



JUNE 2024

MONTHLY

ONE-LINER

GK DIGEST

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MONTHLY GK DIGEST: JUNE 2024

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

77TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERL

- The **theme of the assembly was “All for Health, Health for All”**.
- **GPW 14 aims to build resilient, fit-for-future health systems from 2025–2028.**
- Strategic **objectives of GPW 14 include addressing climate change, health determinants, primary**

health care, health service coverage, health risks, and health emergencies.

WEF’S TECHNOLOGY PIONEER 2024 LIST: PIXXEL, SARVAM AI, NIRMAI HEALTH ANALYTIX

- **Niramai Health Analytix:** It’s developing an AI-based test for early-stage detection of breast cancer, which is affordable, portable, and non-invasive.
- **Pixxel:** This startup is developing a constellation of hyperspectral earth imaging satellites to capture geospatial data.
- **Sarvam AI:** Sarvam AI aims to develop custom-made Large Language Models (LLMs) with a special focus on Indian languages and use cases.

MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE (MRCC) LAUNCHED BY INDIA AND SRI LANKA

- The **MRCC was established through a \$6 million grant** from India and comprises two main centers:
- Additionally, there are **seven unmanned installations at strategic locations along Sri Lanka’s coastline:** Galle, Arugambay, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kallarawa, Point Pedro, and Mollikulam
- **Sri Lankan Navy teams have been trained to operate the MRCC by state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** in Bengaluru and Colombo.

6TH & FINAL FATF PLENARY HELD IN SINGAPORE; FATF ADOPTS MUTUAL EVALUATION REPORT OF INDIA

- **Positive Outcome for India:** The report placed India in the "regular follow-up" category, a distinction shared by only a few other G20 nations. This signifies a significant achievement in India's fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- **FATF's Recognition:** The report acknowledged India's efforts in various areas, including:
 - Mitigating risks of money laundering and terrorist financing
 - Transitioning towards a digital economy
 - Implementing the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile)
- **Areas for Improvement:** While commending India's progress, FATF also highlighted the need to address

delays in prosecutions related to money laundering and terrorist financing.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS ONE LINER

- **NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore made history by being the first to fly aboard** the Boeing Starliner spacecraft. The crewed flight launched on June 5, 2024, and docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on June 6, 2024.
- The Biopharmaceutical Alliance, launched on June 6, 2024, is a collaboration between India, South Korea, US, Japan, and the EU. The **alliance aims to strengthen the biopharmaceutical supply chain and ensure resilience post-pandemic.**
- **Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has set a record by becoming the first person to spend 1,000 days in space.** This milestone was achieved over five journeys to the International Space Station since 2008. If his mission ends as planned on Sept. 23, 2024, he will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.
- The **UN General Assembly, on 6th June 2024, elected Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.** These countries will serve a two-year term starting from 1st January 2025. They replace the outgoing non-permanent members whose terms end on 31st December 2024.
- The **Bank of England has begun issuing banknotes featuring King Charles III's portrait for the first time on 5th June 2024.** These new notes will be available in denominations of £5, £10, £20, and £50. The existing banknotes with Queen Elizabeth II's portrait will continue to circulate.
- **Ukraine has established the Unmanned Systems Forces (USF), the world's first standalone military branch dedicated solely to unmanned and robotic systems.** The USF aims to coordinate the deployment of air, sea, and ground unmanned systems, enhancing Ukraine's defensive capabilities and response options.
- **Nvidia has recently claimed the title of the world's most valuable public company. With a market capitalization surpassing \$3.34 trillion, it has outpaced both Microsoft and Apple.** This remarkable ascent is largely attributed to Nvidia's dominance in the field of generative artificial intelligence.

- **Wärtsilä launched the world's first large-scale power plant that can run entirely on hydrogen. This engine is based on their efficient Wärtsilä 31 platform and is designed to support clean energy goals.** It can also run on natural gas and hydrogen blends for flexibility.
- **Suhas Subramanyam was born in Houston to Indian-American parents who migrated to the US from Bengaluru.** Washington: Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam has won the Democratic primary for a Congressional seat in Virginia, defeating 11 other candidates including another fellow Indian-American Krystle Kaul.
- Starting tomorrow, July 3rd, 2024, **Japan will be issuing a new series of banknotes featuring new designs and enhanced security measures. These will be the first banknotes in the world to incorporate holographic technology that creates a 3D effect on the portraits.** The new notes will also have larger numerals to aid visually impaired people.

NATIONAL NEWS

RELIANCE, TATA GROUP & SERUM INSTITUTE FEATURED ON TIME100 MOST INFLUENTIAL COMPANIES 2024

- **Reliance Industries:** Recognized for its ventures in energy, retail, and telecommunications. Recently, it struck a \$8.5 billion merger deal with Disney's India business.
- **Tata Group:** Made significant investments in tech manufacturing, AI, and semiconductor chips. In 2023, it became the first Indian company to assemble iPhones and announced plans for India's first major semiconductor manufacturing facility.
- **Serum Institute of India:** Known for its significant contributions to vaccine production, including a game-changing malaria vaccine.

PM MODI LAUNCHED 'EK PED MAA KE NAAM' CAMPAIGN ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

- The campaign **aims to honor mothers and promote environmental protection.**
- This initiative **signifies the protection of the Earth's environment by afforestation to stop land degradation, soil erosion, and falling water tables.**

NARENDRA MODI HAS TAKEN OATH AS PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA FOR HIS THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM

- The **grand oath-taking ceremony** took place on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at the **presidential palace in Delhi**.
- During his **oath**, Modi pledged to **“do right to all manner of people without affection or ill-will”**.
- The **ceremony was attended by leaders from neighbouring countries**, reflecting India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy.

NCERT MADE CHANGES IN THE TEXTBOOK ON THE AYODHYA DISPUTE

- **Terminology:** The most notable change is renaming the Babri Masjid to a "three-domed structure."
- **Focus:** The text now emphasizes the Ram Janmabhoomi movement's legacy and the Supreme Court's 2019 verdict.
- **Omissions:** Descriptions of the Babri Masjid's demolition, the communal riots, and the political debate on secularism have been removed or downplayed.

JHARKHAND GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WAIVING AGRICULTURAL LOANS UP TO RS 2 LAKH

- This initiative builds upon a previous waiver of Rs 40,000 and is **accompanied by an increase in the free electricity quota from 125 units to 200 units for eligible farmers**.
- **During a meeting with the State Level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC)**, Minister Patralekh urged banks to **prepare a proposal for this one-time settlement scheme**.
- This move **aims to alleviate the financial stress on farmers and encourage more productive farming practices** in Jharkhand.

NEW POSTAL LAW 'POST OFFICE ACT 2023' CAME INTO FORCE

- The new law **aims to modernize the postal system and make it more citizen-centric**.
- **Creates a simpler legal framework** for postal services.

- **Appoints a Director General of Postal Services** to head India Post.
- **It gives the Director General the power to set rates for postal services** and manage stamp issuance.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT BECOMES INDIA’S 1ST ECO-FRIENDLY STATE GOVT HEADQUARTERS

- This **achievement came about with the inauguration of a 2.5 MW solar power project** on its campus.
- The project is expected to significantly **reduce electricity dependence and cut monthly bills by Rs 30 lakh**.
- This **initiative is a big step towards Assam's goal of becoming a Net-Zero Government**, promoting environmental sustainability.
- The **government plans to expand this solar panel installation to other official buildings** like medical colleges and universities.

PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI CERTIFICATES TO 30,000 KRISHI SAKHIS AT VARANASI

- This initiative, **led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare**, aims to **empower rural women across the country**.
- The Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) **seeks to transform rural India by empowering rural women as Krishi Sakhis** through training and certification.
- These **Krishi Sakhis will serve as para-extension workers, contributing to agricultural development and soil health** initiatives.

VADHAVAN PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MAHARASHTRA GETS THE APPROVAL OF THE CABINET

- **Investment:** The project will entail an investment of Rs 76,200 crore.
- **Capacity:** VadHAVAN port, located around 130 km from Mumbai, will be developed in two phases. By 2030, it will handle 23.3 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) containers. By 2039, it aims to be one of the 10 biggest ports in the world, with a cumulative capacity to handle 298 million tonnes of cargo per annum.

- **Job Creation:** The port is expected to create up to 12 lakh jobs.
- **Infrastructure:** It will have nine container terminals, four multipurpose berths, and four berths for handling liquid cargo.
- **Connectivity:** Around Rs 4,000 crore will be spent on building road and rail links to the port.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** A joint venture of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and the Maritime Board of Maharashtra will develop this infrastructure project on a public-private participation basis.

IMPROVING CONSUMPTION EQUALITY: INDIA'S LATEST HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY

- **National Trend:** The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 indicates a decline in consumption inequality across India compared to 2011-12. This is measured by the Gini coefficient, where a lower value signifies less disparity in spending.
- **Positive Shifts:** The Gini coefficient for rural households dropped from 0.283 in 2011-12 to 0.266 in 2022-23, and for urban households, it went down from 0.363 to 0.314. This suggests a rise in consumption levels for lower-income groups.
- **Increased Spending:** The survey also found a significant increase in average monthly consumption expenditure per person, both in rural and urban areas. This suggests a potential improvement in living standards for many households.

INDIA LAUNCHED THE FIRST NATIONAL ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING SYMPOSIUM

- **Organizer:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Goal:** Provide an overview of India's Additive Manufacturing ecosystem.
- Released the Additive Manufacturing Landscape Report.
- Unveiled an indigenously developed additive manufacturing machine.
- Aimed to create stronger connections between organizations and the National Centre for Additive Manufacturing (NCAM) in Hyderabad to build a robust network for AM development.

- This symposium builds on the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (NSAM) launched in 2022.
- The NSAM aims to leverage AM for industrial growth, innovation, and development across various sectors.

SRINAGAR GETS 'WORLD CRAFT CITY' TAG FROM THE WORLD CRAFTS COUNCIL (WCC)

- **Srinagar is the fourth Indian city** to receive this recognition, joining Jaipur, Malappuram, and Mysore.
- This **recognition is expected to boost Srinagar's handicraft sector** by increasing global recognition and sales of its products.
- It could also **lead to more sustainable practices and opportunities for artisans.**

HARYANA GOVERNMENT INCREASED RESERVATION FOR OBCS

- **Increased Reservation:** Reservation for OBCs in Group-A and Group-B government posts was increased from 15% to 27%. This aligns with the Central government's policy.
- **Creamy Layer Limit Hiked:** The annual income limit for the creamy layer, which determines who is eligible for OBC reservation benefits, was raised from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. This is also in line with the Central government's policy.
- The **increased reservation and higher creamy layer limit are expected to benefit OBC candidates** by making them eligible for more government jobs.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED SAFAI APNAO, BIMAARI BHAGAO INITIATIVE UNDER SBM-U 2.0

- It **aims to enhance the preparedness of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India to effectively manage** the challenges posed by heavy rainfall and heightened health risks during the monsoon season, which typically runs from July to August.
- The **initiative is being implemented from July 1 to August 31, 2024, and aligns with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's STOP Diarrhoea Campaign.**
- It **emphasizes comprehensive interventions and inter-departmental collaboration to ensure**

effective sanitation, hygiene, and disease prevention measures during the monsoon season.

GOVT TO PARTIALLY IMPLEMENT NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT FROM 26TH JUNE 2024

- **Replacement of Outdated Regulations:** The new act replaces outdated regulations such as the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act of 1950.
- **Effective Sections:** Sections 1, 2, 10 to 30, 42 to 44, 46, 47, 50 to 58, 61, and 62 of the Telecommunications Act will become effective on that date.
- **Government Control:** The new rule allows the government to take control and management of any telecommunication services or network in the interest of national security, friendly relations with foreign states, or during an event of war.
- **Digital Bharat Nidhi:** The universal service obligation fund will become Digital Bharat Nidhi, which can be used for funding research, development, and pilot projects instead of just supporting telecom services in rural areas.
- **User Protection:** The new rules also mandate protecting users from spam and malicious communications.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- **Ruchira Kamboj, the first female UN Ambassador from India, has retired after a 35-year career in the Indian Foreign Service.** She held several key positions, including the Indian envoy in Bhutan, South Africa, and UNESCO, and was India's Chief of Protocol. Her retirement was announced on June 1.
- **Gautam Adani, with a net worth of \$111 billion, has overtaken Mukesh Ambani, who has a net worth of \$109 billion, to become the richest person in Asia.** The surge in Adani's wealth is due to the rise in the stock prices of his companies and their aggressive expansion plans.
- **Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on his 39th birthday, June 1, 2024.** His last matches were the IPL 2024 Eliminator for Royal Challengers Bengaluru and the 2022 T20 World Cup group game for India. He announced his retirement via Instagram.

- **The Indian government has increased the gratuity limit for central government employees by 25%. This came into effect from January 1, 2024.** The maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity has been raised from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. This increase was triggered by a rise in the Dearness Allowance (DA) by 4% to 50%.
- **The FSSAI issued a directive on June 4, 2024, requiring all Food Business Operators to remove '100% fruit juice' claims from reconstituted fruit juice labels and ads.** This is due to the misleading nature of these claims, as these juices are not entirely made of fruit. FBOs have until September 1, 2024, to use up existing pre-printed packaging materials.
- **As of June 2, 2024, Hyderabad is solely the capital of Telangana. Andhra Pradesh has adopted a three-capital plan with Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Amaravati as the legislative capital, and Kurnool as the judicial capital.** There are ongoing disputes over this plan.
- **Indian cricketer Kedar Jadhav has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.** He made his international debut in 2014 and played 73 ODIs and nine T20Is for India. He was part of the 2019 World Cup semi-finalist team, and his last international appearance was against New Zealand in Auckland in 2020.
- **The ICMR invited Expressions of Interest on June 3, 2024, for the development and commercialization of pediatric oral formulations of hydroxyurea, a drug used to treat sickle cell disease.** This is to overcome the challenge of administering effective doses to children, as currently only high dosage tablets are available.
- **The Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development, a INR 10,000 crore initiative funded by the World Bank, was announced on June 4, 2024.** The project aims to improve air quality in Haryana through various interventions, including enhancing air quality monitoring, promoting cleaner vehicles and clean energy in industries.
- **The Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB) is India's first private biosphere within the Rajaji National Park. Led by Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana, this 35-acre project focuses on reviving rare native trees and protecting the area.** The land, initially barren, has been transformed through removal of non-

native trees, land contouring for water retention, and planting of native species.

- In the recent elections in Indore, **Madhya Pradesh, the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option set a new record with 2.18 lakh votes. This surge came after the Congress candidate withdrew** his nomination and joined the BJP, leading the Congress party to urge its voters to vote for NOTA.
- **Universal Sompo launched a campaign titled 'Insure Today For a Safe Tomorrow' on June 3, 2024. The campaign aims to promote insurance awareness** and includes initiatives such as free vehicle checkups, ensuring uninsured vehicles, and educating the public about property insurance.
- **TotalEnergies signed LNG supply contracts with Indian Oil Corporation and Korea South-East Power** on June 4, 2024. The deal with IOC is for **10 years starting 2026, supplying up to 800,000 metric tons/year**. The deal with Korea South-East Power is for 5 years starting 2027, supplying around 500,000 metric tons/year.
- The **Nakshatra Sabha was a two-day astro-tourism event held in Mussoorie on 1-2 June**. Organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes, the event included activities like astrophotography, star gazing, solar observation, and expert talks.
- The **Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries in Bihar have been added to the 'Ramsar Sites', a list of wetlands of international importance**. This brings the total number of such sites in India to 82. The Nakti sanctuary hosts over 150 species of fauna and flora, including a large congregation of red-crested pochard.
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of Air India and Vistara on June 6, 2024**. The merged entity will become **India's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier with a combined fleet of 218 aircraft**. The merger is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.
- The **AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0 was launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) at the Royal Danish Embassy in India on June 10th, 2024**. The challenge aims to address critical water-related issues through innovative solutions.

- The **Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit is being developed by the Rajasthan government**. The announcement was made by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on June 8, 2024. The project, which is worth Rs 100 crore, will develop places associated with Maharana Pratap's life to promote tourism.
- On June 9, 2024, the **Finance Ministry of India set an upper limit of ₹10 crore for arbitration cases. This decision is aimed at streamlining the arbitration process for resolving commercial disputes** involving the government or a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE).
- **Priyanka Jarkiholi, a 27-year-old tribal woman, won an unreserved Lok Sabha seat from Chikkodi, Karnataka on June 4, 2024**. She is the youngest tribal woman to achieve this feat. She is the daughter of Karnataka's Public Works Department Minister, Satish Jarkiholi, and holds a Masters and an MBA degree.
- The **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, India, is set to become a new habitat for cheetahs. This initiative follows the successful introduction of cheetahs at Kuno National Park in the same state**. The preparations for this ambitious project were completed on June 11, 2024, and the official announcement was made the following day.
- **IISc researchers have developed a sustainable method to remove heavy metals from groundwater. The process uses a biodegradable adsorbent to capture arsenic**, separates it using a membrane system, and then converts the toxic inorganic arsenic to a less toxic organic form using microbes from cow dung.
- The **United Nations has declared 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ)**. This initiative is themed around **celebrating the impacts of quantum science on technology, culture, and our understanding of the natural world**.
- The **University Grants Commission (UGC) has permitted Indian universities to conduct admissions twice yearly, starting from the 2024-25 academic session. This is not mandatory but provides flexibility to colleges** to increase student intake and offer new programmes. It benefits students who might miss the July/August session due to various reasons.
- The **Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary is set to become the fifth tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh. The**

sanctuary spans 452 square kilometers and has shown promising signs of tiger population growth.

This decision was announced during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve.

- On June 10, 2024, the Bank of India acquired a 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC. This acquisition is part of the bank's strategic move to support the growth of GIFT City IFSC. The bank's IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City had surpassed the target of USD 1 billion as of March 2024.
- On June 11, 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Global Infrastructure Management, LLC (GIM) by BlackRock Funding, Inc. (BFI), a significant event in the global investment management sector. BFI, a newly formed subsidiary of BlackRock Inc., will acquire 100% ownership of GIM.
- On June 12, 2024, the Centre approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename two tehsils to reflect their historical and spiritual significance. Joshimath, located in Chamoli district, has been renamed to Jyotirmath, which is associated with its ancient name and religious importance.
- India is the second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide globally, with agricultural activities being the primary source. This accounts for nearly 11% of the world's man-made emissions, with China leading at 16%.
- The Indian government has imposed restrictions on the import of certain types of gold-studded jewellery and parts. This includes items studded with pearls, diamonds, and other precious stones. The restrictions are a response to an unusual surge in imports, which saw a 30 times increase to \$1.55 billion in FY24 from \$51.51 million a year ago. Importers now require government approval and will incur a 15% duty on these items.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad as a WHO-Collaborating Centre for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine." This recognition is for four years, starting from June 3, 2024.
- The UGC's new fee refund policy for HEIs allows for a full refund if admission is cancelled 15 days before the last date, 90% refund if less than 15 days before, 80% within 15 days after, and 50% within 30 days after. No refunds are given after one month.

A ₹1,000 processing fee may apply until October 31, 2024.

- On June 13, 2024, the UNHCR reported that a record 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2023. This figure is expected to rise, potentially exceeding 120 million by April 2024. Conflicts are the main driver of displacement, with significant crises in regions such as Sudan and Gaza.
- NITI Aayog, on June 10, 2024, launched two initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to promote innovation and sustainability in India. These initiatives are the AIM-ICDK Water Challenge 4.0, which seeks solutions for water challenges, and the Innovations for You - SDG Entrepreneurs of India (5th Edition) book that showcases sustainable entrepreneurs.
- On June 12, 2024, three Martian craters were named: Lal (65 km wide), Mursan, and Hilsa (each 10 km wide), located in Mars' Tharsis region. These names honor an Indian physicist and the towns of Mursan, UP, and Hilsa, Bihar.
- 'Mission Nishchay' is a comprehensive initiative by Punjab Police to modernize law enforcement through infrastructure upgrades and advanced technologies. It includes a focused anti-drug drive in collaboration with BSF and VDCs, targeting 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border in Fazilka district from June 15 to 21.
- The Union Jal Shakti Ministry introduced an e-flow monitoring system on June 13, 2024. This portal allows for real-time analysis of the Ganga's water quality. It supports the Aviral Ganga initiative for the river's ecological rejuvenation.
- India accounts for 1% of the global antibacterial R&D pipeline, with 4% of antibacterial agents in clinical development located in the country. The WHO report released on June 16, 2024, points out a significant innovation gap, the majority of R&D is concentrated in high-income countries.
- The 'Prerna Sthal' in the Parliament House complex was inaugurated on June 16, 2024, by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. It is a dedicated space housing statues of India's prominent leaders and freedom fighters, aimed at inspiring visitors and lawmakers alike.
- The central government has extended the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) by one year. This scheme is for digitizing patients' health records and

linking them with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID). Initially launched on January 1, 2023, it will now remain in effect until June 30, 2025.

- **Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer from Maharashtra, has been recognized as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). His innovative practices in sustainable agriculture and waste management contribute to combating land degradation. The announcement was made on World Desertification and Drought Day, which takes place annually on June 17th.**
- **On 16th June 2024, Manav Rachna University (MRU) achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first university in Delhi NCR to install a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver on its campus. This achievement was made possible through collaboration with the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).**
- **On June 19, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar. The university is a collaboration between India and East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. The event was attended by the Head of Missions from 17 countries, emphasizing Nalanda's significance as a symbol of India's academic heritage and cultural exchange.**
- **The Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in Delhi opened this first-of-its-kind skin bank facility within the Armed Forces Medical Services on June 18, 2024. This initiative is expected to revolutionize the treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin conditions for service members and their families.**
- **On June 6, 2024, the Government of India (GoI) introduced the "Offshore Areas (Existence of Mineral Resources) Rules, 2024". These regulations provide a structured approach to evaluating offshore mineral resources, including construction-grade silica sand, non-construction-grade calcareous sand, phosphatic sediments, and rare earth element (REE) minerals.**
- **The Gambia have extended their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms" for another five years, starting from July 8, 2024. This MoU aims to strengthen the partnership between the two countries by sharing best practices related to administrative reforms, good governance**

webinars, research publications, and capacity-building programs.

- **Sankara Eye Foundation, India recently inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Innovation Lab for Eye Care in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on 20th June 2024. Supported by G.D. Naidu Charities, this pioneering lab aims to revolutionize eye care services across India, even in remote areas.**
- **On June 20, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 84 major developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir, collectively worth over ₹32,000 crore. These projects span various sectors, including health, education, rail, road, aviation, petroleum, and civic infrastructure.**
- **The Indian government increased MSP for 14 Kharif crops, including pulses and oilseeds, to benefit farmers. This aims to raise their income by Rs 35,000 crore compared to last year. Paddy MSP also got a**
- **The Union Cabinet approved the development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi on June 21, 2024. This decision aims to enhance infrastructure and connectivity in the region. The airport, named after the former Prime Minister of India, will serve both domestic and international flights.**
- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with the Australian Government to enhance the skills of Indian farmers and agricultural workers. This collaboration aims to improve productivity and competitiveness in the Indian agriculture sector by leveraging emerging technologies and innovative practices.**
- **On June 20, Indian Railways achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting a trial run of an eight-coach MEMU train on the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir. This iconic bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.**
- **The Jharkhand government has approved a caste-based survey in the state, following the model of neighboring Bihar. This survey aims to study not only the prevalence of various communities but also analyze social and economic issues faced by different population segments.**
- **The Indian Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind energy**

projects. This initiative allocates a total of ₹7,453 crore (approximately \$908 million) and aims to set up the country's first-ever offshore wind energy projects.

- The Patna High Court recently struck down amendments made by the Bihar legislature, which had increased caste-based reservations in education and government jobs from 50% to 65%. The court declared these amended reservation laws unconstitutional.
- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 was enacted to stop cheating in public exams like UPSC and NEET. It became effective on June 21st, 2024, targeting unauthorized access to exam halls and leaking confidential exam information.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) recently approved a ₹56 crore fund for the next phase of the conservation plan for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican. This plan aims to improve the population of these critically endangered birds.

BANKING

PHONEPE LAUNCHES SECURED LENDING PLATFORM WITH BANKS, NBFC AND FINTECH FIRMS

- The platform, designed to provide a seamless user experience in the secured loans category, offers its over 535 million registered users access to loans across six major categories: Mutual Fund Loan, Gold Loan, Bike Loan, Car Loan, Home Loan/Loan against Property, and Education Loan.
- The loan application process is initiated within the familiar environment of the PhonePe app, simplifying the process for users.
- PhonePe has partnered with top lenders such as Tata Capital, L&T Finance, Hero FinCorp, Muthoot Fincorp, DMI Housing Finance, Home First Finance, rupyy, Volt Money, Gradright, and more.

SEBI LAUNCHES USER-FRIENDLY BETA SETTLEMENT CALCULATOR

- The calculator allows applicants to select fields according to the offences they have committed.
- It enables the applicant to select appropriate options based on their previous regulatory history,

SEBI's actions, and the details of any other ongoing procedures as of the filing date of the settlement application.

- A user-friendly guide video has been included in the settlement calculator for the ease of understanding the process of arriving at the indicative settlement amount.
- The beta version of the settlement calculator is available on the SEBI website.
- This initiative is aimed at enhancing transparency and making the settlement process more user-friendly.

ADANI GROUP & ICICI BANK LAUNCH CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS WITH AIRPORT LINED BENEFITS

- The cards are available in two variants: Adani One ICICI Bank Signature Credit Card and Adani One ICICI Bank Platinum Credit Card.
- They offer up to 7% Adani Reward Points on spends across the Adani Group consumer ecosystem like the Adani One app, Adani-managed airports, Adani CNG pumps, Adani Electricity bills, and Trainman, an online train booking platform.
- The cards come with a plethora of benefits designed to enhance the cardholders' lifestyle and elevate their airport and travel experience.
- They offer airport privileges like premium lounge access, Pranaam Meet & Greet Service, porter, valet and premium car parking.
- It aims to provide customers with an enhanced and seamless payment experience while unlocking a world of exclusive privileges.

NPCI INTERNATIONAL JOINED HANDS WITH THE RESERVE BANK OF PERU TO ENABLE UPI PAYMENTS

- The new system will facilitate instant payments between individuals and businesses, reducing reliance on cash-based transactions.
- The partnership aims to strengthen Peru's financial infrastructure, promote digital payments, financial inclusion, cost optimization, and transparency.

SEBI ISSUED GUIDELINES TO RELAX TIMELINES FOR FPIS TO MAKE MATERIAL EVENT DISCLOSURES

- **Type I:** Critical changes that render the FPI ineligible for registration, require FPI to seek fresh registration, render FPI ineligible to make fresh purchase of securities, among others. Such changes need to be informed within seven working-days of the occurrence of the change and the supporting documents (if any) shall be provided within 30 days of such change.
- **Type II:** Any material changes other than those considered as 'Type I', shall be informed and supporting documents (if any) shall be provided by FPIs as soon as possible and within 30 days of such change.

SEBI INTRODUCED FINANCIAL DISINCENTIVES FRAMEWORK FOR MIIS

- **Goal:** Improve the integrity and safety of the Indian stock market by incentivizing MIIs to be more vigilant.
- **Who it applies to:** Stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories (all considered MIIs).
- **What it penalizes:** Failures to detect abnormal or suspicious trading activities.
- **Penalties:** Financial disincentives (fines) based on MII's annual revenue and the number of offenses within a year. The money goes towards investor protection and education.
- **MII Due Process:** MIIs have a chance to explain themselves before a penalty is imposed.

MAJOR ADVANCEMENTS IN INDIA-UAE DIGITAL PAYMENTS REVEALED AT DUBAI CONCLAVE

- **Local Currency Settlement (LCS) Framework:** This framework, a key outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE earlier this year, facilitates direct bilateral settlements in INR and AED, reducing dependency on intermediary currencies and lowering transaction costs.
- **Integration of UPI with UAE's Payment Infrastructure:** This integration marks a significant milestone in the bilateral economic relationship, leveraging the stability of the Indian rupee and advanced digital payment technologies to reduce transaction costs and enhance financial transparency and convenience.
- **RuPay Cards and UPI Payments:** RuPay cards are now accepted via the Mercury payment gateway in

the UAE, and UPI payments are possible through Mashreq Bank. The upcoming RuPay Stack, dubbed JAYWAN in the UAE, is set to roll out in July 2024, with further enhancements planned for October 2024.

- **Future Initiatives:** These include integrating UPI with the Aani service for remittances and enabling international acceptance of RuPay cards.
- These developments **aim to create a seamless financial ecosystem that benefits businesses and consumers** alike, fostering deeper economic ties between India and the UAE.

INDIA'S EXIM BANK OPENED ITS EAST AFRICA OFFICE TO BOOST BUSINESS & TRADE

- This move is **aimed at enhancing India's business presence in East Africa and boosting trade and investment** between India, Kenya, and the wider East African region.
- The **India Exim Bank, which plays a crucial role in financing India's international trade and investment**, has supported ventures in 14 African countries under its Overseas Investment Finance Programme.

SEBI MANDATES KRAS TO UPDATE KYC INFORMATION ON CENTRAL KYC RECORDS REGISTRY

- **Effective Date:** The new guidelines will come into effect starting August 1, 2024.
- **Previous Responsibility:** Previously, the responsibility of uploading KYC details onto CKYCRR fell on market intermediaries such as stock brokers and alternative investment funds.
- **New Guidelines:** According to the new guidelines, KRAs will have to upload verified or validated KYC information onto CKYCRR within seven days of receiving it from intermediaries.
- **Existing Records:** KRAs will ensure that existing KYC records of legal entities and of individual clients are uploaded on to CKYCRR within a period of 6 months from August 1.
- **Benefits:** Clients will no longer need to submit KYC documents multiple times to different financial institutions, as their verified records will be available in the centralised CKYCRR system.

RBI'S 2ND BI-MONTHLY MPC MEETING 2024

- **Dates of the Meeting:** The MPC met from June 5 -7, 2024.
- **Repo Rate:** The repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) was kept unchanged at 6.50% for the 8th consecutive time.
- **GDP Growth Forecast:** The real Gross Domestic Product growth forecast was raised from 7% to 7.2% for FY25. The GDP for Q1 is projected at 7.3%, Q2 at 7.2%, Q3 at 7.3% and Q4 at 7.2%.
- **Inflation Forecast:** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5% with Q1 at 4.9%, Q2 at 3.8%, Q3 at 4.6% and Q4 at 4.5%.
- **Policy Rates:** The Fixed Reverse Repo Rate is 3.35%, Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate is 6.25%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate is 6.75%, Bank Rate is 6.75%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is 4.50%, and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) is 18%.
- **Contingent Reserve Buffer:** The risk provisioning under the contingent reserve buffer (CRB) was increased to 6.5% of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet for 2023-24 from 6.0% in 2022-23.
- **Surplus Transfer:** RBI has decided to transfer Rs.2.11 lakh crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24.

RBI RELAXED NORMS FOR OVERSEAS INVESTMENT TIES FOR OFFSHORE FUNDS

- The **RBI has allowed listed Indian companies and resident individuals to invest in offshore funds** that are regulated through their fund managers.
- These **investments can be in any instrument, regardless of its form, and in funds set up as limited partnerships, LLCs, VCCs, companies, or trusts.**
- Until now, **overseas portfolio investment (OPI) was permitted only if the 'funds' were regulated in their home jurisdiction and the investments were in 'units' of the funds.**
- This will **re-open the doors for LP investment into Singapore's Variable Capital Company (VCC) funds as well as funds set up in Delaware, and allow Indian employees of Indian advisory entities to participate in overseas funds.**

- This move is **expected to provide more flexibility and opportunities for Indian investors and companies in the global market.**

SBI LAUNCHED SME DIGITAL BUSINESS LOANS FOR MSME SECTOR

- **Target Sector:** The program is specifically designed for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- **Loan Sanction Time:** The bank aims to sanction loans within 45 minutes.
- **Data-Driven Credit Assessment:** The credit assessment for these loans will be data-driven, leveraging authentic data sources including Income Tax Returns (ITR), Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns, and bank statements.
- **Automated Decision Making:** The bank 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.
- **Focus on MSME Advances:** This initiative is part of SBI's focus on MSME advances, which have been identified as the focal point for the bank's growth and profitability over the next five years.
- **Impact:** This initiative is expected to revolutionize access to credit for MSMEs across the country. It's a significant step towards enhancing the ease of doing business for the MSME sector.

IRDAI MASTER CIRCULAR: POLICY LOAN FACILITY MANDATED IN ALL LIFE INSURANCE SAVINGS PRODUCTS

- **Mandatory Policy Loan Facility:** This is a big win for policyholders. Now, all life insurance savings products must offer a policy loan facility. This means if you face a financial emergency, you can borrow money against your policy's surrender value instead of surrendering the entire policy.
- **Customer Information Sheet (CIS):** This is a new document that life insurance companies are required to provide. It simplifies policy details by explaining benefits, terms, and conditions in an easy-to-understand format. Think of it as a one-stop shop for key policy information.
- These reforms are **aimed at making life insurance more transparent, flexible, and beneficial for policyholders.**

IFC TO FINANCE USD 105 MILLION TO BROOKFIELD'S 550 MW SOLAR PROJECT IN BIKANER, RAJASTHAN

- This **investment will be channeled through long-term non-convertible debentures specifically** allocated to the project's special purpose vehicles.
- The **solar project, with a capacity of 550 MW, aims to contribute to India's ambitious goal** of increasing its non-fossil fuel capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- Through this partnership, **the IFC aims to demonstrate the viability of large-scale renewable energy generation** and sale to corporate and industrial clients across India.
- The **project will deliver power through long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) and will be connected** to the inter-state transmission system, facilitating the integration of renewable energy into the national grid.

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF SELF-REGULATORY ORGANISATIONS (SROS) FOR NBFCs

- The **SRO should have a good mix of NBFC types (NBFC-ICCs, HFCs, and NBFC-Factors)**.
- **At least 10% of members should be smaller NBFCs categorized as NBFC-ICC and NBFC-Factor** in the base layer (as per Scale Based Regulatory Framework). This membership requirement must be met within two years of recognition to avoid getting the recognition revoked.
- The **SRO needs to have a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore** within one year of getting recognized or before starting operations, whichever is earlier.
- This **minimum net worth needs to be maintained afterwards as well**.

SEBI TIGHTENS NORMS FOR IPO PRICE DISCOVERY TO CURB MANIPULATION

- This **aims to prevent manipulation during the price discovery process**.
- **Increased Scrutiny in the Pre-Open Call Auction:** This is a one-hour session before the stock starts trading where investors place bids. SEBI has tightened surveillance to identify and potentially penalize suspicious activity.
- **Focus on Order Matching:** The first 45 minutes of the pre-open session allows for placing, modifying,

or canceling orders. SEBI aims to ensure these orders are genuine reflections of investor interest.

- **Shorter Order Matching Window:** The following 10 minutes are dedicated to matching these buy and sell orders to determine a fair equilibrium price for the stock.
- **Buffer Period:** The remaining five minutes act as a buffer to smoothly transition from the pre-open session to regular trading.

UNDERSTANDING ONDC: INDIA'S OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE

- **ONDC aims to create an inclusive ecosystem for e-commerce by fostering open interchange and connections between shoppers, technology platforms, and retailers.**
- **It seeks to break the dominance of global giants like Amazon and Flipkart in India's rapidly growing e-commerce market.**
- **ONDC is not an application or software; rather, it's a set of specifications.**
- **It enables interconnected e-marketplaces where sellers (including brands) can directly list and sell products to customers, bypassing intermediaries.**

UNETHICAL EDGES IN THE MARKET: INSIDER TRADING VS. FRONT RUNNING

- **Insider Trading:** This is illegal. Here, someone with access to confidential, non-public information about a company (like an upcoming merger) uses that knowledge to buy or sell the company's stock before the information becomes public. This insider gains an unfair edge over other investors.
- **Front Running:** This is also illegal. Here, someone, typically a broker, exploits their knowledge of upcoming large orders to buy or sell a security before the order is executed. This drives the price up (for a large buy order) or down (for a large sell order), allowing the front runner to profit before the price movement affects everyone else.

MAJORITY SEES NEUTRAL INTEREST RATE BETWEEN 1% TO LESS THAN 2%

- **Definition:** The neutral rate is the rate at which the economy is neither stimulated nor slowed down. It's not directly observable but estimated based on various analyses and observations.

- **Importance:** Knowing the neutral rate helps central bankers assess whether their monetary policy is accommodative, neutral, or restrictive. Interest rates are a key tool for adjusting economic activity.
- **Estimates:** Estimates vary, but some widely cited figures put the real (inflation-adjusted) neutral rate around 0.6% in the United States. Looking ahead, the federal funds rate could eventually target a range between 2% and 3%.

RBI PARTNERS WITH APIX TO HOST HARBINGER 2024 HACKATHON: INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

- **Goal:** Develop solutions to enhance security and financial inclusion in the Indian financial ecosystem.
- **Themes:**
 - Combatting Fraud
 - Financial Inclusion for the Differently-abled
 - Challenge Categories:
 - Real-time fraud detection
 - Ensuring transaction anonymity
 - Identifying mule accounts
 - Empowering visually impaired users in financial transactions
- **Organizers:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI), APIX (leading global collaborative platform for financial institutions)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI) HAS AMENDED ITS INSIDER TRADING NORMS

- **Flexibility for Trading Plans:** The new norms allow insiders to execute trading plans with more flexibility. According to the PIT Regulations (Prohibition of Insider Trading), an insider may trade in a company's securities if the compliance officer approves their trading plan.
- **Mutual Funds Disclosure:** SEBI also amended the rules to include mutual funds. Asset management companies (AMCs) now need to disclose details of holdings in their mutual fund schemes, aggregated by the AMC, trustees, and their immediate relatives on stock exchange platforms.
- These changes **aim to enhance transparency and accountability in the securities market.**

ADB & AHFL SIGNED USD 60 MILLION NCDS DEAL TO OFFER HOUSING LOANS TO LOW-INCOME

- **Purpose:** The financing will help AHFL provide housing loans to women and address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment in India.
- **Deployment:** At least half of the funds will be deployed in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- **Background:** India faces a significant housing shortage, estimated at 26.3 million homes in urban areas and nearly double that number in rural areas. Formal mortgage lending is limited to those with informal employment and lower-income groups.
- **AHFL's Focus:** AHFL, a housing finance company in India, targets the low-income housing segment with an average loan ticket size of less than 1.5 million Indian rupees (around \$17,976).
- This collaboration **aims to fulfill the aspirations of economically weaker sections of society by creating a stronger network of self-owned, low-income houses.**

BANKING- ONE LINER

- LIC has **increased its stake in PI Industries from 4.95% to 5% by acquiring 72,000 shares from the open market. The shares were bought at an average cost of ₹3,558.29 each.** This move is seen as a strategic investment by LIC. PI Industries is a leading agrochemicals firm with a market capitalisation of ₹53,488.98 crore.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI) crossed a market capitalization of Rs 8 lakh crore on June 3, 2024. This milestone was achieved when the SBI stock hit a 52-week high.** SBI became the seventh Indian listed company to reach this market cap, and the sixth biggest company in terms of market cap.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the auction of 10-year green bonds on June 1, 2024. This was due to the market's refusal to pay a premium, known as greenium, for these bonds.** The cancellation highlights the challenges in establishing a robust market for green bonds in India.

- **Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced a bancassurance partnership on June 3, 2024.** The partnership aims to increase insurance penetration in India by offering a range of personal and commercial insurance products through Axis Bank's network of over 5250 branches.
- **In FY24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on regulated entities (REs) amounting to ₹86.11 crore, more than double the ₹40.39 crore in FY23.** The penalties were due to non-compliance with RBI's rules and regulations. The number of penalized REs increased from 211 in FY23 to 281 in FY24.
- **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance rebranded itself as Edelweiss Life Insurance on June 3, 2024.** The rebranding reflects the company's commitment to innovation, simplicity, and a customer-centric approach.
- **On 4th June 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Cintra's acquisition of approximately 24% stake in both IRB Infrastructure Trust and MMK Toll Road Pvt Ltd.** This is a notable event in the infrastructure sector.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore.** The approval was received on June 4, 2024.
- **The board of directors of Punjab National Bank (PNB) has approved the dilution of a 10% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company.** This will be done through an initial public offering (IPO). PNB currently holds a 23% stake in the insurer.
- **The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) is replacing the eight-decade-old Central Excise Act, 1944 with a new 'Central Excise Bill, 2024'.** The draft bill is open for suggestions until 26th June 2024. The new bill aims to modernize the tax system, promote ease of doing business, and potentially bring petroleum products under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) ambit.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched its third global hackathon, 'HaRBinger 2024 - Innovation for Transformation'.** Registration for this event started on June 7, 2024. It's a platform for individuals and entities to develop innovative solutions for challenges in the financial ecosystem.
- **Muthoot Microfin Limited, a leading microfinance institution headquartered in Kochi, announced a strategic co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI) on June 6, 2024.** This collaboration aims to extend financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban regions across India.
- **On June 6, 2024, Indian fintech firm PhonePe announced a partnership with Sri Lanka ride-hailing platform PickMe.** This collaboration aims to enable UPI-based QR payments for Indian tourists in Sri Lanka, allowing them to conduct cashless transactions on PickMe rides.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the threshold for bulk fixed deposits from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore on June 7, 2024.** This change is aimed at improving the asset liability management of banks. Now, retail fixed deposits include single rupee term deposits of up to Rs 2 crore with Scheduled Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks.
- **The Indian Central Government has released ₹1.39 lakh crore to states as part of a devolution mechanism. An extra instalment will be provided in June 2024.** The total amount devolved till June 10, 2024, is ₹2,79,500 crore. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar received the highest amounts. This move aids state finances.
- **Ashv Finance Ltd, a non-banking financial company, signed a co-lending agreement with HDFC Bank on June 7, 2024.** The partnership aims to provide unsecured business loans ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh to micro and small enterprises (MSEs).
- **On June 10, 2024, the Bank of India acquired a 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC.** This acquisition is part of the bank's strategic move to support the growth of GIFT City IFSC. The bank's IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City had surpassed the target of USD 1 billion as of March 2024.
- **Motilal Oswal AMC has launched the Motilal Oswal Nifty India Defence Index Fund, which is an open-ended fund replicating/tracking the total returns of the Nifty India Defence Index.** The New Fund Offer (NFO) opened on 13th June 2024 and will close on 24th June 2024.
- **Aurionpro Payment Solutions, a subsidiary of Aurionpro, received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 13, 2024, to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007.** This approval

enables them to provide digital payment services across India through their payment gateway brand AuroPay.

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has made it possible for **retail policyholders to cancel their insurance policy at any point during its term. Upon cancellation, policyholders are entitled to a refund for the balance of the policy period.** The insurer is not required to provide reasons for the cancellation initiated by the policyholder.
- The **World Bank is collaborating with the Greater Chennai Corporation in India to achieve a zero-waste goal by 2026-2027. This includes ending waste disposal in two major dumpsites, Kodungaiyur and Perungudi, to create a sustainable waste management system.**
- **NEC Corporation India has been chosen by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as the System Integrator for the PFRDA-TRACE digital platform, marking a significant step in PFRDA's digital transformation efforts.** The company will hold this position for six years, starting from June 14, 2024.
- **On June 11, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) levied a penalty of ₹1.45 crore on Central Bank of India. The fine was for non-compliance with RBI's directives on 'Loans and Advances' and 'Customer Protection in Electronic Banking Transactions.**
- **In FY24, India's corporate sector saw a significant upturn, with the profit-to-GDP ratio reaching a peak not seen in 15 years. The Nifty-500 companies' profits surged by 30% year-on-year, far exceeding the nominal GDP growth of 9.6%. This milestone highlights the strong performance of India Inc, particularly led by the BFSI sector.**
- **India's domestic equity market has indeed made a significant leap. As of the latest data, the total value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reached \$4.33 trillion, surpassing Hong Kong's \$4.29 trillion. This milestone positions India as the world's fourth-largest equity market.**
- **On June 15, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued an administrative warning to JM Financial Ltd. The warning pertains to discrepancies and deficiencies in due diligence, document recording, and disclosures during certain past public issuances of non-convertible debentures**

(NCDs), where JM Financial served as a merchant banker.

- **The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) offers NRI Banking solutions with various deposit accounts such as NRE, NRO, FCNR, and RFC accounts.** These are designed to cater to different aspects of NRI banking needs, ensuring ease and reliability.
- **The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the license of Purvanchal Co-op Bank, Ghazipur in June 2024 due to insufficient capital. The bank is now closed and depositors can claim insurance up to Rs 5 lakh from DICGC**
- **As of June 17th, 2024, gross direct tax collections have risen by 22.19% compared to the same period last year.** This could be due to a growing economy or improved tax collection efforts.
- **The Indian government successfully monetized ₹1.56 lakh crore worth of assets under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) during the fiscal year 2023-24.** This initiative aims to unlock value from public infrastructure assets and enhance economic growth.
- **During the fiscal year 2023-24, India's gold and silver imports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) surged by 210% to reach \$10.7 billion.** This significant increase was driven by import duty concessions granted under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Notably, India allows a 7% tariff concession on unlimited silver quantities and a 1% concession on 160 metric tonnes of gold.
- **Federal Bank did launch the RuPay Wave credit card in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It's a unique card that combines the benefits of UPI payments with the features of a RuPay credit card.**
- **The board of Axis Bank has approved an increase in its stake in Max Life Insurance for ₹336 crore. This will raise Axis Bank's stake to 19.99% from the existing 19.02%.** The transaction is expected to be completed within 2-3 months, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently cancelled the license of Mumbai-based The City Co-operative Bank due to inadequate capital and non-compliance with regulatory norms.** This decision, effective from the close of business on June 19, 2024, marks the cessation of the bank's operations.

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 170 million policy-based loan to enhance India's health** system preparedness and capacity to respond to future pandemics. This funding supports the implementation of the National Health Policy 2017, aiming to provide quality health care services to all.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has partnered with **Ria Money Transfer to offer international inward money transfer services at over 25,000 Post Office locations**, with an expected reach of over 100,000 locations. This collaboration aims to enhance financial inclusion in rural areas by providing convenient and affordable doorstep financial services.
- **SabPaisa, a payment solutions provider, recently received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.** As a PA, SabPaisa enables e-commerce sites and online merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers without the need for merchants to create their own systems.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Judith Suminwa Tuluka	First woman Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Sandeep Bapat	Senior partner and co-chief investment officer
Ms. Sheyphali B. Sharan	Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau
Atul Mehra	MD and CEO of Axis Capital
Monica Jasuja	Chief Growth and Partnership Officer
Rajeev Singhal	Managing Director of Tata International Limited
Sanjay Nayar	President of ASSOCHAM
Lieutenant General JS Sidana	33rd Director General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers
Santosh Kumar Jha	Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway Corporation
Sandeep Jain	President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises
Ramit Goyal	Future Generali India Insurance
Ousmane Sonko	Prime Minister of Senegal
Ms. Sheyphali B. Sharan	Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau

Rakesh Mohan	World Bank Group's Economic Advisory Panel
Ms. Astrid Schomaker	Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Dr. Meenesh Shah	Chairman of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd.
Justice Najmi Waziri	Chairperson of a committee for the protection of forests in Delhi.
Bilquis Mir	Jury member
Justice PS Dinesh Kumar	Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)
Dheeraj Bhatnagar	Technical Member
M.P. Ram Mohan	Professor at the Indian Institute of Management
Dinabandhu Mohapatra	Non-Executive Independent Director
Srini Pallia	CEO and Managing Director of Wipro Limited
Love Kumar	Inspector General in the Special Protection Group
Vinod Francis	Deputy CFO
Sushil Sharma	Chairman and Managing Director of SJVN Limited
Simon Harris	Prime Minister (Taoiseach) of Ireland
Jayaraj Shanmugam	Head of Global Airport Operations
Manoj Panda	New finance commission member
Justice Aniruddha Bose	Director of The National Judicial Academy
Tarun Bajaj	Chair of the US-India Tax Forum
Harendra Singh	Head coach of the Indian women's hockey team
Manoj Mittal	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IFCI Ltd
Sanjay Shukla	Managing Director of the National Housing Bank
Ingmar De Vos	President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations
Ashish Kumar Chauhan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Stock Exchange
Sridhar Vembu	Co-founder and CEO of Zoho Corporation.
Lindy Cameron	British High Commissioner to the Republic of India
Ms. Vandita Kaul	Secretary of the Department of Posts
Anurag Kumar	Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation
Kristalina Georgieva	Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait
Saurabh Garg	Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi	Chief Member of the Indian Navy.
Nalin Prabhat	Director-General of the National Security Guard
Kaushik Rajashekara	International Fellow of the Engineering Academy of Japan
Santosh Viswanathan	India Region Head of Intel
Nalin Prabhat	Director General of the National Security Guard
Sapna Tiwari	Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau
Ajith Kumar K.K.	Managing Director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank
Keki M Mistry	Chairman of HDFC Life Insurance
Colonel Edison Napyo	First Defence Advisor of Papua New Guinea to India
Shri Narpat Singh	Railway Adviser at the High Commission of India
Gita Sabharwal	United Nations Resident Coordinator in Indonesia
Naveen Chandra Jha	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI General Insurance
K-pop group	UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Youth
Kapil Dev	President of the Professional Golf Tour of India
Vikram Misri	India's Foreign Secretary
Neerabh Kumar Prasad	Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh
Ursula von der Leyen	European Commission
António Costa	President of the European Council
Kaja Kallas	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Prithviraj Kothari	National President of Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd
Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Chairman of the State Bank of India
General Upendra Dwivedi	30th Chief of the Indian Army
Ravi Agrawal	Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes
Samrat Chaudhary	GST Rate Rationalisation GoM
New finance minister from Odisha	GoM on Analysis of Revenue from GST
Ajit Pawar	GoM on Boosting Real Estate Sector under GST

INDEX AND RANKING

TOP BUSINESS DESTINATIONS: SINGAPORE, DENMARK, AND U.S. LEAD EIU'S 2024 RANKINGS

- The **ranking is based on 91 indicators** that measure the **attractiveness of doing business in 82 countries and territories**.
- These **rankings are a reflection of the changing global business landscape and provide valuable insights** for businesses looking to understand the business climate in different regions.

INDIA RANKS 3RD IN HURUN'S GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2024

- The **United States leads the list with 703 unicorns, accounting for 48%** of the total unicorns in the world.
- The index also **reveals that one new unicorn was minted every two days, with the USA leading with 70**, followed by China with 56, and the 'Rest of the World' with 45.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2024

- The institution that **secured the 1st place in this category is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, which is located in the United States of America.
- Globally, it holds the 20th position **has been ranked as the top university in India for Development Studies in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024**.
- The ranking is **based on parameters like Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Citations per paper, and H-index citations**.

INDIA HAS BEEN RANKED 10TH IN CYBER CRIME, WITH RUSSIA TOPPING THE LIST FOLLOWED BY UKRAINE

- This ranking was **based on various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft, and scams**.
- For example, **Russia and Ukraine are highly technical cybercrime hubs, whereas Nigerian cybercriminals are engaged in less technical forms of cybercrime**.

DELHI AIRPORT RANKS IN TOP 10 BUSIEST AIRPORTS GLOBALLY FOR 2023: ACI

- Delhi's IGI Airport was ranked 10th globally in 2023.
- The airport hosted more than 72.2 million passengers in 2023, which signifies a steady year-on-year growth of 20.36%.
- The list was topped by the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Krishna Prakash	Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award
Siddhalinga Pattanashetti	Gudleppa Hallikeri Award
Sanya Malhotra	Best Actress for 'The Great Indian Kitchen'
Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)	WSIS 2024 Champion Award
Rohini Lokhande	Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award
Vellayan Subbiah	EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2024
Executive Director Manoranjan Mishra	Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024
David Charbonneau, Sara Seager, Robert S. Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, Chad A. Mirkin, Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao	2024 Kavli Prize
Gujarat	1st Rank" Award
P. Madhavankutty Varier	An honorary Doctor of Science
Vinod Ganatra	'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award
Wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu	V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award
IRIS Business Services Limited	'Global Central Banking Award 2024'
Somalia's all-women media team	One World Media Press Freedom Award
(GRSE) Limited	"Sustainable Governance Champion Award"
Arundhati Roy	2024 PEN Pinter Prize
Doon School Srinagar	Transformative Education Excellence
Sanjana Thakur	2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for "Aishwarya Rai"
Dr. Usha Thakur	12th Vishwa Hindi Samman
SEBI	"Best Conduct of Business Regulator"

Ranju Hazarika (Assamese), Dipanvita Roy (Bengali), Birgin Jekova Machahary (Bodo), Bishan Singh 'Dardi' (Dogri), Gira Pinakin Bhatt (Gujarati), and Krishnamurthy Biligere (Kannada).	Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar
Young writers of outstanding literature in 22 Indian languages and English	Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar
Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank	National Award for Implementation (APY)

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1st June 2024	World Milk Day	Theme: "Celebrating the vital role dairy plays in delivering quality nutrition to nourish the world"
1st June 2024	Global Day of Parents	Theme: "The Promise of Playful Parenting"
2nd June 2024	78th Republic Day	Theme: -
3rd June 2024	World Bicycle Day	Theme: To promote physical activity and zero emissions.
4th June 2024	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	Theme: "Protecting Children in Armed Conflicts"
5th June 2024	International Day for the Fight Against Illegal	Theme: -
5th June 2024	33rd Foundation Day	Theme: To develop a hyperscale cloud made by Indians for Indians
5th June 2024	World Environment Day	Theme: 'Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience'
6th June 2024	International Level Crossing Awareness Day	Theme: "Beware of trains. Life can change in a split second"
6th June 2024	UN Russian Language Day	Theme: To promote the study and

		appreciation of the Russian language
7th June 2024	World Pest Day	Theme: ---“Global Solutions, Local Impact: Mapping Success in Pest Management”
7th June 2024	National Donut Day	Theme: -
7th June 2024	World Food Safety Day	Theme: -"Food safety: prepare for the unexpected"
8th June 2024	World Brain Tumour Day	Theme: “Brain Health and Prevention”
8th June 2024	National Best Friends Day	Theme: “Cherishing Connections”
8th June 2024	World Oceans Day	Theme: "Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate".
9th June 2024	International Archives Day	Theme: #CyberArchives
9th June 2024	World Accreditation Day	Theme: “Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future”.
10th June 2024	UN International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations	Theme: “Equal dialogue and mutual respect”
11th June 2024	International Day of Play	Theme: “Play Unites Us All”
12th June 2024	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme: “Let’s Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour!”
13th June 2024	International Albinism Awareness Day	Theme: "10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress."
14th June 2024	World Blood Donor Day	Theme: "Celebrating 20 years of giving: thank you, blood donors!"
15th June 2024	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Theme: "Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies."
15th June 2024	World Wind Day	Theme: -
16th June 2024	Father's Day	Theme: "Honoring Fatherhood:

		Strength, Love, and Sacrifice"
16th June 2024	International Day of Family Remittances	Theme: “Protect Insects, Protect Birds”“Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction
17th June 2024	World Crocodile Day	Theme: “Our Nurses. Our Future.
17th June 2024	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme: "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future,"
18th June 2024	Autistic Pride Day	Theme: Taking the Mask Off,
18th June 2024	International Picnic Day	Theme: “Celebrating Different Cultures,
18th June 2024	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	To raise awareness about the impact of hate speech and promote tolerance, understanding, and respect among diverse communities.
18th June 2024	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	Theme: "More Taste, Less Waste" focusing on reducing food waste.
19th June 2024	World Sauntering Day	Theme: Encourages individuals to walk, ramble, and meander, appreciating
19th June 2024	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence	Theme: Attacks against health care in conflict-affected areas
19th June 2024	National Reading Day	Encourages people to pick up a book and rediscover the joy of reading
19th June 2024	World Sickle Cell Day	Theme: We are STRONGER TOGETHER,
20th June 2024	World Refugee Day	Theme: “Solidarity with Refugees
21st June 2024	World Music Day	Theme: "Museums for Education and Research".

21st June 2024	World Hydrography Day	Theme: "Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability in Marine Activities."
21st June 2024	Summer solstice	Sun appears directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer, resulting in the most hours of sunlight
21st June 2024	International Yoga Day	Theme: "Yoga for Self and Society,"
22nd June 2024	World Rainforest Day	Theme: "Shaping the New Future" "Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests,"
23rd June 2024	United Nations Public Service Day	Theme: "Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective".
23rd June 2024	World Allergy Week	Theme: "Managing allergic diseases amidst environmental changes,"
24th June 2024	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	Theme: "Women's Leadership in Multilateral Diplomacy"
25th June 2024	Day of the Seafarer	Theme: "Seafarers' contribution to making the maritime sector a safer workplace"
25th June 2024	World Vitiligo Day	Theme: "United by the Skin"
26th June 2024	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	Theme: "Voices Against Torture: A Call for Global Justice and Human Rights"
26th June 2024	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Theme: "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention."
26th June 2024	World Refrigeration Day	Theme: "Temperature Matters,"

27th June 2024	MSME Day	Theme: "Leveraging the Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises."
27th June 2024	Helen Keller Day	Theme: -
28th June 2024	National Insurance Awareness Day	Theme:
29th June 2024	International Day of the Tropics	Theme: "State of Tropics Report".
29th June 2024	National Statistics Day	Theme: - "Use of data for decision making"
30th June 2024	International Asteroid Day	Theme: -
30th June 2024	International Day of Parliamentarism	Theme: "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding."

MOUS SIGNED

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya with Nokia, Plasser India, Jacobs	3rd June 2024	For industry-academia collaboration
Department of School Education and the National Book Trust	3rd June 2024	To establish the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, a digital library
Punjab National Bank and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd	3rd June 2024	To offer long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.
(MoHFW) and (MoD)	5th June 2024	To set up a dedicated Tele MANAS cell for the Armed Forces to address their unique mental health needs.

MoD with 4 Banks	5th June 2024	To Onboard Them As 'SPARSH' Service Centres
MoM with Central TB Division	5th June 2024	To Collaborative On Tuberculosis Elimination
IITH & Japan-based Renesas	5th June 2024	To enhance semiconductor innovation in India.
CSC SPV and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare	7th June 2024	To convert 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) into Common Service Centres
Andhra Chamber of Commerce with the Atal Incubation Centre	9th June 2024	To enhance the startup ecosystem by leveraging both organizations' strengths
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Sansad TV	13th June 2024	To enhance public access to Indian art and culture by broadcasting programs produced by IGNCAs on Sansad TV
MEA & SBI	15th June 2024	To improve digital payment options for users of the eMigrate portal
Adani Group and Druk Green Power Corporation	17th June 2024	To establish a 570 MW green hydroelectric plant, marking a significant step in India-Bhutan bilateral relations
Bharat 6G Alliance with 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G IA) and 6G Flagship at Oulu University	20th June 2024	For high-quality living experiences through advanced telecom technologies
CERT-In and Mastercard India Forge	20th June 2024	To collaborate on enhancing India's cyber resilience in the financial sector
NHAI and IIIT Delhi	21st June 2024	To enhance road safety through AI
SAMEER, MeitY with MCTE	22nd June 2024	To advance collaboration in

		'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for the Indian Army'
PSB With Indian Army	26th June 2024	For a defence salary package
Gujarat government with software giants IBM and Microsoft	29th June 2024	To promote the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in the state
Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan	30th June 2024	To implement the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'MUKHYA MANTRI NIJUT MOINA' SCHEME HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT

Current Context: The 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' Scheme was announced by the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on 12 June 2024 after the Assam government cabinet approved the scheme.

- It aims to empower girls and prevent child marriages by providing financial support and educational opportunities.
- The scheme targets around 10 lakh girls in government institutions and has a budget allocation of Rs 240 crore.
- Girls enrolled in higher secondary first year will receive Rs. 1,000 monthly for 10 months per year, with increased assistance for those pursuing degree courses.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES 'CHIEF MINISTER'S MANNUYIR KAATHU MANNUYIR KAAPPOM' SCHEME

Current Context: On 12th June 2024, The Tamil Nadu government launched the "Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom" scheme, which translates to "protect the soil, save life".

- It's a major initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and improving soil health in the state.
- **Goals:** Improve soil fertility, encourage eco-friendly farming practices, and reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers.

- **Methods:** Distribution of green manure seeds to farmers, which helps replenish nutrients in the soil.
- **Budget:** ₹206 crore (approximately \$25 million)
- **Target:** Benefit around 200,000 farmers and cultivate green manure on 200,000 acres of land in the first phase (2024-25).

“PM AWAS YOJANA: 3 CRORE HOMES BUILT WITH GOVT AID

Current Context: The PMAY scheme has been extended up to 31 December, 2024 for all verticals except the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) vertical, which aims to complete houses sanctioned up to 31 March 2022.

- **No additional houses will be sanctioned** during the extended period.
- The **Union Budget 2024 announced a 66% increase in outlay for PMAY, amounting to over Rs 79,000 crore.**
- The **total target of pucca houses has been revised to 2.95 crore houses.**
- As of April 22, 2024, **82.36 lakh houses have been completed under PMAY-Urban.**

PM MODI SANCTIONS 17TH PM-KISAN INSTALMENT, AIDING 9.3 CRORE FARMERS

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned the 17th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, benefiting approximately 9.3 crore farmers across India.

- The PM-KISAN scheme, launched in December 2018, aims to **provide financial support to small and marginal farmers, ensuring they have the necessary funds to manage their agricultural activities.**
- Under the **PM-KISAN scheme, eligible farmers receive Rs. 6,000 annually in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.**
- These **payments are directly transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts to ensure transparency and reduce the risk of corruption.**
- The **release of the 17th installment is a significant step towards bolstering the rural economy and supporting farmers, who are crucial to India's agrarian-based economy.**
- This **financial aid is expected to help farmers manage their farming expenses, buy seeds,**

fertilizers, and other necessary inputs, and thus improve their productivity and income.

- For farmers to benefit from the scheme, **they must complete the e-KYC process and ensure their bank accounts are linked with their Aadhaar numbers.**
- The government has been working to streamline the process and address any issues farmers face in receiving payments.

CENTRE EXTENDS DHIS BY A YEAR TILL JUNE 2025 TO DIGITISE PATIENTS' HEALTH RECORD

Current Context: The central government has extended the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS), which aims to digitize patients' health records and link them with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID).

- **Scheme Extension:** The DHIS, launched on January 1, 2023, will now remain in effect until June 30, 2025.
- **Incentives:** Under the scheme, government and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs, and pharmacies receive Rs 20 for each additional record they digitize, beyond the threshold of 100 transactions per month.
- **Applicability:** The scheme applies to both public and private hospitals and digital solution companies (DSCs) creating digital health records.
- **Incentive Cap:** Each facility or DSC can earn incentives up to Rs 4 crores.
- **Purpose:** The DHIS aims to promote digital health transactions and incentivize providers to adopt digital health solutions.
- **Impact:** By reimbursing hospitals for digitization expenses, the scheme addresses a significant bottleneck in transitioning to digital health. Hospitals need to install computers, laptops, internet connections, and software (HMIS/LMIS) to go digital.
- **Positive Results:** The extension reflects the scheme's success in encouraging health facilities to embrace essential digital prerequisites for their operations.

“NATIONAL FORENSIC INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME” HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CABINET

Current Context: The National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) was approved by the Union Cabinet in India in 2024.

- This initiative aims to strengthen the country's forensic infrastructure with a financial outlay of Rs. 2254.43 crore spread over five years (2024-25 to 2028-29).
- Establishing new campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) across India. This will increase the availability of trained forensic professionals.
- Setting up more Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs) to expand capacity for forensic analysis.
- The NFIES is a significant step towards improving the criminal justice system in India. By strengthening forensic capabilities, the scheme aims to ensure timely and scientific examination of evidence, leading to faster investigations and better conviction rates.

ASSAM WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME, 2024

Current Context: The Assam Witness Protection Scheme, 2024 is a recently approved initiative by the Assam government to safeguard witnesses during investigations and trials. It was introduced in June 2024.

- **Goal:** Ensure witness safety and encourage people to come forward with information in criminal cases.
- **Legal Basis:** Aligns with Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, a national law for witness protection.
- **Implemented by:** A State Witness Protection Authority and a dedicated fund

Protection Measures: These can include:

- In-camera trials (closed to the public).
- Security installations at witness homes (CCTV, alarms, etc.).
- Close protection officers and security patrols near homes.
- Temporary relocation program for witnesses at risk.
- Escorts to and from court appearances.
- Government transportation for court dates

EMPLOYEES' PENSION SCHEME HAS BEEN AMENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Current Context: The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) was amended by the Indian government to benefit employees with shorter tenures.

- **Withdrawal Benefit for Less Than 6 Months Service:** Previously, EPS members with less than 6 months of contribution received no withdrawal benefit. Now, they will get a proportionate benefit based on their contribution period.
- **Proportionate Benefit Calculation:** The government modified Table D to ensure every completed month is considered for calculating the withdrawal amount. This amount depends on the employee's wages and months of service.
 - It's estimated that this amendment will benefit over 7 lakh EPS members annually who leave the scheme before completing the 10-year requirement for a pension.

'MUKHYAMANTRI MAJHI LADKI BAHIN' SCHEME HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE MAHARASHTRA GOVT.

Current Context: On 28th June 2024, The Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana was announced by the Maharashtra government.

- **Monthly Allowance:** Eligible women aged 21 to 60 years will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 under this scheme.
- **Empowerment Focus:** The scheme aims to provide financial relief and empower women by supporting their health, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- **Implementation:** The program is set to kick off in July, strategically timed four months before the state elections scheduled for October.
- This initiative reflects the government's commitment to supporting women and fostering self-reliance.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"NASA LAUNCHES NOAA'S 4TH & FINAL WEATHER SATELLITE 'GOES-U' ON SPACEX'S FALCON HEAVY ROCKET

- **GOES-U is the final addition to the successful GOES-R series, providing crucial weather monitoring for the Western Hemisphere.**

- This launch marked a **significant milestone for both weather forecasting and space exploration.**
- **Advanced Weather Monitoring:** GOES-U will track weather patterns and environmental hazards across much of North and South America.
- **SpaceX Falcon Heavy:** This powerful rocket successfully delivered GOES-U to its designated orbit.
- **New Technology:** GOES-U carries a novel instrument to study the faint solar atmosphere, improving space weather predictions.
- GOES-U is expected to **reach its final position within two weeks and will be renamed GOES-19 upon reaching** its operational orbit.
- This mission is a **collaborative effort between NASA and NOAA, ensuring continued advancements in weather prediction** and environmental monitoring.

SPORTS

INDIA'S TANVI SHARMA WON THE WOMEN'S SINGLES TITLE OF THE BONN INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON

- She defeated **Wang Pei Yu from Chinese Taipei in the final encounter that lasted for 34 minutes.**
- The match was closely **contested, with Tanvi registering a 21-19, 22-20 win.**
- **Tanvi Sharma, who hails from Punjab, had previously secured a gold medal for the Indian women's team at the Badminton Asia Team Championships in Selangor, Malaysia, in February 2024.**
- Her **journey through the Bonn International tournament was impressive, defeating several opponents** including Azkya Aliefa Ruhanda of Switzerland and Yi En Hsieh of Chinese Taipei.

NEERAJ CHOPRA WON A GOLD MEDAL IN THE PAAVO NURMI GAMES

- This **victory marked a successful return to competition** after a brief absence.
- Though his winning **throw of 85.97 meters wasn't his personal best, it was enough to triumph** over a strong field that included past rivals like Oliver Helander and Anderson Peters.
- This **win not only served as a confidence booster but also provided valuable competition experience** as he gears up for the prestigious Paris Olympics.

TABLE TENNIS: INDIA WON 9 MEDALS AT WTT CONTENDER LAGOS 2024

- The **Indian contingent secured nine medals, including three golds.**
- **Sreeja Akula:** She made history by winning the singles title, defeating Ding Yijie with a 4-1 score. Sreeja became the first-ever Indian player to clinch a Women's Singles title in the WTT Contender.
- **Women's Singles:** Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee settled for bronze medals.
- **Women's Doubles:** Sreeja Akula, along with Archana Kamath, won the women's doubles title.
- **Men's Doubles:** Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar clinched the gold in men's doubles, making them the first Indian men's pair to win a title at a Contender meet.
- All **four title-winning Indian table tennis players**—Sreeja Akula, Archana Kamath, Harmeet Desai, and Manav Thakkar—are part of the Indian team for the Paris Olympics.

INDIA WON A TOTAL OF 11 MEDALS IN UNDER-17 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

- The **women's freestyle team particularly shone, claiming all four gold medals** for India (Dipanshi in 46kg, Muskan in 53kg, Rajnita in 61kg, and Mansi Lather in 69kg).
- There were **also two silver medals (Raja Bala in 40kg women's freestyle and Samarth Gajanan Mhakave in 55kg men's freestyle).**
- **Five bronze medals were secured by the men's freestyle team** (Akash in 65kg, Sachin Kumar in 71kg, Bikash Kacchap in 48kg, Tushar Tukaram Patil in 60kg, and Ronak in 110kg).

REPORTS

OECD 2022: DEVELOPED NATIONS FUNDED \$115.9B FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Developed countries provided and mobilised a total of USD 115.9 billion in climate finance for developing countries in 2022.
- This is the first time the annual goal of USD 100 billion has been exceeded.

- Public climate finance accounted for close to 80% of the total in 2022.
- Adaptation finance reached USD 32.4 billion in 2022, three times the 2016 level.
- Mitigation represented 60% of the total.
- Private finance mobilised by public climate finance grew by 52%.
- The report underscores the need for international providers to significantly scale up their efforts in adaptation finance and the mobilisation of private finance.

UN REPORT: GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT REACHED A RECORD OF USD 97 TRILLION IN 2023

- This report highlighted that the global public debt reached a record of USD 97 trillion in 2023, with the public debt in developing countries hitting \$29 trillion, which is about 30% of the total worldwide.
- The report also emphasized that soaring interest payments are outpacing the growth of critical public spending such as spending on education and health.
- Half of the developing nations designate a minimum of 8% of government revenues to debt servicing, a number that has doubled in the last ten years.
- In 2023, a historic 54 developing nations, with almost half in Africa, dedicated a minimum of 10% of government funds to debt interest payments.

WMO GLOBAL ANNUAL TO DECADEAL CLIMATE UPDATE (2024-2028)

- The report indicates that the planet's annual average temperature is 80% likely to temporarily exceed the 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the next five years.
- The global mean near-surface temperature for each year between 2024 and 2028 is predicted to be between 1.1°C and 1.9°C higher than the 1850-1900 baseline.
- There is a 47% likelihood that the global temperature averaged over the entire five-year 2024-2028 period will exceed 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era.
- It's also likely (86%) that at least one of these years will set a new temperature record, beating 2023 which is currently the warmest year.

Monthly One Liner GK Digest June 2024

IEA'S WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2024: GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN CLEAN ENERGY TO REACH USD 2 TRILLION

- This report reveals that global investment in clean energy technology and infrastructure is set to reach USD 2 trillion in 2024, which is twice the amount being invested in fossil fuels.
- The report serves as a global benchmark for tracking capital flows in the energy sector, examining how investors assess risks and opportunities across all areas of fuel and electricity supply, critical minerals, efficiency, research and development, and energy finance.
- Total energy investment is expected to exceed USD 3 trillion for the first time in 2024.
- This significant milestone in the global shift towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources is crucial for the world to meet the goals set at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels, triple renewable capacity, and double the rate of improvements in energy efficiency by 2030.

INDIAN COMPANIES TCS, HDFC, AIRTEL, INFOSYS RANK IN KANTAR BRANDZ TOP 100 FOR 2024

- The list of the world's top 100 most valuable brands:
 - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
 - HDFC Bank
 - Airtel
 - Infosys
- TCS ranked the highest among these Indian companies at 46th place, with a brand valuation of around \$44.8 billion.
- HDFC Bank wasn't far behind at 47th with a value of \$43.3 billion.
- Airtel and Infosys came in at 73rd and 74th respectively, with valuations of \$25.3 billion and \$24.7 billion.

RS 26 TRILLION OF INDIA'S ECONOMY FORMALISED IN FY16-FY23, SAYS SBI REPORT

- **Formalization:** Rs 26 trillion of the Indian economy has become formal between financial years 2016-17 (FY16) and 2022-23 (FY23).

- **Informal Economy Share:** The share of the informal economy in India's total Gross Value Added (GVA) has declined from 25.9% in FY16 to 23.7% in FY23.
- **Informal Sector Growth:** Despite formalization, the informal sector has grown in absolute terms. The total informal GVA increased to Rs 58.4 trillion in FY23 from Rs 18.6 trillion in FY16. Agriculture is the biggest contributor within the informal sector, accounting for Rs 43 trillion in FY23.

UNCTAD'S WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2024: INDIA'S FDI INFLOWS DROP BY 43%

- **Decrease in FDI:** There was a 43% drop in FDI inflows to India compared to 2022, bringing the total down to \$28 billion.
- **Global Trend:** This decline is part of a larger global trend, with overall FDI flows falling by 2% in 2023.
- **Ranking Drop:** Due to the decrease, India's ranking in global FDI recipient countries fell from 8th in 2022 to 15th in 2023.
- The **report attributes the decline** to various factors including:
 - Slowing global economic growth
 - Rising geopolitical tensions
 - Uncertain future prospects

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S 3RD LARGEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE MARKET: OAG REPORT

- **Growth Surge:** India's domestic airline capacity has doubled in the last ten years, reaching 15.5 million seats in April 2024.
- **Surpassing Competition:** This growth has allowed India to surpass Brazil and Indonesia, who now hold the fourth and fifth positions respectively.
- **Dominance of Low-Cost Carriers:** The report highlights the dominance of low-cost carriers (LCCs) in the Indian market. LCCs make up a whopping 78.4% of domestic airline capacity, the highest share among the top five markets.
- **IndiGo's Lead:** IndiGo, a major Indian LCC, has been a key driver of this growth. Their market share has nearly doubled from 32% to 62% in the last decade.

DEFENCE

"VIDYUT RAKSHAK" UNVEILED BY THE INDIAN ARMY

- This system, **launched by Vice Chief of the Indian Army, Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, was developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB) in collaboration with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi.**
- Vidyut Rakshak is **designed to enhance the performance of engines by integrating them with IoT technology, offering real-time monitoring of generator parameters, predictive fault detection, and automation of control operations.**
- This **initiative aligns with the Indian Army's objective to incorporate more technology-based solutions in its operations, improving operational efficiency and supporting predictive maintenance methods.**

SUMMITS AND CONFRENCES

Name of the Summit	Organized/Le d by	Venue	Aim/Theme
Information Society (WSIS+20) Forum	Additional Secretary (Telecom) Shri Niraj Verma	Geneva, Switzerland	To take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges, and opportunities
3rd Indian Analytical Congress	CSIR-IIP and the Indian Society of Analytical Scientists (ISAS-Delhi Chapter)	Dehradun	Theme: "Role of Science and Technology in Green Transitions".
G7 Summit	Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni	Borgo Egnazia, Fasano, Apulia, Italy	Theme: Building a Sustainable and Secure Future."
India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference	(IORA) secretariat and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,	New Delhi	To propel cruise tourism within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) region.
"Yoga for Space"	Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy	Bengaluru	Theme: "Yoga for Self & Society."

12th Passport Seva Divas	Ministry of External Affairs	Delhi	-
First International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Regional Dairy Conference	Smt J Chinchurani, Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Govt of Kerala and other dignitarie	Kochi, India	Theme: "Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying".
International peace conference	Swiss President Viola Amherd	Switzerland	To develop a roadmap towards a peaceful resolution to the Russo-Ukrainian War

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- The **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for May 2024 was announced on June 1, 2024. The revenue stood at Rs 1.73 lakh crore, representing a 10% year-on-year growth. This increase** was driven by a 15.3% rise in domestic transactions and a 4.3% decrease in imports.
- The **third advance estimate of total food grain production is 3288.52 lakh metric tons. This includes all types of food grains. These are preliminary figures and** may vary based on factors like weather and harvesting techniques. This high production indicates a strong agricultural sector.
- The **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) you mentioned is at 57.5. Despite the decline, this figure still indicates an expansion in the manufacturing sector as it's above 50. However,** PMIs in other regions like China and the US have shown a contraction or no change.
- **DBS Bank, headquartered in Singapore, announced on May 31, 2024, that it has retained its forecast for India's GDP growth at 7% for FY24-25. This projection is based on factors such as global growth stability, investments in public and household capex, rural recovery, a normal monsoon, and improved trade composition.**
- The Household **Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) revealed that the Monthly**

Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) has seen a significant increase in both urban (33.5%) and rural (40.42%) households since 2011-12. The expenditure on food items constituted 46% of the total spending in rural households and 39% in urban households.

- The **World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.6% on June 11, 2024. This revision is based on the expectation of robust public and private investments and** rising consumption. The growth rate is projected to be steady at 6.7% per year on average over the next three fiscal years starting FY25.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India recorded a growth of 5% in April 2024 compared to the same period in the previous year. This data was announced by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on June 12, 2024.** The increase indicates a positive trend in India's industrial sector, which could be due to various factors such as policy changes, increased demand, or improved manufacturing processes.
- **Indeed, retail inflation in India has eased to a one-year low** of 4.75% in May 2024, down from 4.83% in April 2024. This decline is attributed to a marginal decrease in the prices of some kitchen items.
- The **State Bank of India's (SBI) balance sheet has grown to ₹62 lakh crore in FY24, which** is more than the GDP of 174 countries worldwide and equivalent to 21% of India's GDP, as reported by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL).
- In **FY24, India Inc's profit-to-GDP ratio has soared to a 15-year high. The ratio for Nifty 500 companies rose to 4.8%, up from 4% in FY23, while for the entire listed universe it stood at 5.2%.** This growth in profitability was led by sectors such as BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), oil and gas, and automobile, which contributed significantly to the total improvement.
- **India's goods exports rose to \$38.13 billion in May 2024, marking a 9.1% increase from the previous year. Key growth sectors included engineering, electronics, and pharma.** The report was released on June 14, 2024.
- The **WPI Food Index in India, which weights 24.38%, saw an increase from 183.6 in April 2024 to 185.7 in May 2024. This rise led to the inflation rate based on the WPI Food Index going up from 5.52% in April to 7.40% in May.** The increase is primarily attributed

to higher prices of food articles and manufactured food products.

- The **Indian government has reduced the windfall tax on petroleum crude to INR 3,250 per metric ton from INR 5,200, effective from June 15. The tax is revised every** fortnight and remains at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- In **May 2024, India's textile exports saw a 9.59% increase compared to the previous year, despite global economic challenges. The country's overall exports for the month** amounted to USD 68.29 billion. This growth in the textile sector was reported by the Commerce Ministry on June 14, 2024.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced on June 13, 2024, that India's GDP is projected to grow by 8% in the fiscal year 2024-25, citing strong capital expenditure** momentum and robust domestic demand.
- **UBS Securities India has projected that India is expected to sustain a potential growth rate of 6.5-7% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) between fiscal years 2025-26 and 2029-30. This forecast is based** on the post-pandemic recovery in the capital expenditure cycle, driven by government spending and strong residential real estate demand.
- **Fitch Ratings has indeed raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2%. This upgrade is attributed to elevated consumer confidence expected to drive spending and** increased investments. For FY26 and FY27, the growth forecast remains unchanged at 6.5% and 6.2%, respectively.
- **India's seafood exports reached an all-time high during the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). The country exported 1,781,602 metric tons of seafood valued at Rs. 60,523.89 crore (approximately US\$ 7.26 billion).** Frozen shrimp remained the major export item, with the USA and China being the largest importers of Indian seafood.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projects India's GDP growth for Q1FY25 at 7.1%, with subsequent quarters estimated as follows: Q2 at 6.9%, and Q3/Q4 at 7% each. While rural demand** is picking up, consumption is expected to support economic growth in FY25.

2024. He was 88 years old and was known for his significant contributions to the art of rod puppetry in Odisha. His demise is a great loss to the world of art and culture.

- **Ramoji Rao, the founder of Ramoji Film City and a media baron,** passed away at the age of 87 on June 8, 2024. He was a visionary who made significant contributions to the Indian media and entertainment industry.
- **Asir Jawahar Thomas Johnsingh, a renowned Indian conservation biologist,** passed away in Bengaluru on June 7. He was a former dean of the Wildlife Institute of India and was known for his pragmatic approach to wildlife management.
- **Amol Kale, the Honorary President of the Mumbai Cricket Association,** passed away due to a cardiac arrest on June 9, 2024. He was in New York at the time.
- On 11th June 2024, **Malawi's Vice President Saulos Klaus Chilima and nine others,** including former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, were killed in a plane crash. The plane crashed in Chikangawa Forest while they were traveling to Mzuzu for a funeral.
- **Renowned Sarod player Pandit Rajeev Taranath** passed away on June 11, 2024, in Mysuru at the age of 92. He was a **globally recognized figure in instrumental music and the seniormost disciple of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.**
- **Harpal Singh Bedi, a renowned sports journalist, passed away at 72 due to a prolonged illness** on June 15, 2024. He is remembered for his extensive coverage of international sporting events and his significant contributions to sports journalism.
- **Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare** passed away on June 15, 2024, at the age of 95. He served as the Governor of Odisha from 2007 to 2013. His demise has been **condoled by current Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and former CM Naveen Patnaik among others.**
- **Srinivas Hegde, the mission director of Chandrayaan-1, passed away on June 14, 2024, at age 71.** He played a pivotal role in India's first lunar mission which discovered water on the Moon. He is survived by his wife and two sons.
- **Donald Sutherland, the Canadian actor known for his roles in films like The Hunger Games and**

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- **Renowned puppeteer and Padma Shri awardee, Maguni Charan Kuanr,** passed away on June 1,

MASH*, has passed away at the age of 88 after a long illness on 20th June 2024.

- **C. V. Chandrasekhar, the celebrated Indian Bharatanatyam dancer, academician, and choreographer**, passed away on June 19, 2024 at the age of 89. His contributions to the world of dance were immense, and he left an indelible mark on the art form.
- **Former Indian cricketer David Johnson passed away on Thursday, at the age of 52.** The cause of death is reported to be a fall from the balcony of his apartment in Bengaluru. He had been in poor health recently. He played two Test matches for India in 1996.
- **Frank Duckworth, who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method used in cricket to determine results in rain-affected matches**, passed away on June 21, 2024 at the age of 84.

BOOKS

- **Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft, has announced his memoir titled "Source Code: My Beginnings".** The memoir, which traces Gates' journey from his childhood to the founding of Microsoft, is set to be published on February 4, 2025.
- **"A Fly on the RBI Wall" by Alpana Killawala offers an insider's perspective on the Reserve Bank of India.** It recounts her experiences and challenges in managing the bank's communication during pivotal events like the Harshad Mehta scam and economic reforms of the 1990s. The book is a candid reflection on her journey and the workings of the RBI.
- **Ravichandran Ashwin's autobiography just came out on June 10th, 2024. Titled "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story", the book dives into Ashwin's life before the big leagues.** Co-written with author Sidharth Monga.
- **"Viswasapoorvam" is the autobiography of esteemed Islamic scholar A. P. Aboobacker Musliyar, which was released by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on June 12, 2024.** The event was marked by MP Shashi Tharoor receiving the first copy of the book.
- **"Ed Finds a Home" is Alia Bhatt's children's book about a dog, Ed, and a girl, Alia, who find friendship and a sense of belonging with each other.** Released on Father's Day 2024, it's a tale of hope, love, and

discovering one's inner strength, illustrated by Tanvi Bhat.

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTION BANK: JUNE 2024

Q.1 Which institute was awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion in 2024?

- AIIMS, Delhi
- NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- Johns Hopkins Hospital, USA
- Mayo Clinic, USA
- None of these

Answer: b) The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru was awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 on May 31, 2024.

Q.2 What is the projected growth rate for India in 2024 according to Morgan Stanley's 2024 Global Economic Midyear Outlook?

- 3.1%
- 6.5%
- 6.8%
- 7.2%
- None of these

Answer: c) Morgan Stanley's 2024 Global Economic Midyear Outlook projects India's growth at 6.8% in 2024 and 6.5% in 2025.

Q.3 What was the GST revenue for May 2024?

- Rs 1.63 lakh crore
- Rs 1.73 lakh crore
- Rs 1.83 lakh crore
- Rs 1.93 lakh crore
- None of these

Answer: b) The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue for May 2024 was announced on June 1, 2024. The revenue stood at Rs 1.73 lakh crore, representing a 10% year-on-year growth.

Q.4 By what percentage has the Indian government increased the gratuity limit for central government employees?

- 15%

- b) 20%
- c) 25%
- d) 30%
- e) None of these

Answer: c) The Indian government has increased the gratuity limit for central government employees by 25%. This came into effect from January 1, 2024.

Q.5 Who launched the 'Bank Clinic' website?

- a) All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA)
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) Indian Bank Association (IBA)
- d) State Bank of India (SBI)
- e) None of these

Answer: a) The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) launched a website called 'Bank Clinic' on June 1, 2024.

Q.6 As of June 2, 2024, which state is Hyderabad the sole capital of?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Telangana
- e) None of these

Answer: d) As of June 2, 2024, Hyderabad is solely the capital of Telangana. Andhra Pradesh has adopted a three-capital plan with Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Amaravati as the legislative capital, and Kurnool as the judicial capital.

Q.7 Who is the recipient of the Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024?

- a) Gudleppa Halliker
- b) Siddhalinga Pattanashetti
- c) Hosaritti
- d) Haveri District
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti has been announced as the recipient of the Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024.

Q.8 What is the third advance estimate of total food grain production?

- a) 3288.52 lakh metric tons

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- b) 2000 lakh metric tons
- c) 5000 lakh metric tons
- d) 1000 lakh metric tons
- e) None of these

Answer: a) A The third advance estimate of total food grain production is 3288.52 lakh metric tons. This includes all types of food grains.

Q.9 Who were the astronauts that made history by being the first to fly aboard the Boeing Starliner spacecraft?

- a) Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin
- b) Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore
- c) Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova
- d) Chris Hadfield and Peggy Whitson
- e) None of these

Answer: b) NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore made history by being the first to fly aboard the Boeing Starliner spacecraft.

Q.10 Where is the Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere located?

- a) Within the Jim Corbett National Park
- b) Within the Kaziranga National Park
- c) Within the Rajaji National Park
- d) Within the Bandipur National Park
- e) None of these

Answer: c) The Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB) is India's first private biosphere within the Rajaji National Park.

Q.11 Who is the first person to spend 1,000 days in space?

- a) Neil Armstrong
- b) Yuri Gagarin
- c) Oleg Kononenko
- d) Buzz Aldrin
- e) None of these

Answer: c) Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has set a record by becoming the first person to spend 1,000 days in space.

Q.12 Who took over the additional charge of Director General of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on May 31, 2024?

- a) Shri Ramesh Kumar
- b) Shri Kamal Kishore Soan

- c) Shri Rajesh Verma
- d) Shri Anil Kumar Gupta
- e) None of these

Answer: b) Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, a senior IAS officer, took over the additional charge of Director General of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on May 31, 2024.

Q.13 According to the report, how many children under 5 years of age worldwide are experiencing severe child food poverty?

- a) Around 81 million
- b) Around 181 million
- c) Around 281 million
- d) Around 381 million
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The "UNICEF Child Nutrition Report 2024" was released on June 5, 2024. It reveals that around 181 million children under 5 years of age worldwide – or 1 in 4 – are experiencing severe child food poverty.

Q.14 Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd., effective from July 1, 2024?

- a) Sameer Bansal
- b) Ashish Srivastava
- c) Ramesh Iyer
- d) Anand Mahindra
- e) None of these

Answer: a) Sameer Bansal has been appointed as the MD and CEO of PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd., effective from July 1, 2024.

Q.15 Who was appointed as the Director of the Department of Rural Development on June 10, 2024?

- a) Raj Priy Singh
- b) Ravi Kumar
- c) Suresh Prabhu
- d) Anil Kumar
- e) None of these

Answer: a) Raj Priy Singh, an Indian Forest Service officer, was appointed as the Director of the Department of Rural Development on June 10, 2024.

Q.16 What is the new threshold for bulk fixed deposits set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

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- a) Rs 1 crore
- b) Rs 2 crore
- c) Rs 3 crore
- d) Rs 4 crore
- e) None of these

Answer: c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the threshold for bulk fixed deposits from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore on June 7, 2024. This change is aimed at improving the asset liability management of banks.

Q.17 What is the upper limit set by the Finance Ministry of India for arbitration cases?

- a) 5 crore
- b) 10 crore
- c) 15 crore
- d) 20 crore
- e) None of these

Answer: b) On June 9, 2024, the Finance Ministry of India set an upper limit of ₹10 crore for arbitration cases. This decision is aimed at streamlining the arbitration process for resolving commercial disputes involving the government or a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE).

Q.18 Who is the first Indian to win a match in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)?

- a) Puja Tomar
- b) Rayanne dos Santos
- c) Ronda Rousey
- d) Conor McGregor
- e) None of these

Answer: a) On June 8, 2024, Puja Tomar, an Indian fighter, created history by becoming the first Indian to win a match in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

Q.19 Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) on June 11, 2024?

- a) Rahul Vatts
- b) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- c) Mukesh Ambani
- d) Abhijit Kishore
- e) None of these

Answer: d) Abhijit Kishore, COO of Vodafone Idea, and Rahul Vatts, CRO of Bharti Airtel, were appointed as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) respectively on June 11, 2024.

Q.20 When is the UN International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations observed?

- a) 10 May
- b) 10 June
- c) 10 July
- d) 10 August
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The UN International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, observed on 10 June, promotes dialogue, mutual respect, and global solidarity among different civilizations.

Q.21 What is the revised GDP growth forecast for India for FY25 by the World Bank?

- a) 6.6%
- b) 6.0%
- c) 7.0%
- d) 7.2%
- e) None of these

Answer: a) The World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.6% on June 11, 2024. This revision is based on the expectation of robust public and private investments and rising consumption.

Q.22 Who took oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha on Wednesday, June 12, 2024?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Mohan Charan Majhi
- c) Rahul Gandhi
- d) Arvind Kejriwal
- e) None of these

Answer: b) Mohan Charan Majhi, a leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Q.23 Who is the author of the book "A Fly on the RBI Wall"?

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Harshad Mehta
- c) Alpana Killawala
- d) Manmohan Singh
- e) None of these

Answer: c) "A Fly on the RBI Wall" is authored by Alpana Killawala and offers an insider's perspective on the Reserve Bank of India.

Q.24 Approximately what percentage of the world's man-made nitrous oxide emissions does India contribute?

- a) 11%
- b) 8%
- c) 13%
- d) 14%
- e) None of these

Answer: a) India is the second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide globally, with agricultural activities being the primary source. This accounts for nearly 11% of the world's man-made emissions, with China leading at 16%.

Q.25 Who was honored with the Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024 by Central Banking in London?

- a) Manoranjan Mishra
- b) The Reserve Bank of India
- c) Central Banking
- d) Risk Manager of the Year Committee
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The Reserve Bank of India was honored with the Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024 by Central Banking in London.

Q.26 What was the total value of India's goods exports in May 2024?

- a) \$34.92 billion
- b) \$36.58 billion
- c) \$38.13 billion
- d) \$40.05 billion
- e) None of these

Answer: c) India's goods exports rose to \$38.13 billion in May 2024, marking a 9.1% increase from the previous year.

Q.27 What was the primary aim of the Summit on Peace in Ukraine?

- a) To develop a roadmap towards a peaceful resolution to the Russo-Ukrainian War
- b) To discuss economic sanctions on Russia
- c) To plan military strategies for Ukraine

- d) To address humanitarian aid for refugees
- e) None of these

Answer: a) The conference was hosted by Swiss President Viola Amherd and aimed to develop a roadmap towards a peaceful resolution to the Russo-Ukrainian War.

Q.28 Which Indian state received the “1st Rank” award for the highest wind power installed capacity in 2024?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Gujarat
- e) None of these

Answer: d) On June 15, 2024, Gujarat was honored with the “1st Rank” award for the highest wind power installed capacity in India, reaching 11,823 MW

Q.29 What is the rank of India in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024?

- a) 175
- b) 176
- c) 177
- d) 178
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024 ranks 180 countries on environmental health and ecosystem vitality. India placed 176th with a score of 27.6, just ahead of Pakistan, Viet Nam, Laos, and Myanmar.

Q.30 What has Fitch Ratings done for India’s GDP growth forecast for FY25?

- a) Lowered it to 6.5%
- b) Kept it unchanged at 6.5%
- c) Raised it to 7.2%
- d) Reduced it to 6.2%
- e) None of these

Answer: c) Fitch Ratings has indeed raised India’s GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2%.

Q.31 The new campus of Nalanda University is a collaboration between India and which group of countries?

- a) BRICS nations
- b) G7 countries
- c) East Asia Summit (EAS) countries

- d) SAARC countries
- e) None of these

Answer: c) On June 19, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar. The university is a collaboration between India and East Asia Summit (EAS) countries.

Q.32 Which country has established the world’s first standalone military branch dedicated solely to unmanned and robotic systems?

- a) United States
- b) Russia
- c) china
- d) Ukraine
- e) None of these

Answer: d) Ukraine has established the Unmanned Systems Forces (USF), the world’s first standalone military branch dedicated solely to unmanned and robotic systems.

Q.33 Where is the Innovation Lab for Eye Care located?

- a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- b) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- c) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- d) Hyderabad, Telangana
- e) None of these

Answer: b) Sankara Eye Foundation, India recently inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Innovation Lab for Eye Care in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on 20th June 2024.

Q.34 What was the percentage increase in India’s gold and silver imports from the UAE during 2023-24?

- a) 110%
- b) 150%
- c) 210%
- d) 250%
- e) None of these

Answer: c) During the fiscal year 2023-24, India’s gold and silver imports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) surged by 210% to reach \$10.7 billion.

Q.35 Who has been appointed as the Director (Enterprise) of BSNL?

- a) Sudhakararao Papa
- b) Ramesh Sharma

- c) Anjali Patel
- d) Rajesh Kumar
- e) None of these

Answer: a) Sudhakararao Papa has been appointed as the Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) following a selection process by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on June 15, 2024.

Q.36 Which countries were the largest importers of Indian seafood in FY24?

- a) USA and Japan
- b) Russia and Australia
- c) China and Brazil
- d) USA and China
- e) None of these

Answer: d) India's seafood exports reached an all-time high during the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). The country exported 1,781,602 metric tons of seafood valued at Rs. 60,523.89 crore (approximately US\$ 7.26 billion). Frozen shrimp remained the major export item, with the USA and China being the largest importers of Indian seafood.

Q.37 Which company was honored with the 'Global Central Banking Award 2024' for Technology Services?

- a) IRIS Business Services Limited
- b) Central Banking
- c) Global RegTech Company
- d) London Industry Publication
- e) None of these

Answer: a) IRIS Business Services Limited (BSE: 540735), a Global RegTech company, has been honored with the prestigious 'Global Central Banking Award 2024' for Technology Services in London.

Q.38 Who inaugurated the Ninth National Yoga Olympiad in Mysuru?

- a) Karnataka Chief Minister
- b) Thaawarchand Gehlot
- c) Prime Minister of India
- d) President of Karnataka State Open University
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The Ninth National Yoga Olympiad (NYO) was inaugurated by Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Mysuru.

Q.39 Which countries collaborated on the launch of the SVOM satellite?

- a) China and Russia
- b) France and Germany
- c) China and France
- d) USA and Japan
- e) None of these

Answer: c) On June 22nd, China and France successfully launched a powerful satellite called the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) with the specific purpose of studying gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) – the most energetic explosions in the universe.

Q.40 Who is leading the high-level committee formed by the Ministry of Education to reform competitive exams through the National Testing Agency (NTA)?

- a) Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
- b) Dr. K. Radhakrishnan
- c) Dr. Raghuram Rajan
- d) Dr. C.N.R. Rao
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The Ministry of Education has constituted a high-level committee of experts, led by former ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan, to reform the process of competitive exams through the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Q.41 Who unveiled the book "Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region" on June 22, 2024?

- a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- b) Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais
- c) Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray
- d) President Ram Nath Kovind
- e) None of these

Answer: b) On June 22, 2024, the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, unveiled a book titled "Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region" at Raj Bhavan Mumbai.

Q.42 According to the DeepTech Dawn report, where does India rank among the top global DeepTech ecosystems?

- a) First
- b) Fourth
- c) Sixth
- d) Ninth
- e) None of these

Answer: c) According to India's DeepTech Dawn: Forging Ahead report by Nasscom and Zinnov, India now ranks sixth among the top nine global DeepTech ecosystems. With 3,600 DeepTech startups, India received \$850 million in funding last year.

Q.43 Who has been awarded the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Salman Rushdie
- c) Jhumpa Lahiri
- d) Vikram Seth
- e) None of these

Answer: a) Arundhati Roy won the prestigious 2024 PEN Pinter Prize for her courageous writing and social activism. This recognition comes amid legal threats in India. The award ceremony will be held in London on October 10, 2024.

Q.44 Who has been appointed as the Vice President of the India Bullion Jewellers Association (IBJA) effective from June 22, 2024?

- a) Anjali Sharma
- b) Ramesh Gupta
- c) Aksha Mohit Kamboj
- d) Priya Verma
- e) None of these

Answer: c) Aksha Mohit Kamboj has been appointed as the Vice President of the India Bullion Jewellers Association (IBJA), effective from June 22, 2024.

Q.45 What was the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in March 2024, according to the RBI's Financial Stability Report?

- a) 5%
- b) 3.5%
- c) 2.8%
- d) 1.2%
- e) None of these

Answer: c) In March 2024, the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) fell to a 12-year low of 2.8%, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Stability Report.

Q.46 Who was appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI General Insurance?

- a) Kishore Kumar Poludasu

- b) Naveen Chandra Jha
- c) State Bank of India
- d) None of the above

Answer: b) Naveen Chandra Jha was appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI General Insurance on June 26, 2024.

Q.47 Who has been appointed as the national president of the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) for the period 2024-29?

- a) Mohit Bharatiya
- b) Prithviraj Kothari
- c) Surendra Mehta
- d) Ketan Kothari
- e) None of these

Answer: b) The Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) has recently reconstituted its governing board for the period 2024-29 Prithviraj Kothari, representing Riddi Siddhi Bullion Ltd, has been appointed as the national president.

Q.48 What is the name of the writer who won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for "Aishwarya Rai"?

- a) Sanjana Kapoor
- b) Sanjana Sharma
- c) Sanjana Patel
- d) Sanjana Thakur
- e) None of these

Answer: d) Sanjana Thakur, a talented 26-year-old writer from Mumbai, has been named the overall winner of the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her captivating story titled "Aishwarya Rai."

Q.49 Who has been selected as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)?

- a) Dinesh Khara
- b) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- c) Nitin Gupta
- d) Ravi Agrawal
- e) None of these

Answer: b) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been selected as the next chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB).

Q.50 Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- a) Nitin Gupta
- b) Rajesh Kumar
- c) PC Mody
- d) Ravi Agrawal
- e) None of these

Answer: d) Ravi Agrawal, an IRS officer from the 1988 batch, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).