

CLAT FOCUS

A monthly magazine of CURRENT AFFAIRS



- Latest in GK
- Persons in News
- Important Officials
- Latest in Sport
- Memorable Points
- CRACKCLAT Bullets
- Current Topics
- Static GK Capsule
- Current Affairs MCQs

CRACK CLAT
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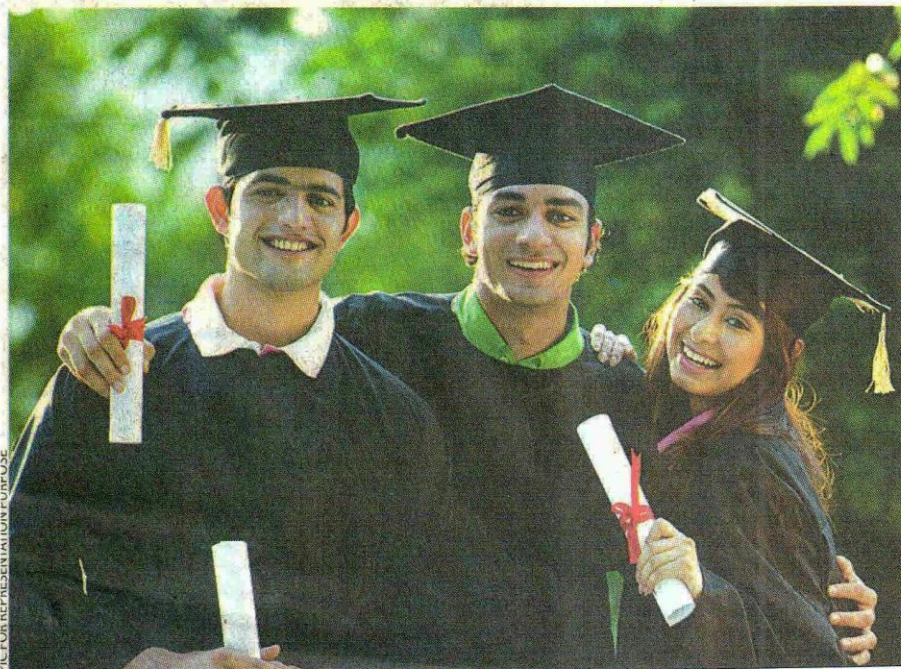
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THE TIMES OF INDIA, JAIPUR
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

Legally sound

AN ACADEMICIAN TELLS US HOW TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL
CAREER IN THE FIELD OF LAW



SKILLS REQUIRED

These are the skills which one needs to develop in due course of time. However, a good lawyer must possess the following:

- » Quick responsiveness
- » Good orator
- » Keen listener
- » Flexible but attentive mind
- » Out of the box thinking
- » Enhanced logical reasoning
- » Patience
- » Good communication skills

Rajendra Khadav

The legal profession in India has undergone a strategic and substantial change over the last few decades. Now-a-days, the law aspirants not only are lawyers, but also make lucrative careers in various corporate houses, law agencies, law firms, litigation, administrative services and many more.

The field of law witnessed a sea change in the recent years. A career in this field is not only restricted to family inheritance these days. A person having the desirable traits and passion for this field can opt for the course and achieve success.

The students in today's day and age soon after completing their higher secondary education, start exploring for various career prospects. They are seen to be more curious and serious towards their career choices. Here are few options in the legal field which students can opt for:

Options galore

You can either pick a five-year integrated LLB course or a three-year LLB program. If you have qualified 10+2/higher secondary school examination/interme-

diate examination or equivalent and have an urge to make a career in the legal field, you can look in for the five year integrated LLB course. Otherwise if you want to opt for a course in law after graduation, you can go for the LLB program.

A five year long integrated LLB course is an integrated degree for students who want to make it big in this field. Besides the theoretical knowledge, the students also get an opportunity to attend court sessions as a part of their practical training.

Examwise

The interested candidates, who wish to take up law as a career, need to qualify any of the entrance examinations listed below for admission in five years integrated law degree course:

CLAT- Common Law Admission Test, commonly known as CLAT is a national level law entrance exam. You can take this admission test to secure a seat in any of the 18 National Law Universities (NLUs).

AILET- National Law University, Delhi conducts a separate law entrance exam- All India Law Entrance Test (AILET) for admissions to

various law courses namely LLB and LLM courses.

HPNLET- Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla (HPNLU) conducts a separate law entrance exam- Himachal Pradesh National Law Entrance Test (HPNLET) for admissions to various law courses namely LLB and LLM courses.

LSAT- Law School Admission Test, commonly known as LSAT is a standardized test of reading and verbal reasoning skills designed by the USA-based Law School Admission Council (LSAC) for use by law schools in India.

SET Symbiosis- Symbiosis Entrance Test commonly known as SET is a common written test conducted for taking admission to undergraduate law programs offered by various institutes under Symbiosis International University.

ULSAT- UPES Law Studies Aptitude Test commonly known as ULSAT is conducted by the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES). The competitive entrance test is conducted to grant admission to Bachelor of Laws (B.A. LLB) and LLB in Corporate Laws, Cyber Laws and Intellectual Property Rights.

Remuneration

As far as the remuneration is concerned, it depends upon the field a law graduate chooses. If one gets a job in a government department, or in public sector or in a university or in any other organization, where the government rules are applicable, he/she will be entitled to get emoluments as per pay scales prescribed by the government from time to time. After acceptance of recommendations of 6th Pay Commission, the government servants are getting handsome salary, say between rupees 20,000 and one lakh and above depending on the designation and nature of the job.

Now multinational companies and law firms have also started campus selections and have been offering annual packages between four and twelve lakh of rupees as per the standing of the company. Further on, a lawyer's income depends on factors such as reputation, expertise and kinds of cases handled. Besides, law reporters, legal journalists, authors, writers and editors associated with reputed publications as also free-lancers too can earn a handsome amount.

(The writer is director of a city based law institute)

Important Officials

Ram Nath Kovind	President
M. Venkaiah Naidu	Vice-President
Narendra Modi	Prime Minister, Public Grievances and Pension, Atomic Energy and Space Department

✓ Judicial Heads

Designation

Person

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| • Chief Justice, Supreme Court | : | Dipak Misra |
| • Attorney General | : | KK Venugopal |
| • Solicitor General | : | - |
| • Chairperson, National Green Tribunal | : | Javad Rahim |
| • Chairperson, Intellectual Property Appellate Tribunal | : | KN Basha |
| • Chairperson, Armed Forces Tribunal | : | Virender Singh |

✓ Heads of Armed Forces

Designation

Person

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| • Air Force Chief | : | Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa |
| • Navy Chief | : | Admiral Sunil Lanba |
| • Army Chief | : | Gen. Bipin Rawat |

✓ Heads of Intelligence Organisations

Designation

Person

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| • Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB) | : | Rajiv Jain |
| • Director, CBI | : | Alok Kumar Verma |
| • Director, Research & Analysis Wing (RAW): | | Anil Dhasmana |
| • Director, National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) | : | Alok Joshi |
| • Chairperson, National Investigation | : | Sharad Kumar |

Agency (NIA)

✓ Election Commission

Designation	Person
• Chief Election Commissioner	: Om Prakash Rawat
• Election Commissioner I	: Ashok Lavasa
• Election Commissioner II	: Sunil Arora

✓ Heads of Various Boards

Designation	Person
• Chairperson, Railway Board	: Ashwani Lohani
• Chairperson, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:	SA Bhardwaj
• Chairperson, CBDT	: Sushil Chandra
• Chairperson, Company Law Board	: Mahesh Mittal Kumar
• Chairperson, SEBI	: Ajay Tyagi
• Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification:	Prasoon Joshi
• Chairperson, Central Social Welfare Board	: Durgabai Deshmukh
• Chairperson, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board	: S. Krishnan
• Director, NCERT	: Hrushikesh Senapathy
• Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education	: Anita Karwal
• Chairman, CBEC	: Vanaja N. Sarana

✓ Constitutional Heads

Designation	Person
• Speaker, Lok Sabha	: Sumitra Mahajan
• Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha	: M. Thambidurai
• Comptroller and Auditor General	: Rajiv Mehrishi
• Chairperson, 15 th Finance Commission	: NK Singh
• Chairperson, National Commission for Woman:	Lalitha Kumarmanglam
• Chairperson, National Commission for	: Ramshankar Katheria

Scheduled Castes

- Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes : Nand Kumar Sai
- Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes : Wangla Ishwaraiah
- Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission : HL Dattu
- Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission : David R. Syiemlieh

✓ Heads of Financial Institutes/Organisations

Designation**Person**

- Vice President, NITI Aayog : Rajeev Kumar
- Governor, Reserve Bank of India : Urjit Patel
- Chairperson, FICCI : Pankaj Patel
- Chairperson, Unit Trust of India : Leo Puri
- Chairperson, Life Insurance Corporation of India : SK Roy
- Chairperson, NABARD : Harsha Kumar Bhanwala
- CMD, SIDBI : Mohammad Mustafa
- Chairperson, National Housing Bank : Sriram Kalyanaraman
- Chairperson, ASSOCHAM : Sandeep Jojodia
- Chairperson, International Chamber of Commerce : Sunil Bharati Mittal
- Chairperson, Multi Commodities Exchange : Saurabh Chandra
- Chairperson, Indian Banks Association : Usha Ananthasubrahmanian
- CMD, Oriental Insurance Company : AV Girija Kumar
- Director General, Employee's State Insurance Corporation : Raj Kumar
- Chairperson, Institute of Company Secretary of India : Siddhartha Murarka

✓ Heads of International Institutes/Organisations

Designation	Person
General Secretary, United Nations Organisation	Antonio Guterres
India's Permanent Representative, UNO	Syed Akbaruddin
Secretary General, SAARC	Amjad Hussain B. Sial
President, UN General Assembly (UNGA)	Miroslav Lajcak
Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency	Yukia Amano
Director General, International Labour Organisation	Guy Ryder
Director General, FAO	Jose Graziano da Silva
Director-General, World Health Organisation:	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General, UNESCO	Audrey Axoulay
Director, UNHCR	Filippo Grandi
Director General, International Monetary Fund:	Christine Lagarde
President, World Bank	Jim Yong Kim
Chairperson, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development	Suma Chakrabarti
Director General, World Trade Organisation :	Roberto Azevedo
Director General, UNCTAD	Mukhisa Kituyi
Administrator, UNDP	Achim Steiner
Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Conference	Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen
Chairperson, European Commission	Jean Claude Juncker
Chairperson, European Union	Donald Tusk
Chairperson, Non-Aligned Movement	Nicolas Maduro
Chairperson, NASA	Charles F. Bolden
President, Interpol	Meng Hongwei
Chairperson, Asian Development Bank	Takehiko Nakao
Chairperson, New Development Bank	KV Kamath
President, AIIB	Jin Lique
Chairperson, Commonwealth	Patricia Scotland

- Director, IPCC : Hoesung Lee
- Secretary General, NATO : Jens Stoltenberg
- President, UN Human Rights Council : Choi Kyong-lim
- Secretary-General, ASEAN : Lee Luang Minh
- Chairman, International Cricket Council : Shashank Manohar
- Chairperson, International Cricket Council : Shashank Manohar
- President, International Paralympic Committee: Philip Craven
- President, IAAF : Sebastian Coe
- Secretary-General, Gulf Cooperation Council: Abdul Rahman ibn Hamad al Attiyah
- Director-General, UNIDO : Li Yong
- Head, World Food Programme : Ertharin Cousin
- Vice-President, World Bank : Hiroshi Naka
- Executive Director, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund: Antony Lake
- President, International Court of Justice : Ronny Abraham
- President, International Olympic Committee : Thomas Bach
- President, FIFA : Gianni Infantino
- High Commissioner, UN Commission on Human Rights : Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
- Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency : Yukiya Amano
- President, International Economic Association : Kaushik Basu
- Director-General, IAEA : Yukiya Amano
- President, FIH : Narinder Batra
- Chairman, African Union : Idriss Deby
- Secretary General, Arab League : Ahmed Aboul Gheit
- Secretary General, Interpol : Jurgen Stock
- Secretary General, Amnesty International : Salil Shetty
- Secretary-General, Red Cross : Elhadj As Sy

Current Affairs Bullets

National

- M. K. Jain has been appointed as the deputy governor of - **Reserve Bank of India**
- Who has been appointed as the chairman of CBIC? – **S. Ramesh**
- Who has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2018? – **Anukreethy Vas**
- Indian Coast Guard Commissioned ICGS 'Rani Rashmoni' which is a – **Fast Patrol Vessel**
- Which film was adjudged the 'Best Film' in the 19th IIFA awards-2018? – **Tumhari Sulu**
- Who became India's youngest Chess Grand Master? – **R. Praggnanandhaa**

International

- Who emerged the winner of the 91st Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship 2018? – **Karthik Nemmani**
- Who has been elected as the President of the 73rd session of UNGA? – **Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces**

- Who has been elected the new President of Colombia? – **Ivan Duque**
- Which country retained its top spot on the 2018 Global Peace Index? – **Iceland**
- Which major world power quit the UNHRC? – **The United States of America**
- Which country finally lifted ban on women drivers and motorists? – **Saudi Arabia**
- Which Asian Country was placed on 'grey list' by FATF? – **Pakistan**
- Who emerged champion of the French Open Men's Singles Title-2018 – **Rafael Nadal of Spain**

Static GK Capsule

Indian Polity & Constitution

- The first day session of the Constituent Assembly of India was chaired by – **Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha**
- Where have the word ‘we the people of India’ been used in the Constitution of India? – **Preamble to the Constitution**
- Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the Anti-defection law? – **Tenth Schedule**
- The Lok Sabha Speaker addresses and submits his resignation to – **Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha**
- The power to extend or restrict the jurisdiction of the High Court rests with – **The Parliament**
- Which kind of Panchayati Raj System was recommended by the Balwant Rai Mehta committee? – **Three-tier system**

Indian History & National Movement

- When did Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin sign the Gandhi-Irwin Pact? – **March 5, 1931**

- Which Indian leader was popularly known as ‘Andhra Kesari’ ? – **T. Prakasam**
- The two great leaders who launched (separately) Home Rule Movement in India in 1915-16 were – **Annie Besant and B.G. Tilak**
- The famous INA trials took place at the Red Fort, Delhi in – **1945**
- The first split in the INC occurred in 1907 at the – **Surat Session**

Economic Affairs Of India

- Who became the first woman President of Nasscom? – **Debjani Ghosh**
- ‘State Bank of India’ was previously known as – **Imperial Bank of India**
- ‘Income Tax in India’ was introduced by – **James Wilson**

Geography (India and World)

- The Atacama and the Pantagonia deserts are located in – **The Latin America Continent**
- Which European nation is called the ‘Land of Thousand Lakes’? – **Finland**
- ‘Maginot Line’ is an international boundary line between – **France and Germany**

- Which Indian state is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides? – **Tripura**

- 'Surma Valley' is located in – **Assam**

Science & Technology

- The metal present in Vitamin B₁₂ is – **Cobalt**
- Sugar in blood and urine is tested with – **Benedict's solutions**
- Which chemical is used in artificial rain? – **Silver iodide**
- Which polymer is used in making 'bullet proof glass'? – **Lexan**

Sports

- The 21st Commonwealth Games were successfully organized in April 2018 in – **Gold Coast, Australia**
- What was the name of the mascot of 21st Commonwealth Games – **Borobi**
- Who is the winner of the US Master Golf Title 2018? – **Patrick Reed of America**
- 'Jitu Rai', Heena Sidhu', Tejaswini Sawant' are famous Indian sportsperson of – **Shooting**

Miscellaneous

- Who is the author of the book- 'Divine Comedy'? – **Dante**
- World Day of Social Justice' is observed on – **February 20**
- An official report of the British government is called – **Blue Book**
- 'Reuters' is the news agency of – **The United Kingdom**
- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources is located in – **New Delhi**
- 'Heart rot' disease in sugarbeet is caused due to deficiency of – **Boron**
- World Oceans Day is celebrated – **June 8**

Latest In General Knowledge

Anniversaries & Days

- **June 4:** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- **June 5:** World Environment Day
- **June 3rd Sunday:** Father's Day
- **June 14:** World Blood Donor Day
- **June 21:** International Yoga Day
- **June 26:** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Appointments

- **Recep Tayyip Erdogan re-elected President of Turkey:** President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan won another five-year term after being re-elected in the elections which concluded on June 24, 2018. He won more than 50% of the votes while his closest opponent Mr. Muharrem Ince won 31% votes. The results were a blow to Mr. Ince and his Republican People's Party, known as the CHP. Mr. Erdogan has ruled the nation for 15 years.
- **Ivan Duque elected President of Colombia:** Colombia elected a conservative former senator Mr. Ivan Duque as its new President on June 17, 2018. In the second and final round of elections, Mr. Duque won 54% of the votes,

defeating former guerrilla fighter and onetime Bogota Mayor Mr. Gustavo Petro, 58, who captured about 42% votes in the runoff. Mr. Duque succeeds the outgoing President Mr. Juan Manuel Santos. Mr. Duque's victory marks a rapid rise for the 41-year-old political newcomer who rose to popularity with the support of former Colombian President Mr. Alvaro Uribe.

- **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi sworn in as President of Egypt for second term:** Egyptian President Mr. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in as the President of Egypt on June 2, 2018, for a second four-year term in office during a special parliament session. Mr. Sisi took the oath in a packed house and in front of members of his government, after winning 97% of the valid votes in the Presidential elections held in March 2018. Mr. Sisi had won his first term in 2014 with an overwhelming majority. He faced no serious competition in his run for re-election. His only opponent, Mr. MOussa Mostafa Moussa, was relatively unknown and a fervent Sisi supporter himself.
- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces elected President of UNGA:** The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly elected the Foreign Minister of Ecuador Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces as its next President on June 5, 2018, thereby making her only the fourth woman to lead the 193-member world body in its 73-year history. Ms. Maria defeated another woman—Honduras' UN Ambassador Ms. Mary

Elizabeth Flores Flake—by 128-62 with two abstentions in the secret-ballot vote.

- **S. Ramesh appointed Chairman of CBIC:** Senior bureaucrat Mr. S Ramesh was appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes. He succeeds Ms. Vanaja N. Sarna, who superannuated on June 30, 2018. Mr. Ramesh, a 1981 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), has served as a member in the CBIC.
- **Arvind Saxena appointed as acting Chairman of UPSC:** UPSC member Mr. Arvind Saxena was appointed as the acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with effect from June 20, 2018 till further orders or till completion of his tenure on August 7, 2020. Mr. Saxena, a 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer, succeeds Mr. Vinay Mittal, who completed his term at the UPSC, on June 19, 2018.

Books & Authors

- **Syama Prasad Mukherjee: Life and Time –** By Tathagata Roy, Penguin
- **Twilight Falls on Liberalism –** By Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Aleph
- **The Skull of Alum Bhag: The Life and Death of a Rebel of 1857 –** By Kim Wagner, Penguin
- **The Most Dangerous Place –** By Srinath Raghavan, Allen Lane – Penguin

- **The Spy Chronicles –** By A. S. Dulat, Asad Durrani, Aditya Sinha, Harper Collins
- **Ladders Against the Sky –** By Murli Melwani, Kaziranga Books
- **Republic of Caste –** By Anand Teltumbde, Navayana
- **In Pursuit of Conflict –** By Avalok Langer, Wasteland Books

Defense

- **BRO constructs bridge to Siachen under Project HIMANK:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) threw open a vital 35-metre bridge in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir on June 25, 2018. The bridge will ease vehicular movement to the base camp of Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield. Project Himank successfully undertook the challenge of constructing the bridge on Khalsar-Sasoma road, an important axis connecting Nubra Valley to Siachen Glacier base. The bridge on Chamesahn Lungpa stream was completed in a limited working window due to meticulous planning, timely mobilisation and innovative employment of resources.
- **NSG aspirants to clear psychology test for induction:** The National Security Guard (NSG) has included a new and comprehensive psychology test for entry level soldiers aspiring to be inducted and honed as 'black cat' commandos, who undertake special counter-terror and counter-hijack operations in the country. Till now the aspiring troops were put

under rigorous physical and mental strength tests to get inducted into the premier federal contingency force. Soldiers desirous of joining the NSG, modelled on the lines of special counter-terror forces of the UK and Germany, will now have to undergo a special capsule of psychology tests and questions during the 3-month commando conversion course (CCC).

Ecology & Environment

- **Government releases manual on Zoos:** A manual, containing guidelines to be followed while setting up zoos in the country was released by Union Environment Minister Mr. Harsh Vardhan on June 26, 2018. Mr. Vardhan also asked the authorities concerned to develop courses on zoo management. According to the Minister, these courses would enable the personnel, trained in zoo management, to sensitise the visitors as regards various aspects of environmental protection. He added that the manual should now be the "guideline" while setting up zoos in the country.
- **Pollution causing malnutrition in trees:** According to a study, pollution is changing the fungi that provide mineral nutrients to tree roots, causing plants in Europe to become malnourished. To get nutrients from the soil, trees host fungi, known as mycorrhizal fungi, in their roots. These fungi receive carbon from the trees in exchange for essential nutrients which they gather from the soil. A ten-year study led by Imperial College London (ICL) and the

Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK has showed that tree characteristics along with local air and soil quality have a great impact on mycorrhizae. The study, published in the journal *Nature*, examined 40,000 roots from 13,000 soil samples at 137 forest sites in 20 European countries.

- **India vows to eliminate single-use plastics by 2022:** India, on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2018, pledged to eliminate all single-use plastics (items like carry bags, straws and water bottles among others) from the country by 2022-the year which coincides with 75 years of the country's independence. "We make a solemn pledge that we will eliminate all single-use plastics from our country," said Union Environment Minister Mr. Harsh Vardhan while referring to PM Mr. Narendra Modi's idea of 'New India' by 2022. Being the global host of the World Environment Day 2018, Indian's announcement to end the use of single-use plastic in next four years is expected to send a strong message to the global community which is already threatened by the plastic menace due to its impact on marine ecosystems, water bodies and soil.

Economic Scene

- **Aadhaar linking reduces MGNREGS wage delays, fund transfers double too:** Linkage of MGNREGS accounts with an Aadhaar-linked payment (ALP) system significantly boosted

efficiency of wage transfers, doubling funds transferred and increasing work allotted in times of distress as compared to previous years when demand actually dropped during economic stress due to leakage and delays in payments. An Indian School of Business study, that examined annual data for blocks which had drought conditions in financial years 2012-2017, showed clear changes in the pre- and post-ALP system with regards to work generated, individuals and households benefited and the speed and volume of bank transfers that point to an increased uptake of the workfare programme.

- EXIM Bank extends \$10 million loan facility to Seychelles:** The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) extended \$10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles for healthcare and procurement of goods and projects on June 27, 2018. The LOC is the first tranche of the \$50 million sanctioned by the EXIM Bank to the country. With this agreement for \$10 million, EXIM Bank, till date, has extended two LOCs to Seychelles, taking the total value to \$28 million. EXIM Bank has 233 LOCs in place at present, covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the CIS, with credit commitments of around \$22.86 billion, available for financing exports from India.
- Tax breather for e-commerce companies for three more months:** The Central Government has proposed to defer the implementation of tax collection at source (TCS), a move that will give a breather to Amazon, Flipkart and other

e-commerce service providers. Online platforms have to collect the tax from those selling goods on their sites while making payments for goods sold. The tax, designed as a measure to improve compliance by helping to track such transactions, was to come into effect on July 1, 2018. E-commerce platforms, which have multiple sellers with small turnovers, have been wary of the provision, fearing an increase in the compliance burden. Their lobbying had already led to the tax being deferred by a year.

- GST impact positive on overall business:** **Survey:** Close to a year since its implementation, 77% of CFOs in India believe that Goods and Services Tax (GST) has had a positive impact on overall business. Deloitte, India's annual CFO Survey for 2018, indicates that the GST impact reflected better on the revenue and supply chain, while 58% CFOs saw an improvement in ease of doing business. On the other hand, the industry witnessed negative impact on the working capital (as responded by 66% CFOs) and finance cost (according to 55% CFOs) post GST implementation. While two-thirds of the respondents were positive about economic prospects in the near term, 94% were optimistic about the next 2-3 years. 57% of CFOs are now willing to take greater business risks. The survey represents the viewpoint of over 250 CFOs in India.

Honours & Awards

NATIONAL

- SKOCH Order-of Merit Award:** Arunachal Pradesh bagged the SKOCH Order-of Merit Award for the Measles-Rubella Vaccination campaign and also for the Chief Minister's Free Cancer Chemotherapy Scheme being implemented in the State. The award was conferred on the State at the 52nd SKOCH Summit held in New Delhi on June 21, 2018. The award, which was conferred by Skoch Group in recognition of the services provided to the people, was received by Special Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Tapasya Raghav.
- IIFA Awards 2018:** The 19th edition of the IIFA Awards was held at the Siam Niramit theatre in Bangkok, Thailand on June 24, 2018. Actor Irrfan Khan and late veteran actress Sridevi were named the Best Actor and Best Actress respectively for their remarkable work in films 'Hindi Medium' and 'Mom', respectively. A story of an ambitious and enterprising housewife, 'Tumhari Sulu' bagged the Best Picture Award, while Saket Chaudhary bagged the Best Director Award for 'Hindi Medium'. Veteran actor Anupam Kher was honoured with the Outstanding Achievement Award.

- Femina Miss India World 2018:** Ms. Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu was declared the winner of the 55th edition of Femina Miss India 2018 pageant held at Dome, NSCI Stadium in Mumbai on June 19, 2018. Ms. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana and Ms. Shreya Rao from Andhra Pradesh bagged the first and second runner-up positions respectively. The winners were crowned by the previous year title holders, Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar; Miss United Continents 2017, Sana Dua and Miss Intercontinental 2017, Priyanka Kumari for the respective titles.



INTERNATIONAL

- PEN Pinter Prize 2018:** Nigerian novelist Ms. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was selected for the 2018 PEN Pinter Prize on June 12, 2018. Adichie was awarded the prestigious award for her "refusal to be deterred or detained by the categories of others". The PEN Pinter Prize, an annual award, is given to a writer for showing a fierce intellectual determination to define the real truth of life and society. Only writers from Britain, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth are eligible for the award.
- Dublin International Literary Award:** 'Solar Bones' by Mike McCormack, which was also

long listed for the Man Booker Prize 2018, won the prestigious Dublin International Literary Award on June 14, 2018. 'Solar Bones' won the prize from amongst 150 titles. The book was nominated by Galway Libraries and by Nottingham Libraries, who called it, "A readable, experimental novel set in and described as a hymn to small-town Ireland."

- **Nikkei Asia Prize 2018:** Nikkei Inc., Japan, conferred the 23rd Nikkei Asia Prize 2018 in the category of 'Culture and Community' on Padam Bhushan Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan on June 13, 2018. The Nikkei Asia Prize recognises Dr. Pathak as An Indian social reformer tackling two of his country's biggest challenges—poor hygiene and discrimination". Dr. Pathak is one among the three who have been decorated with the award. The other two recipients of the award are: Mr. Ma Jun (China), founding Director, Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), winner for economic and business innovation and Mr. Nguven Thanh Liem (Vietnam), Director, Vinmec Research Institute of Stem Cell and Gene Technology, winner for science and technology.
- **Lumiere Award 2018:** American activist Jane Fonda was selected for Lumiere Award 2018 on June 11, 2018. The Oscar-winner was selected for the prize in part for her willingness to embody fierce independence from a young age and for the singular personality that has inspired her to choose powerful, politically – committee female characters. Jane Fonda is a

two-time Academy Award winner two-time BAFTA Award winner and four-time Golden Globe Award winner.

- **Tony Award 2018:** The Harry Potter spin-off book by J. K. Rowling, which was primarily written as a script for stage, 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child', won the Tony Award 2018 for best play, on June 11, 2018. The play Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, which won a total of six Tony Awards, is a two-part stage play written by Jack Thorne based on an original new story by Thorne, J. K. Rowling and John Tiffany. The play is set in the magical wizarding world of her Harry Potter books 19 years after the original series wrapped up and it officially premiered on July 30, 2016. The Tony Award recognizes excellence in live Broadway theatre.

Inventions & Discoveries

- **Solar-powered system can harvest fresh water from air:** Scientists have developed a system that can harvest water out of the air using just solar power, an advance ideal for people living in arid areas of the world. The prototype, developed by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley in the US, can extract drinkable water every day/night cycle at very low humidity and at low cost. According to Mr. Omar Yaghi, who invented the technology underlying the harvester, the system operates at ambient temperature with ambient sunlight, and with no additional energy

input one can collect water in the desert. This laboratory-to-desert journey has enabled the scientists to really turn water harvesting from an interesting phenomenon into a science, he added.

- **Scientists discover 27 new viruses in bees:** An evidence of 27 new, previously unknown viruses in bees has been found by a team of international researchers. The finding could now help scientists design certain strategies to prevent the spread of viral pathogens among these important pollinators. The team collected samples of DNA and RNA (which are responsible for the synthesis of proteins), from 12 bee species in nine countries across the world to investigate viruses in bees.

Places

- **Sentosa island, Singapore:** US President Mr. Donald Trump met North Korean leader Mr. Kim Jong Un in a landmark summit at Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore on June 12, 2018. After years of diplomatic wrangling, months of preparation, and weeks of uncertainty, the two leaders met in Singapore. It was the first meeting between an American and a North Korean head of state in more than 60 years. After a two-hour discussion about denuclearization and other critical issues, the US and the DPRK mapped out a four-part plan to make the peace and establish a new relationship.

- **Qingdao, China:** A two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit was held in Qingdao, China on June 9-10, 2018. It was the first SCO summit since its expansion, when India and Pakistan were included as full members at the Astana summit in Kazakhstan in 2017. India pitched for concerted regional and global action against terror networks and favoured effective connectivity links to boost trade. PM Mr. Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the summit.

Reports & Indexes

- **Mumbai costlier for foreigners than Frankfurt, Atlanta: Survey:** Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru rank highest among Indian cities in terms of cost of living for foreign nationals in Mercer's annual survey. Within India, Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city for expatriates and has moved up two spots to 55 from the year 2017. It ranks higher than cities like Melbourne (58), Frankfurt (68), Buenos Aires (76), Stockholm (89) and Atlanta (95). According to the 2018 Cost of Living Survey, Hong Kong is the world's costliest city for expatriates to live in, followed by Tokyo and Zurich. Luanda, the capital of Angola, which was the world's most expensive city last year, has been relegated to sixth position in 2018. Mumbai's jump in ranking is due to a surge in prices of food, alcohol and domestic supplies. Inflation

remained at 5.57% for the surveyed set of goods.

Space

- **Astronomers spot super massive black hole destroying star:** For the first time, astronomers have directly imaged the formation and expansion of a fast-moving jet of material ejected when a super massive black hole ripped apart a star that wandered too close to the cosmic monster. The scientists tracked the event with radio and infrared telescopes, including the National Science Foundation's Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA), in a pair of colliding galaxies called Arp 299, nearly 150 million light-years from Earth. At the core of one of the galaxies, a black hole 20 million times more massive than the Sun shredded a star, that was more than twice the Sun's mass, setting off a chain of events that revealed important details of the violent encounter.

Software & Telecom

- **US unveils world's fastest and smartest scientific Supercomputer 'Summit':** The US scientists have unveiled the most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer in the world, 'Summit', on June 8, 2018. IBM's Summit uses Power9 CPUs as well as NVIDIA Tesla V100 GPUs while it has 4,068 servers which are powered by ten petabytes of memory that work concurrently to process over 200,000 trillion calculations per second or 200 petaflops. This is indeed a great number but there is more as Summit's processing power is around 117 petaflops more than TaihuLight of China, which is the previous record-holder for being the world's

most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer.

- **Airtel beats Jio with highest 4G download speeds in Delhi-NCR:** Bharti Airtel has recorded the highest 4G mobile internet download speeds in Delhi-NCR region with an average of 8.9Mbps followed by Reliance Jio at 7.3Mbps and Vodafone at 4.9 Mbps, according to the latest report by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The test conducted in the Delhi-NCR region brought out that Vodafone has the highest upload speeds of 5.8Mbps in the region where Reliance Jio and Airtel 4G recorded upload speeds of 2.1Mbps and 2Mbps in Delhi-NCR. For 3G mobile internet speeds in the Delhi-NCR region, MTNL grabbed the top spot with 3.7Mbps download speeds followed by Airtel (3.3Mbps), Vodafone (2.3Mbps) and Idea (2Mbps) download speeds respectively.

CURRENT TOPICS: INDIA

➡ Supreme Court Rules In Favour Of Delhi Government, Clips LG's Role



A Supreme Court Constitution Bench unanimously ruled in favour of the Delhi Government on July 4, 2018, saying that the real powers of governance of Delhi rests with the elected representatives. The Lieutenant Governor (LG) was bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all the areas except land, police and law and order, said a five-judge bench in a majority verdict after hearing appeals filed by the Delhi Government against a Delhi High Court judgement declaring LG as the sole administrator of the city. The judgement—pronounced by Chief Justice Dipak Misra—also held that the LG cannot act as an “obstructionist”. In three separate but concurring judgements, Justices A.K. Sikri, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and Ahok Bhushan said that there is no independent authority vested with the LG to take independent decisions. The bench said that the LG was not vested with any independent

decision-making powers and cannot act in a mechanical manner. It further ruled that in case of difference of opinion with the Council of Ministers, the LG has to refer the matter to the President, whose decision then would be binding. The Court further stated that the decisions of the Council of Ministers have to be communicated to the LG but that does not mean that the Council of Ministers requires his concurrence. The Court said that the provision that the LG can refer “any matter” under Article 239 to the President does not mean every matter. Chief Justice Misra said that the executive powers of the Delhi Government were co-extensive with its legislative powers. The top court further said that Delhi can legislate on any issue that falls in the State List or the Concurrent List except for three areas of land, police, law and order.

LG of Delhi Mr. Anil Baijal and his predecessor Mr. Najeeb Jung and the Delhi Government have been locked in a bitter power tussle ever since the AAP swept to power in Delhi in 2015. The conflict stems out of the status of Delhi, which is a Union Territory and not a full state. As a result, the Delhi Government does not have control over land, appointment of senior officers and the police force. These three are controlled by the LG. Chief Minister of Delhi Mr. Arvind Kejriwal called the Supreme Court verdict as a big victory for the people of Delhi and for democracy.

➡ India Gifts Second Dornier Aircraft To Seychelles, Signs 6 Agreements

President of the Republic of Seychelles Mr. Danny Faure paid a State visit to India from June 22 to 27, 2018. He was accompanied by a high level delegation. Mr. Faure had a meeting with the Hon'ble President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind. He also held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. Earlier, the President of Seychelles visited the Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat. External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj also called on the visiting leader and discussed on expanding bilateral cooperation in key areas. Six agreements were signed between India and Seychelles after talks between PM Mr. Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Mr. Danny Faure such as defence security, develop Naval facility at the island including capacity building and human resource development.

During Mr. Faure's visit, India gifted Seychelles a second Dornier aircraft, to help the country enhance its maritime reconnaissance and maintain security in that part of the Indian Ocean region. While handing over the aircraft to the Seychelles President in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj said that the aircraft will give a quantum enhancement in maritime reconnaissance and contribute towards keeping the vast EEZ (exclusive economic zone) of Seychelles free from maritime threats. The Seychelles President said that the aircraft would help bolster the coastal surveillance capacity of his Indian Ocean island nation.

➡ President Ram Nath Kovind Launches Solar Charkha Mission

Hon'ble President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind launched the Solar Charkha Mission in New Delhi on June 27, 2018. Under the mission, the Central Government will disburse a subsidy of Rs. 550 crore to thousands of artisans, thereby generating employment in the rural areas. The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) will cover 50 clusters and each cluster will employ 400 to 2,000 artisans under the mission. While launching the mission during the event of Udyam Sangam – National MSME Conclave – on World MSME Day, the President said that it will generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.

Mr. Kovind said that the MSME sector is leveraging the demographic dividend of the country and promoting inclusive growth in rural and backward areas. MSME sector accounts for around 60% employment in India. He further said that there are 6.5 crore MSME units across the country employing over 11 crore people and contributing over 10% growth which is higher than heavy industrial units. Mr. Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for MSME, said that 15 new state-of-the-art technology centres are being set up all over the country including in the Northeast.

➡ NITI Aayog Releases First Delta Ranking Of Aspirational Districts

The NITI Aayog released the first Delta ranking for 108 "aspirational districts" on June

29, 2018 to measure their incremental progress across five developmental areas during a two-month period of April and May 2018. Dahod district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points and came first in the Delta ranking. West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points. Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu and Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh have been ranked third and fourth in the list of “most improved districts,” respectively. Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, Begusarai in Bihar, Ranchi and Simdega in Jharkhand and Khagaria in Bihar were listed as first, second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively, in “least improved states” in the Delta rankings.

For these rankings, a total of 49 key performance indicators have been mapped across five developmental areas: health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic Infrastructure. The districts started entering data from April 1, 2018 in the “Champions of Change” dashboard. 108 districts out of 112 participated in the ranking. Some of the data points for the ranking have been sourced from Ministries of Central Government, including those of financial inclusion, skill development and three indicators of basic infrastructure. Most of the data points, however, have been self-reported by the various districts themselves.

➡ **India, UAE Sign Agreement For \$44 Billion Mega Refinery In Maharashtra**

Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan paid a

visit to India from June 24 to 30, 2018. He was accompanied by a senior-level delegation. During the visit, Sheikh Abdullah called on Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and held official talks with External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj. Sheikh Abdullah and Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, witnessed the signing of a framework agreement, between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Saudi Aramco (Aramco) and a consortium of three Indian oil companies, to explore a strategic partnership and co-investment in the development of a new \$44 billion mega refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

India and the UAE enjoy warm, close and multi-faceted relations underpinned by historic, cultural, religious and economic linkages. The UAE is India's third-largest trade partner and sixth-largest supplier of its energy needs.

➡ **US Ambassador To UN Visits New Delhi To Bolster India-US Ties**

US Ambassador to United Nations Ms. Nikki Haley was on a visit to New Delhi from June 26 to 28, 2018, to advance relations between the two countries. She met Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries, including on counter-terrorism. She also met External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj. During her meeting with Ms. Swaraj, ways to deepen the Indo-US strategic partnership and the cooperation between the two countries at

the UN were discussed. Earlier, Ms. Haley, accompanied by US Ambassador to India Mr. Kenneth Juster, visited the majestic tomb of Mughal emperor Humayun in New Delhi and termed her visit as coming back home.

Talking about the strength of US-India relationship, Ms. Haley said that the two countries were the largest democracies that share values of people, freedom and opportunities. She said that the US sees multiple opportunities between the US and India especially in counter-terrorism, democratic opportunities, or military aspects. Ms. Haley said that there are a lot of things common between India and the US and her visit was to solidify the friendship between the two nations. She asserted the importance of religious freedom. She said that freedom of religion is as important as freedom of rights and freedom of people.

Earlier, Ms. Haley had visited India in late 2014 when she was the South Carolina Governor. Ms. Haley, the daughter of Sikh immigrants from Punjab, is the first Indian-American to serve in a Cabinet-level position in any US Presidential administration. Ms. Haley's visit assumes significance as the Trump administration walks away from key multi-lateral pacts, re-writing American engagement with its key western allies.

➔ India Launches Its First National Healthcare Facility Registry

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mr. J.P. Nadda launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) in New Delhi on

June 19, 2018. The repository is India's first ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardized and updated geospatial data of all the public and private healthcare establishments. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner for providing data security. Launching the repository, Mr. Nadda said that the NHRR project aims to create a reliable, unified registry of country's healthcare resources showing the distribution pattern of health facilities and services between cities and rural areas. He said that it will generate real-world intelligence to identify gaps in health and service ratios, and ensure judicious health resource allocation and management. It shall identify key areas of improvement by upgrading existing health facilities or establishing new health facilities keeping in view the population density, geographic nature, health condition and distance.

Under the Collection of Statistics Act 2008, more than 20 lakh healthcare establishments such as hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies and nursing homes would be enumerated under this census, which will capture data on more than 1,400 variables. Approximately 4,000 trained professionals are working to approach every healthcare establishment to collect information.

➔ Government To Replace UGC With Higher Education Commission Of India

The Central Government is set to replace the apex higher education regulator body University Grants Commission (UGC) with the

Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) by repealing the UGC Act, 1951, HRD Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar said on June 27, 2018. In a landmark decision, a draft Act for repeal of UGC & setting up HECI (Higher Education Commission of India) has been prepared, Mr. Javadekar tweeted. He said that the draft act is in accordance with the commitment of the government to reform the regulatory mechanism to provide “more autonomy” to higher education institutes to promote excellence and facilitate holistic growth of the education system. As per the draft, the proposed Higher Education Commission of India would focus solely on academic matters and monetary grants would be under the purview of the Ministry.

➡ 20 States Sign MoU To Implement Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission

Union Health Minister Mr. J.P. Nadda exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Health Ministers from 20 states, marking their commitment towards the launch of the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) at a Health Ministers conclave in New Delhi on June 14, 2018. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Nadda said that the initiative will change the landscape of healthcare in the country. He said that the States should work together, learn together, so that they work with the spirit of cooperative federalism, to perfect this largest health assurance scheme of the world. Mr. Nadda emphasized that the success of the scheme

hinges upon the active participation of the States need to own the scheme while the Centre will design the policy framework with all possible flexibility and support. Exchanging of MoU is an important step in formalizing the partnership between Centre and States, he added. The Union Health Minister stated that health is at the centre-stage and the government is looking at it holistically.

➡ Government Opens Vacancies For Joint-Secretary Level Posts For Non-UPSC Candidates

The Narendra Modi government has invited job applications from “talented and motivated” individuals, even from private sector, for ten Joint-Secretary level posts in several departments. According to a newspaper advertisement published on June 10, 2018, the government is looking forward to hire people with expertise in the areas of revenue, financial services, economic affairs, agriculture, cooperation and farmers’ welfare, road transport and highway, shipping, environment, forests and climate change, new and renewable energy, civil aviation and commerce. The initiative is being called ‘lateral recruitment to senior positions in the government’.

According to the advertisement, applicants for the Joint Secretary posts should be minimum 40 years of age and with a bachelors’ degree from a recognized university or institute. Candidates with higher qualifications will be given preference in the recruitment process. They will be hired on contractual basis for a period of three years from the date of commencement of

service. This can be extended up to five years depending upon the performance. Individuals working in private sector companies, consultancy organizations, international or multinational organizations at comparable levels as Joint Secretary with a minimum of 15 years experience are eligible to apply. Officers of any State or Union Territory government who have relevant experience and are already working at an equivalent level or are eligible for appointment to equivalent level in their cadre can also apply. Senior officials working with public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory organization, universities, recognized research institutes with a minimum of 15 years of experience are also eligible.

➡ **Victorian And Art Deco Ensembles Of Mumbai Declared As World Heritage Site By UNESCO**



The rich cluster of Victorian and Art Deco buildings in the Fort precinct and Marine Drive of Mumbai were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site at the 42nd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in Manama, Bahrain on July 1, 2018. With this, Mumbai gets its third such site – the Elephanta Caves and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus are also on the UNESCO list.

Maharashtra now has, more than any other State in the country, a total of five World Heritage Sites, including the Ajanta and Ellora caves in Aurangabad.

The ‘Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai’, include the structures that line the city’s Oval Maidan – a row of 19th-century Victorian buildings characterized by Gothic spires and gargoyles on one side, and the 20th-century Art Deco structures on the other. The first lot includes historic landmarks like the Bombay High Court, University of Mumbai, David Sassoon Library and Maharashtra Police Headquarters buildings. The Art Deco ones are mainly residential, but the ensembles also include the buildings along Marine Drive, and the Eros and Regal cinema halls. Together, the collection embodies the 200 years that transformed a small coastal fortification into a preeminent colonial city of the British Empire.

➡ **Supreme Court Allows Reservation In Promotion To SC/ST Employees**

The Supreme Court of India allowed the Central Government to go ahead with reservation in promotion for employees belonging to the SC and ST category in “accordance with law”, on June 5, 2018. The vacation bench comprising Justices Adarsh Kumar Goel and Ashok Bhushan took into account the Centre’s submissions that entire process of promotion has come to a “standstill” due to the orders passed by various High Courts and the apex court had also ordered for “status quo” in a similar matter in 2015. The government said that there were separate

verdicts by the High Courts of Delhi, Bombay and Punjab and Haryana on the issue of reservation in promotion to SC/ST employees and the apex court had also passed different orders on appeals filed against those judgement.

CURRENT TOPICS: WORLD

➡ US Ends 70 Years Of Military Presence In Seoul

The United States formally ended seven decades of military presence in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, with the opening of a new headquarters at an expanded facility on June 29, 2018. The new headquarters is located at Pyeongtaek, about 70 km south of Seoul. The US Forces Korea Commander General Vincent Brooks said at a ceremony to mark the relocation of the headquarters that the day marks a historic milestone in the history of the United Nations Command which began in 1950 and the history of the ROK [South Korea] – US alliance. South Korean President Mr. Moon Jae-in in a speech read out by his security aide Mr. Lee Sang-chul said that through the opening of the new era in Pyeongtaek, he hopes that the South Korea-US alliance will evolve into a great alliance beyond the military, comprehensive alliance. The new 3,510-acre command was built at a cost of \$11 billion (approximately Rs. 7,500 crore) and is the largest overseas US base. The construction work took about 10 years. More than 90% of the project was funded by the South Korean government.

➡ EU Leaders Reach Migration Deal After Marathon Talks

European leaders reached a migration deal after holding marathon talks at a summit on June 29, 2018. The talks lasted nearly 10 hours. Italy – the entry point for thousands of migrants, mainly from Africa – had threatened to veto the conclusions of the entire agenda if it did not receive help on the issue. The country had been asking EU member countries to do more to share responsibility for asylum seekers landing on Italian shores. Announcing the end of tense summit talks, European Council head Mr. Donald Tusk tweeted that 28 EU leaders have agreed on a migration compromise which was at the heart of their two-day summit. In a compromise, the EU countries agreed to set up joint asylum processing sites and restrict migrants' moves with the bloc. The joint statement released after the summit said that all the measures in the context of these controlled centres, including relocation and resettlement, will be on a voluntary basis.

The leaders also agreed to tighten their external border more, increase financing for Turkey, Morocco and Northern African states to prevent migration to Europe. However, it was unclear which countries would host the centres or receive refugees. The bloc also dodged an agreement on controversial refugee quotas. Leaders agreed that EU countries should help migrants rescued in the Mediterranean to alleviate the burden on Italy and Greece.

➡ President Kovind Visits Greece, Suriname And Cuba, Multiple Agreements Signed

Hon'ble President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind paid a State visit to the Hellenic Republic (Greece), Suriname and Cuba from June 16 to 24, 2018. Mr. Kovind was accompanied by a high profile delegate. On the first leg of his three-nation tour, the President visited Greece at the invitation of the President of Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokypis Pavlopoulos. Hon'ble President Mr. Kovind had a meeting with President Mr. Pavlopoulos. The Prime Minister of Greece and the Greek Leader of the Opposition separately called on the Indian President. The President attended the India-Greece CEOs Breakfast Meeting and addressed the CEOs. He delivered a speech at the Hellenic Foundation for Europe and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). He also addressed the members of Indian diaspora during the visit.

During his visit to Suriname Hon'ble President Mr. Kovind held bilateral discussions with President Mr. Desire Delano Bouterse. A number of agreements and MoUs were signed between India and Suriname during the visit. The agreements were signed in the areas of health & medicine, elections, information technology, collaboration between the diplomatic institutions of India and Suriname, Ayurveda and traditional medicines and employment of dependents of the diplomatic staff of both the countries.

Mr. Kovind was in Cuba on the last leg of his tour. He held a wide range of discussions with the Cuban President Mr. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez. It was the first ever visit of the

President of India to Cuba since Cuban Revolution in 1959. Before reaching Havana, the capital of Cuba, Hon'ble President Mr. Kovind laid a wreath on the grave of India's long time friend Fidel Castro at Santiago de Cuba. During Mr. Kovind's visit, India and Cuba signed two MoUs in the fields of biotechnology, renewable energy and traditional medicine. Cuba also reiterated support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

➡ FATF Hands Over 10-Point Agenda To Pakistan

After grey-listing Pakistan due to its terror-financing deficiencies, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) gave it a 10-point action plan on June 29, 2018. After holding Plenary Meetings in OECD, Paris, from June 24 to 29, 2018, to discuss the issues relating to security and integrity of the global financial system, FATF said that it has identified Pakistan as a jurisdiction with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. Pakistan's failure in implementing the elaborate action plan may result in it being included in the black list in 2019. After 2012-15, this is the second time it has been grey-listed and is facing sanctions.

The body has recommended an action plan to address the issues regarding anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing. The country has been instructed to take measures demonstrating that UN-designated terrorists and banned terror outfits such as Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar, Taliban and Haqqani Network, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba

and their affiliates are deprived of their resources and their sources of funding are choked. Pakistan will have to take steps to ensure that terror funding risks are properly identified, assessed and that supervision is applied on a risk-sensitive basis. The FATF has also sought actions demonstrating effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions (supported by a comprehensive legal obligation) against all designated terrorists and those acting for or on their behalf.

➡ Pakistan High Court Overturns Disqualification Of Ex-PM Abbasi

A Pakistani High Court overturned a tribunal decision disqualifying outgoing Prime Minister Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi from running in his home constituency, on June 29, 2018, in a yet another dramatic twist ahead of general elections scheduled on July 25, 2018. Mr. Abbasi is contesting election from two constituencies. The ban had been applied to his home constituency in the Murree hill district close to the capital, Islamabad, where he will contest cricketer turned politician Mr. Imran Khan. Mr. Abbasi's lawyer, Mr. Khawaja Tariq Raheem said that they have got the ban suspended from the High Court. An Election Commission tribunal had ruled that Mr. Abbasi did not declare an accurate value of his assets in his nomination papers. Mr. Abbasi denied the charge. He said that the nomination papers required a candidate to disclose an actual value of a property instead of its present market price.

➡ In A Historic Decision Saudi Arabia Permits Women To Drive

Saudi Arabia allowed women to drive from June 24, 2018, overturning the world's only ban on female drivers, a historic reform that is expected to usher in a new era of social mobility. The lifting of the ban, which follows a sweeping crackdown on women activists, is a part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's reform drive to modernize the conservative petrostate.



Thousands of female drivers took the wheel as the desert kingdom ended the decades-old ban, a glaring symbol of repression against women. The move is expected to be transformative for many women, freeing them from their dependence on private chauffeurs or male relatives and resulting in big family savings.

➡ Donald Trump Meets Kim Jong-un In A Historic Summit

In a historic first, US President Mr. Donald Trump and North Korean leader Mr. Kim Jong-un met at Capella hotel in Sentosa Island, Singapore on June 12, 2018. The two leaders shook hands, curbing decades of deep and bitter hostility between the two countries. After 45

minutes of alone time with their interpreters, Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim gathered their closest advisers and aides for a two-hour discussion about denuclearization and other critical issues. The two leaders signed a document in which the two countries mapped out a four-part plan to make the peace and establish a new relationship.



The joint statement included a pledge to build "a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula" and reaffirmed the DPRK's commitment, made in "Panmunjom Declaration" signed by Mr. Kim with South Korean President Mr. Moon Jae-in in April 2018, to "work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." The statement also committed each side to restart a project abandoned years ago to jointly recover the remains of US soldiers killed and missing in action during the Korean War of 1950 to 1953. Mr. Trump said that the agreement was the first step in a protracted set of negotiations that will begin immediately and be led by US Secretary of State Mr. Mike Pompeo. He said that this is complete denuclearization of North Korea, and it will be verified. Mr. Trump even boasted that he had created a "special bond" with the North Korean dictator.

➡ Kim Jong-un Visits China After Trump Summit

North Korean leader Mr. Kim Jong-un made a surprise visit to Beijing on June 19, 2018, just a week after his historic meet with US President Mr. Donald Trump on the Korean nuclear crisis in Singapore. During the two-day visit, Mr. Kim met Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping and briefed him about his meeting in Singapore with Mr. Trump. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not reveal the details of Mr. Kim's visit. The development comes amid an ugly trade spat between the US and China, with experts viewing the visit as Beijing's show of leverage it holds over Pyongyang. This was Mr. Kim's third visit to China since March 2018. His back-to-back China trips reflect the warming of ties between the Communist countries whose relations were hit hard after Beijing cleared UN economic sanctions on Pyongyang for firing off ballistic missiles and conducting nuclear tests. China is the sole ally of North Korea and always appealed for calm and diplomatic approach whenever tempers frayed between Pyongyang and Washington.

➡ US Leaves UN's Human Rights Council, Cites Anti-Israel Bias

The United States has decided to leave the United Nations' Human Rights Council. Announcing the decision on June 20, 2018, US Ambassador to UN Ms. Nikki Haley called UNHRC "an organization that is not worthy of its name." Ms. Haley said that the US had given the human rights body "opportunity after

opportunity" to make changes. She lambasted the council for "its chronic bias against Israel" and lamented the fact that its membership includes accused human rights abusers such as China, Cuba, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She said that the US is taking this step because their commitment does not allow them to remain a part of a "hypocritical and self-serving organization that makes a mockery of human rights". US Secretary of State Mr. Mike Pompeo, appearing alongside Ms. Haley at the US State Department, said that there was no doubt that the council once had a "noble vision but now the UNHRC is a poor defender of human rights".

➡ Sushma Swaraj Visits Italy, France, Luxembourg And Belgium

Minister of External Affairs, Ms. Sushma Swaraj paid a 4-nation official visit to Italy, France, Luxembourg and Brussels from June 17 to 23, 2018. The visit was the first major political exchange between India and Italy following the swearing in of Mr. Giuseppe Conte as the new Prime Minister of Italy on June 1, 2018. The year also marks the 70th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Ms. Swaraj called on the Prime Minister Mr. Conte and met her Italian counterpart Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi. The Ministers agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) in India later in 2018.

On her second leg of the tour to France, Ms. Swaraj met Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister

for Europe & Foreign Affairs of the country. She also called upon French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron. During Ms. Swaraj's visit, a bilateral Letter of Intent was signed between India and France on cooperation in the field of conservation of pre-historic ornate caves and rock shelters. It will aid conservation efforts at the Bhimbetka caves in India and the caves of Lascaux and Chauvet in France.

Ms. Swaraj's visit to Luxembourg was the first ever visit to that country by an External Affairs Minister from India. It took place at a time when the two countries are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations. During her visit, Ms. Swaraj called on the Grand Duke of Luxembourg His Royal Highness Henri Albert Gabriel Felix Marie Guillaume. She also called on Mr. Xavier Bettel, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg. Ms. Swaraj also had a meeting with Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.

On the last leg of her tour, Ms. Swaraj visited Belgium. India and Belgium are celebrating the completion of 70 years since the establishment of their diplomatic relations. She also called on Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed India-EU bilateral relations, and the progress made since the 14th India-EU Summit of October 2017. Ms. Swaraj also called on Mr. Antonio Tajani, President of the EU Parliament.

➡ UN Says 10,000 Children Killed, Maimed In Conflicts Worldwide

According to a United Nations report released on June 27, 2018, more than 10,000 children were killed or maimed amid armed conflicts worldwide in 2017, while others were raped, forced to serve as soldiers or caught in stacks on schools and hospitals. A total of more than 21,000 violations of children's rights were reported in 2017 – a sharp increase from the previous year according to the annual "Children and Armed Conflict" report. The UN blames a US-backed Arab coalition fighting in Yemen for at least half of the more than 1,300 child deaths or injuries recorded in that poor nation. They were victims of aerial and ground attacks by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on Houthi rebels opposed to Yemen's internationally recognized government. Among the casualties tallied in the report were child soldiers as young as 11, fighting in Yemen's civil war and in other countries, the UN said.

➡ G7 Summit Fails To Calm Trade Tensions Between The US And Europe

The 44th G7 summit was held from June 8 to 9, 2018, in Quebec, Canada. The summit received much attention due to a significant decline of relations of members with the United States. The summit between the United States, Germany, France, Japan, Canada, Britain and Italy was one of the most fractious ever, and the agreement on a final communique could not paper over differences on trade, the environment and the international nuclear deal agreed with Iran in 2015.

The statement at the conclusion of the summit called for the “free, fair and mutually beneficial trade,” fighting protectionism and “the crucial role of a rules-based international trading system.” The communiqué made it clear that the US had a different view on climate change and how to fight it from the other six leaders, increasingly being referred to informally as the G6. Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau concluded the summit by saying that he would move forward with retaliatory tariffs against the United States starting on July 1, 2018. He called the US tariffs under the pretext of national security “kind of insulting” and said that Canada would not be “pushed around”.

Mr. Donald Trump, in a tirade against countries said that they are “robbing” the US. He also targeted India on import tariffs and said, “This isn’t just G7. I mean, we have India, where some of the tariffs are 100 percent....And we charge nothing. We can’t do that.” Mr. Trump said as he threatened to stop doing trade with countries “who are being unfair” to the US. “We’re like the piggy bank that everybody is robbing,” said the US President at a press conference before making an early exit from the summit. He later tweeted that he had instructed the representatives of the United States not to endorse the communiqué and criticized Canadian PM Mr. Justin Trudeau’s statements at a news conference, calling him “meek and mild” and “dishonest & weak”. German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel called Mr. Trump’s revocation of support for the G7 joint communiqué “sobering and a little depressing”.

➡ SCO Summit Calls For Global Front To Fight Terror Groups

The Shanghai Cooperation Summit 2018 was held in Qingdao, China from June 9 to 10, 2018. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has resolved to fight terrorism, separatism and extremism with a renewed vigour in the next three years, and called for a unified global counter-terrorism front under the coordination of the UN. The grouping of eight countries, including China, India and Russia, came out with a declaration at the end of its two-day annual summit with a resolve to deepen cooperation to contain terrorism, extremism and separatism.

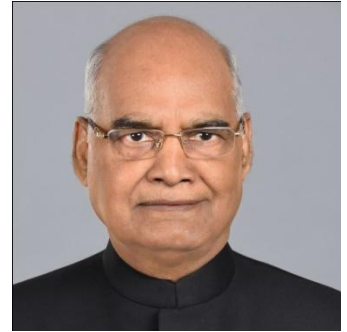
The Qingdao declaration said that the member states strongly condemn all forms of terrorism and consider it necessary to make efforts to promote the creation of a unified global counter-terrorism front with the central coordinating role of the UN on the basis of international law, without politicization or double standards. It further added that all the member countries were for reaching a consensus on adopting the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and emphasized the importance of comprehensive measures to reach a peaceful settlement of international and regional conflicts. The SCO leaders adopted a Joint appeal to Youth, in which they asked them not to get influenced by extremist ideologies. Besides the joint communiqué, 12 other documents were signed between the member countries. Four other documents were signed between ministries of

member countries including one on MSMEs and another on tourism. In total, 22 documents were signed, among them was an appeal to youth against radicalization.

Addressing the plenary session of the SCO summit, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi spoke about challenges of terrorism and said that Afghanistan is an unfortunate example of effect of terrorism. In his speech, Mr. Modi floated the concept of SECURE: 'S' for security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity in the region, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty, 'E' for environment protection.

Persons in News

- Ram Nath Kovind:** Hon'ble President, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind paid a state visit to Greece, Suriname and Cuba from June 16 to 24, 2018. The President delivered a speech on 'India and Europe in a Changing World' at the Hellenic Foundation for Europe and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in Greece. During his visit to Suriname, a number of agreements were signed between the two countries. Mr. Ram Nath Kovind visit to Cuba was the first ever visit of an Indian President to Cuba since Cuban Revolution in 1959. India and Cuba signed two MoUs during his visit.



- Donald Trump:** In a historic first, US President Mr. Donald Trump and North Korean leader Mr. Kim Jong-un met at Capella Hotel in Sentosa Island, Singapore on June 12, 2019, curbing decades of deep and bitter hostility between the two countries. The two leaders signed a document in which the US and North Korea mapped out a four-part plan to make



peace and establish a new relationship. The joint statement included a pledge to build a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

- **Danny Faure:** President of the Republic of Seychelles Mr. Danny Faure paid a state visit to India from June 22 to 27 2018. Mr. Faure had a meeting with the Hon'ble President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind and held delegation level talks with PM Mr. Narendra Modi. During Mr. Faure's visit, India gifted Seychelles a second Dornier aircraft to help the country enhance its maritime reconnaissance and maintain security. Six agreements were also signed between India and Seychelles after talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Faure.

- **Sushma Swaraj:** Minister of External Affairs, Ms. Sushma Swaraj paid a four-nation official visit to Italy,



France, Luxembourg and Brussels from June 17 to 23, 2018. The visit was the first major political

exchange between India and Italy following the swearing in of Mr. Giuseppe Conte as the new Prime Minister of Italy. During her visit to France, a bilateral Letter of Intent was signed between India and France on cooperation in the field of conservation of pre-historic ornate caves and rock shelters. Ms. Swaraj's visit to

Luxembourg was the first ever visit to that nation by an Indian External Affairs Minister.

- **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan:** The Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, paid a visit to India from June 24 to 30, 2018. During his visit, the UAE and India signed a framework agreement, between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Saudi Aramco (Aramco) and a consortium of three Indian oil companies, to explore a strategic partnership and co-investment in the development of a new \$44 billion mega refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
- **Nikki Haley:** US Ambassador to the United Nations Ms. Nikki Haley was on a visit to New Delhi from June 26 to 28, 2018. She met Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries. She also met External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj. Ms. Haley, accompanied by US Ambassador to India Mr. Kenneth Juster, visited the Humayun Tomb in New Delhi. She also visited Gauri Shankar Mandir, Jama Masjid and Gurudwara Sis Ganj, Sahib in New Delhi.
- **Anukreethy Vas:** Ms. Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu was declared the winner of the 55th edition of Femina Miss India 2018 pageant held at Dome, NSCI. Stadium in Mumbai on June 19, 2018. Ms. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana and Ms. Shreya Rao from Andhra

Pradesh bagged the first and second runner-up positions



respectively. Ms. Anukreethy was also crowned 'Miss Beautiful Smile' and won the 'Beauty with, a Purpose' award. She will

represent India at Miss World 2018 pageant to be held in Sanya, China in December 2018.

- **Aaron Finch:** Australia skipper Aaron Finch broke his own world record for the highest individual score in a T20 International, blasting 172 off 76 balls. Finch made this scintillating feat in a T20 match against Zimbabwe on July 3, 2018, surpassing his previous best of 156 off 63 balls against England in 2013. In his whirlwind innings, Finch smashed 10 sixes and 16 fours. In the match, his 223-run stand for the first wicket with D'Arcy Short is the highest in T20Is for any wicket. Surprisingly, Zimbabwe could score just 143 runs for 9 in their innings.

Latest in Sports

CRICKET

- **Mithali Raj becomes first Indian to score 2000: T201 runs:**

Star batswoman Mithali Raj on June 7, 2018 became the first Indian cricketer to amass 2000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals (T201). The 35-year-old



right-hander from Jodhpur achieved the landmark after scoring a single off Oshadi Ranasinghe en route to her knock of 23 during India's seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup T20 here.

She now has 2,015 runs in 75 matches.

- **England beat Australia to series after setting ODI men's world record score:**

England made the highest one-day international total in history as they crushed Australia by 242 runs to seal the series at Trent Bridge.

The hosts scored 481-6 in 50 overs - eclipsing their own record of 444-3, set against Pakistan at the same venue in 2016.

Alex Hales hit 147 and Jonny Bairstow 139 as England briefly threatened to post 500 in the third ODI.

Australia were bowled out for 239 in 37 overs as Adil Rashid took 4-47.

England's win, which gave them an unassailable 3-0 lead in the series with two games to play, came only 11 days after New Zealand made the highest total in a women's ODI - 490-4 against Ireland in Dublin.

- **ICC unveils inaugural World Test Championship schedule:**

The Inter-national Cricket Council (ICC) un-veiled details of a revamped match schedule on June 20, 2018 which will underpin its inaugural World Test Championship starting next year.

The long-awaited Championship, involving the nine top-ranked test nations competing in a league between July 15, 2019 to April 30, 2021, has been designed to give more meaning to test series for cricket fans.

The revamped Future Tours Programme (FTP), starting with the Ashes series in England next year, will see teams play three home and away series over a two-year cycle. The top two teams will then progress to a June 2021 final.

- **After 18-year wait, Uttarakhand set for Ranji Trophy debut:**

A team from Uttarakhand will finally feature in the Ranji Trophy, ending an 18-year wait, as the BCCI decided to form a nine-member 'consensus committee' to oversee the state's domestic debut in the upcoming season.

After a meeting in New Delhi on June 18, 2018, CoA chairman Vinod Rai said that Uttarakhand will be making its Ranji debut. The nine-member 'consensus committee' comprises six

members from different cricket associations in the state, one Uttarakhand government nominee as it currently owns the international stadium in Dehradun, and two BCCI nominees, including the recently retired Professor Ratnakar Shetty.

- **India vs Afghanistan: India win Test match within two days for the first time:** The historic one-off Test between India and Afghanistan in Bangalore came to a premature end as the home side delivered an emphatic performance to win the encounter by an innings and 262 runs. While Afghan hopes of scripting a fairytale ended in a horror show, India won a Test match for the first time within two days. Courtesy of this triumph India have also become the first Asian team to win a Test inside a couple of days by recording their biggest win in Test history. However, these are not the only records that were broken in this brief but engaging affair. Below are some of the statistics that were rewritten in the two-day affair. After dismissing Afghanistan twice on Friday, India became the first team to claim 20 wickets in one day.

An astonishing 24 wickets fell on the second day. This is fourth on the list of most wickets in a day's play. Afghanistan's 109 in the first innings came in just 27.5 overs. They now hold the infamous record of batting the fewest number of overs in an inaugural Test.

In the list of lowest totals by a team in their inaugural Test Afghanistan are third on the list behind South Africa (84 in 1889) and Bangladesh (91).

- **Australia slump to lowest ODI ranking in 34 years:** A year before the ICC 2019 World Cup begins, defending champions Australia have slumped to their lowest ODI ranking in 34 years. The last time Australia were placed in the sixth position was in 1984. Pakistan have replaced them in the fifth spot. England, India, South Africa and New Zealand complete the top four spots.
- **India crush Ireland in record victory to seal T20 series win in Dublin:** India recorded their biggest T20 win as they hammered Ireland by 143 runs to win the one-sided Dublin series 2-0. It was the second biggest victory in T20 history in terms of runs, with India posting 213-4 before bowling Ireland out for 70 in sunny Malahide. KL Rahul made 70, Suresh Raina 69 and Hardik Pandya 32 not out off 12 balls, while spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav shared six wickets.

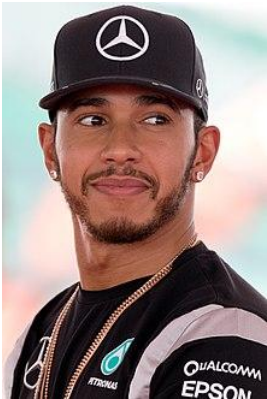
HOCKEY

- **Indian women's hockey team defeats Spain to levels series 2-2:** The Indian women's hockey team ended their Spain tour on a bright note as they defeated the hosts 4-1 in the fifth and final match at the Consejo Superior de Deportes Hockey Stadium in Madrid. India, on June 18, 2018, dominated the match in terms of possession and chances created, and were efficient enough as Rani (33rd, 37th

minute) scored a brace to give her team a two-goal cushion.

FORMULA-ONE

- **Lewis Hamilton wins French Grand Prix:**



Lewis Hamilton reclaimed the world championship lead with a dominant victory in the French Grand Prix.

The Mercedes driver led from start to finish other than one lap around his pit stop to move 14 points ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who finished fifth.

TENNIS

- **Roger Federer beats Nick Kyrgios to retain World No 1 ranking:**

Federer, 36, returned to top of the ATP rankings for the sixth time in his career and begin a record 310th week at the summit of the



men's game. His surge to the top displaces Rafael Nadal who had only last week clinched the French Open title for a record-extending 11th time. The focus, however, has not shifted to grass court season with two weeks to go to Wimbledon.

Roger Federer once again re-turned to pinnacle of ATP Rankings on Monday after moving into the final of the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart. The Swiss came from a set down to beat Nick Kyrgios 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.

- **2018 Mercedes Cup:** Roger Federer won the Men's Singles title, defeating Raonic in the final, 6-4, 7-6 By reaching the final, Federer regained the ATP no. 1 singles ranking.

FOOTBALL

- **Cristiano Ronaldo Agrees To Pay 18.8 Million Euro Fine In Tax-Fraud Case:**

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has agreed to pay the Spanish taxman 18.8 million euro (\$20 million) to settle a tax fraud claim, a legal source said Friday.

The deal between the fiscal authorities and the advisors of



the star comes hours before Ronaldo's Portugal face Spain in the World Cup in Russia.

The agreement still has to be ratified and will likely come with a two-year jail term — although sentences of up to two years are not generally served in Spain.

BADMINTON

- **Ritika-Simran triumph in Mauritius International Badminton tournament:** Junior India No. 1 pair of Ritika Thaker and Simran Singhi stamped their authority in the senior section too when they emerged women's doubles champions in the Mauritius International Badminton tournament which concluded at Rose Hill in Mauritius on June 10, 2018.
- **Odisha joins hands with Gopichand Badminton Foundation:** The Odisha government on June 8, 2018 inked an MoU with the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Foundation, Hyderabad to upgrade the Odisha-SAI Regional Badminton Academy to a world-class training centre.
According to the MoU, the foundation will provide technical support for overall development of badminton training in the state. The initiative is also aimed to help in producing world class badminton talents.
The MoU was signed between sports secretary Vishal Dev and national badminton coach P Gopichand.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Sports Ministry approves upward revision of pension to meritorious sportspersons:** Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore has approved the upward

revision of pension to meritorious sportspersons.

Under the revision, the rate of pension has been doubled of the existing rate of pension on winning medals in international sports events.

Following the upward revision of pension, the medallist at the Olympic/Para-Olympic Games will get Rs. 20,000 while a gold medallist at World Cup/World Championship in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will get Rs.16,000.

Current Affairs MCQs June 2018

1. Who launched 'Solar Charkha Mission'?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Nath Kovind
(c) Rajnath Singh (d) Venkala Naidu
2. Which country brings back mandatory national service for 16-years-olds?
(a) The USA (b) France
(c) Russia (d) Israel
3. Pedro Sanchez was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of which nation?
(a) Spain (b) Germany
(c) Argentina (d) Italy
4. India is trying to make Chabahar Port operational by 2019. This port is located in
(a) Italy (b) Iran
(c) France (d) Pakistan
5. Who has been elected the new Director General (DG) of International Organisation for Migration (IOM)?
(a) Christine A. Elder (b) Abraham Hanson
(c) Antonio Vitorino (d) George Crennan
6. Which day is observed as World Environment Day?
(a) March 10 (b) May 20
(c) June 5 (d) July 10
7. Which Indian Film opens the 2018 London Indian Film Festival?
(a) Sanju (b) Race 3
(c) Love Sonia (d) Raazi
8. The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of which Indian city has recently declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?
(a) Pondicherry (b) Panaji
(c) Kochi (d) Mumbai
9. Who has taken over charge as the new chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)?
(a) PK Sinha (b) BK Chaturvedi
(c) Ajit Seth (d) S. Ramesh
10. Who won MVP Award at Basketball without Borders Asia?
(a) Sanjana Ramesh (b) Rajeshwari Kumar
(c) Vijaya Rajan (d) Sudha Ramakrishnan
11. As per the new rules of SEBI, the timeline for announcing IPO price band has been reduced to
(a) 2 days (b) 3 days
(c) 4 days (d) 5 days
12. What is the full form of SIPRI?
(a) Statistics of Indian Peace Research Institute
(b) Statistics of Indian Price Review Institute
(c) Stockholm International Power Research Institute
(d) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

13. Under whose captain ship, the Indian Kabaddi team clinched the 2018 Kabaddi Masters Dubai title?

- (a) Ajay Thakur (b) Monu Goyat
(c) Surjeet Singh (d) Pradeep Narwal

14. Which country Sign 2 Agreements with India on Brahmaputra Water Data Sharing & Non-Basmati Rice Export?

- (a) China (b) Pakistan
(c) Indonesia (d) Iran

15. Which Indian bank is organizing 'Financial Literacy Week' from June 4-8?

- (a) SBI (b) RBI
(c) PNB (d) BOI

16. The Union Environment Ministry has approved the proposal for the expansion of which airport?

- (a) Kempegowda International Airport
(b) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(d) Indira Gandhi International Airport

17. Who was appointed as the Chairman of Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC)?

- (a) Vanaja N. Sarna (b) S. Ramesh
(c) Om Singh (d) Mahender Nath

18. Who has been appointed as the acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?

- (a) Vinay Mittal (b) Sunil Mehta

- (c) Rohan Kumar (d) Arvind Saxena

19. CSIR-CECRI signed an MoU for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project with which company?

- (a) Urja Solar Power Pvt Ltd
(b) RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd
(c) Electronics Corporation of India Ltd
(d) All of the above

20. When was the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression observed?

- (a) June 3 (b) June 1
(c) June 4 (d) May 31

21. Which Indian Navy Brings Back 38 Indians From Cyclone-Hit Socotra Island In Yemen?

- (a) Operation Nistar (b) Operation Python
(c) Operation Parakram (d) Operation Cactus

22. The Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS) will set-up first of its kind 24 Labs in Mumbai and

- (a) Vizag (b) Kolkata
(c) Cochin (d) Hyderabad

23. Which noted Indian social reformer has been honoured with the prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize 2018?

- (a) Kailash Satyarthi
(b) Medha Patkar
(c) Bindeshwar Pathak
(d) Irom Chanu Sharmila

24. The carpet area of houses for Middle Income Group I has been increased by the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under PMAY-U to?

- (a) 140 sqm (b) 150 sqm
(c) 160 sqm (d) 170 sqm

25. Which State government has decided to paternity leave to all its male government employees?

- (a) Haryana (b) Gujarat
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

26. Which state government is going to establish a sports academy for underprivileged children?

- (a) Jharkhand (b) Assam
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Karnataka

27. India launches its first national healthcare facility registry. It was launched by Union Health Minister

- (a) Narendra Singh Tomar
(b) Ananth Kumar
(c) Dharmendra Pradhan
(d) JP Nadda

28. 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of

- (a) Tourism & Culture
(b) Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(c) Railways & Transport
(d) Commerce and Industry

29. The housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending will be revised to Rs. 35 lakh in metropolitan centres from earlier

- (a) Rs. 30 lakh (b) Rs. 28 lakh
(c) Rs. 25 lakh (d) Rs. 32 lakh

30. What is the full form of SIDBI?

- (a) Simple Industries Development Bank of India
(b) Small Industry Developmental Bank of India
(c) Small Industries Development Bank of India
(d) Small Industrial Developing Bank of India

31. What is the full form of MSME?

- (a) Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise
(b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
(c) Mini, Small and Medium Enterprise
(d) Macro, Simple and Medium Enterprise

32. Which beauty giant has appointed Amit Jain as its new India Managing Director, making him the first Indian to lead its operations in the country?

- (a) Lakme (b) Mimalaya
(c) L'Oreal (d) Maybelline

33. Vanijya Bhawan, a new office will be the complex for the Union Department of

- (a) Defence (b) Corporate Affairs
(c) Railways (d) Commerce

34. India is going to receive the first-ever cargo of LNG from which nation?

- (a) Germany (b) The UAE

(c) Russia

(d) China

35. Prime Minister Modi lays foundation stone of green building, Vanijya Bhawan in

(a) Mumbai

(b) New Delhi

(c) Kolkata

(d) Ahmedabad

36. Which country has signed an agreement with Indian engineering services firm Core Energy Systems Pvt Ltd for the promotion of its technical security equipment in India?

(a) Russia

(b) Germany

(c) Australia

(d) Canada

37. Which city's railway station has become the first fully women operated station?

(a) Jaipur

(b) Bengaluru

(c) Kochi

(d) Ahmedabad

38. The annual joint military exercise 'Garuda Shakti 2018' started between India and which country?

(a) Sri Lanka

(b) Bangladesh

(c) Myanmar

(d) Indonesia

39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Annual Meeting of the AIIB on June 25-26 in

(a) Mumbai

(b) Lucknow

(c) Hyderabad

(d) New Delhi

40. Which Indian Restaurant is ranked in 100 best eateries in the world?

(a) Villa Maya (Trivandrum)

(b) Peshawri (Mumbai)

(c) Indian Accent (New Delhi)

(d) Pinch of Spice (Agra)

41. Who has been elected the new Director General (DG) of International Organisation for Migration (IOM)?

(a) Christine A. Elder (b) Abraham Hanson

(c) Antonio Vitorino (d) George Crennan

42. What was India's rank in the Global Environment Performance Index 2018, as per the State of India's Environment 2018 report?

(a) 123rd(b) 156th(c) 177th(d) 169th

43. The Union Cabinet has approved proposal for enactment of which bill?

(a) Water Management Bill, 2017

(b) Dam Safety Bill, 2018

(c) Farmer Grievance Bill, 2018

(d) Agriculture Education Bill, 2018

44. Which city will host the 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC 2019)?

(a) Bhopal

(b) Jaipur

(c) Jalandhar

(d) Patna

45. How many States signed a MoU with Union Health Ministry for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission?

(a) 15

(b) 17

(c) 20

(d) 23

46. Which country hosted the 23rd European Union Film Festival (EUFF-2018)?

(a) India

(b) China

(c) France (d) Switzerland

47. Which State signed pact with Quebec province of Canada for economic cooperation & welfare of tribal communities?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana
(c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat

48. Which State topped the Composite Water Management Index of NITI Aayog?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Odisha
(c) Gujarat (d) Karnataka

49. Dr. Inderjit Singh has taken charge as the new Secretary of which Union Ministry?

(a) Ministry of Railways
(b) Ministry of Coal
(c) Ministry of Finance
(d) Ministry of Urban Development

50. When is the World Blood Donor Day observed every year?

(a) June 13 (b) June 14
(c) June 15 (d) June 16

51. Who released the Nabard Publication on Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Rajnath Singh
(c) Nitin Gadkari (d) Harsh Vardhan

52. Ivan Duque has been elected as the new President of which nation?

(a) Chile (b) Colombia
(c) Spain (d) Uruguay

53. Where was the 2nd Canada-India Business Forum held recently?

(a) Gandhinagar (b) New Delhi
(c) Toronto (d) Brampton

54. The Indian Navy will host the multi-national series of exercises MILAN 2018 at which place?

(a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(b) Daman & Diu
(c) Lakshadweep Islands
(d) Bay of Bengal

55. Who will be appointed as Interim CEO of ICICI Bank, replacing Chanda Kochhar?

(a) Uday Chitale (b) Vijay Chandok
(c) Sandeep Bakhshi (d) Anup Bagchi

56. Who is the current President of China?

(a) Jiang Zemin (b) Shinzo Abe
(c) Hu Jintao (d) Xi Jinping

57. President Ram Nath Kovind reported that India is striving to become a \$5 trillion economy and the world's third largest consumer market by

(a) 2030 (b) 2021
(c) 2020 (d) 2025

58. Name Venezuela's President who was reelected for a second six-year term in presidential elections, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE).

(a) Hugo Chavez (b) Rafael Caldera
(c) Nicolas Maduro (d) Jaime Lusinchi

59. Name the Veteran writer, novelist of Telugu language who heralded a new era in Telugu fictional literature who passed away recently at California.

- (a) P. Lalita Kumari
- (b) Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani
- (c) Ampasayya Naveen
- (d) PV Narasimha Rao

60. Who is appointed as the Managing Director & Group CEO of ICRA?

- (a) Nilesh Soni (b) Naresh Takkar
- (c) Mahesh Thakur (d) Dinesh Thakral

61. NITI Aayog, in association with Vision India Foundation, is organizing the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 between India and

- (a) Russia (b) China
- (c) Japan (d) France

62. India's economy is projected to grow In fiscal year 2018-19, remaining the fastest growing economy in the world, according to a United Nations Report.

- (a) 7.0% (b) 7.1%
- (c) 7.4% (d) 7.6%

63. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid down the foundation stone of which tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway?

- (a) Zojila Tunnel (b) Bilasa Tunnel
- (c) Mahama Tunnel (d) Jhajjar Tunnel

64. Name the footballer who was named as France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris, France.

- (a) Leonel Messi (b) Cristiano Ronaldo
- (c) Neymar (d) Nick Ames

65. The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.

- (a) AYUSH (b) Samarth
- (c) Vikalp (d) Kayakalp

66. Who elected as the first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)?

- (a) Jane O'Meara Sanders
- (b) Gina Haspel
- (c) Pamela Brooks Gann
- (d) Judy Genshaft

67. Which flagship programme of Ministry of Shipping was awarded in infrastructure sector in 52nd Skoch Summit 2018?

- (a) Bharatmala (b) Sagar Tarini
- (c) Sagarmala (d) Samudra Manthan

68. Udyam Sangam 2018 was organized by which Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (c) Ministry of Shipping
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

69. Name the Indian charity house that has won charity award at the Asian Voice Charity Awards in London.

- (a) Jagriti Yatra (b) Savitri
(c) Deepti (d) Sagarika

70. Which Indian State has announced the name of AR Rahman as its Brand Ambassador?

- (a) Assam (b) Meghalaya
(c) Tripura (d) Sikkim

71. The Union Water Resources Ministry teamed up with which organization for flood forecasting?

- (a) Twitter (b) Google
(c) Microsoft (d) Facebook

72. Who won the 118th edition of the US Open Golf Championship 2018?

- (a) Patrick Reed (b) Dustin Johnson
(c) Brooks Koepka (d) Tommy Fleetwood

73. Which State recently made vaccinations compulsory for school admissions?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Haryana
(c) Punjab (d) Kerala

74. Who was elected as the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia?

- (a) Barnaby Joyce (b) Michael McCormack
(c) Malcolm Turnbull (d) Mathias Cormann

75. Which is the most spoken language in India as per the data on language released as part of Census 2011?

- (a) Hindi (b) Marathi

- (c) Bengali (d) Gujarati

76. What was the theme of the 2018 National Statistics Day?

- (a) Statistics on Trees & Climate Change
(b) Quality Assurance in Official Statistics
(c) Administrative Statistics
(d) Agri-Food Statistics

77. People of which State are most prone to the risk of cardiovascular diseases as per the recent surveys?

- (a) Jharkhand (b) Goa
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Kerala

78. The world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics has been launched in which city?

- (a) New Delhi (b) Gandhinagar
(c) Quebec (d) Tokyo

79. Which company recently announced to launch training programme for journalists in India?

- (a) Google (b) Facebook
(c) Twitter (d) Whatsapp

80. Who was crowned as the Femina Miss India World 2018?

- (a) Meenakshi Chaudhary (b) Shreya Rao
(c) Sheetal Singh (d) Anukreethy Vas

81. Which State government has decided to set-up an Integrated Project Monitoring Unit for its proper Mineral utilization?

- (a) Odisha (b) Punjab

(c) Haryana

(d) Delhi

82. Prime Minister has announced a Rs. 20000 crore defence industrial corridor in which of the region?

(a) Bengaluru

(b) Chandigarh

(c) Bundelkhand

(d) Pathankot

83. Who launched the National Health Resrouce Repository project?

(a) Harsh Vardhan

(b) JP Nadda

(c) Smriti Irani

(d) Rajyavardhan Rathore

84. Which Bollywood actor is planning to come out with a memoir in 2019?

(a) Shah Rukh Khan

(b) Deepika Padukone

(c) Priyanka Chopra

(d) Amitabh Bachchan

85. IRDAI constituted which committee to review regulations governing the Insurance Marketing Firms?

(a) Suresh Mathur committee

(b) Sourabh Bhanot committee

(c) Girish Joshi committee

(d) Deepti Rastogi committee

86. Which among the following heritage places have been adopted under 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme?

(a) India Gate

(b) Old Fort

(c) Qutab Minar

(d) Red Fort

87. Which country is hosting the Inter-Governmental Ministerial meeting on anti-doping?

(a) Sri Lanka

(b) India

(c) Germany

(d) Switzerland

88. The Union government is planning to build silos in some of the key States to store which food grain?

(a) Rice

(b) Wheat

(c) Maize

(d) Barley

89. Who has been elected as a new deputy Prime Minister of Australia?

(a) Barnaby Joyce

(b) Michael Hauven

(c) Michael McCormack

(d) Michael Cormann

90. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently inaugurated the PNG supply to kitchens in the Campus of Border Security Force is located in which place?

(a) Agra

(b) Chhwala

(c) Purana Qila

(d) Dilli Haat

91. Which task force was constituted by the Union government to study use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in military?

(a) Sitharaman task force

(b) Natarajan Chandrasekaran task force

(c) Parrikar task force

(d) Baldev Singh task force

92. What is the theme of 20th conference of the Commonwealth Education Ministers 2018?

(a) Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development

(b) Quality Education for Equitable Development

(c) Performance, Paths and Productivity
(d) Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?

93. In Which of the following country the 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament held?
(a) Sofia (Bulgaria) (b) Sochi (Russia)
(c) Beijing (China) (d) New Delhi (India)

94. The Union government recently announced to launch which scheme to encourage farmers for solar farming?
(a) KUSUM Scheme
(b) ABHIMAAN Scheme
(c) SAUBHAGYA Scheme
(d) KISAN Scheme

95. The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a tribunal to resolve the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over which of the river?
(a) Cauvery (b) Ganga
(c) Mahanadi (d) Narmada

96. Sakina Khatun is related to which of the following sports?
(a) Athletics (b) Weight Lifting
(c) Swimming (d) Football

97. The Indian Railways has decided to manufacture Metro coaches and is setting up a factory in which of the following State?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Odisha
(c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana

98. SEBI has recently approved which of the stock exchange to launch cross-currency derivatives?

- (a) National Stock Exchange
- (b) Bombay Stock Exchange
- (c) London Stock Exchange
- (d) US Stock Exchange

99. Which district has been ranked first in the NITI Aayog's Delta ranking of Aspirational Districts Programme?
(a) Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh
(b) West Sikkim district in Sikkim
(c) Asifabad district in Telangana
(d) Dahod district of Gujarat

100. The Union government has launched a mobile application 'ReUnite' for which purpose?
(a) To track and trace bank defaulters
(b) To track and trace missing children
(c) to track and trace Sagarmala project
(d) to track and trace Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Answer Key Current Affairs MCQs June 2018

Q.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Ans.	B	B	A	B	C	C	C	D	D	A
Q.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
Ans.	A	D	A	A	B	D	B	D	B	C
Q.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
Ans.	A	A	C	C	A	C	D	A	B	C
Q.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
Ans.	B	C	D	C	B	A	A	D	A	C
Q.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
Ans.	A	C	B	C	C	A	C	C	B	B
Q.	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Ans.	C	B	B	A	C	D	D	C	B	B
Q.	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Ans.	D	D	A	C	A	B	C	A	A	D
Q.	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
Ans.	B	C	D	B	A	B	D	B	A	D
Q.	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
Ans.	A	C	B	C	A	D	A	A	C	B
Q.	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Ans.	B	D	A	A	C	B	C	B	D	B

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