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# Important Current Affairs June 2017 Capsule with PDF

## Awards and Honors

- Anti-hunger activist awarded by Queen
  - Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra was awarded the Queen's Young Leaders Award for 2017 at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace.
  - He was awarded for his exceptional work towards solving hunger and malnutrition in India by Queen Elizabeth II.
  - He is the founder of Feeding India, that aims to eradicate hunger and food wastage in India.
  - He was also selected as one of the 17 UN Young Leaders for SDG.
- Uttarakhand gets award of excellence
  - Uttarakhand was conferred with the award of excellence at 2nd Global Skill Development Summit held in Paris.
  - The state was awarded for its innovations and extensive use of IT for skilling the youth.
  - Initiatives are being taken to impart high quality job oriented training to the youth so that they could avail of employment opportunities in tourism, wellness, agriculture and security sectors.
- Romania picks a new Prime Minister
  - Romanian President Klaus Iohannis has nominated the outgoing economy minister Mihai Tudose as the new prime minister.
  - According to Iohannis the decision has been taken to end the current political crisis which harming the economy and country's external image abroad.



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- Tudose now has 10 days to gain the vote of confidence in his government and his programme.
- Miss World title in BodyBuilding
  - Bhumika Sharma from Dehradun has become the first Indian woman to win the Miss World Body Building Championship.
  - She won gold in the international championship organized by World Amateur Body Building Association.
  - She defeated 50 women from across the world in the final rounds to clinch the title.
  - She gained the maximum number of points in body posing, individual posing and fall category
- SJFI annual awards winners
  - The Sports Journalists Federation of India has decided to confer the best Sportsperson of the Year Award to the Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu.
  - The Best Team of the Year award was bagged by the Indian junior hockey squad which won the World Cup in Lucknow last December.
  - Both the awards would be presented at the 40th convention of the SJFI to be held in Indore in September.
- Best Parliamentarian Award
  - RSP Leader and Lok Sabha member N K Premachandran has been selected for the Best Parliamentarian Award for 2016.
  - He has been awarded for his contributions towards strengthening parliamentary democracy and upholding traditions & conventions during 2016.
  - Award will be conferred on him by Vice President Hamid Ansari and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan during the upcoming session of Parliament
- Best Action Movie at Shanghai Film Fest



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- Salman Khan starrer 'Sultan' won the Best Action Movie award at the 20th Shanghai International Film Festival.
- It is the first Indian film ever to win prestigious Jackie Chan award for Best Action Film.
- The film has been directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, also stars Anushka Sharma in lead role.
- Sultan will release in China later this year.
- West Bengal wins UN Public Service Award
  - UN has accorded its highest award for public service to West Bengal govt for its 'Kanyashree' scheme.
  - Kanyashree is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at retaining girls in schools and other educational and skill development institutions along with preventing child marriage.
  - The project was launched in 2011 and has helped more than 40 lakh female students in the state.
- Azim Premji Honoured
  - Azim Premji is among the honorees of this year's Carnegie Medal for his efforts to reform India's public school system.
  - It is driven by the Azim Premji Foundation's direct field work, currently serving seven states and over 300,000 schools.
  - The foundation went on to establish the Azim Premji University in 2011, with a focus on school education and related fields of human development.
- Shrihari Chandraghatgi gets Japan Award
  - Indian Agricultural Microbiologist Dr Shrihari Chandraghatgi has been conferred with Ministry of Environment Award in Japan for developing cutting edge technologies to address environmental problems.
  - He is the first foreigner to win this award in environmental sector in Japan.



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- He has developed technologies by exploring capabilities of natural micro-organisms for environmental remediation.

## Books and Authors

- Book on democracy's darkest hour
  - Venkaiah Naidu and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani released a book "The Emergency - **Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour**" at Ahmedabad.
  - The book has been written by A Surya Prakash, chairman of Prasar Bharati.
  - The book was launched at a conference to mark the anniversary of the Emergency and to honour those who fought for restoration of democracy in the country in the mid-1970s.
- Book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee unveiled
  - Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has unveiled 'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal ji' which chronicles the life of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  - The book was presented to President Pranab Mukherjee.
  - The book is 450 pages long and will be launched soon.
- Indira Gandhi A life in Nature launched
  - **The book "Indira Gandhi – A life in Nature" was launched by Congress president Sonia Gandhi at Indira Gandhi Memorial.**
  - Book is authored by Jairam Ramesh and published by Simon & Schuster.
  - It also showcases how Indira Gandhi led India to the path of conservation and made it a priority of economic development.
  - It also highlights unexplored aspect of her life and love for nature.
- Ministry of 'Utmost Happiness' launched





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- The much awaited second novel of Arundhati Roy "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" has been launched.
- Ministry of Utmost Happiness is a complex and a nonlinear narrative.
- The book is published in India by Penguin Random House.
- Arundhati Roy was the first Indian woman to win the prestigious Booker Prize with her 1997 work.

## Government Policies and Schemes

- Free electricity for BPL families
  - UP Cabinet Minister Shrikant Sharma has said that under the 'Power For All' scheme all the urban Below Poverty Line families would get free electricity connection.
  - All urban dwellers below the poverty line shall receive free electricity connections.
  - The 'Power for All' pact was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister of State for Power Piyush Goyal.
- Government launches VAJRA scheme
  - Dept. of Science & Technology has launched VAJRA scheme to bring together Indian scientists abroad and India-based researchers for conducting joint researches in India.
  - VAJRA will boost research work and lead to newer, cutting edge technologies, which was needed in India.
  - Under the scheme foreign researchers would receive endowments at par with those in their own countries.
- Free education from Nursery to PhD
  - Chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh has announced free education for girls from nursery to the doctorate level in government institutions of Punjab.



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- Govt will also introduce free textbooks to all students of govt schools, and will introduce pre-primary classes in govt schools from the next academic session.
  - He also announced free Wi-Fi for 13,000 primary schools and all 48 govt colleges.
- Telangana govt sets up WiFi hotspots
  - Telangana govt has launched Hyderabad City Wi-Fi project, providing wireless networking technology at over 1,000 public places in Hyderabad.
  - 3,000 public locations were identified in the city, however network has now been installed at 1,000 hotspots with an assured bandwidth of 5-10 Mbps offering 30 minutes of free wi-fi.
  - Entire project is being rolled out at a cost of around Rs 300 crore.
- No departure card from July 1
  - Govt has decided to discontinue the practice of filling up of the departure card by Indians at all international airports with effect from July 1, 2017.
  - The move is aimed at ensuring hassle-free movement of Indians going abroad.
  - However, those going out of the country via rail, seaport and land immigration checkpoints will have to fill the embarkation card.
- APY can now be subscribed digitally
  - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has introduced APY@eNPS which involves complete digital enrolment process.
  - It has been done to give additional push to cover the unreached population at greater ease.
  - Under APY, subscribers would receive a minimum guaranteed pension at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.
  - APY subscribers' base is more than 54 Lakhs.
- Sushma Swaraj inaugurates KIP





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- Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Know India Programme, for young overseas Indians in New Delhi.
- It is aimed at promoting awareness on different facets of life in India and progress made by India in various fields such as economic and education.
- It provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India and develop closer bonds with contemporary India.
- Free education to transgenders in TN
  - The Tamil Nadu Government has announced free education for the transgender community in all the colleges of state's Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.
  - The decision will be implemented from this academic year.
  - One seat in every course of all the colleges affiliated to the university has been reserved for the transgenders.
- Online sale of cattle
  - The Telangana government launched a website to facilitate the buying and selling of cattle online.
  - The state said that the website - [pashubazar.telangana.gov.in](http://pashubazar.telangana.gov.in) - would save the farmers transportation costs, as they need not keep taking them to markets.
  - Each registration on the website will only be valid for 30 days, following which it will be removed automatically.
- Sand scheme after Sonia Gandhi
  - Puducherry government plans to offer cement at subsidised rates to low and middle income people, and name the scheme after Congress President Sonia Gandhi.
  - Since puducherry does not have industries manufacturing cement, so it will be procured from outside and sold at subsidised price.
  - Due to shortage of sand in Puducherry people have to depend on Tamil Nadu for sand.





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## Days and Events

- July 1 to be observed as GST Day
  - Central Board of Excise and Customs has announced that July 1 will be **known as 'GST Day'**.
  - It will be celebrated in all offices of CBEC just as Central Excise Day and International Customs Day is celebrated.
  - All the offices of CBEC have been instructed to be open on 1st July as a trade facilitation measure.
  - CBEC had organised outreach programmes and training sessions for the new regime.
- National Statistics Day
  - National Statistics Day is observed every year on 29 June, on the occasion **of Birth anniversary of India's eminent statistician Late Prof Mahalanobis.**
  - Aim of this Day is to create public awareness about importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation, to acknowledge the contribution of Prof. Mahalanobis.
  - Theme for 2017 Statistics Day is Administrative Statistics.
- **World's first ATM turns 50**
  - **World's first Automated Teller Machine, a technology which brought** transformation in the way people obtained the cash has clocked 50 years.
  - **World's first ATM was unveiled by Barclays at its Enfield branch in North** London on June 27 1967.
  - As a tribute, Barclays transformed the ATM at its Enfield branch into gold, added a commemorative plaque and placed a red carpet in front for its users.
- International Day Against Drug Abuse





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- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a UN International Day against drug abuse and illegal drug trade which is observed annually on 26 June.
- This day aims to aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.
- The theme for 2017 is Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."
- International Yoga Day
  - Every year June 21 is celebrated as International Yoga Day in different parts of the world.
  - The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by PM Modi during his speech at the UNGA, on 27 September 2014.
  - **This year's theme 'Yoga for Health' hopes to highlight yoga's holistic approach to both physical and mental well-being and its ability to create a balance between body and mind.**
- World Refugee Day
  - World Refugee Day is held every year on June 20th to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
  - On this day, refugee advocates urge people to focus on plight of those who have been displaced by famine and war.
  - By the end of 2016, more than 65 million people worldwide were forced to leave their homes due to conflict, data published by the U.N. Refugee Agency reveals.
- World Blood Donor Day
  - Every year on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day.
  - It is observed to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.



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- It is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by World Health Organization.
- The theme for 2017 is Give Blood. Give Now. Give Often.
- International Albinism awareness day
  - International Albinism Awareness day is observed every year on June 13 across the globe with an aim to stop the brutalities against people with albinism.
  - Hundreds of albinos have been brutally murdered and mutilated in African countries in past decades.
  - Albinism is a genetic condition resulting in little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes.
  - It was adopted by UNGA on Dec 18, 2014.
- World Day Against Child Labour
  - The World Day Against Child Labour is held every year on June 12. It is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.
  - It is an International Labour Organization sanctioned holiday aiming to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.
  - World Day Against Child Labour 2017 Theme is **“In conflicts and disasters, protect children from child labour”**.
- First World Pest Day launched
  - The first World Pest Day was launched in Beijing, China.
  - Its objective is to increase awareness of pest-borne diseases and safeguard public health through scientific and professional pest control methods.
  - More than 30 national and international organisations have signed to support the initiative.
  - The inaugural of World Pest Day was initiated by the Chinese Pest Control Association.





## Committees and Recommendations

- Committee on corporate governance
  - To improve standards of corporate governance of listed companies, Sebi has setup a Committee on corporate governance.
  - The committee will be headed by Uday Kotak.
  - The panel would suggest measures for addressing issues faced by investors on voting and ways for improving effectiveness of board evaluation practices.
  - It will also suggest Sebi on issues pertaining to disclosure and transparency.

## International Affairs

- Romania picks a new Prime Minister
  - Romanian President Klaus Iohannis has nominated the outgoing economy minister Mihai Tudose as the new prime minister.
  - According to Iohannis the decision has been taken to end the current political crisis which harming the economy and country's external image abroad.
  - Tudose now has 10 days to gain the vote of confidence in his government and his programme.
- China's fastest bullet train
  - China's fastest next generation bullet train "Fuxing" has made its debut on Beijing-Shanghai railway line.
  - The train can achieve speeds as high as 400 km/hour with a consistent speed of 350 km/hour.
  - It includes a sophisticated monitoring system that constantly checks its performance & automatically slows down the train in case of emergencies.
  - It has been designed and manufactured in China.

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- World's worst cholera outbreak
  - UN has warned that Yemen is now facing the worst cholera outbreak anywhere in the world with about 1,310 people dying due to the disease since late April.
  - According to a statement by UNICEF and WHO, the number of suspected cholera cases in the country has exceeded 200,000.
  - No part of Yemen has been spared from the cholera outbreak, with an estimated 5,000 new cases every day.
- Egypt's president ratifies islands deal
  - Egypt's president has ratified a disputed 2016 agreement under which his country would transfer control of 2 Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.
  - Deal to hand over Tiran and Sanafir was agreed during a visit to Egypt by Saudi King Salman a year ago.
  - The Egyptian govt says that the 2 islands have always been Saudi's, but were placed under Egypt's protection in 1950's amid Arab-Israeli tension.
- Saudi Arabia makes 13 demands to Qatar
  - Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries that have cut ties with Qatar have issued a list of demands to end a major Gulf crisis.
  - In the 13-point list, countries have demand Qatar to shut down the Al Jazeera network, close a Turkish military base and scale down ties with Iran.
  - They have given Qatar 10 days to comply with all of the demands which include paying an unspecified sum in compensation.
- Facebook Launches UK Initiative
  - Facebook is launching a UK program to train and fund local organizations to combat extremist material online.
  - The new initiative will train NGO's to help them monitor and respond to extremist content and create a dedicated support desk so they can communicate directly with Facebook.





- The program comes in wake of criticism by politicians that tech companies are slow to remove extremist content
- Saudi imposes family tax
  - Saudi Arabia has decided to impose a family tax of 100 riyals per dependent per month on expatriates.
  - The fee will be implemented from July 1 and is expected to pose a financial burden on over 41 lakh Indian families living in Saudi.
  - It will be doubled to 200 Saudi riyals for every dependent from July 2018, tripled to 300 Saudi riyals in 2019 and quadrupled to 400 Saudi riyals from July 2020
- Best airline in the world
  - Qatar Airways has been named Best Airline in the World for 2017 by consumer aviation website Skytrax.
  - This is Qatar Airways' fourth win in the last 10 years after securing the top spot in 2011, 2012, and 2015.
  - Qatar Airways also took home the award for Best Business Class in the World and Best Airline in the Middle East.
  - Two Indian airlines IndiGo and Jet Airways were on the Top 100 list.
- Pakistan begins fencing its border
  - Pakistan will soon begin construction of a fence across its porous border with Afghanistan in order to improve security.
  - In first phase high infiltration-prone border areas in Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber are being fenced.
  - New forts and border posts would be built in order to improve surveillance and defense.
  - The 2 nations are divided by 2400km Durand Line, drawn by britishers in 1896.
- **World's 1st data embassy**

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- PM of Estonia Jüri Ratas and PM of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel signed an agreement on housing data and information systems between 2 countries, **thereby creating world's 1st** data embassy.
- Luxembourg has been chosen as the location for the embassy and will begin its operations from 2018.
- Luxembourg has been chosen since it has capabilities to provide a high level of security for the stored data.

## National Affairs

- Kailash Mansarovar yatra cancelled
  - Kailash Mansarovar yatra through Nathu La in Sikkim has been cancelled.
  - The decision comes in the wake of face-off b/w Indian and Chinese troops over a disputed area along Sino-Indian border.
  - The yatra is considered holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains and is undertaken by hundreds of pilgrims every year.
  - However the pilgrimage through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand will continue as scheduled
- Training programme COMMIT launched
  - Training programme "Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training" for State Govt officials has been launched by Dr Jitendra Singh.
  - It's Objective is to improve public service delivery mechanism & provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with citizens on day-to-day basis.
  - It has been developed by DoPT in collaboration with UNDP
- Web App for Legal Services to Prisoners
  - National Legal Services Authority has launched a Web Application for free Legal Services to Prisoners.





- It will allow State and District Legal Services Authorities to feed the data for individual prison inmate in the jails within their jurisdiction.
- Software will generate reports showing total number of inmates, number of inmates represented by legal services lawyers and by private lawyers.
- Modi in Gujarat
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the centenary celebrations of Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.
  - He will also release the coin and postal stamp in the honour of Shrimad Rajchandraji on his 150th birth anniversary at Abhay Ghat.
  - Modi is on a 2 day visit to Gujarat that goes to elections later this year.
  - He will inaugurate 2 water supply projects worth Rs 552 crore for the region.
- Printing of Rs 200 currency notes begins
  - RBI has begun printing bills of 200 rupees for the first time to help ease consumer transactions.
  - New 200 notes will carry advanced security features to prevent counterfeiting.
  - Introduction of 200 rupee notes will replenish the missing middle, triggered by the withdrawal of the old series of 500 rupee notes.
  - The proposal to issue ₹200 banknotes was cleared by the RBI in March.
- War room set up to deal with GST crises
  - A “mini war room” has been set up in the finance ministry to deal with crises related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.
  - It will act as a quick resource centre for Central and State government officials to address their queries on GST.
  - A team of tech-savvy young officers will be manning the “war room” to assist officials in resolving their GST-related queries.
- Approval for disinvestment of Air India



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- Cabinet has given in-principle approval for disinvestment of state-run carrier Air India.
- A group headed by Jaitley will be formed to decide on the treatment of unsustainable debt of Air India.
- NITI Aayog has suggested complete privatisation of Air India which has a debt of over Rs 52,000 crore.
- Air India was launched in 1932 by JRD Tata as Tata Airlines and was taken over by govt in 1953.
- EC to launch voter registration reminder
  - In order to reach out to maximum eligible voters, the ECI is collaborating with **Facebook to launch first Nationwide “Voter Registration Reminder”**.
  - A notification regarding the reminder will be sent on 1 July to people who are eligible to vote on Facebook.
  - The reminder will be sent out in 13 Indian languages.
  - This is the first time Facebook has been used for enrolling new voters across India
- Arunachal Pradesh raises retirement age
  - Arunachal Pradesh government has decided to increase the retirement age of regular state government employees to 60 years with effect from January 1 2018.
  - This has been done in order to do away with differential retirement age for regular employees serving under the same government.
  - The state government has raised the retirement age from existing 58 to 60 years.
- 'Digital MSME' scheme launched
  - On the occasion of first International Day for MSMEs, Union Minister Kalraj Mishra launched a new scheme - 'Digital MSME'.
  - The Scheme has been launched for promotion of Information & Communication Technology in the MSME Sector.





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- The scheme revolves around Cloud Computing which is emerging as a cost effective and viable alternative in comparison to in-house Infrastructure installed by MSMEs.

## Business and Economy

- EU fines Google 2.42 billion euros
  - **European Union's competition watchdog has slapped 2.42 billion euro fine** on Google for breaching antitrust rules with its online shopping service.
  - Commission found that Google had systematically given prominent placement in searches to its own comparison shopping service and demoted those of rivals in search results.
  - It is the biggest fine ever for a single company in an EU antitrust case.
- Reliance Industries overtakes TCS
  - Reliance Industries has regained the status of country's most valued firm, overtaking Tata Consultancy Services in terms of market valuation.
  - TCS had replaced RIL as the most valued firm more than 4 years ago but a sharp rally in share of RIL in the recent past has helped the company close the gap.
  - So far in 2017, shares of RIL have gained nearly 33%, while TCS is trading flat, down 0.05%.
- RBI inducts 3 more in oversight panel
  - RBI has expanded the overseeing committee by appointing 3 more members.
  - The new members are MBN Rao, Y M Deosthalee and S Raman.
  - Pradeep Kumar will head the now 5-member panel that will work through multiple benches.



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- The reconstituted OC will work with an expanded mandate to review, in addition to cases being restructured under the Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets.
- Stricter norms for P-Notes
  - SEBI has tightened P-Note norms by levying a fee of \$1000 on each instrument and barred their issuance for speculative purposes to check any misuse for channelising black money.
  - P-Notes are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be a part of Indian stock markets without registering themselves directly.
  - Entry norms for foreign portfolio investor has been relaxed by SEBI.
- World's best budget airline
  - AirAsia has been named the World's Best Low-Cost Airline for the ninth time in a row at the 2017 Skytrax World Airline Awards.
  - The airline was also named Asia's Best Low-Cost Airline in Asia.
  - AirAsia X, AirAsia's long-haul sister airline, bagged the World's Best Low-Cost Airline Premium Cabin and World's Best Low-Cost Airline Premium Seat awards for the fifth straight year.
- India and ADB Sign \$275 Million Loan
  - Asian Development Bank and Govt of India has signed a \$275 million loan for improving urban services in 64 small towns in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
  - The state government will provide a USD 124 million counterpart support for the project which is estimated to be completed by June 2022.
  - It will develop sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient water supply in 64 small and mid-sized towns.
- Hike Messenger partners with YES Bank
  - Hike Messenger has launched a new version of the app with a completely new interface and addition of a mobile wallet,.



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- Hike has partnered Yes Bank to facilitate money transfers to banks using UPI system.
- Wallet will allow instant money transfer among its clients and enable fund transfer to banks using UPI.
- Hike Messenger is the first messaging platform in India to launch payments facility.
- Meghalaya Govt signs two MoUs with SBI
  - Meghalaya govt has signed 2 MoUs with the State Bank of India as a part of an initiative towards migrating government transactions to digital mode.
  - Finance department signed 2 MoUs with the StateBank of India for their SBI ePay and SBI CMP facilities.
  - SBI CMP will help the state govt to make its payments online and will reduce paper work and manual reconciliation of govt transactions.
- Reliance Def inks pact with Yugoimport
  - Reliance Defence Ammunition has entered a strategic partnership with **Serbia's state**-run defence major Yugoimport to manufacture ammunition in India.
  - The Two will work together in the field of ammunition with projected minimum requirement of Rs 20,000 crore over next 10 years from Indian armed forces.
  - Reliance Defence has proposed to set up a greenfield facility for production of ammunition.
- SBI ties up with Tirumala Milk Products
  - State Bank of India has entered into a tie-up with Tirumala Milk Products.
  - It's main aim is to provide loans to dairy farmers.
  - Under its scheme for financing dairy units, SBI offers loans for construction of shed, and purchase of milch animals, milking machine, and chaff cutter.



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- Tie-up with SBI is company's first bank tie-up in India.
- DCB launches Iris scan verification
  - DCB bank has launched new services - **India's first Aadhaar based iris eye scan** customer verification and fingerprint operated ATM in Telangana.
  - **These services will include a customer's Aadhaar number, eye scan and fingerprint impression.**
  - The ATM also can be used with the usual ATM/ Debit Card.
  - This launch coincides with inauguration of 3 new branches in Mancherla, Mothe and Narsapur.
- ClearTax launches GST ready Billbook
  - **India's largest Income Tax returns e-filing** and enterprise compliance service provider ClearTax has announced the launch of Bill book software for SMEs.
  - It is a ready-to-use software platform that works both online and offline.
  - Some of its key features include creating a sales invoice, recording of discount and insurance.
  - ClearTax plans to reach out to 10 lakh SMEs across the country.
- Verizon acquires Yahoo
  - Verizon has completed its \$4.48 billion acquisition of Yahoo's core internet business and said that Marissa Mayer is stepping down.
  - The assets, which include Yahoo Finance, will be combined with AOL brands such as the Huffington Post under a new subsidiary called Oath.
  - Mayer, Yahoo CEO since July 2012, is expected to receive a "golden parachute" payment worth more than \$23 million.
- IOC, BPCL & HPCL to build largest refinery
  - Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum has have signed **the joint venture agreement to jointly set up the world's largest refinery** and petrochemical complex in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra.





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- Indian Oil Corp will hold 50% stake and the rest between the two companies
- The complex will have a 60 million tonnes refining capacity.
- India Tops Remittance Destinations
  - India has become the biggest remittance economy in the world, surpassing China.
  - A new United Nations report says that Indians working across the globe have sent \$62.7 billion in 2016 to make India the top remittance destination in the world.
  - The study was conducted by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development titled “One Family at a Time”.
- RBI restricts Central Bank of India
  - The RBI has placed Central Bank of India under prompt corrective action which puts restricts on banking activities such as from lending, hiring and expanding branches.
  - The RBI has said that the PCA has been triggered in view of negative return on assets and high ratio of bad loans.
  - The PCA was initiated since it reported losses for two years and had negative return on assets.
- Yes Bank partners with TerraPay
  - TerraPay has partnered with Yes Bank in a Rupee Drawing Arrangement which enables **TerraPay’s network partners to make instant cross-border** money transfer to bank accounts in India.
  - **Indians worldwide can walk into TerraPay’s partner outlet and send** money to their family back home, instantly in their bank account.
  - This 24x7 service is **backed by Yes Bank’s API Banking platform.**
- Emkay and DBS ink pact
  - Emkay Global Financial Services has entered into a exclusive pact with DBS Bank arm DBS Vickers Securities.





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- Agreement involves sharing of knowledge, co-branding of research and its distribution to the global clients of DBS Vickers.
- It will augment the capabilities of DBS Vickers in servicing its clients in the emerging markets better, by empowering them with insightful India equity research.
- **IDBI to get 'high' rating**
  - According to Code Compliance Rating of banks done by BCSBI only one out of 26 public sector banks got 'high' rating for their adherence to code compliance.
  - **IDBI Bank was the only public sector bank that got 'high' rating in two successive surveys.**
  - Code compliance rating is based on 5 parameters - Information dissemination, transparency, grievance redressal, customer-centricity and feedback.
- **RBI to issue new batch of Rs 500 notes**
  - Reserve Bank of India will issue new batch of 500 rupee banknotes with inset letter "A" in both the number panels, bearing the signature of RBI Governor Dr. Urjit R. Patel.
  - **The notes will have the year of printing '2017' on the reverse.**
  - The design of these notes is similar in all respects to the 500 rupee banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series which were released post demonetization.
- **IOB launches retail mart**
  - Indian Overseas Bank has launched Retail Mart, a retail lending concept in Thiruvananthapuram.
  - It has been designed with an aim to complete all pre-release formalities at **the customer's door step and sanction** quality retail loans at a competitive rate of interest.







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- The new facility will expeditiously entertain and process housing loans, vehicle loans and other mortgage loans.
- BaNCS App Development Kit launched
  - Tata Consultancy Services has launched "BaNCS App Development Kit".
  - It will enable banks to fast design and build their own apps and deploy it across devices and desktops seamlessly.
  - BaNCS ADK will help banks to design and deploy both enterprise and consumer apps in a hybrid architecture.
  - It's vision is to transfer flexibility and increase speed of development to the Bank.
- Biodegradable prepaid gift cards
  - Axis Bank announced biodegradable prepaid gift cards on World Environment Day.
  - The cards are made up of Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol.
  - These cards have a large positive impact on the environment as they can be broke down safely and quickly into raw materials of nature and disappear into the environment.
  - Axis Bank has become the first bank to introduce biodegradable cards in India.
- RBI keeps repo rate unchanged
  - RBI kept repo rate unchanged at 6.25% during its bimonthly monetary policy review on June 7, 2017.
  - This is 4th time in a row that repo rate has been kept unchanged.
  - Cash Reserve Ratio has also been kept at current 4%, Statutory liquidity ratio was cut by 50 basis points to 20%
  - **RBI's target for inflation stands at 4%.**
  - RBI had changed its monetary policy to neutral from accommodative in Feb.
- SBI launches record share sale



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- State Bank of India has launched India's largest institutional share sale programme.
- The bank aims to raise up to Rs 15,000 crore.
- With this issue size, SBI broke its own record of 2014 when it raised ₹8,032 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP).
- At the floor price of Rs 287.58, SBI will issue 521.6 million shares if the issue is fully subscribed.
- ICICI commissioned solar-powered ATMs
  - ICICI Bank commissioned over 200 solar powered ATM sites last year as part of its efforts to reduce carbon footprint and use more clean energy.
  - Bank has reduced its energy consumption from 198 million units in 2013-14 to 164 million units in 2016-17.
  - Bank has saved 34.2 million units in last 3 years.
  - This is equivalent to amount of energy that can power 42,000 rural households for an year.
- NSE launched in GIFT city
  - National Stock Exchange has launched its international exchange in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
  - NSE IFSC Ltd is the global exchange which is promoted by NSE.
  - It will remain operational for a longer period than NSE.
  - All the trades will be cleared and settled through NSE IFSC Clearing Corporations.
  - BSE has already operationalised its global exchange India International Exchange
- Vijaya Bank to develop Digital Villages
  - Vijaya Bank is going to develop 100 digital villages in various States to promote digital banking among rural population.



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- Bank would offer free Wi-Fi connectivity, mobile payment facilities, ATM cards, online banking and will carry out a door-to-door campaign to educate villagers.
- It is the only public sector financial institution to develop digital villages with focus on rural areas.
- RBI kicks off financial literacy week
  - RBI is observing June 5-9, 2017 as Financial Literacy Week across the country.
  - Themes selected for week are KYC, exercising credit discipline, grievance redress and going digital.
  - It helps customer to be informed and make better financial decisions.
  - RBI will be piloting an initiative where NGO will be collaborating with banks to extend outreach through innovative methods at block level.
- BoB signs agreement with SFAC
  - Bank of Baroda has entered into a MoU with Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium.
  - Under this MoU, Bank of Baroda would provide collateral free loans to Farmers Producer Companies.
  - SFAC will provide credit guarantee cover up to 85 percent of the loan amount.
  - SFAC is an autonomous society promoted by Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' welfare.
- Mumbai Metro ties up with Google Maps
  - Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd has collaborated with Google Maps to give people its authentic timetable and associated geographic details on all Metro stations on the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar route.
  - Trip timings of each service operated by them will be available in Google Maps app.



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- The app will also showcase facilities like stairs, escalators, ticket counters, in all the 3 levels of the station.
- SBI funds 100 MW Rooftop solar projects
  - SBI has announced financing of 100 MW rooftop solar projects worth Rs 400 crore for private developers under a World Bank programme.
  - The Developers that SBI will be financing include Azure Power, Amplus, and Cleanmax.
  - Capacity of the projects financed range from 25kWp to 16MW.
  - SBI is making efforts to expand and incentivise the market for rooftop solar power by way of low cost financing.
- Sebi bars Cypress Money
  - SEBI has barred Cypress Money Investment Advisor and its three partners from acting as investment advisors and research analyst.
  - SEBI found they were acting as investment advisors and research analyst without securing registration from the regulator.
  - The firm has been directed not to divert any funds raised from the investors and to immediately withdraw and remove all the advertisements.
- India signs Agreement with World Bank
  - Indian Govt has signed USD 36 million loan agreement with World Bank for Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Program.
  - Objective of the project is to improve the efficiency of Public Expenditure Management and Tax Administration in Himachal Pradesh.
  - Program is expected to improve budget credibility, strengthening systems and procedures to improve fiscal discipline.
- Telangana Government launches T-Wallet
  - Telangana has launched a digital wallet titled as T- Wallet.
  - It is the official digital wallet of the state, offering anytime anywhere platform for digital payments with no additional charge for citizens.





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- It uses 2 factor authentications, Aadhaar+Biometric or Aadhaar+OTP.
- Transaction Analysts has partnered with Telangana to develop T-Wallet.
- It is 1st official e-wallet from any state govt.
- Supr Daily raises funds.
  - Groceries subscription startup Supr Daily has raised \$1.5 million from Silicon Valley-based investors.
  - The funding round saw the participation of Soma Capital, Great Oaks Ventures, 122 West Ventures.
  - Supr Daily delivers daily consumable goods such as milk, bread, eggs and coconut water, to users every morning.
  - Supr Daily was founded by IIT-Bombay alumni Kumar and Shreyas Nagdawane in 2015.
- Buy Now, Pay Later service for bookings.
  - Indian Railways has introduced 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service for passengers to book tickets.
  - It will allow passengers to make payment for tickets booked online within a window of 15 days.
  - The facility is available for confirmed, waitlisted and RAC births.
  - The ticket buyers will be asked to provide their Aadhaar and PAN card details and an OTP will be generated for final booking.

## Science and Technology

- SpaceX launches 10 satellites
  - SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket succeeded in launching 10 communication satellites into the orbit.
  - The rocket carried the 2nd batch of new satellites for Iridium Communications, which is replacing its fleet with a next-generation constellation of satellites.



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- 7 minutes after liftoff, rocket's first-stage booster returned to earth and landed on a floating platform on a ship in the Pacific Ocean.
- ISRO to launch Earth Observation Sat
  - India will launch its earth observation satellite Cartosat-2 series weighing 712 kg and 30 co-passenger satellites with its rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.
  - According ISRO, the PSLV rocket's XL variant is expected to lift off on 23rd June from the Sriharikota rocket port.
  - The co-passenger satellites comprise 29 nano satellites from 14 countries as well as one Indian nanosatellite.
- World's Fastest Machine
  - According to a list released today by researchers in the US and Germany Two Chinese supercomputers have been declared the fastest machines in the world.
  - China's Sunway TaihuLight and Tianhe-2 are the world's fastest and second fastest machines.
  - While Switzerland's Piz Daint and the US' Titan took the third and fourth positions respectively.
- IIT Kharagpur develops wearable tech
  - A team of experts at the Indian Institute of Technology - Kharagpur has fashioned a hybrid material based on silk protein called silk fibroin.
  - This novel material has the potential to spawn prototype textile-based smart electronic devices for soldiers and defence personnel as well as for biomedical applications.
  - The USP of the material is that it is flexible, stretchable etc.
- **World's First Hybrid Aeroboat**
  - The world's first hybrid "aeroboat" that has been built by an Indo-Russian joint venture was unveiled in Moscow.







- This Hybrid "aeroboat" is capable of travelling on land, water, snow and sand .
- The aeroboat is designed to access difficult terrain, such as flooded or marshy areas where the use of regular boats is made impossible.
- It has been designed by IIAAT Holding.
- Planet Hotter Than Most Stars
  - Astronomers have discovered the hottest planet ever, having a dayside temp. of more than 4,300 degrees Celsius.
  - The planet called KELT-9b, is hotter than most stars and is 2.8 times more massive than Jupiter.
  - It takes 2 days to complete 1 orbit of the star, being so close means that it cannot exist for very long.
  - It is a hybrid planet-star, has mass of Planet and an atmosphere like a star.
- Apple unveils new operating system
  - Apple has unveiled iOS 11, a new and advanced operating system for its devices.
  - It features a "Do Not Disturb while Driving" mode that turns iPhone screens black and stops users from replying to messages.
  - It includes a more helpful Siri, phone-to-phone payments within iMessage and a control centre that collates all functions in one place.
  - It will be available in Autumn.
- ISRO launches heaviest rocket
  - ISRO launched India's heaviest rocket GSLV-Mk III along with a communications satellite GSAT-19 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
  - The 43.43m rocket that weighs 640 tonnes is capable of lifting payloads of up to 4000 kg into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
  - **The rocket's cryogenic engine has been** developed by space scientists indigenously.
  - It was developed in 15 years at a cost of ₹300 crore.



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- LIGO makes Gravitational Wave Detection
  - Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory detectors have detected another merger of 2 black holes.
  - GW150914, is the 3rd confirmed detection of gravitational waves coming from a binary black hole merger.
  - The detection has revealed not only a black hole merger, but also alignment of the spins of black holes.
  - GW170104, GW151226 and GW150914 are the 3 confirmed detections by LIGO.
- NASA to launch Sounding Rocket
  - NASA will launch a sounding rocket which will release blue-green and red artificial clouds.
  - The rocket will eject vapour canisters between 10 to 20 km from the **rocket's main payload.**
  - The vapor tracers will allow scientists on the ground to view the movement of the particles in the ionosphere.
  - The sounding rockets are short lived and follows a parabolic trajectory.

## Arts and Culture

- Vidya Balan becomes ambassador
  - Vidya Balan has been named as the ambassador to the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for the second time.
  - Festival will run from August 10 to August 22, Over 60 films from India, indie films and short films in 20 different languages will be screened.
  - Theme for this year is diversity.
  - IFFM is one of the largest Indian film festivals outside India which is supported by Victorian government.
- European Union Film Festival kicks off





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- 22nd European Union Film Festival kicked off in New Delhi with an aim to improve cultural ties between India and European countries.
- The film festival will screen 22 films from 22 European countries to serve the purpose of knowing and understanding each other better.
- Beginning in Delhi, the festival will also travel to Pune, Mumbai, Goa, Kolkata, Ranchi, Coimbatore and Puducherry.
- Modi fest begins in Andhra Pradesh
  - Making of Developed India (MODI), a 3 day festival has been launched in Andhra Pradesh.
  - It is being celebrated to mark the successful completion of three-year rule by NDA govt. under the leadership of PM Modi.
  - It will have Jan ki Baat voice of the people stall and a survey on Nammo App, with an exhaustive list of questions.
  - It will also have an exhibition of all schemes launched by PM Modi.

## Sports

- Dhanraj Pillay to get Bharat Gaurav
  - Former India hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay will be awarded with East Bengal football club's highest honour "**Bharat Gaurav**" on their foundation day.
  - He played a huge role in reviving the Indian team and performed brilliantly during his 15-year career.
  - He also received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award for his performance in 1999-2000 and was awarded Padma Shri and civilian award in 2000.
- 1st Indian to complete solo RAAM
  - Srinivas Gokulnath created history by becoming the first Indian to complete 4,900-km Race Across America in solo category.



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- He finished the distance of 3070 miles in 11 days and 18 hours in the 18-49 age category. The time given was 12 days to complete the race, that is 13 hours earlier than the scheduled time.
- He completed the race from West coast to East coast of the US in his 2nd attempt.
- Yashaswini bags gold in 10m air pistol
  - Yashaswini Deswal created history by winning the 10m Air Pistol gold medal equalling the junior world record score of 235.9 in the final of the ISSF Junior World Championship.
  - She eliminated Korean shooter Woori Kim for the gold medal.
  - Her gold medal made sure India were No.2 on the points table with two gold medals, one silver and one bronze.
- Indian boxers shine at Ulaanbaatar Cup
  - Ankush Dahiya clinched a gold while L Devendro Singh settled for a silver medal on the final day of the Ulaanbaatar Cup boxing tournament in Mongolia.
  - Ankush defeated Korean Man Choe Chol in a split verdict while Devendro lost to Indonesia's Aldoms Suguro in a split decision.
  - India thus signed off with a gold, a silver and three bronze medals from the tournament.
- Federer wins ninth Halle title
  - World number five Roger Federer defeated Alexander Zverev 6-1 6-3 to clinch a record ninth Halle Open title.
  - Federer saved the only break point he faced and converted four of his eight opportunities to clinch his 92nd career title.
  - The victory gives Federer his ninth Halle crown, joining Rafael Nadal as the only two men in the Open Era who have won a tournament more than eight times.
- Srikanth wins Australian Open





- Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth defeated Olympic champion Chen Long to win the Australia Open Super Series men's singles title.
- This is his 2nd consecutive Super Series title after he won the Indonesia Open Super Series crown.
- This is his first win over Chen Long in six meetings.
- Badminton Association of India announced a cash award of Rs 5 lakh for Srikanth after he lifted the title.
- Test Status to Afghanistan and Ireland
  - International Cricket Council during its annual conference in London confirmed Afghanistan and Ireland as Full Member of ICC thereby granting them Test status.
  - Ireland and Afghanistan have been playing as associate members since 1993 and 2013, respectively.
  - The move takes the number of Test-playing nations from 10 to 12.
  - They are the first to receive Test status since Bangladesh in 2000.
- Indian Wushu Team bags six medals
  - India won 6 medals in Wushu competition of the 1st ever BRICS Games, which were held in China.
  - The medals haul comprised 2 each in gold, silver and bronze.
  - M. Gyandas and Anjul Namdev won a gold each while 2 silver medals came through Bidheswari Devi and Toshibala.
  - It featured some 300 athletes from 5 countries with 10 events in 3 sports - men's basketball, women's volleyball and Wushu.
- Pakistan wins Champions Trophy title
  - Pakistan won the 2017 Champions Trophy cricket final after beating arch-rivals India by 180 runs at the Oval ground in Britain's capital, London.
  - With the win, Pakistan won their first Champions Trophy to add to their 1992 World Cup and 2009 World T20 wins.

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- Pakistan had come into the tournament as the lowest-ranked team and lost heavily to India in its opening group match.
- India's biggest win over Pakistan
  - India demolished Pakistan 7-1 to register their third consecutive victory and seal a place in the quarter-finals of the Hockey World League Semi-Final.
  - This was India's biggest over Pakistan, bettering the 7-4 effort against arch-rivals in 2003 Champions Trophy and 2010 Commonwealth Games.
  - This was India's 56th win over Pakistan in the 168th match between the two nations.

## Environment

- Environmental Impact Survey
  - Mozambique, rated as one of the poorest country has topped a survey of nations with the lowest global environmental impact.
  - It topped the list as all its energy use comes from green sources.
  - India was placed 75th with renewable energy making up only 15.2 per cent of all energy used.
  - Africa as a continent topped the charts while Trinidad and Tobago stood at the bottom.
- Facebook Launches 'Disaster Maps'
  - Facebook has launched disaster maps, an initiative aimed at helping humanitarian organisations save lives in emergencies.
  - Maps will reflect the movements and location of people before, during and after disasters to help aid agencies work out where they should deliver food, water and medical supplies.
  - Facebook is currently beta testing the product with World Food Programme, UNICEF, and IFRC.





- World Health Assembly held in Geneva.
  - 70th edition of World Health Assembly was held from 22nd to 31st May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - Member States elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the new Director-General of WHO.
  - From India, J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, addressed the plenary meeting on the theme – ‘**Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: building better systems for health**’.
- MoES to launch Deep Ocean Mission
  - MoES is all set to launch ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ by January 2018.
  - It will improve India’s position in ocean research field.
  - India has designated an area of 75,000 square km for deep sea exploration.
  - This area has an estimated resource of about 100 million tonnes of strategic metals such Copper, Nickel, Cobalt besides Manganese and Iron.

## Defence

- Sonu Nigam lends his voice for ITBP
  - Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam has sung a 2.17 minute long hindi song for Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force.
  - The video of the song which features ITBP border posts, its personnel and their modern equipment will be played at every ceremonial and official event of the paramilitary force from now on.
  - The song was unveiled by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi as he visited ITBP's headquarters.
- L&T launches Floating Dock for Navy
  - First indigenously built Floating Dock (FDN-2) to repair Indian Navy ships was launched at Larsen & Toubro Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai.

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- It will be handed over to Navy after 3 to 4 months of trial.
- It can take up to 8,000-tonne ships with draught up to 7m, including submarine.
- FDN-2 will move to Andaman & Nicobar Islands to be used for assets not only of Navy but also of other Services.
- CRPF launches helpline 'Madadgaar'
  - Central Reserve Police Force has launched a 24×7 helpline "Madadgaar" at **Srinagar's Tagore Hall**.
  - The aim of the helpline is to assist Kashmiris, especially students studying all over the country who face security issues and other problems away from the home.
  - It would also aid in career counselling for those interested in joining the paramilitary forces.
- AUSINDEX-17 Bilateral Maritime Exercise
  - **Indian warships have reached Australia's port city of Freemantle to take part in a week-long naval exercise off the Western Australian coast.**
  - Exercise Australia-India (AUSINDEX) was first conducted off the East Coast of India in September 2015.
  - The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and professional interaction between two navies.
  - The exercise will be held from June 13-17.
- MoU signed between CISF & NSDC
  - CISF in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation will start training programme for security personnel retiring from the force to enhance their skill sets.
  - A MoU was signed between CISF and NSDC towards this objective.
  - Under the MoU, skill development centres will be set up focusing on sectors like handicrafts and apparel and industry related skills like mobile repairing.







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- India tests QR-SAM for first time
  - Indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile was test-fired for the first time from Balasore, Odisha.
  - It has been jointly developed by DRDO and Bharat Electronics.
  - The missile system can engage multiple targets within a range of around 30 km with two vehicle configuration for area air defence.
  - It is a truck-mounted missile with a 360° rotatable, turret-based launch unit.
- Prithvi-II successfully test-fired
  - India has successfully test-fired Prithvi-II ballistic missile from Chandipur, Odisha.
  - Prithvi-II is a joint initiative of DRDO and Bharat Dynamics Limited.
  - It is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is made from aluminum alloy.
  - It is a surface-to-surface missile having strike range of 350 km and has been inducted into the 333-missile regiment of the Indian Army.

## India & World

- First Indian PM to visit Israel
  - Narendra Modi will become the first Indian PM to visit Israel with his 3 day visit starting July 4.
  - Visit not only marks 25 years of diplomatic relations b/w the 2 countries but also a definite shift in India's approach towards Israel.
  - Modi will meet Israeli PM Netanyahu over a period of 2 days to discuss matters of mutual interest.
  - India is the largest buyer of Israeli military equipment.
- India gives \$100,000 to UN Tax Fund



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- India has become the first country to voluntarily contribute \$100,000 to a UN fund to help developing countries actively participate in the discussion of tax issues.
- Voluntary contributions for the fund have been called for by the UN and the committee since its establishment in 2006.
- The fund aims to support the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.
- Top supplier in health sector to UN
  - According to UN, India continues to be the main supplier in health to UN system with USD 803.79 million within the health sector in 2016.
  - India supplied 6% of procurements by UN organisations in 2016, second highest after US.
  - Procurement from India included food, management services and medical equipment.
  - Goods and services from India were procured primarily by UNICEF, PAHO, UNDP and WFP.
- India and Netherlands sign 3 agreements
  - India and the Netherlands have signed three agreements, including a memorandum of understanding on water cooperation.
  - India and Netherlands signed MoU's on Cultural Cooperation and on Water Cooperation and an agreement on Amending Social Security Arrangement.
  - The two countries are marking the 70th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic ties this year.
- Mexico, India to hold disarmament meet
  - India and Mexico have agreed to hold a conference on regional and global disarmament.
  - The meeting would be headed by the Joint Secretary of the disarmament division of the Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian side.



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- The latest consultations are aimed at upgrading the Privileged Partnership formed in 2007 to a strategic level as agreed upon during Modi-Nieto meeting of 2016.
- Aadhaar not valid for travel to Nepal
  - According to Home Ministry Aadhaar card is not a valid identification document for Indians travelling to Nepal and Bhutan.
  - Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan if they possess a valid national passport or election ID card issued by the Election Commission.
  - Persons over 65 and below 15 years can show documents with photographs to confirm their age and identity.
- India and Portugal signs 11 MoUs
  - India and Portugal have signed 11 MOUs for cooperation in areas including taxation, science, youth affairs and trade.
  - The 2 sides also signed MoUs for creation of an India Portugal Space Alliance for advancing collaborative research and launched a startup Portal - India-Portugal International StartUp Hub.
  - India and Portugal also agreed to set up science and technology fund of 4 million euros
- India re-elected to ECOSOC
  - India has been re-elected to the UN's principal organ on economic, social and environmental issues for another three-year term.
  - India was among 18 nations to win election to the Economic and Social Council.
  - India received 183 of the 188 votes, the second highest after Japan who received 185 vote in the Asia Pacific category.
  - Pakistan received just a single vote for the ECOSOC.
- India to host AIIB's 3rd annual meeting
  - India will host the third annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2018.



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- The third annual meeting of the AIIB's board of governors will be held in Mumbai in June 2018.
- The first annual meeting was held in Beijing last year.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank initiated by China which aims to provide financing for infrastructure improvement in Asia.
- Sikkim signs MoU with British Council
  - HRD department of Sikkim govt has signed an MoU with British Council to enhance quality of education in the state.
  - MoU will improve educational structure of the schools and will revolutionise Sikkim's education.
  - It aims is to support aspirations of young people through collaborative projects in area of English, education & skills by strengthening capacity of teachers and other professionals.

## Resignations and Appointments

- Venugopal appointed as Attorney General
  - Senior advocate K K Venugopal's name has been cleared for appointment as the Attorney General for India.
  - He will replace Mukul Rohatgi who has decided to step down as the top law officer.
  - He is a noted constitutional expert and recipient of Padma Vibhushan & Padma Bhushan.
  - He would become a law officer for 2nd time after being an Additional Solicitor General during the Morarji Desai govt.
- Sinha assumes charge as I&B Secretary
  - Narendra Kumar Sinha, a 1980 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre has assumed charge as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary.





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- He will take charge in place of Ajay Mittal, who has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training.
- Prior to being Secretary, Sinha served as Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department, Government of Bihar.
- UPSC appoints Manoj Soni as member
  - UPSC has accepted Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University former Vice Chancellor Manoj Soni as its member.
  - He is a political science scholar specialising in international relation studies and is the youngest Vice Chancellor since independence.
  - He is the recipient of several awards and recognitions including the rare honour of "Honorary Mayor-President of the City of Baton Rouge".
- Indian-American as US Ambassador to Peru
  - U.S. President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Krishna R Urs as the new US Ambassador to Peru.
  - Mr. Urs is currently **Charge d' Affaires of the US Embassy in Madrid, Spain.**
  - He has served at seven US embassies as well in senior leadership positions in Washington and has specialised in economic issues and developed extensive policy experience in the Andean region of South America.
- NIFT gets new Chairperson
  - Union government (Ministry of Textiles) has appointed Rajesh V Shah as Chairperson on the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Fashion Technology up to March 31, 2019.
  - He will replace former cricketer Chetan Chauhan who resigned from the post after being made the Sports Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
  - NIFT has various centres across India and comes under Union Ministry of Textiles.
- Basu takes over as IEA president



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- Former chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu has taken over as president of International Economic Association .
- He will be serving as the president of IEA for a period of 3 years starting from June 23.
- He has also served as senior vice-president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016 and as the chief economic adviser to Govt of India from 2009 to 2012.
- PC to endorse the Skill India campaign
  - National Skill Development Corporation has appointed Priyanka Chopra as the brand ambassador to endorse the Skill India campaign.
  - She will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.
  - The Skill India campaign was launched by PM Modi in July 2015 which aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skilling initiatives.
- IDFC Bank elevates Kakar as MD and CEO
  - IDFC has announced the elevation of its CFO Sunil Kakar as the MD and CEO of the company with effect from July 16 for three years.
  - He has also been appointed as additional director. Both the appointments are subject to shareholders' approval at the annual general meeting.
  - Kakar joined IDFC as the Group CFO and was responsible for finance and accounts, business planning among others.
- First turbaned judge in Canada
  - Indian-origin Sikh human rights advocate Palbinder Kaur Shergill has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in New Westminster.
  - She has become the first turbaned Sikh to be appointed to the judiciary in Canada.



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- Regarded as a leading human rights advocate, she has been instrumental in helping shape human rights and religious accommodation law in Canada.
- Soli Sorabjee steps down
  - Soli J Sorabjee has stepped down as the president of India International Centre, one of the premier cultural institutions in the country.
  - **He announced his decision at IIC's annual general meeting** citing personal reasons for stepping down.
  - Jammu and Kashmir governor NN Vohra has been appointed as the new president whose second term as Jammu and Kashmir governor ends in 2018.

## Obituaries

- 1993 Mumbai serial blasts convict dies
  - Mustafa Dossa died of a heart attack at JJ Hospital where he was admitted after he complained of chest pain.
  - He was one of the prime accused in 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was convicted on the charges of conspiracy, murder, and terror by a special TADA court in Mumbai.
  - He was declared absconder after he had fled India following the serial blasts. Dossa was later extradited from UAE
- Desh Bandhu Gupta passes away
  - Founder and chairman of Lupin, Desh Bandhu Gupta passed away at the age of 79.
  - He started his career as an associate professor at BITS Pilani and founded Lupin in 1968 with a capital of Rs 5000.
  - **In recent years he spearheaded restructuring of Lupin's operations and its research & innovation programmes for new drugs.**





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- According to Forbes India billionaires list, his net worth was \$3.6 billion
- K R Mohanan Passes Away
  - Noted Malayalam film director K R Mohanan died following a brief illness.
  - He was former chairman of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and served as the director of the International Film Festival of Kerala.
  - Mohanan was a recipient of state and national award for best films.
  - His popular films are 'Ashwathama' in 1978, 'Purushartham' in 1987 and 'Swaroopam' in 1992.
- Baldwin Lonsdale dies after heart attack
  - President of Vanuatu, Baldwin Lonsdale, has died after a heart attack at the age of 67.
  - While president he oversaw the vast rebuilding of parts of Vanuatu after Cyclone Pam left an estimated 75,000 people homeless in 2015.
  - He was a civil servant before becoming an Anglican priest, was elected to the presidency in 2014.
  - He sacked his government 2 years ago over a massive corruption scandal.
- John Avildsen passes away
  - John Avildsen who won an Oscar for directing Rocky has passed away.
  - He also won Directors Guild of America Award for directing Rocky, which won Oscars for Best Picture, Film Editing & was nominated in multiple categories.
  - His other most memorable works include first three original Karate Kid movies.
  - He had developed a reputation for making movies about underdogs who somehow become winners.
- Helmut Kohl passes away
  - Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl passed away.
  - He was Germany's longest-serving post-war chancellor and the architect of Germany's reunification.



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- In 1998 he became the 2nd person to be named Honorary Citizen of Europe by the European heads of state or government.
- Former US President George Bush once described him as the most important European leader of the late 20th century.
- **Justice PN Bhagwati passes away**
  - Former Chief Justice of India Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati who is considered as a pioneer of Judicial Activism has passed away.
  - He introduced the concepts of Public Interest Litigation and absolute liability to the Indian judicial system.
  - Justice PN Bhagwati served as the 17th Chief Justice of India from July 1985 to December 1986.
- **C Narayana Reddy passes away**
  - Eminent poet, litterateur and Jnanpith awardee C. Narayana Reddy passed away.
  - He was popularly known as CiNaRe. He was known for his use of Telugu in its pure form, and would not be swayed by filmmakers on the use of the language.
  - He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1977 and the Padma Bhushan in 1992. **His compilation of poems, titled 'Viswambhara', got him the Jnanpith award in 1988.**
- **Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann passes away**
  - Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, former Foreign Minister of Nicaragua and former President of the UN General Assembly, passed away on 8 June 2017.
  - As the President of the United Nations General Assembly from September 2008 to September 2009, he presided over the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
  - He was also nominated as Libyan Representative to the UN in March 2011.
- **Mehrunnisa Dalwai passes away at 87**



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- Mehrunnisa Dalwai, noted social activist, author and wife of one of **modern Maharashtra's most remarkable and formidable social reformers** Hamid Dalwai, passed away at her residence.
- She married Hamid Dalwai in 1956 and worked with him for justice and equal rights for Muslim women.
- She had spearheaded a march to 'Mantralaya' in Mumbai seeking abolition of triple 'talaq'.

## Global Lists/Index

- 30 cities under Smart City Mission
  - The Indian government has unveiled another list of 30 cities that will be developed under the Smart City initiative.
  - With this the total number of smart cities has gone up to 90
  - Kerala capital Thiruvananthapuram has topped the list this time, followed by Chhattisgarh's new capital Naya Raipur.
  - These cities have proposed to invest Rs 57,393 crore under respective smart city plans.
- Google ranked as the most valuable brand
  - Google has topped the 2017 BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands list, with a brand value of over \$245 billion.
  - Further, US tech giants Apple, Microsoft, and Facebook were also among the five most valuable brands.
  - Amazon rose three places after achieving the highest dollar value growth, increasing by \$40.3 billion to \$139.3 billion.
- India sink in World competitiveness list
  - India has been ranked 45th, down 4 notches from last year in IMD's World Competitiveness list.





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- Hong Kong topped the list while Switzerland and Singapore were ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- USA stood at 4th spot - Its lowest position in five years.
- As India slid, China improved its position by seven places to 18th.
- Cyprus and Saudi Arabia made their first appearance on the list this year.
- 9 Indian cities in Global 300 cities.
  - Nine Indian cities figured on the latest edition of 'Global 300' cities.
  - Delhi and Mumbai ranked in the Global Top 30 while other cities such as Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata were in 'Global Top 100'.
  - On Commercial Attraction Index, New York ranked 1st, whereas in terms of Economic Size, Tokyo has ranked 1st.
  - The list has been compiled by Jones Lang LaSalle.

## Health

- Mizoram launches Test and Treat Strategy
  - Mizoram Health Minister Lal Thanzara has launched the 'Test and Treat Strategy' of the Mizoram state AIDS Control Society to improve treatment for HIV affected people in the state.
  - Under the Strategy, HIV affected people would be given free Anti Retrovira Therapy irrespective of the CD4 count.
  - ART has been found to be able to resist TB and other bacterial diseases.
- Health Ministry launches IDCF
  - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Intensified Diarrhea Control Fortnight (IDCF) in order to intensify efforts to reduce child deaths due to diarrhoea.
  - Through this initiative, the Ministry will mobilize all stakeholders to prioritize investment in control of diarrhea.



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- It aims to create mass awareness about the most effective and low-cost diarrhoea treatment.
- Centre to set up 100 AYUSH hospitals
  - Centre has approved the proposals for setting up of 100 Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy hospitals across the country.
  - Posting of 4000 AYUSH doctors have been approved by Union Govt in last 3 years.
  - An AYUSH hospital equivalent to AIIMS would be opened within a month at New Delhi.
  - Ministry has also approved setting up of two 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals at Theni and Tiruvannamalai.
- National Human Milk Bank inaugurated
  - Health Secretary C K Mishra inaugurated Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh, a National Human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
  - It will collect pasteurise, test and store milk donated by lactating mothers and make it available for infants in need.
  - Vatsalya is established in collaboration with Norwegian government, Oslo University and NIPI.

## Acquisitions and Mergers

- Quikr acquires Babajob
  - Quikr India has acquired job listing company Babajob Services in an attempt to strengthen its position in the blue collar jobs segment.
  - This the 11th acquisition for Quikr and its second in the online jobs marketplace space.
  - The combined entity of Babajob and QuikrJobs will become the largest platform for blue collar job seekers.





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- Quikr has decided to run Babajob as a separate entity.
- Canara Bank, New India tie up
  - Canara Bank and New India Assurance Company have entered into a corporate agency arrangement for distribution of insurance products.
  - Under the agreement, New India Assurance will offer leading general insurance products to the customers of Canara Bank.
  - Tie-up will also offer personal products such as motor insurance, home insurance besides commercial policy coverages like fire insurance.
- Microsoft acquires Hexadite
  - Microsoft has confirmed that it has acquired Hexadite, an Israeli startup that uses AI to identify and protect against attacks.
  - Hexadite will develop security solutions for commercial Windows 10 customers, specifically with Windows Defender Advanced Threat
  - Other security acquisitions Microsoft has made in Israel include Aorato, Adallom and Secure Islands.
- RCom-Aircel merged wireless company
  - Reliance Communications Chairman Anil Ambani has announced that the merged entities of RCom and Aircel will be called Aircom.
  - Both R-Com and Maxis will hold 50% each in Aircom.
  - As part of this transaction, RCom's overall debt will reduce by Rs 14,000 crore.
  - The merged entity will have the second largest spectrum holding amongst all operators.

## Places In News

- Odisha to set up blood bank for cattle
  - Odisha is all set to become the first state in the country to have a blood bank for cattle.



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- Blood bank would be set up at Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore. It will be funded under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- Blood transfusion facility for cattle blood will also be done at the proposed blood bank which will prevent death of cattle during deliveries.
- Sharjah named World Book Capital
  - Sharjah has been declared as the World Book Capital by UNESCO for the year 2019.
  - It has been chosen by an international committee of UNESCO experts for the quality of its literary and cultural activities and its efforts to make books accessible to the entire population of the country.
  - Sharjah will also launch Sharjah Publishing City, a space entirely dedicated to publishing and printing.
- Uttarakhand, Haryana become ODF
  - Uttarakhand and Haryana have become the fourth and fifth Open Defecation Free states of India under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
  - The two states joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, which were the first three states to be declared ODF.
  - Over two lakh villages and 147 districts have been declared Open Defecation Free across the country.
- 1st Indian building to get trademark
  - 114-year-old Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai has become the 1st Indian building to get trademark.
  - It has joined the elite club of trademarked properties in the world which includes the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and Sydney Opera House.
  - With IHCL trademarking the building, nobody can now use Taj Mahal Palace's images for commercial purposes without paying the company a licensing fee.





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- Sabarmati Ashram Celebrates 100 Years
  - Sabarmati Ashram, Epicentre of country's freedom struggle during Mahatma Gandhi stay will celebrate its centenary in presence of his grandson Gopalkrishna Gandhi.
  - **2 new permanent exhibition galleries on Gandhi's life** - My Life is My Message Gallery and Charkha Gallery were opened at the Ashram on this occasion.
  - **2 books 'Letters to Gandhi' and 'Pioneers of Satyagraha'** were also released.
- IIT-Delhi best ranked Indian institution
  - IIT Delhi has surpassed IISc Bangalore, to become the top-ranked Indian institute according to QS World University Rankings.
  - IIT Delhi Ranked 172 while IIT Bombay and IISc Bangalore stood at 179 and 190 respectively.
  - This is the first time in 14 years India has three institutes in the top 200 list.
  - MIT topped the list for 6th consecutive year, followed by Stanford University.
- War memorial inaugurated in Arunachal
  - General officer commanding of Gajraj Corps Lt General Amarjeet Singh Bedi inaugurated a war memorial at Thembang village in Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
  - The memorial has been constructed by the scout battalion of the Indian Army.
  - It has been dedicated to the men of 5 Guards, who fought during the Indo-China war in Thembang village in 1962.
- World's Fastest Elevator
  - World's fastest elevator is set to be installed in a skyscraper complex building in China.



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- It is developed by Hitachi and runs at a speed of 1,200 metres per minute.
- It has various safety features including brake equipment using materials with outstanding heat resistance.
- Active guide rollers in the elevator absorbs vibration during high speed operation, making the ride comfortable.
- **India's first 'private' railway station**
  - Bhopal's Habibganj station has become the first railway station of the country to be build in a Public-Private partnership.
  - Station will be designed as a world-class transit hub with shopping complex, adequate parking lot and other facilities.
  - Station will be powered by solar energy and will also be differently-abled friendly
  - Bansal Group will handle operations and maintenance for 8 years.
- **Jaitley launches Telangana Solar Plant**
  - Arun Jaitley inaugurated a grid-connected solar power plant of 16 MW capacity at the Ordinance Factory in Telangana.
  - The plant has been set up at a cost of Rs 105 crore by Bharat Electronics Limited.
  - He also dedicated a 9 MW capacity windmill project installed at Dammur in Karnataka.
  - The windmill project has been set up at a cost of Rs 53 crore by BEML.

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