DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 29-06-2026

Mapping Perspective

1. **Lake Laach (Laacher See)**

Prelims Perspective

2. **Maharishi Sushruta**
3. **PM-RAHAT Scheme**

Mains Perspective

4. **Earthquake**
5. **Digital Fraud**

Lake Laach (Laacher See)

Syllabus: GS-1; Physical Geography (Volcanism)

Context

Scientists have detected over 1,000 micro-earthquakes beneath Germany's Lake Laach, revealing a deeper and inclined magma reservoir beneath the volcano.

About Lake Laach

- Lake Laach (Laacher See) is a volcanic caldera lake located in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.
- It is the largest lake in the state, covering about 3.3 sq. km with a maximum depth of 53 metres.
- It lies within the East Eifel Volcanic Field, part of the larger Eifel volcanic region.
- The lake was formed following a massive volcanic eruption around 13,000 years ago.
- Volcanic activity continues beneath the region, evident from carbon dioxide-emitting mofettes on the eastern shore.
- The lake has no natural outlet and is drained through a man-made tunnel constructed before 1170 CE.

Maharishi Sushruta

Syllabus: GS -1; Indian Culture (Ancient India)

Context

A bronze statue of Maharishi Sushruta has recently been unveiled at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

Who was Maharishi Sushruta?

- Maharishi Sushruta is regarded as the **Father of Surgery** and one of the pioneers of Ayurveda.
- He is believed to have lived around the 6th century BCE.
- He was traditionally considered a disciple of Lord Dhanvantari.
- He practised and taught medicine in Varanasi.

Sushruta Samhita

- His seminal work, the **Sushruta Samhita**, is among the earliest and most comprehensive medical treatises.
- It consists of **184 chapters**.
- It describes more than **300 surgical procedures** and over **120 surgical instruments**.
- It also covers toxicology, paediatrics, pharmacology, anatomy, and Ayurveda.
- The text documents more than **100 medicinal plants** and their therapeutic uses.

Major Contributions

- Performed advanced surgeries including rhinoplasty, lithotomy, cataract surgery, and obstetric procedures.
- Introduced systematic cadaver dissection for anatomical studies.
- Emphasised practical surgical training and clinical observation.
- Advocated herbal anaesthesia and comprehensive post-operative care.
- Established ethical standards and systematic documentation in medical practice.

Present-day Applications/Implications

- Forms the historical foundation of modern plastic and reconstructive surgery.
- Continues to inspire research in Ayurveda and integrative medicine.
- Highlights the importance of evidence-based surgical education through anatomy and clinical practice.
- Reinforces India's contribution to global medical heritage.
- Supports India's efforts to promote traditional medicine through initiatives such as the Ministry of AYUSH.

PM-RAHAT Scheme

Syllabus: GS-2; Governance & Social Justice

Context

The **facial identification requirement** for accident victims seeking benefits under the PM-RAHAT Scheme has recently been removed.

About the Scheme

- PM-RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment) is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- Provides **cashless treatment** up to ₹1.5 lakh for eligible road accident victims for seven days.
- Covers accidents occurring on any category of road.
- Integrates **eDAR** (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) **and TMS 2.0** (Transaction Management System 2.0) for digital processing.
- Linked with **ERSS-112** (Emergency Response Support System) for emergency response.

- Reimbursements are made through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAF).**

Significance

- Ensures timely and cashless emergency healthcare for road accident victims.
- Reduces preventable deaths during the critical **"golden hour."**
- Encourages Good Samaritans to assist accident victims without financial concerns.
- Promotes digital governance through **end-to-end online claim processing.**
- Strengthens road safety and emergency healthcare infrastructure.
- Reduces the financial burden on victims and their families.

Earthquake

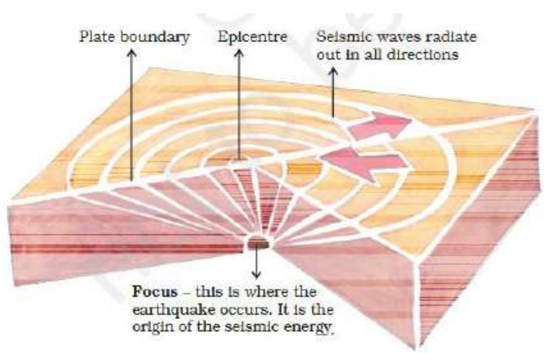
Syllabus: GS-1: Physical Geography.

Context:

- **Earthquake** is the sudden shaking of the Earth's surface caused by the abrupt release of accumulated energy due to movement along **faults** or volcanic activity, generating **seismic waves**.

Causes

- **Tectonic Earthquakes:** Movement of lithospheric plates (Convergent, Divergent, Transform boundaries).
- **Volcanic Earthquakes:** Associated with magma movement and volcanic eruptions.
- **Collapse Earthquakes:** Due to collapse of underground mines or caves.
- **Human-induced Earthquakes:** Reservoir-induced seismicity, mining, deep fluid injection, geothermal projects, nuclear explosions.



Key Terminology

- **Focus (Hypocentre):** Point inside the Earth where the earthquake originates.
- **Epicentre:** Point vertically above the focus on the Earth's surface.
- **Fault:** Fracture in rocks along which displacement occurs.
- **Seismic Waves:** P-waves, S-waves, and Surface waves.

Measurement

- **Magnitude:** Measured using the **Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw)**; indicates energy released.
- **Intensity:** Measured using the **Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale**; indicates observed effects and damage.

Distribution

- Earthquakes are concentrated along **plate boundaries**.
- Major seismic belts:
    - **Circum-Pacific Belt (Ring of Fire)** – ~80% of global earthquakes.
    - **Mediterranean–Himalayan Belt** – ~15%.
    - **Mid-Oceanic Ridge Belt**.

Earthquakes in India

- India is prone due to collision of the **Indian Plate** with the **Eurasian Plate**.
- High-risk regions: **Himalayas, North-East India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kutch (Gujarat)**.
- India is divided into **Seismic Zones II–V**, with **Zone V** being the highest risk.

Impacts

- Ground shaking, surface rupture, liquefaction.
- Landslides, avalanches, tsunamis.
- Loss of life, infrastructure damage, economic disruption.

Mitigation

- Earthquake-resistant building design and enforcement of **BIS seismic codes**.
- Seismic microzonation, hazard mapping, and land-use planning.
- Early warning systems, public awareness, mock drills, and resilient infrastructure.

Digital Fraud

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – cybercrimes.

Context:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a revised compensation framework for victims of digital payment frauds under the **RBI (Commercial Banks — Responsible Business Conduct) Third Amendment Directions, 2026**.
- Applicable to **Electronic Banking Transactions (EBTs)** occurring **on or after 1 January 2027**.

Digital Payment Frauds: Nature & Scale

Digital Payment Ecosystem

- Rapid expansion of **UPI, mobile banking, net banking, and credit/debit card transactions** has been accompanied by a sharp increase in digital financial frauds.

Common Types of Digital Frauds

- SIM swapping
- Phishing
- Vishing (voice call fraud)
- OTP theft
- Fake UPI handles
- QR code scams
- AI-driven deepfake frauds

Vulnerable Groups

- Elderly citizens
- First-time digital users
- Rural consumers

Scale of the Problem

- **2023–24:** RBI reported **36,000+ fraud cases** involving approximately **₹13,930 crore** in the banking sector.

RBI Measures to Address Digital Payment Frauds

1. Limited Liability Framework

- Earlier framework (**2017**) on **Customer Protection—Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions** established **zero or limited customer liability** if fraud is reported promptly.
- **2026 amendment** strengthens this framework.

2. UPI Transaction Limits & Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

- Mandatory **2FA** for all digital transactions.
- UPI requires **device binding + UPI PIN**.
- Additional safeguards introduced for **large-value transactions**.

3. Real-Time Fraud Monitoring

- Banks directed to implement **real-time transaction monitoring systems**.
- Mandatory **Fraud Risk Management System**.
- Frauds above **₹1 lakh** to be reported to the **Central Fraud Registry**.

4. Mule Account Crackdown

- RBI and banks directed to identify and freeze **mule accounts**.
- Mule accounts are used by fraudsters to **receive and rapidly transfer stolen funds**.

5. '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign

- Initiative to trace and return the **top 100 unclaimed deposits** in every bank within **100 days**.
- Reflects RBI's broader emphasis on **financial accountability and consumer protection**.

Remaining Challenges

- Low public awareness, particularly in **semi-urban and rural areas**.
- Poor fraud recovery rates.
- Difficulty in prosecuting **cross-border frauds**.
- Sophisticated and evolving **mule account networks**.
- **AI-enabled deepfake voice frauds** and **social engineering attacks** are outpacing regulatory responses.

RBI Digital Fraud Compensation Rules (2026)

Eligibility

- Applicable to a **bona fide victim** who reports the fraud:
    - To the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** or **National Cyber Crime Helpline (1930)**; **and**
    - To the concerned **bank**;
    - **Within five calendar days** of the fraud.
- Benefit available **once in a lifetime**.

Compensation Amount

- **Loss up to ₹50,000:** Victim receives **85% of net loss** or **₹25,000**, whichever is **less**.

Compensation Sharing Mechanism

Domestic Fraud (Loss below ₹29,412)

(85% compensation applicable)

- RBI: **65%**
- Customer's bank: **10%**
- Beneficiary bank: **10%**

Domestic Fraud (Loss ₹29,412–₹50,000)

(Fixed compensation of ₹25,000)

- RBI: **₹19,118**
- Customer's bank: **₹2,941**
- Beneficiary bank: **₹2,941**

Cross-Border Fraud

- RBI: **65%**
- Customer's bank: **20%**
- No liability on beneficiary bank (foreign bank).

Beneficiary Bank

- The **beneficiary bank** is the bank where the fraudulently debited amount is **first credited**.
- If multiple beneficiary banks are involved, liability is shared **proportionately** based on the amounts credited.

Special Provisions

Credit Card Fraud

- For fraudulent EBTs on credit cards, banks must provide a **shadow reversal** (temporary restoration of disputed amount) within **five calendar days** of receiving the complaint.

Post-Recovery Adjustment

- If funds are recovered after compensation has been paid:
  - Bank must recalculate the **actual net loss**.
  - Compensation is adjusted by paying additional amounts or accounting for excess compensation already paid.

Significance

- Strengthens **consumer protection** in the digital economy.
- Reinforces **trust in India's digital payment ecosystem**.
- Promotes **responsible banking conduct** and timely fraud reporting.
- Recognises emerging threats such as **AI-enabled frauds** and enhances institutional accountability.