

June 1st news:

International:

Pakistan must not be admitted to NSG: US nuke watchdog

A US-based international nuclear proliferation watchdog on 31st May said, Pakistan's application to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) should not be granted.

In its report, the Institute for Science and International Security said, Pakistan's application should not be granted the present time as it appears committed to building one or two large uranium enrichment plants in its Kahuta nuclear power plant site.

After a detailed analysis of the latest satellite images obtained by it, the institute said, there are also other reasons to refuse its membership including Pakistan's ongoing illicit nuclear procurements abroad and its refusal to even minimally split its military and civil nuclear programs.

The watchdog said, while much of the world's attention has been directed to the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea, Pakistan has greatly expanded its nuclear complex dedicated to producing nuclear weapons.

It said, other members of the NSG should tell China that the supply of goods to Pakistan's enrichment programme would violate China's NSG commitments.

Denmark Bans Islamic Full-Face Veil In Public Spaces

The Danish parliament passed a law banning the Islamic full-face veil in public spaces, becoming the most recent European country to do so.

the government says that it is not aimed at any religions and does not ban headscarves, turbans or the traditional Jewish skull cap.

The new law says: "Anyone who wears a garment that hides the face in public will be punished with a fine." And it was passed after 75 votes against 30.

The law allows people to cover their face when there is a 'recognisable purpose' like cold weather or complying with other legal requirements, such as using motorcycle helmets under Danish traffic rules.

Economy

India, World Bank sign \$500 mn additional financing for PMGSY Rural Roads Project

India and World Bank on 31st May signed a 500 million Dollar loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.

The project was implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.

The World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception in 2004. So far, it has invested over 1.8 billion dollars in loans and credits mostly in the economically weaker and hill states across North India - Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. It has built and improved about 35,000 km of rural roads and benefited about eight million people with access to all-weather roads.

Economy:

Modi launches international Rupay Card, Bhim app

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched international Rupay Card, Bhim app and Unified Payment Interface for international remittance in Singapore on 31st May. As part of Digital India Initiative, these financial remittances are for Indian diaspora in Singapore.

Indian economy grows 7.7 pc in fourth quarter

Indian economy grew 7.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2017-18. The GDP had expanded 5.6 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 7 per cent, in the first three quarters of 2017-18.

According to the data released by Central Statistics Office 31st May, robust performance in manufacturing, construction and service sectors as well as good farm output contributed to the overall growth. However, the economic growth slowed to 6.7 per cent in 2017-18 compared to 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.

The previous high GDP growth of 8.1 per cent was recorded in first quarter of 2016-17. The GDP growth was 6.1 per cent in fourth quarter in 2016-17. Meanwhile, the government said, it is keeping its forecast of GDP growth of 7.5 per cent for fiscal year 2018-19 unchanged.

K J Alphons launches Govt guidelines on adventure tourism in India

Tourism Minister K. J. Alphons launched the Government guidelines on adventure tourism in India. These guidelines on safety and quality norms have been formulated along with the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India in an effort to make adventure sports safer.

Releasing the guidelines in New Delhi on 31st May, Mr Alphons said, India has immense potential for adventure tourism ranging from the Himalayas to the coastal regions.

He said, these guidelines are a beginning to building adventure tourism in India. The Minister also said that for India to be a well sought after destination, the facilities and support staff should be developed to global standards.

The aim of this initiative is to help adventure tour operators understand and execute safety guidelines in a better manner. These guidelines cover land, air and water based activities which include mountaineering, trekking, bungee jumping, paragliding, kayaking, scuba diving, river rafting and many other sports.

The guidelines codify the standard operating procedures and instructions for risk mitigation and emergencies as well as provide for details like safety precautions, training required and insurance.