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Current Affairs Today – June 21, 2026

21 June 2026

REPORTS & SCHEMES**GS2****GS3**

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CURRENT AFFAIRS TODAY — JUNE 21, 2026

A consolidated snapshot of the day's key developments for UPSC and State PCS aspirants. Each item is followed by key data and the UPSC angle.

12TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA: "YOGA FOR HEALTHY AGEING"

The world observed the 12th International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2026, with PM Modi leading the main event at Red Road, Kolkata.

Key Data

Theme: "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" (Swasth Aayu ke liye Yoga). Based on UNGA Resolution 69/131 (December 11, 2014), co-sponsored by a record 175 nations; first observed June 21, 2015. Nodal Ministry: AYUSH; Common Yoga Protocol by MDNIY; around 2,500 global venues and Yoga Sangam across 778 districts.

UPSC Angle

Soft power, cultural heritage, preventive geriatric public health.

A Guinness World Record was set for "most viewers for a YouTube live yoga stream" (4,35,831 viewers, June 14, 2026), a viewership record, not a physical-gathering record.

INS DUNAGIRI COMMISSIONED WITH TWO OTHER VESSELS

PM Modi commissioned three indigenous naval vessels at Kolkata on June 21, 2026.

Key Data

INS Dunagiri (5th Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigate (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/frigate/>), BrahMos and MRSAM, around 75% indigenous), INS Sanshodhak (Survey Vessel Large) and INS Agray (Arnala-class ASW Shallow Water Craft). All built by GRSE, Kolkata; 200-plus MSMEs; designed by the Warship Design Bureau.

UPSC Angle

Indigenisation (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/indigenisation/>) of defence, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, naval modernisation.

Project 17A is the follow-on to the Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates.

23RD PM-KISAN INSTALLMENT RELEASED

The 23rd PM-KISAN installment was released from Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal on June 20, 2026.

Key Data

Rs 18,880 crore transferred to 9.44 crore beneficiaries, including 2.18 crore women farmers. PM-KISAN: launched February 2019, Rs 6,000 per year in three installments, 100% central funding, DBT, Aadhaar-seeded.

UPSC Angle

Direct Benefit Transfer, agrarian income support, scheme design.

PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme with full central funding.

AGRICULTURE BUNDLE LAUNCHED IN WEST BENGAL

The PM launched a bundle of agriculture initiatives in West Bengal on June 20, 2026.

Key Data

West Bengal brought under PMFBY/RWBCIS for the first time (target around 50 lakh farmers); AgriStack under the Digital Agriculture Mission (Rs 2,817 crore) covering KCC, DBT, crop insurance and MSP; National Mission on Natural Farming (<https://ujjyari.com/schemes/nmnf/>) clusters (346 clusters, 17,300 ha); fisheries projects under PMMSY.

UPSC Angle

Digital public infrastructure in agriculture, crop insurance, natural farming.

PMFBY (2016) is described as the world's largest crop insurance scheme.

INDIA ELECTED FATF VICE-PRESIDENT

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India was elected FATF Vice-President for 2026-27 at the Paris Plenary (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/plenary/>) (June 17 to 19, 2026).

Key Data

Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal (former Director, FIU-IND) elected, India's first-ever FATF Vice-Presidency; term July 2026 to June 2027; succeeds the UK's Giles Thomson (now President). FATF: AML/CFT watchdog, established 1989, Paris-based; India a member since 2010.

UPSC Angle

Global financial governance, AML/CFT, terror-financing diplomacy.

FATF's grey list signals increased monitoring; the black list triggers a call for action.

WORLD BANK APPROVES \$1.5 BILLION DPF FOR INDIA

The World Bank Board approved a \$1.5 billion Development Policy Financing for India on June 18, 2026.

Key Data

Backs tax simplification, trade integration, labour-law updates (women's formal participation) and capital mobilisation; aims to support around 11 million annual youth labour-market entrants over 20 years. Instrument: Development Policy Financing (DPF).

UPSC Angle

Multilateral (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/multilateral/>) lending instruments, reform-linked financing, demographic dividend.

DPF is budget-support lending tied to policy reforms, distinct from project loans.

INDIA'S FIRST COAL-TO-AMMONIUM-NITRATE PLANT (BCGCL)

President Murmu and PM Modi laid the foundation (virtually) for BCGCL's Odisha plant on June 20, 2026.

Key Data

At Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda, Odisha; JV of Coal India Ltd (51%) and BHEL (49%); investment Rs 25,016 crore; output around 0.66 MTPA technical-grade ammonium nitrate; target 2029; uses indigenous coal gasification.

UPSC Angle

Coal gasification, energy security (<https://ujivari.com/terms/energy-security/>), import substitution, energy-climate trade-off.

Coal gasification converts coal into syngas for high-value chemicals.

INDIA TO ELIMINATE SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA BEFORE 2047

President Murmu said India will eliminate sickle cell anaemia well before 2047 (World Sickle Cell Day event, Omkareshwar, MP, June 19, 2026).

Key Data

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission launched July 1, 2023 at Shahdol, MP, target 2047; 7 crore people (0 to 40 years) screened; around 2.5 lakh affected and 20 lakh-plus carriers. World Sickle Cell Day: June 19.

UPSC Angle

Genetic disorders, tribal health, mission-mode public health.

Sickle cell anaemia is an inherited disorder of haemoglobin, common among tribal populations.

NCRB LAUNCHES "ABHIGYAN" FINGERPRINT APP

Home Minister Amit Shah launched the NCRB "Abhigyan" portable fingerprint app at the 26th All India Fingerprint Conference, New Delhi (around June 20, 2026).

Key Data

A smartphone fingerprint scan is matched against NAFIS (around 1.3 crore records) in about 35 seconds. Enabling law: Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022.

UPSC Angle

Criminal justice technology, privacy (Puttaswamy proportionality), surveillance.

NAFIS is the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System maintained by NCRB.

TAWANG GLACIAL LAKES EXPANDING, GLOF RISK RISES

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A satellite study found four of five Tawang glacial lakes expanding (June 2026).

Key Data

Mago Chu basin, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh; Sanhapo Lake grew from 55.87 ha (2016) to 88.81 ha (June 2026). Arunachal has 197 expanding glacial lakes (CWC), the highest in India. South Lhonak (Sikkim) 2023 is the GLOF precedent.

UPSC Angle

Cryosphere (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/cryosphere/>), climate change, disaster management.

A GLOF is the sudden release of water from a glacial lake when its natural dam fails.

EU APPROVES TOUGHEST-EVER RETURN REGULATION

The European Parliament approved its toughest-ever Return Regulation on June 17, 2026 (vote 418 to 218, 30 abstentions).

Key Data

Allows offshore “return hubs” in non-EU countries; maximum detention raised from 6 months to up to 2 years; entry bans up to 10 years. Part of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum applicable from June 12, 2026.

UPSC Angle

Migration governance, the non-refoulement principle, the Indian diaspora (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/diaspora/>).

Non-refoulement bars returning a person to a country where they face serious harm.

COLOMBIA PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

Colombia held its presidential runoff on June 21, 2026.

Key Data

Far-right, Trump-backed Abelardo de la Espriella narrowly defeated leftist Ivan Cepeda (around 49.65% vs 48.70%, margin under 250,000 votes); Cepeda is contesting the result. The winner takes office on August 7, 2026.

UPSC Angle

Two-round (runoff) electoral systems, Latin American political shifts.

A runoff (two-round) system holds a second vote between the top candidates if none wins a majority.

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INDIA'S AC BOOM COULD STRAIN THE GRID BY 2028

A study warned that India's air-conditioner boom could push the grid toward shortages by 2028 (around June 20 to 21, 2026).

Key Data

Room ACs already draw around 60 to 70 GW (about a quarter of peak demand); India adds 10 to 15 million ACs a year; peak power demand hit a record around 270 GW on May 21, 2026. New BEE room-AC efficiency standards took effect in January 2026.

UPSC Angle

Energy efficiency, cooling demand, the Kigali Amendment, the India Cooling Action Plan.

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol mandates the phase-down of HFC refrigerants.

YOGA DIPLOMACY AND METRO EXPANSIONS

Yoga diplomacy and urban-transport milestones marked the Yoga Day weekend.

Key Data

EAM Jaishankar did yoga with Norway's envoy at Nehru Park, New Delhi (June 21); Kolkata Metro extensions (around 13.61 km) were inaugurated (June 20 to 21). In the background, ICAR-IIOR unveiled a smart seed-coating biopolymer (June 18).

UPSC Angle

Cultural diplomacy, urban mobility, agricultural innovation.

The Kolkata Metro is India's oldest operational metro rail system.

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Yoga Day: 12th edition, theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”; UNGA Resolution 69/131 co-sponsored by 175 nations.

Naval commissioning: INS Dunagiri (Project 17A), INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray, all by GRSE.

PM-KISAN: 23rd installment, Rs 18,880 crore to 9.44 crore beneficiaries.

FATF: India elected Vice-President 2026-27, its first ever; FATF set up 1989, Paris.

World Bank: \$1.5 billion Development Policy Financing approved June 18, 2026.

BCGCL: India’s first coal-to-ammonium-nitrate plant, Odisha, CIL 51% plus BHEL 49%.

GLOF: Arunachal has 197 expanding glacial lakes, the highest in India.

EU Return Regulation: Detention up to 2 years; non-refoulement at stake.

Sources: Press Information Bureau (<https://pib.gov.in>), The Hindu (<https://www.thehindu.com>), LiveMint (<https://www.livemint.com>)

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