

CURRENT GA

FOR NABARD 2024 BATCH



JULY 1st -15th

CAUTION

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4. Prepare hand written notes for the PDF in 2-3 pages for quick revision during exam

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1 National News

1.1 Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023

- The **three New Criminal Laws– Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**, will come into force July 1, 2024.
- The newly enacted laws encompass:
 - **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)**: The Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) has been **replaced by this law**, which changes the rules and methods for criminal cases.
 - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**: The **BNS replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and changes the definitions and punishments for many crimes. It does this by cutting the number of parts from 511 in the IPC to 358.
 - **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam**: This law **replaces the Indian Evidence Act(1872)** and aims to make the standards for evidence used in court cases easier to follow and better.
- **Revised Sections and Key Offences**
 - **Murder (Section 103 BNS)**: This **used to be Section 302 IPC**.
 - **Attempt to Murder (Section 109 BNS)**: This crime used to be under Section **307 IPC**.
 - **Rape (Section 63 BNS)**: This crime used to be under Section **375 IPC**.
 - **Cheating (Section 318 BNS)**: This change to the numbers takes away the bad reputation that comes with the word “420,” which used to be known as Section **420 IPC**.

1.2 India Becomes First Nation To Prepare Full List of Fauna

- The **Fauna of India Checklist Portal** is the **first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India**.
- **India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 104,561 species**.
- The ‘**Fauna of India Checklist Portal**’ was launched on the occasion of the **109th Foundation Day** of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in **Kolkata** on Sunday by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav.

1.3 NITI Aayog Launches ‘Sampoornata Abhiyan’: A Drive Towards Holistic Development

- In a significant move to accelerate the development of India’s most challenging regions, **NITI Aayog is set to launch the ‘Sampoornata Abhiyan’** on July 4, 2024.

- This ambitious **3-month campaign** aims to achieve saturation in key indicators across **112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks**, marking a new chapter in India's journey towards inclusive growth.

1.4 India Hosts 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session

- In a landmark event for India's cultural diplomacy, the nation is **set to host** the **46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** from July 21-31, 2024.
- This prestigious gathering will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.
- The **World Heritage Committee is an important part of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention**.

1.5 India Chairs 'Colombo Process' Meeting at Permanent Representative Level in Geneva

- **India chaired its first meeting** as **Chair of the 'Colombo Process'** at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in **Geneva**, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation.
- The Colombo Process, comprising **12 Asian member states**, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment.

1.6 IGNOU Launches MA Programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies

- Indira Gandhi National Open University (**IGNOU**) has announced the **launch of a new MA programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies** for the academic session 2024-2025.
- The course will begin in July 2024 and will be offered through **open and distance learning (ODL)**.

1.7 Air India to Set Up South Asia's Largest Flight Training School in Amravati

- **Air India** is establishing **South Asia's largest flight training school** in Maharashtra's **Amravati district** with an investment of over **₹200 crore**.

1.8 Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner to Launch SEHER Program

- The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and **TransUnion CIBIL** have **launched SEHER**, a **credit education program** designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India.
- SEHER aims to **provide financial literacy content** and **business skills**, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.

1.9 Union Minister Piyush Goyal Announces Concessions in Licensing Fees

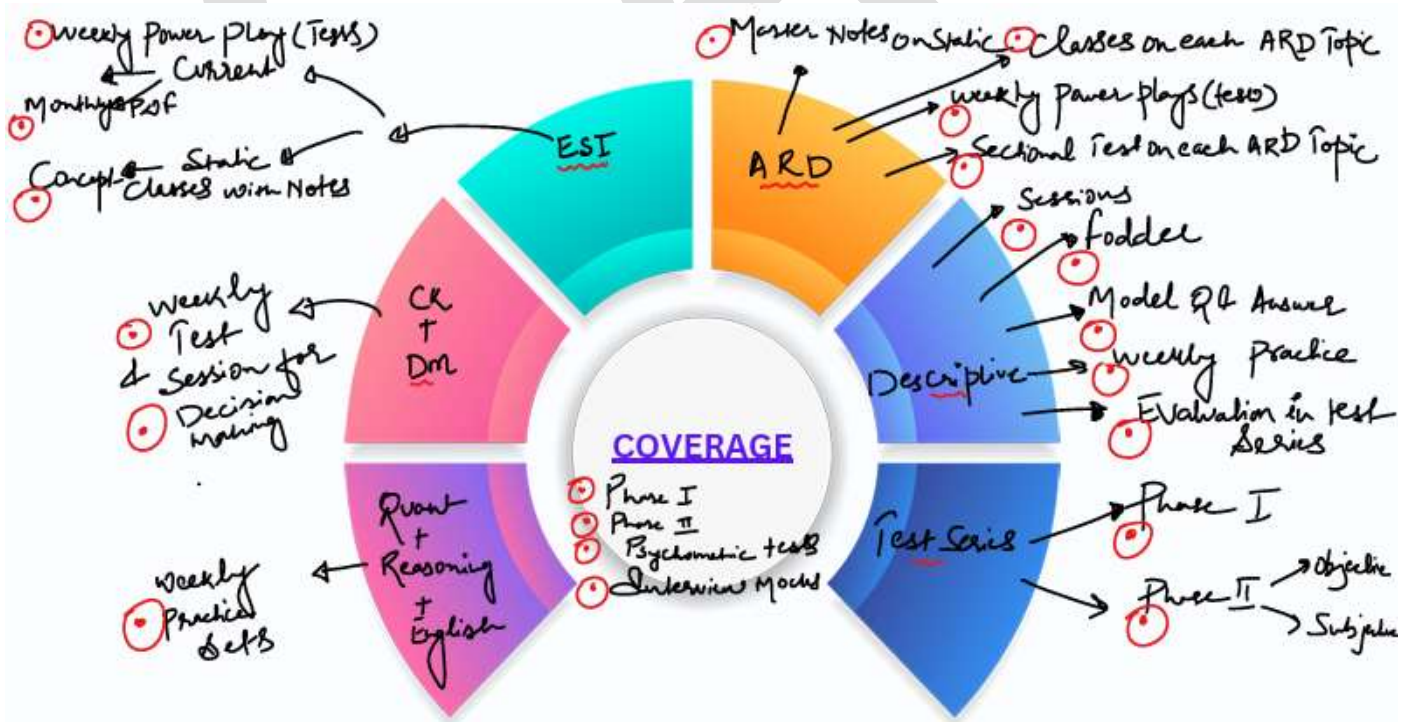
- In a significant move to boost entrepreneurship, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has announced an **80% reduction in licensing fees for women entrepreneurs and a 50% reduction for MSMEs** under the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**.
- This initiative aims to encourage greater participation from women and MSMEs in the petroleum and explosives sectors, balancing industry compliance with public safety.

1.10 Government Mandates BIS Standards For Stainless Steel And Aluminium Utensils

- The Government of India has mandated that **all stainless steel and aluminium utensils conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- According to a press release by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, this directive, **effective from March 14, 2024**, under the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **makes the ISI mark compulsory for these utensils**.

1.11 Haj Committee Now Under Minority Affairs Ministry

- The government has designated the **Ministry of Minority Affairs as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee**, taking over from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



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1.12 Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council

- According to **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution, the 16th **Finance Commission (FC)** of India has started its work.
- The **Sixteenth Finance Commission** has **constituted an advisory council with five members** to **advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR)** or related subjects.
- The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

1.13 India Leads Global Maritime Discourse at IMO Council Session in London

- **India**, represented by a high-level delegation led by Shri **T.K. Ramachandaran**, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has taken a prominent role in shaping international maritime policies at the **132nd session** of the Council of the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** in London.

1.14 India to ratify High Seas Treaty: Recent Agreement and Significance

- The **Indian government** has said that it **will sign and approve the High Seas Treaty**. The **goal** of this international deal is to **protect marine biodiversity** and make sure that ocean resources are used in a way that doesn't harm the environment.
- The pact, which is **officially called the Agreement on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** aims to protect ocean environments and cut down on pollution.
- National exclusive economic zones (**EEZs**), which are **200 nautical miles from coasts, do not cover the high seas**, which make up about 64% of the world's oceans.
- It needs to be **signed by at least 60 countries** for the High Seas Treaty to be valid.

1.15 Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates INS Towers in Mumbai

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **INS Towers at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex**.
- This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.

1.16 India's Population to Peak at 1.7 Billion by 2060s Before Declining: UN Report

- According to key findings, the **world's population will hit its peak** of about **10.3 billion people in the middle of the 2080s**. After that, it will start to slowly decline until the end of the century.

- **India's population** is projected to **peak at 1.7 billion** in the **early 2060s** before declining by 12%, as predicted by the **United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report**.
- Despite the decline, **India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century**.

1.17 NITI Aayog Launches Hackathon for Zero-Emission Trucks

- The **NITI GearShift Challenge** was **started by NITI Aayog** and several well-known schools and groups.
- This project is **part of the larger e-FAST India program**, which **aims to get more zero-emission trucks (ZETs) used in India**.

2 International News

2.1 Japan Introduces Holographic Technology in New Banknotes

- On July 3, **Japan will introduce new banknotes featuring** what it claims to be the world's pioneering use of advanced **holography**.
- This technology **creates the illusion of historic figures' portraits rotating in 3D** on the bills, serving as a **key anti-counterfeit measure**. This marks the first redesign of the banknotes in 20 years.

2.2 United Nations Conference on Afghanistan, A Milestone in International Diplomacy

- The **third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan** took place in **Doha, Qatar**, marking the **first time the Taliban participated** in such talks since taking control of Afghanistan.

2.3 "World's First AI Dress" With Robotic Snakes, Internet Reacts

- A **Google employee** recently created the **"world's first AI dress"** and it has astonished many on the internet.

2.4 China Builds New Presidential Palace in Vanuatu

- **China** has constructed a **new presidential palace in Vanuatu**, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations.

2.5 International Toy Fair To Begin On July 6 With Over 100 Foreign Buyers

- More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries are expected to participate in the **four-day international toy fair beginning on July 6 in the national capital**.

2.6 Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency of EU Council

- **Hungary has assumed** the **rotating presidency** of the **Council of the European Union** for the next six months.

2.7 Keir Starmer: The Next British Prime Minister

- **Keir Starmer**, born in 1963 to a working-class family near London, is set to become **Britain's next Prime Minister**.
- The Conservative Party was thrown out, and **Labour won 410 of the 650 seats**.

2.8 Masoud Pezeshkian Elected Iran President

- **Masoud Pezeshkian**, a seasoned lawmaker and cardiac surgeon, has **emerged victorious** in Iran's presidential election.

2.9 Rachel Reeves: Britain's First Woman Finance Chief

- **Rachel Reeves** has become **the first woman finance minister of UK**.

2.10 India Gears Up for Malabar Showdown with 'Quad' Allies Amid Rising China Tensions

- **India is gearing up to host** the prestigious **Malabar naval exercise** alongside the **United States, Japan, and Australia in the Bay of Bengal** this October.
- The **28th edition of the exercise** will focus on advanced anti-submarine warfare and aims to enhance military interoperability among the four countries.

2.11 Hong Kong, And Singapore Most Expensive Cities To Live In The World

- **Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich** are currently the **costliest cities for international workers in 2024**, according to **Mercer's cost-of-living data report**.

2.12 The First Woman Chief Justice of Lahore Takes Oath

- **Justice Aalia Neelum** on July 11, took oath as the **Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan (Lahore)**, making her the **first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge**.

2.13 Vietnam Crowned Most Affordable Country for Expats in 2024 Study

- In a comprehensive study conducted by InterNations in 2024, **Vietnam** has once again secured its **position as the most affordable destination for expatriates**.
- This marks the **fourth consecutive year that the Southeast Asian nation has topped the list**, solidifying its reputation as a prime location for those seeking an economical lifestyle abroad.

2.14 India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement for Organic Products

- The **India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Organic Products**, effective from July 8, 2024, **aims to enhance trade by allowing certified organic products** from each country to enter the other's market.

- India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) and Taiwan's **Agriculture and Food Agency** are the **respective implementing agencies** for this landmark agreement.
- **About** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**)
 - **Facilitation and Financial Assistance:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Goods Export Development Authority (**APEDA**), which was set up by the **APEDA Act of 1985**, makes it easier for scheduled goods to be exported and helps exporters by giving them money, information, and rules.
 - **Industry Development and Promotions:** APEDA helps create industries that work with foods like fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry. It advertises Geographical Indications (GI)-registered goods around the world and keeps a market information system running while promoting goods in other countries.
 - **Key Role in Organic Production:** Through several programs and projects, APEDA is very important in putting the National Program for Organic Production (NPOP) into action and making a big difference in the growth of India's agricultural export sector.

2.15 What is Teesta Treaty?

- In June 2023, when **Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh**, paid a state visit to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a technical team would go to Bangladesh to talk about how to protect and control the **Teesta River**.
- The **Teesta water-sharing pact** has been a **point of contention between India and Bangladesh** for over a decade.
- The **Teesta River** is a big river that **starts in Sikkim and flows into Bangladesh**.

2.16 India, Bangladesh to Renegotiate Ganga Waters Treaty

- The **Ganga Waters Treaty**, which **India and Bangladesh signed in 1996**, will be discussed again. This pact, which is mostly about the fair sharing of water from the Ganga River, which both countries share, **needs to be renewed in 2026**.

2.17 António Costa – President of European Council

- **António Costa**, who used to be the prime minister of Portugal, has been chosen to be the **next President of the European Council**.

2.18 Philippines Chosen to Host U.N. Climate Fund Board

- The **Philippines** was recently chosen to house the **board of the “Loss and Damage” fund**.
- The **“Loss and Damage” fund** was **set up at the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in 2022** to help countries that are weak and have been hit by natural disasters.

2.19 IMF Agrees to \$7 Billion Loan Program for Pakistan

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and **Pakistan** reached a deal on July 12, 2024, for a **\$7 billion loan program** that will last for 37 months.
- The main goal of this **Extended Fund Facility program** is to **help Pakistan**, a country that has had a lot of economic problems, become more stable and grow in a way that benefits everyone.

2.20 Bangladesh Joins Colombo Security Conclave as Fifth Member

- The **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** is a **group of regional security experts** who work together to **solve naval security problems in the Indian Ocean**.
- The CSC was **created in 2020 by India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives** as starting members. Its goal is to encourage member states to work together on security issues. Since then, **Mauritius and, most recently, Bangladesh have joined the group**.
- **Bangladesh became the fifth member state of the CSC** on July 10, during the **8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, which was held virtually by Mauritius**.

2.21 Romania, Bulgaria, Greece Boost NATO Eastern Flank Mobility

- **Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece signed a strategic deal** on July 11.
- **All three countries are members of NATO and the EU**.
- **This deal will make it easier for troops and weapons to move quickly across their lines, especially along NATO's eastern flank**. Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has made people in NATO and EU countries even more worried about their safety, which makes this choice even more important.

2.22 What is Project 2025?

- The **Heritage Foundation** has come up with a big, controversial plan called **Project 2025**. It is meant to **change the way the US government works in case Donald Trump runs for a second term**. Much of the evidence points to close ties between Trump and the project's contributors, despite his claims that they are not connected.

2.23 What is 'Robot Suicide'?

- In **South Korea**, this has never happened before a robotic government servant working for the Gumi City Council was **found broken at the bottom of a flight of stairs**.
- This event, which is **now being called a "robot suicide,"** took place in late 2023. The robot, named **"Robot Supervisor,"** was an important part of the council staff.

2.24 North Korea Claims Successful Tactical Missile Test

- **North Korea** announced that a test of a **new tactical ballistic missile called the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5**, which is meant to carry a big 4.5-ton weapon, went well.

2.25 NATO Military Alliance: Recent Updates

- President Joe Biden and other leaders from NATO met in Washington, D.C., to celebrate **NATO's 75th anniversary**, even though Russia is still fighting in Ukraine.
- **What is NATO?**
 - **Establishment and Collective Defense:** NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was established on **April 4, 1949**. Its **Article 5**, which calls for **collective defense**, was **invoked for the first time after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S.**
 - **Membership and Activities:** At present, **NATO has 32 member countries**. These countries, called NATO Allies, are sovereign states that come together through NATO to discuss political and security issues and make collective decisions by consensus.
 - **Structure and Operations:** **NATO doesn't possess its troops; instead, members contribute forces voluntarily**. **Headquarters** are situated in **Brussels**, Belgium, utilizing **English and French as official languages**.

3 State News

3.1 Jharkhand Celebrates Hul Diwas

- **Hul Kranti Diwas** is celebrated on **June 30** every year to **mark the independence movement of 1855 led by tribal heroes Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav**, among others.
- More than 50,000 tribals from 400 villages of Jharkhand had revolted against British Rule.

3.2 Arunachal Pradesh Yields New Species of Horned Frog

- A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has recorded a **new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The new-to-science **Xenophrys apatani**, recorded from the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri district, has been named after the dominant **Apatani community** in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of wild flora and fauna.

3.3 CM Mohan Yadav Launches 'Lokpath Mobile App' For Public

- Bhopal, **Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav** has said that our **aim is to make all departments as accountable as possible towards the public**.

- **Lokpath Mobile App prepared by the Public Works Department** is being launched with a view to continuously moving forward on the path of public welfare by adopting a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public.

3.4 Jharkhand's Mica Mines Declared Child Labour-Free by NCPCR

- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free'** at an event in Koderma, Jharkhand.

3.5 Tata Power Launches 'Ghar Ghar Solar' Initiative in Uttar Pradesh

- **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited** has launched the '**Ghar Ghar Solar**' initiative in **Uttar Pradesh**, starting from Varanasi, **aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions.**
- This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.

3.6 Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Mitra Van' Initiative Along Borders

- The **Uttar Pradesh government**, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has unveiled a major environmental initiative called '**Mitra Van**' (**Friendship Forest**) as **part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024.**
- This ambitious project **aims to enhance greenery along the borders of Uttar Pradesh**, including its **international border with Nepal.**

3.7 BSF Organises "Grow with the Trees" Plantation Drive in Srinagar

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)**, in collaboration with the State Bank of India (**SBI**), organized the "**Grow with the Trees**" plantation drive at the **BSF Headquarters in Srinagar.**
- The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.

3.8 Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor Boosts Industrial Growth

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has secured over **154 defence manufacturing deals worth Rs 25,000 crore**, marking a significant stride in bolstering India's defence production capabilities.
- These initiatives are part of the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)**, spanning **Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra districts.**

3.9 Uttar Pradesh NIRMAN Bill-2024

- In recent developments within **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, the state government has **passed the draft** for the **Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024.** This initiative, chaired by Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, is part of a broader strategy to uplift the state's economy to the one trillion dollar mark.

- **Special Investment Regions (SIRs)** are **supposed to be set up all over UP** by the NIRMAN-2024 bill.

3.10 Maharashtra Wins Best Agriculture State Award 2024

- The **15th Agriculture Leadership Awards** Committee found that **Maharashtra is the best state for farming in 2024**.
- Agricultural Today magazine started the Agricultural Leadership Award in 2008 to honor the most important people and states in the agricultural world.

3.11 Nagaland Crowned Best State in Horticulture: Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024

- In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, **Nagaland** has been **awarded the title of best state in horticulture** at the **prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024**.
- This accolade highlights the state's commitment to innovative agricultural practices and rural development.

3.12 Second Phase of Construction Begins on World's Largest Ramayan Temple in Bihar

- The ambitious project to build the **"world's largest Ramayan temple"** has entered its **second phase of construction in East Champaran district of Bihar**.
- The **Viraat Ramayan Mandir**, as it is known, promises to be a monumental structure that will surpass the size of the recently constructed Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, drawing inspiration from various architectural marvels across Asia.
- **About Viraat Ramayan Mandir**
 - **Largest Hindu Temple:** The **Viraat Ramayan Mandir**, which is being built in **Kesaria, Bihar**, wants to be **bigger than Angkor Wat in Cambodia and become the world's biggest Hindu temple**.
 - **Architectural Grandeur:** The **200-acre temple complex** was built with help from Acharya Kishore Kunal and the Mahavir Mandir Trust from Patna. It is built in the **Nagara style** and has a center height of 270 feet and a hall that can hold 20,000 devotees.

3.13 Haryana Cabinet Approves IT Saksham Yuva Scheme to Provide 5,000 Jobs in First Phase

- The **Haryana Cabinet** has approved the launch of the **IT Saksham Yuva Scheme, 2024**, targeting the provision of **jobs to 5,000 youths in the first phase**.
- This initiative aligns with the **'Mission 60,000'** from the **2024-25 budget**, aiming to **employ 60,000 young individuals from poor families**.

3.14 East India's First Disabled Varsity at Ranchi: Jharkhand

- The **Jharkhand government** is working on a plan to **open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand)** a minister said on June 11.

3.15 CM Adityanath Inaugurates Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on June 12, in Lucknow that the **State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia**. And for the **first time** in its 160-year history, **Lucknow's famous Dussehri is to be exported to the United States**.
- He was inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024 at Awadh Shilp Gram.

3.16 Who is Sujata Saunik, Maharashtra's First Female Chief Secretary?

- According to reports, **Sujata Saunik is the first woman in Maharashtra history to be named Chief Secretary**.

3.17 Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Purchase of New VVIP Jet

- The **government of Madhya Pradesh** recently gave the go-ahead to **buy a new plane, a Challenger 3500 Jet Plane**. To **make it easier for VVIPs to get around**, this choice was made with the help of Chief Minister Mohan Yadip.

3.18 Adoption of National E-Vidhan Application (NEVA)

- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has also agreed to spend an estimated Rs 23.87 crore to set up the **National E-Vidhan Application (NEVA)**.
- The **goal** of this project, which **is part of the Center's Digital India program, is to make the state assembly online**. It plans to connect all state houses on a single digital platform, which will help the environment and make the government work more efficiently.
- Under the **NEVA funding plan**, the **Central government will pay 60%** of the project cost and the **state governments will pay the other 40%**. This is a big step forward in Madhya Pradesh's efforts to digitize its governmental processes.

3.19 Rajasthan Becomes First State to Adopt a Road Safety Action Plan

- **Rajasthan will be the first state** in India to **create a ten-year action plan** specifically designed to **improve road safety**.
- **Targeting a 50% drop in traffic accidents by 2030**, this plan was backed by Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa in July 2023.

3.20 Gujarat FDI Jumps 55%, Hits \$7.3 Billion in FY 2023-24

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** has grown a lot in Gujarat during the fiscal year **2023-24**, reaching a **total of USD 7.3 billion**.

- This is a **55% rise** from the previous year, **making the state, after Maharashtra, the second-highest receiver of FDI in India.**

3.21 41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest Found in Andhra Pradesh

- In **Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh**, archaeologists found an **ostrich nest that is 41,000 years old.**
- This is the **oldest known nest of its kind anywhere in the world.** The site gave us important information about the **megafauna** of prehistoric India, including possible hints about how they went extinct.
- **Megafauna** are **usually big animals that weigh more than 50 kg.** The word refers to a group of big animals, such as mega omnivores like ostriches, which can grow to be nine feet tall and weigh between 90 and 140 kg.

3.22 Hemant Soren Sworn In as Jharkhand CM Again

3.23 Second Regional Event of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to be held in Prayagraj, UP

- The **second regional event** of the '**Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman**' campaign, under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (**DISHA**), is scheduled to **take place in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** on the 16th of July 2024.
- This event commemorates the **75th anniversary of the adoption** of the Indian **Constitution** and India becoming a Republic.

3.24 CM Manik Saha Attends Kharchi Puja Celebrations In Agartala

- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about the historical background of **Kharchi Puja** and its fourteen deities. The inauguration of the traditional festival at the **Chaturdash Devta temple in old Agartala's Khayerpur** on June 14.

3.25 Bihar's First Transgender Sub-Inspectors Make History

- In a groundbreaking achievement, **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police.**

4 Defence News

4.1 Maitree Exercise 2024, Strengthening India-Thailand Military Cooperation

- July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in **India-Thailand relations.** The **13th edition of Exercise Maitree**, a **joint military exercise** between the **Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army**, kicks off at **Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand.**

- This **two-week exercise**, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.

4.2 Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief**, Air Chief Marshal **V R Chaudhari**, inaugurated the **Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad**, marking a significant advancement for the IAF.

4.3 India's Defence Production Hits All-Time High of Rs 1,26,887 Crore

- **India's defence sector** has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year **2023-24**, with **total annual defence production** reaching an **all-time high of Rs 1,26,887 crore**.

4.4 Defence Investiture Ceremony 2024: President Murmu Honors Gallantry Award Recipients

- On July 5, 2024, **President Droupadi Murmu** presided over the **Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I) at Rashtrapati Bhavan**, presenting Gallantry Awards to distinguished servicemen and women.

4.5 Indian Army Inducts First Indigenous Chip-Based 4G Base Station

- **Indian army** has **inducted the first-ever indigenous chip-based 4G mobile base station**, which it **procured from Bangalore-based firm Signaltron** through the government e-marketplace portal.
- Signaltron founder Himamshu Khasnis told PTI that the **chip used in the Sahyadri LTE base stations has been developed by Signalchip**.

4.6 India Unveils Indigenous Light Tank 'Zorawar'

- **India has unveiled the 'Zorawar' light tank**, developed jointly by **DRDO and Larsen & Toubro**, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in **high-altitude environments**.
- Designed within a record two-year timeframe, the tank features advanced weaponry and protection systems, including a 105mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor.
- **Named after General Zorawar Singh**, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.

4.7 DRDO Seven New Projects Awarded to Industries Under Technology Development Fund Scheme

- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has taken a significant step towards promoting self-reliance in the defense sector by awarding **seven new projects to industries under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**.

4.8 Indian Air Force Participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has embarked on a significant international engagement by **participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at their Base Darwin, **Australia**.
- This **biennial, multi-national exercise**, scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024, represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.

4.9 Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth Launches GAINS 2024 at GRSE

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated the **GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)** at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** in **Kolkata** on July 10, 2024.
- This initiative **aims to foster technological solutions for shipyard challenges** and promote innovation through Indian start-ups.

4.10 Indian Navy Joins World's Largest Naval Exercise RIMPAC

- As a participant in the **Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2024**, the Indian Navy has made a strong statement in the world of military exercises.
- This exercise is the **world's biggest international maritime warfare exercise**, and it **takes place in Hawaii** with a huge group of troops from around the world.
- The **Indian Navy sent the INS Shivalik**, a cutting-edge **multi-role stealth frigate**, to this important military gathering.

4.11 What is SEBEX 2, Most Powerful Non-Nuclear Explosive Developed by Indian Navy?

- **Together with Solar Industries**, the Indian Navy has created **SEBEX 2, a cutting-edge bomb** that is **2.01 times more powerful than TNT**. This is a very important step forward for India's Defense Export Promotion Scheme.
- **SEBEX 2 is made from High-Melting Explosives (HMX)**, which means it can greatly increase the destructive power of many weapons, like bombs, gun shells, and warheads, without adding any extra weight.
- With its approval, it is **one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives in the world**.

4.12 Nomadic Elephant-2024

- The **16th "Nomadic Elephant" Joint Military Exercise** will take place between the **Indian Army and the Mongolian Army** from July 3, 2024, to July 16, 2024.
- They are going to do this military drill in **Umroi, Meghalaya**. The goal of the exercise is to improve the two forces' ability to work together and communicate during semi-normal operations in semi-urban and mountainous areas, as directed by the UN.

5 Economy News & Banking News

5.1 Union Bank of India Introduces “Union Premier” Branches for Rural and Semi-Urban Markets

- **Union Bank of India** has **launched “Union Premier” branches** tailored for **high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets**.
- These branches are designed to **offer personalized banking services** and a comprehensive range of products under one roof.

5.2 RBI, ASEAN to Create Platform for Fast Cross-Border Retail Payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), along with the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** and **central banks of four ASEAN countries**, is collaborating on **Project Nexus**, a **multilateral initiative aimed at enabling efficient, faster, and cost-effective retail cross-border payments**.
- The platform is expected to **go live by 2026** and will **interlink domestic fast payment systems (FPS) of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and India**.

5.3 GST Collection in June 2024: Growth Slows to 7.7%

- In **June 2024**, India's gross goods and services tax (**GST**) **collection** reached **Rs 1.74 trillion**, marking a **7.7% year-on-year growth**, lower than previous months' increases of **12.4% in April** and **10% in May**.

5.4 Core Sector Growth Slows to 6.3% in May 2024

- In **May 2024**, **growth in India's core sector industries decelerated to 6.3% from 6.7% in April**, driven by varied performance across sectors.

5.5 ICICI Bank Launches Pre-Paid Sapphire Forex Card for International Students

- **ICICI Bank** announced the launch of its '**Student Sapphire Forex Card**', a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education.

5.6 RBI Slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) on **July 5 imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB)** for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

5.7 Private Sector Drives NPS Growth and Economic Activity

- The **National Pension System (NPS)** witnessed a robust **40.1% year-on-year growth**, reaching **₹2.47-lakh crore** by **June 29**, fueled largely by buoyant equity markets and expanding private sector subscriptions.

- **Overall NPS assets, including Atal Pension Yojana (APY), approached ₹12.5-lakh crore, marking a 28.64% increase, as per PFRDA data.**

5.8 RBI Approves Govind Singh's Re-Appointment as MD & CEO of Utkarsh SFB

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **re-appointment of Govind Singh** as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (**Utkarsh SFB**).

5.9 ICICI Lombard Introduces 'Elevate': Revolutionizing Health Insurance with AI

- **ICICI Lombard**, a leading **private general insurer in India**, has launched '**Elevate**', a **pioneering health insurance product integrating AI technology**.
- This innovative offering is designed to meet the diverse needs of modern lifestyles and unforeseen medical emergencies, emphasizing personalized solutions and comprehensive coverage.

5.10 RBI Launches Quarterly Manufacturing Survey for Q2 2024

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced its **quarterly "Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey" (OBICUS)** for the **manufacturing sector**, aimed at informing monetary policy decisions.

5.11 SEBI Issues New Guidelines to Enhance Credit Rating Agency Operations

- Markets regulator **SEBI** has issued **new guidelines** to **streamline operations and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies**.
- The circular introduces specific timelines for dealing with appeals made by companies regarding rating actions carried out during periodic surveillance of ratings.

5.12 Financial Inclusion Index Rises with Growth Across All Segments

- The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)**, which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, **rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023**.
- This improvement reflects **growth across all sub-indices**, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.

5.13 India's Economic Growth Highlights, June 2024

- In June 2024, India's economic landscape witnessed significant growth driven by robust performance in both manufacturing and services sectors.
- The Purchasing Managers' Index (**PMI**) for manufacturing soared, accompanied by strong hiring activity, marking a **19-year high**.
- Concurrently, the **Eight Core Industries Index expanded by 6.5% year-on-year** in the initial months of FY25, led by sectors like coal and electricity.

5.14 RBI Eases LRS Norms for Investment via GIFT IFSC

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has expanded the scope of remittances to **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**.
- This **allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC**, facilitating various financial services and products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

5.15 Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund Launches BSE PSU Index Fund

- **Kotak Mahindra AMC** has introduced the **Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund**, a passive equity scheme mirroring the BSE PSU Index comprising 56 PSU stocks.
- This fund **aims to capitalize on the strong momentum in public sector undertaking (PSU) stocks**, which have shown significant growth recently.

5.16 PNB Launches 'Safety Ring' to Enhance Internet and Mobile Banking Security

- In response to rising cyber fraud incidents, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has **introduced** the **'Safety Ring' security feature**.
- This optional mechanism provides an additional layer of protection against unauthorized access, aimed at minimizing potential financial losses for users of its internet and mobile banking services.

5.17 Inflation and Industrial Production Data – June 2024

- In June 2024, **India's retail inflation reached a four-month high of 5.08%**, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, particularly vegetables, amidst extended heatwave conditions.
- This surge marks the **57th consecutive month above the RBI's 4% target range**, limiting immediate prospects for interest rate cuts.

5.18 India's Industrial Production Growth Hits 5.9% in May 2024

- In May 2024, **India's industrial output expanded by 5.9% year-over-year**, marking the **highest growth in seven months**.

5.19 Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers for June 2024, based on a base year of 2012=100

- In **June 2024**, the **All India Consumer Price Index (CPI)** showed a year-on-year inflation rate of **5.08%**.
- This rate varied across rural and urban areas, with **rural inflation at 5.66% and urban inflation at 4.39%**. Compared to May 2024, inflation for essential sub-groups like 'Eggs', 'Spices', 'Meat & fish', and 'Pulses & products' decreased.

5.20 What is Angel Tax?

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) has suggested that the unpopular **“angel tax” on startups should be gotten rid of.**
- **Angel tax** is a tax **that private companies have to pay on raised money** that is more than their fair market value. It **mostly affects payments from angel investors**, which is how the name came about.
- **Section 56(2) VII B of the Income Tax Act put this tax in place.** It says that any premium on selling shares to foreign buyers is “income from other sources,” which means it needs to be taxed.
- The **angel tax was included in the 2012 Union Budget by Pranab Mukherjee**, who was Finance Minister at the time. Its goal was to stop people from moving money.
- In **April 2018, a big change was made:** startups didn't have to pay this tax if the total investment, including funds from angel investors, didn't go over 10 crore. However, they still had to get more licenses and valuation certificates.

5.21 What is Digital Bharat Nidhi?

- **India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** released draft rules for the **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** on July 4.
- The **goal is to improve and expand efforts to connect people to the Internet**, especially in **rural, remote, and poor urban areas.**
- This plan changes the current **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** by moving money to help make phone services more accessible and broad.

5.22 World Bank Approves \$1.5 Billion Loan For Low Carbon Energy Sector

- The **World Bank's** Board of Executive Directors June 28, **approved \$1.5 billion in financing for a second operation to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy.**
- The operation will seek to promote the development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments.

5.23 Bharat Bill Payment System

- **From July 1, all credit card payments made through third-party apps** must go through the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, which is what the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) wants.
- People with credit cards from big Indian banks will be affected by this restructuring. They won't be able to use platforms like CRED, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm to pay their bills unless they are integrated with BBPS.
- **Definition of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**
 - It is **run by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and is meant to make the **payment process faster for both companies and customers.**

Many different ways to pay are supported by this method, including both physical and digital ones. It lets people quickly and easily make transactions across a network of banks, apps, and websites. It also lets people choose from different payment ways to suit their needs.

- **Significance** of BBPS in Recent RBI Policies
 - The **goal** of adding BBPS is to make the **processing of credit card payments in India more consistent and safe**. The RBI wants to make things more regulated and clear by sending all third-party app payments through BBPS. This will lower the risks of illegal data access and financial mistakes. By combining different payment methods on a single site, this system also makes monitoring easier and transactions less complicated.
- **Current Integration Status with BBPS**
 - **Twelve Indian banks**, including well-known ones like SBI, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Bank, are **currently active members of the BBPS network** as of the prescribed date. Though, big banks like **HDFC Bank and Axis Bank** are **still working on connecting their systems to BBPS**.

6 Business News

6.1 RBI Ups Financial Accommodation For States/UTs By 28% To ₹60,118 Crore

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **increased the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28%**, from **₹47,010 crore to ₹60,118 crore**, effective from July 1, 2024.
- This revision, based on recommendations by a Group of select State Finance Secretaries and considering recent expenditure data, **aims to help States and UTs manage temporary mismatches in their cash flow**.

6.2 Paytm Launches 'Health Saathi' Plan at ₹35 per Month for Merchant Partners

- **One 97 Communications Limited**, the parent company of **Paytm**, has introduced '**Paytm Health Saathi**', an affordable **healthcare and income protection plan** tailored for its merchant partners.
- Available through the '**Paytm for Business**' app, this initiative aims to support the well-being and business continuity of Paytm's extensive network of merchants.

6.3 Indiabulls Housing Finance Rebrands as Sammaan Capital Limited

- **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has undergone a transformation, **rebranding itself to Sammaan Capital Ltd**.

6.4 Bajaj Rolls Out World's First CNG Bike, Gadkari Hails It as 'Eco-friendly' and 'Sustainable'

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bajaj Auto's** new bike, **Freedom**, the world's **first CNG motorcycle**.
- He praised it as **"eco-friendly"** and **"sustainable,"** highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.

6.5 ADB and AHFL Partner to Expand Housing Loans for Low-Income Women

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has entered into a **\$60 million financing agreement** with **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** to provide **housing loans to women in India**.
- The initiative aims to address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment.
- Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

6.6 ICICI Prudential Launches India's First Oil & Gas ETF

- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has made a significant move in the Indian investment landscape by **launching the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF**.
- This pioneering product marks the introduction of **India's first exchange-traded fund (ETF) specifically focused on the oil and gas sector**.

6.7 ADB to build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has made a major financial move to **support renewable energy** by **giving the ENGIE group a Rs 1,460 crore loan**.
- Using this money, a **400-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant will be built in Surendranagar, Gujarat**.
- This program fits with **India's big plan** to build at least **500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel energy output by 2030**.

6.8 Jio Financial Services Gets RBI Nod to Become Core Investment Company

- **Jio Financial Services** has **received approval from** the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to **transition from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to a Core Investment Company (CIC)**.

7 Important Days

7.1 GST Day 2024: Celebrating India's Unified Tax System

- **GST Day** in India is observed on **1st July** to celebrate the implementation of GST.

7.2 National Chartered Accountant (CA) Day 2024

- **National Chartered Accountant Day**, also known as **CA Day**, Celebrated annually on **July 1st** in India.

7.3 National Doctor's Day 2024

- **National Doctor's Day**, observed on **1st July every year**.

7.4 World Sports Journalists Day 2024

- **World Sports Journalists Day** is celebrated every year on **July 2** to honour those who bring sports stories to life – the sports journalists.

7.5 International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024

- **International Plastic Bag Free Day** is celebrated on **July 3 every year**.
- This special day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment.

7.6 International Day of Cooperatives 2024: Building a Better Future for All

- On **July 6, 2024**, cooperatives worldwide will celebrate the **International Day of Cooperatives** under the **theme "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All."**
- This special day highlights the crucial role cooperatives play in creating a sustainable future and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7.7 World Zoonoses Day 2024: Understanding and Preventing Animal-to-Human Diseases

- **World Zoonoses Day** is an important annual observance that **aims to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases** – infections that can spread from animals to humans.
- World Zoonoses Day is observed **annually on July 6. In 2024.**

7.8 World Population Day 2024

- As **July 11th** approaches, the world prepares to observe **World Population Day**.
- **Established by the United Nations in 1989**, this day serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness about pressing population issues that affect every corner of our planet.
- The **theme** for World Population Day 2024, **"Leave no one behind, count everyone,"**.

7.9 Every year on July 10th, India celebrates National Fish Farmer's Day

- Every year on **July 10th**, India celebrates **National Fish Farmer's Day** to honour the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture professionals, and stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

7.10 International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2024

- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **12 July** as the **International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms**.

7.11 World Youth Skills Day 2024

- **World Youth Skills Day**, observed **annually on July 15th**, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.
- As we approach the 2024 celebration, the **theme “Youth Skills for Peace and Development”** takes center stage, emphasizing the crucial role of young people in fostering peace and driving sustainable development.

8 Ranks & Reports

8.1 Tata Group Is India's Most Valuable Brand: Report

- **Tata Group** has maintained its position as **India's most valuable brand** with a **value of US\$ 28.6 billion**, marking a 9% increase from last year. **Infosys ranks second**, and **HDFC Group has surged to third** place following its merger with HDFC Ltd.

8.2 Longevity Revolution 2024: Pioneering Advances in Regenerative Medicine

- The **International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM)** and the **Anti-Ageing Foundation (India)** hosted the **9th Annual World Congress – Longevity Revolution 2024 in New Delhi**.
- The event featured advances in regenerative medicine, workshops, keynotes from renowned scientists, and discussions on aging, aesthetics, and health.

8.3 India Ranks Fifth in GenAI Innovations, China Leads

- **India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI) innovations**, **trailing behind China**, the **US**, **Republic of Korea**, and **Japan**.
- Despite India's position, the country has **shown the highest annual growth rate in GenAI patent publications**, with significant potential for economic impact.

8.4 RBI Report: India's Employment Growth at 6% in FY24 vs 3.2% in FY23

- **India's employment growth** provisionally **rose to 6% in FY24** compared to **3.2% in FY23**, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- This increase brought the **total employment to 643.3 million**, up from 596.7 million the previous year, with **46.7 million jobs created**.

8.5 NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24

- The **SDG India Index 2023-24** reveals significant national and subnational progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **India's composite score improved to 71**, reflecting advancements across key sectors like poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.

9 Awards News

9.1 P. Geetha Receives Inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award

- In a significant recognition of feminist literature and studies, writer, critic, and feminist activist **P. Geetha** has been awarded the **first K. Saraswathi Amma Award**.
- This prestigious accolade, **instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala**, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.

9.2 Agri-Entrepreneur Sopna Kallingal Secures Spice Award

- **Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation**, Thrissur, received **Spice Award 2024**, instituted by **ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research**.
- The award has been given to her for her initiatives in **enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies**, promoting a **sustainable spice-based cropping system**.

9.3 HCLTech's Roshni Nadar Malhotra Receives France's Highest Civilian Honour

- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of IT services firm HCLTech, has been conferred with the **"Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"** (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France.

9.4 Tamil writer Sivashankari selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award

- **Tamil literature**, renowned author **Sivashankari** has been selected as the **recipient** of the highly esteemed **Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award**.

9.5 PM Modi To Receive Russia's Highest Civilian Honour For "Outstanding Service"

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** ceremoniously presented with the **Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called**, which was **bestowed on him in the year 2019** at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin.
- The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the two countries.

9.6 Retired Tamil Nadu Professor K. Chockalingam Honoured with Prestigious Hans von Hentig Award

- In a significant recognition of his contributions to the field of **victimology**, retired professor **K. Chockalingam from Tamil Nadu**, India, has been selected for the esteemed **Hans von Hentig award**.
- This honour highlights the global impact of Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.

10 Science & Technology News

10.1 NASA To Carry 'Message In Bottle' To Europa, One Of Jupiter's Moon In October

- In October of this year, **NASA** will embark on its **Europa Clipper mission**, aiming to **explore Jupiter's moon Europa in search of signs of life**. Scientists are particularly interested in a potential salty lake hidden beneath its icy crust. As part of this mission, NASA plans to send a unique message to Europa, symbolizing human curiosity and creativity.

10.2 ISRO's Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) on June 2, announced that **India's inaugural solar mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point** on July 2.
- The orbit that Aditya-L1 is in is called the halo orbit, and it has a **revolution time of 178 days** around the L1 point. This path crosses the line that connects the Sun to Earth. **At this point, the spacecraft's orbital motion is balanced by the pull of gravity.**

10.3 ISRO Selects 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts For International Space Station Mission Under Axiom-4

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has **shortlisted two of its four** trained Gaganyaan astronauts **for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS)** in collaboration **with United States' NASA** later this year, according to officials in the know of the matter.
- Only one of the shortlisted astronauts will go on the mission which is supposed to take place "no earlier than October 2024," according to the information available on NASA website.

10.4 Europe's Ariane 6 Rocket Launched After 4-Year Delay

- **Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket** successfully blasted off for the first time, restoring the continent's independent access to space after a series of setbacks.

10.5 WHO Introduces MeDevIS Platform for Medical Device Information

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched **MeDevIS (Medical Devices Information System)**, an **online platform designed to be the first global open access clearing house for information on medical devices**.
- It aims to support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.
- MeDevIS has a **central, complete database that has important information about every medical gadget**. It tells users what kind of technology they need, what level of healthcare system they need, how big it's supposed to be, and what kind of infrastructure it needs to work with.

10.6 What Is Snowblind Malware?

- Promon, a cybersecurity company, recently found a new danger called **"Snowblind" malware**. This malware targets Android devices to steal banking information.
- **Snowblind is made to get into Android devices, get banking login information, and make deals without permission**. Very smart **malware** hides itself by **repackaging safe programs as harmful ones**. This way, it avoids being found by security software. People take advantage of accessibility features to steal private data and take control of an infected device from afar.

10.7 NASA's CHAPEA Project (Cumulative Habitat for Extraterrestrial and Planetary Analysis and Exploration)

- It is called **"Mars Dune Alpha"** and is a **1,700-square-foot building made with 3D printing at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas**.
- It has bedrooms, bathrooms, a work area, a robot station, a gym, and a vertical farm, among other things. It is next to a 1,200-square-foot area that is **used to simulate events that would happen outside of vehicles on Mars**. The setup includes red, rocky cliffs and simulated Martian dirt to make the experience more real.
- The main reason for this long-term engagement was **to collect information on the physical and mental effects of a Mars-like environment**, such as being alone, having limited resources, and having to wait for messages to arrive.

10.8 Massive Black Hole Discovered in Omega Centauri

- New studies published in the journal Nature have proven that the **Omega Centauri star cluster has an intermediate-mass black hole**.
- This group of galaxies, which is only 18,000 light-years away, is **now the nearest huge black hole known to our solar system**.

10.9 New Microcontinent Discovered Off West Greenland

- Scientists have recently **found a hidden microcontinent in the Davis Strait, west of Greenland**. They **have named it the Davis Strait proto-microcontinent**.
- This finding shows how complicated tectonic movements have changed the Earth's geological structure over time.

10.10 James Webb Telescope Captures Quasar's 'Einstein Ring'

- A fascinating picture of a "bejeweled" cloud of light around a quasar was recently taken by the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**.
- **This picture shows an "Einstein ring,"** which is made up of four bright spots around the halo of **quasar RX J1131-1231**, which is about 6 billion light-years away in the constellation Crater.
- A **quasar is basically a supermassive black hole in the middle of a young galaxy**. It is busy consuming huge amounts of matter, which releases strong energy jets into space.

10.11 What is a Super-Earth?

- New information has been found about **LHS 1140 b, an exoplanet** 48 light-years away in the constellation Cetus.
- The team of foreign researchers was led by the Université de Montréal. Their study, which was published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters, suggests that **LHS 1140 b may be a super-Earth** that is **probably full of water or ice**.

10.12 NASA's GOLD Satellite Discovers Unusual Ionospheric Shapes

- **NASA's GOLD satellite** has recently been **studying the ionosphere**, an important part of Earth's atmosphere for long-distance communication. **This layer**, which is mostly **made up of electrically charged plasma or gas**, is very **important for radio messages to travel**.
- The **Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk (GOLD) satellite from NASA** was launched in October 2018 and is **watching over the ionosphere** in the Western Hemisphere.
- The **GOLD project has recently seen strange X- and C-shaped structures** in the ionosphere. These structures usually show up when there are geomagnetic disturbances.

10.13 What is Aphelion?

- **The Earth hit aphelion in July** of this year. This is the point in its orbit **where it is farthest from the Sun**.
- This event happens **once a year** and marks an important but little-known part of how our planet's rotation works.

10.14 World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control

- **Oran Knowlson**, a teenager from the United Kingdom, has made medical history as the **first person in the world to receive a brain implant designed to control epileptic seizures**.
- A deep brain stimulation (DBS) implant, a new and innovative device, has made his life a lot better by cutting down on his everyday seizures by 80%.

10.15 What is Meta 3D Gen?

- A new technology called **Meta 3D Gen**, which was **launched by Mark Zuckerberg's company Meta**, lets you make 3D assets by following text prompts.
- This new technology, which came out on July 2, is meant to save a lot of time and make it possible to make hyper-realistic video games, movie effects, and other things.

10.16 What is Radical CAR-T Therapy?

- **Car-T therapy**, which is also called "**chimeric antigen receptor T-cell**" therapy, is a **new and innovative way to treat cancer**.
- Car-T treatment **takes T-cells from a patient, changes them** in a lab so they can better fight cancer cells, and **then adds more of them to the patient's body**. This medicine has worked very well, especially for lymphomas and multiple myeloma which are hard to treat.

10.17 SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission: First Commercial Spacewalk

- **SpaceX plans to launch Polaris Dawn**, a commercial space project that is coming up soon.
- It is a big step forward for **civilian space travel** because it has the **first private extravehicular activity, or "spacewalk,"** and its **crew is made up of only civilians**.

11 Appointments News

11.1 CS Setty Gets FSIB Approval To Head SBI As Next Chairman

- **Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)** has selected **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** as the next **chairman** of State Bank of India (**SBI**).
- **Setty will succeed** the current chairman, **Dinesh Khara**, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman.

11.2 Ravi Agrawal Appointed CBDT Chief, Succeeds Nitin Gupta

- **Ravi Agrawal**, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new **chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. He **succeeds Nitin Gupta**.

11.3 Puma India, Roped Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as ambassadors

- **Puma India**, a leading sports brand, announced **two new brand ambassadors: Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy**.

11.4 Justice Sheel Nagu Appointed Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court

- **Justice Sheel Nagu** has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court**, following a notification by the Centre on Thursday.

11.5 RBI Appoints Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **appointed Smt. Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director (ED)**, effective from July 1, 2024.

11.6 LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty Re-Designated Managing Director & CEO

- State-owned life insurer Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**) has **redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as chief executive officer and managing director** with effect from 30 June 2024.

11.7 Elisa de Anda Madrazo Assumes FATF Presidency for 2024-2026

- **Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of **Mexico** has assumed the **presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for a **two-year term** from July 2024 to June 2026.

11.8 Supreme Court Appoints Former CJI to Head VC Selection Committee in West Bengal

- On July 9, 2024, a division bench of the Supreme Court, passed an order appointing former Chief Justice of India, **Uday Umesh Lalit, as the chairman** of the **search and selection committee** for **appointing vice-chancellors in West Bengal's state-run universities**.

11.9 Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Appointed as Principal Adviser for National TB Elimination Programme

- Prof. (**Dr.**) **Soumya Swaminathan** has been **appointed as the Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme** at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- About **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**
- The NTEP is a crucial public health initiative by the Indian government aimed at:
 - **Eliminating TB** as a major health concern within India.
 - Achieving the target of **terminating TB by 2025**, which is **five years ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal deadline**.

11.10 IEX Board Announces Key Leadership Appointments

- The **board of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)** has approved the **reappointment of Satyanarayan Goel as its Chairman and Managing Director** for a **three-year term** starting August 10, 2024.

11.11 Rajat Sharma Elected as NBDA President

- In a significant development for the Indian media landscape, **Rajat Sharma**, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously **elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)**.

- 11.12 Government Appoints Robert J Ravi as New CMD of BSNL
- 11.13 Paytm Payments Bank Appoints Arun Bansal as New CEO
- 11.14 Olympian PV Sindhu Joins Wellness Brand Hoop as Investor, Brand Ambassador
- 11.15 Dr. B.N. Gangadhar named as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission
- 11.16 Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna Appointed New Additional NSA
- 11.17 SBI General Insurance Names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO
- 11.18 Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi Appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court
- 11.19 Dr. B.N. Gangadhar named as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission
- 11.20 Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna Appointed New Additional NSA
- 11.21 SBI General Insurance Names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO
- 11.22 Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi Appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court

12 Agreements News

12.1 SERA and Blue Origin Announce India as Partner Nation for Human Spaceflight Program

- **Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA)** and **Blue Origin** have **designated India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight initiative**, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity.
- The program offers six seats aboard **Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket**, taking participants on an **11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line**, the **boundary of space**.

12.2 Philippines and Japan Strengthen Security Ties with New Agreement

- The **Philippines and Japan** have taken a big step in their security relationship.
- They signed a new deal that **allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily**. This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.

12.3 India and Russia Aim for \$100 Billion Trade

- At the **22nd yearly summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Moscow**, India and Russia announced a plan to improve their strategic economic cooperation.
- **India and Russia** have set a **target to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030**, emphasizing economic collaboration in energy, trade, manufacturing, and fertilizers.
- Discussions included balancing trade, reducing non-tariff barriers, and exploring an India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Area.

12.4 ICAI and MeitY Collaborate on AI Audit Tool for Corporate India

- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has initiated talks with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** to develop an **AI Audit Tool** aimed at overseeing corporate India and detecting frauds.

12.5 IIT Bombay, IRS Collaborate on Maritime Safety Tool

- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (**IIT Bombay**) and the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** have recently announced that they will be **working together to make the seas safer** by creating a **new tool that can predict where ships will go**.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the two groups to make this project official.

12.6 India-Russia JV Completes AK-203 Rifle Production Phase

- After working together for a while, **India and Russia** have finished the **first part of their joint venture to make AK-203 assault rifles**.

12.7 India, Bangladesh Sign Defence Industrial Partnership Deal

- Since Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's trip to India in June, the two countries' military cooperation has come a long way. This visit paved the way for a **stronger defense relationship** between the two countries.
- The **Bangladesh Navy's decision to buy an 800-ton oceangoing tug** that was "**Made in India**" is a big result of this better defense cooperation.
- The Indian **company Garden Reach Shipbuilding & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** made **this ship**, and India is paying for it with a line of credit.

13 Schemes In News

13.1 MoSPI Launches eSankhyiki Portal for Enhanced Data Access

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) has introduced the **eSankhyiki portal to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience**.

- This initiative **aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data**, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

13.2 NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme Launch Day, A New Era of Social Security in Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the **NTR Bharosa pension scheme**, fulfilling a key election promise and bringing hope to millions of beneficiaries across the state.

13.3 Smart Cities Mission in India Extended to 2025

- The **Government of India** announced a significant **extension** to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The **Smart Cities Mission**, originally set to conclude on **June 30, 2024**, will **now continue until March 31, 2025**.

13.4 Ministry of Culture Initiates Project PARI for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting

- India, a vibrant center of artistic expression, has a rich history of public art reflecting its cultural and spiritual diversity. **Project PARI (Public Art of India)**, initiated by the **Ministry of Culture** and **executed by Lalit Kala Akademi** and the **National Gallery of Modern Art**, seeks to **blend India's millennia-old artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques**.

13.5 Government to Launch 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE)

- The **"Agri-SURE"** fund was created by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** because agriculture needs new and long-lasting ways to grow right away.
- The project is **being run by NABVENTURES**, a **branch of NABARD**, and has a starting fund of Rs 750 crore.
- The fund's goal is to boost the agricultural industry by helping new businesses and rural businesses that use technology to solve problems.
- The **"Agri-SURE"** fund has **750 crore** rupees in it, which was given by **NABARD, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other organizations**, with **each giving 250 crore** rupees. This large amount of money shows that both the public and private sectors are determined to close the innovation and funding gap in agriculture.
- The fund's main goal is to improve the farming value chain by **giving direct equity support and investing in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** that are both sector-specific and sector-agnostic.
- About **NABARD**
 - **Apex Financing Agency**: Established on **July 12, 1982**, by an **act of the Indian Parliament**, NABARD serves as the **apex financing agency** for institutions

providing investment and production credit to promote agriculture, cottage, and rural industries.

- **SHG Bank Linkage Programme:** NABARD's "SHG Bank Linkage Program" has helped millions of poor people in rural areas by connecting self-help groups with banks. This has made it easier for people in rural areas to get credit and use banking services.
- **Mandate and Functions:** NABARD took the place of RBI's Agricultural Credit Department and Rural Planning and Credit Cell. It is **run by the Ministry of Finance**. As a key part of the Indian government's strategy for financial inclusion, it makes it easier for credit to flow for rural development.

14 Sports News

14.1 India Wins T20 World Cup 2024, BCCI Announces Rs 125 Crore Prize

- **India's cricket team won the T20 World Cup, beating South** in a historic win. It was their first title in 13 years. It hit the effects in an exciting **final that took place in Barbados**.
- After the win, there was a lot of feeling as key players like **Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli** said they were **quitting T20 internationals**. Soon after, **Ravindra Jadeja also said he was retiring from T20Is**.

14.2 Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Chess Championship

- **Viswanathan Anand**, the former world chess champion from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He **won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time**, defeating Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1.

14.3 George Russell Triumphs in Dramatic Austrian Grand Prix 2024

- The **Austrian Grand Prix 2024** will be remembered as a day of unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a stunning **victory for George Russell of Mercedes**.

14.4 Neeraj Chopra To Lead 28-Member Squad in Paris Olympics

- A **28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra**, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

14.5 Kolkata, Kokrajhar, Jamshedpur & Shillong to host 133rd Durand Cup

- The **Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious club-based football tournament**, is set to enter its **133rd edition in 2024**.
- This historic competition, which has been a cornerstone of Indian football for over a century, continues to evolve and expand, bringing together the best teams from across the country.

14.6 Four Different Venues To Host Durand Cup 2024 Starting July 27

- The **Durand Cup 2024** football tournament will start from July 27 with the **final scheduled at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata** on August 31.
- **First played in 1888**, the Durand Cup is India's oldest football tournament and serves as the opener for the Indian domestic season.

14.7 PM Hosts ICC T20 World Cup Winners, 2024

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** hosted the **T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team** for breakfast on June 4.

14.8 Lewis Hamilton Wins the British Grand Prix 2024

- **Lewis Hamilton** has **won the British Grand Prix 2024**.
- He **became the first F1 driver to win on any track nine times** and also extended his **F1 record to 104 wins**.

14.9 Gagan Narang Appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for Paris Olympics 2024

- Four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist **Gagan Narang** has been appointed as **India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics**.

14.10 PV Sindhu, Sharath Kamal confirmed as India's flag bearers for Paris Olympics

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has announced that **India will continue the tradition of having two flag bearers for the Paris 2024 Olympics**, following the precedent set at Tokyo 2020.
- **PV Sindhu**, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the **female flag bearer** for the Indian contingent.
- **Sharath Kamal**, the veteran table tennis player, will **serve as the male flag bearer**.

14.11 Jasprit Bumrah and Mandhana Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards

- **Jasprit Bumrah** was named the **'ICC Men's Player of the Month for June'**, cementing his status as one of cricket's premier fast bowlers.
- **Smriti Mandhana**, the vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team, secured her first **ICC Women's Player of the Month award**.

14.12 Adani Group Announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics

- In a significant development for Indian sports, **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the **Adani Group**, has declared that the conglomerate **will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics**.

14.13 Indian Squash Players Triumph at Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024

- **Indian squash players** secured **two titles** at the recently concluded **Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024** held at the **Arena Emas in Johor, Malaysia**.
- The Indian team clinched **victories in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles** categories.

14.14 PUMA Partners with the Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024

- Sports brand **PUMA India** has announced a significant partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, becoming **the Official Footwear Partner** for the **Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics 2024**.

14.15 Indian Badminton Players Triumph at 3rd BWF Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024

- The **3rd BWF Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024**, held from July 3 to 7 in **Saint-Denis**, the capital of the French overseas département of Réunion in the Western Indian Ocean, saw Indian badminton players dominate the tournament.
- They **secured both the men's and women's singles titles**, showcasing India's growing prowess in international badminton.

14.16 James Anderson Retires from Test Cricket: End of an Era for England

- In a momentous occasion for cricket fans worldwide, **James Anderson**, the veteran English speedster, has officially announced his **retirement from Test cricket**.
- The 41-year-old bowler's illustrious career, spanning an **impressive 21 years**, came to a close at the very ground where it all began – the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

14.17 Who is Yaroslava Mahuchikh?

- On July 7th, **Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine** broke the world record for the **highest jump by a woman**.
- The old record had stood since 1987. In the Paris Diamond League, she reached an amazing height of 2.10 meters.

14.18 Wimbledon 2024 Final, Check Complete Winners List

- **Carlos Alcaraz** defended his Wimbledon title as he **defeated Novak Djokovic** 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 in the **Wimbledon 2024 final**.
- At 21, **Alcaraz is the youngest player in open era to win men's singles at Wimbledon and Roland Garros in the same year**.

- On Women's Category, **Barbora Krejcikova defeated Jasmine Paolini** in their Wimbledon 2024 singles showdown, at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

14.19 Spain Clinches Euro 2024 Title with Dramatic Victory over England

- In a thrilling finale to **Euro 2024**, **Spain secured their fourth European Championship trophy** with a nail-biting 2-1 **victory over England** at the Olympiastadion in Berlin.
- This win cements **Spain's status as the most successful nation** in the tournament's history and marks their third title in the last five editions.

14.20 India Champions Triumph in World Championship of Legends 2024

- In a riveting finale of the **World Championship of Legends 2024**, **India Champions clinched** a memorable **victory** against their arch-rivals **Pakistan Champions** by five wickets

14.21 Gautam Gambhir Appointed India's New Cricket Head Coach

- **Gautam Gambhir** has been named as the **new head coach of the Indian men's cricket team** by Jay Shah, who is the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **About the Indian men's cricket team**
 - In **1932**, India's men's cricket team played its **first Test match**, which was **against England**.
 - In **1971**, **Ajit Wadekar led India to wins in the Test series against the West Indies and England**. He was the first captain to do this.
 - In **1933**, **Lala Amarnath** was the **first Indian player to score a hundred in a Test match**.
 - In 1983, Kapil Dev led the team to its first Cricket World Cup victory.
 - In 1999, Anil Kumble took all 10 wickets in one game against Pakistan. This is a very rare feat in international cricket.
 - India's best-ever Test score was 759/7d, which they got against England in 2016.

14.22 Gautam Gambhir Appointed Head Coach of India Men's Team

14.23 Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja Retires From T20 Internationals

15 Summits and Conferences News

15.1 Global IndiaAI Summit 2024: Empowering Responsible AI Development and Adoption

- The '**Global IndiaAI Summit 2024**' commences today in **New Delhi**, hosted by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement. It will feature sessions on IndiaAI's strategic pillars, including compute capacity, datasets platform, innovation centers, and skills development.

15.2 24th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit: Key Highlights

- The **24th Meeting** of the Council of Heads of State of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** took place on July 4, 2024, in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- This important gathering brought together leaders from various countries to discuss regional cooperation and security issues.

15.3 Laos Gears Up to Host 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- **Laos** authorities have discussed preparations for the **57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting** and related meetings, scheduled to take place in the Laos capital Vientiane from July 21 to 27.

15.4 NATO Summit: Biden Hosts Historic Meeting with Strong Support for Ukraine

- The **NATO summit**, hosted by President Joe Biden in Washington, DC from July 9 to 11, marks a pivotal moment for the alliance.
- It will **include Sweden as a new member**, highlighting NATO's expansion and unity amidst global challenges.
- The summit, **commemorating NATO's 75th anniversary**, underscores its role in Euro-Atlantic security and collective defense against evolving threats.

15.5 Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to Lead Indian Delegation to BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- **Om Birla**, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, will head a prominent **Indian parliamentary delegation** to the **10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** in **St. Petersburg, Russia**.

15.6 Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS)

- The **Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS)** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam** in Pragati Maidan from July 4–7, 2024.
- The event is being put together by the **All India Plastic Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA)** and the **Chemicals and Petrochemicals Association (CPMA)**.

- The **main goal** of this event is to **raise awareness about the serious problems caused by plastic use** and its effect on the earth by supporting recycling and sustainability efforts.

15.7 World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit From 20th -24th November In Goa

- **India** will **host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit** in November alongside the International Film Festival of India **in Goa**.
- I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector.

16 Miscellaneous News

16.1 UNESCO Expands World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of **11 new Biosphere Reserves across 11 countries**.
- This expansion brings the **total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to an impressive 759**, spanning 136 countries worldwide.

16.2 New Deep-Water Shark Species Discovered in Kerala

- At **Sakthikulangara fishing harbor in Kerala**, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) found a **new species of deep-water dogfish shark**. They named it **Squalus hima**.
- **Spurdogs are a type of dog in the genus Squalus**, which is in the family Squalidae. These **dogfish sharks** are known for **having smooth spines on their dorsal fins** and can be found in many marine settings around the world.
- Zoological Survey of India (**ZSI**)
 - **Establishment and Purpose: Founded on July 1, 1916**, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is dedicated to the systematic survey, exploration, and research of India's fauna. Initially established to promote zoological studies, **ZSI is headquartered in Kolkata**.

16.3 New Horned Frog Species Discovered in Northeast India

- **Xenophrys apatani** is a **new species of horned frog** that was just named by scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- The find was made in the **Tale Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh**, which is in the heavily forested northeastern parts of India.

16.4 What is 'Senna spectabilis'?

- Environmental groups in Wayanad have asked the Forest Department to be more clear about their plan to **get rid of Senna spectabilis** from the **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It is known that this **alien species hurts the habitats of native animals in the Nilgiri Biosphere**.

16.5 World's Oldest Cave Painting Discovered in Indonesia

- **On the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia**, archaeologists have found the **world's oldest known cave picture** with a date that can be trusted.
- This piece of art was **found on the roof of Leang Karampuang cave**. It was made **at least 51,200 years ago**.
- Figures that look like people and a wild pig are engaging in what looks like a scene from a story. This new information changed when the first known stories told through art happened.

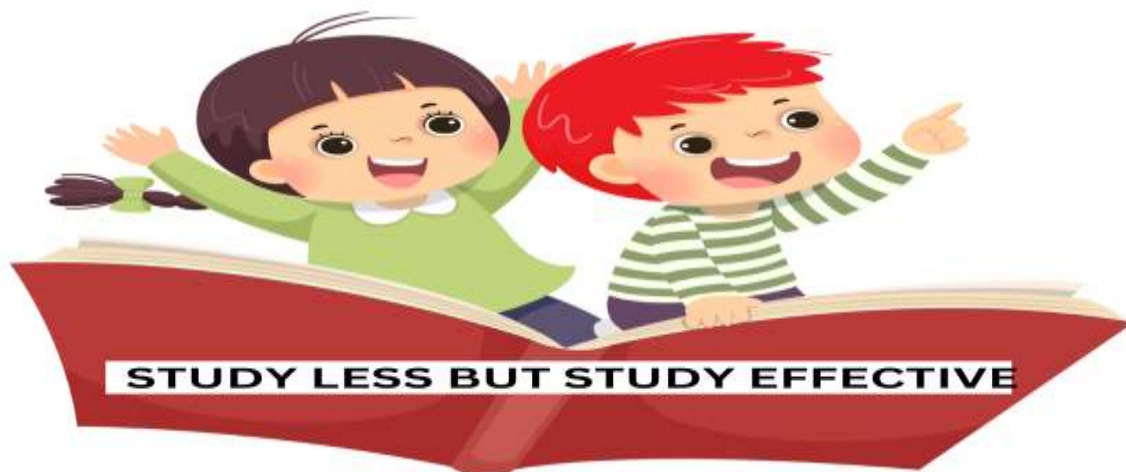
16.6 Rare and Fatal Brain-Eating Amoeba Infection

- **Three people** have recently **died** in Kerala, from **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**, a cancerous brain illness.
- **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**
 - PAM is an acute disease that can be deadly. It is **caused by Naegleria fowleri**, an **amoeba that lives in warm freshwater places like lakes and rivers**. When people do things like swim, this amoeba can get into their brains through their noses. It's **sometimes called the "brain-eating amoeba"** because it destroys brain tissue, which leads to serious swelling and death.

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







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