Discussed for Ladakh; Kishau Dam Consensus

- Ladakh: The Centre reaffirmed discussion on constitutional safeguards for Ladakh under **Article 371** (Part XXI), with representatives of the Ladakh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance.
- Comparators: Article 371A (Nagaland), 371F (Sikkim), and 371G (Mizoram) provide similar region-specific protections; Ladakh became a UT on 31 October 2019.
- Kishau Dam: Six States — Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, UP, Haryana, and Rajasthan — reached consensus on the **Kishau Multipurpose Dam** on the Tons River (a Yamuna tributary).
- Funding: The Centre will bear 90% of the water component cost; the project targets irrigation, drinking water, and hydropower.

Learn Basics:

- Article 371 Series: A group of provisions (371A to 371J) under Part XXI of the Constitution granting special protections to specific States/regions on land, culture, or governance.
- Exam point of view: Ladakh (a UT since 31 October 2019) is seeking Article 371-style safeguards, not Sixth Schedule status — a key distinction in recent Ladakh-related current affairs.

7.5 Other State Updates in Brief

- Andhra Pradesh: Three rare 16th-century Vijayanagara-era inscriptions (in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada) discovered in Seshachalam forest, Tirupati, dated to the reign of Sadasiva Raya (1554 CE).
- Maharashtra: The Cabinet approved the **₹300-crore** High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project (HEMCP) in Nagpur for nuclear medicine and cancer diagnosis.
- Delhi HC: Upheld the Union Government's temporary block of Telegram under **Section 69A** of the IT Act, 2000, ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination.
- Assam: Granted GI tags to four traditional products — Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products.
- Andhra Pradesh: The Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district began commercial operations, becoming India's only private-sector primary gold mine since Independence.

IMPORTANT DAYS (JUNE 18 – 29, 2026)

Why Important Days Matter: TNPSC exams regularly test dates, observing bodies, and specific themes.

- 18 June 2026: Autistic Pride Day. Theme: 'Recognition, Representation and Reform'.
- 18 June 2026: Sustainable Gastronomy Day (UN).
- 19 June 2026: National Reading Day (India (in memory of P. N. Panicker)).
- 19 June 2026: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN). Theme: 'Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Against Children: Safeguarding Futures and Empowering Caregivers'.
- 19 June 2026: World Sickle Cell Day (UN (since 2008)). Theme: 'Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease'.
- 20 June 2026: World Refugee Day (UNHCR). Theme: 'Solidarity with Refugees'.
- 21 June 2026: International Day of Yoga (12th edition) (UN (declared 2014)). Theme: 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'.
- 21 June 2026: World Music Day (also known as Fete de la Musique).
- 21 June 2026: June Solstice 2026 (longest day in the Northern Hemisphere).
- 23 June 2026: International Olympic Day (IOC, founded 23 June 1894 in Paris). Theme: 'You Can Do This! Let's Move'.
- 23 June 2026: United Nations Public Service Day (UN). Theme: 'Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing innovation, Participation, and Inclusion'.
- 23 June 2026: International Widows' Day (UN). Theme: 'Invisible Women, Invisible Problems'.
- 24 June 2026: Passport Seva Divas (MEA, India (commemorates the Passports Act, 1967)). Theme: 'Connecting Citizens, Enriching Journeys'.
- 25 June 2026: World Vitiligo Day (since 2011). Theme: 'From Stigma to Strength'.
- 26 June 2026: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (World Drug Day) (UN). Theme: 'World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses'.
- 26 June 2026: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (UN). Theme: 'Torture: a crime against humanity'.
- 26 June 2026: World Refrigeration Day. Theme: 'Cool Intelligence'.
- 27 June 2026: International MSME Day (UN). Theme: 'Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development'.
- 27 June 2026: Day of the Seafarer (IMO). Theme: 'Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks.'.
- 24 June 2026: International Day of Women in Diplomacy (UN).

- 29 June 2026: National Statistics Day (20th edition) (MoSPI/NSO, India (birth anniversary of P. C. Mahalanobis)).

PERSONS & AWARDS

- Robert A. F. Thurman (1941-2026): American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism and co-founder of Tibet House US, passed away at 84.
- Jainendra K. Jain: Awarded the Wolf Prize in Physics 2026, becoming the first Indian-origin scientist to receive this honour.
- Vivek Aggarwal: Became the first Indian appointed Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for July 2026-June 2027.
- Prof. Bimal N. Patel: Elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026-2035 term.
- Harsh Vardhan (Bihar Cricket Association President): Honoured with the Global Prestige Award at the UK House of Lords, London.
- Harmanpreet Kaur: Became the first cricketer (men's or women's) in the world to play 200 T20I matches, during the Women's T20 World Cup 2026.
- J. Gowthami (TN Police Grade-II Constable): Qualified for the women's 800m at the 2026 Asian Games (Nagoya) after winning gold at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship.
- Bhojarajan (MLA, Ooty): Identified as the eldest member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at 79 years, a first-time MLA.
- Jonathan the Tortoise: A Seychelles giant tortoise on St Helena Island, the world's oldest living land animal, officially recognised as a Guinness World Records ICON.
- Cristiano Ronaldo: Became the first footballer to score in six FIFA World Cups (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026).

Learn Basics:

- FATF: The Financial Action Task Force is an inter-governmental body that sets global standards against money laundering and terror financing.
- ITLOS: The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is a UN-linked body (Hamburg) that adjudicates disputes under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea — distinct from the ICJ at The Hague.
- Exam point of view: Prof. Bimal N. Patel's ITLOS judgeship is often confused with an ICJ appointment — remember ITLOS deals specifically with maritime law disputes.