

Weekly Current Affairs-17th June To 22nd June 2024**National News****Vice President Inaugurates 'Prerna Sthal' at Parliament House Complex**

Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' (Inspiration Site) within the Parliament House Complex. This newly constructed site houses statues of national icons and freedom fighters that were previously scattered across different locations on the premises.

India Set to be the 6th Country to have its own Deep Sea Mission

India is set to join an elite group of nations with the launch of its ambitious Deep Sea Mission, making it the sixth country to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, Space, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, expressed pride and happiness over the progress of this mission during a recent meeting in New Delhi.

India's Refusal to Sign Ukraine Declaration at Swiss Conference

At the recent Summit on Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland, India opted not to sign the final communique alongside several other nations. This decision stemmed from India's strategic relationship with Russia, its primary defense supplier, and Moscow's absence from the summit, which India deemed crucial for any lasting peace agreement involving Ukraine.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

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

Cabinet Approves National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Central Sector Scheme titled "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)" with a comprehensive financial allocation of Rs. 2254.43 crore spanning from 2024-25 to 2028-29. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, aims to bolster India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.

Chirag Paswan and Shri Ravneet Singh launch Website and Mobile App for World Food India 2024

As a precursor to the 3rd edition of World Food India, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Railways, Shri Ravneet Singh, launched the website and mobile application for World Food India 2024.

9 Major Ports of India Makes It to Global Top 100 by World Bank, First for The Country

In a significant boost to the India's port development programme, as many as 9 ports of India made it to the Global Top 100 in the latest edition of Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023. This report is prepared by the World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence). The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal gave credit to the ambitious Sagarmala programme, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency.

Cabinet Green Signals Greenfield Major Port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra

The Indian government has approved the construction of a new major port at Vadhavan in the Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra. This project, aligned with the PM Gatishakti programme, aims to boost India's foreign trade capabilities and local economy. The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sanctioned this on June 19, 2024.

Cabinet approves development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore. It includes Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works.

DGCA Advisory Circular On Gender Equality In The Civil Aviation Sector

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory circular titled 'Gender Equality in the Civil Aviation Sector' aimed at increasing women's representation in aviation to 25% by 2025. This initiative aligns with the gender equality principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) vision for equal opportunities in aviation.

International News

Peter Pellegrini Sworn In As Slovakia's President Amid Political Tensions

In a ceremony marked by heightened security following an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Robert Fico, Peter Pellegrini has been inaugurated as Slovakia's sixth president. His victory in the runoff election solidified Fico's influence, maintaining control over strategic positions in the government. Pellegrini, known for his advocacy of a strong state role, previously served as Parliament's speaker and aligned closely with Fico's policies.

Chinese Scientists Discover New Pattern Of Solar Rotation

Chinese scientists have made a significant breakthrough in solar research through the use of their solar exploration satellite, the Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE), which has led to the discovery of a new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation.

Israeli Navy Receives Second Of New US-Built Landing Craft

The Israeli Navy on June 16, received the second of two new landing craft from a shipyard in the United States, with the vessel mooring at the Haifa Naval Base after making a lengthy voyage to the country. The US-built INS Komemiyut was the Navy's second landing craft, after the INS Nahshon, which was received in early October last year.

Tajikistan Government Bans Hijab and Other 'Alien Garments'

On June 19, the upper house of the Tajikistan parliament, Majlisi Milli, passed a law prohibiting "alien garments," which primarily targets the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing. The lower chamber, Majlisi Namoyandagon, had passed the bill on May 8. This move has sparked debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population in the tightly governed ex-Soviet republic.

State News

Punjab Police Launch 'Mission Nishchay'

Punjab Police in association with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) will carry out a one-week drive against drugs in Fazilka district. They will reach out to residents of as many as 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather actionable intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs.

Tesam Pongte Elected As The New Speaker Of Arunachal Pradesh Assembly

Tesam Pongte was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 8th Arunachal Pradesh Assembly on June 15. Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering announced that Pongte was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Assembly.

Hemis Festival 2024: Celebrating Buddhist Culture in Ladakh

The Hemis Festival, a vibrant celebration of Tibetan Buddhism, takes place annually in Ladakh, India. In 2024, this important cultural event will be held on June 16th and 17th. The Hemis Festival, also known as Hemis Tsechu, commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, a revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism. This two-day celebration brings the Hemis Monastery, Ladakh's largest Buddhist monastery, to life with color, music, and spiritual energy.

Rankings & Reports News

Mumbai Retains Top Spot As India's Most Expensive City For Expats: Mercer Report

In Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey released on June 17, Mumbai solidifies its position as India's most expensive city for expatriates, climbing to 136th globally and 21st in Asia. New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia, showcasing a notable shift in cost dynamics across Indian cities. Despite economic challenges, India remains resilient, offering affordability advantages for global talent recruitment. The survey highlights varying cost increases in housing and consumer goods across major Indian cities, with Delhi experiencing the highest rise. Mumbai leads in transportation and personal care costs, while Kolkata emerges as the most economical for essentials. Globally, Hong Kong retains its status as the priciest city for expats, underscoring diverse cost-of-living trends worldwide.

India's Environment Performance in 2024

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

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

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

India Ranks Third in Global Domestic Airline Market

India has achieved significant milestones in its domestic aviation sector over the past decade, emerging as the world's third-largest market for domestic airlines by April 2024. This marks a remarkable ascent from its fifth position ten years ago, driven by robust growth and strategic developments under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Business News**IFC Investment in Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power Project**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, has committed \$105 million (approximately Rs 871 crore) to Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan. This investment will be in the form of non-convertible debentures, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India.

Agreement News**MEA And SBI Sign MoU To Enhance Digital Payments For Migrant Workers Via EMigrate Portal**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the State Bank of India (SBI) have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate SBI's payment gateway, SBIPay, with the eMigrate portal. This collaboration aims to bolster digital payment services for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and users of the portal.

NHAI Signs MoU with IIIT Delhi to Enhance Road Safety Using Artificial Intelligence

In a bid to enhance road safety, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi, a technical university established by the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT). This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signs on National Highways, covering approximately 25,000 kilometers.

Appointment News**S. Tripathy Appointed as the First Director of UVCE**

On this significant day for higher education in Karnataka, the State government has made a crucial appointment that marks a new era for the University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). This appointment represents an important step in the institution's history and development.

UNHCR Welcomes Theo James as New Goodwill Ambassador

On this significant day for global humanitarian efforts, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) proudly announces the appointment of British actor Theo James as its newest Goodwill Ambassador. This appointment marks a crucial step in amplifying the voices of displaced people around the world.

Global Wind Energy Council India Appoints Girish Tanti from Suzlon Group As New Chairman

As Global Wind Day (June 17) is celebrated across the world, GWEC India has announced that Mr Girish Tanti, Vice-Chairman of Suzlon Group, has been appointed as the Chairman. The position plays a key role in driving GWEC India's work with national and state government's that assist government and industry's efforts for building the right momentum and establishing policy frameworks that will ensure India delivers on its enormous wind energy and supply chain potential, both onshore and offshore.

Indian Armed Forces Unveil Unified Cyberspace Doctrine

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan released the Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting held on June 18, 2024, in New Delhi. The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment.

Government Appoints Atul Kumar Chaudhary As Secretary Of Telecom Regulatory Authority Of India

The government (on 20 June) has appointed Atul Kumar Chaudhary, as the new Secretary, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the position which was lying vacant after the superannuation of V Raghunandan on May 31.

President Appoints Bhartruhari Mahtab As Pro-Tem Speaker Of Lok Sabha

In a significant development, Bhartruhari Mahtab, a seven-term Lok Sabha member, has been appointed as the pro tem Speaker of the Lower House. The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on June 20.

Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza Takes Over as Commandant, Military Institute of Technology, Pune

Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza has taken over as Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune from Air Vice Marshal Vivek Blouria. An accomplished alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa, Rear Admiral D'Souza has served in numerous key positions within the Indian Navy since his commissioning in March 1991.

Banking News

RBI Cancels Purvanchal Cooperative Bank's Licence

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of Purvanchal Co-operative Bank, located in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, citing inadequate capital and bleak earning prospects. Consequently, the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Uttar Pradesh, has been instructed to initiate the bank's winding-up process and appoint a liquidator. Upon liquidation, depositors will be eligible to receive up to Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) as per their deposit insurance coverage.

Dhanlaxmi Bank Appoints Ajith Kumar KK as MD & CEO

Ajith Kumar KK has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a three-year term starting June 20, 2024. The announcement was made in a regulatory filing by the Kerala-based private sector bank. Ajith Kumar KK brings extensive experience from his tenure at Federal Bank, spanning 36 years across key banking domains including Credit, Human Resources, Business, and Branch Operations. Currently serving as the Chief Human Resources Officer at Federal Bank, he holds the rank of president.

RBI grants Payment Aggregator License to SabPaisa

SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited), a payment solutions provider, has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted final approval to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Gets National Award for APY Implementation

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), a regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank, has been honoured with a national award by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

Science & Technology News

Dhruva Space's Thybolt Satellites Complete 15,000 Orbits

Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup, has successfully completed its maiden mission with the Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites. These satellites have securely deorbited after completing 15,000 orbits around Earth. Launched aboard ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company.

Schemes and Committees News

Cabinet approves Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for Implementation of Offshore Wind Energy Projects

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for the implementation of offshore wind energy projects in India. This decision marks a significant step towards harnessing the vast offshore wind energy potential within the country's exclusive economic zone. The total financial outlay for this scheme is ₹7,453 crore.

Summits & Conference News

Highlights Of G7 Summit, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 14, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. The countries including UK counterpart Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and others, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in southern Italy's Apulia. Later, the Prime Minister also met Pope Francis of the Vatican. The theme of this year's summit, which will be attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Türkiye, as a special guest, has been set as "rules-based international system."

India Participates In The Summit On Peace In Ukraine

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

Bonn Climate Conference 2024 Concludes in Bonn, Germany

The mid-year climate discussions in Bonn, Germany, concluded recently with limited progress, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the COP29 summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, later this year.

112th International Labour Conference at Geneva, Switzerland

The 112th International Labour Organization (ILO) was held in Geneva from 3-14 June 2024. It was attended by more than 4,900 delegates - representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations. The 113rd ILC will be held in June 2025.

CCRYN in Collaboration with Svyasa Organizes Conference on “Yoga for Space” in Bengaluru

The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on “Yoga for Space” at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru, in observance of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2024 with the theme “Yoga for Self & Society.” This conference brought together experts from various fields to enhance societal health, including astronauts, by exploring the benefits of yoga in extreme conditions and space environments.

Awards & Honors News**Siddhesh Sakore, Farmer From Maharashtra, Named Land Hero By UN Agency**

Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer and the founder of AGRO RANGERS from Maharashtra, has been recognized as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on World Desertification and Drought Day. The announcement was made during a programme in Bonn, Germany, honoring 10 Land Heroes from around the globe.

RBI bags ‘Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024’ by London’s Central Banking publication

In a remarkable achievement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been awarded the prestigious “Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024” by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in London. This accolade recognizes the RBI’s significant strides in cultivating a robust risk culture and heightened awareness, solidifying its essential role in maintaining the stability of India’s financial system.

Filmmaker Vinod Ganatra Honoured with Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award

Eminent children’s filmmaker Vinod Ganatra has become the first Indian to be conferred with South Africa’s prestigious ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his outstanding contribution to children’s cinema. The award was presented to him at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children’s Film Festival.

Wildlife Filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu Honored with V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award.

The renowned wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu has been conferred with the prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking. The award was presented to him by the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan, at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Important Dates News**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2024**

On June 17th, the world celebrates the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. This important day aims to raise awareness about the pressing issue of land degradation and its devastating effects on the environment and communities around the globe. This year’s theme, “United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future,” emphasizes the critical importance of land stewardship as a shared responsibility for all.

International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2024

On June 18th, countries around the world observe the International Day for Countering Hate Speech. This important day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of hate speech and promote strategies to identify, address, and counter it.

World Refugee Day 2024, Date, Theme and History

Every year on June 20th, the world comes together to observe World Refugee Day. This day is dedicated to the millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, persecution, or natural disasters. It serves as a powerful reminder of their plight and a call to action to support and welcome refugees into our communities. The theme for World Refugee Day 2024 is “Everyone is Welcome”.

Neeraj Chopra Shines at Paavo Nurmi Games 2024

Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra added another feather to his cap by clinching the gold medal in the men’s javelin throw event at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 in Turku, Finland. The Paavo Nurmi Games is a prestigious World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level) event, and Neeraj’s victory further solidifies his position as a dominant force in the sport.

Trent Boult Announces Retirement from International Cricket

New Zealand’s left-arm fast bowler, Trent Boult, has announced his retirement from international cricket after New Zealand’s final Group C match against Papua New Guinea at the 2024 T20 ICC Cricket World Cup. The match was played at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba.

International Day of Yoga 2024 Celebrates on 21st June Globally

International Yoga Day is a worldwide celebration of yoga, an ancient Indian practice that promotes physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Observed annually on June 21st, this special day brings together millions of people across the globe for yoga classes, workshops, and talks. From serene mountain retreats to bustling city squares, people unite in their pursuit of holistic health and inner peace. This year’s theme, “Yoga for Self and Society,” highlights the transformative power of yoga at both personal and community levels.

World Music Day 2024: Date, History, and Significance

World Music Day, also known as ‘Fête de la Musique’, is an annual global celebration held in June to promote music and its universal language. On this special day, musicians from around the world perform in public spaces, sharing their talents and passion for music. The day’s purpose is to provide a platform for both professional and amateur artists to express themselves through music. The inspiring tagline “Faites de la musique” (Make music) encapsulates the spirit of this event.

World Hydrography Day 2024 Celebrates on June 21st

Every year on June 21st, the world celebrates World Hydrography Day. This important day, organized by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), aims to raise awareness about hydrography and its crucial role in understanding our seas and oceans. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2024 is: “Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities”.

Sports News

Lee Zii Jia Triumphs at BWF Australian Open 2024

In a thrilling final at the BWF Australian Open 2024 in Sydney on Sunday (16 June), Lee Zii Jia from Malaysia emerged victorious against Naraoka Kodai of Japan, securing his second title of the season.

Virat Kohli Reclaims Top Spot as India’s Most Valued Celebrity Brand

According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023 released by global consulting firm Kroll, cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot as India’s most valued celebrity brand with a brand value of \$227.9 million. This marks a 30% jump from his brand value of \$176.9 million in 2022.

Pat Cummins Takes First Hat-Trick of T20 World Cup 2024

Pat Cummins, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a hat-trick, while David Warner’s unbeaten fifty guaranteed a smooth chase as Australia comfortably defeated Bangladesh in their ‘Super 8s’ Group 1 encounter of the T20 World Cup. The match, held in Antigua on June 21, was under the threat of rain that disrupted proceedings twice.

Obituaries News

Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare Passes Away

The state of Odisha mourns the loss of Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, the former Governor of the state, who passed away on June 15 at the age of 95.

Former Indian pacer David Johnson Passes Away at 52

Former Indian pacer David Johnson has passed away at the age of 52. Johnson tragically fell from the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment in Bengaluru, leaving the cricket community in mourning.

Defence News

India Advances In Drone Warfare With Nagastra-1 Deployment

India has achieved a significant milestone in its defense capabilities with the induction of the indigenous Nagastra-1 kamikaze drones developed by Solar Industries, based in Nagpur. This deployment addresses the escalating drone-related incidents along India’s Northern borders, highlighting the critical need for advanced indigenous drone technologies in combat applications.

India To Host Its First Multinational Air Exercise Tarang Shakti In August

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to make history this August by hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, Tarang Shakti-2024. The exercise is slated to be held in two phases, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from late August to mid-September.

Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ASMI Submachine Gun

In a significant move towards self-reliance, the Northern Command of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured ASMI submachine guns worth Rs 4.26 crores from Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited. This marks the first time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army.

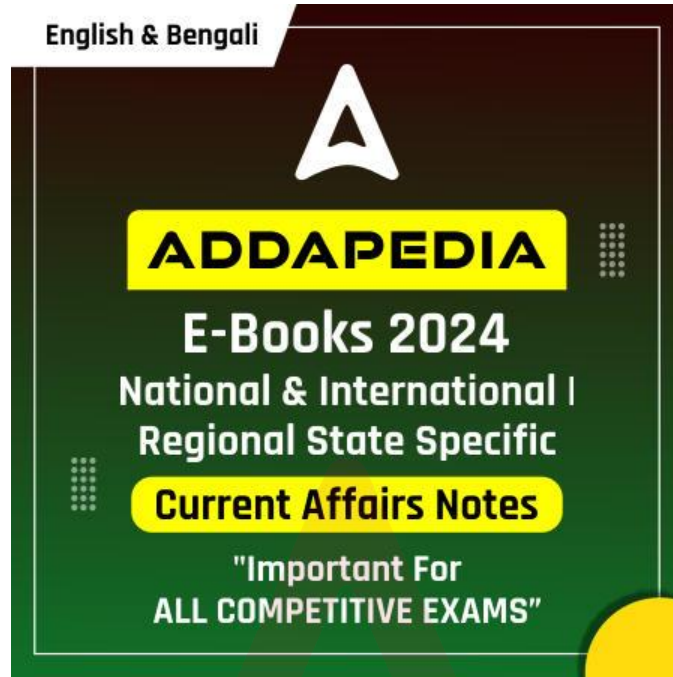
Miscellaneous News

Chenab Bridge: Indian Railways Conducts Trial Run On World’s Highest Steel Arch Rail Bridge

The Indian Railways completed a successful trial of an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi, crossing the world’s highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge.

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