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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 04 June 2026



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JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI (JSJB) INITIATIVE



- It was **launched in 2024**.
- **Aim:** It aims to enhance **water recharge** through rainwater

harvesting/aquifer recharge/borewell recharge/ recharge shafts etc.

- **Objective:** To ensure that **every drop of water is conserved** through collective efforts, following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.
- **Support:** It is supported with resource support from **government and non-government resources** like **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** funds, industrial houses, civic bodies.
- **Features:**
 - It is guided by a **Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach**, promotes participatory stewardship and sustainable water governance at the grassroots level.
 - It is driven by the 3Cs mantra—**Community, CSR, and Cost** for promoting long-term water security and resilience against water stress.
 - It is designed to **foster active participation from all stakeholders**, including government agencies, local communities, industries, NGOs and resident welfare associations.
 - Under this initiative, **States are divided into five zones**, for implementation i.e., Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western and North- Eastern Zone & Hilly States.
 - **Targets:**
 - The districts are encouraged to construct a **minimum of 10,000 artificial recharge** and storage structures.
 - This number is **3,000 for the districts in North-Eastern and Hilly States**, while it is **10,000 for Municipal Corporations nationwide**.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti.

NAVACHAR MANTRA INITIATIVE



‘Navachar Mantra’ Initiative.

Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India launched

- It is a national initiative focused on **strengthening grassroots entrepreneurship** and expanding opportunities for innovators across emerging India.
- It is aimed at **identifying, nurturing, and amplifying** India's most promising grassroots innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- It is being implemented by the **National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)**, with **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)**, IIT Delhi serving as the Technical Knowledge Partner.

Key Features of Navachar Mantra Initiative:

- **Structured ecosystem:** It is designed to provide a structured ecosystem of support for innovators working across priority sectors such as **Agritech, Health Tech, EdTech and Skilling**, Climate and Sustainability, Rural Commerce, and MSME Enablement.
- **Access to Stakeholders:** Under this, innovators will gain **direct access to policymakers, industry leaders, investors**, and domain experts, enabling them to refine their ideas, strengthen business models.
- **Focus on Inclusion:** It seeks to create pathways for **innovators from Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns**, aspirational districts, and underserved geographies to access mentorship, visibility, and growth opportunities.



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VIKSIT VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAM



VIKSIT VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAM

- It is a **youth-led initiative** aimed at strengthening grassroots engagement, fostering national integration, and promoting sustainable development in India's border villages.
- **Implementation:** It is being implemented in collaboration with **the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
- **Key Features of Viksit Vibrant Village Program:**
 - The programme will see **500 MY Bharat volunteers from across the country** engage directly with communities in strategically important border regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.
 - **Selection:** The volunteers were selected through a **nationwide online quiz**
 - The programme will be implemented in **two phases.**]
 - It is designed as a **seven-day residential programme** and offers young participants an opportunity to live in border villages and interact closely with **local communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, district administrations and security forces.**
 - It seeks to **provide firsthand understanding** of the **socio-economic conditions, cultural heritage, developmental needs and strategic importance** of India's frontier regions.
 - A significant component of the programme is the **promotion of the Nation First Challenge**, a **nationwide campaign** encouraging responsible citizenship and sustainable lifestyle practices.
 - MY Bharat volunteers will actively advocate **five key themes of the campaign:** adoption of Swadeshi products, healthy cooking practices, public transport usage and fuel conservation, promotion of natural farming, and vocal support for local tourism.

THE MOUNTBATTEN PLAN AT 79

June 3, 2026 marks the 79th anniversary of the **June 3 Declaration** — the announcement that sealed the partition of British India into two independent nations, India and Pakistan.

The Moment of Announcement

- On the evening of June 3, 1947, all of India waited. Shops put up loudspeakers. People gathered in streets and marketplaces.
- As historians described it, India had become "an enormous collective ear, waiting for the broadcasts breathlessly, helplessly and hopelessly."
- In a Delhi radio studio, four men announced the fate of the subcontinent: Lord Mountbatten (British Viceroy), Jawaharlal Nehru (Congress), Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Muslim League), and Baldev Singh (representing the Sikhs).

What the Plan Proposed?

- The June 3 Plan accepted the division of British India as a fait accompli. Its key provisions were:
 - **Punjab and Bengal** — Their Legislative Assemblies would vote on whether to partition these provinces.
 - **Sindh** — Its Assembly would decide whether to join India or Pakistan.
 - **North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Sylhet district** — Referendums would be held to determine which country they joined.
 - **Boundary Commission** — If partition occurred, a Commission would draw the borders, particularly in Punjab and Bengal.
 - **Two dominions** — India and Pakistan would each become independent dominions with their own Constituent Assemblies.
 - **Princely states** — They were required to accede to one of the two dominions.
- The transfer of power was advanced to August 15, 1947 — nearly a year ahead of the original deadline.

Why Did the Parties Accept It?

- **The Indian National Congress**
 - The most urgent concern was stopping the violence. Congress leaders believed that only a swift transfer of power could restore order. A prolonged negotiation would only mean more bloodshed.
 - Congress was also alarmed by Mountbatten's earlier "Plan Balkan", which would have allowed each province to stand apart from both India and Pakistan — potentially fragmenting the country into dozens of units. Accepting the June 3 Plan was, in a sense, the lesser evil.
- **The Muslim League**
 - For the Muslim League, the calculus was simpler. Accepting the plan meant Pakistan was guaranteed. That was the League's central political objective.
 - Jinnah and the League feared that in a united, Hindu-majority India, Muslims would be politically marginalised. Partition offered what they saw as a clear path to self-determination.
 - Yet even Jinnah had reservations. In a private letter, he wrote that partitioning Punjab and Bengal was "a mistake" — but added that having accepted the plan, he was confident they would "make a good job of it."

The Aftermath: A Tragedy Unforeseen

- The announcement did not resolve the hard questions. Where exactly would the borders be? Would people need to move? Which districts would fall in which country?
- When journalists asked Mountbatten whether the plan would trigger mass migration, he replied: "Personally I don't see it." He was spectacularly wrong. In the weeks that followed, violence engulfed large parts of the subcontinent — triggering one of the greatest mass migrations in human history, with millions displaced and thousands killed.
- As historians observed, there was "no firm line between winners and losers." The announcement had sliced through all communities, leaving behind endemic confusion and disorientation.

AFTER MAOISM, THE NEXT BATTLE IS FOR ADIVASI TRUST

- The declaration of India as **Maoist-free** on March 31, 2026, marked a major achievement in the country's internal security efforts. However, sustainable peace cannot be secured through welfare measures alone. It requires addressing structural issues related to **Adivasi rights**, governance, and access to natural resources.
- Lasting stability will depend on strengthening **constitutional guarantees** and ensuring meaningful participation of local communities in decision-making.

Transition from Security to Development

- **Government's Development Agenda**
 - The government's post-insurgency strategy emphasises welfare schemes, improved infrastructure, enhanced mobile connectivity, and greater administrative outreach.
 - These initiatives can significantly improve the **quality of life** in remote tribal regions and create opportunities for economic and social progress.
- **Limits of Development-Centric Approaches**
 - While development projects are essential, they cannot substitute for justice and democratic participation. Roads, schools, and communication networks may enhance living conditions, but they do not automatically address concerns regarding representation, resource control, and historical marginalisation.
 - Sustainable peace requires both development and institutional reform.

Constitutional Framework of Tribal Governance

- **Dual Structure of Governance**
 - The constitutional vision for tribal governance rests on two parallel systems. The first consists of Panchayati Raj Institutions, with the Gram Sabha serving as the foundation of local democracy.
 - The second includes government-appointed officials such as tehsildars and district collectors responsible for administration.

- **Need for Grassroots Empowerment**

- Although both structures are intended to function together, bureaucratic institutions often dominate local governance.
- Effective empowerment requires strengthening elected institutions and ensuring that local communities have a decisive voice in matters affecting their lives and livelihoods.
- Genuine participatory governance is essential for democratic legitimacy.

The Path Forward: From Negative Peace to Positive Peace

- **Beyond the Absence of Violence**

- The end of Maoist violence represents negative peace, characterised by the absence of armed conflict.
- However, long-term stability requires positive peace, which is rooted in justice, inclusion, dignity, and equitable governance.

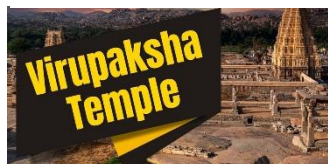
- **Addressing Structural Causes**

- Military success alone cannot eliminate the conditions that foster discontent.
- Sustainable peace depends on addressing inequalities, strengthening democratic institutions, and ensuring that local communities actively participate in shaping their future.

Conclusion

- The future of Bastar depends not only on the defeat of Maoism but also on the creation of a just and inclusive governance framework.
- **Trust-building, tribal autonomy**, and meaningful democratic participation are essential for long-term stability.
- Through effective implementation of PESA, protection of resource rights, and genuine **inclusive development**, the government can transform Bastar from a region once affected by conflict into a model of democratic empowerment and sustainable peace.
- Most importantly, Adivasis must be enabled to define their own aspirations and determine the nature of the **mainstream** into which they are being integrated.

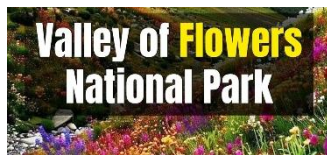
VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE



- The Virupaksha, also known as the **Pampapathi temple**, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Lord Shiva.
- It is located in **Hampi**, within the Vijayanagara district of **Karnataka**.
- Situated on the **southern bank of the Tungabhadra River**, it is **part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi**, designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1986.
- Considered the most renowned and significant temple in Hampi, Virupaksha Temple has been operational without interruption since its **establishment in the 7th century AD**, making it **one of the oldest functioning temples in India**.
- **Development:**
 - Initially a modest shrine, it was later **expanded during the Chalukyas and Hoysala periods**.
 - The rulers of Vijayanagara, especially **King Deva Raya II and King Krishnadevaraya**, played a crucial role in the **temple's expansion**, **contributing** structures such as the **eastern gopuram and central pillared hall**.
- **Architecture:**
 - The temple is built in the **Dravidian architectural style**, featuring towering **gopurams**, **detailed carvings**, **pillared halls**, and expansive **courtyards**.
 - The design of the temple includes **repeating patterns**, showcasing the architectural and **mathematical expertise** of the era.
 - The **triangular form** of the temple and the manner in which patterns are divided and repeated are particularly remarkable.
 - The temple complex includes a **sanctum sanctorum**, **multiple pillared halls** (the most elaborate being a hall with 100 pillars), antechambers, and **grand gopurams** (gateway towers).

- The temple has **three prominent gopurams**, with the **eastern gopuram** being the **largest**, reaching a height of 160 feet and consisting of nine tiers.
- The **gopurams** are **adorned with beautiful sculptures** of various Hindu deities.
- The temple's design incorporates **principles of physics**, such as the Rectilinear Light Theory and the pinhole camera effect.
- Notably, the temple features an **inverted pinhole image of its tower on the inner wall**, a remarkable example of ancient engineering.

VALLEY OF FLOWERS NATIONAL PARK



- **Location:** It is located in the Chamoli district of
- **Discovery:** The valley is believed to have been **discovered in 1931**, when three British mountaineers – led by Frank S. Smythe.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and forms one of the two core zones (the other being the Nanda Devi National Park) of the **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**.
- The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park.
- Together they encompass a unique transition zone between the **Zaskar and Great Himalayan ranges**.
- It is famous for its **alpine meadows** and rich biodiversity.
- It remains covered with a thick blanket of snow during the winter season.
- **Flora:**
 - Exotic flowers (over 600 species) like orchids, poppies, primulas, marigolds, daisies, and anemones are an eye-catching spectacle.
 - The valley also abounds in **medicinal plants and herbs**.
 - **Sub-alpine forests birch and rhododendron** cover parts of the park's area.
- **Fauna:** It is home to such rare and amazing wildlife species like the **gray langur**, the flying squirrel, the Himalayan weasel, black bear, the red fox, the lime butterfly, and the snow leopard.