UPSC Prelims Exam Based Current Affairs Analysis- 25 June 2025

1. Cabinet Approves National Judicial Infrastructure Authority Bill, 2025
Source: Press Information Bureau (PIB), The Hindu

News: In a landmark decision aimed at overhauling the country's judicial infrastructure, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, today approved the "National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) Bill, 2025". The proposed legislation aims to establish a central body to coordinate and fund the development of physical and digital infrastructure for the judiciary across all states. According to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, the NJIAI will be an autonomous body with the Chief Justice of India as its patron-in-chief. It will include other senior Supreme Court judges, the Union Minister for Law and Justice, and representatives from state governments.

Analysis

- The primary mandate of the NJIAI will be to manage a dedicated fund for creating modern courtrooms, digital libraries, robust video-conferencing facilities, and secure data storage centres for the judiciary.
- This move addresses the long-standing issue of inadequate infrastructure, which is often cited as a major reason for the high pendency of cases.
- The Bill proposes a funding model where the central government will contribute 60% of the funds, with the states providing the remaining 40%.
- The authority will work in close coordination with the High Courts and state governments to identify needs and execute projects in a time-bound manner, ensuring uniformity and quality standards nationwide.
- The Bill is expected to be tabled in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Ministries and Departments of the Government; Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

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2. RBI Launches Phase-II of Retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) with Offline Functionality
Source: Economic Times, Indian Express

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today officially launched the second phase of its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project for the retail segment (e₹-R). A key feature of this expanded phase is the introduction of offline transaction capabilities, aimed at boosting its adoption in areas with limited or no internet connectivity. Governor Shaktikanta Das, launching the initiative, stated that enabling offline payments is a critical step towards making the Digital Rupee a truly inclusive and resilient payment instrument, mirroring the utility of physical cash. The new functionality will allow peer-to-peer (P2P) and peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions using wallets pre-loaded on mobile devices, without requiring real-time network access.

Analysis

- The pilot for Phase II will initially be rolled out across 25 cities, up from 15 in the first phase, and will involve 15 major public and private sector banks.
- The RBI has also increased the per-transaction limit to ₹5,000 and the daily wallet limit to ₹50,000 to encourage higher-value transactions.
- The central bank emphasized that it is closely monitoring the architecture to ensure robust security protocols against fraud and operational risks.
- This move is seen as a significant stride in India's journey towards a less-cash-dependent economy, offering a sovereign-backed alternative to private virtual currencies and enhancing the efficiency of the national payments ecosystem.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology, and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

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3. Final Uncrewed Test Flight of Gaganyaan 'G3' Successfully Completed, Says ISRO
Source: The Hindu, PIB

News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) today announced the successful completion of the 'G3' mission, the final major uncrewed test flight for the Gaganyaan programme. The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The mission simulated the exact conditions of a crewed mission, with the orbital module performing complex manoeuvres in low-Earth orbit for three days before successfully re-entering the atmosphere. The crew module splashed down with precision in the Bay of Bengal, where it was recovered by the Indian Navy.

Analysis

- ISRO Chairman S. Somanath confirmed that the flight achieved all its objectives, including testing the life support systems in a space environment, validating the performance of the Human-Rated LVM3 launch vehicle, and perfecting the re-entry and recovery operations.
- A humanoid robot, 'Vyommitra', was on board, monitoring various cabin parameters like temperature, pressure, and CO2 levels, and transmitting critical data back to the ground station.
- This successful G3 mission is a monumental milestone, clearing the path for India's first-ever human spaceflight mission, scheduled for late 2026.
- The data gathered will now undergo rigorous analysis to provide the final green light for sending Indian astronauts, or 'Gaganauts', into space.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

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4. IMD Reports Erratic Monsoon Progress; Deficit in Central and NW India

Source: Hindustan Times, Indian Express

News: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in its latest update today highlighted the erratic progress of the Southwest Monsoon, raising concerns for the Kharif sowing season. While the monsoon has covered the southern peninsula and northeastern states on schedule, its advance into Central and Northwest India has been sluggish, resulting in a rainfall deficit of 22% for the country as a whole for the month of June. Key agricultural belts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are experiencing significant shortfalls, delaying the sowing of crucial crops like soybean, cotton, and pulses.

Analysis

- ØExperts attribute this erratic behaviour to the weakening of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and unfavourable sea surface temperatures in the Arabian Sea.
- Ø The Ministry of Agriculture is closely monitoring the situation and has issued advisories to states to prepare contingency plans, including promoting drought-resistant crop varieties and conserving water.
- ØThe IMD's forecast suggests a likely revival of the monsoon currents in the first week of July, but the current deficit could impact agricultural output and fuel food inflation if the rainfall does not pick up substantially in the coming weeks.
- This event underscores the growing vulnerability of Indian agriculture to the vagaries of climate change.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna, and the effects of such changes.

GS Paper 3: Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country; Food security.

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5. India Inducts First Squadron of Tejas Mk2 Fighter Jet into IAF
Source: The Hindu, PIB

News: In a major boost to its indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities, India today formally inducted the first squadron of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk2 into the Indian Air Force (IAF). The ceremony, held at the Sulur Air Force Base in Tamil Nadu, was attended by the Defence Minister and the Chief of Air Staff. The new squadron, named the 'Flying Daggers 2.0', will be equipped with 18 of these advanced, 4.5-generation fighters. The Tejas Mk2 is a significantly more capable aircraft than its predecessor, the Mk1A, featuring a more powerful General Electric F414 engine, a larger airframe, enhanced payload capacity, and a state-of-the-art Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar.

Analysis

- Developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the Mk2 project is a cornerstone of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector.
- The Defence Minister hailed the induction as a "red-letter day for Indian aviation," stating that the aircraft's advanced capabilities will significantly bolster the IAF's operational readiness on both the western and northern fronts.
- The jet incorporates over 80% indigenous content, and its successful induction is expected to pave the way for reduced reliance on foreign fighter imports and open up potential export opportunities in the future.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:
GS Paper 3: Indigenization of technology and developing new technology; Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate; Achievements of Indians in science & technology.

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6. High-Powered Committee Formed for Delimitation to Implement Women's Quota
Source: Hindustan Times, PIB

News: The Union Government has constituted a high-powered committee to lay down the roadmap and methodology for the delimitation exercise required to implement the Women's Reservation Act, or the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'. The committee will be chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, who also headed the recent Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission. The committee's terms of reference include recommending a timeline and the procedural framework for conducting the delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on the first census conducted after 2026.

Analysis

- The Women's Reservation Act, which provides for a 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, can only be implemented after the delimitation exercise is completed.
- The formation of this committee is the first concrete step towards the law's on-ground implementation, a key promise of the ruling government.
- The committee will also include the Chief Election Commissioner, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, and legal experts. It has been asked to submit its preliminary report within one year.
- This move is politically significant, as it sets a clear pathway for a major electoral reform, potentially reshaping India's political landscape ahead of the 2029 general elections.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Parliament and State Legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these; Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; Role of women and women's organization.

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7. Coordinated Cyberattack on Banking Sector Thwarted, CERT-In Issues Alert

Source: Economic Times, Hindustan Times

News: The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) confirmed today that it, along with the National Cyber Security Coordinator, successfully thwarted a large-scale, coordinated phishing and malware attack targeting India's banking sector over the past 48 hours. The attackers, suspected to be a state-sponsored group from abroad, used sophisticated social engineering techniques and a new strain of malware designed to compromise the core banking systems and steal sensitive customer data. Several public and private sector banks were targeted, but early detection by the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) and swift response from banks' internal security teams prevented any major financial loss or data breach.

Analysis

- CERT-In has issued a high-priority alert to all financial institutions, detailing the attack vectors and the malware's signature.
- It has advised banks to immediately patch vulnerable systems, reinforce their two-factor authentication protocols, and launch awareness campaigns for their customers.
- A senior official from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology stated that the incident highlights the persistent and evolving nature of cyber threats to India's critical infrastructure.
- The government is coordinating with international cybersecurity agencies to trace the origin of the attack and fortify the nation's digital defence mechanisms against such future threats.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention; Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges.

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8. Joint Naval Exercise 'Samudra Sahyog' with BIMSTEC Nations Begins in Bay of Bengal
Source: The Hindu, PIB

News: Showcasing growing regional cooperation, a week-long joint naval exercise, codenamed 'Samudra Sahyog-2025', commenced today in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise sees participation from the navies of all BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan (as an observer), India, Myanmar, Nepal (as an observer), Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The Indian Navy is leading the exercise with its aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, along with several destroyers, frigates, and maritime patrol aircraft. The drills will focus on enhancing interoperability in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), counter-terrorism, anti-piracy operations, and securing sea lines of communication.

Analysis
- The Ministry of Defence stated that 'Samudra Sahyog' is a manifestation of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies, and its commitment to the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- The exercise aims to build collective maritime capability and foster a secure and stable maritime environment in the Bay of Bengal, a region of increasing strategic importance.
- This collaborative effort is also viewed as a strategic counter-balance to growing extra-regional military presence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It promotes a rules-based order and deepens mutual trust and cooperation among the BIMSTEC partners.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:
GS Paper 2: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; India and its neighborhood- relations.

GS Paper 3: Security challenges and their management in border areas.

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9. Centre Approves Tech-Driven Restoration Plan for Konark Sun Temple

Source: Indian Express, Ministry of Culture

News: The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has approved a comprehensive, technology-driven conservation and restoration plan for the 13th-century Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The five-year plan, with an outlay of ₹250 crores, will employ cutting-edge technologies to address the structural decay caused by saline air, coastal erosion, and weathering. A key component of the project is the creation of a 'digital twin' of the temple using 3D laser scanning, photogrammetry, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). This digital model will help experts simulate stresses on the structure and plan interventions without causing any physical damage.

Analysis

- The plan also involves the use of non-invasive techniques for structural analysis and the application of specialized, scientifically-tested consolidants to protect the delicate stone carvings from further erosion.
- A team comprising archaeologists, conservation architects, material scientists from IITs, and international experts will oversee the project.
- The Union Minister for Culture emphasized that the goal is not just to preserve the monument but to restore its integrity for future generations using the best available scientific methods.
- The initiative is part of the government's broader effort to use modern technology for the preservation of India's invaluable cultural heritage.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

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