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# Current Affairs Today – June 19, 2026

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY



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# Current Affairs Today — June 19, 2026

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## TELEGRAM RESTRICTED UNDER SECTION 69A

*The Delhi High Court (Justice Tejas Karia, vacation bench) upheld the Centre’s temporary restriction on Telegram under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 till June 22, 2026, following a MeitY order of June 16, ahead of the June 21 NEET-UG re-exam.*

### Key Data

The court held that 69A blocking power can extend to an entire intermediary platform and called the measure “least restrictive,” citing the proportionality test from *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)*. Telegram was also told to disable message-editing till June 30. Telegram-linked NCRP complaints rose from 75,688 (2023) to about 2.75 lakh (2025).

### UPSC Angle

Section 69A (blocking) versus Section 79 (intermediary safe harbour); Blocking Rules 2009.

*Section 69A grounds include sovereignty (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/sovereignty/>), security of the State and public order; defying a 69A order carries up to 7 years imprisonment.*

## NEET-UG 2026 RE-EXAMINATION

*The NEET-UG 2026 re-exam is scheduled for June 21, after the original May 3 exam was cancelled on May 12 over paper-leak allegations now under a CBI probe.*

### Key Data

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the Indian Air Force would transport question papers. The National Testing Agency (NTA, established 2017, autonomous under the Ministry of Education) conducts NEET-UG, JEE-Main, CUET and UGC-NET.

## UPSC Angle

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024: exam-integrity governance.

*NTA was set up in 2017 as an autonomous testing body under the Ministry of Education.*

## UAE BARS UNDER-15S FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

*On June 18, 2026, the UAE Cabinet, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, barred children under 15 from creating or operating personal social-media accounts, the first Arab nation to do so.*

## Key Data

A 12-month transition applies; the rule covers residents and tourists; ages 15 to 16 get supervised access; AI and biometric age verification is mandatory and self-declaration is rejected. It mirrors Australia's under-16 ban.

## UPSC Angle

India's DPDP Act, 2023 requires verifiable parental consent for under-18s, a consent model rather than a ban.

*India's DPDP Act defines a "child" as under 18 and bars tracking and targeted ads at children.*

## IRDAI WORKING GROUP ON AI IN INSURANCE

*On June 18, 2026, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) set up a seven-member working group on AI in insurance.*

## Key Data

The group is chaired by Sandeep K. Shukla (Director, IIIT-Hyderabad), with members from CERT-In, SBI Life, Star Health, ICICI Lombard and a former ReBIT executive.

## UPSC Angle

IRDAI is **statutory** (<https://ujjayi.com/vocab/statutory/>) under the IRDA Act, 1999 (established 1999), headquartered in Hyderabad; CERT-In is the national nodal cyber-incident agency under MeitY.

*IRDAI HQ is Hyderabad; CERT-In handles national cyber-incident response.*

## JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS IN ASSAM

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Assam reported 35 confirmed Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases and 7 deaths in 2026 (as of June 17), with the National Health Mission clarifying that JE is distinct from the broader Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

### Key Data

AES figures stood at 470 cases and 32 deaths. The AES-JE season runs June to August. JE is mosquito-borne (*Culex*), with pigs and water-birds as amplifying hosts; about 62% of India's JE deaths since 2018 have been in Assam.

### UPSC Angle

JE vaccine is provided under the Universal Immunisation Programme; vector-borne disease control.

*JE vector is the Culex mosquito; pigs and water-birds are amplifying hosts.*

## SOUTHWEST MONSOON STALLS

The southwest monsoon has stalled, with a 38% all-India rainfall deficit for June 1 to 17 (central India at 62% below normal), despite a May 24 onset over Kerala (the earliest since 2009).

### Key Data

The IMD attributes the hiatus to five factors: an unfavourable MJO phase, a feeble Somali/Findlater Jet, weak convection, poor wind convergence (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/convergence/>) and suppressed dynamics. Further advance into Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar is expected around June 23.

### UPSC Angle

Monsoon mechanics, MJO modulation and the kharif sowing risk.

*Normal Kerala onset is June 1 (+/- 4 days); the MJO is the Madden-Julian Oscillation.*

## EPF INTEREST RATE FIXED AT 8.25%

The Government ratified the EPF interest rate of 8.25% for FY26, the third consecutive year at this rate, to be credited to over 7 crore members this month.

### Key Data

EPFO operates under the Ministry of Labour and Employment; the rate is decided by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex [\(https://ujivari.com/vocab/apex/\)](https://ujivari.com/vocab/apex/) tripartite body chaired by the Labour Minister.

### UPSC Angle

Social-security architecture; tripartite governance.

*CBT is the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, chaired by the Union Labour Minister.*

## RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR REAPPOINTED

*The Centre reappointed RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan Janakiraman (former SBI Managing Director) for two years with effect from June 26, 2026.*

### Key Data

The RBI has one Governor and up to four Deputy Governors. (FCNR(B) refers to Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits.)

### UPSC Angle

RBI's leadership structure and central-banking governance.

*The RBI is led by a Governor plus up to four Deputy Governors.*

## INDIA LAUNCHES THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

*India launched its first Producer Price Index (PPI [\(https://ujivari.com/terms/producer-price-index/\)](https://ujivari.com/terms/producer-price-index/)) on June 15, 2026, with the WPI to be phased out within about five years.*

### Key Data

The PPI uses a 2022-23 base, covers goods plus seven services, applies the IMF-backed double-deflator (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/deflator/>) and aligns with OECD standards. Output PPI inflation was 9.4% in May 2026; the WPI excluded services.

### UPSC Angle

PPI versus WPI versus CPI; double-deflator and national-accounts accuracy.

*PPI base year is 2022-23; released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT; covers 7 services including banking and telecom.*

## SIXTH ALL-INDIA TIGER ESTIMATION BEGINS

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*India began its sixth All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) cycle in January 2026, with the report due in 2027.*

### Key Data

It builds on the 2022 count of 3,682 tigers (about 70% of global wild tigers). The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is statutory under the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](https://ujjiyari.com/legislation/wildlife-protection-act-1972/) (created by the 2006 amendment); Project Tiger was launched in 1973. The tiger is Schedule I and IUCN Endangered.

### UPSC Angle

Conservation governance; AITE as the world's largest wildlife survey, held every 4 years.

*Project Tiger launched 1973; NTCA created by the 2006 amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.*

## NFHS-6 NUTRITION FINDINGS

*NFHS-6 (2023-24) was released on May 30, 2026, showing under-five stunting down to 29.3% but a lag in infant feeding practices.*

### Key Data

Severe wasting is 5.2%, institutional births 90% and full immunisation 87%, yet only about 50% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour and only 15% of 6-to-23-month-olds get an adequate diet. The nodal agency is IIPS Mumbai.

### UPSC Angle

POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018), the “first 1,000 days,” and SDG-2.

*Stunting is low height-for-age (chronic); wasting is low weight-for-height (acute).*

## AMARNATH YATRA 2026 DATES ANNOUNCED

*The 2026 Amarnath Yatra will run for 57 days from July 3 to August 28 (ending on Raksha Bandhan).*

### Key Data

The pilgrimage uses two routes: Baltal (Ganderbal) and Nunwan-Pahalgam (Anantnag). The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB, established 2000) manages it; RFID cards are mandatory and security is heightened after the April 2025 Pahalgam attack.

## UPSC Angle

SASB governance; pilgrimage and security management in J&K. [UPSC Current Affairs - Ujjiyari.com](#) Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

*SASB was established in 2000; the two yatra routes are Baltal and Nunwan-Pahalgam.*

## INDIA'S DEFENCE DECADE REVIEWED

*A MoD review (PIB, June 18, 2026) of 2014 to 2026 highlighted indigenous defence production (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/indigenous-defence-production/>) of Rs 1.78 lakh crore (FY26) and exports of Rs 38,424 crore.*

## Key Data

Exports rose more than 5,500% over 12 years, reaching 80+ countries via 145 firms; the target is Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, with the private sector at 24% of production. Enablers include DAP 2020 (Buy Indian-IDDMM), Positive Indigenisation (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/indigenisation/>) Lists, iDEX (551 contracts by March 2026), ADITI and two Defence Industrial Corridors (UP, Tamil Nadu).

## UPSC Angle

Atmanirbharta in defence; procurement reform and export strategy.

*DAP 2020 made Buy Indian-IDDMM the most-preferred procurement category.*

## DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS RISE

*Net direct tax collections rose about 14.64% to Rs 5.21 lakh crore (till June 17, 2026).*

## Key Data

Net corporate tax was up 22% and Securities Transaction Tax (STT) up 45%. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) operates under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, statutory under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

## UPSC Angle

Direct-tax buoyancy; CBDT and fiscal administration.

*CBDT is statutory under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.*

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Section 69A, IT Act 2000: Platform-wide blocking upheld by Delhi HC; proportionality from Anuradha Bhasin (2020).

NTA: Established 2017; conducts NEET-UG, JEE-Main, CUET, UGC-NET.

UAE ban: Under-15s off social media; first Arab nation; AI/biometric age check.

IRDAI: Statutory under IRDA Act 1999; HQ Hyderabad.

JE: Culex-borne; pigs and water-birds amplifying hosts; vaccine under UIP.

Monsoon: 38% deficit (June 1 to 17); MJO and Somali Jet drivers.

EPF: 8.25% for FY26; decided by CBT under Ministry of Labour and Employment.

RBI: 1 Governor + up to 4 Deputy Governors; Swaminathan Janakiraman reappointed.

PPI: Base 2022-23; goods + 7 services; double-deflator; replaces WPI.

Tigers: 6th AITE begun (Jan 2026); 2022 count 3,682; Project Tiger 1973; NTCA under WPA 1972.

NFHS-6: Stunting 29.3%; IIPS Mumbai; POSHAN Abhiyaan 2018.

Amarnath Yatra: July 3 to Aug 28, 2026; routes Baltal and Nunwan-Pahalgam; SASB est. 2000.

Defence: Exports Rs 38,424 crore (FY26); target Rs 50,000 crore by 2029.

Direct tax: Net up ~14.64% to Rs 5.21 lakh crore; CBDT under Central Board of Revenue Act 1963.

**Sources:** *The Hindu* (<https://www.thehindu.com>), *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com>), *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in>), *LiveMint* (<https://www.livemint.com>)

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