

EDITORIALS – 13TH JUN 2026

1. Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities (GS Paper I Society)

This editorial 'Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities' was published in The Hindu on 13th Jun 2026, highlights the need for a minimum universal disability pension floor to make disability support a rights-based guarantee of dignity and equality.

Disability Welfare Deficit

- PwDs remain excluded from India's digital welfare promise because disability pensions depend on domicile, State discretion and cumbersome bureaucracy.
- The 2011 Census recorded 2.68 crore PwDs, now estimated at 4.5–6 crore, yet pension coverage remains narrow, uneven and fragmented.
- Most State pensions remain ₹300–₹500 monthly, with few offering ₹1,000–₹3,000, despite the Supreme Court linking disability rights with dignity.
- India spends only 0.02% of GDP on disability-linked pensions, while exclusion from education, jobs and social security costs 3%–7% of GDP.

Case for Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor

- A MUDPFR would operationalise Article 41 and Section 24 of the RPWD Act, 2016 by shifting disability pensions from charity to rights.
- A national minimum pension with State top-ups would ensure no disabled person receives below a fixed social security floor due to geography.
- South Africa, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand and Indonesia show that national disability income support improves uniformity and portability.

- Even a ₹15,000 monthly pension would stay below 0.2% of GDP, making reform a question of political priority rather than fiscal impossibility.

Institutional and Constitutional Logic

- The present system, split between the Rural Development Ministry and disability authorities, creates duplication, delays and weak accountability.
- A National Disability Pension Authority could manage eligibility, registry, portability, digital integration, grievance redress and State-wise monitoring.
- A stronger pension system would advance UNCRPD Article 28, ILO Recommendation 202, SDG 1.3 and the G-20 social protection commitment.
- Linking pensions with employment support can move PwDs from survival to productivity through PM-DAKSH, NAPS and State-level employer incentives.
- Equality, dignity and life require minimum survival support, and federalism cannot justify postcode-based welfare inequality.

Beyond Editorial

Accessibility, Capability and Social Inclusion

- Barrier-free access: Disability inclusion needs accessible schools, hospitals, offices and transport, as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan targets public accessibility.
- Digital inclusion: Welfare portals must support screen readers and assisted access, as UDID and DBT systems shape benefit delivery for PwDs.
- Inclusive education: Trained teachers, accessible textbooks and assistive devices are vital, as Samagra Shiksha supports inclusive schooling.

- Assistive technology: Affordable wheelchairs, hearing aids and prosthetics improve autonomy, but ADIP Scheme delivery remains uneven in rural areas.
- Care support: Caregiver assistance and community rehabilitation are needed, as DDRS-supported services reduce family-level disability burdens.
- Data accuracy: A stronger UDID database can reduce exclusion errors and make pensions, scholarships and skill support more portable.
- Social dignity: Awareness, workplace inclusion and representation matter, as RPwD Act, 2016 rights cannot alone erase stigma.

2. Indian industry is at a crossroads. It needs to look at longer horizons (GS Paper III Economy)

This editorial 'Indian industry is at a crossroads. It needs to look at longer horizons' was published in The Indian Express on 13th Jun 2026, highlights how India's industrial competitiveness now depends on long-horizon R&D, technological capability and patient corporate investment.

Roots of Short-Horizon Industry

- India's chronic R&D underinvestment is deepened by a volatile 15-year cycle of shocks, from the 2008 financial crisis to Trump-era tariff turbulence.
- Persistent uncertainty has pushed businesses towards optionality and delayed irreversible commitments, making decade-long R&D investment difficult but not excusable.
- India's family-led business structure often weakens risk appetite across generations, as founders build, successors consolidate and later heirs may preserve wealth over innovation.

- Morck, Wolfenzon and Yeung 2005 and Pérez-González 2006 show that multigenerational control and heir-led succession can reduce investment efficiency and professional dynamism.
- Post-pandemic financial-market returns have given third-generation families an easier alternative to manufacturing and R&D, draining entrepreneurial energy from India's most needed sectors.

Strategic Stakes for India

- Indian industry now faces a choice between short-term comfort and strategic survival, as national influence in a multipolar world depends on private technological and productive capability.
- Twenty-first-century leverage rests not only on diplomacy but on industrial capacity, globally valuable goods and services, and bargaining power within value chains.
- A private sector that captures domestic demand but remains dependent on imported intellectual property faces a slow profitability threat as East Asian competitors climb the value chain.
- The state can create enabling conditions, but long-term competitiveness depends on corporate choices on R&D budgets, talent and tolerance for short-term costs.

Historical Lessons and India's Window

- Germany's Mittelstand shows how technical education, patient capital and a culture of quality can create deep engineering capability.
- Japan's post-war rise and South Korea's chaebol model show that long-horizon corporate strategy can build technological strength despite short-run losses or governance limits.
- Major industrial transformations often begin when crisis reveals that existing trajectories are insufficient and prosperity must come through industrial capability, not around it.
- India's opportunity lies in old globalisation's limits, supply-chain diversification from China and its demographic dividend, but these are enabling conditions, not guarantees.

Beyond Editorial

Innovation Ecosystem for Long-Horizon Industry

- Patient capital: Frontier sectors need long-term finance, as Semicon India and green hydrogen require years before commercial returns.
- Public procurement: Government orders can create early markets, as iDEX links defence demand with start-ups, MSMEs and innovators.
- Research linkages: Universities and firms must collaborate better, as IIT Madras Research Park shows how prototypes can reach markets.
- MSME upgrading: Testing labs, design support and technology centres can help MSMEs move into precision components and higher-value manufacturing.
- Skill depth: Industrial competitiveness needs advanced skills in chip design, robotics and materials science, as semiconductor fabs need VLSI talent.
- Regulatory certainty: Stable taxes, faster approvals and predictable standards encourage R&D, as PLI-linked sectors need investment confidence.
- Mission alignment: Semiconductors, green hydrogen and defence indigenisation need coordinated support, as Semicon India, NGHM and iDEX show.

3. India at G7: From guest to strategic partner

(GS Paper II International Relations)

This editorial 'India at G7: From guest to strategic partner' was published in The Indian Express on 13th Jun 2026, highlights India's shift from an invited participant to a strategic partner in the G7 through economic rise, Global South leadership and Indo-Mediterranean connectivity.

India's Rising Relevance in G7

- India's association began with the G8 in 2003 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Manmohan Singh attended five times, and Narendra Modi has attended every summit since 2019.
- The G7 evolved from the G6 in 1975 to G7 in 1976 and G8 in 1998, before Russia's 2014 expulsion after Crimea restored the G7 format.
- Though the G7's global GDP share has declined to nearly 40%, it remains influential in advanced technology, defence, green innovation, cyber and space.

Strategic Convergence with India

- India's stable democracy, fast-growing economy, technology gains and skilled manpower make it more attractive to the G7 in a changing global order.
- Under Modi, India has emerged as a leading voice of the Global South, while maintaining strategic agreements with all seven G7 members.
- The EU's presence makes the summit Europe-dominated, giving India-Europe ties greater weight in India's foreign policy recalibration.
- India's Europe outreach has gained momentum through the EFTA FTA and the Indo-Mediterranean idea connecting the Indian Ocean with Europe.

Indo-Mediterranean Vision

- The IMEC, launched during India's 2023 G20 presidency, gives the Indo-Mediterranean concept a concrete corridor for trade, technology, energy, data and ideas.
- The idea revives India's old commercial and cultural links with the Mediterranean and Arab worlds, but adapts them to a 21st-century strategic framework.
- India's push for atmanirbharta in deep-tech and frontier sectors needs European capital and technology to support large-scale industrialisation and employment.

- IMEC's route through the UAE and Saudi Arabia makes Europe important for managing the Middle East, especially amid new alignments among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt.
- Unlike China's BRI, the Indo-Mediterranean vision gives participating nations a role and can become an "Indo-Atlantic" counterpart to the Indo-Pacific.

Beyond Editorial

Strategic Autonomy in G7 Engagement

- **Autonomy balance:** India's G7 engagement must preserve independent choices, as Russian oil imports continued despite Western pressure.
- **Global South credibility:** India must raise debt, climate finance and food-security concerns, as the Voice of Global South Summit showed.
- **Technology sovereignty:** AI, chip and clean-energy partnerships should build domestic capability, as India-U.S. iCET and Semicon India indicate.
- **Climate equity:** G7 climate cooperation must include finance and technology transfer, as CBDR-RC remains central to India's climate stance.
- **Supply-chain resilience:** India can gain from China-plus-one shifts only by improving logistics, as Apple's India manufacturing expansion shows.
- **Middle-power role:** India can bridge rich and developing countries, as G20 inclusion of the African Union reflected.
- **Strategic gains:** G7 access must bring investment, technology and standards influence, as India-EU TTC seeks structured cooperation.