



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 13-06-2026**

### **Mapping Perspective**

1. **Jordan**

### **Prelims Perspective**

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3. **American Foulbrood (AFB)**

### **Mains Perspective**

4. **NITI Aayog Governing Council**
5. **Nicobar Elections**

## Jordan

### Syllabus: GS-1; Geography – Places in News

#### Context

Iran has reportedly launched missile strikes targeting a U.S. airbase in Jordan.



#### About Jordan

- A country located in the rocky desert region of the northern Arabian Peninsula.

#### Borders

- Syria (North)
- Iraq (East)
- Saudi Arabia (South and Southeast)
- Israel and the West Bank (West)

#### Water Bodies

- Dead Sea
- Gulf of Aqaba
- Sea of Galilee

### Capital

- Amman

### Geographical Features

- Dominated by arid desert plateaus.
- Features a major north-south geological rift along its western side.

### Highest Point

- Jabal Umm ad Dami

### Rivers

- Jordan River, which drains into the Dead Sea.

### Port

- Al-Aqabah, located on the Gulf of Aqaba.

### Natural Resources

- Phosphates
- Potash
- Shale oil

## **National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)**

### Syllabus: GS-2; Government Schemes & Social Justice

#### Context

The Ministry of MSME is promoting inclusive entrepreneurship through NSSH.

#### About the Scheme

- Launched in **October 2016**.
- A flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- Implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation.
- Aims to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and strengthen their participation in the MSME sector.

### Objectives

- Enhance the capacity of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate access to credit, technology, and markets.
- Encourage participation in government procurement.
- Promote an entrepreneurial culture among SC/ST communities.

### Support Provided

- Purchase of plant and machinery/equipment.
- Capacity building and skill development.
- Market linkage support.
- Participation in exhibitions and trade fairs.
- Credit facilitation.
- Udyam Registration assistance.
- GeM onboarding support.

### Key Functions

- Encourage SC/ST-owned enterprises to participate in the **4% procurement target** mandated for government purchases.
- Facilitate vendor development programmes with CPSEs.
- Provide mentoring and handholding support.
- Share SC/ST MSE data with CPSEs to enhance procurement opportunities.
- Conduct awareness and outreach activities.

### Significance

- Promotes **inclusive economic growth** by integrating marginalized communities into the formal economy.
- Enhances **self-employment and job creation** among SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Reduces socio-economic disparities through increased business ownership and income generation.
- Improves access to government procurement opportunities, ensuring equitable participation in public spending.

- Strengthens the MSME ecosystem by fostering diversity and broadening the entrepreneurial base.
- Supports the objectives of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through the development of a more inclusive and resilient enterprise sector.
- Contributes to **social justice and empowerment** by enabling SC/ST communities to become wealth creators rather than merely job seekers.

## **American Foulbrood (AFB)**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture & Animal Husbandry**

### **Context**

An outbreak of American Foulbrood was recently reported in Scotland.



### **About AFB**

- Fatal disease of honey bee larvae.
- Caused by bacterium:
  - *Paenibacillus larvae*

### **Transmission**

- Contaminated food.
- Exchange of beekeeping equipment.
- Movement of infected combs.
- Robbing and drifting by adult bees.

### **Key Features**

- Affects larvae, not adult bees directly.
- Spores can remain viable for over 50 years.
- Can destroy entire colonies within weeks.

### Management

- No effective cure.
- Infected colonies are usually destroyed.

### Know more

- Bacterial disease, not viral or fungal.

## **NITI Aayog Governing Council**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Federalism.**

### Context:

- The 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, chaired by Narendra Modi, saw participation from all 28 State Chief Ministers for the first time.
- Discussions focused on district-level GDP estimates, affordable energy, and inclusive human development.

### About NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India.
- Established on **1 January 2015** to replace the Planning Commission.
- Serves as the apex body for **cooperative federalism**, providing strategic and technical advice to both the Central and State Governments.

### Composition of NITI Aayog

#### Chairperson

- Prime Minister of India serves as the ex-officio Chairperson.

#### Governing Council

- Primary body for inter-governmental engagement comprising:

- Prime Minister (Chairperson).
- Chief Ministers of all States.
- Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of Union Territories.
- Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- Members and Special Invitees.

### Regional Councils

- Convened by the Prime Minister.
- Comprise Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of relevant States/Regions.
- Address specific regional issues.

### Role of the Governing Council

#### Policy Direction

- Sets national priorities and strategic directions for India's development.
- Facilitates policy dialogue between the Centre and States.
- Reviews major policy initiatives and their implementation.

#### Cooperative Federalism

- Provides a structured platform for Centre-State engagement.
- Resolves inter-State and Centre-State issues.
- Promotes state-level innovation and best practices.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Reviews performance of States on various development parameters.
- Assesses implementation of national programmes.
- Identifies bottlenecks in policy delivery.

#### Strategic Planning

- Discusses long-term development goals such as **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Aligns State plans with national priorities.
- Promotes convergence of resources and efforts.

#### 11th Governing Council Meeting (11 June 2026)

## Theme: Inclusive Human Development Framework

### Four Core Pillars

- Foundational human capital and future-ready skills.
- Productive employment, entrepreneurship and decentralised growth.
- Health, nutrition and wellbeing.
- Equity and dignity for all.

### Key Highlights of PM Modi's Address

#### District-Level GDP Estimates

- States urged to develop district GDP estimates to identify local development challenges.
- Facilitates targeted grassroots interventions.
- Reinforces the vision that **Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved without developed States.**

#### Viksit Bharat 2047

- Vision should become the collective resolve of every State, district, block and village.
- Roadmap divided into medium-term and short-term goals.
- Emphasis on **backward integration principle** by planning intermediate milestones.
- Requires planned implementation with specific deadlines.

#### Foreign Investment and Trade Agreements

- States asked to create opportunities for youth and MSMEs.
- Encouraged to attract investments from partner countries.
- Focus on rapid grievance redressal to facilitate foreign investment.

#### Manufacturing and Defence

- Defence manufacturing identified as an emerging growth sector.
- States encouraged to formulate supportive policies.
- Focus on next-generation manufacturing capabilities.
- Promotion of **One District One Product (ODOP)** with export-oriented strategies.

### Women-Led Development

- Priority on women-led development.
- Target to increase **LakshpatiDidis from 3 crore to 6 crore**.
- Emphasis on ensuring a safe and secure environment for Nari Shakti.

### Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy

- AI viewed as an opportunity for India's development.
- Focus on future-ready skills.
- Promotion of data centres and AI sectors.
- Addressing cyber fraud and drug abuse challenges.

### Climate and Water Conservation

- Warning regarding risks posed by El Niño conditions.
- Strengthening water conservation measures.
- Sustainable resource management.
- Promotion of climate-resilient agriculture.

### Demographic Dividend

- India's **70 crore youth** termed the country's biggest asset.
- Need to transform demographic dividend into development dividend.
- Emphasis on skilling and education.

### Significance of the Meeting

#### Strengthening Cooperative Federalism

- Participation of all 28 Chief Ministers marks a historic milestone.
- Reinforces NITI Aayog's role as a consensus-building platform.
- Reflects political maturity across party lines on developmental issues.

#### Focus on Grassroots Development

- District-level GDP estimates signify a shift towards:
  - Granular planning and policy formulation.
  - Evidence-based decision-making.

- Targeted interventions for backward districts.

### Addressing Contemporary Challenges

- External challenges such as the West Asia crisis.
- Energy security and affordability.
- Climate change and water conservation.
- Technological disruption through AI.
- Social challenges including cyber fraud and drug abuse.

### Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047

- Structured approach with medium-term milestones.
- Whole-of-government mobilisation.
- Greater State-level ownership of national development goals.

## Nicobar Elections

### Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Elections & Schedule Areas.

#### Context:

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) administration has notified draft rules proposing formal constituency-based elections for Nicobarese Tribal Councils.
- The Tribal Welfare Department has set **15 June 2026** as the deadline for suggestions and objections.
- The proposal has revived debate on **indigenous self-governance, cultural autonomy, and administrative motives**, particularly in the backdrop of the **₹91,000 crore Great Nicobar Development Project**.

#### Background: Who Are the Nicobarese?

- The Nicobarese are a Scheduled Tribe with a population of about **30,000**, spread across the Nicobar group of islands.
- They are represented through **seven Tribal Councils** covering Car Nicobar, Nancowry, Kamorta, Teressa, Little Nicobar, Great Nicobar, and others.
- Below the Tribal Councils is the village leadership structure consisting of **three Captains per village**:

- First Captain
- Second Captain
- Third Captain
- The concept of “**captaincy**” dates back to the 16th century when Nicobarese negotiating with passing colonial ships began calling themselves captains.
- The British formalised this structure in the late 19th century for administrative convenience.
- The Tribal Council system emerged in the 1990s mainly to facilitate community participation in Central Government poverty alleviation schemes.

### Existing Leadership Selection Process

#### Consensus-Based Governance

- The current system is **community-driven and consensus-based**, rather than bureaucratically fixed.
- Elections for village Captains occur whenever the community feels the need, not according to a fixed schedule.

#### Election Process

- Village residents gather in community meetings.
- Candidates are nominated through popular consensus.
- Community members prepare their own ballot papers.
- Polling officers are appointed from within the community.
- Captains are elected through majority vote.

#### Selection of Tribal Council Chairperson

- Chosen through popular consensus.
- In some councils, no formal election has been held for decades, with leadership continuing through community acceptance.

#### Nature of Leadership

- Captains are not autonomous decision-makers.
- Decisions are taken through **popular community consultation**.
- Captains are neither lawmakers nor unilateral leaders.

- Preferred qualities include:
  - Education
  - Hindi fluency for dealing with officials
  - Exposure to the outside world
  - Administrative and practical “smartness”

### Existing Concerns

- In several Island Tribal Councils, it is unclear:
  - When the Chairperson was last elected.
  - What authority the Chairperson actually holds.

### Draft Rules, 2026: Key Provisions

#### Proposed Electoral Framework

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026** prescribe a formal electoral system with **five-yearly elections** to Village Councils and Island Tribal Councils.

#### Major Features

- Villagers will elect **5–9 Captains per village**.
- Direct election of the **Chief Captain** of each Island Tribal Council.
- First Captains of all villages on an island will elect the **Vice-Chief Captain**.
- Island Tribal Council will comprise:
  - Chief Captain
  - Vice-Chief Captain
  - All First Captains of that island
- Introduction of:
  - Delimitation of constituencies
  - Preparation of electoral rolls
  - Reservation of seats for women

#### Legal Basis

- Rules are framed under the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009**.
- The Regulation aimed to provide autonomous self-governance to the Nicobarese.

### Administrative Override

- The 2009 Regulation grants the district administration (Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner) an **absolute veto** over council decisions deemed:
  - A threat to public order, or
  - Likely to cause “annoyance”.

### Concerns of Tribal Leaders

#### 1. Bureaucratisation of a Living Tradition

- Fear that fixed electoral schedules and formal procedures will undermine the organic, consensus-based governance system.
- Seen as interference in traditional self-governing practices.

#### 2. Great Nicobar Development Project: Political Context

- The Tribal Council of Great Nicobar has actively opposed the **₹91,000 crore mega-project** involving:
  - Container Port
  - International Airport
  - Township Development
- Concerns have been raised that the timing of the rules may be linked to this opposition.

#### 3. Consultation Deficit

- Alleged absence of prior consultation with the Nicobarese community.
- Non-recognition of the **Tuhet system** (traditional joint family structure), which forms the social backbone of Nicobarese society.

### Constitutional and Legal Dimensions

- The Nicobarese are a **Scheduled Tribe** entitled to constitutional protections.
- However, a significant legal nuance exists:

- The **Fifth Schedule** framework does not technically apply to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands because it is a Union Territory.
- The 2009 Presidential Regulation retains substantial administrative override powers.
- Consequently, the proposed model of self-governance remains structurally constrained.

### **Conclusion**

- The controversy highlights the tension between **formal electoral governance and traditional tribal self-rule**.
- Critics argue that genuine self-governance cannot be achieved through a standardised electoral framework designed for mainland India.
- The core issue is whether formalisation strengthens tribal democracy or substitutes long-standing community-based governance without adequate consultation.