

Weekly Current Affairs-1st July To 6th July 2024 English**National News****World Bank Approves \$1.5 Billion Loan To Support India's Green Hydrogen Push**

The World Bank has approved a second round of \$1.5 billion in financing to help India accelerate its development of low-carbon energy. This funding aims to promote the market for green hydrogen, electrolyzers, and increased renewable energy penetration. The initiative aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and energy transition targets, including achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Check Complete Details

The three New Criminal Laws- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, will come into force July 1, 2024. The government of India has held regular meetings with States and Union Territories and they are fully geared up in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the new Criminal Laws.

India Becomes First Nation To Prepare Full List of Fauna

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

China Builds New Presidential Palace in Vanuatu

China has constructed a new presidential palace in Vanuatu, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations. The Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.

Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency of EU Council

Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform. The presidency's motto, "Make Europe Great Again," reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Sampoornata Abhiyan': A Drive Towards Holistic Development

In a significant move to accelerate the development of India's most challenging regions, NITI Aayog is set to launch the

'Sampoornata Abhiyan' on July 4, 2024. This ambitious 3-month campaign aims to achieve saturation in key indicators across 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks, marking a new chapter in India's journey towards inclusive growth.

India Hosts 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session

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

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

India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the 'Colombo Process' at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in Geneva, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation. The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment. Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

Indian Government Reshuffles Cabinet Committees in July 2024

On July 3, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government reorganized eight important groups within the Union Cabinet. This happened after Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in a row, which is a record.

IGNOU Launches MA Programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies

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

Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner to Launch SEHER Program

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

International News

Japan Introduces Holographic Technology in New Banknotes

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

Ex-Spy Chief Sworn In as New Dutch PM with Mission to Curb Asylum

Former spy chief Dick Schoof is the new Dutch prime minister, leading a right-wing coalition with a focus on implementing the "strictest-ever" immigration policy. Schoof, 67, previously headed the Dutch Secret Service and takes over from Mark Rutte, who served 14 years in power.

Keir Starmer: The Next British Prime Minister

Keir Starmer, born in 1963 to a working-class family near London, is set to become Britain's next Prime Minister. With a background in human rights law and public prosecution, he entered politics relatively late, becoming an MP in 2015.

State News

Arunachal Pradesh Yields New Species of Horned Frog

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

Economy News

Private Sector Drives NPS Growth and Economic Activity

The National Pension System (NPS) witnessed a robust 40.1% year-on-year growth, reaching ₹2.47-lakh crore by June 29, fueled largely by buoyant equity markets and expanding private sector subscriptions. Overall NPS assets, including Atal Pension Yojana (APY), approached ₹12.5-lakh crore, marking a 28.64% increase, as per PFRDA data.

Rankings & Reports News

Tata Group Is India's Most Valuable Brand: Report

Tata Group has maintained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of US\$ 28.6 billion, marking a 9% increase from last year. Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place following its merger with HDFC Ltd. Tata Group is on the verge of becoming the first Indian brand to reach the US\$ 30 billion mark. Taj remains

India's strongest brand, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.9 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating. The telecom sector experienced a 61% growth in brand value, driven by Jio, Airtel, and Vi, while the banking sector reported a 26% increase, with SBI as India's second most valuable bank.

Longevity Revolution 2024: Pioneering Advances in Regenerative Medicine

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

Business News

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

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

Indiabulls Housing Finance Rebrands as Sammaan Capital Limited

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to Sammaan Capital Ltd. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding, effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.

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

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

Agreement News

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

Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin have designated India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight initiative, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity. The program offers six

seats aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, taking participants on an 11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.

Appointment News

Ravi Agrawal Appointed CBDT Chief, Succeeds Nitin Gupta

Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He succeeds Nitin Gupta, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2024. Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.

CS Setty Gets FSIB Approval To Head SBI As Next Chairman

Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI). Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse were two other contenders to the post. Setty will succeed the current chairman, Dinesh Khara, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman. His term is scheduled to end in August 2024.

New CGM and CMD Take Charge at PGCIL

Akhilesh Pathak has assumed office as the new Chief General Manager (CGM) of the Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I) of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) on Monday, July 1, 2024. Pathak will oversee the transmission system, including sub-stations and projects in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and part of Karnataka. With over 31 years of experience in the transmission sector, he has expertise in operations and maintenance, asset management, and commercial operations.

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

On July 1, 2024, marks an important day for sports fashion in India. On this day, Puma India, a leading sports brand, announced two new brand ambassadors: Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy. This exciting news showcases Puma's commitment to supporting young talent and connecting with India's youth.

Dr. B.N. Gangadhar named as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission

In a significant move to bolster medical education and healthcare governance in India, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has announced several high-profile appointments to the National Medical Commission (NMC). These appointments are expected to bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the country's apex medical education regulator.

Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna Appointed New Additional NSA

The government has recently strengthened the National Security Council (NSC) by making several high-profile appointments. Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA). T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have also been appointed as Deputy NSAs.

SBI General Insurance Names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO

SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has appointed Shri Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu, nominated by the parent company State Bank of India.

RBI Appoints Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Smt. Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director (ED), effective from July 1, 2024. Previously serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Human Resource Management Department, she brings over three decades of experience in various roles including Payment and Settlement Systems, Information Technology, and Government Banking. Smt. Kar has represented the RBI in several international forums and committees.

Dhirendra Ojha Appointed Principal Spokesperson of Government

In a significant move to strengthen the government's communication strategy, senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government. This appointment marks an important day in the realm of government communications, as it brings fresh leadership to crucial information dissemination roles.

Smart Cities Mission in India Extended to 2025

The Government of India announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The Smart Cities Mission, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until March 31, 2025. This extension marks a crucial phase in India's journey towards creating technologically advanced and livable urban spaces.

LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty Re-Designated Managing Director & CEO

State-owned life insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as chief executive officer and managing director with effect from 30 June 2024. It is not yet known if the life insurance company would appoint a new chairperson.

Banking News**ICICI Bank Launches Pre-Paid Sapphire Forex Card for International Students**

ICICI Bank announced the launch of its 'Student Sapphire Forex Card', a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education. The card, powered by Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students as well as their parents to manage education related expenses abroad such as admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses including travel, dining and groceries, among others.

RBI Slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB

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

Science & Technology News**ISRO's Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on June 2, announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on July 2. This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the second halo orbit.

Schemes and Committees News**MoSPI Launches eSankhyiki Portal for Enhanced Data Access**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the eSankhyiki portal to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience. This initiative aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

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

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

Summits & Conference News**Global IndiaAI Summit 2024: Empowering Responsible AI Development and Adoption**

The 'Global IndiaAI Summit 2024' commences today in New Delhi, hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information

Technology. This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement. It will feature sessions on IndiaAI's strategic pillars, including compute capacity, datasets platform, innovation centers, and skills development.

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

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

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

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

Awards & Honors News**P. Geetha Receives Inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award**

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

Agri-Entrepreneur Sopna Kallingal Secures Spice Award

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

Important Dates News**National Doctor's Day 2024, Date, History and Significance**

National Doctor's Day, observed on 1st July every year, is an annual celebration that recognizes the invaluable contributions of medical professionals to our society. As we approach the 2024 observance, it's important to reflect on the significance of this day and the impact doctors have on our lives.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024, Date, History and Significance

International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 3 every year. This special day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment. It encourages people to stop using plastic bags and find eco-friendly alternatives.

Sports News**Ravindra Jadeja Retires From T20 Internationals**

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has announced his decision to retire from T20 internationals following India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph. Ravindra Jadeja has called it quits from T20 internationals, bowing out on a high with the T20 World Cup 2024 trophy.

Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Chess Championship

Viswanathan Anand, the former world chess champion from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time, defeating Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1. This victory adds another jewel to Anand's crown of achievements in the world of chess.

India Dominates U23 Asian Wrestling Championship in Jordan

India's U23 wrestling team excelled in Amman, Jordan, clinching a total of 19 medals across women's wrestling, Greco-Roman, and freestyle categories. The women wrestlers led with three gold medals, showcasing dominance in their divisions. Meenakshi, Pushpa Yadav, and Priya Malik stood out with impressive performances, securing victories by various methods including Victory by Superiority and Victory by Fall.

George Russell Triumphs in Dramatic Austrian Grand Prix 2024

The Austrian Grand Prix 2024 will be remembered as a day of unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a stunning victory for George Russell of Mercedes. This race, held at the iconic Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria, showcased the unpredictable nature of Formula 1 racing and the skill of drivers who can capitalize on sudden opportunities.

Neeraj Chopra To Lead 28-Member Squad in Paris Olympics

A 28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on June 04. Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the first Indian track and field athlete to win a medal at the Olympics, that too a gold. This time, the Indian javelin throw ace will have Olympic debutant Kishore Jena for company in his pet event.

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

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

Four Different Venues To Host Durand Cup 2024 Starting July 27

The Durand Cup 2024 football tournament will start from July 27 with the final scheduled at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata on August 31. First played in 1888, the Durand Cup is India's oldest football tournament and serves as the opener for the Indian domestic season. The upcoming edition will be the 133rd edition of the legacy competition.

PM Hosts ICC T20 World Cup Winners, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team for breakfast on June 4. The team led by skipper Rohit Sharma arrived in Delhi in the early morning from Bridgetown in Barbados, where it was stranded for five days owing to a Category-4 hurricane.

Obituaries News**Bhupinder Singh Rawat, Former Indian Midfielder passes away at 85: AIFF**

Former India midfielder Bhupinder Singh Rawat, who played in the 1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. A speedy winger of the 1960s and 1970s, Rawat played for India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia. Domestically, he played for Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade and Mafatlal.

Robert Towne, Oscar-winning screenwriter of 'Chinatown,' Dies at 89

Robert Towne, the acclaimed screenwriter whose work shaped the landscape of American cinema in the 1970s and beyond, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2023, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89 years old.

Defence News**Maitree Exercise 2024, Strengthening India-Thailand Military Cooperation**

July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in India-Thailand relations. The Maitree Exercise, a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army, kicks off at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand. This two-week exercise, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.

Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch. This initiative integrates ground-based and specialist weapon system operators under one umbrella, enhancing the IAF's war-fighting capabilities.

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

India's defence sector has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24, with total annual defence production reaching an all-time high of Rs 1,26,887 crore. This unprecedented achievement, announced by the Union Ministry of Defence on July 5, 2024, marks a significant leap in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Defence Investiture Ceremony 2024: President Murmu Honors Gallantry Award Recipients

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

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

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

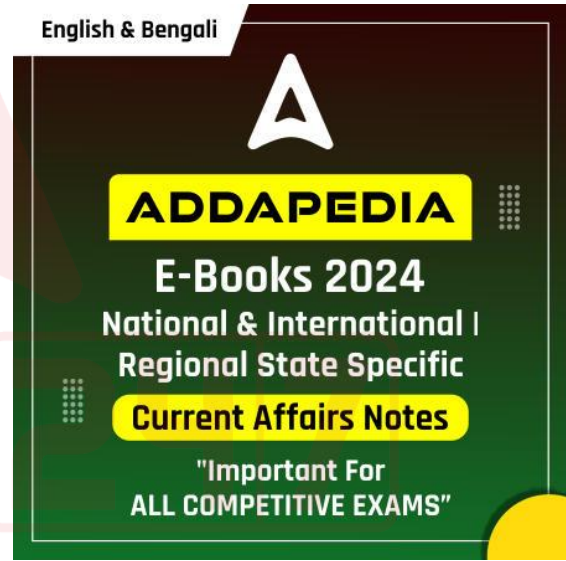
Books & Authors News

A book titled "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by Piyush Pandey

In the world of celebrity biographies, a new addition stands out for its raw honesty and inspiring narrative. "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by journalist Piyush Pandey offers readers an intimate look into the life of one of India's most respected actors.

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