

Daily Current Affairs

21 June 2026 | Bank PO • SSC • RRB • UPSC

■ National News

PM Modi Visits West Bengal and Odisha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook visits to West Bengal and Odisha on June 20–21, 2026, inaugurating key infrastructure projects under PM Awas Yojana, rural connectivity schemes, and agricultural credit programmes for farmers.

PRAHAAR — India's First National Counter-Terrorism Policy

The Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled PRAHAAR, India's first-ever comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, consolidating 12 years of legislative, institutional, operational and diplomatic counter-terror reforms into a unified doctrine.

India's Macro Outlook: Monsoon Critical

NSE's macroeconomic report notes India's 2026 growth will hinge on monsoon performance, while domestic retail investor participation continues to rise with a younger and geographically wider investor base — a structural positive. Kotak Institutional Equities urged a 'new economic independence movement' to reduce dependence on foreign capital, defence, energy, and critical tech imports.

Petrol & Diesel Prices Under Pressure

Fuel prices across Indian cities face upward pressure due to the Iran–US conflict and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. The government is monitoring strategic petroleum reserves. The Strait of Hormuz accounts for roughly 20% of global crude oil shipments.

■ International News

Iran–US Strait of Hormuz Stand-off

Iran and the US made opposing claims regarding control and passage rights through the Strait of Hormuz on June 20, 2026, ahead of diplomatic talks in Switzerland. The confrontation has elevated global energy prices and raised supply disruption fears.

Lebanon Inaugurates Second International Airport

Lebanon inaugurated the Rene Mouawad Airport — its second international airport — amid the ongoing Israeli–Hezbollah conflict. The move aims to restore civilian air connectivity to northern Lebanon.

Building Collapse in Philippines — 21 Dead

Seven more bodies were retrieved from a collapsed under-construction building in Angeles, Philippines, raising the toll to 21. Rescue operations continue while calls for stricter construction safety enforcement intensify.

Colombian President Petro Faces Suspension

Colombia's Chamber of Representatives investigatory commission proposed suspending President Gustavo Petro's powers ahead of election day on June 21, 2026 — a significant constitutional challenge.

Tropical Storm Jangmi Hits Japan

Tropical Storm Jangmi brought heavy rainfall, landslides, and flooding across Kyushu, Okinawa Islands, and the Greater Tokyo Area, injuring 15. Evacuation advisories covered over 800,000 residents.

Iraq Bus Fire — 21 Killed Near Nasiriyah

A bus overturned and caught fire near Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, killing 21 and injuring 19 others. Preliminary investigation points to a tyre blowout as the cause.

■ Indian Banking & Finance

RBI Introduces Digital Payments E-Mandate Framework 2026

The RBI's new framework mandates: (1) 24-hour pre-debit notification; (2) ability to modify/pause/cancel mandates anytime; (3) user-defined spending limits. The move strengthens consumer protection in India's auto-debit and UPI ecosystem.

RBI Allows Small NBFCs to Exit — Deregistration via PRAVAAH

NBFCs with assets below ₹1,000 crore that neither use public funds nor have customer interfaces may apply for deregistration as 'Unregistered Type I NBFCs' via the PRAVAAH portal by December 31, 2026.

Paytm Payments Bank Licence Cancelled

The RBI cancelled Paytm Payments Bank Limited's banking licence and initiated winding-up proceedings. This follows persistent non-compliance with KYC norms and regulatory directions — one of the most significant banking regulatory actions in recent years.

Rohit Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor

Rohit Jain, RBI Executive Director, was appointed as Deputy Governor of the RBI for a three-year term (from on or after May 3, 2026). He spent ~30 years at the RBI specialising in banking supervision.

RBI Bond Purchase — Market Surprise

India's bond markets fell after the RBI avoided liquid benchmark papers in its upcoming OMO bond purchase programme, catching the market off-guard.

■ International Banking & Finance

World Bank: Global Growth to Slow to 2.5% in 2026

The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Report (June 2026) projects growth to slow to 2.5% due to the Middle East conflict driving energy prices higher. Developing nations face heightened debt servicing risks.

IMF: \$50 Billion Emergency Financing Need

IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva flagged near-term demand for \$50 billion in IMF emergency financing. World Bank's Ajay Banga discussed an additional \$20–25 billion in rapid financing. African governments now spend ~20% of revenues on interest payments.

Venezuela Rejoins Global Financial System

Venezuela rejoined the international financial system as the IMF and World Bank restored ties after a 6-year freeze. Interim President Delcy Rodríguez requested \$5 billion in SDR access for infrastructure, electricity, and water projects.

■ International Sports

Mirra Andreeva Wins First Grand Slam Title

Russian teen Mirra Andreeva won her maiden Grand Slam title defeating Poland's Maja Chwalińska 6–3, 6–2 in the women's singles final. The 19-year-old has rapidly become one of women's tennis' brightest stars.

Golden Tempo Wins 158th Belmont Stakes

American thoroughbred Golden Tempo won the 158th Belmont Stakes — having won the Kentucky Derby five weeks earlier. Trainer Cherie DeVaux became only the second female trainer to win the Belmont Stakes.

Inaugural Indian Athletic Awards 2026

Athletics Federation of India hosted the first-ever Indian Athletic Awards on June 20 in Delhi across 10 categories: Best Athlete (Male/Female), Best Coach, Lifetime Achievement, Best Technical Official, Best State Association, etc.

■ Appointments, Resignations & Dismissals

Name/Entity	Position	Date
Neelkanth Mishra	Appointed India's Executive Director at the World Bank	June 5
Vipul (Diplomat)	Appointed India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia	June 4
Saurabh Vijay	Took charge as CEO of IndiaAI Mission (ex-UIDAI CEO)	June 6
Kumar Shanker	Appointed MD of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)	June 9
Banwarilal Purohit	Elected President of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan	June 9
R. Balaji	Resigned as MD & CEO of PTC India Financial Services (eff. June 30, 2026)	June 30, 2026
5 Supreme Court Judges	President approved appointment of 5 new SC judges	June 2

■ Major Inventions & Discoveries

Underground Fungal Networks Mapped for First Time (June 15)

Scientists mapped the vast mycorrhizal fungal networks for the first time, revealing a hidden biological superhighway sustaining Earth's plant and soil life. Major implications for carbon storage, soil fertility, and ecosystem resilience.

UV Hydrogen Radicals Break Down PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' (June 16)

Researchers found that hydrogen radicals generated by intense UV light can break down PFAS chemicals without added chemical inputs — a scalable, clean solution to persistent environmental pollution.

JUNO Neutrino Observatory — First Breakthrough (June 12)

China's JUNO Observatory achieved one of the most precise measurements of neutrino oscillation parameters yet, advancing understanding of matter vs antimatter asymmetry in the universe.

Self-Regulating Artificial Photosynthesis System (June 11)

Scientists developed an artificial photosynthesis system that self-regulates without batteries, directly converting sunlight to chemical energy — accelerating the path to sustainable hydrogen fuel production.

Chip-Scale Femtosecond Laser by EPFL (June 4)

EPFL researchers created a chip-scale ultrafast laser matching tabletop precision instruments. Potential applications in medical imaging, quantum computing, and telecommunications.

■ Practice MCQs — SSC / Bank PO Format

Q1. India's first-ever comprehensive National Counter-Terrorism Policy unveiled by the MHA is named:

- A) SHAKTI
- B) PRAHAAR
- C) PRAHAR
- D) SURAKSHA

Answer: B) PRAHAAR

Q2. Under RBI's Digital Payments E-Mandate Framework 2026, the pre-debit notification period is:

- A) 12 hours
- B) 48 hours
- C) 24 hours
- D) 72 hours

Answer: C) 24 hours

Q3. The World Bank's June 2026 report projects global growth to slow to:

- A) 3.2%
- B) 2.5%
- C) 1.8%
- D) 4.0%

Answer: B) 2.5%

Q4. Who was appointed CEO of the IndiaAI Mission in June 2026?

- A) Neelkanth Mishra
- B) Kumar Shanker
- C) Saurabh Vijay
- D) Rohit Jain

Answer: C) Saurabh Vijay

Q5. The JUNO Neutrino Observatory that achieved a breakthrough in June 2026 is located in:

- A) Japan
- B) USA
- C) Russia
- D) China

Answer: D) China