



## JUNE 2016 GA REFRESHER

### RBI

RBI RATES & RATIOS	
Policy Repo Rate:	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate:	6.0%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate:	7.0%
Bank Rate:	7.0%
CRR :	4%
SLR :	21.25%

**1. Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17:** The Reserve Bank of India has left the key interest rate or the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in the second bi-monthly review of its monetary policy on June 07. RBI indicated that the risks to inflation were on the upside. "The inflation surprise in April reading makes the future trajectory of inflation somewhat more uncertain", RBI said.

The central bank had lowered rate by 25 bps to 6.5 per cent in the last policy review in April. RBI has reduced the repo rate by 150 bps since January 2015.

#### Monetary and Liquidity Measures

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, it has been decided to:

- keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.5 per cent;
- keep the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL); and
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF will remain unchanged at 6.0 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 7.0 per cent.

#### 2. RBI introduces Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines called Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A).
- The main aim of these guidelines is to strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets and put real assets back on track of entities facing genuine difficulties by providing an avenue for reworking financial structure.
- The RBI has formulated the S4A as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts.
- The S4A envisages determination of sustainable debt level of a stressed borrower and bifurcate outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments.

### ECONOMY

#### 1. Four month window to disclose black money opens today

- The Income Declaration Scheme, seeking to provide an opportunity to all persons who have not declared their income correctly in previous years to come forward and declare undisclosed incomes, will open on June 1st and will remain in force till 30th of September.
- According to reports, the four month disclosure window will provide an opportunity to domestic black money holders to come clean by paying tax and penalty of 45 per cent on undisclosed assets.
- People who have made money through corrupt means will not be allowed to take advantage of this scheme.
- Under the scheme, persons making disclosure of unaccounted assets will be given time up to 30th of November to pay taxes, penalty and surcharge totalling 45 per cent at the fair market value.

#### 2. BRICS bank to issue first yuan denominated bonds



- The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries is set to issue its first yuan-denominated bonds with plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee.
- The Shanghai-based bank founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and headed by eminent Indian banker M V Kamath plans to finance sustainable development projects in the emerging markets and developing countries.
- The bank's first five-year yuan-denominated bonds, also referred as green bonds, will be issued after receiving a rating from international ratings agencies as well as getting authorities' approval.
- The New Development Bank is established with initial subscribed capital of USD 50 billion with total paid-in capital of USD 10 billion. The founding members of the NDB have already brought in capital of USD one billion as initial contribution.
- The bank announced its first batch of loans on April 16, providing USD 300 million to Brazil, USD 81 million to China, USD 250 million to India and USD 180 million to South Africa.

### **3. Cabinet clears India Post's payments bank proposal**

- The Government cleared proposal to set up India Post payments bank with a corpus of Rs. 800 crore and has plans to have 650 branches operational by September 2017.
- Total architecture of postal payments bank is of Rs. 800 crore which will have Rs. 400 crore equity and Rs.400 crore grant.

### **4. No TDS for PF withdrawals of up to Rs 50,000 from June 1**

- No tax would be deducted at source for PF withdrawals of up to Rs 50,000 from June 1.
- The government has notified raising the threshold limit of PF withdrawal for deduction of tax ( TDS ) from existing Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000
- The Finance Act , 2016 has amended section 192A of Income Tax Act, 1961 to raise the threshold limit of PF withdrawal from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 for Tax Deducted at Source (TDS).
- However, in case Form 15G or 15H is submitted by the member, then TDS is not deducted.
- While Form 15H is submitted by senior citizens (above 60 years of age), Form 15G is submitted by claimants below the age of 60 years.
- Also, no tax is deducted if employee withdraws PF after a period of five years.

### **5. GIFT's IFSC inks pact with Singapore International Arbitration Centre**

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd (GIFTCL) and GIFT SEZ Ltd (GIFT SEZ) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).
- Under the MOA, GIFTCL, GIFT SEZ and SIAC will collaborate to promote the use of arbitration, mediation, and other dispute resolution mechanisms.

### **6. ADB, India ink \$200 million loan agreement for Jharkhand roads**

- The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked an agreement for a \$200 million loan to upgrade 176-km roads in Jharkhand.
- The financing for the Jharkhand State Roads II Project will help upgrade the existing sections of four state roads and also support improvements in the design, safety and maintenance of the road network.

### **7. India, ADB ink \$120 million loan agreement for irrigation in Odisha**

- India has signed loan agreement of US 12 crore dollars with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha.
- The soft loan is the second tranche of a 157.5 million dollars financing facility under the Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Program.
- The programme aims to improve existing irrigation infrastructure, maintenance and operation and water use efficiency that will lead to higher agricultural productivity.

### **8. ADB approves \$100 mn loan for irrigation system in TN**

- Multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank said it has approved a USD 100 million (around Rs. 660 crore) loan to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu.

### **9. SBI, ICICI Bank chief in Forbes' new list**

- Four Indian women, including SBI Managing director Arundhati Bhattacharya (25th) and ICICI Bank Managing director Chanda Kochhar (40th), are in the new list of Forbes' world's 100 most powerful women who are building billion-dollar brands and calling the shots in the financial markets.



- The Forbes '100 Most Powerful Women' in the world list 2016, topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, includes PepsiCo Chief Indra Nooyi (14th), Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and HT Media head Shobhana Bhartia.
- Forbes said this year's most powerful women are the "smartest and toughest female business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, philanthropists and CEOs making their mark in the world."
- The list also includes Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on the second spot, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen (3), Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg (7), US First Lady Michelle Obama (13), Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (26), Queen Elizabeth II (29), Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (36), Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari (52) and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova (89).

#### 10. 1.5 Billion IMF Loan to Sri Lanka

- The International Monetary Fund has approved a \$1.5 billion loan to Sri Lanka, with \$168 million being disbursed as the first tranche with immediate effect to support the country's economy, which is showing "signs of strain".
- The Executive Board of the IMF approved a 36-month extended arrangement under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with Sri Lanka for an amount equivalent to 1.1 billion special drawing rights (about \$1.5 billion).
- It enables an immediate disbursement of about \$168.1 million while the remainder will be available in six instalments subject to quarterly reviews.

#### 11. Sebi to e-sell Sahara properties for Rs 1,900 cr

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will sell 16 land parcels of the Sahara Group to recover dues through e-auction next month.
- It has set a reserve price of Rs 1,898 crore for these properties.
- SEBI has appointed SBI Capital Markets, who will conduct the e-auction on July 13 and HDFC Realty, who will conduct one on July 15.
- According to the notice, SBI Cap will auction eight land parcels which will fetch Rs 1,196 crore at the reserve price and HDFC Realty will auction five land parcels at reserve price of Rs 702 crore.

#### 12. Axis Bank launches India's first certified green bond at London Stock Exchange

- Axis Bank has launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world at London Stock Exchange (LSE).
- The proceeds of the bond will be invested by Axis Bank in green energy, transportation and infrastructure projects.
- It will play important role in reinforcing India's commitment to produce 175,000 MW of renewable power by 2022.
- This is the first green bond of Axis Bank issued within its 5 billion dollars Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, which has also has been listed entirely on LSE.
- Bonds basically are debt instruments which help issuer to get capital while the investors receive fixed income in the form of interest.
- In case of Green Bonds, the issuer gets capital from the investors only if the investment (capital) is being raised to fund green projects relating to renewable energy or emission reductions etc.

#### 13. SEBI issues stricter KYC, disclosure norms for P-Notes

- The markets regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has put in place a stricter KYC (Know Your Customer) norms and disclosure regime for Participatory Notes (P-Notes).
- P-Notes are offshore/overseas derivative instruments (ODIs) issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FII) to overseas investors.
- They provide easier and cost-effective route to foreign investors to invest in Indian markets without directly registering as Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

#### 14. Microsoft agrees to buy LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion

- Technology giant Microsoft said it will acquire professional networking platform LinkedIn in an all-cash transaction valued at \$26.2 billion.
- Microsoft will acquire LinkedIn for \$196 per share in an all-cash deal valued at \$26.2 billion, inclusive of LinkedIn's net cash.
- LinkedIn will retain its distinct brand, culture and independence.
- The transaction is expected to close this calendar year.
- Jeff Weiner will remain CEO of LinkedIn, reporting to Mr. Nadella.
- LinkedIn started out in the living room of co-founder Hoffman in 2002 and was officially launched on May 5 in 2003.



#### 15. Cabinet approves SBI takeover of units

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet on 15 June approved the takeover by State Bank of India (SBI) of several subsidiaries in a first move to consolidate the country's struggling public sector banks.
- As earlier proposed, SBI was to take over five units that had been run at arms-length, as well as state-run Bharatiya Mahila Bank, a bank for women set up in 2013.
- India's 27 public sector banks account for 70 per cent of its banking sector assets, as well as the lion's share of the country's \$120 billion in troubled assets.
- Policymakers want to recapitalise and consolidate the state banks so that they can extend fresh credit and help drive an investment-led recovery in Asia's third-largest economy that is now being buoyed by state and private consumption.

#### 16. SBI and Mastercard Partners with Centrum for distribution of its prepaid forex card

- India's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI) and MasterCard announced pilot launch of a distribution alliance with travel prepaid cards distributor Centrum.
- This partnership will aid the distribution strength of the Bank for its multicurrency prepaid card and will largely target the corporate customers of the bank.
- The Bank is excited as this has been the first ever alliance SBI has entered into to supplement their distribution reach which is already very deep in the consumer segment.

#### 17. Florida Bank issues first US credit card for use in Cuba

- A small Florida bank will issue the first U.S. credit card intended for use in Cuba and make it easier for Americans to travel and work on an island largely cut off from the U.S. financial system.
- Pompano Beach-based Stonegate Bank said its Mastercard will let U.S. travelers charge purchases at state-run businesses and a handful of private ones, mostly high-end private restaurants equipped with point-of-sale devices.

#### 18. SBI launches Rs. 200 cr fund to invest in fintech startups

- In order to fund start-ups in the financial technology (fintech) space, the country's largest lender SBI has set up a Rs. 200 crore fund.
- This fund shall consider assistance of up to Rs. 3 crore to an Indian registered company for promoting their business innovations using IT in India for banking and related technology.

## NEWS (NATIONAL)

### 1. PM releases UN-backed National Disaster Management Plan

- To make the country disaster-resilient and reduce loss of lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP).
- This is the first ever national plan prepared in the country.
- The Framework was adopted by member-states on March 18, 2015, at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.
- It provides for horizontal and vertical integration among all the agencies and departments of the government, the statement read.

### 2. TRAI launches 'Do Not Call Services' mobile app

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India launched 'DND (do not call) Services' mobile application for managing unsolicited commercial communications.
- The regulation already exists and consumers can still complain UCC messages and calls through 1909 (toll free number), but this app would make it more easier for consumers to report unwanted communications.

### 3. India gifts 2,000 bicycles to Nepal girl students

- The Indian government has gifted 2,000 bicycles to poor Dalit girls studying in government schools in Banke, Siraha, Dhanusha and Sarlahi districts of Nepal to stem the dropout rate.
- These bicycles were handed over during functions organised in the respective districts by senior Indian Embassy officials, including Deputy Chief of Mission Vinay Kumar.
- The gifting of bicycles to the poor Dalit girl students was aimed at enhancing the literacy rate among girls in Nepal and also to encourage girls from such families to enrol in schools.



#### **4. India, World Bank sign agreement for efficient bus service**

- The Union Government and World Bank have signed a US 9.2 million dollar grant agreement for the Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project.
- The grant agreement was signed under World Bank-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme.

#### **5. PM Narendra Modi, Ashraf Ghani inaugurates Afghan-India Friendship Dam**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.
- The dam was inaugurated during PM Narendra Modi's first stop to Afghanistan as part of his five-nation tour which will also take him to Qatar, Switzerland, US and Mexico.
- The Afghan-India Friendship Dam was earlier known as Salma Dam.
- It is built on the river Chist-e-Sharif in western Herat neighbouring Iran and is earth and rock fill dam.

#### **6. Suresh Prabhu flags off Tiger Express**

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off IRCTC's Tiger Express from Safdarjung station.
- A semi-luxury tourist train, Tiger Express is launched to spread awareness among people regarding tiger conservation.
- The itinerary has a tariff structure starting from Rs 38,500.
- The package includes accommodation in air-conditioned rooms of three stars or equivalent ranked hotels for three nights, sightseeing, food, inter-city transfers and travel insurance.

#### **7. Union Govt to form new reserve battalion named after Maharana Pratap**

- Union Home Ministry has decided to form new reserve battalion will be raised and it will be named after Maharana Pratap.
- It will be called Maharana India Reserve Battalion.
- It was announced by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the occasion of 475th birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap in Gogunda in Udaipur district.
- He also unveiled statue of Maharana Pratap in the ceremony.

#### **8. India becomes co-chair of Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness**

- India has become the co-chair of Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness (WG-MSA) under Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).
- Decision in this regard, was taken through a consensus during the 19th Plenary Session of the CGPCS held in Mahe, Seychelles from 31st May to 3th June 2016.
- India was selected as co-chair in recognition of its pro-active role in combating the problem of piracy off the Somalian Coast and in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Seychelles is the current chairman of the CGPCS for the biennium 2016-17.

#### **9. Piyush Goyal Launches "SURYAMITRA" Mobile App**

- Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy launched "Surya Mitra" mobile App at National Workshop on Rooftop Solar Power.
- The GPS based mobile app is developed by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) which is an autonomous institution of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- This App is a high end technology platform which can handle thousands of calls simultaneously and can efficiently monitor all visits of Suryamitra's.

#### **10. PM Narendra Modi addresses US Congress**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the joint session of the US Congress on 8 June 2016.
- Earlier PM Modi was invited to speak at the joint session by House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan.
- He addressed the congress during his second official bilateral visit to the US after his trip in September, 2014.
- This was PM Modi's fourth visit to the US since he assumed office in May 2014.
- With this PM Narendra Modi became the fifth Indian Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress, and the first since 2005.

#### **11. Union Govt to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme**

- The Union Government on 8 June 2016 decided to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme.
- The award will be introduced with an aim to promote yoga.



- At present, the AYUSH ministry is working on the scheme and it will start giving the award from 2017.
- Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik announced the plan in New Delhi while inaugurating the National Health Editors' Conference.
- The theme of the conference was Yoga for Holistic Health - Recent Researches.

#### **12. Union Railways Ministry flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar**

- Union Railways Ministry has flagged off Champaran Satyagrah Express train at a function in Motihari, Bihar.
- The train was flagged off by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu.
- This train will run between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi.
- Champaran Satyagrah Express train has been introduced to mark 100 years of the historic Champaran Satyagraha (movement) launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917.

#### **13. Union Ministry of Power launches Surya Mitra Mobile App**

- The Union Ministry of Power has launched Surya Mitra mobile App to serve customers in the field of renewable energy.
- The app was launched by Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal at National Workshop on Rooftop Solar Power held in New Delhi.
- The App will serve customers at their doorsteps with quality installation, repair, and Observations and Measurements (O&M) in the field of renewable energy.

#### **14. Union Govt announces new Print Media Advertisement policy**

- The Union Information and Broadcasting ministry has framed a New Print Media Advertisement Policy for Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).
- The objective of the policy is to promote transparency and accountability in issuing of advertisements in print media.

#### **15. Indian Railways launches Janani Sewa, optional catering Scheme on pilot basis**

- The Union Ministry of Railways launched three passenger service initiatives viz. a Janani Sewa for mothers, optional catering in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains on a pilot basis and a children's menu on trains.
- These services were launched by Union Railways minister Suresh Prabhu on 8th June 2016 in New Delhi.
- Janani Sewa: Under this scheme hot milk, hot water and baby food will be available at railway stations.

#### **16. Tata Power to acquire Welspun Renewables**

- Private power producer Tata Power Co. Ltd has agreed to acquire renewable energy company Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt. Ltd.
- In this regard, Tata Power's renewable energy unit Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) has signed share purchase agreement to acquire Welspun Renewables Energy.
- The transaction deal is sized at 9,249 crore rupees which is considered as largest transaction in renewables space in India.

#### **17. AirAsia Group chief gets Overseas Citizen of India status**

- Malaysia's AirAsia Group chief Tony Fernandes has been given the status of Overseas Citizen of India (OIC) by the Indian government, amid concerns in certain quarters over control at budget carrier AirAsia India.
- Fernandes, whose father was of Goa origin, announced this at a time when AirAsia India is celebrating its second anniversary.
- AirAsia India is a joint venture between AirAsia and Tatas, each holding 49 per cent stake.

#### **18. BHEL commissions 195 MW unit at Muzaffarpur**

- Public Sector Power equipment manufacturer Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned 195 MW unit at Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station in Bihar.
- This is the second 195 MW unit to be commissioned by BHEL at the 2×195 MW Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station Stage-II of Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUNL).

#### **19. Union Govt Launches Scheme for setting up 1000 MW CTU**

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for setting up of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) Wind Power Project connected to transmission network of Central Transmission Utility (CTU).
- The objective of the scheme is to facilitate supply of wind power to the non-windy states at a price discovered through transparent bidding process.



#### **20. Cabinet clears National Civil Aviation Policy**

- In a landmark move, the Union government approved a plan to replace a decade-old rule for allowing new domestic airlines set up in India to fly on international routes.
- New airlines, such as Vistara and AirAsia, can now fly to international routes after operating at least 20 aircraft in the domestic market.
- The new norms were a part of the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 which was approved by the Union Cabinet.
- According to the previous norm, also known as the '5/20 rule', a domestic airline were allowed to go international only after completing five years of domestic flying and operate at least 20 aircraft.
- According to the new rules, new airlines will need to deploy 20 aircraft or 20 per cent of the total fleet size, whichever is higher, on domestic routes in order to secure international flying rights.

#### **21. PM Narendra Modi lays down 5-pillars for efficient tax administration**

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on 16 June advised income-tax administrators to take steps to bridge the trust deficit with taxpayers and strive to widen the taxpayer base to 10 crore from the current level of 5.43 crore.
- In a first of its kind address to tax administrators at the two-day "Rajasva Gyan Sangam" in Delhi, Modi laid down 5-pillars for tax administration to imbibe so as to deliver efficient administration to the countrymen.
- The 5-pillars are revenue; accountability; probity; information and digitisation.

#### **22. India to provide Rs 48 mn aid for college building in Nepal**

- India has pledged a financial assistance of Rs 48.84 million to Nepal for the construction of a college building in the capital Kathmandu.
- Ambassador of India to Nepal Ranjit Rae laid foundation stone of the building for Koteswor Multiple Campus in Kathmandu district.
- The campus building is constructed with financial aid from India and the project is being implemented through District Development Committee of Kathmandu.
- India has provided a financial aid of nearly Rs 501 million to Nepal in the financial year 2015-2016 to help the quake-struck country renovate, restore and upgrade its various religious, cultural and educational institutions.

#### **23. Centre imposes 20 % duty on sugar exports**

- The Centre has imposed 20 per cent duty on the export of raw sugar to keep the domestic prices of sugar under check in the country.
- As per the government notification issued here, 20 per cent export duty has been imposed on the export of raw sugar - white or refined sugar.

#### **24. Union HRD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launches a new initiative 'Vidyanjali'**

- Inspired from Honourable Prime Minister's vision to inculcate reading habits among children and create a reading culture at school and community level, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smriti Zubin Irani dedicated 'Vidyanjali' - a school volunteer programme to the nation at New Delhi.
- Vidyanjali, which is being implemented under the overall aegis of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, will enhance the community involvement in Government run elementary schools and effectively engage children in reading, creative writing, public speaking, play acting, preparing story books etc.

#### **25. Union Govt approve Ramayana & Krishna Circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- The Union Government has approved Ramayana and Krishna Circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- These two tourism circuits were approved in the first meeting of National Committee on Ramayan Circuit and National Committee on Krishna Circuit chaired by Union Tourism and Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma.

#### **26. Piyush Goyal launches URJA mobile app**

- Union Minister of State for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal on 16 June launched 'URJA' - Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile app on the side-lines of an on-going two-day conference of Power Ministers in south Goa.
- It will enhance consumer connect with the Urban Power Distribution sector by providing information of IT enabled towns on important parameters which concern the consumers like outage information, timely release of connections, addressing complaints, power reliability, etc.



- Goyal also launched the Pradhan Mantri UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for all) Yojana in Goa with a target of replacing approximately 15 lakh LED, bulbs impacting nearly five lakh households.
- Under the scheme, consumers are entitled to three LED bulbs of 9 w each at a subsidised rate of Rs. 25/- as against the market price of Rs. 300-350.

## **NEWS (STATES)**

### **1. Kashmir to witness Maha Kumbh on June 14**

- 'Dashar Maha Kumbh' is being organised on the confluence of sacred rivers Sindhu and Vitasta in Ganderbal district of Kashmir on June 14, after a period of 75 years, in which Kashmiri Pandits are expected to participate.
- The Kumbh is being organised in Waskoora tehsil of Ganderbal district.

### **2. NBCC to launch Ganga cleaning project in Bihar**

- Public sector company NBCC (India) is set to kickstart projects aimed at cleaning the Ganga in Bihar.
- In December last year, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation hired NBCC to carry out the feasibility study and conditional assessment of the river for entry-level activities in Bihar.

### **3. Delhi Govt launches VAT app for city traders**

- CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a mobile app through which city traders can register with the VAT department of the Delhi government, a move that is aimed at boosting tax collection.
- Kejriwal said through the 'DVAT M SEWA' app, traders won't be required to submit application for registration at the department's office and just fill the form online. There is also no need for VAT inspector's visit at their premises.

### **4. Assam Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016**

- Assam Assembly has passed Assam Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016 to facilitate ease of doing business in the state.
- The bill seeks to attract fresh investment in the state through an easy computerised clearance system.
- The bill has the provision for speedy processing of applications and issue of clearances for setting up industries.

### **5. Khattar lays foundation stone of Jai Jawan Awas Yojana**

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar lays the foundation stone laying ceremony of housing project Jai Jawan Awas Yojana (JJAY) in Haryana's Bahadurgarh.
- Khattar will be accompanied by Army Chief General Dalbir Singh and Western Army Commander Lieutenant General KJ Singh.
- A large number of Veer Senani and Veer Naris will be present for the ceremony.

### **6. Haryana Govt launches Asia's first Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme**

- Haryana Government has launched Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore.
- It was launched by state Chief Minister Manohar Lal by releasing 2 captive bred Himalayan Griffons vultures in the pre-release aviaries close to the breeding centre at Pinjore.

### **7. Odisha becomes first state to give social welfare benefits to transgender community**

- Odisha became the first state in the country to give transgender people social welfare benefits – such as a housing, pension and food grains.
- This move seeks to give the transgender community in the state same benefits as those living below the poverty line (BPL) in order to improve their overall social and economic status.

### **8. Gujarat unveils new policy to boost IT, start-ups in 5 years**

- As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" and "Start-up India" moves, Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, announced her government's new policy for promotion of information technology (IT) and electronic start-ups, envisaging setting up of 50 incubators to provide leadership and facilities to 2,000 start-ups over the next five years.
- About 10 lakh square feet of space will be developed for incubators, targeting investment to the tune of ₹7,000 crore and creation of new employment opportunities.
- The BJP government also announced a slew of incentives for incubators and start-ups, including financial assistance of up to ₹50 lakh for fixed capital investment and up to ₹5 lakh per annum for guidance of start-ups.





- They would be given 100 per cent waiver on stamp duty and registration. Also, they would get a rebate of 100 per cent amount of electricity duty for five years and 50 per cent assistance for software purchase up to ₹1 crore to incubators.

#### **9. Rajasthan Govt launches Mobile App RajVayu on Air Quality Index**

- Rajasthan Government has launched mobile application RajVayu for sharing information about air quality index of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur.
- The app was launched by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on the eve of World Environment Day (5th June).
- With this, Rajasthan becomes first state in country to launch such app for sharing information about air quality index of cities.

#### **10. Delhi Govt approves first Solar Policy**

- The Delhi government has approved the first Solar Policy which aims at making the Capital an environment-friendly solar city.
- It was approved by Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as it is part of one of Government's 70-point agendas.
- The policy has been prepared by the Government of Delhi in consultation with the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) after extensive consultations with local and international experts.
- Recommends the installation of 1 GW (1,000 Mega Watts) solar power capacity in Delhi by 2020, which is proposed to be doubled to 2 GW by 2025.

#### **11. HP becomes first state to launch green-concept based State Data Centre**

- Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to have a State Data Centre (SDC), designed using green data centre concept.
- It was launched by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh in Shimla.
- The SDC will offer 101 people-oriented services online through an integrated data base.
- It would integrate the websites of various departments and all services can be accessed through the integrated data base.

#### **12. Gangetic River dolphin declared city animal of Guwahati**

- Assam's Guwahati became the first city in the country to have its own city animal after Kamrup metropolitan district administration declared Gangetic River dolphin as its official mascot.
- Gangetic River Dolphin locally in Guwahati is known as 'Sihu' and it is on the verge of extinction. Less than 2,000 Gangetic river dolphins remain in the Brahmaputra River along Guwahati.

#### **13. Delhi govt sets up committee to restore Capital's water bodies**

- The 1,000-odd water bodies of Delhi, including village ponds, marshes, lakes and step wells, may finally get a fresh lease of life.
- Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal constituted a high-level committee to look into matters related to water bodies on the National Green Tribunal's orders.
- The government-appointed committee will be headed by PWD minister Satyendar Jain.
- Water minister Kapil Mishra, environment and forests minister Imran Hussain and Delhi Jal Board CEO Keshav Chandra will be part of the committee.

#### **14. Google, Tata Trusts launch 'Internet Sathi' in West Bengal to empower rural women**

- The Indian unit of search giant Google Inc and Tata Trusts have jointly launched 'Internet Saathi' program in Purulia district of West Bengal.
- The initiative has been launched as part of Google's 'Helping Women Get Online' campaign, in order to create awareness about the benefits of Internet among women in rural India.
- The initiative will initially be rolled out with an objective to reach 1 lakh women in over 400 villages in Purulia district.

#### **15. Maharashtra to observe 21st of every month as Yoga Day**

- The Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate the 21st day of every month as Yoga Day across all schools, colleges and universities in the State.
- It is also decided that every district will have to set up a Yoga Day committee at their levels to plan 'Yoga Mahostav' (Yoga Festival) every year in between January 12 and 21 and a separate committee at the State level will monitor and coordinate with these committees.



**16. Telangana to set up 12,500-acre Pharma City near Hyderabad**

- The Telangana government today ordered setting up of a 'Pharma City' on 12,500 acres of land in Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts.

**17. Gujarat CM dedicates 6.4-km sub-sea power cable project**

- For the first time since Independence, Shiyal bet — off Gujarat coast having about 800 households with a population of 6,000 — was lit up after the Gujarat Chief Minister, Anandiben Patel, inaugurated the sub-sea marine cable power supply project in Arabian sea off Pipavav Port in Amreli District.
- The 6.4-km-long under-sea marine cable set up by the state discom, Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL), will supply 24X7 electricity for this isolated village.
- The village's main economic activity is fishing, while the availability of electricity is likely to open new avenues other commercial activity at the bet.
- The total project cost was ₹18.5 crore, which was completed in two years.

**18. Sikkim becomes India's first State to launch open government data portal**

- Sikkim became the first state in India to have an open government data portal linked 'sikkim.data.gov.in'.
- The portal was launched by Lok Sabha MP, P D Rai and also launched Open Government Data Platform (Sikkim).
- The portal has been developed by Government of Sikkim's Information Technology Department and NIC team from Delhi.

**19. Nitish announces Rs 25,000 for every rescued child labour**

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated 'Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)' in order to keep a track of rescued Child Labour for their proper rehabilitation besides announcing financial help of Rs 25,000 for every rescued child labour to be given from Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The money would directly go to their bank account.
- The prominent demands of rescued children are- more schools with all facilities, residential schools for such children, training facilities in order to get job, a year (from Aug 15, 2016 to Aug 14, 2017) be declared and celebrated as child year etc.

**20. 'Mission Madukkarai Maharaj' to translocate wild elephant**

- Navakkarai, a small sleepy hamlet tucked away near the Western Ghats, on the Coimbatore Highway, has suddenly started bustling with activity thanks to 'Mission Madukkarai Maharaj'.
- The operation, as weighty as it sounds, involves tranquillising, transporting and translocating a 27-year-old wild tusker that has been spreading terror in this part of the world with frequent jaunts to human habitations.
- The Forest Department has set up a base camp at Navakkarai for the purpose.
- However, following objections from wildlife enthusiasts, the operation was renamed 'Mission Madukkarai Maharaj'.

**21. Haryana govt approves climate resilient agri practices project**

- To make agriculture production system more flexible to climate change, Haryana government approved a Rs 25 crore project that will benefit 75,000 farmers.
- The state level steering committee, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary D S Dhesi, approved the detailed project report of this ambitious project.
- Climate resilient agriculture practices include all possible methods that are required to make agriculture production system more flexible to climate change.

**22. Maharashtra Govt decides to use plastic waste in building roads**

- The Government of Maharashtra on 15 June 2016 decided to use plastic waste, along with tar, to build roads.
- It aims at improving the durability and longevity of asphalt roads and reducing soil pollution caused by plastic.
- The directive was given in the light of guideline released by the Union Government in November 2015 to deal with the growing problem of disposal of plastic waste in India's urban areas.

**23. Kolkata-Ashuganj-Tripura transit facility between India, Bangladesh becomes operational**

- Kolkata-Ashuganj-Tripura transit facility under the revised Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India and Bangladesh became operational.
- The transit facility was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June 2015.
- It was officially inaugurated on 16 June 2016.



## **NEWS (WORLD)**

### **1. Asia's largest tech trade show COMPUTEX kicks off in Taipei**

- Asia's largest technology trade show COMPUTEX kicked off in Taipei on May 31, attracting more than 1,600 companies from 30 countries to showcase their latest products.
- This is the highest turnout - in terms of the number of nations - in five years.
- The highlight of this year's show is virtual reality (VR).
- COMPUTEX will end on Jun 4 and organisers expect the event to attract more than 130,000 visitors.

### **2. Switzerland Gotthard: World's longest and deepest rail tunnel opens**

- The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has officially opened in Switzerland, after almost two decades of construction work.
- The 57km (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between northern and southern Europe.
- Switzerland says it will revolutionise European freight transport.
- The tunnel has overtaken Japan's 53.9km Seikan rail tunnel as the longest in the world and pushed the 50.5km Channel Tunnel linking the UK and France into third place.
- The ceremony outside was led by Swiss Federal President Johann Schneider-Ammann.
- The project, which cost more than \$12bn (£8.3bn) to build, was endorsed by Swiss voters in a referendum in 1992.

### **3. Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue opens in Singapore**

- Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue was inaugurated in Singapore to talk about security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The forum has been organised by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- The three day event will be attended by at least 20 Defence Ministers from Asia-Pacific countries including India represented by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

### **4. Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index**

- Pakistan has topped in the list of 19 countries figuring in the 2016 Malware Infection Index (MII) in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The index for the Asia-Pacific region was released by technology giant Microsoft in which India was placed at 8th position.
- Top 10 Countries: Pakistan (1st), Indonesia (2nd), Bangladesh (3rd), Nepal (4th), Philippines (5th), Cambodia (6th), India (8th), Sri Lanka (9th) and Thailand (10th).

### **5. Thailand becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother to child HIV: WHO**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that Thailand has become the first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission.
- In this regard, Thailand's Minister of Health was presented with the certificate of validation during a ceremony, which took place on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in New York.

### **6. After Switzerland, Mexico extends support to India for NSG membership**

- With hours to go for a special session of the Nuclear Suppliers Group meeting in Vienna on June 9-10, to discuss India's application for membership, India scored another vote of support from Mexico.

### **7. Norway becomes the first country to ban deforestation**

- Norway has become the first country in the world to prohibit deforestation.
- In this regard, Norwegian Parliament had pledged to make government's public procurement policy deforestation-free.

### **8. Australian Great Barrier Reef rodent: first mammal species wiped out by human-induced climate change**

- Australian Great Barrier Reef rodent (also known as Bramble Cay melomys) has become the first mammal species driven to extinction by human-induced climate change.
- It was revealed after researchers in extensive survey (searches) failed to find a single specimen from its only known habitat on a sandy island in far northern Australia.
- The extensive survey in the hope of conserving the species was conducted by Scientists from the University of Queensland, after a study in 2014 found no sign of the species.



#### 9. **Russia launches most powerful nuclear icebreaker Arktika**

- Russia has launched the new Project 22220 nuclear powered icebreaker dubbed 'Arktika'. It is the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind.
- It was launched from the Baltic Shipyard located in Russia's second largest city of St. Petersburg.
- It is powered by two next generation RITM-200 nuclear-reactors.
- These reactors will be supplied with nuclear fuel produced by the TVEL fuel company.
- It has dual-draft design which makes it possible to use it in Arctic waters and in estuaries of polar rivers.
- It can break through 13 feet (3 metres) thick ice.

### **Science, Defence and Technology**

#### 1. **Flipkart introduces 'No Cost EMI' shopping**

- E-commerce giant Flipkart in association with Bajaj Finserv has introduced 'No Cost EMI' financing scheme.
- This move is targeted towards making online shopping affordable for high-ticket purchases through EMIs where customers won't have to bear additional costs.

#### 2. **China successfully launches three satellites**

- China has successfully launched three (one domestic and two foreign) satellites namely Ziyuan III 02 satellite and two NewSat satellites.
- They were launched on the back of a Long March 4B rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province.
- It was the 228th flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket.
- Ziyuan III 02 satellite is new civilian high-resolution mapping satellite and second in the remote-sensing mapping system that China plans to build by 2030.

#### 3. **India, Singapore agree to enhance scale of military interaction**

- India and Singapore have agreed to enhance the scale of existing bilateral military interaction and decided to expand the interaction between the armed forces.
- Decision in this regard, was taken at inaugural Singapore-India Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD).
- The Dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and his Singapore counterpart Dr. Ng Eng Hen.

#### 4. **NASA scientists find 39 unreported sources of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution**

- NASA scientists using a new satellite-based method have located 39 unreported and major human-made sources of toxic sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions that cause pollution.
- The unreported emission sources were found in the analysis of satellite data from 2005 to 2014.

#### 5. **Scientists create Bionic leaf that turns sunlight into liquid fuel**

- A team of scientists from Harvard University (United States) has created a unique bionic leaf that uses sunlight (solar energy) to split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen and hydrogen-eating bacteria to produce liquid fuels from CO<sub>2</sub>.
- This artificial photosynthesis device has been dubbed bionic leaf 2.0.
- The new system can convert solar energy to biomass with 10% efficiency.
- Its efficiency is much higher than the 1% seen in the fastest growing plants. Scientists had used a new cobalt-phosphorous alloy catalyst for this experiment in order to increase efficiency.

#### 6. **Scientists discover rare Einstein ring**

- An international team of astrophysicists have discovered an unusual astronomical object — an Einstein ring.
- This phenomenon was predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity and has been given its own name "The Canarias Einstein ring".

#### 7. **World's first 3D printed plane THOR unveiled by Airbus**

- The world's first 3D-printed aircraft THOR was unveiled by European aerospace company, Airbus at the International Aerospace Exhibition held in Schoenefeld, Germany.
- The THOR is short for Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality. It resembles a large, white model airplane but is windowless.
- THOR has just 3 parts. It is lighter, faster and cheaper.
- It is windowless small pilotless propeller aircraft. It weighs 21 kilo grams and less than 4 metres long.



#### 8. Exercise Desert Eagle-II Concludes

- Desert Eagle II, which was the second in the series of bilateral exercises between Indian Air Force (IAF) and United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAE AF), concluded on 03 Jun 2016.
- This was a ten-day air combat exercise in which the IAF and the UAE Air Force undertook air exercises from Al-Dhafra Air Base, Abu Dhabi starting from 22 May 2016.
- Defence Co-operation between the two nations gained momentum after signing of the 'Agreement of Defence Co-operation' during the visit of the Chief of Staff of UAE Armed Forces to India in 2003.

#### 9. India, Japan and US navies kick off 2016 Malabar Exercise near South China Sea

- India, Japan and United States (US) navies have kicked off 2016 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near South China Sea.
- This year it is the 20th edition of the naval exercise in which over 100 aircraft and 22 naval ships including a nuclear submarine are participating.
- The 20th edition of the naval exercise will be conducted for 8 days.

#### 10. China successfully launches 23rd BeiDou Navigation Satellite

- China has successfully launched a 23rd BeiDou Navigation Satellite to support its global navigation and positioning network.
- The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on board of Long March-3C carrier rocket.
- It is the 23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, which is being developed as an alternative to GPS (Global Positioning System) of US.

#### 11. Scientists in Iceland turn CO2 into rock to combat climate change

- In a unique experiment, scientists from Iceland have discovered a new way to trap the greenhouse gas (GHG) carbon dioxide (CO2) deep underground by changing it into rock.

#### 12. Hubble Telescope spots solitary dwarf galaxy UGC 4879

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has uncovered a mysterious solitary dwarf galaxy known as UGC 4879.
- The galaxy is smaller and messier than its cosmic cousins and lacks the majestic swirl of a spiral or the coherence of an elliptical.
- The galaxy UGC 4879 is very isolated and consists of a scattered drizzle of stars.
- It about 2.3 million light years away from its closest neighbour, Leo A which is about the same distance as that between our Milky Way and the Andromeda Galaxy.

#### 13. Jupiter-like planet Kepler1647b orbiting two suns discovered

- Scientists using NASA's Kepler Space Telescope have discovered a Jupiter-like circumbinary planet named Kepler1647b orbiting a system of two stars.
- The planet was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University (SDSU).
- Kepler1647b is the largest such cosmic body ever found. Circumbinary planets are those planets that orbit two stars.

## MoUs

#### 1. Union Cabinet approves MoU between DGCA and French Civil Aviation Authority

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the signing of MOU between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the French Civil Aviation Authority – Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC).
- The MoU seeks to implement Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for implementation and promotion of Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

#### 2. Union Cabinet approves MoU Between US and India to enhance cooperation in wildlife conservation

- Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United States (US) to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking.

#### 3. MoU Between India and Qatar on tourism

- The government gave its nod for inking of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.



- It aims for exchange visits of tour operators, media persons and opinion makers for promotion of two-way tourism and encourage public and private sectors to invest in the sector, among others.

#### **4. India, US ink MoU for exchange of information on terror database**

- India and United States (US) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to join the global terror database maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) of US.
- Under this MoU, both sides will give each other access to terrorism screening information through designated contact points, subject to domestic laws and regulations.

#### **5. India, Tunisia Sign 2 Agreements In IT, Handicrafts Sectors**

- In an effort to increase mutual cooperation, India and Tunisia signed two MoUs on promotion of handicrafts and IT and communication and digital economy as Vice President Hamid Ansari met Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid and discussed a range of issues of mutual and regional interests.
- The two sides also discussed the issue of spreading tide of extremism and terrorism which is a threat both face.

#### **6. India, Qatar sign seven agreements to boost bilateral ties**

- India and Qatar have signed seven bilateral agreements in various fields to boost bilateral ties.
- These agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar Emir Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha.
- It was PM Narendra Modi's second stop to Qatar after he had visited to Afghanistan as part of his five- nation tour which will also take him to Switzerland, US and Mexico.
- Signed agreements are:
  - MoU for investment in National investment & infrastructure fund
  - MoU on cooperation in tourism
  - Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in custom matters
  - MoU on Finance Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU)
  - MoU in the field of youth and sports
  - MoU on cooperation in skill development & recognition of qualifications
  - MoU on cooperation in the field of health

#### **7. India, US sign MoU for hassle-free entry of Indians into US**

- India and United States (US) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into America at selected airports.
- The hassle-free entry will provide speedy security clearances for pre-approved, low-risk travellers from the country.

#### **8. SBI signs MoU with Spain's CaixaBank**

- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, and CaixaBank, a leading bank in Spain by market share, have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to expand their guarantee transaction businesses by jointly providing credit to Indian-Spanish joint ventures and Indian local enterprises.

#### **9. India-US ink six agreements**

- India and the United States (US) have signed six agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.
- These agreements were signed after wide range of bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama in Washington.
- Signed Agreements are
  - Arrangement for the exchange of Terrorist Screening Information
  - MoU on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change
  - MoU on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking
  - MoU for the Global Entry Programme
  - Technical Arrangement concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing
  - MoU for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates

#### **10. NIIIF and Qatar Investment Authority inks MoU to boost infrastructure investments**

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) has signed a MoU with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) for facilitating investment in India's infrastructure.



- It will facilitate QIA to study investment opportunities in India's infrastructure sector in order to enable both sides to decide on joint investments.

#### **11. Union Cabinet approves MoU, Proposals for signing of contract for Exploration of Poly metallic Sulphides**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of 15 years contract for undertaking exploration and other developmental activities related to Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS).
- The contract was approved between the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and the International Seabed Authority (ISA).
- It will enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, South Korea and Germany are active.

#### **12. Approves MoU between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space.
- The MoU was signed between two parties in Ottawa, Canada in April 2015. It will lead to establishment of joint team, drawing members from CSA and ISRO.

#### **13. Approves MoU between India and Taiwan**

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector.
- Decision in this regard was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

#### **14. India, Namibia sign two MoUs**

- India and Namibia have signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during the final leg of President Pranab Mukherjee's three-nation African visit.
- These agreements were signed after a bilateral dialogue between President Mukherjee and his Namibian counterpart Hage Geingob.
- MoU on Capacity building for civil servants of Namibia.
- MoU on setting up of centre of excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

## **Reports**

#### **1. India, Morocco launch Chamber of Commerce and Industry to boost trade**

- India and Morocco have launched the India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) in Moroccan capital city Rabat.
- The IMCCI was jointly launched by visiting Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane.
- Hamid Ansari's visit is the first by an Indian Vice President in 50 years to Morocco.

#### **2. India among top five innovation destinations**

- Innovation centres in the country doubled to 16 in the six-month period ending February this year, and took India into the top 5 global destinations for innovation, a report by consulting major Capgemini.
- India has been rising in the ranks of favourite destinations to open innovation centres.
- Previous research identified eight innovation centres in India in July 2015.

#### **3. To Indian in Forbes's list of self-made American women**

- Two Indian-origin women have featured on the *Forbes* ' annual list of America's 60 wealthiest and most successful self-made women entrepreneurs, who have "crashed ceilings through invention and innovation".
- India-born Neerja Sethi, who co-founded IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai, is ranked 16th on 'America's Richest Self-made Women' list, while president and CEO of Arista Networks Jayshree Ullal (55) is ranked 30th.
- According to *Forbes* , the richest self-made woman in America is Diane Hendricks, the owner of ABC Supply, the largest wholesale distributor of roofing and siding in the country. Hendricks is now worth \$4.9 billion, \$1.2 billion more than last year when she was ranked second.

#### **4. India joins the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation**

- India has joined the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC), a global ballistic missile proliferation regime.



- India has joined the Code highlighting its readiness to further strengthen global non-proliferation objectives.

#### **5. India ranks 70th on 2015 Good Country Index**

- In recently released 2015 Good Country Index (GCI), India has been placed at 70th position in the list of 163 countries.
- The top 10 Countries in 2015 GCI index are Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Canada, France, Austria and New Zealand.
- Libya was ranked as the least good country in the world in 2015 GCI.
- India's best ranking (27th) was in 'international peace and security' parameter of index and was the worst (124th) in 'prosperity and equality'.
- India stood at 37th position in health and well-being and 62nd in science and technology.
- It was placed at 119th position in culture, 106th position in climate and 100th position in world order.

#### **6. Universe expanding faster than expected**

- Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have discovered that the universe is expanding 5 percent to 9 percent faster than expected.
- Discovery in this regard was made by an international team of researchers of the Space Telescope Science Institute and The Johns Hopkins University.
- Astronomers made this discovery by developing innovative techniques that helped to improve the precision of distance measurements to faraway galaxies.

#### **7. India ranked 2nd on GRD index on ease of doing business**

- India has been ranked second position as per 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) released by London-based business consultancy A T Kearney.
- India has jumped 13 positions from last year (2015) to rank second among 30 developing countries on ease of doing business.
- The sharp pick up in GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations have helped India achieve a second ranking.
- India's retail sector has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8% between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the US 1 trillion dollars mark.
- The GRDI is annually published by London-based business consultancy A T Kearney.

#### **8. Switzerland back India's bid for NSG membership**

- India has managed to win crucial support from Switzerland for Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership.
- In this regard, Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann has announced his country's support for India's membership to the elite NSG. India was able to gain support of Switzerland after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held comprehensive talks with Swiss counterparts during his official state visit.

#### **9. EC wants law amended to empower it to postpone, cancel polls**

- The Election Commission (EC) has urged the Union Government to amend the electoral law Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 to empower it to either postpone or countermand elections if evidence emerges of use of money to influence voters.
- In this regard, EC has asked Union Government to insert a new clause '58 B' in the RPA, 1951 to allow adjournment or countermanding (declaring invalid) of election on the grounds of use of money power (bribery) in the affected polling areas.

#### **10. India ranked 141 in Global Peace Index, Iceland most peaceful**

- India was on 08 June ranked as low as 141 out of 163 countries researched on a Global Peace Index -- making it less peaceful than countries such as Burundi, Serbia and Burkina Faso -- with violence taking a USD 680-billion (Rs 4,521,078 crore) toll on its economy in 2015.
- In a ranking of 163 countries, compiled by the global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Syria has been named as the least peaceful, followed by South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

#### **11. India becomes third largest oil consumer**

- According to recently released BP Statistical Review of World Energy India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer.
- With demand of 4.1 million barrels a day (bpd), India is the third-largest consumer behind the United States (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd).
- India accounted for 4.5% of world oil consumption in 2015 and its oil demand galloped 8.1% in 2015.





- India's oil demand growth had surpassed China's 6.3 per cent expansion.
- Japan slipped to the fourth spot after its oil usage contracted 3.9% to 4.15 million bpd in 2015.
- In 2014, Japan had used 4.3 million bpd, ahead of India's 3.84 million bpd.
- Oil remained the world's leading fuel, accounting for 32.9% of global energy consumption.
- Coal is the second-largest fuel by market share (29.2%).
- Natural gas' market share of primary energy consumption stood at 23.8%.

#### **12. India signs up to Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption**

- India has joined a group of nearly 40 countries that have signed a Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption.
- Under this group countries are committed to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership between law enforcement agencies and tax authorities of partner countries.

#### **13. FCI inks pact with Adani Group**

- State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) has entered into an agreement with Adani group for construction of two silos to store wheat, at an estimated cost of about Rs 80 crore.
- The two silos would have a combined storage capacity of 75,000 tonnes.
- As part of the agreement, Adani Agri Logistics will construct silos at Kotkapura in Punjab and Katihar in Bihar in the next two years.

#### **14. India, Ghana sign three agreements**

- India and Ghana have signed three bilateral agreements to strengthen co-operation in varied fields.
- These agreements were signed after delegation level talks between President Pranab Mukherjee and his Ghanaian counterpart John Dramani Mahama in Accra.
- The signed agreements include one for visa waivers for holders of diplomatic and official passports and one for setting up a Joint Commission.
- During the delegation level talks between Indian President and his Ghanaian counterpart, the African country has sought India's civil nuclear cooperation to reduce its dependence on traditional energy sources.
- The other two African countries include Ivory Coast and Namibia.

#### **15. UN Assembly elects Israel as committee chair for first time**

- The U.N. General Assembly elected Israel to chair one of its six major committees for the first time, a decision denounced by the Palestinians and Arab nations.
- In the secret ballot election in the 193-member world body, Israel received 109 "yes" votes.
- Nobody voted against Israel but there were 23 abstentions, 14 invalid ballots, and 43 votes for other countries in the Western European and Others group which nominated Israel to chair the assembly committee dealing with legal issues.

#### **16. DCB Bank launches Aadhaar enabled ATM in Bengaluru**

- DCB Bank launched Bengaluru's first ATM that accepts Aadhaar number and Aadhaar fingerprint (biometric) instead of ATM/Debit Card and PIN to dispense cash.
- The "cardless and PIN less" ATM was launched by former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani.
- In April 2016, the Bank pilot launched India's first aadhaar based ATM in Mumbai.

#### **17. US Senate approves enhanced military cooperation with India**

- The United States (US) Senate (Upper House) has unanimously approved amendment to enhance military co-operation with India as part of National Defence Authorisation Act -2017.
- Under it, military co-operation with India will be for developing military doctrine, threat analysis, force planning, logistical support and intelligence collection and analysis.

#### **18. Microsoft acquires messaging start-up founded by Indian**

- Technology giant Microsoft has acquired a messaging-app developer founded by an Indian as the US-based software firm aims to strengthen its position in the emerging era of combining the power of human language with advanced machine intelligence.
- Microsoft acquired California-based Wand Labs, a start-up which builds messaging technology for apps, founded in 2013 by IIT-Delhi alumnus Vishal Sharma who was previously the vice president, products at Google.



- The terms of the acquisition were not made public.

#### 19. Microsoft launches centre for oil and gas in Dubai

- Microsoft has opened its largest centre of excellence for the oil & gas industry in Dubai, to assist organisations in the sector drive digital transformation, cut costs and optimisation of their operations.
- The new centre will help companies in the sector take advantage of the latest trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), advanced analytics, modern productivity and cloud computing using Microsoft technologies like Microsoft Azure and Office 365.
- It is the largest such centre for Microsoft globally.

#### 20. Max Life, Max Fin Services to merge into HDFC Standard Life

- In the biggest consolidation in the country's private insurance sector, Max Life Insurance and Max Financial Services will merge into HDFC Standard Life Insurance.
- The proposed arrangements would be subject to due diligence, definitive documentation and applicable board, shareholder, regulatory, respective High Courts/NCLT, and other third party approvals, as may be applicable.
- At present, 49 per cent FDI is allowed in the insurance sector in India.

#### 21. Approves India's Membership of ICDP

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for India's membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) consortium.
- In this regard, Union Government has signed a MoU with the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for geosciences.

#### 22. Approves proposal to raise retirement age of CHS doctors to 65

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for enhancement of retirement age of government doctors' to 65 years to strengthen the healthcare sector in the country.
- In this regard, Union Cabinet has approved proposal forwarded by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Cabinet has approved the superannuation age of Public Health and Non-Teaching Specialists of Central Health Service from 62 years to 65 years.

## Appointments

UPSC Member	B S Bassi
Finance Secretary	Ashok Lavasa
First ever BCCI CEO	Rahul Johri
Brand ambassador for Kerala's anti-drug campaign	Sachin Tendulkar
DG of NADA	Navin Agarwal
MD of State Bank of Mysore	N.K. Chari
Speaker of Kerala Assembly	P Sreeramakrishnan
Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly	P Dhanapal
MD of State Bank of Travancore	CR Sasikumar
Puducherry CM	V Narayanasamy
Brand ambassador for 'Swachh Saathi' programme	Dia Mirza
Director of Airtel Business	Ashok Ganapathy
Adobe MD for South Asia	Kulmeet Bawa
Facebook India MD	Umang Bedi
New Chief Executive for Nuclear Fuel Complex	G Kalyanakrishnan
Head of UNMOGIP	Major General Per Lodin
Secretary to Pondy CM	Ragesh Chandra
Part time member of 21st Law Commission	Satya Pal Jain
First woman chairperson of NCHAC	Ranu Langthasa



Chief Justice of Manipur HC	Justice Rakesh Ranjan
Highest civilian award of Ivory Coast	President Pranab Mukherjee
Head RBL corporate banking	Brijesh Mehra
Institutional banking head of DBS Bank	Niraj Mittal
President of 71st session of UNGA	<b>Peter Thomson</b>
ICC Chairman	Sunil Bharti Mittal
UN Women Goodwill Ambassador	Anne Hathaway
Doordarshan DG	Supriya Sahu
US envoy to Malaysia	Kamala Shirin Lakhdir

## Awards

First player to win a \$100m prize money	Novak Djokovic
2016 Green Economy Visionary Award	Dr. R Seetharaman
Amir Amanullah Khan Award	Narendra Modi
National Award for Excellence in Cost Management	V.O.Chidambaranar
People's Choice Prize	Sudarsan Pattnaik
Russia Order of Friendship Award	Ban Ki-moon
MNRE award	Tata Power Solar
Regius Professorship in Manufacturing Award	Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya
2016 International Dublin Literary Award	Akhil Sharma
2016 Pen Pinter Prize	Margaret Atwood
Fair business practice award	Karnataka Bank
Yuva Puraskar award	<i>Kaanakan</i>

### 1. Star India bags 5 year broadcast rights for French Open

- Country's leading broadcaster Star India announced that it has bagged exclusive broadcasting rights for the next five French Open from 2017 to 2021.
- Under this contract, which includes media and digital rights, Star India will become Roland-Garros exclusive media partner for India and the Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).
- Star India will offer extensive coverage of the full 15 days of the tournament, and all of the French Tennis Federation's (FFT) on-ground initiatives in the region.

### 2. Indian-Origin Professor In UK Awarded By Queen

- Eminent Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya has been awarded the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing.
- Through his career, he has advised the UK government on manufacturing, innovation, and technology, including former Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair.

## Sports

### 1. Sonia Lather wins silver medal in Women's World Boxing Championships

- Indian boxer Sonia Lather has won the silver medal at the AIBA Women's World Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- In the final match of featherweight 57kg category, she was defeated by the gold medalist Mesiano Alessia of Italy by 2-1 score.
- Sonia Lather was the only medal winner in this edition of tournament.

### 2. Argentina retain top spot in FIFA rankings



- Argentina have retained their number one spot in FIFA's rankings ahead of Belgium and Colombia with Copa America and Euro 2016 soon to get underway.
- India have dropped a place in the latest FIFA rankings released earlier today, with the Blue Tigers ending the month of May ranked 163 in the FIFA rankings.
- Northern Ireland created history by rising to 25th in the rankings, their best-ever position, ahead of the 'Green and White Army's' debut in the Euros in the summer.

### 3. Nita Ambani nominated for International Olympic Committee

- Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation has been nominated as a candidate to be a new member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- She is the first Indian woman to be nominated to the IOC and is being considered in the category of volunteers who represent the IOC and Olympic Movement in their country.

### 4. Novak Djokovic wins 2016 French Open title

- World Number One tennis player Novak Djokovic from Serbia has won the 2016 French Open title in the men's singles category.
- In the final match, Djokovic defeated Britain's Andy Murray by 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 score.
- It is his first French Open title and completed the career Grand Slam.
- It was Djokovic's 12th major title and he became the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slams at once.
- He also becomes only the eighth man in history of tennis to have won all four of the sport's major singles prizes.

#### Women's singles:

- Garbine Muguruza (Spain) won the Women's singles title of 2016 French Open.
- In the final she defeated Serena Williams (United States) by 7-5, 6-4 score.

#### Men's doubles:

- Spanish pair of Feliciano López and Marc López won the Men's doubles title of 2016 French Open.
- In the final, they defeated Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan pair from US by 6-4, 6-7(6-8), 6-3 score.

#### Women's doubles:

- French pair of Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic won the Women's doubles title of 2016 French Open.
- In the final, they defeated Russian pair of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina by 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 score.

#### Mixed doubles:

- Leander Paes (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) pair won the Mixed doubles title of 2016 French Open.
- In the final, they defeated Sania Mirza (India) and Ivan Dodig (Croatia) pair by 4-6, 6-4, [10-8] score.

### 5. Indian judoka Avtar Singh qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympic Games

- South Asian Games gold medallist Indian Judoka Avtar Singh has qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- He has qualified under 90kg weight category under the continental quota.
- His current world Ranking is 79 with 182 points.
- Avtar Singh hails from Gurdaspur, Punjab.

### 6. Serena pips Sharapova as world's highest paid sportswoman

- Two days after her stunning loss to Garbine Muguruza in the French Open final, Serena Williams score a different win, when Forbes Magazine reported she has overtaken Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman.
- Williams earned \$28.9 million over the past 12 months, Russian tennis star Sharapova had held the title for the past 11 years.
- Williams's career prize money of \$77.6 million amounts to more than twice as much as any other sportswoman's.
- Sharapova earned \$21.9 million over the past 12 months, down almost \$8 million from the previous year.

### 7. IOC honours IOA chief N Ramachandran with Olympic Order

- The International Olympic Committee has awarded the Olympic Order to Indian Olympic Association president N. Ramachandran for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.
- Ramachandran, who has been IOA president since February 2014, is the second sports administrator from Tamil Nadu to receive the award after the late B.S. Adityan, a former IOA president, in 1995.

### 8. India to host Junior hockey World Cup



- The city of Lucknow will host the junior men's hockey World Cup from December 8 to 18, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced.
- The event will feature 16 teams -- defending champions Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain.
- While the men's competition takes place in December, the women's Hockey Junior World Cup takes place shortly beforehand in Santiago, Chile between 24 November and 4 December.

#### **9. International Tennis Federation bans Maria Sharapova for two years**

- The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has banned former Russian World No. 1 tennis player Maria Sharapova for two years over doping charges. The ban was imposed on her Independent Tribunal of ITF appointed under Tennis Anti-Doping Programme found that she had committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
- It will commence on 26 January 2016.
- In January 2016 during the Australian Open she was tested positive for banned drug meldonium, a substance that has been added in the forbidden list by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on 1 January 2016.
- Since then she was provisionally banned.

#### **10. Ronaldo tops Forbes list as world's highest-paid athlete**

- With earnings of \$88 million, Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo has topped Forbes' list of the highest-paid athletes for 2016.
- Ronaldo earned \$88 million in the last 12 months, \$6.6m more than Barcelona's Lionel Messi (\$81.4m), who occupies second place on the list.
- Basketball star LeBron James (\$77.2m), tennis legend Roger Federer (\$67.8m) and NBA power forward Kevin Durant (\$56.2m) complete the top five.

#### **11. Saina Nehwal wins 2016 Australian Open Super Series Badminton title**

- Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has won the 2016 Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament title in women's singles category.
- In the final match played at Sydney, Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu by 11-21, 21-14, 21-19 score.
- It was Saina's first title of year 2016 season and overall second Australian Open title of her career.
- She won her first Australian Open title in 2014.

#### **12. US win FINA women water polo world league super final**

- Defending champions United States defeated Spain 13-9 to lift the trophy at the 2016 FINA women's water polo world league super final.
- While Australia trounced hosts China 11-3 for the bronze medal.

#### **13. Usain Bolt wins 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers GP**

- Triple World and Olympic champion Usain Bolt graced local fans with a blistering season's best run of 9.88 seconds to win the men's 100 metres at the inaugural Jamaica National Racers Grand Prix now on at the National Stadium.
- His is the second fastest time this year in the event.
- Bolt, the world's fastest man, won ahead of Nickel Ashmeade (9.94s) and his Racers Track Club team-mate Yohan Blake (9.94s) in a positive 1.0 metres per second wind speed.
- Former World record holder Asafa Powell finished fourth in a time of 9.98s.

#### **14. Indian men's 4x400m relay team breaks 18-year-old national record**

- The Indian men's 4x400m relay team on 12 June 2016 created a new national record, clocking 3:02.17 at the International Sprint and Relay Teams Cup at Erzurum, Turkey.
- The team improved the previous record of 3:02.62 set at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.
- On the other hand, the Indian women's 4x400m relay team clocked 3:30.16 and jumped to world No 12 in the rankings.

#### **15. Lewis Hamilton wins Canadian Grand Prix**

- Mercedes racing driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain has won the Formula 1 Canada Grand Prix title.
- He defeated Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel in the final race held in Montreal, Canada.



## Obituary

Noted Kannada writer	D Javare Gowda
Popular Bollywood actor	Razzak Khan
Former Eden Gardens curator	Prabir Mukherjee
American boxing icon	Muhammad Ali
Veteran actor, theatre	Sulabha Deshpande
India's first Mr Universe	Manohar Aich
Father of modern Nepali music	Ambar Gurung
Chess Grandmaster	Viktor Korchnoi
Veteran journalist	K.K. Katyal
Former Kerala AssemblSpeaker	T.S. John
Karnataka Bank former chairman	MS Krishna Bhat
Legendary Canadian ice hockey player	Gordie Howe
BJP MLA	Rajendra Dadu
Veteran theatre personality	Achyut Lahkar
Veteran journalist	Inder Malhotra
Renowned Hindi novelist	Mudrarakshasa
Assam Congress President	Anjan Dutta
Famous filmmaker	A.C. Thirilogachander
Veteran actor	Manimala Devi

**ALL THE BEST!**