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**JUNE – 2018**



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## JUNE- 2018

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# NATIONAL NEWS

## June 01

- The **First biannual Indian Air Force Commanders’** Conference was inaugurated by Defense Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** at **Air Headquarters in New Delhi**. Minister of State for Defence Dr **Subhash Bhamre**, Air Chief Marshal **BS Dhanoa** were among those who were present at the conference.
  - The Exercise ‘**Gagan Shakti**’ was mentioned as the landmark exercise for **IAF**.
- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** launched an **Online Analytical Tool** to facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by **various organisations registered** or permitted under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (**FCRA**), **2010**.
- **Social networking giant Facebook** partnered with the National Commission for Women (**NCW**) to launch a Digital Literacy Programme (**DLP**). The DLP will be launched in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (**CPF**).
- **Andhra Pradesh Gets Its Own Symbols**
  - **Neem and black buck** have been declared as **the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh**.
  - The **rose-ringed parakeet** will be the state bird while **jasmine** will be the **state flower**.

## June 02

- **Maneka Gandhi Laid** Foundation of India's **1st Advanced DNA Forensic Lab**
  - **Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi** laid the foundation stone of **India's first advanced DNA** forensic laboratory in **Chandigarh** as part efforts to reduce the backlog of cases needing advanced forensic analysis.

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- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to an ordinance to set up the country's **first national sports university in Manipur**.
- **Income Tax Department** Launches New Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme
  - The Income Tax Department has issued a new reward scheme titled “**Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018**” to seek people's participation in the Income Tax Department's efforts to unearth **black money and to reduce tax evasion**.
- **Government** Launches New Scheme ‘**Seva Bhoj Yojna**’
  - The Union Ministry of Culture introduced a new scheme called ‘**Seva Bhoj Yojna**’ to reimburse the central share of **CGST** and **IGST** on items for **food/prasad/langar/bhandara** offered free of cost by charitable religious institutions.

### **June 03**

- **India Successfully Test-Fires SFDR Propulsion Based Missile**
  - Making a breakthrough in missile technology, India successfully carried out the flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (**SFDR**) propulsion based missile, according to the Defence Ministry.
  - The technology demonstrator flight test was conducted from the Launch **Centre-III of Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha**.
- **India Ranks 113th On Childhood Index**
  - According to a Save the Children's “**End of Childhood Index 2018**”, India ranks **113** among **175 countries** with regards to where childhood is threatened as a result of poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, and child marriage. The **child marriages** in India have come down to **15.2% from 21.1% in 2017**.

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**June 4**

**National News**

- **1st Cargo Of Russian LNG Arrives At Dahej In Gujarat**
  - India received the **first-ever** cargo of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from **Russia as New Delhi** diversifies import basket to meet its vast energy needs. State-owned gas utility **GAIL India Ltd** will bring the shipload of LNG from **Gazprom**, a Russian supplier, at Petro net LNG Ltd's **import terminal in Dahej, Gujarat**.
  
- **Asia's 1st 13 'Blue Flag' Beaches To Be Developed In India**
  - Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, **13 Indian** beaches will soon get the **Blue Flag** certification. These beaches of **Odisha, Maharashtra** and other coastal states will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
  
- **India Successfully Test-Fires 'Agni-5' Off Odisha Coast**
  - India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable **Long Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-5** from the **Abdul Kalam Island** off the **Odisha** coast. The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**) has a strike range of 5,000 kilometers and can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
  
- **NTPC Adopts Charminar Under Swachh Iconic Places Project**
  - NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.

## June 5

- Govt Launches '**Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan**' To Help **Farmers In Aspirational Districts To Raise Their Income**
  - The Agriculture Ministry in line with the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**'s vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022 has launched the **Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan** from **1st June to 31st July 2018**.
  
- **Shripad Yesso Naik** to inaugurate **National Health Editors' Conference** on Yoga in New **Delhi** on **June 05, 2018**.
  - This Conference on '**Evidence Based Recent Innovative Research on Yoga – A Review of Yoga Research**' is being organized to mark the beginning of **International Day of Yoga**, which takes place on **21st June** every year.
  
- **Govt** Announces **Rs. 8,000-Crore Package For Sugarcane Farmers**
  - The Union government has announced a package of more **than Rs 8,000 crore** aimed to provide relief to sugarcane farmers and to clear their dues.
  
- **Financial Literacy Week Begins**
  - The **Reserve Bank of India** has chosen customer protection as a theme for the Financial Literacy Week which has begun on **June 4**. This event ending on June 8, will focus on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital.

## June 6

- **Important Cabinet Approvals-June 6, 2018**
  - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** was apprised of the agreement signed in connection with release of **Joint Stamps between Department of Posts, India and Russia Post** (Joint-Stock Company "**MARKA**" of Russian Federation) to establish postal cooperation and strive towards mutually beneficial operational excellence in the field of issuance of stamps.

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- Cabinet approves the extension of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Netherlands** on technical cooperation in the field of **Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management**.
  - The objective of this MoU is to promote **bilateral cooperation** in the field of sustainable and **smart urban development** on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit through exchange of knowledge, **institutional cooperation, research & development and commercial relations on related issues**.
  - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the project for construction of **9.9 km long new 6 – lane bridge across river Ganga on NH – 96 at Phaphamau in Allahabad** with total capital cost of **Rs. 1948.25 crore**.
- According to **ASSOCHAM-NEC**, India is among the top **five countries** in generating e-waste. The other countries topping the chart of e-waste generation are **China, USA, Japan and Germany**.
- In **India, Maharashtra** contributes the largest **e-waste of 19.8 per cent**.
- The Ministry of **Women and Child Development** organized **National Consultation on Child Protection** in **New Delhi**. The conference deliberated on the **Juvenile Justice** (Care and protection of Children) Act, **2015** and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (**POCSO**) **2012**.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** announced that there would be a complete ban on use of **polythene throughout the state** from **July 31**. The theme for this year's **World Environment Day** is **beat plastic pollution**.
- **Maharashtra** government has announced to **provide financial grant of Rs 1,000 per quintal to those farmers** whose tur and gram could not be purchased by the administration before the **May 31** deadline.



- The **Bihar** government has launched a new crop insurance scheme “**Bihar State Crop Assistance Scheme**” with **effect from Kharif** (monsoon) this year. The new scheme replaces the existing **system of crop insurance**.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** government headed by Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme “**Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018** (Power Bill Waiver Scheme)” for labourers and poor families.
- The state cabinet also approved **Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan** (Sambal) **Yojana 2018** (a scheme to provide **subsidised power**).

### June 7

- **India** has been ranked **137th** rank among 163 countries on the **2018 Global Peace Index** by Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace.
- India has improved by four positions in the overall ranking from 141st in 2018. The index is **topped** by **Iceland**, followed by New Zealand, Portugal, Austria and Denmark, whereas war-torn **Syria** remains the **least peaceful country** in the world.
- **Three Indian universities** feature in the top 200 universities of the **QS World University rankings 2019**. These includes-Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and IIT Delhi.

❖ University	-	2019 Rank	-	2018 Rank
❖ IIT-Bombay	-	162	-	179
❖ IISc, Bangalore	-	170	-	190
❖ IIT-Delhi	-	172	-	172

- The state government of **Andhra Pradesh and Singapore** has signed several pacts for the development of a start-up area (1,691 acres) in the new capital, **Amaravati**, to transform it into a world-class city.

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- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to extend the cooperation within **health sector** through the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for a period of three years starting from **2018 to 2020**.
- India has registered a significant **decline of 22 percent in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 2013**, according to the recently released Sample Registration System (SRS) 2016.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has announced to recognise the “**Queen**” a variety of **Pineapple** as Tripura’s state fruit.
- The **Election Commission** has launched its online **RTI Portal**. The portal-rti.eci.nic.in will facilitate applicants seeking information **under the Right to Information Act**.

### June 8

- A day-long workshop on ‘**Skill Development in Port and Maritime Sector**’ was conducted in New Delhi.
  - The workshop was organised by Ministry of Shipping in association with Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** has decided to **discontinue** with the semester system in **undergraduate courses** and re-establish the **annual examination system** from the coming session under Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (**RUSA**).
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for the first time will participate in the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) **summit** in China as a full member.
  - The forthcoming 18th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held in **Qingdao in China** on

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June 9th and 10th.

- This will be the **first SCO** summit after **India** became a member in **2017**. India, **together with Pakistan**, was accepted as a full member of the **SCO** in **2017** during its summit in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** has announced that the state was now Open Defecation Free (**ODF**) as it had achieved its goal of constructing **2.77 lakh individual toilets**.
- Minister of State for Defence **Subhash Ramrao Bhamre** inaugurated **578-metre-long Theng Tunnel in Sikkim**. This is the longest tunnel in Sikkim constructed on **Gangtok-Chungthang State Highway** by the Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**).
- The **Punjab** government has launched a “**Business First Portal**” to facilitate ease of doing business in the state.
- **Union Rural Development** Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** will confer the **National Awards** on best performing self-help groups (**SHGs**) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihood Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) on **June 11 in New Delhi**.
- The **5th edition** of the Kalinga Literary Festival (**KLF**) kick-started in **Odisha** in the presence of eminent personalities from **Indian literature, politics, media, and public services**.

### June 9

- At a **World Health Organisation** event held recently, the Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare, Government of India** launched a **National Media Campaign** titled ‘**What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do**’ to encourage **smoking cessation**.

- The **UN India** Business Forum and the **Women Entrepreneurial Platform** of **NITI Aayog** has formed a consortium to reduce gender disparities in start-up investments by providing mentorship and networking opportunities and accelerating financial and market linkages for women entrepreneurs.
- The Central Government has planned to open **Yoga and Ayush Centres** in all the six All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) that are currently functional in **India**.

## June 10

### National News

- The **18th Summit** of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) held from 9-10 June 2018 in Qingdao, China concluded with the adoption of the **Qingdao declaration**.
  - The declaration calls for implementing the **three-year plan to combat terrorism**, separatism and extremism. It also calls for implementation of the treaty on long-term good neighbourliness, **friendship and co-operation**.
- Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (**CECRI**), **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu** under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**) and **RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd** have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for transfer of technology for India's first **Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project**.
- The **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi** will soon become **India's first** airport to have an **automated smart facial recognition system**, ensuring hassle-free movement of travellers from entry to boarding points.
- The **Himachal** government led by Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** has received a financial assistance of **Rs 84.13 crore** from the Ministry of **Home Affairs and the Ministry of Finance** under the National Disaster Response Fund (**NDRF**).

- Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** launched the **Arunachal Rising Campaign** in the state during the inaugural session of the **2-day annual workshop on Annual Development Agenda 2018-19**.

### **June 11**

- Minister of State for External Affairs **V K Singh** flagged off the **1st batch of three month-long Kailash Mansarovar Yatra-2018** in New **Delhi**.
  - The Yatra will continue till the **8th of September**. There are two routes for the Yatra, one through **Lipulekh Pass** in **Uttarakhand** which involves some trekking also.
- According to a statement by **US consul** general **Craig** in **Kolkata**, **Craig Hall**, India is the **second highest sender of foreign students in the US**, next only to **China**.
- With the inspiration of '**Beti Bacho-Beti padao**' programme being initiated by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, East coast Railways, **Waltair** Division has launched '**SUBHADRA VAHINI**' programme for the security and protection of Women.
  - The programme was formally launched at **Visakhapatnam Railway Station** by Waltair Division, Divisional Railway Manager, **Mukul Saran Mathur**.
- The second India-US colloquium on **Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy** was inaugurated at the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), **Dona Paula, Goa** on **June 11**.
- Shri Piyush Goyal launches "**Rail Madad**" and '**Menu on Rails**' Apps
  - Rail **MADAD** (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) registers a complaint with minimum inputs from passenger (option of photo also available), issues unique **ID** instantly and relays the complaint online to relevant field officials for immediate action.
  - The Minister also launched a new App '**Menu on Rails**', a **Mobile Application** developed by **IRCTC** for creating awareness to the Railway Passengers for the items served to them on their **Rail Journey**.



- The **central government** has decided to set up **India first national police museum** in **Lutyens' Delhi**.

### **June 12**

- The **14-day** long joint **military training exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII** between **India & Nepal** culminated at **Pithoragarh** on **June 12**.
- **NITI Aayog's** Atal Innovation Mission, **AIM**, has selected **3,000 additional schools** for the establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs, **ATLs**.
- **India** will host the **first military exercise** of the **BIMSTEC** (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focusing on **counter-terrorism**.

### **June 13**

- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has announced a health assurance scheme named "**Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**" that will benefit around **3.5 crore people** from over **70 lakh families** in the state.
  - The scheme will come into effect from **August 15 2018**.
- 10 New **Swachh Iconic** Places Launched Under **Swachh Bharat Mission**
  - Ten new iconic sites have been taken up **under Phase III of the flagship project** Swachh Iconic Places (**SIP**) of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

### **10 New Iconic Sites are as follows:**

1. Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh);
2. Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal);
3. Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana);
4. VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh);
5. Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand);
6. Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K);
7. Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh);
8. ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur);
9. Sabarimala Temple (Kerala); and
10. Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

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- The **government** has approved a **33 percent increase** in **carpet area of houses eligible** for interest subsidy under its affordable **housing scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** to attract more beneficiaries.
- The Union Government has announced to establish **India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi**. The museum is expected to be inaugurated on **21st October 2018 on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day**.
- **NITI Aayog** has come up with the **Composite Water Management Index** to overcome limitations on availability of **water resources and the rising demand for water**.

### June 14

- Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (**KSLMA**) has initiated a '**water literacy**' campaign with the involvement of **70,000 students** aiming to create awareness about the importance of water conservation in the State.
- **India will host first military exercise** of the **BIMSTEC Countries** in **September 2018** in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The theme of the exercise includes **counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search**.
  - BIMSTEC stands for **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**.
  - Member countries: **India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia**.

### June 15

- **India** has been **ranked** at **177** out of **180 countries** in the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (**EPI**).
  - India has become the fourth worst country in the world with an **air quality score of 5.75** out of 100. India was placed at **141 out of 180 in 2016**.

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- The top **five countries** in terms of **green rankings** are **Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden.**
- The Integrated Command and Control Centre set up at **Naya Raipur** in **Chhattisgarh.**
  - The ICCC, Naya Raipur becomes the **10th Smart City Centre** to be operational in the country.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will launch the **flagship** programme of the **MSME Ministry- Solar Charkha Mission– on 27 June 2018** in **New Delhi.**
  - The Mission will cover **50 clusters** and every cluster will **employ 400 to 2000 artisans.**
  - The mission aims to disburse subsidy of **Rs 550 crore to the artisans.**
- Union Health Minister **JP Nadda** inaugurated the **10th meeting** of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (**GAELF**) in **New Delhi.**
  - The GAELF theme for this year is ‘**celebrating progress towards elimination: Voices from the field on overcoming programme challenges**’.
- The **Haryana government** has raised the **upper age limit of entry into government service from 40 to 42 years.**
- The **106th edition** of the “**Indian Science Congress**” will be inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at **Lovely Professional University** in **Punjab** from **January 3 to 7, 2019.**

### **June 16**

- The Union Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Company Affairs, **Shri Piyush Goyal** inaugurated **three 100 MW Solar Power Projects of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL)** for commercial operation and dedicated these projects to the Nation.

- The Solar Power projects is situated at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar District and SellaiyaSezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.
- **India** will be hosting the **23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF)** with a premiere in New Delhi on 18th June, 2018 at the Siri Fort Auditorium.
- **Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the ‘**School Chale Hum Abhiyan 2018**’ in Bhopal.
  - The **motive of this scheme is that no child should be deprived of schooling.**
- In a move to reduce number of casualties due to lightning strike incidents, the **Odisha** government has signed an MoU with **US-based Lightning analysing firm Earth Networks** for a lightning detection and warning system in the state.
- The **Arunachal Pradesh government** has inked an agreement with **Andhra Pradesh-based Smart Village Movement (SVM)** to facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of the north-eastern state.
  - The man behind the **Smart Village Movement, Solomon Darwin**, will be the adviser to the project’s core team.

### June 17

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone for **sewage management system** and **Storm water drainage system** in **Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh**.
  - This scheme is under government’s **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** scheme.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme:**
  - The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **June 2015** with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust **sewage networks** and **water supply** for **urban transformation** by implementing urban revival projects.

- **Rajasthan** was the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- National Consultation on **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)** chaired by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Uma Bharti, Swajal scheme was announced in 115 aspirational districts of the country.
  - This scheme will aim to **provide villages with piped water supply** powered by solar energy.
- **Assam** government has announced that **19 cancer care centres** will be set up across the state in partnership with Tata Trusts at an investment of **Rs 1,910 crore**.
- **Maharashtra** Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** met **World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva** in **Washington DC** to seek assistance for a **Multimodal Transport Corridor** and the **Rural Livelihood Project** which aims to provide sustainable livelihood enhancements in **10,000 villages** in the state.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will chair the **fourth meeting** of the Governing Council of **NITI Aayog** at **Rashtrapati Bhawan** on **June 17**.
- Union Minister for **Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways** **Nitin Gadkari** released a book ‘**Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops**’ published by **NABARD** in a function at **New Delhi**.

### June 18

- **Gujarat** has topped the Composite Water Management Index (**CWMI**) released by **NITI Aayog**, while tribal state **Jharkhand** was adjudged as the **worst performer**.
  - **Gujarat** is followed by **Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra** on the index.
- The **Tripura** government has launched the **GPS** (Global Positioning System) and wireless based **24×7 “mobile policing”** service to curb crime, especially against women.

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## June 19

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** and Minister of State for Home **Hansraj Ahir** has jointly launched a handbook titled **“Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children”** on ways to prevent crimes against children.
- **Goa Revolution Day** was celebrated on **June 18** in the state to pay tributes to **the martyrs of the state’s** liberation struggle.
  - The revolutionary call provided a spark to Goa’s freedom struggle and the state was finally liberated on **19th December, 1961**.
- The Central government is mulling to link **MNREGA** with the agriculture sector in a way that the **rural employment scheme** and the demands of labour in **agriculture complement** each other.
  - Government has formed a **seven-member committee** of the Chief Ministers that will also suggest the way to implement it.
  - The committee, **headed by Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

## June 20

- According to a statement by Railways Minister Piyush Goyal, the **Indian Railways will become a “net zero” carbon emitter by 2030** through the current action plans on anvil for 100 percent electrification of its network, coupled with renewable strategies.
- **Seventy new state-of-the-art day-care centres for senior citizens** will be opened in **Kerala** with the first of the centres already been opened.
- Central Water Commission (**CWC**), India’s apex technical organization in the field of Water Resources, has entered into a Collaboration Agreement with **Google** to seek help in effective **flood management in India**.

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has formed a **10 member panel** to **review norms related to** insurance marketing firm (**IMF**) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in the country.
  - The committee is headed by **Suresh Mathur**, Executive Director (insurance marketing firms), IRDAI, with nine more members.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Road Transport & Highways and Shipping **Shri Nitin Gadkari** is on **2 days visit** to **Republic of Tajikistan** to represent India in the high-level Conference on **“International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028”** on 20-21 June 2018.

### June 21

- **Shillong**, the capital city of **Meghalaya** has been selected as **100th Smart City**, to receive funding under the **Centre’s flagship Smart Cities Mission**, after evaluating the proposal submitted by it.
- The **5th National Standards Conclave- Implementing the Indian National Strategy for Standardization** was held in **New Delhi**. It was organized by Department of **Commerce** and Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**).
- The **Telangana** police have launched a **mobile-based** messenger application named **'Cop Connect'** dedicated to provide real-time information to over **60,000 police officers across the State**.
- The **Punjab Government** has launched a mobile application named **‘i-Hariyali’** aimed at increasing the **state's green cover**. The mobile application would enable the users to order free plant saplings.

### June 22

- The state **government** of **Tamil Nadu** has set up a **Staff Rationalisation Committee** in an attempt to **downsize its workforce**.

- The Committee will be headed by **S. Audseshiah**, a retired Principal Secretary of the state government.
- The **world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics** was launched at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.
- The International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics (**ICHF**) will **facilitate better management of bodies during emergencies such as disasters**. It was inaugurated at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (**GFSU**).
- **7th India Minerals and Metals forum** was inaugurated in **New Delhi on June 21**.
- Under '**India Smart Cities Award**' 2018, **Surat** has been awarded for showcasing "**great momentum**" in the implementation of projects under the Smart Cities Mission, according to the Housing and Urban Affairs (**HUA**) **Ministry**.
  - **Bhopal** and **Ahmedabad** were selected in the '**Innovative Idea**' category for their "**transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development**".

### June 23

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of **Vanijya Bhawan at Delhi's Akbar road**.
  - Upon completion, the new building will house the Department of Commerce which is currently housed in Udyog Bhawan which also houses a large number of other Government of India departments leading to constraint of space.
- **India** will construct an **Indian Armed Forces Memorial at Villers Guislain**, a town around 200 km from **Paris**.
- The state government of Gujarat has announced a policy '**Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018**' to promote setting up of wind as well as solar power projects at one location to ensure optimal use of land and transmission infrastructure.
- The **Haryana** government has decided to introduce a **scheme under which an incentive of Rs 50** will be given to school children for planting trees.

- The **3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** will be inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 25-26 in Mumbai**.
  - The theme for this year’s meeting is “**Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration**”.
  - The previous two AIIB annual meetings have been held in Beijing, China, in 2016 and in Jeju, South Korea, in 2017.
- The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has **adopted Jagatpur village in Delhi** for its **Swachhata Abhiyaan**. **Jagatpur** is destined to be one of the most beautiful villages in Delhi and NCR.

### June 24

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has been conferred with the ‘**Best Performing Social Sector Ministry**’ Award at **52nd SKOCH Summit** for the significant initiatives and achievements in delivering the promises made during last 4 years.
- In **Maharashtra**, the statewide **ban on single-use plastic items** came into effect from **June 23** in a bid to fight pollution caused due to its extensive use.
- The **three day Photo Exhibition on ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Khelo India Khelo’** was inaugurated in **Chandigarh** on June 23.

### June 25

- The **Indian** government is trying to make the **Chabahar Port in Iran** to become operational by **2019**.
  - **Iran and India, in February 2018, signed** an agreement worth **\$85 million** to develop Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran.
- The **two-day East India Climate Change conclave** was organised in **Patna** which was jointly inaugurated by **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Harsh Vardhan**.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Mohanpura irrigation project in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh on June 23 during his day long visit to the state.

### **June 26**

- **Saudi Aramco** and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (**ADNOC**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and **petrochemicals complex** at **Ratnagiri in Maharashtra**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved a proposal to set up a committee to lay down standards for **metro rail systems** in the country.
  - The committee will be headed by **E Sreedharan**, also known as the “**Metro Man**”.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MWCD**) has unveiled a report titled ‘**Women in Prisons**’.
  - The report aims to build an understanding of the **various entitlements of women in prisons**, the various issues faced by them and possible methods for resolution of the same.
- The **Gujarat** government launched a solar power scheme **for farmers-Suryashakti Kisan Yojana** (SKY) enabling them to **generate electricity for their captive consumption** as well as sell the **surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck**.
- The **three-day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival** celebrations on the bank of **Indus River** started in **Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir**.

### **June 27**

- The state government of **Haryana** has made the use of **LED bulbs and tube lights mandatory** in all offices under the Haryana government.
  - The initiative aims to ensure **substantial energy savings and also cut down on greenhouse gas emissions**.



- The **Godikan** panchayat in **Haryana** has become **India's first panchayat** to pass '**No Toilet No Bride**' resolution.
- The idea behind the resolution is to marry off **girls** only to **families** that have a **toilet in their house**.
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** launched a mobile app "**Passport Seva App**" on the occasion of "**Passport Seva Divas**" on **June 26**, during a conference in **New Delhi**.
  - The App will make the process for obtaining passports easier as one can apply for a passport from any part of the country.
- The **15th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)** was held on **25th June 2018**, in **Canberra, Australia** after a gap of **4 years**.
- The Government has proposed to set up **3000 Van Dhan Kendras** involving **30,000 SHGs** across the **country under the Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** to provide skill up-gradation and capacity building training for value addition of forest produce.
  - The **Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED** was launched by Prime Minister on **14th April, 2018** during the celebrations of **Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur Chattisgarh**. Under the scheme, **10 self-help groups** with each having **30 tribal gatherers** were constituted.
- Based upon the report of a survey of **global** experts by the **Thomson Reuters Foundation**, **India has been ranked** as the most dangerous country for women in the world due to the **high risk of sexual violence** and being forced into **slave labour**.
- **War-torn Afghanistan and Syria** ranked **second and third** followed by **Somalia and Saudi Arabia**.

### June 28

- The President of **India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **Udyam Sangam-2018 on June 27, 2018** to celebrate the **2nd United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day**.

- **Udyam Sangam-2018** is an important effort in developing effective eco-systems for **MSME** sector and will empower women and weaker sections by providing training to **80 lakh women**.
- The Government of India has imposed a ban on the manufacture of **Oxytocin** drug for domestic use with effect from **July 1, 2018**. It has also banned the import of **Oxytocin and its formulations**.
- The government of **Andhra Pradesh** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Singapore** to **speed up the construction work** of its **new capital, Amaravati**.
- According to a report titled “**Summer 2018 State of the Internet/ Security: Web Attack report**” compiled by **Cloud delivery network provider Akamai Technologies**, **India** is **ranked** fourth in the list of top **10 target countries for Web Application Attacks**.
- **Punjab** Government has launched a campaign encouraging farmers to voluntarily adopt a new scheme named ‘**Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao**’, to check depletion of **underground water**.
- **Mumbai** continues to be the **most expensive city in India** to live in for expatriates according the 2018 cost of living survey by global consulting firm Mercer.
- **Other Indian cities** featuring in the survey include **Delhi (103)**, **Chennai (144)**, **Bengaluru (170)**, with **Kolkata (182)** being the least expensive **Indian city**.
- **Hong Kong** is **ranked** as the **world’s costliest city** to live in for expatriates, followed by **Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul**.

### June 29

- The **Central Government** has decided to replace the apex higher education regulator body University Grants Commission (**UGC**) with Higher Education

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Commission of India (**HECI**) to provide “**more autonomy**” to higher education institutes to promote excellence and facilitate holistic growth of the education system.

- To repeal **UGC Act 1953** and provides for setting up of **Higher Education Commission of India**.
- Ministry of **Women and Child Development, Government** of India organized a day-long Seminar on Technology Partnerships for Steering **POSHAN Abhiyaan** called ‘**TECH-THON**’ for **POSHAN Abhiyaan – PM’s Overarching Scheme** for **Holistic Nourishment** on **June 28, 2018** at **Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra** in **New Delhi**.
- **India** has opposed the use of **chemical weapons anywhere by anybody at any time** and **believes** that those who indulge in such immoral act should be held accountable.
  - **India** voted against the use of **Chemical Weapons at the Special session of the Conference** of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in **Hague**.
- The **government** has decided to set up two more underground crude **oil storages in Odisha and Karnataka** to increase emergency stockpile cover by **12 days to 22 days**.

### June 30

- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has proposed to set up a consulate in **Hyderabad** in a bid to **boost the cordial relationship** between **Telangana and UAE**.
  - **The Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu** launched a **mobile application “ReUnite”** to **trace missing and abandoned children in India**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has announced a new scheme called ‘**Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana**’, wherein farmers families where girl children are born, will be given **saplings for plantation**.
  - The scheme is aimed at **empowering women and promoting tree plantation**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** will be awarded for **reducing maternal mortality** under Prime Minister’s **Safe Motherhood Campaign**.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## June 01

- **Launches International Rupay Card, Bhim App and UPI in Singapore**
  - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI at the '**Business, Innovation and Community Event**' in Singapore.
  
- **US Pacific Command Renamed As Indo-Pacific Command**
  - The United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command, or **PACOM**, to **Indo-Pacific Command**, according to the **US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis**.

## June 02

- **Giuseppe Conte** was sworn in as prime minister of **Italy's** new populist government.
- **India, Singapore Exchange 8 Key Agreements**
  - The **8 key fields** under which the agreements were **exchanged** are: **Naval cooperation, Economic co-operation, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Nursing, Combating Narcotics smuggling & Human Trafficking, Personnel Management and Public Administration, MoU between the NITI Aayog and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) on Cooperation in the Field of Planning.**
- **Gives Padma Shri Award To Tommy Koh**
  - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** handed over the **Padma Shri award**, one of India's highest civilian awards, to **former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh. Koh** was among **10 ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.
- **India Signs MRA In Nursing With Singapore**
  - India has signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (**MRA**) in Nursing with Singapore. This is the first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (**FTA**) partners.

## June 03

- **China Successfully Launches New Earth Observation Satellite**
  - China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite '**the Gaofen-6**' which will be mainly used in **agricultural resources research** and **disaster monitoring**.
  - The Satellite was launched on a **Long March-2D** rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China**. It was the **276th mission** of the Long March rocket series.
  
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Begins 5-Day Visit to South Africa**
  - The Minister will participate in the **BRICS** Foreign Ministers Meeting and chair the **IBSA** Foreign Ministers Meeting during her visit.

## June 4

- **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa On 4-Day Visit To Brazil**
  - Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** is on a **four-day** visit to Brazil. He is scheduled to visit various operational and training units as well as interact with senior officials of the **Brazilian Air Force**.
  
- **World Bicycle Day: 3 June**
  - On June 3, 2018, the first official **World Bicycle Day** was celebrated. Vice-President **Venkaiah Naidu** flagged off a mega cycling event in **New Delhi**.
  
- **PM Modi Unveils Plaque At Singapore's Clifford Pier Paying Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi**
  - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Singapore's former premier **Goh Chok Tong** jointly unveiled a plaque to pay tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi** at the immersion site of his ashes at the waterfront Clifford pier.
  
- **Singapore Names Exotic Orchid After PM**
  - An orchid was named after Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate his visit to the **National Orchid Garden of Singapore**.



## June 5

### ➤ **French Swimmer Begins Record Pacific Crossing Attempt**

- A French swimmer has set off from Japan aiming to become the **first person to swim across the Pacific Ocean.**
- **Ben Lecomte** will swim for **eight hours a day** for more than **six months** as he heads towards the **US west coast.** He is hoping to raise awareness for climate change.

## June 6

- Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General **Rajendra Chhetri** is on **six-day** visit to **India** beginning **June 6** on the invitation of his Indian counterpart **General Bipin Rawat.**
- According to Henley Passport Index, Japan has the **"most powerful"** passport in the world. **India is in 76th Position.**

## June 7

- **Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced a new alliance of **joint economic, development and military strategy** through **44** projects to further push strong ties between the two countries.
  - The two countries named the new cooperation **"Ala'Azm"**, which means determination.

## June 9

- **NASA** has given the **Juno spacecraft** the time (and money) it needs to be able to accomplish its missions by extending its science operations for **41** more months **until July 2021.**
  - The probe, which left our planet in **2011** and reached **Jupiter in 2016**, was supposed to wrap things up in **February 2018.** Now, **NASA** has agreed to fund the project until fiscal year **2022.** That means **Juno** will be orbiting the gas giant until **July 2021** and will spend the months after that analyzing data.

## June 11

- The **44th G7 summit** was held on **June 8–9, 2018**, in **La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada**. This was the sixth time since **1981** that **Canada** has hosted the meetings.
  - The 45th G7 summit will be held in summer **2019 in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France**.
  - The G7 is a group seven countries that is the **largest advanced economies in the world**. The countries include **United States, United Kingdom Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan**.

## June 12

- An **International Conference** on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be held in **Kathmandu, Nepal** from **June 17**.
  - The **Theme** of two day conference is “**Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society**”.
- **China’s President Xi Jinping** has awarded the highest state honour to **Russian President Vladimir Putin**, a move that **signals the close relationship** between the two countries.

## June 13

- An **International Conference** on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be held in **Kathmandu**, the capital of **Nepal** from **June 17**.
  - The Theme of the two-day conference is “**Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society**”.

## June 15

- Raksha Mantri, **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

## June 17

- National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) under the Ministry of **Skill**

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**Development and Entrepreneurship**, government of **India** will **partner** with **Singapore** e-Government Leadership Centre (**eGL**) at the National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (**NUS-ISS**) for implementation of skill development initiatives of India.

- **World Bank, Pakistan ink agreements of \$565 mn in power, water sectors for NTDC project and Sindh irrigation project.**
- **NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson**, who has spent more time in space than any other **American**, retired from **NASA** on **June 15**.

### June 19

- **Greece and Macedonia** has signed an agreement to change Macedonia's name to the **Republic of Northern Macedonia**, setting **aside 27-year-old** dispute over the **latter's name**.
- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has now included "**gaming disorder**" as a **mental health condition** in its International Classification of Diseases (**ICD**).
- The **two-day international** Information and Communication Technology (**ICT**) **2018 conference** concluded in **Nepal** on **June 18**.
  - The theme "**Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society**".

### June 20

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (**OPEC**) will host the **7th OPEC International Seminar at the Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria, on 20–21 June 2018**.

### June 21

- **Nikki Haley**, the **US Permanent Representative to the United Nations** announced the **withdrawal** of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (**UNHRC**), accusing the council of bias against **US ally Israel**.

- US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific **supercomputer** named '**Summit**' that can complete over **200,000 trillion** calculations per second - providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (**AI**).

### June 22

- **Canadian Parliament** has passed a “**historic**” bill legalizing the recreational use of **marijuana nationwide**, becoming the **second country in the world** to do so.
- **India and Tajikistan** have reaffirmed their **commitment to promote bilateral relations and agreed to enhance economic cooperation**, particularly in sustainable **water development**.

### June 24

- **US Scientists** in the University of Michigan have developed the **world's smallest computer**. It measures just 0.3 millimetres and could help find new ways to monitor and treat cancer.
  - These new microdevices named **Michigan Micro Mote** lose all prior programming and data as soon as they are switched off.
- **India** will construct a **war memorial at Villers Guislain**, a town around 200 km from **Paris** France to highlight the contribution of the soldiers of the undivided India to the freedom of **France in the World War I**.

### June 25

- **India and Cuba** have signed two MoUs in the field of **biotechnology, traditional medicine and homoeopathy**.

### June 26

- The Government of **Pakistan** is set to launch its indigenously developed observatory satellite, **PakTES-1A, in July 2018**.
- The **285 kg satellite** is fitted with **sensors and cameras** and will remain stationary **610 km** in space and its position relative to the sun will not change.

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## June 28

- The **15th India-Australia** Joint Ministerial Commission (**JMC**) was held in **Canberra, Australia**.
- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) based carrier **Emirates Airline** has launched a joint project with **US Crop One Holdingsto build the world's largest vertical farming facility** near **Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport**.
- The **world's largest multilateral naval exercise** Rim of the Pacific (**RIMPAC**) is all set to begin off **Hawaii** in the **Western Pacific Ocean** on **June 27**.
- The **two-month long biennial exercise** is likely to be attended by **navies of 26 countries** including **India**.

## June 29

- According to a report from organization **European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)**, **Norway** observes **the lowest rate of traffic accidents in the world**, leaving behind other European countries.
- The **global anti-terror financing watchdog**, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, has placed **Pakistan** on the '**grey list**' for failing to curb anti-terror financing and money laundering on its **soil**.

## June 30

- **Asia's first Arbitration Centre** specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in **Tokyo** in **September** to resolve the **growing number of disputes** in the region.
- **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**), has topped the list of "**smart cities**" in the **Middle East and Africa**, according to a report by **McKinsey Global Institute** titled "**Smart Cities: Digital Solutions for a More Livable Future**".



- The navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (**PASSEX**).
  - **Indian Naval ships INS Shakti and INS Kamorta** under the command of Rear Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, undertook Passage Exercise with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Madidihang (855)** on leaving the Port of Makassar, **Indonesia**.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **June 01**

- The **ICC** has included **Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland** and the **UAE** in their **ODI rankings** list apart from the **12** existing countries.

### **June 8**

- **New Zealand women's team** smashed the **world record** for the **highest ever** One-Day International (**ODI**) score by posting a mammoth **490-4** against **Ireland** at the **YMCA Sports Club, Dublin**.

### **June 9**

- Top-ranked Romanian **Simona Halep** beat **Sloane Stephens** in final sets to claim her **first Grand Slam title** at the **French Open**.
  - **Halep** became the **second Romanian woman** to win a **Grand Slam** singles trophy after **Virginia Ruzici** at **Roland Garros** in **1978**.
- **Indian athletes** added **three** more medals to their tally on the **third day** of the **2018 Junior** Asian Athletics Championships with a gold and two bronze in **Gifu, Japan**.
  - India won their **third gold** of the competition in the men's **800m** through **Uttarakhand** based **Anu Kumar** who clocked **1:54.11** seconds to get the better of **Iran's Abdolrahim Dorzadeh** who clocked **1:54.23** seconds.
  - **Arpandeeep Kaur Bajwa** grabbed a bronze in the **women's discus throw**.

## June 10

- **Bangladesh** defeated **India** in a nail-biting final of **Asia Cup T20 2018** cricket tournament at the **Kinrara Academy Oval in Kuala Lumpur**.
- **India Wins 17 Medals at Asian Junior Athletics Championships 2018** at **Gifu Nagaragawa Stadium in Gifu, Japan**.
- **India** won **5 Gold, Two silver** and 10 Bronze to take their medal tally to **17** to gain the third place in the medal table. **Japan** scored top position in medal table with **41 medals (14-15-12)** followed by **China 24 (11-8-5)**.

## June 11

- **Rafael Nadal** claimed an **11th French Open title in Men's singles** final in **Paris** after defeating Austrian **Dominic Thiem** in straight sets 6-4 6-3 6-2.
- **Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel** claimed the **50th** win of his career by dominating the **Canadian Grand Prix** ahead of **Valtteri Bottas** and **Max Verstappen**.

## June 12

- **Indian woman boxer Saweety Boora** claimed a **gold medal** in the **75 kilogram category** at the **Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in Kaspiysk, Russia**.

## June 16

- The **XXth International Umakhanov boxing Tournament** was held from June 6-12 in the city of **Kaspiysk, Russia**.
  - **Boxer Saweety Bora (75kg)** appeared as the sole gold medalist from India
  - **Brijesh Yadav** in 81 kg and **Virender Kumar** in 91 kgs lost in finals and settled for the Silver medals.
- India Women's Cricket team opener **Smriti Mandhana** will become the **first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League**– the women's cricket super league in **England**.

## June 18

- **New Zealand** teenager **Amelia Kerr** set a new world batting record in women's **one-day cricket** with her unbeaten **232 against Ireland in Dublin**.

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## June 19

- **Roger Federer** claimed his **98th ATP title** and re-established his unrivalled superiority on grass with a **6-4, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Milos Raonic** in the **Stuttgart Cup final**.

## June 25

- **Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal** clinched the **gold medal in men's 50 meter breaststroke event** with a timing of **27:59 seconds** at the **Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore**.
- **India's R Pragganandhaa** has become the country's youngest and the **world's second youngest Grand Master** at the age of **12 years, 10 months and 13 days** after reaching the final round of the ongoing **Grendine Open in Italy**.
- **Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin** remains the youngest ever GM, having achieved the feat at the age of **12 years and seven months in 2002**.
- **India's Amit Kumar Saroha** has clinched the **gold medal in the men's club throw F51 event** at the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Tunisia**.

## June 26

- **Indian Archer Deepika Kumari** won her **first individual gold medal in six years** at stage **three of the Archery World Cup in Salt Lake City of US** following a **7-3 win** over **Germany's Michelle Kroppen** in the recurve event final.
  - The Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton reclaimed the world championship lead with a victory in the **French Grand Prix**.

## June 27

- Commonwealth gold medal-winning weightlifter Sathish Kumar Sivalingam is the first Indian weightlifter to become brand ambassador for a product/service.
  - **Sivalingam** has been roped in by **"i steel TMT bars"** as he represents the core attributes of **i steel brand strength and flexibility**.

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## June 29

- **India's** middle-distance runner **Jinson Johnson** created history as he broke **42 year old record** set in Indian athletics to win the **gold medal** in the **men's 800m event at the 58th National Inter State Championships** at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in **Guwahati**.

## June 30

- **India sprinter Dutee Chand** set a new national record in the women's **100-metre race** when she **clocked 11.29 seconds** at the **58th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships** being held in **Guwahati, Assam**.

# **BANKING AND ECONOMIC**

## June 01

- The **Indian economy** grew **7.7%** in the fourth quarter of **2017-18**. The **GDP** had expanded **5.6%, 6.3%** and **7%**, in the first three quarters of 2017-18, according to the data released by **Central Statistics Office**.

## June 6

- The **second bi-monthly monetary** policy review, the six members **Monetary Policy Committee** headed by **RBI Governor Urjit Patel** unanimously hiked the policy repo rate by **25 basis points to 6.25 percent** to curb inflationary pressure from rising crude prices.

- **Current Rates**

✓ Repo Rate	- <b>6.25%</b>
✓ Reverse Repo Rate	- <b>6.00%</b>
✓ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	- <b>6.50%</b>
✓ Bank Rate	- <b>6.50%</b>
✓ CRR	- <b>4%</b>
✓ SLR	- <b>19.5%</b>

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## June 7

- **Foreign Direct Investment** to India decreased to **\$40 billion in 2017** from **\$44 billion** in 2016 according to a new trade report by the UN.
- The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure has approved the proposal of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for revised cost estimate of **World Bank** funded Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (**DRIP**).
  - The EFC approved revised cost estimate of DRIP for **Rs. 3466 Crore** and extended time period for conclusion of this project till **June, 2020**.

## June 8

- Finance Minister **Piyush Goyal** has announced setting up of a committee to give recommendations on the **formation** of an **Asset Reconstruction Company** for faster resolution of stressed accounts of **public sector banks**.
- The committee is chaired by **Sunil Mehta**, the non-executive **Chairman of Punjab National Bank**, and **would examine whether** such an arrangement would be **good for the banking system**.

## June 11

- The **World Bank** has forecast a growth rate of **7.3 percent for India for 2018-19** and **7.5 percent for the next two years**, making it the fastest growing country among major emerging economies.

## June 16

- **Fitch Ratings** has raised **India's growth forecast for 2018-19** to b to 7.4 percent from 7.3 percent due to higher financing costs and rising oil prices as risks to growth.
  - For **2019-20**, it estimated the country to grow at **7.5 percent**.



## June 17

- **India's exports grew by 20.18 percent to 28.86 billion dollars in May 2018 as compared to the same period during May 2017 when it was valued at 24.01 billion dollars.**

# **APPOINTMENTS**

## June 01

- An IAS officer **Amit Khare** assumed charge as **Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** on superannuation of **Narendra Kumar Sinha**.

## June 03

- **Spanish Socialist Pedro Sanchez** has been sworn in as the country's new prime minister by **King Felipe**. He has replaced **Mariano Rajoy**.
- In **Egypt**, President **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** was sworn in for a **second four-year** term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges. **Sisi won 97%** of valid votes in the **March presidential election**.

## June 4

- Defence Secretary **Sanjay Mitra Gets Additional Charge of DRDO Chairman**
  - Eminent scientist **S Christopher** has completed his term as the chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Defence Secretary **Sanjay Mitra** was given additional charge of the post.

## June 5

- **MK Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor**
  - **Urjit Patel** is **Present Governor of RBI**.
  - RBI's Deputy Governor- **NS Vishwanathan, Viral V Acharya, BP Kanungo** and newly appointed **MK Jain**.

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## June 6

- **Malaysia's king Sultan Muhammad V** has approved the appointment of an **ethnic Indian lawyer** as the **new attorney general**. Terminated the current Attorney General **Mohamad Apandi Ali** and replacing him with **Tommy Thomas**.

## June 7

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has given **West Bengal** Governor **Keshari Nath Tripathi** **additional** charge of Tripura Governor, during the absence of **Tathagata Roy** who is on leave.

## June 10

- **Former NIA chief Shri Sharad Kumar** has been appointed as the **Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi** for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office, or till he attains the age of **sixty five years**, whichever is earlier.

## June 12

- The Constitutional Council of **Nepal** has recommended **Justice Deepak Raj Joshee** as **new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court**.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (**ACC**) has appointed senior bureaucrat **S Ramesh** as the **Chairman** of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**).

## June 14

- **Dr. Inder Jit Singh, 1985 batch Kerala cadre IAS** officer, has been appointed to the post of Secretary, **Ministry of Coal**.

## June 16

- Indian football team captain **Sunil Chhetri** has been named as the brand ambassador of online **fantasy sports platform StarPick**.

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### June 18

- **Puducherry** will have its **first woman** Director General of Police (DGP) with **S Sundari Nanda**.
- **Jordan's King Abdullah II** has appointed **Omar al-Razzaz** as the country's **prime minister**.

### June 21

- Famed Indian composer and singer-songwriter **A.R. Rahman** has been appointed the **brand ambassador of the Sikkim government for a year**.

### June 22

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Governor **NN Vohra** has appointed **IAS officer BVR Subrahmanyam** as the **new Chief Secretary of the state**.

### June 24

- The government appointed **Arjit Basu** as **Managing Director of the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI)**. He will fill the position that fell vacant following the elevation of **Rajnish Kumar** as the chairman.

### June 28

- **Senior bureaucrat S Ramesh** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, the **apex policy-making body for indirect taxes**.
  - He will succeed **Vanaja N Sarna**, who superannuates on **June 30**.

### June 30

- An **Indian-origin** leading intellectual property lawyer of **Singapore, Dedar Singh Gill**, has been appointed as a **judicial** commissioner of the **country's Supreme Court**.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## June 5

### ➤ **World Environment Day: 05th June 2018**

- World Environment Day is the United Nations' (UN) most **important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action** for the **protection** of our environment. Since it began in **1974**, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over **100 countries**.
- The theme for the World Environment Day 2018, "**Beat Plastic Pollution**".

## June 8

### ➤ **World Oceans Day: 8 June 2018**

- World Oceans Day is held every year on 8th June to raise awareness of the vital importance of our oceans and the role they play in sustaining a healthy planet.
- In **2008** the day gained official recognition from the **UN General Assembly**.
- The conservation action theme for World Oceans Day 2018 is "**Preventing Plastic Pollution and Encouraging Solutions for a Healthy Ocean**".

## June 12

### ➤ The **World Day against Child Labour** is observed annually on **June 12**.

- The theme of World Day against Child Labour 2018 is '**Generation Safe & Healthy**'.
- The Day was launched in **2002** by International Labour Organization (**ILO**) to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

## June 14

### ➤ Every year, on **14 June**, countries around the world celebrate **World Blood Donor Day**.

- The **theme** for Blood Donation Day in 2018 is '**Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life**'.

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## June 18

- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought –June 17**
  - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
  - **2018 Theme of WDCD :- “Land has true value – invest in “**

## June 21

- **World Refugee Day: 20 June**
  - World Refugee Day is observed every year by the people on **20th June** in order to **raise the public awareness about refugee’s** situations throughout the world.
  - The **Theme** of World Refugee Day 2018 is: **“Now more than ever, we need to stand #WithRefugees”**
- **International Yoga Day: 21 June**
  - The **4th International Yoga Day** is being celebrated across the globe today. In India Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** led thousands of people in performing yoga asanas, in the main event organised at **Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**
  - The **theme** for Yoga Day 2018 is **"Yoga for Harmony and Peace"**.

## June 25

- **June 23: International Widows’ Day**
  - International Widows Day is a **global awareness day** that takes place **annually on June 23.**
  - The day was launched by the **United Nations in 2010** to **raise awareness** of the **violation of human rights** that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses.

## June 27

- The **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is observed annually on **26 June, since 1989.**
  - The theme for 2018 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is **“Listen First- Listening to Children and Youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe”.**



## June 28

- **UN Micro, Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) Day: June 27**
  - The **United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is held annually on **26 June** to speak out against the crime of torture and to honor and support victims and survivors throughout the world.

## June 30

- **12th Statistics Day** celebrated on **29th June, 2018**
  - In recognition of the **notable contributions** made by **Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** in the fields of **statistics, statistical system and economic planning**, Government of **India** in **2007**, has designated June 29 as the “**Statistics Day**” in the category of **Special Days** to be celebrated every year at the **National level**.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

## June 01

- **Kendrick Lamar** received the **Pulitzer Prize** in music for his album “**Damn.**” Lamar is the **first rapper in history** to be given the **award**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the '**Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**' to **Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi** and space scientist **A S Kiran Kumar**, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) in **Surat, Gujarat**.
- Statistics and Programme Implementation Minister **Vijay Goel** conferred **FICCI Smart Policing Awards 2018** to police officials of central armed police force and states police in **New Delhi**.

## June 4

- India's **Sanjana Ramesh** was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) even as compatriot **Vaishnavi Yadav** won the 'Girls Grit Award' on the **fourth and final day of Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018**, which featured 66 campers from 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Kagiso Rabada**, the world's number one **Test bowler**, was named **South Africa's Cricketer of the Year**.

## June 06

- **Dhiraj Ram Krishna** has received the 'National Gopal Ratna' award from Union Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh** in New Delhi for 'upkeep of the best dairy animals of indigenous breeds'.

## June 7

- Team India Captain **Virat Kohli** will be presented with the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Award** for the **Best International Cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18)** at the **BCCI Awards** to be held in **Bengaluru** on **June 12th, 2018**.

## June 10

- Renowned **British Pakistani** author **Kamila Shamsie** has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, **2018** for her seventh novel titled "**Home Fire**".
- **Rohan Bopanna** receives the "**Sports Icon of Year**" award at the conclusion of the **Sports Conclave**.

## June 13

- Noted social reformer and founder of **Sulabh International**, **Bindeshwar Pathak**, has been honoured with Japan's prestigious '**Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and Community**' for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.

## June 21

- **Miss Anukreethy Vas** from **Tamil Nadu** was declared the **winner** of the **55th edition of Femina Miss India 2018** pageant held at **Dome, NSCI Stadium, Mumbai**.
- **Miss Meenakshi Chaudhary** from **Haryana** and **Miss Shreya Rao** from **Andhra Pradesh** bagged the **first and second runner up** positions respectively.

## June 22

- **Vishwas Mandlik of Nashik** and **The Yoga Institute in Mumbai** are the recipients of the **2018 Prime Minister's Award** for outstanding contribution to **promotion and development of yoga**.
- **Mandlik won** the award in the category **Individual – National** and **The Yoga Institute** won in the category **Organisation – National**.
- **800** differently-abled people from across **India attempted** to set a **Guinness World Record for 'Largest Silent Yoga Class'** in **Ahmedabad** on the occasion of **4th International Yoga Day**.

## June 23

- **Ace Indian shuttler** and **Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medalist Kidambi Srikanth**, has been adjudged as the **Sportsperson of the Year for 2018** by the **Sports Illustrated India** magazine.
- The Veteran director **Martin Scorsese** will be conferred with the **Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Fest**.

## June 24

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje** has been conferred the **'Chief Minister of the Year'** award at the **52nd Skoch Summit** held in **New Delhi** for her remarkable work in e-governance.

## June 25

- **Veteran Bollywood actor Prem Chopra** was honoured with the **Living Legend Prize** at the 25th annual **Bharat Nirman awards** in **Kolkata**.

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## June 26

- At the Indian International Film Awards (IIFA), late star **Sridevi** won Best Actress (posthumously) for **MOM** while **Irrfan Khan** was given the **Best Actor Award for Hindi Medium**.

## June 27

- **Pallavi Durua**, who belongs to **Odisha's Koraput district**, was crowned as the **first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition** held at **Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar**.

## June 29

- The '**Sagarmala**', flagship programme of the **Ministry of Shipping** for port-led-prosperity has received the '**Gold Award**' in infrastructure sector at **52nd Skoch Summit 2018 in New Delhi**.
  - The **Sagarmala** Programme also received the '**Order of Merit**' at the Summit.
- **Lawrence Haddad**, who is a **British economist and food policy researcher**, and **Dr. David Nabarro**, who has worked with the **World Health Organization** and **United Nations on health and hunger** issues, were named the **2018 World Food Prize** recipients at the **U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington**.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## June 10

- An epic **Indian discovery**, a team from the **Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad** led by **Abhijit Chakraborty**, has spotted for the first time a distant planet **six times** bigger than **Earth** and revolving around a **Sun-like** star about **600 light years** away.
  - **EPIC 211945201b** (or **K2-236b**) is the name given to the planet. The host star is named **EPIC 211945201** or **K2-236**.

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## June 16

- **Google** has finally made available the “**App Maker**”, its low-code tool for building business apps, generally available and open to all developers, after a year and a half since the launch of its beta version.

## June 18

- On **June 17, 2018 Russia** successfully launched a **Glonass- M** positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket.
  - The **Glonass network** provides real-time positioning data for surface, **sea and airborne objects around the globe**, at an accuracy reportedly at par with the **U.S. Global Positioning System**.

## June 19

- **US scientists** have unveiled the **world’s most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer** called Summit that can complete over **200,000 trillion calculations per second**.
- **Face book** has announced its **partnership** with the National Commission for Women (**NCW**) to conduct a **digital literacy programme** aimed at training women scholars in **Panjab University**.

## June 20

- **Microsoft** has acquired **Flipgrid**, a popular video platform used by more than **20 million teachers and students worldwide**, for an undisclosed amount.

## June 25

- **India’s newest and first robotic telescope** called **GROWTH-India** has been launched at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (**IAO**) at **Hanle in Ladakh**.

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## June 28

- Nearly 10 years after **India** launched **Chandrayan-1** aircraft which completed over **3,400 orbits around the moon**, the country is once again all set to attempt a similar mission dubbed as **Chandrayaan-2, in October 2018**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) will send a rover to **the Moon in October to research** the prospects of mining **helium-3 and water**.

## June 30

- The **four first-year** engineering students from **Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai, Tamil Nadu** have developed the **world's lightest satellite** which will be launched from a **NASA facility in the US by August 2018**.
- The students built the **4cm 'cube' satellite 'Jaihind-1S'** with a **3D printed** outer casing from **polylactic acid (PLA) nylon material**, making it lighter than a medium sized **egg**, at just **33.39 grams**.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

### June 16

- Oscar-winning music maestro **A.R. Rahman's** upcoming **authorised biography** is scheduled to be out in August 2018.
  - Titled "**Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman**", it has been written by **Krishna Trilok**, a Chennai-based writer shedding light on his life and philosophy.

### June 22

- The **Vice President** of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has received the book "**Vedvigyan Alok**" (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet – Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) authored by **Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik**.
  - The Book Vedvigyan Alok is the **scriptural verse in Vedas' prose**.

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# DEFENCE

## June 10

- **India's first indigenous**, long-range artillery gun “**Dhanush**” has passed its **final** test at **Pokhran**, paving the way for its induction into the **Army**.

## June 14

- The Trump administration has approved a deal to sell six **AH-64E** Apache attack helicopters to India for **USD 930 million**. The move will strengthen India's ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.

## June 18

- The indigenous **Pinaka rocket system** of the Defence Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**) is being evolved into a **precision-guided missile**, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.
  - The missile, known for firing a salvo of **12 rockets in just 44 seconds**, has completed the initial trial, will undergo developmental **trials next month**.

## June 27

- The **Indian Navy and the Navy of Bangladesh** have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (**CORPAT**) as an annual exercise between the two Navies.
  - The first edition of the CORPAT has been inaugurated by **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** during his visit to **Bangladesh from June 24 to 29**.
  - The Navy regularly conducts **CORPATs** with **Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand**.