

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (June 16 – June 30)

- **Delhi becomes the first ‘Kerosene-Free’ city in India**
 - On 16th June Delhi became the first kerosene-free city of India.
 - This feat was achieved after implementation of the ***Delhi: A Kerosene-Free Scheme 2012***.
 - *Under this scheme no subsidized kerosene oil was being issued in Delhi.*
 - *This scheme was launched on 21st August 2012 in collaboration with three Oil Marketing Companies and the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for which Delhi Government had incurred an expenditure of 62 core Rupees.*
- **Kolkata recorded highest consumption of cigarettes in India**
 - This was revealed by the *ICICI Lombard Tobacco Consumption Habits 2014* survey.
- **Gauravi India’s first One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC)**
 - On 16th June India’s first OSCC – Gauravi was launched at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
 - OSCC is going to be the ***first center in India to help women***.
 - *It is going to help and provide instant assistance to those women who have become a victim of domestic violence, dowry, harassment, molestation, rape and any other atrocity.*
 - *It will provide FIR facility, medical facility, security, rehabilitation facility, forensic support, help line number or any other support to help such women victim.*
 - *This is going to be a one point of contact for such victim under one roof.*
- **Ex-CJI, RC Lahoti appointed as arbitrator in Vodafone tax dispute case**
- **Russia cut-off gas supply to Ukraine**
 - The supply was halted because Ukraine has failed to settle its huge debt.

- **DLF becomes the first real estate developer to receive ISO Quality Certification**
 - On 16th June DLF Home Developers Limited became the *first real estate developer in the country to receive ISO Quality Certification*.
 - DLF Home Developers Ltd. is a part of DLF Limited, *the largest real estate company in India*.
 - The *ISO Quality Certification* was given by the *British Standard Institute (BSI)*.
 - BSI was *established in 1901* and was *the World's first National Standards Body*.
 - BSI is the *business standards company that equips businesses with the necessary solutions to turn standards of best practice into habits of excellence*.

- **World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) observed on 17th June**
 - Theme for 2014 WDCD was '*Land Belongs to the Future - Let's Climate Proof It*'.
 - The theme highlights that the *benefits of the mainstreaming sustainable land management policies and practices into our collective response to climate change*.

- **Obama announced to create the World's biggest Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Pacific Ocean**
 - On 17th June the US President, Barack Obama, announced the plans of creating the World's biggest Marine Protected Area *in the middle of Pacific*.
 - The *aim is to further extend the existing zone of protected area of the US known as the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument*.
 - *MPAs currently make up around 2.8% of the World's Oceans*.
 - But the areas that have a full ban on fishing, drilling and other activities are much smaller, which increases the significance of the US move. *Less than 1% of the Global Ocean is fully protected*.

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) rolled-out new norms for public issuance of debt securities**
 - The new norms are more strict and tight for public issuance of debt securities.
- **Militants captured the Iraq's largest Oil Refinery**
 - Iraq's largest Oil Refinery – **the Baiji Refinery** is *located in Salaheddin province, north of Baghdad in Iraq.*
 - *Baiji is one of three oil refineries in Iraq and only to process oil from the north. The other two are located in Baghdad and the Southern Iraq respectively which are firmly under government control and are operational.*
- **40 Indian workers missing from Iraq**
 - On 17th June forty Indian workers were reported to be missing from Mosul, Iraq. *The groups of workers were working on a government construction project in Mosul. Mosul was over-run by ISIS militants in June 2014.*
 - Located some 400 kms north-west of Baghdad, Mosul is a city in the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-controlled part of northern Iraq. *Mosul is the second largest city of Iraq after Baghdad.*
 - Mosul is the *capital of the Nineveh Province.*
- **367 exotic new species discovered in greater Mekong region in South-East Asia**
 - The new discoveries were published in a report titled, '*Mysterious Mekong*' released by World Wildlife Fund.
 - Among the new species discovered in the Greater Mekong in 2012 and 2013, there are 290 plants, 24 fish, 21 amphibians, 28 reptiles, 1 bird and 3 mammals.
- **INTERPOL Executive Committee selected Juergen Stock as candidate for next Secretary General**
 - INTERPOL is the *world's largest international police organisation.*
 - India's representative for the post was *the CBI Director, Ranjit Sinha* (he was the first Indian to be shortlisted for the post of the Secretary General of the INTERPOL).

- **India-born Mexican citizen Sanjaya Rajaram to be honoured with World Food Prize 2014**
 - On 18th June the *World Food Prize Foundation* announced that the India-born Mexican plant scientist, Sanjaya Rajaram will be honoured with the World Food Prize for the year 2014.
 - He won the prize for *his outstanding work in the improvement of wheat crop*.
 - He is credited with *increasing world wheat production by more than 200 million tons during the 25 year period known as the golden years of wheat – building upon the successes of the Green Revolution*.
- **India ranked 143rd in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2014**
 - The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) released GPI 2014 in London on 18th June.
 - The *GPI 2014 measured peace for 162 countries* on the basis of 22 indicators. Among these 162 countries, India has been ranked 143rd.
 - In the GPI 2014, *Syria displaced Afghanistan as the world's least peaceful nation while Iceland maintained its status as the most peaceful country in the world*.
 - In GPI 2013, India was ranked 141st.
- **British Guiana's 1 cent postage stamp of 1856 sold for record 9.5 million US dollar**
 - An 1856 British Guiana 1 cent postage stamp was sold for record 9.5 million US dollar on 18th June to *become the world's most valuable stamp*.
 - The stamp is about *2cm × 3cm in size. Printed in black on magenta paper*, it bears the image of a three-masted ship and the colony's motto, in Latin, "*we give and expect in return*".
- **Magnus Carlsen bagged FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship**
 - *India's Vishwanathan Anand clinched the bronze medal* after being at the third position in the tournament.
 - The Championship took place *from 16th to 18th June* in the *Chess Club of Dubai*.

- **RBI asked banks to disclose sector-wise advances in financial statements**
 - On 18th June RBI asked *banks to disclose sector-wise advances* in the notes to accounts in the financial statements from the financial year 2014-15 onwards.
 - It will *encourage banks to actively manage their exposures to various sectors, including priority sector.*

- **Jitu Rai becomes the first Indian shooter to win three medals ISSF Shooting World Cup 2014**

- **Six Cabinet Committees reconstituted by the Union Government**
 - On 19th June the six Cabinet Committees including *Security, Political Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Economic Affairs, Accommodation and Appointments* were reconstituted.
 - Of these *four will be headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and two by the Home Minister, Rajnath Singh.*

- **Salman Rushdie selected for 2014 Pen Pinter prize**
 - On 20th June Salman Rushdie (67), the India-born *Booker Prize Winning Author* was named as the winner of 2014 Pen Pinter Prize.
 - The *Pen Pinter Prize is an annual literary award* was established in 2009 by *Writers' Charity English Pen.*
 - Rushdie was chosen for the prestigious award for *his outstanding literary output and support for freedom of expression.*
 - Rushdie's famous books are *Midnight's Children (won Booker Prize), Haroun and the Sea of Stories, The Moor's Last Sigh, The Satanic Verses* and others.

- **Kedar Nath Singh, selected for Jnanpith Award 2013**
 - On 20th June the noted Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh (80) was chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award 2013.
 - He is the *10th Hindi writer to receive the honour* and is the *49th recipient of Jnanpith Award.*
 - The name of *Jnanpith Award* is taken from *Sanskrit words Jnana and Pitha (knowledge-seat).*
 - It is *one of the prestigious literary awards in India* and was instituted in 1961.

- **Gold coins in honour of Sachin Tendulkar**

- On 23rd June the UK's famous *East India Company* issued gold coin in honour of Sachin Tendulkar for his extra ordinary contribution in Cricket.
 - Sachin has *played international cricket for 24 years*.
- The East India Company has *issued 210 gold coins* on which Sachin's image has been imposed on one side and on the other Queen Elizabeth image is imposed.
 - The *each gold coin has a weight of 200 grams* and it will be *worth of 12000 pound*.
- The *issue of gold coin is legal and official mark of the UK government* to be presented to individuals who have achieved something extra-ordinary in a particular field.

- **Myanmar's first site, Ancient Pyu Cities added on the UNESCO World Heritage**

- On 22nd June the Myanmar's first site, Ancient Pyu Cities (*three cities – Halin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra*) were added on the UNESCO World Heritage list.
 - The three cities are *located in Burma's central Dry Zone* and *featured the walled remains of sites built by the Pyu dynasty*.
 - The Ancient Pyu Cities are located in vast irrigated landscapes in the dry zone of the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River of basin.
 - The Ancient Pyu three cities are partly excavated archaeological sites.

- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development releases the World Investment Report 2014**

- On 24th June United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the World Investment Report 2014 *on an encouraging trend*.
 - It shows that after 2012 the global direct or indirect investment has risen by nine percent which is also expected in upcoming years.

- **RBI allows NBFCs-ND to work as Business Correspondents (BCs) for Commercial Banks**
 - On 24th June the RBI allowed the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs-ND) *to work or act as BCs for commercial banks.*
 - The step has been taken *to spread financial inclusion* across the India.
- **Navrata Company status for the Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)**
 - The status was granted by the *Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises* on 24th June.
 - EIL is *one of the biggest companies in India* which deals in almost every aspects of engineering like oil and gas, petrochemicals, mining and metallurgy, fertiliser, power and infrastructure sectors.
 - NBCC is also *one of the biggest firms in India* in its particular field and provides high class service in construction consultancy.
- **Shahrukh Khan to be honoured with Legion of Honour by France**
 - On 25th June Shahrukh was picked to be honoured with Legion of Honour for his outstanding contribution in the field of cinema.
 - *Legion of Honour* or *Award of Officier de la Legion d'Honneur* is the *highest award among Civilians and Military* bestowed by France to a citizen as well as the foreigner.
 - Shahrukh became the second Indian Bollywood actor after *Amitabh Bachchan* to be honoured with such a great award.
- **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed on 26th June**
 - The theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 2014 was “*Drug use disorders are preventable and treatable*”.
 - *United Nations on 7th December 1987, by resolution of the General Assembly* decided to observe 26th June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

- **Sudarsan Pattnaik won People's Choice Prize at World Cup of Sand Sculpting 2014**
 - On 27th June Sudarsan won People's Choice Prize at the *Atlantic City of the US*. This is the first event of Sand Art World Cup at USA 2014.
 - *Twenty international sand artists from all over the world participated in the event.*
 - Artists were given 30 hours to make something interesting with 10 tons of sand.
 - Sudarsan created a sculpture on *SAVE TREES, SAVE WORLD*.
- **Pankaj Advani won IBSF 6-Red World Snooker 2014 in Egypt**
 - Pankaj is also one of the youngest Indian sports person to be honored with the *highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award*.
- **Jean-Claude Juncker to be the next President of the European Commission**
 - Juncker was backed as the President of the European Commission by all the EU member states, *except Britain and Hungary*.
 - He will succeed Jose Manuel Barroso and will take charge from November 2014.
 - He is the *longest-serving head of government of any European Union country* and *one of the longest-serving democratically elected leaders in the world*. He was the PM of Luxembourg from 1995 to 2013.
- **Saina Nehwal won Australian Open Super Series title 2014 at Sydney**
 - On 29th June Saina bagged the *prize of 750000 USD* after winning the series.
- **India and China agrees to set-up of Chinese Industrial Park**
 - On 30th June Indian and China signed agreement on setting up of Chinese Industrial Park on three fields which are *commerce, water resources and human resources development*.
 - On 25th June India and China agreed to set up this industrial park in the country *to enhance the economic growth plus relationship of both countries*.

- **Indian Space Organisation (ISRO) launched PSLV C23 – carrying five satellites**
 - On 30th June PSLV C23 carrying five satellites was launched successfully at *Sriharikota* near Chennai in Andhra Pradesh.
 - It has carried 5 satellites of countries namely *France, Germany, Canada* and *Singapore*.
 - These five satellites were launched under commercial arrangements that ANTRIX (*ISRO's commercial arm*) has entered with the respective foreign agencies.

- **Liberty Medal for the year 2014 won by Malala Yousafzai**
 - Yousafzai – the young Pakistani social activist got the Liberty Medal *for her outstanding work in the field of basic education and human rights in Pakistan*.
 - The liberty medal is given every year by the *National Constitution Centre (NCC)* to one who achieved, demonstrated and took some noble step to teach something to the world over.
 - The award is given by NCC in *Philadelphia* (Pennsylvania), USA.
 - NCC is the *first and only institution in America established by Congress* to ‘disseminate information about the US Constitution on a non-partisan basis in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution among the American people’.

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