

GK DIGEST - 1st Week of June 2018

May 28th - June 3rd

International Affairs

Colombia to be NATO's 1st Latin American Global Partner

- Colombia would be formally joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- The announcement was made by the **Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos**. With the move, Colombia will become the first Latin American nation to be a part of the alliance.
- It would be joining the bloc as a 'global partner', which means it will not necessarily have to take part in any joint military action and will be fully accredited in Brussels.

Hamburg to Host 2018 Global Wind Summit

- The first edition of the **Global Wind Summit** will be held in **Hamburg, Germany** in September 2018.
- The **four-day event** will see speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain, and Denmark.
- The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
- The event combines two conferences **WindEnergy Hamburg** and **WindEurope**.

US vetoes Arab-backed UN draft resolution to protect Palestinians

- The United States vetoed an Arab-backed UN draft resolution calling for measures to protect the Palestinians after more than 100 people were killed in Israeli fire during protests at the border with Gaza.
- **Ten countries** including China, France, and Russia **voted in favor of the draft** put forward by Kuwait on behalf of Arab countries at the Security Council.
- The Four countries Britain, Ethiopia, the Netherlands and Poland abstained.
- A draft resolution requires nine votes to be adopted in the 15-member council and no veto from the five permanent members including the US.

- **US Ambassador Nikki Haley** told the council that the measure was wildly inaccurate in its characterization of recent events in Gaza by condemning Israel for the violence.
- She there is not a single mention of Hamas in the resolution when it is chiefly responsible for the recent violence in Gaza.
- Ms. Haley, the text criticizes the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, when in fact, it is Hamas that fired 70 rockets indiscriminately into Israeli towns this week.

Jordanian PM Hani Mulki submits his resignation to King Abdullah II

- **Jordanian Prime Minister Hani Mulki** submitted his resignation to **King Abdullah II** on **June 4, 2018**.
- His resignation was submitted in a meeting with the King.
- It comes amid mass protests over price hikes and adoption of a draft income tax reform bill based on recommendations by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The Protests have been taking place across Amman and other towns for the more than four days calling for the removal of Mulki.
- His government had proposed raising the income tax on employees by at least five percent and on companies by between 20 and 40 percent.

BRICS nations reaffirm need for comprehensive reform of UN to make it more effective, efficient

- BRICS nations have reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, to make it more effective and efficient.
- The grouping stressed the need to increase the representation of the developing countries so that UNSC can adequately respond to global challenges.
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj**, who is on a five-day visit to South Africa, attended the **BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting** in **Pretoria**.
- After the meeting, the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa recalled the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN.

National Affairs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Survey on NaMo App

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **a survey on the NaMo App**, asking people to rate the performance of the government at the Centre and MPs and MLAs in their constituencies.
- He launched the initiative, to mark the completion of four years of the NDA government, which came to power at the Centre in 2014.

Akshay Kumar Launched Twin Pit Toilet Technology Campaign

- Film actor **Akshay Kumar** launched the **twin pit toilet technology campaign** in **New Delhi**.
- The actor appealed everybody to spread the awareness on the issue and make the cleanliness drive more effective.
- The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.

Gujarat Government Launches Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy

- The Gujarat government unveiled its '**Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy**' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada River.
- **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** and **Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel** launched the policy at a function held in Gandhinagar.
- The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.

Madhya Pradesh Government decides to regularize 2 lakh 37,000 contractual teachers

- Madhya Pradesh government decided to **regularize 2 lakh 37 thousand contractual teachers in the state**.
- The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- Union Cabinet also decided that no contractual employee in other government departments will be retrenched.

- The Union Cabinet also decided that the contractual staffers will be given 15 days privilege leave, 13 days casual leave and 10 days other leave in a calendar year.

India and World Bank Signed \$500 Million Additional Financing for PMGSY

- The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$500 million loan agreement** to provide additional financing for the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build **7,000 km of climate resilient roads**, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
- The World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception in 2004.
- The World Bank has built and improved about 35,000 km of rural roads and benefited about eight million people with access to all-weather roads.
- The **\$500 million loan**, from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a 3-year grace period, and a maturity of 10 years.

Tata Motors signed MoU with Maharashtra to Promote E-Mobility

- **Tata Motors** (India's largest automobile company by revenues) signed a MoU with the State Government of Maharashtra for deployment of **1000 Electric Vehicles (EV)** across its range of passenger and commercial vehicles in the State.
- The company also partnered Tata group company, Tata Power Ltd to set up of EV Charging Stations in the State.
- The MoU boosts the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy 2018 in accelerating the adoption of EVs in Maharashtra.

Union Government launches new scheme SevaBhojYojna

- The **Union Minister of Culture Mahesh Sharma** introduced a new scheme called '**SevaBhojYojna**' to reimburse the central share of CGST and IGST on items for food/Prasad/langar/Bhandara offered free of cost by charitable religious institutions.
- The scheme launched for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00 crores**.
- The scheme seeks to reimburse the central government's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST)

on purchase of raw items such as ghee, edible oil, atta, maida, rava, flour, rice pulses, sugar, and jaggery, which go into preparation of food/Prasad/langar/Bhandara offered free of cost by religious institutions.

- The main objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden of such charitable religious institutions, which provide free of cost without any discrimination to the general public and devotees.

India Ranked 113th on Childhood Index

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

Sports

Main Event of 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations to Be Held At Dehradun

- The main event of **4th International Yoga Day** celebrations will be held at **Dehradun, Uttarakhand** on **21st of June**.
- **Shri Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH** announced that Dehradun has been selected as the venue for Mass Yoga Demonstration of International Yoga Day.
- Mr. Kotecha is in Dehradun to initiate the preparations regarding this mega event.

Yuvraj Singh Awarded 'Most Inspiring Icon of the Year for Social Welfare'

- Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.

- Yuvraj was diagnosed with cancer (mediastinal seminoma) shortly after the World Cup.
- After successfully completing his chemotherapy cycle in the United States, Yuvraj returned to India in 2012 and made his international comeback in a Twenty20 match against New Zealand.

Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Which state recently launched Gaj Yatra in Garo Hills?
 - a) Meghalaya
 - b) Nagaland
 - c) Arunachal Pradesh
 - d) Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Who is appointed as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission?
 - a. Shri Suresh Rajan
 - b. Shri R K Agrawal
 - c. Shri Rajesh Sharma
 - d. Shri Naresh Karthick
- 3) Which government decided to regularize 2 lakh 37,000 contractual teachers?
 - a. Kerala
 - b. Tamil Nadu
 - c. Madhya Pradesh
 - d. Bihar
- 4) Which country released Rs. 33.10 Cr to Nepal for two road Projects?
 - a. Pakistan
 - b. Saudi Arabia
 - c. Indonesia
 - d. India
- 5) Which Ministry signed MoU with Uttar Pradesh recently?
 - a. Ministry Of Women And Child Development
 - b. Ministry of External Affairs
 - c. Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - d. Ministry of Finance
- 6) Which company is the third most Valuable Firm globally?
 - a. Samsung
 - b. Apple
 - c. Verizon
 - d. Microsoft
- 7) In which city Third Meeting of India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue held?
 - a. New Delhi
 - b. Hyderabad
 - c. Secunderabad
 - d. Chennai
- 8) Who launched New Messaging App 'Kimbho'?
 - a. Patanjali
 - b. Ashok Leyland

- c. BHEL
- d. Nagpur Limited

9) Which day is celebrated as World No Tobacco Day?

- a. June 14th
- b. April 12th
- c. May 31st
- d. March 16th

10) Which bank hiked Interest Rate on Fixed Deposits?

- a. State Bank of India
- b. IndusInd Bank
- c. Canara Bank
- d. Dena Bank

11) Who was awarded 'Most Inspiring Icon of the Year for Social Welfare'?

- a. Virat Kohli
- b. Yuvraj Singh
- c. Sachin Tendulkar
- d. Rahul Dravid

12) Which country signed \$500 Million Additional Financing for PMGSY?

- a. India
- b. Pakistan
- c. Iran
- d. Iraq

13) Which minister launched Online Analytical Tool to Monitor Foreign Contributions under FCRA?

- a. Home Minister
- b. Finance minister
- c. External Affairs Minister
- d. Railways Minister

14) Which company signed MoU with Maharashtra to Promote e-Mobility?

- a. Tata Motors
- b. Ashok Leyland
- c. L and T Company
- d. Zoho

15) Which state got its own Symbol recently?

- a. Bihar
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Kerala
- d. Andhra Pradesh

16) Who got 'Santokba Humanitarian' Award recently?

- a. Shri Suresh Kumar
- b. Shri Naresh Singh
- c. Shri Kailash Satyarthi
- d. Shri Dinesh Karthik

17) Who received Pulitzer Prize in Music?

- a. Kendrick Lamar
- b. Ryan Kelly
- c. Maneulo Magneto
- d. Andrew Marshall

18) Which Union Minister was deployed Gatekeeper for foreign funding and launched web tool to keep an eye on its flow?

- a. Shri Suresh Kumar
- b. Shri Dinesh Raj
- c. Shri Rajnath Singh
- d. Shri Vivek Kumar

19) Who launched new system to improve weather forecasts?

- a. IMD
- b. BSNL
- c. NTPC
- d. BHEL

20) Who tied up with National Women Commission to launch Digital Literacy Programme?

- a. Whatsapp Messenger
- b. Snapchat
- c. Instagram
- d. Facebook

Answers

1) A 2) B 3) C 4) D 5) A 6) A 7) C 8) A 9) C 10) A 11) B 12) A 13) B 14) A 15) D
16) C 17) A 18) C 19) A 20) D

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