

**June 16<sup>th</sup> news:**

**National:**

**India among over 90 nations without paid paternity leave for new dads: UNICEF**

India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, according to a new UNICEF analysis. Almost two-thirds of the world's children under one year old, nearly 90 million, live in countries where their fathers are not entitled by law to a single day of paid paternity leave

India and Nigeria, which have high infant populations, are among the 92 countries do not have national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies.

The UN agency noted that around the world, momentum for family-friendly policies was growing. It cited the example of India, where officials are proposing a Paternity Benefit Bill for consideration in the next session of Parliament which would allow fathers up to three months of paid paternity leave.

UNICEF urged governments to implement national family-friendly policies that support early childhood development, including paid paternity leave, to help provide parents with the time, resources and information they need to care for their children.

**Economy:**

**India's exports hit 6-month high; trade deficit widens as imports up 14.85%**

A rise in receipts of petroleum, engineering and pharmaceutical products boosted May's export growth figures to a six-month high of 20.18 per cent, up from 5.71 per cent in April.

Even then the trade deficit widened to a four-month high of \$14.62 billion, compared to the \$13.7 billion deficit in April as imports rose by 14.85 per cent during the month, compared to the 4.60 per cent rise in April.

This could pressurise the current account deficit in the first quarter of the current financial year after it stood at 1.9 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter of 2017-18, compared to 2.1 per cent in the third quarter.

However, within exports, major labour-intensive sectors, such as gems and jewellery and ready-made garments, continued to see declines, which might affect jobs.

The export growth rate had peaked at over 30 per cent in November last year. Since then, the rate has fallen continuously until March. However, growth in outbound trade strengthened in May, with India exporting goods worth \$28.86 billion.

After major refining units remained shut for over two months, India finally managed to take advantage of rising global crude oil prices in May when petroleum exports rose by over 104 per cent to \$5.23 billion. It had declined by 4.48 per cent in April

The same rising oil prices led to a much higher import bill of \$43.48 billion in May. A major part of this was due to the \$11.5 billion crude oil import bill, which jumped nearly 50 per cent, up from the 41 per cent rise in April.

The cost of overall oil imports is expected to grow in coming months. Experts predict that India's oil bill will continue to rise in the current financial year as external pressures, such as the fallout of the Iran deal and a possible cut in production by oil producers, might heat up prices.

### **Govt approves financial assistance amounting to Rs 5.5 lakh to WPRs**

Government has approved financial assistance amounting to 5(point)5 lakh rupees per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs).

5,764 families of West Pakistan Refugees settled in Jammu and Kashmir will benefit from the decision. The scheme came into effect from 13th of this month.

In his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Home Minister Rajnath Singh had announced this financial assistance to WPRs.

### **Persons in news:**

**Kalyan Singh:** Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh has discontinued the tradition of giving ceremonial Guard of Honour to the Governor. He is the first Governor of the country who made big changes regarding this type of arrangements.

The practice was discontinued during governor's recent visit to Jodhpur when he did not accept the guard of honour.

The Governor wrote a letter to government and asked if the tradition of guard of honour can be discontinued.

After receiving the government reply, governor has discontinued this tradition. As per the protocol, guard of honour is accorded during governor's arrival and departure from Raj Bhawan, and during the arrival to and departure from different districts.