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Current Affairs Today – June 16, 2026

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A quick-revision roundup of the day's most exam-relevant developments. Each item carries a Why in News note, the key data, the UPSC angle, and a mini Facts Corner.

G7 SUMMIT 2026 OPENS IN EVIAN, FRANCE

*The 2026 G7 Summit was held at (June 15 to 17), with PM Modi attending as a **special invitee**.*

Key Data

- The Group of Seven: **United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada**, plus the **European Union** as a non-enumerated member.
- The G7 is an **informal forum**: it has no charter, no treaty and no permanent secretariat.
- The **2025 summit** was hosted by Canada at **Kananaskis**.

UPSC Angle

- A recurring Prelims target on plurilateral groupings: members, the EU's role, the rotating presidency, and India's repeated invitee status.

G7 = US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada + EU. No charter or secretariat. 2025 host: Canada (Kananaskis); 2026 host: France (Evian).

US-IRAN DEAL ENDS 2026 WAR, REOPENS STRAIT OF HORMUZ

*An , announced on **June 15 at the G7**, moved to end the 2026 war: the ceasefire (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/ceasefire/>) was extended by **60 days**, Israel-Hezbollah fighting halted in Lebanon, and the rival **Strait of Hormuz** (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/strait-of-hormuz/>) blockades were lifted.*

Key Data

- Roughly **a fifth of global oil consumption** (about a quarter of seaborne oil trade) transits the Strait of Hormuz.
- The strait lies between **Iran to the north** and **Oman and the UAE to the south**.
- Crude oil fell about **5 percent** on the announcement; Iran's nuclear future remains unresolved.

UPSC Angle

- Energy security (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/energy-security/>), choke points, and India's stake: **Chabahar** is India's gateway to Iran and Central Asia.

Strait of Hormuz: Iran (N), Oman/UAE (S); about a fifth of global oil consumption. Ceasefire extended 60 days; oil fell about 5 percent.

INDIA-SLOVAKIA TIES ELEVATED TO A COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP

*On the (June 14 to 15), ties were elevated to a **Comprehensive Partnership**, and President **Peter Pellegrini** conferred on PM Modi the **Order of the White Double Cross, First Class**, Slovakia's highest honour for foreigners.*

Key Data

- Slovakia is a member of the **EU, the Eurozone, the Schengen Area and NATO**; capital **Bratislava**; PM **Robert Fico**.
- **14 outcomes**, including a **Counter-Terrorism Joint Working Group** and a **defence MoU**.

UPSC Angle

- India's outreach to Central Europe and the India-EU FTA; civilian honours conferred on Indian leaders.

Slovakia: capital Bratislava; EU, Eurozone, Schengen, NATO. Honour: Order of the White Double Cross, First Class.

INDIA-THAILAND 10TH DEFENCE DIALOGUE

*The was held in **Bangkok** on **June 16**.*

Key Data

- Follows the **2025 elevation** of ties to a **Strategic Partnership**.

UPSC Angle

- India's **Act East Policy** (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/act-east-policy/>) and maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

India-Thailand: Strategic Partnership (2025); 10th Defence Dialogue, Bangkok, 2026.

FIRST NDA-TRAINED WOMEN OFFICERS COMMISSIONED

*of the **148th NDA Course** became the first women trained at the National Defence Academy to be commissioned as officers.*

Key Data

- They joined in **August 2022** after the 2021 Supreme Court order in **Kush Kalra v. Union of India**.
- Split: **9 Army** (IMA Dehradun, June 13), **3 Navy** (INA Ezhimala, May 28), **5 Air Force** (AFA Dundigal, June 13).

UPSC Angle

- Articles **14, 15 and 16** on equality and non-discrimination; gender and the armed forces.

148th NDA Course: 17 women officers; joined Aug 2022 after Kush Kalra v. Union of India (2021).

LT GEN DHIRAJ SETH NAMED 31ST COAS

*was named the **31st Chief of the Army Staff**, taking charge on **June 30, 2026**, succeeding Gen Upendra Dwivedi.*

Key Data

- He is the **first Armoured Corps officer** to head the Army since **Gen Shankar Roy Chowdhury (1997)**.
- Commissioned in **December 1986**.

UPSC Angle

- Higher defence organisation and service-chief appointments.

31st COAS: Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, from June 30, 2026; first Armoured Corps chief since 1997.

INDIA POST LAUNCHES FIRST DRONE MAIL ROUTE

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Union Minister launched India Post's **first drone mail route**, from **Mandi HO to Rehardhar BO** in Himachal Pradesh.

Key Data

- About **12 km**; delivery time cut from **2 hours to about 7 minutes**.
- Around **150 routes** planned in HP and Assam; run by the **Department of Posts** (Ministry of Communications).

UPSC Angle

- Drone-based last-mile delivery in hilly terrain; technology for governance.

India Post first drone route: Mandi to Rehardhar, HP; 12 km; 2 hours to about 7 minutes.

13TH BRICS URBANISATION FORUM IN NEW DELHI

The was held in **New Delhi** on the theme "**Cities for People**", coinciding with the **golden jubilee of NIUA**.

Key Data

- The **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**, founded in **1976**, is a think tank under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- Expanded BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, plus **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Indonesia**.

UPSC Angle

- Urbanisation, plurilateral cooperation, and India's institutions on cities.

13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum, New Delhi; theme "*Cities for People*"; NIUA golden jubilee (founded 1976, under MoHUA).

PLFS MAY 2026: URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT EASES

The for **May 2026** showed urban unemployment easing.

Key Data

- Overall unemployment **5.5 percent**; urban **6.4 percent** (down from 6.9 percent in May 2025); rural **5.1 percent**.
- PLFS is conducted by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)** (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/nso-mospi-statistical-architecture/>) under **MoSPI**; the monthly series uses the **Current Weekly Status** (revamped in January 2025).

UPSC Angle

- Labour statistics, the Current Weekly Status method, and the unemployment rate as an indicator.

PLFS May 2026: overall 5.5 percent, urban 6.4 percent, rural 5.1 percent; NSO under MoSPI; Current Weekly Status.

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD CAPTIVE COUNT REACHES 94

*Three new chicks took the **captive count to 94** at the **Sudasari and Ramdevra** centres in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.*

Key Data

- The three: **one from a wild egg** and **two via artificial insemination**.
- GIB (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is **IUCN Critically Endangered** and the **state bird of Rajasthan**; **power lines** are its biggest threat.
- The breeding programme runs since **2018**; 2026 is the **first soft-release year**.

UPSC Angle

- Species conservation, captive breeding, the power-line collision threat, and IUCN status.

*GIB = *Ardeotis nigriceps*; IUCN Critically Endangered; Rajasthan state bird; captive count 94; first soft-release year 2026.*

([HTTP://AVATAAR.AI](http://AVATAAR.AI)) LAUNCHES "VARYA" AI VIDEO MODEL

*Indian firm launched an indigenous AI video model named "**Varya**".*

Key Data

- It cuts generation steps from **50 to 4** and costs about **Rs 0.48 per second**.
- Links to the **IndiaAI Mission** (<https://ujjiyari.com/schemes/indiaai-mission/>).

UPSC Angle

- Indigenous AI, the IndiaAI Mission, and India's deep tech ecosystem

Varya by Avataar.ai (<http://Avataar.ai>): 50 steps to 4; about Rs 0.48/sec; linked to the IndiaAI Mission.

UPI GOES LIVE AT GALERIES LAFAYETTE, NICE

*went live at **Galleries Lafayette in Nice, France**, during PM Modi's visit.*

Key Data

- UPI is operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

UPSC Angle

- Digital public infrastructure and the internationalisation of UPI.

UPI at Galleries Lafayette, Nice; UPI run by NPCI.

KALYANI-PARAMOUNT UNVEIL "SIMHA 4X4"

*(a subsidiary of **Bharat Forge**) and **Paramount** unveiled the "**Simha 4x4**" Light Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle.*

Key Data

- It is a **Light Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle**.

UPSC Angle

- Defence indigenisation (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/indigenisation/>) and Make-in-India in the armoured-vehicle segment.

Simha 4x4: Light Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle by Kalyani Strategic Systems (Bharat Forge) and Paramount.

SUDARSAN PATTNAIK WINS RUSSIA GRAND SAND MASTER CUP

*became the **first Indian** to win the **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026**.*

Key Data

- He is a **Padma Shri** sand artist from **Odisha**.

UPSC Angle

- Persons and awards in news; Indian art on a global stage.

Sudarsan Pattnaik (Padma Shri, Odisha): first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

*is the **International Day of the African Child**, marking the **Soweto Uprising of June 16, 1976**.*

Key Data

- Instituted by the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU)** in **1991**; the **African Union (AU)** succeeded the OAU in **2002**.

UPSC Angle

- Important days and the institutional history of the OAU and the AU.

International Day of the African Child (June 16): Soweto Uprising 1976; instituted by OAU 1991; AU succeeded OAU 2002.

FACTS CORNERUjijari Current Affairs - ujijari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS**FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA****DIPLMACY:**

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US-Iran deal: ceasefire extended 60 days, Hormuz blockades lifted, oil down about 5 percent

India-Slovakia: Comprehensive Partnership; Order of the White Double Cross, First Class; 14 outcomes

India-Thailand: 10th Defence Dialogue, Bangkok; Strategic Partnership since 2025

SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE:

17 women of the 148th NDA Course commissioned; Kush Kalra v. Union of India (2021); Articles 14, 15, 16

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth: 31st COAS from June 30, 2026; first Armoured Corps chief since 1997

India Post first drone route: Mandi to Rehardhar, HP, 12 km

Simha 4x4 LAMV by Kalyani Strategic Systems and Paramount

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT:

PLFS May 2026: overall 5.5 percent, urban 6.4 percent, rural 5.1 percent; NSO under MoSPI

Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*): captive count 94; IUCN Critically Endangered; Rajasthan state bird

13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum, New Delhi; NIUA golden jubilee (1976, MoHUA)

Varya AI video model by Avataar.ai (<http://Avataar.ai>); UPI at Galeries Lafayette, Nice

AWARDS AND DAYS:

Sudarsan Pattnaik: first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026

International Day of the African Child (June 16): Soweto Uprising 1976

Sources: *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in>), *Ministry of External Affairs* (<https://www.mea.gov.in>), *The Hindu* (<https://www.thehindu.com>)

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