



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 25-06-2026

Mapping Perspective

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Prelims Perspective

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Switzerland

Syllabus: GS-1; World Geography , GS-2; International Relations

Context

Switzerland recently hosted talks between senior U.S. and Iranian officials.

About

- A landlocked country located in Central and Western Europe.

Capital

- Bern

Borders

- Germany (North)
- France (West)
- Italy (South)
- Austria (East)
- Liechtenstein (East)

Geographical Features

- Alps in the south.
- Jura Mountains in the north.
- Highest Peak: **Monte Rosa**
- Major Lakes:
 - Lake Geneva
 - Lake Neuchâtel

Important Facts

- Not a member of:
 - European Union (EU)
 - NATO

Official Languages

- German

- French
- Italian
- Romansh



Uzbekistan Joins New Development Bank (NDB)

Syllabus: GS-2, International Relations- Important International Institutions

Context

Uzbekistan has officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB) as its 10th member and the first Central Asian country to become part of the BRICS-led institution.

About New Development Bank (NDB)

- Established by **BRICS** nations in 2014 at **Fortaleza, Brazil**.
- Operational since 2015.
- Headquarters: **Shanghai, China**.

- Objective: **Finance infrastructure** and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.

Governance

- **One member, one vote.**
- No veto power.
- Founding BRICS members collectively retain over 55% voting share.

Current Members

- Brazil
- Russia
- India
- China
- South Africa
- Bangladesh
- UAE
- Egypt
- Algeria
- Uzbekistan

Significance

- First Central Asian member.
- Expands NDB's regional footprint.
- Strengthens Global South representation in global financial governance.
- Supports local-currency financing.

India's First 3D-Printed Artificial Reef Modules

Syllabus: GS-3, Environment- Marine Ecology, Science & Technology

Context

Tamil Nadu is set to deploy India's first 3D-printed artificial reef modules under Phase-II of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana.

About

- To be deployed off the **Ramanathapuram coast of Tamil Nadu.**
- Developed by:
 - Tvasta (IIT Madras-incubated startup)
 - ICAR-CMFRI

Features

- Complex geometries with folds and crevices.
- High surface area.
- Designed to support:
 - Corals
 - Sponges
 - Reef-associated fauna

Advantages

- Enhanced biodiversity.
- Faster fabrication.
- Site-specific ecological customization.
- Reduced labour requirements.

Scheme Associated

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**

MARINE INNOVATION

INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED ARTIFICIAL REEF MODULES

BUILT WITH INNOVATION FOR A BLUE FUTURE

A breakthrough step towards ocean restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable coastal ecosystems.

BREAKTHROUGH BY INDIA
India has developed its first indigenous 3D-printed artificial reef modules using sustainable, marine-grade materials.

WHAT ARE ARTIFICIAL REEFS?
Artificial reefs are man-made structures placed on the seabed to mimic natural reefs and promote marine life.

BENEFITS FOR INDIA

- ENHANCES MARINE BIODIVERSITY
- SUPPORTS COASTAL PROTECTION
- CREATES HABITATS FOR MARINE LIFE
- PROMOTES CARBON SEQUESTRATION

INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY
Developed using advanced 3D printing technology suited for marine environments.

ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS
Made with low-carbon, eco-friendly and marine-safe concrete composites.

DURABLE & COST-EFFECTIVE
Engineered for high durability, long life and cost-effective deployment.

SCALABLE SOLUTION
Modules can be mass-produced and deployed across India's coastline and islands.

BENEFITS FOR INDIA

- Restores degraded marine ecosystems
- Supports fisheries and local livelihoods
- Boosts eco-tourism and recreation
- Helps mitigate climate change impacts
- Strengthens coastal resilience
- Aligns with India's Blue Economy vision

66 A pioneering innovation for a healthier ocean, stronger coasts and a sustainable tomorrow.

INNOVATING TODAY FOR OCEANS TOMORROW

LAUNCHING THE BLUE REVOLUTION
Stronger oceans. Sustainable future.

RELOS Agreement

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations.

Context:

- The **India–Russia Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)**, operationalised in **January 2026**, recently triggered social media speculation that it allows stationing of **3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil (or vice versa)**, portraying it as a military alliance.
- However, RELOS is a **logistics support agreement**, not a military alliance arrangement.

Logistics Support Agreements (LSAs)

Meaning

- An **LSA** is a foundational military cooperation agreement between countries for **administrative and logistical support**.

Enables

- Reciprocal use of each other's **bases and ports** for supplies, repair and fuel.
- Support during **joint exercises, training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations.
- Simplification of administrative procedures and reduction of bureaucratic friction as defence cooperation deepens.

Key Feature

- LSAs are **purely logistical arrangements**, not instruments of military alliances.

LEMOA Precedent (India–US, 2016)

- India's first logistics agreement was the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** with the US in **2016**.
- As clarified by the Government in Parliament: **"It does not provide for the establishment of any bases or basing arrangements."**

Services Typically Covered under LSAs

- Food and water; Billeting/accommodation; Transportation; Fuel and lubricants ;Clothing; Communication services;

- Medical services; Storage facilities; Training support; Spare parts; Repair and maintenance; Calibration services; Port services

India's Existing Logistics Agreements

Standalone LSAs

- US; UK; France; Vietnam
- Japan; Australia; Singapore; Russia

Under Broader Defence Cooperation Agreement

- Oman

Common Feature

- All agreements follow the same basic template and purpose; RELOS is **not unique to Russia**.

Practical Utility of LSAs

Anti-Piracy Operations (Gulf of Aden)

- Indian Naval ships and **P-8I maritime patrol aircraft** have used LSAs for quicker operational turnaround.
- Enhanced **operational reach and endurance** without returning to Indian bases.

Eastern Ladakh Standoff (2020)

- India invoked the US logistics pact to procure **high-altitude clothing** during the China border standoff.
- Supported deployment of over **50,000 troops** during harsh winters.

India-UK Cooperation

- Royal Navy ships received **India-manufactured spare parts** and maintenance support at Indian shipyards during visits.

RELOS: Key Facts

Basic Details

- **Full Name:** Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)
- **Signed:** 18 February 2025, Moscow
- **Ratified by Russia:** 15 December 2025

- **Operationalised:** January 2026
- **Validity:** 5 years, with provision for future revision

Scope of RELOS

According to the Kremlin, RELOS defines procedures for:

- Deployment of military formations
- Port calls by warships
- Use of airspace and airfield infrastructure by military aircraft
- Joint military exercises and training
- HADR missions
- Port and repair services
- Medical support
- Delivery of food and technical resources
- Reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, for support of ship and aircraft personnel

Debunking the “3,000 Troops” Claim

What the Agreement States

- RELOS specifies a **maximum upper limit of 3,000 personnel.**

What It Does Not Mean

- It is **not a provision for permanent stationing of troops.**
- It does **not create military bases or basing arrangements.**

Clarifications

- The figure represents a broad operational ceiling accounting for:
 - Size of contingents
 - Number of ships and aircraft participating in agreed activities
- Personnel deployment occurs only during:
 - Joint exercises
 - Port calls

- Training engagements
- Other mutually agreed visits
- Officials have clarified that **no permanent or long-term stationing has been agreed upon** under RELOS.

Strategic Significance: Arctic Dimension

Importance

- RELOS provides India access to **Russian military facilities in the Arctic**.

Strategic Relevance

- India and Russia are expanding cooperation in the Arctic region.
- Global warming and melting ice are opening new Arctic navigation routes.
- Supports India's engagement with emerging Arctic shipping lanes.
- Strengthens India's long-term **Arctic Policy** objectives and strategic presence in evolving polar geopolitics.

Conclusion

- RELOS is a **standard administrative logistics framework**, similar to India's other logistics agreements, including LEMOA with the US.
- The **3,000-troop figure is an operational ceiling**, not a troop-basing provision.
- Its major strategic significance lies in facilitating defence logistics cooperation and enhancing India's access to the **Arctic region**, rather than enabling permanent troop deployment.

Nipah Virus in Kerala

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – General Science – Diseases.

Context:

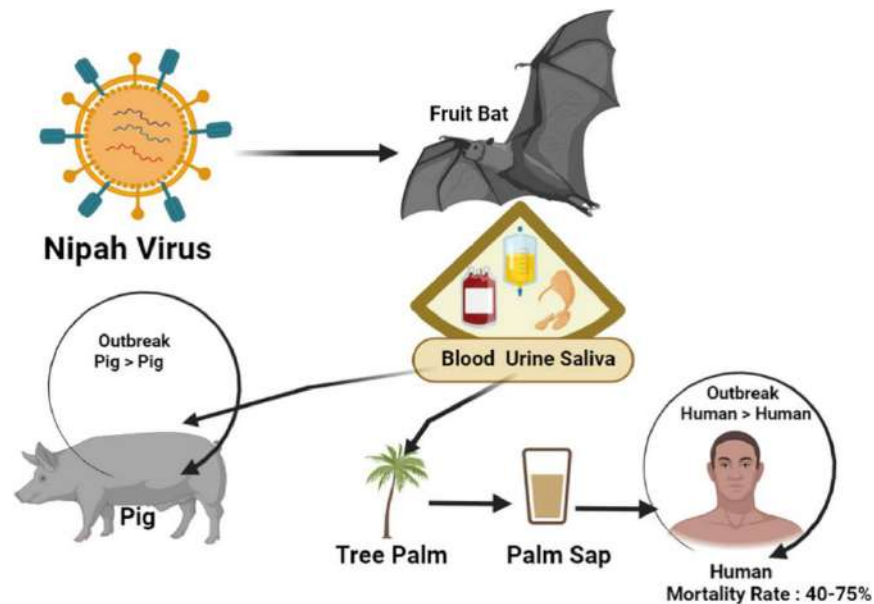
- Nipah Virus (NiV) has resurfaced in Kozhikode, Kerala, with a 43-year-old patient currently battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.
- Marks another spillover event in a state facing recurring Nipah outbreaks since 2018, highlighting Kerala's unique vulnerability to this high-threat pathogen.

Kerala's Nipah Timeline: Pattern of Recurrence

- Near-annual spillover events have been recorded since 2018.
- Most outbreaks are independent of each other, indicating the virus is endemically established in Kerala's environment rather than arriving from a single source.

Natural Reservoir: Fruit Bats

- The Indian flying fox (*Pteropus medius*) or fruit bat is the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala.
- During the 2018 outbreak, nearly 25% of sampled bats tested positive for Nipah viral RNA.
- Subsequent outbreaks have repeatedly confirmed NiV presence in bat populations.
- Kerala Forest Research Institute study found almost all bat roosting sites located near human habitats, increasing zoonotic exposure risk.



Why Kerala is Vulnerable: Ecological and Demographic Convergence

Seasonal Spillover Window

- Peak Nipah risk occurs from April to September due to:
 - Abundance of fruit-laden trees attracting bats.
 - Increased bat foraging activity.
 - Coincidence with bat breeding season.
 - Peak viral shedding dynamics.

- This seasonal pattern has remained consistent since 2018.

Western Ghats Biodiversity Pressure

- The Western Ghats, one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots, lies along Kerala's eastern flank.
- Only about 1,60,000 sq. km of this rich biosphere is formally protected.
- High population density, settlements, plantations, and farmlands adjoining forest fringes create an intense human-wildlife interface.

Habitat Disruption

- Emerging zoonoses are linked to:
 - Deforestation.
 - Habitat fragmentation.
 - Urbanisation.
 - Agricultural intensification.
- Disturbed wildlife habitats push animals closer to human settlements, increasing spillover risk.
- Climate-related ecological disruptions are emerging as a future risk factor.

Kerala's Broader Zoonotic Risk Profile

- Kerala faces recurring risks from:
 - Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).
 - Leptospirosis.
 - Scrub typhus.
 - Japanese encephalitis.
 - West Nile fever.
 - Rabies.
 - Avian influenza.
- WHO has flagged Kerala for vigilance regarding three High Threat Pathogens:
 - Nipah.
 - Avian Influenza (H5N1).

- KFD.
- These diseases share high mortality, transmissibility, and pandemic potential.
- Nipah is classified by WHO as a priority pathogen due to its lethality, unpredictability, and pandemic potential.

Kerala's Health System Response

2018 Wake-Up Call

- First outbreak caught the health system off guard.
- Of 23 reported cases:
 - Only the index case was community-acquired.
 - Remaining cases resulted from nosocomial (hospital-acquired) transmission across three hospitals.

Reforms Since 2018

- Developed a clinical algorithm for emerging viral infections at tertiary-care level.
- Strengthened diagnostic and research capacities.
- Improved hospital infection-control practices.
- Enhanced clinician capacity to identify unusual Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases and case clustering.
- Established strict monitoring of AES cases of unknown origin and severe respiratory infections.
- Expanded the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) network for early laboratory confirmation.
- Since 2018, rapid identification of index cases and swift containment have prevented large outbreaks.
- Human-to-human transmission has occurred only once after 2018, during the 2023 cluster.

'One Health' Strategy

Concept

- Recognises the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health.

Key Initiatives

- Community-based surveillance network involving over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers monitoring unusual disease trends and abnormal animal/bird deaths for early detection of zoonotic outbreaks.
- Establishment of the One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience (2023) at Kozhikode for awareness, resilience-building, and rapid response.
- Documentation of every Nipah outbreak to facilitate future research on epidemiology, sero-surveillance, and host factors.
- Collaboration with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) for development of indigenous monoclonal antibodies targeting the Bangladesh strain of NiV circulating in Kerala.

Key Takeaway

- Presence of a perennial natural reservoir in bat populations makes complete prevention of spillover events difficult.
- Kerala's strategy has shifted from prevention to management through:
 - Reducing bat-human interface via community awareness.
 - Early detection through robust surveillance.
 - Rapid containment to prevent wider outbreaks.

Prelims Facts: Nipah Virus

- Zoonotic viral disease caused by Nipah virus (Henipavirus genus, Paramyxoviridae family).
- Natural reservoir: *Pteropus* fruit bats.
- Transmission: Bat-to-human, animal-to-human, and human-to-human.
- Symptoms: Acute respiratory illness and encephalitis.
- Case Fatality Rate (CFR): Approximately 40–75% (WHO estimates).
- WHO Priority Pathogen due to epidemic and pandemic potential.