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NEWS

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News

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
JUNE 2024-WEEK 2

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. India participated in the **BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Foreign Ministers meeting** held in **Nizhny Novgorod, Russia**. This is the first meeting of foreign ministers since the expansion of BRICS in 2023.

The two-day meeting chaired by Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov** comes ahead of the BRICS Summit slated to be held this October.

Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), led the Indian side at the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting.

The 10 full members of the association include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa with new members Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia joining the grouping in 2023.

Russia took over the chairmanship of BRICS on January 1, 2024.

2. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav has unveiled a new corporate identity with the launch of a logo of its Infrastructure Investment Trust, **National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT)**.

The launch of a new corporate identity marks a significant milestone in NHIT's evolution.

The new logo aims to bolster NHIT's brand visibility with various stakeholders and align its image with its core values of Accountability, Agility, Continuous Learning, Excellence, Integrity, and Collaboration.

NHIT was registered as a trust with SEBI in October 2020, to support the Government of India's National Monetization Pipeline (NMP). With the completion of three rounds of monetization, the total realized value of all three rounds performed by NHIT stands at Rs. 26,125 crore.

3. The Central Government has released **Rs. 1,39,750 crore** installment of **Tax Devolution to States**. The release, which includes both the regular allocation for June 2024 and an additional installment, is aimed at bolstering state government capacity to accelerate development and capital expenditure.

The **Interim Budget 2024-25** has a provision of **Rs. 12,19,783 crore** towards devolution of taxes to States.

With this release, the total amount devolved (for FY 2024-25) to States till 10 June 2024 is **Rs. 2,79,500 crore**.

States with significant allocations include Uttar Pradesh which stands at 25 thousand crores, followed by 14 thousand crores for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal nearly ten thousand crore rupees each.

4. The **Union Ministry of Education** has formed a **four-member panel** to revisit the results of over 1,500 students who were given grace marks as compensation for loss of time during the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET-UG) for admissions to undergraduate medical courses.

The panel will be headed by a **former UPSC chairperson**.

The committee will submit its recommendations within a week and the results of these candidates might be revised.

The results of medical/dental entrance tests were announced on June 4, and thereafter, aspirants have been alleging multiple issues, demanding a fresh examination.

Many aspirants have also approached courts for relief on the matter. The exams recorded over 24 lakh registrations and 97% attendance.

5. The **8th edition** of the bilateral **Japan–India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX 24)** was held in Yokosuka, Japan. Indian Navy's Indigenous Stealth Frigate **INS Shivalik** participated in the exercise.

The **Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri** of Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) also participated in the exercise.

Integral helicopters from both navies also participated in the joint exercise.

The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases. The harbour phase comprises professional, sports, and social interactions, after which the two navies jointly hone their warfighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

JIMEX was commenced in 2012.

6. The '**Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)**', the **fifth** Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (**SEPPL**), Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy (IN), has been launched at M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Ltd, **Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra** (launch site of SEEPL).

The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Manish Vig, General Manager (QA), ND(Mbi).

The contract for building **08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge** was signed between MoD and M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam on 19 February 2021. The availability of these Barges would provide impetus to operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation, and Disembarkation of articles/ ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

These Barges are indigenously designed and built under relevant Naval Rules and Regulations of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

7. **Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev** became the **Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot** during a passing out parade held in the naval air station INS Rajali at Arakkonam in Ranipet district. She became the first woman pilot who will be allowed to fly helicopters such as Sea Kings, ALH Dhruvs, Chetaks, and MH-60R Seahawks.

In another feat, Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first commissioned naval officer from Ladakh, also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot.

Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev and Lt Jamyang Tsewang are among 21 officers awarded the "Golden Wings" by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, at the passing-out parade at INS Rajali.

The Navy has already deployed women pilots for its Dornier-228 maritime surveillance aircraft.

Note: In 2018, flying officer Avani Chaturvedi of the Indian Air Force scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. She flew a MiG-21 Bison on her first solo flight.

8. The Vice Chief of the Indian Army, Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, has launched the '**Vidyut Rakshak**', a new Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled integrated generator tracking, protection, and control system. The IoT is a network of interrelated devices that connect and exchange data with other IoT devices and the cloud.

The system is developed by the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)**.

This system also enables fault prediction, and prevention and automates manual operation through a user-friendly interface, saving manpower.

Both the Indian Army and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi worked together to make Vidyut Rakshak. There was a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Aero India 2023 that made it easier to make this new method. Vidyut Rakshak has been developed by **Major Rajprasad R S** and was displayed recently during the 'Exercise Bharat Shakti'

The Army also secured a patent for another innovation of Major Rajprasad called the 'Portable Multi-Target Detonation Device', which has already been inducted into the Indian Army.

Note: In 2024, the Indian Army is observing the 'Year of Tech Absorption.'

9. The University Grants Commission (UGC) allowed **Indian universities and higher education institutions (HEIs)** to admit students twice a year, similar to foreign universities.

From the 2024-25 academic session, the two admission cycles will be in **July-August and January-February**.

The biannual admissions are not mandatory, but the decision now provides flexibility to institutions that might want to increase their student intake and offer new programs in emerging areas.

The UGC first attempted this biannual admission process with open and distance learning (ODL), and online mode programmes.

This biannual admission system can apply to PhD, postgraduate and undergraduate programmes.

10. The two-day **Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners/secretaries (Disaster Management) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence, Home Guard & Fire Services of State/UTs-2024** held in **New Delhi**.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, **Dr P. K. Mishra** chaired the valedictory session.

The two-day conference was attended by more than 300 delegates from State Governments / UTs, Ministries/Departments/Organizations of Central Government, and SDRFs/Fire Services in the States/UTs.

During the two-day conference, various sessions were organized and the experts dwelled upon subjects like Early Warning, Post Disaster Loss Assessment, Roles of Disaster Response Forces, Coastal Hazards, satellite-based early warning on tsunami, storm surges, and cyclones, etc.

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** organizes the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of States/ UTs to review their preparedness for dealing with any natural disaster, which may occur during the monsoon period.

NDRF organizes capacity-building conferences for State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs), Civil Defence, Home Guard & Fire Services of States/ UTs for the preparedness of response forces.

- 11. The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** organized a two-day National Conference, 'PRANA' Protecting Rights and Novelties in ASUS (Mind to Market for Indian System of Medicines [ISM] Professionals) in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education and Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell to mark its **fourth foundation**.

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine is the statutory body constituted under the NCISM Act, 2020 vide Gazette notification extraordinary part II section 1 dated 21.09.2020 and which came into force on the 11th of June 2021.

The Commission ensures the availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM); the adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals of the Indian System of Medicine; and periodic assessment of ISM medical institutions.

- 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** attended the annual **G7 summit** held in **Borgo Egnazia (Fasano) in Apulia, Italy** from 13 to 15th June 2024. This summit marked the **50th anniversary** of the G7 group.

Key Highlights of the 50th G7 Summit:

- Leaders decided to promote concrete G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives. This initiative was launched by the US and G7 allies at the 48th G7 Summit in 2022 that aims to narrow the USD 40 trillion infrastructure gap in the developing world. Under this, G7 will mobilize **USD 600 billion by 2027** to deliver infrastructure projects to developing and middle-income countries.
- G7 extended support for the Lobito Corridor in Central Africa and Luzon Corridor and the Middle Corridor.
- The G7 leaders commit to step up efforts to enhance interoperability amongst their AI governance approaches to promote greater certainty, transparency, and accountability.
- The G7 agreed to provide financing of approximately **USD 50 billion** in additional funding to Ukraine by the end of 2024.

Group of Seven (G7):

It is an informal forum that brings together **Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America**. The European Union also participates in the

Group and is represented at the summits by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

- 13.**The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, facilitated the successful export of the first consignment of **MD 2 variety pineapples** to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

The consignment comprises 8.7 metric tons (650 boxes) of the prized MD 2 pineapples.

The MD 2 pineapple, also known as "Golden Ripe" or "Super Sweet," has become the gold standard in the pineapple industry, with significant cultivation in countries like Costa Rica, the Philippines, and Thailand. It is renowned for its exceptional sweetness and quality.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR CCARI) provided essential technical support for post-harvest management and development of sea protocol for the MD 2 pineapple produced in the Sindhudurg district of the Konkan region in Maharashtra.

STATES AFFAIRS

- 14.**The **Uttar Pradesh** government has unveiled its plans for the **MotoGP** event as it will be hosted by the city of **Noida** from **2025 until 2029**. The state government has collaborated with **Spain's Dorna Sports** and the Indian partner which is **Fairstreet Sports**. to organize the event.

Initially, the event was to take place in 2024 but resulted in postponement due to weather conditions and is now slated for March 2025.

As per the agreement, the UP government will pay **Rs.80 crore** to Dorna Sports as licensing fee. In 2023, the MotoGP event was held at Buddha International Circuit in Greater Noida. Italy Marco Bezzecchi emerged as the winner in the event.

- 15.**'**Nakshatra Sabha**', India's first-of-its-kind astro-tourism campaign, was organized by the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board** in association with the leading private astro-tourism company, Starscapes at the **George Everest Peak** in **Mussoorie**.

It aims to attract astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travelers to marvel at the wonders of the universe while enjoying the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.

The state is host to popular Hindu pilgrimage sites like Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, etc which attract lakhs of pilgrims from the country annually.

- 16.**The **Indore constituency in Madhya Pradesh** has set a new record with the highest-ever number of **NOTA (None of the Above)** votes polled at **218,674**. This is the new record for the highest votes secured by NOTA.

The option of NOTA was introduced in **2013**, which gives voters the option to not select any of the contesting candidates.

- 17.****Haryana Police** has secured the **first position** in the country in **blocking mobile numbers** involved in cybercrime.

According to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, a total of 5 lakh 46 thousand mobile numbers involved in cybercrime were blocked across the country from 1st January to 31st April this year, out of which 1 lakh 11 thousand 349 mobile numbers were blocked by Haryana Police. This is the second major achievement of Haryana Police at the national level regarding cybercrime control.

18. Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has announced that the state government will develop **the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit** with an investment of **Rs 100 crore**.

This announcement was made during the inauguration of the Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebration in Udaipur, where the 484th birthday of the legendary Maharana Pratap of Mewar was celebrated on 9 June 2024 (according to the Hindu calendar).

Under the project, the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation will develop museums and basic amenities for tourists and improve the overall connectivity to these places.

The Mewar Complex Circuit was launched by the Rajasthan Government in 2005 with the financial assistance of the central government to develop the tourist spot in the region.

The two phases of the Mewar Complex circuit have been completed and the third phase of the project has been renamed as the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit.

19. The Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries in **Bihar** have been recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. This brings the total number of such wetlands in India to **82**.

Bihar now has three Ramsar sites. The first one was Kanwar Lake in Begusarai district, which was declared a Ramsar site in 2020.

Nagi Bird Sanctuary: It was notified as the **81st Ramsar Site** of India. The Nagi wetland area spread over 791 hectares in the Jamuai district of Bihar, is a man-made site created by constructing a dam on the Nagi River.

Nakti Bird Sanctuary: It is the **82nd Ramsar site** in India. It is also a man-made site created by Nakti Dam and is spread across 332 hectares. It is near the Nagi Bird Sanctuary and is also located in the Jamuai district of Bihar.

20. The 18th edition of the **Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF - 2024)** will be held at the National Film Development Corporation – Films Division Complex, Mumbai from June 15 to June 21, 2024.

The film gala, which showcases non-feature films (documentary, short fiction, and animation) will be at the FD-NFDC Complex in Mumbai.

Besides, MIFF screenings will also be held in Delhi at Sirifort Auditorium, Chennai at Tagore Film Centre, Pune at NFAI Auditorium, and Kolkata at SRFTI Auditorium.

The 2024 edition will open with the screening of National Geographic's documentary **"Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story"**.

The Closing Film of the festival is the film that wins the Golden Conch and will be showcased on 21st June 2024.

DOC Film Bazaar is being organized for the first time, to help boost film production by providing a platform for filmmakers to find buyers, sponsors, and collaborators for their projects.

Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF):

MIFF is the oldest and largest film festival for non-feature films (Documentary, Short Fiction & Animation) in South Asia and a premier international event of the documentary film world, since it started in 1990. It is a biennial event organized once in 2 years.

It is organized by the National Films Development Corporation of India (NFDC), the apex body of filmmaking in India, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, MIFF remains a cornerstone of the Indian cultural landscape.

21. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) President and its Legislature Party Leader **Prem Singh Tamang** has been sworn-in as the **Chief Minister of Sikkim** for the **second time**.

State Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered him oath of office and secrecy.

The Governor also administered the oath of office and secrecy to 11 Cabinet Ministers along with the Chief Minister.

- 22. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term.**

Governor S Abdul Nazeer has administered him the oath of office and secrecy along with 24 other members.

The Cabinet has three women ministers, 12 members from Other Categories, 8 Backward Class, 2 Scheduled Caste, one Scheduled Tribe, and one Muslim.

The swearing-in ceremony was held near Kesarapalli IT Park at Gannavaram in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

N. Chandrababu Naidu served as Chief Minister from 1995 to 2004 of Andhra Pradesh before its bifurcation. He was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1978.

TDP along with the Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) bagged 164 out of the **175 seats** in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. The TDP won 135 seats, with the JSP and BJP winning 21 and 8 seats, respectively.

- 23. Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh has been ranked 19th in the Container Port Performance Index 2023.** The World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence developed the 4th edition of the CPPI 2023.

The index rates the effectiveness of container ports around the world, mainly looking at how long ships stay in port. This index is an important standard in the maritime business because it shows how productive and well-run ports are.

Mundra Port, Gujarat run by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has been ranked **27th** in the index.

A total of **12 Indian ports** were featured in the CPPI 2023.

Globally, **Yangchan Port (China)** and Port of Salaah (Oman) ranked at 1st and 2nd position respectively.

- 24. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has launched the PM Shri Tourism Air Service** to enhance connectivity for tourist destinations.

Eight cities of the state including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, Singrauli, and Khajuraho will be connected through air service.

The PM Shri Tourism Air Service is being operated by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board on a Public Private Partnership basis through Jetserve Aviation Private Limited.

- 25. Mizoram has hosted a two-day State Sports Conclave** from the 13th to 14th June 2024 in Aizawl. The theme of the conclave is **"Vision 2036"**.

The conclave aims to haunt and nurture young talents so that more athletes and players from Mizoram could participate in the forthcoming Olympics in 2036.

- 26. Pema Khandu took oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive term** at a ceremony held at the DK State Convention Centre in Itanagar.

He first became the CM of Arunachal Pradesh in 2016.

Chowna Mein was sworn in as the deputy Chief minister for the second term.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor **KT Parnaik** administered the oath to Pema Khandu and Chowna Mein along with the other 10 ministers.

The ten other cabinet ministers include Biyuram Wahge, Nyato Dukam, Gabriel Denwang Wangsu, Wangki Lowang, Pasang Dorjee Sona, Mama Natung, Dasanglu Pul, Balo Raja, Kento Jini, and Ojing Tasing.

In the recently concluded Andhra Pradesh assembly election, simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP won 46 out of the **60 seats**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

27. Russian cosmonaut **Oleg Kononenko** has become the first person to spend **1,000 days** in space. The 59-year-old achieved the milestone on 4th June 2024, having made five journeys to the International Space Station (ISS).

His current trip to the ISS began on September 15, 2023, alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and compatriot Nikolai Chub.

In February 2024, he surpassed the record of 878 days set by his colleague Gennady Padalka for the longest amount of time in space.

28. South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union have launched a **Biopharmaceutical Alliance** in response to drug supply shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement was made at the inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance, held in San Diego, California, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.

The primary objective of the alliance is to ensure a reliable and sustainable supply chain for biopharmaceuticals.

The alliance members agreed to:

- Harmonize bio policies, regulations, and research and development (R&D) support measures across member countries.
- Work collaboratively to create a comprehensive map of the pharmaceutical supply chain to identify and address potential vulnerabilities.
- Foster greater collaboration in biopharmaceutical research and development to innovate and improve production processes and product availability.

29. The UN General Assembly has elected five non-permanent members to the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** for the 2025-2026 term.

Somalia (Africa), Pakistan (Asia), Panama (Central America), Greece (Europe), and Denmark (Europe) won elections at the General Assembly.

Somalia received 179 votes, Pakistan 182, Panama 183, Greece 182, and Denmark 184, meeting the criterion of obtaining two-thirds of the votes to replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland.

The new members will serve as non-permanent UNSC members from **January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026**.

Pakistan previously served seven times as a non-permanent UNSC member, Panama five, Denmark four, Greece twice, and Somalia once.

In the UN Security Council, which has five permanent members, China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US, there are also 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. Five of the non-permanent members are elected every year.

Candidates must receive two-thirds of the votes, which corresponds to 129 votes out of the 193-member General Assembly.

30. Portugal has planned to adapt its golden visa scheme to allow wealthy foreigners seeking residency rights to invest in affordable housing for locals or accommodation for migrants.

The scheme, called a “**solidarity visa**”, would complement an existing program, which since 2012 has offered non-EU nationals who invest in Portugal the right to live in the country. The golden visa scheme has attracted more than 7.3 billion euros (\$7.94 billion) of funds since its launch.

31. The East Asia Summit Senior Officials’ Meeting (EAS SOM) and the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials’ Meeting (ARF SOM) were held on 7-8 June 2024 in **Vientiane, Lao PDR**.

Secretary (East) **Jaideep Mazumdar** represented India in the meeting.

The EAS SOM was chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister of Lao PDR, H.E Mr. Thongphane Savanphet.

The counterparts from 18 EAS Participating Countries (10 ASEAN Member States and 8 Dialogue Partners of ASEAN namely, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, RoK, Russia, and the US) and Timor-Leste took part in the EAS SOM.

Key issues discussed included Indo-Pacific peace, maritime security, and regional conflicts. He emphasized EAS’s role in promoting stability and highlighted India’s maritime security initiatives.

He also held bilateral meetings with counterparts from several countries, discussing regional cooperation and shared perspectives.

32. Israel Aerospace Industries, a world-class aerospace and defence leader, has introduced its new “**Deep Stand-off**” long-range air-launched ballistic missile named “**AIR LORA.**”

The new missile demonstrated its game-changing capabilities in a fire test launched from an F16. The AIR LORA is a long-range, Air to Ground Missile (AGM) developed for strike missions against high-quality and well-protected targets.

It can be launched from fighter jets and bomber aircraft.

It is capable of hitting a target with supersonic velocity from deep stand-off ranges within a few minutes – providing quick response against Time Critical Targets (TCT) while maintaining low collateral damage.

REPORTS & INDICES

33. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the 18th edition of the Global Gender Gap Index (2024). The report this year covers 146 economies. **Guyana** makes a return to the index in 2024, while **Sudan and Uzbekistan** are included for the first time.

Global level:

- The global gender gap score in 2024 for all 146 countries included in this edition stands at **68.5%**.
- **Iceland** topped the index with a score of **93.5 percent**.
- The second position is occupied by **Finland (87.5%), and Norway (87.5%)**.
- The third position is occupied by New Zealand (83.5%).
- **Bottom 3 countries:** Sudan (146); Pakistan (145); and Chad (144)

India's performance:

- India has slipped two places to the **129th position**.
- Within South Asia, India ranked **fifth** after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, with Pakistan ranked last.
- India's overall gender gap closure stands at **64.1 percent** in 2024, a slight decline from 64.2 percent in 2023.
- While India's economic parity score has been improving, it needs to increase by 6.2 percentage points to return to its 2012 level of 46 percent.

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender parity across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health, and political leadership.

- 34.** In the latest **BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report** released by Kantar, **Infosys** is ranked as the **74th** most valuable brand in the world and ranked as the **20th** most valuable global B2B (business-to-business) technology brand.

Infosys has been ranked, for the **third consecutive year**, among the 100 most valuable brands in the world.

Infosys has been recognized for its capabilities in domains like enterprise artificial intelligence (AI) where emerging technologies like generative AI and foundational technologies like cloud. Infosys is among the top 6 percent of the most trusted brands in both India and the US.

- 35.** According to the latest data by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India** slowed to **5 percent** in **April 2024**, a three-month low, as against **5.4 percent** in **March 2024**.

The IIP growth rate was recorded at 4.6 percent in April 2023.

The previous high of IIP was recorded at 11.9 percent in October 2023, which slowed to 2.5 percent in November, 4.2 percent in December and 4.1 percent in January 2024.

As per the data, the growth rates of the three sectors in April 2024, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity stood at 6.7 percent, 3.9 percent, and 10.2 percent year-on-year respectively.

The core sector makes up 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making it a lead indicator of industrial activity.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

- 36.** Union Cabinet has approved the construction of **3 crore additional houses** under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. A decision in this regard was taken in the first cabinet meeting of the newly-formed NDA government in New Delhi.

The central government has been implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** since **2015** to provide assistance to eligible rural and urban households for the construction of houses with basic amenities.

Under the scheme, a total of 4 crore 21 lakh houses have been completed for eligible poor families in the last ten years.

All the houses constructed under the scheme are also provided with other basic amenities, including household toilets, LPG connections, electricity connections, functional household tap

connections, and others through convergence with other schemes of the Central Government and State Governments.

- 37. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the 17th installment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.** This will benefit nine crores 30 lakh farmers by distributing around **Rs.20,000 crores.**

The scheme has benefited more than 11 crore farmer families and over three lakh crore rupees have been transferred in their accounts till date.

PM-KISAN Scheme:

- The scheme was launched in **2019** with an aim to provide income support to all landholder farmer families across the country.
- Under the scheme, a financial benefit of **Rs.6000 per year** is provided to the eligible family of farmers.
- The scheme is being implemented as a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100 percent financial support from the Central government.
- The amount is being transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, in **three installments of two thousand rupees.**

- 38. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog (AIM)** has launched two groundbreaking initiatives aimed at fostering innovation and sustainability in India: the 'AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0' and the fifth edition of 'Innovations for You' handbook, spotlighting SDG entrepreneurs of India.

AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0:

AIM presents the **fourth edition of the open innovation water challenge** in collaboration with the Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) at the Royal Danish Embassy in India.

This initiative, a cornerstone of the Indo-Danish bilateral green strategic partnership, endeavours to address critical water-related challenges through inventive solutions.

The selected teams will form the Indian cohort which will participate in the global Next Generation Digital Action program and engage with young talents from leading universities and innovation hubs of 9 countries (India, Denmark, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Colombia and Mexico).

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to showcase innovations at the Digital Tech Summit scheduled in Copenhagen from October 30th to 31st, 2024 funded by the Government of Denmark.

Innovations For You:

AIM also introduced the **fifth edition of 'Innovations For You'**, a coffee table book series spotlighting the endeavours of SDG Entrepreneurs of India. This edition features 60 entrepreneurs from diverse corners of India, each contributing to societal betterment through sustainable innovations.

- 39. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** is observing the '**Nasha Mukth Bharat Pakhwada**'- □□□ □□□□ □□□□□□ from **12th to 26th June 2024** to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The aim of this observance is to create awareness amongst the public regarding the ill effects of the Drug Menace.

NCB has set a vision to encourage more and more citizens to take the 'e-pledge' against drug abuse.

The Government of India has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to a 'Drug-Free India'.

The United Nations General Assembly declared the 26th of June of each year as the "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking".

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 40.** The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has granted its approval for the merger of **Vistara with Air India** allowing a period of nine months for the dissolution of the former.

Tata Sons Private Limited will hold **73.38%** stake in the merged entity, and Singapore Airlines 25.1%. The remaining 1.52% will be held by SBICAP Trustee Limited on behalf of Air India Employee Settlement Trust.

Tata Group took over the reins of loss-making Air India in January 2022.

- 41.** The **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has collaborated with the Centre of Excellence for Capacity Building, Training, and Design of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at IIT Kanpur (Drone CoE Kanpur) and the Drone Federation of India (DFI) to launch the **UAV/UAS/Drone Acceleration and Networking (UDAAN)** program to boost drone startups in India.

The UDAAN program will select **20 startups** annually, divided into two cohorts. These startups will be incubated at SIIC, IIT Kanpur, gaining access to cutting-edge R&D facilities, technical mentorship, financing opportunities, and invaluable industry relationships.

Startups interested in participating in the UDAAN program must be registered as private Limited companies with DPIIT, operate within the UAV/Drone sector and focus on product development, testing, design verification, or technical consultancy. Their annual turnover should not exceed **INR 3 crore**.

- 42.** **GAIL (India) Limited** has planned to set up a **1500 KTA (kilotons per annum) Ethane Cracker Project** in **Ashta**, located in the **Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh**.

This project is expected to boost the production of various ethylene derivatives and mark a major expansion in GAIL's business operations.

As part of the preliminary arrangements, the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Limited (MPIDC) has initiated the process of allocating approximately 800 hectares of land for the project.

The investment required for this project is projected to be around Rs 60,000 crore.

- 43.** **Wipro** has launched its **Lab45 artificial intelligence (AI) platform**, which leverages generative AI (GenAI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning technologies to help companies increase efficiencies, transform business functions, and enable industry-specific solutions.

Lab45 is Wipro's innovation lab, and the Lab45 AI platform is available to all Wipro employees and clients.

The Lab45 AI platform runs on a software-as-a-service (SaaS) model and supports various state-of-the-art large language models (LLMs) from leading providers as well as custom deep-learning and other models.

The platform allows for seamless integration of language and visual processing for generating images from text prompts, as well as the ability to index, parse, and summarise content.

- 44. Tata Communications** has inked a **five-year** global broadcasting services deal with **World Athletics** to provide broadcasting services, enhancing global coverage of premier events starting from the Tokyo World Championships.

The deal aims to enhance innovation and audience engagement.

Tata Communications will be the host broadcaster for World Athletics Series events, delivering immersive coverage and custom live content across continents.

- 45. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sansad TV** to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.

Under this, programs produced by IGNCA will be telecast on Sansad TV and Sansad TV will also be able to use the content from IGNCA's cultural archives.

BANKING & FINANCE

- 46. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed to raise the threshold for the basic service demat account (BSDA) to **Rs 10 lakh** from the current **Rs 2 lakh** in a bid to boost the participation of retail investors in the securities market.

BSDA is a more basic version of a regular demat account. The facility was introduced by SEBI in 2012 to reduce the burden of demat charges on investors with small portfolios.

At present, an individual can hold debt securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh and other than debt securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh in a single demat account to be eligible for BSDA.

For portfolio values up to Rs 4, SEBI has proposed that the annual maintenance charge for a BDSA should be nil, and for portfolio values of between Rs 4 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh, the charges should be Rs 100.

However, if portfolio value exceeds Rs 10 lakh then BDSA should automatically be converted into a regular demat account.

- 47. Asirvad Micro Finance Limited (Asirvad)**, a subsidiary of Manappuram Finance Limited (MAFIL), has appointed **Satish Nair** as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Asirvad is the third largest microfinance institution (in terms of AUM as of June 2023), offering microfinance loans to low-income women.

As of June 2023, Asirvad has a presence in 22 States and 4 Union Territories in India through its network of 1,684 branches, with assets under management (AUM) of over Rs10,000 crore.

Chairman: V.P. Nandakumar

Headquarters: Valapad, Kerala

- 48. PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd.** has appointed **Sameer Bansal** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.

His appointment is effective from 1st July 2024.

He will succeed Ashish Srivastava, who has been appointed managing director for New York-based MetLife Inc.'s global shared services team in India.

He joined PNB MetLife in 2007 and currently serves as Chief Distribution Officer and a member of the leadership team.

- 49. Muthoot Microfin** has inked a strategic co-lending partnership with the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. Under this, Muthoot Microfin and SBI will co-lend to members of Joint Liability Groups

(JLGs) who are engaged in agricultural and allied activities as well as other income-generating enterprises.

The loan amounts will range from a minimum of Rs 10,000 to a maximum of Rs 3 lakh. Under the co-lending model, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) on the basis of a prior agreement.

50. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has opened a new, exclusive branch on Anna Salai (Mount Road) in Chennai, dedicated entirely to support start-ups. This initiative aims to provide robust financial services and comprehensive support to budding entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises.

During the inauguration, the bank introduced the “IOB start-up current account” and the “IOB Pragati” credit scheme to finance start-ups.

51. SBI General Insurance Company has announced the withdrawal of its **Arogya Plus policy** with effect from **5th October 2024**.

As per the regulatory requirement, insurance companies must give **90 days'** advance intimation to their customers before withdrawing a policy.

Policyholders holding the Arogya Plus policy will be given the option to migrate to a comprehensive health insurance policy like Super Health Insurance or to any other individual health insurance product available with the general insurer, including the Standard Product. Arogya Plus provided coverage up to a specified sum insured at a flat premium. The flat premium was irrespective of the age of the insured and family combination.

The policy was available on an individual basis, family non-floater, and family floater sum insured basis. The policy had no limits on room rent or age-related charges.

52. Credit ratings and research giant, Moody's affirmed the **Baa3 ratings** on three Indian public sector banks including **Bank of Baroda (BOB), Canara Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.

The rating agency-maintained A stable outlook on the long-term ratings of all three banks.

This rating is given because all three banks showed improved credit metrics.

The bank's non-performing loan (NPL) ratios have also declined. It is a ratio of bad or unpaid loans to total loans.

BOB's, Canara's and PNB's NPL ratios respectively declined to 2.9 percent, 4.2 percent, and 5.7 percent as of 31 March 2024 from 3.8 percent, 5.4 percent, and 8.7 percent a year earlier, supported by lower bad loans (or slippage) as well as stronger recoveries and higher write-offs.

53. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been awarded the “**Best Conduct of Business Regulator**” for the Asia-Pacific region by The Asian Banker.

The award acknowledges SEBI's significant role in enhancing the regulatory framework of Indian stock markets.

The award was received by SEBI's Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney in a ceremony held in Hong Kong.

SEBI has been actively working towards instantaneous settlement.

In 2021, the T+1 settlement was introduced in a phased manner, which was fully implemented from January 2023.

This move has provided investors with faster access to their funds following trade execution and settlement, enhancing market efficiency and liquidity.

- 54.** The **World Bank** in its Global Economic Prospects report has revised **India's FY25 growth** forecast to **6.6%** from 6.4% projected in January 2024. India will remain the fastest-growing of the world's largest economies, although its pace of expansion is expected to moderate.

For **FY26 and FY27**, the World Bank predicts India's economy will grow at **6.7 percent and 6.8 percent**, respectively.

In FY24, the National Statistical Office estimated gross domestic product (GDP) to have grown at 8.2 percent.

India's FY25 forecasts (%):

ADB	7
OECD	6.6
Fitch	7
SBI	8
World Bank	6.6
Standard Chartered	7
IMF	6.8
RBI	7.2

- 55.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced the '**SME Digital Business Loans**' with the aim of sanctioning loans in **45 minutes**.

SBI identified the micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) line of business as the focal point for the bank's growth and profitability over the next five years.

SME Digital Business Loans leverage technology and an ecosystem of APIs (application programming interfaces) to streamline the lending process.

SBI has developed a data-driven credit assessment engine capable of providing sanction decisions within a remarkable 10 seconds after submitting the required details, without any human intervention.

For loans up to Rs.50 lakhs, SBI has waived the requirement for financial statements, relying instead on transaction history and GST returns for appraisal.

The new loan offering will be accessible to customers through all the Bank's channels, including its website, branches, SME Centres, as well as internet platforms.

- 56.** **PhonePe** has collaborated with ride-hailing platform **PickMe** to enable UPI-based payments for Indian travellers in Sri Lanka. With this, Indian tourists visiting Sri Lanka can enjoy the ease and security of UPI payments for their rides.

In May 2024, PhonePe entered into a partnership with LankaPay to allow its users to pay using UPI across Sri Lanka.

- 57.** The **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)** has fined over **Rs 1.66 crore** on **Axis Bank** for failure to detect and report suspicious transactions involving a fraudulent account created in the name of the National Security Guard (NSG), a government agency.

The FIU has issued an order under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that empowers its Director to impose a monetary penalty on a reporting entity (like Axis Bank) if the agency finds that its designated director on the board or any of its employees failed to comply with the obligations mandated under the said law.

The reports indicated that a manager at Axis Bank played a role in establishing this account, purportedly for the purpose of aggregating illicit funds.

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU):

The FIU, under the Union Finance Ministry, is an agency entrusted with implementing certain sections of the anti-money laundering law like the Enforcement Directorate (ED). It conducts an examination of steps taken to check money laundering and other financial frauds, by banks and other financial institutions designated as 'reporting entities' under the PMLA, in the financial channels of the country.

- 58.HDFC Bank** has hiked retail fixed deposit rates by up to **20 bps** across various buckets with effect from 10th June 2024. The move comes even if the Reserve Bank of India decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged in the June review of monetary policy.

The highest interest rate offered by HDFC Bank is for the 18 months to less than 21 months category where the rate is 7.25 per cent.

The bank offers 7.10 percent for the 15 to 18 months category. In the one-year to 15-month bucket, HDFC Bank will offer 6.60 percent. Senior citizens will get 50 bps more than the rate offered to others.

- 59.Prem Prabhakar** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **SBICAP Ventures Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of India.

In his new role, he will be responsible for overseeing the strategic direction, operational efficiency, and overall growth of the company.

He will lead the executive team, manage investor relations, and drive initiatives that align with SVL's commitment to creating long-term value for its investors and supporting the communities in which it operates.

- 60.Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Kotak Life)** teamed up with **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (Mahindra Finance)** to offer life insurance products to the latter's customers.

This association will benefit over 10 million customers of Mahindra Finance by offering a wide range of tailor-made life insurance solutions provided by Kotak Life.

- 61.The World Bank** will lend support to the **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** to achieve sustainable waste management in the city.

The World Bank held discussions on solid waste management with officials of the State government and the GCC to stop waste dumping in Kodungaiyur by 2026-2027.

The GCC intends to take initiatives to minimize the amount of solid waste that is disposed of in landfills or through incineration.

- 62.Karnataka Bank** has introduced the '**KBL WISE**' (**Wellness Investments & Savings for Elderly Senior Citizen Savings Account**), a unique banking product designed to cater to the Banking, Healthcare & Wellness needs of our esteemed senior citizens.

The Savings product is available in two exclusive variants:

- KBL Wise Signature, a regular variant
- KBL Wise Advantage, a premium variant

This innovative product offers an array of bundled features like 'Free Top-up Health insurance up to Rs.10 Lakhs, Free MediBuddy Healthcare Benefits, Free HospiCash Facility, Discount on

Locker Rentals, a Doorstep Banking facility, a Lifetime Free Ru pay Platinum Debit card, and other features.

The Bank has partnered with Care Health Insurance Co, a leading Health Insurance player, and MediBuddy, one of India's largest Digital Healthcare platforms to bring together the proposition on the Health and Wellness front.

63. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has selected NEC Corporation India as the System Integrator (SI) for its digital platform PFRDA-TRACE.

NEC Corporation has been selected as SI for a period of **six years**.

PFRDA-TRACE (tracking, reporting, analytics, and compliance e-platform) is expected to serve as a comprehensive tool for submitting regulatory and supervisory compliance reports by intermediaries, sharing reports and data with PFRDA, monitoring functions, and facilitating a workflow for PFRDA departments to review and track submissions.

PFRDA-TRACE is the second phase of its technology architecture (TARCH) project to digitize and automate its operations.

The system integrator will be responsible for studying existing processes, proposing improved workflows and providing design, development, customization, implementation, and maintenance services for PFRDA-TRACE.

The technology architecture envisaged for PFRDA will have four modules: Website revamp and chatbot; PFRDA online intermediary supervision engine (POISE); PFRDA repository and information systems management: data and analytics platform (PRISM); and PFRDA Intranet — internal digitalization (PINTRA).

RBI IN NEWS

64. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of former MD and CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India, A P Hota, to examine various aspects of setting up a digital public infrastructure for the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform.

The Committee is expected to give its recommendations within two months.

The number of frauds in the banking sector increased over four times in the past five years to 36,075.

In terms of the number of frauds, these have predominantly been witnessed through digital payments (card or internet). That number rose to 29,082 in FY24 as compared to 2,677 in FY20, data from RBI's annual report shows.

65. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a facility to allow customers to automatically replenish their UPI Lite wallets to promote small-value digital payments.

- UPI Lite was introduced in September 2022.
- UPI Lite is a simplified version of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). It acts as an on-device wallet for small-value transactions.
- Currently, the UPI Lite has a daily limit of Rs 2,000, while the upper limit for a single payment is Rs 500.
- Presently, the UPI Lite app can only hold a maximum of **Rs 2000** at a time.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

66. Nar Singh and Rohini Lokhande have been awarded the **Dilip Bose Award** for lifetime achievement by the All-India Tennis Association (AITA).

Rohini Lokhande was the first woman tennis coach to qualify from the National Institute of Sports.

67. Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice-Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd. has been named the **EY World Entrepreneur of The Year 2024**.

He is the **fourth Indian** to receive this coveted award. Earlier, it was given to NR Narayana Murthy, Uday Kotak, and Kiran Majumdar Shaw.

India has become the only country among EY regions to win the global entrepreneurship award four times.

68. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has announced the **third edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman 2024**. Under the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman 2024, **33 Sammans** will be given out under three categories viz Print, Television, and Radio in twenty-two Indian languages and English:

- 11 Sammans in 22 Indian languages and English – to be conferred under the category “Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Newspaper”.
- 11 Sammans in 22 Indian languages and English – to be conferred under the category “Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (TV)”.
- 11 Sammans in 22 Indian languages and English – to be conferred under the category “Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (Radio)”.

The Samman, comprising a special medal/plaque/trophy and a citation, is recommended by an independent Jury.

The awards are open to all Media Houses/Companies engaged in Print Media, Radio, and Television having registration/permission of the Ministry of I&B.

Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) instituted the first Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) in June 2019. The aim is to acknowledge the positive role and responsibility of media in disseminating the message of Yoga in India and abroad

69. Tredence, a global data science and AI solutions company and an Elite partner of Databricks, has been named the **2024 Databricks Retail and CPG Partner of the Year**.

Tredence has been selected from over 2,500 consulting and system integrator partners for this award, reflecting the company's exceptional expertise in leveraging the Databricks Data Intelligence Platform to deliver unmatched value to retailers and CPG companies.

Tredence and Databricks have together solved last-mile analytics and AI challenges for eight of the world's top 10 retailers and eight of the top 10 CPG firms.

70. Nethra Gururaj, a dynamic cinematographer from Bengaluru, has been selected for the prestigious **2024 Oscar Academy Gold Rising Program**. This honour places her among the most promising young filmmakers and cinematographers globally, highlighting her significant achievements and potential.

Nethra Gururaj, currently based in Los Angeles, has a diverse portfolio that includes short films, feature films, documentaries, music videos, and experimental pieces.

Oscar Academy Gold Rising Program:

The Oscar Academy Gold Rising Program is a two-month internship hosted by the Academy in Hollywood, Los Angeles. It offers students and recent film school graduates a unique opportunity to shadow industry professionals, network with key figures in the film industry, and connect with production and media houses.

71. The United Nations General Assembly has declared **2025** as the **International Year of Quantum Science and Technology**. On June 7, 2024, the 193-member Assembly passed a resolution co-sponsored by **Ghana** and six other countries, acknowledging the significance of this groundbreaking field of study.

The year 2025 marks **100 years** since the publication of a paper by the **German physicist Werner Heisenberg**, which laid the foundation for quantum mechanics.

Earlier, the United Nations had declared 2025 as the:

- **International Year of Cooperatives**
- **International Year of Peace and Trust**
- **International Year of Glacier's Preservation**

Note: 2024 is being observed as the International Year of Camelids.

The United Nations can declare one or more themes as the focus of an International Year in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the theme.

PERSON IN NEWS

72. **Priyanka Jarkiholi from Chikkodi** has become the **youngest tribal woman** to enter Parliament from an unreserved seat in **Karnataka** since Independence. The BJP has won all the seats in Mumbai Karnataka, except Chikkodi.

During the 18th Lok Sabha elections, she defeated incumbent MP and BJP leader Annasaheb Jolle.

She is the daughter of Satish Jarkiholi, minister of the Public Works Department, Karnataka.

73. Indian Revenue Service officer **Inder Pal Singh Bindra** has been appointed as the new **Secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**. He will replace Anupama Anand, who has resigned after being appointed in September 2023 for a period of 3 years.

His tenure at the CCI is slated for a period of three years from the date he assumes office.

The CCI is tasked with monitoring and curbing unfair business practices while promoting an environment of fair competition.

74. **Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman** has been appointed as the **Chief of the Bangladesh Army**. His appointment will be effective from 23 June 2024.

He has been appointed for three years. He will be promoted to a general and take over the role of the chief of the army.

He currently serves as the Chief of General Staff of the Bangladesh Army.

75. Former Congress president **Sonia Gandhi** has been unanimously re-elected as the **chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP)**.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge proposed Sonia Gandhi's name as the chairperson of CPP.

She was elected to the Rajya Sabha in February 2024.

76. Kamal Kishore Soan has been appointed as the **Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India.

He is a senior 1998 batch's IAS officer from Jharkhand Cadre.

He is currently serving as an Additional Secretary and Director General of Labour Welfare in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation is one of the two main statutory social security bodies under the ownership of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the other being the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. The fund is managed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated in the ESI Act 1948.

77. Raj Priy Singh has been selected for the appointment as **Director of the Department of Rural Development** under the Ministry of Rural Development. He is a 2010 batch IFoS (Indian Forest Service) officer of the Nagaland cadre.

He has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS) for a period with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post until further orders, whichever is earlier.

78. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in as the **Prime Minister of India** for the **third consecutive term** along with his 71 ministers on 9th June 2024. He equaled the feat of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who won in the 1952, 1957 and 1962 general elections.

He allocated portfolios to the newly elected ministers in his cabinet on 10th June 2024.

Cabinet Ministers:

1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence.
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation.
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
4	Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
5	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development.
6	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs.
7	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.
8	Shri Manohar Lal	Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Minister of Power.
9	Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy	Minister of Heavy Industries; and Minister of Steel.
10	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry.
11	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education.
12	Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

13	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Minister of Panchayati Raj; and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
14	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
15	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
16	Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Minister of Civil Aviation.
17	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy.
18	Shri Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs.
19	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles.
20	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
21	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
22	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
23	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism.
24	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development
25	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs.
26	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
27	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
28	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines.
29	Shri Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing Industries.
30	Shri C R Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture.
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office;

		Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space.
3	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
4	Shri Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
5	Shri Jayant Chaudhary	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education.

Ministers of State

1	Shri Jitin Prasada	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3	Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.
4	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation.
5	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6	Shri Ram Nath Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
7	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
8	Smt. Anupriya Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
9	Shri V. Somanna	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
10	Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications.
11	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
12	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
13	Shri Kirtivardhan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.
14	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
15	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

16	Shri Suresh Gopi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism.
17	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
18	Shri Ajay Tamta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
19	Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
20	Shri Kamlesh Paswan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.
21	Shri Bhagirath Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
22	Shri Satish Chandra Dubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines.
23	Shri Sanjay Seth	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.
24	Shri Ravneet Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
25	Shri Durgadas Uikey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
26	Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
27	Shri Sukanta Majumdar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
28	Smt. Savitri Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
29	Shri Tokhan Sahu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
30	Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
31	Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.
32	Shri Harsh Malhotra	Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
33	Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
34	Shri Murlidhar Mohol	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
35	Shri George Kurian	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
36	Shri Pabitra Margherita	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles.

79. Bisleri International has announced Bollywood actor **Aditya Roy Kapur** as the new brand ambassador for **Bisleri Limonata**.

The #DoubleTheChill campaign aims to promote this product and its distinctive flavour blend.

80. The Government has appointed **Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi**, PVSM, AVSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next **Chief of the Army Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **June 30, 2024**.

The present Chief of the Army Staff Gen Manoj C Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM demits office on June 30, 2024.

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi was commissioned into the Infantry (Jammu & Kashmir Rifles) of the Indian Army on 15th December 1984.

81. Puja Tomar has become the **first Indian to win a fight** in the **Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)**. She defeated Rayanne dos Santos of Brazil at UFC Louisville 2024.

She hails from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

She had already broken new ground last year by becoming the first Indian woman to secure a UFC contract.

In her debut fight in the women's strawweight division, she triumphed by split decision with scores of 30-27, 27-30, and 29-28.

82. Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited, has been appointed as the President of the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)** for the 2024-25 term, effective from June 2024.

Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) of Bharti Airtel, has been appointed as the Vice-President of COAI.

83. Mohan Charan Majhi has become the new **Chief Minister of Odisha**. He is the first BJP (Bhartiya Janta Party) chief minister of Odisha.

Two deputy chief ministers, **Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida**, and 13 ministers also took oath along with the chief minister.

Odisha Governor Raghubar Das administered him the oath of office and his council of ministers. Mohan Charan Majhi won the Keonjhar assembly seat in the Odisha assembly elections, defeating Biju Janata Dal's Mina Majhi by 11,577 votes.

In the recent elections, the BJP won 78 out of **147 seats** in the Odisha assembly.

84. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed **Jyoti Vij** as its new Director General.

She is currently the additional director general at FICCI.

85. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the reappointment of **Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra** as the **Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister**. He has been appointed for his second consecutive term.

His appointment comes into effect on 10 June 2024.

He will continue in office until the term of the incumbent Prime Minister or until further order.

During the term of his office, he will be assigned the rank of a cabinet minister.

He is a 1971 batch IAS (retd.) officer of the Odisha cadre who retired in 2008.

Other appointments:

- **Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor** have been appointed as **Advisors to PM**, for a period of two years with effect from 10-06-2024.
- **Ajit Doval** has been reappointed as the **National Security Advisor** for a third consecutive term. He is a 1968-batch IPS officer from the Kerala cadre.

OBITUARIES

86.Noted Indian wildlife conservationist and biologist **Asir Jawahar Thomas Johnsingh**, also known as A J T Johnsingh, has passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

He has authored over 70 scientific papers and more than 80 popular articles on wildlife conservation.

He was born in Nanguneri in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu in 1945.

He was awarded the 2004 Distinguished Service Award for Government from the Society for Conservation Biology, the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award 2004 for lifetime service to Indian wildlife, and the ABN AMRO Sanctuary Lifetime Wildlife Service Award in 2005.

His pioneering work in elephants in the early 1980s was instrumental for the Government of India to formulate Project Elephant. He also conducted an international conference bringing elephant experts across the world to Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary.

87.Noted Indian businessman, media proprietor, and film producer, **Cherukuri Ramoji Rao**, has passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 16th November 1936 in Pedaparupudi of Krishna District, Madras Presidency, India.

He was head of the **Ramoji Group** which owns the world's largest film production facility **Ramoji Film City**, Eenadu newspaper, ETV Network of TV channels, and film production company Ushakiran Movies.

He received four Filmfare Awards South, five Nandi Awards, and the National Film Award for his works in Telugu cinema.

He was honoured with the **Padma Vibhushan**, India's second-highest civilian honour, for his contributions to journalism, literature, and education in **2016**.

88.**President of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), Amol Kale**, has passed away following a cardiac arrest in New York. He was at the Nassau County Cricket Ground in New York, watching the T20 World Cup 2024 match between India and Pakistan.

He had become the MCA president after defeating former India and Mumbai cricketer Sandip Patil in the elections held in October 2022.

During his tenure, the MCA had taken some vital decisions including the move to match the BCCI match fee for all its red-ball players for the upcoming 2024-25 season.

89.**T K Chathunni**, former football player and noted football coach, has passed away at a private hospital at Karukutty in Ernakulam district of Kerala.

He was the coach for various clubs in the **National Football League** from 1997–98.

He represented both **Kerala and Goa** in the **Santosh Trophy**.

He coached several football clubs including FC Kochin, Churchill Brothers, Dempo SC, Mohan Bagan, Salgaocar, and the Kerala Police Football team.

SPORTS

90.The **2024 French Open**, a Grand Slam tennis tournament, was held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from 26 May to 9 June 2024.

World No. 1 **Iga Swiatek of Poland** won the **women's singles** title after defeating Italy's Jasmine Paolini. She became only the third woman in the Open era to clinch three straight French Open titles.

In the men's singles, **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** defeated Alexander Zverev (Germany) in the final match.

Men's doubles: Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)

Women's doubles: Coco Gauff (USA) and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

Mixed doubles: Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (France)

- 91.** Dutch-Belgian racing driver **Max Verstappen of Red Bull** won the **2024 Canadian Grand Prix** for the **third** straight year. This marks his 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season.

He has a staggering 50 victories in the last 75 F1 races.

He finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36-kilometer) road course.

The 9th round of the 2024 F1 championships, was held at the iconic Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

- 92.** Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal won the men's singles title at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany. This is the sixth ATP Challenger title for India's top-ranked men's tennis singles player.

He defeated Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland in three sets 6-1, 6(5)-7(7), 6-3.

This win will improve the ATP ranking of Sumit Nagal making him eligible for the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics.

ATP Challenger Tour Tennis Tournament:

It is organized by the apex men's professional tennis organization, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). It is the second-highest-ranking tennis tournament organized by the ATP after the ATP tour.

- 93.** **Saurabh Sharma** has won two **gold medals** in the ongoing **World Para Athlete Grand Prix** in Nottwil city, Switzerland. He emerged victorious in 155-meter and 5000-meter races.

He hails from Ropa Khayah village of the Nadaun area in the Hamirpur district of **Himachal Pradesh**.

He is representing the Indian team in the T12 category.

He had earlier won seven gold medals at the national level.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 94.** **World Oceans Day** is observed annually on **8th June** to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the United Nations in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The day was first observed in 2009.

Theme 2024: "Awaken New Depths"

- 95.** **World Brain Tumour Day** is observed annually on the **8th of June** to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours. German Brain Tumour Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe)

e.V.), a non-profit organization, first marked this day in the year 2000. The Grey awareness ribbon is the official symbol of Brain Tumour Awareness.

96. World Accreditation Day is observed annually on **9th June** to highlight the value of accreditation in the economy. It is a global initiative jointly launched by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The day was first observed in 2008.

The year 2024 marks the **17th anniversary** of World Accreditation Day.

Theme 2024: "Empowering tomorrow and shaping the future"

97. International Day of Play is observed annually on **11th June** to preserve, promote, and prioritize playing so that all people, especially children, can reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential.

The year 2024 marks the observance of the **first** International Day of Play.

Children learn best through play. Play creates powerful learning opportunities across all areas of development – intellectual, social, emotional, and physical.

It is estimated that 160 million children around the world are working instead of playing or learning. Only 1 in 4 children play out regularly on their street compared to their grandparent's generation where almost three-quarters said they played outside a few times a week.

41% of children had been told to stop playing out by either their parents or other adults such as neighbours.

98. World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually on **12th June** to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched this day in 2002 to spread awareness about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour, all over the world.

Theme 2024: "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!"

Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour, one-fifth, and the absolute number of children in child labour, 72 million. Asia and the Pacific rank second highest in both these measures, 7% of all children and 62 million in absolute terms are in child labour in this region.

99. International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on the **13th of June** to spread awareness about albinism and to highlight the human rights of people with albinism. The day was first observed in 2015.

Theme 2024: "10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress."

Albinism disease:

Albinism is a rare and genetically inherited health condition present at birth, which results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin, and eyes, causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light but is also non-contagious. As a result, almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer. There is no cure for the absence of melanin that is central to albinism.

100. World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on **14th June** to spread awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner. This day was first initiated and established on 14 June 2004 by the World Health Organization (WHO). In May 2005,

WHO with its 192 member states established Blood Donor Day at the 58th World Health Assembly.

Theme 2024: “20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!”

101. Global Wind Day is observed annually on **15th June** to acknowledge the potential of wind power. The day was first observed in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

102. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed annually on **15th June** to spread awareness about abuse and neglect of older persons and raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

Theme 2024: “Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies”

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) initiated and designated the 15th June as WEAAD in June 2006. The day was first observed in 2012.

Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2024	Remark
World Oceans Day	8 th June	Awaken New Depths	
World Brain Tumour Day	8 th June		
World Accreditation Day	9 th June	Empowering tomorrow and shaping the future	
International Archives Day	9 th June		The day was first observed in 2008.
International Day of Play	11 th June		
World Day Against Child Labour	12 th June	Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour	The day was first observed in 2002.
International Albinism Awareness Day	13 th June	10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress	
World Blood Donor Day	14 th June	20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!	
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	15 th June	Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies	
Global Wind Day	15 th June		
ASEAN Dengue Day	15 th June		The day was first observed in 2011.