

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Consolidated Current Affairs – June 2017:

Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with mobile payments switch TerraPay to enable real-time money transfer to bank accounts in India. Powered by TerraPay's global clearing and settlement service, the partnership will make it faster and convenient for consumers to send money to any bank account.

RBI has placed Central Bank of India under prompt corrective action (PCA) which puts restricts on banking activities such as from lending, hiring and expanding branches. So far, RBI has triggered PCAs for four banks – IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.

RBI initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) on Bank of Maharashtra placing a restriction on the banking activities. This is the sixth bank to be placed under PCA by the RBI and of this five banks were placed under PCA in the last three months. RBI has initiated PCA on Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.

State Bank of India has entered into a tie-up with Tirumala Milk Products, a South- based company which was acquired by Groupe Lactalis in 2014, to provide loans to dairy farmers who supply milk to the latter.

IDBI Bank has started insolvency resolution process against Lanco Infratech Ltd. following a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This is the first resolution process initiated by the lenders against 12 large borrowers identified by the RBI recently.

Banks' credit growth was up 6.02% to Rs76,58,212 crore in the fortnight ended 9 June from Rs72,22,939 crore in the same period of fiscal 2016, according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Reserve Bank of India reconstituted the Oversight Committee by appointing three more members. The high-level panel was formed to examine the process to resolve mounting bad loans in the banking sector. According to the RBI former chief vigilance commissioner, Pradeep Kumar will head the now reconstituted 5-member panel. The other members of the committee are former SBI Chairman Janki Ballabh, former Canara Bank Chairman and MD MBN Rao, former Chairman of L&T Finance YM Deosthalee and S Raman, member SEBI.

The central bank has extended the scope of Banking Ombudsman Scheme. As per RBI, under the amended scheme, a customer would also be able to lodge a complaint against the bank for its non-adherence to RBI instructions with regard to mobile banking/ electronic banking services in India. As per the amendment, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman to pass an award has been doubled to 20 lakh rupees.

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. According to the Code Compliance Rating of banks done by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) 2017, only one (IDBI Bank) out of 26 public sector banks and eight out of 17 private sector banks got 'high' rating for their adherence to code compliance.

Canara Bank has inked pact with The New India Assurance Company Ltd. to sell policies through its branches.

SBI cut the interest rate on home loans above Rs 75 lakh by 10 basis points (bps) to 8.60 percent. For salaried women borrowers, the loans will be offered at 8.55 percent. According to SBI, the new rates will be effective from June 15. The home loan rates offered are lowest in the industry.

Indian Overseas Bank has launched the Retail Mart, a retail lending concept, in Kerala's capital city.

Axis Bank Ltd 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.

ADB & PNB signed a \$100 million loan to be guaranteed by the Govt. of India that will finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial & commercial buildings throughout India.

RBI has initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) for Dena Bank in view of high net non-performing assets & negative return on assets. Prompt Corrective Action is the action which will not have any material impact on the performance of the bank in fact it will contribute to improve the internal controls of the bank & improvement in its activities.

SBI & the World Bank announced that they had financed 100 MW of rooftop solar projects worth Rs400 crore in India.

Bank of India conducted a mass-contact programme, 'Star Mahotsav', across its branch network. The thrust was in contacting every customer at their doorstep for recovery of bad loans, disbursement of retail loan, including housing & vehicle loan, disbursement under MSME & agriculture, & promotion of its products including debit/credit cards, PoS machines, internet banking, etc.

On the basis of an assessment of the current & evolving macroeconomic situation at its meeting today, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to:
Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25 per cent.

Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.0 per cent, and
The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate & the Bank Rate at 6.50 per cent.

Vijaya Bank is going to develop as many as 100 digital villages in various States of the country as part of its initiative to promote digital banking among the rural population.

Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

The Minister of State for Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched a new training program 'Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training' (COMMIT) for State Government officials. The objective of this training program is to improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen-centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis. COMMIT will be launched in 6 States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal initially on the pilot basis during the current financial year 2017-18 and within next year it is expected to cover all India level.

MSME Minister Mr. Kalraj Mishra has launched the Digital MSME Scheme and also exchanged three MoUs with SAP India, Intel and HMT. United Nations has recently declared 27th June as the UN Day for MSMEs. It has been celebrated for recognizing the importance of the crucial role that the sector plays both in terms of job creation and contribution towards economic growth. The MSME has a total budget of Rs. 85.705 Crore including Government of India's contribution of Rs. 58.105 crore during 2017- 18 to 2019-20. International Trade Centre (ITC) has celebrated the first International MSME Day on June 27, 2017. The theme of MSME is Small business – big impact'.

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

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Intensified Diarrhea Control Fortnight (IDCF) in order to intensify efforts to reduce child deaths due to diarrhoea. It aims to create mass awareness about the most effective and low-cost diarrhoea treatment, a combination of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) solution and Zinc tablets.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated Know India Programme (KIP) for young overseas Indians. This programme is aimed at promoting awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields such as economic and education. It provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.

Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harshvardhan launched a Mobile App —Celebrating Yoga|| developed by Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi. The purpose of the App is to popularize Yoga and encourage people to participate in it for a scientifically healthy living.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines launched the Energy Conservation Building Code 2017 (ECBC 2017). Developed by Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), ECBC 2017 prescribes the energy performance standards for new commercial buildings to be constructed across India.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) 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. 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.

In order to ensure smooth GST implementation from 1st July, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a dedicated Webpage for facilitating taxpayers with regard to addressing issues related to Information Technology Services and Electronics goods.

The government of India has launched 'Tele Law' service to provide legal aid for the people living in rural areas through video conferencing.

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.

President Pranab Mukherjee launched the 'Selfie with Daughter' mobile application, aimed at raising awareness about female foeticide & sex selection. The aim is to motivate society to feel proud to be parents of a girl child, which, in turn, will result in improving child sex ratio.

Civil Aviation Ministry is adding a digital experience for Air travelers through 'DigiYatra' Platform in New Delhi. This initiative aims at bringing together entire industry to develop a digital ecosystem that will deliver customers a seamless & paperless service experience at every stage of journey.

Shri J P Nadda has launched 'Skill for Life, Save a Life' initiative to promote skill development in the health sector. The Initiative aims to upscale the quantity & quality of trained professionals in the healthcare system. Telangana Govt. has launched a digital wallet, named T- Wallet, which doesn't charge transaction fee from consumers. T-Wallet is bi-directional in nature. While consumers use it for public & private transactions, the Govt. can use it to make payments to various beneficiaries.

Telangana Govt. 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.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launched a web portal 'Mahaswayam' that will cater to job seekers, employers, entrepreneurs, & training institutes who can avail details regarding skill development & employment.

Minister for road transport & highways Nitin Gadkari has launched 'INAM PRO+'. It is an e-commerce platform for construction & infrastructure raw material for Govt. & private procurement.

CM of Karnataka Siddaramaiah has recently launched India's first public bicycle sharing (PBS) initiative 'Trin Trin' in Mysuru. The World Bank, Global Environmental Fund, & state govt have jointly funded the initiative. Mysuru is the first city in India to have a public bicycle sharing system.

TRAI launched three new apps to help customers rate quality of services, speed & performance. The three new apps are Mycall app, MySpeed app & 'Do not disturb (DND 2.0)' app. The MyCall app, is an Android application for crowdsourced voice call quality monitoring. MySpeed app will enable TRAI to obtain test-data from users in all service areas, without any action by the users. The DND service app will enable users to register their mobile number under DND to avoid unsolicited commercial communication/ telemarketing calls/SMS.

State News:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated various irrigation and water-related initiatives at Aji Dam in Rajkot, Gujarat including the filling of Aji dam with Narmada waters under Sauni Yojana.

Odisha is all set to become the first state in the country to have a blood bank for the cattle.

Uttar Pradesh Government signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a loan of 1950 crore rupees for strengthening of roads in different district. As per agreement, ADB will provide the loan amount for Uttar Pradesh Main District Roads Development Project of 2782 crore rupees cost. State government will spend 832 crore rupees from its own resources on the project. Project is scheduled to be completed by 2024 and ADB will provide the loan for the period of 25 years on the interest rate of 2 percent.

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.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochi Metro. He took a ride in the Metro from Palarivattom station to Pathadippalam station. 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.

Mizoram Health Minister Lal Thanzara has launched the 'Test and Treat Strategy' of the Mizoram state AIDS Control Society (MSACS) to improve treatment for HIV affected people in the state. Under the 'Test and Treat Strategy', the HIV-affected people would be given free Anti Retrovira Therapy (ART) irrespective of the CD4 count.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh announced the launch of —Hill Area Development Programme|| (HADP) for Northeast in Imphal, Manipur.

'Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh', a National Human Milk Bank & Lactation Counselling Centre was inaugurated at the Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) in New Delhi. The Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh will be the largest milk bank & lactation counseling center available in the North India. It is established in collaboration with the Norwegian Govt., Oslo University & Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).

Govt. of Tamil Nadu has signed MoU with the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for the implementation of the UDAN scheme in the state. Under the scheme, three of the tier- two industrial towns such as Hosur, Salem & Neyveli are to be developed in the first phase.

The Centre has approved the modifications to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill 2017 to pave way for organizing 'kambala'. The Bill proposes to exempt 'kambala' from the ambit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960.

NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital' with the State Govt.s. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education & health sectors. SATH programme will be implemented by NITI Aayog along with global consultancy McKinsey & Company & IPE Global consortium in the three selected States after the signing of MoUs.

Wedding ceremonies in Kerala are all set to become 'green', with the state Govt. coming out with a green protocol to make auspicious occasions more nature- friendly. With the implementation of the protocol, plastic & other non-biodegradable articles including disposable glasses & plates & thermocol decorations will be kept at bay from marriage functions.

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.

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.

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

Varanasi will get the country's first 'freight village' spread over around 100 acres. It will be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

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.

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. This is the first project for rural LED street lighting in the country under the Centre's Street Lighting National Project (SLNP).

New Appointments:

Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale was appointed as the economic relations secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment.

British Prime Minister Theresa May narrowly won the confidence vote in the parliament, winning her first major test as the Prime Minister of a minority government in the United Kingdom (UK). With this, May was finally confirmed as the British Prime Minister three weeks after the election.

Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. His appointment was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Government. He has replaced Rahul Prasad Bhatnagar.

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). He has replaced Shri Chetan Chauha.

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.

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis appointed Social Democrat Mihai Tudose as the Prime Minister and mandated him to form a new government. He has been appointed as Prime minister after the ruling Social Democrat Party (PSD) removed its own government following an internal power row.

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.

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). 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.

IDFC Ltd announced the elevation of its CFO Sunil Kakar as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from July 16 for three years. Mr. Kakar has also been appointed as additional director.

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. Ramanathan Ramanan, senior vice president at TCS, has been appointed as mission director of Atal Innovation Mission.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has appointed his son, Mohammed bin Salman, as heir, in a major reshuffle. The newly-announced crown prince was also named deputy prime minister and maintained his post as defense minister.

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. The appointment makes Muzoon the first person with official refugee status to become an Ambassador for UNICEF.

SEBI has given conditional approval for the appointment of Vikram Limaye as the MD & CEO of the NSE. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has appointed B K Manjunath as a part-time chairman for three years.

K G Karmakar & Gauri Shankar were appointed as Independent Directors of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for 3 years.

Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das announced his retirement as the Corporate Affairs Secretary. He will be succeeded by Tapan Ray, who will take the additional charges as the new Economic Affairs Secretary.

RBI appointed S. Ganesh Kumar as Executive Director. His appointment is consequent upon voluntary retirement of Chandan Sinha.

Manappuram Finance 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.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov of the Russian Federation as Under-Secretary-General of the

Miroslav Lajcak to be the next president of the 193- member powerful body.

Nirupama Rao appointed as the public policy fellow of Sino-India ties a top American think-tank.

Jet Airways has announced the appointment of Vinay Dube as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Shashi Shekar Vempati has been appointed as the CEO of Prasar Bharati. He will replace Rajeev Singh.

Amul Thapar, an Indian-American legal luminary, appointed as a judge on the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Donald Trump.

Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar is set to become the Republic of Ireland's next PM after winning the leadership of the Fine Gael party. He will become the first gay PM & will also be the country's youngest ever leader. He will succeed Enda Kenny.

Aleksandar Vucic has been sworn in as Serbia's new president, promising to work for peace & stability in the war-weary Balkans while strengthening the country's armed forces.

Veteran Nepalese politician Sher Bahadur Deuba was elected as Nepal's PM for the fourth time. Senior bureaucrat Hoshiar Singh has been appointed as Registrar of Copyrights.

Urban development secretary Rajiv Gauba will be the new home secretary after the completion of the tenure of Rajiv Mehraishi on August 30. Other important Appointments are as follows-

- i. Yudhvir Singh Malik- Secretary, Road Transport, and Highways.
- ii. Subhash C. Garg- Secretary of Economic Affairs.
- iii. Aruna Sundarajan- Telecommunications Secretary.
- iv. Avinash K. Srivastava- Consumer Affairs Secretary
- v. Rajiv Kapoor- Secretary, Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- vi. Sanjeevane Kuty- Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Defence Ministry.
- vii. Ajay Kumar Bhalla- Power Secretary.

Economy & Business Current Affairs:

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. It is the biggest fine the EU has ever imposed on a single company in an antitrust case.

World Bank has cleared a USD 250-million loan for making Indian youth more employable through reskilling, in a move that is seen to aid the Skill India Mission. Under the program, adults in 15-59 years of age, underemployed or unemployed, will get the skill training.

SpiceJet Ltd has become the world's best-performing airline stock—with \$26 billion in plane orders to boot. 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.

China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has approved USD 150 million equity investment loan to the India Infrastructure Fund. It is the bank's first such loan to fund private projects. The bank, in which India is a lead partner, has approved two loans and one equity investment totaling USD 324 million to support infrastructure projects in India, Georgia and Tajikistan.

The country's competition watchdog CCI imposed a penalty of Rs 87 crore on Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor India for anticompetitive conduct.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has now introduced —APY@eNPS|| which involves a complete digital enrolment process. 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.

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. The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) will be making the 74-year-old Bachchan brand ambassador for GST.

Online financial services marketplace BankBazaar has begun its operations in Malaysia to strengthen its presence in South East Asia.

Hike Messenger launched the new version of the app with a completely new interface and the addition of a mobile wallet, in partnership with YES Bank. With Unified Payments Interface support enabled in Hike 5.0, users can now do free and instant bank-to-bank transfers with their friends.

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.

Capital markets regulator, SEBI relaxed takeover norms for the acquisition of stressed assets of listed companies to help the government and the RBI in their efforts to tackle bad loans. The Important decisions are as follows:

1. Restructuring in stressed companies.
2. Resolution plans approved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
3. Extension of Lock-in-relaxation to Category II Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)
4. Consultation paper on Easing of access norms for investment by FPIs

World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a loan assistance of 44 million dollars for the Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project. The project aims at improving predictability and transparency in budget execution and efficiency in tax administration in Assam.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has signed an MoU with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to enable members of its housing scheme to avail subsidy and interest subvention under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Under the housing scheme, the EPFO allows its subscribers for withdrawing up to 90 per cent of their EPF accumulations to buy homes. Now, EPFO members can avail interest subsidy upto two lakh twenty thousand rupees in Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme through HUDCO and National Housing Bank for those members whose annual income is less than the amount specified in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. The council revised rates on 66 items such as pickles, sauces, fruit preserves, insulin, cashew nuts, insulin, school bags, coloring books, notebooks, printers, cutlery, agarbattis and cinema tickets, following representations from industry. Restaurants, manufacturers and traders having a turnover of up to Rs 75 lakh can avail of the composition scheme with lower rates of 5%, 2%, and 1%, respectively, with lower compliance, against Rs 50 lakh previously.

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.

The Govt. has set up 18 sectoral groups, comprising senior members from the Centre & the States, to ensure the smooth rollout of the Goods & Services Tax. The 18 groups pertain to sectors such as banking & insurance, textiles, exports, information technology, transport, & oil & gas.

Union Cabinet recently gave its nod for SEBI to enter into two separate MoU with securities market regulators of the European Union & Iran.

Union Cabinet approved the proposed MoU between Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) & Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) for export credit of USD 9 billion for infrastructural development in India & for the supply of goods & services as part of projects in third countries.

India's GDP grew 6.1 percent year-on-year during the January-March, 2017 period according to Govt. 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. The GDP growth rate for the full year (2016-17) came in at 7.1 percent in line.

Bharti Airtel has received approvals from SEBI, BSE & the National Stock Exchange of India for its proposed merger with Telenor India.

The GST (Goods & Services Tax) Council has cleared the pending rules, including transition provisions & returns, with all the States agreeing to the July 01st 2017 rollout of the tax. Transition rules have been cleared & everybody has agreed for a July 1 rollout," according to Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac. The GST Council last month fitted over 1,200 goods & 500 services in the tax brackets of 5, 12, 18 & 28 per cent.

Reliance Communications (RCom) Chairman Anil Ambani has announced that the merged entities of RCom & Airtel will be called Aircom. These merged entities are Reliance Communications & Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB).

TATA Projects has announced the launch of Green Thumb, an initiative to enhance the green cover. This new initiative of the infrastructure company coincides with World Environment Day (05th June).

NSE launched its international exchange in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). NSE IFSC Ltd, the global exchange is promoted by NSE.

The proposed merger between Aadhar Housing Finance & DHFL Vysya Housing Finance has hit the final lap with it got the nod from housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB).

Ransomware attacks have prompted Microsoft to sign an agreement to acquire Hexadite. This deal cost \$100 million.

Sports:

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. 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.

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. Anish Bhanwala won three medals, one of each colour. China topped the tally in the rifle/pistol tournament with 19 medals, including eight golds. Swiss legend Roger Federer has clinched his ninth Halle Open title after beating Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-3 in the final.

Srinivas Gokulnath from Maharashtra created history by becoming the first Indian to complete the 4,941-km Race Across America (RAAM) in solo category. Considered to be the toughest cycle race in the world, he cycled for 11 days, 18 hours and 45 minutes.

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

India became the team to score the most 300-plus totals in One Day wickets in the second ODI against West Indies. It was the 96th time that India crossed the 300-run mark, surpassing Australia's 95.

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.

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.

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.

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

Anil Kumble, the former Indian Captain, resigned from the post of Head Coach of the Indian Cricket team. His resignation came before the limited-overs tour of the West Indies team.

Shashikant Kutwal has won the gold medal at the 17th World Individual Chess Championship for differently-abled. The World Chess Championship was held in Slovakia.

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. 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.

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

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.

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.

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. The trophy is Srikanth's second this season and fourth overall. He had won the Indonesian Open 2017.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 & Referees Committee (URC).

Indian tennis ace Rohan Bopanna & Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski produced a fighting performance to beat their German-Colombian opponents Anna-Lena Groenefeld & Robert Farah in the final to clinch their maiden French Open mixed doubles title in Paris, France. Bopanna has become only the fourth Indian to win a Grand Slam crown, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi & Sania Mirza.

International Olympic Committee has approved new events for the 2020 Tokyo Games, including a number of mixed gender competitions. The additions include a mixed team event for judo. Table Tennis will also get a mixed doubles competition.

Michael Venus became New Zealand's first Grand Slam champion since 1974 when he partnered American Ryan Harrison to the French Open men's doubles title.

Jelena Ostapenko(Latvia) won her first Grand Slam title by beating Simona Halep 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in just under two hours in the women's final of the French Open 2017.

The French open title 2017 held at Roland Garros in Paris, France. The complete list of all the winners in different categories of The French Open 2017.

a) French Men's Singles Open Title- Spain's Rafael Nadal (10th French Title) defeated Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland).

b) French Women's Singles Open Title- Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko (1st Grand Slam Title) defeated Simona Halep (Rome).

c) French Men's Doubles Title- Michael Venus (New Zealand) and Ryan Harrison (USA) defeated Santiago Gonzalez and Donald Young.

d) French Women's Doubles Title- Bethanie Mattek- Sands (USA) and Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic) defeated Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua.

e) French Open Mixed Doubles title- Rohan Bopanna (India) and Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) defeated Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Robert Farah.

National & International Current Affairs:

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. In this, Facebook will activate a unique 'Register Now' button reminding all the eligible Indian users to enroll themselves as voters.

Equipped with multiple phone lines and computer systems and manned by tech-savvy youngsters, a —mini war room|| has been set up in the finance ministry to deal with crises related to the implementation of GST. The unit will act as a quick resource centre for central and state government officials to address their queries on the historic tax reform scheduled to be implemented from July 1. The action room will function from 8 am to 10 pm. It will provide prompt response to queries raised by states and central government officials.

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.

India has become the 71st country to ratify the United Nations International Convention on Road Transports, TIR. The Convention is a multilateral treaty to boost International Transport of Goods. TIR is managed and developed by IRU - the world road transport organization.

Centre has made it mandatory to quote the Aadhaar number for opening bank accounts and for transactions exceeding Rs.50,000. By the Finance Act, 2017, the Government had made it mandatory to seed PAN with Aadhaar and quote it in income-tax returns.

India ratified two key ILO conventions on child labor, according to a statement issued by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The government has set up a GST facilitation cell in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to facilitate the rollout of Goods and Services Tax. The cell is headed by Economic Advisor Sudhansu Sekhar Das. It will be the first point of contact for addressing any issue being faced by any sector related to the Department.

China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the membership of Argentina, Madagascar, and Tonga at its second annual meeting of Governors.

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.

India has contributed \$100,000 to a UN fund to help developing countries actively participate in the discussion of tax issues, becoming the first country to make the contribution. The UN Tax Trust Fund aims to support the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced a new oil and gas block licensing policy that is expected to open up 2.8 million square kilometers of sedimentary basins to exploration and production activities. The Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), a part of the government's Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), gives exploration companies the option to select the exploration blocks on their own, without having to wait for the formal bid round from the Government.

UN Security Council has unanimously approved a resolution sharply reducing the joint United Nations- African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's troubled Darfur region. The British-drafted resolution will reduce the number of peacekeepers by 44 per cent and international police by about 27 per cent in the Darfur mission.

China 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. The train's top speed is 70 kilometers per hour, and it can travel 25 kilometers in distance after just 10 minutes of charging.

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. The aim of the route is to create more opportunities and make Afghanistan an exporter country.

China has launched world's largest floating solar farm in Anhui province.

The World's smallest and cheapest private jet 'Vision Jet' was launched in the USA recently.

World Bank has approved financing worth more than 500 million dollars for Afghanistan to support a string of projects to boost the economy, help improve service delivery in five cities and support Afghan refugees sent back from Pakistan.

USA designated Pakistan-based Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin as a specially designated global terrorist.

The process for electing the 15th President of India will begin on June 14 with the Election Commission issuing the notification for the polls. The Presidential elections will take place on July 17. The Commission has set June 28 as the last date for filing nominations, while July 1 will be the last date for their withdrawal.

India signed the OECD multilateral convention that aims to check cross-border tax evasion by multinational companies. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley signed the multilateral convention in Paris, France to implement tax treaty-related measures to prevent base erosion & profit shifting.

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 Govt.-owned ports running on solar & wind energy. The Govt. plans to install almost 200 megawatt solar & wind power generation capacity at the ports by 2019.

India has signed a loan agreement of 36 million dollars with the World Bank for Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Programme. The project aims to improve the efficiency of public expenditure management & tax administration in Himachal Pradesh.

India & Russia have signed Saint Petersburg Declaration as a roadmap to enhance cooperation after the 18th annual bilateral summit.

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.

Montenegro has officially joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) & hence became the 29th member country of NATO.

Defence Current Affairs:

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. It is the newest and most advanced version of the world's most successful, combat-proven multi-role fighter.

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.

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

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. The surface- to-surface missile has a strike range of 350 km.

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.

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.

India continued to rise in the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings. In 2017 rankings released in Geneva (Switzerland), India improved its position from 66 to 60. The top three most innovative countries in the list are: 1. Switzerland 2. Sweden 3. Netherlands

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. Hong Kong (Central) became the world's highest-priced office market. 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. Luanda, the capital of Angola, was the costliest city, driven by cost of goods and security, followed by Hong Kong and Tokyo.

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.

India has ranked 137th out of 163 countries on Global Peace Index 2017 published by The Institute of Economics & Peace. Iceland has been named the world's most peaceful country while Syria named the least peaceful country.

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.

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 & a consumption boom as the key drivers. The GRDI was titled as 'The Age of Focus', ranks China in second place. 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. Virat Kohli has been ranked 89th on the 2017 Forbes list.

Important Days:

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

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed on 26 June. The theme for 2017 is- "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."

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 is celebrated across the world on 21 June. It aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. The theme for the 2017 celebration, organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, is 'Yoga for Health.'

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

World Environment Day is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action & takes place every on 5 June. This year's host country was Canada. The theme was "Connecting People to Nature".

World Oceans Day observed globally on 08th June. The overall theme was 'Our Oceans, Our Future'.

Agreements:

An agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 35 Million from World Bank for —Assam State Public Financial Institutional Reforms Project|| was signed. The program size is USD 44 million and the remaining(USD 11 million) amount will be funded out of State Budget. The program duration is 5 years. The objective of the project is to improve predictability and transparency in budget execution and efficiency in tax administration in Assam.

India and Portugal have signed eleven MOUs for cooperation in areas including double taxation avoidance, science and technology, trade and investment, nanotechnology, space research, administrative reforms and culture. 11 MoU's were exchanged out of which seven and there was the announcement of the launch of a joint science fund for which both India and Portugal will contribute Euros two million each. 5 of the MoU's were in the area of science and technology. One of the MoU's was signed for the creation of an India Portugal Space Alliance and for advancing collaborative research. These agreements will promote India's science and technology partnership with Portugal, towards the establishment of a unique Centre on the Azores Archipelago - the Atlantic International Research Centre.

A Protocol of Cooperation was signed between the National Archives of India and the Minister of Culture of the Portuguese Republic in the field of archives in Lisbon, Portugal. As a first step under this agreement, the Torre do Tombo (National Archives of Portugal) handed over to the National Archives of India digital copies of 62 volumes of the collection known as 'Moncoes do Reino' (Monsoon correspondence).

India and Russia have agreed to a roadmap for the development of bilateral defense cooperation. The roadmap includes specific activities to be concluded by both sides, and aims to enhance cooperation in the field of political and military dialogue, exercises, exchange of visits, military cooperation and training of military personnel.

India and Russia have identified key areas to bolster cooperation in the science and technology sector, including space and marine technologies, IT and deep ocean engineering. These were chosen at the first meeting of India-Russia Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. Also, Inspired by India's 'Make in India' initiative, Moscow has launched a - Do It In Russia initiative to promote local manufacturing and technology development.

Aiming to reduce emissions & promote sustainability to help India's smart city programme, France & the European Union have extended a grant of 3.5 million euros under the 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) initiative. Three Indian cities- Nagpur, Kochi & Ahmedabad will get the grant.

Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL) has partnered with Google to display its services in Google Maps application.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) & Bird Academy have signed an MoU to skill more than 30 thousand unemployed youth from across states in the aviation & aerospace sectors.

India signed an agreement to provide fresh assistance of 318 million US Dollar credit line to Sri Lanka for the development of the railway sector in the country.

EMV contactless specification on interoperable open standards.
The Cabinet recently approved:

Amendment of the Bilateral Social Security Agreement (SSA) between India and the Netherlands by incorporating the —Country of Residence|| Principle into the said SSA.

MoU between Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources management.

Awards & Recognition:

Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej and Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveries have been awarded the Global Leadership Awards of the US-India Business Council for their role in integrating India in the global supply chain.

City-based astrologer and numerologist T S Vineeth Bhatt has been conferred with the 'Best astrologer of the world' award at the 'Russian-Indian economic dialogue' round-table meet held in Moscow.

Uttarakhand was conferred with the award of excellence at the 2nd Global Skill Development Summit held in Paris recently for innovations and extensive use of IT for skilling the state's youth.

Aamir Khan starrer Dangal has become the first Indian movie to earn Rs. 2,000 crore worldwide. Recently, Dangal also created the record of being the fifth highest-grossing non-English film ever.

Israeli author David Grossman has won the Man Booker International Prize 2017 for his novel 'A Horse Walks Into a Bar'.

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

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.

Sachin Tendulkar's mother-in-law and social activist Annabel Mehta, a British national, has been awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for her work and service to the underprivileged.

At the SKYTRAX 2017 World Airline Awards, Qatar Airways was voted as the Best Airline by travelers across the world in the annual passenger survey. 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. 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.

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.

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

West Bengal Government's Kanyashree Prakalpa was awarded the first prize in United Nations Public Service Award for Asia Pacific. 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.

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).

National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC), has received Asia Pacific Quality Network Award 2017 for International Co-operation in Quality Assurance.

Defence public sector BEML Ltd has bagged the Raksha Mantri's Award for Excellence for design & development of 180-tonne electric hydraulic excavator BE1800E.

Thespian Bengali actor, Soumitra Chatterjee has been conferred with the France's highest civilian honour, the coveted Legion of Honour.

Summits/Events Held:

The 6th India - Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting co-chaired by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Commerce & Industry from India and Dr. Than Myint, Union Commerce Minister from Myanmar held in New Delhi. It plays a key role in facilitating issues related to the enhancement of the bilateral economic partnership between the two countries.

The second annual meeting of the AIIB held in South Korea's Jeju Island. The theme of this year's annual meeting was —Sustainable Infrastructure|. During this second annual meeting of governors, AIIB approved the membership of Argentina, Madagascar, and Tonga.

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.

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.

Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal addressed a Joint Press Conference with the organizers of ANUGA - an international business platform for Food Industry to be held in Cologne, Germany.

In Odisha, the most awaited biggest annual festival of Rath Yatra or Chariot Festival at Puri commenced. This is one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals of the country as well as the whole world.

India & Pakistan became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the first-ever expansion of the China-dominated security grouping after 2001. With the inclusion of India & Pakistan, SCO now represents over 40% of world population & nearly 20% of the global GDP. 2017 SCO summit was based on the theme "Future Energy".

70th World Health Assembly was held recently in Geneva, Switzerland. In the meeting member nations agreed to increase their assessed contributions by 3 percent.

To emphasize the importance of financial literacy, the Reserve Bank of India is observing June 5-9, 2017 as Financial Literacy Week across the country. The Week will focus on four broad themes, viz. Know Your Customer (KYC), Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redress & Going Digital.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a two-day national level conference on "Capacity Building of SDRF-2017" in New Delhi.

The second National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga has begun in New Delhi. The theme of the conference is 'Yoga for Health & Harmony'.

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu 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

Miscellaneous

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

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

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.

Venkaiah Naidu has launched the book which titled 'The Emergency - Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour'. A book is written by Surya Prakash who is a chairman of Prasar Bharati.

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.

Katy Perry became the first person to reach 100 million followers on Twitter, making her the most-followed person on the platform, Twitter reports. Katy Perry is an American singer-songwriter.

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.

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. 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.

The book —Indira Gandhi – A life in Nature||, was launched by Congress president Sonia Gandhi at the Indira Gandhi Memorial. The book was authored by Former Union minister Jairam Ramesh.

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriya 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.

Former German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, died at his house in Ludwigshafen, in the western state of Germany. He was 87.

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.

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

Desh Bandhu Gupta, Founder and Chairman of Pharma major Lupin, passed away recently in Mumbai. He was 79.

The father of India's nuclear fusion reactor research program, Padma Shri Prof Predhiman Krishan Kaw, passed away. He was the founder director of Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar.

The president of Vanuatu, Womtelo Reverend Baldwin Lonsdale, has died suddenly at the age of 67. Legendary Telugu poet and writer C Narayana Reddy passed away. He was 85.

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.

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated a grid-connected solar power plant of 16 MW capacity at the Ordinance Factory in Telangana's Medak district. It is set up by Bharat Electronics Limited.

Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN) under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, has initiated a Yoga Awareness Drive through Mascots & Flash Mobs (YogMob) to increase the popularity of Yoga, especially among the youth. The campaign is underway at Delhi NCR, Haryana & Lucknow.

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

SEBI has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank to help improve the standards of corporate governance of listed companies in India.

The book "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" has been authored by Arundhati Roy, was released recently.

University Grants Commission (UGC) & All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) will soon be a thing of the past as the PM Narendra Modi-led Govt. at the Centre is planning to replace the two education regulators with a new Higher Education Regulator. 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.

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

A well known US actor, Adam West died in Los Angeles.

Science & Tech:

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-17 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. This was third satellite launch by ISRO after GSLV MkIII and PSLV C-38 missions.

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.

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. The co-passenger satellites comprise 29 nano satellites from 14 countries - Austria, Belgium, Britain, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and the US as well as one Indian nanosatellite.

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. from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gobi desert.

Japan launched a satellite to help build a high-precision geolocation system that will complement the US-operated GPS. A 'H-IIA' rocket blasted off from the Tanegashima space center in southern Japan carrying the 'Michibiki' No.2 satellite.

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 & to deep space. 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.

Static GK Takeaways from 1st to 30th June:

The Capital of Gujarat is Gandhinagar. Mr. O.P. Kohli is the governor of Gujarat.

Mr. Ram Naik is the Governor of UP. Dudhwa National Park is in UP famous for Tigers.

Krishna Kant Paul is the present Governor of Uttarakhand. Trivendra Singh Rawat is the newly elected CM of Uttarakhand.

Dr. K Sivan is the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. The capital of French Guiana is Cayenne.

The President of the World Bank is Mr. Jim Yong Kim. It was founded in 1944. Its Headquarters in Washington DC, USA. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is the full form of IBRD.

The Full form of UNESCO is United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France

Naypyidaw is the Capital of Myanmar.

Naveen Patnaik is the CM of Odisha. Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir is the governor of Odisha.

Dr. Nasim Zaidi is the Chief Election Commissioner of ECI.

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

Full form of ISSF is International Shooting Sport Federation. Olegario Vazquez Rana is the President of ISSF. ISSF Junior World Championship 2017 was held in Germany. China topped with total 19 Medals and India was second with total 8 Medals.

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.

Takehiko Nakao is the current President of ADB. ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines.

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

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

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

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. Ulaanbaatar is the Capital of Mongolia. Its currency is Mongolian togrog.

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

Nitesh Tiwari is the Director of Dangal.

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

Jagat Prakash Nadda is the Ministers of Health and Family Welfare of India.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) headquarters in Beijing, China.

Mr. Rana Kapoor is the Managing Director & CEO of YES Bank. Yes Bank is Headquartered in Mumbai.

Shri. Rajeev Rishi is the Chairman & Managing Director of Central Bank of India. CBI is Headquartered in Mumbai.

The capital of China is Beijing and its Currency is Renminbi. The President of China is Xi Jinping.

The Hamburg (Germany)-based ITLOS was established in 1996.

Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Shri Narendra Modi. Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Dr. Arvind Panagariya. 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.

Chairperson of Competition Commission of India. The Head Office of CCI is in New Delhi.

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 President of AIIB.

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.

R. P. Marathe is the Managing Director & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra. The Head Office of BoM is in Pune, Maharashtra.

The total customer base of SBI reaches 37 crores with a branch network of around 24,000 and nearly 59,000 ATMs across the country.

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

Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia. Joko Widodo is the President of Indonesia.

Kabul is the Capital of Afghanistan. Ashraf Ghani is the Present President of Afghanistan.

TATA Advanced Systems is the defense arm of TATA.

S Ramadorai is the Chairman of TATA Advanced Systems.

ISRO was founded in 1969. A S Kiran Kumar is the present chairman of ISRO.

Co-founder and CEO of BankBazaar.com is Adhil Shetty. The Capital of Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur. The Currency of Malaysia is Malaysian ringgit.

IRU was founded in 1948 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Headquarters of IDBI bank is in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Industrial Development Bank of India is the full form of IDBI.

CEO of IDBI Bank is Mahesh Kumar Jain.

Shri. VP Singh Badnore is the governor of Punjab. Takhni-Rehmapur Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Punjab.

UIDAI was established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Mukul Sangma is the present CM of Meghalaya.

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.

Banwarilal Purohit is the Governor of Meghalaya. Kavin Bharti Mittal is the founder and CEO of Hike Messenger.

Shripad Yasso Naik is the Minister of AYUSH.

Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia. Saudi riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

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

Mr. Raghvendra Singh is the Secretary to the Government of India and Director General of the National Archives of India. Nandini Singla is the Ambassador of India to Portugal.

Shri Rajiv Gauba is the Chairman of KMRL.

The Capital of Vanuatu is Port Vila. Its Currency is Vanuatu Vatu.

Sikkim was the first ODF state of the country. Bannerghatta National Park is situated in Bengaluru. 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 President of Mauritius is Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius.

Keibul Lamjao National Park is situated in Manipur. Nongthombam Biren Singh is the newly selected CM of Manipur.

Managing Director of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd is Satish Kumar.

The Capital of Georgia is Tbilisi. Its Currency is Georgian lari.

Qinghai Lake is the largest Lake in China.

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

The Capital of Azerbaijan is Baku. The Currency of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijani manat.

Chris Kermode is the Executive Chairman & President of ATP.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was Launched on October 2, 1975, by Government of India. Its Objective is to provide food, organization preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers. CRY is an organization working to restore child rights in India.

Khangchendzonga National Park is situated in Sikkim. Rangit Dam is a famous Dam in Sikkim.

G7 members include US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. Canada will hold the G7 presidency in 2018. Rome is the Capital of Italy. Paolo Gentiloni is the Prime Minister of Italy.

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

K. Chandrashekar Rao is the CM of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Telangana.

ILO Director-General is Guy Ryder. The ILO was created in 1919. ILO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dublin is the capital of Ireland and its currency is Euro. ANUGA is Allgemeine Nahrungs Und Genußmittel Ausstellung (General Food and Non essential

Provisions Exhibition) is the world's biggest and most important trade fair for Food and beverage trade. Copenhagen is the Capital of Denmark. Brussels is the Capital of Belgium.

Jim Yong Kim is the President of World Bank and its headquarters is in Washington, D.C, USA. Kabul is the Capital of Afghanistan.

The Chairman of BCSBI is A C Mahajan. The Headquarter of IDBI Bank is in Mumbai. CEO of IDBI bank is Mahesh Kumar Jain.

Canberra is the Capital of Australia and its currency is Australian dollar. Malcolm Turnbull is the present PM of Australia.

The Chairman of DRDO is Dr. S Christopher.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa is present president of Portugal. Antonia Costa is present Prime Minister of Portugal. United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation Headquarter is in Rome, Italy.

PM of Spain is Mariano Rajoy & its Capital & Currency is Madrid & Euro.

The currency of Switzerland is Swiss Franc. Doris Leuthard has been elected to the Swiss presidency for 2017. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the newly appointed Director-General of World Health Organization.

Hansraj Gangaram Ahir the Union minister of state for home affairs. Amulya Patnaik is the current Commissioner of Police, Delhi.

KBR National Park & Mrugavani National Park are located in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Sunil Mehta is a New MD & CEO of PNB.

ADB President is Takehiko Nakao & its headquarter is in Phillippines.

Jim Yong Kim is the President of World Bank & its Mr. Thomas Weikert of Germany is the President of ITTF headquarter is in Washington, D.C, USA World Bank was founded in 1944.

Few major Govt. Ports are Listed Below:

1. Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
2. Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Kochi Port, Kerala.
4. New Mangalore Port, Karnataka.
5. Mundra Port, Gujarat.
6. Kandla Port, Gujarat.

7. Port of Quilon - The oldest & second largest port in

Executive Commission. Headquarter of ITTF is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Saurabh Kumar is the Managing Director, EESL. Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve is located in Telangana. K. Chandrashekar Rao is the CM of Telangana & governor is E S L Narasimhan.

Gandaki River is Situated in Nepal. Sher Bahadur Deuba is the newly appointed PM of Nepal. Xi Jinping is the present President of China.

The Capital of Montenegro is Podgorica & its Currency is Euro. The Current President of Montenegro is Filip Vujanovic. The Current PM of Montenegro is Dusko Markovic. Secretary-General of NATO is Jens Stoltenberg. NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is the present Governor of Karnataka. Kempegowda International Airport is located in Karnataka. Magod Falls are situated in Karnataka. R.S.Sharma is the present Chairman of TRAI. Head Office of TRAI is in New Delhi.

Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is the capital of Sri Lanka. PM of Sri Lanka is Ranil Wickramasinghe.

University Grants Commission (UGC) of India The NAAC was established in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore.

PM of Japan is Shinzo Abe. The Capital of Japan is Tokyo & its Currency is Yen.

Simlipal National Park is situated in Odisha

Dinabandhu Mohapatra is a CEO & MD of Bank of India. Bank of India headquarters is in Mumbai.

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

Irish Capital is Dublin & Currency is Euro.

Serbia Capital is Belgrade & its Currency is Serbian Dinar. List of five important National Parks & WLS in Odisha

1. Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Hadahgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Nandankanan Zoological Park
5. Simlipal National Park.

Aadhar Housing Finance Chief Executive Officer is Deo Shankar Tripathi. The Govt. has initiated a plan "Housing for All by 2022" with the focus to build affordable dwelling units for the lower-income group & wage earners.

National Housing Bank is wholly owned by Reserve Bank of India. The Head Office of NHB is at New Delhi. Kambala is the traditional slush track buffalo race in Karnataka. Shri Siddaramaiah is the CM of Karnataka. Governor of Karnataka is Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala.

SEBI was established on April 12, 1992, in accordance with the provisions of the Securities & Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. Ajay Tyagi has been appointed as the chairman of SEBI in February 2017.

The Currency of Kazakhstan is Kazakhstani tenge . The Capital of Kazakhstan is Astana. Bakytzhan Sagintayev is the PM of Kazakhstan.

Mahendra Bank is Headquartered in Mumbai & it was founded in 2003.

Coringa National Park is situated in Andhra Pradesh.

Pinarayi Vijayan is the present CM of Kerala.

Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Head Office of NDRF is in New Delhi.

Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem (Tiger Reserve) is in AP.

Bangkok is the Capital city of Thailand. Currency of Thailand is Thai baht.

Emmanuel Macron is present President of France. PM of France is Edouard Philippe.

PM Modi's Visit to other Nations:

PM Modi in Portugal-

The Journey of PM started on 24th June. In the first leg of his tour, he reached Portuguese capital, Lisbon. Over there, India and Portugal have signed eleven MOUs for cooperation in areas including double taxation avoidance, science and technology, trade and investment, nanotechnology, space research, administrative reforms and culture.

So the visit of Portugal was more oriented and focused towards development in the areas of Space, Science and Technology.

About Portugal-

Lisbon is the capital of Portugal. The Prime Minister of Portugal is Antonio Costa. The currency of Portugal is Euro.

PM Modi in USA-

In the second leg of his three-nation tour PM arrived in US capital Washington D.C. India and the United States agreed to enhance cooperation in fighting the menace of terrorism, extremism and radicalisation. According to the PM, the two countries will enhance intelligence exchange in respect of terrorist organizations. So the PM visit to the USA was more focused towards combating Terrorism.

About The USA-

Washington D.C. is the Capital of USA. Mr. Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA. The Currency of the USA is American Dollar.

PM Modi in The Netherlands-

In the final leg of his three-nation tour, PM Modi arrived in Amsterdam, the capital of Netherlands, after concluding his visit to the US. PM Modi described the Netherlands as India's "natural partner" in its economic development. India and Netherlands also signed three MOUs on water management, cultural cooperation and on amending social security arrangement. Mr. Modi also interacted with the CEOs of Dutch companies inviting them to utilize the vast opportunities provided by his 'Make in India' initiative. So the visit in the Netherland was broadly focused on the Environmental and Economic Development of the Nation. About the Netherlands-

The Capital of Netherland is Amsterdam. Mr. Mark Rutte is the Prime Minister of the Netherlands. The Currency of Netherland is Euro.

