



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

11th June - 17th June, 2025

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**UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**



11th JUNE 2025

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF)

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs chaired the 6th meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF) in New Delhi.

Key Facts

- NIIF was established in 2015 by the Government of India as a sovereign-linked alternative investment platform.
- **Objective:** It aims to attract long-term capital from international and domestic investors into infrastructure and other high-priority sectors of the Indian economy.
- NIIF is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).
- The Government of India holds a 49% share in NIIF, while the remaining is open to other institutional investors.
- The Governing Council of NIIF is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

About Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

- AIFs are privately pooled investment vehicles in India, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- They collect capital from sophisticated investors, both Indian and foreign, and invest it according to a defined policy.
- Regulated entities like banks and NBFCs often invest in AIFs.

ILOSTAT: International Labour Organization's (ILO) Report

- **Context:** According to the latest data from International Labour Organization's (ILO) ILOSTAT,

India's social security coverage in 2025 stood at 64.3 per cent, up from 19 per cent a decade ago.

Key Findings

- India now ranks second in the world in social security coverage, providing protection to more than 94 crore of its citizens.
- Nearly two out of three people in India are now covered under at least one social security benefit — which roughly translates into 950 million people.
- India is also the first country globally to update its 2025 social protection coverage data in the ILOSTAT database, reinforcing its leadership in digital governance and transparency in welfare systems.

Key Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM):** To provide old age protection and social security to unorganized sector workers (e.g., street vendors, rickshaw pullers, construction workers, domestic workers).
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJBY):** To provide affordable life insurance cover.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** To provide a guaranteed pension for unorganized sector workers.
- **Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana – PMJAY):** To provide health insurance coverage to the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society.
- **Public Distribution System (PDS) / National Food Security Act (NFSA):** To ensure food and nutritional security by providing subsidized food grains.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G):** To provide “Housing for All” by ensuring a pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless households and those living in kutchha and dilapidated houses in rural areas.

NOTE:

Social security refers to the protection provided by society to individuals and households to ensure access to healthcare and guarantee income security in situations such as old age, unemployment, sickness, maternity, and invalidity.

Lokpal

- **Context:** The Full Bench of Lokpal of India has adopted a new motto "Empower Citizens, Expose Corruption".

Key Facts

- It is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman in India that was established to address grievances regarding corruption in public offices.
- The Lokpal is not a constitutional body but a statutory body created through legislation Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013.
- **Chairperson:** Retired Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge.
- **Appointment of Lokpal:** Appointed by a selection committee consisting of Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India (CJI), Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha & One Eminent Jurist (appointed by the above members).
- **Tenure:** The Lokpal is appointed for a 5-year term or until they attain the age of 70 years.
- **Powers and Functions:** To investigate and prosecute corruption cases against public servants, including government officials, ministers, and the Prime Minister (except on matters related to national security).
- The Lokpal has supervision over CBI's investigations in corruption cases.

12th JUNE 2025**UNESCO 'Creative City of Gastronomy'**

- **Context:** A proposal for Creative City Lucknow under the category Gastronomy for Awadhi Cuisine has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre recently.

About UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a global network of cities that recognize culture and creativity as drivers of sustainable urban development.
- UCCN was created in 2004.
- The network focuses on seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.

Indian Cities in UCCN

- India has several cities recognized by UNESCO as part of the Creative Cities Network. The network currently includes:
 - Jaipur and Srinagar (Crafts and Folk Arts),
 - Varanasi, Chennai and Gwalior (Music),
 - Mumbai (Film),
 - Hyderabad (Gastronomy),
 - Kozhikode (Literature).

Exercise 'Khaan Quest'

- **Context:** The Indian Army contingent arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to participate in the multinational military Exercise Khaan Quest.

About Exercise 'Khaan Quest'

- It began as a bilateral initiative between the United States and the Mongolian Armed Forces in 2003, evolved into a multinational peacekeeping endeavour from 2006 onwards.
- It is an annual exercise that brings together military forces from across the globe to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.
- It will enable the participating countries to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conduct of joint operations.
- It aims to prepare the Indian armed forces for peacekeeping operations in a multinational setting, thereby "increasing interoperability and military readiness in peace support operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter."

13th JUNE 2025

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

- **Context:** The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has initiated a formal investigation into the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Incident

- An Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed into a college hostel in Ahmedabad, causing more than 200 casualties.
- The two black boxes will help in revealing what triggered the tragic crash of the Air India plane.
- This disaster could rewrite aviation safety norms, especially for India, now the world's 3rd largest domestic aviation market.

India's Aviation Growth Trajectory

- India handled over 152 million domestic passengers in FY 2023-24, growing 21% year-on-year.
- India is the sixth-largest air cargo market globally, handling 3.33 million tonnes of freight in 2022-23.
- Over 150 operational airports, with 75 added in the last 9 years under the UDAN (Udein Desh Ke Aam Nagrik) Scheme.
- The sector supports over 4 million jobs directly and indirectly.

About Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

- **Established:** In 2012 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **Mandate:** Investigates civil aircraft accidents and serious incidents to determine causes and recommend safety measures (as per Annex 13 of ICAO).
- **Legal Backing:** Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017.

About Black Box

- A black box is a small machine that records information about an aircraft during its flight.
- It is a bright orange or yellow rectangular box crafted to withstand explosions, fire, water pressure, and high-speed crashes.
- Discovered by Australian scientist David Warren, it is used to discover the cause of a plane crash.
- The black box comprises two components:
 - **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR):** Captures cockpit audio, including pilot conversations, alarms, and engine sounds.
 - **Flight Data Recorder (FDR):** Logs key flight parameters such as, Altitude, Airspeed, Flight heading, Vertical acceleration, Pitch and roll angles etc.

About International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

- ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that coordinates the principles and techniques of international air navigation, and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.
- The Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), drafted in 1944, was ratified by the required number of nations, leading to the official inauguration of ICAO on April 4, 1947.
- **Member States:** 193 (India is a member of the ICAO)
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Global Gender Gap Index 2025

- **Context:** Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) released its 19th edition of Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Key Highlights

- The world has closed 68.5% of the gender gap, a marginal improvement from the previous year.
- Iceland remains the most gender-equal country for the 16th consecutive year, achieving over 90% parity.

- Other top-ranking nations include Finland, Norway and the United Kingdom etc.
- India slipped to 131st out of 148 countries, with a parity score of 64.1%.

India's Performance

- **Economic Participation:** Improved slightly to 40.7%, with a rise in estimated earned income parity from 28.6% to 29.9%.
- **Educational Attainment:** Scored 97.1%, reflecting strong gains in literacy and higher education enrollment.
- **Health and Survival:** Showed modest improvement in sex ratio at birth and healthy life expectancy.
- **Political Empowerment:** Declined, with women's representation in Parliament dropping from 14.7% to 13.8%, and ministerial roles falling from 6.5% to 5.6%, marking a continued decline from the 2019 peak of 30%.

Key Concerns:

- **Time to Full Parity:** At the current pace, it will take 123 years to close the global gender gap, highlighting the need for accelerated efforts.
- **Economic Disparities:** Despite progress, women still earn significantly less than men, with wage gaps persisting across industries.
- **Regional Inequalities:** Certain regions, particularly South Asia and the Middle East, continue to lag behind in gender parity, facing structural and cultural barriers.

Interpol's Silver Notice

- **Context:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has got India's first 'silver notice' issued by Interpol, which will enable the probe agency to trace proceeds of crime related to the French embassy visa 'fraud' case, allegedly parked in different countries.

About Interpol

- **Origin:** Formed as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) at the 2nd International Police Congress, Vienna, 1923.
- It was renamed as INTERPOL after the adoption of its Constitution in 1956 during its 25th General Assembly.
- **Membership:** 196 countries, India is a founding member.
- **Headquarters:** Lyon, France.
- **National Central Bureau (NCB):** Every member state has one and India's NCB is the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- **Organizational Structure:** General Assembly (Supreme governing body; meets annually), Executive Committee (supervises execution of General Assembly decisions) & General Secretariat (Permanent staff handling day-to-day operations).

About Bharatpol Portal

- Bharatpol is a dedicated online portal developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- It facilitates international police cooperation between Indian law enforcement agencies and Interpol.

14th JUNE 2025

Israel-Iran Conflict

- **Context:** After the IAEA resolution accused Iran of nuclear non-compliance (first such resolution in two decades), Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, a coordinated military strike targeting Iran's nuclear and missile infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- Israeli officials have described this operation as an "existential battle" to eliminate Iran's ability to pose a long-term threat to Israel.

- The two states have been at conflict since the founding of the Islamic Republic in 1979, but Israel's attacks are a definite major escalation of the conflict.
- Over the years, Iran has developed a network of armed non-state groups across the region to exert influence and challenge Israel without engaging directly.
- These include: Hamas in Palestine, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) in Iraq.



Implications of the Iran-Israel Conflict

- **Escalation of Proxy Conflicts:** Iran's regional proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, and PMF — may retaliate, opening multiple fronts and turning the war into a wider Middle Eastern conflict.
- **Destabilization of Fragile States:** Countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen could witness a surge in violence, leading to internal political chaos and humanitarian crises.
- **Maritime Insecurity:** Key shipping routes like the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and Eastern Mediterranean may face threats, disrupting global trade and energy supply.
- **Oil Price Surge:** A direct war involving Iran — a major oil producer — risks disrupting global oil exports, potentially triggering a spike in oil prices and inflation worldwide.
- **Derailment of Iran Nuclear Deal Talks:** Ongoing efforts to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) are likely to collapse, ending hopes for a peaceful nuclear settlement.
- **Strengthening Iran's Resolve:** Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities may encourage Iran to accelerate its nuclear weapons program under the pretext of national defense.
- **Arms Race in the Region:** Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia may push for nuclear capabilities, intensifying the regional arms race.
- **Reconfiguration of Regional Alliances:** Arab states fearful of Iranian aggression may deepen cooperation with Israel. Regional powers like Turkey may recalibrate their roles to balance influence, while Russia may attempt to exploit the crisis for strategic gains.
- **India's Strategic and Economic Concerns:** Over 60% of India's crude oil comes from the Middle East; instability can disrupt supplies and widen the current account deficit.

Rudrastra

- **Context:** Rudrastra is India's new indigenous vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) drone, successfully tested by the Indian Army.

About Rudrastra

- It is a hybrid vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) drone developed by Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited (SDAL).
- It is capable of vertical takeoff like a helicopter and long-range flight like an aircraft.
- It is Designed for precision anti-personnel strikes; it can hit targets over 50 km away and has a full range of 170 km.
- It is Ideal for deep strikes on enemy camps or artillery and offers the Army a powerful stand-off weapon with no risk to soldiers.

- It can take off vertically, fly long distances, carry out precision strikes deep across borders, and return autonomously — offering a smart, risk-free way to engage enemies without deploying soldiers on the ground.

AviList

- **Context:** The launch of AviList, the world's first unified global checklist of bird species, is a major step towards standardizing bird taxonomy.

About AviList

- It is the first-ever unified global checklist of bird species, launched after four years of intense collaboration by the Working Group on Avian Checklists, under the International Ornithologists' Union.
- It replaces all major existing lists (like the IOC and Clements) to bring consistency and clarity to avian taxonomy.
- It uses a combination of morphological traits, genetic data, vocalization patterns, ecology, reproductive isolation, and biogeography.
- It is downloadable in .csv and .xlsx formats — open to scientists, students, and citizens.

15th JUNE 2025

PM Visit to Cyprus

- **Context:** Recently, the Prime Minister of India visited Cyprus, marking the first visit by an Indian PM to the country in over 20 years.

Key Highlights of the Visit

- **Strategic Roadmap:** A five-year strategic roadmap will be developed to steer bilateral cooperation. Alignment between Cyprus Vision 2035 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 — both aiming for inclusive, tech-driven, sustainable development.

- **Economic & Trade Relations:** India-Cyprus-Greece Business & Investment Council launched earlier in 2025. PM Modi emphasized India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) — target: by end of 2025.
- **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III:** PM Modi was awarded Cyprus' highest civilian honour. Named after Cyprus' first President, it is awarded to heads of state and leaders of merit.

Strategic Importance of the Visit

- Cyprus is considered a strong and dependable ally of India, supporting its bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and backing the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.
- Strategically, Cyprus is vital to India as part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and will hold the EU Council Presidency in 2026, enhancing its importance in India's efforts to strengthen trade and security ties with Europe.
- Cyprus has long-standing tensions with Turkey (a vocal ally of Pakistan). India's deepening Cyprus ties subtly counterbalance Turkish lobbying against India at the OIC and UN.

About Cyprus

- It is an island in the eastern Mediterranean near Turkey and Syria, is a European Union member despite being geographically in Asia.
- It gained independence from Britain in 1960, but tensions between its Greek and Turkish communities led to violence and the deployment of UN peacekeepers.
- In 1974, a coup by Greek Cypriots to unite with Greece prompted a Turkish invasion.
- Although the government in Nicosia was restored, Turkish forces remained, and the island's northeast declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey.

Vietnam: BRICS's latest Partner Country

- **Context:** Vietnam has officially joined BRICS as a partner country.

Key Facts

- Vietnam has now become the 10th BRICS partner.
- The partner country category was created at the 2024 BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia.
- The current list of partners includes Vietnam, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

About BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym that refers to a group of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members.
- The term 'BRIC' was originally coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.
- As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006.
- Initially, the grouping was termed BRIC as South Africa was inducted in 2010 and from there on it has been referred to as BRICS.
- The governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits since 2009.

16th JUNE 2025

SIPRI Annual Report 2025

- **Context:** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) launched its annual assessment of the state of armaments, disarmament and international security for 2025.

Major Findings

- **Global Nuclear Trends (2025):** Total nuclear warheads: 12,241.
 - **Military stockpiles (operational/potential):** 9,614.
 - **Deployed:** 3,912.
 - **High alert (ballistic missiles):** ~2,100, mostly U.S. and Russia.
 - India has 180 nuclear stored warheads as of January 2025, while Pakistan has an estimated 170.
 - China has 600 nuclear warheads as of January 2025, of which 24 are deployed warheads or those placed on missiles or located on bases with operational forces.
- Nearly all of the nine nuclear-armed states — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — continued intensive nuclear modernization programmes in 2024.
- India slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2024 and continued development of new nuclear delivery systems with enhanced capabilities.
- Pakistan continued development of new delivery systems, accumulated more fissile material, indicating intent to expand its arsenal.
- China accelerated expansion of its nuclear arsenal, It added ~100 warheads annually since 2023.
- **Military Expenditure:** Global spending reached \$ 2.7 trillion in 2024, a 9.4% increase.
 - **Top spenders:** USA (\$997 billion), China (\$314 billion).
 - **Top importers:** Ukraine, India, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan.
 - **Top exporters:** USA (43%), France (9.6%), Russia (7.8%).

About SIPRI

- SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. It is based in Stockholm.

- It was established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.
- It was established on the basis of a decision by the Swedish Parliament and receives a substantial part of its funding in the form of an annual grant from the Swedish Government.
- The Institute also seeks financial support from other organizations in order to carry out its research.

Rinderpest Virus 'Cattle Plague' Containment

- **Context:** India has joined the elite global group for Rinderpest Virus 'Cattle Plague' Containment, as ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal has been designated as Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility.

Key Facts

- It has been recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health – WOA and the Food and Agriculture Organization — FAO of the United Nations.
- India formally submitted its application for Rinderpest Holding Facility status in 2019.
- A joint inspection of ICAR-NIHSAD was conducted in 2025 by international experts appointed by FAO and WOA.
- Following a comprehensive evaluation, the institute has now been officially approved as a Category A RHF for a one-year term.
- This recognition places India among a distinguished group of only six facilities worldwide entrusted with the critical responsibility of securely holding rinderpest virus material.
- The other five facilities are located in the UK, USA, France, Japan, and Ethiopia.

About Rinderpest

- Rinderpest, once known as cattle plague, was one of the most destructive livestock diseases in history before its global eradication in 2011.
- However, Rinderpest Virus-Containing Material (RVCM) still remains in a few laboratories, posing potential risks if released.
- To preserve global freedom from the disease, FAO and WOA have implemented strict measures to limit the storage of RVCM to a small number of high-security laboratories worldwide.

17th JUNE 2025

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- **Context:** At its first assembly, the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) endorsed Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav as President of the coalition.

Key Facts

- The Assembly, which is apex body of the IBCA, was attended by Ministerial delegation from 9 countries, viz., Bhutan, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Suriname, Somalia, Republic of Guinea, Eswatini and India ratifying decisions taken by the IBCA.
- The ratification of the headquarter agreement signed by IBCA with India enabled the body to establish its headquarters and other offices in the host country.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The IBCA was established through the nodal organisation viz. National Tiger Conservation Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 2024.
- The IBCA became a legal entity after five countries — Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia — had signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.

- It is a coalition of 95 range countries.
- The IBCA primarily aims for conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.
- **Objectives:**
 - Facilitation of collaboration and synergy amongst the concerned stakeholders,
 - consolidation of successful conservation practices;
 - and expertise to achieve conservation of big cats around the globe.
- The initiative seeks to foster international collaboration for the sustainable future of big cats, as well as underscores India's leadership and commitment to global wildlife conservation.

Bonn Climate Change Conference

- **Context:** The annual Bonn Climate Change Conference began in Germany, with over 5,000 government delegates and stakeholders in attendance.

About Bonn Climate Change Conference

- It is a key annual mid-year meeting under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), known as the Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs).
- Alongside the COP, it is one of the main UNFCCC climate summits.
- It brings together members of the Subsidiary Bodies, Indigenous representatives, international organisations, scientists, and civil society to support the implementation and review of climate agreements.
- **Objectives**
 - It focuses on the technical and scientific aspects of climate negotiations and helps set the agenda for the COP held later in the year.
 - Outcomes from Bonn significantly influence COP decisions, as recommendations from the Subsidiary Bodies often shape final actions.
 - It also reviews the implementation of agreements made at the previous COP.

