

CURRENT ARD+ESI

FOR NABARD 2024 BATCH



June 16th – 30th

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1 National News

1.1 Vice President Inaugurates 'Purna Sthal' at Parliament House Complex

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the '**Purna Sthal**' (Inspiration Site) within the Parliament House Complex. This newly constructed site houses statues of **national icons and freedom fighters** that were previously scattered across different locations on the premises.

1.2 India Set to be the 6th Country to have its own Deep Sea Mission

- India is set to join an elite group of nations with the launch of its ambitious **Deep Sea Mission**, making it the **sixth country to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor**.

1.3 PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

- On June 19, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new campus of Nalanda University**, an international institution of learning near the ancient ruins of Nalanda in **Rajgir, Bihar**.

1.4 Union Cabinet Announces Economic Decisions Worth Over ₹2.88-Lakh Crore

- The Union Cabinet has approved **economic measures totalling over ₹2.88-lakh crore, including an MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops**, the expansion of Varanasi airport, and the establishment of a **new major port at Vadhavan**.

1.5 Cabinet Approves Rs 76,200 Cr Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra

- The **Cabinet**, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **gave the go-ahead** for the building of a **new deep-draft port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra**. The project, which costs about **₹76,200 crores**, includes a lot of services that will help India's shipping.
- There will be **four multipurpose berths and a coastal berth at the Vadhavan Port**. Each of the nine container ports will be 1000 meters long. There will also be room for four berths for liquid goods, a Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll-off) berth, and a berth just for the Coast Guard. This setup shows how useful and flexible the port is for handling different kinds of maritime goods.

1.6 Cabinet approves development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi** with an outlay of Rs **2,870 crore**.
- It includes Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works.

1.7 Chirag Paswan and Shri Ravneet Singh launch Website and Mobile App for World Food India 2024

- As a **precursor to the 3rd edition of World Food India**, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri **Chirag Paswan** and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Railways, Shri Ravneet Singh, launched the **website and mobile application for World Food India 2024**.

1.8 9 Major Ports of India Makes It to Global Top 100 by World Bank, First for The Country

- In a significant boost to the India's port development programme, as many as **9 ports of India made it to the Global Top 100** in the latest edition of **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023**.
- This report is prepared by the **World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence**.
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal gave credit to the ambitious **Sagarmala programme**, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency**.

1.9 DGCA Issues Advisory for Gender Equality in Aviation by 2025

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has recently issued a critical advice circular to **improve gender equality in Indian civil aviation** in response to recent events. This project aims to make sure that **by 2023, at least 25% of women are working in different aviation jobs**.

1.10 53rd GST Council Meeting Overview

- The **53rd GST Council** met under the **Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** in New Delhi.
- The meeting was attended by key officials, including Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa and Meghalaya, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Finance Ministers of States & UTs (with legislature), and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance & States/ UTs.

1.11 India to Launch E-Medical Visa Facility for Bangladesh Nationals

- A meeting between the two delegations in the national capital on June 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **India will start an e-medical visa facility for Bangladeshi nationals**.
- For those who are coming to India for medical treatment, **India will open a new consulate in Rangpur, Bangladesh**, to facilitate services for people in the northwest region of the country.

1.12 Centre Notifies Anti-Paper Leak Law Amid NEET, NET Row

- The Centre has introduced a stringent **anti-paper leak law** amid controversies surrounding the NEET and UGC-NET exams.
- The law, which came into force on June 21, 2024, imposes severe penalties, including up to **10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 crore**, to curb malpractices in competitive examinations.

1.13 J.P Nadda Launches National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri **Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched the **National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024**, on June 24.
- The dignitaries also released **IEC materials like logo, posters, radio spots and audio visuals for the campaign** and **distributed oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc tablets** to children on the occasion.

1.14 Govt Appoints Girija Subramanian as CMD of New India Assurance Company

- The government has appointed **Girija Subramanian** as **chairman and managing director (CMD)** of **New India Assurance**, the **largest general insurer in India**.

1.15 What is a Microschool?

- The **United States and the United Kingdom** are where **microschools** have become **more common**. This change in educational preferences became clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. **These small private schools have fewer students than regular classes** so that each student can get a **more personalized education**.

1.16 J.P. Nadda Appointed as Leader of The House in Rajya Sabha

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president and Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** **has been named Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**.
- Mr. Nadda **replaces Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, who recently won the Lok Sabha election and took oath on June 24, as a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

1.17 Union Territory of Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS

- According to the Union Ministry of Education, the **Union Territory of Ladakh** has **achieved full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.
- **Ladakh** now boasts over **97 percent literacy**.

1.18 Central Railway Has Installed a Floating Solar Plant

- The **Central Railway** has installed a **floating solar plant of 10 MWp** capacity in the **Igatpuri lake** located in the **Western Ghats**, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways.

1.19 Pench Tiger Reserve Launches First AI Fire Detection System

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra** has recently added a **new Artificial Intelligence (AI) system** that is **meant to find forest fires early**.
- A **cutting-edge PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) camera** is placed on a tower on one of the reserve's highest hills, about 540 meters above sea level, close to the village of Kiringisarra.
- **AI-Powered Platform: Pantera**
 - The **AI platform**, which has been **named "Pantera,"** uses high-resolution camera feeds and satellite data to send real-time fire reports three minutes after a fire is found.
 - This system is a huge step forward in improving the monitoring of forest fires. It goes from using satellites alone to sending alerts to a more comprehensive method.

1.20 First International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit in Kochi

- The **first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 will be held in Kochi** from June 26th to June 28th, 2024. It will bring together experts from around the world to talk about new ideas and problems in the dairy industry.
- The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, the National Dairy Development Board (**NDDDB**), and the International Dairy Federation (**IDF**) are some of the most important groups involved.
- The **event**, which is called "**Farmer-centric Innovations in Dairying,**" is meant to talk about important issues in the dairy business, especially in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.
- The main goals are to increase production, make sure that milk collection is open and honest, and encourage environmentally friendly practices in the face of climate change.

1.21 South India's First Leopard Safari Opens at Bannerghatta

- At the **Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) – Bengaluru**, **South India's first and biggest leopard tour** was just opened by the Environment Minister, Eshwar Khandre.

2 International News

2.1 Peter Pellegrini Sworn In As Slovakia's President Amid Political Tensions

2.2 Thailand Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage – First in Southeast Asia

- The **Thai Senate** recently **approved the Marriage Equality Bill** on June 18th, and it has the potential to make **Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to permit marriages between people of the same gender**.

2.3 NATO invests \$1.1 billion in AI, Robotics, Space Tech

- **NATO** has taken a big step forward by setting up a **€1 billion innovation fund**. This is in reaction to changes in the global defense landscape, especially after Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022. The **goal of this fund**, which was announced in the summer of 2022, **is to improve the alliance's defense and security technology**.

2.4 Ancient Pearl City Tu'am Discovered in UAE

- On the **UAE's Siniyah Island**, archaeologists have found the **remains of the old city of Tu'am**.
- This place, which used to be **famous for its successful pearl trade**, has been wrapped in mystery because no one knows for sure where it is.

2.5 How Has India-Italy Friendship Recently Strengthened?

- The friendship between **India and Italy** has gotten a lot better recently, thanks to high-level events like visits from the leaders of both countries.
- There was a **very important event in Rome** called the **India Forum 2024**, which announced the **Indo-Mediterranean Initiative (IMI)** as a way to strengthen these links even more.
- The **IMI** was **launched at the India Forum 2024** and its **goal is to support and promote the growing relationship between India and Italy**.
- The plan, led by Senator Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, will **focus on strategic economic and geopolitical partnerships**, such as the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor (IMEC).

2.6 Russia – North Korea, New Defense Pact Deal

- A huge deal was made when Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Pyongyang recently.
- Both countries agreed to provide **"immediate military assistance if either nation faces armed aggression."** This event is a big change in the world's politics, and it **strengthens the relationship between Russia and North Korea** at a time when the rest of the world is becoming more isolated.

2.7 Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance as 100th Member

- **Paraguay** has **officially become the 100th full member** of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**), marking a significant milestone in global solar energy cooperation.

2.8 Denmark Set to Impose World's First Carbon Tax on Gassy Cattle

- **Denmark** plans to implement a **tax on livestock farmers starting in 2030**, making it the **first nation to do so**.
- This initiative targets methane emissions from cows, sheep, and pigs, which are significant contributors to global warming.

2.9 South Korea, US, And Japan Launch First Trilateral Multi-Domain Exercise

- **Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States** began the **inaugural execution of exercise Freedom Edge**, a **trilateral multi-domain exercise**, June 27.

2.10 China-France Satellite – Study Universe’s Explosive Events

- **China and France** launched the **Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM)** from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province on June 22.
- This is the **first time that the two countries have worked together on astronomical study of this magnitude**.
- **Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs)** are some of the most powerful and strange events in the universe. SVOM is meant to help us learn more about them.

2.11 Who is Julian Assange?

- **Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks** and an Australian national, was released from a UK prison on June 24, following a bail order from the London High Court.
- His release was announced on the platform Twitter proclaiming “**JULIAN ASSANGE IS FREE.**”

2.12 Tajikistan Government Bans Hijab and Other ‘Alien Garments’

3 State News

3.1 Malabar River Festival 2024: Kayakers From Around The World To Ride White Water Rapids

- **Kerala’s Kozhikode** is all set to host the **Malabar River Festival 2024**, featuring the **International White Water Kayaking Championship** from July 25 to 28.
- This exciting event **aims to promote white-water kayaking in the region** and will be **held** in **Thusaharagiri, Chalipuzha, and Iruvazhinjipuzha**. The high-octane events and pre-events will host over 100 national-level kayakers from India and kayaking professionals from over 20 countries.

3.2 Punjab Police Launch ‘Mission Nishchay’

- **Punjab Police** in association with the Border Security Force (**BSF**) and **Village Defence Committees (VDCs)** will carry out a **one-week drive against drugs** in Fazilka district.

3.3 New Snake Eel Species Discovered in Odisha

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** at the Gopalpur regional center in Odisha have identified a **new species of snake eel**.
- The **official name** for the **new species of snake eel** is “**Ophichthus Suryai.**” It was found several times in different places in Odisha last year. The name of this species

comes from Surya Kumar Mohanty, who used to be a joint head of the state's fishery department.

3.4 Hemis Festival 2024: Celebrating Buddhist Culture in Ladakh

- The **Hemis Festival**, a vibrant celebration of **Tibetan Buddhism**, takes place **annually in Ladakh**, India. In 2024, this important cultural event will be held on June 16th and 17th.
- The **Hemis Festival**, also known as **Hemis Tsechu**, commemorates the **birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava**, a revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism.
- This two-day celebration brings the **Hemis Monastery, Ladakh's largest Buddhist monastery**, to life with color, music, and spiritual energy.

3.5 Kozhikode, India's First UNESCO City of Literature

- On June 23, 2024, **Kozhikode** made history by becoming the **first UNESCO City of Literature in India**.
- This prestigious recognition highlights the city's rich literary heritage and cultural significance.
- **Kozhikode**, which used to be called **Calicut**, is a city **on the coast of Kerala**. It is famous for being where **Vasco da Gama arrived in 1498**, which was a major event in the Age of Discovery. because it was an important part of the Eastern spice trade.

3.6 Maharashtra Governor Unveils Maritime History Book: 'Gateways to the Sea'

- On June 22, 2024, a significant literary event took place at Raj Bhavan Mumbai, highlighting the rich maritime heritage of the Mumbai region.
- The **Governor of Maharashtra**, Shri **Ramesh Bais**, released a book titled '**Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region**', shedding light on the area's ancient and modern maritime history.

3.7 M.P Govt Approves The Establishment Of One P.M College Of Excellence In All Districts Of State

- Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the centre of '**Bharatiya Gyan Parampara**' will be **opened in every PM College of Excellence** and necessary arrangements will be made in this regard.
- The **PM College of Excellence** is going to get started from July 1 in **all the 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh**.

3.8 Srinagar Named 4th Indian 'World Craft City' by World Craft Council

- **Srinagar** has become the **fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC)**. Three years after it was designated as **part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts**.

3.9 Kerala Assembly Seeks Renaming State to 'Keralam'

- On June 24, the **Kerala Assembly passed a resolution** asking the Indian Central Government to **change the name of the state in the Constitution from "Kerala" to "Keralam."**

3.10 Uttar Pradesh Leads India in Compressed Biogas Production

- Uttar Pradesh** is a big player in India's renewable energy market, especially when it comes to making compressed biogas (CBG).
- The **Center for Science and Environment (CSE)** released an important report that showed **Uttar Pradesh could create 24% of India's CBG.**

3.11 World's First Asian King Vulture Center – Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh** has started **building the world's first center for protecting and raising the Asian king vulture**, also called the **red-headed vulture**, in **Maharajganj**.
- The species has been on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List since 2007 because it is in grave danger. This project aimed to save it.
- The **Asian king vulture used to live all over India, but diclofenac poisoning caused a huge drop in the number** of these birds. As soon as this important species was listed on **Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**, immediate action was needed to protect it.

3.12 Uttar Pradesh to Establish Rs 2000 Crore Bioplastic Park

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has announced an **ambitious plan to establish a bioplastic park in the Lakhimpur Kheri district.**
- This innovative project aims to address environmental concerns while boosting the local economy.

4 Defence News

4.1 India To Host Its First Multinational Air Exercise Tarang Shakti In August

- The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) is set to make history this August by **hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, Tarang Shakti-2024.**
- The exercise is slated to be **held in two phases**, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from late August to mid-September.

4.2 Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ASMI Submachine Gun

- In a significant move towards self-reliance, the Northern Command of the Indian Army has ordered 550 **indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured ASMI submachine guns** worth Rs 4.26 crores from Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited.

- This marks the first **time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army.**

4.3 Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Gets Rs 50,000 Crore Tender for Combat Helicopters

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**), a well-known Indian state-owned aerospace and defense company, was recently given a **unique contract worth about Rs 50,000 crore by the UK Ministry of Defence.**
- This is the biggest single order for helicopters that has ever been given to an Indian company.
- The money will be used to buy **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)**, also known as **“Prachand.”**

4.4 Indian Armed Forces Unveil Unified Cyberspace Doctrine

- **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** released the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations** during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting held on June 18, 2024, in New Delhi.
- The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment.

4.5 Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza Takes Over as Commandant, Military Institute of Technology, Pune

- **Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza** has taken over as Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune from Air Vice Marshal Vivek Blouria.

4.6 Indian Army Opened Khalubar War Memorial To Tourists in Ladakh

- **In Ladakh**, as a tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War, **the Indian Army has opened the Khalubar War Memorial to tourists.**
- This opening ceremony was part of the 'Forever in Operations' Division's **Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas** celebrations as this year, the country will **celebrate the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July.**

4.7 India's Defence Exports: US Has Grown To Account Over 50%

- **India's defence exports to the United States (US)** has grown to account for over **50 per cent of the total exports**, exceeding \$2.8 billion during the last 5 years.

4.8 DRDO Hands Over Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket to Indian Navy

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) handed over the **Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)** to the **Indian Navy** in a ceremony held in New Delhi.

- This **rocket creates a microwave obscurant cloud in space**, forming an **effective shield against threats with radio frequency seekers**.

4.9 DRDO's 'ABHYAS' Completes Six Successful Trials

- **ABHYAS is a High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** that was **made by** the **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)** in **Bengaluru**, India, for the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- Its **main job is to make fake enemy planes so that defense systems can practice**.
- DRDO recently tested ABHYAS six times at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, and all of them went well. These tests looked at a better booster setup that made the system work better and be more reliable.

4.10 DG, RPF Launches Sangyaan App – A Comprehensive Legal Reference Application

- The **Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF)** Manoj Yadava today **launched the Sangyaan App**, designed by the RPF Tech Team to provide **in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts**:
 - The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023,
 - The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023,
 - Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023.

4.11 Jaipur Military Station: 2nd Military Station to Have Plastic Waste Road

- **Jaipur Military Station** has become the **second military station in India to have a road made from plastic waste**.
- The road, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R.S. Godara, General Officer Commanding of 61 Sub Area, is **100 meters long and stretches from Sagat Singh Road under bridge to Cubs Corner complex**.

4.12 INS Sunayna Entered Port Victoria, Seychelles

- The deployment marks sustained participation of an Indian Military Contingent in military parade organized as part of Seychelles National Day since 1976.
- **INS Sunayna entered Port Victoria, Seychelles** on 26 Jun 24 as part of her long range deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region.

5 Economy News & Banking News

5.1 RBI Penalizes Central Bank Of India And Sonali Bank PLC For Violations

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **imposed fines on the Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC for breaches** related to **customer protection and KYC norms**.
- **Central Bank of India** faces a penalty of **₹1.45 crore** for irregularities including improper sanctioning of loans and delays in reversing unauthorized transactions.

Meanwhile, **Sonali Bank PLC** has been fined **₹96.4 lakh** for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016.

5.2 RBI Cancels Purvanchal Cooperative Bank's Licence

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **revoked the licence of Purvanchal Co-operative Bank, located in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh**, citing inadequate capital and bleak earning prospects.
- Consequently, the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Uttar Pradesh, has been instructed to initiate the bank's winding-up process and appoint a liquidator.
- Upon liquidation, **depositors** will be eligible to **receive up to Rs 5 lakh** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** as per their **deposit insurance coverage**.

5.3 Axis Bank Acquires Additional Stake in Max Life Insurance Subsidiary for ₹336 Crore

- **Axis Bank** has decided to **increase its shareholding in Max Life Insurance**, investing up to ₹336 crore.
- This transaction **will raise the aggregate shareholding** of Axis Entities **from 19.02% to 19.66%**.

5.4 ADB Approves \$170 Million for India's Health System Preparedness

- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) recently **gave India a big loan of USD 170 million**, which is about Rs **1,418 crore**. The loan is meant to **improve India's healthcare system**.

5.5 RBI grants Payment Aggregator License to SabPaisa

- **SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited)**, a payment solutions provider, has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **has granted final approval to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007**.

5.6 Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Gets National Award for APY Implementation

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, a **regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank**, has been honoured with a **national award** by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) for **significant enrolment** under the Atal Pension Yojana (**APY**).

5.7 Government Monetises ₹1.56 Lakh Crore in FY24 under National Monetisation Pipeline

- The **government monetised assets worth ₹1.56 lakh crore** under the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** in the financial year **2023-24**, **falling short of the target of ₹1.8 lakh crore**.
- This performance represents approximately 159% of the achievement in 2021-22. The NMP aims to unlock the value of brownfield infrastructure assets, with a total monetisation potential estimated at **₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period from FY22 to FY25**.

5.8 FDI to India Drops by 43% in 2023, Ranked 15th Globally: UNCTAD

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) around the **world went down by 2% in 2023 compared to 2022**. The drop varies from country to country, with big drops seen in India, China, France, Australia, and the USA.
- The 2024 **World Investment Report** from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) goes into great depth about this trend.
- **Decline in FDI to India**
 - **India saw a big drop in FDI**. Inflows **dropped from \$49 billion the previous year to \$28 billion in 2023, a 43% drop**.
 - **India's place in the world for FDI receipts dropped from eighth in 2022 to fifteenth in 2023** because of this change. Indian projects are still the most popular places for foreign project financing and new construction, even though the country's economy is weakening.

5.9 S&P Retains India FY25 GDP Growth Estimate at 6.8%

- **S&P Global Ratings** has maintained its **GDP growth forecast for India at 6.8% for FY25**, citing high interest rates and reduced fiscal stimulus as factors tempering demand in non-agricultural sectors.
- The projection for **FY26 and FY27** stands at **6.9% and 7%**, respectively.

5.10 SBI Distributes Rs 6,959 Crore Dividend to Government

- In a significant financial gesture, the State Bank of India (SBI) has distributed a **dividend of Rs 6,959 crore** to the **Indian government** for the financial year **2023-24**.
- The dividend cheque was presented by **SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara** to Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- **SBI** reported a record consolidated **net profit of Rs 67,085 crore for the year**, up from Rs 55,648 crore the previous year.

5.11 Reserve Bank of India Updates URL for 'Database on Indian Economy' Portal

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a **significant update to its 'Database on Indian Economy' (DBIE) portal**, effective immediately.

5.12 ICICI Bank M-Cap Tops \$100 bn; Becomes Only Sixth Indian Co to Hit Milestone

- **ICICI Bank's** market capitalisation(m-cap) on June 25 **crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time**, becoming **only the sixth company to do so**.
- The private sector lender joins the likes of **Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Bharti Airtel**. The four other domestically listed companies with a market value of more than \$100 billion.

5.13 India likely to Grow at 7.5% in FY25: NCAER

- Gross domestic product (GDP) growth during 2024-25 (FY25) may turn out to be **higher than 7 per cent and even close to 7.5 per cent**, with high frequency indicators showing resilience amid growth dynamism in the Indian economy.
- **The monthly economic review** released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

5.14 RBI Reports Decline in Short-Term Debt's Share of India's External Debt

- India's Reserve Bank (RBI) has announced a **notable decline in the proportion of short-term debt within the country's total external debt**, marking a decrease of 2.1 percentage points by March 2024 compared to the previous year.
- This reduction is indicative of India's strengthened external sector resilience. The **ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves also fell from 22.2% to 19.0%** over the same period, underlining improved stability.

5.15 SBI Raises Rs 10,000 Crore via 15-Year Infrastructure Bonds at 7.36% Coupon

- State Bank of India (SBI) has successfully **raised Rs 10,000 crore through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance**.
- The bonds, with a **tenure of 15 years and a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually**, garnered significant investor interest, oversubscribed nearly four times the **base size of Rs 5,000 crore**.

5.16 RBI Projects Further Moderation in Bank NPAs to 2.5%

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a **further improvement in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio** of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), **estimating it to decrease to 2.5% by March 2025**.
- This optimistic outlook is based on macro stress tests evaluating banks' resilience against potential economic shocks.

5.17 India Tops Global Remittance with \$125 Billion in 2023

- In 2023, **India achieved the highest record of remittance inflows globally, amassing USD 125 billion.**
- Strategic economic deals and strong job markets in other countries, especially in the US, UK, and Singapore, were the main things that caused this rise.

5.18 World Bank Grants \$1.5 Billion for India's Green Energy Push

- The **World Bank** has **agreed to lend India \$1.5 billion to help it move toward a low-carbon energy future.**
- This strategic funding will help create green hydrogen and electrolyzers and make it easier for the country to use renewable energy.

5.19 RBI Revises SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027

- A **new system for currency swaps between SAARC countries** has been set up, covering the years **2024–2027.**
- This is a big update from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This project is meant to help the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) stay financially stable.
- One important change in the new system is the **addition of a separate Indian Rupee (INR) Swap Window.** This **new window has a total sum of ₹250 billion** and is meant to make swaps in Indian Rupee easier. India wants to make it easier for people in the area to use the Indian Rupee (INR).
- Along with the **INR Swap Window, the RBI still has a separate swap option for US Dollars and Euros, with a total of \$2 billion in assets.** Offering a range of currencies makes it easier to help more people with different needs and gives SAARC countries access to major currencies.

6 Business News

6.1 IFC Investment in Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power Project

- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, part of the **World Bank Group**, has committed **\$105 million (approximately Rs 871 crore) to Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan.**
- This investment **will be in the form of non-convertible debentures**, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India.

6.2 Central Electronics Limited (CEL) Granted Mini RATNA Status (Category-1)

- At its Golden Jubilee celebration, **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** was honored with **"Mini RATNA" status (Category-1)** by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

7 Important Days

7.1 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2024

- On **June 17th**, the world celebrates the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**.
- This year's **theme**, “**United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future**,” emphasizes the critical importance of land stewardship as a shared responsibility for all.

7.2 Global Wind Day 2024 Celebrations In India

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** organized the ‘**Global Wind Day**’ on **June 15, 2024**, in **Delhi** to commemorate the achievements and potential of wind energy in India.

7.3 International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2024

- On **June 18th**, countries around the world observe the **International Day for Countering Hate Speech**.

7.4 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2024

- Every year, on **June 19**, we observe the **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**.

7.5 World Refugee Day 2024

- Every year on **June 20th**, the world comes together to observe **World Refugee Day**.
- The **theme** for **World Refugee Day 2024** is “**Everyone is Welcome**.”

7.6 World Sickle Cell Day 2024

- The **United Nations General Assembly** recognized sickle cell disease as a public health issue and designated **19 June** as **World Sickle Cell Day** in December 2008.

7.7 International Day of Yoga 2024 Celebrates on 21st June Globally

- **International Yoga Day** is a worldwide celebration of yoga, an ancient Indian practice that promotes physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
- Observed **annually on June 21st**, this special day brings together millions of people across the globe for yoga classes, workshops, and talks. From serene mountain retreats to bustling city squares, people unite in their pursuit of holistic health and inner peace.
- This year's **theme**, “**Yoga for Self and Society**,” highlights the transformative power of yoga at both personal and community levels.

7.8 World Music Day 2024

- **World Music Day**, also known as ‘**Fête de la Musique**’, is an annual global celebration **held in June** to promote music and its universal language.

7.9 International Widows' Day 2024

- **International Widow's Day 2024:** Observed **annually on 23 June**.

7.10 United Nations Public Service Day 2024 Observed Globally on 23rd June

- Every year on **June 23rd**, the world celebrates **United Nations Public Service Day**.
- This special day highlights the importance of public service and recognizes the hard work of public servants globally.

7.11 World Hydrography Day 2024 Celebrates on June 21st

- Every year on **June 21st**, the world celebrates **World Hydrography Day**.
- This important day, **organized by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)**, aims to raise awareness about hydrography and its crucial role in understanding our seas and oceans.
- The **theme** for World Hydrography Day 2024 is: **"Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities"**.

7.12 World Rainforest Day 2024

- **World Rainforest Day** is celebrated annually on **June 22nd**.
- The day was **first observed in 2017** by the Rainforest Partnership.
- The **theme** for World Rainforest Day 2024 is **"Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests."**

7.13 International Olympic Day 2024

- **International Olympic Day** is celebrated on **June 23rd** every year.
- It marks the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. This day celebrates the Olympic spirit and encourages people to get involved in sports.
- The **theme** for International Olympic Day 2024 is **"Let's Move and Celebrate."** This theme encourages everyone to be active and enjoy the joy of movement.

7.14 International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2024 Observed on 24th June

- The **International Day of Women in Diplomacy**, observed annually on **June 24th**.

7.15 International Day of the Seafarer 2024, Date, Importance and History

- Every year on **June 25th**, we celebrate the **International Day of the Seafarer**.

7.16 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024

- Every year on **June 26th**, people around the world come together to observe the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, also known as **World Drug Day**.

7.17 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2024

- Every year on **June 26th**, the world observes the **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**.

7.18 Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day 2024

- Every year on **June 27**, the world celebrates **Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day**.
- The 2024 **theme** focuses on “**Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises**”.
- This theme recognizes the potential of MSMEs to drive progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7.19 International Pineapple Day 2024

- International Pineapple Day is just around the corner, set to be observed on Thursday, **June 27, 2024**.

7.20 National Insurance Awareness Day 2024

- National Insurance Awareness Day Observed on **June 28, 2024**.

7.21 International Day of the Tropics 2024, Date, History and Importance

- The International Day of the Tropics, observed **annually on June 29**, is a day dedicated to recognizing the incredible diversity and importance of the world's tropical regions.

7.22 National Statistics Day 2024, Honoring the Father of Indian Statistics

- **National Statistics Day** is celebrated in India **every year on June 29th**.
- This day honors the **birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, a renowned statistician and economist.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy-making.
- For the **18th National Statistics Day** in 2024, the **theme** is “**Use of data for decision-making**”.

7.23 International Day of Parliamentarism 2024

- The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed annually **on June 30th**.

7.24 International Asteroid Day 2024

- International Asteroid Day is observed on **June 30th each year**.

8 Ranks & Reports

8.1 Mumbai Retains Top Spot As India's Most Expensive City For Expats: Mercer Report

- In **Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey** released on June 17, **Mumbai solidifies its position as India's most expensive city for expatriates**, climbing to **136th globally and 21st in Asia**.
- **New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia**.
- **Globally, Hong Kong retains its status as the priciest city for expats**, underscoring diverse cost-of-living trends worldwide.

8.2 India's Environment Performance in 2024

- **India's latest ranking in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for 2024** places it at **176th out of 180 countries, reflecting slight improvement** from previous years but still positioning it among the world's lowest performers.
- The index, **prepared by Yale and Columbia universities**, highlights India's struggles in crucial areas like air quality, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The country was ranked 177th in 2018, 168th in 2020, **180th in 2022, and 176th in 2024**. The drop is because other countries are doing better and India isn't doing enough to fix its pollution problems.
- **Comparative Global Performance**
 - **Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan, and Vietnam** were the **only countries that did worse than India on the 2024 EPI**.
 - **Estonia was at the top of the score** because it had made the most progress in protecting the environment, especially by cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions.
 - On the other hand, major countries like the USA, China, and Russia have either not cut their emissions at all or have seen them rise.

8.3 Delhi Airport Launches India's First Self-Service Mechanism For Check-in Luggage

- Aiming to enable passengers to drop in their luggage, collect tags and print boarding passes to complete check-in in less time, the **Delhi International Airport Ltd launched a self-service mechanism** on 17 June.
- Delhi's IGI Airport has installed around 50 **Self-Service Bag Drop (SSBD)** units across **Terminal 1 and Terminal 3** for passengers, and they are available with three airlines – Air India, IndiGo and Air India Express.

8.4 Sweden Tops, India at 63rd Rank on Global Energy Transition Index: WEF

- According to the **Global Energy Transition Index** released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** on 19 June 2024, **India** has been ranked **63rd out of 120** countries, **improving three ranks from last year's 67th position**.
- **Sweden has again topped the Index**, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition.
- The WEF highlighted **India's significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability**.

8.5 India Ranks Third in Global Domestic Airline Market

- India has achieved significant milestones in its domestic aviation sector over the past decade, emerging as the **world's third-largest market for domestic airlines** by April 2024.

8.6 Global Liveability Index 2024

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** just released its most recent **Global Liveability Index**, which once again names **Vienna, Austria, as the best place to live in the world**.
- The 2024 index, which came out today, rates towns around the world based on things like education, healthcare, culture the environment, stability, and infrastructure.
- After Vienna, **Copenhagen, Denmark, stays in second place**, and **Zurich, Switzerland, moves up to third**.
- **Damascus(Syria) is still the least liveable** 173 cities in the survey.

8.7 Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024 – India Ranks at 72nd

- The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) just released a full **Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI)** Dashboard.
- The goal of this project, which was posted on their website, is to see how well each country can use and adapt AI technologies.
- There are **three main groups of countries** that the AIPI looks at:
 - Low-Income Countries (LIC),
 - Emerging Market Economies (EM), and
 - Advanced Economies (AE).
- **Singapore, Denmark, and the United States** are at the top of the list of **AEs**, with scores of 0.80, 0.78, and 0.77, respectively.
- **India, which is an EM, got a score of 0.49 and is now ranked 72nd in the world**. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and China, which are all close by, were ranked 113th, 92nd, and 31st, with scores of 0.38, 0.43, and 0.63, respectively.

8.8 Sub-Saharan Africa Faces Major Energy Equity Challenges: WEF Report

- The 14th version of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) report, "**Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2024**,"

8.9 India Ranks 129th on Global Gender Gap Index

- **India** is ranked **129th out of 146 countries** in the **2024 Global Gender Gap Index**. This is the same spot it has held in the bottom 20 for the past few years. This shows that fixing the gender gap has been hard for a long time in many areas, even though there has been some progress in some areas.
- **Iceland retained its top position** in the rankings list.
- About the **Global Gender Gap Index**
 - The **Global Gender Gap Index**, launched in **2006**, examines gender equality in **economic participation and opportunity, education, health and survival, and political empowerment**.
 - The index ratings emphasize gender inequality rather than women's performance, **ranging from 0 (no parity) to 1 (complete parity)**.
- **Analysis of India's Sub-Indices Performance**
 - **Economic participation: India's 39.8% score ranks 142nd**, indicating a persistent gender gap in the working and managerial ranks, **despite a little increase from previous years**.
 - **Educational Attainment: India ranks 112th in education with a 96.4% gender gap closed**. This shows educational equality is better but remains below global levels.
 - **Health and Survival: India ranks 142nd with 0.951**, suggesting significant gender health disparities.
 - **Political Empowerment: India ranks 65th in political inclusion, bridging the gender gap with 25.1%**.
- **Regional Comparison**
 - In **South Asia**, India ranks **fifth out of seven countries**, while **Bangladesh leads globally at 99th**. India is generally underperforming on gender equity, especially compared to its neighbors.

9 Awards News

9.1 RBI bags 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024' by London's Central Banking publication

- In a remarkable achievement, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been awarded the prestigious "**Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024**" by **Central Banking**, a **renowned publication headquartered in London**.

9.2 Siddhesh Sakore, Farmer From Maharashtra, Named Land Hero By UN Agency

- **Siddhesh Sakore**, a farmer and the founder of **AGRO RANGERS** from Maharashtra, has been recognized as a **Land Hero** by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** on **World Desertification and Drought Day**.
- The announcement was made during a programme in Bonn, Germany, honoring 10 Land Heroes from around the globe.

9.3 Filmmaker Vinod Ganatra Honoured with Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award

- Eminent children's filmmaker **Vinod Ganatra** has become the **first Indian to be conferred with South Africa's prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'** for his **outstanding contribution to children's cinema**.
- The award was presented to him at the **7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival**.

9.4 Wildlife Filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu Honored with V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

- The renowned wildlife filmmaker **Subbiah Nallamuthu** has been conferred with the **prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his **outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking**.

9.5 IPBES Awarded 2024 Blue Planet Prize

- The **Blue Planet Prize**, which is given out every year by **Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation**, is a prestigious award that recognizes important science and practical contributions to solving global environmental problems.
- In 2024, **one of the recipients of the Blue Planet Prize** is the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**.

9.6 IIIT-Delhi Wins Prize for Antimicrobial Resistance Project

- The **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIIT-Delhi)**, has been **awarded the joint second prize** in the **Trinity Challenge's** second competition for its project **aimed at combating the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.
- This project, called **"AMRSense: Empowering Communities with a Proactive One Health Ecosystem,"** focuses on a wide range of methods to improve the monitoring and control of AMR.
- **AMR happens** when **bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and stop responding to drugs**. This makes it harder to treat infections and raises the risk of disease spreading, getting very sick, or dying. As AMR affects people all over

the world, attempts to control it include better monitoring, combining data, and actions at the community level.

9.7 GRSE Wins Sustainable Governance Champion Award

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.** has been honoured with the “**Sustainable Governance Champion Award**” at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.

9.8 Dr. Usha Thakur Receives Prestigious 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman

- In a heartwarming celebration of linguistic and cultural ties between India and Nepal, **Dr. Usha Thakur** has been **honoured with the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman**.
- This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between Hindi and Nepali languages.

9.9 Arundhati Roy Awarded PEN Pinter Prize 2024

- The **2023 PEN Pinter Prize** was recently given to **Indian author Arundati Roy**.
- The award was created in honor of the famous writer Harold Pinter.

9.10 Doon School Wins Award at Indo-Norway Education Summit 2024

- **Doon School Srinagar** was honored with the “**Award for Transformative Education Excellence**” at the **Indo-Norway International Education Summit**, held at Stortinget, Norway on June 5, 2024.

10 Books and Author

10.1 Ed Finds A Home: Alia Bhatt's Heartwarming Children's Book

- Actress **Alia Bhatt** celebrated Father's Day in a unique way by unveiling the first look of **her debut children's book**, “**Ed Finds a Home**.”

11 Science and Technology News

11.1 Dhruva Space's Thybolt Satellites Complete 15,000 Orbits

- Dhruva Space, a **Hyderabad-based** space tech startup, has **successfully completed its maiden mission with the Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites**.
- These satellites have securely deorbited after completing 15,000 orbits around Earth.
- Launched **aboard ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022**, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company.

11.2 What is Purple Rain on Mars?

- **NASA** recently talked about an interesting thing that happens on Mars: auroras, including a purple one that was **caught on camera by NASA's MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution)** orbiter's Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph. This unusual event was shown in an Instagram video, where the spectral show was called "**purple rain.**"
- **NASA's MAVEN project** is very important for learning about the **atmosphere of Mars** and how it has changed over time.
- About **MAVEN orbiter**
 - **Mission Overview and Purpose:** Launched in November 2013 by NASA, the **MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution)** orbiter studies Mars' **atmosphere** to understand its climate history and the processes driving atmospheric loss.
 - **Significant Discoveries:** MAVEN found that **solar winds are removing a lot of Mars' atmosphere.** This will cause a lot of atmosphere to be lost over time. This discovery helps explain how the world went from being wetter in the past to being dry now.

11.3 Nvidia Becomes the World's Most Valuable Company

- **Nvidia is a well-known technology company** that makes graphics processing **units (GPUs)**. They recently did something very impressive by becoming the **most valuable company in the world.** This new development is a big deal in the tech business; **Nvidia has now surpassed tech giants like Microsoft and Apple.**
- **Nvidia's market value** reached an all-time high of **\$3.326 trillion** on June 18, when its stock price went up by 3.2% and reached \$135.21 per share.

11.4 South Korean Scientists Create 'Meaty Rice' for Sustainable Protein

- Scientists at **Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea,** are working on **putting grown beef cells into rice grains.**
- This is a groundbreaking use of new food technologies that is changing the world. The **goal** of this new invention, called "**meaty rice,**" is to be a **more environmentally friendly source of protein that doesn't involve raising animals.** This could completely change the way food is produced around the world.

11.5 Japan On High Alert as STSS Infections Surge

- **Japan's** health officials are on high alert because the number of **Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) cases has increased significantly.** STSS is a serious illness that usually ends in death
- **STSS** is a very bad disease brought on by group **A Streptococcus bacteria** infections.

11.6 Asteroid 2024 LZ4

- **NASA** has recently been keeping an eye on **three asteroids that are moving toward Earth**. It is important to note that **Asteroid 2024 LZ4 will pass closer to Earth than the Moon**, by 173,000 miles. Because it is so close, it stands out even more, but because it is only 72 feet long, about the length of an airplane, **it has not been labeled as a possibly dangerous object**.

11.7 What is CriticGPT?

- **CriticGPT is a powerful AI tool made using OpenAI's GPT-4 model**.
- It was made to make it easier for AI judges to **find mistakes in ChatGPT code**. One of the most important things this tool does to improve the accuracy and stability of code is to find bugs that human reviewers might miss.

11.8 NASA, SpaceX Launches Final NOAA Weather Satellite

- **SpaceX successfully launched the GOES-U satellite for NASA**.
- This is the end of the NOAA program to **improve weather tracking over the Western Hemisphere**.

11.9 ESA Develops Zero-Debris Satellite

- The deal between **three leaders** in the European space industry—**Airbus Defence and Space, OHB, and Thales Alenia Space**—and the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.
- It was a big step forward in getting rid of space junk. Large platforms for satellites in Low Earth orbit (LEO) that meet Zero Debris guidelines are being built thanks to these contracts.
- Space junk is becoming a bigger problem, so **ESA came up with the Zero Debris method**. By 2030, this new standard aims to stop the creation of space junk in Earth and moon orbits.

11.10 IISc Develops 3D Hydrogel to Study TB Research

- New research at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** has led to a potential advance in tuberculosis (TB) study.
- The **Department of Bioengineering** has created a **new 3D hydrogel culture system similar to mammals' lung environment**. This system will help researchers better understand tuberculosis infections and see how well medicines work.

11.11 Meta AI is now in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram

- **Meta** recently made its **Llama 3-powered AI chatbot, Meta AI, available to all users in India**. The robot can be found on the Meta.AI website as well as in apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, Messenger, and Facebook.

11.12 BlinkX – India's First Gen AI Lab

- **BlinkX**, the digital stockbroking arm of **JM Financial**, launched **BlinkX Gen AI Lab**, a new technology project that **aims to use artificial intelligence** to improve operational efficiency and the customer experience.
- This setting shows a big step forward in financial technology at BlinkX by JM Financial, which is in Mumbai and covers more than 10,000 square feet.

11.13 SSLV's First Dedicated Commercial Launch by ISRO in 2026

- India's Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) has a business arm called **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**. It has announced the **first commercial launch of its newest rocket**, the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**.

12 Appointments News

12.1 Dhanlaxmi Bank Appoints Ajith Kumar KK as MD & CEO

- **Ajith Kumar KK** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and CEO** of **Dhanlaxmi Bank** for a **three-year term** starting June 20, 2024.

12.2 UNHCR Welcomes Theo James as New Goodwill Ambassador

- On this significant day for global humanitarian efforts, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**) proudly announces the appointment of British actor **Theo James** as its **newest Goodwill Ambassador**.

12.3 Global Wind Energy Council India Appoints Girish Tanti from Suzlon Group As New Chairman

- As **Global Wind Day (June 17)** is celebrated across the world. **GWEC India** has announced that **Mr Girish Tanti**, Vice-Chairman of Suzlon Group, has been appointed as the **Chairman**.

12.4 President Appoints Bhartruhari Mahtab As Pro-Tem Speaker Of Lok Sabha

- In a significant development, **Bhartruhari Mahtab**, a seven-term Lok Sabha member, has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker of the Lower House**.

12.5 Pradeep Singh Kharola Has Been Assigned The Additional Charge of NTA DG

- The **Director General of the National Testing Agency**, **Subodh Kumar Singh**, was **removed** from the post on June 22, amid controversy over irregularities in exams.
- **Pradeep Singh Kharola** was **assigned additional charge of NTA DG** till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.

12.6 Anuj Tyagi Appointed MD and CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance

- Private sector general insurer **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** announced the appointment of **Anuj Tyagi** as its **new** Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**), effective July 1, 2024.

12.7 Mark Rutte Appointed as Next Secretary General of NATO

- In a significant development for global security, **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)** has announced the appointment of **Mark Rutte**, the outgoing Dutch Prime Minister, as its **next Secretary General**.

12.8 Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani Appointed New Vice Chief of Army

12.9 Vikram Misri Appointed India's New Foreign Secretary.

12.10 Manoj Jain Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited

13 Agreements News

13.1 Oracle Partners With Tamil Nadu To Empower Youth With IT Skills

- **Oracle** has teamed up with the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation** to **enhance IT skills** among the state's youth through the **Naan Mudhalvan program**.
- This initiative aims to provide training and certification in cutting-edge technologies like cloud computing, data science, AI, ML, and blockchain, offering employment-linked opportunities to over 200,000 students.

13.2 MEA And SBI Sign MoU To Enhance Digital Payments For Migrant Workers Via EMigrate Portal

- The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) and the State Bank of India (**SBI**) have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to **integrate SBI's payment gateway, SBlePay, with the eMigrate portal**.
- This collaboration aims to bolster digital payment services for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and users of the portal.

13.3 NHAI Signs MoU with IIIT Delhi to Enhance Road Safety Using Artificial Intelligence

- In a bid to enhance road safety, the National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi**.
- This collaboration aims to **leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signs on National Highways**, covering approximately 25,000 kilometers.

13.4 Thales Inks Pact With Adani Defence To Manufacture 70mm Rockets In India

- **Adani Defence & Aerospace** has signed an **agreement** with **Thales Group** to manufacture **70mm rockets locally**..

14 Schemes in News

14.1 Cabinet approves Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for Implementation of Offshore Wind Energy Projects

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme** for the **implementation of offshore wind energy projects in India**.
- This decision marks a significant step towards **harnessing the vast offshore wind energy potential within the country's exclusive economic zone**.
- The **total financial outlay** for this scheme is **₹7,453 crore**.

14.2 Cabinet Approves National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)

- The **Union Cabinet**, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the **Central Sector Scheme titled "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)"** with a comprehensive **financial allocation of Rs. 2254.43 crore** spanning from **2024-25 to 2028-29**.
- This initiative, **spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs**, aims to bolster India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.

14.3 Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) Campaign

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** on June 24, launched **"One Week One Theme" (OWOT) campaign** showcasing **recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology**.

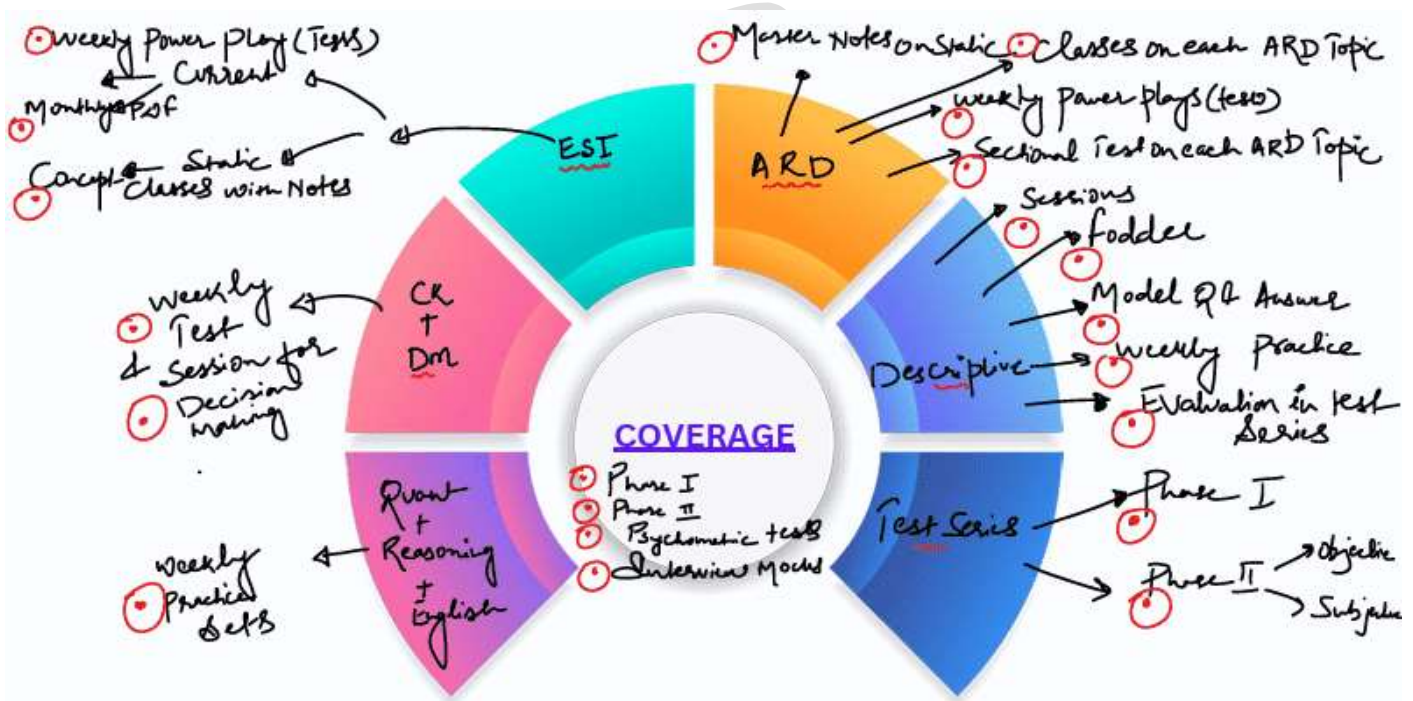
15 Sports News

15.1 Lee Zii Jia Triumphs at BWF Australian Open 2024

- In a thrilling final at the **BWF Australian Open 2024 in Sydney** on Sunday (16 June), **Lee Zii Jia from Malaysia emerged victorious** against Naraoka Kodai of Japan, securing his second title of the season.

15.2 Indian National Ultimate Frisbee Team Wins Silver at 2024 Asia Oceanic Championship in Japan

- The **Indian National Ultimate Frisbee team** put up a valiant effort in the finals of the **Asia Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) 2024**, finishing as **runners-up** after a hard-fought match **against the Philippines** with a final score of 9-12.
- This marks a historic milestone for **Indian Ultimate Frisbee** as the **national team reached the finals for the first time**, demonstrating significant growth and potential on the international stage.



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www.c4scourses.co.in
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15.3 Neeraj Chopra Shines at Paavo Nurmi Games 2024

- Indian javelin star **Neeraj Chopra** added another feather to his cap by clinching the **gold medal in the men's javelin throw event** at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2024** in **Turku, Finland**.

15.4 Trent Boult Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- New Zealand's left-arm fast bowler, Trent Boult**, has announced his retirement from international cricket.

15.5 David Warner Retires From International Cricket

15.6 Pat Cummins Takes First Hat-Trick of T20 World Cup 2024

- **Pat Cummins**, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a **hat-trick**, Australia comfortably **defeated Bangladesh** in their 'Super 8s' Group 1 encounter of the T20 World Cup.

15.7 Verstappen Triumphs at Spanish Grand Prix 2024

- In a thrilling display of skill and strategy, **Max Verstappen** secured **victory at the Spanish Grand Prix** on Sunday, further solidifying his position atop the Formula 1 drivers championship.

Results for NABARD Grade A 2023 by C4S				
Sl No.	Name	Stream	Have You taken any of the courses offered by Clarity ?	Final Selection
1	Prajakta Liladhar Meshram	Generalist	Yes	Yes
2	ARUN KUMAR BHARTI	Generalist	Yes	Yes
3	PUNITKUMAR NAIKAR	Generalist	Yes	Yes
4	B Lalmuansangi	Generalist	Yes	Yes
5	RAJASEKARAN T	Generalist	Yes	Yes
6	Avinash Horo	Generalist	Yes	Yes
7	DEVIREDDY NAGA SINDHU	Generalist	Yes	Yes
8	KOMPALA VENKATA RAMESH	Generalist	Yes	Yes
9	RAYUDU SAI PADMINI	Generalist	Yes	Yes
10	Ammana Spandana	Generalist	Yes	Yes
11	DS Khuvei Olyson	Generalist	Yes	Yes
12	NAZI FRAH	Generalist	Yes	Yes
13	Sathish Kumar T	Generalist	Yes	Yes
14	Diwanshi Rana	Generalist	Yes	Yes
15	Ayush Anand	Generalist	Yes	Yes
16	Romi Singh	Generalist	Yes	Yes
17	Arun Manhas	Generalist	Yes	Yes
18	Appaji Pundalik Naik	Generalist	Yes	Yes
19	Darshan GN	Generalist	Yes	Yes
20	Rishabh Verma	Generalist	Yes	Yes
22	Ananya M	Generalist	Yes	Yes
23	Akshay Nair Nambalal	Generalist	Yes	Yes
24	RIYANABEGUM I NAYKAR	Generalist	Yes	Yes
25	SIDDHARTH DUBEY	Generalist	Yes	Yes
26	Suraj Kumar Prajapathi	Generalist	Yes	Yes
27	Shivam dheeran	Generalist	Yes	Yes
28	DOLLY Lalchandani	Generalist	Yes	Yes
29	Pravin	Generalist	Yes	Yes
30	SAURABH SHAM JADHAO	Generalist	Yes	Yes
31	Kunal Atmaram Desale	Generalist	Yes	Yes
32	Thogata Nagaraju	Generalist	Yes	Yes
33	Ranajit Patil	Generalist	Yes	Yes
34	Shubham Bhalchandra Kotkar	Generalist	Yes	Yes
35	Suryanshi Nigam	Generalist	Yes	Yes
36	SOUNDAR RAJAN R	Generalist	Yes	Yes
37	Saurabh Singh	Generalist	Yes	Yes
38	Palla Srinivas	Others	Yes	Yes
39	Nancy Singh	Others	Yes	Yes
40	Hafis Mohammed	Others	Yes	Yes
41	Pramod Raj N R	Generalist	Yes	Yes
42	Surya Prakash.M.S	Others	Yes	Yes
43	Vishal kumar bharti	Generalist	Yes	Yes
44	Kallesh Amaresh Totad			
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*Total 51 Candidates have responded of their selection who were associated with Clarity in courses; rest names will be added after confirmation				
** The list includes name of candidates who were associated with any one of the course/guidance by CLARITY and they themselves have marked YES in GOOGLE FORM				
***We are not involved in marketing propaganda where a few institutes are picking name of candidates who have just only given mock interview with them and not involved in guidance or course				

15.8 Indian Archers Triumph at Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3

- The **Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3 in Antalya, Turkey** concluded on June 23, 2024, with Indian archers showcasing their exceptional skills and bringing home multiple medals.
- This prestigious event, organized by World Archery from June 18-23, 2024, saw **India's team finish with an impressive tally of four medals – one gold, one silver, and two bronze.**

15.9 Smriti Mandhana, The First Indian Woman Cricketer To Score Consecutive Centuries in ODIs

- **Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to record two consecutive ODI hundreds** during the second ODI against South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on June 19.

15.10 Cricket Legend Kapil Dev Takes Helm of Indian Professional Golf

- In a momentous development for Indian golf, **Kapil Dev**, the legendary cricketer and passionate amateur golfer, has been **elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).**

15.11 Global Chess League to Hold Second Edition in London in October

- After a successful **first season in Dubai**, the **Global Chess League** will return for **another edition, this time in London.**
- The highly anticipated **second edition of Tech Mahindra Global Chess League will take place in London**, England from 3rd to 12th October 2024.

16 Summits and Conferences News

16.1 Highlights Of G7 Summit, 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 14, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. The countries including UK counterpart Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and others, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in southern **Italy's Apulia.**
- The **theme** of this year's summit, which will be attended by **President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Türkiye, as a special guest**, has been set as **"rules-based international system."**

16.2 India Participates In The Summit On Peace In Ukraine

- Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, represented **India** at the **Summit on Peace in Ukraine, hosted by Switzerland at Burgenstock** on June 15-16, 2024.

- At the recent Summit on Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland, **India opted not to sign the final communique** alongside several other nations.

16.3 Bonn Climate Conference 2024 Concludes in Bonn, Germany

- The **mid-year climate discussions in Bonn, Germany**, concluded recently with limited progress, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the **COP29 summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan**, later this year.

16.4 112th International Labour Conference at Geneva, Switzerland

- The **112th International Labour Organization (ILC)** was held in **Geneva** from 3-14 June **2024**.
- It was attended by more than 4,900 delegates – representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations.
- The **113rd ILC will be held in June 2025**.

16.5 CCRYN in Collaboration with Svyasa Organizes Conference on “Yoga for Space” in Bengaluru

- The **Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN)**, in collaboration with **Svyasa**, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on **“Yoga for Space” at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru**, in observance of International Day of Yoga (**IDY**) **2024** with the **theme “Yoga for Self & Society.”**
- This conference brought together experts from various fields to enhance societal health, including astronauts, by exploring the benefits of yoga in extreme conditions and space environments.

16.6 67th Global Environment Facility Council

- The **67th meeting of the Global Environment Facility** concluded on June 20, 2024, resulting in significant financial commitments. A total of \$736.4 million was approved to support 34 nature conservation and renewal projects globally.
- Three projects got help from the newly created **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)**.
- **About Global Environment Facility (GEF)**
 - Funding Mechanism and Reach: The Global Environment Facility (**GEF**), **established in 1991**, serves as a **primary funding mechanism for global environmental initiatives**, supporting projects in over 170 countries.

16.7 64th International Sugar Organisation Council Meeting in New Delhi

- The **64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council meeting** commenced on 25th June 2024 at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, bringing together delegates from over 30 countries and representatives of various international organizations.

16.8 EAM Jaishankar to Represent India at SCO Summit in Astana

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** will **represent India** at the annual summit of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana** next week.
- The summit, to be held on July 3 and 4, is expected to focus on the regional security situation and ways to boost connectivity and trade.

17 Miscellaneous News

17.1 Chenab Bridge: Indian Railways Conducts Trial Run On World's Highest Steel Arch Rail Bridge

- The **Indian Railways** completed a **successful trial of an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi**, crossing the **world's highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge**.

17.2 Why Reintroduce Cheetahs to Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary?

- The **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in **Madhya Pradesh**, has been identified as the **second potential habitat for cheetah reintroduction after Kuno National Park**.
- This initiative is part of a broader effort to reintroduce cheetahs in India, sourcing them from **Namibia and South Africa**.
- India is reintroducing cheetahs after a 70-year extinction, starting with 12 from Namibia in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.

17.3 What is AlphaFold?

- In the past few years, the creation of **AlphaFold, a tool that has greatly sped up the process of understanding protein structures**, has been a huge step forward in biological study.

17.4 What is Macrophage?

- **Macrophages** are an **important part of the immune system**, and they have different activation states that show how they work in health and sickness.
- New Discoveries in immunology have shown **how important macrophages are for fighting diseases and helping tissues heal**.

17.5 What is Balon Protein?

- Recently, scientists made a big finding in microbiology. It involves a **special protein called Balon**. This **protein helps the bacterium Psychrobacter urativorans go into and come out of a dormant state when its environment changes**.
- This new study, which came out on February 14 in the journal Nature, **shows how bacteria can adapt to live in harsh conditions**.

17.6 World's Oldest Termite Mounds Discovered in Namaqualand

- In **Namaqualand, South Africa**, the **heuweltjies** are old termite mounds that take up about 20% of the land.
- The **southern harvester termite (Microhodotermes Viator)** lives in these sandy formations. They are home to termites for the longest period, going back between 13,000 and 34,000 years.

17.7 Iberian Lynx Conservation Status Upgraded to Vulnerable

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) changed the **Iberian Lynx's protection status from "Endangered" to "Vulnerable"** on June 20.

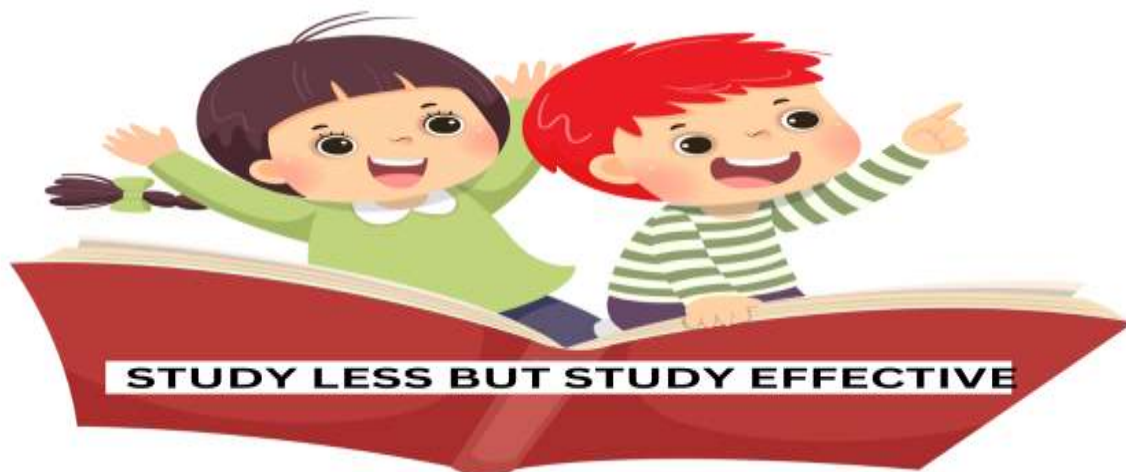
17.8 Indian Scientists Discover Two New Plant Species

- Indian botanists have recently identified **two new plant species** in distinct biogeographic hotspots: **the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Discovery in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
 - The new species, **Dendrophthoe longensis**, was found on the Long Islands in the middle Andamans by a group of scientists led by Lal Ji Singh.
 - This plant is in the **mistletoe family** and has *aerial stem parasites* that make it stand out. **Dendrophthoe longensis lives on mango trees (Mangifera indica) near the edges of evergreen woods.** It has amazing hemiparasitic adaptations, but habitat loss and human activities put it at risk.
- Discovery in **Arunachal Pradesh**
 - Another significant discovery was made by Krishna Chowlu's team in the Mandla region of West Kameng district, **Arunachal Pradesh.** They identified **a new herbaceous plant species named Petrocosmea arunachalense.** It was hiding in a cave, which shows that **it doesn't need much sunlight.** The Gesneriaceae family now has a new member. This species is **fully white with purple spots and a hairy texture.**

18 SELF HAND WRITTEN NOTES (Max 2-3 pages)







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