



D A I L Y U . P . S . C E D I T I O N

THE HINDU COMPLETE ANALYSIS

Current Affairs & Editorial

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2026

VEDANTA COACHING ACADEMY & LIBRARY

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CONTENTS

THE HINDU — COMPLETE ANALYSIS · TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2026

Top News of the Day 1

1 · Doval hosts BRICS NSAs amid West Asia tensions **IR** 1

2 · Ammonia gas leak in Tamil Nadu (toll rises to 7) **GS-III** 2

3 · Core sector growth slows to 0.5% **ECON** 3

4 · ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI **GS-I** 4

Editorial Analysis 4

1 · The challenge of India's digital sovereignty **GS-II/III** 5

2 · A Trojan horse has breached the IITs (IKS) **GS-II/IV** 6

Crux of Other Important News (13 stories) 6

Prelims Practice — 10 MCQs with explanations 8

Mains Practice — 2 questions with pointers 11

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

- Each **top news** gives the **core facts in bullets** plus a **navy box of static/linked facts** for revision.
- Two editorials carry the **original Hindu clipping** alongside a point-wise gist.
- Attempt the **10 MCQs** first, then read the explanations; frame the **2 mains answers** using the pointers.

A curated daily digest from **The Hindu** — the day's most exam-relevant news and editorials explained in crisp bullets, with linked static facts, 10 prelims MCQs and 2 mains questions.

TOP NEWS OF THE DAY

EXPLAINED · STATIC-LINKED

1

GS-II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Doval hosts BRICS NSAs in Delhi amid West Asia tensions

- ▶ National Security Adviser (NSA) **Ajit Doval** hosted his counterparts from the BRICS grouping in New Delhi for the **BRICS NSAs' meeting**, held against the backdrop of escalating tensions in West Asia (the Israel–Iran conflict).
- ▶ Doval held bilateral talks with **Ghadir Nezamipour**, Iran's Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi**, and Brazil's **Carlos Cozende**.
- ▶ The Iranian side reaffirmed support for **territorial integrity and sovereignty**; India and Iran reviewed bilateral ties and stressed 'stable, predictable and constructive' relations.
- ▶ The 22–23 June meeting focused on **non-traditional security challenges** and outcomes of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
- ▶ Separately, the **UAE is in talks to buy BrahMos missiles and Akashteer air-defence units** from India, and India–Israel discussed expanding defence and industrial relations during Maj-Gen Amir Baram's visit.



NSA Ajit Doval with Iran's Ghadir Nezamipour in New Delhi.

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

- **BRICS** began as **BRIC** (2009, Yekaterinburg); South Africa joined in 2010. The 2024 expansion added **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE** (later Indonesia), with Saudi Arabia invited.
- BRICS development bank = **New Development Bank (NDB)**, headquartered in Shanghai; first President was K.V. Kamath.
- **NSA** is the chief adviser to the PM on national & international security; the post was created in **1998** (first NSA: Brajesh Mishra).
- **BrahMos** = supersonic cruise missile, an India–Russia joint venture (named after Brahmaputra + Moskva rivers). **Akashteer** is an automated air-defence control system by Bharat Electronics Ltd.

2

GS-III · DISASTER MGMT / INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Ammonia gas leak in Tamil Nadu: death toll rises to 7

- ▶ The death toll in the **ammonia gas leak** at a seafood-processing unit in Tamil Nadu's **Tiruvallur district** rose to seven; all the deceased were **women migrant workers from Odisha**.
- ▶ A total of **77 workers** were affected; several remained in intensive care on oxygen support. The leak occurred at the factory's refrigeration/ice-flaking section.
- ▶ Tamil Nadu's Health Department is monitoring treatment; Odisha announced ex gratia, and both governments are coordinating return of the mortal remains.
- ▶ An inquiry by DISH (Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health) flagged **failure to rectify earlier deficiencies** — absence of a proper alarm system and fire hydrant.
- ▶ **Exam link:** The Hindu editorial 'Deadly fumes' argues that safety norms exist on paper but enforcement is weak across hazardous units.



Emergency care for victims of the ammonia leak in Tamil Nadu.

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

- **Ammonia (NH₃)** — a colourless, pungent, toxic gas lighter than air; widely used in **refrigeration and fertilizer** industries. It irritates the eyes and respiratory tract.
- Key regulatory framework: **Factories Act, 1948**; **Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989**; and **Chemical Accidents (EPPR) Rules, 1996**.
- Recalls the **1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy** (Methyl Isocyanate, Union Carbide) — India's worst industrial disaster, which led to stronger hazardous-industry laws.
- **NDMA** (National Disaster Management Authority) is the apex body for disaster management under the **DM Act, 2005**.

3

GS-III · ECONOMY

Core sector growth slows to 0.5% — crude, coal contract

- ▶ Growth in India's **eight core industries** slowed to **0.5% in May 2026** — the second-slowest in 21 months — after touching 6.5% in August 2025.
- ▶ **Five of the eight** sectors contracted in May 2026: **crude oil (-4.6%), natural gas (-4.9%), refinery products (-8.7%), fertilizers, and cement**; only steel and electricity grew.
- ▶ Refinery products saw their worst performance in three-and-a-half years; the contraction was partly attributed to the **fallout of the West Asia crisis** and higher crude import costs.
- ▶ The data comes from the **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

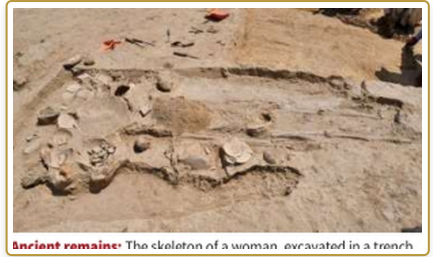
- **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):** Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity. **Base year: 2011-12.**
- The eight core industries make up about **40.27%** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. Highest weight is **Refinery Products (~28%)**; lowest is Fertilizers.
- ICI is compiled and released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT** (Ministry of Commerce & Industry).
- IIP is released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under MoSPI; it is a key lead indicator of industrial-sector health.

4

GS-I · ANCIENT HISTORY / SCIENCE

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for scientific study

- ▶ Human skeletal remains excavated from the Harappan site of **Rakhigarhi (Haryana)** were formally handed over by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** to the **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)**, Kolkata, for detailed scientific investigation.
- ▶ The transfer was made under a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to advance multidisciplinary research at one of the most important urban centres of the Indus–Saraswati civilisation.
- ▶ Researchers will apply modern techniques — **ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, stable-isotope studies, osteological and palaeopathological investigation** — to study Harappan populations.
- ▶ Earlier aDNA work indicated the **Rakhigarhi woman did not possess Steppe pastoralist genes**, fuelling the debate on Aryan migration into India.
- ▶ Collaborators include the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences**, University College London, and Banaras Hindu University.



Ancient remains: The skeleton of a woman excavated in a trench.
Skeletal remains excavated at Mound 7, Rakhigarhi (Haryana).

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

- **Rakhigarhi** (Hisar district, Haryana) on the Ghaggar-Hakra plain is the **largest known Harappan/IVC site** (~550 hectares).
- **ASI** (founded 1861; first DG Alexander Cunningham) and **AnSI** (founded 1945, Kolkata) both function under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- Other major Harappan sites in India: Dholavira & Lothal (Gujarat), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Ropar (Punjab), Banawali (Haryana). **Dholavira** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **aDNA (ancient DNA)** helps trace population ancestry and migration; isotope analysis reveals diet and mobility.

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

THE BEST 2, WITH ORIGINAL CLIPPINGS

EDITORIAL 1 · GS-II / GS-III · Sci-Tech & Security

The challenge of India's digital sovereignty



As it appeared in The Hindu

- **Context:** Recent incidents — compromise of India's CCTV networks (April 2026) and the abrupt denial of Microsoft cloud/collaboration services to **Nayara Energy** (July 2025, due to EU sanctions on its Rosneft stake) — exposed how foreign technology giants can disrupt critical Indian systems.
- **Core idea:** Even data physically stored in India can be subject to **foreign data-governance regimes**; control over critical digital infrastructure (authentication, cloud, productivity suites) is drifting to overseas corporations and governments.
- **National-security risk:** Modern warfare is software-defined — intelligence in fighter aircraft, missiles and radars resides in code answerable to foreign firms. The 1999 **Kargil conflict** (denial of precise GPS) is cited as the classic case.
- **Way forward (multi-pronged):** indigenous payments (UPI/RuPay) show vulnerabilities can be overcome; build domestic semiconductor & email ecosystems (e.g., migrating ministries to **Zoho**); develop critical tech in partnership with like-minded countries; and **close the R&D gap** (India's R&D was ~0.74% of GDP, 2000–2020, vs a global average of ~2.07%).

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

- **NavIC (IRNSS)** — India's regional satellite navigation system built by **ISRO** after the 1999 GPS-denial experience.
- **UPI / RuPay** are run by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** — a flagship of digital self-reliance.
- Semiconductor push: **Micron's ATMP unit at Sanand, Gujarat**, under the **India Semiconductor Mission**; India also joined the U.S.-led 'Pax Silica' AI/supply-chain initiative.
- **Data protection:** Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023; the **Puttaswamy (2017)** verdict made privacy a fundamental right.

EDITORIAL 2 · GS-II / GS-IV · Education, Ethics & Scientific Temper

A Trojan horse has breached the IITs (Indian Knowledge System)

Indian India's indigenous intellectual history and to elevate an informal cultural experience into a part of education — but the IKS of today is not it.

The real IKS might focus on the linguistics of Panini, the Nyaya school of logic, the Kerala school of mathematics, the development of Vedic steel, and so on, but the IKS being institutionalised, including under IIT-based director Lavandhar Bhatnagar, is concerned with 'Puranic sciences', mythology as history, ritual as technology, and an open contempt for rationality.

The first significant study of IKS was formulated by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It began by documenting, headlong, the mythology and ancient mathematics before increasingly blurring the lines between historical scholarship and ideological revision. There are now IKS hubs at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Bombay, and IIT Kanpur. These at Kanpur and Bhopal in particular have emerged as leaders in the "research" of "consciousness", reincarnation, and "Vedic" biology. These words are within specific mythic houses, as with the IKS, what they claim to stand for is more or less what they stand for in substance.

Propaganda of pseudoscience

The IKS centres present an open embrace to "decolonise" the Indian mind. This is farcical. The formalism of the 19th century, including figures such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray, synthesised Indian identity with rigorous scientific study and proved that decolonisation does not have to open the door to pseudoscience. The IKS centres intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the IITs, thereby

Misnomer

programme proposed using IKS data and astrological birth charts to track "past life memories" in children. The event was attended by speakers from the University of Virginia's Department of Perceptual Studies (DOPS), itself a controversial entity.

The event was a crisis in higher education. Pseudoscience is new well and truly institutionalised, and the participating IITs have signalled their willingness to trade their academic credentials for ideological dogma. The "researchers" at the event discussed building a "systematic methodology" for a universal metaphysical claim based on one account of Indian history. This is normally called an anecdote.

To suggest one child's casual response could "validate" the concept of reincarnation does a disservice to the best traditions of Indian philosophy. They remain excellent not as peculiar products of their times but because their proponents thought sincerely and carefully about what facts they had. To have the facts we do today and still believe a "study" with a cohort size of one or using a pseudoscientific entry (EEG) to prove a dualist theory (reincarnation) to be credible is silly.

The "researchers" proposed to show the child that "past life-related stimuli", such as photos of a person from a previous life, and record the brain's reaction. Given that the group's very presence within the "developing familiarity" with the child and following phone from the "claimed previous life family" before the test, the "researchers" are fundamentally creating the very stimuli they claim to be "discovering". This is called confirmation bias, including astrology in this mix is nonsense. The IKS centres partnered with

family seems to have ample opportunity to meet, communicate, and line up their stories to fit a cultural narrative of reincarnation. The "researchers" also did not examine the fact that "past life memories" are almost exclusively reported in cultures that already believe in reincarnation.

Farcical approach

After years of trying to change academics from the outside in using student violence and by reviving textbooks, it seems the Indian programme has instead shifted its strategy to an inside-out approach with top-down force. Doctoral students were mandated to attend the "special session". The centres have used IIT funds and research fellows to "haunt" ghats in Bhopal. The University Grants Commission's 2022 guidelines require all students of higher education to take IKS courses for credit. The IITs' administrators know they are compromising the institution's reputation, but they are willing to risk that because their goal is not scientific leadership, it is domestic ideological consolidation.

The spreading net of pseudoscience in the IITs will encourage top-tier Indian talent to move to universities abroad that still see the line between decolonising and extreme. Good international scientific reputations will be lost down on IIT degrees because of them. "Special sessions" will also serve the "atmanubhava" narrative by separating it from the Indian education from global standards of rationalism. Ultimately, the loop will be closed to have Indian scholars to be judged only by their loyalty to a specific, culturalised project.

- **Context:** Under the **Indian Knowledge System (IKS)** banner — institutionalised by NEP 2020 — some IITs (Mandi, Kanpur, Kharagpur) have hosted 'special sessions' studying **reincarnation, consciousness and 'Vedic' biology**, even proposing to use EEG and astrological birth charts to track 'past-life memories' in children.
- **Author's argument:** There is a legitimate quest to reclaim India's **genuine intellectual history** (Panini's linguistics, the Nyaya school of logic, the Kerala school of mathematics, Wootz steel) — but this is being conflated with '**Puranic science**', treating myth as history and ritual as technology.
- **Concern:** Pseudoscience is being institutionalised; the prestige of the IITs is used to lend a 'veneer of scientific legitimacy' to faith-based claims (e.g., the University of Virginia's DOPS reincarnation research is methodologically contested).
- **Risk:** Blurring the line between decolonisation and science could drive top Indian talent abroad and erode global standards of rationalism — closing the loop where Indian scholarship is judged by loyalty to a 'civilisational project'.

As it appeared in The Hindu

◆ STATIC / LINKED FACTS

- **Scientific temper** is a **Fundamental Duty** under **Article 51A(h)** — to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- Indian science pioneers cited: **Jagadish Chandra Bose** and **Prafulla Chandra Ray** (founder of Bengal Chemicals), who blended rigorous study with cultural identity.
- The **IKS Division** functions under the Ministry of Education (AICTE), set up in 2020 to promote and research traditional Indian knowledge.
- Genuine Indian contributions: zero & decimal system, Sushruta's surgery, Aryabhata & Bhaskara (astronomy/math), the Kerala school's infinite series (Madhava).

CRUX OF OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

QUICK REVISION

POLITY / IR Keir Starmer to resign as British PM

UK Labour PM Keir Starmer (in office since July 2024) announced he will step down, acknowledging his party no longer sees him as best placed for the next general election. A Labour leadership contest will follow; Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham is an early front-runner. *Static: UK PM is chosen by the party commanding a Commons majority; the monarch (King Charles III) formally appoints.*

POLITY **Rebels remove Mamata as Trinamool chairperson**

Rebel Trinamool MLAs at a meeting in Kolkata 'removed' founder Mamata Banerjee as party chairperson and named Arup Roy; the official TMC dismissed it as a 'comedy'. *Static: TMC was founded in 1998 and ended 34 years of Left Front rule in West Bengal in 2011; party splits are adjudicated by the Election Commission.*

POLITY **'Operation Tiger': 6 Uddhav Sena LS MPs join Shinde**

Six of the nine Lok Sabha MPs of Shiv Sena (UBT) appeared with Maharashtra Dy CM Eknath Shinde, signalling a defection. *Static: The original Shiv Sena split in 2022; the EC later allotted the 'Shiv Sena' name & 'bow-and-arrow' symbol to the Shinde faction.*

GS-II/IV · Rights **Karnataka HC allows hysterectomy on disabled woman**

In a rare case, the Karnataka HC permitted total abdominal hysterectomy on a 23-year-old with severe intellectual disability, ruling it in her 'best interests' for health and dignity, based on a multidisciplinary medical board. *Static: links to Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Admin (2009) on reproductive autonomy of persons with disability; doctrine of parens patriae.*

GS-III · Sci-Tech **Airport cameras to be linked to CISF data-fusion centre**

Facial-recognition cameras at major airports will feed into a new data-fusion centre, integrating ~1.5 lakh surveillance cameras and links to the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). *Static: CISF (est. 1969) guards airports; raises privacy questions under Puttaswamy (2017) & DPDP Act, 2023.*

GS-I · Culture **Odisha renames cities: Cuttack now 'Kataka'**

Odisha changed the English spelling of 64 places to match Odia phonetics — Cuttack → Kataka, Balasore → Baleshwar, Rourkela → Raurkela — calling them corrections of colonial-era distortions. *Static: place-name changes need Union Home Ministry / MEA clearance; identity & federalism dimension.*

POLITY **Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years**

The ACC reappointed Tushar Mehta as Solicitor-General of India from July 1; five ASGs were also reappointed. *Static: SG is the second-highest law officer after the Attorney-General (Article 76); SG/ASGs are not constitutional posts.*

GS-II · Federalism **Mekedatu tribunal won't affect T.N.'s interests: Minister**

T.N. Minister N. Anand said Karnataka's demand for a tribunal on the Mekedatu (Cauvery) project will not harm T.N.; AIADMK staged a walkout in the Assembly. *Static: Cauvery disputes are handled by CWMA under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.*

GS-II · Federalism **Kerala MPs protest removal of Mullaperiyar dam-panel rep**

Kerala MPs (Congress & Left) flagged lack of consultation in removing T.K. Sivarajan from the Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Committee for the 129-year-old Mullaperiyar dam. *Static: Mullaperiyar is in Kerala but operated by T.N.; governed by the Dam Safety Act, 2021.*

GS-II · Polity **Supreme Court backs Collegium picks for High Court**

The SC dismissed a plea challenging the elevation of three judicial officers to the Himachal Pradesh HC, holding that seniority alone does not confer a right to elevation. *Static: judges are appointed via the Collegium System (Articles 124 & 217) after the Third Judges Case (1998).*

IR Direct talks with Iran a 'good foundation': US VP Vance

US VP J.D. Vance said marathon talks in Switzerland laid a good foundation for a final nuclear deal with Iran; IAEA inspectors to return. *Static: follows the 2025 strikes on Iranian nuclear sites; recalls the 2015 JCPOA framework.*

GS-III · Economy Unions write to PM against India–U.S. free-trade pact

Farmer, fisher and trade-union bodies urged PM Modi to suspend India–U.S. FTA talks, fearing harm to agriculture and livelihoods from subsidised U.S. imports. *Static: an FTA/Bilateral Trade Agreement removes tariffs; agriculture & dairy are sensitive sectors for India.*

GS-I · Society South Korea's population set to halve by ~2085

A data feature notes South Korea's population may fall from ~52 million (2026) to ~22 million by 2100 — just 42% — driven by a fertility rate of 0.75 (replacement = 2.1). *Static: relevant to India's own demographic transition and 'demographic dividend' debate.*

MISC Also in brief

Lionel Messi becomes the all-time highest scorer in FIFA World Cup history · Former U.S. Fed Chair Alan Greenspan (1987–2006) dies · 12 Indians killed in a gas-plant blast in Qatar · ~110 students fall ill after school lunch in Indore (food safety) · CBSE Class 12 marks rise sharply after re-evaluation and a new policy is framed for students in West Asia.

PRELIMS PRACTICE — 10 MCQs**WITH ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS**

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):

1. Its base year is 2011-12.
2. Refinery Products has the highest weight among the eight industries.
3. It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (A)

Explanation: ICI base year is 2011-12 (1 correct). Refinery products carry the highest weight (~28%) (2 correct). ICI is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT — NOT the NSO (3 incorrect). The NSO releases the IIP.

Q2. Recurring industrial accidents such as the recent ammonia-leak tragedy reveal a gap between safety legislation and its enforcement in India. Critically analyse and suggest measures to strengthen industrial safety. (GS-III, 250 words)

Answer pointers

- ▶ **Intro:** Cite the Tamil Nadu ammonia leak (7 deaths, migrant women workers) and recall the 1984 Bhopal disaster as the benchmark for industrial-safety failure.
- ▶ **Legal framework:** Factories Act 1948; MSIHC Rules 1989; Chemical Accidents (EPPR) Rules 1996; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code 2020; DM Act 2005 / NDMA.
- ▶ **Gaps:** weak inspection & enforcement (DISH understaffed), poor hazard auditing, neglect of migrant & contract labour, absence of alarms/hydrants, low penalties, lax emergency preparedness.
- ▶ **Measures:** strict periodic safety audits, real-time leak sensors & alarms, mandatory worker training & mock drills, deterrent penalties, protection of migrant workers, community 'right-to-know', empowered & funded safety directorates.
- ▶ **Conclusion:** Safety must shift from a paper compliance to a culture; lives of the most vulnerable depend on the 'last mile' of enforcement.