

Current Affairs Capsule (12/June/2026)

National News

Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra: India's First WhatsApp AI Advisory for Oilseed Cultivation

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has launched Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra, India's first nationwide WhatsApp-based AI advisory service for oilseed farmers. Developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research and launched during the National Oilseeds Conference, the platform provides free, multilingual, and research-based guidance to farmers. The initiative aims to improve oilseed productivity, strengthen digital agriculture, reduce dependence on edible oil imports, and deliver scientific knowledge directly to farmers. Using advanced AI and a knowledge base developed by multiple ICAR institutions, the chatbot offers 24x7 advisory services on variety selection, sowing practices, crop management, pest and disease control, irrigation, post-harvest management, and seed availability. Farmers can access the service simply through WhatsApp without installing additional applications. The platform covers major oilseed crops such as groundnut, soybean, mustard, sunflower, sesame, and niger. By bridging the gap between agricultural research and farmers, the initiative supports better decision-making, higher productivity, and India's Digital Agriculture Mission.

BIS Releases IS 20201:2026 Standard for Community Seed Banks in India

The Bureau of Indian Standards has released IS 20201:2026, India's first comprehensive standard for Community Seed Bank Management, providing a structured framework for establishing and operating community seed banks nationwide. Developed under the Biodiversity Sectional Committee, the standard aims to conserve indigenous crop varieties, strengthen food security, and enhance resilience to climate change. It covers key aspects of seed bank operations, including seed collection, processing, storage, viability testing, documentation, quality assurance, regeneration, and risk management. Community Seed Banks serve as decentralized repositories where farmers can preserve and exchange locally adapted seeds with traits such as drought tolerance, pest resistance, and superior nutrition. The initiative supports small and marginal farmers by reducing dependence on commercial seeds and safeguarding traditional agricultural knowledge. The standard complements government efforts such as the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission and is supported by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture.

PM Modi Chairs 11th NITI Aayog Meeting, Focuses on Viksit Bharat 2047

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on 11 June 2026 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. The meeting, themed "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047," brought together Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators from 28 States and 5 Union Territories, marking the first time all 28 State Chief Ministers participated. The Prime Minister emphasized cooperative federalism, inclusive growth, and transforming India's demographic dividend into a development dividend through quality education, skill development, and employment opportunities. He urged states to leverage Free Trade Agreements, attract investments, and promote export-oriented industries. Key focus areas included artificial intelligence, data centres, defence manufacturing, renewable energy, and digital governance. He also called for strengthening the

One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, increasing the number of Lakhpati Didis from 3 crore to 6 crore, and addressing challenges such as drug abuse, cyber fraud, and digital crimes through effective governance and awareness.

JNPA Emerges as India's Top Container Port in 2025, Ranks 22nd Globally

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has been ranked as India's best-performing container port in the 2025 Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), jointly published by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence. JNPA improved its global ranking to 22nd position, maintaining its leadership in container handling efficiency and operational performance. The port has been recognized among the world's most improved ports over the past six years, reflecting gains in vessel turnaround time, cargo handling speed, and logistics efficiency. Among Indian ports, Pipavav Port ranked 28th, overtaking Mundra Port, which slipped to 30th place, while Visakhapatnam Port fell to 104th rank. The CPPI assesses ports based on turnaround time, cargo movement, operational efficiency, and supply-chain effectiveness. Despite global challenges such as port congestion, logistics bottlenecks, and rising freight costs, JNPA's performance highlights India's growing competitiveness in global maritime trade and logistics infrastructure.

Supreme Court Fixes Rs 30,000 Monthly Value for Homemakers in Landmark Ruling

In a landmark 2026 judgment, the Supreme Court of India fixed a notional monthly income of ₹30,000 for homemakers while calculating compensation in motor accident cases, recognizing their significant economic and social contribution. The bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh held that homemakers should not be treated as non-earning individuals merely because they do not receive a formal salary. Describing homemakers as "nation builders," the Court emphasized their vital role in childcare, elderly care, household management, emotional support, and family welfare. A major feature of the ruling is the introduction of "loss of domestic care" as a separate head of damages, acknowledging the independent economic value of unpaid domestic work. The judgment builds on earlier decisions such as Arun Kumar Agrawal v. National Insurance Co. Ltd. and Kirti v. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., and is expected to ensure more uniform, fair, and higher compensation awards for families affected by motor accidents involving homemakers.

State News

Invest India and Invest UP Join Hands to Boost FDI in Uttar Pradesh

Invest India and Invest UP have entered into a strategic partnership to attract greater Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and accelerate industrial development in Uttar Pradesh. Formalized during a high-level meeting in Lucknow, the collaboration aims to transform investment commitments into operational projects, supporting Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy. The partnership will focus on promoting Uttar Pradesh to global investors, improving investor facilitation and aftercare services, resolving project bottlenecks, speeding up approvals and land acquisition processes, and encouraging investments in technology-driven and employment-intensive sectors. These measures are expected to strengthen investor confidence, improve ease of doing business, and generate jobs. Invest India, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, facilitates domestic and

foreign investments, while Invest UP provides single-window clearances through Nivesh Sarathi, project monitoring, grievance redressal, and coordination with state departments to ensure a seamless investment ecosystem.

Assam-Nagaland Sign MoU for Oil and Gas Exploration Along Border

Assam and Nagaland signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11 June 2026 to jointly explore and produce crude oil and natural gas along their shared border, marking a significant step toward cooperative resource development in the Northeast. The agreement, signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, covers six disputed hydrocarbon-rich fields and more than 1,000 square kilometres of border area. The MoU establishes a formal framework for coordinated exploration in regions where petroleum activities had remained limited since the mid-1990s due to boundary disputes. A key feature of the pact is a 50:50 revenue-sharing arrangement between Assam and Nagaland for earnings generated from oil and gas extraction. The agreement is expected to unlock substantial hydrocarbon reserves, boost domestic energy production, attract investment, generate employment, and strengthen economic development in the region. Nagaland has also expressed willingness to expand cooperation beyond the six identified fields, highlighting the potential for long-term collaboration and sustainable resource management.

International News

Who is Jay Clayton? Trump's Pick for Director of National Intelligence

On 11 June 2026, Donald Trump nominated Jay Clayton as the next Director of National Intelligence (DNI), one of the most important national security positions in the United States. Clayton currently serves as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and previously chaired the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 2017 to 2020. If confirmed by the United States Senate, he will lead the U.S. Intelligence Community, which comprises 18 intelligence agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. The DNI position was created under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 following the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission after the September 11 attacks. The Director of National Intelligence is responsible for coordinating intelligence operations, integrating information across agencies, advising the President on national security matters, and overseeing intelligence priorities and budgets.

France Names India a Top Strategic Priority Ahead of G7 Summit 2026

France has identified India as one of its top strategic priorities ahead of the 2026 G7 Summit, underscoring the growing depth of the India–France strategic partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit France from 13–14 June 2026 for bilateral talks with President Emmanuel Macron in Nice before attending the G7 Summit 2026. France, which holds the G7 Presidency in 2026, views India as a key partner in addressing global economic and geopolitical challenges, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Established in 1998, the India–France Strategic Partnership has expanded across defence, space, maritime security, counter-terrorism, innovation, climate action, and civil nuclear energy. Discussions during the visit are expected to focus on defence cooperation, including the Rafale programme, the launch of the Bharat Innovates platform under the India–France Year of

Innovation 2026, and enhanced civil nuclear collaboration. India's participation in all G7 outreach and partner tracks highlights its growing global influence and its role as a leading voice of the Global South.

World's Largest Whale Graveyard Discovered in Indian Ocean Abyss, Revealing 5-Million-Year History

Scientists have discovered what is being described as the world's largest whale graveyard in the deep southeastern Indian Ocean, located within the Diamantina Fracture Zone at depths exceeding 7,000 metres. The site was mapped during an international expedition led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences using the crewed submersible Fendouzhe. Researchers identified more than 485 fossil sites spread across a 1,200-kilometre underwater rift system formed around 50 million years ago after Australia separated from Antarctica. The area is considered a natural accumulation zone for whale remains due to its steep terrain, low oxygen levels, and slow sediment deposition, which helped preserve bones over millions of years. Fossil evidence from 33 samples suggests ages ranging from 120,000 years to about 5.3 million years, including remains of extinct species such as *Pterocetus diamantinae*. The site also reveals active "whale fall" ecosystems supporting deep-sea organisms like bone-eating worms and brittle stars. This discovery provides important insights into whale evolution, deep-ocean biodiversity, and long-term carbon storage, making it one of the most significant marine paleontological findings ever recorded.

Banking News

India and Nepal Launch UPI-NPI Cross-Border Remittance Service

India and Nepal have launched a cross-border peer-to-peer remittance mechanism by linking India's Unified Payments Interface with Nepal's National Payments Interface. Operational since 6 June 2026, the initiative enables instant, secure, and seamless money transfers between the two countries through mobile banking apps and digital wallets. The integration allows users to make real-time cross-border payments, reducing reliance on cash and traditional banking channels. It is expected to benefit travelers, migrant workers, families, businesses, and merchants by offering faster transactions, lower costs, and improved financial accessibility. The project strengthens financial connectivity and regional economic integration between India and Nepal, which share close cultural and economic ties. The technical implementation was carried out by NPCI International Payments Limited and Nepal Clearing House Limited. The initiative also highlights the expanding global reach of UPI, which is now accepted in countries including Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia.

Government Names DFS Secretary Sanjay Lohiya to RBI, SBI Boards

The Government of India has appointed Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, as a director on the central boards of both the Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India. A 1994-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, Lohiya assumed charge as DFS Secretary on 1 June 2026. He succeeds Nagaraju Maddirala on the RBI Central Board following the latter's retirement in May 2026. SBI has also confirmed his appointment to its Central Board with immediate effect. The move ensures continued representation of the Department of Financial Services in India's key financial

institutions. As DFS Secretary, Lohiya oversees policies related to public sector banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, financial inclusion initiatives, and banking reforms. The DFS, under the Ministry of Finance, serves as the nodal department for banking, insurance, pension reforms, financial inclusion programmes, and modernization of India's financial sector.

Economy News

World Bank Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 6.6%

The World Bank has revised India's GDP growth forecast upward to 6.6% for FY2026–27 and 7.2% for FY2027–28, reflecting confidence in the country's resilient economy despite global uncertainties. The improved outlook is driven by strong rural consumption, recovery in urban spending, robust domestic demand, a better business environment, expanding trade partnerships, and expected growth in foreign investment. The FY2026–27 projection aligns with the forecast of the Reserve Bank of India. The World Bank also expects trade agreements and ongoing negotiations with countries and regions such as Oman, the European Union, and New Zealand to boost exports, attract foreign direct investment, and improve market access for Indian products. However, rising energy prices due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia remain a key risk, potentially increasing inflation, import bills, and subsidy burdens. The report notes that prudent fiscal management, controlled expenditure, and consolidation measures will be important for sustaining growth and maintaining fiscal stability.

Appointments News

India Appoints Rudra Gaurav Shresth as New Ambassador to Türkiye

On 11 June 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs appointed Rudra Gaurav Shresth as the next Ambassador of India to the Türkiye. A 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Shresth was previously serving as India's Ambassador to Iran and brings significant diplomatic experience in West Asia. As Ambassador, he will head the Indian mission in Ankara and work to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, culture, connectivity, and strategic engagement. Türkiye holds considerable geopolitical importance due to its location across both Europe and Asia, making it a key player in regional security, international trade routes, and Eurasian affairs. The appointment reflects India's ongoing efforts to maintain strong diplomatic engagement with important global partners and ensure continuity in its foreign policy objectives. With his experience in handling complex regional issues, Rudra Gaurav Shresth is expected to contribute to enhancing India–Türkiye relations and advancing India's interests in the strategically significant region.

Ranks & Reports News

Top 10 Safest Countries in the World in 2026: Global Peace Index Rankings

The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026, published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), ranks 163 countries based on safety, conflict, and militarisation using 23 indicators across societal security, ongoing conflict, and military capability. The 2026 report—its 20th edition—shows that global peacefulness has declined for the 12th consecutive year, with 99 countries becoming less peaceful and

61 active state-based conflicts recorded worldwide, the highest since World War II. Despite this deterioration, Iceland retained its position as the world's safest country for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, Ireland, Austria, Portugal, Singapore, Finland, and Japan, reflecting strong governance, low crime, and political stability. The index highlights rising global tensions, with Russia ranked the least peaceful country. India ranked 127th out of 163 countries with a score of 2.409, declining slightly due to internal security challenges, regional tensions, and unrest in certain areas. In South Asia, Bhutan emerged as the most peaceful nation, ranking 16th globally, underscoring the region's mixed performance in overall stability and security.

Science & Technology News

SOLAR-1 Satellite Activated: US Launches Advanced Space Weather Monitoring System

The United States has operationalized SOLAR-1 (Space Weather Observations at L1 to Advance Readiness-1), its first satellite dedicated exclusively to operational space weather monitoring. Operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the satellite was launched on 24 September 2025 aboard a Falcon 9 and positioned at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), about 1.6 million kilometres from Earth toward the Sun. Formerly known as SWFO-L1, it was renamed SOLAR-1 after launch. The mission provides continuous real-time monitoring of solar activity, including solar flares, solar wind, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), enabling faster warnings of space weather events that can disrupt GPS navigation, satellite operations, aviation, communication networks, power grids, and astronaut safety. Equipped with a compact coronagraph and advanced sensors, SOLAR-1 can transmit CME imagery to forecasting centres within about 30 minutes, significantly improving response times. By offering early detection and accurate forecasting of solar disturbances, the satellite strengthens the protection of critical infrastructure and marks a major advancement in global space weather preparedness.

IIT Bhubaneswar Develops ArsenSafe Device for Rapid Water Testing

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar have developed ArsenSafe, a portable device that can detect arsenic contamination in drinking water without requiring laboratory facilities. Developed by the institute's Sensors and Spectroscopy Research Group in collaboration with incubated startup Nano Semic Pvt Ltd, the device offers a rapid, affordable, and highly sensitive solution for water quality monitoring, especially in rural and resource-constrained areas. Arsenic is a toxic, odorless, and tasteless contaminant that can cause arsenicosis, skin disorders, cardiovascular diseases, neurological problems, and cancer after prolonged exposure. ArsenSafe uses an advanced reduced graphene oxide field-effect transistor (rGO-FET) sensor combined with nanotechnology and machine learning to detect even very low arsenic concentrations. The device is portable, cost-effective, easy to operate, and delivers results quickly, with a response time of 17.4 seconds and recovery time of 11.76 seconds. The research was published in Environmental Science: Nano and recognized for its scientific significance.

Japan Successfully Launches H3 Rocket with Debut of Low-Cost Variant

Japan's space programme has achieved a major milestone with the successful launch of the low-cost H3-30 variant rocket, developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency in collaboration with

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center and successfully deployed its payload into orbit, marking a key step in Japan's effort to strengthen its position in the global commercial launch market. The H3-30 is designed as a cost-efficient successor to the H-IIA rocket and features a simplified configuration without solid rocket boosters, relying instead on three liquid-fuel LE-9 engines using an advanced expander bleed cycle. This design reduces complexity, cost, and preparation time while improving reliability. The launch vehicle also incorporates modern manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and commercially sourced components to further cut costs. Targeting nearly 50% lower launch expenses, the H3 programme aims to offer competitive commercial services for small and medium satellite missions. This successful debut strengthens Japan's ambitions to compete with global launch providers while improving launch frequency and affordability in the rapidly growing space industry.

Important Days News

World Day Against Child Labour 2026: Theme, History, Global Data and India's Efforts

The World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually on 12 June to raise awareness about child exploitation and promote efforts to eliminate child labour worldwide. The 2026 theme, "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults," uses the symbolism of a red card in sports to call for an end to child labour and greater access to education and decent employment. Launched in 2002 by the International Labour Organization, the observance comes after the Sixth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Marrakech. Despite progress, around 138 million children remain engaged in child labour globally, including 54 million in hazardous work. Over 70% work in agriculture, with Africa and Asia-Pacific most affected. India has reduced child labour from 12.6 million (2001) to 10.1 million (2011 Census) children aged 5-14. The 2026 campaign emphasizes education, social protection, labour law enforcement, poverty reduction, and implementation of the Marrakech Global Framework for Action Against Child Labour.

Obituaries News

Shooting Legend Jaspal Rana Passes Away at 49, Indian Sports Mourns

Jaspal Rana, one of India's greatest pistol shooters and most respected coaches, passed away on 11 June 2026 at the age of 49 following health complications after returning from the ISSF World Cup in Munich. Born on 28 June 1976, Rana rose to prominence in the 1990s and became one of India's most decorated shooters, winning multiple medals at the Asian Games, Asian Championships, and national competitions. His achievements helped establish India's presence in international shooting. After retiring from competitive shooting, he made a significant impact as a coach, serving as a Junior National Team and High-Performance Coach. He played a crucial role in mentoring top shooters, including Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary, Anish Bhanwala, and Chinki Yadav. His guidance contributed significantly to Manu Bhaker's success at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Rana was honored with the Arjuna Award (1994), Padma Shri (1997), and Dronacharya Award (2020) for his outstanding contributions to Indian sports.

