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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

KEY FACTS ABOUT NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL (NWM)



The names of six military personnel — five from the Indian Army and one from IAF — who died in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor have been recently inscribed on a wall at the National War Memorial as a tribute to the fallen heroes.

- The National War Memorial (**Rashtriya Samar Smarak**) was **established** in January
- It is a **national monument** built for **giving honour** to our **brave soldiers**.
- It is located in **New Delhi**.
- It is a commemoration of the **sacrifices made by Indian soldiers since Independence**.
- The **main structure** has been built in the **form of four chakras**, each signifying different values of the armed forces, with the **eternal flame and obelisk located in the inner-most chakra** (also called **Amar Chakra**).
- The **obelisk** is visible even from a distance as one enters the complex.
- Surrounding it is **Veerta Chakra with six bronze murals depicting different battle actions**.
- **Tyag Chakra** which surrounds it has been made **entirely of granite bricks**, each bearing the **name of a fallen soldier since Independence**.
- The **final chakra, Rakshak Chakra**, surrounds the other three and consists of over many trees that will act as a **wall and represent the soldiers who protect the country**.

Adjacent to the main complex lies a tribute to the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

- Each recipient is **honoured by a bronze bust** surrounded by a lush green patch, complete with pathways and informative plaques on the courage they displayed during battle.

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

KEY FACTS ABOUT LONAR LAKE



At a time when water levels in reservoirs and lakes are receding and groundwater is depleting across Maharashtra, the Lonar crater-lake is throwing up a mystery — its water level is rising.

- Lonar Lake (also known as **Lonar Crater**) is situated in the Buldhana district of **Maharashtra**.
- It is less than 1.6 km in diameter, and **sits in a nearly circular bowl**.
- It sits inside the **Deccan Plateau**—a massive **plain of volcanic basalt rock** leftover from eruptions some 65 million years ago.
- Its location in this basalt field suggested to some geologists that it was a volcanic crater.
- Today, however, Lonar Crater is understood to **result from a meteorite impact** that occurred around **50,000 years ago**.
- It is the **only known impact crater lake in basaltic rock in the world**.
- It is the **only known saline crater lake in the world**. Its water is **seven times saltier than seawater** due to the presence of basalt rock.
- The basin is **surrounded by steep slopes** and **centuries-old temples**.
- It has **several springs around** the lake that supply water to the lake.
- It has **several vents around** the lake that **release gases** such as methane, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, etc.
- One of the most striking aspects is its **color**, which **changes from green to pink depending on the season** and the water conditions.
 - This is **caused by the presence of microorganisms** that thrive in the saline and alkaline environment of the lake.
- It finds its **inclusion in the Puranas** and other ancient scriptures, including the **Aaina-i-Akbari**.

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

WHAT IS THE CORPORATE MITRA SCHEME?



- It was announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- It aims to **empower** India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through **trained and certified** paraprofessionals called **Corporate Mitras**, who will serve the MSMEs.
- Corporate Mitras will provide affordable and accessible **support in areas** such as **regulatory compliance, GST, accounting, financial guidance, cost accounting, and secretarial services.**
- This ensures that **MSMEs can focus on innovation and growth** while meeting the regulatory compliance requirements with ease.
- To ensure reach beyond metropolitan hubs, Corporate Mitras will **primarily operate in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.**
- The scheme shall be implemented in **collaboration with following Professional Institutes (PIs):**
 - The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).**
 - The **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).**
 - The **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI).**
- Through this scheme, **youth will undergo a 6-month Academic Course and 6 months of On-the-Job training** providing exposure to real-life business environments and employment opportunities.
- **Eligibility Criteria** for Candidates:
 - **Age Limit:** Candidates must be **up to 30 years.**
 - **Education Qualification:**
 - **Graduates** from any recognized university or
 - **Students currently in their final year of graduation** (will be provided Corporate Mitra Certificate only after completing graduation successfully).

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

- The PIs will recognize and award the best-performing candidates/recognized firms/LLP for engaging Corporate Mitra for On-Job training.
- The candidates will be free to select any professional firm/ LLP recognized as “member in practice” by the PIs for On-job training.
- A minimum prescribed stipend as per ICAI/ICSI/ICoAI norms will be paid by the professional firms/LLP offering on-job training.
- The scheme will be implemented through the online Swayam Plus porta
 - The Portal will serve as a centralized platform for end-to-end implementation of the Corporate Mitra Scheme.

WHAT IS THE PM-RAHAT SCHEME?



The requirement for facial identification of an accident victim to claim relief under the PM RAHAT Scheme has been removed, informed Dakshina Kannada District Health and

Family Welfare Officer (DHO) recently.

- PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Under the Scheme, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road will be entitled to cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim for a period of seven days from the date of accident.
- This statutory scheme will take precedence over any other Central or State-level schemes.
- Salient Features of the Scheme:
 - Every road accident victim shall be provided with stabilization treatment for up to 24 hours in non-life-threatening cases and up to 48 hours in life-threatening cases at designated hospitals, subject to police response.

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

- It has been successfully **implemented** through the amalgamation of **two existing platforms**.
 - **eDAR (Electronic Detailed Accident Report)** used by police officials for reporting accidents
 - **TMS 2.0 (Transaction Management System)** of the **National Health Authority (NHA)**, used by hospitals for treatment, claim submissions, and processing of payments.
- **While initiating the treatment, police authentication** of the victim will have to be **initiated on the TMS platform**.
- The **hospital would generate the treatment ID(s)** on TMS and **push them to the district police through eDAR**.
- The time available with police for responding on eDAR shall be up to 24 hours, or 48 hours in life-threatening situations, as decided by the hospital administrator.
- It will be **integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112**, enabling **victims, Good Samaritans to dial 112 to locate the nearest designated hospital** and request ambulance assistance.
- **Reimbursements** to hospitals will be made through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf)**.
 - In cases where the **offending vehicle is insured**, **payment** will be drawn from **contributions made by general insurance companies**.
 - In **uninsured and hit & run cases**, **payment** will be made through **budgetary allocation** by the Government of India.
- A **complete digital trail for the Scheme will exist** from the time of accident reporting through the 112 ERSS platform to victim admission, treatment, police authentication, claim processing, and final payment.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Grievances will be addressed by a **Grievance Redressal Officer nominated by the District Road Safety Committee chaired by the District Collector/District Magistrate**.

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

SUSTAINING INDIA'S LOW-FERTILITY FUTURE

- India has entered a new **demographic transition** with its **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** declining to **1.9**, below the **replacement level** of **2.1**.
- While lower fertility reflects progress in healthcare, education, and family planning, it also marks the beginning of an ageing society.

India's Uneven Demographic Transition

- India's demographic change is highly uneven across regions.
- States such as **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Delhi** have fertility rates comparable to developed ageing economies, whereas **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan** continue to record relatively high fertility levels.
- Consequently, some States face the challenge of supporting an expanding elderly population, while others must generate productive employment for a growing young workforce. This regional diversity requires differentiated policy responses rather than a uniform national strategy.

Ageing Before Becoming Wealthy

- Unlike many developed countries, India is ageing before achieving high-income status.
- India continues to struggle with low **per capita income**, a narrow tax base, and widespread **informal employment**.
- These structural limitations reduce the government's capacity to finance pensions, healthcare, and elderly welfare, making demographic ageing a more complex challenge.

Strengthening Social Security

- India's existing pension framework provides limited protection for the elderly.
- Most workers remain outside the formal sector, making **contributory pensions** difficult to sustain due to irregular incomes.
- Public assistance under current schemes is insufficient to ensure dignified living standards.

Changing Family Structure and Elderly Care

- Traditionally, the **joint family** system supported older generations through shared living arrangements and unpaid caregiving.
- However, **urbanisation, migration, nuclear families**, and rising female workforce participation have weakened this model.
- Although migration often improves household income, it also increases loneliness and health vulnerabilities among elderly parents left behind.

Transforming Healthcare for an Ageing Society

- The healthcare system must shift its focus from primarily maternal and child health towards **geriatric care** and the long-term management of **chronic diseases** such as hypertension, diabetes, dementia, disability, and palliative care.
- Expanding primary healthcare, training medical professionals in elderly care, and integrating geriatric services into district health systems will be crucial for addressing the needs of an ageing population.

Migration and Cooperative Federalism

- Population ageing will increase the demand for workers in older States, making **internal migration** an important driver of economic balance.
- Younger States should invest in **education, skill development**, and healthcare to prepare a productive workforce.
- Simultaneously, richer States must recognise migrants as equal contributors by ensuring **portable welfare benefits** and equal access to public services.
- A truly integrated national labour market depends upon social protection that moves with workers across State boundaries.

Conclusion

- Building resilient welfare systems and promoting cooperative federalism will enable India to achieve **inclusive growth** while ensuring dignity and security for its ageing population.

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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

ASPIRE SCHEME



- ASPIRE (A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship) scheme was launched in 2015.
- It promotes entrepreneurship and employment generation, particularly in rural and agro-based sectors.
- It provides financial, technical and mentoring support to entrepreneurs through incubation centres and cluster-based development.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- **ASPIRE Scheme Features:**
 - It promotes rural entrepreneurship and innovation through incubation support.
 - It focuses on establishing **Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs)** in rural and underserved areas.
 - It encourages the development of **agro-based and rural enterprises** with high employment potential.
 - It supports **Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)** to promote innovation and technology-driven start-ups.
 - It provides financial assistance for setting up incubators through **capital grants**.
 - It offers **seed capital and risk funding** support for early-stage innovators and start-ups.
- **Eligibility for ASPIRE Scheme:**
 - It is open to **Government institutions, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**, and private or PPP organizations for establishing incubators.
 - It is **available to MSMEs** with valid **Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM)** registration.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 27 June 2026

- It supports individual innovators and entrepreneurs through incubation and mentoring services.
- It gives priority to start-ups working in agro-based, rural, and technology-driven sectors.
- It requires institutions to have adequate infrastructure and technical capability for incubation activities.

SEYCHELLES



The Prime Minister of India embarked on a three-day state visit to Seychelles.

- **Location:** It is an archipelagic island country located in the **western Indian Ocean**.
- It is located to the **northeast of Madagascar** and **east of mainland Africa**.
- Other major islands near Seychelles include **Comoros and Mauritius** to the south, and **Maldives to the east**.
- It consists of an **archipelago of 115 islands** (only 8 are permanently inhabited).
- **Capital City:** Victoria
- **Geographical Features of Seychelles:**
 - **Climate:** The **climate is tropical oceanic**, with little temperature variation during the year.
 - It is composed of two main island groups: the **Mahe group** which are mountainous granitic islands and a second group are **coralline islands**.
 - Mahe Group is volcanic with a **narrow coastal strip and rocky**, hilly interior; others are relatively flat coral atolls, or elevated reefs; sits atop the submarine Mascarene Plateau.
 - **Highest Point:** The highest point in Seychelles is **Morne Seychellois**.