

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains

Thursday, 11 June 2026

MORNING EDITION · THEIAS AKADEMIA

From Daily News to Direct UPSC Questions

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§1 Top 10 Headlines — 11 June 2026

1. **NITI Aayog 11th Governing Council:** PM Modi chairs historic meeting themed "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047" at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre; all CMs and LGs attend. *[PIB/ANI]*
2. **BrahMos-Vietnam Deal Sealed:** India finalises ₹6,000-crore BrahMos Block 3 coastal defence missile export deal with Vietnam; Indonesia negotiations in final stage. *[Defence Secretary/Shangri-La Dialogue]*
3. **Gallantry Awards 2026:** President Murmu confers 51 gallantry awards; Gaganyaan astronaut Air Cdre Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair receives Kirti Chakra. *[Rashtrapati Bhavan]*
4. **RBI Repo Rate Unchanged:** MPC keeps repo rate at 5.25% with neutral stance amid US-Iran tensions and global uncertainty; GDP outlook maintained. *[RBI]*
5. **Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A:** Union Cabinet approves ₹2,169-crore, 6.032 km extension to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport; total network reaches 77.63 km. *[Cabinet/PIB]*
6. **PLI Textiles Round 3:** Union Cabinet approves 22 new applicants under the third round of Production Linked Incentive scheme for Textiles. *[Cabinet Secretariat]*
7. **DRDO-ISRO Space Collaboration:** DRDO and ISRO join hands to deploy space-based assets for Himalayan snow cover, glacier monitoring and mountain meteorology. *[DRDO/Tribune]*
8. **Third Sriharikota Launch Pad:** India's third launch pad at SDSC Sriharikota on track for December 2026 commissioning, designed for Gaganyaan and heavy-payload missions. *[ISRO]*
9. **DRDO HPM Anti-Drone Weapon:** DRDO's High Power Microwave directed-energy weapon enters final testing phase, with 1 km kill range; 5 km range targeted by end-2026. *[DRDO]*
10. **ICWA Peacekeeping Panel:** Indian Council of World Affairs hosts panel discussion on "From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding: India's Expanding Role in Global Security." *[ICWA]*

§2 Polity & Governance

NITI Aayog 11th Governing Council Meeting — "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047"

WHY IN NEWS

PM Modi chairs the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on June 11 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Theme is "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047" with

BACKGROUND

NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in 2015. The Governing Council — its apex body — comprises all CMs, LGs, Union Ministers and the PM as Chair. Previous GC meetings addressed issues like

focus on well-being of all Indians irrespective of age, gender, region or socio-economic background.

PRELIMS FACTS

- NITI Aayog established: January 1, 2015 (replaced Planning Commission est. 1950)
- Four pillars of today's agenda: Foundational Human Capital; Employment & Entrepreneurship; Health, Nutrition & Wellbeing; Equity & Dignity
- Also draws from 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries (Dec 26–28, 2025)
- Viksit Bharat @2047 targets making India a developed nation by its 100th Independence anniversary

GS2 — Polity

GS2 — Governance

GS3 — Economy

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2023: "Cooperative federalism is the sine qua non for the development of India." | GS2 2019: Role of NITI Aayog in policy-making

Q. Consider the following statements about NITI Aayog's Governing Council:

1. It includes Chief Ministers of all States and LGs of UTs.
2. The Vice-President of India is its permanent Chair.
3. It was established by a Constitutional Amendment.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) None

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 only**

The PM chairs NITI Aayog; it was created by executive order, not constitutional amendment.

NITI Aayog

Viksit Bharat

Cooperative Federalism

GS2

PYQ-Linked

Akademia Teaching Hook: Every NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting is a GS2 goldmine — it tests knowledge of institutional structure, federalism AND governance simultaneously. Today's theme "Inclusive Human Development" directly maps to GS1 (Society), GS2 (Governance) and GS3 (Poverty/Employment) — a rare trifecta question source.

Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A — Cabinet Approves ₹2,169-Crore Airport Corridor

WHY IN NEWS

Union Cabinet approved Phase 2(A) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project on June 10, 2026. The 6.032 km stretch runs from Koteswar Road to Sardar

BACKGROUND

Ahmedabad Metro Phase 1 was operationalised in 2022. Phase 2 was sanctioned in 2019 for expanding the network to Gandhinagar and other corridors.

Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport with 5 new stations, at a cost of ₹2,169 crore.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Project cost: ₹2,169.04 crore; corridor length: 6.032 km
- Five stations: Ashram Road, Koteswar Prachin Mandir, Sabarmati River, Sardar Nagar, Airport
- Post Phase 2A, total Ahmedabad–Gandhinagar Metro network = 77.63 km
- Will generate ~2,000 jobs during construction; supports World Police Games 2029 and Commonwealth Games 2030 infra

GS2 — Governance

GS3 — Infrastructure

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: "Urban infrastructure deficit in India." | GS3 2018: Smart Cities Mission and urban governance

Q. With reference to the Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A approved in June 2026, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It connects Ahmedabad to Surat via elevated corridor
- (b) It extends the metro to SVPI Airport covering 6.032 km with 5 stations
- (c) Its estimated cost is ₹5,000 crore
- (d) It will make the network 120 km long

✓ **Answer: (b)**

Phase 2A covers 6.032 km to the airport at ₹2,169 crore, taking total network to 77.63 km.

Ahmedabad Metro

Urban Transport

Smart Cities

GS3

Commonwealth Games 2030

Akademia Teaching Hook: Metro rail approvals always carry Prelims-ready data — cost, km, stations, total network. Pair this with the Commonwealth Games 2030 angle and you have a ready-made Prelims MCQ and a Mains value-addition point on urban sustainability.

§3 International Relations

India–Vietnam BrahMos Deal — ₹6,000 Crore Supersonic Missile Export Marks Defence Diplomacy Milestone

WHY IN NEWS

BACKGROUND

India has finalised a ₹6,000-crore (\$629 million) deal to export BrahMos Block 3 coastal defence missiles to Vietnam, announced at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. Indonesia negotiations are in final stages.

PRELIMS FACTS

- BrahMos: Indo-Russian JV; name = Brahmaputra (India) + Moskva (Russia)
- Block 3 variant: land-based coastal defence; range 290–300 km; warhead 300 kg; sea-skimming capability (10 m above sea level)
- Vietnam is the 2nd Southeast Asian country to acquire BrahMos after Philippines
- Shangri-La Dialogue: annual Asia security summit hosted by IISS in Singapore

BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia), forming BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd. The Philippines signed the first BrahMos export deal (\$375 million) in January 2022. India's Defence Export Target is ₹50,000 crore by 2029.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's Act East Policy: BrahMos exports to Vietnam and Philippines strengthen maritime security architecture in the Indo-Pacific and signal India's role as a net security provider
- Defence indigenisation and export: Achieving ₹50,000 crore defence export target requires deepening ties with ASEAN, Gulf, and African partners
- Geopolitical signalling: Vietnam-India defence cooperation serves as a counter-balance to China's assertiveness in the South China Sea

GS2 — IR

GS3 — Defence Industry

GS3 — Security

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: "India's defence exports." | GS2 2023: "India as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific"

Q. Consider: 1. BrahMos is a joint venture between India and Russia. 2. Vietnam is the first country to receive BrahMos. 3. Shangri-La Dialogue is held in Singapore. Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

✓ **Answer: (b) 1 and 3**

Philippines was the first BrahMos export deal (2022); Vietnam is the second. BrahMos IS an Indo-Russian JV, and Shangri-La is in Singapore.

BrahMos

Vietnam

Defence Export

Act East

Indo-Pacific

GS2

Akademia Teaching Hook: The BrahMos export story connects GS2 IR (Act East, Indo-Pacific), GS3 Defence (indigenisation, export targets) and even GS1 Geography (South China Sea maritime routes). When one story maps to three GS papers, it is guaranteed to appear in UPSC — either as MCQ or Mains.

India's Expanding Role in Global Security — ICWA Panel on Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding

WHY IN NEWS

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a high-level panel discussion on "From Peacekeeping

BACKGROUND

India is the largest cumulative contributor to UN Peacekeeping Operations with over 275,000

to Peacebuilding: India's Expanding Role in Global Security" on June 11, coinciding with NITI Aayog's governance dialogue and reflecting India's growing multilateral security profile.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ICWA: India's premier think tank on international affairs, established 1943 in New Delhi
- India = Largest cumulative contributor to UNMISS, MONUSCO and other UN peacekeeping missions
- India holds 2026 BRICS Chairship; theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development"
- Peacebuilding vs Peacekeeping: UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) established 2005 to address post-conflict reconstruction

personnel deployed since 1950. India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, G20 legacy (2023 New Delhi Declaration) and SCO membership have expanded its security diplomacy footprint.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- From Blue Helmets to Bridges: India's evolution from passive troop contributor to active peace architect — mediation, reconstruction, capacity-building
- Soft power projection: India's peacekeeping record, HADR operations and Vaccine Maitri build goodwill in Global South essential for UNSC permanent seat bid
- Peacebuilding challenges: Sovereignty concerns, funding gaps, host-nation consent and women in peacekeeping (India's Shakti contingent)

GS2 — IR

GS2 — International Organisations

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: "India's role in UN peacekeeping." | GS2 2020: "India's soft power diplomacy"

Q. The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), which was recently in news, is best described as:

- (a) A statutory body under Ministry of External Affairs
- (b) India's premier independent think tank on international affairs, est. 1943
- (c) An intergovernmental body of South Asian nations
- (d) A UN affiliate body for peacekeeping affairs

✓ **Answer: (b)**

ICWA is a non-statutory autonomous think tank established in 1943, recognised by MEA but independent.

ICWA

UN Peacekeeping

Peacebuilding

BRICS 2026

GS2

Akademia Teaching Hook: "Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding" is a UPSC-favourite distinction.

Peacekeeping = preventing conflict recurrence; Peacebuilding = addressing root causes. India's leadership in both spheres — 275,000+ troops deployed and post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan, Sudan — makes this a Mains Essay and GS2 gold mine.

§4 Defence & Security

Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 — 51 Gallantry Awards; Gaganyaan Astronaut Air Cdre Prasanth Nair Receives Kirti Chakra

WHY IN NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu conferred 51 gallantry and distinguished service awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026, Rashtrapati Bhavan. Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair — one of India's four Gaganyaan astronaut-designates — was among Kirti Chakra recipients.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Kirti Chakra: India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, named after Sanskrit for "glory/fame"
- Air Cdre Prasanth Nair: Test pilot; 3,000+ flying hours; selected for Gaganyaan in 2019-batch; also backup for Axiom mission to ISS
- Gaganyaan mission: India's first crewed spaceflight; ISRO; crew of 2–3 astronauts; low Earth orbit (400 km)
- Total 51 awards conferred at this ceremony — including Param Vishisht Seva Medal and other distinguished service medals

GS3 — Space

GS3 — Defence

GS2 — Governance

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: "India's human spaceflight programme." | GS3 2019: "Defence indigenisation and India's security challenges"

Q. Arrange India's peacetime gallantry awards in descending order of precedence:

1. Shaurya Chakra 2. Ashoka Chakra 3. Kirti Chakra

(a) 1–2–3 (b) 2–3–1 (c) 2–1–3 (d) 3–2–1

✓ **Answer: (b) 2–3–1**

Peacetime: Ashoka Chakra (highest) → Kirti Chakra → Shaurya Chakra.

Gallantry Awards

Kirti Chakra

Gaganyaan

Prasanth Nair

GS3

Akademia Teaching Hook: Gallantry award hierarchy is a perennial Prelims question. Add the Gaganyaan angle and this becomes a two-in-one question source. Recall: Ashoka Chakra (peacetime) ≠ Param Vir Chakra (wartime) — a common confusion exploited by UPSC setters.

BACKGROUND

India's gallantry award hierarchy: Param Vir Chakra (highest, wartime) → Maha Vir Chakra → Vir Chakra (wartime), and Ashoka Chakra (highest, peacetime) → Kirti Chakra → Shaurya Chakra (peacetime). Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and Padma Awards are separate civilian honours.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Civil-military integration in space: Gaganyaan's crew are Indian Air Force officers undergoing mission-specific training — a model of civil-military synergy in strategic space programs
- Institutional recognition of bravery: India's gallantry awards system, its categories, and their role in building military morale and national pride
- Space and national security: IAF's expanding role in space operations as ISRO transitions from purely civilian to dual-use space applications

DRDO-ISRO Joint Initiative for Himalayan Meteorology + Third Sriharikota Launch Pad on Track

WHY IN NEWS

DRDO and ISRO have launched a collaborative programme to use space-based technology for Himalayan snow cover mapping, glacier monitoring and mountain weather forecasting. Separately, India's third launch pad at SDSC Sriharikota is on schedule for commissioning by December 2026.

PRELIMS FACTS

- DRDO-ISRO collaboration uses satellite-based retrieval algorithms for snow cover, glacier and terrain parameters in the Himalayas
- SDSC (Satish Dhawan Space Centre) Sriharikota: India's primary spaceport; located in Andhra Pradesh on Srihari Island
- Third launch pad: designed for human-rated vehicles (Gaganyaan), heavy-lift LVM3, and NGLV; operational by Dec 2026
- India has 190+ space startups — private sector expected to contribute 40% of launch services by 2030

BACKGROUND

Himalayan glaciers supply over 40% of India's river systems including Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra. Accurate meteorological data from this region is critical for disaster preparedness, military logistics and water security. India's current launch infrastructure at Sriharikota supports two operational pads — adding a third will double India's launch cadence by 2027.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Dual-use space technology: DRDO-ISRO collaboration blurs civilian-military lines — advancing weather prediction for armed forces deployed in high-altitude zones (Siachen, Ladakh)
- Himalayan water security: Cryosphere monitoring via satellites provides early warning for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), droughts and irrigation planning
- Launch infrastructure expansion: Third pad addresses the "launch gap" risk and enables simultaneous preparation of multiple missions for India's growing commercial satellite market

GS3 — Space

GS3 — Science & Tech

GS1 — Geography

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2021: "India's space programme." | GS3 2022: "Glacial lake outburst floods and Himalayan fragility"

Q. The Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), India's primary launch facility, is located in which of the following?

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Odisha

✓ **Answer: (c) Andhra Pradesh**

SDSC is on Srihari Island (Sriharikota) in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO

DRDO

Sriharikota

Himalayan Glacier

GS3

Space

Akademia Teaching Hook: UPSC regularly asks about Sriharikota's location and India's launch infrastructure. The DRDO-ISRO Himalayan collaboration connects space technology directly to GS1

§6 Economy

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25% — Neutral Stance Amid Global Turbulence

Context: Following its bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting (June 3–5, 2026), the Reserve Bank of India decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, maintaining a neutral policy stance. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra cited rising global uncertainties from the ongoing US-Iran conflict and inflationary pressures as reasons for caution.

- **Repo Rate:** 5.25% (unchanged) | Reverse Repo: ~5.00% | CRR: 4% | SLR: 18%
- **MPC Composition:** 6 members — 3 RBI officials + 3 external members; majority vote; Governor has casting vote
- **Neutral stance** means RBI is neither expansionary nor contractionary — monitoring data before next move
- **Context:** India's macro-fundamentals remain strong despite global headwinds from US-Iran war and commodity price volatility
- **Prelims angle:** MPC established under RBI Act 1934 (amended 2016); decisions binding on RBI Governor; meetings held 4 times/year minimum

Q. With reference to India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which statement is correct?

- (a) It is chaired by the Finance Minister
- (b) It has 6 members with the RBI Governor having a casting vote in case of tie
- (c) Its decisions are advisory and not binding
- (d) It meets annually to set the repo rate

✓ **Answer: (b)**

MPC has 6 members (3 RBI + 3 external). Governor chairs and has casting vote. Decisions are binding and it meets at least 4 times/year.

RBI

Repo Rate

MPC

Monetary Policy

GS3

Akademia Teaching Hook: MPC composition and powers appear in UPSC almost every alternate year. Remember: established 2016, 6 members, 4-year terms for external members, majority vote, Governor's casting vote. Repo rate = rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks overnight.

→ **Continued in Part II:** \$1 Environment · \$2 Places in News (Map) · \$3 Ethics & Integrity · \$4 Prelims MCQs (15 Qs) · \$5 Mains Questions · \$6 Answer Writing Value Addition · \$7 AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker · \$8 Proof of Precision

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