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National

Repo Rate Increased By 25 Bps In Second Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement (2018-19)

- i. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India has increased the policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.25 percent in the Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement (2018-19). Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.0 percent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.50 percent.
- ii. MPC revised CPI inflation for 2018-19 to 4.8-4.9% in the first half and 4.7% in the second half. The MPC stated that the GDP growth rate for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 percent.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the RBI headed by its Governor.
- Urjit Patel is Present Governor of RBI.

World Environment Day 2018 Celebrated In New Delhi

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the global celebrations of World Environment Day 2018 on 05th June in New Delhi. Prime Minister also visited the exhibition set up on the occasion, themed 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. India was the global host nation for the 43rd edition of this event.
- ii. Environment Ministers, representatives from United Nations and members from various industry bodies were among the various dignitaries who attended the event.

Polythene To Be Completely Prohibited From 31st July In Uttarakhand

- i. In Uttarakhand, Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July in the state. All the polythene vendors have been asked to finish the polyethylene stock before 31st July.
- ii. In Dehradun on the occasion of World Environment Day, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat stated, a comprehensive public awareness campaign will be launched on environmental damage caused by polythene, one week before the entire ban on polythene in the state.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand was formed on 09th November 2000 as the 27th State of India, when it was carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh.

Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurated 1st IAF Commanders Conference

- i. The First biannual Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference was inaugurated by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Air Headquarters in New Delhi. Minister of State for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa were among those who were present at the conference.
- ii. The Exercise 'Gagan Shakti' was mentioned as the landmark exercise for IAF. The two-day conference discussed operational, maintenance and administrative takeaways identified during the Exercise and the way ahead.

Andhra Pradesh Gets Its Own Symbols

- i. **Neem and black buck** have been declared as **the state tree and animal** respectively of Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. **The rose-ringed parakeet** will be the **state bird** while **jasmine will be the state flower**. The announcement was made by the Principal Secretary of Environment and Forests G Anantha Ramu.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated to create Telangana in June, 2014.

India Ranks 113th On Childhood Index

- i. According to a Save the Children's "**End of Childhood Index 2018**", **India ranks 113 among 175 countries** with regards to where childhood is threatened as a result of poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, and child marriage. **The child marriages in India have come down to 15.2% from 21.1% in 2017.**
- ii. India jumped three positions up from 116 last year with improvement in India's overall score by 14 points from 754 to 768 on a scale of 1000. **Singapore and Slovenia** are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.

1st Cargo of Russian LNG Arrives at Dahej in Gujarat

- i. India received the first-ever cargo of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russia** as New Delhi diversifies import basket to meet its vast energy needs. State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd will bring the shipload of LNG from **Gazprom, a Russian supplier**, at Petronet LNG Ltd's import terminal **in Dahej, Gujarat**.
- ii. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan received the first consignment at the terminal.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

Asia's 1st 13 'Blue Flag' Beaches To Be Developed in India

- i. Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, **13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification**. These beaches of **Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states** will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
- ii. The Indian beaches are being developed by the **Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)**, an environment ministry's body working for the management of coastal areas.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Blue Flag beach standards were established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985.

NTPC Adopts Charminar Under Swachh Iconic Places Project

- i. **NTPC Ltd** has adopted the iconic **Charminar in Hyderabad** under the **Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India**. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ii. **NTPC Ltd and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)** have signed an MoU for implementation of development and beautification works under the Charminar Pedestrianization Project in Hyderabad. NTPC, in partnership with the GHMC, will take up development and beautification works at Charminar.

Prime Minister Modi Reaches China To Attend SCO Summit

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Qingdao, China, to attend the two-day long 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.
- ii. This will be India's first participation in the summit as a full-time member of the organization. India, along with Pakistan, became a full-time member during the Astana summit in June 2017. Prime Minister Modi is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping apart from holding meetings with various other participating leaders.

Centre Constitutes Group To Suggest Changes In SEZ Policy

- i. The Centre has constituted a group of eminent persons headed by Bharat Forge's Baba Kalyani (georgian) to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) policy of the country and suggest measures to make it more relevant for exporters and compatible with World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms.
- ii. The SEZ Act was passed in 2005 giving tax incentives to investors, but investments in the zone were subsequently brought under the ambit of Minimum Alternate Tax and Dividend Distribution Tax leading to a dwindling in the flow of money into the SEZs.

India Records 22% Reduction In Maternal Mortality Ratio Since 2013

- i. India has registered a significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recording a 22-percent reduction in such deaths since 2013. According to the Sample Registration System bulletin, the MMR has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.
- ii. According to Health Ministry, every day 30 more pregnant women are now being saved in India as compared to 2013.

IIT Bombay Displaces IIT Delhi As Best-Ranked Indian University

- i. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) are in the top 200 in QS World University Rankings 2019. The number of Indian universities in the top 1,000 increased from 20 to 24.
- ii. IIT-Bombay is now the top institute in the country rising 17 positions from 2018 to 162, displacing IIT-Delhi which has remained at 172. The Indian Institute of Science too has overtaken IIT-Delhi and is now ranked 170. The 15th edition of the QS World University Rankings, released by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds and considered one of the most authoritative and prestigious rankings in the world sees six of India's eight top-ranked IITs/IISCs improving their rank, with two remaining stable year-on-year.

President Declares Queen Pineapple As Tripura's 'State Fruit'

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit and its export was a major step in connecting the state with world trade.
- ii. The state holds good potential in world trade. Export of the pineapple to foreign countries is a major step in connecting with world trade. Tripura exported its first consignment of one-tonne pineapples to Dubai earlier this month.

Operation Nistar: Indian Navy Brings Back 38 Indians From Cyclone-Hit Socotra Island In Yemen

- i. In a swift operation, the Indian Navy has rescued 38 Indians from Socotra island in Yemen where they were stranded for nearly 10 days after a severe cyclonic storm hit the area.
- ii. The Navy had diverted its ship INS Sunayna from the Gulf of Aden to Socotra as part of the operation 'NISTAR' to rescue the Indians.

Andhra Pradesh Is ODF Now, Declares CM Chandrababu Naidu

- i. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that the state was now Open Defecation Free (ODF) as it had achieved its goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets. Naidu who was traveling through Chittoor district unveiled a plaque in Tirupati to honour the achievement.
- ii. AP has completed the task of constructing toilets but they have to be used by every individual. For that, the administration has to take up some awareness programmes. In October 2016, all of Andhra Pradesh's urban areas were declared as open defecation free on the occasion of MK Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Met Dept To Use Flash Flood Guidance System For First Time To Forecast Floods

- i. India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use flash flood guidance system for the first time in the country to forecast floods. Currently, the Central Water Commission issues flood warnings.

ii. The national weather agency is preparing to launch this service from the next month. Different kinds of soil from various parts of the country have been studied to find out how absorbent each variety was.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In 1875, the Government of India established the IMD.
- Kanduri Jayaram Ramesh is Director General of IMD.
- The head office of IMD is in New Delhi.

India Is The Second Highest Sender Of Foreign Students In US

i. With 1,86,000 Indian students currently studying in the United States, India is the second highest sender of foreign students to the US, next only to China.

ii. US consul general in Kolkata, Craig Hall, stated that the United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

V K Singh Flags Off 1st Batch Of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

i. Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh has flagged off the 1st batch of three month-long Kailash Mansarovar Yatra-2018 in New Delhi. The Yatra will continue till the 8th of September 2018. There are two routes for the Yatra, one through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand which involves some trekking also.

ii. The other route is through Nathu La Pass in Sikkim, which is motorable and suitable for senior citizens who are unable to undertake arduous trekking.

Ordinance to Set Up Country's 1st National Sports University Gets President's Assent

i. President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Manipur.

ii. The Union Cabinet had approved an ordinance in May 2018 in this regard. National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 will be on the lines of the National Sports University Bill, 2017 which was introduced in Lok Sabha in 2017.

Maneka Gandhi Laid Foundation of India's 1st Advanced DNA Forensic Lab

i. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi laid the foundation stone of India's first advanced DNA forensic laboratory in Chandigarh as part of efforts to reduce the backlog of cases needing advanced forensic analysis.

ii. Built at a cost of Rs 99.76 crore from the Nirbhaya Fund, the state-of-the-art 'Sakhi Suraksha' lab, will come up at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory campus to assist in investigation and prosecution of crimes including those committed against women and children.

HM Rajnath Singh Lays Foundation Stone For Mongolian Refinery

i. Mongolia broke ground for the construction of country's first oil refinery with the help of a USD 1 billion loan from India. Home Minister Rajnath Singh attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the refinery at 'Stantsiin Hooloi' and described it as an important milestone in the bilateral ties.

ii. The Prime Minister of Mongolia, Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh and other dignitaries were present during the event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mongolia Capital- Ulaanbaatar, Currency- Mongolian togrog.

India's 1st National Police Museum To Come Up In Delhi

i. The Union Government has announced to establish India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi. The museum is expected to be inaugurated on 21st October 2018 on the occasion of Police

Commemoration Day.

ii. The unique museum, depicting the history, artefacts, uniforms and gear of central and state police forces, will come up as an underground facility in the premises of the national police memorial in Chanakyapuri area.

Union Steel Minister Dedicates to Nation Rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 of Rourkela Steel Plant

i. The Union Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 'Parvati' of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation. Parvati is the first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was dedicated to the nation on 3rd February 1959 by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

ii. With the rebuilding, the annual production capacity, of the furnace has increased from 0.438 Million tonnes (MT) to 1.015 MT.

India to Host 1st BIMSTEC Military Exercise

i. India will host first military exercise of the BIMSTEC Countries in September 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra. The theme of the exercise includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search.

ii. The main aim of this military exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism. Each participating member country will bring in some 30 soldiers.

iii. BIMSTEC countries had held disaster management exercise in 2017 in New Delhi, but this will be the first military exercise of the grouping.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **BIMSTEC** stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- Member countries: India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.

KVIC Distributes 2330 Bee-Boxes in Kashmir, Creates World Record

i. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has created a world record of distributing the maximum number of bee-boxes in one day. This was achieved by the KVIC in the Zangalee Army area at Kupwara in Kashmir.

ii. It had beaten its previous best of 1000 bee boxes distributed in Kaziranga forest area among the Mishing tribe on the occasion of **World Honey Bee Day (18 August)**. **Two thousand three hundred thirty(2330) bee-boxes** were distributed among 233 beneficiaries in the Zangalee Army area.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Jammu and Kashmir CM-** Mehbooba Mufti, **Governor-** N N Vohra.
- Vinai Kumar Saxena is the Chairman of KVIC.

PM Modi To Inaugurate 3rd AIIB Meeting In Mumbai

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in Mumbai. In the past, AIIB annual meetings have been held in Beijing, China, in 2016 and in Jeju, South Korea, in 2017.

ii. The theme for this year's meeting is "**Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration**" that will see leaders from varied organizations and levels of government.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President-** Liqun Jin.
- AIIB Headquarters in Beijing, China.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar Launched National Digital Library of India

- i. Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar** launched the **National Digital Library of India (NDLI)**. The library will become a single window platform for all educational needs.
- ii.** Users can register for free on the National Digital Library from Google Play store. The library can be accessed at **ndl.iitkgp.ac.in**. The library is an integrated platform for schools, colleges, universities, teachers, and students.

Shillong Gets Selected As the 100th Smart City

- i. Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya** has been selected as **100th Smart City** after evaluating the proposal submitted by it. Till now, 99 smart cities had been selected in four rounds of competition and with this announcement, **selection of 100 cities has been completed under the Smart Cities Mission**.
- ii.** Previously, 20 cities were selected in January 2016, 13 cities in May 2016, 27 cities in September 2016, 30 cities in June 2017 and 9 cities in January 2018. With the selection of Shillong, **the total proposed investment in the finally selected 100 cities under the Smart Cities Mission would be Rs.2,05,018 crores**.

India Is World's Most Dangerous Country For Women, US 3rd: Survey

- i. India is the world's most dangerous country for women** due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a poll of global experts. War-torn **Afghanistan and Syria ranked second and third** in the **Thomson Reuters Foundation survey** of about 550 experts on women's issues, **followed by Somalia and Saudi Arabia**.
- ii.** The **only Western nation in the top 10 was the United States**, which ranked joint third when respondents were asked where women were most at risk of sexual violence, harassment and being coerced into sex.

US Ambassador To UN Nikki Haley Visits India

- i. The US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley is in India** for the 2-day visit. During her two-day visit, Haley will meet with senior Indian government officials, NGO leaders, and the interfaith community to underscore the United States' shared values and strong alliance with the people of India.
- ii.** 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**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA.
- Washington DC is the capital city of USA.

EAM Sushma Swaraj Introduces 'Passport Seva App'

- i. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** launched the **new Passport Seva App**. Now, people can apply for a passport from any part of the country through the App. EAM Sushma Swaraj has launched Mobile Passport Application on the occasion of **Passport Seva Divas (26 June)** in New Delhi.
- ii.** Police verification will be done on the address, provided by the applicant on the app and passport will be dispatched on the same address.

Kaiga Generating Systems Sets New Record Of Continuous Operation

- i. The 220 MW Unit-1 of Karnataka's Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1)** set a new record of the **continuous operation of 766 days**, surpassing the earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014.

ii. With this achievement, KGS-1 stands second in the world among the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and fourth among all nuclear power reactors in terms of continuous operation.

Muthoot Fincorp, NSDC to Train 10,000 Youth Under PMKVY

i. **Muthoot Fincorp Limited** announced its partnership with **National Skill Development Corporation** to train over 10,000 youth over the next three years and make them job ready.

ii. With the partnership, Muthoot Fincorp claims to have **become the first major private sector player** to partner with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to launch the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY.2)** programme.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Muthoot Fincorp Ltd. is the flagship company of Muthoot Pappachan Group and is one of the largest NBFCs in India, registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- Thomas John Muthoot is the Group Chairman & Managing Director of Muthoot Fincorp.
- It Headquarters in Kochi, Kerala.

PM Modi Inaugurates Developmental Projects in Chhattisgarh

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is on a one-day visit to **Chhattisgarh** where he dedicated the **modernised and expanded Bhilai steel plant** to the nation. He also took part in programmes in **Naya Raipur - the upcoming capital city of the state**.

ii. The PM inaugurated **Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur**. Thereafter, in Bhilai, he inaugurated Raipur-Jagdalpur air service, laid the foundation stone for the new building of **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhilai**.

iii. He also inaugurated **air connectivity between Raipur and Jagdalpur under the Centre's 'Udaan' scheme**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister-** Raman Singh, **Governor-** Balram Das Tandon.

Microsoft Acquires Education Start-up Flipgrid

i. **Microsoft has acquired Flipgrid**, an education start-up with an app that lets students record and share videos on specific topics with their classmates.

ii. Microsoft is making Flipgrid free of charge. Schools that already have subscriptions will receive prorated refunds.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company.
- **CEO-** Satya Nadella, **Headquarters-** Washington DC.

Government Approves Draft Act To Replace UGC With HECI

i. The **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** proposed a draft bill to repeal the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** and **set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**. This move that aims to reform higher education in India.

ii. The **HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar** stated that the draft Act is in accordance with the commitment of Government for reforming the regulatory systems that provide for more autonomy and facilitate the holistic growth of the education system.

iii. The Act entitled '**Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018 (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act)**' revamps UGC Act, 1951 and its parent legislation completely.

Government Approves 2 More Strategic Oil Storages in Odisha and Karnataka

- i. The government has decided to set up **two more underground crude oil storages in Odisha and Karnataka** to increase emergency stockpile cover by 12 days to 22 days. The Cabinet has approved setting up of 4 million tonne (MT) storage at Chandikhole in Odisha and 2.5 MT storage at Padur in Karnataka.
- ii. The announcement was made by the Finance Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi. The storages will be additional to the existing rock caverns to store 5.33 MT of crude oil at Visakhapatnam (1.33 MT), Mangalore (1.5 MT) and Padur (2.5 MT).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dharmendra Pradhan is the present Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

PhonePe Partners With Ola

- i. Flipkart-owned PhonePe has partnered **cab aggregator Ola** that will allow riders to book rides using the former's payment platform.
- ii. With this partnership, users can enjoy the ease of using their preferred ride-sharing app from within PhonePe while being assured of the reliability and integrity of their payments. PhonePe has also added '**Auto-pay**' feature that allows users to make payments seamlessly.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of Ola is in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- CEO of Ola is Bhavish Aggarwal.

Niti Aayog's Composite Water Management Index: Gujarat Tops, Jharkhand Lowest

- i. Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari released Niti Aayog's composite water management index report in New Delhi. **Gujarat topped the list** while **Jharkhand was adjudged as the worst performer**. Gujarat is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- ii. In the northeastern and Himalayan states, **Tripura has been adjudged as the top state in 2016-17** followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **NITI**- National Institution for Transforming India.
- **NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman**- Rajiv Kumar, **CEO**- Amitabh Kant.

HDFC, 5th Biggest Consumer Financial Services Company Worldwide: Forbes

- i. Housing finance major HDFC has been ranked as the **5th biggest public company globally** in the '*consumer financial services category*' on a list compiled by **Forbes magazine**. HDFC's rank has moved up from 7th place last year. **American Express has topped this category**, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.
- ii. In the overall list, topped by China's banking behemoth ICBC, HDFC took 321st place, up from 404th a year ago. **There are a total of 58 Indian companies on the overall list of 2,000 firms** from across the world. **These include Reliance Industries at 83rd place, the only from India in the top-100**. Besides, HDFC Bank is at 202nd, ONGC at 266th, Indian Oil at 270th and ICICI Bank at 320th.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Forbes**- American Business Magazine, **Founded in**- 1917.
- **Headquarters**- New York City, USA.

Global Environment Performance Index 2018: India Ranks 177, Switzerland Tops

- i. India stands **177th at the bottom of the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings**. In 2016, the country had ranked 141 out of 180 countries.
- ii. In 2018, according to the **State of India's Environment (SoE) 2018** in Figures, it has slipped to the 177th position. India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality. The Top 3 countries on the list are:

1. Switzerland,
2. France, and
3. Denmark.

World's 1st International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics Launched in Gujarat

- i. The world's first of its kind and state-of-the-art **International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF)** was launched at the **Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- ii. The main aim of the Centre would be to provide service to the nation and to the entire world when the need arises.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Gujarat CM-** Vijaybhai R. Rupani, **Governor-** Om Prakash Kohli.

Surat To Receive 'City Award' Under India Smart Cities Award 2018

- i. Under **'India Smart Cities Award' 2018**, Surat has been awarded for showcasing "**great momentum**" in the implementation of projects under the **Smart Cities Mission**, according to the Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry. **Bhopal and Ahmedabad were selected in the 'Innovative Idea' category** for their "transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development".
- ii. Joint winners in **'Innovative Idea' category** were **Bhopal** for its **Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)** and **Ahmedabad** for **Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project**.

Other Awards under the different category are-

1. Under **'Social Aspects' category-** NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) bagged the award for implementation of 'smart classrooms' project,
2. Under **'urban environment' category-** Bhopal, Pune and Coimbatore bagged the award for public bike-sharing project.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

India Smart Cities Award were launched on 25 June 2017 with an objective to reward cities, projects and innovative ideas, promoting sustainable development in cities.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

4 MoUs Signed Under 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme

- i. Four MoUs have been signed under **'Adopt a Heritage' scheme** and six more are at an advanced stage, according to Mr Raghvendra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.
- ii. **The four MoUs include:**
 1. **Mount Stok Kangri Trek Route, Ladakh:** The MoU for adoption was signed between Ministry of Tourism, Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) and the state government of Jammu & Kashmir.
 2. **Gangotri Temple Area & Trail to Gaumukh, Uttarakhand:** The MoU was signed between Ministry of Tourism, ATOAI and Uttarakhand Government.
 3. **Red Fort, Delhi:** The MoU was signed between Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, ASI and Dalmia Bharat Limited.
 4. **Gandikota Fort, Andhra Pradesh:** The MoU was signed between Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, ASI and Dalmia Bharat Limited.

NITI Aayog Releases 1st Delta Ranking

- i. **NITI Aayog launched the first Delta ranking**, incremental progress, for the Aspirational Districts in the country. The ranking is based on self-reported data of districts between March 31 to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas of **Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure.**
- ii. The rankings were launched by NITI Aayog, CEO Amitabh Kant in New Delhi. The purpose of this ranking is to spur a sense of competition among the dynamic teams in the districts. According to

ranking, **Dahod district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points to rank first.** West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points.

Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles Inscribed As UNESCO World Heritage Site

i. Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles has been inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This was announced at the Unesco world heritage committee meeting in Bahrain.
ii. The Heritage enclave is situated in South Mumbai's historic core and comprises an urban ensemble straddling two heritage precincts of the Fort Precinct and Marine Drive Precinct.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for SBI PO/Clerk Exam 2018-

- **France's Audrey Azoulay-** 11th DG of UNESCO, **Headquarters-** Paris, France.



China Successfully Launches New Earth Observation Satellite

i. China successfully launched a **new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6'** which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring.
ii. The Satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. It was the 276th mission of the Long March rocket series.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

US Pacific Command Renamed As Indo-Pacific Command

i. The United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, **US Pacific Command**, or PACOM, to **Indo-Pacific Command**, according to the US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis.
ii. The decision has been taken in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking. The Trump administration had also renamed Asia Pacific as Indo-Pacific and identified India as one bookend of the region.

French Swimmer Begins Record Pacific Crossing Attempt

i. A French swimmer has set off from Japan aiming to become the first person to swim across the Pacific Ocean.
ii. Ben Lecomte will swim for eight hours a day for more than six months as he heads towards the US west coast. He is hoping to raise awareness for climate change. A team of scientists will conduct research during the almost 8,850-kilometre swim.

44th G7 Summit Was Held In Canada

- i. The 44th G7 summit was held on June 8–9, 2018, in Quebec, Canada. This was the sixth time since 1981 that Canada has hosted the meetings. The 44th G7 summit was the first summit for Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.
- ii. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has hosted this summit. The 45th G7 summit or next G7 summit will be held in 2019 in France. \

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The G7 Group is a political and economic research and advisory firm.

WHO Commends India For Reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio By 77%

- i. The WHO has commended India's progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77 percent, from 556 per one lac live births in 1990 to 130 per one lac live births in 2016. This progress puts the country on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of an MMR below 70 by 2030. India's present MMR is below the Millennium Development Goal target.
- ii. According to WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Poonam Khetrpal, India has made a concerted push to increase access to quality maternal health services with the coverage of essential maternal health services has doubled since 2005.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- WHO was established on 7th April 1948.
- headquartered of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 1st BEL Representative Office in Vietnam

- i. Raksha Mantri, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ii. The Representative Office will aim to promote BEL's exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems, Military Communication Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, Combat Management System and Coastal Surveillance System.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Vietnam Capital- Hanoi, Currency- Vietnamese dong.

Mauritius To Host 11th World Hindi Conference

- i. The 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius in August 2018 with an aim to increase the popularity of Hindi globally. The Union External Affairs Ministry has already undertaken the work on the international meet.
- ii. The main theme of the Conference is '*Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti*'. The World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) will be the organising authority of the event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The World Hindi Conference was conceptualised in Wardha of Maharashtra in 1973 and the first conference was held in Nagpur in 1975.
- Mauritius Capital- Port Louis, Currency- Mauritian rupee.

NASA To Launch World's Lightest Satellite Designed By Chennai Students

i. The four first-year engineering students from Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai, Tamil Nadu have developed the **world's lightest satellite** which will be launched from a NASA facility in the US by August 2018.

ii. **The students built the 4cm 'cube' satellite 'Jaihind-1S'** with a 3D printed outer casing from **polylactic acid (PLA)** nylon material, making it lighter than a medium sized egg, **at just 33.39 grams.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **NASA-** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- NASA was founded in **1958.**
- **Jim Bridenstine** is the 13th Administrator of NASA.

Ronda Rousey To Be The First Female Hall Of Famer In UFC

i. American fighter Ronda Rousey will become the first female MMA fighter to be inducted into the Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame, the UFC announced. There would be no women in UFC without Ronda Rousey.

ii. Rousey had a 12-2 win-loss record, winning 11 of them within the first round of the fight.

Trump And Kim Sign Agreement On Denuclearization After Historic Talks

i. The United States has decided to provide security guarantees to North Korea, in exchange of Pyongyang's firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

ii. This is according to the joint document which was signed by US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un following their historic maiden talks at Singapore's Sentosa island. Both nations commit to establishing new relations in accordance with the desire of the people of the two countries for peace and prosperity.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Pyongyang is the capital of North Korea.

British Queen Elizabeth Approves Brexit Law

i. **Britain's Queen Elizabeth** granted royal assent to **Prime Minister Theresa May's flagship Brexit legislation**, ending months of debate over the legislation **that will formally end the country's European Union membership.**

ii. The EU withdrawal bill, passed by both houses of parliament, has been signed into law by the monarch, to cheers from Conservative lawmakers. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill repeals the **1972 European Communities Act** through which Britain became a member, and transfers decades of European law onto British statute books in a bid to avoid any legal disruption.

World's Most Experienced Spacewoman Peggy Whitson Retires As Astronaut

i. **NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson**, retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson, who **joined NASA as a researcher in 1986**, has spent more time off Earth than any other American, totalling 665 days over three International Space Station missions.

ii. The 58-year-old is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **NASA-** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- NASA was founded in **1958.**
- **Jim Bridenstine** is the 13th Administrator of NASA.

US Withdraws From UN Human Rights Council

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

bias against US ally Israel.

ii. The US withdrawal from the council marks the first time that a member has voluntarily left the UNHRC. A sitting member of the Council has never dropped out in its 12-year history, though Libya was thrown out after a vote from the General Assembly in 2011.

About United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- **UNHRC is Based in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- It is a body of **47 member** states within the United Nations, tasked with upholding human rights.
- **It was created in 2006.**

North Korea Named 'Worst Human Trafficking Country'

i. The US State Department categorised North Korea as one of the “worst human trafficking nations” for the 16th straight year, citing the use of forced labour. According to the annual ‘2018 Trafficking in Persons Report’, North Korea has been included in the Tier 3 category, which is the lowest ranking, along with China, Russia and Iran.

ii. The '2018 Trafficking in Persons Report' placed India in Tier 2 category for making significant effort to comply with the US standards. However, India does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **North Korea Capital-** Pyongyang, **Currency-** North Korean won, **Supreme Leader-** Kim Jong-un.

World's Most Powerful Supercomputer 'Summit' Unveiled By US

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

ii. The US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer called Summit will be eight times more powerful than its previous top-ranked system, Titan.

Seychelles President's Visit To India: List of MoUs Signed

i. Seychelles President Danny Faure is on his first bilateral visit to India. He held the talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reviewed the wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries, including in the fields of defence and security.

- **Seychelles Capital:** Victoria, **Currency:** Seychellois rupee.

Cost Of Living Survey For Expats: Mumbai Costlier Than Washington and Melbourne

i. According to the Cost of Living Survey published by global personnel consultants Mercer, Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers Washington and Melbourne.

ii. Hong Kong is ranked as the world's costliest city to live in for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul.

US Pips India As Top Greenfield FDI Investment Destination: Report

i. The U.S. has surpassed India to become the top destination for greenfield foreign direct investment in 2017, according to the FDI Report 2018, compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd. The number of greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply by 21% to 637.

ii. India had maintained the top slot in greenfield FDI investment in 2015 and 2016. However, in 2017, the U.S. reclaimed the spot from India, recording \$87.4 billion of announced FDI. In the Asia and Pacific region, China was on top in terms of FDI in the total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by India.



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Defence

India Successfully Test-Fires 'Agni-5' Off Odisha Coast

- i. India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable **Long Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-5** from the **Abdul Kalam Island** off the **Odisha** coast.
- ii. The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile **developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has a strike range of 5,000 kilometres and can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **DRDO Chairman-** Sanjay Mitra, **Headquarters-** New Delhi.

India Successfully Test-Fires SFDR Propulsion Based Missile

- i. Making a breakthrough in missile technology, India successfully carried out the flight test of **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** propulsion based missile, according to the **Defence Ministry**.
- ii. The technology demonstrator flight test was conducted from the **Launch Centre-III** of Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.

Dhanush Artillery Gun Clears Final Trials

i. **The indigenously upgraded artillery gun Dhanush** has successfully completed final user trials and is ready for induction into the Army. **Dhanush is an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun** procured by India in the mid-1980s.

ii. This was the third and final phase of user exploitation firings in which six Dhanush guns were fired in battery formation at the Pokhran field firing range.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Army Staff.

Indian, Indonesian Navies Participate In Passage Exercise: PASSEX 2018

i. **The navies of India and Indonesia** participated in **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**.

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

Important Takeaways from Above News-

Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah, **President-** Joko Widodo

World's Largest Multilateral Naval Exercise RIMPAC Begins

i. world's largest multilateral naval exercise **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** begun off **Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean**. The two-month long biennial exercise is likely to be **attended by navies of 26 countries including India**.

ii. **Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri** has already reached the **Pearl Harbour in Hawaii** to participate in the **26th edition of RIMPAC exercise**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present **Chief of Naval Staff**.
-

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Pedro Sanchez Sworn In As Spain's New PM

i. **Spanish Socialist Pedro Sanchez** has been sworn in as the **country's new prime minister** by King Felipe. **He has replaced Mariano Rajoy**.

ii. Mr Sanchez took the oath to protect the constitution without a bible or crucifix - **a first in Spain's modern history**. He plans to see out the remaining two years of the parliamentary term.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Spain Capital-** Madrid, **Currency-** Euro.

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi Sworn in as Egyptian President

i. **In Egypt, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** was sworn in for a second four-year term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges. Sisi won **97% of valid votes** in the March presidential election.

ii. His only opponent, Moussa Mostafa Moussa, was relatively unknown and a fervent Sisi supporter himself.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Egypt Capital-** Cairo, **Currency-** Egyptian pound.

Giuseppe Conte Sworn In As Italian PM To New Populist Government

i. **Giuseppe Conte was sworn in as prime minister of Italy's new populist government.** Conte, an academic and political novice, will head a government of ministers from the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the far-right League Party.

ii. **The 53-year-old** was sworn in alongside his cabinet, which will see M5S leader Luigi Di Maio and League chief Matteo Salvini in key ministerial posts.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Italy Capital-** Rome, **Currency-** Euro.

Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra Gets Additional Charge of DRDO Chairman

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

ii. Mr Christopher was in May 2015 appointed as Director General of the DRDO for a two-year term. He was then working as Distinguished Scientist and Programme Director (airborne early warning and control system) and Director, Centre for Air-Borne Systems in the DRDO.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- DRDO was Established in 1980.
- It Headquarters in New Delhi.

MK Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor

i. The Centre has appointed MK Jain, Managing Director, and CEO of IDBI Bank, as the RBI's Deputy Governor. Jain will fill a position that had been lying vacant since August 2017 after the retirement of SS Mundra.

ii. With the appointment of Jain, the Centre has stuck to the tradition of having a commercial banker occupy this post of RBI Deputy Governor (reserved for bankers). The central bank now has four serving RBI Deputy Governors. Jain has been appointed for a term of three years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Sharad Kumar Appointed Vigilance Commissioner In CVC

i. Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar has appointed vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog CVC. The 62-year-old Kumar, a 1979-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre, retired in September last year after heading the National Investigation Agency, an anti-terror probe organization, for over four years.

ii. Kumar has been appointed vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for a term of four years or till he attains the age of 65.

Pakistan's National Security Advisor Nasser Khan Janjua Resigns

- i. **Pakistan's National Security Advisor Nasser Khan Janjua** resigned from his post.
- ii. **Succeeding Sartaj Aziz**, Janjua took over as Pakistan's NSA in October 2015, he served as the NSA since then.

Ivan Duque Wins Election to Become Colombia's President

- i. **Colombia has chosen Ivan Duque to be its next president** after a long and divisive campaign that often centred on a controversial peace process with leftist rebels the **Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)**.
- ii. Duque, who will turn 42 just before taking office will be **Colombia's youngest ever President**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He will replace **Juan Manuel Santos**.

S Ramesh Appointed Chairman of CBIC

- i. Senior bureaucrat **S Ramesh** has been appointed as **chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes. **He succeeded Vanaja N Sarna**.
- ii. Ramesh is at present the member in the board, mandated with the responsibility of implementing the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The CBIC, which works under the Finance Ministry, is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of six members.

B Sriram Appointed IDBI Bank's MD And CEO

- i. **State Bank of India's (SBI) Managing Director B Sriram** was appointed as the **IDBI Bank's CEO and Managing Director** for a temporary period of three months.
- ii. He has been appointed in place of incumbent Mahesh Kumar Jain who was recently named **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.

Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian Resigned

- i. **The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India, Arvind Subramanian** had resigned from the post and will return to the US because of "pressing family commitments". The announcement was made by Mr Arun Jaitley.
- ii. Subramanian was appointed as CEA to the finance ministry in October 2014, for the period of three years. In 2017 his term was extended for a year.

Jammu & Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti Resigns

- i. **Jammu & Kashmir's Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti** submitted her resignation to the Governor after **BJP announced to pull out of an alliance with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)**.
- ii. The reason for the pullout was failure to control the situation in the state and meet its promises. BJP's General Secretary Ram Madhav also called for Governor's rule in Jammu & Kashmir.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NN Vohra is the present Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **J & K Capitals-** Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer).

Arijit Basu Appointed SBI's New Managing Director

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

the chairman.

ii. Now, after this, the SBI will have four managing directors. As per the SBI Act, the bank can have four managing directors. Mr Basu has held several key positions in various circles of SBI including the bank's office in **Tokyo, Japan**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **SBI Chairman-** Rajnish Kumar, **Headquarters-** Mumbai, **Established on-** 01st July 1955.

ICICI Bank Names Sandeep Bakhshi As COO

i. The **ICICI Bank board** has appointed **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi** as **whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO)**, creating a new top position at India's second largest private bank, to steer all its businesses.

ii. Chanda Kochhar, ICICI Bank's managing director and CEO will remain on leave until a committee investigating allegations of impropriety completes its work.

iii. Mr Bakhshi will continue as non-executive director of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. **N.S. Kannan has been appointed as CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for five years.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ICICI Bank stands for **Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India**.
- **Headquarters of ICICI Bank: Mumbai.**

Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz Sworn in as Jordan PM

i. **Former World Bank Economist Omar al-Razzaz** was sworn in as **Jordan's Prime Minister** after **King Abdullah** issued a decree approving the new government.

ii. The 58-year-old, who studied at Harvard University, was tasked with reviewing the country's disputed tax system. **Omar succeeded Hani al-Mulki** who resigned following mass protests over price hikes and other government economic policies.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

Jordan Capital- Amman, **Currency-** Jordanian dinar.

Tayyip Erdogan Wins 2nd Term As President of Turkey

i. **Turkey's long-standing leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has won a new five-year term after securing outright victory in the **first round of a presidential poll**. Mr Erdogan got nearly 53% with almost all votes counted.

ii. **His closest rival Muharrem Ince** was on 31%. He will now assume sweeping new powers, won in a controversial referendum in 2017. The post of PM will be abolished.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Turkey Capital-** Ankara, **Currency-** Turkish lira.

Indian-American Dhivya Suryadevara To Become CFO of General Motors

i. **An Indian-American woman, Dhivya Suryadevara** has been named the **Chief Finance Officer of the US' largest automaker, General Motors**.

ii. Ms. Suryadevara, currently the vice president of corporate finance, **will succeed Chuck Stevens**, the General Motor's present CFO, on September 1, 2018. She will report to **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mary Barra**, 56, who has been head of the automaker since 2014.

Arvind Saxena Appointed As Acting UPSC Chairman

i. **Arvind Saxena** has been appointed to serve as the **acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Mr Saxena will perform the duties of the post of Chairman, UPSC with effect from June 20 till further orders or till completion of his tenure on August 7, 2020.

ii. Saxena would be **succeeding incumbent Vinay Mittal**. Arvind Saxena is a 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer.



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Honours/ Awards

Anupam Kher To Receive Outstanding Achievement Award At IIFA 2018

i. Veteran actor Anupam Kher will be given the prestigious Outstanding Achievement honour at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.

ii. The 63-year-old actor, who has worked in over 500 films spanning across languages along with projects both in India and abroad for over three decades, will be honoured for his contribution in the field of cinema. Kher will be presented with the honour on June 24 at the 19th edition of IIFA.

Kagiso Rabada Wins South Africa's Cricketer Of The Year Award

i. **Kagiso Rabada**, the world's number one Test bowler, was named **South Africa's Cricketer of the Year**. The award came at the end of a 12-month period during which Rabada, 23, was a consistent match-winner and subject of disciplinary hearings.

ii. Rabada collected a total of **six awards, including Test cricketer of the year, one-day international player of the year and players' player of the year.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **South Africa Capital-** Cape Town, **Currency-** South African rand.

India's Sanjana Ramesh Wins MVP Award at Basketball Without Borders Asia

i. **India's Sanjana Ramesh** was awarded the '**Most Valuable Player**' (MVP) even as compatriot **Vaishnavi Yadav won the 'Girls Grit Award'** on the fourth and final day of **Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018**, which featured 66 campers from 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

ii. The camp got underway with the girls championship game between the New York Liberty and the Minnesota Lynx. Coached on the sidelines by Ruth Riley and Sakshi Sheoran, the Lynx defeated the Liberty 20-13.

Kendrick Lamar Receives Pulitzer Prize In Music

i. **Kendrick Lamar** received the **Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn."** Lamar is the first rapper in history to be given the award.

ii. Previous recipients included Bob Dylan, Hank Williams and Duke Ellington. Lamar had received this award at **Columbia University.**

Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chief Gets 'Santokbaa Humanitarian' Award

i. **President Ram Nath Kovind** presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to **Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Surat, Gujarat.**

ii. The award was instituted by **Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF)** and led by diamond baron Govind Dholakia.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Gujarat Governor-** O P Kohli, **Chief Minister-** Vijay Rupani.

Gives Padma Shri Award To Tommy Koh

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the **Padma Shri award**, one of India's highest civilian awards, to **former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh**. Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.

ii. Koh, 80, has served as Singapore's ambassador to the US and the UN, and as president of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1981 and 1982. He is currently chairman of the board of governors of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore.

Pallavi Darua Crowned As India's 1st 'Tribal Queen'

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

ii. Panchami Majhi of Titlagarh and Rashmirekha Hansdah of Mayurbhanj were declared as the first and second runners-up of the beauty pageant, respectively.

Kalki Koechlin Conferred With French Honour

- i. **Kalki Koechlin** was conferred with the French distinction of **Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters** (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.
- ii. The honour comes in recognition of an actor, who has interpreted striking roles in the Indian film industry, experimented with various forms of films as well as shown an abiding commitment to important social issues.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **France Capital-** Paris, **Currencies-** Euro, CFP franc, **President-** Emmanuel Macron.

Economist Lawrence Haddad, Dr David Nabarro Awarded World Food Prize

- i. **Lawrence Haddad**, who is a British economist and food policy researcher, and **Dr David Nabarro**, who has worked with the World Health Organization and United Nations on health and hunger issues, were named the **2018 World Food Prize recipients** in a ceremony at the **U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington**.
- ii. The **World Food Prize** was awarded this year to two men who have dedicated their careers to improving the availability of nutritious food for pregnant women and children in an effort to reduce the effects of malnutrition in developing countries.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The **World Food Prize** was created by **Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986** to recognize scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food.

Ministry of Women & Child Development Received SKOCH Award

- i. **SKOCH Group** has conferred the '**Best performing Social Sector Ministry**' award on the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for the achievements in delivering the promises made and for its significant achievements and initiatives from the last 4 years.
- ii. Minister for Women and Child Development **Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** has received the award on behalf of the Ministry in an event held in New Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Sameer Kochhar** is the Chairman of Skoch Group.

Vishwas Mandalik and Yoga Institute in Mumbai Recipients of PM Award

- i. **Vishwas Mandalik** from Nasik and the **Yoga Institute in Mumbai** have been selected as recipients of the **Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018**. The selection was done from among **186 nominations received under different categories**.
- ii. **Vishwas Mandalik** acquired knowledge of Patanjali and Hatha Yoga, Bhagwad Gita and Upanishad by study and research of ancient scriptures. In 1978, he set up the first branch of Yoga Vidya Dham.
- iii. The **Yoga Institute**, established in 1918 by Yogendraji, completed its 100 years serving the society. The winners would be felicitated with a trophy, certificate and a cash award of 25 lakh rupees each.

Anukreethy Vas Crowned Femina Miss India 2018

- i. **Anukreethy Vas**, a **19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student**, has been crowned **Femina Miss India 2018** in a grand ceremony in Mumbai hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar and actor Ayushmann Kurrana.
- ii. Anukreethy Vas had beaten 30 contestants to bag the top honour in front of a judges panel that included Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar.
- iii. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana was the first runner-up while Shreya Rao Kamavarapu from Andhra Pradesh secured the second runner-up position.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Reita Faria** was the first Miss World from India in 1966.

Sulabh Founder Honoured With Japan's Nikkei Asia Prize

i. Noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International, Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with **Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize**. The award was given under Culture and Community category for **his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.**

ii. Launched in 1996, the award honours people in Asia who have made significant contributions in one of the three areas of regional growth; science, technology & innovation and culture & community.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Infosys' Narayan Murthy are among the few Indians who have won Japan's Nikkei Asia Prize in the past.
- Nikkei Asia Prize was created and presented by Nikkei Inc, one of the largest media corporations in Japan.

Vasundhara Raje Conferred With 'CM of the Year' Award

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

ii. Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh was the chief guest at the function. The award was received by Raje's OSD in advisory council Dr Anuj Saxena and joint director of IT department R L Solanki on her behalf from **Skoch Group chairman Sameer Kochhar.**

FICCI Awarded At X International IT Forum In Russia

i. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) along with several industry members and senior government officials and academia, recently participated in **X International IT Forum at Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.**

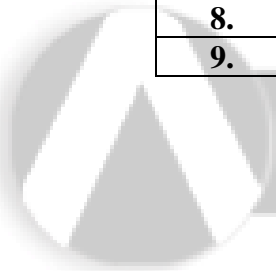
ii. Organised by the Government of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra region, the forum brought together industry leaders from BRICS and SCO nations as well as other countries to a single platform to interact and discuss collaboration in the fields of information technology and digital transformation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India.
- **Dilip Chenoy** is the present **Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**

At the Indian International Film Awards (IIFA), late star **Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for MOM** while **Irrfan Khan was given the Best Actor Award for Hindi Medium.** The award ceremony was held in Bangkok. Vidya Balan's Tumhari Sulu was awarded the Best Film trophy. Karan Johar and Riteish Deshmukh hosted the show.

S. No.	Category	Winners
1.	Best Film	Tumhari Sulu
2.	Best Actor in a leading role (Female)	Sridevi (MOM)
3.	Best Actor in a leading role (Male)	Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
4.	Best Actor In Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij (Secret Superstar)
5.	Best Actor In Supporting Role (Male)	Nawazzuddin Siddiqui (MOM)
6.	Best Director	Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)
7.	Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma (A Death in the Gunj)
8.	Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in Indian Cinema	Anupam Kher
9.	Best Story	Amit V Masurkar (Newton)



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Sports

Virat Kohli Only Indian In World's Highest Paid Athletes List

- i. India cricket captain Virat Kohli is among the world's highest-paid athletes, according to a Forbes' compilation topped by American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather. Kohli, the only sportsman from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million.
- ii. Kohli is not just cricket-crazy India's biggest name but is also one of the most popular athletes in the world. The 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' list is topped by 41-year-old Mayweather, with USD 285 million earnings.

Nepal, Scotland Among 4 Teams Inducted In ICC ODI Rankings

- i. The ICC has included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland and the UAE in their ODI rankings list apart from the 12 existing countries.
- ii. The Netherlands secured ODI status and a place in the 13-team ODI league by winning the ICC World Cricket League Championship in 2017, while Scotland, Nepal and the UAE earned ODI status by finishing as the three leading associates (along with the Dutch) in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2018.

Mithali Becomes First Indian To Score 2000 T20I Runs

- i. Indian cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first batter from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket. She achieved the feat during India's Women's T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur. Mithali has now scored 2015 runs in 74 T20Is with the help of 14 half-centuries. She has a decent average of 38.01 with the highest score of 76 not out.
- ii. Mithali is the seventh woman batter to score 2,000 runs in T20Is, a list which is topped by Charlotte Edwards (2,605), followed by Stafanie Taylor (2,582) and Suzie Bates (2,515). When it comes to men's T20I, the list is led by Martin Gupthill (2271) followed by Brendon McCullum (2140) and Virat Kohli (1983).

Kohli To Get Cricketer Of The Year Award At BCCI Annual Gala

- i. India captain Virat Kohli's phenomenal batting form has fetched him the BCCI's best cricketer award for two seasons, while World Cup stars Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana were chosen for the women's equivalent of the honour, the Board announced.
- ii. Following his phenomenal show in the past two seasons, Team India captain Virat Kohli will be presented with the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the BCCI Awards to be held in Bengaluru on 12th June 2018.

India Beat Kenya To Lift Intercontinental Cup Football Title

- i. India has lifted the Intercontinental Cup football title. In the summit clash in Mumbai, they defeated Kenya 2-nil. Both the goals were netted by skipper Sunil Chhetri. He gave India the lead in the eighth minute before scoring the second goal in the 29th minute.
- ii. Sunil Chhetri has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar Lionel Messi with his 64th strike for the country against Kenya.

French Open 2018: Halep Beats Stephens To Win Maiden Grand Slam Title

- i. World number one Simona Halep has won her first Grand Slam title with a gutsy comeback victory over American 10th seed Sloane Stephens in the French Open final. Halep, who had lost her three previous major finals, went a set and a breakdown at Roland Garros.

ii. But the 26-year-old Romanian battled back to take a see-saw second set against the US Open champion. She then raced away with the third to win 3-6 6-4 6-1.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Halep became the second Romanian woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy after Virginia Ruzici.
- This was Halep's fourth major final and has lost all three in the past, including two at Roland Garros.
- Halep also was the runner-up at the Australian Open this January.

French Open 2018: Rafael Nadal Beats Dominic Thiem To Win 11th Title

i. World number one Rafael Nadal won an 11th French Open title by beating Austrian Dominic Thiem in straight sets. Nadal, 32, won 6-4 6-3 6-2 to earn his 17th Grand Slam, three adrift of Roger Federer's all-time men's record.

ii. The year 2005 holds great significance in French Open history. It was the year a muscular teenager by the name of Rafael Nadal first took to the clay courts of Paris and left it with a first Grand Slam title.

Lewis Hamilton Wins French Grand Prix

i. **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** reclaimed the world championship lead with a dominant victory in the **French Grand Prix**.

ii. 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. **Max Verstappen of Red Bull** finished 2nd in the race.

Archer Deepika Kumari Wins Gold at Salt Lake World Cup

i. **Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal** in six years at the **Salt Lake World Cup, in the USA**. She defeated **Germany's Michelle Kroppen** in the recurve final.

ii. The win ensured Deepika will represent the country at the season-ending Archery World Cup Final in Samsun, Turkey in October 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- World Archery's headquarters are situated in Maison du Sports International in the Olympic Capital of Lausanne, Switzerland.
- World Archery was founded on 4 September 1931 in Lwow, Poland (now known as Lviv, Ukraine).

Sandeep Sejwal Wins Gold In Singapore National Swimming Championships

i. **Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal** put up an impressive performance to clinch the gold medal in men's 50m breaststroke event at the **Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore**.

ii. Besides, Virdhawal Khade grabbed a creditable silver medal in the 50m freestyle event with a timing of 22.68 seconds.

India's R Praggnanandhaa Becomes World's 2nd Youngest Chess Grand Master

i. **India's R Praggnanandhaa** has become the **country's youngest and the world's second youngest** Grand Master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after reaching the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy.

ii. The Chennai-based player was paired with Grand Master Pruijssers Roland in the final round, which ensured that he would achieve the feat. **Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest ever GM**, having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and seven months in 2002.

Brooks Koepka Wins 2nd US Open Golf Title 2018

i. **American golfer Brooks Koepka** has made history and finished strong as he became **the first player in 29 years to win back-to-back US Open titles** at Shinnecock Hills in New York. The 28-year-old Florida

native emerged victorious by one shot over **England's Tommy Fleetwood**.
ii. The **World number one Dustin Johnson** finished third at plus-three on account of a 70. With this, Koepka becomes the first player since Curtis Strange in 1988-89 to win back-to-back U.S. Open events.

Roger Federer Wins 98th ATP Title in Stuttgart, Regained No. 1 Title

i. **Roger Federer claimed his 98th ATP title** and re-established his unrivalled superiority on grass with a victory over **Milos Raonic** in the **Stuttgart Cup final**. Top-seeded Swiss beat his Canadian opponent for the 11th time in 14 meetings while winning a first Stuttgart title.

ii. The 36-year-old regained the world number one ranking. Federer made a return to the top ATP ranking for the sixth time. **Tim Putz and Phillip Petzschner (Germany)** won the **Men's Doubles** title after defeating **M. Matkowski (Poland) and R. Lindstedt (Sweden)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The Stuttgart Open** (also called the Mercedes Cup) is an ATP World Tour 250 series tennis tournament on the ATP Tour.
- Stuttgart Open was held in Germany.

Dutee Chand Sets New National Record In Women's 100m

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

ii. The previous record of 11.30 seconds was also held by Dutee, which she achieved at the Indian Grand Prix in 2017. Dutee has qualified for the **Asian Games in 100m and 200m** by breaching the qualifying timings at the Inter-State Championships.

Smriti Mandhana to Become 1st Indian to Play in England's Kia Super League

India Women's Cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana will become the first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League - the women's cricket super league in England.

ii. Smriti was signed by Western Storm and will represent them in the upcoming edition of the tournament that features six teams.

French Open 2018:

i. **The 2018 French Open (also known as Roland Garros)** was a Grand Slam tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. **It was the 122nd edition** of the French Open. **Rafael Nadal was the defending champion in the Men's Singles and won his 11th French Open title.**

ii. **Simona Halep won her first Grand Slam title.** It was also the first French Open since 1992 that both the men's and the women's singles competitions were won by the top seeds.

United States, Mexico and Canada Win Right to Host 2026 World Cup

i. **The United States, Mexico and Canada won the right to host the 2026 World Cup** after easily beating Morocco in a vote by **FIFA member nations in Moscow**.

ii. The North American bid received 134 of the 203 votes, while Morocco polled 65 in the ballot at a **FIFA Congress held in Moscow**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Russia is the host country for FIFA World Cup 2018.
- Qatar will host the next FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Rani Rampal Announced Captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team

i. **Forward Rani Rampal was named as the captain of India's 18-member squad for the women's hockey World Cup** to be played in **London in July 2018**. Hockey India announced the 18-member Indian

women's team for the prestigious tournament.

ii. India has been placed in Pool B alongside hosts and world no. 2 England, world no. 7 USA and world no. 16 Ireland. Goalkeeper Savita has been named vice-captain

Virat Kohli Receives Polly Umrigar Trophy At Annual BCCI Awards

i. Indian captain **Virat Kohli** has received the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Trophy (Cricketer of the Year) award** for two consecutive seasons (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the **BCCI Annual Awards function**.

ii. **Anshuman Gaekwad and Sudha Shah** received the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award**. Jalaj Saxena and Parvez Rasool were adjudged 'Best All Rounders' in Ranji Trophy while Krunal Pandya was rewarded for his performance in the Hazare one-day championship.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **BCCI President- C.K. Khanna, Headquarters- Mumbai.**

News from Fifa

The **2018 FIFA World Cup** is the 21st FIFA World Cup, a quadrennial international football tournament contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA. It is currently ongoing in Russia starting from 14 June and will end with the final match on 15 July 2018.

This is the first World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe, and the eleventh time that it has been held in Europe. For the first time the tournament takes place on two continents – Europe and Asia.

The final tournament involves 32 national teams, which include 31 teams determined through qualifying competitions and the automatically qualified host team. Iceland and Panama made their first appearances at a FIFA World Cup. A total of 64 matches will be played in 12 venues located in 11 cities. The final will take place on 15 July at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

The defending champions, Germany, were knocked out in the group stage. It was the first time since 1938 that a German side did not advance from the first stage of a World Cup tournament, their first in a major competition since UEFA Euro 2004, and the fourth time in the last five World Cups that the title holders had been eliminated in the opening stage of the tournament after France in 2002, Italy in 2010, and Spain in 2014.

Zabivaka™ means “the one who scores” in Russian, a very suitable name for this wolf who radiates fun, charm and confidence.

Zabivaka™ was named only after the most engaging creative process for an Official Mascot in FIFA World Cup history.

Obituaries

'Rasaraj' Narayan Prasad Singh Passed Away

- i. Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh was popularly known as 'Rasaraj' passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar. Singh was 86.
- ii. Born on May 28th, 1933 at Koeli village, Singh earned his name in the world of Odia music. He was the lyricist of several popular melodious songs in Odia cinema.

Former Footballer Timothy Pereira Passes Away

- i. **Timothy Pereira**, former football international who represented Tata FC, died after a prolonged illness. Pereira was 75
- ii. He played for the country in 1967-68. Pereira also played hockey and represented Catholic Gymkhana in the local league.

Veteran Journalist Adiraju Venkateswara Rao Passes Away

- i. **Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao** passed away. He was 79. Rao worked in different Telugu and English newspapers. He also authored several books.
- ii. He played an active role in the separate Telangana agitation in 1969 and the state government honoured him during the Telangana formation day celebrations recently.

Legendary Mimicry Artiste Nerella Venumadhav Passes Away

- i. **Noted mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav** had passed away after a brief illness in Warangal city. He was 85.
- ii. **Venumadhav served as MLC in 1971** in undivided Andhra Pradesh. He rose to international fame after his enthralling performance at the United Nations. He has conferred scores of awards, including **the Padma Shri in 2001**.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Political Commentator Charles Krauthammer Passes Away

- i. **United States political commentator and Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Krauthammer** passed away at the age of 68. The columnist died of cancer of the small intestine.
- ii. Krauthammer's column has been published in The Washington Post since 1984.

Australian Golfer Peter Thomson Passes Away

- i. **Australian golfing legend Peter Thomson** has passed away aged 88 following a battle with Parkinson's disease.
- ii. Thomson won **five British Open titles in the 1950s and 1960s** and is the **only player since the turn of the 20th century to win golf's oldest major championship three times in a row**.

Important Days with theme

World Bicycle Day: 3 June

i. On June 3, 2018, the first official **World Bicycle Day** was celebrated. **Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu flagged off a mega cycling event in New Delhi.** New Delhi is one of the three cities in the world where major events are being organized to mark the day. **Berlin & New York** are the other two places.

ii. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure. The day, which is celebrated for the first time this year, was approved on 12 April 2018 as an official United Nations day.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in **24th of October 1945.**
- It is currently made up of **193 Member States.**
- The Headquarters of UN: **New York, USA.**
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of United Nations.

World Environment Day: 05th June 2018

i. World Environment Day is the United Nations' (UN) most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth. World Environment Day occurs on the 5th of June every year.

ii. Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for the World Environment Day 2018, "Beat Plastic Pollution".

World Ocean Day: 8th June 2018

i. On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it. World Oceans Day helps raise the profile of the ocean and inspire more involvement in helping to conserve this amazing resource we all depend on.

ii. The main action focus is to prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean. The Ocean Project has promoted and coordinated World Oceans Day globally since 2002.

World Day Against Child Labour: 12th June 2018

i. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Every

year on June 12 the World Day Against Child Labor is observed to raise awareness of the plight of child laborers worldwide.

ii. This year, the World Day Against Child Labour and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ILO is a United Nations agency dealing with labour problems.
- Headquarters? of ILO is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Guy Ryder is current Director-General of the ILO.

World Blood Donors Day: 14 June

i. Every year, on **14 June**, countries around the world celebrate **World Blood Donor Day**. The theme of the World Blood Donors Day 2018 is *'Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life'*.

ii. The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations.

World Refugee Day: 20 June

i. **On World Refugee Day** is held every year on **20th June** to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees. The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is *'Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees'*.

ii. This year, World Refugee Day also marks a key moment for the public to show support for families forced to flee.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations on December 4, 2000.
- António Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United States.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.

International Yoga Day: 21 June

i. **The 4th International Yoga Day** is being celebrated across the globe on 21st of June. In India Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of people in performing yoga asanas, in the **main event organised at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. The theme for Yoga Day 2018 is *"Yoga for Peace"*.

ii. In 2015, United Nations General Assembly unanimously announced 21st June as the International day for yoga to raise awareness about the benefits of practising yoga. The resolution was co-sponsored in the General Assembly by 177 nations, the highest ever number of co-sponsors for any UNGA resolution of such nature.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The event at Rajpath in 2015 established two Guinness world records - one for the largest yoga class, featuring 35,985 people, and second for the largest number of participating nationalities (84 nations).

World Music Day: 21 June

i. **The World Music Day** is celebrated across the world on **21 June**. The day is also known as **'Fete de la Musique'** after a music festival that began in France in 1982.

ii. This Day was first celebrated on 21st June 1982.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: 26 June

i. The General Assembly of United Nations has decided to observe **26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

ii. The theme for 2018 is: "**Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe.**"

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations on December 4, 2000.
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United States.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.

National Statistics Day: 29 June

i. **The National Statistics Day** is observed across India on June 29 with an aim to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. The theme selected for the 2018 Statistics Day is '*Quality Assurance in Official Statistics*'.

ii. The objective of the celebration of this Day is to acknowledge the contribution of **Prof. PC Mahalanobis** and to pay homage to him.

iii. On the occasion, Vice President of India released a **commemorative coin of Rs 125** and circulation coin of Rs 5 denomination as a mark of respect/homage to Prof. Mahalanobis.



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