

## **June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Trump-Kim meet ends with promise**

U.S. President Donald Trump said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un pledged at a historic summit on 12<sup>th</sup> June to move towards complete denuclearisation, while the U.S. promised its old foe security guarantees.

The start of negotiations, aimed at banishing what Mr. Trump described as North Korea's "very substantial" nuclear arsenal, could have far-reaching ramifications for the region, and in one of the biggest surprises of the day, Mr. Trump said he would stop military exercises with old ally South Korea.

But Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim gave few other specifics in a joint statement signed at the end of their summit in Singapore, and several analysts cast doubt on how effective the agreement would prove to be in the long run at getting North Korea to give up its cherished nuclear weapons.

The two leaders had appeared cautious and serious when they arrived for the summit at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa, a resort island with luxury hotels, a casino and a Universal Studios theme park.

### **National:**

#### **10 'Swachh Iconic Places' added to phase 3 of Swachh Bharat Mission**

The government on 13<sup>th</sup> June added ten Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) under phase III of its flagship programme, Swachh Bharat Mission.

Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir), Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh), Ima Keithal/market (Imphal, Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand) have been taken up under Phase III of the flagship project of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission

These sites have joined the 20 iconic places selected under Phase I and II where special sanitation work is underway.

The iconic places included in Phase I of the project in 2016 include Ajmer Sharif Dargah, CST Mumbai, Golden Temple, Kamakhya Temple, Maikarnika Ghat, Meenakshi Temple, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shree Jagannath Temple, The Taj Mahal and Tirupati Temple. The Phase II launched in November, 2017 included Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple, Charminar, Convent and Church of St Francis of Assisi, Kalady, Gommateswara, Baidyanath Dham, Gaya Tirth and Somnath temple.

The SIP project envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being coordinated by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation with the support of state governments and local administration.

A consultation is in process for finalising the PSUs/corporates for extending support to the new sites as CSR partners, the statement said. Speaking at the launch of the third phase of the project in Mana village in Uttarakhand, Parameswaran Iyer, secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said under the scheme, the government would take up initiatives like improved sewage infrastructure, drainage facilities, installation of sewage treatment plant (STP), improved sanitation facilities and water vending machines (Water ATMs).

He added that solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) set-up, structure restoration, roads maintenance, lighting arrangements, beautification of parks, better transport facilities in approach and access areas will also be taken up at the main sites.

### **NITI Aayog to launch Composite Water Management Index**

NITI Aayog has come up with the Composite Water Management Index in view of limitations on availability of water resources and the rising demand for water.

The index is a useful tool to assess and improve performance in management of water resources. It is an attempt to inspire States and Union Territories towards efficient and optimal utilization of water followed by recycling. The index can provide useful information which can be utilized to formulate and implement strategies for better management of water resources.

Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari will release the Index in New Delhi

### **Bilateral:**

#### **Trump administration approves sale of six Apache attack choppers to India**

The Trump administration has approved a deal to sell six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India for USD 930 million, the Pentagon said on 13<sup>th</sup> June, underlining that this will strengthen India's ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.

In addition to the attack helicopters, the contract also includes fire control radars; Hellfire Longbow missiles; stinger Block I-92H missiles; night vision sensors and inertial navigation systems.

Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the Congress about the State department's decision in this regard. The sale is expected to pass through if no lawmaker opposes this. The lead contractors are US arms, aviations and engineering giants Lockheed Martin, General Electric and Raytheon.

US government-to-government sales to India in recent years have included C-17 transport aircraft, 155 mm Light-Weight Towed Howitzers, UGM-84L Harpoon missiles, Support for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) support equipment.

In addition to these foreign military sales (FMS) cases valued at USD 1.62 billion, India has purchased USD 2.82 billion in defence articles since 2013 via the Direct Commercial Sales process. These include aircraft, gas turbine engines, and electronics, among other categories of major defence articles.

India-US defence trade cooperation continues to expand, including through the US-India Defence Trade and Technology Initiative, a partnership begun in 2012 which seeks to create opportunities for US-India co-production and co-development, foster science and technology cooperation, and remove bureaucratic barriers to trade

### **Economy:**

#### **SEBI sets up panel to recommend ways to make stock market listing attractive for startups**

Market regulator SEBI has set up a panel to recommend the ways to make stock market listing attractive for startups. The panel has to submit the report within a period of one month. SEBI also said the group has been formed after discussions with various stakeholders.

Members of the group include representatives from the Indian Software Product Industry Round Table (iSPIRT), The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE), the Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA), law firms, merchant bankers, and stock exchanges.

This move will open a new way for finance if entrepreneurs find it difficult to obtain capital from traditional sources of finance such as banks and financial institutions

#### **Cabinet clears HDFC Bank's proposal to raise ₹24,000 crore via FDI**

The Union Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> June approved the proposal to grant HDFC Bank permission to raise additional capital of up to Rs 24,000 crore from foreign direct investment.

The decision would ensure that the composite foreign shareholding in the bank inclusive of all types of foreign investments, both direct and indirect, will not exceed 74% of the enhanced paid-up equity share capital of the bank

The government added that the proposed investment is expected to strengthen the capital adequacy ratio of the bank. In December, HDFC Bank's board approved a capital raising plan of Rs 24,000 crore through a mix of instruments including preferential allotment to its parent HDFC. HDFC plans to infuse Rs 8,500 crore in HDFC Bank.

### **Sports:**

#### **United States, Mexico and Canada win right to host 2026 World Cup**

The United States, Mexico and Canada won the right to host the 2026 World Cup after easily beating Morocco in a vote by FIFA member nations in Moscow on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The North American bid received 134 of the 203 votes, while Morocco polled 65 in the ballot at a FIFA Congress held in Moscow on the eve of the 2018 World Cup.

Football's showpiece event will return to the North American continent for the first time since 1994 when the United States hosted the tournament.

**Awards:**

**Bindeshwar Pathak:** Noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International, Bindeshwar Pathak, was honoured with Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize. The award was given under Culture and Community category for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.

Launched in 1996, the award honours people in Asia who have made significant contributions in one of the three areas of regional growth; science, technology & innovation and culture & community. The awards were created and presented by Nikkei Inc, one of the largest media corporations in Japan.