

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (June 1 – June 15)

- **Salvador Sanchez Ceren sworn-in as the President of El Salvador**
 - After his swearing in on 1st June Sanchez is the *first former Guerrilla Commander* to lead the *Central American country*.
 - He will succeed outgoing *Mauricio Funes*, who served the country as President from 2009 to 2014.
 - Sanchez served the country as the *Vice-President under the Funes government*.
- **Space X unveiled capsule to take Astronauts to Low-Earth Orbit**
 - Space X unveiled the new manned *Dragon V₂ Capsule* to take astronauts into Low-Earth Orbit and beyond.
 - ‘Space X’ stands for short for **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.**, the private space travel firm.
- **India gets its first tobacco-free village in Nagaland**
 - *Gariphema village* in Nagaland has been declared the country’s *first tobacco-free village on the occasion of World No-Tobacco Day*.
- **K. Chandrashekar Rao takes oath as maiden CM of Telangana**
 - Governor *ESL Narasimhan* administered the oath of office and secrecy to Rao along with 11 ministers.
 - **Telangana – the 29th state of India** comprises of 10 districts, including *Hyderabad*.
 - Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) founder President Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (60) led the Telangana statehood movement for 13 years.
- **King of Spain Juan Carlos I decided to abdicate the throne**
 - On 2nd June the decision to abdicate the throne in favour of his son *Crown Prince Felipe* was announced in the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid.
 - *King Juan served the country for nearly 40 years*.
- **Union Cabinet Minister Gopinath Munde dies**
 - Munde (64) died of multiple internal injuries, shock and cardiac arrest following a road accident on early morning of 3rd June.

- He was sworn-in as the *Minister for Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation and Rural Development* on 26th May.
- **India emerges as the World's second largest textile exporter after China**
 - As per the data released by the *UN Comtrade*, India has left behind Germany and Italy and becomes the world's second largest textile exporter.
 - China's exports are nearly seven times higher than India.
- **Obama proposed 1 billion dollar US Security Plan for Eastern Europe**
 - On 3rd June US President Barack Obama proposed a 1 billion US dollar (about 730 million Euros) US security plan for Eastern Europe *to finance extra US troop and military deployments to new allies in Eastern Europe.*
- **40th G-7 summit 2014 successfully held at Brussels on 4th June**
- **India slipped to 3rd position in ICC ODI rankings**
- **India elected to Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (IHC)**
 - On 4th June India won the election to the committee held at *UNESCO Headquarters.*
 - The elections were held by the *General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.*
 - *India recorded the highest number of votes amongst the ten countries which contested the election and have won.*
 - India has got selected in this committee for second time. First time, it was a member of the committee from 2006 to 2010.
 - The Committee of the ICH was accepted in June 2006.
 - It is a body that has 24 members who are elected for a term of four years. The committee work to safeguard the ICH ensuring respect for the intangible cultural heritage of nations, groups and individuals, as also to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the ICH.

- **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad won Presidential election for third time**
 - With his win on 4th June for the third time, he will stay as the President of Syria for seven more years.
- **Recall of Member of Parliament (MP) Bill introduced in the Parliament of Britain**
 - On 5th June the Queen of Britain announced to introduce a new legislation bill relating to the Recall of M.P.'s.
 - The Bill will allow voters to sack misbehaving M.P.'s.
 - In India, the need to have a Right to recall was highlighted by the Supreme Court in *State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors. v. Shri Ram Singh*.
 - As of today, India does not have a recall provision except in certain states like *Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh* where people have the right to recall representatives of local bodies.
- **Rewari in Haryana has nation's lowest gender ratio**
 - The *Rewari district of Haryana* showed the most dismal gender ratio of 674 females per 1,000 males as per the birth registration records.
- **Lithuania will become the 19th country to adopt Euro as a Single currency from 1st January 2015.**
- **Kathleen Stephens becomes US interim Ambassador to India**
 - On 6th June Stephens becomes US interim Ambassador to India.
 - Stephens is replacing the Nancy Powell.
 - Stephens worked as US Ambassador to South Korea from 2008 and 2011.
- **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Delhi**
 - On 6th June the Lieutenant Governor, Najeeb Jung has constituted seven-member EFC of the Delhi Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, S.K. Srivastava.
 - EFC is empowered to sanction expenditure on projects of capital work involving more than 10 crore and upto 100 crore.

- **Sumitra Mahajan was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha.**
 - *Sumitra (71), an eight-time BJP MP, is the second woman after Meira Kumar to be elected as Lok Sabha Speaker.*
 - She has been representing Indore in the Lok Sabha since 1989.
 - She was a Minister of State in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government from 1999 to 2004.
 - *Lok Sabha Speaker is the presiding officer who conducts the business in the House.*
- **Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein nominated as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.**
 - On 6th June he was nominated by the UN Secretary – General Ban Ki-moon.
 - He will replace Navanethem Pillay.
- **Kundankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) becomes the India's first nuclear plant to generate 1,000 MW.**
 - *KNPP is the 21st nuclear power reactor in the country and India's first pressurised water reactor belonging to the light water reactor category.*
 - It is located at Koodankulam which falls under the Tirunelveli district of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- **Ranjit Kumar appointed Solicitor General**
 - On 7th June Senior advocate and Constitutional law expert Ranjit Kumar was appointed Solicitor General of India.
 - Kumar was *amicus curiae* in several Supreme Court cases
 - The government has also appointed six Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) – Senior Advocates Maninder Singh, L Nageshwar Rao, Tushar Mehta, PS Patwalia, Neeraj K. Kaul and PS Narasimha.
- **Mumbai's Metro gets on track**
 - On 8th June the first Metro service in the bustling metropolis, 'Mumbai' was rolled out.
 - The Metro service comes four months after the city got the country's first monorail.

- With this *Mumbai* became the fourth city in the country to have Metro rail operations, besides Kolkata, Delhi and Bangalore.
- **Rafael Nadal won French Open Title for the ninth time**
 - On 8th June Rafael of Spain won the French Open title 2014 for the ninth time.
 - He is the *first men to win five French Open titles in a row*.
 - The French Open 2014 was *first held in 1928* and is also known as *Roland Garros*.
 - It is *one of the world's four major tennis tournaments*.
- **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi sworn-in as President of Egypt.**
- **Chandrababu Naidu sworn-in as first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation.**
 - Governor *E.S.L. Narasimhan* administered the oath of Office and Secrecy to Naidu and 19 Ministers.
 - Naidu's *TDP contested the elections in alliance with the BJP*.
 - Naidu is the *longest serving Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh state from 1995 to 2004*.
 - After bifurcation, the new Andhra Pradesh contains *13 districts* and *Hyderabad* is the *common capital of both states for 10 years*.
- **54 new ITBP border posts in Arunachal Pradesh**
 - In a major step *to fortify defences along the China border*, the Home Ministry has in principle given its nod for the border posts.
 - The *new border posts will be solar powered and will have satellite phone connectivity*.
 - At present, India has *142 border posts along this 3,488 km long frontier* with other Border States being Himachal Pradesh (200 km), Uttarakhand (345 km) and Sikkim (220 km).
 - At present, *Arunachal has close to 30 ITBP border posts*.
 - *Arunachal shares a total of 1,126 km of its international border with China*, second in length after *Jammu and Kashmir* which has a *1,597 km long frontier with India's eastern neighbour*.

- **Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos successfully test-fired from INS Kolkata**
 - On 9 June the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully test fired from indigenous INS Kolkata off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka.
 - BrahMos missile is the *product of joint collaboration between India and Russia and has a range of 290 kms.*
 - For the first time, the missile was test-fired from an indigenous warship that *will be commissioned in Indian Navy in July 2014.*
 - So far, BrahMos missile have been deployed on the Russia-built Rajput-class destroyers and Talwar-class frigates on the Navy.
- **Udhampur-Katra rail line ready for launch**
 - Termed as *the biggest-ever achievement of the Northern Railway*, the newly-constructed railway line between Udhampur and Katra *connects the Kashmir Valley.*
 - The 25 kms. long stretch between Udhampur and Katra would provide direct connectivity to Katra.
- **Reuven Ruby Rivlin elected as president of Israel**
 - On 10th June Rivlin was elected as *the 10th President of Israel.*
- **Four Standing Committees of Union Cabinet scraped**
 - On 10th June four Cabinet Committees were scraped to have minimum layers of decision-making.
 - The four committees include *the Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority (UIDAI), the Cabinet Committee on Prices, the Cabinet Committee on Management of Natural Calamities and the Cabinet Committee on World Trade Organisation Matters.*
 - Earlier, all the Empowered Groups of Ministers (EGoMs) and Groups of Ministers (GoMs) were disbanded.
- **Google purchased Satellite Firm Skybox Imaging for 500 million US dollar**
 - On 10th June the deal was confirmed which will *provide images for Google's online mapping service.*
 - The satellites could be used *to help expand internet access and with disaster relief.*

- In April 2014, *Google has acquired Titan Aerospace. Google has also launched a small network of balloons designed to deliver Internet access over the Southern Hemisphere.*
- **Emergency declared in Iraq after militants seized Mosul**
 - On 10th June the *Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki* declared the emergency
 - *State of emergency has broadened arrest powers and allows curfews to be imposed and a general mobilization of civilians.*
- **Britain published Europe's first Modern Slavery Bill to address slavery in 21st century**
 - The Bill was published on 10th June *to provide for life imprisonment if a person was involved in the heinous crime of trade in human beings.*
 - *It is for the first time in the 21st century that a bill is specifically addressing slavery and trafficking.*
 - *The Bill is first of its kind in Europe and also the first in the world.*
- **Russia agreed in-principle on India's Nuclear Liability Law**
 - The agreement paved the way for signing of the contract for *Unit 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP)* in July 2014.
- **World Bank lowered growth forecast for developing world to 4.8 percent**
 - On 11th June the World Bank released Global Economic Prospects (GEP) Report and *revised down the economic growth forecast for developing world in 2014 to 4.8 percent from 5.3 percent* estimated in January 2014.
 - It also highlighted *the growth in 2015 and 2016 at 5.4 and 5.5 percent, respectively.*
 - *The forecast has highlighted that the developing nations are heading forward to third consecutive year of growth below 5 percent.*
- **Commemorative postage stamps on 2014 FIFA World Cup released**
 - The stamps were released on 12th June by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

- The FIFA World Cup is being played in Brazil from 12th June to 13th July with the slogan, “*All In One Rhythm*”.
- **New gTLDs made available by ICANN**
 - Wide array of new gTLDs were made available by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
 - The move will transform cyberspace.
 - Traditional gTLDs like .com, .org, .net, and even country-specific domains like .in (for India) are likely to take a back seat as companies and individuals vie to get new domain names registered.
 - Founded in 1998, ICANN is a non-profit entity that coordinates the internet address system.
 - ICANN plays a key role in policy formulation and administration of gTLDs.
- **Mukul Rohatgi appointed as the next Attorney General of India**
 - On 12th June Senior advocate and a noted corporate lawyer Rohatgi (59) was appointed as the 14th Attorney General of India.
 - He will have a three year term.
- **India became permanent signatory to Washington Accord (WA)**
 - On 13th June India became a permanent signatory to WA.
 - With India becoming the permanent signatory, India joined a select group of 17 countries who are permanent signatories of the WA.
 - The signatory status will substantially increased global employment opportunities for technical and engineering graduates of India.
- **Lt Gen Amit Sharma appointed as Commander-in-Chief of Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**
 - Upon appointment on 13th June, Sharma replaced Vice-Admiral SPS Cheema.
 - The SFC was created on 4th January 2003 by the BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - SFC is responsible for the management and administration of the country’s tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile.

- **Murli Kartik announced his retirement from all forms of cricket**
 - On 14th June *left-arm spinner Kartik* announced his retirement.
- **Netherlands won the 2014 edition of Women's Hockey World Cup**
- **India's largest warship INS Vikramaditya dedicated to the nation**
 - With its dedication on 14th June *Vikramaditya has been inducted into Indian Navy.*
 - *Vikramaditya, a floating airfield, has an overall length of about 284 metres and a maximum beam of about 60 metres, stretching as much as three football fields put together.*
 - Standing about 20 storeys tall from the keel to the highest point, the ship has a total of 22 decks and carries 1,600 personnel.
 - *The deal for the aircraft carrier was signed during the previous National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime in 2004 and the ship has been dedicated to the nation after a gap of ten years.*
 - *The ship has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary 1st century BC emperor.*
- **Australia won the 2014 edition of Men's Hockey World Cup**
- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched first Roof Top Solar Power Plant**
 - On 15th June the *first Roof Top Solar Power Plant was launched at Dwarka Sector 21 Metro Station.*
 - *The DMRC has become the first mass transit system of India to begin installing solar power plants on the roofs of its stations.*
- **Juan Manuel Santos re-elected as President of Colombia**

Compiled by ravi k mahajan
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