

## Current Affairs Capsule (17/June/2026)

### National News

#### Ministry of Ayush Launches Yoga Park Portal to Promote Preventive Healthcare Across India

The Ministry of Ayush has launched the Yoga Park Portal, a nationwide digital platform aimed at transforming existing public parks into community wellness hubs focused on yoga, meditation, and preventive healthcare. Launched during the International Day of Yoga 2026 countdown event in Khajuraho by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav, the initiative also complements the revamped Yoga Sangam Portal. The portal enables local bodies, NGOs, RWAs, and corporate entities to convert parks into wellness spaces by providing guidelines, implementation resources, and registration support. Yoga Parks are designed to include dedicated yoga platforms, meditation zones, green landscapes, and open-air activity areas to encourage daily practice of healthy lifestyles across all age groups. The model promotes collaboration between urban local bodies, Panchayati Raj institutions, and CSR-funded corporate participation to ensure long-term sustainability. Overall, the initiative aims to integrate yoga into everyday life and strengthen preventive healthcare through accessible public infrastructure across India.

#### Doctor's Prescription Now Mandatory for Cough Syrups in India

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has made a doctor's prescription mandatory for the purchase of syrup-based medicines, including cough syrups, across India through the Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026, effective from 16 June 2026. Under the amendment, popular cough syrups such as Benadryl, Glycodin, Zedex, Tusq DX, Grilinctus, Cofsils Syrup, Himalaya Koflet Syrup, and Dabur Honitus can now be sold only against a valid prescription from a registered medical practitioner. The change was introduced by removing "syrups" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945, which previously allowed many syrup formulations to be sold without a prescription. While syrup-based medicines now fall under stricter regulation, cough-relief products in the form of lozenges, tablets, and pills remain available over the counter. The measure aims to strengthen drug safety, curb misuse, improve monitoring of liquid medicines, and ensure proper medical supervision, particularly in light of concerns over contamination-related incidents and public health risks associated with syrup formulations.

#### Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project Explained: Key Details

A major breakthrough has been achieved in the long-pending Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project, as six states—Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan—agreed to move forward with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) after a high-level meeting chaired by Amit Shah in New Delhi. The project aims to improve water availability and ecological health in the Yamuna River basin through regulated river flow, drinking water supply enhancement, and hydropower generation. Under the agreed funding model, the Central Government will provide 90% financial assistance for the water component, while the remaining 10% will be shared by the participating states. The project also includes a structured arrangement for equitable water distribution, with allocations supporting downstream states during dry seasons. Once signed, the MoU will be placed before the Union Cabinet for final approval. The initiative is expected to strengthen inter-state cooperation, improve water security for northern India, and support long-term river rejuvenation efforts, though its environmental impact will require careful implementation to maintain ecological balance.

### State News

#### Assam Secures GI Tags for Four Traditional Products, Strengthening Cultural Heritage and Rural Economy

Assam has strengthened its cultural and artisanal heritage with the grant of Geographical Indication (GI) tags to four traditional products—Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products. These additions raise the number of NABARD-supported GI-certified products in Assam to 12.

Karbi Anglong Handloom Products are known for their vibrant indigenous designs, while the Bihu Pepa, made from buffalo horn, is an iconic instrument associated with Assam's Bihu festival. Assam Bamboo Crafts highlight sustainable craftsmanship using locally available bamboo, and Deuri Handloom Products preserve the traditional weaving techniques and motifs of the Deuri community. A GI tag, granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, protects products whose qualities and reputation are linked to a specific region. Supported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, these recognitions help preserve traditional knowledge, enhance market access, and strengthen rural livelihoods while promoting Assam's rich cultural identity.

### **Maharashtra Approves ₹300 Crore Cyclotron Project in Nagpur to Strengthen Cancer Care**

The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project (HEMCP) in Nagpur with an estimated investment of ₹300 crore to strengthen cancer diagnosis and treatment infrastructure in Central India. The project will establish a Radiopharmaceutical Innovation Hub for the local production of radioisotopes used in PET-CT scans, nuclear medicine, and cancer therapies, reducing dependence on supplies from major centers such as Mumbai and Hyderabad. Located on a 30-hectare site in Hingna Taluka, the facility will serve patients across Maharashtra and neighboring states within a 500-km radius. Implemented through Mahacare via a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Companies Act, 2013, the project will boost radiopharmaceutical research and healthcare capabilities. The Cabinet also approved the Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026, aligned with Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, to ensure sustainable rural water supply through dedicated corpus funds, SCADA-based monitoring, GIS dashboards, and digital asset management. The policy introduces household water tariffs ranging from ₹150 to ₹400 per month, prioritizes Women Self-Help Groups and PACS in service delivery, and establishes a three-tier grievance redressal system supported by the Nal Jal Seva mobile app and Nal Jal Mitras.

### **Tripura's Traditional Musical Instrument Sarinda Receives GI Tag Recognition**

Tripura has strengthened its cultural heritage with the grant of a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the traditional musical instrument Tripura Sarinda. Announced by Manik Saha, the recognition acknowledges the instrument's unique association with Tripura's indigenous communities and its importance in preserving folk music, oral traditions, and cultural narratives. Handcrafted from a single block of wood with a hollow resonator, the Sarinda is played with a bow and is widely used during folk performances, community celebrations, and traditional ceremonies. The GI tag, granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, protects the instrument from unauthorized imitation and helps support local artisans while promoting Tripura's cultural identity. With the inclusion of the Sarinda, Tripura now has four GI-tagged products: Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risha/Pachra (Rignai), Matabari Peda, and Tripura Sarinda, reflecting the state's rich cultural diversity and traditional craftsmanship.

### **Guntur Lam Farm Releases Two New Chilli Varieties LCA-625 and LCA-643**

The Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur released two new chilli varieties—LCA-625 and LCA-643—on 16 June 2026 as alternatives to the popular Teja and Byadgi chilli types. LCA-625 is primarily a dry chilli variety with high pungency of 45,000–50,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU) and a red colour value of 60–65 ASTA units, making it suitable for spice processing. LCA-643 is suitable for both green and dry chilli cultivation, producing light green fruits that turn bright red upon drying and resemble the Byadgi variety. It also shows moderate resistance to Gemini virus and performs well under black thrips infestation. Foundation seed sales began at Lam Farm on 16 June 2026 at ₹1,200 per kilogram, with purchases limited to 250 grams per farmer due to limited availability. Chilli, belonging to the Capsicum genus, is a major spice crop in India, with Andhra Pradesh being one of the country's leading chilli-producing states.

## **International News**

### **India and Japan Adopt Rules for Joint Crediting Mechanism Under Paris Agreement**

India and Japan have strengthened climate cooperation by adopting the Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. The JCM is a bilateral carbon market framework through which one country supports low-carbon and emission-reduction projects in another via investment, technology transfer, and capacity building, with the resulting carbon credits shared between both countries. Following the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2025, the implementation rules adopted on 8 June 2026 establish procedures for project approval, registration, monitoring, validation, verification, and credit issuance, ensuring transparency and environmental integrity. Key provisions include a Joint Committee with representatives from both governments, independent third-party verification, sustainable development safeguards, national registries for tracking carbon credits, and robust monitoring of emission reductions. The framework aligns with Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, which enables voluntary international cooperation through internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), helping both nations achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) while preventing double counting of emissions reductions.

### **India and Canada Launch Security Pact Talks, Aim to Finalise Trade Deal in 2026**

India and Canada have agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation by launching negotiations on a General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA) and accelerating efforts to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2026. The decisions were announced following a meeting between Narendra Modi and Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit 2026. The proposed GSOIA will provide a framework for the secure exchange and protection of classified information, paving the way for closer cooperation in defense, intelligence, strategic planning, and national security. Both countries also reaffirmed their commitment to finalizing the CEPA, a comprehensive trade agreement aimed at boosting market access, investment flows, and economic integration. Discussions further focused on strengthening cooperation in energy and supply chains, particularly in LNG, LPG, metallurgical coal, critical minerals, and energy security. The leaders also reviewed collaboration in science and technology, innovation, education, skilled mobility, and research partnerships. Additionally, India expressed support for Canada's bid to become a Dialogue Partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, reflecting growing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and broader strategic engagement between the two countries.

### **India joins G7 efforts in fight against Ebola outbreak, Cancer**

At the G7 Summit held in Evian-les-Bains in June 2026, India joined G7 nations and partner countries in supporting major global health initiatives aimed at combating the resurgence of Ebola in parts of Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, while also strengthening international efforts against cancer. Along with countries such as Egypt, Kenya, and South Korea, India supported measures to enhance contact tracing, border health surveillance, community awareness, vaccine development, diagnostic capabilities, and research on rare Ebola strains. The summit also reaffirmed a long-term global commitment to cancer control, with India and Brazil advocating for early detection, affordable healthcare access, collaborative cancer research, and the responsible use of emerging medical technologies. In addition, leaders emphasized international development financing, support for vulnerable nations, and sustainable economic growth. India's participation underscores its expanding role in global health diplomacy and multilateral cooperation to address pressing public health challenges.

## **Economy News**

### **India's trade surplus shifts towards Asia and Africa in early FY27**

India's external trade in the early months of FY27 shows a clear geographical shift, with Asia and Africa emerging as key drivers of India's growing trade surplus. Strong export growth to countries like Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka has helped offset weaker or more uneven performance in traditional markets such as the United States and Europe. While India's surplus with the US has narrowed due to rising imports, exports to some European countries like Italy and Spain have still expanded. At the same time, the trade deficit with China has widened sharply, reflecting

continued dependence on Chinese imports in electronics and machinery. Overall, this realignment highlights India's increasing diversification of export destinations, stronger South–South trade linkages, and evolving global supply chain dynamics. It also underscores both opportunities and challenges, including the need to reduce import dependence on China while sustaining export growth in emerging and developed markets.

### **18 states overshoot fiscal deficit ceiling in FY25, shows CAG report**

The latest CAG review of state finances for FY25 highlights growing fiscal stress across India's states, with 18 out of 28 states breaching the 3% fiscal deficit ceiling of GSDP prescribed under fiscal responsibility norms. The situation is particularly severe in states like Meghalaya (8.69%), Nagaland (6.14%), and Sikkim (5.59%), indicating strain comparable to pandemic-era levels. The report also flags rising debt concerns, noting that overall state liabilities have climbed to 27.89% of GSDP, while 13 states have crossed the recommended debt threshold. Revenue surpluses have declined, and several states have slipped into deficit due to high spending on salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments, combined with slower revenue growth and increased borrowing. States such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, and Odisha show worsening fiscal indicators. The findings underline uneven fiscal health across India and point to the need for reforms in expenditure management, subsidy rationalisation, and improved revenue efficiency to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

### **Important Days News**

#### **World Crocodile Day 2026: Theme, Importance, Threats and India's Conservation Success**

World Crocodile Day is observed annually on 17 June to raise awareness about the conservation of crocodiles and other crocodylian species, including the Gharial, alligators, and caimans, as well as the protection of their habitats. The theme for World Crocodile Day 2026, "Legacy in Every Scale," highlights the remarkable evolutionary history of crocodylians, which have survived for over 200 million years, and emphasizes the responsibility of present generations to preserve their ecological legacy. Crocodiles, belonging to the order Crocodylia, are apex predators that play a vital role in maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems by regulating prey populations and supporting biodiversity. Despite their resilience, they face threats such as habitat destruction, pollution, illegal hunting, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change. India is recognized as a global success story in crocodile conservation through initiatives such as the Crocodile Conservation Project (1975) and protected areas like Bhitarkanika National Park and National Chambal Sanctuary, which help conserve the country's three native crocodylian species—the Mugger Crocodile, Saltwater Crocodile, and Gharial.

