



## Date: (19-06-2026)

### 1. Telegram Ban and the Debate Over Section 69A {GS-2 (Governance), GS-3 (Internal Security, Cyber Security)}

#### Context:

- The Union Government temporarily banned Telegram under Section 69A of the IT Act ahead of the NEET re-exam. Calling it the "new dark web," the government cited its use in paper leaks, prompting Telegram to approach the Delhi High Court.

#### Key Issues in the Dispute:

- Government's Stance: Telegram's privacy features shelter criminals, and it fails to proactively curb illicit channels.
- Telegram's Defense: Disabling the entire platform instead of blocking specific content is an unjustified emergency measure.
- Judicial Observation: The Delhi HC questioned restricting 150 million users' fundamental rights just for one examination.

#### Constitutional & Legal Framework:

- Section 69A, IT Act 2000: Empowers the Centre to block online access to protect India's sovereignty, security, and public order.
- Section 79, IT Act: Provides "safe harbour," exempting intermediaries from third-party content liability if they exercise due diligence.
- Article 19(1)(a): Protects freedom of speech and expression; online blocking must adhere to reasonable restrictions.
- Article 19(1)(g): Protects the right to profession; blanket bans disrupt the livelihoods of creators and educators using the platform.
- Anuradha Bhasin v. UoI: The Supreme Court ruled that internet restrictions must pass the 'proportionality test' (least restrictive measure).

#### Way Forward:

- *While preventing cybercrime and academic fraud is a legitimate state aim, measures must pass the proportionality test. Blanket bans should be the absolute last resort, balancing regulatory needs with fundamental digital rights.*



## 2. The US-Iran Versailles Accord and the Strait of Hormuz (GS-2 International Relations)

### Context:

- The United States and Iran recently signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to end their five-week West Asia conflict. Endorsed by leadership in both nations, it initiates a 60-day transition period for broader negotiations.

### Key Highlights of the Deal

- Nuclear Dilution: Iran agreed to dilute its enriched uranium stockpiles.
- Sanctions Relief: In return, the US lifted blockades on Iranian ports, enabling renewed oil exports.
- Economic Impact: The ceasefire immediately stabilized markets, causing global oil prices to drop significantly.



## ***Strait of Hormuz & Shipping Concerns***

- **Formal Stakeholder:** The MoU uniquely recognizes Iran as a central stakeholder in managing strait transit.
- **Potential Tolls:** While passage remains free for 60 days, Iran may subsequently seek transit fees, alarming global shippers.
- **Safety Risks:** The central channel remains heavily mined; vessels must currently navigate risky inshore zones near Oman and Iran.

## ***Challenges to the Global Maritime Order***

- **Strategic Chokepoint:** The Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, facilitating roughly 20% of global oil trade.
- **UNCLOS Mandate:** The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea dictates "transit passage" through straits without mandatory tolls.
- **Legal Ambiguity:** Enforcement is complex; the US has never ratified UNCLOS, while Iran signed but did not ratify it.
- **Dangerous Precedent:** Permitting tolls could inspire similar restrictions in other critical waterways like the Malacca Strait.

## **3. NFHS-6 and India's Nutritional Paradox (GS-2: Health, Nutrition & Social Sector)**

### ***Context:***

- The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 (nodal agency: IIPS Mumbai) presents a mixed developmental report. While institutional healthcare access has expanded significantly, structural deficits in child nutrition continue to threaten India's demographic dividend.



## **Key Achievements & Health Indicators:**

- **Stunting Decline:** Chronic malnutrition (low height-for-age) dropped from 35.5% to 29.3%, driven by improved sanitation and maternal education.
- **Healthcare Penetration:** Institutional births reached 90%, and full vaccination coverage hit 87%, credited to robust ASHA and Anganwadi networks.
- **Stagnant Wasting:** Acute malnutrition (low weight-for-height) remains largely unchanged, exposing persistent gaps in quality diets.

## **Emerging Challenges:**

- **Poor Feeding Practices:** Only 50% of infants receive early breastfeeding; cultural delays in complementary feeding cause early growth faltering.
- **Maternal Time Poverty:** Unpaid agricultural and domestic labor heavily restricts mothers' time for proper, consistent child-feeding.
- **The Processed Food Trap:** Unaffordable ICMR-NIN recommended diets force households to rely on cheap, nutrient-poor processed foods.

## **The Way Forward:**

- *Focus on the First 1,000 Days: POSHAN Abhiyaan must pivot from solely treating severe malnutrition to preventing early growth stagnation.*
- *Social Infrastructure: Establish community-run crèches to ensure child nutrition while enabling female labor force participation.*
- *Grassroots Convergence: Make child health a mandatory agenda in Gram Sabhas to integrate nutrition, sanitation, and water policies.*
- *Empower Frontline Workers: Equip Anganwadi workers with digital tools and district-level data analysts for real-time nutritional monitoring.*





## 4. Revamping India's Macroeconomic Statistical Framework (GS-3 Economy)

### Context:

- The government has implemented comprehensive overhauls to India's macroeconomic statistical databases. By updating base years and methodologies, these structural reforms align India's key economic metrics with international best practices and IMF standards.

### Key Upgrades:

- **Base Year Revisions:** The base years for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) were shifted to 2022-23.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** MoSPI updated the CPI base year to 2024 with a revised basket, aiding the RBI's inflation-targeting mandate.
- **Methodological Shift:** GDP calculation now uses the 'double-deflator' approach, which deflates outputs and intermediate inputs separately for better accuracy.
- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** Updated by the Commerce Ministry to ensure a highly accurate GDP deflator (the ratio of nominal to real GDP).
- **Producer Price Index (PPI):** Introduced to replace WPI within five years. Unlike WPI, PPI measures producer-level prices and critically includes services.
- **Institutional Framework:** MoSPI (NSO) manages CPI, IIP, and GDP, whereas the Commerce Ministry manages WPI and PPI.





## **Strategic Significance**

- **Real Growth Tracking:** Accurate price indices generate a better GDP deflator, preventing the overestimation or underestimation of real GDP.
- **Global Credibility:** Incorporating IMF-recommended practices will likely improve India's current 'C' rating for national accounts data.
- **Targeted Policymaking:** Granular, realistic data empowers better fiscal policies and interest rate decisions.
- While these economic data upgrades are highly commendable, the framework's overhaul will only be complete with the time-bound release of the much-delayed decadal Census.

## **5. India-France Economic Cooperation & PM Modi's Paris Visit (GS-2 International Relations)**

### **Context**

- In the aftermath of the recent G7 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged with leading French business leaders in Paris. The discussions were focused on enticing foreign investment and enhancing bilateral collaboration in areas such as maritime logistics, railways, artificial intelligence, and sustainable infrastructure.

### **Key Highlights of the Meetings:**

- **Maritime Logistics:** Engaged with CMA CGM CEO Rodolphe Saadé to enhance shipbuilding, modernize ports, and ensure the integrity of global supply chains.
- **Railway Modernization:** Engaged in discussions regarding smart mobility and the expansion of rail manufacturing capabilities with Alstom CEO Martin Sion.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Investigated green manufacturing practices and sustainable construction materials in collaboration with Saint-Gobain CEO Benoit Bazin.





- Artificial Intelligence: Collaborated with Mistral AI CEO Arthur Mensch to advocate for responsible governance and innovation in artificial intelligence.

### ***Significance for India's Strategic and Economic Interests***

- G7 Grouping: An informal coalition of developed industrial democracies; India consistently engages to enhance the representation of the Global South.
- Strategic Partnership: Established in 1998, the India-France partnership focuses on defense, space initiatives (such as the forthcoming TRISHNA satellite), and civil nuclear collaboration.
- Global Supply Chains: Promoting local container manufacturing and attracting foreign logistics investments directly supports the "Make in India" initiative.
- FDI in India: Investments in technology and infrastructure address the domestic capital shortfall, fostering economic modernization and generating employment opportunities.

### **Way Forward:**

- These strategic corporate collaborations strengthen India's position as a reliable and stable ally in international trade.
- Enhancing industrial relations with France will expedite India's technological advancements and ensure sustainable economic development.



 **Telegram**



 **Whatsapp**



 **Instagram**



 **Youtube**