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# Current Affairs Today, June 29, 2026

29 June 2026

**ENVIRONMENT****GS2****GS3**

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

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# Current Affairs Today, June 29, 2026

29 June 2026 · 3 min read ·

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A roundup of the key current affairs for June 29, 2026, covering the items not taken up as separate deep-dive articles.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE TROPICS

*June 29 is observed as the International Day of the Tropics, recognising the challenges and potential of the tropical regions of the world.*

### Background

The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in **2016** and commemorates the launch of the first **State of the Tropics Report (2014)**.

### Key Points

- The tropics, the region between the **Tropic of Cancer** and the **Tropic of Capricorn**, host roughly **80% of the world's biodiversity** and about **40% of the world's population**.
- They face deforestation, climate **vulnerability** (<https://ujyari.com/vocab/vulnerability/>), and the highest concentration of threatened species.
- The **Tropic of Cancer** passes through eight Indian States, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.

### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

International Day of the Tropics: June 29; designated by the UN General Assembly in 2016.

Tropics: between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn; ~80% of biodiversity, ~40% of population.

Tropic of Cancer: passes through 8 Indian States.

## BANGLADESH JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

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Bangladesh became a member of the India-led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA (<https://ujijari.com/terms/ibca-international-big-cat-alliance/>)), strengthening transboundary big-cat conservation.

### Key Points

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was launched by India in **2023**, marking 50 years of Project Tiger, and is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- It covers the world's seven big cats: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- India and Bangladesh share the **Sundarbans**, home to the Royal Bengal Tiger, making Bangladesh's membership significant for joint conservation.

### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

IBCA: International Big Cat Alliance; India-led; launched 2023; headquarters New Delhi.

Seven big cats: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma.

Sundarbans: shared India-Bangladesh mangrove tiger habitat.

## NITI AAYOG TRADE WATCH QUARTERLY

NITI Aayog released the eighth edition of its Trade Watch Quarterly, reporting growth in India's overall trade and a focus on the pharmaceutical sector.

### Key Points

- India's combined merchandise and services trade rose to about **USD 1.84 trillion** in the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26, an increase of around **5.4%** year-on-year.
- The edition focused on **pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)**, where India is strong in generics but import-dependent on China for many raw materials.
- Leading pharma-manufacturing States include Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Trade Watch Quarterly: published by NITI Aayog.

India's Q4 FY26 trade: about USD 1.84 trillion, up ~5.4% year-on-year.

Pharma focus: India strong in generics; API raw-material dependence on China.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

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These items span GS Paper 1 and 3 (geography of the tropics, environment and biodiversity), GS Paper 2 (international conservation diplomacy) and GS Paper 3 (external trade, pharmaceutical sector). Revise them as quick prelims pointers alongside the day's deep-dive articles.

## FACTS CORNER

### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

International Day of the Tropics: June 29 (UN, 2016); tropics hold ~80% of biodiversity.

Tropic of Cancer: passes through 8 Indian States.

IBCA: India-led International Big Cat Alliance (2023, New Delhi); 7 big cats; Bangladesh joins.

NITI Trade Watch: India's Q4 FY26 trade about USD 1.84 trillion, up ~5.4%; pharma focus.

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

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/06/29/current-affairs-today/>

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