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Current Affairs :- July 01 – July 13, 2018

- The government of India celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) coming into force on 1st July 2017.
 - The Maharashtra government announced a new scheme called 'Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana', wherein farmers' families where girl children are born will be given saplings for plantation.
 - Asia's first arbitration centre, specialised in intellectual property, is slated to open in Tokyo in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
 - With the persistent decline in poverty, India is no longer a nation having the largest number of poor people in the world, according to a study published by the US-based think tank, Brookings. According to the study, Nigeria has already overtaken India as the country with the largest number of extreme poor in early 2018.
 - The ISSF Junior World Cup 2 concluded in Suhl, Germany. India and the People's Republic of China battled all along the competition for the top position in the medal board, which was eventually taken by the Indian National Team with 26 total medals: 15 golds, two silvers and nine bronzes.
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- Janardan Singh Gehlot was elected the president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) for the next four years.
 - Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in Jharkhand.
 - The government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation. The Committee for Sub-National Accounts will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) will change the base year to 2017-18 for the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers from the current 2011-12 with an aim to capture changes in the economy.
 - The Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha) has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country. Altogether 101 nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles were found this time by enumerators.
 - Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid has become the fifth Indian cricketer after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
 - In the summit clash of the 37th and final edition of the Hockey Champions Trophy at Breda, the Netherlands, India lost to defending champions Australia via penalty shoot-off. It was Australia's record 15th Champions Trophy title, while India won their second consecutive silver medal.
 - The Delhi government launched 'Happiness Curriculum' for school students up to class 8.
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- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.
 - Major General VD Dogra became the first serving Indian Army officer and the only General across the world to have completed a gruelling 'Ironman' competition held in Austria. The Ironman is an international triathlon consisting of three consecutive events- 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon). The competitors have to complete the events in sequence within 17 hours to earn the title of 'Ironman'. Maj Gen Dogra completed the event in 14 hours and 21 minutes.
 - The Sunil Mehta Committee, set up to look into the faster resolution of stressed assets, has recommended the creation of an asset management company for the resolution of stressed loans worth more than Rs.500 crore.
 - Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon had received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
 - Australian captain Aaron Finch slammed 172 (76) against Zimbabwe to register the highest-ever individual score in T20Is, overtaking his own record of 156 runs. Finch and D'Arcy Short shared a 223-run opening stand, which is the highest-ever partnership for any wicket in T20Is.
 - Behdienkhlam festival concluded in Meghalaya.
 - The Reserve Bank of India licensed Bank of China to operate in India. This will be the second Chinese bank to be operating in the country. As on 1 January, 2018 Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd was operating in India along with 45 other foreign banks. The United Kingdom's Standard Chartered has the highest, 100 branches in India as of now.
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- Union minister of chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar announced that the country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan'--a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. The CM also launched 'PURNA' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18. 'PURNA' stands for Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.
 - Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr Om Prakash Rawat, along with the Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa, launched an Android-based mobile application named 'cVigil' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
 - The Madhya Pradesh State Government launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families. Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs.200 per month.
 - The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan.
 - Payments Council of India (PCI), an apex body representing the companies in the payments and settlement system, has announced the appointment of Vishwas Patel, CEO of Infibeam Avenues, as its new chairman.
 - Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been renamed as Sports India.
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- In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of '*legal person or entity*' to the animals in the state. Note: In March 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court had accorded the status of 'living human entities' to the Ganga and Yamuna, the two most sacred rivers of India.
 - ICICI Bank has announced that its mortgage loan portfolio crossed the Rs.1.5-trillion milestone, making it the largest private player in the segment, and the lender is targeting to grow it to Rs.2 trillion by FY20.
 - The International Day of Cooperatives is observed across the world on July 7. The 2018 theme of the Day is the '*Sustainable societies through cooperation*'.
 - The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.
 - HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. Chinese banks are leading the pecking order in the emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list. Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is the most valuable.
 - Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced that Reliance is India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector paying Rs.9844 crore in FY18.
 - Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel '*The English Patient*' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London. Note: In 1971, V.S. Naipaul's novel '*In a Free State*' was the first book by an Indian novelist to win the Booker.
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- Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired from the Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The National Green Tribunal was established on October 18, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
 - At 52, Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in inaugurated the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida. Notably, it will be one of the world's largest mobile factory.
 - The Reserve Bank of India has announced that the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan has been cancelled as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.
 - India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey.
 - The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector. Three Public Universities which have been granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status are: 1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay, 2. IIT-Delhi, 3. IISc Bangalore. Three Private Universities which are granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status are: 1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation, 2. BITS Pilani, 3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
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- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest colours. 1.1 billion-year-old bright pink pigments, extracted from rocks deep beneath the Sahara desert in Africa, have finally been traced.
 - Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.
 - Rajya Sabha has, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue. Venkaiah Naidu has become the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign such an agreement when he inked an MOU with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza.
 - Microsoft has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year. Note: Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company. CEO- Satya Nadella, Headquarters- Washington DC.
 - Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.
 - State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) unveiled the country's first internet telephony service that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app. Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the company's mobile app "Wings" to any phone number in the country.
 - World Population Day was observed on 11th July. The theme of 2018 is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'.
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- The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world. The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are: 1. Switzerland, 2. The Netherlands, 3. Sweden.
 - For the second year in a row, Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business in, according to a survey. Telangana came second followed by Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The north-eastern state of Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.
 - India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017. The world's top 3 economies are: 1. The United States, 2. China, 3. Japan.
 - The Telecom Commission has approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations that bar service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access.
 - Reliance Industries Chairman and India's richest person Mukesh Ambani dethroned Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's Co-founder Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person as RIL shares hit an all-time high.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities like demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments to prevent money laundering.
 - 18-year-old Indian runner Hima Das created history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman to win an athletics gold on the international stage. Hailing from Assam, Hima finished on top of the podium in the women's 400m event at the IAAF World U20 Championship in Tampere, Finland, clocking 51.46 seconds.
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- India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has completed 36 years of service to the nation and celebrated the 37th Foundation Day on 12th July. Note: NABARD was founded on: 12 July, 1982, Headquarters: Mumbai, Chairman: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- HDFC securities announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, *Arya*.

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