

12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017: Current Affairs Tonic

**Banking Current Affairs**

- ✦ 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.



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**Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched**

- ✦ 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.

## State in News

- ✦ 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.

- ✦ Punjab Government 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. 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.
- ✦ Meghalaya government has signed two MoUs with the State Bank of India as a part of an initiative towards migrating government transactions to digital mode. With the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax(GST), these MoUs are expected to give dealers and other citizens the desired platform for conducting financial transactions with the state government on a digital platform.
- ✦ Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh 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.
- ✦ 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. These two states joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala.
- ✦ Bengaluru has become the country's first city where one can have fuel delivered at one's doorstep, just like milk and newspapers. Mypetrolpump, a one-year-old startup, conducted a soft launch with three delivery vehicles -each with a capacity of 950 liters.
- ✦ The state government approved 53 urban projects with a total investment of Rs 538 crore under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The scheme aimed at strengthening drinking water distribution network, development of sewerage system, storm water management, up-gradation of city transport system and development of amusement parks. Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Berhampur, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Balasore, Bhadrak and Baripada are the nine places where the scheme is being implemented with fund sharing patten of 50:50 between the Centre and state government.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of 2,50,672 children engaged in labor.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Telangana government has launched a website to facilitate the online sale or purchase of cattle through pashubazar.telangana.gov.in website will help farmers as the cattle need not be brought to shandies every time and farmers can save on transportation cost on cattle.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind has resigned from his gubernatorial post. The resignation follows his nomination as the ruling NDA's presidential candidate.
- ✦ Ayurveda physician ‘Vaidya’ Rajesh Kotecha has been appointed as special secretary in Ayush Ministry. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Kotecha's appointment for three years on a contract basis, according to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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 newly created United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office.
- ✦ Leo Varadkar, a 38-year-old Indian-origin doctor, scripted history by becoming Ireland's youngest and the first openly gay Prime Minister of the Catholic-majority country.
- ✦ Gaitri Issar Kumar was named as India's Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union & Reenat Sandhu was named as India's new Ambassador to Italy. Ajit Vinayak Gupte named as India's Ambassador to Denmark.



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### **New Appointments**

- ✦ 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.

- ✦ Urban development secretary Rajiv Gauba will be the new home secretary after the completion of the tenure of Rajiv Mehrishi 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**

- ✦ 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.

## Sports

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.



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## National & International Current Affairs

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

## 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.

## Ranks/ Indexes Released

- ✦ 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.

## Important Days

- ✦ 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.'

## Agreement Signed

- ✦ 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).
- ✦ IDBI Federal Life Insurance today said it has partnered with SunTec, which will help facilitate in computing and invoicing of debit tax and credit tax that will be GST compliant.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Axis 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. Axis Bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in developing this transit 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.

- ✦ Constitution of Indian Naval Material Management Service (INMMS) as an Organized Group 'A' Engineering Service.
- ✦ MoU on cooperation in the textiles, clothing and fashion sectors between India and Australia
- ✦ MoU on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space between India and Armenia.
- ✦ MoU for cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy between India and Sri Lanka.
- ✦ 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 Mauritius have signed an MoU to institutionalize cooperation between Parliaments of the two countries.

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- ✦ Human Resource Development department of Sikkim government signed an MoU with the British Council to enhance the quality of education in the state. The 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.
- ✦ Ex-post facto approval to the MoU between Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture in the State of Palestine on agriculture cooperation.

- ✦ The proposal to introduce a Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017: The Bill would provide for a comprehensive resolution framework for specified financial sector entities to deal with bankruptcy situation in banks, insurance companies, and financial sector entities.
- ✦ The signing of MoU between India and Armenia on cooperation on youth matters
- ✦ The signing of MoU between India and Bangladesh for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics.

### Awards & Recognition

- ✦ 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).

### Visits

- ✦ The Union Minister of Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley was on a four-day official visit (14th to 17th June) to Republic of Korea (ROK) and participated in the India-Korea Strategic Economic Dialogue and the 2nd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Key Points of the visit are-
  - a) 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.
  - b) The two countries have signed agreements to establish 9 billion US dollar in concessional credit and 1 billion dollars in Official Development Assistant, ODA funding for infrastructure development projects in India. With this, Republic of Korea became one of the first non-G-7 countries to become an ODA contributor in India.
  - c) India-Korea Financial Dialogue in Seoul.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi 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.



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## Summits/Events Held

- ✦ 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.

## Miscellaneous

- ✦ 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 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.



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## Science & Tech.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

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**Static Take Aways from 12th to 25th June 2017 Current Affairs**

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. Pusapati 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.
- ✦ Mukul Sangma is the present CM of Meghalaya. 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.
- ✦ UNICEF Headquarters in New York City, USA. It was founded in 1946.
- ✦ 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.



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