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**June 2024**

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## General Awareness Topic(Covered)

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### **Flipkart launches UPI app Super.money.**

Super.Money partners with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, and IndusInd Bank to ensure reliability and credibility. Flipkart group's new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app, super.money, has officially launched, marking a significant milestone more than a year after its separation from Walmart-backed fintech, PhonePe. Currently in beta mode, the app is available to only 100,000 users initially.

### **West Bengal Government Launched first-of-its-kind Centralized Admission for Undergraduate College Admission.**

The West Bengal government on Wednesday launched a 'centralized admission portal' for admission to undergraduate courses in state government colleges and universities. State education minister Bratya Basu unveiled the admission portal at the Bikash Bhavan in Kolkata. The portal has been developed for admission to 7,217 undergraduate courses in government and government-aided general degree colleges/ universities (16 universities, 461 colleges and a few other higher education institutions across West Bengal).

### **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Assumes charge as Chairman of IIPA for 3rd Consecutive Term.**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh assumes the charge as Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for the third consecutive term today at IIPA campus, New Delhi. Highlighting India's efforts in capitalising the unexplored ocean and marine resources below sea through 'Deep Ocean Mission', Dr. Jitendra Singh said optimal utilisation of underutilised resources will be key to a vibrant Amrit Kaal in 2047. DoPT Minister, guided and motivated the young bras of the Indian Statistical service to contribute positively in the development and progress of India. He also gave his best wishes to them for their service in the Government of India.

### **Om Birla elected Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha for 2nd consecutive term via voice vote.**

NDA nominee Om Birla was elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha for a second consecutive term by a voice vote even as the Opposition, in a rare move, fielded its own candidate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi moved the motion for Birla's election as Speaker. Protem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab made the announcement of Birla's election after the Opposition, which had forwarded the name of eight-time Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate, did not press for division of votes.

### **NATO Allies select Mark Rutte as next Secretary General.**

On Wednesday (26 June 2024), the North Atlantic Council decided to appoint Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the next Secretary General of NATO, succeeding Jens

Stoltenberg. Mr Rutte will assume his functions as Secretary General from 1 October 2024, when Mr Stoltenberg's term expires after ten years at the helm of the Alliance.

### **K-pop group SEVENTEEN was appointed as UNESCO's inaugural Goodwill Ambassador for Youth at a ceremony in Paris.**

K-pop group SEVENTEEN took center stage at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris as they were appointed as the organisation's inaugural Goodwill Ambassador for Youth. The members delivered a moving speech that emphasised the significance of solidarity and encouraged young people to pursue their aspirations. The heartfelt message deeply resonated with the audience. The event was livestream via UNESCO's official YouTube channel.

### **Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar's tenure extended for six months.**

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India has extended the tenure of Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad for a period of six months from July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

### **IBJA reconstitutes board for 2024-29 with Prithviraj Kothari as national chief.**

Prithviraj Kothari has been appointed as National President of India's oldest and apex association i.e. India Bullion And Jewellers Association in place of outgoing President Mohit Bharatiya for the next five years, 2019 to 2024. CA Surendra Mehta has been appointed as National Secretary and Ketan Kothari as Joint Secretary. Sanjay Jain becomes Treasurer and Nimesh Choksi as Joint Treasurer.

### **Bank of Baroda onboards Rising Indian Tennis Sensation Sumit Nagal as its Brand Endorser.**

Bank of Baroda has signed tennis player, Sumit Nagal, as its brand endorser. The bank stated that this move was in alignment with its philosophy to support emerging talented and ambitious Indian sportspersons who compete with the best on the world stage.

### **GST rate rationalisation panel reconstituted with Bihar Deputy CM Chaudhary as convenor.**

The GST Council on Friday made public that Group of Ministers to give recommendation on rate rationalisation has been reconstituted with Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Chaudhary as new convenor. Chaudhary will replace Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh Suresh Khanna. The office memorandum, dated February 27 but posted the Council website now, says other members of the reconstituted panel are Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho, Rajasthan Medical, and Health Services Minister

Gajendra Singh. It also includes West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal.

### **SBI General Insurance names Naveen Chandra Jha as new MD & CEO.**

SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has named Shri Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. His parent business, State Bank of India, nominated him for the role. He succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu. Shri Naveen Chandra Jha has been with the State Bank of India since 1994, holding numerous critical roles during his tenure. Shri Naveen Chandra Jha, Deputy Managing Director, State Bank of India, previously served as Chief General Manager of Amaravati Circle, Andhra Pradesh, before joining SBI General Insurance.

### **Manoj Jain Appointed as CMD of Bharat Electronics Limited.**

Mr Manoj Jain took charge as the Chairman & Managing Director of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) today. He was Director (R&D) and Director (Bangalore Complex), Additional Charge, prior to his elevation as CMD. Mr Manoj Jain joined BEL in August 1991 as Probationary Engineer after completing his BE (Electronics) from REC Jaipur (MNIT) with Gold medal. In an illustrious career spanning over three decades, he has made significant contributions to the field of Research & Development.

### **Anuj Tyagi to succeed Ritesh Kumar as MD & CEO of HDFC Ergo from July 1.**

Private sector general insurer HDFC Ergo General Insurance on Monday announced the appointment of Anuj Tyagi as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from July 1, 2024. Tyagi will succeed Ritesh Kumar, who has been the MD & CEO of HDFC Ergo General Insurance since 2008.

### **Atul Kumar Chaudhary appointed by the Government as TRAI Secretary.**

Chaudhary is a graduate of IIT Roorkee and also has a Master's degree from IIPA Delhi in Public Policy and Administration. Having worked for BSNL and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), he has a wealth of experience in personnel, HR, administration, licensing, and vigilance responsibilities. He is currently the Deputy Director General (DDG) at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), having previously held the position at the Department of Transportation. Chaudhary is an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer deputed to the foreign service for two years. He is an officer of the 1989 batch.

### **Bilan Media, Somalia's Only All-Women Media Team, Won 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award.**

Somalia's only all-women news team, Bilan, has won the 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award, becoming the first Somali media team to receive this honour. The award honours their courageous reporting over the past two years, which has smashed taboos and blazed a trail for women journalists in one of the most dangerous countries to report the news.

#### **KVGB Received National Award from PFRDA for Implementation of APY.**

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) sponsored by Canara Bank Bank has bagged National Award for significant enrollment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from Pension Fund regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) New Delhi. Mr. Shreekant M Bhandiwad, Chairman, KVGB received the Award from Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, DFS, Government of India and Dr. Deepak Mohanty Chairman, PFRDA in a Summit held at New Delhi on Wednesday.

#### **Celebrated author Arundhati Roy has been named the recipient of the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize.**

Celebrated author Arundhati Roy has been named the recipient of the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize, an award presented by English PEN in memory of Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter. The prize recognises writers of outstanding literary merit who embody Pinter's spirit of examining the world with an "unflinching, unswerving" gaze. The award ceremony is scheduled for October 10, 2024, at the British Library, where Roy will deliver a keynote address.

#### **RBI Cancels City Co-operative Bank's Licence Over Inadequate Capital.**

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday cancelled the licence of The City Co-operative Bank, Maharashtra for lacking adequate capital and earning prospects. The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been asked to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator, RBI said. According to RBI, the cooperative bank ceases to carry on banking operations with effect from the close of business hours on June 19, 2024. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

#### **WestBridge Capital Sells 1.75% Stake in AU Small Finance Bank for Rs 845 Crore.**

Private equity firm WestBridge Capital divested on Wednesday a 1.7 per cent stake in the AU Small Finance Bank for Rs 845 crore through an open market transaction. WestBridge Capital, through its affiliate Westbridge AIF I, sold shares of the Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank through a bulk deal on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). As per data available, Westbridge AIF I offloaded 1.30 crore shares, amounting to a 1.75 per cent stake in AU Small Finance Bank. The shares

were disposed of at an average price of Rs 650.08 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 845.10 crore.

### **BharatPe, Invest India Collaborated to Promote Financial Inclusion among ODOP Producers.**

BharatPe, a leading name in the fintech industry in India, today announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Invest India to promote digital financial inclusion and digital financial literacy across One District One Product (ODOP) producers and sellers across ODOP districts in the country. This partnership between BharatPe and Invest India aims to contribute to the government's efforts towards increasing digital financial inclusion and literacy. This will enhance access to digital payment mediums amongst ODOP merchants in tier 3-4 cities and rural areas of India. It is also in line with BharatPe's mission of being the one-stop fintech destination that empowers millions of merchants with easy-to-use, safe, and secure financial products.

### **HDFC Bank launches digital investment platform SmartWealth.**

Incorporating cutting-edge technology, the HDFC Bank SmartWealth comes loaded with first-ever features that allow investors to make the right investment decisions and plan their financial journey. It has been developed with first-time investors in mind, built with smart intelligence and has pioneering tools that allow users to make the right investment decisions to plan their finances, said the bank.

### **RBI Revises Framework for Currency Swap With SAARC Countries.**

The total corpus for this support amounts to USD 3 billion. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a revised framework for currency swap arrangement with South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, effective from 2024 to 2027.

### **Muthoot Microfin secures IRDAI licence to offer insurance products.**

The licence allows Muthoot Microfin to offer insurance products to its customers while augmenting its sources of revenue and earnings, the stock exchange filing said. Sadaf Sayeed, CEO, Muthoot Microfin, said, "This development with IRDAI empowers us to bridge the protection gap for our microfinance customers."

### **ICICI Bank launches 'SmartLock' for enhanced account security.**

ICICI Bank has introduced 'SmartLock,' a new safety feature on its iMobile Pay app, allowing customers to instantly lock or unlock various banking services without needing assistance from customer care. This first-of-its-kind feature in the Indian banking sector enables users to secure internet banking, UPI payments, and credit and debit cards with just a click.

### **Maharashtra Governor releases book titled 'Gateways to the Sea.'**

The Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ramesh Bais released a book titled 'Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region' at Raj Bhavan Mumbai on June 22, 2024 (Saturday). The book has been published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It comprises of 18 articles by renowned authors, compiled by the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMMS).

### **India's FY24 CAD narrows to 0.7% of GDP from 2% in FY23, records surplus of 0.6% in Q4.**

India's current account registered a surplus in the final quarter of the previous fiscal boosted by higher services. Its current account deficit (CAD) decreased in FY24 due to lower merchandise trade deficit, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on June 24.

The country's Current Account Deficit (CAD) decreased to 0.7 percent of GDP, or \$23.2 billion in FY24, down from 2 percent of GDP, or \$67 billion, in FY23.

### **An aerial stem-parasitic flowering plant species discovered in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

An aerial stem-parasitic flowering plant species *Dendrophthoe longensis* was from Long Islands of middle Andamans, whereas a small herb *Petrocosmea arunachalense* was discovered from a cave from West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Indian botanists and researchers have discovered two new species of plants from two bio-geographic hotspots of the country the Andaman and Nicobar islands and Arunachal Pradesh.

### **U.P. readies world's 1st conservation centre for Asian King vultures.**

Uttar Pradesh will soon have the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vulture in Maharajganj. The facility aims to improve the population of the species, which has been listed as critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list since 2007.

### **The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day.**

Now more than ever, this day is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows. This includes providing them with information on access to a fair share of their inheritance, land and productive resources; pensions and social protection that are not based on marital status alone; decent work and equal pay; and education and training opportunities. Empowering widows to support themselves and their families also means addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices.



**The World Vitiligo Day is observed on June 25 every year.**

The World Vitiligo Day, observed on June 25, is an initiative aimed to build global awareness about vitiligo. Vitiligo occurs in 1–2% of the population worldwide; a change of color in the skin creating a variety of patterns on the skin from the loss of pigment. Vitiligo is often called a disease instead of a disorder and that can have a significant negative social and/or psychological impact on patients, in part because of numerous misconceptions still present in large parts of the world.

**The United Nations General Assembly designated 27 June 2024 as "Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day" .**

The 2024 MSME Day offers an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas on how key stakeholders, including policy makers, large companies, financial institutions, and the international community can support micro-, small and medium-sized businesses to advance the 2030 Agenda and contribute to achieving the SDGs, including poverty eradication and decent work for all.

**International Day of Yoga is Celebrated on June 21.**

This year marks the 10th International Day of Yoga with the theme “Yoga for Self and Society.” Yoga, a transformative practice, represents the harmony of mind and body, the balance between thought and action, and the unity of restraint and fulfillment. It integrates the body, mind, spirit, and soul, offering a holistic approach to health and well-being that brings peace to our hectic lives. Its power to transform is what we celebrate on this special day.

**23 June is observed as Olympic Day worldwide.**

It was in 1947 during the 41st Session of the International Olympic Committee in Stockholm, that Doctor Gruss, IOC member in Czechoslovakia, presented a report on a World Olympic Day celebration which would primarily be a day of promoting the Olympic idea. The project was adopted some months later on the occasion of the 42nd IOC Session in St Moritz in January 1948. The National Olympic Committees (NOCs) were put in charge of organising this event and were requested to choose a date between 17 and 24 June, thereby celebrating the founding of the International Olympic Committee at the Sorbonne, Paris, on 23 June 1894, where Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games.

**The UN General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day.**

The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the

United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world.

### **The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year .**

By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. Supported each year by individuals, communities, and various organizations all over the world, this global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.

### **The UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed on 26 June.**

On 12 December 1997, by resolution 52/149, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) commemorated the 12th Passport Seva Divas on 24 June 2024.**

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) commemorated the 12th Passport Seva Divas on 24 June 2024 to mark the enactment of the Passports Act on 24 June 1967. Coinciding with this, a 3-day Regional Passport Officers (RPO) Conference was organized on 22-24 June in Delhi. In his message on the Passport Seva Divas, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar highlighted the commendable annual growth of nearly 15% in passport and related services wherein the Ministry rendered 1.65 crore passport related services to citizens in 2023. He also underlined the leveraging of the power of latest technologies to further improve the citizen experience. MEA has so far operationalised an expansive network of 440 Post office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs), which, along with the existing 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), take the total to 533 Passport application processing centres under 37 Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) in the country.

### **World Hydrography Day is Celebrated on June 21.**

On 21 June every year, the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) celebrates the World Hydrography Day to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a vital role in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans. The Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD) functions under the Indian Navy as the nodal agency for Hydrographic surveys and nautical charting in India. The department has the mandate to undertake hydrographic surveys and publish navigational charts. Till

date, more than 650 electronic and paper navigation charts covering the national and international waters have been published for utilization of merchant mariner and navies of the world.

### **International Day of Celebration of the Solstice is observed on June 21.**

A solstice — derived from the Latin sol ("sun") and sistere ("to stand still"), because the seasonal movement of the Sun's daily path (as seen from Earth) appears to "stand still" at a northern or southern limit before reversing direction — is an event that occurs when the Sun reaches its most northerly or southerly day-arc relative to the equator. Therefore, there are two solstices that occur annually: around June 21 (commonly known as "Summer Solstice" for being the first day of summer and the longest day of the year) and December 21 (commonly known as "Winter Solstice" for being the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year).

Culture is the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs. Thus, culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy. Therefore, in our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities, as well as their willingness to live together. In this sense, cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity, and it should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

### **World Music Day is Celebrated on June 21.**

World Music Day, affectionately known as 'Fête de la Musique', is a global celebration that takes place annually in June to promote music and its universal language. On this special day, musicians from all corners of the world come together to perform in public spaces, sharing their talents and passion for music. The purpose of World Music Day is to provide a platform for both professional and amateur artists to express themselves through their craft, under the inspiring tagline "Faites de la musique," which translates to "Make music." This day commemorates the transformative power of music, bringing people together and fostering a sense of community and unity.

### **The International Maritime Organization designated June 25th as the Day of the Seafarer .**

This observance was officially established on June 25th by the IMO in 2010 during the Diplomatic Conference in Manila that adopted the revised STCW Convention. The Day of the Seafarer aims to acknowledge the significant efforts of seafarers worldwide who facilitate international seaborne trade, contributing indispensably to the world economy and civil society.

### **The UN General Assembly held in 2022 decided to celebrate 24 June every year as women in diplomacy day.**

During the 76th session of the UN General Assembly held in 2022, the members collectively decided to celebrate 24 June every year as women in diplomacy day to recognise their efforts in reaffirming Agenda 2030. However, diplomacy has been historically and still remains a preserve of men.

### **World Refrigeration Day is celebrated every year on June 26.**

World Refrigeration Day is an international day established by the World Refrigeration Day Secretariat in Derbyshire, England. Held annually on 26 June, it was created to raise awareness about the importance of refrigeration technologies in everyday life and to raise the profile of the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat-pump sector. The day was chosen to celebrate the birth date of Lord Kelvin on 26 June 1824.

### **National Insurance Awareness Day is observed every year on June 28.**

National Insurance Awareness Day 2024: The low insurance penetration in India is a stark reminder of the vulnerability of millions of Indians to financial burden and crisis in case of untoward incidents like terminal illness, accident, etc. National Insurance Awareness Day, observed every year on June 28, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of taking insurance.

### **According to Hurun Research Institute's ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2024, 25 Future Unicorn Dropped Out.**

As many as 25 prospective unicorns have been shunted out of a coveted list of start-ups — afflicted by a funds squeeze, regulatory actions and insistence on profitability by funders. The ASK Private Wealth Hurun Indian Future Unicorn Index for 2024 listed 67 unicorns, 46 gazelles — who could turn unicorns in three years — and 106 cheetahs (unicorns in five years). In the 2023 index, there were 68 unicorns, 51 gazelles and 96 cheetahs. Unicorns are start-ups with valuation of \$1 billion. Saluja observed that venture capital funds are holding on to cash on account of lack of sufficient opportunities, and that only 35-40 per cent of committed amounts are being utilised for investments by funds.

### **India ranks 6th amongst the top 9 DeepTech ecosystems globally.**

With the acceleration of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), India's DeepTech sector has witnessed a steady growth over the last few years. DeepTech start-ups such as Agnikul, GalaxyEye, HealthPlix, Sarvam AI, Peptris among others are emerging in areas of healthtech, sustainability, AI, space tech etc, tackling problems of strategic importance for India. In line with this, nasscom and Zinnov have unveiled the 2nd edition of their DeepTech start-up landscape report

series, titled 'India's DeepTech Dawn: Forging Ahead'. The report deep dives into the key trends across various dimensions, including ecosystem expansion, technology focus, funding, M&As, IP, and sectoral focus, in addition to challenges that the DeepTech ecosystem faces and the imperative for action.

### **Vienna, the capital city of Austria, was crowned the most liveable city in the world for third year running.**

Vienna, known as one of the world's most beautiful cities to visit, has once again clinched the title of the most liveable city in the world. According to the latest annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released today, the Austrian capital has secured the top spot for the third consecutive year.

### **India Ranked 63rd & Sweden Tops in WEF's Energy Transition Index 2024.**

India has been ranked 63rd on a global Energy Transition Index released on Wednesday by the World Economic Forum, which said the country has shown significant improvement across energy equity, security and sustainability.

European nations dominated the top ranks with Sweden topping the index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France in the top five. The improvement shown by India and some other developing countries such as China and Brazil assumes significance as 83 per cent of countries have moved backwards from last year in at least one of the three energy system performance dimensions - security, equity and sustainability.

### **India Becomes Third-Largest Domestic Aviation Market.**

India is now the third-largest domestic aviation market, after the U.S. and China, according to data by aviation analytics firm OAG. In April 2024, India's domestic airline capacity was about 15.6 million, up from 8 million in April 2014. Over the past decade, the Indian domestic market grew at an annual rate of 6.9%. The firm studied India, China, U.S., Indonesia, and Brazil, and India is the fastest-growing market, it said.

### **IUCN Changes Iberian Lynx's Status to 'Vulnerable' from 'Endangered' on its Red List of Threatened Species.**

The Iberian lynx has moved from "endangered" to "vulnerable" status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species – a historic achievement for conservation and the result of the work of 21 organisations. While the Spanish Environment Ministry only counted 62 adult Iberian lynx in 2001, a new count in 2023 recorded 2,021 – representing a 21% growth compared to the year before. As a result, the IUCN Red List has moved the species to the "vulnerable" category. On the other hand, the lynx also faces a range of threats caused by human factors, so measures have also been taken to reduce illegal hunting and poaching, as well as to prevent mortality from road accidents (collisions

with vehicles are the main cause of unnatural mortality of these lynx).

### **Israel and Hamas placed on UN list for violating children's rights.**

The United Nations has added Israel's military, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad's armed wing for the first time to its list of offenders for violating children's rights. The three entities, along with Sudan's warring parties, have been singled out for the killing and maiming of children. "Children were killed and maimed in unprecedented numbers", the Children in Armed Conflict report said. The annual report - seen by the BBC and due to be released on Thursday - is meant to shame parties so that they commit to measures outlined by the UN to protect children.

### **Bharat 6G Alliance Signed MoU with 6G-IA of Europe & 6G Flagship of Oulu University, Finland to Drive 6G Innovations.**

Leveraging its telecom diplomacy, Department of Telecommunications [DoT], Ministry of Communications, has been establishing strategic international partnerships and collaborations to build a world-class telecom ecosystem to enhance global connectivity and position India as a global leader in digital innovation and infrastructure. In another step towards redefining the future of global communication, the Bharat 6G Alliance has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G IA) and 6G Flagship-Oulu University. This is in continuation of already concluded MoU with NextG Alliance of USA. These MoUs with 6G IA and Oulu University will further enable development of secure and trusted telecommunication technology including resilient supply chains. Under the Bharat 6G Vision, DoT is already evaluating 470 proposals on "Accelerated research on 6G".

### **SAMEER, MeitY and MCTE, Indian Army forge strategic partnership for technological advancement.**

In a landmark event today, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an autonomous R&D laboratory under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army'. The MoU was signed by Lt Gen K H Gawas, Commandant MCTE and Colonel Commandant Corps of Signals and Dr P H Rao, Director General SAMEER. The event was conducted in the esteemed presence of Shri S K Marwaha, Group Coordinator MeitY, and Maj Gen C S Mann, AVSM, VSM, Additional Director General of Army Design Bureau, Indian Army, reflecting the importance of this strategic initiative for the nation's defence and technological landscape.

### **APIX and RBI Join Forces to Drive Financial Innovation Through HaRBInger**

**2024 Hackathon.**

APIX, the leading global collaborative innovation platform for financial institutions and fintechs across over 90 countries, today announced its partnership with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to host the prestigious HaRBInger 2024 hackathon. This landmark collaboration aims to bring together the brightest minds from around the world to develop cutting-edge solutions that enhance the security and inclusivity of the financial ecosystem.

**Punjab & Sind Bank signs pact with Indian Army for salary account.**

State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank has signed an initial agreement with the Indian Army on defence salary package which will come with a host of facilities, including free insurance cover. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed to this effect. Besides many features, the MoU provides the serving personnel, veterans and trainees with personal accident insurance (Death/Disability) cover up to Rs 1 crore and an air accidental cover of Rs 1.2 crore.

**NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and Space Machines Company announce the signing of historic Launch Service Agreement for next Optimus spacecraft onboard Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).**

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a government company under the Department of Space and the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has entered into a landmark Dedicated Launch Service Agreement with Space Machines Company, an Australian-Indian in-space servicing firm. This agreement paves the way for the launch of Space Machines Company's second Optimus spacecraft, weighing 450kg. This spacecraft is notable as the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft to date. Scheduled for a dedicated launch aboard NSIL/ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in 2026, this mission represents a significant milestone in space collaboration between India and Australia, marking a new era of partnership in space exploration and technology development.

**MoD to collaborate with SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt Ltd for design & development of miniaturised satellite capable of carrying multiple payloads up to 150 kgs for Indian Air Force.**

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence, signed the landmark 350th contract in New Delhi on June 25, 2024. The contract was inked with SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt Ltd for the design and development of a 'Miniaturised satellite capable of carrying Electro-Optical, Infrared, Synthetic Aperture Radar, and Hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kgs'. This challenge is being led by the Indian Air Force. The 150th iDEX contract was signed in December 2022, and within a span of 18 months, the 350th contract has been signed.

### **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders receives 'Navratna' Status.**

Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India has elevated Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), India's premier warship and submarine builders to Navratna category on Tuesday. MDL is now the 21st Navratna CPSE in the country, 3rd in Defence PSUs and the first Shipyard to receive this status. The company posted a consolidated annual turnover of Rs. 9,467 crore and net profit of Rs. 1845 crore for the FY 2023-24. MDL earned the status of Miniratna- I in 2006. MDL also holds 47.21% of equity share capital of Goa Shipyard Limited, a PSU under Ministry of Defence. Now being elevated to Navratna status, signifies its consistent performance in the recent past and MDL is further committed to play a more significant role in the country's defence landscape and contribute to the growth and development of the sector in the years to come.

### **PM Narendra Modi meets US NSA Jake Sullivan in Delhi.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in the national capital. After the meeting, he wrote on X that India is committed to further its strategic partnership with the United States for global good. The meeting between PM Modi and Jake Sullivan came days after the former met US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy.

### **Amit Shah Inaugurates 'Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme' At Delhi IGI Airport.**

In a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide more amenities for Indian nationals and OCI passengers, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)' at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport on Saturday.

### **The Centre on Monday announced a one-year extension for Intelligence Bureau director Tapan Kumar Deka until June 30, 2025.**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved the extension in service of Deka -- a 1988 batch IPS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre -- as the Director, Intelligence Bureau, for a period of one year beyond June 30, 2024, a government order said.

### **CCI approves acquisition of certain equity shares of Sneha Farms Private Limited by Mitsui & Co., Ltd.**

Mitsui is a general trading company with a highly diversified business and investment portfolio. It has offices and overseas trading affiliates in 61 countries and regions. It is listed with the Tokyo Stock Exchange and is engaged in various business areas including, mineral and metal resources, energy, infrastructure projects, mobility,



chemicals, iron & steel products, food, food & retail management, wellness, IT & communication, and corporate development. Sneha Farms is a private limited company, incorporated in 1994. It has two subsidiaries, namely Sneha Gold Proteins Private Limited and Singh Poultry Private Limited. Sneha Farms primarily operates within the poultry industry in India, covering a wide range of activities from poultry breeding to product distribution, including the maintenance of hatcheries, manufacturing of poultry feed and pre-mixes, processing of frozen and chilled chicken, production of ready-to-cook/ ready to eat/ marinated poultry products, etc. It is also engaged in the production of fish feed, pet food, etc.

### **RBI's foreign gold reserves hit 6-year low, domestic reserves touch 53%.**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) domestic gold holdings increased to 53% in March 2024, in contrast to 39% in September 2021 while the yellow metals overseas holdings dropped to a six-year low of 47%. This comes on top of RBI transferring 100 tonnes of gold back to India from the Bank of England (BoE) last month.

### **India's External Debt Rises to \$663 Billion.**

As of the end of March 2024, India's external debt stood at \$663.8 billion, marking an increase of \$39.7 billion from March 2023. The Reserve Bank of India has provided a detailed breakdown of these figures, highlighting several key developments. India's external debt to GDP ratio saw a slight decline, dropping to 18.7% in March 2024 from 19.0% a year earlier. This decrease reflects a relative improvement in managing the country's debt levels against its economic output

### **Ministry of Education rolls out a nationwide campaign on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI).**

Tobacco use is one of the major causes of preventable deaths and diseases in India and accounts for nearly 1.35 million deaths every year in the country. India is also the second largest consumer and producer of tobacco. According to Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2019, 8.5 percent of school students in the age group of 13 to 15 consume tobacco in different forms across the country.

### **Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh launches "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) campaign showcasing recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology.**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, 'One Week One Theme' initiative under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) aims to make innovation inclusive for all. Around 24 technology transfers, product launches, MoU Signed in presence of the Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is to empower farmers and common citizens by not limiting

Science to labs: Dr. Singh.

### **Kozhikode is India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.**

Kozhikode in north Kerala, known for its rich cultural heritage, was on Sunday officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'. In October 2023, Kozhikode had earned a place in the 'Literature' category of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). State Local Self Government Department (LSGD) Minister M B Rajesh described Kozhikode as a city with a soul, characterised by humanity, harmony, a strong sense of justice and freedom of expression. "These core values have given birth to the vibrant art of Kozhikode," Rajesh said.

### **NSE Launches Nifty India Tourism Index to Track Travel & Tourism Stocks.**

NSE's index services subsidiary, NSE Indices has launched a new thematic index called Nifty India Tourism which will track the performance of stocks in Nifty 500 index representing the travel and tourism theme. The base date for the index is April 1, 2005 and the base value is 1,000. The index will be reconstituted semi-annually and rebalanced on a quarterly basis.

### **Overview of PM Modi's Visit to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from 18th to 19th 2024.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on June 18-19. In Varanasi, he will participate in the PM Kisan Samman Sammelan, issuing certificates to over 30,000 women from self-help groups and releasing the 17th installment of PM Kisan Nidhi, totaling over Rs 20,000 crore to 9.26 crore farmers. He will also attend the Ganga Aarti and visit Kashi Vishwanath temple. In Bihar, Modi will visit the Nalanda ruins and inaugurate Nalanda University's new campus, a "Net Zero" Green Campus, reflecting a collaboration between India and East Asia Summit countries.

### **DGCA Extended Licence of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport of Ayodhya.**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) extended the licence of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. The total duration of the licence of the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport is five years now. Meanwhile, he also spoke on the issue of the declining number of tourists in the city and referred to it as a misleading fact. Speaking on the issue of decreased passengers, he asserted, "There has been a misleading advertisement about decreased numbers of passengers. Before the elections, we were operating almost 14-15 flights and the number is the same after the results too. The number of passengers hasn't decreased. Although there is little decrease due to the scorching heat we hope that number will get revived after the elections."

### **Ministry of Education notifies seven-member panel to reform process of competitive exams.**

The Ministry of Education said on June 22 it has constituted a high-level committee of experts led by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the National Testing Agency (NTA). The seven-member committee will make recommendations on reforms in the mechanism of the examination process, improvement in data security protocols and the structure and functioning of the NTA, the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry said.

### **IRM India Affiliate Licenses Sri Sri University (SSU) to Setup India's First and East India's Only Global Centre for Enterprise Risk Management.**

In a significant step towards creating a risk-intelligent India, the India Affiliate of the Institute of Risk Management (IRM) has partnered with Sri Sri University (SSU) to establish India's first and East India's only Global Centre for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). The signing ceremony was conducted at the Art of Living International Centre in Bangalore with the participation of global humanitarian, spiritual leader, and peace envoy Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar, founder of SSU; Prof. Rajita Kulkarni, President of SSU; Hersh Shah, CEO of IRM India Affiliate; Kosha Parekh, COO of IRM India Affiliate; and other dignitaries.

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### **External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to Sri Lanka on 20 June 2024.**

External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to Sri Lanka on 20 June 2024. It is the first bilateral visit undertaken by EAM after his re-appointment. It follows immediately after the visit of President H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe to India on 09-10 June to attend the swearing in ceremony of the new government following the General Elections in India. In the recent past, EAM visited Sri Lanka four times in January 2021, March 2022, January 2023 and October 2023.

### **Government to Partially Implement New Telecommunications Act from 26th June 2024.**

The Telecommunications Act will establish Digital Bharat Nidhi for funding research and development instead of just supporting rural telecom services. It supersedes existing telecom rules under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Wireless Telegraphy Act (1933). The central government will be able to take control of any telecommunications services or networks in times of emergency after the implementation of the Telecommunications Act 2023, which will be effective on June 26. As per the act, any telecom player who wants to establish or operate telecommunication networks, provide services or possess radio equipment will have to be authorised by the government. However, some other sections of the act such as the administrative allocation of spectrum, including for the satellite services, and adjudication mechanism etc will be notified later.

### **DoPT Announced New Criminal Law Effective from 1st July, 2024.**

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) announced on Friday that three new criminal laws will take effect on July 1, 2024. In preparation, the DoPT has advised all ministries and departments to include the content of these new laws in their training programs. In light of this, the DoPT has urged all ministries and departments to incorporate the content of these new laws into their training programs.

### **The capital city Srinagar has been officially recognised as a “World Craft City” by the World Crafts Council (WCC).**

The capital city Srinagar has been officially recognised as a “World Craft City” by the World Crafts Council (WCC), underscoring its rich heritage and the exceptional skills of its artisans leading to global acclaim. “Srinagar is one of the ancient cities of South Asia with a continuously recorded history of about 1,500 years. Located on the historic Shakra-e-Abresham (the Silk Route) the city generated wealth of ideas related to arts and crafts and facilitated exchange of activities in trade, cultural practices and scientific knowledge,” the WCC said on its website.

### **New Freshwater Diatom Genus Discovered From The Eastern & Western Ghats.**

Researchers have discovered a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom found in the clean water river of the Eastern Ghats. The genus which has an interesting suite of features, distinguishing it from the other members in the group Gomphonemoid in terms of valve symmetry and other certain valve features, has been named Indiconema to value its restricted distribution in the country. The research underlines the importance of diatoms in shaping the biodiversity of India's diverse landscapes.

### **New Plant Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.**

A team of researchers from the Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre (APRC), Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has discovered a new plant species in the Mandala region of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh. The team has described the

new herbaceous plant species, namely *Petrocosmea arunachalense*. Belonging to the family Gesneriaceae, *Petrocosmea arunachalense* is notable for being only the second known species of the genus *Petrocosmea* found in India. This significant discovery adds to the botanical diversity and underscores the rich flora of Arunachal Pradesh. The detailed research findings have been published in the latest issue of the Nordic Journal of Botany. The discovery was led by Dr Krishna Chowlu, Scientist-D, along with researchers Akshath Shenoy and Ajit Ray from APRC, Itanagar. Their work highlights the ongoing efforts to explore and document the unique plant biodiversity of the region.

### **Ministry of Women and Child Development Launches 100-Days Special Awareness Campaign on Women Empowerment.**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) organized the "National Workshop on SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women - Launch of the 100-Days Special Awareness Campaign" at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi today. The event was chaired by the Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development, Smt. Savitri Thakur, alongside Secretary Shri. Anil Malik.

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### **PM Hasina's Delhi Visit Energizes Bangladesh-India Relations.**

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was in India just a fortnight ago to attend the swearing-in of the Narendra Modi government, was back in New Delhi on June 21-22 on a bilateral state visit, which was the first by a foreign leader after the inauguration of Modi's third term as prime minister. The most notable outcome of the visit was a rail connectivity agreement between the two countries that will allow India to use Bangladesh's rail network to transport goods to its northeast. India has also agreed to extend transit facilities to Nepal and Bhutan for Bangladeshi goods through its railway networks.

### **Union Health Minister, Shri JP Nadda launches National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 .**

Union Health Minister, Shri JP Nadda launches National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 in the presence of Union Ministers of State, Smt. Anupriya Patel and Shri Jadhav Patraprao Ganpatrao. STOP Diarrhoea Campaign aims to attain zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea; involves a 2-month long drive with pre-positioning

of 2 ORS packets and zinc as a co-packaging to under-5 children. Various initiatives of the Union Government like the National Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and expansion of the Ayushman Arogya Mandir network has cumulatively helped in reducing childhood mortality due to diarrhoea: Shri J P Nadda.

### **INSILLION Insurtech Platform enables Royal Sundaram General Insurance to integrate with India's largest ticketing site, IRCTC to issue 500k policies per day.**

INSILLION, a leading Insurtech SaaS platform, has announced a significant partnership that will transform the way travel insurance is delivered. Royal Sundaram General Insurance (RSGI), a prominent Property & Casualty insurer based in India, has integrated with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to enable embedded Group Personal Accident (GPA) policies to be offered alongside e-ticket purchases through INSILLION's API platform.

### **Sebi forms 15-member working group to review derivative trading norms.**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has formed a working group to review derivatives trading norms with an aim of enhancing investor protection and risk management, said people aware of the development. The 15-member panel will be headed by G Padmanabhan, former executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It will be tasked with market development and regulation to enhance risk architecture of exchange-traded derivatives and investor protection.

### **India's largest leopard safari opens near Bengaluru.**

South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated by Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP). As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris, an area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari. Currently eight leopards have been released for the safari in the open forest area.

### **Govt monetises ₹1.56 lakh crore assets in FY24, falls short of ₹1.8 lakh crore target.**

Under the NMP, the aggregate monetisation potential of the central government's brownfield infrastructure assets has been estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period, from FY22 to FY25. According to the statement, the total target for the first two years -- 2021-22, and 2022-23 -- under the NMP was around ₹2.5 lakh crore, against which about ₹2.30 lakh crore was achieved.

### **Ministry of Coal initiates India's first ever pilot project for underground coal gasification in Jharkhand.**

Eastern Coalfields Limited, under direction of the Ministry of Coal, has embarked on an innovative pilot project for underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block in

Jamtara, Jharkhand. This first ever initiative aims to revolutionise the coal industry by using in-situ coal gasification to convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.

### **Prime Minister's Visit to Jammu and Kashmir on 20th - 21st June 2024.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on June 20 and 21, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects, as well as lead the celebrations for the 10th International Day of Yoga. On the evening of June 20, the Prime Minister will attend the 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K' event at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. During the event, he will inspect stalls and interact with young achievers from the region.

### **Indian economy likely to grow at 7.5% in FY25.**

Underpinned by the buoyancy in economic activity witnessed in the first quarter, a keen policy focus on investment and the expectations of a normal monsoon, India's economy may grow by close to 7.5% in 2024-25, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said on Wednesday.

### **Frank Duckworth, co-inventor of DLS method, dies at the age of 84.**

The Duckworth-Lewis method, devised by Duckworth and fellow statistician Tony Lewis, was introduced to determine results in rain-affected cricket matches. The method was first used in international cricket in 1997 and was formally adopted by the ICC as the standard method for setting revised targets in truncated games in 2001.

### **ISRO successfully conducts 3rd and final landing experiment of Reusable Launch Vehicle 'Pushpak'.**

ISRO chairman S Somanath congratulated the team for their dedication in sustaining the streak of success in the landing experiment of 'Pushpak'. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) accomplished the third landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV LEX-03) named 'Pushpak' on Sunday. According to a statement by the space agency, the test was carried out at 07:30 IST at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) located in Karnataka's Chitradurga.

### **China-France launches SVOM Satellite for Gamma-Ray Burst Study.**

A French-Chinese satellite blasted off Saturday on a hunt for the mightiest explosions in the universe, in a notable example of cooperation between a Western power and the Asian giant. Developed by engineers from both countries, the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach Earth.

### **Neeraj Chopra Secures Gold in the Javelin Throw in Paavo Nurmi Games 2024.**

As India's golden boy prepares himself for the upcoming Olympics 2024, world champion Neeraj Chopra won gold medal with his best throw at 85.97m in the men's javelin throw competition at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 athletics meet in Turku, Finland on Tuesday. With a powerful throw in his first attempt, Neeraj Chopra was leading at 83.62m. However, the champion faced a small setback as he trailed behind Oliver Helander who took the lead with an effort of 83.95m. While Chopra won a gold medal in Odisha, his first domestic tournament after a long break, the world champion remains unsatisfied. Leading to the Olympics 2024, Neeraj started his season at the Doha Diamond League on May 11 and ended in second place with a throw of 88.36m.

### **GM Arjun Erigaisi Wins Stepan Avagyan Memorial RR Tournament 2024, Achieves His Career-Best Rank.**

India's highest-rated chess player GM Arjun Erigaisi continued his top run as he dominated the 10-player field to win the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 on Monday in Jermuk, Armenia, with a round to spare. India's highest-rated chess player GM Arjun Erigaisi continued his top run as he dominated the 10-player field to win the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 on Monday in Jermuk, Armenia, with a round to spare. Arjun beat Russia's Volodar Murzin with white pieces in 63 moves to end the penultimate round (eight) with six points, a full 1.5 points ahead of the three-player deadlock on second position with 4.5 points.

### **Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix for the third year in succession.**

Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix for the third year in succession, the Oracle Red Bull Racing driver emerging triumphant from a tense strategy battle against McLaren's Lando Norris. The reigning world champion was victorious by 2.219s to extend his series lead to 69 points. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton took his first podium of the year with third place, while Verstappen's team-mate Sergio Pérez finished in eighth after starting from 11th following a grid penalty.

### **Odisha Government Extends Hockey India Sponsorship till 2026.**

The Odisha government has announced an extension of its support to Hockey India (HI) till 2036 on Friday (June 21). The decision was taken after a high-level meeting which involved HI President Dilip Tirkey and HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh along with the newly-sworn-in Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi, Minister of State for Sports & Youth Services Suryabanshi Suraj, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena and Commissioner-Cum-Secretary R. Vineel Krishna.



**The 50th G7 summit was held from 13 to 15 June 2024 at Borgo Egnazia in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy.**

All G7 member states participated in the summit, including the representatives of the European Union. The President of the European Commission has been a permanent welcome participant at all meetings since 1981. On 17 February, the G7 Foreign Ministers met informally at the Munich Security Conference. As Chair of the meeting, Italy's Minister for Foreign Affairs Antonio Tajani released a statement. The ministers expressed "unwavering support" to Ukraine's sovereignty and demanded clarification on the death of Alexei Navalny. They also addressed regional conflicts in the Middle East and the Red Sea, condemning terrorist attacks and reporting concerns about Iran's nuclear program.