



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 30-06-2026

Prelims Perspective

1. National War Memorial (NWM)
2. Corporate Mitra Scheme
3. Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System

Mains Perspective

4. Seismic Doublet: Understanding Venezuela's Twin Earthquakes and Their Devastating Impact
5. Passport is not Proof of Citizenship – Understanding India's Legal Position

National War Memorial (NWM)

Syllabus: GS-1; Modern Indian History & Art and Culture

Context

The names of six military personnel who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor have recently been inscribed at the National War Memorial.

The Four Chakras of the Armed Forces

The National War Memorial complex is dedicated to the sacrifices made by India's jawans post independence. It will host a retreat ceremony in the evening and also serve as a venue for ceremonies of the armed forces. Entry to the memorial is free of charge



VEERTA CHAKRA

Circle of Bravery: This section is a covered gallery that exhibits six bronze murals depicting the heroic actions of the armed forces

40 acres

Total area of the war memorial

15m

Height of the obelisk in the Amar Chakra



AMAR CHAKRA

Circle of Immortality: This circle has the Obelisk, which houses the Eternal Flame. This flame symbolizes the immortality of the spirit of the fallen soldiers



TYAG CHAKRA

Circle of Sacrifice: The names of 25,942 martyrs have been engraved on this circular wall of honour. The wall symbolizes the formation of a Chakravayuh



PARAM YODHA STHAL

A section dedicated to 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees is adjacent to the National War Memorial. Each of the brave soldiers has been honoured with a bronze bust in this park



₹176 crore
Cost of the project

600

Number of trees in the Rakshak Chakra

RAKSHAK CHAKRA

Circle of Protection: This circle is covered with rows of trees with each tree representing the soldiers who stand guard to protect the country

About National War Memorial

- Inaugurated in January 2019 in New Delhi.
- Commemorates the sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces personnel since Independence.
- Designed around four concentric chakras:
 - Amar Chakra
 - Veerta Chakra
 - Tyag Chakra

- Rakshak Chakra
- Adjacent to the memorial is the **Param Yodha Sthal**, honouring all Param Vir Chakra awardees.

Significance

- Serves as the nation's principal tribute to fallen soldiers.
- Preserves the legacy and sacrifices of India's Armed Forces.
- Strengthens national unity, patriotism, and respect for the military.
- Educates citizens, especially youth, about India's military history and valour.
- Symbolises India's commitment to honouring service and sacrifice.
- Reinforces civil-military connect and national remembrance.

Corporate Mitra Scheme

Syllabus: GS-3; Indian Economy (MSMEs)

Context

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs announced that the Corporate Mitra Scheme will begin with 2,000 participants, including 200 candidates from the North-East.

About the Scheme

- Announced in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- Aims to strengthen MSMEs through trained and certified **Corporate Mitras**.
- Provides affordable support in GST, accounting, financial advisory, compliance, cost accounting, and secretarial services.
- Focuses on Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- Implemented jointly by ICAI, ICSI, and ICMAI.
- Includes six months of academic learning and six months of on-the-job training.
- Implemented through the SWAYAM Plus portal.

Significance

- Improves regulatory compliance among MSMEs.
- Enhances the ease of doing business for small enterprises.
- Creates employment opportunities for graduates through industry-oriented training.

- Bridges the gap between professional services and rural enterprises.
- Strengthens entrepreneurship and formalisation of the MSME sector.
- Supports inclusive economic growth and local business development.

Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System

Syllabus: GS-3; Defence & Security

Context

The Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system has been in the news as India continues to strengthen its airborne surveillance and network-centric warfare capabilities.



About Netra AEW&C System

- Netra is an indigenously developed **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is mounted on the **Embraer EMB-145** aircraft platform procured from Brazil.

- It serves as an airborne radar and command platform capable of long-range surveillance and battle management.
- The system can detect, identify, and track multiple airborne and maritime targets simultaneously.
- It enables real-time command and control by sharing information with fighter aircraft, ground stations, and other defence assets.
- It enhances situational awareness and supports network-centric warfare by integrating information from multiple sensors.
- It is operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Significance

- Enhances India's capability for early detection of hostile aircraft, missiles, and drones.
- Improves airspace surveillance and rapid response during military operations.
- Acts as a force multiplier by coordinating multiple combat platforms simultaneously.
- Strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- Reduces dependence on imported airborne surveillance systems.
- Improves India's preparedness against conventional and asymmetric aerial threats.

Seismic Doublet: Understanding Venezuela's Twin Earthquakes and Their Devastating Impact

Syllabus: GS-1: Physical Geography – Earthquakes.

Context:

- Venezuela was struck by **two powerful earthquakes within 39 seconds** — a rare phenomenon called a **seismic doublet**.
- **First earthquake:** Magnitude **7.2**; **Second earthquake:** Magnitude **7.5** (stronger).
- **US Geological Survey (USGS)** estimates the death toll between **10,000 and 100,000**, making it potentially **Venezuela's deadliest natural disaster**.

Earthquake Sequence

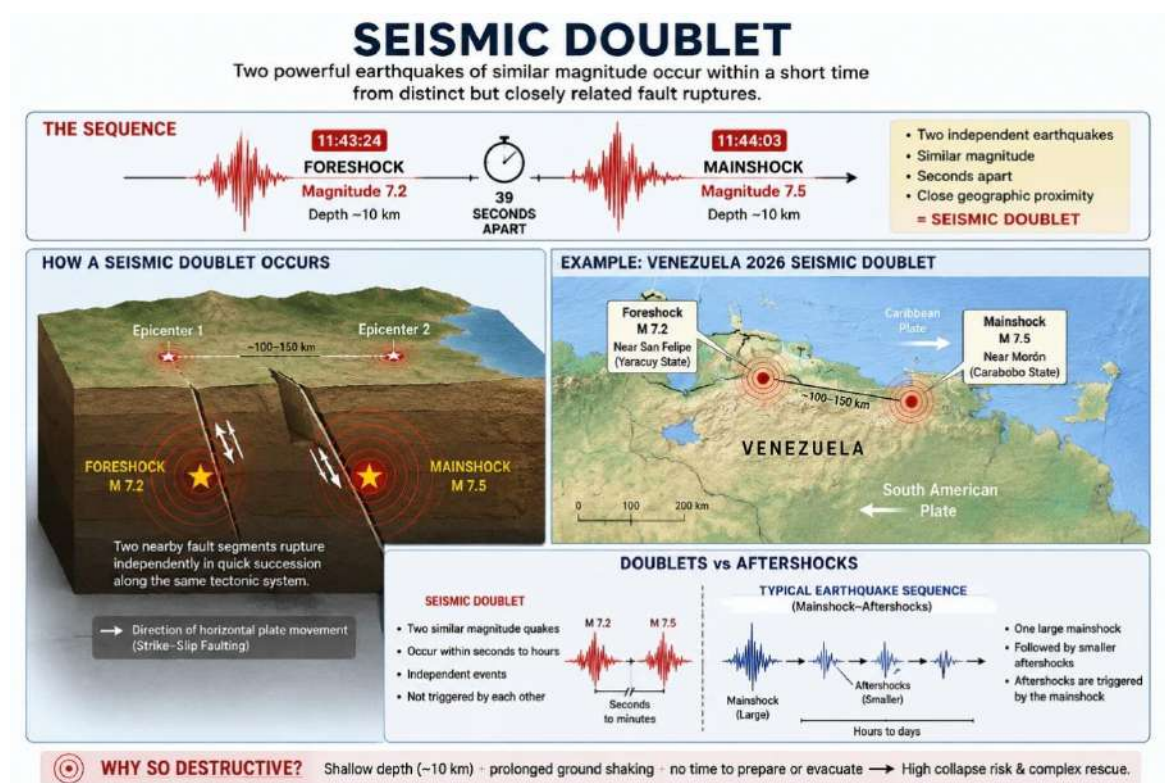
First Earthquake (Foreshock)

- Magnitude **7.2**; classified by **USGS** as the **foreshock**.

- Occurred about **24 km from San Felipe (Yaracuy State)**, around **160 km west of Caracas**.

Second Earthquake (Mainshock)

- Magnitude **7.5**; occurred **39 seconds later**.
- Struck near **Morón (Carabobo State)**, about **168 km west of Caracas**.
- Largest earthquake to strike **Venezuela or its coast since 1900**.
- According to **USGS**, the sequence likely indicates a **complex rupture interaction process**, forming a **seismic doublet**.



What is a Seismic Doublet?

- Unlike a typical earthquake sequence (**mainshock + smaller aftershocks**), a **seismic doublet** consists of:
 - **Two earthquakes of similar magnitude.**
 - Originating from **distinct but closely related fault ruptures.**
 - Occurring within **seconds, minutes, or at most a few hours** in **close geographic proximity.**

- **Key Feature:** The two earthquakes are **independent rupture events**, not triggered by each other like aftershocks.
- **Aftershocks:** Result from **stress redistribution** caused by the mainshock and are generally **one or more magnitudes smaller**.

Why are Seismic Doublets Highly Destructive?

1. Shallow Depth

- Mainshock occurred at a **shallow depth (~10 km)**.
- Shallow earthquakes are more destructive because **seismic energy dissipates less** before reaching the surface.
- Results in **high-intensity ground shaking** and greater structural damage.

2. Prolonged & Extended Ground Shaking

- Defining hazard of a seismic doublet.
- Studies indicate a second major shock can:
 - **Double the duration** of ground shaking.
 - **Expand the area** experiencing the strongest shaking.
- In Venezuela:
 - Buildings weakened by the **7.2 foreshock** were immediately hit by the **7.5 mainshock**.
 - **No time** for evacuation or structural assessment.
 - Significantly increased:
 - Risk of building collapse.
 - Complexity of rescue and relief operations.

Why is Venezuela Seismically Vulnerable?

Plate Tectonic Setting

- Located along the boundary between the **Caribbean Plate** and the **South American Plate**.
- One of the most **seismically active zones** in northern South America.
- Plates move horizontally past each other through **strike-slip faulting**.

- **USGS** confirmed that the mainshock resulted from **shallow strike-slip faulting** near the plate boundary.

Faults

- **Fault:** A fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock; rapid movement releases energy as earthquakes.

Types of Faults

- **Normal Fault:** Upper block moves **down**.
- **Reverse Fault:** Upper block moves **up and over**.
- **Strike-Slip Fault:** Two blocks **slide horizontally** past each other.
- Venezuela's earthquakes are associated with **strike-slip faults**.

Historical Seismicity

- Around **1,000 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or above** recorded in the **past decade**.
- Earlier earthquakes in **Zulia State** reached **magnitudes 6.2 and 6.3**.
- Previous strongest recorded event:
 - **1900 San Narciso Earthquake (M 7.7)**.
 - Killed **at least 21 people** and devastated parts of **Caracas**.
- The **2026 seismic doublet** is feared to be far deadlier.

Venezuela and the Pacific Ring of Fire

- Neighbouring **Mexico** and **Chile** lie along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**:
 - Approximately **40,000 km** arc.
 - Hosts **75% of the world's volcanoes**.
 - Generates **90% of the world's earthquakes**.
- **Venezuela is not located on the Ring of Fire**, but lies along a **comparably active plate boundary zone**.

Passport is not Proof of Citizenship – Understanding India's Legal Position

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Citizenship and related issues.

Context:

- On **Passport Seva Divas (June 24)**, the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** clarified that an **Indian passport is primarily a travel document and not conclusive proof of citizenship**.
- The statement sparked public debate because passports are widely regarded as the most authoritative identity documents.
- However, the clarification reflects the long-established legal distinction between **citizenship as a legal status** and **documents that merely provide evidence of that status**.

Citizenship: A Legal Status, Not a Document

Constitutional & Legal Basis

- **Articles 5–11 (Part II)** of the Constitution and the **Citizenship Act, 1955** govern acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship.
- Citizenship is based on **birth, descent, registration, naturalisation or incorporation of territory**, not on possession of any particular document.
- No law identifies a **single universal document** as definitive proof of Indian citizenship.
- Government-issued documents only serve as **evidence supporting the legal claim** of citizenship.

MHA Parliamentary Clarification (2020)

- In response to a Parliament question, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** clarified that **Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, PAN Card and Birth Certificate** are **not legally designated as proof of citizenship**.
- Citizenship is determined strictly according to the **Citizenship Act, 1955** and related rules.

Why a Passport is Strong Evidence but Not Conclusive Proof

Legal Position

- A passport is issued only after the government is satisfied that the applicant is an Indian citizen.
- However, it **does not create citizenship** and cannot conclusively establish citizenship if challenged before a court.

Section 20 of the Passports Act

- Empowers the Central Government to issue a passport or travel document even to a **non-citizen** in exceptional cases where public interest so requires.
- Used for **stateless persons, certain Tibetan refugees and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees** requiring international travel.
- Thus, the law itself recognises that a **passport is fundamentally a travel document, not an exclusive citizenship certificate.**

International Practice and Judicial Interpretation

International Practice

- Many democracies follow the same principle:
 - **United Kingdom** and **United States** issue passports only after citizenship has been established.
 - They also maintain **formal citizenship certificates** and stronger civil registration systems, making citizenship verification more straightforward.

Supreme Court Observations

- During hearings on **Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, the **Supreme Court** observed that **passports and birth certificates possess stronger evidentiary value.**
- However, the Court stopped short of declaring them **conclusive proof of citizenship.**

Judicial Precedents

- **Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005):** Burden of proving citizenship rests on the individual claiming it.
- **State of Andhra Pradesh v. Abdul Khader (1962):** Passport treated as relevant evidence, but the Court examined **birth, domicile and migration history** before determining citizenship.

- **Bombay High Court (2013):** Documentary possession alone is insufficient without establishing **parental citizenship**.

India's Structural Gap

No Universal Citizenship Document

- India has **no universal citizenship certificate**.

Current Position

- Citizens by **registration or naturalisation** receive formal citizenship certificates under **Sections 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act**.
- Citizens by **birth**, who constitute the overwhelming majority, receive **no equivalent document**.
- Citizenship is generally established through a combination of **birth certificates, electoral rolls, school records, land records, passports, etc.**, rather than a single definitive credential.

Historical Reasons

- India's civil registration system developed unevenly after Independence.
- Universal birth registration became widespread only in recent decades.
- Many older citizens rely on **multiple documents accumulated over time** instead of a dedicated citizenship certificate.

NRC – Attempt to Create a Citizenship Register

Legal Framework

- The **Citizenship Rules, 2003** (introduced during the Vajpayee government) envisaged:
 - National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).
 - National, State and Local Citizenship Registers.
 - Issuance of citizenship identity cards.

Aadhaar vs Citizenship Debate

- During the UPA government, the Home Ministry argued that **Aadhaar should not be treated as proof of citizenship**, as it verifies **identity and residence**, not citizenship.
- The proposed **NRC** was intended to create an official citizenship record.

Assam NRC Experience (2015–2019)

- Applicants had to establish links with **legacy records predating 24 March 1971**.
- Nearly **19 lakh applicants** were excluded due to:
 - Missing or inconsistent documents.
 - Spelling discrepancies.
 - Difficulty in proving family lineage.
- The nationwide NRC proposal later became politically contentious, particularly after the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)** debate.

Conclusion

- The MEA's clarification reiterates a **long-settled legal principle** that a passport is **strong evidence but not conclusive proof of citizenship**.
- The controversy highlights a deeper institutional challenge—India has a comprehensive citizenship law but **lacks a universal citizenship document**.
- Experts emphasise the need for:
 - Better integration of identity and citizenship databases.
 - Safeguarding constitutional rights.
 - Reducing dependence on fragmented documentary evidence.
 - Minimising disputes over citizenship.