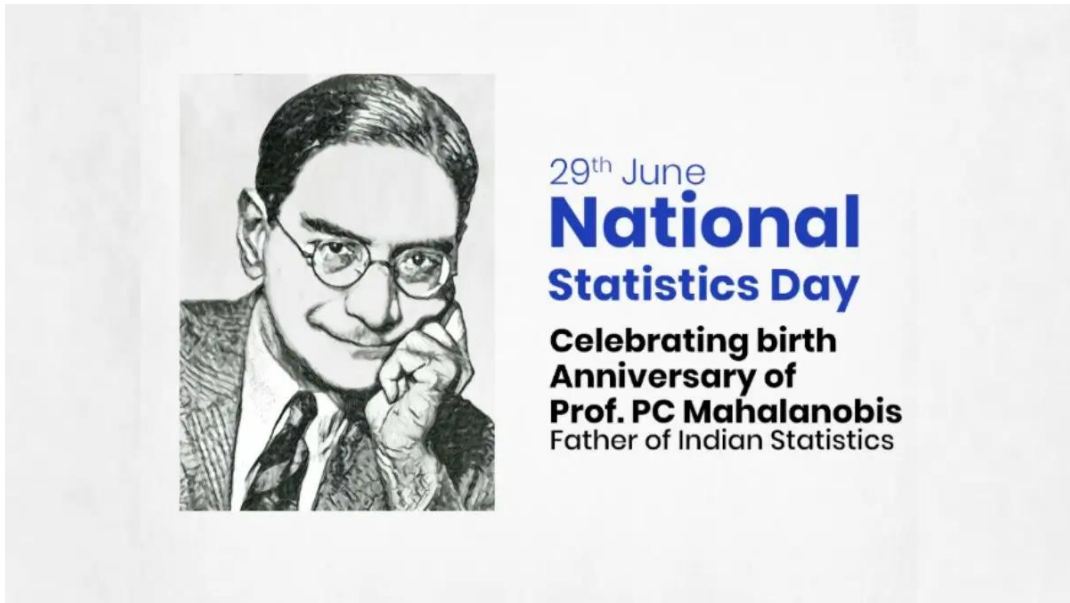


# Daily Current Affairs

## 29 June 2026

### Statistics Day 2026

- On 29th June 2026 India celebrates the 20th Statistics Day and with this it marks two decades of recognising the vital role of the statistics in national development.
- It is organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and this day commemorates the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis who is widely regarded as the father of modern statistics in India.
- The 2026 theme is the “**Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data,**” and showcases the growing importance of using government-generated data to improve policymaking, governance, and public service delivery.
- Statistics Day is observed every year on 29th June to honour the birth anniversary of **Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** (1893-1972), whose pioneering work had laid the foundation of India’s modern statistical system.
- **Who Was Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis?**
- Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was India’s one of the greatest statisticians and planners.
- He founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931.
- It had developed the globally renowned Mahalanobis Distance ( $D^2$  Statistic).
- Established the Sankhya which is the India’s premier statistical journal.
- Introduced scientific large-scale sample survey methods.
- Founded the National Sample Survey (NSS) in 1950.
- Played a pivotal role in India’s Second Five-Year Plan.
- Awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the year 1968.



## Ben Stokes Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- England captain Ben Stokes has announced that he will retire from international cricket after the completion of the third Rothesay Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge. With this it marks the end of one of the most remarkable careers in modern cricket.
- Since he made international debut in the year 2011 and in test in 2013 during the Ashes series, Stokes has established himself as one of England's greatest all-rounders and inspirational leaders.
- The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has confirmed that Ben Stokes will retire from international cricket after the Third Test against New Zealand.
- The Trent Bridge Test will be his last appearance in an England jersey and with this it concludes a distinguished international career which spanned nearly for 15 years.



## PM Narendra Modi Conferred Seychelles' Award

- PM Narendra Modi conferred with the '**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**' **Presidential honor**. Respectable President of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie conferred this award on 28th June 2026 to Indian Prime Minister.
- This recognition highlights the growing role of PM Modi's in areas like climate action, Blue Economy promotion, environmental conservation, and the sustainable development.
- The honour highlights the several major initiatives launched or promoted under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
- International Big Cat Alliance



## UPI to Become Operational in Seychelles

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is targeted to become operational in Seychelles by the end of 2026. India and Seychelles signed a MoU for UPI implementation during PM Narendra Modi's state visit to Seychelles.
- UPI is an instant digital payment system developed in India for bank-to-bank transfers through mobile applications. The system is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the regulatory framework of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The UPI MoU was signed between NPCI and the Central Bank of Seychelles. The agreement covers the technical and institutional steps needed for UPI acceptance in Seychelles and is intended to support cashless transactions for Indian tourists.
- UPI was launched in India in 2016 and became one of the largest real-time payment systems in the world.
- NPCI is the umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India.
- Seychelles is an island country in the western Indian Ocean and is a member of the African Union.
- India has expanded UPI-linked digital payment arrangements with Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka.



## Italy Becomes the UNESCO World Heritage Capital

- Italy has officially become the UNESCO World Heritage Capital after reaching 61 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the highest number recorded by any country in the world.
- Out of the 61 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 55 are Cultural Heritage Sites and 6 are Natural Heritage Sites, reflecting the country's unparalleled contribution to world civilization. The recognition further strengthens Italy's position as one of the world's most visited cultural tourism destinations.
- Italy now holds the distinction of having the largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites globally, surpassing every other nation. The latest addition to the prestigious list has taken the country's total to 61 protected sites, showcasing more than two millennia of history, art, architecture, archaeology, and natural beauty.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites are places recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their exceptional cultural or natural significance.



## DIKSHA Becomes One Nation, One Digital Platform

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing, or DIKSHA, is a national digital platform for school education in India. It was launched in 2017 and is managed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training with support from the Central Institute of Educational Technology.
- As of 28 June 2026, the Central Government positioned DIKSHA as India's **“One Nation, One Digital Platform”** for school education.
- DIKSHA provides curriculum-based digital learning resources from the foundational stage to Class 12. Education boards in nearly every State and Union Territory use the platform for school education content. The platform follows a federated model, which allows States to customise learning material in their own formats.
- DIKSHA offers content in 36 Indian languages and 7 foreign languages. It includes QR-coded Energised Textbooks, educational videos, 2D and 3D animations, augmented reality content, virtual labs, and Indian Sign Language videos. These features are used for school-level digital learning across different subjects and classes.
- DIKSHA is used for teacher professional development through programmes such as NISHTHA. It provides self-paced online training and certification modules for teachers. The platform also supports inclusive education through DAISY-formatted content, text-to-speech tools, and sign language videos for differently abled learners.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Statistics Day is observed every year in India on which date?**

- A. 28 June
- B. 29 June
- C. 30 June
- D. 1 July

**Answer: B. 29 June**

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**2. The theme of Statistics Day 2026 is:**

- A. Data for Sustainable Growth
- B. Digital India through Statistics
- C. Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data
- D. Statistics for Economic Development

**Answer: C. Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data**

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**3. Who is known as the Father of Modern Statistics in India?**

- A. C. Rangarajan
- B. P.C. Mahalanobis
- C. M. Visvesvaraya
- D. Vikram Sarabhai

**Answer: B. P.C. Mahalanobis**

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**4. Which institution was founded by Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis in 1931?**

- A. National Sample Survey
- B. Indian Council of Social Science Research
- C. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)
- D. NITI Aayog

**Answer: C. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)**

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**5. England captain Ben Stokes announced his retirement from international cricket after which match?**

- A. ICC World Test Championship Final
- B. First Test against Australia
- C. Third Rothesay Test against New Zealand
- D. ICC Champions Trophy Final

**Answer: C. Third Rothesay Test against New Zealand**

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**6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with which prestigious honour by Seychelles?**

- A. Order of the Republic
- B. Guardian of the Blue Horizon
- C. Blue Ocean Medal
- D. Order of National Merit

**Answer: B. Guardian of the Blue Horizon**

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**7. Which Indian digital payment system is expected to become operational in Seychelles by the end of 2026?**

- A. BHIM
- B. RuPay
- C. UPI
- D. Aadhaar Pay

**Answer: C. UPI**

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**8. Which organisation operates the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India?**

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- D. SEBI

**Answer: C. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**

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**9. Which country has become the UNESCO World Heritage Capital with 61 World Heritage Sites?**

- A. China
- B. Spain
- C. Italy
- D. France

**Answer: C. Italy**

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**10. DIKSHA has been designated by the Government of India as:**

- A. National Digital University
- B. One Nation, One Digital Platform for School Education
- C. National Teacher Training Portal
- D. Digital India Education Mission

**Answer: B. One Nation, One Digital Platform for School Education**