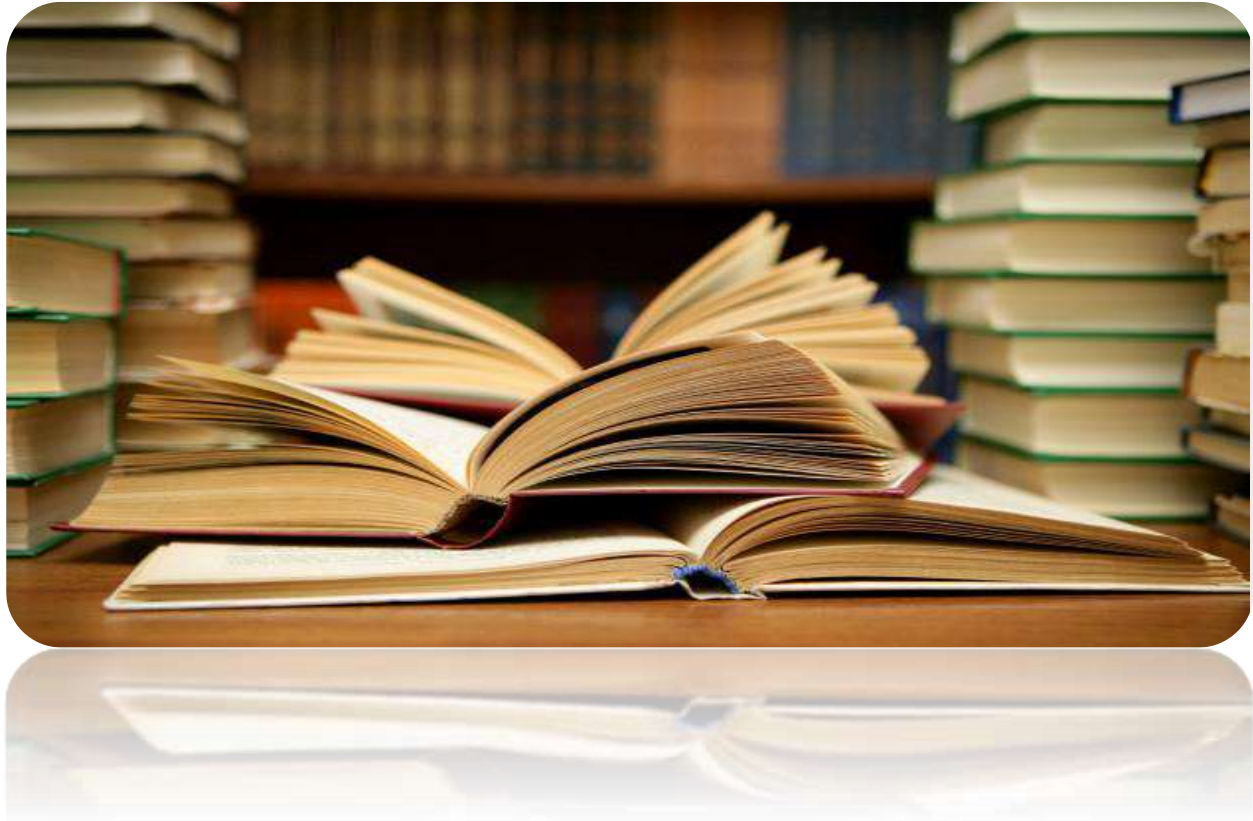


## LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE, NOIDA

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



# JUNE – 2020

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## *Indian-Chinese Armies reach consensus to disengage*

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Senior military commanders from India and China arrived at a “mutual consensus to disengage” their forces standing head-to-head in Ladakh, after talks that went late into the night on Monday, a person familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. The consensus came amid signs that New Delhi has remained firm in its demand that Chinese forces back off from an intrusion that is potentially far more serious than the Galwan Valley encroachments that led to violent clashes on 15 June. These encroachments are along Pangong Tso. Indian Army chief Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane arrived in Leh on Tuesday, and visited soldiers involved in the face-off.

## *ISRO receives Patent for Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment*

The ISRO said that the garment is a close fitting long garment, covering the torso and limbs from neck to toe as a single piece lightweight comfort inner wear over which the flight suit has to be worn. In yet another step towards sending the first Indian into space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG) made of biocompatible fabrics and components to provide a comfortable temperature and removal of sweat for astronauts, for use in space for protection from hot and cold environments.

## *YUKTI 2.0 launched*

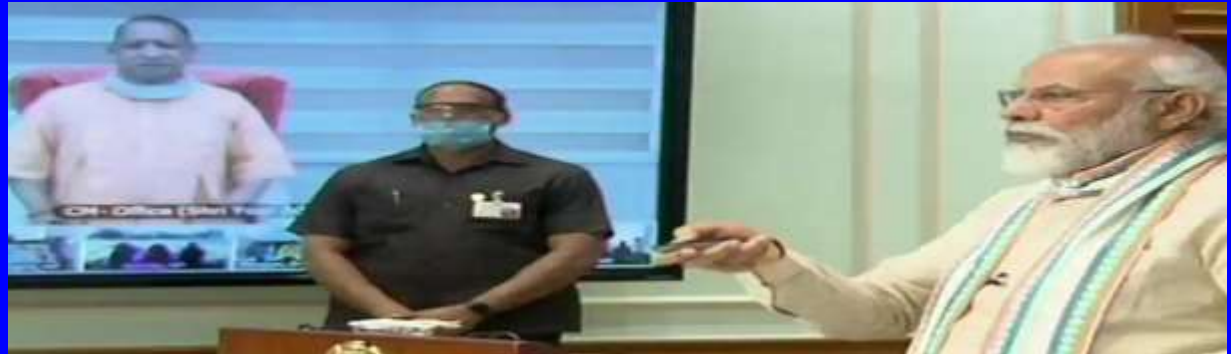
Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, on Tuesday launched an initiative ‘YUKTI 2.0’ to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in our higher education institutions. Minister of State for HRD, Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Additional Secretary (Higher Education), Rakesh Ranjan, Chairman, AICTE Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Member Secretary, AICTE, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Chief Innovation Officer, MHRD’s Innovation Cell Dr. Abhay Jere were also present during the occasion through online medium.

## *Kushinagar Airport declared International Airport*

The Union Cabinet on June 24 approved the declaration of the airport in Uttar Pradesh’s Kushinagar as an international airport, stating it will offer improved connectivity to the important Buddhist pilgrimage site. “You know that Kushinagar is the mid-point of the Buddhist circuit. It has pilgrimage sites in Lumbini, Shravasti, Kapilvastu nearby it. A little farther, it has sites in Sarnath and Gaya,” Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar told the media after a Cabinet meeting.

### ***Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan launched***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan, a campaign to provide employment to 1.25 crore migrant workers and others in Uttar Pradesh, who lost their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.



### ***NITI Aayog launches campaign "Navigating the New Normal"***

NITI Aayog on Thursday launched behaviour change campaign 'Navigating the New Normal' and its website to help people follow norms to contain the spread of Covid-19. Focusing on Covid-safe behaviour, especially wearing masks, during the 'Unlock' phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, the campaign has been developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, chaired by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.



### ***Indian Oil Corporation launches battery swapping facility for EVs***

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Sun Mobility on Friday announced the launch of a battery swapping facility for electric vehicles (EVs) at IOC petrol pumps, offering to replace discharged batteries with fully charged ones in a procedure that would take only a few minutes. IOC will begin with a pilot of battery swapping at one of its outlets in Chandigarh and gradually scale it up to 20 stations, company chairman Sanjiv Singh announced at the launch. "While users may be receptive to switching to EV, they may not want to struggle through the cumbersome recharging process.

### ***Gol introduces Floating Rate Savings Bonds***

The Government has announced the launch of seven-year Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable) scheme commencing from July 1. The coupon on January 1, 2021 will be paid at 7.15 per cent. This move comes a month after the Government pulled the plug on 7.75 per cent Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 with effect from the close of banking business on Thursday, May 28, 2020. As per a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notification, Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSBs) will enable person resident in India/Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond.

### ***“Dexamethasone” added to COVID-19 treatment protocol***

NEW DELHI: Dexamethasone, an inexpensive and widely used steroid, was included in the treatment protocol for Covid-19 patients in moderate to severe stages of illness by the Union health ministry on Saturday. The updated 'Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19' advises the use of dexamethasone, which is already used in a wide range of conditions for its anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant effects, as an alternative choice to methylprednisolone for managing moderate to severe cases of Covid-19.

### ***STARS Project: World Bank approves 500 million USD for education***

NEW DELHI: The World Bank on Sunday said its board of executives has approved a new project worth \$500 million to improve learning outcome and governance of government schools in six Indian states. The project, named STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program), will be implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship central scheme, in partnership with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

### ***PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme launched***

Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme on 29th June 2020 as a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". Union Minister said that the Scheme would generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure and formalization.

### ***What is Project Platina?***

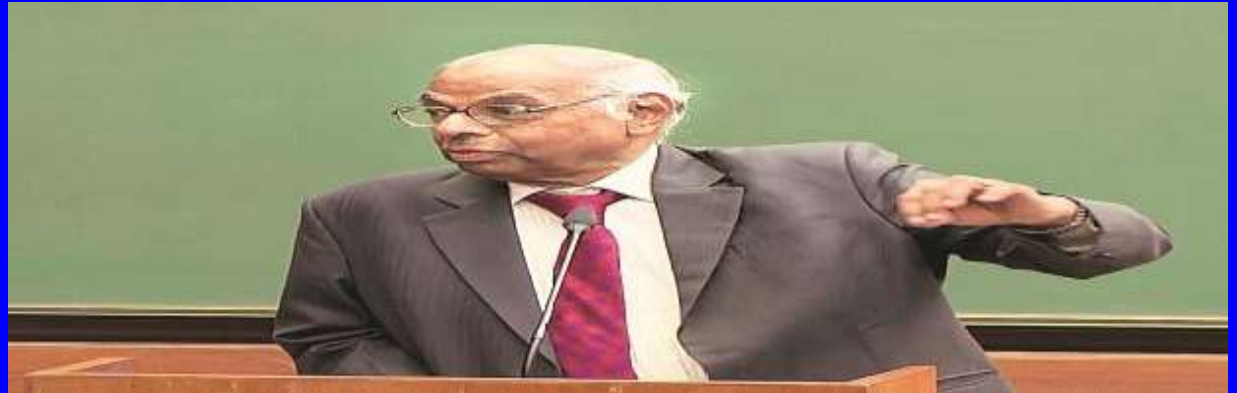
MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government on Monday launched Project Platina, the world's largest convalescent plasma therapy trial-cum-project for treatment of patients with severe covid-19 infection, as active cases continue to rise in the state. Convalescent plasma therapy is emerging as one of the most prominent methods in treatment of patients in the absence of definite treatment or drugs for the same. The trial and treatment of plasma therapy.

### ***First Plasma Bank of India to be set up in Delhi***

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday inaugurated the national capital's first plasma bank at state-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) for treatment of Covid-19 patients. Kejriwal said Covid-19 patients can donate their plasma 14 days after recovery. He expressed hope that plasma therapy will help in reducing Covid-19 casualties. "The plasma bank has begun operations at Delhi govt's ILBS Hospital and will provide plasma to Delhi's Covid hospitals," the CM tweeted. He said those aged between 18 and 60 and weighing not less than 50 kg can donate their plasma for COVID-19 patients, according to PTI.

### ***Lifetime Achievement Award to Ex-RBI Governor Rangarajan***

Former Reserve Bank of India governor C Rangarajan was on Monday conferred with the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to statistics on the occasion of Statistics Day.



### ***Gol lifts ban on PPE exports; monthly quota set as 5 million units***

The Government has decided to lift the ban on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) medical coveralls with a monthly quota of 5 million units. According to the Ministry of Commerce notification, a firm applying for permission to export should be a manufacturer of PPE coveralls (Certification of registration from concerned Department/ Authority to be supplied). Welcoming the Government's decision, Apparel makers have said this would open the entire global market for Indian players.

### ***Nitin Menon of India: Youngest Umpire to enter ICC Elite Panel***

Nitin Menon has become the third Indian umpire to be included in the ICC's Elite Panel of umpires, with cricket's governing body announcing his elevation to the top tier on Monday. Ever since officiating in his maiden First Class match as a 28-year-old in 2011-12, Nitin has emerged as one of the most consistent umpires in Indian cricket. This is reflected in the fact that he already has featured in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is in men's cricket. The 36-year-old from Indore has also stood in 10 women's T20Is.

### ***Gol bans 59 mobile applications***

The Government of India has banned 59 Chinese mobile applications, including top social media platforms such as TikTok, WeChat and Helo, to counter the threat posed by these applications to the country's "sovereignty and security". ShareIT, UC browser and shopping app Clubfactory are among the other prominent apps that have been blocked amid rising tensions between India and China following clashes at the border two weeks ago.

### ***K K Venugopal appointed as Attorney General of India***

K K Venugopal was on Monday reappointed as the Attorney General for India for one year. His present three-year term ends on Tuesday. "The President is pleased to re-appoint Shri K K Venugopal, Senior Advocate as Attorney General for India for a period of one year we.f.July 1, 2020," a notification said. Senior government officials had earlier said that the Centre had written to Venugopal, 89, about its plan to give him a fresh tenure. In his reply, the top law officer said due to his advanced age, he would prefer to have a one-year fresh stint.

### ***Centre to establish 1000 KICs at district level across India***

After deciding to set up Khelo India State Centres of Excellence, the Sports Ministry has now planned to extend its support to grassroots sports by establishing 1000 district-level Khelo India Centres (KIC) that would be helmed by former sportspersons, starting with 100 in the current financial year. These centres would either be run by a past champion on their own or co-opt them as coaches, ensuring a livelihood for former sportspersons and including them in India's sporting development.

### ***Clinical trial begins of plant based drug for Covid-19***

India's largest drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said on Friday that it has commenced phase II clinical trials on AQCH, a plant-derived drug that was originally developed for dengue, to see if it can potentially treat Covid-19. The trial will be conducted across 12 centres in India on 210 patients. This is also the first phytopharmaceutical drug (plant based) that the country's drug regulator has approved for clinical trials for Covid-19. The company said that the results of the trial are expected by October this year.

### ***Adani Green Energy bags world's largest solar bid***

MUMBAI: Adani Green Energy Ltd has bagged a manufacturing-linked solar contract from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of projects. The transaction is valued at ₹45,000 crore, or \$6 billion, according to a stock exchange filing. As part of the order, Adani Solar will establish 2 GW of additional solar cell and module manufacturing capacity. With this win, Adani Green will have 15 GW capacity under operation, construction or under contract.

### ***TPG and L Catterton to buy stakes in JIO***

Global alternative assets firm TPG has agreed to invest ₹4,546.80 crore in Jio Platforms Limited for a 0.93% equity stake in the company at an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore. L Catterton, one of the world's largest consumer focused private equity firms has agreed to invest ₹1,894.50 crore in Mukesh Ambani-led Jio Platforms Limited to buy 0.39% equity stake. With these investments, Jio Platforms has raised ₹1,04,326.95 crore from leading global investors, including Facebook, Silver Lake.

### ***UP top state in country to provide employment under MGNREGA***

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday said that it has engaged 57.13 lakh workers under the MGNREGS, thereby emerging as the top state in the country to give employment under the rural employment guarantee scheme. Briefing mediapersons here, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said that Uttar Pradesh now accounts for 18 per cent of the total workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country and has generated 7.93 crore man-days.

### ***Harsh Vardhan launches mobile lab for COVID-19 testing***

NEW DELHI: Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday launched a mobile laboratory for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in rural areas and help in promoting last-mile testing. The mobile lab, also called I-Lab or Infectious Diseases Diagnostics Lab, can run 50 RT-PCR and about 200 ELISA tests in a day. A double set of machines can help increase the capacity to about 500 tests per day in 8 hours shift, Vardhan said.

### ***Ramgarh Lake becomes UP's first notified wetland***

GORAKHPUR: The Ramgarh Lake in Gorakhpur spread over 737 hectare will be the first notified wetland in the state under Wetland Management Rules, 2017. Gorakhpur divisional forest officer (DFO) Avinash Kumar told TOI on Thursday, "The notification was issued on June 15 and anyone having objection can raise it with principal secretary environment and forests, UP, if any till June 30."

### ***Karnataka becomes first state to map population vulnerable to COVID-19***

Karnataka has become the first state to map its population that is most vulnerable to Covid-19, including the aged and those with comorbidities. These groups are currently being tracked on a daily basis with a view to prevent the onset of a severe Covid-19 infection. Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the state's strategy on Wednesday during a meeting of all CMs to assess the pandemic situation

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## ***WHO: world is in new and dangerous phase of COVID-19 pandemic***

The World Health Organization on Friday warned that world is going through a “new and dangerous phase” of the coronavirus pandemic with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease’s accelerating spread. The warning came as it emerged the virus was present in Italy in December, months before its first confirmed cases and about the same time as the disease was first reported in China. The deadly disease has now killed more than 454,000 people and infected 8.4 million people worldwide, is surging in the Americas and parts of Asia even as Europe starts to ease restrictive measures.

## ***UK abandons application similar to Aarogya Setu app***

The United Kingdom decided to abandon its centralised Covid-19 contact-tracing mobile application, officials announced late on Thursday, saying that they will instead adopt a system developed by Apple and Google that experts say comes with stricter privacy safeguards. The abandoned app had a centralised architecture: contact data was meant to be transmitted to be processed by a back-end team, and included a self-reporting feature similar to India’s Aarogya Setu. These features were in contrast to the decentralised architecture used by several other nations, as well as the tool developed by Google and Apple.

## ***Brazil’s COVID-19 cases crosses 1 million mark***

Sao Paulo/Brasília: Brazil’s coronavirus outbreak reached the mark of 1 million infections as the disease shows no clear signs of slowing in Latin America’s largest nation months after the first cases were recorded. The country registered a record 54,771 cases on Friday, bringing the total to 1,032,913. The data compiled by Brazilian states also showed 1,206 fatalities, pushing the toll to 48,954. In both counts, Brazil trails only the U.S. globally.

## ***Facebook removes Trump, Pence campaign ads featuring Nazi symbol***

Facebook on Thursday removed a campaign ad by United States President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence that featured an upside-down red triangle, a symbol once used by Nazis to designate political prisoners. The ad which was focused on Trump’s crackdown on far-left group ANTIFA featured a red upside-down triangle with the post. The symbol has been used by the Nazis to designate political prisoners, communists and others in concentration camps, Associated Press reported.



### ***Trump signs bill focusing on human rights crisis in Xinjiang***

US President Donald Trump has signed into law a legislation that condemns the gross human rights violations of Uyghur minority groups in China's restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang region, paving the way for imposing sanctions against senior Chinese officials. The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, 2020 holds accountable the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses such as the systematic use of indoctrination camps, forced labour and intrusive surveillance to eradicate the ethnic identity and religious beliefs of Uyghurs.

### ***China sets up "National Security Agency" in Hong Kong***

China will set up a "national security agency" in Hong Kong to oversee a new law aimed at cracking down on dissent in the city, state media said on Saturday, as Beijing acts to quell protests in the semi-autonomous territory. The details of the new national security legislation were unveiled on Saturday, paving the way for the most profound change to the city's way of life since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997. The new law also would override any existing Hong Kong laws that may conflict with it once it is implemented, Xinhua news agency said.

### ***World's First Yoga University outside India***

NEW YORK: As part of the 6th International Yoga Day commemorations, the world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, offering programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approaches to the ancient Indian practice of yoga. The Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) was jointly launched on Tuesday by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs P P Chaudhary during a virtual event held at the Consulate General of India in New York.

### ***First Hindu Temple in Islamabad***

Pakistan has started the construction process of a ₹10 crore Hindu temple -- the first in Islamabad. The Krishna temple will come up in a 20,000 sq ft plot at the capital's H-9 area. The groundbreaking ceremony for the temple was performed by Parliamentary Secretary on Human Rights Lal Chand Malhi on Tuesday.



### ***Fugaku: World Fastest Supercomputer***

Japan's Fugaku supercomputer claimed the top spot on Monday, carrying out 2.8 times more calculations per second than an IBM machine in the US. The US machine, called Summit, came top of the bi-annual Top500 list the previous four times. Fugaku's victory broke a long run of US-China dominance, returning Japan to the top for the first time in 11 years.



### ***Australia New Zealand to jointly host FIFA Women World Cup 2023***

Australia and New Zealand will co-host the Women's World Cup in 2023, with the following edition possibly set to take place just two years later. The joint bid beat Colombia 22-13 in a vote Thursday by FIFA's ruling council, which judged them as having the best commercial prospects for women's soccer.



### ***Swiss Money: India moves down to 77th rank***

India has moved up to 73rd place in terms of money parked by its citizens and companies with Swiss banks, while the UK remains on the top. India had slipped to 88th place with a 44 per cent plunge in such funds during 2016, but the latest data from the Swiss National Bank (SNB) shows an increase of over 50 per cent during 2017 to CHF 1.01 billion (about Rs 7,000 crore). Pakistan is now placed one place higher than India at 72nd position, down one slot, after 21 per cent dips in funds from that country in Swiss banks during 2017.

### ***China imposes Visa restrictions on US individuals over Hong Kong***

Beijing said on Monday it will impose visa restrictions on U.S. individuals with “egregious conduct” on Hong Kong-related issues, mirroring U.S. sanctions against unnamed Chinese officials deemed responsible for curbing freedoms in the city. The announcement comes as the top decision-making body of China's parliament deliberates a draft national security law for Hong Kong that pro-democracy activists in the city fear will be used to eliminate dissent and tighten Beijing's control.

### ***US Supreme Court rules against Trump's bid to end DACA***

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the Trump administration's attempt to dismantle the program protecting undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, a reprieve for nearly 650,000 recipients known as “dreamers.” The 5-to-4 decision, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., stunned President Trump, who said in a tweet that it and a ruling earlier this week that federal law protects LGBTQ workers were “shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives.”

### ***Beijing offers tariff waiver for Dhaka amid border tensions with India***

In a significant show of economic diplomacy in South Asia, China has announced tariff exemption for 97% of exports from Bangladesh. And diplomatic sources of Bangladesh have described the Chinese move as a “major success” in Dhaka-Beijing relationship.



### ***What does US President want to expand G7 to G11?***

US President Donald Trump is keen to expand G7 to include India, Russia, South Korea and Australia. He has invited PM Narendra Modi to attend the G7 meeting in the US later this year. Mint explores the reasons behind Trump's moves and whether India should play ball. What prompted US to call for an expansion? The G7, formed in 1975-76, comprises the US, Canada, the UK, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy.

### ***Tamil Nadu girl appointed UNADAP Goodwill Ambassador***

Nethra, 13, daughter of a salon owner in Tamil Nadu's Madurai, after she was appointed "Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor" for the United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP).



### ***Michael Jordan pledges \$100 million to promote racial equality***

Basketball legend Michael Jordan and the Nike-owned Jordan Brand have announced that they will be donating \$100 million to organisations dedicated to promote racial equality and social justice. In a joint statement on social media, Jordan and the Jordan Brand said on Friday that the money will be paid over 10 years with the goal of "ensuring racial equality, social justice and greater access to education."

### ***Nepal upgrades border outposts near Kalapani***

Nepal has upgraded its border outpost at Changru near Kalapani and converted it into a permanent one manned by armed police personnel, an official said here on Thursday. Earlier, Changru border outpost, manned by baton wielding policemen, used to be closed during winters from November to March every year. Changru is located in Darchula district of Nepal. The upgraded border post was inspected by Nepalese Army chief Purna Chandra Thapa on Wednesday, Dharchula SDM AK Shukla told PTI on Thursday.

### ***Two Indian firms among WEF's list of Tech Pioneers***

Two Indian firms - ZestMoney and Stellapps - figure in a new list of Tech Pioneers released on Tuesday by the World Economic Forum (WEF) which described these 100 entities as future headline-makers addressing global issues with cutting-edge technology. From artificial intelligence (AI) to carbon capture, these companies are using innovations to protect the climate, improve healthcare and much more, helping us to reset society and build towards a better future, the WEF said.

## *India elected as non-permanent member of UNSC*

UNITED NATIONS: India was elected as non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council for a two-year term on Wednesday winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held Wednesday. There were 192 Member States present for voting and the 2/3 required majority was 128. India garnered 184 votes. Canada lost the elections. "Member States elect India to the non-permanent seat of the Security Council for the term 2021-22 with overwhelming support.



**Thank  
You!!!**