

1 June 2017



1) What was India's GDP rate during January-March 2017 due to which it lost its status of the world's fastest growing economy, as was disclosed by the Union Government on 31 May 2017? – **6.1%**

**Explanation:** According to the data disclosed by Union Government on 31 May 2017, India's GDP or gross domestic product grew 6.1% during the January-March 2017 period. With this, India lost its status of the world's fastest growing economy as China's GDP grew 6.9% during the same quarter. It is worth mentioning that growth during Jan-March 2016 was 7.1%, exactly 1% more than same quarter of 2017.

– On the other hand, the GDP for the full year (2016-17) came in at 7.1% in line with official estimate. India's GDP growth rate during 2015-16 was a healthy 8%.

– According to analysts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demonetisation drive that outlawed high-value currency notes last year in November in a bid to curb black money likely had an impact on the GDP numbers.

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2) What is the name of an aggressive new campaign launched by the Union Government from 30 May 2017 to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation across the country's villages that features Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador? – **"Darwaza Band"**

**Explanation:** "Darwaza Band" is the name of the newly launched campaign that primarily aims to change behaviour of men defecating in open, who have toilets but are not using them. The name "Darwaza Band" stands for shutting the door on open defecation. The campaign was officially launched from Mumbai on 30 May 2017 with actor Amitabh Bachchan promoting it as its brand ambassador.

– The campaign also seeks to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation across the country's villages. It has been supported by the World Bank. IT has been produced by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.

– Actress Anushka Sharma is also part of the campaign and will be seen encouraging women to stand up for this issue in their villages and assume a leadership role.

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3) The UN Human Rights Council on 30 May 2017 named a three-member committee to probe

alleged atrocities against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. This committee features which noted Indian lawyer as its member? –

**Indira Jaising**

**Explanation:** Decorated Indian lawyer and women's rights campaigner, Indira Jaising, Sri Lanka's former human rights chief Radhika Coomaraswamy and Christopher Dominic Sidoti, a prominent human rights advocate from Australia, were on 30 May 2017 appointed to lead the 3-member probe committee to probe alleged atrocities against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims.

– The Geneva-based human rights council voted in March 2017 to create a Myanmar fact-finding mission, in a politically sensitive move that faced fierce resistance from the civilian-led government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

– It is worth mentioning that the north of Myanmar's Rakhine state has been under lockdown since October 2016, when the military launched a campaign to hunt down Rohingya militants who staged deadly attacks on police posts.

4) The NITI Aayog has come up with which important recommendation regarding public sector carrier Air India, as was disclosed in the media on 30 May 2017? –

**It has recommended strategic disinvestment of Air India**

**Explanation:** The NITI Aayog in its fourth report on Air India has recommended strategic disinvestment of the loss-making national carrier. It clearly mentioned that the Centre does not have to sink in more money into the airline and can allocate more funds for health and education.

– NITI Aayog's recently submitted fourth report has mentioned a possible roadmap for Air India disinvestment, which includes writing off loans to the tune of Rs 30,000 crore. Air India has debt of around Rs. 60,000 crore, which includes around Rs. 21,000 crore of aircraft-related loans and around Rs. 8,000 crore working capital.

– The proposal is to transfer the aircraft-related loans and the working capital to the new owner, while taking care of half the liability. Since Air India will be sold as a going concern, employees will move to the privatised entity.



5) Who topped the Civil Services Examination 2017, the final result of which was announced by the UPSC on 31 May 2017? – **Ms. Nandini K.R.**

**Explanation:** Karnataka girl Nandini K.R. has topped the Civil Services Examinations 2017.

The final result of this prestigious examination was declared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on 31 May 2017. UPSC conducts this examination.

– Nandini is an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and at present undergoing training at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics in Faridabad. She had got 849<sup>th</sup> rank in the 2014 Civil Services Exam and was allotted the IRS.

– Anmol Sher Singh Bedi of Amritsar came second in the exam. He is the topper among male candidates. He is an engineering graduate in computer science from BITS, Pilani.

– Ronanki Gopal Krishna from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank.

– A total of 1,099 candidates (846 men and 253 women), including 500 in General category, 347 belonging to Other Backward Class, 163 from Scheduled Caste and 89 from Scheduled Tribe, have been recommended for appointment to various central government services by the UPSC.

## 2 June 2017



**1)** What is the name of the massive airplane being constructed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, which was wheeled out of its hanger for the first time on 31 May 2017? – **“Stratolaunch”**

**Explanation:** ‘Stratolaunch’ is the name of the massive airplane that Paul Allen has been quietly building in the California desert for many years. It would be the world’s largest airplane with a wingspan wider than Howard Hughes’ Spruce Goose. It was unveiled for the first time on 31 May 2017.

– It’s so big that it has 28 wheels and six 747 jet engines. It has a wingspan of 385 feet, or longer than a football field, a height of 50 feet. Unfueled, it weighs 500,000 pounds. But it can carry 250,000 pounds of fuel, and its total weight can reach as high as 1.3 million pounds.

– This airplane will be used to carry large rockets. The rockets would be tethered to the belly of the giant plane, which would fly them aloft, and once at an altitude of 35,000 feet or so, the rockets would drop and “air launch” to space.



**2)** Which member resigned from Board of Control for Cricket in India’s (BCCI) Committee of Administration

on 1 June 2017 citing personal reasons? – **Ramachandra Guha**

**Explanation:** Eminent historian Ramachandra Guha on 1 June 2017 resigned from Board of Control for Cricket in India’s (BCCI) Committee of Administration. He cited personal reasons as he handed over his resignation to Vinod Rai, Chairman of BCCI’s Committee of Administrators.

– It is worth mentioning that BCCI's Committee of Administrators was appointed by the Supreme Court of India on 30 January 2017 in order to ensure transparency in sport administration of the board.

– Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Vinod Rai was appointed its Chairman while Diana Edulji, the legendary women test cricket player, was the other member. Ramachandra Guha was the third member of the Committee. The committee also includes IDFC Ltd MD and CEO Vikram Limaye, who was expected to provide the committee with expertise in financial matters.

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**3) Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das retired on 31 May 2017 after 37 years of distinguished service in Finance Department. Who took the charge of Economic Affairs Secretary as additional charge? – Tapan Ray**

**Explanation:** Shaktikanta Das, the Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, retired from the service on 31 May 2017. He was associated with several key reforms and policy decisions as the Revenue Secretary and later as the Economic Affairs Secretary.

– On 30 May 2017 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the introduction of currency notes in one rupee denomination, printed by the Government of India with the signature of Shaktikanta Das.

– Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray took over the additional charge as Economic

Affairs Secretary after Shaktikanta Das retirement.

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**4) During May 2017 ISRO entered into an agreement with which entity for fodder acreage assessment using satellite technology? – Amul**

**Explanation:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the owners of the Amul brand of dairy products, that envisages fodder acreage assessment using satellite technology.

– Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), ISRO will help in identification between food crops and fodder crops at village level and also locate suitable areas of current fallows and cultivable wastelands at village level for green fodder cultivation.

– Amul and Space Applications Centre (SAC) of ISRO, had earlier carried out a joint pilot, which found that to assess green fodder availability for dairy livestock at district and village level through remote sensing is feasible.



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**5) Punjab Mail, which is one of the oldest long distance trains on Indian Railways, completed how many years on 1 June 2017? – 105 years**

**Explanation:** The Punjab Mail made her maiden run out of Ballard Pier Mole station, a former station of the Mumbai Port Trust

Railway, on 1 June 1912. It originally ran between Bombay to Peshawar (in present Pakistan). This train is over 16 years older than the more glamorous Frontier Mail.

– The first train Punjab Mail comprised of six cars: 3 for passengers, and 3 for postal goods and mail. The three passenger carrying cars had a capacity of 96 passengers only.

– The train now operates as train number 12137 from Mumbai CST to Ferozpur (Punjab) and as train number 12138 in the reverse direction.

– The oldest running train of Indian Railways is the Kalka Mail that connects Howrah to Kalka in Haryana, the railhead for Kalka-Shimla Railway. It started its first journey in 1866.

## 3 June 2017



1) Which state became the first state in the country to launch official e-wallet as it launched 'T-Wallet' on 1 June 2017? – **Telangana**

**Explanation:** Telangana on 1 June 2017 became the first Indian state to have an official e-wallet by launching the 'T-Wallet', the official digital wallet of the state.

– This is the first official e-wallet from any state government in India. Using this platform, the citizens not only can make payments to government and private organisations towards various services but also receive the benefits from government like pensions, scholarships and MGNREGS wages.

– It offers an 'anytime anywhere' platform for digital payments with no additional charge for the citizens. The digital payment option has been available across formats such as online web browser, smart phone, feature phone and even without a phone.

– The Microsoft Accelerator alum startup 'Transaction Analysts' has partnered with Telangana to develop T-Wallet which uses two factor authentications, through Aadhaar+Biometric or Aadhaar+OTP to Aadhaar linked mobile number, for feature and no phone users.

2) U.S. President Donald Trump on 1 June 2017 announced the country's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Agreement alleging that it favours world's leading polluters like India and China, while being unfair to his country. This historic agreement came into effect on which date? – **4 November 2016**

**Explanation:** President Donald Trump announced withdrawal of the US from the Paris climate deal, saying it favours India,

China at the expense of American workers. He vowed to pursue a better deal for his country. During his election campaign too, Trump had promised to withdraw from the Paris climate deal finalised by over 190 countries in December 2015.

- Former U.S. President Barack Obama had approved the agreement in 2015 as he had favoured a mechanism that gives more time to major developing countries like China and India to beef up their tools to conserve environment.
- India, however, is expected to remain firm on its commitments, without taking any extra responsibility regarding cutting down on emissions to compensate for US's withdrawal.
- The agreement came into force on 4 November 2016, and 147 nations across the world have already ratified the Agreement.
- The Paris Agreement aims to limit rise in global temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times and make efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of 2100.



3) What is the name of the Indian-origin minister who will become the next Prime

Minister of Ireland after he was voted leader of the country's main governing party on 2 June 2017? – **Leo Varadkar**

**Explanation:** 38-year old Leo Varadkar, the son of an Indian immigrant, will become next Prime Minister of Ireland as he was chosen as the leader by the ruling Fine Gael party on 2 June 2017. He will also become the youngest person to hold the office and also one of the world's youngest prime ministers.

- Varadkar will also become Ireland's first gay prime minister. He scored victory in the Fine Gael leadership contest on 2 June, which took place after outgoing PM Enda Kenny announced his resignation during May 2017. Varadkar faced a stiffer-than-expected challenge in the election from his rival, Simon Coveney.
- Varadkar's father Ashok, who comes from Mumbai, met his Irish mother Miriam while they both worked at an English hospital in Slough in the 1960s.

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4) S. Abdul Rahman, the noted poet who passed away on 2 June 2017, was associated with which language? – **Tamil**

**Explanation:** S. Abdul Rahman, also known by the title 'Kaviko' (emperor among poets), was an iconic Tamil poet. He was known to have travelled across the literary map of Tamil Nadu with a headlamp of modernism.

- His 'Aalapanai', a collection of poetry, won Sahitya Akademi Award for Tamil in

1999. He was, till then, known as a bitter critic of the Akademi for not giving Tamil poets their due.

– “Paal Veedhi”, “Neyar Viruppam”, “Pithan,” and “Suttu Viran” are some of the poetry collections that influenced many young poets in Tamil.

– Abdul Rahman closely identified himself with Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.

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**4-5 June 2017**



1) Indian markets regulator SEBI constituted a 21-member Committee on corporate governance on 2 June 2017 that will advise it on issues relating to corporate governance in Indian firms. Who is heading this committee?

– **Uday Kotak**

**Explanation:** Leading banker Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., is leading a Committee on Corporate Governance that was constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 2 June 2017.

– The committee will advise the markets regulator on areas such as ensuring the active participation of independent directors in the functioning of companies; improving safeguards and disclosures pertaining to related-party transactions; issues in accounting and auditing practices by listed firms; improving effectiveness of board evaluation practices; addressing issues faced by investors on voting and participation in general meetings; and disclosure- and transparency-related issues.

– The 21-member committee includes representatives from other companies, stock exchanges, professional bodies, investor groups, law firms, academicians, research professionals and SEBI officials.

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2) India conducted the first-ever successful test of the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile from Chandrapur in Odisha on 4 June 2017. This missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with which entity? – **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**

**Explanation:** The first-ever test of the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QR-SAM) was successfully conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha on 4 June 2017. QR-SAM has been jointly

developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited. This missile system has the potential to engage multiple targets within a range of approximately 30 km, with the configuration of two vehicles for area air defence.

– It is equipped to for quick reaction and the system is all weather enabled, a network-centric one, which is also capable of search-on-the-move. The missile is a truck-mounted one with 360 degree rotatable, electronic-mechanically operated, turret-based launch unit.

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3) What is the name of Chinese malware that infected over 250 million computers across the world till 3 June 2017 with India emerging as the biggest victim of it? – **'Fireball'**

**Explanation:** 'Fireball' is the name of the Chinese malware that was detected during starting days of June 2017. According to Check Point Threat Intelligence's findings this malware is presently acting as an adware propelling the infected computer's traffic to its website and generating ad-revenue.

– The malware manipulates the hijacked browser to turn the default search engines into fake ones. It is working to boost advertisement for a Beijing-based digital marketing agency Rafotech.

– India has emerged as the largest victim of 'Fireball' followed by Brazil.

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4) Which Indian player won the men's singles title of Thailand Open Grand Prix badminton championship on 4 June 2017 to win the second Grand Prix title of his career? – **B. Sai Praneeth**

**Explanation:** B. Sai Praneeth of India captured the men's singles title in the \$1,20,000 Thailand Open Grand Prix badminton championship in Bangkok on 4 June 2017. He defeated Indonesian fourth seed Jonatan Christie 17-21, 21-18, 21-19 in an hour and 11 minutes in the final.

– Women's singles title was won by Ratchanok Intanon of Malaysia.

– This is the second Grand Prix badminton title for B. Sai Praneeth. His first Grand Prix title was Canada Open which he won in 2016.

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5) Which European football club created history by becoming the first-ever club to win back-to-back UEFA Champions league titles on 3 June 2017? – **Real Madrid**

**Explanation :** Spanish football club Real Madrid became the first-ever team to win back-to-back UEFA Champions league titles as it defeated Italian champion Juventus by 4-1 in the final played in Cardiff (Wales) on 3 June 2017.



– The victory made Real Madrid the first team to repeat title win in the Champions League era, and the first to win consecutive titles in the competition since A.C. Milan in 1989 and 1990, when the UEFA Champions League was known as the European Cup.

– The UEFA Champions League is an annual continental club football competition organised by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and contested by top-division European clubs. It is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world and the most prestigious club competition in European football.

## 6-7 June 2017



1) History was created as the first developmental flight of India's heavy lift launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III was successfully conducted on 5 June 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Which mammoth 3136 kg satellite was propelled through this historic launch? – **GSAT-19**

**Explanation:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 5 June 2017 launched GSLV MK-III D-1, its heaviest

launch vehicle to carry country's heaviest satellite on board – the GSAT-19.

The launch took place exactly at 5.28 p.m. as planned from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The satellite was placed in an initial orbit of perigee (closest point to Earth) 170 km and apogee (farthest point from Earth) 35,975 km.

– This successful launch enabled India to launch four-tonne satellites in the future. Previously, heavy satellites were launched from launchpads abroad, such as the one in French Guiana.

– What made this launch unique was that the GSLV carried an indigenous cryogenic engine that fired in the third stage, before shutting down as per plan and placing the satellite in orbit. Earlier versions of the GSLV carried indigenous engines as well, but they were based on Russian designs.

2) A huge diplomatic crisis emerged on 5 June 2017 as six Arab countries announced their decision to suspend diplomatic ties with Qatar over that country's support for Islamist groups.

The 6 Arab countries involved in this development are – **Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen**

**Explanation:** On 5 June 2017 Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates announced that they were severing diplomatic ties with Qatar, as tensions escalate in the region over accusations that Doha sponsors terrorism. Saudi Arabia declared that it has cut diplomatic ties and closed borders with its neighbour to “protect its national security from the dangers of terrorism and extremism”. Later Libya and Yemen joined this bandwagon.

– The Saudi-led Arab coalition fighting rebels in Yemen’s two-year war said it was expelling Qatar over what it said was the country’s support for organisations including Al-Qaeda and the ISIS.

– Qatar has long faced accusations that it is a state sponsor of terror. In recent weeks, it has been accused outright of terror funding in articles which have appeared in the American media. Qatar, which will host the 2022 football World Cup, is a member of the US-led coalition to defeat the ISIS terror group.

– Qatar however, slammed the decisions of the three Gulf states and Egypt, saying they were “unjustified” and aimed to put Doha under political “guardianship”.

responsibilities being given to a private entity for a period of eight years? – **Habibganj (Bhopal)**

**Explanation:** Habibganj in the suburbs of Bhopal will become India’s first ‘private’ railway station if all goes according to the plans prepared by the Indian Railway. It will be country’s first railway station to be redeveloped as a public-private partnership (PPP).

– The operational and maintenance responsibilities for the station have been given to Bhopal-based Bansal Group for a period of eight years. It has also received four land parcels on a 45-year lease. It will invest Rs.100 crore to overhaul the station which was opened in 1979, and around Rs. 350 crore to develop four commercial land parcels adding up to 17,245 sq.

– As per the plan, the station will be designed as a world-class transit hub with shopping complex, adequate parking lot, eateries, forex kiosk and other facilities for passengers at railway premises.



**3)** Which railway station is poised to become India’s first ‘private’ railway station with the operational and maintenance

**4)** What is the name of the new project being undertaken by Indian Railways to upgrade Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains in the coming months? – **‘Operation Swarn’**

**Explanation:** ‘Operation Swarn’ (literally Operation Gold) is the name of the new project envisaged by the Indian Railways to upgrade Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains – the two most important trains of the Indian network.

– Railway Ministry has identified 10 key areas or parameters that require attention. These include cleanliness, linen, coach interiors, toilets, catering among other things. Wi-fi, coffee vending machines and infotainment screens may also form part of this upgrade plan.

– Initially the Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani Express and Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi are likely to get an upgrade. Rs 50 lakh each will be allotted to Rajdhanis and Shatabdis on various routes in a phased manner for the same.

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**5) India’s largest Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) worth around Rs. 15,000 crore was raised by which banking entity on 6 June 2017? – State Bank of India (SBI)**

**Explanation:** State Bank of India (SBI) raised nearly Rs. 15,000 crore from institutional investors, both domestic and foreign, through the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) route. This QIP is the largest-ever in India and closed on 6 June 2017.

– The QIP is a part of the bank’s plans to boost capital adequacy in order to meet Basel III norms amid mounting NPAs. Life insurance behemoth Life Insurance

Corporation of India (LIC) lapped up around 50% shares offered through this QIP.

– This sale of shares eclipsed the previous offering by SBI in January 2014 to become the biggest QIP in India.

– QIP is a method under which a listed company can issue equity shares and some other securities to a select group of institutional buyers.

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**8 June 2017**

**1) The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 7 June 2017 kept key interest rates unchanged in its second Monetary Policy Review of 2017-18. Which is the only rate that was cut in this review? – Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)**

**Explanation:** RBI’s 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) presented the second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review of 2017-18 on 7 June 2017. The MPC held the all-important Repo Rate at 6.25% but did cut the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) – the portion of bank deposits that have to be invested in government bonds – by 50 basis points (bps) to 20%.

– Repo Rate is the rate at which the central bank infuses liquidity in the banking system. The RBI also softened its hawkish policy stance after retail inflation and economic growth slowed sharply. The MPC projected headline inflation at 2-3.5% in the first half of the year and 3.5-4.5% in the second half.

– In February 2017, the RBI had shifted its monetary policy stance to neutral from accommodative, ending the easy money policy that it had adopted since January 2015. During the same period, RBI had reduced the repo rate by 175 bps.

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2) For the first time in its 5 review meetings, one of the members of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) differed from the majority view on the policy rate on 7 June 2017. Who is this member? – **Ravindra Dholakia**

**Explanation:** The decision of the 6-member MPC of the RBI pertaining to its second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review of 2017-18 (presented on 7 June 2017) was not unanimous. One external member of the panel, Ravindra Dholakia, a professor at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, dissented.

– While the other five members voted in favour of a pause in bench mark policy rate- the repo rate, Ravindra Dholakia was not in favour of this.

– This was just the first instance of an MPC member dissenting with the majority decision. MPC has 3 members from the RBI (including RBI Governor Urjit Patel) and 3

external members (Ravindra Dholakia, Pami Dua and Chetan Ghate)

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3) The RBI on 7 June 2017 made it possible for banks to lend more to home buyers, and at lower interest rates. How? – **By reducing the amount of money banks have to set aside (as security) on home loans**

**Explanation:** In its Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review presented on 7 June 2017, the RBI made it possible for banks to lend more to home buyers, and at lower interest rates, in a move that should benefit customers as well as real estate developers.

– It did this by reducing the amount of money banks have to set aside (as security) on home loans. Previously, they had to set aside 0.4%, or Rs. 400 per lakh. This has now been reduced to 0.25%, or Rs. 250 per lakh.

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4) Which country's Parliament witnessed a major terror attack by operatives of Islamic State (IS) on 7 June 2017 resulting in death of at-least 13 persons? – **Iran**

**Explanation:** Suicide bombers and gunmen attacked the Iranian parliament and Ayatollah Khomeini's mausoleum in capital Tehran on 7 June 2017. At-least 13 persons were killed in this unprecedented assault, the responsibility for which was later taken by the Islamic State (IS).

– This was the first attack claimed by IS inside Iran – the tightly controlled Shi’ite Muslim country and one of the powers leading the fight against IS forces in nearby Iraq and Syria. Iran blamed Sunni Saudi Arabia for this attack.

– The attack further fueled tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia as they vie for control of the Gulf and influence in the wider Islamic world.



6) What is the name given to the Jupiter-like planet discovered by scientists recently that has been claimed to be hottest known planet? –**KELT-9b**

**Explanation:** KELT-9b is the name of the massive exo-planet discovered by scientists recently that is located 650 light years from Earth.

– With a day-side temperature peaking at 4,326 degree Celsius the newly discovered exo-planet is hotter than most stars and only 926 degree Celsius cooler than our Sun. This Jupiter-like planet orbits a massive star KELT-9 every day and a half.

– The reason KELT-9b is so hot is because the star it orbits (KELT-9) is more than twice as large and nearly twice as hot as our Sun.

## 9-10 June 2017



1) Which landmark anniversary of the Six-Day War that was fought between Israel and



5) Who took over as the 40<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Nepal on 7 June 2017? – **Sher Bahadur Deuba**

**Explanation:** Nepali political veteran Sher Bahadur Deuba was administered the oath of office by President Bidya Devi Bhandari as country’s new Prime Minister on 7 June 2017.

– 70-year old Deuba thus became Nepal’s Prime Minister for the fourth time. He is overall 40th Prime Minister of the Himalayan country.

– Earlier on 6 June 2017 Nepali Parliament had elected him unopposed for the post. He received 388 votes in the 601-member Parliament in which 558 votes were polled. It is worth mentioning that Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal had tendered his resignation from PM post during May 2017 just after completing nine-months in the seat.

an array of Arab nations is being observed on 10 June 2017? – **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Explanation:** The Arab-Israel War of 1967 (also known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab War of the Six-Day War) was fought from 5 to 10 June 1967. It was fought between Israel on one side and 5 Arab countries (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon) on the other side.

– Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Sudan and Tunisia supported the Arab group in this war.

– The war resulted in a decisive victory for Israel. It captured the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Egypt was by far the most affected country in this war.

– On 11 June 1967, a ceasefire was signed. Arab casualties were far

heavier than those of Israel: fewer than a thousand Israelis had been killed compared to over 20,000 from the Arab forces. Israel's military success was attributed to the element of surprise, an innovative and well-executed battle plan, and the poor quality and leadership of the Arab forces.

– The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this Arab-Israel War of 1967 is being observed during June 2017.

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2) Indian and Pakistan on 9 June 2017 became full official members of which international organisation with its headquarters in China? – **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

**Explanation:** India and Pakistan became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on 9 June 2017, thus ending an administrative process that began two years ago. The SCO membership of both countries was announced by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Kazakh capital Astana hosted the annual Summit of SCO on 8 and 9 June 2017, which was the 17<sup>th</sup> Summit of the organisation.

– India and Pakistan were admitted as observers in 2005 and began the administrative process of joining the organisation as full-fledged members in 2015.



EDGEACADEMY

– SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Now with India and Pakistan as its full members, the total membership of SCO is eight.

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## **NSE**

**3)** India's markets regulator SEBI gave its final approval for whose conditional appointment as CEO and MD of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) on 9 June 2017? – **Vikram Limaye**

**Explanation:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 9 June 2017 gave its final approval for appointment of Vikram Limaye as chief executive officer and managing director of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE). But his appointment was made conditional on him being relieved from the panel of cricket administrators of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) formed by the Supreme Court.

– Limaye is currently managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of IDFC Ltd.

– His approval had been held up by his role on the panel overseeing the functioning of the BCCI. According to SEBI's notification, Limaye will join the NSE, India's largest stock exchange, only after he is released from the BCCI committee of administrators.

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**4)** Rohan Bopanna lifted his maiden Grand Slam title by winning the French Open

mixed doubles trophy on 8 June 2017. Who was his partner in this title win? –

**Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)**

**Explanation:** Rohan Bopanna lifted his maiden Grand Slam title by winning the French Open mixed doubles trophy with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski. The duo defeated Germany's Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Colombia's Robert Farah by 2-6, 6-2, 12-10 to win the title.

– Bopanna thus became the fourth Indian to clinch a tennis grand slam title. Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza have won Grand Slam trophies for India.

– In 2010, Bopanna made it to the final of US Open with Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-haq-Qureshi and lost to the legendary Bryan brothers- Bob and Mike.

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**5)** For the first time, three renowned Indian institutions made it to the list of the top 200 global universities as was revealed in the latest QS World University Rankings 2018 released on 8 June 2017. Which 3 institutions are these? – **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay**

**Explanation:** This was for the first time that as many as three Indian institutions made it to the prestigious QS World University Rankings.

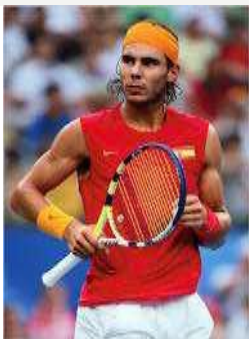
Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay are the three institutions that made it to the 2018 edition of this list. Top 200 institutions in the list the top 1% of approximately 26,000 universities surveyed globally.

– While IISc Bangalore has climbed from 190 to 152 this year, IIT-Delhi moved down from 172 to 185, while IIT-Bombay jumped from 219 to 179 in this year’s list.

– QS World University Rankings is prepared by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) WUR, a British agency, which ranks higher educational institutes, compares top universities in the world based on six performance parameters across for sectors like Research, Teaching, Employability and Internationalisation, plus a considerable 40 point weightage to the institute’s stature.

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## 11-12 June 2017



**1)** Rafael Nadal extended his reign as the king of clay court by claiming a record 10<sup>th</sup> French

Open men’s singles title as he demolished the challenge of Stan Wawrinka in a one-sided final on 11 June 2017. With this win Nadal created which history? – **He became the first player in the Open Era to win 10 titles at any Grand Slam event**

**Explanation:** Rafael Nadal (Spain) defeated Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) by 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in just over two hours in the men’s singles finals of 2017 French Open to create tennis history. He became the first player in the Open Era to win 10 titles at any Grand Slam event.

– Nadal had earlier won French Open singles titles in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

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**2)** Who won her maiden Grand Slam tennis title by winning the women’s singles title of the French Open on 10 June 2017 and thus also became the first-ever tennis major winner of her country? – **Jelena Ostapenko**

**Explanation:** Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) created history as she defeated the much-fancied and third-seed Simona Halep (Romania) in the finals on 10 June 2017 to win her first Grand Slam title in the form of 2017 French Open women’s singles title. Jelena came from 4-6 down in the first set and 0-3 down in the second to beat Halep 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to stun her.

– With this title win 20-year old Ostapenko created many records. She is the first unseeded player to lift the Roland Garros title in the Open era and the first Latvian major champion in history. She is the youngest French Open winner since Iva Majoli in 1997



and the first player to win a debut tour-level title at a Slam since Gustavo Kuerten in Paris that same year.

– On the other hand, for Halep, it was a second final defeat in four years at Roland Garros.

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**3) Furthering the agenda for cooperative federalism, NITI Aayog during June 2017 launched 'SATH', a new programme with the prime objective of initiating transformation in the education and health sectors. The term 'SATH' stands for – 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital'**

**Explanation:** During June 2017 NITI Aayog launched 'SATH', a program to provide „Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital". The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors. The program addresses the need expressed by many states for technical support from NITI Aayog.

– The program will be implemented by NITI along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium, who were selected through a competitive bidding process. SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems.



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**4) Who emerged as the topper in the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2017 exam, the result of which were**

declared on 11 June 2017? – **Sarvesh Mehtani (Haryana)**

**Explanation:** Sarvesh Mehtani from Panchkula in Haryana secured All India Rank – 1 in the IIT- Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2017 exam. The results of this prestigious exam (conducted for admission to all the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian School of Mines (ISM) in Jharkhand's Dhanbad) were declared on 11 June 2017.

– At least 1.7 lakh candidates had registered and appeared in the exams which were held on 21 May 2017. Candidates, who cleared the JEE (Main) or the first phase of the two-phase exams, were eligible to sit for the JEE (Advanced).

– On the other hand Bihar Mathematician Anand Kumar's 'Super 30' once again created a record as all 30 out of 30 candidates cracked the IIT-JEE Advanced examinations. The iconic 'Super 30' provides free coaching along with food and lodging to talented underprivileged students. Till now, 'Super 30' has managed to send an impressive 396 out of 450 candidates to IIT.



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**5) In the recently concluded British parliamentary elections history was created as the first-ever female Sikh MP was elected. What is her name? – Preet Kaur Gill**

**Explanation:** Preet Kaur Gill created electoral history as won the Edgbaston seat as a Labour Party candidate, defeating ruling Conservative party's Caroline Squire. She thus became Britain's first-ever female Sikh MP.

- Gill has her roots in Jamsheer village of Jalandhar in Punjab. Her father, Daljit Singh, had moved and settled in the UK in 1962. She was born and brought up in Edgbaston, a seat that was held by her Labour colleague Gisela Stuart by a slim margin. She was selected to replace Stuart by the Labour National Executive Committee's (NEC) interview panel.
- The United Kingdom went to polls on 8 June 2017 after Prime Minister Theresa May unexpectedly called snap elections seven weeks ago to increase the slim majority she had inherited from predecessor David Cameron. But the move backfired as her Conservative Party won just 317 seats, 14 less than last elections. Jeremy Corbyn led Labour Party increased its toll from 229 to 262 seats.

## 13-16 June 2017



1) A historic agreement to set up world's largest refinery was signed on 14 June 2017 between three India state-owned oil firms

IOC, BPCL and HPCL. This \$30-billion refinery will be established at which place? – **Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)**

**Explanation:** State-owned oil firms Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on 14 June 2017 signed an agreement to jointly set up India's biggest refinery at Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra at a cost of USD 30 billion or Rs. 2 lakh crore. This proposed refinery will also be world's largest refinery.

- The 60 million tonnes capacity refinery at Babulwadi, Taluka Rajapur in Ratnagiri district is being set up keeping in mind the future fuel demand and the export potential of the country. It is worth mentioning that Reliance Industries Limited (RIL's) Jamnagar Refinery (Gujarat) is at present world's largest refinery.
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) will be the lead partner with 50% stake while Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) will take 25% stake each. The refinery and the accompanying mega petrochemical complex will be set up in two phases. Phase-1 will be 40 million tonnes together with an aromatic complex, naphtha cracker and polymer complex.
- The refinery will produce petrol, diesel, LPG, ATF and feedstock for making petrochemicals that are basic building blocks in plastic, chemical and textile industries.

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2) The Union Cabinet on 14 June 2017 cleared the Interest Subvention Scheme on short-term crop loans for the current financial year (2017-18). This will enable farmers to get loans for interest as low as 4%. How much fund has been allocated for this scheme? – **Rs. 20,339 crore**

**Explanation:** The Interest Subvention Scheme will be implemented by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD. The Union Government has allocated funds worth Rs. 20,339 crore under this scheme.

– Under it farmers will be given a short term crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh payable within one year at an interest rate of 4% per annum. The scheme will be continued for 1 year.

– The objective of the scheme is to make available agricultural credit for short term crop loans at an affordable rate. It thus provides incentive to farmers who make prompt repayment of their agricultural loans. The scheme is expected to boost agricultural productivity and production in the country.

– Farmers across the country are protesting against falling prices of their produce and mounting debts. Uttar Pradesh government had earlier announced waiver of crop loans worth a whopping Rs. 36,359 crore; Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Maharashtra have followed after violent protests.

– On the other hand experts have warned that cheaper loans would only

be a temporary solution, and the farm sector needs structural reforms.

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3) Which planet of our solar system has been confirmed as the oldest, based on the conclusions of a newly conducted research? – **Jupiter**

**Explanation:** A joint research conducted by the University of Munster (Germany) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California (United States) has confirmed that Jupiter is the oldest planet of the solar system. The research concluded that the giant planet began to form about one million years after the coalescing of the solar system.

– The researchers dated Jupiter's formation and growth by analyzing the ages of certain iron meteorites.

– It is worth mentioning that theoretical work has strongly suggested that Jupiter took shape quite early in the solar system's history, but the planet's precise age had remained a mystery.

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**4)** Who won the Man Booker International Prize for 2017, as was announced on 14 June 2017? –

**David Grossman (Israel)**

**Explanation:** Israeli author David Grossman has won the Man Booker International Prize for 2017 for his novel “*A Horse Walks Into a Bar*”. He beat out five other finalists, including fellow Israeli author Amos Oz for the counterpart to Britain’s prestigious Booker Prize.

– This novel is about a failing standup comic (Dovaleh Greenstein) and his final performance. Grossman shared this prize with book’s translator Jessica Cohen.

– The prize was previously a career honor, but changed last year to recognize a single book in a bid to increase the profile of international fiction in English-speaking countries.

It is worth mentioning that Man Booker International prize is different from the annual Man Booker Prize, which was also known as Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Man Booker International is an offshoot of Man Booker and is given every every two years.

**5)** What is the authorised capital of private sector bank ICICI Bank now, after it was raised by Rs. 775 crore on 13 June 2017? – **Rs. 2,500 crore**

**Explanation:** Private sector lender ICICI Bank on 13 June 2017 increased its authorised capital by Rs. 775 crore to Rs 2,500 crore.

– Earlier, the authorised capital of ICICI Bank was Rs. 1,775 crore. Increase in authorised capital enables bank to raise funds or debt from the market. The amendments received shareholders’ approval through postal ballot on 12 June 2017.

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**17 June 2017**



**1)** Mahatma Gandhi’s iconic Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) completed how many years of its existence on 17 June 2017? – **100 years**

**Explanation:** Sabarmati Ashram, which served as epicentre of the country’s freedom struggle during Mahatma Gandhi’s stay there, completed 100 years on 17 June 2017. Mahatma Gandhi lived in the ashram, situated on the banks of Sabarmati River in

Ahmedabad along with his wife Kasturba from 1917 and 1930. It came into existence on 17 June 1917, exactly 100 years ago.

– It was from his base here that Mahatma Gandhi led the famous ‘Dandi March’ (also known as the Salt Satyagraha) on 12 March 1930. It is worth mentioning that Gandhiji had initially established his ashram at the Kocharab Bungalow of Jivanlal Desai, a barrister and friend of Gandhi, on 25 May 1915. But seeking to carry out many other activities like animal husbandry and farming, the ashram was located to a larger area near Sabarmati River.

– So two years later, on 17 June 1917, the ashram was relocated to an area of thirty-six acres on the banks of the river Sabarmati, and it came to be known as the Sabarmati Ashram. The ashram now has a museum, the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya.

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**2) Union Government on 16 June 2017 came up with which rule regarding bank accounts and financial transactions? – It made quoting of Aadhaar mandatory for opening of**

**bank accounts as well as for any financial transaction of Rs. 50,000 and above**

**Explanation:** According to a notification issued by the Revenue Department on 16 June 2017, the Union Govt. has made quoting of Aadhaar mandatory for opening of bank accounts as well as for any financial transaction of Rs. 50,000 and above.

– Existing bank account holders have been asked to furnish the Aadhaar number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) by 31 December 2017, failing which an account will cease to be operational.

– The notification issued by amending the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 mandates the quoting of Aadhaar, along with PAN or Form 60, by individuals, companies and partnership firms for all financial transactions of Rs. 50,000 or above with effect from 1 June 2017.

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**3) From 16 June 2017 the new system of daily revision of petrol and diesel prices was introduced in India. Till now these prices were revised on which dates? – 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of every month**

**Explanation:** Under the new revision system, even the smallest change in international oil prices can be passed down to consumers. Daily price revision follows a successful experiment in five cities – Chandigarh, Jamshedpur, Pondicherry, Udaipur and Vizag – where daily price change started from 1 May 2017.

– Till now, three PSU oil marketing companies – Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum – revised the prices on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of every month based on average international crude oil and foreign exchange rates.

– From now on, the prices will be revised every morning at 6 am. According to the Union Government, apart from reducing volatility, the shift to daily price revisions will ensure that there is no sudden increase or decrease in domestic selling prices.

4) Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri achieved which major international achievement on 13 June 2017? – **He became the fourth highest active international goal scorer**

**Explanation:** Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri became the fourth highest active international goal scorer, when he struck a decisive goal

to guide his side to a 1-0 win over Kyrgyz Republic in a fast-pace and entertaining AFC Asian Cup qualifier match on 13 June 2017.

– He scored his 54<sup>th</sup> international goal in 94 matches to snatch all three points from the favourite Kyrgyz Republic and thus take India one step closer to break into the AFC Asian Cup after eight years.

– With this goal, Chhetri surpassed England's star player Wayne Rooney who now sits on the fifth position with 53 goals. Only Portugal star striker Cristiano Ronaldo, Argentina's Lionel Messi and Clint Dempsey of United States stand ahead of the 32-year-old Indian.

5) What is India's place in a global list of most innovative nations (Global Innovation Index – GII) that was released by Cornell University, INSEAD and the WIPO released on 15 June 2017? – **60<sup>th</sup>**

**Explanation:** India moved into the top half of the Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2017 by climbing six spots to 60 in a survey of innovative capacity among 127 countries. The country also maintained the top spot in the Central and South Asia regions.

– Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the US and the UK lead the 2017 GII rankings. China further improved its ranking to 22 from 25 last year.

– The list was released by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released on 15 June 2017.

## 18-19 June 2017

1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Kochi Metro services, Kerala's first metro train services on 17 June 2017. Kochi thus became .....Indian city to have metro train service – **Eighth**

**Explanation:** Kochi Metro became India's eighth operational metro service as the first phase of this metro service (13.2 km in length) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 June 2017. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was entrusted with the task of constructing and commissioning this metro service and it completed the task in record time of 4 years.

– Seven cities having operational metro services are – Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurugram (Gurgaon), Mumbai, Jaipur and Chennai.

– Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) is India's first integrated multi-mode transport system. This means that by purchasing a single ticket, commuters will be able to travel in feeder services along road and water. It is the first metro system is the first in the country to use Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) technology for maximising train frequencies and minimising errors.

– Apart from this, it is also the first public transport system in the country that has reserved jobs for the transgenders.

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2) Former Chief Justice of India Justice P N Bhagwati passed away on 15 June 2017. He was known as the pioneer of introducing which important tool associated with judicial activism in the Indian judicial system? – **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**

**Explanation:** Justice P.N. Bhagwati (full name Prafullchandra Natwarlal Bhagwati) was the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India. He remained on the highest judicial post between July 1985 and December 1986. He was a former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in July 1973.

– As a Supreme Court judge, Bhagwati had introduced the concepts of Public Interest Litigation (PIL). As a champion of PILs, he had ruled there was no need for a person to have any locus standi (the right or capacity to bring an action or to appear in a court) to knock the doors of a court on the issue of fundamental rights.

– He was also instrumental in furthering the cause of prisoners when he ruled that they too enjoyed fundamental rights. He was 95.

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3) Former German chancellor Helmut Kohl, who passed away on 16 June 2017, was known for which important historic event? – **The Reunification of Germany**

**Explanation:** Helmut Kohl was at the Germany's helm from 1982 to 1998 – first for West Germany (1982-90) and then all of a united Germany (1990-98).

– Less than a year after the November 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, he spearheaded the end of Germany’s decades-long division into East and West, ushering in a new era in European politics. He played pivotal role in uniting East and West Germany and thus not just strengthening Germany but all of Europe. This event was known as Reunification of Germany because the original unification of Germany took place in 1871, led by Otto von Bismark.

– Kohl’s legacy includes the common euro currency-now used by 19 nations-that bound Europe more closely together than ever before. He had lobbied heavily for the euro, introduced in 1999, as a pillar of peace.

– He passed away on 16 June 2017 at his home in Ludwigshafen. He was 87.

4) Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth defeated which player to win the men’s singles title of the Indonesian Open Super Series on 18 June 2017? – **Kazumasa Sakai (Japan)**

**Explanation:** Kidambi Srikanth clinched his third Super Series title by lifting the Indonesia Open men’s singles trophy with a straight-game victory over Japanese qualifier Kazumasa Sakai in the final on 18 June 2017.

– World No.22 Srikanth outclassed Sakai, ranked 47<sup>th</sup>, 21-11, 21-19 in just 37 minutes to take home a cheque of \$75,000.

– This was Srikanth’s third badminton

Super Series title after the 2014 China Super Series Premier and 2015 India Super Series. It is worth mentioning another Indian player H.S. Prannoy had also made into the semi-finals of this tournament and had defeated two former world no.1 players Lee Chong Wei and reigning world and Olympic champion Chen Long. But he lost to Kazumasa Sakai in the semi-finals.

5) Pakistan decimated favourites and defending champions India by 180 runs to win their maiden ICC Champions Trophy title on 18 June 2017. Who was declared ‘Player of the Series’? – **Hasan Ali (Pakistan)**

**Explanation:** Pakistan won the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title as it humiliated India by 180 runs in the finals played at the Oval on 18 June 2017. The margin of victory was the largest by any team in the final of an ICC ODI tournament.

– Pakistan batted first after being invited by India and scored mammoth 338 runs for the loss of wickets. Pakistan’s total was their highest in any ICC tournament final. Opener Fakhar Zaman scored brilliant 114 runs and was adjudged ‘Player of the Match’. In reply India succumbed to just 158 runs in 30.3 overs. This was Pakistan’s first ICC Champions Trophy title. India has won the title twice (2005 and 2013).

– Hasan Ali, who took 13 wickets in the tournament (including 3 in the final), was declared ‘Player of the Series’.



– 2017 ICC Champions Trophy was held in England and Wales from 1 June to 18 June 2017. Eight teams participated in the tournament.

20-22 June 2017



1) Which building became the first in India to get a trademark after its owner got the building trademarked on 19 June 2017? –

**Taj Mahal Palace Hotel (Mumbai)**

**Explanation:** The iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai obtained a trademark on 19 June, making it the first ever building in India to be trademarked. The trademark was obtained by Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), which runs the Taj Mahal Palace. This hotel building has been a defining structure of Mumbai's skyline.

– It thus joined the elite and small club of trademarked properties in the world which includes the Empire State Building in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Sydney Opera House.

– With IHCL trade marking the building, nobody can now use Taj Mahal Palace's images for

commercial purposes without paying the company a licensing fee.

– The Taj Mahal Palace was built in 1903 by former IHCL chairman Cyrus Mistry's family firm Shapoorji Pallonji & Company. During World War I it was converted into a hospital. The hotel was one of the primary targets of 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

2) India ratified which important multilateral transport agreement on 19 June 2017 that is designed to facilitate seamless movement of goods throughout the countries in Asia and Europe? – **International Road Transports (TIR) Convention**

**Explanation:** India on 19 June 2017 became the 71<sup>st</sup> signatory to the Transports Internationaux Routiers or International Road Transports (TIR) Convention. This multilateral agreement is also referred to as the TIR Convention and functions under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It is designed primarily to facilitate the seamless movement of goods throughout the countries in Asia and Europe.

– TIR will help facilitate India's trade with its eastern and western neighbours and comes against the backdrop of China's ambitious "One Belt One Road" (OBOR) initiative aimed at connecting some 60 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe to boost trade and economic ties on the lines of the traditional maritime route.

– On the eastern front, it will help India to integrate with Myanmar and Thailand as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. On the western front, it will enable India to move cargo along the International North-South Transport Corridor via Chabahar port in Iran, to access landlocked Afghanistan and the energy-rich Eurasian region.

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**3) Which entity during June 2017 signed an agreement with US defence giant Lockheed Martin for joint production of the F-16 fighter jets in India? – Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)**

**Explanation:** US defence giant Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) on 19 June 2017 signed an agreement for joint production of the F-16 Block 70 fighter jet in India. This agreement could be aimed at bidding for the \$12-billion fighter jet deal which the Ministry of Defence has undertaken.

– Indian Defence Ministry had recently stated that the tender to procure nearly 200 fighter jets will be floated by the year-end. The deal is expected to see interest from other global majors.

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**4) Indian Navy's first indigenously built floating dock was launched on 20 June 2017. This 185 meters long and 40 meters wide dock has been developed by which private entity? – Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T)**

**Explanation:** Indian Navy's first indigenously built Floating Dock (FDN-2) has been developed by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T). It was launched at L&T's shipyard in Kattupalli (Tamil Nadu) on 20 June 2017.

– This floating dock is 185 meters long and 40 meters wide and will enable docking of all kinds of vessels, including naval ships and submarines (excepting aircraft carriers and tankers) of up to 8,000 tonnes displacement. It will be based in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and will enhance the Navy's technical repair infrastructure.

– The Navy already has one Floating Dock (FDN-1); this would be its second such facility.

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**5) The SEBI on 21 June 2017 relaxed some rules to hasten the resolution of stressed assets in bank balance sheets. What is the most important relaxation under this announcement? –**

**It exempted buyers of shares in distressed companies from the requirement of making an open offer**

**Explanation:** Indian capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 21 June 2017 exempted buyers of shares in distressed companies from the requirement of making an open offer even if

the purchase triggers such an event under the takeover code.

– Under SEBI's takeover norms, one of the triggers for an open offer is when an entity acquires 25% or more in a listed company. The entity then has to make an offer to buy an additional 26% stake in the company from the public shareholders.

– SEBI took this decision in the board meeting held on 21 June 2017. SEBI said it has come across cases where lenders acquired shares in a distressed company but could not sell the stake to a new investor because the takeover norms proved restrictive and reduced the funds available for investment in the stressed firm.

– SEBI also relaxed laws which will make it easier for private equity-backed firms to raise funds through new share sales.



6) In a hasty decision, who was promoted as the new Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia by King Salman thus relieving Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef from the post on 21 June 2017? – **Mohammed bin Salman**

**Explanation:** Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and country's Defence Minister was promoted as the new

Crown Prince, replacing his cousin Mohammed bin Nayef in a sudden announcement on 21 June 2017. The decision by King Salman thus confirmed that the King's 31-year-old son will be the next ruler of the kingdom.

– Prince Mohammed bin Nayef was relieved of all positions. On the other hand, Mohammed bin Salman became deputy prime minister and retained his defence and other portfolios.

– The surprise announcement followed two and half years of already major changes in Saudi Arabia.

## 23-24 June 2017



1) The world's lightest and smallest satellite, 'KalamSat', named after the former India President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was launched by a NASA rocket on 21 June 2017. What is the name of the 18-year old Tamil Nadu student who has made this satellite? – Rifath Sharook

**Explanation:** The world's lightest and smallest satellite 'KalamSat', weighing just 64 grams, was successfully launched by US space agency NASA on 21 June 2017. A

sounding rocket of NASA carried this satellite from Wallops Island, a NASA facility.

– In its 12-minute flight, the satellite acted as a technology demonstrator and provided impetus to plan economical space missions in future.

– This nano-satellite has been made by an Indian teen Rifath Sharook, 12th-grade student from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town. Sharook developed the satellite as part of a contest "Cubes in Space", organised by US space agency, NASA and idoodlelearning Inc., a global education company.

This satellite has been made of reinforced carbon fibre polyme and which is lighter than a smartphone. The main role of the satellite will be to demonstrate the performance of 3D-printed carbon fibre.

2) How many cities were added to Union Government's Smart City Mission as disclosed in the announcement made by Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu on 23 June 2017? – **Thirty**

**Explanation:** Marking the second anniversary of the launch of the Smart Cities Mission, Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu announced addition of thirty more cities in the list of cities under its Smart City Mission. With this the total number of smart cities has reached 90.

– Among the selected cities, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala topped the challenge to be included in this list. The other cities selected are Naya Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Rajkot in Gujarat, Amravati in

Andhra Pradesh, Patna in Bihar, Karimnagar in Telangana, Muzaffarpur in Bihar, Puducherry, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, Karnal in Haryana, Satna in Madhya Pradesh, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Dehradun in Uttarakhand, Tirupur in Tamil Nadu, Pimpri Chinchwad in Maharashtra, Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu in J&K, Dahod in Gujarat, Tirunelveli, Thootukkudi and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Aizawl in Mizoram, Allahabad and Aligarh in U.P. and Gangtok in Sikkim.

– It is worth mentioning that 100 cities were supposed to be selected for the Smart Cities Mission in total.

3) In a bid to speed up resolution of bad loans, the RBI on 22 June 2017 added three new members to the Oversight Committee so as to ensure that that the resolution process is not impeded because of delay in approvals. Who are these 3 new members added to the committee? –

**M.B.N. Rao, Y.M. Deosthalee and S. Raman**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 22 June 2017 named M.B.N. Rao, a former chairman and managing director (CMD) of Canara Bank; Y.M. Deosthalee, a former CMD of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd; and S. Raman, whole time member at the SEBI as the three new members in its Oversight Committee.

– The two current members of the committee are – former State Bank of India

chairman Janki Ballabh and former chief vigilance commissioner Pradeep Kumar.

– The RBI also empowered the committee to approve stressed asset cases where lenders have more than Rs. 500 crore exposure.

– The Oversight Committee was formed when the central bank introduced S4A (Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets) in June 2016. The idea was that the clearance from OC will ensure that banks don't come under the scanner of investigating agencies and the vigilance authority.

4) During June 2017 which two countries were accorded the status of Test playing nations by the International Cricket Council (ICC)? – **Afghanistan and Ireland**

**Explanation:** Afghanistan and Ireland were approved as Full Members by the ICC, meaning they have become cricket's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Test-playing nations. This decision was taken by the ICC Board in a meeting held London on 22 June 2017.

– Afghanistan and Ireland's cricket boards had applied to the ICC to have their status upgraded from Associates, and this was put to vote at the meeting on 22 June and unanimously supported.

– Since 2005, both countries have demonstrated their readiness for five-day cricket through their dominance in the Intercontinental Cup, the ICC's first-class competition for Associates.

– Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh are the other countries accorded the status of Test-playing nations. Bangladesh was the last country to get this status (in 2000).

5) What is the name of the index launched by the Union Govt. on 23 June 2017 that will rank the country's 116 major cities on the basis of the quality of life they offer? – **"City Liveability Index"**

**Explanation:** The first-of-its-kind "City Liveability Index" was launched by Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu on 23 June 2017. The index will assess 116 cities across India on a comprehensive set of 79 parameters including availability of roads, education, healthcare and employment opportunities.

– It will enable the cities to know where they stand in terms of the quality of life and the interventions required to improve it. The ranking will be released in 2018.

## 25-27 June 2017

1) Who was appointed the Chairman of the nine-member Committee to prepare the final draft of the National Education Policy (NEP) by the HRD Ministry on 26 June 2017? – **K. Kasturirangan**

**Explanation:** Eminent scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee K. Kasturirangan was on 26 June 2017 appointed the Chairman of the

committee to prepare the final draft of the National Education Policy. The committee was constituted by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry.

– The Chairperson apart, the committee has eight members. These include the Vice-Chancellor of SNDP University, Mumbai, and educationist Vasudha Kamat; retired bureaucrat K.J. Alphonse; Princeton University Mathematics professor Manjul Bhargava; Baba Saheb Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhau, Vice-Chancellor Ram Shankar Kureel who has written on inclusion of the marginal in mainstream education; Vice-Chancellor of Tribal University, Amarkantak, TV Kattamani; KM Tripathy from Uttar Pradesh; Gauhati University Persian language professor Mahzar Asif, and CAGE member M.K. Shridhar.

– The National Policy on Education (NPE) is a policy formulated by the Government of India to promote education amongst India's people. The policy covers elementary education to colleges in both rural and urban India. The first NPE was promulgated in 1968 by the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the second by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.

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2) Desh Bandhu Gupta, who passed away on 26 June 2017, was the founder of which Indian pharmaceutical company which is acknowledged as the fourth largest generic drugs maker by market capitalization in the world today? – **Lupin Ltd.**

**Explanation:** Desh Bandhu Gupta, founder and chairman of Indian pharma major Lupin Limited, died on 26 June 2017 in Mumbai at the age of 79.

– He founded Lupin in 1968 with a capital of just Rs. 5,000, which he borrowed from his wife Manju; the staff comprised a peon-cum-packer and a part-time typist. His vision was to make quality medicines for life-threatening diseases and hence he chose to combat tuberculosis, which killed a large number of people in India.

– Over the years he steered Lupin from a domestic pharmaceutical company to the fourth largest generic drugs maker by market capitalization in the world today. The company is today a Rs. 17,119-crore global pharmaceutical major with a presence in over 100 countries.

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3) On 25 June 2017 who became the first-ever Indian to complete the 4,900 km Race Across America (RAAM), considered the toughest cycle race in the world? – **Srinivas Gokulnath**

**Explanation:** Eleven days, 18 hours and 45 minutes after setting out from California, Srinivas Gokulnath created history as he became the first Indian to complete the 4,900-km Race Across America (RAAM) in solo category on 25 June 2017. It is considered to be the toughest cycle race in the world.

– In a feat that marks the Indian arrival on the endurance cycling scene globally, Dr. Amit Samarth of Nagpur, followed him at the finish line at Annapolis on American east coast. Team Sahyadri Cyclists, from Gokulnath's hometown of Nashik

(Maharashtra), completed the race in the 4-men category in eight days and 10 hrs.

– Among the nine men who finished, Gokulnath stood 7th while Samarth was right on his heels at number 8. The race was won by Christoph Strasser.

– Unlike a stage race like the famed Tour de France, the clock is constantly ticking at RAAM, and the riders have to pedal over 400 km a day to finish the race in the stipulated 12 days.

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4) 5<sup>th</sup> Passport Service Day was observed on 24 June 2017. What was an important fact associated with this day? – **It was the Golden Jubilee of Passport Act 1967**

**Explanation:** The Passport Act 1967 was implemented on 24 June 1967. Hence on 24 June 2017 the golden jubilee of this act was observed on this day. The occasion was made special with the launch of a special stamp.

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5) Which PoK-based terrorist was declared 'Global Terrorist' by the U.S. administration just before the historic meeting between President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26 June 2017? –

**Syed Salahuddin**

**Explanation:** On 26 June 2017 the State Department of the United States issued a notification, naming Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) leader Syed Salahuddin a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)".

– This development was seen as a major win for India as its stand about Salaluddin being a major anti-India militant was vindicated by the U.S. administration.

– A native of Budgam district in central Kashmir, Salaluddin had shifted to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) around 1989 from where he played a key role in fueling militancy in Kashmir for 27 years; training and arming youth before sending them back to the Kashmir valley. He also heads the United Jihad Council, the umbrella body set up in the mid-1990s to oversee terror outfits active in Jammu and Kashmir.

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6) British Prime Minister Theresa May secured majority in the Parliament by striking a deal with which Northern Ireland-based party? – **Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)**

**Explanation:** Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) on 26 June 2017 announced that it would support Prime Minister Theresa May's government on legislation concerning Britain's exit from the European Union, securing her a slender majority in parliament.

– May struck the deal with the DUP on 26 June to back her administration after she failed to secure an outright victory in the snap election held on 8 June 2017. The Conservatives have 317 seats in the 650-seat parliament after the election and need the support of the DUP's 10 MPs to be able to govern.

– However, the deal with the DUP is expected to prove controversial

because of the party's opposition to gay marriage and abortion and concern that an agreement could upset the fragile balance of the peace process in Northern Ireland.

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7) Delhi's second airport will be set up at which place after the pertaining proposal was cleared by the Civil Aviation Ministry on 24 June 2017? – **Jewar (Greater Noida)**

**Explanation:** The civil aviation ministry on 24 June 2017 cleared a proposal for setting up a green-field airport in Jewar in Greater Noida, which is likely to be operational in the next five to six years.

– This airport will serve as the second airport of Delhi and will cater to 30-50 million passengers per year over the next 10-15 years. It will help reduce congestion at the Delhi international airport. The Delhi airport terminals can handle 62 million passengers annually. In 2016-17, it handled 57.7 million passengers.

– The plan for building a second airport at Jewar for NCR was first submitted by the then UP chief minister Mayawati in 2002.

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## 28-30 June 2017

1) What is the name of India's latest communication satellite that was successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana on 28 June 2017? – **GSAT-17**

**Explanation:** GSAT-17 is the name of India's latest communication satellite that was launched into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on 28 June 2017. With a lift-off mass of about 3,477 kg this satellite carries payloads in Normal C- band, Extended C- band and S-band to provide various communication services.

– GSAT-17 is expected to strengthen ISRO's current fleet of 17 telecommunications satellites. It also carries equipment for meteorological data relay and satellite based search and rescue services being provided by earlier INSAT satellites.

– It was launched into the space through European launcher Arianespace Flight VA238 from Ariane Launch Complex No 3 (ELA 3) at Kourou, a French territory located in northeastern coast of South America.

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2) World's first ATM (situated in Enfield in north London) completed 50 years on 27 June 2017. It belongs to which British bank? – **Barclays Bank**

**Explanation:** The brainchild of Scottish inventor Shepherd-Barron, the first ATM (automated teller machine) was opened on 27 June 1967 at a branch of Barclays bank in



Enfield, north London. It was the first of six cash dispensers commissioned by the bank.

– Actor Reg Varney, who starred in the British comedy show ‘On The Buses’, was the first to withdraw cash from the machine. This ATM heralded a transformation in the way people obtained and used cash. There are now an estimated three million cash machines across the globe, with some 70,000 cash machines in the UK alone, which dispensed nearly \$200 billion in 2016.

– The iconic ATM was turned into gold for celebrations of its fiftieth anniversary that was observed with fanfare on 27 June 2017.

3) Search engine behemoth Google was imposed a record \$2.7 billion fine by which entity on 27 June 2017 on charges of skewing search results? – European Commission

**Explanation:** On 27 June 2017 European Commission slapped a record \$2.7 billion (€ 2.42-billion) fine on Google for illegally favouring its online shopping service. With this Alphabet Inc.’s Google lost its biggest regulatory battle yet.

– Google was charged with skewing results in its favour to thwart smaller shopping search services and more importantly denying European consumers a genuine choice of services.

– This mammoth fine on Google marks the end of a lengthy seven-year probe fuelled by complaints from small shopping websites as well as bigger names, including News Corp., Axel Springer SE and Microsoft Corp.

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4) During June 2017 two major global cyber-attacks disrupted computers at India’s largest container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and at Gujarat Pipavav Port. What are the names of the ransomware believed to be responsible for these attacks? – GoldenEye and Petya

**Explanation:** Operations at one of three terminals at India’s largest container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) run by AP Moller-Maersk, near Mumbai, were disrupted by a global ransomware attack. This was disclosed by port management on 28 June 2017. The version that caused the disruption has been dubbed GoldenEye by security firm Bitdefender Labs.

– On the other hand, operations at the Danish firm’s terminal at Gujarat Pipavav Port were also affected, but by the Petya variant of the ransomware. Ransomware typically logs users out of their own systems and asks them to pay a ransom if they want to access the encrypted data.

– The ransomware hit the integrated transport and logistics firm’s global operations on Tuesday across its 75 terminals. It also impacted Chernobyl’s radiation monitoring system, law firm DLA Piper, pharma firm Merck, a number of banks, an airport, the Kiev metro, British advertising giant WPP and Russian oil firm Rosneft.

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5) Printing of which new currency denomination note was started by the RBI during June 2017, as was reported in some sections of media on 28 June 2017? – Rs. 200

**Explanation:** During June 2017 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started printing of currency notes of Rs. 200 denomination. With this, India's re-monetisation exercise appears to be entering its final lap.

– For day-to-day transaction purposes, the introduction of 200 rupee notes is expected to add to the ease of operations. Lower denomination note aids the government's efforts at realigning the currency mix in the system.

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6) Who was crowned Miss India World 2017 in the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Femina Miss India World' that concluded on 25 June 2017? – **Manushi Chillar**

**Explanation:** Manushi Chillar of Haryana was crowned Miss India World 2017 at the 54<sup>th</sup> Femina Miss India World. The event was held at Yash Raj Studios in Mumbai on 25 June 2017.

– Manushi, born to doctor parents, studied in St. Thomas School in Delhi and Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women in Sonapat.

– The first runner-up of the event was Sana Dua from Jammu and Kashmir and the second runner-up was Priyanka Kumari from Bihar. This was the first time the participants wore Indian dress at the finale designed by Manish Malhotra.

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7) Which city was crowned with the prestigious 'World Book Capital' title for 2019 by UNESCO on 27 June 2017? – **Sharjah (UAE)**

**Explanation:** An international committee of UNESCO experts selected UAE city Sharjah for the 'World Book Capital' title for year 2019. This city was chosen for the quality of its literary and cultural activities, and for its unflinching efforts to make books accessible to the entire population of the nation. The announcement was made after at a meeting held at the headquarters of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) at The Hague (the Netherlands).

– Sharjah thus became the 19<sup>th</sup> city to become World Book Capital. It was preceded by Madrid (2001), Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogota (2007), Amsterdam (2008), Beirut (2009), Ljubljana (2010), Buenos Aires (2011), Yerevan (2012), Bangkok (2013), Port Harcourt (2014), Incheon (2015), Wroclaw (2016), Conakry (2017) and Athens (2018).