



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**18<sup>th</sup> June - 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2025**

★★ Useful for ★★

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

**International Yoga Day 2025**

**PM Modi** attended the event  
in Visakhapatnam



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18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## 51<sup>st</sup> Group of Seven (G7) Summit

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi held productive exchanges with G7 leaders on key global challenges during the G-7 Outreach Summit at Kananaskis in Canada.

### Key Highlights

- This year's G-7 Outreach Summit, being hosted by Canada, is themed around three core pillars of "protecting our communities around the world", "building energy security and accelerating the digital transition" and "securing the partnerships of the future".
- In 2025, G7 partners are marking 50 years of partnership and cooperation.
- This was the Prime Minister's sixth consecutive participation in the G-7 Summit.
- He addressed a Session on 'Energy Security: diversification, technology and infrastructure to ensure access and affordability in a changing world'
  - Ensuring affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is India's priority.
- India highlighted the priorities of the Global South.
- Besides the summit, PM Modi is expected to participate in four bilateral meetings with the leaders of Germany, Canada, Ukraine and Italy.

### About G7

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of 7 of the world's advanced economies and the European Union.
- Its members meet annually at the G7 Summit to discuss global economic and geopolitical issues.
- The G7 was founded in 1975 in response to the oil crisis, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States formed the Group of Six.

### NOTE:

- Canada joined in 1976, forming the G7.
  - These countries represent about 10% of the world's population and nearly 30% of the global economy by GDP.
  - The European Union has observer status, and is excluded from the rotating chairmanship.
  - With the inclusion of Russia in 1998, the group temporarily became the G8.
  - In 2014, the group returned to the G7 format.
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- **Mandate:** The topics at the G7 Summit change every year, depending on what's happening in the world. Some common areas include:
    - International peace and security;
    - Economic growth and inflation;
    - Climate change and energy use;
    - Artificial Intelligence and technology;
    - Health and future pandemic response;
    - Trade policies and supply chains;
    - The goal is to find solutions that benefit not just G7 countries, but the entire world.

## Strait of Hormuz

- **Context:** Iran has reportedly threatened that it could consider closing the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing conflict, raising eyebrows globally.



## Key Facts

- Strait of Hormuz is a critical narrow waterway between Iran and Oman, and connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- A strait is a narrow passage of water that connects two larger bodies of water.
- Key ports located near the strait include:
  - Iran's Bandar Abbas – a major naval and commercial port.
  - UAE's Fujairah Port – an important oil storage and shipping point.
  - Oman's Sohar Port – used for trade and shipping reroutes.
  - Qatar's Ras Laffan – a key port for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.
- Approximately 20% of the world's oil supply passes through it with nearly 83% of it destined for Asian markets.
- It is the main shipping route for energy exports from major producers like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE.
- Much of India's oil from key West Asian suppliers like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE reaches Indian ports via the Strait of Hormuz.
- A bulk of India's LNG imports, which come predominantly from Qatar, also come through this vital choke point.
- The importance of the chokepoint for India's energy supply and security cannot be understated.

## INS Arnala

- **Context:** The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Arnala, the country's first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

### About INS Arnala

- INS Arnala is the first of 16 ASW-SWC vessels being inducted into the Indian Navy.
- It is named after the historic Arnala Fort off the coast of Maharashtra, which was strategically important during the Maratha and Portuguese eras.

- Designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, in collaboration with L&T Shipbuilders.
- Over 80% indigenous content, aligning with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- The ship measures 77.6 meters in length, displaces over 1,490 tonnes, and is the largest Indian naval vessel powered by a diesel engine-waterjet propulsion system.
- It is designed for subsurface surveillance, search and rescue operations and low intensity maritime operations (LIMO); alongside its primary role in anti-submarine warfare. It is further equipped with mine-laying capabilities.

19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## Third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) - 2025

- **Context:** Recently, the third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC), held in Nice, France, concluded with commitments aimed at safeguarding the planet's marine ecosystems.

### Key Highlights

- **High Seas Treaty Nears Enforcement:** Fifty-six of the required sixty countries have ratified the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement (aka High Seas Treaty).
- It enables the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in international waters, regulate marine genetic resources, and mandate environmental impact assessments.
- The European Commission pledged 1 Billion Euro to support ocean conservation and sustainable fishing.
- French Polynesia announced plans to establish the world's largest marine protected area, covering its entire exclusive economic zone—about five million square kilometers.

- Over 170 countries adopted the Nice Ocean Action Plan, a political declaration paired with more than 800 voluntary commitments. These range from youth advocacy to deep-sea ecosystem literacy and capacity-building in marine science.
- A growing coalition of nations called for a precautionary pause on deep-sea mining, citing its potential to irreversibly damage fragile marine ecosystems.
- India pledged to ratify the High Seas Treaty and proposed a 10-point roadmap for sustainable ocean governance. It includes:
  - Expand Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  - Scale Up the Blue Economy
  - Reduce Marine Pollution
  - Promote Offshore Renewable Energy
  - Support the Global Plastics Treaty
  - Invest in Ocean Science and Technology
  - Strengthen Coastal Resilience
  - Ensure Equitable Access to Marine Resources
  - Pause Deep-Sea Mining
  - Foster Global Partnerships

### About High Seas

- The high seas refer to areas of the ocean that lie beyond the jurisdiction of any single country — specifically, beyond 200 nautical miles (about 370 kilometers) from a nation's coastline (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea-UNCLOS).
  - These waters are considered part of the global commons.
- The high seas make up nearly two-thirds of the ocean's surface and are vital for regulating Earth's climate, supporting marine biodiversity, and sustaining global fisheries.

### FASTag

- **Context:** The Minister of Road Transport and Highways announced a FASTag-based annual pass priced at Rs 3,000 for "hassle-free-highway travel".

### Key Facts

- The FASTag-based passes will be effective from August 15 and valid for one year or 200 trips, whichever comes earlier.
  - Passing through one toll plaza will be counted as one Trip.
- By reducing wait times, easing congestion, and minimizing disputes at toll plazas, the Annual Pass aims to deliver a faster and smoother travel experience for private vehicle owners.

### About FASTag

- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- A FASTag sticker is usually pasted on the windscreen of a car.
- It uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to communicate with scanners installed at toll plazas.
- Once the car crosses a toll plaza, the requisite toll amount is automatically deducted from a bank account or a prepaid wallet linked to the FASTag.

20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

### Energy Transition Index (ETI)

- **Context:** India ranked 71 on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025, dropped from rank 63 in 2024.

### Key Findings

- Sweden, ranked first in the Index followed by Finland, Denmark and Norway.
- China topped the "Emerging Asia" category.

### About ETI

- The ETI is a tool developed by the WEF, an international non-profit for public-private cooperation set up in 1971 to quantify the yearly progress of nations in energy transition.



- The energy transition means moving from high carbon-emitting fuels such as coal to what are generally considered cleaner and renewable fuels such as solar power.
- It is based on 43 indicators from various global data sources.

## Operation Sindhu

- **Context:** India has launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate its nationals from both Iran and Israel, amid the escalating conflict between the two countries.

### Key Facts

- It is launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India.
- They were evacuated from northern Iran to Armenia, and flown from Yerevan (Armenian capital) to New Delhi on a special flight.
- India is utilising safe and open airspace corridors for evacuation flights, with logistical coordination through diplomatic channels in the region.
- In a planned expansion of the operation, Indians in Israel will be evacuated via land borders, followed by onward air travel from neighbouring countries, given the suspension of flight operations at Israeli airports.

21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2025

## International Day of Yoga

- **Context:** On the occasion of International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2025, the Archaeological Survey of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush, is set to host Yoga Sessions across 81 centrally protected monuments.

### Major Highlights

- This year marks the 11th International Day of Yoga.
- Theme 2025: “Yoga for One Earth, One Health”, aligning yoga with sustainability and global well-being.

- The word “Yoga” is derived from the Sanskrit word ‘yuj’ meaning “to join” or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
  - It is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India.
- PM Yoga Awards 2025: The PM Yoga Awards recognise excellence in promoting and practicing Yoga.
  - 4 Awards: 2 National and 2 International.
  - Each winning individual and organisation receive ₹ 25 lakh, a trophy, and a certificate.

### Background:

- On December 11, 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.
- The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and was endorsed by a record 175 member states.
- The date of June 21 was chosen as it is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
  - This day represents a symbolic harmony between nature and human wellness and is important in many cultures.

## Digital Payments Awards

- **Context:** India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) received the Digital Payments Award 2024–25 from the Ministry of Finance for its significant role in promoting digital payments and financial inclusion nationwide.

### About India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- It is a 100% Government of India-owned entity under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.
- It was launched in 2018, to provide accessible, affordable, and trusted banking for all.
- It aimed at reaching the unbanked and underbanked and it leverages India’s vast postal network of 1.65 lakh post offices and 3 lakh postal employees, primarily in rural areas.

- It is built on India Stack and it offers paperless, cashless, and presence-less banking at customers' doorsteps through biometric-enabled smartphones.
- It supports Digital India by promoting financial inclusion and a less-cash economy.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is leveraging the vast network of India Post and a tech-driven doorstep banking model.
- It has become a major force in digital banking and financial inclusion.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) achieved 1st Position among Payments Banks in India in the Performance Index for Financial Year 2024-25 & received 'Special Mention' award for the Financial Year 2023-24.

22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2025

## Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

- **Context:** Recently, Iran's Foreign Ministry has confirmed that its Parliament is drafting legislation to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT).
  - It comes amid escalating tensions with Israel and renewed scrutiny from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

## Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): Background

- It is one of the most widely adhered-to arms control agreements signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
  - It was extended indefinitely in 1995.
- Membership Provisions (Two Categories):
  - **Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS):** These are the five countries that had tested nuclear weapons before January 1, 1967 — United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom.
  - **Non-Nuclear-Weapon States (NNWS):** All other signatories agree not to pursue nuclear weapons and to accept IAEA safeguards on their nuclear activities.

- NPT established a three-pillar framework:
  - **Non-Proliferation:** NWS agreed not to transfer nuclear weapons or assist NNWS in acquiring them.
  - **Disarmament:** All parties committed to pursuing negotiations toward nuclear disarmament.
  - **Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy:** To access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards.
- **Withdrawal Clause (Article X of NPT):** It allows any state to exit if it determines that 'extraordinary events' have jeopardized its supreme national interests, provided it gives three months' notice to other signatories and the UN Security Council (UNSC).

## Present Status

- A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States.
- India, Pakistan, South Sudan and Israel never joined the treaty, however they are known or believed to possess nuclear weapons.
- North Korea joined the NPT in 1985 but withdrew in 2003.

## Gharial Species Conservation Programme

- **Context:** Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, launched the Gharial Species Conservation Programme by releasing Gharial hatchlings into the Gerua River at Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

## About Gharials (Gavialis Gangeticus)

- **Characteristics:**
  - The name "Gharial" originates from the Hindi word ghara (pot), referring to the bulbous knob (narial excrescence) present at the tip of a mature male's snout. Though, this feature is absent in females.
  - They show Sexual Dimorphism means males and females differ significantly in size and appearance.
  - Unlike other crocodiles, gharials feed exclusively on warm-blooded species and are not man-eaters.

**Habitat Distribution:**

- Gharials are strictly riverine species, requiring deep, clear, fast-flowing waters with steep, sandy riverbanks.
- Mainly found in Chambal River, Gerua River, Ken River, Yamuna River, Brahmaputra River, Ghaghara River, Bhagirathi-Hoogly River.

**Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
- It is listed under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Protected Areas for Gharials**

- **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary:** Gerua River (Uttar Pradesh)
- National Chambal Sanctuary spread across MP, UP, and Rajasthan; a key breeding site.
- **Son Gharial Sanctuary:** Madhya Pradesh
- **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary:** Odisha

**Conservation Status**

- **Project Crocodile (1975):** Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and focused on captive breeding.
- **Gharial Reserves in India:** In Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan. Notable protected areas are Chambal Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.

**23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2025****Operation Midnight Hammer**

- **Context:** The United States attacked three key nuclear installations in Iran — Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

**Key Highlights**

- The strikes, known as Operation Midnight Hammer, mark the first direct U.S. military intervention targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure amid its war with Israel.

- The operation was coordinated with Israeli forces.
- The American military has completed airstrikes on three sites in Iran, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict with Israel.
- Located 300 feet beneath a mountain, Fordow is where Iran has allegedly tried to enrich uranium for weapons purposes and stockpile the enriched uranium.

**About GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator**

- The GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator is the largest non-nuclear bomb in the US inventory.
- Built by Boeing and guided by GPS, it is engineered specifically to target deeply buried and hardened bunkers.
- MOP measures 20.5 feet in length and 31.5 inches in diameter, and weighs just under 30,000 pounds — including 5,300 pounds of high-explosive material.
- The bomb can burrow more than 200 feet through reinforced concrete before detonating. Its casing, made from high-performance steel alloy, helps it withstand the immense impact forces upon penetration.
- Any country other than the US, does not have any non-nuclear weapon systems that can penetrate a site as deep as Fordo.

**About Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**

- JCPOA, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, is a landmark diplomatic agreement reached in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 countries — United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany, along with the European Union.
- To ensure that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, in exchange for lifting economic sanctions. However, in 2018, the U.S. under President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA.

## INS Nilgiri

- **Context:** INS Nilgiri arrived at Visakhapatnam port to join the Eastern Naval Command's Sunrise Fleet.

### About INS Nilgiri

- It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata as a follow-on to the Shivalik class.
- It is the first indigenously built Project 17A stealth frigate.
- Project 17A Frigates are the follow-on class of Project 17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates, with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- It is designed for blue-water operations and is equipped for anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.
- It is multi-mission ships which operate in deep seas and handle conventional and unconventional threats.

### ■ DO YOU KNOW:

The other six ships of this class — Himgiri, Taragiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, and Vindhyaagiri — are at various stages of construction at MDL, Mumbai, and GRSE, Kolkata.

## INS Tamal

- **Context:** The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate INS Tamal at Kaliningrad in Russia.

### Key Highlights

- This will be the last warship of the Indian Navy to have been built outside India and the eighth in the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades.
  - INS Tamal is the second ship of the Tushil Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes.

- By the conclusion of this series of ships, the Indian Navy will be operating 10 ships with similar capabilities over four different classes.

### About INS Tamal

- The ship has 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos long range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land.
- The vessel has significant upgrades in its arsenal in comparison to its predecessors.
- The ship's new design provides it with enhanced stealth features and greater stability characteristics.

24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

## al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar

- **Context:** Iran launched missile attacks on the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar and the Ain al-Assad base in Iraq in retaliation for U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. Qatar condemned Iran's attack as a violation of its sovereignty and warned it may respond.



### About Qatar

- It is an independent emirate on the west coast of the Persian Gulf.
- It shares a border with eastern Saudi Arabia where the peninsula connects to the mainland and is north and west of the United Arab Emirates.



- The island country of Bahrain lies some 25 miles (40 km) northwest of Qatar.
- The economy of Qatar is based largely on the production and export of petroleum and natural gas.
- Qatar's official religion is Islam and Sharia forms the foundation of all State legislation. However, Qatar is home to a diverse population practicing various faiths.
- Arabic is the official language but English is widely used as a second language across the country.

## NAVYA Initiative

- **Context:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched the NAVYA initiative.
- ### About NAVYA
- NAVYA, an acronym for Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls, is a pilot initiative aimed at skilling girls aged 16–18 years (with at least a Class 10 education) in non-traditional job roles.
  - It aims to empower adolescent girls with skills, confidence, and opportunities, contributing to India's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 and a self-reliant, inclusive future.
  - It is being Implemented in 27 districts across 19 States, including Aspirational districts and North-Eastern States, reflecting an inclusive, targeted approach.
  - It will leverage existing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and PM Vishwakarma.
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