

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 17.06.2026

India at the G7 Summit 2026

The Prime Minister of India attended the 52nd **G7 Summit** Outreach Session (2026) at Évian, France, held under the theme *"Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity."*

- The summit brought together G7 nations, and provided India a key platform to champion the priorities of the **Global South**, address the global trust deficit, and undertake key bilateral engagements with Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to strengthen strategic partnerships and advance mutual interests.

What was India's Core Message at the G7 Outreach Session?

- **Addressing the Global Trust Deficit:** India emphasized that mutual trust is the **world's most critical strategic asset**, arguing that global challenges stem more from a **shortage of trust than a shortage of resources**.
- **Reforming the Development Paradigm:** India called for moving beyond the **traditional donor-recipient model towards partnerships** based on equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility.
- **Amplifying the Voice of the Global South:** India reiterated that developing and **middle-income countries seek equitable participation in global governance** and development frameworks rather than mere financial assistance.
- **Showcasing India–Africa Cooperation:** India highlighted its **development partnership with Africa** through targeted, high-impact initiatives based on South-South cooperation.

What Were the Major Outcomes of India's Bilateral Diplomatic Outreach During the G7 Summit 2026?

India-Canada

- **CEPA:** Both sides are expediting negotiations to conclude the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** by the end of 2026 to double two-way trade by 2030 (In 2024, India was Canada's 7th largest trading partner, with two-way trade worth USD 30.9 billion).
- **GSOIA:** Agreed to launch negotiations on a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** to deepen defence and intelligence cooperation.
- **Raisina Americas:** Announced the establishment of "**Raisina Americas**," a new geopolitical platform (mimicking the **Raisina Dialogue model**) designed to enhance dialogue and track-1.5 diplomatic exchanges.
- **IORA Backing:** India officially expressed support for Canada becoming a **Dialogue Partner** of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.
- **The Nuclear Energy Partnership:** Recognizing Canada as an essential energy exporter, the two nations advanced their **Security Energy Partnership**, highlighted by a **CAD \$2.6 billion commercial agreement between Canada's Cameco and India's Department of Atomic Energy** for a long-term uranium supply spanning 2027–2035.

India-United Kingdom

- **Vision 2035:** The leaders reviewed the progress of bilateral relations under the **India-UK Vision 2035 framework**.
- **Trade Pact:** Reaffirmed commitment toward the early implementation of the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**, focusing on technology, defence, and education partnerships.

India-UAE

- **Maritime Security:** Both nations expressed mutual concern over disruptions in global trade networks, specifically calling for free and unimpeded navigation through the **Strait of Hormuz** amidst **West Asian conflicts**.
- **BRICS Summit 2026:** The Indian PM formally invited the UAE President to attend the 18th **BRICS Summit**, which **India will host** later in 2026.

What are the Key Facts About G7?

- **Genesis and Evolution:** Formed in 1975 in response to the **1973 oil crisis**, it began as an informal forum of **six industrialised democracies (G6)** (France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, and the US)
 - Canada joined in 1976 to form the G7. **Russia was integrated in 1998, temporarily making it the G8**, but was expelled in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.
 - The **European Union (EU)** also actively participates as a "non-enumerated" member, represented by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission.
- **Core Objectives:** The bloc convenes to coordinate policy on global economic governance, international security, trade, and energy, heavily anchored in shared democratic values and human rights.
- **Institutional Structure:** Unlike the **UN** or **NATO**, the G7 is an informal bloc. It is **not based on a treaty** and has **no permanent secretariat** or formal administrative headquarters.
- **The Presidency:** The **presidency rotates annually** among member states. The country holding the presidency is responsible for setting the agenda, organizing ministerial meetings, and hosting the annual leaders' summit.
- **Economic Weight:** While G7 nations represent only about 10% of the global population, they account for approximately 43% of the world's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a significant share of global wealth.
- **Outreach Sessions:** To counter criticisms of being an exclusive club that ignores the developing world, the host nation routinely invites guest countries (such as India, Brazil, and South Africa) and international organizations to participate in **specific "Outreach Sessions"** to discuss pressing transnational issues.

Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro

Why in News?

Recently, NCERT restored the original image of the Dancing Girl in the Class 9 Arts Education textbook, after controversy over a retouched version.

- The Dancing Girl figurine has long been a defining symbol of the Indus Valley Civilisation (Harappan Civilisation) and is displayed in the National Museum New Delhi.

Indus Valley Civilisation – 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.

- **Discovered in** – 1926, by archaeologist Ernest McKay at Mohenjo-daro (Sindh, Pakistan).
- **Age** – Over 4,500 years old, belonging to the Harappan period.
- **Material** – Bronze.
- **Technique** – Made using Lost-wax casting technique, proving that ancient Harappans possessed intricate metal-blending and casting capabilities.
- **Dimensions** – Height 10.5 cm.
- **Appearance** – Nude female figure with hair tied in a bun, adorned with bangles, bracelet, and necklace.
- **Symbolic Value** – Considered evidence of high art in Harappan society.
- **Interpretations** – Some historians view her as a dancer; others suggest she may represent a woman with an offering.



Mohenjo-daro

- **Timeline** – 1st major Indus Valley urban centre, Built around 2500 BCE,

Mohenjo-daro means Mound of the Dead.

- **Discovery** – Excavated in **1922**, showing advanced civic and cultural life.
- **River** - Mohenjo-daro was built on the fertile right bank of the Indus River.
- **City Features** – Baked brick houses, public baths, granary, wells, soak pits, drainage system.
- **Organization** – Evidence of strong civic, economic, social, and cultural systems.
- **Structure** –
 - **Citadel (West)** – Buddhist stupa built in 2nd century AD.
 - **Lower City (East)** – Grid-pattern streets with sanitation and drainage.
- **UNESCO Status** – World Heritage Site in Sindh, Pakistan.
- **Significant Indus Valley artefacts** – Pashupati seal, bearded priest, terracotta figurines.

National Testing Agency (NTA)

Why in News?

Recently, A Parliamentary Committee flagged exam irregularities and urged the NTA to expedite implementation of the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations.

- **NTA** – It is an autonomous, specialist body established to conduct entrance and fellowship exams for admission to higher educational institutions.
- **Established in**– November 2017.
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Education,
- **Legal Status** – Registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **Purpose** – NTA was set up to relieve CBSE of heavy testing duties, which helps CBSE to focus on school education, curriculum design, and academic evaluation.
- **Vision** – Right candidates joining best institutions to realise India's demographic dividend.
- **Key Values** – Quality, efficiency, equity, security
- **Functions**
 - **Partner Institutions** – Identify schools/colleges with exam infrastructure.
 - **Question Bank** – Create subject- wise question banks using modern techniques.
 - **Research and Development culture** – Build strong research culture and expert pool in different aspects of testing.
- **Major exams conducted** – NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET-UG, CUET-PG, UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC NET

Dr. K. Radhakrishnan Committee

- **Formed in** – June 2024, after the NEET- UG paper leak.
- **Purpose** – To recommend reforms for the NTA, focusing on exam security, fairness, and structural strengthening.
- **Exam Format Shift** – Transition to fully digital tests and hybrid OMR model tests.
- **Candidate Security** – Aadhaar biometrics, facial recognition via DIGI- EXAM.
- **Center Monitoring** – Strict monitoring through CCTV, mobile jammers, independent presiding officers.
- **Logistics** – Multi- stage exams to reduce systemic pressure, assigning test centres closer to students.
- **Reduced Outsourcing** – Strengthen internal test development, secure data.