

MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

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NEWS IN SHORT

- Nimhans, Karnataka's premier mental health institute, has been awarded the World Health Organisation's Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024. The award recognises individuals, institutions and government or non-governmental organisations that have made significant contribution towards health promotion.
- A successful wildlife conservation model by Assamese biologist Purnima Devi Barman, which won her the prestigious Green Oscar, will be adopted by Lycee des Lumieres, a school on Mayotte island in France. The school signed a two-year agreement with Barman to train students in biodiversity conservation, inspired by her work with village women in Assam to protect the endangered greater adjutant storks
- Two innovators from India have won in two categories at the inaugural Global Prompt Engineering Championship in Dubai, collectively taking home two-thirds of the million-dirham prize pool, and spotlighting India's growing talent pool and global influence in the field of Artificial Intelligence, PTI reports from Dubai. The competition, which attracted the brightest minds from around the world, saw Aditya Nair win in the 'Literature' category and Ajay Cyril win in the 'Coding' category, earning them international praise
- The Humane Society International, India has launched a WhatsApp chatbot in Mysuru to educate citizens about snakes and snakebite prevention
- Justice M S Sonak of the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court registered a "living will," making Goa the first state to implement and operationalize this advance medical directive. A living will allows individuals to specify medical decisions in advance for situations where they cannot make their own decisions, especially in cases of terminal illness or permanent vegetative state. This registration occurred at an event organized by the Goa branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Goa State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finalized the 'Framework for Recognizing Self-Regulatory Organization(s) for the FinTech Sector' (SRO-FT framework) to enhance self-regulation within the FinTech sector. This framework aims to address concerns related to customer protection, data privacy, cyber security, grievance handling, internal governance, and financial system integrity.
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is allocating funds to construct canopy bridges for gibbons in eastern Assam's Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary. The sanctuary, home to India's only ape, the Hoolock gibbon, faces habitat disruption due to a railway track that divides it. The canopy bridges aim to facilitate safe movement for gibbons across the track. The design, developed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with NFR, includes safety measures such as securing ends and knots with high-grade materials and installing safety nets below the bridges. The

strategy involves natural integration to blend with the environment, learning from past efforts where artificial bridges were less effective than natural ones.

- Agnikul Cosmos, a Chennai-based space tech start-up, has successfully launched India's second privately-built rocket named 'Agnibaan SOrTeD' from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota. This launch marks several firsts, including being the first rocket launched from a private launch pad, featuring India's first semi-cryogenic engine flight, and boasting the world's first single-piece 3D printed engine designed and built indigenously. The rocket is designed to be compatible with a mobile launchpad for flexible launch locations and can accommodate payloads ranging from 30 kg to 300 kg, primarily focusing on small satellites.
- The IFPRI's 2024 global report highlights the concerning rise in unhealthy food consumption in India, leading to malnutrition and health issues. It emphasizes the need for dietary improvements, policy changes, and global food system transformations to promote sustainable, healthy diets
- In a world-first, Japanese researchers have built a tiny wooden satellite named LignoSat that will be launched into space in September.
- The Red Flag (Alaska) exercise is conducted by the US Pacific Air Force, which is held in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range. Since 1975, the US has been conducting this exercise with its friendly countries. This year, air forces of a total of four countries, including the US and India, are participating in this exercise. The Indian Air Force took part in this exercise for the first time in the year 2008
- Real Madrid won Champions League (football) 2024 for the 15th time by defeating Borussia Dortmund
- Maj Gen Harsh Chhibber takes over as Commandant, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad
- China's Chang'e-6 mission, an uncrewed spacecraft, successfully landed on the far side of the moon to retrieve rocks and soil. This achievement, facilitated by the Chinese Long March-5 rocket launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center, enhances China's status in global space exploration. The mission targets the South Pole-Aitken Basin and marks the first human sampling from the moon's far side, overcoming significant engineering and communication challenges while contributing to the global lunar exploration effort.
- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has identified the earliest-known galaxy, JADES-GS-z14-0, formed about 290 million years after the Big Bang. This galaxy measures approximately 1,700 light years across, has a mass equivalent to 500 million stars the size of our Sun, and is rapidly forming new stars at a rate of 20 per year. The discovery, made by an international team of astronomers as part of the JWST Advanced Deep Extragalactic Survey (JADES) program, highlights the surprising brightness and size of the galaxy given its formation during the universe's infancy. Astrophysicist Kevin Hainline and the team discuss the challenges in understanding the formation of such a large galaxy in a short period and propose

three main hypotheses to explain its brightness. The study also mentions the discovery of the second oldest-known galaxy, JADES-GS-z14-1, and emphasizes the need for further research to explore the reasons behind the galaxy's characteristics.

- India has assumed the chair of the Colombo Process for the term 2024-26. The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum aimed at managing overseas employment and contractual labor among its 12 Asian member states. It facilitates the exchange of best practices, addresses migrant issues, and promotes the benefits of organized overseas employment.

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Governance is based on non-binding, consensus-based decisions, with technical support from the International Organization for Migration. The forum also includes thematic area working groups focusing on various aspects of labor migration.

- Member States, led by Spain, approved a new resolution to increase the availability, ethical access, and oversight of human cell, tissue, and organ transplantation. The resolution emphasizes alignment with WHO principles, encourages donation after death, highlights the link between insufficient access and trafficking, and calls for the establishment of an expert committee to develop a global strategy by 2026. Additionally, it proposes a World Donor Day to raise awareness. The World Health Assembly (WHA), WHO's decision-making body, plays a crucial role in global health policy and governance
- Researches with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT- M) have shown that common minerals can be broken by water microdroplets to make corresponding nanoparticles
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has asked food business operators to remove the claims of “100% fruit juice” from the advertisements and labels of reconstituted fruit juices widely found in the market
- Claudia Sheinbaum will become Mexico’s first female president

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from eligible organisations for the “joint development and commercialisation” of a low dose or paediatric oral formulation of hydroxyurea to treat sickle cell disease in India
- World Athletics announced the launch of the Ultimate Championships, a biennial track and field event starting in Budapest from September 11-13, 2026. Featuring Olympic, world, and Diamond League champions, it will offer \$150,000 for gold medalists—three times the prize for Paris Olympics champions. The event, showcasing elite athletes in semifinal and final rounds over three evenings, boasts a \$10 million total prize fund, the sport’s largest. Staged every two years, it aims to rival the Olympics, with the second edition set to compete with the 2028 LA Olympics.
- The Bank Clinic, initiated by the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), assists customers in addressing grievances related to retail banking amid technological advancements and numerous RBI guidelines. Customers can register complaints on banksclinic.com and receive guidance on remedies and RBI guidelines within five working days. The platform facilitates the complaint process but does not resolve queries.
- The 'Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase' (PI-CHeCK) project, launched on December 7, 2023, aims to assess risk factors for non-communicable cardio-metabolic diseases in India. The first phase concluded successfully with over 10,000 samples collected, surpassing its initial target. This study is significant as it is the first pan-India longitudinal study to develop a prediction model for diseases like diabetes, liver diseases, and cardiac diseases.
- The Neurosurgery department at Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai, has recently procured a state-of-the-art intraoperative Ultrasound (iUS) machine to enhance the precision and safety of complex brain tumour surgeries. This marks the first installation of this advanced iUS system in India. The iUS technology, led by Dr. Aliasgar Moiyadi's team, provides real-time diagnostic information, making it a cost-efficient and vital tool for neurosurgeons, particularly in resource-constrained healthcare systems. It aids in precise tumour tracking, navigational assistance, and integration with brain mapping techniques for safer and more effective surgeries.
- The study of zircon crystals has revealed that Earth had the necessary conditions to support life much earlier than previously thought. It reveals the early interaction of water and land, challenging existing theories of a water-covered Earth.
- A marine fungus called Parengyodontium album has been discovered to break down plastic polyethylene (PE) in the ocean.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day. Shri Modi's planted a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched an initiative called "Industry 4.0 Transformation" to support MSMEs and startups in fostering digital

transformation through 5G/6G technologies. The objective is to form a platform for policy interventions that will enable transformative adoption of Industry 4.0.

- The Indigenous Air Quality Monitoring System (AQ-AIMS) was inaugurated along with the launch of the Air-Pravah App. Developed by C-DAC Kolkata, AQ-AIMS aims to monitor environmental pollutants efficiently. It offers three variants tailored to industry needs, monitors various parameters, and is cost-effective compared to traditional instruments. The Air-Pravah App provides real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring, unit conversions, data analysis tools, and is available on the Android Play Store.
- A novel protein named "Neo" has been discovered in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacteria, aiding in defense against bacteriophages via reverse transcriptase. Reverse transcriptase is historically significant, used in COVID-19 diagnostics, molecular biology, and HIV treatment. It has evolutionary and biotechnological implications, impacting genetic evolution, viral resistance, and therapeutic strategies.
- HAL in Bengaluru has introduced new facilities to support ISRO's LVM3 programme, aiming to meet ISRO's demand for six LVM3 launches annually by enhancing production capabilities.
- A new satellite project called TRISHNA, a collaboration between ISRO and French CNES, aims to aid climate action by providing critical insights using advanced remote-sensing technology. It will monitor earth's surface temperature, water quality, urban heat islands, snow-melt runoff, and atmospheric data, benefiting policymakers, agro-industries, and farmers.
- Fossils found on the shoreline of Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe represent a completely new dinosaur species named *Musankwa sanyatiensis*
- A distinctive plant named *Thismia malayana*, which steals nutrients from underground fungi, has been published as a new species
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched a three-year, multi-state implementation research study on student mental health across eight states and union territories, including Karnataka. The objective is to establish an implementation model for promoting mental well-being and reducing suicide risk among students. In Karnataka, the initiative is being executed by NIMHANS in collaboration with the State Health and Education departments, covering 67 educational campuses in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural. The project aims to develop resources that are evidence-informed, scalable, and sustainable, focusing on mental well-being promotion and addressing common mental health issues and stress among youth.
- The underground tunneling for Bengaluru Metro's Pink Line is at risk of delays due to rocky terrain challenges encountered by the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). While seven of the nine TBMs have completed their tasks, two TBMs, Tunga and Bhadra, are still operational and facing difficulties with rock formations, which is slowing their progress. This could extend the project timeline beyond the original

August 2024 deadline. The Pink Line, spanning 21.26 km with a significant 13.76 km underground segment, has already faced delays due to various issues including tender cancellations, alignment changes, and land acquisition problems. The entire stretch may now open in 2025

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy panel has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the eighth consecutive time while increasing the GDP growth projection for FY25 to 7.2% from the previous 7%. The inflation forecast remains at 4.5%. The decision to maintain the repo rate is driven by persistent inflation concerns, particularly in food prices due to supply disruptions and heatwave conditions. The unchanged repo rate means external benchmark lending rates will not rise, though marginal cost of fund-based lending rates may increase. The GDP growth projection hike is based on expected improvements in rural and urban demand, along with strong performance in manufacturing and services. The RBI continues its 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance, focusing on tight liquidity management to support the rupee and manage short-term yields.
- ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre has developed PraVaHa, a software for aerodynamic and aero-thermodynamic analysis of aerospace vehicles. It simulates external and internal flows for various vehicles, aiding in aerodynamic design, evaluation of configurations, and analysis of loads. Key applications include human-rated launch vehicles for the Gaganyaan program. PraVaHa uses Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) to predict loads and solve conservation equations, addressing challenges like unsteady aerodynamics. The software is operational, with ongoing validation for chemical reactions and combustion, and aims to benefit academia and institutions in aerospace design.
- UNESCO's State of Ocean Report highlights significant knowledge gaps regarding the role of oceans in climate regulation, the need for improved data and research, and the challenges posed by oceanic warming, increased Earth Energy Imbalance (EEI), deoxygenation, acidification, rising sea levels, and marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) technologies. The report emphasizes the necessity for better understanding and validation of these issues to effectively address multiple ocean crises
- The US SM-6 missiles are hogging the headlines again after photographs of a US Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet appeared carrying an air-launched variant of the SM-6, or the RIM-174 missile
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a framework to shield stock prices from the impact of market rumours, aiming to maintain fair pricing for transactions such as takeovers, buybacks, and preferential issues. This framework includes rules for unaffected price determination, exclusion of weighted average price (WAP) variations due to rumours, adjustments for price band limits, and phased implementation starting from June 1, 2024.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the death of a 59-year-old man in Mexico from H5N2 bird flu, marking the first human fatality from this strain. The man had no history of exposure to poultry or other animals, raising concerns about

the virus's potential shift in transmission and its implications for public health. Avian influenza, typically affecting birds, can infect humans and cause severe respiratory illnesses. The unusual transmission in this case suggests a possible change in the virus's behavior, necessitating heightened vigilance and preventive measures by global health authorities.

- The Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024 highlights significant growth in the number and wealth of high net-worth individuals (HNWI) in India and globally. In India, the HNWI population increased by 12.2% to 3.589 million, and their financial wealth grew by 12.4% to \$1,445.7 billion in 2023. India and Australia were top performers in the Asia-Pacific region, driven by a resilient economy and robust equity markets. Regionally, HNWI wealth and population in Asia-Pacific grew by 4.2% and 4.8%, respectively. Globally, HNWI wealth rose by 4.7% and population by 5.1%. Economic indicators in India showed a decrease in unemployment to 3.1%, GDP growth of 7.3%, a 29% increase in market capitalization, and a rise in national savings to 33.4% of GDP
- World No. 2 Shi Yu Qi clinched his first Indonesia Open badminton singles title in final at Jakarta. In the women's singles final, Olympic champion and World No. 2 Chen Yu Fei of China won
- The European Commission (EC) has removed Tanzania from the list of countries eligible for its 18 million Euro conservation grant to be launched in East Africa as part of its NaturAfrica initiative. The NaturAfrica initiative is a European Union (EU) program aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation in Africa through a people-centred approach. It identifies key landscapes for conservation and development, focusing on creating jobs, improving security, and sustainable livelihoods while preserving ecosystems and wildlife
- Demise of Ramoji Film City founder, Shri Ramoji Rao. Ramoji Rao was a visionary who revolutionized Indian media
- The Duty Drawback Scheme, initiated by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), aims to promote exports and economic growth by providing rebates on Customs and Central Excise duties for imported and excisable materials used in export goods. The scheme, outlined in the Customs Act, 1962, ensures zero-rating of exports, making them tax-free to enhance competitiveness. Eligibility includes goods imported into India and then exported, used domestically before export, or manufactured from imported or local materials. To claim, the exporter must legally own the goods at export, and customs duty must have been paid. CBIC, operating under the Ministry of Finance, oversees indirect tax policies, customs and excise duties collection, and smuggling prevention through its various subordinate organizations.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India's (SECI) recent Request for Selection (RfS) for Green Ammonia Producers is a pivotal step in India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE). This initiative aims to select Green Ammonia Producers via competitive bidding for a total capacity of 5.39 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT) per annum, targeting supply to

fertilizer companies. The selection process involves online e-bidding and e-Reverse Auction to ensure cost-effectiveness. The SIGHT Programme, a subcomponent of NGHM, supports this effort by incentivizing domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production. Launched on January 4, 2023, with a budget of Rs. 19,744 crores, the NGHM strives to reduce carbon emissions, achieve energy independence, and establish India as a global leader in Green Hydrogen technology

- The Health Ministry and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) are collaborating to launch the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX) to improve the current manual and non-standardized claim processing system in India. This platform aims to facilitate seamless, interoperable, and standardized health claim information exchange among all stakeholders, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reducing administrative burdens. The NHCX will use open standards and offer financial incentives to hospitals, aiming to standardize healthcare pricing and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for patients.
- The Biopharmaceutical Alliance was launched to address drug supply shortages highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic and aims to build a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector. The alliance includes South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU). The inaugural meeting was held during the Bio International Convention 2024 in San Diego. The alliance seeks to coordinate bio policies, regulations, and R&D support among member countries, and emphasizes the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain. Key agreements include creating a pharmaceutical supply chain map and acknowledging the concentration of essential raw materials in a few countries. The alliance aims to enhance global collaboration, preparedness, and innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim
- Karnataka Rajya Chalakara Parishath (Karnataka State Driver's Council), in collaboration with Agnibhu Technologies, has launched the 'Nagara Metered Auto' in Bengaluru
- Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev made history at INS Rajali, Arakkonam, when she became the first woman in the Indian Navy to fly a helicopter. Last week, this important milestone was reached during the passing out parade. The 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course was completed
- Bannerghatta Biological Park is launching a Leopard Safari to boost tourism, featuring a 50-acre enclosure for 12 of its 70 leopards, with safety measures and regular monitoring. This will add to existing lion and tiger safaris. Additionally, new aquariums for freshwater and saltwater fish are planned in Mysuru, developed on a PPP model following international guidelines. Other initiatives include a vulture conservation center, improved water supply by BWSSB, filling veterinary vacancies, using local vets for the Adumalleshwara Mini Zoo, and extending health benefits to BBP staff.

- On World Oceans Day, June 8, 2024, the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasized the urgent need for global cooperation to implement the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty, highlighting its importance due to vast ocean coverage, lack of control, and rich biodiversity. Despite the treaty being approved and opened for signatures in September 2023, with 90 countries signing it by mid-2024, only seven have ratified it. The treaty requires ratification by 60 countries to be enforceable, presenting a significant challenge. The call to action stresses the need for countries to formalize their commitment through ratification, alongside addressing environmental concerns like unsustainable fishing and deep-sea mining.
- India has welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia into the BRICS group during a significant meeting hosted by Russia. BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is not a formal organization but holds annual summits with rotating chairmanship. It accounts for 40% of the world's population and 30% of the global GDP, aiming to be a major economic engine and investment market. BRICS focuses on deepening cooperation, sustainable development, economic relations, and becoming a key political-diplomatic entity. The financial architecture includes the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which support infrastructure projects and provide short-term liquidity, respectively.
- India Exim Bank recently opened its East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi, Kenya, as part of a plan to expand its global business presence and enhance trade ties with East Africa. The bank plays a crucial role in promoting India's foreign trade and investments, offering financial services such as loans, buyer's credit, and lines of credit for infrastructure projects
- Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi will be the next Chief of the Army succeeding incumbent Gen Manoj Pande
- The state government has launched an app-based programme called 'Land Beat' to protect public lands
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday launched an online portal for issuing and renewing excise licences, a long-pending reform that promises to nix corruption plaguing this department. It is named karexciseservices.in
- Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad have discovered three new craters on Mars, located in the Tharsis volcanic region. Following PRL's recommendation, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved the names Lal, Mursan, and Hilsa for these craters. Lal, a 65 km wide crater, is named after the renowned geophysicist and former PRL director Devendra Lal. Mursan, a 10 km wide crater superimposed on the eastern rim of Lal, is named after a town in Uttar Pradesh, while Hilsa, also 10 km wide and situated on the western rim of Lal, is named after a town in Bihar. The Lal crater area is covered with lava and contains a 45-meter thick sedimentary deposit, suggesting significant water movement and

sediment transport within the crater, as identified using the SHARAD/MRO subsurface radar

- Sarod maestro Rajeev Taranath passes away
- Velocity, India's leading cash flow-based financing platform has rolled out a GenAI powered solution Vani AI, designed to revolutionize customer service interactions for the financial services sector. The AI solution is developed in-house by Bengaluru-based fintech Velocity and can deliver a human-like, interactive customer experience transforming the way financial institutions interact with their customers
- The United Nations has said 2025 will be designated the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'. In a statement, the body said the initiative will be "year-long", "worldwide", and that it will "be observed through activities at all levels aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of quantum science and applications."The proclamation is the result of a resolution led by Mexico in May 2023 and which was soon joined by other countries.
- Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled a new air-launched variant of its Lora ballistic missile recently.
- The Karnataka government has extended the exemption from the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act until 2029 for IT/ITeS industries, including IT, ITeS, startups, animation, gaming, computer graphics, telecom, and BPO industries. This exemption has been in place since 2014 and was last extended in 2019, but concerns were raised by the labour department regarding unfair trade practices. To maintain the exemption, companies must follow certain conditions such as constituting sexual harassment and grievance redressal committees, reporting disciplinary actions and service conditions, and complying with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act 2013. This move impacts approximately 18 lakh professionals employed across 8,785 IT/BT firms in Karnataka and aims to balance job security, employee safety, and business operational flexibility. | VIJAYANAGAR
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog launched two major initiatives: the 'AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0' and the fifth edition of the 'Innovations for You' handbook, highlighting SDG entrepreneurs of India. The Water Challenge aims to address critical water-related challenges through innovative solutions, with selected teams participating in a global program. The Innovations for You handbook features 60 SDG Entrepreneurs contributing to societal betterment through sustainable innovations
- Four-Horned Antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) recently sighted in Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. It is a small bovid antelope, endemic to India and Nepal, with a range from the Himalayan foothills to the Deccan Plateau. Found in open, dry, deciduous forests, they prefer grassy areas near water bodies. Physical features include a yellowish-brown coat, four horns (males only), and a slender build. Behaviorally, they are diurnal and often seen solitary or in small

groups. Classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss and hunting threats

- Veteran Shruti Vora has become the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI)
- Divya Deshmukh of India clinched the winning title in the World Junior Girls' chess championship
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has called on citizens, organizations, and citizen groups to adopt parks, road medians, and circles for maintenance and development. This initiative is part of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) and adoption policy.
- P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was retained for a second term and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval for a rare third term, while two advisers, Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor, have been reappointed for a tenure of two years each
- Paleontologists recently discovered a new species of pterosaur after analysing 100-million-year-old fossilised bones uncovered in western Queensland, Australia
- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) have made their real-time transit data available to the public. This initiative, aimed at enhancing accessibility and mobility in Bengaluru, is part of the 'Enroute: A Mobility-As-A-Service Challenge' announced by Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI). Key stakeholders include BMTC, BMRCL, MBRDI, WRI India, and the NGO Villgro. The challenge features a hackathon organized by WRI India, Villgro, and MBRDI, inviting startups to develop innovative Mobility as a Service (MaaS) applications using the open data. The goals are to create a seamless, user-friendly platform integrating various transport modes, provide real-time transit updates, enhance journey planning, and implement a unified payment system. The overarching vision is to improve mobility and address commuting issues in Bengaluru
- The Tourism Department of Karnataka is set to promote water sports at 18 major reservoirs across 16 districts to boost tourism. Additionally, 388 acres will be allocated for business development at tourist sites using a PPP model, focusing on areas like Hampi, Badami, Pattadakal, Belur-Halebid, and Shravanabelagola. The state also has a monument adoption scheme with 12 monuments available for adoption. A ropeway project is underway at Nandi Hills. The upcoming Dakshin Bharat Utsav 2024 aims to attract investments and promote networking, with expectations of ₹500 crore investments from SMEs
- The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) is spearheading an initiative to boost electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Karnataka by setting up 1,190 EV charging stations across the state, with a focus on high-traffic public areas and Agricultural Produce & Market Committees (APMC) premises. This project, following Ministry of Power guidelines, will operate under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, ensuring a revenue-sharing arrangement between investors and government agencies. Special attention is given to rural areas to improve EV penetration,

particularly focusing on affordable two-wheelers and electric autorickshaws in regions like Kalaburagi, Raichur, and Yadgir.

- The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), along with IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bengaluru, has been selected and funded by the Wadhvani Foundation with an annual grant of \$1 million to establish Centres of Excellence (CoE). This initiative aims to transform academic research into scalable, real-world solutions that provide economic and societal benefits. The C-CAMP WIN-COE initiative focuses on accelerating home-grown research and developing inclusive solutions using technologies like Synthetic Biology and Bioengineering. Aligned with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation's vision, this initiative seeks to address socio-economic issues through collaboration between industry, academia, and government, supported by a national jury of experts that will provide funding, incubation, mentorship, and commercialization support.
- At the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, the rapid molecular test for pulmonary, extrapulmonary, and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (TB), TRUENAT - developed by Goa-based Molbio, was praised for its significant impact on TB detection and its potential as a global healthcare solution. Launched in 2017, this portable, battery-operated real-time quantitative micro-PCR system delivers results in under an hour and can test for over 40 diseases. India's National TB Elimination Programme, which extensively uses the Truenat system, was highlighted for its innovative approaches, leading to substantial improvements in TB case detection and global acknowledgment.
- Italy is hosting the G7 Summit, a forum that originated in 1973 to address economic challenges and has since evolved to cover a broad range of global issues. Initially composed of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, and Japan, it expanded to include Canada and the European Union. The G7, despite its declining share of global GDP and competition from the G20, continues to influence global governance. The 2024 agenda focuses on economic stabilization, climate change, global health, and geopolitical tensions, with leaders from the G7 and the European Union attending, along with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a guest.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Gender Gap Report 2024, highlighting improvements in political participation, economic participation, and the technological sector. Political participation shows notable progress, but top-level positions remain largely inaccessible for women. Economic parity in the labor force has increased to 65.7%. The number of women in AI engineering roles has doubled since 2016, though underrepresentation in STEM and AI persists. India ranked 129th, lower than most South Asian countries except Pakistan. Iceland remains the top performer, while Sudan is the lowest-ranked. With over 60 national elections in 2024, there is potential for increased women's political representation. Despite modest improvements, substantial efforts are needed to achieve full gender parity.

- The Kavli Prize 2024 has been announced, recognizing outstanding contributions in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience, and neuroscience. The prize, comparable to the Nobel Prize in structure and prestige but more expansive in its focus, awards \$1 million per field along with a scroll and medal. This year's winners include David Charbonneau and Sara Seager for astrophysics, Robert Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, and Chad Mirkin for nanoscience, and Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao for neuroscience. The award ceremony, which is more flamboyant than the Nobel's, is co-presented by the Kavli Foundation, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
- Srinivas Hegde, Chandrayaan-1 mission director, passes away
- Prerna Sthal, an area inside Parliament where key statues, including that of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, have been installed after moving them from their earlier positions, will be inaugurated
- Astronomers have been scouring the outer solar system for signs of a hypothetical ninth planet for almost a decade, without success. However, we may finally be on the cusp of finding it, experts say
- A school in Palakkad district in Kerala has come up with a novel power-saving initiative by observing all Wednesdays as 'no-ironing day'. Students and teachers don't iron their clothes on Wednesdays and they come to school wearing wrinkled dress. The Nellipuzha DHSS higher secondary school at Mannarkkad in Palakkad district has launched the initiative
- Malaysian Lee Zii Jia triumphed over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles final to win the Australian Open badminton championship in Sydney. In the women's singles, Japan's Aya Ohori secured the title with a resilient
- Japan-India maritime exercise (Jimex 24) commenced at Yokosuka in Japan. According to the Indian Navy, during the exercise, navies of both the countries will jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability. Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Shivalik is participating in the bilateral maritime exercise. While, Japan is being represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri
- Green gram cultivation has surged in Gadag and Dharwad districts due to favorable climate, suitable soil, and conducive weather conditions, maintaining a stable sowing area statewide. The crop's short duration allows early planting of a second crop, and its stable market price ensures economic viability for farmers. Despite historical challenges like drought and poor pre-monsoon showers, the current season's favorable moisture levels and expected high market prices boost farmer confidence. The Agricultural Department aims for significant sowing areas and production, with green gram benefiting soil fertility, low fertilizer needs, and resilience to adversities.
- Under the 'Hasiru Rakshaka' programme, schoolchildren aim to plant two lakh trees, building on last year's success of planting 52,000 trees. This initiative, inaugurated on World Environment Day, emphasizes the responsibility of

preserving Bengaluru's greenery amid environmental concerns like drought and water scarcity. Financially supported with ₹410 crore, including contributions from departments and the 15th Finance Commission, the programme receives community and government support. Schoolchildren play a crucial role in caring for these trees, contributing to environmental awareness, while implementation and monitoring are facilitated through a dedicated website, mobile app, and oversight by the BBMP forest department.

- The Karnataka government plans to expand the Krishi Bhagya scheme to address severe drought by storing rainwater in farm ponds across all districts. The scheme, started in 2014, focuses on dry-land farming sustainability and includes components like pond building, polythene lining, fencing, pumps, and irrigation methods. With increased funding and taluk coverage, it aims to build 30,000 to 40,000 farm ponds this year, crucial for rain-fed agriculture supporting a significant portion of food and oil seed production.
- India's central government has extended the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) until June 30, 2025, aiming to digitize patient health records and link them to the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID). Hospitals and digital solution companies receive financial incentives for digitizing records beyond a set threshold, promoting digital health transactions, reducing costs for hospitals, improving operational efficiency, and benefiting patients by enabling quick access to health records and reducing redundant tests.
- A woman-led startup, Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd., developed 'Divya Drishti,' an advanced AI tool combining face recognition with physiological parameters for personal identification. This tool enhances biometric authentication accuracy, reducing false positives and identity fraud risks. It finds applications in Defence, Law Enforcement, Corporate, and Public Infrastructure sectors. It was developed under the guidance of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR), part of the Technology Development Fund (TDF) by DRDO, supporting niche technology development and fostering self-reliance in defence tech.
- Hyderabad based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has launched New Product called Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN) to Forecast El Niño and La Niña Conditions. ENSO phases, such as El Niño's warmer temperatures and La Niña's cooler temperatures, impact India's monsoon patterns. BCNN integrates AI with dynamic modeling, providing more accurate and extended forecasts compared to existing statistical and dynamic models, despite challenges such as data scarcity and limited historical weather data for oceans.
- The Mela Kheerbhawani 2024, held at the Mata Kheerbhawani Temple in Tulmulla, Ganderbal, is significant for Kashmiri Hindus due to its historical and spiritual importance, including the predictive water phenomenon where spring water changes color. The temple, with a heptagonal spring and surrounded by old-growth chinar trees, has been renovated by Maharaja Pratap Singh and Maharaja Hari Singh. The annual festival, revived after security concerns in the 1990s, now sees

over 10,000 pilgrims with government support and active participation from local Muslims, symbolizing communal harmony.

- Ganga Dussehra 2024 celebrated on June 16 marks the birth of Goddess Ganga. It holds religious significance for Hindus, offering spiritual purification through holy dips in the river Ganga. Rituals include prayers, offerings, and festivities, honoring Goddess Ganga's descent to earth as per mythological tales.
- The Indian Army is set to introduce its first indigenous loitering munition, Nagastra-1, developed by Solar Industries in Nagpur, marking a significant achievement for India's self-reliance in defense. The collaboration with EEL and Z-Motion Autonomous Systems led to over 75% localization in drone component sourcing. Nagastra-1 features GPS-guided precision strikes, portability, stealth capabilities, surveillance, armament, and recall-reuse systems, highlighting its operational value and contribution to national security amid rising drone-related challenges.
- India ranks poorly on the 2024 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) by Yale University, improving slightly to 176th from 180th in 2022 but showing a consistent decline since 2012. Concerns include poor ecosystem vitality, biodiversity protection, and air quality. Areas of improvement include reducing fine particulate matter pollution and progress in sanitation. Challenges include resource constraints and global emissions context
- The Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Broadway Theatre, more commonly known as a Tony Award, recognizes excellence in live Broadway theatre. The awards are presented by the American Theatre Wing and The Broadway League at an annual ceremony in Manhattan
- M. Nagaraja, Deputy Editor of Prajavani in Bengaluru, has been chosen for the Khadri Shamanna Journalism Award. The award instituted by the Khadri Shamanna Memorial Trust, Melkote, is given to an eminent journalist from Karnataka
- India's Sumit Nagal, who finished runner-up to Luciano Darderi at the Perugia ATP Challenger on Sunday, continued his ascent in the ATP singles chart, climbing to a career-high ranking of 71
- Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska of the United States Air Force. Participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force (USAF). Red Flag is an air combat exercise featuring realistic combat scenarios. Forces are divided into Red Force (simulating Air Defence, primarily with USAF Aggressor Squadron's F-16 and F-15 aircraft) and Blue Force (simulating Offensive Composite elements).
- IN-SPACE has launched the Pre-Incubation Entrepreneurship (PIE) Development Programme, aiding early-stage startups in the space sector. The 21-month programme targets next-gen space tech entrepreneurs, fostering ideation and prototype development. Open to Indian citizens graduating in 2024, it emphasizes original submissions and excludes those receiving prior grants or funding. The

initiative aims to cultivate an innovation culture, provide collaborative learning environments, and create job opportunities within the space industry.

- India and the US have unveiled a vision for the next chapter of their strategic tech partnership, introducing initiatives in areas like semiconductors, AI, defense space, and telecommunications. High-level discussions between key officials focused on strategic trade, defense acquisitions including drones and combat vehicles, and co-production of advanced technology. The ICET Initiative, launched in 2022, aims to strengthen Indo-Pacific security through collaborative scientific advancements, joint efforts in quantum and AI, and cooperation in defense and space technology, among other areas
- The SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024, released by the World Bank, highlights concerning trends in global energy access and clean cooking. The report notes an increase in the electrification gap, with 685 million people lacking electricity access in 2022. Sub-Saharan Africa remains a focal point, representing over 80% of this population. Additionally, challenges persist in clean cooking, affecting 2.1 billion people globally and contributing to health and environmental issues. While renewable energy consumption has grown, energy efficiency improvements and financial support for clean energy in developing nations remain areas of concern. Projections indicate ongoing challenges in meeting SDG 7 targets by 2030
- Justice (retired) K Chandru's panel has made key recommendations to the Tamil Nadu government to curb caste-based violence in educational institutions. Recommendations include the removal of caste prefixes from school names, a Code of Conduct for school and university staff, keeping caste names off attendance registers, and appointing School Welfare Officers and counsellors. The panel, formed after a violent incident involving Dalit students, also suggests prohibiting students from displaying caste markers and promoting legislation for social inclusion and caste discrimination eradication
- Karnataka was ranked second in commissioning of new wind power projects in the country and received an honour for the same during the 'Global Wind Day' celebrations by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Thailand became the first country in Southeast Asia to legalise same-sex marriage
- Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan plans to invest a total of ₹1,400 crore in phases to establish a beverages (soft drinks) and confectionery unit in Badanaguppe, Chamarajanagar district
- Scientists from India, China, and the U.K. have developed a water-repellent catalyst to significantly reduce the cost of producing biodiesel, with the process detailed in the Advanced Functional Materials journal. The team, including Dr. Samuel Lalthazuala Rokhum and his colleagues from NIT Silchar, NIT Rourkela, University of Cambridge, and Guizhou University, created a superhydrophobic activated carbon catalyst that mimics natural water-repelling surfaces. This innovation prevents active site poisoning by water, enhancing the efficiency and reusability of the catalyst, which is derived from biomass and eco-friendly. The breakthrough

could cut biodiesel production costs from \$1.2 to 37 cents per litre, making sustainable energy more affordable and promoting broader adoption of biodiesel

- India's Neeraj Chopra snared his maiden gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland
- The Indian Air Force will host an air exercise, Tarang Shakti-2024 in August. It is a first multinational air exercise to be hosted by the Indian Air force.
- Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBlePay to users of the eMigrate portal.
- Recently, researchers have discovered a rare species of bioluminescent mushrooms in the forests of Kasaragod which are scientifically known as *Filoboletus manipularis*
- The Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has recently approved seven startup proposals under the GREAT scheme, which aims to support young innovators, scientists, technologists, and startups in Technical Textiles. The scheme, Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT), provides grants up to Rs 50 lakh for up to 18 months for the development and commercialization of technologies in this field. The National Technical Textiles Mission, launched to enhance India's global leadership in Technical Textiles, focuses on research, market development, export promotion, and skill development, with a four-year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24 under the Ministry of Textiles
- The Post Office Act 2023 has come into effect from 18 June 2024, bringing significant changes to India's postal services. The Act grants the Director General of Postal Services the power to make regulations for additional services and charges without parliamentary approval. It also allows interception of shipments for state security and public order reasons. The Act introduces standards for address identifiers and postcodes, replaces physical addresses with digital codes, removes penalties for theft or misappropriation, and establishes charges for postal service users.
- An amount of \$736.4 million will be allocated towards environment protection at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) council meeting being convened in Washington, DC. The GEF was established during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to tackle pressing environmental problems. It focuses on biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health, providing financial assistance for five major international environmental conventions. The GEF comprises 184 member countries, governed by a council of 32 members representing different constituencies. Its secretariat is based in Washington, D.C., and it operates a trust fund aimed at helping developing countries and economies in transition.

- NHAI aims to increase green cover along National Highways through Miyawaki plantations on adjacent land. Over 53 acres around Delhi-NCR have been identified, including sites on Haryana's Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. Ground preparation is ongoing, with plantation scheduled for the upcoming monsoon to be completed by August 2024. The Miyawaki method, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980s, focuses on dense, native, and biodiverse forests that grow quickly and offer ecological benefits. These plantations will enhance the environment, improve air and soil quality, and support biodiversity conservation.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) as a WHO-Collaborating Centre for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine." NIIMH, previously known as the National Center of Indian Medical Heritage, operates under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and was established on September 26, 1956. Located in Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad, it is the only institute of its kind in Southeast Asia. The institute's mandate includes the revival and documentation of ancient medical texts, the establishment of a museum on the History of Medicine, and the development of international terminologies for traditional Indian medicine systems.
- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a report on global investments in nuclear arsenals, highlighting continued modernization efforts and an increase in operational nuclear warheads globally. Key findings include rising global nuclear spending, particularly by the US, and the modernization efforts of nine nuclear-armed nations. Recent developments include Russia and Belarus conducting exercises for deploying tactical nuclear weapons, while global nuclear spending reached \$91.4 billion in 2023. Operational warheads are primarily held by Russia and the US, with China showing signs of joining in high operational alert warheads. Transparency in nuclear forces has declined post-Russia's invasion of Ukraine, affecting global diplomatic discussions
- Air pollution caused 8.1 million deaths globally in 2021, with significant impacts in India (2.1 million deaths) and China (2.3 million deaths), accounting for 54% of the global disease burden, and was notably linked to child mortality and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) due to PM2.5 and ozone pollution, necessitating urgent action as highlighted by the Health Effects Institute and UNICEF
- Rohith Shankar and Sahana H Murthy won the U-19 boys' and girls' finals, respectively, in the 1st State Ranking table tennis tournament, with Rohith defeating Varun B Kashyap and Sahana beating Himanshi Chowdhary, after overcoming their semifinal opponents Teshub Dinesh and Preksha T Tilawat
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced Karnataka's goal of achieving 15-16% annual industrial growth to reach a \$1 trillion GDP by 2032, with plans to promote balanced regional development and attract global investors through the Global Investor Meet 2025 and international roadshows. Large and Medium Industries

Minister launched 'ventuRISE 2025', announced the drafting of Karnataka Industrial Policy 2025-2030 with top incentives to attract investors, and revealed plans for global roadshows and visits to Japan and South Korea to promote Karnataka's manufacturing ecosystem and invite industry leaders for the Global Investors Meet.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University near its ancient ruins in Rajgir, Bihar, emphasizing Nalanda's role as a symbol of India's academic heritage and cultural exchange. He noted that the university, re-established by the Nalanda University Act of 2010 following decisions from East Asia Summits, had begun in 2014 with 14 students and started construction in 2017. The event was attended by representatives from many countries, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 17 Ambassadors. Modi highlighted the renaissance of Nalanda University as showcasing India's potential and linking Asia's heritage. The ancient Nalanda, founded in the 5th century, thrived for 800 years before being destroyed in the 12th century.
- South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second full term as President after his weakened African National Congress (ANC) struck a hard-won government coalition deal to remain in power.
- Recently, health officials in Japan are on high alert after close to 1,000 cases of a deadly infection were reported across the country. The disease, known as Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS).
- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India's Gopalpur regional centre recently discovered a new species of snake eel named 'Ophichthus Suryai' in Odisha.
- The Cabinet approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme with a budget of Rs. 2254.43 crore, focusing on establishing campuses and labs for forensic sciences, especially to meet increased demand due to new criminal laws and a shortage of trained personnel. This scheme aligns with India's aim of a 90%+ conviction rate by enhancing forensic capabilities and ensuring scientific examination of evidence.
- The Union Cabinet has greenlit the development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi, with a budget of Rs. 2869.65 Crore. The project aims to increase passenger capacity to 9.9 million per annum, including a new terminal, apron, runway extension, and taxi track. The airport design focuses on cultural heritage and sustainability, incorporating energy optimization, waste recycling, and solar energy utilization. Varanasi airport is set to become a model for environmental sustainability in aviation infrastructure.
- The Cabinet approved the development of a Greenfield deep draft Major Port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra, with a total cost of Rs.76,220 Crore. This project, led by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), aims to establish a top-tier global port. It will feature nine container terminals, four multipurpose berths, and modern infrastructure for efficient trade flow. Additionally, road and rail connectivity enhancements will be undertaken to support the port's operations. The project

aligns with the PM Gati Shakti program and is expected to generate significant employment opportunities and boost economic activity in the region.

- Karnataka Transport Minister inaugurated a Command and Control Centre in Bengaluru for Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT) devices, aimed at enhancing security in public transport, especially for women and children. This initiative, part of the Nirbhaya Framework, mandates the installation of tracking systems in various types of vehicles. The system allows real-time tracking and alerts in case of emergencies, with a dedicated team for 24/7 monitoring.
- The Union Cabinet approved Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for Offshore Wind Energy Projects in India, with key components including installation and commissioning funds, port upgradation grants, and private sector involvement through transparent bidding. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will coordinate the implementation aligned with the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy (2015), aiming for economic benefits, CO2 emission reduction, and significant renewable electricity production.
- Prime Minister recognized over 30,000 self-help groups as Krishi Sakhis in Varanasi under the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP). The program empowers rural women as para-extension workers through certification courses and training modules covering agricultural practices, communication skills, and more. So far, 34,000 Krishi Sakhis have been certified, with training underway in 12 states and opportunities for employment in various agricultural schemes.
- The Union Cabinet raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 kharif crops, including paddy, following recommendations by the CACP. This increase aligns with the 1.5 times cost of production policy from the 2018 Union Budget. Notably, the hike comes amidst surplus rice stocks, political significance before state elections, and ongoing farmer protests.

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- A "double sun halo," a rare celestial event, was observed in Ladakh, featuring an inner (22 degrees) and outer (46 degrees) halo formed by ice crystals refracting and reflecting sunlight. This phenomenon is significant for both its breathtaking beauty and scientific insights into atmospheric conditions and ice crystal properties, aiding in weather forecasting and atmospheric optics understanding.



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- A 26-year-old writer from Vivek Nagar, Jakranpally mandal, Nizamabad district, received the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for Telugu literature. The award, instituted in 2011, recognizes young writers under 35 in 24 languages for their original works. Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, operates independently and was inaugurated in 1954. HEBBAL | VIJAYANAGAR

- In a move to adapt to evolving technology, Bescom is revving up Bengaluru's EV infrastructure by setting up the city's first 20 battery-swapping stations.
- Dr S Tripathy, professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has been appointed as the first director of University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), Bengaluru.
- Former Indian pacer David Johnson dead
- K-RIDE's project review mission, aimed at facilitating a loan for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), was conducted from June 18 to 20. The mission was held in collaboration with KfW Development Bank, Germany, and the European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Bhartruhari Mahtab appointed *pro tem* Speaker of Lok Sabha
- A limbless amphibian has been added to the fauna in the 1,307.49 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Assam's wildlife officials said a team of herpetologists recorded the striped caecilian (*Ichthyophis* spp) in the tiger reserve

for the first time during a rapid herpetofauna survey conducted from June 14-17. Reptiles and amphibians, collectively called herpetofauna, are the least studied but most vulnerable to climate change

- Researchers have discovered a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom found in the clean water river of the Eastern Ghats. The genus which has an interesting suite of features, distinguishing it from the other members in the group Gomphonemoid in terms of valve symmetry and other certain valve features, has been named Indiconema to value its restricted distribution in the country. The research underlines the importance of diatoms in shaping the biodiversity of India's diverse landscapes.
- The Karnataka administration is exploring "value capture" models to mobilize resources from land assets, considering monetizing 25,000 acres near Bengaluru, focusing on equitable economic growth, and developing idle lands for continuous revenue. They are studying Value Capture Financing (VCF) methods from other states, unlocking private land value through infrastructure development, and exploring non-tax revenue sectors like mining and advertisements.
- The Karnataka cabinet approved the establishment of DCRE Police Stations to protect the civil rights of SCs and STs. The Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) was initially established in 1974. The new developments include designating 33 DCRE units as DCRE police stations and recruiting 450 personnel. Each district will have one DCRE police station, with two in Bengaluru, led by a DySP/ACP. The objectives are to ensure timely and quality investigations for atrocity cases and improve coordination between the Home and Social Welfare departments. The historical context includes the enactment of the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 1989, with previous challenges of delays in investigations, witness issues, and low conviction rates. The expected improvements focus on specialized investigation efforts and improving conviction rates for justice delivery.
- The government has issued draft guidelines to regulate unsolicited business messages and calls, defining business communication and its scope while emphasizing compliance with recipient consent and Trai rules. The guidelines aim to curb unauthorized conditions, improve effectiveness of the DND registry, and protect consumer rights against invasive marketing.
- The Indian Railways conducted a successful trial run of an eight-coach MEMU train on the electrified line section between Sangaldan and Reasi, covering a distance of 46 km. The iconic Chenab Bridge, with a length of 1,315 meters, an arch span of 467 meters, and a height of 359 meters above the river bed, was a key highlight. This trial paves the way for future rail services from Reasi to Baramulla as part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, marking a significant milestone in India's railway infrastructure development.
- Researchers at IISc developed a device converting short infrared light to visible light, vital in defence and communications. Utilizing a 2D material and non-linear optical mirror stack, it efficiently up-converts light with wide-field imaging.

Advantages include compactness, efficiency over traditional methods, and potential for broader applications. The device mixes input signals using nonlinear optical properties, converting 1,550 nm to visible light at 622 nm. Future plans include extending capabilities to longer wavelengths and enhancing efficiency. The impact spans across defence, telecommunications, and imaging sectors, offering a revolution in infrared imaging.

- India and Sri Lanka inaugurated the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo, funded by a \$6 million grant from India and built by Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL). The MRCC's strategic importance lies in enhancing India's regional power projection and addressing security concerns, especially regarding the Hambantota port. It aims to foster cooperation in various sectors and play a crucial operational role in coordinating maritime operations in Sri Lanka's vast Search and Rescue Region.
- The Energy Transition Index (ETI), published by the World Economic Forum, monitors global energy transition focusing on sustainability, security, access, and institutions. In ETI-2024, European countries lead, while India ranks 63rd. Despite progress in energy transition, challenges like slow pace and balancing sustainability persist. India's clean energy infrastructure, with 42% renewables, is lauded.
- Freedom Park Gets New Multi-Level Parking Facility: The multi-level car parking lot at Freedom Park was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. The facility can house 600 cars and 750 two-wheelers and was built at an estimated cost of Rs 79 crore. Although completed in November 2021, operational delays occurred due to a lack of agreement from parking facility management firms. To ensure the facility's viability and free roads for traffic movement, the government has enforced a ban on on-road parking across a one-kilometre stretch in Gandhinagar
- Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine
- A project by the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIIT-Delhi), has won the joint second prize in Trinity Challenge's second competition on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR); The Trinity Challenge is a charity that supports data-driven solutions to global health threats, involving over 40 organizations from various sectors, launched in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to improve pandemic preparedness and response, and awarded £5.7 million in its initial challenge; the second challenge focused on AMR, calling for data-driven solutions to protect antibiotics; IIIT-Delhi's project 'AMRSense' collaborates with CHRI-PATH, 1mg.com, and ICMR to engage and train community health workers in AMR surveillance and management, addressing the need for a comprehensive data ecosystem and analytics capabilities
- Karnataka's first Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant in Bidadi, covering 15 acres with an 11.5 MW capacity and costing Rs 260 crore, is set for trial runs by mid-July. Jointly managed by BBMP and KPCL, it aims to process 600 metric tonnes of dry waste daily, generating electricity at Rs 8 per unit, addressing the city's waste disposal and energy needs, albeit facing high production costs.

- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 has come into effect, aiming to combat organised cheating in public examinations. Key provisions include imprisonment for up to five years, fines, and penalties for service providers. Offences listed under the Act range from question paper leaks to tampering with computer systems. However, the UGC-NET 2024 examination, canceled earlier due to compromise, is excluded from this law. The Act, enforced from June 21, 2024, emphasizes strict measures to uphold integrity in public examinations.
- The Government has launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) for Indian nationals and OCI cardholders to expedite the immigration process. Applicants must apply online, submit biometrics, and provide necessary details. Registration is valid for up to five years or until the passport expires. Approved individuals schedule a biometric submission appointment at designated airports or FRROs. The initiative aims to enhance travel convenience and efficiency. Applicants must ensure their passport validity is at least six months and provide accurate residential details. Adherence to biometric submission and identity verification via mobile OTP and email is mandatory.
- Chad became the first country in 2024 and the 51st globally to eliminate the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), also known as sleeping sickness. This neglected tropical disease is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by infected tsetse flies and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. The gambiense form, found in 24 countries of West and Central Africa, accounts for 92% of reported cases and causes chronic illness. The rhodesiense form, found in 13 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, accounts for 8% of cases and causes acute disease. WHO has validated the elimination of the gambiense form in seven other countries since 2020.
- The Government of India has approved new Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) schemes to evacuate 9 GW of RE power from Rajasthan and Karnataka. These schemes will be implemented through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode. These schemes are part of 500 GW RE capacity by 2030 out of which 200 GW is already connected. The power evacuation scheme of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) will evacuate 4.5 GW of RE power from Rajasthan. It comprises 1 GW from Fatehgarh complex, 2.5 GW from Barmer Complex and 1 GW from Nagaur (Merta) Complex. This power will be transferred to Mainpuri Region, Fatehpur and Orai of Uttar Pradesh. The completion period of the scheme is two years. Cost of the scheme is about ₹12,241 crore. The System strengthening scheme of Karnataka will evacuate 4.5 GW RE power from Koppal area and Gadag area. The scheme will be completed by June 2027. Cost of the scheme is about ₹1,354 crore.
- All health centres and hospitals in Bangladesh have been ordered to stock anti-venom after reports of an increase in people being bitten by snakes, especially by the Russell's viper.

- Scientists recently discovered the world's oldest inhabited termite mounds along the Buffels River in Namaqualand, dating back 34,000 years. It is a desert region of southwestern Africa
- New research found that Australia's enigmatic pink sand- Garnet was born in Antarctic mountains. It is rare in beach sand which is destroyed by prolonged exposure to the waves and currents of the ocean. It is a fairly common mineral, deep red in color. It crystallizes at high temperatures. These are formed in metamorphic (schist, amphibolite, and eclogite) and igneous (some granites and peridotite) rocks
- A new study by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has claimed that China's tactical ballistic missile, the Fire Dragon 480, possesses the capability to sink a US Ticonderoga-class cruiser patrolling the Red Sea.
- The KSRTC's Ashwamedha Classic Buses, launched in February, operate on point-to-point routes between Bengaluru, district headquarters, and other towns. These buses generate over ₹10 more per kilometre compared to Karnataka Sarige buses, with revenues ranging from ₹52 to ₹62 per kilometre. The success is attributed to non-stop services, eliminating the need for conductors, and offering passenger convenience. Equipped with advanced features like LED destination boards, pneumatic doors, and high back seats, Ashwamedha buses have gained popularity on routes such as Bengaluru-Mysuru and Bengaluru-Hassan, showing potential for further expansion.
- The 53rd GST Council Meeting in New Delhi addressed several key issues including easing compliance burdens for taxpayers, revising due dates, and GST-related reforms. Significant decisions included changes in GSTR-1 reporting, reducing thresholds for reporting B2C interstate supplies, and extending due dates for GSTR-4 filings. The Council also discussed legal amendments, rate rationalization, and set monetary limits for GST appeals. The establishment of a Group of Ministers (GoM) to analyze GST on fertilizers was noted, and various exemptions were recommended. The GST Council, mandated by Article 279A, was established by the Union Cabinet and serves as a joint forum for the Centre and States
- The Indian government has increased the allocation for Green Ammonia from 5.5 lakh tonnes to 7.5 lakh tonnes per annum under the SIGHT Programme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). Launched on January 4, 2023, the NGHM aims to achieve a production capacity of 5 million tonnes of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030 with a financial outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores. The SIGHT Programme incentivizes Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia production with SECI as the implementing agency. This increased allocation addresses growing demand from the fertilizer sector and contributes to decarbonization, energy independence, and significant economic benefits.
- The Iberian lynx, previously one of the rarest cat species globally, has moved from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List due to a population surge. The mature population increased from 62 in 2001 to 648 in 2022, with over 2,000 lynxes now in Spain and Portugal. Conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration

and boosting rabbit populations, have been key. Despite success, threats like poaching and habitat destruction persist. Future plans include reintroducing the lynx to central and northern Spain. The lynx's habitat expanded significantly from 449 sq km in 2005 to 3,320 sq km today.

- ISRO successfully completed its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) programme with the third and final test, RLV LEX-03, at the aeronautical test range in Challakere. The RLV 'Pushpak' was released from a helicopter and autonomously landed on a runway, demonstrating its reusability and design validation. The mission showcased ISRO's capabilities in critical technologies for RLVs, particularly for orbital re-entry missions. The successful landing included advanced guidance algorithms and a complex deceleration process. This achievement boosts confidence for future orbital re-entry missions and the development of an Orbital Reusable Vehicle.
- Kozhikode was officially declared UNESCO's 'City of Literature' on June 23, 2024, becoming the first Indian city to receive this title. The city's literary heritage dates back to the 14th century, with notable authors like S K Pottekkatt, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, and M T Vasudevan Nair. Kozhikode hosts around 70 publishing houses, approximately 550 libraries, and major literary festivals, highlighting its strong literary culture. Significant literary figures are commemorated through memorials in the city. Initiatives like SecondPen and academic contributions from NIT-C students were key in achieving this recognition. Kozhikode now joins 55 cities globally honored as UNESCO's 'City of Literature'
- Tapan Kumar Deka, known as the 'superspy' with commendable expertise in handling terrorism and radicalisation related cases, was given a one-year extension till June 2025 as the chief of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- The rise of the "Hamster Kombat" app in Iran highlights the economic desperation among Iranians, driven by Western sanctions, high inflation, and unemployment, ahead of the presidential election to replace the late President Ebrahim Raisi. The app's popularity reflects a broader cryptocurrency craze as people seek alternative ways to secure financial stability amidst the rapid depreciation of the Iranian rial and soaring living costs. Despite promises from presidential candidates, many Iranians, facing significant economic hardship, are turning to cryptocurrency apps like "Hamster Kombat" out of hope for financial gain, despite uncertainties about the app's legitimacy and developers.
- The seven-member high-level committee to reform the working of the National Testing Agency (NTA) constituted by the Education Ministry had its first meeting in New Delhi.
- World No. 1 Jannik Sinner won his first-ever grasscourt tournament, beating former champion Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(8), 7-6(2), in the Wimbledon warm-up ATP tournament in Halle, Germany
- Tommy Paul defeated Lorenzo Musetti 6-1, 7-6(8) to win the Queen's Club tennis final in London. Victory gave the fifth-seeded American his third ATP tour title but first on grass.

- A team of scientists from Assam, Odisha, China, and the United Kingdom have developed a water-repellent catalyst that can cut the cost of producing “environmentally benign” biodiesel substantially from the current levels.
- Recently, Indian botanists and researchers have discovered two new species of plants from two bio-geographic hotspots of the country the Andaman and Nicobar islands and Arunachal Pradesh. Researchers discovered two new plant species namely *Dendrophthoe longensis*(from Andaman and Nicobar islands) and *Petrocosmea arunachalense* (from Arunachal Pradesh)
- The Karnataka government recently cleared a proposal of the Centre for reviving gold mining and auctioning of 13 tailing dumps at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) by the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML)
- The 'India Africa Postal Leaders Meet' aims to strengthen Indo-Africa ties in the postal sector, showcasing India's successful postal service model. Delegates from 22 African countries are participating, focusing on capacity building and collaboration for sustainable development and financial inclusion. The event aligns with India's broader initiatives for global cooperation, emphasizing the role of technology in postal services.. The summit received appreciation for fostering mutual learning and enhancing the global postal network, emphasizing shared goals for postal sector development in the Global South.
- The Ministry of Coal has launched India's first pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in Jharkhand, aiming to convert coal into valuable gases for industrial use. This innovative initiative by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) seeks to revolutionize the coal industry by utilizing in-situ coal gasification technology. The project, located at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, is expected to produce gases like methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide for various applications. This strategic move aligns with the Ministry's efforts to diversify the coal sector and promote advanced coal gasification technologies. The project's success could unlock economically unviable coal resources, showcasing India's leadership in sustainable energy utilization. Supported by comprehensive policy frameworks and collaboration with international partners, the pilot project demonstrates India's commitment to energy security and environmental sustainability through innovative coal utilization practices
- India is hosting the 64th ISO Council Meeting in New Delhi from June 25th to 27th, 2024. Delegates from over 30 countries and international organizations are participating to discuss critical issues in the sugar and biofuel sector. India, as the world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar, has been nominated as the Chair of the ISO for 2024. The meeting includes an industrial tour, workshops, and committee meetings focusing on the sugar and biofuel industry's future perspectives, sustainability, and farmers' roles. The event also aims to strengthen the Global Biofuel Alliance, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to promote sustainable biofuels globally. Through diverse activities and

discussions, India's leadership and commitment to the sugar and biofuel sectors are highlighted during this week-long programme

- The Bengaluru Climate Action Cell, formed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) six months ago, is implementing the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan (BCAP). This initiative collaborates with NGOs and knowledge organizations and engages citizens through the "Friends of the Climate Action Cell" program. Key initiatives include tech-driven projects like Mapathon and surveys to identify green spaces and open wells, and a fellowship program for young professionals. The BCAP, adopted in November 2023, aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, addressing urban heat, flooding, and air pollution. Bengaluru co-leads the C40 Cities Global Air Quality Network and has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 2030. The plan involves multiple stakeholders and sectors, with consultancy from the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- The Kerala Assembly has passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as 'Keralam' in the Constitution. This aligns with the historical demand for a united Kerala for Malayalam-speaking communities. The resolution requests a constitutional amendment to change the state's name in the First Schedule and reflect it in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule. The renaming process requires parliamentary approval under Articles 3 and 4, starting with a bill introduced in Parliament upon the President's recommendation. The President sends the bill to the state assembly for its views, followed by parliamentary deliberation and approval by a simple majority. Finally, the bill receives Presidential assent to become law. States can initiate renaming proposals, which the Home Ministry processes before preparing a note for the Union Cabinet and introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament.
- The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) received the 2024 Blue Planet Prize from Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation. Established in 2012, IPBES aims to enhance the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services, providing objective scientific assessments and tools for sustainable use. Inspired by the IPCC and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, it is not a UN body but is supported by UNEP, with membership including countries like India. The IPBES Secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany. The Blue Planet Prize, which includes a \$500,000 award, honors significant scientific research contributions addressing global environmental challenges.
- Chang'e-6 is the first spacecraft to return samples from the far side of the Moon. The far side, with its thicker crust and more craters, differs significantly from the near side. Scientific exploration of these samples aims to uncover mysteries about the Moon's origin and evolution. The 53-day mission included phases of orbiting, landing, sampling, and returning. The lander targeted the South Pole-Aitken basin, using scooping and drilling techniques to collect samples. These samples are expected to provide insights into the Moon's interior and the differences between its sides

- Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda, also known as Kempe Gowda, was a prominent feudal ruler under the Vijayanagara Empire. Born into the Morasu Vokkaliga community in Yelahanka, he succeeded his father Kempananje Gowda and ruled Yelahanka Nadu for 46 years from 1513 to 1559. Kempe Gowda is renowned for planning and constructing Bengaluru Fort and Bengaluru Pete, marking the foundation of modern Bangalore. Despite conflicts, including a brief imprisonment, he continued to expand his territory with the support of Vijayanagar Emperor Achyutharaya. His legacy includes the unique boundary-marking of Bengaluru using bullock carts, establishing a city that evolved from 'Bendakaalooru' to Bengaluru.
- Om Birla was re-elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- The Karnataka government issued an order giving Cabinet rank to KSTDC Chairperson M Srinivas. The order was issued by the protocol wing of the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms (DPAR)
- Muchkund Dubey, India's top diplomat at the end of Cold War, passes away
- NATO's 32 nations appointed outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the alliance's next head
- World Cup-winning former India cricket captain Kapil Dev has taken over as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a guilty verdict in the case of an al-Qaeda-linked jihadist accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity during an alleged reign of terror in Mali
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is hosting a weeklong "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) program across its 37 laboratories, focusing on "Energy and Energy Devices" (EED) from June 24-28, 2024, in New Delhi. The CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) is organizing a two-day event on June 26-27, 2024, showcasing advancements in Photovoltaic Metrology, flexible solar cells, energy gas metrology, and converting agricultural waste to biocoal.
- A rare Indian Painted Frog was recently sighted at Telangana's Kawal Tiger Reserve, marking a significant find outside its usual habitats
- Karnataka has launched a Leopard Safari at Bannerghatta, the first in South India, overseen by Minister Eshwar B Khandre. It involves releasing eight leopards into a secure 20-hectare forest area. The safari, meeting Central Zoo Authority standards, aims to showcase leopards in their natural habitat. Bannerghatta also promotes eco-tourism through sapling distribution and plans for a skywalk linking the zoo and Butterfly Park. Additionally, a new Elephant Feeding Centre supports caretakers and fosters bonds with the resident elephant population, which sees regular births.
- Central Electronics Limited (CEL), established in 1974 under DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology, aims to commercialize indigenous technologies from national labs and R&D institutions. It has collaborated with CSIR, DRDO, and others to develop products like Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) technology, meeting global standards. Operating in sectors such as Solar Photovoltaic, Railway Signalling

System, Strategic Electronics, and Security & Surveillance, CEL contributes critical components to strategic and defence applications. With goals to expand market presence across India and increase turnover, CEL has developed axle counter systems for railway signalling and continues to innovate in technology.

- Researchers at IISc have developed a novel 3D hydrogel culture system to simulate the lung environment for studying TB infection caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). Traditional culture models, like monolayered plates, lack accuracy in mimicking lung microenvironments due to differences in cellular interaction and viability. In contrast, the hydrogel, composed of collagen similar to lung tissue, supports human cell viability for up to three weeks. RNA sequencing revealed closer similarities to human lung samples, demonstrating enhanced potential for drug testing. This innovation promises to advance TB research and treatment by providing a more realistic platform to study infection mechanisms and drug efficacy.
- The Indian Army has launched a skin bank to treat severe skin burn injuries and other conditions for service personnel and their families. This first-of-its-kind facility in the Armed Forces Medical Services serves as a centralized hub for collecting, processing, storing, and distributing skin grafts. Staffed with specialized medical professionals, including plastic surgeons and tissue engineers, the skin bank plays a vital role in medical treatment. Skin donation is accepted within six hours of death from individuals aged 18 and above, excluding those with specific medical conditions. Skin is preserved in glycerol solution for up to five years and used in surgical procedures like autografts and allografts to aid in the recovery of burn victims and patients with severe skin injuries
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proposed purchasing 10 TAPAS drones from the central government. The TAPAS UAV, also known as Tapas BH-201 or Rustom-II, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance drone developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment. It meets ISTAR requirements for the tri-services, operating day and night at altitudes of up to 30,000 feet with a 24-hour endurance and a 250 km range. It carries payloads up to 350 kg and has a maximum speed of 225 kmph. The drone features advanced aerodynamic design, digital flight control, and sophisticated navigation and surveillance systems.
- The Russian Black Sea Fleet (BSF) recently attacked Ukrainian infrastructure, using its sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles. Recently, the Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force participated in the Exercise HOPEX 2024. It is the fourth joint exercise of IAF (Indian Air Force) and EAF (Egyptian Air Force) which was held in Egypt from 21 to 26 June. The aim of this exercise is to promote bilateral and regional cooperation, which is a symbol of the long-standing relations between the two countries.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing the eSakshya (e-evidence) app, a mobile-based application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The app assists police in recording crime scenes, conducting searches, and seizures, and uploading the data to a cloud-based platform. Police officers must upload

selfies post-procedure, with recordings capped at four minutes, allowing multiple uploads per FIR. This app will be accessible to all registered police stations. The NIC, established in 1976, focuses on providing e-Government solutions and supports various government departments through its ICT network, NICNET

- Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has commenced its two-day workshop, CARING-2024, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in coal gasification. This event, being held on June 26-27, 2024, at the CSIR-CIMFR Digwadih Campus, brings together industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore the complexities and potential of gasification technology
- Karnataka's first gas-based power plant, set up by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in Yelahanka, will commence operations by mid-July. The plant has a total capacity of 370.05 MW, with 236.825 MW from a gas turbine generator and 133.225 MW from a steam turbine generator. Initially planned for completion in 2018, the project was delayed due to legal issues and pollution complaints. Environmental concerns were raised by local residents and activists, particularly regarding its proximity to Puttenahalli and Yelahanka lakes. KPCL addressed these concerns by implementing mobile vans for ambient air quality monitoring and real-time noise monitoring machines.
- Ladakh has become the first administrative unit to achieve full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Program). The program, named Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS), is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022 to 2027. It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and targets adults aged 15 and above who missed out on schooling, aiming to empower them to integrate into society and contribute to national growth. The program's components include

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- SEBI, India's markets regulator, has announced new regulations to curb misleading financial advice by restricting the use of unregulated financial influencers for marketing. These measures also aim to simplify delisting procedures, allowing companies easier exits from stock exchanges by offering fixed prices for shares. The rationale behind these decisions includes protecting investors from inappropriate claims and ensuring market integrity, while exempting influencers focused on investor education. Additionally, SEBI has introduced new criteria for derivative-linked stocks to expand the number of eligible stocks for futures and options trading, reflecting the significant growth in trading accounts in India.
- A mainland serow, resembling a blend of goat and antelope, was sighted in Raimona National Park, Assam, at 96 meters above sea level, within 1 km of human settlements. These animals typically inhabit altitudes from 200 to 3,000 meters, primarily found in Bhutan's Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Royal Manas National Park. Their conservation status is noted by the IUCN, emphasizing their habitat and altitude preferences.
- The Australian government has signed an \$18 million MoU with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) under the Space MAITRI mission, enhancing collaboration between India and Australia in space technology. Space MAITRI aims to strengthen ties and focus on debris management. NSIL, the commercial arm of ISRO, will launch Australia's largest Optimus spacecraft in 2026 via ISRO's SSLV, marking a milestone in bilateral space cooperation.
- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the Sangyaan App, developed by its Tech Team, available on Android and iOS platforms. It serves as an educational tool for RPF personnel, facilitating understanding of new and old criminal laws' provisions and their relevance in RPF operations. Key features include easy access to BNS, BNSS, and BSA 2023 laws, a comparison table for new and old laws, detailed section-wise analysis, advanced search tools, and an inclusive legal database covering essential railway security laws. The app's user-friendly design enhances accessibility and application of legal information in RPF operations.
- Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot appointed Principal Secretary (Law, Justice & Human Rights) G S Sangreshi as the new Karnataka State Election Commissioner (SEC)
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) adopted a mutual evaluation report assessing India's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regime, noting high technical compliance and good results but urging quicker prosecution conclusions; India, placed in the "regular follow-up" category, will submit a progress report by October 2027, a status shared by only four other G20 countries
- Usha Hegde, a professor at JSS Dental College in Mysuru, etched history by becoming the first civilian from Karnataka to scale Mount Everest
- IndiGo has announced a new direct flight between Bengaluru and Abu Dhabi

- Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) launched a digital platform for citizens to lodge complaints and redress their grievances. The platform will also fix appointments with officials
- The Tamil Nadu government plans to build a high-level bridge to protect the Pallikaranai marshland, a Ramsar site located 20 km south of Chennai, which serves as a vital freshwater and partly saline wetland buffer for the flood-prone Chennai and Chengalpattu districts, draining 250 sq.km through Okkiyam Madavu and Kovalam Creek into the Bay of Bengal
- The annual conference on MND 'Awareness, Care, and Management' at Nimhans, Bengaluru, emphasized that symptomatic and supportive treatments improve the management of Motor Neuron Diseases (MNDs), which are progressive neurological disorders that destroy motor neurons responsible for controlling skeletal muscle activities such as walking, breathing, speaking, and swallowing
- A new spider species named Steriphopus wangala has been discovered in Meghalaya
- South African scientists injected radioactive material into live rhinoceros horns under the Rhisotope Project, started in 2021, aiming to make horns detectable at border posts and useless for human consumption by inserting radioactive chips and microdots, providing a cost-effective, long-term solution to curb poaching.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy, a technology developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, that uses special fibres to obscure radar signals by creating a microwave shield, reducing radar detection and protecting against threats with Radio Frequency seekers; DRDO has developed three variants: Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR), and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR).

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