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Daily **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

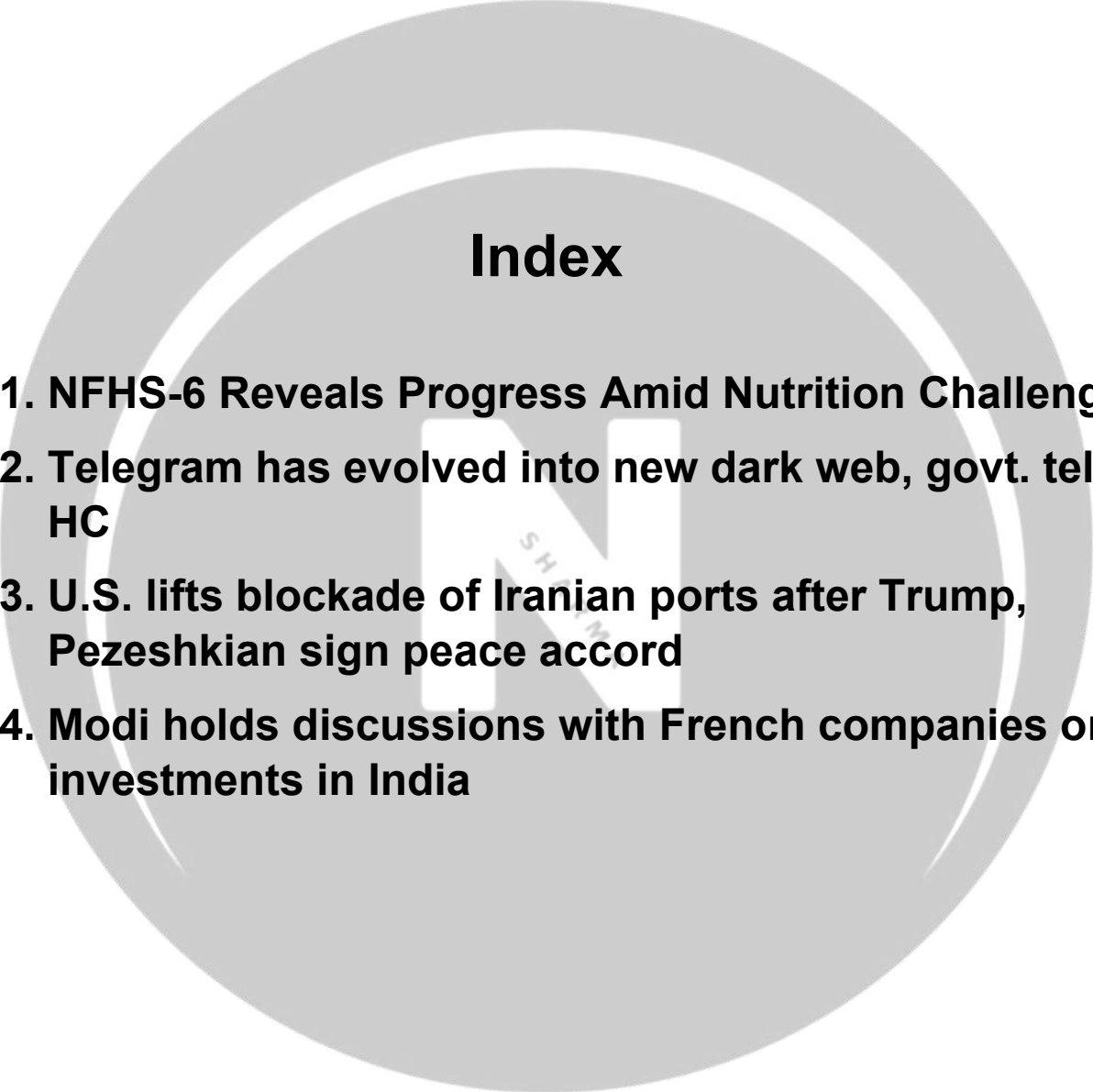
 June 19th 2026



Offline Centre Location:

SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh





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1. NFHS-6 Reveals Progress Amid Nutrition Challenges

Why in the News?

- The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6** has recently been released.
- It shows improvements in child health and maternal care but highlights persistent challenges in **child nutrition and dietary quality**.
- The findings are important for evaluating programmes such as **POSHAN Abhiyaan, ICDS, and maternal-child health initiatives**.



Background

- NFHS is a large-scale survey conducted periodically to assess population health, nutrition, fertility, and social indicators.
- It provides evidence for policymaking in health and nutrition.
- Nutrition during the **first 1,000 days (pregnancy to two years of age)** is crucial for physical and cognitive development.
- India aims to achieve **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and reduce child malnutrition through programmes such as:
 - **POSHAN Abhiyaan**
 - **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**
 - **National Health Mission (NHM)**
 - **Mid-Day Meal/PM POSHAN Scheme**

Features

Decline in Stunting

- Stunting among children under five reduced from 35.5% to 29.3%.
- Indicates improved long-term nutritional outcomes.

Better Maternal and Child Healthcare

- 90% institutional births.

- 91% deliveries attended by skilled personnel.
- 95% of mothers received antenatal care visits.

High Immunisation Coverage

- 87% of children (12–23 months) are fully vaccinated.

Reflects effective work by:

- ASHA workers
- Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)
- Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)

Improved Water, Sanitation and Housing

- Better WASH facilities have contributed to reduced undernutrition.

Challenges

Persistent Wasting

- No significant decline in wasting (low weight-for-height).
- Severe wasting remains a concern.

Poor Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

- Only **50%** of newborns are breastfed within the first hour.
- About **60%** of children (**6–8 months**) receive complementary food on time.
- Merely **15%** of children (**6–23 months**) receive an adequate diet.

Maternal Time Poverty

- Women bear multiple burdens:
- Paid work
- Unpaid household work
- Agriculture and livestock activities
- Lack of crèches affects breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Shift Towards Processed Foods

- Household expenditure is increasingly moving towards:
- Processed foods
- Sugary beverages
- Healthy foods such as pulses, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and animal products remain unaffordable for many.

Lack of Disaggregated Data

- Insufficient data for children aged 0–2 years, where growth faltering begins.

Weak Multisectoral Coordination

- Nutrition interventions often lack convergence among health, sanitation, education, and local governance sectors.

Way Forward

Strengthen Early Nutrition

- Focus on the first 1,000 days.
- Promote early breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding.

Improve Nutrition Surveillance

- Enhance anthropometric measurement skills of AWWs.
- Use district-level nutritionists and data analysts for local monitoring.

Promote Behaviour Change Communication

- Use culturally relevant practices such as Annaprasana to encourage proper feeding.
- Train ASHAs, AWWs and ANMs jointly.

Expand Childcare Infrastructure

- Establish community crèches and day-care centres.
- Reduce women's unpaid care burden and enhance female labour force participation.

Strengthen Local Governance

- Make child nutrition a regular agenda in:
- Gram Sabha meetings
- Panchayat planning
- Improve Anganwadi infrastructure, drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Promote Men's Participation

- Encourage shared childcare and domestic responsibilities.

Enhance Convergence

- Integrate efforts of:
- Health
- Women and Child Development
- Education
- Rural Development
- Panchayati Raj institutions

Conclusion

NFHS-6 reveals a mixed yet hopeful scenario. India has made substantial gains in the number of deliveries taking place within institutions, immunisation, and the decline in stunting. On the other hand, dietary deficiencies, inappropriate feeding habits, maternal time poverty, and consumption of processed foods have been preventing further advances. It takes consistent efforts on multiple fronts, including health care, nutrition, women's empowerment, child care, and improved governance of local authorities, to improve the nutritional status of children in the country.

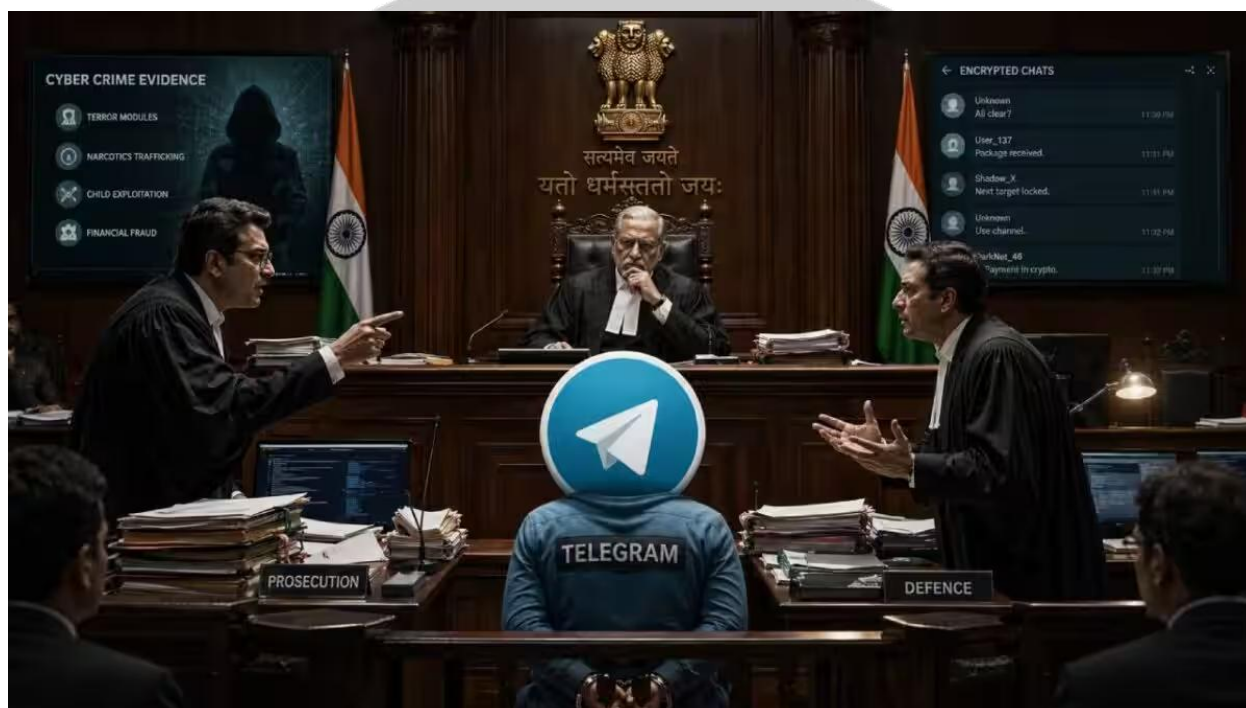
2. Telegram has evolved into new dark web, govt. tells HC

Why in the news?

Recently, the Union Government made an announcement to the Delhi High Court that Telegram has become the “**new dark web**,” claiming that it is being used extensively for conducting **cyber crimes, financial frauds, terror-related communication**, and also leaking of question papers during exams. This has been done by the Centre under **Section 69A** of the **Information Technology Act, 2000**, till **22nd June** before conducting the **NEET re-exam on 21st June**.

Background

- Telegram is an encrypted messaging and channel-based platform with over 150 million users in India.
- Authorities have long expressed concerns over its use for:
 - Cyber fraud and phishing.
 - Distribution of malware.
 - Money laundering through mule bank accounts and cryptocurrency.
 - Extremist and terrorist propaganda.
 - Leakage of competitive examination papers.
- The Centre relied on an assessment by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- Telegram challenged the temporary ban, arguing that blocking the entire platform violates users' rights and that individual offending channels could be targeted instead.



Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000

- What is Section 69A?

It empowers the Central Government to block public access to information hosted on computer resources when necessary in the interest of:

- Sovereignty and integrity of India.
- Defence and security of the State.
- Friendly relations with foreign States.
- Public order.
- Preventing incitement to cognizable offences.

Key Features

- Blocking orders are issued through a designated committee process.
- Emergency blocking can be ordered without prior hearing, subject to subsequent review.
- Rules are contained in the Information Technology **(Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access to Information by the Public)** Rules, 2009.
- Upheld by the Supreme Court in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015) because procedural safeguards were provided.

Issues Raised in the Present Case

- Whether a nationwide platform-wide ban satisfies the test of necessity and proportionality.

- Whether targeted blocking of specific channels would be less restrictive.
- Whether examination malpractice can be linked to grounds like "sovereignty and integrity of India."

Features

End-to-End Encryption and Privacy

- Secret chats and encrypted communication hinder surveillance.

Large Channels and Groups

- Broadcast channels can reach millions of users quickly.

Anonymity

- Accounts can be created with minimal identity verification.

Rapid Creation of New Channels

- Deleted channels are often replaced immediately.

File Sharing Capabilities

- Large files, malware, pirated content, and leaked papers can be distributed easily.

Links to Dark Web Forums

- Deep web links shared through channels complicate tracing.

Challenges

Cybercrime and Financial Fraud

- Complaints involving Telegram rose from 75,688 (2023) to 2.75 lakh (2025).
- Fraud amounts exceeded ₹3,000 crore in 2025.

Examination Paper Leaks

- Used for the dissemination of leaked papers and answer keys.

Terrorism and Extremism

- Encrypted groups can facilitate recruitment and coordination.

Regulatory Limitations

- Servers and corporate structures outside India complicate enforcement.

Balancing Privacy and Security

- Measures against crime must respect citizens' right to privacy and free speech.

Platform-wide Restrictions

- Blanket bans affect millions of legitimate users and raise concerns regarding proportionality.

Way Forward

Targeted Enforcement

- Remove or block specific channels instead of entire platforms wherever feasible.

Stronger Cooperation with Platforms

- Establish faster mechanisms for sharing information and taking down illegal content.

Enhanced Digital Forensics

- Strengthen the capacities of I4C and state cybercrime units.

Better User Verification

- Introduce stronger KYC mechanisms for suspicious accounts while preserving privacy.

International Cooperation

- Collaborate with foreign jurisdictions and technology companies to tackle cross-border cybercrime.

Judicial Oversight

- Ensure restrictions meet constitutional standards of necessity, proportionality, and due process.

Public Awareness

- Educate users against fraud and misinformation spread through messaging apps.

Conclusion

Telegram vs Union of India case reflects the increasing conflict between national security interests and the freedom of use of digital technology. While encrypted messaging applications may be used for criminal activities and information leaks, an outright ban impacting millions of users will certainly have legal issues. The judgment from the High Court of Delhi will certainly provide clarity on Section 69A of the IT Act, especially on the appropriateness of platform-level bans and selective blocking.

3. U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord

Why in the news?

The U.S. Navy has now lifted the blockade against Iran, as both President Donald Trump of America and President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran have signed an interim peace treaty to end the 2026 war and restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz within 60 days of negotiations on other matters.

Background

- The 2026 Iran conflict led to military hostilities involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran.
- Iran restricted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil trade passes.
- In response, the U.S. imposed a naval blockade on vessels travelling to and from Iranian ports.
- Pakistan played a mediating role, leading to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in June 2026.

Features

Ceasefire Framework

- Suspension of hostilities.
- Extension of peace efforts for 60 days.

Reopening of Maritime Routes

- Iran agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.
- The U.S. started lifting restrictions on Iranian ports.



Nuclear Commitments

- Iran agreed to dilute enriched uranium under international supervision.
- Wider negotiations on its nuclear programme are to follow.

Economic Relief

- Prospects for sanctions relief and unfreezing of Iranian assets.
- Reconstruction and economic cooperation discussions are envisaged.

Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

- Connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.
- Carries around 20% of the global oil and LNG trade.
- Any disruption affects energy prices, inflation, and global supply chains.

Challenges

Fragile Ceasefire

- The agreement is preliminary and lacks strong enforcement mechanisms.

Mutual Distrust

- Decades of hostility and sanctions continue to affect relations.

Israeli Concerns

- Israel remains skeptical about concessions granted to Iran.

Verification Issues

- Effective monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities will require robust international oversight.

Regional Proxy Conflicts

- Unresolved issues involving Hezbollah and other groups may undermine peace.

Way Forward

Comprehensive Peace Negotiations

- Convert the interim MoU into a permanent agreement.

Strengthening IAEA Oversight

- Ensure transparency in Iran's nuclear programme.

Confidence-Building Measures

- Gradual sanctions relief linked with verified compliance.

Multilateral Engagement

- Involve regional actors and major powers in ensuring maritime security.

Regional Security Architecture

- Promote mechanisms for collective security in the Persian Gulf.

Conclusion

The U.S.–Iran agreement can be regarded as a possible breakthrough in diplomacy in light of the tensions that have occurred in West Asia over recent months. Nevertheless, the success of the process will depend on whether further negotiations will take place along with the effective means of verification. It is important to note that these events emphasise the significance of the Strait of Hormuz.

4. Modi holds discussions with French companies on investments in India

Why in the news?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted talks with the top management of some of the biggest companies of France in Paris in relation to new investments and collaboration in areas like shipping, logistics, railways, construction, sustainable development, and artificial intelligence. This happened after he attended the **G7 Summit**.

Background

- India and France have developed a strong strategic partnership covering trade, defence, infrastructure, and technology.
- India is positioning itself as a major destination for global manufacturing, logistics, green construction, rail modernisation, and AI development.
- French companies have been increasing their presence in India under initiatives such as "Make in India" and efforts to strengthen supply chains.



Features

Shipping and Logistics

- Discussions focused on maritime shipping, logistics, global supply chains, shipbuilding, and skill development.
- The company plans further investments and expansion in India.

Construction and Sustainable Materials

- Talks emphasised sustainable construction materials and opportunities in India's infrastructure sector.

Railway Modernisation

- Discussions covered mobility solutions and expansion of railway infrastructure and manufacturing in India.

Artificial Intelligence

- India's growing AI ecosystem and opportunities for collaboration were highlighted.

Challenges

Investment and Regulatory Issues

- Complex regulatory procedures can slow project execution.
- Need for stable and predictable policies to attract long-term investments.

Infrastructure Gaps

- Logistics and transportation bottlenecks remain in some regions.

Skill Development

- High-end sectors such as AI and advanced manufacturing require a skilled workforce.

Global Economic Uncertainty

- Geopolitical tensions and supply-chain disruptions may affect investment decisions.

Competition from Other Countries

- Southeast Asian economies and other emerging markets are also competing for foreign direct investment (FDI).

Way Forward

Strengthen Ease of Doing Business

- Simplify regulations and speed up approvals.

Promote Manufacturing and Innovation

- Encourage joint ventures and technology transfer.

Develop Human Capital

- Expand skill development programs in AI, logistics, and advanced manufacturing.

Enhance Infrastructure

- Improve ports, railways, and multimodal logistics networks.

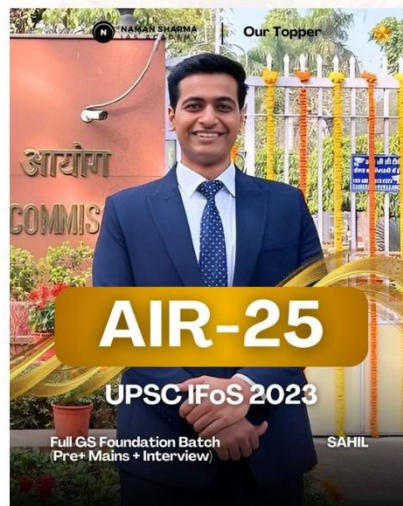
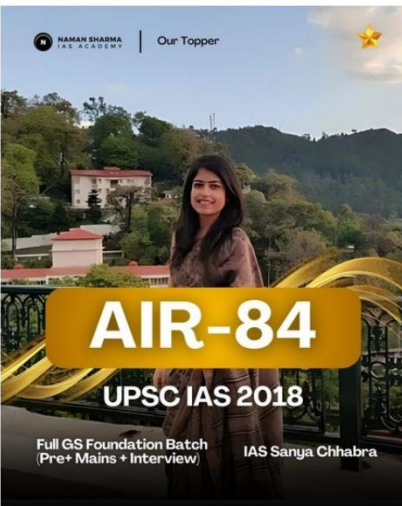
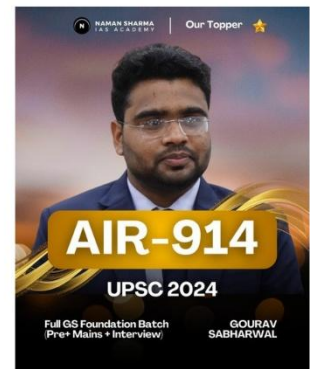
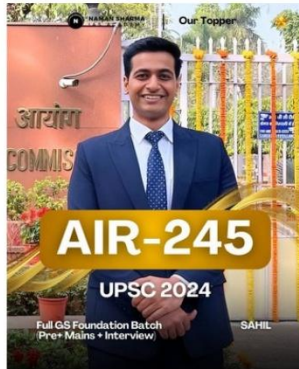
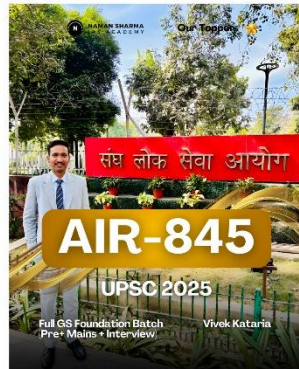
Deepen India-France Economic Partnership

- Foster collaboration in green technologies, mobility, AI, and resilient supply chains.

Conclusion

The interaction between Prime Minister Modi and French business leaders is indicative of India's efforts to foster foreign investment relations with France. Collaborations in logistics, sustainable building, railways, and artificial intelligence could help realize India's growth plans, create jobs, and develop technology, assuming all problems relating to regulatory, infrastructure, and skill issues are handled.

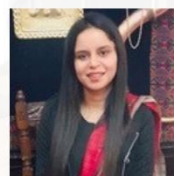
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