

**Weekly Current Affairs-24th June To 29th June 2024****National News****Central Railway Has Installed a Floating Solar Plant**

The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacity in the Igatpuri lake located in the Western Ghats, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways. Central Railway has always played an active role in opting for clean & renewable energy for its traction requirements and has taken various bold and revolutionary steps to fulfil the same.

**53rd GST Council Meeting Overview**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The government has appointed Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of New India Assurance, the largest general insurer in India. She will hold this position from June 19, 2024, until she attains the age of superannuation or until further orders.

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

Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC).

Three years after it was designated as part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts.

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

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

**Union Territory of Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS**

According to the Union Ministry of Education, the Union Territory of Ladakh has achieved full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. Ladakh now boasts over 97 percent literacy. Lieutenant Governor Dr. B.D Mishra shared this milestone on June 25, 2024, at a function in Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra (SSK), Leh.

**International News****South Korea, US, And Japan Launch First Trilateral Multi-Domain Exercise**

Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States began the inaugural execution of exercise Freedom Edge, a trilateral multi-domain exercise, June 27. The execution of the exercise was announced at the Camp David Summit in August 2023 and at the Japan, ROK, and U.S. defense ministerial meeting, which took place in June during the Shangri-La Dialogue.

**State News****Uttar Pradesh's Pioneering Bioplastic Park, A Step Towards Sustainable Future**

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced an ambitious plan to establish a bioplastic park in the Lakhimpur Kheri district. This innovative project aims to address environmental concerns while boosting the local economy. Let's explore the details of this groundbreaking initiative.

**Kozhikode, India's First UNESCO City of Literature**

On June 23, 2024, Kozhikode made history by becoming the first UNESCO City of Literature in India. This prestigious recognition highlights the city's rich literary heritage and cultural significance.

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

On June 22, 2024, a significant literary event took place at Raj Bhavan Mumbai, highlighting the rich maritime heritage of the Mumbai region. The Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, released a book titled 'Gateways to the Sea:

Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region', shedding light on the area's ancient and modern maritime history.

### Madhya Pradesh Ministers to Pay Income Tax on Salaries and Allowances

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, decided on June 25, 2024, that state ministers will now be responsible for paying income tax on their salaries and allowances out of their own pockets. This marks a significant change from a 1972 rule under which the state government bore the tax burden. This decision was approved unanimously during a cabinet meeting held in Bhopal.

## Economy News

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

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment (FDI) to India in 2023 decreased by 43% compared to 2022, dropping India's rank to 15th among global FDI recipients. This decline mirrors a global trend where overall FDI fell by 2%.

## Appointment News

### Vikram Misri Appointed India's New Foreign Secretary

Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri will take charge as the Foreign Secretary on July 15, the Government announced on June 28. Mr. Misri, who is a former Indian ambassador to China, will succeed current Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

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

The Director General of the National Testing Agency, Subodh Kumar Singh, was removed from the post on June 22, amid controversy over irregularities in exams. Subodh Kumar Singh's services were put on a "compulsory wait" in the Department of Personnel and Training, the government said in a letter. India Trade Promotion Organisation Chairman and MD Pradeep Singh Kharola was assigned additional charge of NTA DG till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.

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

Private sector general insurer HDFC ERGO General Insurance announced the appointment of Anuj Tyagi as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective July 1, 2024. Tyagi, who has been with the company since 2008 and currently serves as Deputy MD, will succeed Ritesh Kumar, the MD & CEO since 2008. This leadership transition has received all necessary regulatory approvals.

## Banking News

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant update to its 'Database on Indian Economy' (DBIE) portal, effective immediately. The portal's domain address will now be accessed through <https://data.rbi.org.in>, consolidating its services and ensuring seamless access for users. Previously used URLs, such as <https://dbie.rbi.org.in> and <https://cimsdbie.rbi.org.in>, will automatically redirect to the new address.

### SBI Distributes Rs 6,959 Crore Dividend to Government

In a significant financial gesture, the State Bank of India (SBI) has distributed a dividend of Rs 6,959 crore to the Indian government for the financial year 2023-24. This marks an increase from the previous year's dividend of Rs 11.30 per share to Rs 13.70 per share. The dividend cheque was presented by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the presence of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. SBI reported a record consolidated net profit of Rs 67,085 crore for the year, up from Rs 55,648 crore the previous year.

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

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

## Schemes and Committees News

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

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

### PM Gati Shakti Scheme is Transforming India's Infrastructure: Morgan Stanley

In a recent report American multi-national investment bank and financial company Morgan Stanley has all praise for PM Gati Shakti scheme. The report highlights increased and more targeted investments, suggesting a continued emphasis on infrastructure spending in India's future.

## Summits & Conference News

### EAM Jaishankar to Represent India at SCO Summit in Astana

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

### 64th International Sugar Organisation Council Meeting in New Delhi

The 64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council meeting commenced on 25th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together delegates from over 30 countries and representatives of various international organizations. The meeting, held from 25-27 June 2024, aims to discuss issues related to the sugar industry and biofuels sectors.

## Awards & Honors News

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

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

### GRSE Wins Sustainable Governance Champion Award

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. has been honoured with the "Sustainable Governance Champion Award" at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. This recognition highlights GRSE's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.

### Sanjana Thakur Wins 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

Sanjana Thakur 26 years old, writer from Mumbai, beat competition from over 7,359 entrants worldwide to be named the winner of the GBP 5,000 Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2024 in London on June 27. Sanjana's story entitled Aishwarya Rai takes its name from the famed Bollywood actress to reimagine and reverse the traditional adoption story.

## Important Dates News

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

The International Day of the Tropics, observed annually on June 29, is a day dedicated to recognizing the incredible

diversity and importance of the world's tropical regions. This special day aims to raise global awareness about the unique challenges and opportunities faced by tropical areas, while highlighting their crucial role in our planet's ecosystem and human society.

### International Day of Parliamentarism 2024 Observed on June 30<sup>th</sup>

The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed annually on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This day celebrates the role of parliaments in democratic governance and highlights their importance in building peace and understanding between nations. In 2024, the focus is on "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding." This theme emphasizes how parliamentarians can contribute to international cooperation and conflict resolution.

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

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

### International Olympic Day 2024, Date, Theme and History

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

### International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2024

Every year on June 26<sup>th</sup>, the world observes the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. This important day was established by the United Nations in 1997 to raise awareness about the terrible practice of torture and to show support for those who have suffered from it.

### International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024

Every year on June 26<sup>th</sup>, people around the world come together to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day. This important day was established by the United Nations in 1987 to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and to encourage cooperation in creating a world free from this problem.

**Sports News****Global Chess League to Hold Second Edition in London in October**

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

**Shafali Verma's Double Century Leads India to Record-Breaking Day in Women's Test Cricket**

On a remarkable Friday at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium, young Indian opener Shafali Verma etched her name in the annals of cricket history with a record-breaking double century against South Africa in the one-off Test match.

**Verstappen Triumphs at Spanish Grand Prix 2024**

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

**Indian Archers Triumph at Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3**

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

**India Wins 11 Medals at the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024**

Indian wrestlers ended their campaign in the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 with an impressive tally of 11 medals, including four gold, two silver, and five bronze. The event was held in Amman, Jordan, from 22-24 June 2024. Following the U-17 competition, the U-23 championship commenced.

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

Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to record two consecutive ODI hundreds during the second ODI against South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on June 19. She scripted history on June 23, after she registered the record for the most runs by an Indian woman in a bilateral One-Day International series.

**David Warner Retires From International Cricket**

The cricketing world bid farewell to one of its most dynamic players as David Warner officially retired from international cricket. Warner's illustrious 15-year career with the Australian national team came to an end following Australia's elimination from the T20 World Cup in the Super Eight phase.

**Cricket Legend Kapil Dev Takes Helm of Indian Professional Golf**

In a momentous development for Indian golf, Kapil Dev, the legendary cricketer and passionate amateur golfer, has been elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). This significant appointment marks a new chapter in the history of professional golf in India.

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

Adani Defence & Aerospace has signed an agreement with Thales Group to manufacture 70mm rockets locally. This strategic collaboration aligns with the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative, aiming to enhance self-reliance in defence production.

**Indian Army Opened Khalubar War Memorial To Tourists in Ladakh**

In Ladakh, as a tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War, the Indian Army has opened the Khalubar War Memorial to tourists. This opening ceremony was part of the 'Forever in Operations' Division's Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations as this year, the country will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July. Located in the renowned Aryan Valley this memorial commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers who fought to reclaim the valley during the war.

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

India's defence exports to the United States (US) has grown to account for over 50 per cent of the total exports, exceeding \$2.8 billion during the last 5 years, said Ranjana Khanna, Director General and CEO – American Chamber of Commerce in India (Amcham).

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

The Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Manoj Yadava today launched the Sangyaan App, designed by the RPF Tech Team to provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023. The app aims to educate and empower RPF personnel with comprehensive information on both new and old criminal laws, emphasizing their relevance to RPF operations. Available for Android and iOS, the app features user-friendly navigation, a searchable database, and offline access, making it a practical tool for staying informed about the latest legal developments in India.

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

Jaipur Military Station has become the second military station in India to have a road made from plastic waste. The road, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R.S. Godara, General Officer Commanding of 61 Sub Area, is 100 meters long and stretches from Sagat Singh Road under bridge to Cubs Corner complex. This initiative aligns with the Indian Army's policy to create sustainable and green military stations, and it was constructed under the aegis of GE (South), CE Jaipur Zone, with assistance from Deep Constructions Pvt. Ltd. Compared to conventional roads, plastic waste roads are more durable, suffer less wear and tear, reduce water induction, and increase sustainability.

**INS Sunayna Entered Port Victoria, Seychelles**

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

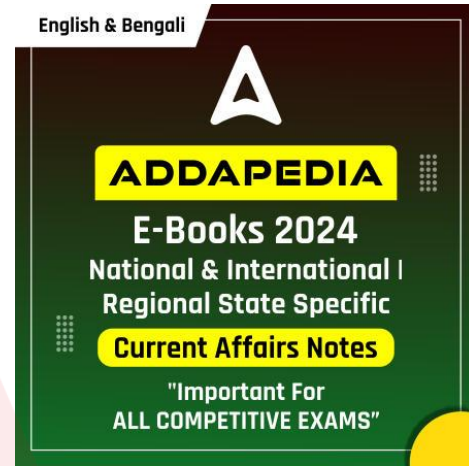
**Miscellaneous News****Pench Tiger Reserve Embraces AI for Enhanced Forest Fire Protection**

The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has taken a significant step forward in wildlife protection by introducing an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early

forest fire detection. This innovative approach marks a new chapter in conservation efforts, combining cutting-edge technology with traditional wildlife management practices.

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