



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 26-06-2026

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Prelims Perspective

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Mains Perspective

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Volcán de Fuego

Syllabus: GS-1; Physical Geography

Context

Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego recently erupted, forcing tourists to evacuate.



About

- Active stratovolcano located in Guatemala.
- Name means "**Volcano of Fire.**"

Height

- 3,763 metres

Geological Setting

- Lies on the boundary between:
 - **Cocos Plate**
 - **Caribbean Plate**

Features

- Part of the Central American Volcanic Arc.
- Open-vent volcanic system.
- Frequent eruptions with:
 - Ashfall
 - Lava flows
 - Pyroclastic flows
 - Lahars

Significance

- One of **Central America's most active volcanoes.**

Sarinda

Syllabus: GS-1, Indian Culture, Art & Heritage

Context

Traditional Tripura Sarinda has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.



About

- Traditional bowed string instrument associated with indigenous communities of Tripura.
- Also known as Sarinda Uakhrap.
- Used during folk performances and indigenous cultural events.

Features

- Made from bamboo and wood.
- Hollow resonator covered with animal skin.
- Three strings made of metal, Muga thread or animal gut.
- Played using a horsehair bow.

Other GI-tagged Products of Tripura

- Tripura Queen Pineapple
- Risa
- Pachra (Rignai)
- Matabari Peda

Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*)

Syllabus: GS-3, Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue Economy

Context

ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai, has successfully demonstrated Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology for the first time.



About

- Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*) belongs to the Portunidae family.

- Also known as Blue Crab, Flower Crab and Blue Manna Crab.
- Identified by paddle-like hind legs and nine spines along the carapace.

Distribution

- Found in India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia.
- In India, dominant fisheries occur in:
 - Palk Bay
 - Gulf of Mannar

Characteristics

- Buries itself in sand or mud during daytime.
- Tolerant to high levels of ammonia and ammonium.
- Feeds on bivalves, fish and macroalgae.

Police begin collecting DNA records under 2022 law

Syllabus: GS-2: Governance & GS-3: Internal security - Law and Order.

Context:

- Police across several Indian states have begun collecting DNA records of suspects under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022.
- Over one lakh DNA profiles have been generated and stored in a central database operated by the National Crime Records Bureau.

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 (CrPI Act)

About

- Significant legislation passed by Parliament in 2022 to modernise India's criminal investigation framework.
- Replaced the colonial-era Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which had limited provisions for collecting only fingerprints and footprints.

Background

- The 1920 Act was considered outdated in the era of advanced forensic technology.
- Enacted to:

- Modernise identification techniques in line with global standards.
- Strengthen the criminal justice system through scientific evidence.
- Improve conviction rates through accurate identification.
- Solve inter-state crimes through a unified national database.

Key Provisions

Persons Covered

The Act empowers police and prison officers to collect identification data from:

- Convicted persons.
- Arrested persons for offences punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more.
- Persons detained under preventive detention laws.

Types of Measurements Collected

- Fingerprints and palm prints.
- Footprints and photographs.
- Iris and retina scans.
- Physical and biological samples, including blood and saliva for DNA profiling.
- Behavioural attributes, including signatures and handwriting.

Data Retention

- Records can be retained for up to 75 years from the date of collection.
- Data stored in a central database maintained by the NCRB.
- Records deleted when a person is acquitted or discharged in all proceedings.

Authorised Agencies

Accessible to:

- State police forces.
- Central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency and Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Prison authorities for record collection.

Concerns and Criticisms

- Privacy concerns regarding mass collection of biometric and biological data.
- Potential misuse by authorities.
- Vague definitions of persons subject to collection.
- Lack of judicial oversight for collection from arrested persons.
- Retention period of 75 years raises proportionality concerns.
- The Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) recognised privacy as a Fundamental Right, necessitating a balance between security and individual rights.

News Summary: Implementation of the CrPI Act

Recent Developments

- Over the past five months, DNA records of more than one lakh suspects have been stored in the NCRB database under the Union Home Ministry.
- The contours of the CrPI system were showcased on June 19 at an NCRB event presided over by Amit Shah.

Infrastructure for Implementation

- More than 2,600 measurement collection units established across the country.
- CrPI system operational in police districts and prisons.
- Accessible to CBI, NIA and NCB.
- Integrated with forensic laboratories for processing biological samples.

Sample Collection Process

- Samples collected in cases punishable by seven years or more.
- DNA samples primarily drawn from blood; saliva used in some cases.
- Samples sent to forensic laboratories for generation of a unique identification number.
- NCRB preserves only the generated code in its records.
- Sanctity of samples depends on adherence to proper police protocols.

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)

About

- Launched by the NCRB in 2022 to support the CrPI system.

Features

- Fully automates fingerprint matching.
- Holds more than 1.27 crore fingerprint records.
- Enables instant matching across the country.
- Has assisted in solving old inter-state criminal cases.

Advanced Features of the CrPI System

Database Features

- Unified national database integrating face, iris and biological samples.
- Searchable database enabling scientific identification within moments.
- Standardised storage of measurements for 75 years.

Technological Capabilities

- Photo matching: Crime-scene photographs can be matched instantly with national records.
- Video analytics: CCTV footage can be uploaded to identify suspicious persons.
- Disguise-resistant identification: Photographs ensure visibility of eyes to minimise identification challenges caused by disguises.

Crime-Solving Capabilities

- Direct matching of biological samples recovered from crime scenes with existing records.
- Identification of habitual offenders through scientific methods.
- Instant inter-state criminal tracking and cross-state record matching.
- Rapid identification through CCTV footage, reducing hours of manual investigation to a few minutes.

Concerns and Way Forward

Privacy and Civil Liberties

- Ensure proportionality in data collection and retention.
- Safeguards against misuse of sensitive biological data.

- Independent oversight of database access.
- Robust data security to prevent breaches.
- Compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Implementation Challenges

- Standardising procedures across states.
- Training law enforcement personnel in collection techniques.
- Maintaining sample sanctity and chain of custody.
- Integration with state databases.

Need for Safeguards

- Judicial oversight for sensitive data collection.
- Clear protocols for deletion of records upon acquittal.
- Regular audits of database access and usage.
- Transparency in operational procedures.
- Periodic legislative review of the framework.

India-US Trade Relations

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations & GS-3: Indian Economy – Trade.

Context:

- Union Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** has begun high-level talks with **US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer** to finalise the **first tranche of an India-US trade deal**, even as India's trade surplus with the US has fallen by over **40%**.

India-US Trade Relations

- India and the United States share one of the world's most important bilateral economic relationships.
- India's goods trade with the US totalled an estimated **\$149.4 billion in 2025**.

Major Trade Components

Indian Exports

- Pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, petroleum products, gems & jewellery, textiles, electronics, and chemicals.

US Exports

- Crude oil & LNG, defence equipment, agricultural products, aircraft parts, machinery, electronics, and medical instruments.

Expanding Areas of Cooperation

- Services trade, particularly IT and business services.
- Investment flows, though net FDI trends have weakened in recent years.
- Technology cooperation in semiconductors, digital trade, and advanced manufacturing.
- Strategic supply chains, especially in energy and defence.

Persistent Areas of Friction

- Tariffs and market access.
- Agricultural subsidies.
- Digital regulation.
- Localisation rules.

Key Issues in India-US Trade Ties

US Concerns

- Greater access for US farm products.
- Lower tariffs on industrial goods.
- Better terms for energy exports.
- Easier market access for American companies.

India's Concerns

- Better access for manufactured goods and services.
- Predictable tariff treatment.
- Recognition of concerns regarding farm livelihoods.
- Protection from heavily subsidised agricultural imports.

Emerging Challenge

- The US is expected to complete its **Section 301 investigation** and unveil a new tariff architecture, potentially replacing reciprocal tariffs.

News Summary

- India and the US have entered a critical phase of negotiations.
- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal held two-day talks with Jamieson Greer to finalise the first tranche of the agreement by next month.

Trade Surplus Has Fallen Sharply

- India's trade surplus with the US has declined by **over 40%** since negotiations began following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with then US President Donald Trump on **13 February 2025**.
- Export surplus fell from **\$5.02 billion (May 2025)** to **\$2.94 billion (May 2026)**.
- Indicates weakening of India's trade position even before conclusion of the deal.

Concessions Already Affecting Trade Balance

Tariff Reductions by India

- Reduced duty on American bourbon whiskey.
- Slashed tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Energy Imports

- Indian public sector refiners signed a one-year agreement to import **2.2 million tonnes per annum of US LPG**.
- Amid LNG supply disruptions from West Asia, the US became India's **top source of LNG in May 2026**.

Implication

- The US has already gained greater export access in energy and premium consumer segments.

Declining Exports and Rising Imports

Petroleum Products

- India's exports to the US (March 2026) fell **24.02%** to **\$235.47 million**.
- Imports from the US rose **130.95%** to **\$321.73 million**.

Electronic Components

- Exports fell **33.41%** to **\$135.54 million**.
- Imports jumped **136.30%** to **\$431.89 million**.

Similar Trend Observed In

- Organic chemicals.
- Copper products.
- Motor vehicles.
- Fresh fruits.
- Scientific instruments.

Key Observation

- Exports declined while imports rose sharply, indicating stronger US competition in the Indian market.

Agriculture: The Most Sensitive Issue

Concerns of Farm Groups

- Strong opposition to concessions on farm imports.
- The US operates one of the world's largest agricultural subsidy programmes.

Vulnerable Sectors

- Apples; Almonds; Walnuts; Soybean; Cotton; Rubber.

Major Concerns

- Hurt domestic farmers.
- Undermine India's WTO stance against US farm subsidies.
- Damage rural livelihoods, particularly in hill and rainfed regions.

Apple Growers' Concerns

- Growers from Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttarakhand argue that even a minimum import price may not provide adequate protection as US apples already enter at higher price points.

Subsidy Debate

- Farmer organisations highlight that the US Farm Bill provides extensive financial support, while Indian farmers effectively face a negative producer support environment.

Strategic Context

- Talks coincide with the US preparations for a new tariff regime under the **Section 301 process**.
- The agreement is aimed not only at expanding trade but also at protecting India from potentially harsher future tariff actions.
- Officials indicate that negotiations are expected to provide the “**final touch**” to the first tranche of the agreement.

Significance

Economic Significance

- Will shape India’s future access to one of its largest export markets.
- Important for trade, investment, technology cooperation, and supply-chain integration.

Trade Balance Concerns

- India’s trade surplus is already narrowing, limiting scope for further unilateral concessions.

Agricultural Implications

- Any compromise may directly affect farm incomes and India’s WTO position on agricultural subsidies.

Strategic Significance

- Reflects India’s balancing act of deepening economic ties with the US while safeguarding:
 - Domestic manufacturing.
 - Agricultural interests.
 - Trade policy autonomy.