

Important Extracts from The Hindu: 20 June 2017

Lockheed, Tata to make F-16 in India

- U.S. aircraft major 'Lockheed Martin' and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) signed an agreement to manufacture the F-16 Block 70 fighter aircraft in India to meet the Indian Air Force's single-engine jet requirement
- F-16 Block 70 fighter jet will replace Russian MiG-21s

Namma Metro breaches 3 lakh mark

- Namma Metro set a new record as the first full day of commercial operations on the entire Green Line led to 3,07,543 lakh passengers commuting across Phase I.
- Namma Metro: It is also known as Bengaluru Metro. It is a metro system serving the city of Bengaluru. It is currently the second largest operational metro network in India after the Delhi metro.
- BMRCL: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd

Vocab from the Article

Commuter: a person who travels some distance to work on a regular basis.

As used in the Article: The Green Line, which ferried around 60,000 passengers daily before Monday, carried over 1.13 lakh passengers between 5 a.m.

and 9 p.m. BMRCL is targeting a daily average of 5 lakh commuters in the next few months.

Scorpene submarines to join Navy without AIP modules

- The Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system is meant to extend the reach of the conventional diesel-electric submarines
- AIP enables submarines to stay underwater for longer span

Vocab from the Article

Scuttle: deliberately cause (a scheme) to fail.

As used in the Article: The AIP module is being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and was supposed to be installed before the submarines roll out. However, a delay in development seems to scuttle the plan.

India, Afghanistan open air freight route

- India and Afghanistan inaugurated a dedicated air freight corridor service
- The connectivity established through the Air Freight Corridor will provide Afghanistan, a landlocked country, greater access to markets in India

Vocab from the Article

Weekly Extracts from the Hindu: 20 June: 26 June

Usher: show or guide (someone) somewhere; cause or mark the start of something new.

As used in the Article: Direct connectivity between India and Afghanistan will usher in prosperity. I thank President Ashraf Ghani for the initiative."

SAARC start-ups meeting to work out mutually beneficial ideas

- India will host a summit for start-ups from SAARC nations later this year

Vocab from the Article

Replicate: make an exact copy of; reproduce.

As used in the Article: "There will be an exchange of



ideas between the two countries' start-ups, so our entrepreneurs can stay in touch with what's happening there and if there are some things their government has done, that we could replicate," the Minister explained.

Shashi Shanker to be next ONGC chief

- Shashi Shanker will be the next chairman and managing director of India's biggest oil and gas producer, ONGC.
- Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB), selected Mr. Shanker to head Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) from October 1.

Extracts from The Hindu: June 22, 2017

KCR launches ambitious sheep distribution scheme

- Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of Telangana has launched the "Sheep Distribution Scheme", one of the flagship programmes of the State government.

Dalveer Bhandari gets renominated to ICJ

- India has renominated its serving candidate Justice Dalveer Bhandari, at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

- The ICJ is the principal legal organ of the United Nations.
- The ICJ consists of 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

Vocab from the Article

Subvert: undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution).

As used in the Article: India moved the ICJ against the death penalty awarded by a Pakistan military tribunal to former Indian Navy official Kulbhushan

Jadhav on charges of espionage and **subversive** activities.

First, indigenously built floating dock launched

- The Indian Navy's first indigenously built floating dock (FDN-2) was launched at L&T's shipyard in Kattupalli.
- It is developed by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T).
- The floating dock is 185 metres long and 40 metres wide and will enable docking of all kinds of vessels, including Naval ships and submarines of up to 8,000 tonnes displacement, with draughts of up to seven metres, during both day and night.

Polyhose buys Ashok Leyland unit

- Polyhose India Private Ltd. has acquired the construction equipment manufacturing facility of the joint venture between Ashok Leyland and John Deere
- Polyhose India Private Ltd. is a leading hose manufacturer in India

Mahindra unit wins contract from Airbus

- Mahindra Aerostructures has won a contract from Airbus to manufacture and supply components made of hard metals (aerospace steel, titanium and inconel) for A320neo and A350 XWB aircraft.

- Mahindra Aerostructures is an arm of Mahindra Aerospace.
- The value of the contract was not disclosed
- Mahindra Aerostructures would execute the work together with France-based Segnere SAS., which has experience working with hard metals and supplies components directly to Airbus.

Hike forays in to wallet, UPI

- Instant messaging application Hike on Tuesday forayed into the digital payments business with the introduction of the latest version of its application.
- The firm has partnered with Yes Bank to enable UPI transfers and digital wallet services from its messenger.
- Hike is an Indian Instant messaging app.

Vocab from the Article

Unveil: remove a veil or covering from, in particular, uncover (a new monument or work of art) as part of a public ceremony.

As used in the Article: The introduction of the service, Mr Mittal said, lays the "foundation for revenue stage" for the start-up **unveiled** in December 2012. "There are four stages — engagement, growth, revenue and profitability. We are at the growth stage."

Extracts from The Hindu: June 23, 2017

RBI expands Oversight Committee

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the size of its Oversight Committee — to five, by adding three more members.
- Oversight Committee was formed to advise banks on stressed assets resolution.
- The committee is headed by former Central Vigilance Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar.

Cabinet defers decision on notifying RERA rules

- For the second time, the Karnataka State Cabinet has deferred its decision to notify the final rules for the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (popularly called RERA).

NATGRID can soon access PAN, I-T records

- The Centre has empowered the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), to access the Income Tax department's records on individual taxpayers as well as PAN card holders.
- NATGRID and the I-T department could sign a pact soon to operationalise the data sharing arrangement.
- NATGRID is the integrated mechanism to keep track of security-related data.

Indian anti hunger activist to be honoured by Queen Elizabeth II

- Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra is all set to receive the prestigious Queen's Young Leaders Award with 60 others from all 53 Commonwealth countries.
- Ankit Kwatra has been committed to solving problems of hunger and malnutrition in India.
- Queen Elizabeth II will honour him on June 29.

Tatas offer 51% in Mundra for Rs. 1

- Tata Power, has offered to sell a majority 51% stake in its debt-laden 4,000 megawatt (MW) Mundra Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) for just Rs. 1.
- Mundra UMPP, operated by Tata Power subsidiary Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL), has run up accumulated losses of Rs. 6,457 crore against a paid-up equity of Rs. 6,083 crore.

Vocab from the Article

Helm: a position of leadership

As used in the Article: Ousted Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry had raised the Mundra UMPP issue, citing wrong business decisions taken when Ratan Tata was at the helm of the group as the main reason for the utility's losses.

HTC Global acquires Ciber Inc.

Weekly Extracts from the Hindu: 20 June: 26 June

- U.S.-based HTC Global Services had acquired the U.S. and India operations of Ciber Inc.
- HTC Global Services is an IT(Information Technology) and ITES(Information Technology Enabled Services) services provider.

Vocab from the Article

Hefty: Large and Heavy; done with vigour or force

As used in the Article: HTC Global CEO Madhava Reddy said the acquisition was made on June 8, for \$93 million along with "some liabilities," which he didn't detail. The acquisition added a "hefty customer and employee base," he said.

PSLV will lock heavy weight Cartosat-2 into orbit today

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set for the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle carrying the Cartosat-2 series satellite, along with 30 co-passenger satellites.
- The 31 satellites, together weighing 955 kg, will be lifted into a 505-km polar sun synchronous orbit.

Extracts from The Hindu: June 24, 2017

Centre announces 30 more Smart Cities

- 30 more cities from across the country have been added to the Centre's Smart Cities Mission.
- Marking the second anniversary of the launch of the Smart Cities Mission, Union Urban Development Ministry announced the new smart cities.
- It is the third round of the scheme.
- Now the total number of smart cities increases to 90.

ISRO puts 31 satellites in space

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 31 satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- 29 of the satellites belong to foreign countries
- Rocket Name: PSLV-C38
- Rocket carried the Cartosat-2 series satellite(a remote sensing satellite), the main payload, weighing 712 kg
- And another Indian satellite, NIUSAT, an Indian university/academic institute satellite from Noorul Islam University, Kanyakumari
- The other 29 nano satellites belonged to 14 nations — Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy,

Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, the U.K., and the U.S.

Vocab from the Article

Cater: provide with what is needed or required.

As used in the Article: "Initially it [PSLV] was designed to put satellites in sun synchronous orbit... we could establish it could **cater** to any type of orbit – Geo Synchronous, Sun Synchronous orbit or low inclination orbit, carrying multiple satellites; Everything has been established. I'm sure this will be a major attraction for foreign customers," Mr. Jayakumar said.

Premji to get Carnegie Medal for philanthropy

- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji is among the recipients of this year's Carnegie Medal, for his efforts to reform India's public school system.
- Mr. Premji is among the nine recipients recognised "for their outstanding and innovative leadership in philanthropy".
- Carnegie Medal is considered the most prestigious prize in philanthropy.
- The Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy was established in 2001 and is awarded every two years.

Vocab from the Article

Synergy: the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to

produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects

As used in the Article: "The foundation's university and field institutions work **synergistically** toward the goal of creating a more equitable and just India," the statement said.

Lenders clear \$12.8 billion sale of Essar Oil to Rosneft

- A joint lenders forum (JLF) led by State Bank of India and ICICI Bank has approved and authorised the sale of Essar Oil to Russian energy major Rosneft and a consortium of Trafigura and United Capital Partners.

Panel to oversee progress in UN's SDG

- The Centre will soon set up a high-level committee to oversee the country's progress towards UN's Sustainable Development Goals aimed at ending poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change.
- The Committee will be headed by Chief Statistician of India.
- A dashboard is also being developed with technical support from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to "strengthen the mechanism" for monitoring progress on these global goals

M-banking now under ombudsman's purview

Weekly Extracts from the Hindu: 20 June: 26 June

- The Reserve Bank of India has widened the scope of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006.
- Now, a customer can lodge a complaint against the bank for non-adherence to instructions related to mobile banking and electronic banking services.
- Important: The RBI has increased the power of the Banking Ombudsman to pass an award from the existing Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

Vocab from the Article

Pecuniary: relating to or consisting of money.

As used in the Article: The banking regulator also said that the *pecuniary* jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman to pass an award has been increased from the existing Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

Extracts from The Hindu: June 26, 2017

K. Kasturirangan to head panel on National Education Policy

- The HRD ministry has appointed space scientist Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan to head panel on New Education Policy (NEP).
- He will head a new nine-member panel.

Aadhaar not valid for travel to Nepal, Bhutan: Home ministry

- According to a order by Home Ministry, Aadhaar is not a valid identification document for Indians travelling to Nepal and Bhutan
- Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan, if they possess a valid national passport or election ID card issued by the Election Commission.
- Persons over 65 and below 15 years can show documents with photographs to confirm their age and identity. These include PAN card,

driving licence, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card and ration card but not Aadhaar.

- For Bhutan and Nepal, Indians don't need visas.

ICHR member secretary resigns

- Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) member secretary Anand Shanker Singh has resigned.

In Mumbai, Taj Palace gets a trademark

- India's Trade Mark Registry has assigned an image trademark to Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
- This makes it the first structure in India to get such a trademark registration.
- It will enhance its stature in the international hospitality industry.

Vocab from the Article

Wreath: a curl or ring of smoke or cloud.

As used in the Article: In a sadder vein, the dome *wreathed* in flames and smoke became, arguably, the most lingering image of the terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008.

Infosys chairman to retire in 2018, wants smooth change

- Infosys chairman R. Seshasayee would retire in May 2018 after attaining the age of 70.

China shares in MSCI index: what it means

- Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) is ready to add China's local currency shares, referred to as China 'A' shares, to its benchmark emerging markets index.
- MSCI: It is the world's biggest index compiler.
- MSCI are closely tracked by global investors and therefore, very important.



Vocab from the Article

Overture: an introduction to something more substantial; Preliminary

As used in the Article: Last week, Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), a widely-tracked global index provider, said it would add China's local currency shares, referred to as China 'A' shares, to its benchmark emerging markets index, after three years of having rejected *overtures* on the same.