

❖ Nobel laureate John Bannister Goodenough passes away

- Co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries and co-winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, John Bannister Goodenough passed away at 101.
- He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize with Stan Whittingham, a British-American scientist, for discovering that lithium may be held within sheets of titanium sulphide.
- He was also instrumental in the invention of computer RAM (Random Access Memory).
- He also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Oxford University.

❖ Global competitiveness index 2023 released

- According to the Global competitiveness index 2023, published by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), India has ranked 40 out of 64 economies in its annual report.
- Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland took the top three places.
- Switzerland ranked fourth, followed by the Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sweden, the USA, and UAE.
- The report uses a combination of surveys, statistical data, and trends to benchmark competitiveness around the world.

❖ Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches 'Nishchit Pension Plan'

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited has launched 'Nishchit Pension Plan'.
- It is a non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan that enables the policyholders to plan for their retirement.
- Under this plan, the insurer provides accrued guaranteed additions during the policy term and loyalty addition at the end of the policy term.
- The policyholders will be able to accumulate a 100% guaranteed corpus at desired retirement age.

❖ Singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan receives honorary doctorate in UK

- Noted singer and music composer, Shankar Mahadevan was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University (BCU) in London, England.
- Reason: To celebrate his contribution to music and the arts
- He was honoured by the BCU Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Plowden at the ceremony.
- He was accompanied by fellow musicians Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin at the ceremony.
- He is best known for songs like 'Breathless', 'Mitwa' and 'Lakshya'.

❖ Infosys wins \$454-million deal from Danske Bank

- Infosys has bagged a \$454-million deal for the digital transformation of Denmark's Danske Bank.
- The deal is for a period of five years, which could be ramped up to \$900 million and also renewed for up to another three years.
- The collaboration with Infosys would help achieve its strategic priorities regarding customer experience and operational excellence.
- Infosys was selected to help with the bank's technology transformation, optimize access to talent and capabilities.

❖ **Hasaranga becomes first ODI spinner to take 3 consecutive 5-wicket hauls**

- Wanindu Hasaranga of Sri Lanka has achieved a remarkable feat in cricket by becoming the first spinner and second overall player in history to take three consecutive 5-wicket hauls in the One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- It was achieved, when Sri Lanka bundled out Ireland at 192 to secure the Super Six spot in ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifiers match.
- He has placed himself equal to the legendary Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis.

❖ **Parshottam Rupala launched NANDI Portal**

- Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi launched NANDI (NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System).
- The NANDI portal has been developed to digitize and streamline the regulatory approval process in India's Animal Health Sector.
- The development of the NANDI portal was carried out in collaboration with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and the Center for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).
- The portal aligns with the vision of Digital India and embodies the principles of Minimum Government and Maximum Governance by leveraging IT systems.
- The Minister emphasized the transformative impact of the portal and the government's decision to launch Mobile Veterinary Units, which will contribute to vaccinating all livestock in the country.
- The NANDI portal is expected to support the development of India as a global manufacturing hub for veterinary products and encourage research and development efforts to enhance animal health.

❖ Assam's first underwater tunnel to be constructed between Numaligarh and Gohpur

- The first underwater tunnel in Assam will be constructed between Numaligarh and Gohpur at an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 crore.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the tender for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) will open in the next month. The idea of an underwater tunnel arose from the many bridges built over the Brahmaputra River to facilitate the movement of both vehicles and railways.
- Discussions were held to determine the location and it was decided that the tunnel would be built between Numaligarh and Gohpur.
- The tender for the DPR will open on July 4 and Sarma expressed hope that work on the tunnel could begin during his tenure as chief minister.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the project, and once the tunnel is completed, it will bring the two banks, north and south, of the Brahmaputra river closer together.

❖ Launch of 'Legal Aid Defense Counseling System (LADCS)'

- The Uttar Pradesh government launched the 'Legal Aid Defense Counseling System (LADCS)' .
- LADCS is implemented under Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority. This program will be effective for two years.
- LADCS aims to provide free legal aid to the needy, especially in criminal matters.
- This program operates in districts or headquarters under Uttar Pradesh.
- LADCS offers representation, trial and appeal in all Sessions, Special, Magistrate and Executive Courts.
- The primary focus is on providing legal aid services in criminal matters.

➤ LADCS provides legal advice and assistance to persons appearing in the District Court/Office for their defence.

➤ This provision ensures guidance and support throughout the legal process.

❖ **World MSME Day - 27 June**

➤ International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day or World MSME Day is observed across the world on 27 June every year.

➤ The day highlights the importance of MSMEs and their role as the backbone of the country's economy.

➤ The theme of MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-Ready MSMEs for India@100".

➤ The Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade celebrates the day with the theme "Building a Stronger Future Together".

➤ The Council is launching the #Brand10000MSMEs network, a platform for MSMEs across the globe to connect, learn and grow together.

❖ **Senior Women's National Football Championships: Tamil Nadu and Haryana in Final**

➤ Tamil Nadu and Haryana won their semi-final fixtures against Railways and Odisha, respectively, to book their spots in the final of the Senior Women's National Football Championships, in Amritsar .

➤ The final will take place on Wednesday, June 28, at 4:30 pm.

➤ Tamil Nadu surprised one and all by defeating four-time finalists Railways 3-1 in the first semi-final of the day, while Haryana made secured themselves a spot in the summit clash for the first time ever, defeating Odisha 2-0 on penalties, after the match ended 1-1.

➤ The match between Tamil Nadu and Indian Railways was a battle of two former champions, with the team from the southern part of India winning by a comfortable margin.

❖ Women's PGA Championship: Ruoning Yin claims maiden major as Stephanie Meadow, Leona Maguire miss out

- China's Yin Ruoning sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Women's PGA Championship in New York for her first Major title.
- The 20-year-old fired a four under par 67 to finish 72 holes on eight-under 276 and defeat Japan's Yuka Saso by one stroke. Indian's Aditi Ashok finished 76th.
- Japan's Yuka Saso finished alone in second, one shot back following a 66 that featured five birdies on the back nine of the redesigned lower course. Five players ended two shots back, including Yin's countrywoman Xiyu Lin.
- It was the second triumph this season for Yin. She also captured the L.A. Open in early April for her first victory on the LPGA Tour after England's Georgia Hall missed a seven-footer for a birdie at No. 18 that would have forced a playoff.

❖ Carlos Alcaraz dethrones Novak Djokovic to reclaim World No.1 spot after maiden victory at Indian Wells

- 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz has returned to world no.1 spot after defeating Russian star Daniil Medvedev in the Indian Wells final.
- Spanish teen sensation Carlos Alcaraz dethroned Novak Djokovic to reclaim World No.1 spot after clinching his maiden Indian Wells title.
- The 19-year-old Alcaraz ended Russian star Daniil Medvedev's 19-match winning streak to secure a 6-3, 6-2 victory and leapfrogged 22-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic in the ATP rankings.
- Carlos Alcaraz arrived at The Queen's Club earlier this week, following the heartbreak at Roland Garros, he was struggling to find rhythm on the new surface. And it was only natural. It was Alcaraz's third grass-court event in his career and first outside the Wimbledon.
- But the young Spaniard came a long way albeit in a week, before claiming his first ever grass-court title. The top-seeded defeated Australian Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4 to lift the trophy at the Cinch Championships. And with the win, he dethroned Novak Djokovic to reclaim the ATP World No.1 ranking ahead of 2023 Wimbledon.

❖ City Union Bank Plans To Raise Upto Rs 500-Crore

- City Union Bank on Monday said it will raise Rs 500 crore through the Qualified Institutional Placement route to fund business growth.
- The board of directors at a meeting approved raising of further capital through the QIP route to the tune of Rs 500 crore, City Union Bank said in a regulatory filing.
- The private sector lender said that shareholders' nod would be sought in the annual general meeting for the capital raise plan.
- Last year, the bank obtained shareholders' nod for raising Rs 500 crore through QIP but could not utilise.

❖ DBS Bank India appoints Rajat Verma as Managing Director

- DBS Bank India has appointed Rajat Verma as managing director and head of institutional banking, the lender said in a statement.
- Rajat, who was formerly with HSBC as the MD and country head of Commercial Banking, India, will be succeeding Niraj Mittal, as head of institutional banking. Mittal will be taking up a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia.
- Rajat will lead the growth of the institutional banking franchise for DBS Bank in India given the significantly expanded footprint of the lender.
- DBS Bank India said that Rajat's appointment strengthens its leadership team and commitment to grow institutional banking business.
- Commenting on Verma's new role, Surojit Shome, Managing Director and CEO of DBS Bank India said, "He (Rajat Verma) is a seasoned banker with a proven track record of delivering value to institutional clients across diverse sectors and markets.
- His appointment reinforces our commitment to growing our business in India."

❖ **Telangana Govt begins distributing financial assistance to farmers under Rythu Bandhu Scheme in state**

- The Telangana Government has initiated the distribution of financial assistance to farmers for the Kharif season under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme.
- On the first day of distribution, an amount exceeding 640 crore rupees was directly deposited into the bank accounts of more than 22 lakh 55 thousand farmers who own less than one acre of land.
- According to official data, the 11th edition of the scheme will provide financial assistance totaling over 7720 crore rupees to around 70 lakh farmers for their Kharif crop.
- The Rythu Bandhu Scheme has, so far, contributed a cumulative amount of 72,910 crore rupees to farmers' accounts.
- Approximately five lakh new beneficiaries, including 1.5 lakh Podu farmers who own 4 lakh acres of Podu lands, will receive 10 thousand rupees per acre per year under the scheme.
- This additional support for Podu farmers will amount to around 300 crore rupees, which will be borne by the government exchequer.
- Podu cultivation is a form of shifting cultivation commonly practiced by tribes residing in the forests of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, involving techniques like slash and burn.

❖ QCI and Odisha Government launch Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp in Bhubaneswar

- The Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI) and industry associations such as ASSOCHAM, FICCI, EEPC, OASME, PHDCCI, CIPET, and FHRAI, launched the Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp (Odisha Quality Mission) in Bhubaneswar.
- The inauguration of the Sankalp took place in the presence of Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena and Development Commissioner Smt Anu Garg.
- The objective of the mission is to promote and prioritize quality across various sectors in the state of Odisha, creating an ecosystem of quality that contributes to the progress and empowerment of Odisha.
- The launch of Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp aims to foster collaboration between policymakers, industry leaders, practitioners, and academia to drive the culture of quality in Odisha.
- The mission aspires to create a progressive and empowered Odisha by emphasizing the importance of quality in various sectors.
- The collaboration between the Government of Odisha, QCI, and industry associations demonstrates a collective effort to prioritize and promote quality for the overall development of the state.