

June - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vivek Aggarwal has become the first Indian to be appointed as Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for the term July 2026–June 2027.
- ❖ India launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services at Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena in Nice, France.
  - UPI is now operational in nine countries: Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.
- ❖ SpaceX became the world's 5th most valuable company in 2026 with a \$2.78 trillion valuation, overtaking Amazon at \$2.66 trillion after a sharp rise in share price.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched “Reelathon 2026” in India to spread awareness on cybersecurity and the prevention of financial fraud among digital users.
  - The initiative aims to prevent cyber fraud such as phishing, investment scams, digital arrests, illegal loan apps, and fake job offers across India.
- ❖ The Indian Army contingent will participate in Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026, a multinational peacekeeping exercise in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June to honour fathers and father figures, recognising their role as caregivers, providers, teachers and guides in families and society, and in 2026 it falls on June 21.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### **Tiruvallur Ammonia Gas Leak Probe**

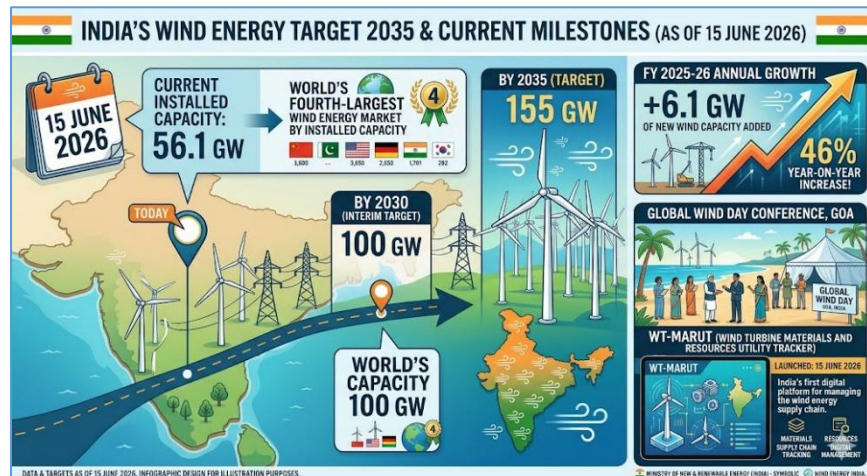
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government formed a three-member committee to investigate the ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing factory near Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ The leak occurred at St Peter's Paul Seafoods Exports Private Limited, killing at least two people and affecting more than 60 workers.
- ❖ The committee comprises S. Ananth (Director of Industrial Safety and Health); M. Saravanakumar (Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - TNPCB); and the Additional Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.
- ❖ Ammonia is a colourless, pungent-smelling, toxic and corrosive gas widely used in refrigeration, seafood processing and fertiliser industries.

- ❖ Exposure to high levels of ammonia can cause eye irritation, breathing difficulty, chest pain, burns and bleeding from the nose or mouth.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### India's Wind Energy Target 2035



- ❖ India has set a target of 155 Gigawatt (GW) of installed wind energy capacity by 2035, with an interim target of 100 GW by 2030.
- ❖ India's installed wind energy capacity crossed 56.1 GW as of 15 June 2026, making it the world's fourth-largest wind energy market by installed capacity.
- ❖ India added 6.1 GW of new wind capacity in FY 2025-26, recording a 46% year-on-year increase.

- ❖ WT-MARUT (Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker) was launched on 15 June 2026 as India's first digital platform for managing the wind energy supply chain.
- ❖ The Global Wind Day Conference was held in Goa.

### India's Defence Production 2026

- ❖ India's annual defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in Financial Year 2025-26, the highest ever achieved by the country.
- ❖ The figure represents a 15.6% increase from ₹1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, a 110% rise from ₹84,643 crore in FY 2020-21, and nearly a four-fold increase from ₹43,746 crore in FY 2013-14.
- ❖ Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) contributed about 76% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%, its highest-ever share.
- ❖ The private sector's contribution reached around ₹42,000 crore in FY 2025-26, reflecting increased participation in defence manufacturing.
- ❖ India also achieved a record defence export value of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, supported by the growth in indigenous defence production.



### US Indo-Pacific Command

- ❖ United States (US) President Donald Trump renamed the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) back to the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM).

- ❖ The command was established in 1947 and is the oldest and largest among the eleven unified combatant commands of the United States military.
- ❖ Its area of responsibility extends from the west coast of the United States to India's western border, and this geographical jurisdiction remains unchanged.
- ❖ The command includes major formations such as the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), United States Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), United States Forces Japan (USFJ) and United States Forces Korea (USFK).
- ❖ India and the United States have expanded defence cooperation through joint exercises such as Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), Yudh Abhyas and Red Flag, along with logistics and maritime cooperation.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Mombasa Declaration – Illegal Fishing Agreement**

- ❖ The Mombasa Declaration was adopted by 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to strengthen global efforts against illegal fishing.
- ❖ It was adopted at the 11th Our Ocean Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- ❖ The declaration aims to curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing that threatens marine ecosystems and livelihoods.

- ❖ It calls for better sharing of fishing vessel data, ownership details, and licensing information among countries.
- ❖ It supports the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency to improve fisheries governance through modernised registries and transparency reforms.
- ❖ The Our Ocean Conference, launched in 2014 by the United States of America (USA), is a global platform promoting sustainable ocean governance and marine conservation.



## **Africa Leads Global Push Against Illegal Fishing As 15 Nations Sign Landmark Mombasa Declaration**

### **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

#### **SHAN Conservation Society – Ladakh Wildlife Protection**

- ❖ SHAN (Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature) Conservation Society was approved in Ladakh by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh as a dedicated body to protect snow leopards and cold desert ecosystems.
- ❖ The society will focus on conserving alpine fauna, flora, wetlands, and fragile high-altitude ecosystems in the Ladakh region of India.
- ❖ It will work on scientific monitoring, research, habitat protection, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
- ❖ The body will also promote eco-development and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities in Ladakh.

- ❖ Snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, and Ladakh hosts the largest population in India.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Hunger Hotspots Report 2026

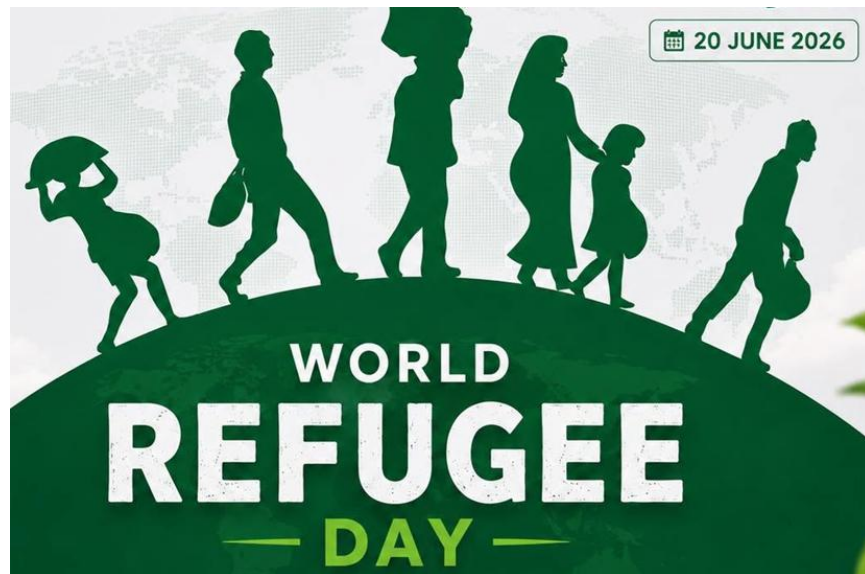


- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) released the Hunger Hotspots Report 2026, warning of worsening acute food insecurity in 13 global hotspots.

- ❖ The report identifies 13 countries where food insecurity is expected to worsen between June and November 2026.
- ❖ Countries include Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, Sudan, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Nigeria, and Mali.
- ❖ Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Nigeria, and Somalia are classified as the highest concern areas due to severe hunger and famine risk.
- ❖ Around 266 million people are already facing acute hunger globally.
- ❖ Main drivers include conflict, economic shocks, climate change, droughts, floods, disease outbreaks, and declining humanitarian funding.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Refugee Day 2026 - June 20

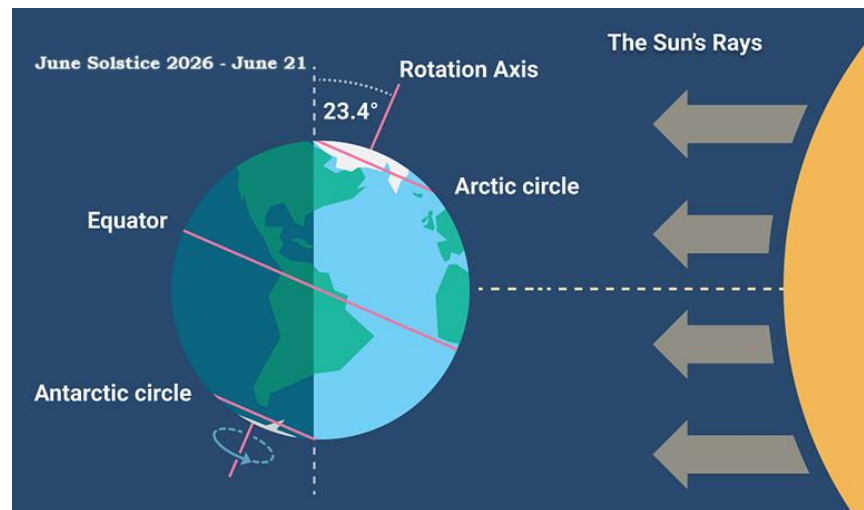


- ❖ The day aims to honour refugees and raise awareness about protection and human rights.
- ❖ According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 117.3 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution, and violence.
- ❖ The United Nations reports that Sudan has become the largest displacement situation, with millions of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons.
- ❖ Nearly 71% of refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, while least developed countries host about 25% of them.

- ❖ The United Nations states that three in four displaced people live in regions highly exposed to climate-related hazards, increasing vulnerability.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Solidarity with Refugees".

### **Summer Solstice 2026 - June 21**

- ❖ The June solstice 2026 occurs on 21 June 2026, when the Sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer.
- ❖ It marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere due to maximum daylight.
- ❖ The Southern Hemisphere experiences the shortest day because of Earth's axial tilt of about 23.4 degrees.
- ❖ The solstice occurs because Earth's tilted axis changes the Sun's apparent position during its orbit around the Earth.
- ❖ After the solstice, the Sun appears to shift southward, leading to gradually decreasing daylight in the Northern Hemisphere.



## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Asia's AI-Native Startup Clusters**

- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked as the second-best Artificial Intelligence (AI)-native startup cluster in Asia in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.
- ❖ Bengaluru was also ranked 15th globally among the world's top 40 startup ecosystems in the report released at the Viva Technology (VivaTech) 2026 event in Paris, France.
- ❖ Bengaluru is the highest-ranked startup ecosystem in India, ranking 6th in Asia.

- ❖ The city scored 9 out of 10 in both performance and Research and Development (R&D), 8 in AI-native cluster, and 7 in funding and market reach.
- ❖ Bengaluru attracts 58% of India's AI startup funding and has raised about US\$1.5 billion for AI startups since 2020, including more than US\$1.2 billion for application-layer AI startups.
- ❖ The startup ecosystem of Bengaluru is valued at US\$153 billion and has 30 active unicorns, which is much higher than the global average of 11 unicorns.

