

Daily Current Affairs

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Autistic Pride Day 2026

- On 18th June, 2026 world will observe the Autistic Pride Day 2026 and this day celebrates the neurodiversity and promote the acceptance, dignity and inclusion of the autistic individuals.
- The observance of the day challenges outdated perceptions of the autism by emphasizing that autism is not the disease to be cured but a natural variation of human neurology.
- Autistic Pride Day is the international observance which is dedicated to celebrating autistic identity and promoting the concept of neurodiversity.
- The theme for the Autistic Pride Day 2026 focuses on to the three interconnected pillars,
- Recognition
- Representation
- Reform



World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought were observed all around the world on 17th June 2026 and it highlights the urgent need to address the land degradation, desertification and drought-related challenges.
- The theme for 2026 for the day is the “**Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.**” The theme calls for greater recognition of the ecological, economic and cultural value of the rangelands.
- India observed the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought around 813 project areas under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).
- This program is implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development.



Deepti Sharma Becomes Joint-Highest Wicket-Taker

- Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma creates the history as she become the joint-highest wicket-taker in international women’s cricket.
- This achievement comes during India’s Women’s T20 World Cup 2026 Group A match against the Netherlands at Headingley in Leeds as she claimed her 355th international wicket and she matched the legendary tally of former Indian captain Jhulan Goswami.

- The landmark wicket came when Deepti dismissed the Dutch opener Phebe Molkenboer in ongoing India’s Women’s T20 World Cup clash against the Netherlands.

Player	Country	Wickets
Deepti Sharma	India	355
Jhulan Goswami	India	355
Katherine Sciver-Brunt	England	355



India-UK CETA and Social Security Agreement

- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security Contributions which is also known as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) between India and United Kingdom set to implement on 15th of June, 2026.
- This agreements are significantly expected to boost the bilateral trade, strengthen investment flows, improve the market access for Indian goods and services and also provide the major financial benefits to Indian professionals who are working temporarily in the UK.

- The foundation for this agreement was laid in the May 2021 via the Enhanced Trade Partnership and the India-UK Roadmap 2030 which aimed at to elevate the bilateral ties and double trade between the two nations.
- The CETA is the next-generation free trade agreement which consisting of the 30 chapters that covers the goods, services, investments, digital trade, financial services, intellectual property rights, government procurement, innovation, sustainability and support for the small and medium enterprises.
- One of the most important achievements of the agreement is the UK's commitment to provide the zero-duty access on approximately 99% of the India's tariff lines which covers nearly to the 100% of the value of Indian exports.
- This agreement covers all the major services sectors and 137 sub-sectors of interest to India, including the,
 - Information Technology (IT)
 - IT-enabled Services (ITES)
 - Financial Services
 - Professional Services
 - Healthcare
- This agreement covers all the major services sectors and 137 sub-sectors of interest to India, including the,
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Telecommunications
 - Consulting Services



US and Iran Sign Interim Pact

- The United States and Iran have announced the landmark 14-point interim agreement which aimed at to ending months of conflict and restoring the commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and creating a framework for the broader negotiations on sanctions, nuclear issues and regional security.
- This agreement is known as the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding and it marks the most significant diplomatic breakthrough between the two countries in years and it could have far-reaching implications for the global energy markets, Middle East stability and international diplomacy.
- The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is the 14-point framework agreement unveiled by the US and Iranian officials to halt their ongoing hostilities and lay the groundwork for the permanent settlement.
- The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is among the most significant aspects of the agreement.
- This strait is world's one of the most important energy transit routes and it carries a significant share of global oil exports.
- Under the agreement,
- The US will begin lifting the maritime restrictions and its naval blockade.
- Full removal of the blockade is expected within 30 days.
- Iran will facilitate the safe passage of the commercial vessels.
- Both sides will work toward restoring normal shipping traffic.



₹22 Crore Support for Green Hydrogen Startups

- Central Government of India has approved the ₹22 crore in financial assistance for the nine startups under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). This announcement marks the first batch of support under the mission's dedicated ₹100 crore startup funding program which aimed at to accelerating innovation and commercialization in the green hydrogen sector.
- The step comes alongside with the launch of the Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI), it is a digital platform designed to streamline the certification and regulatory compliance.
- Union Minister for the New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced the approval of ₹22 crore in support for total nine startups during a National Green Hydrogen Mission workshop which was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- The funding is part of the mission's ₹100 crore startup support program which seeks to encourage the innovation in hydrogen production, storage, transportation and related technologies.
- The certification framework is expected to,
- Enhance transparency in hydrogen production
- Build investor confidence
- Support exports to international markets
- Ensure compliance with the sustainability standards
- Promote the development of a credible green hydrogen marketplace
- It was launched in the year 2023, the National Green Hydrogen Mission is India's one of the flagship clean energy initiatives.
- The mission has the total financial outlay of around ₹19,744 crore and it aims to establish the India as a global hub for the production, utilization and export of green hydrogen.



Sarvam AI Becomes India's Newest Unicorn

- This investment values the company at around \$1.5 billion post-money and making it as one of the most valuable AI startups in the country and it is reinforcing the India's ambitions to build competitive artificial intelligence technologies.
- The funding round was led by HCL Tech with the strategic investment of around \$150 million, alongside the participation from Bessemer Venture Partners and existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners.
- It was founded in the year 2023 by AI researchers and entrepreneurs Vivek Raghavan and Pratyush Kumar, Sarvam AI has rapidly emerged as India's one of the leading artificial intelligence companies.
- The startup has achieved unicorn status after raising \$234 million in the first close of its planned \$300 million Series B funding round.
- With a post-money valuation of around \$1.5 billion, Sarvam joins an elite group of the Indian startups which are valued at over \$1 billion.
- Sarvam plans to train its next frontier AI model with a focus on to the,
 - Agentic AI systems
 - Coding assistants
 - Cybersecurity applications
 - Enterprise AI solutions
 - Expanding Compute Infrastructure



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Autistic Pride Day is observed every year on which date?**

- (a) 16 June
- (b) 17 June
- (c) 18 June
- (d) 19 June

Ans: (c) 18 June

2. **Which of the following is NOT one of the three pillars of Autistic Pride Day 2026?**

- (a) Recognition
- (b) Representation
- (c) Reform
- (d) Rehabilitation

Ans: (d) Rehabilitation

3. **The theme of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026 is:**

- (a) Land for Life
- (b) Restore the Earth
- (c) Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.
- (d) Save Water, Save Future

Ans: (c) Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.

4. **Which ministry implements the Watershed Development Component of PMKSY 2.0?**

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Ans: (b) Ministry of Rural Development

5. **Deepti Sharma became the joint-highest wicket-taker in international women's cricket with how many wickets?**

- (a) 350
- (b) 352
- (c) 355
- (d) 360

Ans: (c) 355

6. **The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is expected to provide zero-duty access on approximately what percentage of India's tariff lines?**

- (a) 85%
- (b) 90%
- (c) 95%
- (d) 99%

Ans: (d) 99%

7. **The agreement on Social Security Contributions between India and the UK is also known as:**

- (a) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- (b) Double Contribution Convention
- (c) Social Welfare Convention
- (d) Bilateral Labour Agreement

Ans: (b) Double Contribution Convention

8. **The interim agreement between the United States and Iran is known as the:**

- (a) Tehran Peace Accord
- (b) Gulf Security Pact
- (c) Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding
- (d) Hormuz Cooperation Treaty

Ans: (c) Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding

9. **Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Government of India approved financial assistance of ₹22 crore for:**

- (a) 5 startups
- (b) 7 startups
- (c) 9 startups
- (d) 12 startups

Ans: (c) 9 startups

10. Sarvam AI achieved unicorn status after attaining a valuation of approximately:

- (a) \$500 million
- (b) \$1 billion
- (c) \$1.2 billion
- (d) \$1.5 billion

Ans: (d) \$1.5 billion