

Important Current Affairs - July 1st Week 2018

1st July - 7th July

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Nigeria has replaced India to become world's largest poor population:

- According to **Brookings report**, with the persistent decline in poverty, India is no longer a nation having the largest number of poor people in the world.
- The study also highlighted that extreme poverty in **Nigeria** is growing by **6 people every minute**, while it continues to fall in India.

Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif sentenced to 10 years in jail:

- Mr. Sharif was disqualified as Prime Minister in **July 2017** by the Supreme Court over the purchase of high-end properties in **London**, worth over £200 million.
- His daughter **Maryam Nawaz** was sentenced to **seven** years in jail and and son-in-law captain (retired) **Safdar** awarded one-year jail term.
- The court also imposed a fine of **£8 million** on Mr. Sharif and £2 million on Ms. Maryam.

Japan to open an International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) in September 2018:

- Japan, in **Tokyo**, will open an international arbitration body specializing in intellectual property in September 2018, the **first one in Asia**.

- **Aim**:- To **resolve** the growing number of **patent disputes** in the region within a period of **one** year.

Canada imposes retaliatory tariffs on US imports worth 12 billion dollar:

- The tariffs were imposed on items including coffee, ketchup and whisky as well as steel and aluminium products.
- This decision is taken after 25% and 10% respective tariffs on its steel and aluminium imports imposed by the US.

Epidiolex is the world's first medicine made from marijuana:

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first medical drug made from **marijuana** named "**Epidiolex**" which will be used to cure severe forms of epilepsies in children.
- The drug will be used to **cure** two severe forms of **epilepsy** - Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome.
- **About Marijuana**:-
 - Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is a psychoactive (mood-altering) drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purpose.
 - The possible effects of marijuana include mood changes, suicidal thinking, and disruption to normal learning abilities.

5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership meeting was held in Japan:

- The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (**RCEP**) intersessional ministerial meeting was held in **Tokyo**, Japan, in which Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) attended.

- This meeting was co-chaired by Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko.

China approved 1 billion dollar aid to Pakistan:

- After Pakistan has been placed in '**grey list**' by Financial Action Task Force (FATF), China approved **USD 1 billion** loan to Pakistan.
- The idea behind putting Pakistan in the FATF grey list is to deplete its economy and eventually pull the plug on terror groups.
- **About FATF:**
 - ◆ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.
 - ◆ Headquarters: Paris, France
 - ◆ President: Roger Wilkins

Sri Lanka moves its naval base to China run Hambantota port:

- Sri Lanka is shifting a naval base currently situated in the tourist district of Galle to the **Hambantota** port which is built and controlled by China.
- Sri Lanka formally handed over the port to China in **December, 2017**.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister:- Ranil Wickremesinghe

Miss Spain Angela Ponce 1st transgender model at Miss Universe:

- Angela Ponce has become the **first-ever transgender** woman to be crowned Miss Universe Spain.

- She will also compete in the Miss Universe 2018 pageant in **Philippines** in December 2018.
- Transgender contestants were first allowed to compete in Miss Universe in **2012**.

Russia will build two nuclear power units in China:

- Russia's state nuclear power corporation **Rosatom** and China's National Energy Administration signed a deal to build the **two 1,200-megawatt units** at the Tianwan nuclear power plant.
- These two nuclear power plants are expected to be operational by 2026 and 2027 respectively.
- Russia has built **35** nuclear power units **around the world** under intergovernmental agreements.
- Russia and China are also working together on **One Belt, One Road** initiative.
- Trade between Moscow and Beijing has grown 31 percent this year and is projected to reach the \$100 billion target.

World's first digital art museum opened in Japan:

- The world's first all-digital art museum has opened at the MORI Building Digital Art Museum in **Japan's Tokyo**.
- It features around **50 kaleidoscopic** installations triggered by motion sensors, which are projected across every surface of the 100,000-square-foot exhibit space with the help of lights.
- The museum appears to be a set of halls with black walls without the lights.

India to develop 'World's emptiest airport' in Sri Lanka:

- India would operate Sri Lanka's loss-making **Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport** in **Hambantota**, called the 'world's emptiest airport' due to a lack of flights.
- This comes in the backdrop of **China** developing the Hambantota seaport project in Sri Lanka.
- The airport, which was named after former president **Mahinda Rajapaksa**, was built with the capacity to handle one million passengers a year, was officially opened in **March 2013**.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Aadhaar, PAN Linking Deadline Extended To March 31 Next Year:

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the time for linking PAN with Aadhaar till **31 March 2019**.
- This is the **fifth time** that the government has extended the last date.
- The earlier deadlines for linking Aadhaar-PAN were July 31, August 31 and December 31, 2017, March 31 and June 30 this year.
- India had launched Aadhaar, now the world's biggest biometric database, in **2009** to streamline welfare payments and reduce wastage in public spending.

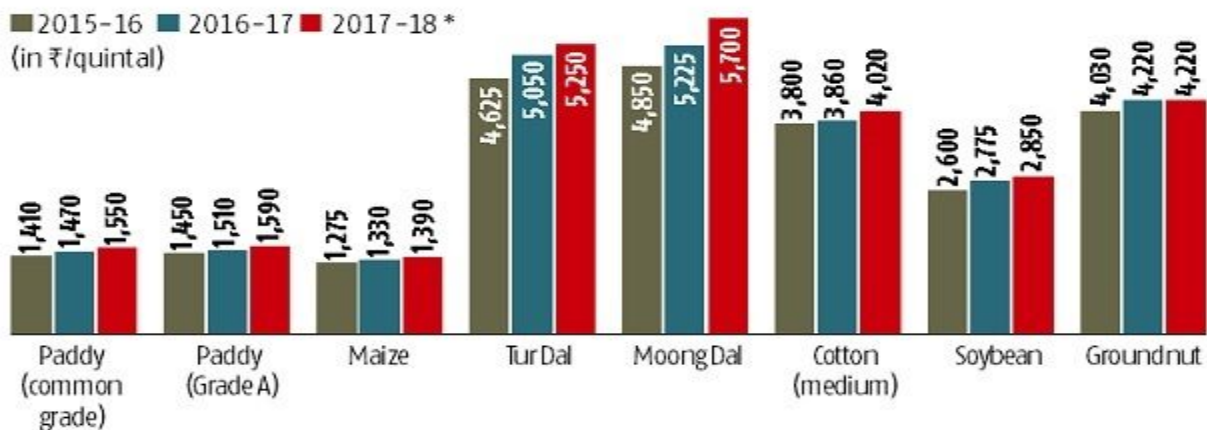
Bengaluru to get India's first government run e-Waste recycling plant:

- Union minister of chemicals and fertilisers **Ananth Kumar** announced that India's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in **Bengaluru**.
- Bengaluru is also the third in terms of e-waste generation in the country.

Central Government approves hike in Support Price of Kharif Crops:

- The government hiked the **minimum support price (MSP)** for **paddy** by a record **Rs 200 per quintal** (per 100 kg) that will cost the exchequer over Rs 15,000 crore.
- This hike will give farmers 50 percent more rate than their cost of production.
- This decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

MSP FOR 2017-18 KHARIF CROPS AS RECOMMENDED BY CACP



Mumbai's Victorian and art Deco ensembles inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage site:

- After this inscription, Mumbai now has **three** UNESCO's World Heritage Sites making it the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- The three heritages are Elephanta, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the Victorian & Art Deco Ensembles.

Sports Authority of India to be renamed 'Sports India':

- Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** confirmed that name of "Sports Authority of India" (SAI) will be changed as 'Sports India'.
- Daily expenses on food and nutrition of the athletes will be increased.
- **About Sports Authority of India:-**
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) (Hindi: भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण) is an apex National Sports body, established in **1984**.
- Headquarters - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, **Delhi**.

UAE consulate to be established in Hyderabad:

- Telangana Chief Minister **K Chandrasekhar Rao** and Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for foreign affairs and International cooperation of **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, met on 5th July at **Pragati Bhavan**, Hyderabad.
- The issues regarding establishing UAE consulate office in Hyderabad, has been discussed in the meeting.
- As lakhs of people from Telangana are working in the UEA, the establishment of the consulate in Hyderabad would benefit the people.

Jharkhand to set up India's first Khadi mall:

While addressing the 'Karigar Panchayat' organized by the Khadi Board at the Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium, Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** announced that, within 15 days, land in the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) campus will be made available to the Khadi Board to develop the country's first **Khadi mall**.

Bombay Stock Exchange delisted 222 companies on 4th July:

- Leading stock exchange **BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange) delisted as many as **222** companies from July 4, 2018 as trading in their shares has remained suspended for over **six months**.
- Earlier in **May**, the exchange had delisted over **200** companies.
- Six firms- Asian Electronics, Birla Power Solutions, Classic Diamonds (India) Ltd, Innoventive Industries, Paramount Printpackaging and SVOGL Oil Gas and Energy-that have been **compulsorily** delisted by the NSE, were also delisted from the BSE from July 4.

CCI provides approval for merging of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers:

- Bharti Airtel-owned telecom tower company **Bharti Infratel Limited** got an approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to merge with **Indus Towers Limited**.
- As per the deal, Bharti Infratel will offer 1,565 shares for every one share of Indus Towers.
- Indus Towers Ltd is the largest tower company in India with around 27 per cent market share.

India to host 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology:

- India will host the "International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) 2018" in **Navi Mumbai** from **October 23-27, 2018**.
- The focal theme for this **19th** edition of the prestigious congress is 25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods.
- IAS, Secretary to Govt. of India & CEO of FSSAI - Pawan Agarwal.
- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries - Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Numaligarh Refinery Ltd became 1st oil PSU to introduce online legal compliance:

- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in **Assam** has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing '**Legatrix**'.
- The cloud-based compliance management system was inaugurated by NRL Managing Director S K Barua in Guwahati.
- This will contribute towards the "**Digital India Mission**".

Delhi launches Happiness Curriculum for govt schools:

- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the **Dalai Lama** launched a 'Happiness Curriculum' for **students** studying in Class Nursery to Class 8 in government schools.
- The curriculum will include a **45-minute 'Happiness' class**, which will include meditation, value education, and mental exercises.

Bhitarkanika National Park became largest habitat of Endangered Estuarine Crocodiles:

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district of **Odisha** in eastern India.
- 101 nesting sites of **estuarine crocodiles** were found this time by enumerators.
- Estuarine crocodiles are also found in West Bengals Sundarban areas having the country's largest mangrove cover.

Behdienkhlam Festival held in Meghalaya:

- The famous **4-day Meghalaya** Annual Cultural Festival, "**Behdienkhlam**", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya.
- Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Dr. Jitendra Singh attended the Festival.
- The festival witnessed a colourful display of 12 raths or 'rath' at the sacred pool, **Aitnar**.

Chhattisgarh govt to set up a tribal museum in Naya Raipur:

- In order to exhibit culture and tradition of scheduled tribes, the tribal museum will be built at the cost of **Rs 27 crore** in an area of around 22 acres in **Naya Raipur**.
- This museum will be named after **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh**, a freedom fighter from the Chhattisgarh who had made a tremendous contribution in the freedom struggle of 1857.
- "Tribal Culture and Language Academy" will also be set up in the state.

Conference of States Power Ministers held at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh:

- The Conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R K Singh**.
- Key points of this Conference :-
 - To meet and discuss:
 - 1) issues including 100 per cent household electrification (under **Saubhagya scheme**) by December, 2018.
 - 2) UDAY performance assessment,
 - 3) Shifting to prepaid system in three years and
 - 4) 24x7 power for all from **April 1, 2019**.

Govt forms panel to upgrade norms for GDP, Economic data collection:

- The government has set up a **13-member committee** to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or **GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) **calculation**.
- This Committee will be **headed by Ravindra H Dholakia**, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad.
- The panel will also review the concepts, definitions, classifications, data conventions, data sources and data requirements for preparation of State Domestic Product (SDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP).
- **What is GDP?**
 - Gross domestic product (GDP) is total value of all final goods and services produced by all the people and companies in the country.

- It doesn't matter if they are citizens or foreign-owned companies.
- If they are located within the country's boundaries, the government counts their production as GDP.

Gaming University will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, by UNESCO:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) entered into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up a 'Design University for Gaming' in **Visakhapatnam**.
- For this, UNESCO has asked Andhra Pradesh's chief minister, N **Chandrababu Naidu** to allocate a land area of around 100 acres.
- The hub will create around 50,000 jobs in 10 years.

India's first taxi ambulance services launched in Delhi:

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** flagged off taxi ambulance services, offered by a Gurugram-based startup **Wagon Cab**.
- The drivers will approach accident victims as soon as they are notified and will get an additional **₹500** for every victim that they tend to.
- CEO & Co-founder of Wagon Cab:- Uttam Bose

NITI Aayog to conduct India's first 'Global Mobility Summit' in September:

- NITI Aayog is organising "**MOVE: Global Mobility Summit**" in **New Delhi** on 7th and 8th September, 2018.
- This summit will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.
- The six tracks or themes for the Summit will focus on:

- (i) Asset Utilization and Services;
- (ii) Comprehensive Electrification ;
- (iii) Alternative Energy;
- (iv) Reinventing Public Transit;
- (v) Logistics and Goods Transport;
- (vi) Data Analytics and Mobility.

◆ Full form of NITI- National Institution for Transforming India

Maharashtra to give Govt Employees paid leave to look after children:

- Maharashtra government has decided to provide **180 days paid leave** to women government employees to look after their children during the course of service.
- Male government employee can get the same 180 days' paid leave, if his wife has passed away and if he has children who are under 18.
- Employees will be able to demand this leave **thrice a year**.

Piyush Goyal launched the 'Khan Prahari' App and Surveillance system for unauthorised coal mining:

- Union Minister of Coal, Piyush Goyal launched the **Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS)** and Mobile Application '**Khan Prahari**', which has been developed by CMPDI, Ranchi, a Subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bhaskarcharya Institute of Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG).
- It aims to report, monitor and take suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities.

- For each complaint, the alert will go to the Coal India Offices, State Government Officers, District Magistrate and SP of the district.

A village in Jammu and Kashmir gets electricity first time since Independence:

- **Narla Bambal** village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, received electricity connection and metalled road for the first time since Independence.
- Road for that village was constructed under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**.
- The electricity is provided to the people of the village under **Deen Dayal Upadhyay scheme**.
- Last month, the Central and State government also constructed 'pucca houses' in Rajouri, for those living below poverty line, under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.

Uttar Pradesh orders plastic ban from July 15, third time since 2015:

- During a programme in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** announced ban on plastic bags, cups and glasses across the state from **July 15** onwards.
- Maharashtra had banned the use of plastic from **June 23**.
- The latest announcement came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing a plan to completely end the use of single-use plastic in India by **2022**.

West Bengal chief minister cuts luxury travel for ministers, announces 'one person, one car' policy:

- In an attempt to reduce travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats, West Bengal chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** also announced that **foreign travel** of ministers and state officials would be sanctioned only by her, apart from ordering cuts on hospitality expenses such as food and refreshments on an emergency basis.
- She further mandated economy class travel in **low-cost airlines** for all domestic air trips.
- Banerjee also formed a committee, to be headed by chief secretary Malay Kumar De, to supervise progress of government projects.

AAI to set up Civil Aviation Research Organization at Hyderabad:

- State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at **Begumpet Airport**, Hyderabad.
- AAI has allocated **Rs 1,200 crore** for this project that will be spent over 12 years for research and development.
- **Aim:-** To solve growing air traffic and to enhance safety, capacity and efficiency of aircraft operations in India.

Narendra Modi to inaugurate the 'Statue of Unity' on 31st October:

- The Statue of Unity, being built near the Sardar Sarovar dam on the **Narmada river**, at a cost of **Rs 2,989**, in memory of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- On 31st October, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the "Statue of Unity", the tallest statue in the world.

- Memorials, museums and research centres were built where the statue is installed.
- The Statue of Unity is being built with 5,700 Metric tonne structural steel, 68,000 Metric tonne of concrete and 1,900 MT of bronze.

SCHEMES:

Maharashtra govt announces Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana:

- The aim of the scheme is to **empower women** and **promote tree plantation**.
- The scheme was approved in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- As per the scheme, farmers families with **2 girl children** will be given **10 saplings** of different varieties, including teakwood, mango, jackfruit, black plum, and tamarind for plantation.
- The income from these trees will be utilized for safeguarding the future of the girls.

Rajasthan started scheme to provide milk to 62 lakh school students:

- The Rajasthan government has launched a scheme to provide milk **thrice** a week to 62 lakh students in government schools and madrassas.
- While students till **Class 5** will get **150ml**, students in **Class 6-8** will get **200 ml**.

- This scheme was launched by Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** during the launch of Annapurna Dudh Yojana, in Jaipur.

Gujarat CM launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' to eradicate malnutrition:

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' - a statewide mission to eradicate **malnutrition** among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres.
- He also launched '**Purna**' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of **14 to 18**, at an allocated cost of **Rs 270 crore**.
- Full form of PURNA - Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.
- Nationwide Poshan Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Rajasthan on **March 8** this year.

Madhya Pradesh government launches subsidised power scheme named "Sambal":

- Under **Sambal** Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided **electricity** at a cost of **Rs 200 per month**.
- The scheme is expected to benefit 88 lakh families in the state.
- **Objective**:- To make sure that all the households in Madhya Pradesh have power facility.
- **Who are eligible for the Sambal scheme?**
 - People who are not using air-conditioners, electric heaters and whose power consumption is below 1000 watts would be eligible for this scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh CM - Shivraj Singh Chouhan,

- Governor- Anandiben Patel.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

Person	Appointed / Resigned	Institution/ Country	Points to be noted
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador	elected as President	Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obrador (64-year-old) has won the Mexico's presidency at the third attempt. • Lopez Obrador will formally take power on December 1. • Present President of Mexico:- Enrique Pena Nieto.
Seema Nanda	named as CEO	Democratic National Committee (DNC) of United States (US)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is an Indian American • She replaces interim CEO Mary Beth Cahill, who took the helm of the DNC in February.
Uttam Dhillon	appointed as the Acting Director	US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is an Indian-American lawyer. • Dhillon last served as the Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump.
Janardan Singh Gehlot	elected as President	International Kabaddi Federation Chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will be in charge for the next four years. • The result was announced after the Annual General Congress (AGC) of the federation, conducted in Dubai, the UAE.
Sathyasri Sharmila	appointed as	First Transgender Lawyer of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is 36 year-old, from Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu. • On a related note, Rajasthan's Ganga Kumari was appointed as

			<p>the first transgender woman constable after Justice Dinesh Mehta issued the order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanwhile, West Bengal's Joyita Mondal was appointed the Lok Adalat judge of Islampur in North Dinajpur district, thus giving India its first transgender judge.
Vishwas Patel	appointed as new Chairman	Payments Council of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCI has also announced the appointment of Loney Antony, Managing Director, Hitachi Payment Services as its new Co-Chairman.
Adarsh Kumar Goel	appointed as New Chairman	National Green Tribunal (NGT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is appointed for a period of 5 years. • He was the first Supreme Court judge from Haryana. • He replaces the acting chairperson Justice Jawad Rahim. • Justice Goel was appointed Supreme Court judge in July 2014. • About NGT:- The NGT was established on October 18, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS:

Money in Swiss banks: India moves to 73rd place, UK remains on top:

- **India** has moved up 15 places to **73rd** in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017, while the **UK** remains on top.
- India had slipped to 88th place with a 44 per cent plunge in such funds during 2016, but the latest data from the Swiss National Bank (SNB) shows an increase of over 50 per cent during 2017 to CHF 1.01 billion (about Rs 7,000 crore).
- **Pakistan** is now placed one place higher than India at **72nd** position.

RBI issued license to Bank of China to operate in India:

- The decision was based on the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Chinese President Xi Jinping, during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, China.
- Following this, the 106-year-old "Bank of China" will open a branch in India.
- The Bank of China (BoC) opened its first branch in South Asia in **Pakistan's Karachi** last year.
- Bank of China (BOC) headquarter:- **Beijing**.

Allahabad Bank, Punjab National Bank raised lending rate by up to 10 basis points:

- Kolkata-headquartered **Allahabad Bank** and Delhi-headquartered **PNB** (Punjab National Bank) raised their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by up to **10 basis points**, with effect from July 1, 2018.
- One basis point equals one-hundredth of a percentage point.
 - ◆ For loan of a **six-month** tenor, the borrowing rate will be costlier by 0.10 per cent to **8.40** per cent.
 - ◆ For **one year** loan term, the new rate is up by 0.05 per cent to **8.45** percent,
 - ◆ For **three year** loan term, the new rate is **8.60** per cent,
 - ◆ For **five year** loan term, the new rate is **8.75** per cent.

IIFL is India's No. 1 investment bank for Fiscal Year 2017 to 2018:

- As per Prime Database Investment Bankers League table for FY 2017-18, **IIFL** is India's **top investment bank** for equity issuances by private sector companies.
- IIFL is a publicly listed company and is engaged in Investment Banking, Securities dealing, Wealth & Asset Management and Loans & Mortgages.

YES Bank gets SEBI nod to launch mutual fund business:

- India's fourth largest private sector lender, YES Bank received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start mutual fund business, named "**YES Asset Management India Limited (YAMIL)**".

- YES Bank Director & chief executive officer:- Rana Kapoor

HDFC Bank becomes the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China:

- There are **four** lenders from **India** that now rank among the **world's 500** most valuable companies. **HDFC Bank** is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **State Bank of India**.
- There are now **11 Indian companies** among the world's 500 biggest firms in terms of market cap. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) **tops** the chart with a market cap of \$103 billion, followed by Reliance Industries.
- HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.
- Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion, followed by China Construction Bank (\$225.1 billion).

DEFENCE NEWS:

Tejas fighter aircraft begins operations from Sulur station, Kerala:

- Indian- Made Indigenous fighter aircraft **Tejas** of No 45 Squadron 'The Flying Daggers' formally commenced operations from the Air

Force Station at **Sulur** near Coimbatore under Group Captain S Dhankhar.

- Tejas is the first advanced Fly-by-wire **fighter aircraft** designed, developed and manufactured in India by Bengaluru headquartered **HAL** (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited).
- It is equipped with a satellite-aided Inertial Navigation System.
- It can fire **Air to Air Missiles**, carry bombs and Precision Guided ammunition.

ISROs first 'pad abort' test conducted successfully:

- The **PAT** (Pad Abort Test) was conducted at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- It marks the first step to qualify India's indigenous **Crew Escape System technology** for launching astronauts into space.
- The Crew Escape System is an emergency accident avoidance measure designed to quickly get astronauts and their spacecraft away from the launch vehicle if a malfunction occurs during the initial stage of the launch.
- A prior critical experiment was carried out on December 18, 2014, when the **CARE** (Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment) capsule successfully demonstrated that it could survive atmospheric re-entry.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

Election Commission of India launched Mobile App cVIGIL:

- The Chief Election Commissioner Shri. **O.P. Rawat**, along with the Election Commissioners Shri Sunil Arora and Shri Ashok

Lavasa launched a mobile app, called ‘**Cvigil**,’ which stands for “**citizens’ vigil**”, for citizens to report any violation during elections.

- The app will be operational only where elections are announced.
- The app was test on a pilot basis in **Bengaluru**.
- The service is now being extended Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram for the upcoming assembly polls.

Reliance Jio to exchange old feature phones for new at ₹501 rupees:

- At the 41st Annual General Meeting of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries, it has been announced that customers can now exchange their existing feature phones for a new **JioPhone** by paying **₹501**.
- This exchange offer, called '**Monsoon Hungama**', will start from **July 21, 2018**.
- The company also launched **JioPhone 2**, the successor to JioPhone and will be available at an introductory price of Rs 2,999, starting August 15.
- The company also announced **JioGigaFiber** - a fixed line broadband, GigaRouter.
- JioPhone offers 512MB of RAM and 4GB internal storage, which is expandable up to 128GB via a microSD card slot.

Australia's Fleet Space to launch first 2 satellites with ISRO, SpaceX:

- **Australian** Internet of Things (IoT) startup **Fleet Space Technologies** has announced launch plans for its first two nanosatellites, **Centauri I and II**, in the second half of 2018.

- 10-kg nanosatellite Centauri I will be launched on Indian space agency ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- Centauri II will be launched on SpaceX's **Falcon 9**.

BSNL unveiled internet telephony service 'Wings':

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will roll out its new internet telephony service with brand name "Wings" from **August 1**.
- Those subscribing to "Wings", entailing one-time registration fee of **Rs 1,099**, will be able to make calls using any internet connection including broadband, WiFi, 3G or 4G data network of any operator, thus overcoming connectivity problems even in areas having patchy signals.
- Those subscribers can avail **free domestic calls for one year**, while the overseas calls will be priced as per international tariffs of BSNL landline.

CBIC launched GST 'Verify App':

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has launched a mobile app 'GST Verify' developed by B Raghu Kiran, joint commissioner GST Hyderabad.
- It is an android app to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not.

SPORTS NEWS:

India clinched the Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 title:

- The Indian kabaddi team beat **Iran 44-26** and lifted the "Kabaddi Masters 2018" title in Dubai.

- India's captain - **Ajay Thakur**
- Iranian captain - Mohammad Maleki.

Australia won Hockey Champions Trophy Final 2018, India finish Runners Up:

- India lost 1-3 to **Australia** in the final match of "Champions Trophy Hockey 2018" held in Breda, the **Netherlands**.
- India captain **PR Sreejesh** receives the award for the **best goalkeeper** of the tournament.
- The **Netherlands** beat Olympic champions Argentina 2-0 to win the **bronze** medal playoff.

Lee Chong Wei won Malaysian Open Badminton singles title:

- Malaysian veteran **Lee Chong Wei** has won the Malaysian Open Badminton singles title for a historic **12th** time.
- In the final match, he defeated Japanese shuttler **Kento Momota** in straight games 21-17 23-21 in 71 minutes.
- **OTHER RESULTS:-**
- Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei-Huang Yaqiong defeated Wang Yilyu-Huang Dongping.
- Women's doubles: Misaki Matsutomo-Ayaka Takahashi defeated Chen Qingchen-Jia Yifan.
- Women's singles: Tai Tzu-ying defeated He Bingjiao.
- Men's doubles: Takeshi Kamura-Keigo Sonoda defeated Hiroyuki Endo-Yuta Watanabe.

Russia became the first team in FIFA World Cup history to use fourth substitute:

- **Russian** midfielder **Aleksandr Erokhin** has become the first-ever player to come on as a fourth substitute during a FIFA World Cup match.
- He replaced Daler Kuziaev during the extra time's first half **against Spain** in Round of 16 match.
- FIFA 2018 has allowed teams to make a fourth substitution but only in extra time of knockouts during this edition.

India now moved to the second spot in the ICC T20I team rankings:

- After winning the two-match T20I series against **Ireland**, **Indian** team reached the **second spot** in the ICC T20I team rankings.
- **Pakistan** are still at the **top** of the table with 131 points, which is an eight-point lead over India.
- **Australia** lost four points and have now slipped to the **third** position with 122 points.
- India will next face England in a three-match T20I series.

Rahul Dravid becomes the fifth Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame:

- Former Team India captain **Rahul Dravid** (45-year-old) has become the **fifth** Indian cricketer after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- He scored 24,208 runs in 509 international matches in his nearly 16-year-long playing career.

- Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** and retired England woman wicketkeeper-batter **Claire Taylor** are also inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

Vikram Dogra become the first Indian Army officer to complete world's toughest Ironman Triathlon:

- Ironman Triathlon comprises three consecutive events: a 3.8-km swim, 180-km cycling and 42.2-km marathon, to be completed within 17 hours.
- Major General **Vikram Dogra** completed the triathlon in 14 hours and 21 minutes to earn the 'Ironman' title.
- Ironman **Austria** was held in the scenic town of **Klagenfurt** and over 3000 athletes participated in the event.

Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix:

- Verstappen (20-year-old Dutch driver) won Red Bull's home Austrian Grand Prix Formula One to claim his first win of the season.
- **Kimi Raikkonen** was a close **second**, with teammate Vettel third.

Australian captain Aaron Finch posted highest ever T20 individual score:

- **Aaron Finch** the **Australian** captain hit 172 runs, the highest T20I scores, against Zimbabwe in the recent tri-series. He broke his own record of 156 runs.
- **Finch and D'Arcy Short** shared a 223-run opening stand and created the record for the highest opening partnership in the shortest format of the international-level game.

- The previous record was held by Martin Guptill and Kane Williamson, 171 runs, between New Zealand and Pakistan in 2016.

AWARDS:

Irrfan Khan honoured with Icon Award at the London Indian Film Festival:

- Irrfan, who is undergoing treatment in London for a neuroendocrine tumour, accepted his award privately.
- **Richa Chadha** won the **Outstanding Achievement** Award, while Manoj Bajpayee was also awarded an Icon Award.
- British comedy '**Eaten By Lions**' won this year's **top** prize, voted by the audience.

Himachal gets national award for best performance under PMSMA:

- For the performance under the **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA)** in the country, **Himachal Pradesh** has been adjudged first among state.
- This award was conferred by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.
- Himachal Pradesh government had launched PMSMA in August, 2016, and established around 495 clinics in which ante-natal check-ups were conducted by the doctors.
- Under PMSMA **pregnant women** are supposed to get antenatal check up on **9th** of every month by a doctor.

Artist Anjolie Ela Menon and Ramachandran conferred the Kalidas Award:

- **Madhya Pradesh** government honoured noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon (aged 78) with the National **Kalidas Samman** for visual arts.
- Artist A. **Ramachandran** was also conferred with the Kalidas Award.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

Observed Date	Day	Points to be Noted
1st July	GST Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● July 1st, 2018 was celebrated as 'GST day' to mark one year of Goods and Services Tax (GST). ● GST replaced multi-layered, complex indirect tax structure with a simple, transparent and technology-driven tax regime. ● Items under GST are taxed in five tax brackets: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Some items such as petrol, diesel, and liquor are, in fact, not included in GST.
4th July	242nd Independence Day of US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On July 4, 2018, the United States of America celebrated its 242nd Independence Day, the day marking its independence from Great Britain after the American Revolutionary War.
6th July	World Zoonoses Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoonosis is derived from the Greek words zoon 'animal' and nosos 'ailment'. It describes the process

		<p>whereby an infectious disease is transmitted between species, from animals to humans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 150 zoonotic diseases are known to exist. • World Zoonoses Day is observed on July 6 every year to create awareness among the people for zoonotic diseases. • The most common zoonotic diseases: Plague, Tuberculosis, Ringworm, Rabies, etc.,
7th July	International Day of Cooperatives, Global Forgiveness Day, Chocolate Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme for the 2018 International Day of Co-operatives is "sustainable consumption and production of goods and services".

OBITUARY:

Former MP and Marwar Rajmata, Krishna Kumari passed away aged 92:

- Rajmata of the Marwar principality and former MP, **Krishna Kumari** passed away aged 92 in Jodhpur.
- Born in a royal family in **Gujarat**, she had married Jodhpur's then-ruler Hanwant Singh in 1943.
- **About Marwar:**
 - The Jodhpur city was founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha, a Rajput chief of the Rathore clan. Jodha succeeded in conquering the surrounding territory and thus founded a state which came to be known as **Marwar**.

VISITS:

Bhutan Prime Minister, Dasho Tshering Tobgay arrived on 3 day visit to India:

- His visit will further boost defence, security and strategic cooperation between India and Bhutan.
- This year, both India and Bhutan are commemorating the **golden jubilee** of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.
- **About Bhutan:-**
 - Capital - Thimphu
 - Religion - Buddhism, Hinduism
 - Official language - Dzongkha
 - Currency - Ngultrum

QUIZ CORNER:

1) Which site in Mumbai has been recently declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO?

- A. Elephanta
- B. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
- C. Victorian & Art Deco Ensembles
- D. Konark

Answer:- C

2) Which country won “Hockey Champions Trophy 2018” title?

- A. Argentina



- B. Australia**
- C. India**
- D. Netherlands**

Answer:- B

3) India's first Khadi mall will be set up in

- A. Jharkhand**
- B. Uttarakhand**
- C. Assam**
- D. Mizoram**

Answer:- A

4) Who has become the first-ever player to come on as a fourth substitute during a FIFA World Cup match?

- A. Yuri Gazinskiy**
- B. Aleksandr Erokhin**
- C. Anton Miranchuk**
- D. Denis Cheryshev**

Answer:- B

5) Which country has recently replaced India's tag on 'World's largest poor population'?

- A. Congo**
- B. Nigeria**
- C. Burundi**
- D. South Korea**



Answer:- B

6) What is the scheme that is introduced by the Maharashtra government to empower women and promote tree plantation?

- A. Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana**
- B. Swadhar Greh Scheme**
- C. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**
- D. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**

Answer:- A

7) When did the Modi's government pass the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India?

- A. 1st November 2017**
- B. 14th November 2016**
- C. 3rd June 2017**
- D. 1st July 2018**

Answer:- D

8) Which Indian actor was honoured with special Icon Award at the London Indian Film Festival?

- A. Amitabh Bachchan**
- B. Irrfan Khan**
- C. Ranbir Kapoor**
- D. Akshay Kumar**

Answer:- B

9) Which country remains on top in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017?

- A. Germany**
- B. Russia**
- C. Australia**
- D. UK**

Answer:- D

10) Rahul Dravid becomes the _____ Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

- A. Sixth**
- B. Third**
- C. Fourth**
- D. Fifth**

Answer:- D

11) Aadhaar - PAN Linking deadline extended to

- A. 31 December 2018**
- B. 31 January 2019**
- C. 31 March 2019**
- D. 15 August 2018**

Answer:- C

12) How many companies were delisted by Bombay Stock Exchange from 4th July?

- A. 222
- B. 214
- C. 133
- D. 176

Answer:- A

13) Competition Commission of India (CCI) provides approval for merging of Bharti Infratel with

- A. Reliance Infratel
- B. Aster Infrastructure
- C. Indus Towers Limited
- D. Essar Telecom

Answer:- C

14) Vikram Dogra become the first Indian Army officer to complete world's toughest Ironman Triathlon, which is held in

- A. Germany
- B. Austria
- C. Russia
- D. Denmark

Answer:- B

15) India to host 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology in

- A. Kolkata
- B. Navi Mumbai



- C. Hyderabad**
- D. New Delhi**

Answer:- B

16) Which state got national award for best performance under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA)?

- A. Bihar**
- B. Gujarat**
- C. Himachal Pradesh**
- D. Maharashtra**

Answer:- C

17) Canada imposes retaliatory tariffs on US imports worth

- A. \$10 billion**
- B. \$14 billion**
- C. \$12 billion**
- D. \$15 billion**

Answer:- C

18) RBI issued license to “Bank of China (BoC)” to operate in India. Where is the headquarter of BoC located?

- A. Xiamen**
- B. Chengdu**
- C. Shanghai**
- D. Beijing**



Answer:- D

19) Indian- Made Indigenous fighter aircraft “Tejas” of No 45 Squadron 'The Flying Daggers' formally commenced operations from

- A. Kalaikunda station, West Bengal**
- B. Sulur station, Kerala**
- C. Naliya station, Gujarat**
- D. Dundigal station, Telangana**

Answer:- B

20) After Pakistan has been placed in 'grey list' by Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Which country approves 1 billion dollar aid to Pakistan?

- A. Saudi Arabia**
- B. China**
- C. Canada**
- D. Sri Lanka**

Answer:- B

21) Government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data, GDP. This Committee will be headed by

- A. Avinash K Srivastava**
- B. YH Malegam**
- C. Ravindra H Dholakia**
- D. R Gandhi**

Answer:- C

22) Which of the following Financial services company is named as India's top investment bank for equity issuances by private sector companies?

- A. Reliance Capital**
- B. Indiabulls**
- C. Incred Finance**
- D. IIFL**

Answer:- D

23) India's first government run e-Waste recycling plant will come up in

- A. New Delhi**
- B. Mumbai**
- C. Bengaluru**
- D. Hyderabad**

Answer:- C

24) UNESCO to set up 'Design University for Gaming' in

- A. Maharashtra**
- B. Karnataka**
- C. Andhra Pradesh**
- D. New Delhi**

Answer:- C

25) India's first taxi ambulance services launched in

- A. Kolkata**
- B. Delhi**
- C. Mumbai**
- D. Pune**

Answer:- B

26) PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first 'Global Mobility Summit', which is going to be held at

- A. Kolkata**
- B. Hyderabad**
- C. New Delhi**
- D. Mumbai**

Answer:- C

27) Recently, which state has decided to provide 180 days paid leave to Male and Female government employees to look after their children?

- A. Telangana**
- B. Gujarat**
- C. Haryana**
- D. Maharashtra**

Answer:- D

28) Angela Ponce has become the first-ever transgender woman to compete in the Miss Universe 2018 pageant in Philippines in December 2018. She belongs to which country?

- A. Italy**
- B. France**
- C. Spain**
- D. Germany**

Answer:- C

29) The government hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by a record

- A. Rs 150 per quintal**
- B. Rs 200 per quintal**
- C. Rs 180 per quintal**
- D. Rs 230 per quintal**

Answer:- B

30) World's first digital art museum opened in

- A. Russia's Moscow**
- B. Germany's Berlin**
- C. Japan's Tokyo**
- D. China's Beijing**

Answer:- C

31) What is the 5 pronged strategy that the Sunil Mehta's commission suggested to tackle NPA?

- A. APY**
- B. DBT Mission**
- C. SASHAKT**
- D. PMSBY**

Answer:- C

32) Turkey to sell four corvette warships to which country?

- A. Myanmar**
- B. Bhutan**
- C. Nepal**
- D. Pakistan**

Answer:- D

33) Piyush Goyal launched the 'Khan Prahari' App, which is related to

- A. reporting illegal coal mining**
- B. strengthen and empower women and child**
- C. providing information on education and offering guidance to students**
- D. providing clean drinking water**

Answer:- A

34) Dasho Tshering Tobgay arrived on 3 day visit to India. He is the Prime Minister of

- A. Bhutan**
- B. Myanmar**

- C. Japan**
- D. Indonesia**

Answer:- A

35) Agartala Airport is renamed as

- A. Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport**
- B. Mahendra Manikya**
- C. Kirit Vikrama Kishor Manikya**
- D. Dhanajaya Thakur**

Answer:- A

36) Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in Madhya Pradesh would be provided electricity at a cost of

- A. Rs 150 per month**
- B. Rs 250 per month**
- C. Rs 200 per month**
- D. Rs 100 per month**

Answer:- C

37) Who has been appointed as new Chairman of Payments Council of India?

- A. Nakul Chopra**
- B. Vishwas Patel**
- C. Naveen Surya**
- D. Loney Antony**

Answer:- B

38) Which village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, received electricity connection and metalled road for the first time since Independence?

- A. Narla Bambal**
- B. Chattiar**
- C. Dasal Jattan**
- D. Keri Manialan**

Answer:- A

39) ISRO's first 'pad abort' test conducted successfully in

- A. Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad**
- B. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram**
- C. Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- D. ISTRAC ground station, Lucknow**

Answer:- C

40) Recently, Election Commission of India launched Mobile App named _____ , for citizens to report any violation during elections.

- A. DigiSevak**
- B. ePathsala**
- C. cVIGIL**
- D. UMANG**

Answer:- C



41) Under Reliance Jio's 'Monsoon Hungama' offer, customers can now exchange their existing old feature phones for a new JioPhone by paying

- A. ₹851**
- B. ₹401**
- C. ₹701**
- D. ₹501**

Answer:- D

42) Which of the following private sector bank received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start mutual fund business, YAMIL?

- A. HDFC Bank**
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. Axis Bank**
- D. YES Bank**

Answer:- D

43) Which state chief minister cuts luxury travel for ministers, announces 'one person, one car' policy?

- A. Madhya Pradesh**
- B. Gujarat**
- C. Uttar Pradesh**
- D. West Bengal**

Answer:- D



44) How many countries are listed in the ‘high risk jurisdiction’ by Global Banks?

- A. 10**
- B. 21**
- C. 25**
- D. 15**

Answer:- C

45) What is the name of the app launched by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not?

- A. GST Verify**
- B. GST Check**
- C. GST Estimate**
- D. GST Value**

Answer:- A

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