

Current Affairs Capsule (29/June/2026)

National News

Bharat Taxi Launched in Gujarat: Amit Shah Unveils Cooperative Ride Platform

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi in Gujarat on 27 June 2026, introducing a cooperative-based ride-hailing platform aligned with the vision of “Sahakar Se Samriddhi”. Unlike private ride-hailing companies, Bharat Taxi makes drivers, known as Sarathis, shareholders, ensuring ownership, better earnings, financial security, transparency, insurance, loans, and welfare. The platform supports two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, and four-wheel taxis and aims to provide reliable transport while empowering service providers. Launched at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar, the event was attended by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and cooperative leaders. Over 7 lakh Sarathis and 37 lakh customers are already associated with the platform. Initially operating across Gujarat, Bharat Taxi plans to expand to seven major cities by July 31 and over 500 cities within two years, with support from leading cooperative institutions and strategic partnerships with metro, banking, airport, railway, and traffic authorities.

PM Narendra Modi Conferred Seychelles' 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' Presidential Distinction by Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie on 28 June 2026, becoming the first recipient of this prestigious civilian honour. The award recognizes exceptional global leadership in climate action, environmental conservation, sustainable ocean governance, Blue Economy promotion, support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and sustainable development. Seychelles honoured PM Modi for his commitment to environmental sustainability and international cooperation through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and the International Big Cat Alliance. The recognition also highlights India's growing role in promoting environmental resilience among island nations. Presented during the 50th anniversary of India–Seychelles diplomatic relations, the award further strengthens bilateral ties, particularly in sustainable development, maritime security, and climate cooperation across the Indian Ocean Region.

PM Narendra Modi Meets Jonathan, the World's Oldest Living Land Animal, During Seychelles Visit

During his Seychelles visit on 28 June 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Seychelles National Botanical Gardens, where he met Jonathan, the world's oldest living land animal. Jonathan is a Seychelles giant tortoise, born around 1832, and recognized by Guinness World Records for his extraordinary lifespan of nearly 194 years. He currently lives on Saint Helena, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic Ocean. The tortoise has witnessed major historical eras, from the Victorian period to modern technological advancements, making him a living symbol of longevity and historical continuity. Despite his advanced age, Jonathan remains relatively healthy, though with age-related limitations. Alongside this symbolic meeting, PM Modi also planted a tree at the gardens, emphasizing environmental conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development, aligning with initiatives such as Mission LiFE and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and reinforcing global environmental cooperation.

PM Family Care Tracker Launched in Gujarat: Features, Objectives, Health Passport and Why It Matters

The PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) and Health Passport were launched as a pilot project on 28 June 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, aimed at creating a unified digital welfare monitoring system for children and maternal health. The platform tracks individuals from pregnancy up to 16–18 years of age, integrating data across birth and death registration, health, nutrition, education, and social welfare databases. It is designed to support timely identification of beneficiaries and ensure delivery of services such as healthcare, nutrition, and education support. A key feature is its automatic alert system, which notifies officials when a child misses vaccinations or drops out of school, enabling rapid intervention. The system connects departments like Health, Women and Child Development, and Education.

Aligned with Viksit Gujarat @2047 and Viksit Bharat @2047, the initiative promotes digital governance and coordinated welfare delivery, described by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel as a digital health infrastructure milestone.

Anaemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan Guidelines 2026 Released: Key Features, 7x7x7 Strategy and Significance Explained

On 29 June 2026, the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister released the operational guidelines for the Anaemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in New Delhi, updating India's national anaemia control programme. The revised framework replaces the earlier structure and introduces a 7x7x7 strategy, covering seven beneficiary groups, seven interventions, and seven institutional mechanisms. A key addition is low birth weight infants (0–6 months) as a new target group, while "Eating Right" has been included as an intervention promoting iron-rich diets. The programme adopts a life-cycle approach and shifts from the T3 model (Test, Treat, Talk) to T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, Track) for better monitoring. Digital integration across JANANI, RBSK, and U-WIN platforms strengthens tracking and service delivery. Severe anaemia cases may require intravenous iron therapy such as ferric carboxymaltose and iron sucrose. The initiative aims to improve maternal and child health through prevention, treatment, nutrition, and digital health systems.

e-Sushrut@Clinic Launched: Features, Benefits, Cost, and Significance of India's New Digital Health System

The Union Health Ministry will launch the e-Sushrut@Clinic Digital Health System on 29 June 2026 in New Delhi, with Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda unveiling the platform. Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), it is a cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) designed for small outpatient clinics, primary health centres, health and wellness centres, and sub-centres. The platform digitises patient registration, billing, MIS reporting, and offers speech-to-text documentation and clinical decision support tools. The National Health Authority (NHA) will support implementation through an MoU with C-DAC, including cloud hosting and SMS services. Integrated with the Health Professional Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR), it ensures secure access. Over 800 health facilities have already been onboarded, with affordable subscription plans promoting wider adoption of digital healthcare across India.

State News

West Bengal Uniform Civil Code Bill: Key Features, Constitutional Basis and Significance

The West Bengal Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill is expected to be introduced in the State Legislative Assembly during the Budget Session on 29 June 2026. The proposed legislation aims to establish a common set of civil laws governing marriage, divorce, adoption, guardianship, succession, and inheritance for all citizens, irrespective of religion. Based on Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Bill seeks to promote legal equality, gender justice, and uniformity in civil matters. Key proposed provisions include uniform marriage and divorce laws, equal inheritance rights, a ban on polygamy, invalidation of child marriages, and mandatory registration of live-in relationships. If enacted, West Bengal would join other states pursuing state-level UCC reforms. While supporters view it as a step toward equality and simplified legal procedures, critics stress the importance of protecting religious freedom, cultural diversity, and federal principles through broad public consultation.

International News

India and Seychelles Unveil 19 Major Initiatives to Strengthen Maritime Security, Defence and Strategic Partnership

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Seychelles, India and Seychelles strengthened bilateral relations by signing 19 major initiatives across sectors such as maritime security, defence, digital payments, healthcare, space cooperation, education, infrastructure, and agriculture. The agreements were finalized during talks with President Patrick Herminie in Victoria on 28 June 2026, reflecting a shared commitment to deepen strategic

cooperation. Key defence and maritime measures included gifting an indigenously built Fast Patrol Vessel, donation of 10 utility vehicles, supply of Laser Radial sailing boats, refit of PS Zoroaster, and upgrade of a Dornier surveillance aircraft. Both sides also advanced cooperation in UPI-based digital payments, outer space, and healthcare, including plans for a new national hospital and education centre. India reaffirmed its MAHASAGAR vision, emphasizing maritime security, sustainable development, and regional stability, while also providing humanitarian aid including 500 tonnes of rice and 8,500 tonnes of cement.

Israel-Lebanon Trilateral Framework Explained: Key Takeaways, Reactions and Why the Deal Matters

On 26 June 2026, the United States, Israel, and Lebanon signed a Trilateral Framework Agreement in Washington, aimed at reducing escalating violence and creating a roadmap for long-term stability in the region. The US-mediated deal outlines a phased approach to restore Lebanese state authority, reduce border tensions, and prevent further escalation following months of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that reportedly killed over 4,000 people and displaced thousands. Key provisions include gradual Israeli military redeployment, increased control by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), and the verified disarmament of non-state armed groups, including Hezbollah. The agreement also establishes pilot security zones, a US-backed coordination mechanism, and \$100 million in humanitarian aid for Lebanon. While the US and Lebanon view it as a step toward sovereignty and reconstruction, Israel insists withdrawal depends on Hezbollah's disarmament, and Hezbollah has rejected the framework outright, calling it unacceptable.

Teesta Project Explained: Why It Matters to India, Bangladesh and Regional Geopolitics

The Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project is a major river management initiative in Bangladesh involving dredging, embankment construction, land reclamation, and road development to improve water management and infrastructure. The project gained attention after discussions between Bangladesh and China during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to Beijing (24–26 June 2026). Planned works include dredging 140 million cubic metres of sediment, reclaiming 171 square kilometres of land, repairing 110 km and constructing 124 km of embankments, building a 224-km road network, and developing 82 jetty facilities. China stated that its cooperation is not directed against any third country and offered technical expertise and training. The project is significant for India because the Teesta is a transboundary river flowing through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh, making it strategically important for bilateral water sharing, regional connectivity, and cross-border cooperation.

Banking News

Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Ashok Vaswani to Step Down at the End of 2026

Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced that its Managing Director and CEO Ashok Vaswani will step down after completing his three-year term on 31 December 2026, marking a planned leadership transition. Vaswani has informed the board that he will not seek reappointment, and his departure is for personal reasons. The bank has initiated a succession process, which will involve selecting a new CEO subject to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval. Vaswani joined Kotak Mahindra Bank on 1 January 2024, succeeding founder Uday Kotak, and led the bank during a key phase of digital transformation and growth. With over 35 years of global banking experience, he previously held senior roles at Barclays, Citigroup, and Pagaya Technologies, and served on boards including LSEG and Visa. His exit marks a significant leadership change as Kotak ensures continuity under its senior leadership team and ongoing strategic direction.

Business News

OpenAI Appoints Prabhjeet Singh as Managing Director for India, Strengthening Its AI Expansion Strategy

OpenAI has appointed Prabhjeet Singh, former President of Uber India and South Asia, as its Managing Director for India, reinforcing its commitment to one of the world's fastest-growing artificial intelligence markets. Singh will join

OpenAI in September 2026 and report to Kiran Mani, Managing Director for the Asia Pacific region. He will lead the company's strategy, operations, and expansion in India while supporting the country's rapidly evolving AI ecosystem. With extensive experience in scaling technology-driven businesses and leading Uber's growth across India and South Asia, Singh is well positioned to drive OpenAI's growth. His appointment reflects India's strategic importance due to its large digital user base, rising enterprise adoption of AI, vibrant startup ecosystem, and strong government focus on artificial intelligence, making the country a key global market for AI innovation and deployment.

Defense News

ICGS Akshay Commissioned into Bharatiya Tatrakshak Fleet

India strengthened its maritime security by commissioning ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), into the Bharatiya Tatrakshak (Indian Coast Guard) fleet on 27 June 2026 at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa. Built under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the vessel is designed for coastal surveillance, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, and environmental protection. Named after the Sanskrit word "Akshay," meaning Indestructible, it symbolizes strength, resilience, and the Coast Guard's commitment to safeguarding India's maritime interests. The commissioning ceremony was led by Smt. Parama Sen, with senior Coast Guard and government officials in attendance. Equipped for high-speed patrolling and emergency response, ICGS Akshay will help combat smuggling, illegal activities, and maritime crime, support disaster relief and humanitarian missions, protect marine ecosystems, and enhance surveillance across India's 7,500-km coastline and vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Indian Army to Raise First Integrated Battle Groups: Structure, Role and Strategic Significance Explained

The Indian Army will operationalise its first Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) on 1 July 2026 under the Panagarh-based XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps), marking a major reform in its combat structure. IBGs are brigade-sized, self-sufficient formations comprising over 5,000 troops and integrating infantry, artillery, armoured units, engineers, signals, air defence, logistics, and medical support under a Major General. Designed for rapid deployment, they can be mobilised within 48 hours, enhancing operational flexibility and readiness, especially along the India-China border. The concept, proposed by General Bipin Rawat, was successfully tested in IX Corps trials and Exercise HimVijay (2019). The XVII Corps will initially have four IBGs and one Fire Support Group, with full implementation by 2029. Alongside reforms like Bhairav Battalions, Rudra Brigades, Divyastra Batteries, and Shaktibaan Units, IBGs will strengthen India's preparedness for future multi-domain warfare.

Science & Technology News

ISRO Successfully Conducts 175-Tonne Semicryogenic Engine Hot Test, Strengthening India's Future Space Missions

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the eighth hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) on 24 June 2026 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The test achieved 175 tonnes of thrust, about 88% of the engine's planned 200-tonne capacity, marking a major milestone in the development of the SE2000 semicryogenic engine. The PHTA, which includes key components such as the pre-burner, turbopumps, propellant feed systems, valves, and control systems but excludes the thrust chamber, demonstrated stable operation with turbopump outlet pressures of 400 and 500 bar. Using Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Isrosene (purified kerosene), the engine will power the future SC120 stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle, enhancing payload capacity, fuel efficiency, indigenous capability, and supporting missions like Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and commercial satellite launches.

What is Brachybacterium netajii?

Brachybacterium netajii is a newly discovered bacterial species isolated from the Hooghly River in West Bengal, particularly from areas affected by industrial runoff. Identified through polyphasic taxonomic characterization of strain DNPG3T, it has been proposed as Brachybacterium netajii sp. nov. The bacterium is significant for its bioremediation potential, as it can degrade p-nitrophenol (PNP), a toxic chemical used in dyes and pesticides, into harmless by-products. It also exhibits high tolerance to heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury, and can survive in salt concentrations of up to 9%, making it suitable for polluted coastal and estuarine environments. Belonging to the Actinobacteria phylum, it possesses stress-tolerance genes and unique cellular features. The species was discovered by researchers from Netaji Mahavidyalaya, the University of Burdwan, IIT (BHU), and Hiroshima University, and is named in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Sports News

Ben Stokes Announces Retirement from International Cricket, to End England Career After Trent Bridge Test

England captain Ben Stokes has announced his retirement from international cricket after the third Rothesay Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, ending a nearly 15-year international career that began in 2011 and Test debut in 2013 during the Ashes. He will also step down as England Men's Test captain, a role he has held since April 2022, marking the end of a transformative leadership era. Widely regarded as one of England's greatest all-rounders, Stokes is celebrated for iconic performances, including his match-winning 84 in the 2019 ICC World Cup Final and his legendary 135 at Headingley in the 2019 Ashes. His highest Test score was 258 against South Africa in Cape Town (2016). Under his captaincy alongside coach Brendon McCullum, England adopted an aggressive style of Test cricket. Despite injuries and challenges, he consistently delivered match-winning performances and earned widespread praise from the ECB for his leadership and impact.

Who Is Ancy Sojan? Kerala Long Jumper Who Broke Anju Bobby George's 22-Year-Old National Record

At the 2026 National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, Indian long jumper Ancy Sojan created history by breaking the long-standing national record in women's long jump. The 25-year-old athlete from Thrissur, Kerala, produced a sensational leap of 6.88 metres, surpassing Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old record of 6.83 metres, set in 2004. Competing for Kerala and serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the Indian Navy, Ancy opened with 6.73 metres, achieved her record-breaking jump on her fifth attempt, and finished with 6.69 metres to win the gold medal. This achievement also met qualification standards for the 2026 Asian Games and positioned her among Asia's leading jumpers. Ancy has previously won silver medals at the 2023 Asian Games and 2025 Asian Athletics Championships, and a bronze at the 2026 Asian Indoor Championships, marking her rise as one of India's most consistent and promising field athletes.

Indonesia Wins Maiden AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026 Title as India Secures Historic Bronze

Indonesia created history by winning the 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Cup in Ahmedabad, India, securing its first-ever gold medal and first podium finish in the tournament's history. After losing to Korea in the group stage, Indonesia bounced back by defeating Qatar, Thailand, Oman, and then India in a thrilling 3-2 semifinal. In the final, Indonesia avenged its earlier defeat by beating Korea 3-0 (34-32, 25-16, 25-23). Boy Arnez Arabi starred throughout the tournament, scoring 17 points in the final, earning the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, and securing a place in the Dream Team. Korea claimed its first silver medal, while host India won its first-ever AVC Cup bronze, defeating defending champions Bahrain 3-1. Indonesia also climbed from 52nd to 43rd in the FIVB World Rankings, reflecting its remarkable achievement.

George Russell Wins Thrilling Austrian Grand Prix 2026 as Mercedes Revives Formula 1 Title Challenge

George Russell won the 2026 Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring, Spielberg, converting his pole position into a commanding victory and securing his seventh Formula 1 career win. The Mercedes driver led most of the race, expertly

managing tyres and holding off a late charge from Max Verstappen, who finished 1.611 seconds behind in second after an impressive recovery drive. Championship leader Kimi Antonelli finished third, strengthening his lead in the Drivers' Championship to 40 points despite an eventful race. Oscar Piastri and Lewis Hamilton completed the top five. The race featured intense battles, a Virtual Safety Car caused by Carlos Sainz's retirement, and several other retirements due to technical issues. Russell's victory moved him to second in the championship, confirming Mercedes' resurgence and intensifying the 2026 Formula 1 title race against Red Bull and McLaren.

Important Days News

Statistics Day 2026: Theme, History, Significance, and Why Administrative Data Matters

India observed the 20th Statistics Day on 29 June 2026, marking two decades of recognizing the importance of statistics in national development. Celebrated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and the National Statistical Office (NSO), the day honours the birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, regarded as the father of modern Indian statistics. The 2026 theme, "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data," highlights the growing use of government-generated data from sectors like taxation, health, education, and digital governance to improve policymaking and public services. The event at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, included addresses by senior officials and release of key reports on SDGs, labour markets, and data harmonisation. The day also recognizes contributions through the Sukhatme National Award in Statistics. Statistics Day promotes evidence-based governance, transparency, and better decision-making while strengthening India's statistical infrastructure in the era of digital transformation and AI.

