

Current Affairs Of June 2017

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National

India to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Spain to fight terrorism

i. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has signed **seven agreements with Spain PM Mariano Rajoy** to strengthen **bilateral cooperation** to fight against terrorism after the visit from Germany.

Static Takeaways-

- PM of Spain is Mariano Rajoy and its Capital and Currency is Madrid and Euro
- Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and its President is Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

India to be first in world to run all government ports on green energy .

i. All 12 major domestic ports will soon switch to **renewable energy** to meet their entire power requirements, making **India** the first country to have all **government-owned ports** running on **solar and wind energy**.

ii. The government plans to install almost 200 megawatt solar and wind power generation capacity at the ports by 2019.

iii. Almost 150 mw of this will be solar power and 50 mw wind power generation capacity. The capacity could be ramped up to 500 mw in the next few years.

Delhi Police launch bicycle patrol

i. The Delhi Police launched **patrolling on bicycle** to improve policing in congested localities in trans-Yamuna region of the city. The move is also being billed as a green initiative.

ii. The bicycle patrols will complement and supplement the existing motorcycle and PCR patrols which focus mainly on crime prevention along the arterial and main roads of Delhi.

Static Takeaways -

- Hansraj Gangaram Ahir the Union minister of state for home affairs
- Amulya Patnaik is the current Commissioner of Police, Delhi
- Sh. J. N. Chaturvedi was the first commissioner of Delhi Police

Indian Railways to launch 'buy now, pay later' feature for tickets

i. To attract more passengers to buy online train tickets, Indian Railways has introduced a service **'Buy Now, Pay Later'** which allow passengers to make payment for tickets booked online within a window of 15 days.

ii. To buy tickets from the IRCTC website and pay later will decrease the difficulties involved in the payment process at the time.

iii. ePayLater, a Mumbai-based fintech firm has joined hands with **IRCTC** for adding the new feature to Indian Railways ticket booking services. **Static Takeaways -**

- Piyush Goyal is the Railway Minister of India

- The First Railway Minister of India is John Mithai.

India's GDP in Q4 grows 6.1%, loses fastest growing economy tag

i. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew **6.1 percent** year-on-year during the January-March, 2017 period according to government data. With this, India loses its status of the world's fastest growing economy. China's GDP grew 6.9 percent during the same quarter.

ii. The GDP growth rate for the full year (2016-17) came in at 7.1 percent in line with official estimate compared to a revised growth figure of 8 per cent in FY16.

Static Takeaways -

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period (quarterly or yearly).

Prithvi-II missile successfully test-fired

i. India successfully test-fired its **indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile** from a test range in **Odisha** as part of a user trial by the Army.

ii. The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of **350 km**, was carried out using a mobile launcher of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.

Static Takeaways-

- DRDO was formed in 1958
- Dr S Christopher is the current Chairman of DRDO
- Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island is located in Odisha.

Telangana launches T-Wallet for people with and without mobile phones

i. The Telangana Government has launched a digital wallet, named **T-Wallet**, which doesn't charge transaction fee from consumers.

ii. T-Wallet is bi-directional in nature. While consumers use it for public and private transactions, the government can use it to make payments to various beneficiaries. It also can be used over the web version.

iii. One can top up the wallet using credit or debit cards, Internet banking or through cash at Mee Seva centres. It allows a maximum transaction of **Rs1 lakh** for e-KYC (know your customer) users. For non-KYC users, the limit is set to **Rs20,000**.

Static Takeaways-

- Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 and its CM is Sri K.Chandrashekar Rao
- Governor of Telangana is Sri ESL Narasimhan.

Inauguration of MITS Mega Food Park at Rayagada, Odisha.

i. The first Mega Food Park in the state of **Odisha MITS Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd.** at **Rayagada** has been inaugurated by **Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal**, Minister of Food Processing Industries.

ii. To give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain

with particular focus on perishables, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.

Static Takeaways-

- India's First mega food park 'Srini' was opened at Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh.

India ranked 137th in the Global Peace Index 2017

i. India has ranked **137th** out of **163 countries** on **Global Peace Index 2017** published by The Institute of Economics and Peace. This is the **eleventh edition** of the Global Peace Index (GPI). **ii. Iceland** has been named the **world's most peaceful country**, topping the Global Peace Index for the tenth consecutive year followed by New Zealand and Portugal at second and third position while Syria has been named the least peaceful country.

Static Takeaways-

- The Global Peace Index (GPI) is an attempt to measure the relative position of nations and regions peacefulness across the world.

Odisha to have first automatic coastal warning for disasters in India

i. **Odisha** is the **first State in India** to have developed an **automatic public address system** that can be activated along its **entire coast**.

ii. The State government is all set to commission the ambitious **Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)** that would enable loud sirens go off simultaneously from towers at **122 locations** by **July 2017**.

iii. Odisha can now warn the vast population residing along its **480 km-long coast** by pressing a single button from a control room in the State capital in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or a cyclone.

Static Takeaways -

- Odisha CM is Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir.

Varanasi to get India's 1st freight village

i. **Varanasi** will get the country's first '**freight village**' spread over around **100 acres**.

ii. The plan to set up this project close to the upcoming multi-mode terminal along the Ganga has attracted major players including Dubai Port World and IL&FS.

iii. It will be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Static Takeaways-

- IWAI was created by Government of India on 27 October 1986 for development and regulation of Inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
- Varanasi is represented in Lok sabha by Hon PM Narenra Modi.

Airtel-Telenor India merger plan gets Sebi, BSE, NSE nod

i. **Bharti Airtel** has received approvals from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), BSE and the National Stock Exchange of India for its proposed merger with **Telenor India**.

ii. Airtel entered into an agreement with Telenor South Asia Investments in February, 2017 to buy Telenor India's operations in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam. These seven circles contribute about 35% to Airtel's total revenue.

Static Takeaways -

- Sunil Bharti Mittal is the Chairman of Bharti Airtel.

India successfully test-fires 1st all weather tracked-chassis QR-SAM

i. India has successfully test-fired its first all weather tracked-chassis **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM)** from a mobile launcher at Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.

ii. The test was carried out for validating various parameters of the sophisticated weapon system to further strengthen its air defence system.

States agree to GST rollout from July 1

i. The **GST (Goods and Services Tax)** Council has cleared the pending rules, including transition provisions and returns, with all the States agreeing to the **July 01st 2017** rollout of the tax. Transition rules have been cleared and everybody has agreed to a July 1 rollout," according to Kerala Finance **Minister Thomas Isaac**.

ii. The GST Council last month fitted over **1,200 goods and 500 services** in the tax brackets of **5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent**. Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** has chaired the **15th meeting** of the GST Council, which is scheduled to decide on the tax rate of six items, including **gold, textiles and footwear**.

Static Takeaways-

- GST is one indirect tax for the whole nation, which will make India one unified common market.
- In 2003 the Kelkar Task Force on indirect tax had suggested a comprehensive Goods and Services Tax (GST) based on VAT principle.

India slips to 45th spot in IMD's World Competitiveness list

i. **India has been ranked 45th**, down four notches from last year, in terms of competitiveness in the annual rankings compiled by IMD which saw **Hong Kong topping the list**. The list was compiled by the International Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center.

ii. **Switzerland and Singapore were ranked second and third** respectively, with the USA at the fourth spot.

Static Takeaways-

- The IMD World Competitiveness Center is a research group at International Institute for Management Development (IMD) business school in Switzerland

- It was formed in year 1989 by Prof. Stephane Garelli.

RCom-Aircel merged wireless company to be called Aircom

i. Reliance Communications (RCom) Chairman Anil Ambani has announced that the merged **entities of RCom and Aircel will be called Aircom**. These merged entities are Reliance Communications and Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB).
ii. The merged company will be one of India's largest private sector companies. It will have an asset base of over 65000 crore rupees and net worth of 35000 crore rupees.

Static takeaways-

- The Group was founded by Shri Dhirubhai H. Ambani (1932-2002)
- Anil Dhirubhai Ambani is the Chairman of Reliance Group

EESL takes up first rural LED streetlighting project in Andhra Prad

i. Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. has initiated a French Agency-funded project to retrofit 10 lakh conventional street lights with LED lights in Gram Panchayats of 7 districts in Andhra Pradesh. **ii.** This is **the first project for rural LED street lighting in the country** under the Centre's Street Lighting National Project (SLNP). **Static takeaways-**

- Saurabh Kumar is the Managing Director, EESL
- Andhra Pradesh was the first state to seek assistance from EESL to replace conventional street lighting with LED lighting in Visakhapatnam.

Telangana launches single-woman pension scheme, first in India

i. Telangana government has recently launched **the single-women pensions scheme** across the state. Single women will be given Rs 1,000 per month. It is the first such scheme in India.
ii. The government had also increased the **Kalyana Laxmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme amount** from Rs50,116 to Rs75,116. Children of single women would be admitted into all Telangana Residential Educational Institutions without having to write an examination or waiting for the lottery system.

India's first public bicycle sharing project launched in Mysuru

i. Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah has recently launched India's first public bicycle sharing (PBS) initiative 'TrinTrin' in Mysuru.
ii. The World Bank, Global Environmental Fund, and state govt have jointly funded the initiative.
iii. Mysuru is the first city in India to have a public bicycle sharing system. A total of 450 bicycles can be borrowed from 48 docking stations set up across the City for a nominal fee.

TRAI launches three new apps

i. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently launched three new apps to help customers rate quality of

services, speed and performance.

ii. The three new apps are **MyCall app, MySpeed app and 'Do not disturb (DND 2.0)' app**. The apps are being launched with the motive that there is more transparency between the consumers and the service providers.

Static Takeaways-

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) established with effect from 20th February 1997 an Act of Parliament, called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997
- R.S.Sharma is the present Chairman of TRAI
- Head Office of TRAI is in New Delhi.



India overtakes China to top global retail index: GRDI

i. India has surpassed China to secure the top position among 30 developing countries on ease of doing business, according to a study that cited India's rapidly expanding economy, relaxation of FDI rules and a consumption boom as the key drivers.
ii. The GRDI was titled as **'The Age of Focus'**, ranks China in second place. Malaysia was in the third position in the list.

Static Takeaways-

- Top three countries in the list are India China and Malaysia

NSE launches international exchange at GIFT City

i. Leading bourse National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched its **international exchange in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**. NSE IFSC Ltd, the global exchange promoted by NSE, will remain operational for a longer period than NSE during a trading day.

'Ministry of Utmost Happiness' authored by Arundhati Roy launched

i. The book **"The Ministry of Utmost Happiness"** has been authored by Arundhati Roy, was released recently.
ii. It is fiction-based novel and will be published by Hamish Hamilton UK and Penguin India.

Static Takeaways

Roy became the first Indian woman to win the prestigious Booker Prize with her 1997 work 'God of small things'.

Narendra Modi government to scrap UGC, AICTE soon with HEERA

i. The **University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)** will soon be a thing of the past as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre is planning to replace the two education regulators with a new Higher Education Regulator.
ii. This is being done to bring one single education regulator

named HEERA in place. **Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency or HEERA** is the name of the new proposed regulator.

Static takeaways-

- Prakash Javadekar the Cabinet Minister of Human Resource Development
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Dr. Rajiv Kumar

Centre approves modifications to 'kambala' Bill

i. The Centre has approved the modifications to the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill 2017** to pave way for organizing 'kambala' in the coming season, according to PP Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice.

ii. Now, the Bill will be placed before the President for his approval. The approval by the President will help in the smooth conduct of 'Kambala' (the traditional slush track buffalo race) in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka.

iii. The Bill proposes to exempt 'kambala' from the ambit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960.

PM of India leaves for Kazakhstan to attend SCO summit

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Kazakhstan, where he will attend the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and meet some foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping.

ii. At the summit in Astana, India and Pakistan will become full members of the grouping, which at present comprises China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Ahead of his two-day visit, PM Modi stated that he looked forward to deepening engagement with the SCO countries.

iii. On the evening of June 9, he will also attend the inauguration of the Astana Expo with the theme of "Future Energy".

Kerala government implements 'green protocol' for weddings

i. Wedding ceremonies in Kerala are all set to become 'green', with the state government coming out with a green protocol to make auspicious occasions more nature-friendly.

ii. With the implementation of the protocol, plastic and other non-biodegradable articles including disposable glasses and plates and thermocol decorations will be kept at bay from marriage functions.

Static takeaways -

- Pinarayi Vijayan is the present Chief Minister of Kerala
- P.Sathasivam is the present Governor of Kerala
- Onam is Kerala's harvest festival

Ministry of AYUSH inaugurates 2nd National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga

i. The second National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga has begun in New Delhi. The conference aimed at giving insight to the journalists about the scientific aspects of yoga and its benefits for health.

ii. The theme of the conference is 'Yoga for Health and

Harmony'. The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik. **Static Takeaways-**

- The Ministry of AYUSH was formed on 9th November 2014
- Earlier it was known as the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) which was created in March 1995
- It was renamed as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in November 2003.

Indian American Raja Chari among 12 new astronauts chosen by NASA

i. NASA has chosen 12 new astronauts, including an Indian American named Raja Chari, from a record number of over 18,000 applicants, who will be trained for missions into Earth orbit and to deep space.

ii. The 12 new candidates include six military officers, three scientists, two medical doctors, a lead engineer at SpaceX and a NASA research pilot.

iii. Lt. Col. Raja Chari is the first Indian American after Kalpana Chawla to be chosen by NASA for one of its missions at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. This is the largest group NASA has selected in almost two decades.

Static Takeaways-

- Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is NASA Acting Administrator
- NASA was established in 1958.

Axis Bank, first to issue biodegradable prepaid gift cards

Axis Bank Ltd has announced biodegradable prepaid gift cards on the occasion of World Environment Day (05th June).

With this, the bank has become the first to introduce biodegradable cards in the country. The card has the look and feel of regular plastic cards and can be used in PoS terminals and ATMs. Biodegradable cards can also be recycled.

Static Takeaways-

- Shikha Sharma is the MD and CEO of Axis Bank.
- Headquarter of Axis bank is in Mumbai.

India, Pakistan Become Full Members Of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

i. India and Pakistan became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the first-ever expansion of the China-dominated security grouping after 2001.

ii. With the inclusion of India and Pakistan, SCO now represents over 40% of world population and nearly 20% of the global GDP.

iii. 2017 SCO summit was based on the theme "Future Energy".

Important Takeaways-

- The SCO was founded at a Summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

President Pranab Mukherjee launches 'Selfie with Daughter' mobile app

- i. President Pranab Mukherjee today launched the 'Selfie with Daughter' mobile application, aimed at raising awareness about female foeticide and sex selection.
- ii. The campaign was started by Sunil Jaglan in June 2015 in village Bibipur in Haryana's Jind district

Minister of Railways Inaugurates 1st Indian Railways HR Round Table Conference

- i. Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhakar inaugurated Indian Railways' 1st HR Round Table Conference in New Delhi. The Conference was organized around three themes i.e.
 - (1) Stakeholders Expectations from HR.
 - (2) The Future of Work – HR Role
 - (3) Creativity Within Constraints
- ii. HR experts and leaders of industry held round table discussion on each of the above mentioned themes.

RBI Governor to appear before House panel on July 6

- i. RBI Governor Urjit Patel will appear before a Parliamentary panel on July 6 during which he is expected to be questioned about total deposits made in banks post government's demonetisation move.
- ii. This is the fourth time Patel has been summoned by the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Finance, headed by Congress MP and former Union Minister Veerappa Moily.

SEBI clears Vikram Limaye as NSE chief

- i. Capital market regulator SEBI has given conditional approval for the appointment of Vikram Limaye as the MD and CEO of the NSE.
- ii. SEBI had delayed clearing his appointment as he was also part of the four-member Supreme Court-appointed panel managing the affairs of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. His term with the BCCI ends in August 2017.

Static Takeaways-

- Ajay Tyagi is the Chairman of SEBI
- SEBI is headquartered in Mumbai
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India Limited is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai.

EU, France grant 3.5m euros to curb emissions in India

- i. Aiming to reduce emissions and promote sustainability to help India's smart city programme, France and the European Union have extended a grant of 3.5 million euros under the 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) initiative. Three Indian cities- Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad -- will get the grant as part of the EU's commitment under the Paris Climate agreement according to French Development Agency (AFD).
- ii. More funds would be provided to India as the loan to take forward the smart city and sustainable transport initiatives in the three cities on the pilot basis. The MYC, supported by the French and German government, also has financial support from

the European Union (EU).

Static Takeaways-

- Emmanuel Macron is present President of France.
- Prime Minister of France is Edouard Philippe.
- The European Union is a unique economic and political union between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent.
- The EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Govt launches Tele Law to provide legal aid in rural areas via video conferencing

- i. The government of India has launched 'Tele Law' service to provide legal aid for the people living in rural areas through video conferencing. The service has been launched to make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas.
- ii. The Ministry of Law and Justice partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to provide legal aid services through its Common Service Centres, CSC at the panchayat level, spread across the country. The service was launched by IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Kolkata to get India's first underwater Metro

- i. Kolkata, the 'City of Joy' is about to experience a wonder in the form of an underwater Metro train which will run beneath the Hooghly river. It's one of the path-breaking projects in India as never before a tunnel has been dug beneath a flowing river.
- ii. The entire project is 16.6 km long, out of which 10.8 km runs under the ground. Of this 10.8 km, 502 meters is under the water. The project connects Howrah to the west and Salt Lake to the east.
- iii. The project is expected to be completed by December 2019.

Static Takeaways -

- Howrah Bridge is a propped cantilever bridge with a suspended span over the Hooghly River in, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Jairam Ramesh's book on the naturist in Indira Gandhi launched

- i. The book "Indira Gandhi – A life in Nature", was launched by Congress president Sonia Gandhi at the Indira Gandhi Memorial.
- ii. The book was authored by Former Union minister Jairam Ramesh. The 488-page book was launched to mark the birth centennial year of the former Prime Minister.

RBI Issues New Rs500 banknotes with inset letter 'A'

- i. In continuation of issuing of Rs500 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (new) series from time to time which are currently legal tender, a new batch of banknotes with inset letter "A" in both the number panels, bearing the signature of Dr. Urjit R. Patel Governor, Reserve Bank of India; with the year of printing '2017' on the reverse, are being issued.

ii. The new series earlier released and currently, in circulation has the inset letter "E". They will continue to be valid. The design of these notes is similar in all respects to the Rs500 banknotes.

Nalanda model of water conservation chosen for National Award

i. A model of water conservation adopted successfully by the authorities in Nalanda district of south-central Bihar, has been selected for the national award for excellence in the **Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee program (MGNREGP)**, by the ministry of rural development.

ii. The award for excellence will be conferred on **'Project Jal Sanchay'**, the water conservation model developed in chief minister Nitish Kumar's native district, at a function to be organized at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on June 19.

Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar Make It to Forbes World's Highest-Paid Celebrities List

i. The Forbes list of world's highest-paid celebs is out and has **Sean Combs right at the top**. On the list, Bollywood big stars with Shah Rukh Khan leading the charge at the 65th position with \$38 million in earnings this year.

ii. On his heels is Salman Khan at the 71st spot with \$37 million earned in 2016-2017. Akshay Kumar is at 80th position with \$35.5 million. Unlike last year, Amitabh Bachchan has not made to the list.

Top three names in the list are-

1. Sean Combs \$130 Million (Musicians),
2. Beyoncé Knowles \$105 Million (Musicians),
3. J.K. Rowling \$95 Million (Authors).

Important Takeaways-

- Forbes is an American business magazine was founded in 1917
- Forbes headquarter is in New York City, USA.

IRDAI takes over management of Sahara Life Insurance

i. The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has taken over the administration of **Sahara India Life Insurance**, a first of its kind move in the insurance sector.

ii. R.K. Sharma, general manager, IRDA has been appointed as the administrator with "immediate effect" to manage Sahara India Life Insurance Company.

iii. The current board of Sahara India Life is headed by Chairman OP Srivastava. Sanjay Agarwal is whole-time director and CEO.

Static Takeaways -

- Lucknow-based Sahara India Life Insurance was the first wholly Indian owned life insurance company in the private sector.
- It is promoted by Sahara Pariwar Group headed by Subrata Roy.

Uttar Pradesh tops the list with maximum child labor in the state- CRY report

i. According to the **Child Rights and You (CRY) report**, over 8 lakh children in India between the age group 5 and 6 years are engaged in child labor.

ii. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of 2,50,672 children engaged in labor, followed by Bihar with 1,28,087 children and Maharashtra where the number stands at 82,847.

India's first canal top solar PV system at NTPC Mouda

i. State-run power giant **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** has energized India's first 150 kWp canal top solar PV System on cooling water (CW) channel inside power station premises at its 2,320 MW, Mouda Thermal Power Project, near Nagpur in Maharashtra.

ii. This novel Solar PV system makes use of side walls of CW channels as load bearing structure thereby significantly decreasing cost of civil and mounting structure.

Important Takeaways-

- NTPC was Incorporated on November 7, 1975.
- Shri Gurdeep Singh is the Chairman and MD of NTPC.

India ratifies two key ILO conventions on child labour

i. **India ratified two key ILO conventions** on child labor, according to a statement issued by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland**. Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, who is in Geneva stated that the ratification reaffirmed India's "commitment to a child labor free society".

ii. According to ILO, the Government of India deposited with the International Labour Office the instruments of ratification of the two fundamental ILO Conventions concerning the elimination of child labor, the **Minimum Age Convention (No 138)** and the **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No 182)**.

iii. India is the 170th ILO member state to ratify Convention No 138, which requires states to set a minimum age under which no one shall be admitted to employment or work in any occupation, except for light work and artistic performances.

Important Takeaways -

- ILO Director-General is Guy Ryder.
- The ILO was created in 1919.

Ex-Uttarakhand CM Pokhriyal authors book on Vajpayee

'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji' i. Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank**, has officially handed over the first copy of the 450-page book titled **'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji'** to the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Recent Cabinet Approvals- 14th June 2017

The Union Cabinet has approved the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) for farmers for the year 2017-18: This will help farmers getting short term crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh payable within one year at only 4% per annum. The Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 20,339 crore for this purpose.

Railway Ministry launches Mission Retro-Fitment to enhance the passenger experience

i. To enhance the passenger's experience by upgrading existing fleet of coaches with better furnishing, aesthetics & amenities and better safety features with a view to provide a safe and comfortable travel, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu has launched **MISSION RETRO-FITMENT** in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

ii. Mission Retro-Fitment is an ambitious program to upgrade the level of furnishing & amenities in the coaches of Indian Railways. This is one of the largest retro fitment project in the world as Indian Railways' 40,000 coaches will be refurbished and retrofitted in the next five years.

Government announces Indian envoys to European Union, Italy, Belgium and Denmark

i. India has announced a number of new diplomatic appointments in its missions abroad, including envoys to the **European Union, Italy, Belgium, and Denmark**.

1. **Gaitri Issar Kumar**, joint secretary in the President's Secretariat, was named as India's Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union which has its headquarters in the Belgian capital of Brussels.
2. **Reenat Sandhu** was named as India's new Ambassador to Italy. He has replaced Anil Wadhwa.
3. **Ajit Vinayak Gupte**, joint secretary in the external affairs ministry, has been named India's Ambassador to Denmark. He will take over from Rajeev Shahare.

Static Takeaways -

- Rome is the Capital of Italy.
- Copenhagen is the Capital of Denmark.

India-Australia naval exercise 'AUSINDEX 17' begins

i. Indian warships began a week-long naval exercise off the coast of **Western Australia**. The **second AUSINDEX** exercises are aimed at increasing interoperability between Australian and Indian naval forces, executing complex naval manoeuvres.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- In May 2017, Singapore and India held a maritime bilateral exercise 'SIMBEX 17'
- Canberra is the Capital of Australia and its currency is Australian dollar.
- Malcolm Turnbull is the present PM of Australia.

DRDO successfully test fires third generation 'Nag' missile in Rajasthan

i. The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully test fired the **anti-tank missile "Nag"** in a desert in Rajasthan's western sector.

ii. The Nag missile is a **third generation "fire and forget" anti-tank missile**. It has reportedly also been equipped with highly advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IRR) seeker and has integrated avionics technology in its arsenal.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Chairman of DRDO is Dr. S Christopher.

India tops global remittance-receiving list

i. **India has claimed the top spot** among the remittance-receiving nations, **surpassing China**. The **United Nations**, in its report, stated that Indians working across the globe sent home 62.7 billion US dollars in 2016. ii. According to the **'One Family at a Time'** study by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, about 200 million migrants globally sent more than 445 billion dollars as remittances in 2016 to their families. **Important Takeaways-**

- 9th Secretary-General of United Nations is Antonio Guterres.
- Its headquarter is in New York City, USA.

GII Rankings: India 60th most innovative globally, Switzerland tops the list

i. India continued to rise in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings** for the second year in succession, after four consecutive years of decline. In 2017 rankings released in Geneva (Switzerland), India improved its position from 66 to 60.

Top three most innovative countries in the list are-

1. Switzerland
2. Sweden
3. Netherlands

Important Takeaways-

- The first report of GII was released in 2007.
- Currently, it has 14 Advisory Members.

India to host 2018 AIIB Annual Meeting The Board of Governors of the AIIB announced that the **Bank's third Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in Mumbai, India in June 2018**.

About AIIB in Brief-

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a new multilateral development bank founded to bring countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.
- AIIB headquarters in **Beijing, China**.
- **Mr. Jin Liqun** is the current President of AIIB.
- AIIB commenced its operation in January 2016 and has now grown to 80 approved members from around the world.

Aadhaar made mandatory for new bank accounts, transactions above Rs.50,000

i. Stepping up its fight against tax evasion, the Centre has made it mandatory to quote the Aadhaar number for opening bank

accounts and for transactions exceeding **Rs.50,000**. With the amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 notified earlier this month, banks will have to demand both Aadhaar and the **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** for verification of identity, starting June 1.

Important Takeaways;

- The Unique



Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority.

- UIDAI was established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (“**Aadhaar Act 2016**”) on **12 July 2016** by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The tagline of Aadhaar - '**Mera Aadhaar, Meri Pehchan**.'
- **J Satyanarayana** is the present Chairman of the UIDAI.

CCI slaps Rs 87 crore fine on Hyundai Motor India for anti-competitive conduct

i. The country's competition watchdog has imposed a penalty of **Rs 87 crore on Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor India** for anticompetitive conduct. According to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the carmaker imposed arrangements upon its dealers that resulted in resale price maintenance — a deal not to sell a product below a specified price — in sale of passenger cars manufactured by it.

Important Takeaways;

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been established by the Central Government with effect from **14th October 2003**.
- **Devender Kumar Sikri** is the Chairperson of Competition Commission of India.
- The Head Office of CCI is in **New Delhi**.

PM Modi inaugurates Kochi Metro

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Kochi Metro**. He took a ride in the Metro from Palarivattom station to Pathadippalam station. Kerala Governor **P Sathasivam**, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu and E Sreedharan popularly known as Metro man also travelled with Mr Modi.

ii. Kochi Metro is the first public transport system to **reserve jobs for members of the third sex and it will be manned mainly by**

women a self-help group. Modi also launched the PN Panicker National Reading Day - Reading Month Celebrations. Kochi Metro Rail Limited is a **50-50 Joint Venture** of Centre and the Kerala government.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) can now be subscribed digitally

i. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has now introduced “**APY@eNPS**” which involves a complete digital enrolment process.

ii. This is the latest in the series of various initiatives taken by PFRDA for expansion of outreach of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, to give the additional push to cover the as yet unreached population with greater ease. PFRDA has conducted meetings with Banks and Dept of Post at Kolkata, Bengaluru & Mumbai respectively for the earliest roll out of the facility call.

Static Takeways:

- **National Pension System (NPS)** which is administered and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) created by an Act of Parliament.
- PFRDA is authorized by **Ministry of Finance**, Department of Financial Services.

Connaught Place is ninth most expensive office market in world, Mumbai lags

i. **Connaught Place** in the national capital is **the most expensive prime office market in India** and the ninth most expensive office market in the world, with an occupancy cost of \$153.89 per square feet, according to the bi-annual Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey of US-based CBRE.

ii. Acc. to the survey, Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) moved one place up from nineteen to 20 while the CBD of Nariman Point ranked thirty-third on the list of the top 50 most expensive office markets around the world.

iii. **Hong Kong (Central)** became the world's highest-priced office market with an occupancy cost of \$302.51 per sq ft per annum. Asia continues to dominate the list of the world's most expensive office locations, accounting for seven of the top ten markets, according to the survey.

Govt ropes in Amitabh Bachchan to promote GST

i. The government has roped in Bollywood megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** to promote Goods and Services Tax (GST), ahead of the sweeping tax reform's implementation scheduled from July 1.

ii. **The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)** will be making the 74-year-old Bachchan brand ambassador for GST. The megastar has been roped in just as the rollout of the biggest tax overhaul since independence entered its final phase. Ace badminton star PV Sindhu was previously the GST ambassador.

DGCA suspends Air Carnival's flying permit

i. The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has suspended the flying licence of **Coimbatore-based carrier Air Carnival**, which has not operated a single flight since **early April**.

ii. With this, Air Carnival has become the **third regional carrier**, after **Air Pegasus** and **Air Costa**, whose air operator permit has been suspended by **DGCA** in the last eight months. The DGCA has suspended **Air Operator Permit (AOP)** of Air Carnival after it failed to satisfy the regulator in its response to the show-cause notice.

Static Takeways:

- **DGCA** is the regulatory body governing the safety aspects of **civil aviation in India**.
- **Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju** is the Union Minister for Civil Aviation.

114-year-old Taj Palace of Mumbai becomes first Indian building to get trademark

i. The iconic **Taj Mahal Palace Hotel** in the Mumbai City has acquired an '**image trademark**', making it the **first building in the country to get intellectual property rights protection** for its architectural design.

ii. With this, it had joined the elite and small club of trademarked properties in the world which includes the Empire State Building in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Sydney Opera House.

Important Takeaways-

- Taj Palace is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- It first commenced operations in the year 1903.
- It is owned by Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), which was incorporated by the founder of the Tata Group, Jamsedji Tata.

Lockheed Martin signs pact with Tata to make F-16 planes in India

i. The defense arm of the Tata Group has signed an agreement with American firm **Lockheed Martin** to produce and export new generation **F-16 fighter aircraft**, potentially kick-starting a mega '**Make in India**' project.

ii. The agreement has been signed at the Paris Airshow, Lockheed to produce F-16 fighter planes in India. It is the newest and most advanced version of the world's most successful, combat-proven multi-role fighter.

Important Takeaways-

- TATA Advanced Systems is the defense arm of TATA.

Mangalyaan completes 1000 Earth days in its orbit

i. **Indian Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)** also called **Mangalyaan** completes 1000 Earth days in its orbit on 19th June 2017. The interplanetary mission of ISRO was launched on 5th November 2013.

ii. It was inserted into Martian orbit on 24th September 2014 in its **first attempt**.

Important Takeaways-

- The Operator of the MOM is Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- PSLV-C25 launched Mars Orbiter Mission Spacecraft from the First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ISRO was founded in 1969.
- A S Kiran Kumar is the present chairman of ISRO.

Punjab Announced Free Education For Girls From Nursery To PhD

i. **The Punjab Government** has announced free education for girls in government schools and colleges from Nursery to Ph.D. This is the major step towards women empowerment by Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh.

ii. Reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies has already been increased by the government from 33 per cent to 50 per cent. The CM also announced free Wi-Fi for 13,000 primary schools and all 48 government colleges.

Mumbai most expensive for expatriates in India: Mercer's Survey

i. **Mumbai** is the most expensive city for **expatriates in India** and is ranked higher than major global cities such as Paris, Canberra, Seattle and Vienna. According to Mercer's 23rd annual Cost of Living Survey, **Mumbai is placed 57th** on the list while New Delhi was placed at 99. Chennai (135), Bangalore (166) and Kolkata (184) were the other Indian cities on the list.

ii. **Luanda, the capital of Angola, was the costliest city**, driven by cost of goods and security, followed by Hong Kong and Tokyo at the second and third places, respectively.

Important Takeaways-

- Mercer is the world's largest human resources consulting firm, Headquartered in New York City.

Indore- India's first city to use robot to control unruly traffic

i. The number one **clean city of India - Indore** has got another milestone to its name. This commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh has reportedly **become the first city in India where the robot is being used** on an experimental basis to control its ever growing and unruly traffic.

ii. The traffic police in association with a private engineering college of the city for the first time has installed a metallic robot at a busy MR 9 intersection on an experimental basis to control the chaotic traffic in the locality.

Axis Bank, Kochi Metro launches India's first single-wallet contactless, Open Loop Metro Card

i. **Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank in association with **Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (KMRL)** has launched **KMRL Axis Bank 'Kochi1' Card**, India's first open loop EMV contactless metro card that would make travel a convenient and hassle free experience for commuters in Kochi.

ii. Axis Bank has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** in developing this transit EMV contactless specification on interoperable open standards. The prepaid card has integrated benefits and offers a plethora of services to commuters such as:

1. The shopping experience at merchant outlets: No hassle of carrying multiple cards.
2. Instant issuance of Personalized Cards.
3. Convenience of recharge: The commuter can easily top up the card through cash or debit or credit card.

ISRO's PSLV-C38, carrying 31 satellites, lifts off from Sriharikota

i. Adding another feather in its cap, **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)** workhorse rocket **PSLV C-38** blasted off from the spaceport of Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh carrying the Cartosat-2 series satellite - a dedicated satellite for the defense forces - along with 30 co-passenger satellites.

Here is all you need to know about the launch-

1. The 30 satellites will together weigh 243 kg and the total weight of all the 31 satellites, including Cartosat, is about **955 kg**.
2. The co-passenger satellites comprise **29 nano satellites from 14 countries** -
3. PSLV-C38 was launched from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Uttarakhand 4th and Haryana 5th ODF States in the country

i. Under the **Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G)**, rural **Uttarakhand and rural Haryana** have declared themselves as the 4th and 5th Open Defecation Free (ODF) States of India, respectively.

ii. The two states joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala, which were the first three states to be declared ODF.

Important Takeaways-

- Sikkim was the first ODF state of the country.
- Swachh Bharat Mission was Launched on 2 October 2014 with the Main Objective To fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India.

Bengaluru firm Mypetrolpump, 1st in India to deliver diesel at home

i. **Bengaluru** has become the **country's first city** where one can have fuel delivered at one's doorstep, just like milk and newspapers, only weeks after oil ministry announced that the Centre was thinking of rolling out such a system.

ii. **Mypetrolpump**, a one-year-old startup, conducted a soft launch with three delivery vehicles -each with a capacity of 950 liters. Above 100 liters, one needs to pay the diesel price plus one additional rupee per liter.

Union Government launches VAJRA scheme to attract Indian scientists abroad

i. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) under Ministry of Science and Technology has launched the **Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (VAJRA) scheme** in a bid to bring together the Indian scientists abroad and India-based researchers for conducting joint researches in India.

ii. The web portal of VAJRA was launched by Union Minister of Science and Technology **Harsh Vardhan**. The motive behind the

launching of VAJRA scheme is to bring the best of the world to India and conduct research in the country itself. It aims to convert brain-drain into brain-gain.

PM Modi leaves for Portugal on the first leg of his 3-nation tour

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi today embarked on a **three-nation visit**. In the first leg of his tour, he will reach **Portuguese capital, Lisbon**. After Portugal, the Prime Minister will depart for the **US capital, Washington DC**.

ii. During his two-day US visit, the Prime Minister will meet its President, Donald Trump. This will be the first meeting between the two leaders. In the last leg of his tour, Mr. Modi will visit **The Netherlands** for bilateral talks with his counterpart, Mr. Mark Rutte.

Static Takeaways-

- Lisbon is the capital of Portugal.
- The Prime Minister of Portugal is Antonio Costa.
- Washington DC is the capital of the USA.
- Amsterdam is the capital of The Netherlands
- The Netherlands is the 6th largest trading partner of India in the EU and 5th largest investment partner globally.

Bengal's Kanyashree initiative wins United Nations Public Service Award

i. The West Bengal Government's **Kanyashree Prakalpa** was awarded the **first prize in United Nations Public Service Award for Asia Pacific**. Out of 552 initiatives from 62 different countries, West Bengal Government's initiative was chosen the best.

ii. The award was presented at The Hague, Netherlands. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at retaining girls in schools and other educational and skill development institutions and preventing child marriage.

Aadhaar not valid for travel to Nepal, Bhutan: Home ministry

i. **Aadhaar is not a valid** identification document for Indians traveling to **Nepal and Bhutan**, according to the Union home ministry. Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan- both countries for which they don't need visas - if they possess a valid national passport or election ID card issued by the Election Commission.

ii. Moreover, to ease travel, persons over 65 and below 15 years can show documents with photographs to confirm their age and identity. These include PAN card, driving licence, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card and ration card but not Aadhaar. The move is aimed at ensuring hassle-free movement of Indians going abroad.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Nepal shares borders with 5 Indian states- Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Bhutan shares borders with 4 Indian States- Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal.

Naidu launches book titled 'The Emergency-Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour'

- i. Venkaiah Naidu has launched the book which titled 'The Emergency - Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour'.
- ii. A book is written by Surya Prakash who is a chairman of Prasar Bharati.
- iii. The book was launched at a conference to mark the anniversary of the Emergency and to honor all those who fought for the restoration of democracy in the country in the mid-1970s.

Dangal becomes 1st Indian movie to earn Rs2,000 cr worldwide: Forbes

- i. The Amir Khan starrer Dangal has become the first Indian movie to earn Rs2,000 crore worldwide. Recently, Dangal also created the record of being the fifth highest-grossing non-English film ever.
- ii. Based on the life of wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat, the sports drama film is also the highest grossing Indian film in China. According to a report by Forbes, on its 53rd day of release in China, Dangal made Rs 2.5 crore (\$390,000) at the China box office taking its worldwide total to Rs 2000 crore.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Nitesh Tiwari is the Director of Dangal.

Govt clears proposal for setting up new airport in Greater Noida

- i. The Government has cleared the proposal for setting up a new airport in Jewar in Greater Noida. Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju stated that in-principle approval for a greenfield airport at Jewar has been granted to cater to the growing flying requirements of National Capital Region.
- ii. Acc. to the Aviation Minister, the Noida International Airport will cater to 30 to 50 million passengers per year over the next 10 to 15 years.

India's first blood bank for Cattle to come up in Odisha

- i. Odisha is all set to become the first state in the country to have a blood bank for the cattle. Acc. to the Vice-chancellor of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) Surendra Nath Pasupalak, it is the first of its kind blood bank established on the premises of OUAT at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.25 crore.



- ii. After approval from the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP), the OUAT is now awaiting approval from the state government. The project will have a 60:40 sharing between the Centre and the state government.

Election Commission joins hands with Facebook to Launch First Time Nationwide "Voter Registration Reminder"

- i. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has joined hands with Facebook to launch nationwide voter registration reminder aimed at reminding eligible Indian voters to register themselves on the electoral rolls.

- ii. As a part of the initiative, Facebook will activate a unique 'Register Now' button reminding all the eligible Indian users to enroll themselves as voters. The reminder will be made available for four days beginning July

Important Takeaways from above News-

- NIFT was Set up in 1986 and it comes under the Union Ministry of Textiles.

BCCI forms Committee to oversee Lodha Panel Reforms

- i. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the formation of a special seven-member committee to identify the 'few critical points' for the general body of the cricket board to consider before they are submitted to the Supreme Court.
- ii. This committee will be responsible for identifying those points that are difficult to be implemented, in regards to the Justice RM Lodha Committee reforms. The seven-member committee has Rajeev Shukla, Sourav Ganguly, Naba Bhattacharjee, TC Mathew, Jay Shah, Amitabh Choudhary and Anirudh Chaudhary.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Lodha Panel was set up by the Indian Supreme Court in January 2015.

India's communication satellite GSAT-17 successfully launched

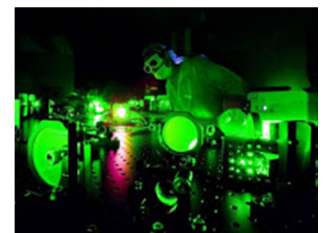
- i. India's latest communication satellite GSAT-17 has been successfully launched from Kourou in French Guiana. GSAT-17 with a lift-off mass of about 3,477 kg carries payloads in Normal C-band, Extended C-band and S-band to provide various communication services.

International

Scientists create the brightest light ever produced on Earth

- i. Scientists have created the brightest light ever produced on the Earth, shining a billion times stronger than the surface of the sun. The researchers discovered that it could be used as a new type of X-ray, capable of taking higher resolution images than the traditional kind.

- ii. These could be used in hospitals but also by engineers, scientists and for security purposes. Normally an electron scatters just one photon of light at a time but the light beam produced in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Extreme Light Laboratory saw nearly 1,000 photons scattered at a time.



70th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland

- i. The 70th World Health Assembly was held recently (22nd-31st May) in Geneva, Switzerland. In the meeting member nations agreed to increase their assessed contributions by 3 percent.
- ii. Member states also agreed on a five-year action plan that will

initiate collaboration between WHO, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in tackling shortfalls in global health and social workforce.

Static Takeaways-

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the newly appointed Director-General of World Health Organization.

Japan launches satellite for high-precision positioning system

i. Japan launched a satellite to help build a high-precision geolocation system that will complement the US-operated GPS.

ii. A 'H-IIA' rocket blasted off from the Tanegashima space center in southern Japan carrying the 'Michibiki' No.2 satellite.

The Michibiki system is capable of covering the Asia-Oceania region and works with the US-operated Global Positioning System (GPS).

West Indies cricket team's official name changed to WINDIES

i. The cricket board for West Indies, on its 91st anniversary, has re-branded themselves as Cricket West Indies from the former West Indies Cricket Board.

ii. The board also announced in a media release on their official website that the cricket team from now on will be officially known as 'WINDIES.'

Ganeshan Neelakanta Iyer first Indian to be inducted in ITTF URC

i. Ganeshan Neelakanta Iyer, the only assigned competition manager of International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), has become the first Indian to be nominated as a member of the Umpires and Referees Committee (URC).



ii. Ganeshan's term as URC member is for a period of two years. Ganeshan is also the chairman of the South Asian Federation technical committee and a member of the Technical Committee of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation.

Static Takeways -

- Mr. Thomas Weikert of Germany is the President of ITTF Executive Commision
- Headquater of ITTF is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Nepal signs MoU with China for construction of Budhigandaki Hydropower Project

i. Nepal has signed a major deal with a China to develop a 1,200 MW Budhigandaki Hydroelectric Project, the biggest hydro project in the landlocked country that could resolve its perennial power crisis.

ii. Nepal's Ministry of Energy has signed an MoU with China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) for the development of the 1,200 MW Budhigandaki Hydroelectric Project.

iii. As per the agreement, the storage project would be built under

engineering, procurement, construction, and finance (EPCF) model.

Static Takeaways-

- Gandaki River is Situated in Nepal
- Sher Bahadur Deuba is the newly appointed Prime Minister of Nepal

Montenegro becomes NATO's 29th member

i. Montenegro has officially joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and hence became the 29th member country of NATO. Montenegro Foreign Minister Srdjan Darmanovic submitted the official accession papers in a ceremony at the US State Department.

ii. The move came in the face of bitter opposition from Russia, which says NATO's steady expansion into the former communist states of Eastern Europe threatens its own security and cannot go unchallenged.

Static Takeaways-

- The Capital of Montenegro is Podgorica and its Currency is Euro
- Secretary-General of NATO is Jens Stoltenberg
- NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

World's largest floating Solar Farm launched in China

i. China has launched world's largest floating solar farm in Anhui province. The 40-megawatt power plant has 160,000 panels resting on a lake that emerged after the collapse of a coal mine in central Anhui province.

ii. As per the Reports, China has been the world's largest investor in clean energy since 2012, spending \$88 billion on the wind and solar power in 2016.



Static Takeaways-

- The capital of China is Beijing and its Currency is Renminbi

World's smallest & cheapest private jet 'Vision Jet' launched in USA

i. The World's smallest and cheapest private jet 'Vision Jet' was launched in the USA recently. The Vision Jet can haul five adults up to 1,150 miles at 28,000 feet.

ii. It is the first Private Jet with a single engine and can be conveniently operated by a single pilot, thus keeping production and maintenance costs low for the users. The jet can fly at a speed of 345mph and has an operating altitude of 28,000 feet.

G7 environment ministers meeting 2017 held in Bologna, Italy

i. Group of Seven (G7) Environment Ministers Meeting was held in Bologna, Italy to discuss issues ranging from climate change to sustainable development and litter at sea. The meeting was attended by the Environment Ministers of the seven countries (US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan) and the

Commissioners of the European Union for Environment and Climate.

Takeaways from Above News-

- G7 presidency rotates annually between member countries. The Presidency for the year 2017 is held by Italy. Canada will hold the G7 presidency in 2018.

China launches 1st X-ray space telescope to study black holes

i. China successfully launched its first X-ray space telescope to study black holes, pulsars and gamma-ray bursts. The 2.5-tonne Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope (HXMT), named 'Insight,' was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gobi



desert.

ii. It was delivered into orbit, 550km (341 miles) above the Earth, by the Long March-4B rocket.

Neeru Chadha elected as first Indian woman Member of ITLOS

i. Indian nominee **Neeru Chadha** became the **first Indian Woman to be elected as the Member of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**. Chadha, the international law expert, got 120 votes with the highest in the Asia-Pacific group.

ii. She will have a nine-year term as the Judge at ITLOS from 2017 to 2026. Currently, an eminent jurist from India P Chandrasekhara Rao is a judge at the tribunal. He was elected as the member of the tribunal in 1996 and his term will expire in September 2017.

Important Takeaways-

- The Hamburg (Germany)-based ITLOS was established in 1996.
- Ms. Chadha is only the second woman to be the judge of ITLOS in its two decades of existence.

Katy Perry Becomes First Person to Reach 100 Million Twitter Followers

i. **Katy Perry** just keeps soaring in popularity. The Witness singer and pop culture lightning rod became the first person to reach 100 million followers on Twitter, making her the most-followed person on the platform, Twitter reports. Perry joined Twitter back in 2009, making her something of an early adopter as a celebrity.

Important Takeaways;

- This month, Perry was ranked **No. 95 (tied with Chance The Rapper)** on the FORBES list of the 100 highest-paid celebrities, with \$33 million in earnings.
- **Katy Perry** is an American singer-songwriter.

AIIB approves membership of Argentina, Madagascar, Tonga

i. The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

has **approved the membership of Argentina, Madagascar, and Tonga at its second annual meeting of Governors**. The AIIB's Board of Governors adopted resolutions approving the three applicants to join the bank at the second annual meeting, which kicked off earlier in the day in **South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju**.

ii. The first meeting was held in Beijing in 2016. The approved applicants included one regional prospective member of Tonga and two non-regional members of Argentina and Madagascar

Important Takeaways-

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) headquarters in Beijing, China.
- Mr. Jin Liqun is the President of AIIB.

World's second biggest celebrations of International Yoga Day to be held in China after India

i. In China, ahead of the **third UN International Day of Yoga**, thousands of Chinese would participate in scores of events organized across the country. As per the official report, it will be the **second biggest yoga day celebration in the world after India**.

Afghan President inaugurates first Afghanistan-India air corridor

i. **Afghan President Ashraf Ghani** inaugurated the **first Afghanistan-India air corridor** at the Kabul International Airport. The corridor is a direct route that will bypass Pakistan and is meant to improve commerce in Afghanistan.

ii. The aim of the route is to create more opportunities and make Afghanistan an exporter country. Afghan agricultural products will for the first time head to India on cargo planes.

Qatar Airways is voted the World's Best Airline in 2017

i. **Qatar Airways** was announced the **World's Best Airline** at the **SKYTRAX 2017 World Airline Awards**. Qatar Airways was voted Best Airline by travelers across the world in the annual passenger survey.

ii. **The Doha-based carrier** has now won the prestigious Airline of the Year title for a fourth time. Qatar Airways also won the **World's Best Business Class, the World's Best First Class Lounge and the Best Airline in the Middle East awards**.

iii. On the other hand, **Malaysia-based Air Asia** won awards for being the Best Low-Cost Airline in Asia for a month year in the row, and also as World's Best Low-Cost Airline Premium Cabin 2017.

Important Takeaways-

- Dubai-based Emirates was the winner of SKYTRAX 2016 World Airline Awards.

China unveils World's first train that runs on Virtual Tracks

i. China has unveiled the **world's first train** that operates on a virtual track using sensor technology instead of metal rails. The new trains are battery powered and are nonpolluting.

ii. The train's top speed is 70 kilometers per hour, and it can travel

25 kilometers in distance after just 10 minutes of charging. The train will be ready to roll out to the public by 2018.

US designates Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin as global terrorist

i. The USA designated Pakistan-based **Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin** as a specially designated global terrorist.
ii. The move by the US state department came before the first meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump at the White House.

SpiceJet is world's top airline stock in 2017 with 124% gain

i. Two and a half years after **SpiceJet Ltd** was forced to ground its entire fleet on its inability to pay a mere \$2.2 million in fuel bills, the budget airline has become the world's best-performing airline stock—with \$26 billion in plane orders to boot.
ii. The company's co-founder and chairman, **Ajay Singh**, has played the white knight, injecting capital, cutting loss-making routes and aggressively adding capacity in one of the world's fastest growing markets. SpiceJet shares are the best performers on a Bloomberg Intelligence index of airline stocks this year.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- CEO of SpiceJet is Mr. Ajay Singh.
- It Headquarters in Gurugram.

Romanian President appoints Mihai Tudose as Prime Minister

i. Romanian President **Klaus Iohannis** appointed Social Democrat **Mihai Tudose** as the **Prime Minister** and mandated him to form a new government. Mihai Tudose, the outgoing economy minister of Romania, has been appointed as prime minister, days after the ruling Social Democrat Party (PSD) removed its own government following an internal power row.
ii. The 50-year-old Tudose now has 10 days to gain the vote of confidence in his government and his program.



Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Capital of Romania is Bucharest.
- Its Currency is Romanian leu.

Google fined record 2.42 billion euros by European Commission

i. Google has been fined **2.42 billion euros** (\$2.7 Billion) by the **European Commission** after it ruled the company had abused its power by promoting its own shopping comparison service at the top of search results.

ii. It is the biggest fine the EU has ever imposed on a single company in an antitrust case, exceeding a 1.06-billion-euro sanction handed down to U.S. chipmaker Intel in 2009.

Sharjah named 'World Book Capital 2019' by UNESCO

i. **Sharjah**, a city in the **United Arab Emirates** was named '**World Book Capital for the year**' 2019 by the **Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova**.

ii. The city was selected because of the very innovative, comprehensive and inclusive nature of the application, with a community-focused activity program containing creative proposals to engage the very large migrant population.
iii. The program runs with a slogan '**Read - you are in Sharjah**'. It focuses on **six themes**: inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing, and children.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- As the nineteenth cities to bear the title since 2001, Sharjah follows Athens (2018) and Conakry (2017).
- The Full form of UNESCO is United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

'Stratolaunch': Massive airplane being constructed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen

i. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen constructed massive airplane Stratolaunch' building at the California desert for many years.
ii. It would be the world's largest airplane with a wingspan wider than Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Agreement

i. U.S. President Donald Trump recently announced the country's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Agreement alleging that it favours world's leading polluters like India and China, while being unfair to his country.
ii. This historic agreement came into effect on 4 November 2016.

'Fireball': Chinese malware that infected over 250 million computers across the world

i. 'Fireball', a Chinese malware infected over 250 million computers across the world till 3 June 2017 with India emerging as the biggest victim of it.

Iran Parliament witnessed a major terror attack by operatives of Islamic State (IS)

i. Parliament of Iran has witnessed a major terror attack by operatives of Islamic State (IS) on 7 June 2017 resulting in death of at-least 13 persons.
ii. Suicide bombers and gunmen attacked the Iranian parliament and Ayatollah Khomeini's mausoleum in capital Tehran on 7 June 2017.

NASA: May 2017 is the second hottest month in 137 years

i. According to NASA, May 2017 was the second hottest month in a span of 137 years when modern record-keeping

of average global temperatures had commenced. The temperature of May 2017 was 0.88 degrees Celsius warmer than the mean May temperature from 1951-1980.

ii. May 2016 is the hottest on record with 0.93 degrees Celsius warmer than the May mean temperature. May 2017 temperature was 0.05 degrees Celsius cooler than the temperature recorded in May 2016.

KELT-9b : A massive exo-planet discovered by scientists

- i. KELT-9b is the name of the massive exo-planet discovered by scientists recently that is located 650 light years from Earth.
- ii. The Jupiter-like planet discovered by scientists recently that has been claimed to be hottest known planet.

Jupiter is the oldest planet in solar system: Latest Report

- i. Jupiter is the oldest planet of the solar system has been confirmed, based on the conclusions of a newly conducted research.
- ii. A joint research conducted by the University of Munster (Germany) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California (United States) has confirmed that

World's lightest and smallest satellite, "KalamSat" launched by a NASA

- i. The world's lightest and smallest satellite, "KalamSat", named after the former India President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was launched by a NASA rocket on 21 June 2017.
- ii. The name of the 18-year old Tamil Nadu student Rifath Sharook has made this satellite. The satellite "KalamSat", weighing just 64 grams.

World's highest rail track to commence in Leh overtaking China

- i. Indian Railway will set up world's highest rail track which to be commence at Leh in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ii. The Railways will kick off the final location survey of the 498 km long Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line, shortly.

World's First ATM celebrates its 50th Birthday

- i. The world's first ATM (automated teller machine) celebrates its 50th anniversary. The ATM machines were the brainchild of Scottish inventor Shepherd-Barron.
- ii. The first ATM was opened on June 27, 1967, by Barclays Bank in Enfield, north London.

World's First Hybrid 'Aeroboot' Unveiled

- i. The world's first hybrid 'aeroboot' which has been built by an Indo-Russian joint venture has been unveiled at a start-ups event organized by Russia's state-run Skolkovo Foundation.
- ii. The aeroboot is capable of travelling on land, water, snow and sand. It has been designed to access difficult terrain, such as flooded or marshy areas in which the regular boats cannot play because of shallow water, patches of dry land or by marine vegetation.

Panama forges Diplomatic ties with China and breaks away with Taiwan

- i. Panama has established formal diplomatic ties with China and broke all of its relationship with Taiwan in a move that is seen as a victory for China in its drive to isolate Taiwan from the rest of the world. China claims Taiwan as its own territory.
- ii. Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela has announced that his country has upgraded its commercial ties with China and has established full diplomatic links with China.

Indian Warships reach Australia to take part in Bilateral Exercise AUSINDEX-17

- i. Indian warships have reached Australia's port city of Fremantle to take part in a weeklong naval exercise off the Western Australian coast.
- ii. Exercise Australia-India (AUSINDEX) was first conducted off the East Coast of India in September 2015. AUSINDEX-17 will be the second overall bilateral drill between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

Six Arab Nations Cut Diplomatic Ties with Qatar

- i. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen, Libya and UAE have suspended their diplomatic ties with Qatar.
- ii. All the six countries have announced that they would withdraw their diplomatic staff from Qatar and eject Qatar's diplomats from their territories. They have also planned to cut air and sea traffic..

Verizon Completes Yahoo Acquisition

- i. Telecom giant Verizon has acquired Yahoo's core business for \$4.48bn (£3.51m), thus ending Yahoo's two-decade long run as an independent company. Verizon is the No.1 wireless operator in the US.

□ India-Russia mark 70 years of diplomatic ties with St Petersburg Declaration. India and Russia have signed the St Petersburg Declaration to mark the 70th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Union Government appoints Rajesh Shah as NIFT Chairperson

i. The Union Government (Ministry of Textiles) has appointed **Shri Rajesh V. Shah** as Chairperson on the Board of Governors of the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**.

ii. He has replaced **Shri Chetan Chauhan** as per the provisions of the National Institute of Fashion Technology Act, 2006.

Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind resigns

i. Bihar Governor **Ram Nath Kovind** has resigned from his gubernatorial post. The resignation follows his nomination as the ruling NDA's presidential candidate. President Pranab Mukherjee has accepted the resignation of Kovind as the Governor of Bihar.

ii. West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi will discharge the functions of the Governor of Bihar, in addition to his own duties.

TCS executive Ramanathan Ramanan to head Atal Mission under NITI Aayog

i. The government of India has appointed a **senior executive of Tata Consultancy Services Ramanathan Ramanan** to head **Atal Innovation Mission**, its initiative to promote entrepreneurship in the country.

ii. Ramanathan Ramanan, senior vice president at TCS, has been appointed as mission director of Atal Innovation Mission, under the government's premier think tank NITI Aayog, in the rank of additional secretary on secondment basis from the IT bellwether for two years initially. According to the notification, Ramanan's appointment will be without pay and allowances.

Important Takeaways-

- Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Shri Narendra Modi.
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Dr Rajiv Kumar.

K G Karmakar, Gauri Shankar appointed directors of IPPB

i. **K G Karmakar** and **Gauri Shankar** were appointed as **Independent Directors of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved their appointment to the post on the board of directors of the bank for a period of three years.

ii. The IPPB has been incorporated as a public sector bank under

the Department of Posts with 100 percent equity of the government of India.

About IPPB in Brief-

- IPPB was launched on January 30th, 2017 in Ranchi and Raipur
- For now, IPPB is offering Savings account up to a balance of Rs 1 Lakh, along with digitally enabled payments and remittance services of all kinds between individuals

Hoshiar Singh appointed chief of copyrights office

i. Senior bureaucrat **Hoshiar Singh** has been appointed as **Registrar of Copyrights**.

ii. The Office of Copyrights, under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, is mandated to protect the music and film industry besides addressing its concerns, among others.

Shaktikanta Das retires as Economic Affairs Secretary; Tapan Ray to take over

i. Economic Affairs Secretary **Shaktikanta Das** announced his retirement as the Corporate Affairs Secretary. **Shaktikanta Das** has been associated with the Government of India as the Economic Affairs Secretary for nearly **37 years**.

ii. He will be succeeded by **Tapan Ray**, who will take the additional charges as the new Economic Affairs Secretary.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- First Finance Minister of Independent India is Ramasamy Chetty.

Nirupama Rao appointed Public Policy Fellow to US Think-Tank

i. **Nirupama Rao** has been appointed as the public policy fellow of Sino-India ties a top American think-tank based in Washington.

ii. She was India's first woman ambassador to china and also served as India's foreign secretary from 2009 to 2011.

Vinay Dube named Jet Airways CEO

I Jet Airways has announced the appointment of **Vinay Dube** as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

ii. The appointment is subject to receipt of all requisite government /regulatory approvals, including his security clearance. Mr. Dube is currently senior vice-president, Asia Pacific, Delta Air Lines.

Shashi Shekar Vempati is new Prasar Bharati CEO

i. **Shashi Shekar Vempati** has been appointed as the **CEO of Prasar Bharati** on the recommendation of the three-member committee headed by the Vice-President, and consisting of the Chairman, Press Council of India, and the President's nominee.

ii. He will replace **Rajeev Singh**, who has been serving as interim CEO since February 2017. Shashi Shekar Vempati will be the first non-Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer to head the public broadcaster.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Prasar Bharati Board Chairman is A. Surya Prakash
- Head office of Prasar Bharati is in New Delhi.

Indian-American Amul Thapar appointed as Judge in US Court of Appeals

- Amul Thapar**, an Indian-American legal luminary, has been appointed a **judge** on the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President **Donald Trump**.
- Before his appointment to the Court of Appeals, Judge Thapar served on the District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Leo Varadkar to be next Ireland PM

- Indian-Origin **Leo Varadkar** is set to become the Republic of Ireland's next Prime Minister after winning the leadership of the Fine Gael party.
- The 38-year-old will become the first gay Prime Minister and will also be the country's youngest ever leader. He will succeed **Enda Kenny** as leader of the centre-right party within weeks.

Static Takeaways-

Irish Capital is Dublin and Currency is Euro.

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic sworn in as new President of Serbia

- Aleksandar Vucic** has been sworn in as **Serbia's new president**, promising to work for peace and stability in the war-weary Balkans while strengthening the country's armed forces.
- Vucic** formally stepped down from his prime minister's post and took over his new role after his landslide win in April's election.

Static Takeaways-

- Serbia Capital is Belgrade and its Currency is Serbian Dinar.

Sher Bahadur Deuba elected Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time

- Veteran Nepalese politician **Sher Bahadur Deuba** was elected as **Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time**. Deuba, 70, was the sole candidate to contest in the Prime Minister election as the main opposition UML or any other party didn't register their candidacies.
- He secured 388 votes in his favor and 170 votes against him. A total of 558 were cast during the voting. He needed 297 votes in the 593-strong Parliament to prove his majority. The Nepali Congress leader has become the 40th Prime Minister of Nepal.

Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman appointed Crown Prince

- Saudi Arabia's King Salman** has appointed his son, **Mohammed bin Salman**, as heir, in a major reshuffle. A royal decree removed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, a 57-year-old nephew of the king, as next-in-line to the throne and replaced him with Mohammed bin Salman, 31, who was previously the deputy crown prince.
- The newly-announced crown prince was also named deputy prime minister and maintained his post as defense minister.

In historic first, UNICEF appoints Syrian refugee Muzoon Almellehan as Goodwill Ambassador

i. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced, on the World Refugee Day (20 June), the appointment of **Muzoon Almellehan**, a 19-year-old education activist, and Syrian refugee, as its **newest – and youngest – Goodwill Ambassador**.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- UNICEF Headquarters in New York City, USA.
- It was founded in 1946.

India re-nominates Justice Dalveer Bhandari for another term as ICJ judge

i. Justice Dalveer Bhandari has been nominated by India as its candidate for another nine-year term as judge of the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, the principal judicial organ of the UN.

ii. Bhandari, 69, was elected in April 2012 during simultaneous balloting in both the General Assembly and the Security Council to a seat on the International Court of Justice, which is **also known as the World Court**. The ICJ elections will be held in November and if elected, he will serve a term of nine years.

Important Takeaways-

- The ICJ was established in 1945.
- The ICJ headquarters in the Hague, Netherlands.

Uber Co-Founder Travis Kalanick Resigns as C.E.O.

i. Uber co-founder Travis Kalanick has resigned from his position as chief executive of the \$68bn ride-hailing app following a tumultuous six months of scandal.

ii. Kalanick reportedly took the hard decision after a group of major Uber investors demanded his immediate resignation.

Manappuram Finance appoints Jeevandas Narayan as managing director of Manappuram Home Finance

i. Manappuram Finance has announced the appointment of **Jeevandas Narayan** as the Managing Director and **Subhash Samant** as **CEO** of its fully-owned home loans subsidiary, **Manappuram Home Finance**.

ii. Prior to this Narayan, who has more than 37 years of experience in the financial services industry, was Managing Director of State Bank of Travancore.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Manappuram Finance headquarters in Thrissur Kerala.
- It was founded in 1949.

J-K Governor N N Vohra appointed as president of IIC

i. Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra has been appointed the president of the **India International Centre (IIC)** - one of the premier cultural institutions in the country.

ii. The appointment was made after



eminent jurist Soli Sorabjee quit the presidential post.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- IIC was founded in 1958 and its head office is in New Delhi.
- In 1959, it was registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI) of 1860.

K. Kasturirangan to head panel on National Education Policy

i. Ex-ISRO Chief and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Krishnaswamy**

Kasturirangan has been appointed the Chairman of the committee to prepare the final draft of the **National Education Policy**



ii. The Chairperson apart, the committee has eight members. The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992.

Sanjiv Singh takes over as IOC Chairman

i. **Sanjiv Singh** has taken over as the **Chairman** of the country's biggest company **Indian Oil Corporation**. He replaces **B Ashok**.

ii. Prior to his elevation, Mr. Singh was Director (Refineries) on the IOC board since July 2014. Concurrently, he will also be Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) and Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Ltd (HURL), a joint venture company set up to revive the fertilizer plants at Gorakhpur, Sindi and Barauni.

Static Takeaways-

- IOC was established in 1959 and its headquarter is in New Delhi.

Priyanka Chopra appointed as ambassador for Government's Skill India campaign

i. Actress **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the ambassador for government's flagship Skill India campaign, with the National Skill Development Corporation.

ii. Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Skill India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Modi in July 2015.
- The government aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skilling initiatives.
- The MD and CEO of National Skill Development Corporation is Manish Kumar.

Kaushik Basu takes over as president of International Economic Association

i. Former chief economic advisor **Kaushik Basu** has taken over as president of the **International Economic Association (IEA)**. Basu's three-year term started from June 23.

ii. Mr. Basu has also served as senior vice-president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016. He is currently

the C. Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The IEA is a leading organization for professional economists and it seeks to shape global economic policy and research.
- The IEA was founded in 1950.
- IEA headquarters in Barcelona, Spain.

Vidya Balan named ambassador of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

i. Actress Vidya Balan has named an ambassador of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).

ii. It will be held in August 10-22, 2017, which showcase over 60 films. In 2017, IFFM has diversity as its central theme.

Honours/ Awards

AP's Vizianagaram bags MGNREGA national award

i. The Ministry of Rural Development has selected **Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh** as one among the 17 districts across the nation for the **MGNREGA annual award**

ii. The award was given for effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) Act during 2015-16.

Static Takeaways-

- MGNREGA was set up on Feb 2, 2006 from district Anantapur in the state of Andhra Pradesh

Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee to receive Legion d' Honneur

i. Thespian Bengali actor, **Soumitra Chatterjee** has been conferred with the France's highest civilian honour, the coveted Legion of Honour. The award will be presented to the **Kolkata-based actor** by the Ambassador of France to India Alexandre Ziegler. The award comes to this octogenarian Bengali screen legend exactly 30 years after Satyajit Ray got the honour by the then French President **Francois Mitterrand in 1987**.

ii. Dadasaheb Phalke award winner, Chatterjee featured in some of **Ray's most** talked about movies such as Apur Sansar, on one of the famous Apu trilogy, Charulata, Aranyer Din Ratri and Sonar Kella.

Poet, essayist Haraprasad Das gets Kalinga Literary Award

i. Legendary poet and essayist Haraprasad Das was conferred with the coveted **Kalinga Literary Award** for his work and contribution to literature at the fourth edition of Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF).

Indian girl bags Little Miss Universe Internet 2017 crown at Little Miss Universe in Georgia

i. A 12-year-old Padmalaya Nanda from Odisha has created history by becoming the youngest girl to bag the "Little Miss Universe Internet 2017" and "Little Miss Actress" crowns at the Little Miss Universe 2017 at the port city of Batumi in Georgia.



ii. This is the first time that a 12 yr Indian girl has won this beauty pageant title. She will now participate in the "Little Miss World 2017" competition that will be held at Greece from Sept 25 to Oct 1, 2017.

Static Takeaways-

- The Capital of Georgia is Tbilisi.

NASA confers Exceptional Public Service Medal to Michael A'Hearn posthumously

i. NASA has posthumously awarded the Exceptional Public Service Medal to Michael A'Hearn, one of the world's leading comet scientists. A'Hearn died at the age of 76.

ii. The NASA Medal is for "fundamental work on comets and small bodies of the solar system, leadership in space missions, and ensuring public access to data from NASA missions and related projects."

Virat Kohli becomes No.1 ranked ODI batsman

i. In a major shakeup at the top of the rankings after the group stages of the ICC Champions Trophy 2017, Indian captain Virat Kohli displaced South Africa's AB de Villiers as the No.1 ranked ODI batsman in the world while Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood took over from Proteas pacer Kagiso Rabada as the No.1 ranked bowler.

Top three ODI Batsman are-

1. Virat Kohli (IND)
2. David Warner (AUS)
3. AB de Villiers (SA)

Top Three ODI Bowlers are-

1. Josh Hazlewood (AUS)
2. Imran Tahir (SA)
3. Mitchell Starc (AUS)

Israeli author David Grossman wins Man Booker International Prize 2017

i. Israeli author David Grossman has won the Man Booker International Prize 2017 for his novel 'A Horse Walks Into a Bar'. Grossman beat out five other finalists, including fellow Israeli author Amos Oz for the counterpart to Britain's prestigious Booker Prize.

ii. Grossman's novel is about a failing standup comic and his final performance. The Award has a prize of 50,000 pounds (\$64,000) that is split evenly between Grossman and translator Jessica

Cohen.

Static Takeaways-

- Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize for her brilliant and poetic novel "The God of Small Things" in the year 1997 making her the first Indian to receive the prestigious award.
- The prize for 2016 Booker prize was awarded to 'The Vegetarian' by South Korea's Han Kang.

Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi conferred Bhupen Hazarika Award

i. The Fifth Bhupen Hazarika National Award, 2017 has been conferred to an eminent writer from Arunachal Pradesh Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi.

ii. The award consists of 51,000 rupees, a memento and a certificate.

iii. His most important novel is Mauna Onth Mukhar Hriday (Silent lips, murmuring hearts) which won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005.

Important Takeaways-

- PM Modi had recently inaugurated India's longest bridge in Assam, it has been named after Bhupen Hazarika.

Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute becomes first recipient of PM's yoga award

i. Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune has been selected as the first recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of Yoga. The Institute has worked to spread Yoga, internationally, over a period of four decades.

ii. The institution of the award was announced by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Second International Day of Yoga at Chandigarh in 2016

Important Takeaways-

- The institute was established on January 19, 1975.
- The Institute is dedicated to Smt. Ramamani Iyengar, the wife of Yogacharya B.K.S. Iyengar.

Indian agri microbiologist Shrihari Chandraghatgi given environment award in Japan

i. Indian agricultural microbiologist Shrihari Chandraghatgi has been conferred the Ministry of Environment Award for 2017 in Japan for developing cutting edge technologies to address burning environmental problems.

ii. Chandraghatgi, who is President and CEO of EcoCycle Corporation, is the first foreigner to be given the Ministry of Environment Award, the highest award in the environmental sector in Japan.

Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra to be honored by Queen Elizabeth II

i. Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra has been selected for prestigious Queen's Young Leaders Award with 60 others from all 53 Commonwealth countries.

ii. He will be honored by Queen Elizabeth II at a ceremony to be held in the Buckingham Palace, UK on June 29, 2017.

Important Takeaways-

- The Queen's Young Leader Award recognizes and celebrates exceptional people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth countries.

Manushi Chhillar from Haryana wins the title of Miss India 2017

i. The 54th Femina Miss India World 2017 winner is **Manushi Chhillar** from Haryana, while the first runner-up is Sana Dua from Jammu and Kashmir and the second runner-up is Priyanka Kumari from Bihar.

ii. The event was held at Yash Raj Studios in Mumbai. This is the first time the participants wore an Indian dress at the finale designed by Manish Malhotra. The show was hosted by Karan Johar and Riteish Deshmukh.

Important Takeaways from News-

- Reita Faria was the first Miss India ever to win any international beauty pageant.
- Miss World 2016 was Stephanie Del Valle.

Doon girl Bhumika Sharma wins Miss World title in bodybuilding championship

i. **Bhumika Sharma**, another Indian has become **Miss World in bodybuilding championship**.



ii. Dehradun's girl gained maximum points in three categories – individual posing, body posing and fall in that eventually bagged her the Miss World title and the gold medal at the world championship in Venice, Italy. The championship drew 50 competitors from different countries.

Sports

Real Madrid first to win back-to-back UEFA Champions League titles

i. Never in the history of the **UEFA Champions League** had a team won the title in consecutive seasons. That is until now —

Real Madrid has done it. Now, they stand alone as the only team in the history of the competition to win **back-to-back titles**.

ii. Unsurprisingly, it was **Cristiano Ronaldo** who found himself at the centre of attention in both wins.



B Sai Praneeth rallies to win Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold title

i. **B Sai Praneeth** has clinched the **Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold badminton title** by defeating **Indonesia's Jonatan Christie** in a closely-fought final in Bangkok.

ii. In April, the ward of national coach Pullela Gopichand had defeated Kidambi Srikanth in an all-Indian Singapore Open Grand Prix final to claim his maiden Grand Prix title.

Rohan Bopanna wins French Open mixed doubles title to clinch maiden Grand Slam

i. Indian tennis ace **Rohan Bopanna** and Canadian partner **Gabriela Dabrowski** produced a fighting performance to beat their German-Colombian opponents **Anna-Lena Groenefeld** and **Robert Farah** in the final to clinch their **maiden French Open mixed doubles title in Paris, France**



iii. Bopanna has become only the fourth Indian to win a Grand Slam crown, after **Leander Paes**, **Mahesh Bhupathi** and **Sania Mirza**.

Virat Kohli sole Indian in top 100 of Forbes list of world's highest paid athletes

i. Indian cricket team captain **Virat Kohli** is the sole sportsperson from the country to feature in the **world's 100 highest paid athletes in the latest Forbes list** topped by soccer star **Cristiano Ronaldo**.



ii. **Virat Kohli** has been ranked **89th** on the 2017 Forbes list of 'The World's highest paid athletes' with a total pay of \$ 22 million that includes \$ three million from salary and winnings and another 19 million from endorsements.

iii. Tennis star **Serena Williams** is at the 51 spot with \$ 27 million, the lone female athlete to make the cut this year.

Ramkumar Ramanathan lifts ITF men's Futures tennis title

i. **India's Ramkumar Ramanathan** lifted the **ITF (International Tennis Federation) men's Futures tennis title** after outplaying **Raymond Sarmiento** of the USA in straight sets in Singapore.



ii. The top-seeded Indian beat the second seeded player 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the event. It was the first title of the season for Ramkumar.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- ITF Futures Tennis Title was held in Singapore.

Muttiah Muralidaran becomes first Sri Lankan to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

i. **Muttiah Muralidaran**, the most successful bowler in Tests and One-Day Internationals, was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in London.

ii. The Sri Lankan spin great was honored during the innings break of the India versus Sri Lanka Champions Trophy match at The Oval.

iii. He became **the first player from Sri Lanka and the 83rd overall** to be inducted into the Hall of Fame when ICC CEO Dave Richardson presented him with a commemorative framed cap.

- There are four Indian Players in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame viz. Bishan Bedi, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, and Sunil Gavaskar.

IOC approves new events for 2020 Tokyo Game

i. The **International Olympic Committee** has approved new events for the **2020 Tokyo Games**, including a number of mixed gender competitions. The IOC's Executive Board made the decision at a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. The choices reflect the IOC's focus on gender equality and appeal to young people.

ii. The additions include a mixed team event for judo. Table Tennis will also get a mixed doubles competition. The event was featured in the recent world championships in Germany. Three-on-three basketball is an example of the IOC's focus on youth and urban sports.

The French Open 2017- Complete list of Winners

i. **The French open title 2017** was held recently from **22 May-11 June 2017 at Roland Garros in Paris, France**. Here is the complete list of all the winners in different categories of The French Open 2017.

1. **French Men's Singles Open Title- Spain's Rafael Nadal (10th French Title) defeated Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland).**
2. **French Women's Singles Open Title- Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko (1st Grand Slam Title) defeated Simona Halep (Rome).**
3. **French Men's Doubles Title- Michael Venus (New Zealand) and Ryan Harrison (USA) defeated Santiago Gonzalez and Donald Young.**
4. **French Women's Doubles Title- Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) and Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic) defeated Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua.**
5. **French Open Mixed Doubles title- Rohan Bopanna (India) and Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) defeated Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Robert Farah.**

Shashikant Kutwal wins gold at world chess championship for differently-abled

i. **Shashikant Kutwal** has won the gold medal at the **17th World Individual Chess Championship for differently-abled**.

ii. The World Chess Championship was held in Slovakia. Shashikant Kutwal is a railway employee with Pune Division.

Jitu Rai-Heena Sidhu clinch gold medal in ISSF World Cup

i. **India's Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu** combined to clinch the gold medal in mixed team 10m air pistol event of the ISSF World

Cup, beating Russia in the final in Gabala, Azerbaijan. France beat Iran by an identical score to win the bronze in the event.

ii. 430 athletes from 45 countries are competing for medals in the ongoing World Cup, which is the last chance for rifle and pistol shooters to qualify for the ISSF World Cup Finals.

Static Takeaways-

- The Capital of Azerbaijan is Baku.

Rafael Nadal rises to second in ATP world rankings

i. **Rafael Nadal's** magnificent run to a 10th French Open title has earned the Spaniard a move into second in the latest ATP world rankings.

ii. The Top three players in the list are- 1. Andy Murray, 2. Rafael Nadal, and 3. Stan Wawrinka.

Important Takeaways-

- ATP stands for Association of Tennis Professionals.

Lewis Hamilton wins Canadian GP for sixth time

i. **Lewis Hamilton** won the Canadian Grand Prix for the sixth time. He won against Sebastian Vettel's overall championship and lead to 12 points.

ii. It was Hamilton's third victory of the season and also his third in a row. It was the three-time champion's sixth victory at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. It was the 56th title of his career.

Static Takeaways-

- Lewis Hamilton races for the Mercedes.

Kidambi Srikanth lifts Indonesia Open

i. **India's Kidambi Srikanth** has lifted the Indonesia Open Super Series badminton title by defeating Japanese qualifier **Kazumasa Sakai** in straight games 21-11, 21-19 in the **Men's Singles final** at Jakarta, Indonesia.

ii. For World No.22 Srikanth, it is his third Super Series title. He had earlier won the 2014 China Open and 2015 India Open.

Indian Wushu Team bags six medals in BRICS Games

i. **India won six medals** in the **Wushu competition of the first ever BRICS Games**, which concluded in Guangzhou, China recently. The medals haul comprised two each in gold, silver, and bronze.

ii. It featured some 300 athletes from five countries- Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa (BRICS Nations) with 10 events in 3 sports – men's basketball, women's volleyball, and Wushu.

iii. China will host the 9th BRICS summit in September 2017.

Important Takeaways-

- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are the five-member Nations of BRICS.
- It was established in 2009.

Team India create world record for most 300-plus scores in ODIs

i. India became the team to score **the most 300-plus totals** in One Day International (ODI) Cricket. India did so when they scored a total of 310 for the loss of five wickets in the second ODI against West Indies.

ii. It was the **96th time** that India crossed the 300-run mark, surpassing Australia's 95.

iii. The other teams posted 300+ scores in ODIs as follows: Australia 95, South Africa 77, Pakistan 68, Sri Lanka 62, England 57 and New Zealand 51.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The International Cricket Council is the international governing body of cricket.
- Chairperson of ICC is Mr. Shashank Manohar.
- ICC Headquarters in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Ankush claims gold, Devendro gets silver at Mongolia boxing tournament

i. The fast-rising **Ankush Dahiya** (60kg) **clinched a gold** while the experienced L Devendro Singh (52kg) settled for a silver medal on the final day of the **Ulaanbaatar Cup boxing tournament in Mongolia**.

ii. The 19-year-old Ankush, who is a former Asian youth silver-medalist, defeated Korean Man Choe Chol in a split verdict, while Devendro lost to Indonesia's Aldoms Suguro, again a split decision. India thus signed off with a gold, a silver and three bronze medals from the tournament.

Anish Bhanwala set a junior world record at World Championship

i. **Haryana's Anish Bhanwala** gave a robust start for the Indian challenge by clinching the **25-metre** standard pistol gold with a world junior record in the Junior World Shooting Championship in **Suhl, Germany**.

ii. The 14-year-old Anish shot 579 to win the gold seven points ahead of **Florian Peter of Germany**. In the process, Anish also bettered the junior world record of 574 set by **Denis Koulakov of Russia in Lahti, Finland, in 2002**.



Kidambi Srikanth wins Australia Open Super Series

i. In Badminton, ace Indian shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** has lifted the **Australian Open Superseries trophy** in Sydney. In the summit clash, **11th world ranked Srikanth** stunned former world number one and Rio Olympics Gold medalist **Chen Long of China** in straight games, 22-20, 21-16.

ii. It was Srikanth's first victory over the Chinese in 6 matches.

iii. The trophy is Srikanth's second this season and fourth overall. He had won the **Indonesian Open** last week.

Srinivas Gokulnath becomes 1st Indian to finish solo Race Across America

i. **Srinivas Gokulnath** from Maharashtra created history by becoming the first Indian to complete the **4,941-km Race Across**

America (RAAM) in the solo category. Considered to be the toughest cycle race in the world, he cycled for 11 days, 18 hours and 45 minutes.

ii. In a feat that marks the Indian arrival on the endurance cycling scene globally, another Maharashtrian, **Dr. Amit Samarth** followed Gokulnath at the finish line at Annapolis on American east coast.

iii. Among the nine men who finished, **Gokulnath stood 7th** while **Samarth was right on his heels at number 8**. The race was won by Christoph Strasser.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Srinivas Gokulnath is Nashik's army doctor.
- Srinivas Gokulnath holds a national record of cycling 4,000km from Leh to Kanyakumari in 16 days in 2014.

ISSF Junior World Championship: India finish second in Junior Shooting World Championship

i. The Indian shooting squad has finished a creditable second at the **ISSF Junior World Championship with three gold, two silver and three bronze medals in Suhl, Germany**. India picked up a gold and silver in the team and individual sections of the 25m pistol junior men's event.

ii. **Anish Bhanwala won three medals**, one of each colour. On day one, Anish had claimed gold in the 25m standard pistol men's event. He also won another gold teaming with Anhad Jawanda and Shivam Shukla for the 25m pistol event.

iii. **China topped the tally** in the rifle/pistol tournament with 19 medals, including eight golds.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Full form of ISSF is International Shooting Sport Federation.
- Olegario Vazquez Rana is the President of ISSF.



Federer lifts ninth Halle Open title, defeated Alexander Zverev

i. **Swiss legend Roger Federer** has clinched his **ninth Halle Open title** after beating **Alexander Zverev** 6-1, 6-3 in the final. The top seed Roger Federer showed no mercy with fourth seed Alexander Zverev after wrapping up his ninth title in his 11th Halle final.

ii. The final took place at the Gerry Weber Stadion in **Halle, Germany**. The match was the quickest final in the history of the Halle Open.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Halle Open also called as the Gerry Weber Open, is a tennis tournament held in Halle, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

Obituaries

Eminent rights activist Mehrunnisa Dalwai passes away

i. **Mehrunnisa Dalwai**, a noted social activist and author, and the wife of one of modern Maharashtra's most remarkable and formidable social reformers, Hamid Dalwai, passed away. She was 87.

ii. Her autobiography, "**Mi Bharun Pawle**" is considered an inspirational piece for progressive movement.



Adam West, TV's Batman dies at 88

i. A well known **US actor**, **Adam West** died in Los Angeles. He was suffering to leukaemia for some time. He was 88. Adam West rose to prominence in the **1960s for a TV series Batman**. First appearing in season two in 2002, he voiced Quahog's eccentric Mayor Adam West, described by series creator Seth MacFarlane as an "alternate universe", satirised version of the actor.

Veteran Telugu Poet, Writer C Narayana Reddy Passes Away

i. Legendary Telugu poet and writer **C Narayana Reddy** passed away. He was 85. He was honored with Padma Shri in 1977 and Padma Bhushan in 1992 by the Government of India.

ii. He had received the Jnanpith Award for the year 1988. He was also the president of the Telangana Saraswatha Parishath. He was also a former Rajya Sabha MP.

Architect of Germany's re-unification, Helmut Kohl passes away

i. Former German Chancellor, **Helmut Kohl**, died at his house in **Ludwigshafen**, in the western state of Germany. He was 87. Mr. Kohl, who led the centre-right Christian Democrats, was the longest-serving German chancellor of the 20th Century. As Germany's leader for **16 years**, Kohl was remembered for reuniting the country and for making a huge political and economic contribution to Europe's integration. **ii.** Kohl was credited with bringing **East and West Germany** together after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Together with his French ally President Francois Mitterrand, he was responsible for the introduction of the Euro.

Former Chief Justice PN Bhagwati Passed Away

i. Former Chief Justice of India **PN Bhagwati**, considered a pioneer of judicial activism in the country for introducing the concept of **Public Interest Litigations (PILs)** was passed away in New Delhi after brief illness. **Justice**

Bhagwati, 95, is survived by his wife Prabhavati Bhagwati three daughters.

ii. The **17th Chief of India**, Justice



by his and

Justice

Bhagwati remained on the highest judicial post between July 1985 and December 1986. He also served as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in **July 1973**.

'Harry Potter' Actor Sam Beazley Dies At The Age Of 101

i. **Actor Sam Beazley**, who played Professor Everard in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, has passed away at the age of 101.

ii. Beazley began

his professional acting career as a teenager in 1930s and featured in films like Hamlet, and Romeo and Juliet.



Predhiman Krishan Kaw, father of India's nuclear fusion passes away

i. The father of India's nuclear fusion reactor research program, Padma Shri **Prof Predhiman Krishan Kaw**, passed away.

ii. He was the founder director of Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar.

Important Days with theme

World Milk Day: 1st June

i. **World Milk Day** is an initiative of the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation**, to celebrate the contribution of the dairy industry around the globe on **1st June**.

ii. The Day provides an opportunity to focus attention on milk and to publicize activities connected with milk and the milk industry. The first World Milk Day was held in 2001.



Static Takeaways-

- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) is an agency of the
- United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarter is in Rome, Italy.

World Environment Day: 5 June

i. **World Environment Day (WED)** is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action and takes place every on **5 June**. This year's host country is Canada.

ii. The theme for World Environment Day 2017 is "**Connecting People to Nature**".



World Oceans Day- 8 June

i. **World Oceans Day** is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. It is observed globally on 08th June.

ii. The overall theme for World Oceans Day 2017 is '**Our Oceans, Our Future**'.

World Refugee Day: 20 June

i. The **World Refugee Day** is observed across the world on **20 June** to commemorate the strength, courage, and perseverance of millions of refugees. The day is celebrated by United Nations.

**International Day of Yoga: 21 June**

i. The International Day of Yoga is celebrated across the world on **21 June**. It aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

ii. The theme for the 2017 celebration, organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, is '**Yoga for Health.**'

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: 26 June

i. By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe **26 June** as the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit**

ii. The theme for 2017 is- "**Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe.**"

**National Statistics Day: 29th June**

i. The National Statistics Day, celebrated every year on June 29 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned statistician Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis. ii. He was the first Indian statistician to receive world recognition.

NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY



Celebrating the vital role of statistics in national development

In 1933, he had founded the first Indian statistical journal Sankhya.

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