

Weekly Extracts from the Hindu: 5 June- 12 June

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Important Extracts from the Hindu: 5 June 2017

This is our new initiative "Extracts from The Hindu". With this, our aim is to provide short, relevant and important material for Bank and SSC Exams. It will help you to learn

- (1) Important current affairs, and
- (2) Some Vocab from The Hindu

India to take up road and highway projects abroad: Minister Nitin Gadkari

- The government is planning to launch a dedicated international subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take up road and highway projects abroad
- NHAI is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- In the Union Budget 2017-18, the central government allotted Rs. 64,000 crore (\$9.55 billion) to NHAI for roads and highways and Rs. 27,000 crore (\$4.03 billion) for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) that is focused on rural roads.

Vocab from the article

Gloom: partial or total darkness; a state of depression or despondency

As used in the Article: "There was an atmosphere of **gloom** and disillusionment. Contractors were unwilling to continue with the projects and bank NPAs (non—performing assets) were piling up," Gadkari said.

Four jawans scale Everest without oxygen support

- A team of four Indian Army jawans successfully climbed the Mt. Everest without using oxygen cylinders, the first team to scale the world's highest peak without supplementary oxygen.
- The four climbers are Kunchok Tenda, Kelshang Dorjee Bhutia, Kalden Panjur and Sonam Phuntsok.

Vocab from the Article

Peak: the pointed top of a mountain; a projecting pointed part or shape; at the highest level; maximum.

India's protocol on Zika followed: Ministry

- Three laboratories confirmed cases of Zika Virus are recently reported from Ahmedabad.
- Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.

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- There is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

India has 31% of world's poor kids: report

- About 31% of the world's "multidimensionally poor" children live in India, according to a new report by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
- Name of the Report: Global Multidimensional Poverty Index [MPI], 2017

Vocab from the Article

Deprivation: the damaging lack of material benefits considered to be basic necessities in a society; the lack or denial of something considered to be a necessity; the action of depriving someone of office, especially an ecclesiastical office

As used in the Article: As for the intensity of poverty, the average percentage of **deprivation** in terms of the 10 MPI categories was highest in Sub-Saharan Africa

Aadhaar must for kerosene subsidy, Atal Pension Yojana

- Aadhaar has now been made mandatory to get subsidy on kerosene and benefits of the Atal Pension Yojana by the Union Government.
- The last date to get Aadhaar or enrol for getting it is September 30 in the case of the kerosene subsidy. For the pension scheme, the deadline is June 15, they said.

Vocab from the Article

Furnish: be a source of; provide

As used in the Article: Those getting kerosene subsidy or subscribing to the pension scheme will be required to **furnish** proof of possession of the unique ID or undergo the enrolment process to get the benefits, officials said on Sunday.

Facts you need to know about ISRO's GSLV-Mk III

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV-Mk III), the heaviest rocket ever made by India and capable of carrying large payloads, is set for launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on June 5, 2017

Facts:

- GSKV-Mk III is capable of launching four-tonne satellites in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The rocket is also capable of placing up to eight tonnes in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO), enough to carry a manned module.
- GSLV-Mk III D1 will carry the GSAT-19 satellite — developed to help improve telecommunication and broadcasting areas.
- This is India's first fully functional rocket to be tested with a cryogenic engine that uses liquid propellants — liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen.

Important Extracts from the Hindu: 6 June 2017

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IMD to give malaria, chikungunya alerts

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is working on a forecasting system to give 15-day warnings on the likelihood of a malaria or chikungunya outbreak, over different regions
- IMD is teamed up with the Medical Council of India and the Red Cross Society for generating this information (about malaria or chikungunya outbreak)
- The IMD's National Climate Centre in Pune will provide such climate services

Vocab from the Article

Engender: cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition)

As used in the Article: This rain was now being distributed over fewer days. "Also places that were once relatively drier are wetter and more humid [engendering conditions for water-logging and mosquito breeding] and our attempt is to give advance warnings to better prepare for outbreaks," he added.

RedInk award for Vinod Dua

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will present the RedInk Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism for 2017 to veteran journalist Vinod Dua on June 7 in Mumbai.
- The award is instituted by the Mumbai Press Club.
- The RedInk Award for the 'Journalist of the Year' 2017 will be presented to Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, Indian Express.

Nepal, China ink mega hydropower agreement

- Nepal has signed an agreement with a Chinese company to build the largest hydroelectric plant, 1,200 megawatt Budhi-Gandaki hydroelectric project.

Vocab from the Article

- **Cripple:** cause (someone) to become unable to walk or move properly; cause a severe and almost insuperable problem for.
- As used in the article: The result has been crippling for domestic industry and deterred foreign investment.

Alibaba picks up majority stake in TicketNew

- Chinese e-commerce firm Alibaba has decided to invest more than Rs. 120 crore to pick up a majority stake in Orbgen Technologies Private Limited, which runs ticketing website TicketNew
- Orbgen Technologies Private Limited is a Tamil Nadu based company.

Vocab from the Article

- **Inception:** the establishment or starting point of an institution or activity.
- As used in the Article: Stating that this was the maiden fund-raising exercise by Orbgen since inception, Mr. Nammalvar said this would bring growth money for the company and provide return on capital investment for the promoters.

PCA only a supervision tool, says RBI

- The RBI said its prompt corrective action (PCA), initiated in the case of some public sector banks with high NPAs, is a supervision

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tool and does not constrain normal banking operations for the public.

- PCA: RBI introduces Prompt Corrective Action when the Bank's financial conditions worsen below certain limits (trigger points). The limit set are in the form of three conventional financial indicators which are called trigger points– CRAR, Net NPA and Return on Assets.

India successfully fires heaviest launch vehicle

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its heaviest launch vehicle, GSLV MkIII-D1, and placed the country's heaviest satellite till date, GSAT-19, into a precise orbit
- The GSAT-19, a communication satellite will enhance India's communication infrastructure

- It was placed into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with a perigee (closest point to Earth) 170 km and apogee (farthest point from Earth) 35,975 km
- The satellite weighs 3,136 kg. This successful launch will enable India to launch 4-tonne class satellites from India

Vocab from the Article

Plume: a long cloud of smoke or vapour resembling a feather as it spreads from its point of origin
As used in the Article: The rocket lifted off from the second launch pad into clear blue skies at 5.28 p.m., and soared above the moon which was rising in the evening, leaving a plume of smoke.

Important Extracts from the Hindu: 7 June 2017

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Child-friendly HIV drug gets govt. nod

- An expert committee of the The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had permitted the child-friendly and heat-stable pellet formulation of the HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r) to be registered.
- Now, Cipla Pharmaceuticals(a market leader in the HIV segment) can supply to the National AIDS Control Programme (NACO)

Navy eyes advanced subs

- Project-75I : This is the project under which Indian Navy is constructing Advance Modern Submarines

Vocab from the Article

Contingent: subject to chance; occurring or existing only if (certain circumstances) are the case; dependent on
As used in the Article: That is contingent on the timely delivery of the AIP being indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

El Nino is weaker than anticipated, says IMD

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- According to the India Meteorological Department, El Nino will be weaker this year than anticipated
- El Nino refers to the heating up of water in the eastern pacific region which will have a cascading effect on the weather conditions across the world.
- The El Nino has negative effect on India's weather. Statistically, there are 40% chances that an El Nino will result in a drought situation in India.

Vocab from the Article

Extrapolate: extend the application of (a method or conclusion) to an unknown situation by assuming that existing trends will continue or similar methods will be applicable; estimate or conclude (something) by extrapolating.

As used in the Article: In April, the IMD shifted to using a new monsoon forecast system, called a dynamical model that works by supercomputers simulating the weather and extrapolating it.

'Hottest' planet in universe discovered

- Scientists have discovered the hottest known planet located 650 light years from Earth, which is warmer than most stars in the universe and only 926 degree Celsius cooler than our Sun.
- Name of the Planet: KELT-9b

The art of the free trade agreement

- During their recent meeting in Germany, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed on the need to resume India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement (FTA) talks.

- A free-trade area is the region encompassing a trade bloc whose member countries have signed a free-trade agreement (FTA).
- Such agreements involve cooperation between at least two countries to reduce trade barriers, import quotas and tariffs, and to increase trade of goods and services with each other.

Vocab from the Article

Jettison: abandon or discard (someone or something that is no longer wanted)

As used in the Article: First, it could decide to jettison the ISDS clauses in all its future FTAs. In other words, it may negotiate FTAs where disputes between investors and states would be resolved using the state-state dispute settlement (SSDS) mechanism.

CCI clears Airtel-Telenor merger

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of Telenor (India) Communications with the Bharti Airtel.

Centre notifies rules on capital gains tax

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has come out with a final notification specifying the securities transactions that would attract capital gains tax where the securities transaction tax (STT) hasn't been paid
- Capital Gains Tax is a tax levied on profit from the sale of property or an investment.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is a tax payable in India on the value of securities (excluding commodities and currency) transacted through a recognized stock exchange.

Important Extracts from the Hindu: 8 June 2017

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WHO revises antibiotics protocol

- In an effort to curb antibiotic resistance, the World Health Organization (WHO) has divided the drugs into three categories — access, watch and reserve.
- This categorization specifies which drugs are to be used for common ailments and which are to be kept for complicated diseases.
- Commonly used antibiotics will be available under 'access' category.
- The second line of antibiotics, slightly more potent have been categorised under "watch."
- Potent drugs to be used only as a "last resort" now fall under the 'reserve' category.

India to join SCO in Astana

- India will be admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's weekend visit to Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded in 1996 in Shanghai by the leaders of

China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations in 2016 at Tashkent, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members.

Vocab from the Article

Incumbent: necessary for (someone) as a duty or responsibility; (of an official or regime) currently holding office.

As used in the Article: "We participate with many countries, including Pakistan, in the U.N. peacekeeping operations, and terrorism is a fight which is incumbent on all countries," Mr. Baglay said.

New species of flying squirrel discovered

- Scientists have discovered a new species of flying squirrel in North America that had been hiding in plain sight for hundreds of years.
- Name of the Squirrel: Humboldt's flying squirrel, or *Glaucomys oregonensis* (scientific name).
- The Humboldt's flying squirrel is known as a "cryptic" species — a species that was previously thought to be another, known species because the two look similar.
- This new discovery is the 45th known species of flying squirrel in the world,

Cabinet approves IREDA IPO

- The Cabinet has approved an IPO by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- It approved the issue of 13.9 crore equity shares of Rs. 10 each. It also approved the issue of shares to retail investors and IREDA employees at a discount of 5% on the issue price.
- IREDA is registered as a non-banking financial company. It has worked closely with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to help implement policies.
- An initial public offering, or IPO, is the very first sale of stock issued by a company to the public.

CHINA-SCIENCE-MOON

- China is planning a manned mission to the Moon, according to officials who announced that the preliminary preparations had begun.
- According to Chinese officials, it would not take long for the project to get official approval. The announcement came at the Global Space Exploration Conference.

The neutrino opportunity

- India's efforts to join the elite club of countries undertaking neutrino research has suffered a procedural delay.
- As the National Green Tribunal (NGT) suspended the environmental clearance (EC) granted to the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO), and ordered it to file a fresh application for clearance.
- The proposed INO project primarily aims to study atmospheric neutrinos in a 1,300-m deep cavern in the Bodi West Hills in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.
- If completed, the INO would have the largest magnet in the world, four times more massive than the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN's Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector's magnet.

Vocab from the Article

Excavation: make (a hole or channel) by digging; remove earth carefully from (an area) in order to find buried remains.

As used in the Article: The proposed excavation is planned to be carried out by a controlled blast, limiting the impact of vibrations with the help of computer simulations.

Extracts from the Hindu: June 10, 2017

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Come next week, fuel prices will change daily

- Retail prices for petrol and diesel would be revised on a daily basis starting from June 16,
- Currently, major oil marketing companies usually adjust prices on a fortnightly basis.

- The public sector oil marketers Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum had launched a pilot project in May in Udaipur, Puducherry, Visakhapatnam, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh.
- Based on the successful implementation of the pilot project, the firms have decided to implement this project in the whole country.

POCSO case against Tumakuru teacher

- POSCO: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012 was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

Nanoparticles to treat eye infection

- Scientists at the Hyderabad-based CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) have developed a novel way to treat fungal keratitis.
- Keratitis is the inflammation of the eye
- Keratitis can be caused by both bacteria and fungi

Water Quality Index set to be announced soon

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is working on coming up with a Water Quality Index, on the lines of Air Quality Index (AQI)
- **Vocab from the Article**
- **Rational:** based on or in accordance with reason or logic.

- **As used in the Article:** The members felt that the present classification was not **rational**.

World's oldest fossil mushroom discovered

- The world's oldest fossil mushroom dating back to about 115 million years has been discovered in Brazil.
- The mushroom has been named "Gondwanagaricites magnificus."
- **Vocab from the Article**
- **Astonish:** surprise or impress (someone) greatly.
- **As used in the Article:** "The fact that this mushroom was preserved at all is just **astonishing**," said Mr. Heads, who discovered the mushroom.

DGFT may come under Revenue dept

- The Centre is considering a proposal to shift the entire Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) office to the Department of Revenue (DoR)
- Currently, DGFT comes under the Department of Commerce (DoC).
- **Vocab from the Article**
- **Moot:** subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty.
- **As used in the Article:** The suggestion — billed as a major trade facilitation measure and in line with the Centre's 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative — was **mooted** recently by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in the DoR within the Finance Ministry.

RedInk Awards recognise India's best journalists

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- The Mumbai Press Club's RedInk Awards for Excellence in Indian Journalism, 2017, were presented on Wednesday.
- With 15 categories, they are the biggest journalism awards in India where winners are chosen by their peers.
- Veteran journalist **Vinod Dua was recognised with the Lifetime Achievement Award** and **Raj Kamal Jha** was presented the **Journalist of the Year award**.

Important Extracts from the Hindu: 12 June 2017

Bengaluru's tech link to ICC Champions Trophy

- A Bengaluru based startup, Specular has made a device 'BatSense'
- This startup has tied up with the Intel as its technology partner.
- ICC is using this device in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy.
- **Use of the device:** The tiny device has the size of a Rs. 5 coin and inserted in the bat handle in a sleeve — helps capture and record vital details such as the number of balls played, bat lift angle, maximum bat speed, and follow through angle, among others.

Limaye to quit BCCI post, to head NSE

- Veteran banker Vikram Limaye will quit the Committee of Administrators (CoA) for the BCCI on July 14 to take over as the Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cleared Mr. Limaye's appointment, provided he gives up his role in the cricket panel

Vocab from the Article

Relinquish: voluntarily cease to keep or claim; give up.

As used in the Article: "Vikram is very much a part of the CoA as of now. Obviously, once the Supreme Court reopens, he will have to relinquish his role in the CoA since he will be heading the NSE. Till July 14, he is a part of the CoA. After that, he will appeal to the Supreme Court to be relieved of his duties," Mr. Rai told PTI on Sunday.

India, Israel set to expand defence ties

- After long negotiations between India and Israel, the two countries are close to concluding a deal for Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles.
- Also, India and Israel are celebrating 25 years of their diplomatic relations. India established full diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv on January 29, 1992.

BIZ-ONGC-ACQUISITION

- State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is keen to acquire India's third-biggest fuel retailer HPCL in a Rs. 42,254 crore deal
- Following up on the Finance Minister's Budget announcement of creating an integrated oil company, ONGC evaluated options of

acquiring either Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) or Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL).

Finance Ministry debating bad bank concept: Jaitley

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Sunday said that he had been discussing the two concepts introduced in this year's Economic Survey — Universal Basic Income (UBI), and the creation of a bad bank — with Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian
- **UBI:** A basic income is a form of social security in which all citizens or residents of a country regularly receive a regular, unconditional sum of money, either from a government or some other public institution, in addition to any income received from elsewhere.
- **Bad Bank or ARC:** An asset reconstruction company is in the business of acquiring Non-performing assets (NPAs). The Banks and an ARC get into an agreement in which the ARC take over the NPAs from the Banks Balance Sheet at a certain amount, lower than the Book Value. After this process, the particular ARC try to recover this amount from the borrowers.

Vocab from the Article

Expedite: make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly

As used in the Article: "This year also, the Economic Survey initiated a very important idea as to how do we subsidise... substitute the entire set of subsidies... we want to replace it by a Universal Basic Income and that UBI expedites their pulling out of the present state of poverty that they live in," the Finance Minister said during the event.