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Current Affairs :- June 16 – June 30, 2018

- NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson has spent more time off Earth than any other American, totalling 665 days over three International Space Station missions. The 58-year-old is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.
 - American golfer Brooks Koepka has made history as he became the first player in 29 years to win back-to-back US Open titles at Shinnecock Hills in New York. He has become the first player since Curtis Strange in 1988-89 to win back-to-back U.S. Open events.
 - IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has formed a panel to review the regulations pertaining to insurance marketing firms. The committee is headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director (insurance marketing firms), IRDAI, with nine more members. Note: Headquarters of IRDAI is in Hyderabad. Subhash Chandra Khuntia is Chairman of IRDAI.
 - The Central Water Commission (CWC), India's apex technical organisation in the field of Water Resources has signed a Collaboration Agreement with Google for flood
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forecasting. Note: Google CEO- Sundar Pichai, Parent organization- Alphabet Inc., Headquarters- The USA.

- Jammu & Kashmir's Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti submitted her resignation to the Governor after BJP announced to pull out of an alliance with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Note: NN Vohra is the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. J & K Capitals- Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer).
 - The ICICI Bank board has appointed ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi as whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO), creating a new top position at India's second largest private bank, to steer all its businesses. N.S. Kannan has been appointed as CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for five years.
 - Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI). Users can register for free on the National Digital Library from Google Play store. The library can be accessed at ndl.iitkgp.ac.in.
 - Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya has been selected as 100th Smart City. With the selection of Shillong, the total proposed investment in the finally selected 100 cities under the Smart Cities Mission would be Rs.2,05,018 crores.
 - Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) -- the country's first-ever national healthcare registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
 - World Refugee Day is held every year on 20th June to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees. The theme for World Refugee Day
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2018 is 'Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees'.

- Anukreethy Vas, a 19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student, has been crowned Femina Miss India 2018. Note: Reita Faria was the first Miss World from India in 1966.
 - Nikki Haley, the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations announced the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), accusing the council of bias against US ally Israel.
 - US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit' that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second. Summit will be eight times more powerful than its previous top-ranked system, Titan.
 - Concerned over funds sent abroad under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives. Hence, funds under the 'maintenance of close relative' category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
 - The 4th International Yoga Day was celebrated across the globe on 21st of June. The theme for Yoga Day 2018 is "Yoga for Peace". International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015.
 - The World Music Day was celebrated across the world on 21 June. The day is also known as 'Fete de la Musique' after a music festival that began in France in 1982.
 - State Bank of India's (SBI) Managing Director B Sriram was appointed as the IDBI Bank's CEO and Managing Director for a temporary period of three months.
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He has been appointed in place of incumbent Mahesh Kumar Jain who was recently named Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) began in Mumbai. In the past, AIIB annual meetings have been held in Beijing, China, in 2016 and in Jeju, South Korea, in 2017. The theme for this year's meeting is "Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration". Note: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President- Liqun Jin. AIIB Headquarters in Beijing, China.
 - International Widows' Day is a global awareness day that takes place annually on 23rd June.
 - SKOCH Group has conferred the 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - India's R Praggnanandhaa has become the country's youngest and the world's second youngest Grand Master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after reaching the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy. Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest ever GM, having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and seven months in 2002.
 - The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers- Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck. As per the scheme, farmers having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. The State and Central governments will give 60% subsidy on the cost of the project. The farmer is
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required to take 5% cost, while 35% will be provided to him as an affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5-6%.

- The three-day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival celebrations on the bank of Indus River started in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - At the Indian International Film Awards (IIFA), late star Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for 'MOM' while Irrfan Khan was given the Best Actor Award for 'Hindi Medium'. Vidya Balan's 'Tumhari Sulu' was awarded the Best Film trophy.
 - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on 26 June. The theme for 2018 is: "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."
 - India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a Thomson Reuters Foundation survey of about 550 experts on women's issues.
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched the new Passport Seva App. Now, people can apply for a passport from any part of the country through the App. Sushma Swaraj has launched Mobile Passport Application on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas (26 June) in New Delhi.
 - The government has set up a committee under former Delhi Metro chief E Sreedharan to lay down standardisation norms for components with an aim to cut costs in the construction and operation of metro rail systems in the country and bring them under the Make in India umbrella.
 - Odisha government decided to raise the health cover from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.7 lakh under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana
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(BSKY) for women. Note: Professor Ganeshi Lal is the present Governor of Odisha.

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual exercise between navies of two neighbouring countries. Note: Indian Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.
 - Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal in six years at the Salt Lake World Cup, in the USA.
 - Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal clinched the gold medal in men's 50m breaststroke event at the Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore.
 - Maharashtra government has set up a committee to study issues related to the development of a 1,000-MW floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur district. The committee will be headed by the Director (Commercial) of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL), Satish Chavan. Ujani is among the largest dams in Maharashtra.
 - World's largest multilateral naval exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) began off Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean. The two-month long biennial exercise is likely to be attended by navies of 26 countries including India.
 - Senior bureaucrat S Ramesh has been appointed as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.
 - Sixteen-year-old Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary set a new world record on the way to winning a gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. Saurabh shot a total of 243.7 in the 10m air pistol event in the
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ongoing International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) tournament.

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application called 'ReUnite' which helps to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India.
 - The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) proposed a draft bill to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) and set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).
 - The government has decided to set up two more underground crude oil storages in Odisha and Karnataka to increase emergency stockpile cover by 12 days to 22 days. The Cabinet has approved setting up of 4 million tonne (MT) storage at Chandikhole in Odisha and 2.5 MT storage at Padur in Karnataka.
 - The National Statistics Day is observed across India on June 29 with an aim to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. The theme selected for the 2018 Statistics Day is 'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'. The objective of the celebration of this Day is to acknowledge the contribution of Prof. PC Mahalanobis and to pay homage to him.
 - On the second day of his visit to Israel, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani met Israel's Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Uri Ariel and announced a joint working group (JWG) between Gujarat and Israel in the fields of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.
 - The navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
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- The US State Department categorised North Korea as one of the “worst human trafficking nations” for the 16th straight year, citing the use of forced labour. The '2018 Trafficking in Persons Report' placed India in Tier 2 category for making significant effort to comply with the US standards. However, India does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
 - Forward Rani Rampal was named as the captain of India’s 18-member squad for the women’s hockey World Cup to be played in London in July 2018.
 - According to the Cost of Living Survey published by global personnel consultants Mercer, Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers Washington and Melbourne. Hong Kong is ranked as the world's costliest city to live in for expatriates.
 - The four first-year engineering students from Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai, Tamil Nadu have developed the world’s lightest satellite which will be launched from a NASA facility in the US by August 2018. The students built the 4cm ‘cube’ satellite ‘Jaihind-1S’ with a 3D printed outer casing from polylactic acid (PLA) nylon material, making it lighter than a medium sized egg, at just 33.39 grams.
 - NITI Aayog launched the first Delta ranking for the Aspirational Districts in the country. The ranking is based on self-reported data of districts between March 31 to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. According to ranking, Dahod district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points to rank first. West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points.
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- Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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