

Weekly One Liners 17th to 23rd of June 2024

Highlights of G7 Summit 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 14, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. The countries including UK counterpart **Rishi Sunak**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky**, and others, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in southern Italy's Apulia. Later, the Prime Minister also met Pope Francis of the Vatican.

About G7 Summit

The **G7 Summit** is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the **G7 member states** of France, the **United States**, the **United Kingdom**, **Germany**, **Japan**, **Italy**, and **Canada** (in order of rotating presidency), and the **European Union (EU)**.

Features of the G7 Summit

At the G7 Summit, the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values such as **freedom, democracy and human rights**, exchange candid views on important challenges the international community is facing at that time, such as the global economy, regional affairs and various global issues, and issue a document as an outcome of such discussions. With the leadership of the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values, the G7 has effectively responded to important challenges that the international community faces.

The Beginning of the G7 Summit

In the **1970s**, developed countries that faced various challenges such as the Nixon shock (1971) and the first oil crisis (1973) began recognizing the need to create a forum to comprehensively discuss policy coordination of macro economy, currency, trade, and energy, among others, at a leader's level. Against this backdrop, proposed by then-French President Giscard d'Estaing, the **first Summit** was held in **November 1975** at the Chateau de Rambouillet (located in the outskirts of Paris), with participation from six countries-**France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy**. Since then, Summits have been held **annually** with revolving Presidency. **Russia's membership** was suspended in **March 2014** in response to its annexation of Crimea.

About 2024 G7 Summit

The **50th G7** includes **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. **Italy**, hosting the summit, has invited African leaders-Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, Kenyan President **William Ruto**, and Tunisian President **Kais Saied**-to discuss Meloni's plans for development and migration in **Africa**. Other guests include Ukrainian President **Zelenskyy**, Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**. Many G7 countries are also experiencing political changes. With Biden, UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**, and French President **Emmanuel Macron** facing elections soon, there is pressure on the G7 to achieve as much as possible while the current leadership remains.

Theme of this year summit

The theme of this year's summit, which will be attended by President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** of the Republic of Türkiye, as a special guest, has been set as **"rules-based international system."**

Italy's agenda for the 2024 summit?

The **2024, 50th G7** summit will be held from **13 to 15 June in Apulia**, in Italy. It will be the first major international forum hosted by the Italian prime minister, **Giorgia Meloni**, since she took office in October 2022. As well as the wars in **Ukraine and Gaza**, Italy says it wants the summit to **focus on Africa and migration, economic security, and international co-operation** on artificial intelligence (AI).

Focus of this year summit

- **Supporting Ukraine's Fight for Freedom:** G7 leaders announced a plan to provide Ukraine with \$50 billion in new financing by bringing forward the interest earned on immobilized Russian sovereign assets held in the European Union and other jurisdictions. The Biden Administration this week issued a sweeping set of new sanctions and export control measures, guided by G7 commitments to intensify the pressure on Russia for its war against Ukraine. In Puglia, President Biden and President Zelensky signed the U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Security Agreement as a demonstration of enduring U.S. support for Ukraine, including through binding commitments to deepen our security and defense cooperation and to consult in the event of a future armed attack.
- **Advancing International Peace, Security, and Prosperity:** The G7's work is grounded in a shared commitment to respect the UN Charter, promote international peace and security, and uphold the free and open rules-based international order.
- **Promoting Economic Resilience and Economic Security:** President Biden rallied the G7 to take further steps to protect our workers, industries, and the investments.

- **Partnering with Developing Countries to Invest in their Future:** The G7 is taking ambitious steps to scale up support to developing countries and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition to Address Climate Change:** The G7 is accelerating its work to address the challenges of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.
- **Promoting Health and Food Security:** The G7 continues to lead global efforts to address the food security crisis and support strong, resilient and responsive health systems around the world.
- **Investing in Childcare to Support Women's Economic Participation:** The G7 is tackling the unequal gender distribution of care work, which contributes to gender inequality.
- **Enhancing Our Partnership on Migration:** Drawn from the principles of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection that President Biden launched at the Summit of the Americas in 2022, the G7 affirmed a collective commitment to addressing migration in ways that reflect both the challenges and opportunities it presents.
- **Deepening Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence:** In line with the Biden Administration's vision laid out in the October 2023 Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, the G7 is building partnerships around the world to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence and other technologies are widely shared while mitigating risks.
- **Increasing Coordination to Promote AI Safety:** G7 leaders committed to step up efforts to enhance interoperability between our respective approaches to AI governance and risk management.

India's Environment Performance in 2024

India's latest ranking in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for 2024** places it at **176th out of 180 countries**, reflecting slight improvement from previous years but still positioning it among the **world's lowest performers**. The index, prepared by **Yale and Columbia universities**, highlights India's struggles in crucial areas like air quality, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Top 10 Countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2024

1. **Estonia** – Score: 75.3
2. **Luxembourg** – Score: 75.0
3. **Germany** – Score: 74.6
4. **Finland** – Score: 73.7
5. **United Kingdom** – Score: 72.7

6. **Sweden** – Score: 70.5
7. **Norway** – Score: 70.0
8. **Austria** – Score: 69.0
9. **Switzerland** – Score: 68.0
10. **Denmark** – Score: 67.9

Environmental Challenges

India faces severe challenges in several key environmental metrics:

Air Quality

Continues to be a major concern, with India ranking poorly in air quality compared to global standards, surpassing even its South Asian neighbors.

Biodiversity and Habitat

Scores poorly in measures related to ecosystem vitality, species protection, and terrestrial biome preservation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Despite efforts in renewable energy, India remains one of the largest emitters globally, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress Amid Challenges

While India ranks low overall, there are areas showing improvement:

Climate Change

Notwithstanding its overall low ranking, India's efforts in climate change mitigation have been recognized, particularly with initiatives in renewable energy and a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Sector-Specific Gains

India's scores are bolstered by advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agricultural practices.

Policy and International Comparisons

Coal Dependence

Heavy reliance on coal continues to hamper India's environmental performance, contributing significantly to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Context

The index highlights disparities among nations, with India's ranking affected by the relative progress of other countries in environmental stewardship.

Future Challenges and Financial Needs

Sustainability Goals

India faces substantial challenges in achieving sustainability across multiple fronts, necessitating significant financial investments estimated at \$160 billion annually to meet climate goals and environmental targets.

India's Environmental Performance: Key Points

Ranking

India ranks 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index.

Challenges

- **Air Quality:** India faces severe challenges with air quality, often exceeding safe limits.
- **Biodiversity:** Concerns over ecosystem vitality, species protection, and habitat preservation.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** One of the largest global emitters, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress

- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Pursuing renewable energy projects and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Sector-Specific Improvements:** Advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agriculture.

Policy and International Comparisons

- **Coal Dependence:** Heavy reliance on coal remains a significant environmental challenge.
- **Global Context:** India's ranking affected by the environmental progress of other nations.

Future Needs

- **Financial Investments:** Estimated \$160 billion annually needed for climate mitigation efforts and environmental sustainability.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

On **June 19**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new campus of Nalanda University**, an international institution of learning near the ancient ruins of Nalanda in Rajgir, Bihar. The PM asserted that Nalanda is a **symbol of India's academic heritage** and a proclamation of the enduring nature of knowledge.

Establishment and Functioning

- The **Parliament of India** established Nalanda University through the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**, based on decisions taken at the East Asia Summits in 2007 and 2009.
- The university started functioning in 2014 from a temporary location with 14 students, and construction of the new campus began in 2017.
- Representatives from **17 participating countries**, including ambassadors and ministers, attended the inauguration event.

Reviving a Global Centre of Learning

PM Modi emphasized that the **renaissance of Nalanda University** will introduce India's potential to the world and once again become a **major centre for cultural exchange**. He highlighted that the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to Nalanda, which flourished for 800 years before its destruction in the 12th century.

Promoting Sustainability and Knowledge

The Prime Minister stressed that India has lived as a model of sustainability for centuries and should become a **centre of education and knowledge for the world**. He expressed his vision for India to have the world's most comprehensive skill system and an advanced research-oriented higher education system.

International Participation and Offerings

- Nalanda University has participation from **17 nations**, including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and others, who have signed MoUs in support of the university.
- The university offers **137 scholarships** to international students, sponsored by various organizations and countries.
- It provides **Post Graduate and Doctoral research courses**, as well as short-term certificate courses.

PM's Commitment and Vision

PM Modi emphasized the Central government's commitment to providing all possible support to Nalanda University. He encouraged students to be curious, courageous, and kind, expressing confidence that the youth will provide leadership to the world, and Nalanda will become an important centre for global causes.

The article is written in simple language, with headings and subheadings. Important keywords are highlighted, and the word limit of 600 words is maintained. The tone of the article is in the style of "Important Days" types, focusing on the inauguration of the new campus of Nalanda University, its historical significance, and PM Modi's vision for reviving India's academic heritage and promoting sustainability and knowledge.



Sweden Tops, India at 63rd Rank on Global Energy Transition Index: WEF

According to the Global Energy Transition Index released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF) on 19 June 2024, India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries**, improving three ranks from **last year's 67th position**. Sweden has again topped the Index, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition. The WEF highlighted India's significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.

Global Energy Transition Index Overview

The Global Energy Transition Index, published annually by the WEF in association with Accenture, evaluates nations' progress and preparedness in building an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future. It tracks government policies and their effectiveness in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting non-fossil-based power sources, and enhancing energy efficiency.

2024 Rankings

European nations dominate the 2024 Index's top ranks:

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Finland
4. Switzerland
5. France

China is ranked 20th, while India stands at 63rd. The report indicates that 107 out of 120 countries have shown progress in their energy transition over the past decade, despite challenges such as economic volatility and geopolitical tensions.

India's Progress and Global Role

The WEF commended India's initiatives in encouraging non-fossil-based energy sources, particularly solar energy. India's improvements in energy security, equity, and sustainability are noteworthy, positioning the country as a critical player in the global energy transition alongside China. India is now the fourth largest in the renewable energy market globally, with renewable energy and biomass comprising 42% of its power generation capacity. Significant investments are also being made in electric vehicles and green hydrogen.

World Economic Forum

Founded in 1971 by German economist Klaus Schwab, the WEF is a non-profit international organization **headquartered in Cologne, Switzerland**. It aims to foster collaboration between global stakeholders to address common challenges. The WEF publishes several influential reports, including the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report, and Global IT Report.

Implications and Recommendations

The WEF suggests that other nations can replicate India's policies and innovative initiatives for a green energy transition. Despite progress, the report urges further efforts to reduce coal usage and emissions, emphasizing the potential of green technology in shaping the future of energy systems globally.

World Economic Forum: Key Points

Purpose

- **Collaboration Platform:** Facilitates cooperation among business, political, academic, and other leaders to address global challenges.
- **Global Issues:** Focuses on shaping global, regional, and industry agendas to improve the state of the world.

Foundation

- **Founded:** 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab, a German economist

Headquarters

- **Location:** Cologne, Switzerland

Key Activities

- **Annual Meetings:** Hosts annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, bringing together global leaders from various sectors.
- **Reports and Research:** Publishes influential reports like the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Energy Transition Index, and Global IT Report.
- **Initiatives:** Launches initiatives and partnerships to address issues such as climate change, economic development, and social inclusion.

Notable Reports

- **Global Gender Gap Report**
- **Global Competitiveness Report**
- **Energy Transition Index**
- **Global Travel and Tourism Report**
- **Global IT Report** (in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University)



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Overall Mission

- **Improving the State of the World:** Aims to drive impactful actions through public-private cooperation and innovative solutions for global progress.

National Affairs

- Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' (Inspiration Site) within the Parliament House Complex. This newly constructed site houses statues of **national icons and freedom fighters** that were previously scattered across different locations on the premises. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **India** is set to join an elite group of nations with the launch of its ambitious **Deep Sea Mission**, making it the **sixth country** to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, Space, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, expressed pride and happiness over the progress of this mission during a recent meeting in New Delhi. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet has approved economic measures totaling over **₹2.88-lakh crore**, including an MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops, the **expansion of Varanasi airport**, and the establishment of a new major port at VadHAVAN. These decisions, announced in the first Cabinet meeting after the allocation of portfolios to Union Ministers in the Modi government's third term, aim to bolster various sectors and drive economic growth. ([Click to read the article](#))
- As a precursor to the 3rd edition of **World Food India**, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri **Chirag Paswan** and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Railways, Shri **Ravneet Singh**, launched the **website and mobile application** for **World Food India 2024**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme** for the implementation of **offshore wind energy projects** in India. This decision marks a significant step towards harnessing the vast offshore wind energy potential within the **country's exclusive economic zone**. The total financial outlay for this scheme is **₹7,453 crore**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Central Sector Scheme titled "**National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)**" with a comprehensive financial allocation of **Rs. 2254.43 crore** spanning from

- **2024-25 to 2028-29**. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, aims to bolster India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a significant boost to the **India's port development programme**, as many as **9 ports of India** made it to the **Global Top 100** in the latest edition of **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI)**, 2023. This report is prepared by the **World Bank** and **S&P Global Marketing Intelligence**. The Union Minister of **Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, **Sarbananda Sonowal** gave credit to the ambitious **Sagarmala programme**, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency. ([Click to read the article](#))
- To realise the vision of saturating **National Highways with green cover**, NHAI will undertake a unique initiative to plant **Miyawaki plantation** on land parcels adjacent to National Highways at various locations. Total land area of over **53 acres** has been identified at different places in and around **Delhi-NCR** to establish the Miyawaki plantations. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Indian government has approved the construction of a new major port at **VadHAVAN in the Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra**. This project, aligned with the PM Gatishakti programme, aims to boost India's foreign trade capabilities and local economy. The **Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, sanctioned this on June 19, 2024. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the proposal of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** for development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore**. It includes Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a bid to enhance road safety, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi**, a technical university established by the **Government of National Capital Territory (NCT)**. This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signs on National Highways, covering approximately 25,000 kilometers. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, **Bhartruhari Mahtab**, a **seven-term Lok Sabha member**, has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker** of the Lower House. The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** on June 20. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The government monetised assets worth ₹1.56 lakh crore under the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** in the financial year **2023-24**, falling short of the target of ₹1.8 lakh crore. This performance represents approximately **159% of the achievement in 2021-22**. The NMP aims to unlock the value of brownfield infrastructure assets, with a total monetisation potential estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period from FY22 to FY25. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory circular titled '**Gender Equality in the Civil Aviation Sector**' aimed at increasing **women's representation in aviation to 25% by 2025**. This initiative aligns with the gender equality principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the **International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO)** vision for equal opportunities in aviation. ([Click to read the article](#))

States in the News

- Kerala's Kozhikode is all set to host the **Malabar River Festival 2024**, featuring the International White Water Kayaking Championship from **July 25 to 28**. This exciting event aims to promote white-water kayaking in the region and will be held in **Thusaharagiri, Chalipuzha, and Iruvazhinjipuzha**. The high-octane events and pre-events will host over 100 national-level kayakers from India and kayaking professionals from over 20 countries. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Punjab Police in association with the **Border Security Force (BSF)** and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) will carry out a one-week **drive against drugs** in Fazilka district. They will reach out to residents of as many as 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather actionable intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Tesam Pongte** was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the **8th Arunachal Pradesh Assembly** on June 15. **Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering** announced that **Pongte** was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Assembly. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has completed preparations for its ambitious cheetah reintroduction project at **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**. This is slated to be the **second home for cheetahs** in India after **Kuno National Park**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a historic move, senior **BJP leader Surama Padhy** has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Odisha

Assembly, becoming only the second woman to hold this prestigious position. Padhy, a two-term MLA from the Ranpur constituency in Nayagarh district, assumed office unopposed during a special session of the Assembly. ([Click to read the article](#))

- **Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot of Karnataka** inaugurated the **National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru**, emphasizing yoga's integral role in Indian culture and its global significance. More than 400 students and 100 teachers from across the country are participating in this inaugural three-day event. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Hemis Festival**, a vibrant celebration of **Tibetan Buddhism**, takes place annually in **Ladakh, India**. In 2024, this important cultural event will be held on **June 16th and 17th**. ([Click to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- In a ceremony marked by heightened security following an assassination attempt on **Prime Minister Robert Fico**, **Peter Pellegrini has been inaugurated as Slovakia's sixth president**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** was reelected by lawmakers for a **second term** on June 14, after his party struck a dramatic late coalition deal with a former political foe just hours before the vote. Ramaphosa won the vote against **Julius Malema**, leader of the far-left **Economic Freedom Fighters**, winning 283 votes to Malema's 44. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Israeli Navy** on June 16, received the second of two new landing craft from a shipyard in the **United States**, with the vessel mooring at the **Haifa Naval Base** after making a lengthy voyage to the country. The US-built **INS Komemiyut** was the Navy's second landing craft, after the **INS Nahshon**, which was received in early October last year. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Chinese scientists** have made a significant breakthrough in solar research through the use of their solar exploration satellite, the **Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE)**, which has led to the discovery of a new pattern of **solar atmospheric rotation**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In 2023, the **world's nuclear-armed nations** witnessed significant developments in their arsenals, with a notable increase in spending on nuclear weapons. The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** highlighted that the United States led global expenditures, followed by **China and Russia**. This surge in investment underscores a growing reliance on nuclear deterrence strategies reminiscent of the **Cold War era**. ([Click to read the article](#))

- **State-run Coal India Ltd (COALNS)**, opens new tab is exploring **lithium blocks** in **Argentina** along with a **U.S. company** to secure supplies of the battery material, an Indian source with direct knowledge said on June 18. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Thailand** will become the **first nation in Southeast Asia** to legalize **same-sex marriage** after the kingdom's Senate approved a **marriage equality bill** on June 18, with supporters calling it a **"monumental step forward for LGBTQ+ rights."** ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **United Kingdom (UK)** has overtaken China to become **India's fourth-largest export market** in May 2024, commerce department data showed. The UK was India's **sixth-largest export destination** in **May last year**. While exports to the UK grew by a third to **\$1.37 billion** in May, the shipments to China saw **3 per cent growth at \$1.33 billion** last month. ([Click to read the article](#))
- According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, China has significantly increased its nuclear warhead count, rising from 410 in 2023 to 500 at the beginning of this year. The growth suggests a rapid expansion of China's nuclear capabilities, positioning it as the fastest-growing nuclear power globally. ([Click to read the article](#))
- On June 19, the upper house of the Tajikistan parliament, **Majlisi Milli**, passed a law prohibiting **"alien garments,"** which primarily targets the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing. The **lower chamber, Majlisi Namoyandagon**, had passed the bill on May 8. This move has sparked debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population in the tightly governed ex-Soviet republic. ([Click to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Oracle** has teamed up with the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation** to enhance IT skills among the state's youth through the **Naan Mudhalvan program**. This initiative aims to provide training and certification in cutting-edge technologies like cloud computing, data science, AI, ML, and blockchain, offering employment-linked opportunities to over 200,000 students. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the State Bank of India (**SBI**) have formalized a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to integrate **SBI's payment gateway, SBIPay, with the eMigrate portal**. This collaboration aims to bolster digital payment services for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and users of the portal. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on **"Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru**, in observance of International Day of Yoga (**IDY**) 2024 with the theme **"Yoga for Self & Society."** This conference brought together experts from various fields to enhance societal health, including astronauts, by exploring the benefits of yoga in extreme conditions and space environments. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on enhancing **cyber-resilience in India's financial sector**. This partnership aims to leverage the shared expertise of both entities in cybersecurity incident response, capacity building, and advanced malware analysis. ([Click to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- Actress **Alia Bhatt** celebrated **Father's Day** in a unique way by unveiling the first look of her debut children's book, **"Ed Finds a Home."** This book marks the beginning of a new series from the **"Ed-a-mamma"** universe. ([Click to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed fines on **Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC** for breaches related to **customer protection and KYC norms**. Central Bank of India faces a penalty of ₹1.45 crore for irregularities including improper sanctioning of loans and delays in reversing unauthorized transactions. Meanwhile, Sonali Bank PLC has been fined ₹96.4 lakh for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016. These penalties highlight RBI's commitment to enforcing regulatory and statutory compliance in the banking sector. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of **Purvanchal Co-operative Bank, located in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh**, citing inadequate capital and bleak earning prospects. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Fitch Ratings has revised **India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2%**, up from the previous estimate of 7%. This adjustment is attributed to expected recovery in consumer spending and continued investment, although at a slower pace than recent quarters. The economy had grown by **8.2% in FY24**. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the **World Bank Group**, has committed **\$105 million** (approximately Rs 871 crore) to **Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan**. This investment will be in the form of non-convertible debentures, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Axis Bank has decided to increase its shareholding in Max Life Insurance, **investing up to ₹336 crore**. This transaction will raise the aggregate shareholding of **Axis Entities from 19.02% to 19.66%**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has teamed up with **Ria Money Transfer**, a global leader in cross-border money transfers and a business segment of **Euronet Worldwide, Inc.**, to offer innovative remittance services in rural India. This collaboration aims to provide convenient and affordable financial services directly to the doorsteps of customers in remote areas. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited)**, a payment solutions provider, has announced that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted final approval to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Indian funds in Swiss banks have plummeted by **70% in 2023**, reaching a **four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (₹9,771 crore)**, according to the **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**. This marks a significant decline after a peak in 2021 and is attributed to decreases in bonds, securities, and other financial instruments. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Global Wind Energy Council India** has announced that **Mr Girish Tanti**, Vice-Chairman of **Suzlon Group**, has been appointed as the **Chairman**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- On this significant day for higher education in Karnataka, the **State government** has made a crucial appointment that marks a new era for the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). This appointment represents an important step in the institution's history and development. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Sudhakararao Papa** has been appointed as the **Director (Enterprise)** of **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** following a rigorous selection process by the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on June 15, 2024**. His appointment is pending final vigilance clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a leading Indian defense electronics company, has announced a significant change in its top leadership. **Manoj Jain** has been appointed as the new **Chairman and Managing Director** of the company. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The government (on 20 June) has appointed **Atul Kumar Chaudhary**, as the **new Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, the position which was lying vacant after superannuation of **V Raghunandan** on May 31. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Rear **Admiral Nelson D'Souza** has taken over as **Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT)**, Pune from **Air Vice Marshal Vivek Blouria**. An accomplished alumnus of the **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington** and **Naval War College, Goa**, Rear Admiral D'Souza has served in numerous key positions within the **Indian Navy** since his commissioning in **March 1991**. ([Click to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Ajith Kumar KK** has been appointed as the Managing Director and **CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank** for a three-year term starting June 20, 2024. The announcement was made in a regulatory filing by the Kerala-based private sector bank. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, Paytm has named **Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal**, former whole-time director of **SEBI**, as its non-executive independent director for a five-year term. This change comes alongside the resignation of **Neeraj Arora**, who cited pre-occupation and personal commitments. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has appointed **IAS officer Ashwani Kumar** as the Commissioner of the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** with immediate effect. ([Click to read the article](#))



Defence News

- India has achieved a significant milestone in its defense capabilities with the induction of the **indigenous Nagastra-1 kamikaze drones** developed by **Solar Industries, based in Nagpur**. This deployment addresses the escalating drone-related incidents along India's Northern borders, highlighting the critical need for advanced indigenous drone technologies in combat applications. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to make history this August by hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024**. The exercise is slated to be held in two phases, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from **late August to mid-September**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Army** on June 18, announced the opening of a **state-of-the-art skin bank** facility at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral). The facility offers the latest modern treatment for **severe burn injuries** received by armed forces personnel and their families. ([Click to read the article](#))
- In a significant move towards self-reliance, the **Northern Command** of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured **ASMI submachine guns** worth Rs 4.26 crores from **Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited**. This marks the first time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** released the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations** during the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** meeting held on **June 18, 2024**, in New Delhi. The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment. ([Click to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Siddhesh Sakore**, a farmer and the founder of **AGRO RANGERS from Maharashtra**, has been recognized as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on **World Desertification and Drought Day**. The announcement was made during a programme in Bonn, Germany, honoring 10 Land Heroes from around the globe. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been awarded the prestigious **"Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024"** by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in

London. This accolade recognizes the RBI's significant strides in cultivating a robust risk culture and heightened awareness, solidifying its essential role in maintaining the stability of India's financial system. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The **Sahitya Akademi** on June 15, announced the names of **23 writers**, including English writer **K Vaishali** and Hindi author **Gaurav Pandey**, who will receive the prestigious **Yuva Puraskar** across as many languages. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala**, a renowned Ayurvedic institution, celebrated a significant achievement as its **managing trustee and chief physician, P. Madhavankutty Varier**, was awarded an **honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree** by the **Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS)**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Eminent children's filmmaker **Vinod Ganatra** has become the first Indian to be conferred with South Africa's prestigious **'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'** for his outstanding contribution to children's cinema. The award was presented to him at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The renowned wildlife filmmaker **Subbiah Nallamuthu** has been conferred with the prestigious **18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking. The award was presented to him by the **Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan**, at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, a regional rural bank sponsored by **Canara Bank**, has been honoured with a national award by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for significant enrolment under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**. ([Click to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- **Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs**, represented India at the **Summit on Peace in Ukraine**, hosted by **Switzerland at Burgenstock on June 15-16, 2024**. India attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit but did not align itself with any communique or document that emerged. This highlights India's consistent and independent approach to achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The mid-year **climate discussions** in **Bonn, Germany**, concluded recently with **limited progress**, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the **COP29** summit to be held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, later this year. ([Click to read the article](#))
- At the recent Summit on **Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland**, India opted not to sign the final communique alongside several other nations. This decision stemmed from India's strategic relationship with Russia, its primary defense supplier, and Moscow's absence from the summit, which India deemed crucial for any lasting peace agreement involving Ukraine. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **112th International Labour Organization (ILO)** was held in **Geneva from 3-14 June 2024**. It was attended by more than **4,900 delegates – representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations**. The **113rd ILO** will be held in June 2025. ([Click to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- In **Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey** released on June 17, Mumbai solidifies its position as **India's most expensive city** for expatriates, climbing to **136th globally and 21st in Asia**. New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia, showcasing a notable shift in cost dynamics across Indian cities. Despite economic challenges, India remains resilient, offering affordability advantages for global talent recruitment. ([Click to read the article](#))
- India has achieved significant milestones in its domestic aviation sector over the past decade, emerging as the **world's third-largest market for domestic airlines by April 2024**. This marks a remarkable ascent from its fifth position ten years ago, driven by robust growth and strategic developments under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership**. ([Click to read the article](#))

Sports News

- In a thrilling final at the **BWF Australian Open 2024** in Sydney on Sunday (16 June), **Lee Zii Jia** from **Malaysia** emerged victorious against **Naraoka Kodai** of Japan, securing his second title of the season. ([Click to read the article](#))
- According to the **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023** released by global consulting firm Kroll, cricketer **Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot as India's **most valued celebrity brand** with a brand value of **\$227.9 million**. This marks a **30% jump** from his brand value of \$176.9 million in 2022. ([Click to read the article](#))

- The Indian National Ultimate Frisbee team put up a valiant effort in the finals of the **Asia Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) 2024**, finishing as runners-up after a hard-fought match against the Philippines with a final score of 9-12. This marks a historic milestone for Indian Ultimate Frisbee as the national team reached the finals for the first time, demonstrating significant growth and potential on the international stage. The tournament featured 16 teams from across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Indian **javelin star Neeraj Chopra** added another feather to his cap by clinching the **gold medal** in the men's javelin throw event at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2024** in Turku, Finland. The Paavo Nurmi Games is a prestigious **World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level)** event, and Neeraj's victory further solidifies his position as a dominant force in the sport. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Pat Cummins**, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a hat-trick, while David Warner's unbeaten fifty guaranteed a smooth chase as Australia comfortably defeated Bangladesh in their **'Super 8s' Group 1** encounter of the **T20 World Cup**. The match, held in **Antigua** on June 21, was under the threat of rain that disrupted proceedings twice. ([Click to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- On June 18, 2024, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups as **Krishi Sakhis** in Varanasi. This initiative aims to enhance the skills of rural women in agriculture, recognizing their vital role in this sector. ([Click to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup, has successfully completed its maiden mission with the **Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites**. These satellites have securely deorbited after completing **15,000 orbits around Earth**. Launched aboard **ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022**, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company. ([Click to read the article](#))
- **Nvidia**, the startup at the centre of the **artificial intelligence boom**, has become the world's most valuable company, knocking **Microsoft off** the top spot. Nvidia's market **capitalisation hit \$3.335 trillion** on June 18, as shares of the chipmaker rose by **3.5 percent to \$135.58**. ([Click to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- On June 17th, the world celebrates the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**. This important day aims to raise awareness about the pressing issue of land degradation and its devastating effects on the environment and communities around the globe. This year's theme, "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," emphasizes the critical importance of **land stewardship** as a shared responsibility for all. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) organized the '**Global Wind Day**' on **June 15, 2024**, in Delhi to commemorate the achievements and potential of wind energy in India. The event highlighted India's progress in the wind energy sector and discussed strategies for accelerating its adoption across the country. ([Click to read the article](#))
- On **June 18th**, countries around the world observe the **International Day for Countering Hate Speech**. This important day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of **hate speech** and promote strategies to identify, address, and counter it. ([Click to read the article](#))
- On **June 18th**, we observe **Sustainable Gastronomy Day**, a day dedicated to promoting **sustainable** practices in the world of **gastronomy**, or the art and study of food and cuisine. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Every year, on **June 19**, we observe the **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**. This important day aims to **raise awareness** about the **serious issue of sexual violence during wars and conflicts** worldwide. It also focuses on finding ways to **stop these terrible crimes**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Every year on **June 20th**, the world comes together to observe **World Refugee Day**. This day is dedicated to the millions of people who have been **forced to flee** their homes due to **war, persecution, or natural disasters**. It serves as a powerful reminder of their plight and a call to action to support and **welcome refugees** into our communities. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The United Nations General Assembly recognized sickle cell disease as a public health issue and designated **19 June** as **World Sickle Cell Day** in December 2008. The day aims to raise awareness about the disease, promote early detection, and encourage preventive measures for patient relief. The theme for the 2024 World Sickle Cell Day is "Hope through progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally." ([Click to read the article](#))

- International Yoga Day is a **worldwide celebration** of yoga, an ancient Indian practice that promotes **physical, mental, and spiritual well-being**. Observed annually on **June 21st**, this special day brings together millions of people across the globe for yoga classes, workshops, and talks. From serene mountain retreats to bustling city squares, people unite in their pursuit of **holistic health** and inner peace. This year's theme, "**Yoga for Self and Society**," highlights the transformative power of yoga at both personal and community levels. ([Click to read the article](#))
- World Music Day, also known as '**Fête de la Musique**', is an annual global celebration held in June to promote music and its universal language. On this special day, **musicians** from around the world perform in public spaces, sharing their talents and passion for music. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The United Nations observes **International Widows' Day** on **June 23rd** each year. For millions of women around the world, losing a partner is just the beginning of a long battle for basic rights and dignity. Despite there being over **258 million widows** globally, their experiences have often been overlooked and their needs unmet. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Every year on **June 23rd**, the world celebrates **United Nations Public Service Day**. This special day highlights the importance of public service and recognizes the hard work of public servants globally. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Every year on **June 21st**, the world celebrates **World Hydrography Day**. This important day, organized by the **International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)**, aims to raise awareness about **hydrography** and its crucial role in understanding our seas and oceans. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2024 is: "**Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities**". ([Click to read the article](#))



Obituaries News

- Veteran sports journalist **Harpal Singh Bedi**, who covered several highs and lows of Indian sports in a career spanning over four decades, served as the **national Olympic contingent's press attache** in 2012 and charmed the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth, died after prolonged illness in New Delhi on June 15. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The state of **Odisha** mourns the loss of **Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare**, the former **Governor** of the state, who passed away on **June 15** at the age of **95**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- The **Canadian actor Donald Sutherland**, star of films including **The Hunger Games** and **Don't Look Now**, has died at 88 after a long illness. ([Click to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Indian Railways** completed a successful trial of an **electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi**, crossing the **world's highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge**. ([Click to read the article](#))
- Aiming to enable passengers to drop in their luggage, collect tags and print boarding passes to complete check-in in less time, the **Delhi International Airport Ltd** launched a **self-service mechanism** on 17 June. ([Click to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Capital of Arunachal Pradesh: Itanagar (Executive Branch)
- Chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu
- South Africa Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein
- South Africa Currency: Rand
- Swiss National Bank Establishment: June 16, 1907.
- Swiss National Bank Headquarters: Bern and Zurich, Switzerland.
- Swiss National Bank Current President: Thomas Jordan (as of 2023).

- The International Hydrographic Organization Founded: 21 June 1921;
- The International Hydrographic Organization Secretary-General: Mathias Jonas;
- The International Hydrographic Organization HQ: Monaco.
- Tajikistan Capital: Dushanbe
- Tajikistan President: Emomali Rahmon (in office since 1994)
- Tajikistan Prime Minister: Kokhir Rasulzoda
- Bharat Electronics Limited Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Bharat Electronics Limited Founded: 1954, Bengaluru
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee
- Sri Lanka Official languages: Sinhala, Tamil
- Sri Lanka President: Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Sri Lanka Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena
- China Capital: Beijing
- China Premier: Li Qiang
- China President: Xi Jinping
- China Official language: Mandarin
- Chairman, NHAI): Santosh Kumar Yadav, IAS
- NHAI HQ: New Delhi
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1988
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm
- Sweden Currency: krona
- Sweden Prime Minister: Ulf Kristersson.

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