

Current Affairs Capsule (23/June/2026)

National News

Tushar Mehta Reappointed as Solicitor General of India

The Government of India has reappointed senior advocate Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India for another three-year term beginning July 1, 2026. The decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and notified by the Department of Personnel and Training. Mehta, who has served as Solicitor General since 2018, will continue representing the Union Government before the Supreme Court, High Courts, and other judicial forums. His responsibilities include defending government policies, advising ministries on legal matters, and handling important constitutional, taxation, governance, and national security cases. Along with him, five Additional Solicitors General—Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj, S.V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati—have also been reappointed. The move ensures continuity in the government's legal team at a time when several significant constitutional and policy-related matters are pending before courts and tribunals across the country.

Aadhaar App Crosses 31 Million Downloads

The newly launched Aadhaar App has achieved a major milestone by crossing 31 million downloads within five months of its launch. Developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the app offers digital access to Aadhaar-related services on both Android and iOS platforms. Aadhaar, issued under the Aadhaar Act, 2016, serves as India's unique digital identity system linked with biometric and demographic data. The new app includes advanced features such as face authentication, one-click biometric lock and unlock, authentication history tracking, and QR-based contact card sharing. User engagement has been significant, with nearly 4 million mobile number updates and over 850,000 address updates completed through the platform. UIDAI is gradually replacing the older mAadhaar application with this upgraded version. The achievement reflects growing digital adoption and highlights the government's efforts to improve accessibility, security, and convenience in digital identity management across India.

George Kurian Resigns from Union Council of Ministers

Veteran BJP leader George Kurian has resigned from the Union Council of Ministers after the Bharatiya Janata Party decided not to renominate him to the Rajya Sabha following the completion of his six-year term. President Droupadi Murmu accepted his resignation under Article 75(2) of the Constitution on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kurian, a lawyer from Kerala's Kottayam district, has been associated with the BJP since its inception in 1980 and has served in several organizational positions, including state general secretary and national secretary of the Bharatiya Yuva Morcha. He was inducted into the Union Cabinet in 2024 as Minister of State as part of the BJP's outreach to Kerala's Christian community. Party sources indicate that Kurian will now focus on strengthening BJP's organizational presence in Kerala and expanding support among Christian voters ahead of future electoral challenges.

Amit Shah Launches NAFEX.in and Farmer-Centric Digital Initiatives

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched NAFEX.in, a digital auction platform developed by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, on June 23, 2026, to accelerate the modernization of India's cooperative and agricultural sectors. The platform aims to create a transparent, efficient, and technology-driven marketplace for agricultural commodities by digitizing auctions, minimizing manual intervention, improving price discovery, and expanding market access for farmers. Alongside NAFEX.in, Shah launched the NAFED-KALYAN Scholarship Scheme to provide financial assistance for the education of farmers' children. He also unveiled the DRISHTI Portal, which will enhance inventory management, stock monitoring, procurement planning, and supply-chain operations for pulses and oilseeds. Additionally, a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Portal was introduced to integrate finance, logistics, procurement, inventory, human resources, and reporting systems. These

initiatives are expected to improve transparency, governance, operational efficiency, and farmer welfare while strengthening India's agricultural marketing ecosystem.

India Becomes the World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation in 2025

India has emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, achieving a key target under Maritime India Vision 2030 five years ahead of schedule. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's share of global ship recycling increased from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025, while recycling volume surged from 1.86 million gross tons to 2.99 million gross tons, representing nearly 60% growth. The achievement reflects years of maritime reforms, modernization of recycling facilities, and adherence to global environmental standards. Major initiatives supporting this growth include the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, alignment with the Hong Kong International Convention for safe ship recycling, modernization assistance worth ₹53.5 crore for recycling yards, and the Ship-Breaking Credit Note Scheme. The Alang Ship Recycling Yard, the world's largest ship recycling facility, remains the backbone of India's success. Planned expansion of its capacity to 9 million LDT is expected to further strengthen sustainable maritime development, employment generation, and the circular economy.

Osmania University Becomes First Indian University to Receive Four ISO Certifications from BIS

Osmania University has become the first university in India to receive four internationally recognized ISO Management System Certifications simultaneously from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The certifications include ISO 21001:2018 for Educational Organizations Management Systems, ISO 14001:2015 for Environmental Management Systems, ISO 50001:2018 for Energy Management Systems, and ISO 22000:2018 for Food Safety Management Systems. Presented at the university's Senate Hall in Hyderabad, the certifications acknowledge the institution's commitment to quality education, environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, food safety, transparency, and continuous improvement. The recognition followed a comprehensive assessment of institutional policies, governance frameworks, risk management practices, internal audits, management reviews, and corrective action systems. Vice-Chancellor Kumar Molugaram described the achievement as a landmark moment that reinforces the university's dedication to academic excellence and sustainable development. The accomplishment sets a new benchmark for governance, quality management, stakeholder-focused administration, and global competitiveness in India's higher education sector.

India Crosses Five Lakh Organ Donation Pledges

India has achieved a significant healthcare milestone by surpassing five lakh voluntary organ donation pledges as of June 2026, reflecting growing public awareness and participation in life-saving transplantation initiatives. The achievement was announced by Dr. Anil Kumar, Director of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization, the apex body responsible for coordinating organ procurement, allocation, and distribution across the country. A major contributor to this success has been the integration of organ donation registration with the Aadhaar-linked digital platform operating under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, ensuring secure and transparent registration processes. Public awareness campaigns, including repeated appeals through the Mann Ki Baat programme, have encouraged more citizens to pledge organ donation. The milestone highlights India's efforts to bridge the gap between organ demand and availability while maintaining ethical and equitable transplantation practices. It also reflects changing societal attitudes towards organ donation and demonstrates the growing effectiveness of India's digitally enabled healthcare ecosystem.

State News

West Bengal Announces Creation of Five New Districts

The Government of West Bengal has proposed the creation of five new districts—Kolkata, Basirhat, Sundarban, Jangipur, and Arambagh—as part of the State Budget 2026–27 to improve governance, decentralize administration,

and enhance public service delivery. The reorganization is aimed at reducing administrative burdens, improving regional planning, and bringing government services closer to citizens. Kolkata is proposed as a separate district to streamline urban governance and eliminate overlapping administrative jurisdictions. The new Sundarban district, carved out of South 24 Parganas, will focus on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and conservation of the UNESCO-recognized mangrove ecosystem. Basirhat district, located along the Bangladesh border, is expected to strengthen border management and local administration. Jangipur district will address challenges related to population density, river erosion, and industrial development in the Murshidabad region, while Arambagh district will improve agricultural governance and flood management. The initiative is expected to promote balanced regional development across urban, rural, coastal, and border areas.

International News

Andy Burnham Emerges as Key Figure in UK Leadership Discussions

Andy Burnham has gained renewed prominence in British politics following leadership discussions within the Labour Party after the resignation of Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Born on January 7, 1970, in Aintree, Lancashire, Burnham studied English at the University of Cambridge before entering Parliament in 2001 as the MP for Leigh. Throughout his political career, he has held significant cabinet positions, including Secretary of State for Health and Secretary of State for Culture. Burnham served as Mayor of Greater Manchester from 2017 to 2026, where he became known for championing regional autonomy, public service reform, and economic development in northern England, earning the nickname “King in the North.” Returning to Parliament in 2026 as MP for Makerfield, Burnham is widely regarded as a strong advocate of decentralization and community-focused governance, making him a prominent figure in debates over Labour’s future leadership and policy direction.

Alan Greenspan Passes Away at 100

Legendary American economist Alan Greenspan passed away on June 22, 2026, at the age of 100, marking the end of one of the most influential careers in modern economic policymaking. Popularly known as “The Maestro,” Greenspan served as Chairman of the Federal Reserve from 1987 to 2006 under four U.S. presidents and played a pivotal role in shaping global monetary policy. During his tenure, he guided the U.S. economy through major events such as the 1987 Black Monday stock market crash, the dot-com boom of the late 1990s, and the economic recovery following the September 11 attacks. He became famous for his cautious communication style, often referred to as “Fedspeak,” which significantly influenced financial markets worldwide. Greenspan’s policies affected global capital flows and emerging economies, including India. While praised for supporting economic growth and stability, his legacy also remains linked to debates surrounding financial deregulation and the risks that contributed to the 2008 global financial crisis.

Business & Economy News

India Becomes the World’s Largest Ship Recycling Nation

India has emerged as the world’s leading ship recycling nation in 2025, achieving a key Maritime India Vision 2030 target five years ahead of schedule. According to UNCTAD data, India’s share of global ship recycling increased from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025. The country’s recycling volume also rose sharply from 1.86 million gross tons to 2.99 million gross tons, representing nearly 60% growth. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal credited policy reforms, sustainability initiatives, and ease-of-doing-business measures for the achievement. Key initiatives include the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, modernization support for recycling yards, the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme, and efforts to secure recognition under European Union regulations. India also plans to expand the Alang Ship Recycling Yard, potentially doubling its capacity. With more than 16,000 ships expected to be recycled globally over the next decade, India is positioned to strengthen its leadership in sustainable maritime recycling and circular economy development.

CPCL Granted Navratna Status

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) has been granted Navratna status by the Government of India, making it the 28th Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise. Previously classified as a Miniratna Category-I company, CPCL will now enjoy greater financial and operational autonomy. Under the Navratna scheme, eligible public sector enterprises can make major investments, establish international subsidiaries, pursue mergers and acquisitions, and enter strategic partnerships without prior government approval. CPCL qualified by meeting criteria related to profitability, positive net worth, operational performance, and financial strength. The company reported an annual turnover of approximately ₹59,400 crore during FY 2025–26. Established in 1965 as Madras Refineries Limited and later becoming a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation in 2001, CPCL plays a significant role in India's petroleum refining sector. The upgrade is expected to improve decision-making speed, competitiveness, and growth opportunities in both domestic and international energy markets.

Kunal Shah Appointed Global Head of WhatsApp

Indian entrepreneur Kunal Shah has been appointed Global Head of WhatsApp under Meta Platforms, marking a significant milestone for India's startup ecosystem. Shah is widely known as the founder of CRED and co-founder of FreeCharge. After launching FreeCharge in 2010 and successfully exiting through its acquisition by Snapdeal, he established CRED in 2018, building one of India's leading fintech platforms. Over the years, he has expanded his influence through investments in startups such as Razorpay, Unacademy, Udaan, Shiprocket, Khatabook, Jupiter, and Mensa Brands. Known for his understanding of consumer behavior and digital products, Shah is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening WhatsApp's global growth strategy. His appointment is likely to focus on expanding business services, digital payments, monetization opportunities, and AI-driven innovations. The development highlights the growing global influence of Indian entrepreneurs in shaping the future of technology and digital communication platforms.

Science & Technology News

First Drug to Delay Type 1 Diabetes Symptoms Available on NHS

In a landmark advancement in diabetes care, Teplizumab has become the first medicine approved for use through the National Health Service that can delay the onset of Type 1 Diabetes rather than simply treat its symptoms. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system attacks insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas, eventually requiring lifelong insulin therapy. Teplizumab is an immunotherapy administered through a one-time 14-day intravenous infusion that works by slowing the immune attack on pancreatic cells, thereby preserving insulin production and delaying the development of clinical diabetes by an average of about three years in high-risk individuals. The approval is considered historic because it represents a shift from symptom management to early disease intervention. Eligible patients include those with diabetes-related autoantibodies and evidence of immune system activity against pancreatic cells. Experts believe the treatment can reduce emotional stress, postpone insulin dependence, lower the risk of early complications, and provide valuable time for future medical advances, highlighting the growing importance of early screening and preventive therapies in diabetes care.

Five Eyes Alliance Warns of Emerging AI Cybersecurity Risks

The Five Eyes intelligence alliance, comprising the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, has issued a joint warning regarding the growing cybersecurity risks posed by advanced artificial intelligence systems. According to the advisory released in June 2026, frontier AI models with sophisticated reasoning, coding, and automation capabilities could significantly transform both cyberattacks and cyber defense operations in the near future. The alliance warned that AI could enhance phishing campaigns, malware creation, vulnerability exploitation, and network intrusions, making cyber threats more effective and scalable. The statement, supported by agencies including the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA),

emphasized the potential risks to critical infrastructure and digital networks. At the same time, the alliance acknowledged AI's positive role in vulnerability detection, software auditing, and incident response. It recommended stronger cybersecurity measures such as rapid patching, multi-factor authentication, reduced system vulnerabilities, and regular resilience testing to address emerging AI-driven threats.

India to Share PSLV Technology With Startups

India has announced a major step toward private sector participation in the space industry by enabling the transfer of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) technology to eligible startups and private companies through the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre. The initiative aims to strengthen India's commercial space ecosystem by allowing qualified Indian-owned firms with relevant aerospace experience and financial capability to develop and operate PSLV-based launch services. The policy requires firms to meet strict eligibility norms, including minimum turnover or valuation thresholds, and at least five years of domain experience. The Indian Space Research Organisation will provide technical support for up to 30 months or until successful deployment of two PSLV missions. This reform follows India's 2019 decision to open the space sector to private players and is supported by agencies like NewSpace India Limited, which handles commercialisation of space technologies.

Sports News

World's Tallest Lionel Messi Statue Unveiled in Argentina

Argentina has unveiled the world's tallest statue dedicated to football legend Lionel Messi. The 26-metre-tall monument is located near National Route 22 in Manuel Savio, Neuquén Province, and has quickly become a major tourist attraction. The statue depicts Messi wearing Argentina's national team jersey while holding the FIFA World Cup trophy, symbolizing the nation's triumph at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Constructed using a steel framework and concrete exterior, the monument weighs approximately 70 tonnes. It was designed by Argentine artist Aldo Beroisa to honor Messi's extraordinary sporting achievements and his impact on Argentina's national identity. Beyond celebrating one of football's greatest icons, local authorities expect the project to boost tourism and generate economic activity in the region. The unveiling reflects Messi's enduring popularity and his status as a symbol of national pride both within Argentina and across the global football community.

Lionel Messi Becomes FIFA World Cup's All-Time Leading Goal Scorer

Lionel Messi has achieved another historic milestone by becoming the highest goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. On June 22, 2026, Messi scored twice against Austria, taking his World Cup tally to 18 goals and surpassing Germany's Miroslav Klose, who previously held the record with 16 goals. Earlier in the tournament, Messi also scored a hat-trick against Algeria, bringing his total tournament tally to five goals in just two matches. His World Cup scoring journey spans multiple editions from 2006 to 2026, with his most productive campaign coming in 2022 when he scored seven goals. The achievement helped Argentina secure qualification for the Round of 32 and further strengthened Messi's reputation as one of football's greatest players. The record-breaking feat adds another chapter to his remarkable career and cements his legacy in international football history.

Important Days News

Olympic Day 2026: Theme, History, Significance and Celebrations

Olympic Day is observed annually on June 23 to commemorate the establishment of the International Olympic Committee in 1894 and promote the values of sport worldwide. The theme for Olympic Day 2026 is "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers," highlighting inclusion, equality, and the ability of sports to unite people across cultures and backgrounds. Inspired by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who revived the modern Olympic Movement, the day encourages participation in physical activities regardless of age, gender, or ability. Celebrations worldwide include community runs, fitness challenges, educational programs, and sports events organized by schools, clubs, and National

Olympic Committees. Olympic Day is built around three pillars—Move, Learn, and Discover—which encourage active lifestyles, promote Olympic values such as excellence, friendship, and respect, and introduce people to new sports and cultures. The observance reinforces the role of sports in building healthier and more inclusive societies.

United Nations Public Service Day 2026: History, Theme, Significance and Key Facts

United Nations Public Service Day is observed every year on June 23 to recognize the contributions of public servants and public institutions in improving people’s lives worldwide. Established by the United Nations General Assembly under Resolution 57/277 in 2002, the day highlights the essential role of government officials, healthcare workers, educators, law enforcement personnel, and administrators in delivering public services and promoting national development and social welfare. It also encourages innovation, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centered governance. To further support excellence in administration, the United Nations Public Service Awards, created in 2003, recognizes innovative public service initiatives that improve governance systems globally. The 2026 UN Public Service Forum will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from June 23 to 25, under the theme “Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing Innovation, Participation, and Inclusion,” emphasizing digital transformation and inclusive governance.

