

Daily Current Affairs

17 June 2026

World Crocodile Day 2026

- On 17th of June, World Crocodile Day is observed every year and this day raise the awareness about crocodiles and the urgent need to protect these ancient reptiles and their habitats.
- This day highlights the conservation of the crocodiles, gharials, alligators, caimans and other crocodylian species that plays the crucial role in maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- The theme for the World Crocodile Day 2026 is **“Legacy in Every Scale.”**
- The theme of 2026 emphasizes the remarkable evolutionary history of the crocodylians, which have existed on the Earth for more than 200 million years.
- India’s conservation strategy includes the population surveys, nest protection, wetland restoration, community awareness programs and habitat management.
- Also the legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has further strengthened the efforts to safeguard the crocodylian species.



PM Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest National Award

- Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Slovakia's highest national honour, i.e. The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) during his first official visit to Bratislava on 15th of June 2026.
- This award was presented by the Peter Pellegrini in recognition of the Modi's contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Slovakia.
- This is the 33rd international honor conferred upon to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by a foreign nation which highlights the India's expanding global influence and diplomatic outreach.
- Both countries have signed the 11 agreements and MoUs covering key sectors, including the,
 - Labor migration
 - Defense cooperation
 - Digital technologies
 - Higher education and research
 - Innovation and technology partnerships



Smriti Mandhana Becomes Only Indian in TIME100

- Smriti Mandhana has emerged as one of the biggest stars in the world cricket as In a landmark achievement for the Indian sports, the Indian women's cricket

vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has been named into the TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026 list.

- She is the only Indian to feature in this prestigious global ranking and joined the legends from football, basketball, tennis, and cricket.
- In the 2026 edition, Mandhana stands alongside the icons such as the **Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James, Carlos Alcaraz and Temba Bavuma.**
- Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian to feature into the TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026.
- She is the current vice-captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team.
- She became the first Indian woman to score a double century in a domestic one-day match.
- She is the first Indian woman to score centuries in all the three international formats.
- Mandhana jointly holds the record for most centuries in women's international cricket (17).
- She captained the Royal Challengers Bengaluru and won two WPL titles in 2024 and 2026.
- She was vice-captain of the India's ICC Women's World Cup-winning team in the year 2025.
- She received the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award in 2025.



(GSOIA) and accelerate efforts to conclude the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in the year 2026.

- These decisions were announced after meeting between the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the **G7 Summit, Evian in France**.
- A GSOIA is the important framework that enables the secure exchange, handling and protection of the classified information between governments.
- Such agreements are often considered as the foundational instruments for the deeper defense and security cooperation.
- CEPA is the broad trade agreement that aims to enhance the market access, reduce trade barriers, increase investments and strengthen the economic cooperation between participating countries.
- India and Canada discussed cooperation in critical sectors, including the,
 - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
 - Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)
 - Metallurgical Coal
 - Critical Minerals
 - Energy Security



Bengaluru Ranks Second in Asia's AI-Native Startup Clusters

- Bengaluru-Karnataka ranked second among Asia's AI-native startup clusters in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026, after Beijing. The same report placed

Bengaluru 15th among the top 40 global startup ecosystems and assessed its startup ecosystem value at \$153 billion.

- The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026 was launched at VivaTech in Paris on 17 June 2026. In the report, Bengaluru scored 8 out of 10 in the AI-native cluster factor, 9 in performance and R&D, and 7 in funding and market reach.
- Bengaluru's startup ecosystem had 30 unicorns as of 17 June 2026. The city's unicorn count was higher than the global average of 11 per city, and its ecosystem attracted \$39 billion in venture capital funding between 2021 and 2025.
- Bengaluru is recognised as the world's second-largest AI talent hub with 600,000 AI and machine learning professionals. As of 10 January 2026, Bengaluru had 606 AI-native startups, of which 239 were funded.
- Among Bengaluru's AI-native startups, 63 had secured Series A+ funding as of 10 January 2026. The city recorded \$46 billion in exits between 2021 and 2025.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **World Crocodile Day is observed annually on which date?**
(A) 5 June
(B) 8 June
(C) 17 June
(D) 21 June

Answer: (C) 17 June

2. **What was the theme of World Crocodile Day 2026?**
(A) Protecting Aquatic Life
(B) Legacy in Every Scale

- (C) Save Our Wetlands
- (D) Crocodiles for Future

Answer: (B) Legacy in Every Scale

3. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Slovakia's highest national honour during his visit to Bratislava. What is the name of this award?**
- (A) Order of Merit
 - (B) White Lion Award
 - (C) Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)
 - (D) Slovak National Star

Answer: (C) Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class)

4. **The Order of the White Double Cross was presented to PM Modi by whom?**
- (A) Robert Fico
 - (B) Zuzana Čaputová
 - (C) Peter Pellegrini
 - (D) Andrej Kiska

Answer: (C) Peter Pellegrini

5. **Who was the only Indian included in the TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026 list?**
- (A) Harmanpreet Kaur
 - (B) Neeraj Chopra
 - (C) Rohit Sharma
 - (D) Smriti Mandhana

Answer: (D) Smriti Mandhana

6. **Smriti Mandhana is currently the vice-captain of which team?**
- (A) India Women's Hockey Team
 - (B) Indian Women's Cricket Team
 - (C) India A Women's Team
 - (D) Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Answer: (B) Indian Women's Cricket Team

7. **Which organization organizes the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)?**
- (A) Films Division
 - (B) Prasar Bharati
 - (C) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
 - (D) CBFC

Answer: (C) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

8. India and Canada agreed to begin negotiations on which security agreement in 2026?
- (A) CECA
 - (B) FTA
 - (C) GSOIA
 - (D) BIMSTEC Security Pact

Answer: (C) GSOIA

9. What does CEPA stand for?
- (A) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
 - (B) Common Economic Partnership Alliance
 - (C) Cooperative Export Promotion Agreement
 - (D) Central Economic Policy Arrangement

Answer: (A) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

10. According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026, Bengaluru ranked _____ among Asia's AI-native startup clusters.
- (A) First
 - (B) Second
 - (C) Third
 - (D) Fourth

Answer: (B) Second