

JUNE CURRENT AFFAIRS – 2019

ENGLISH VERSION



KHARGA PRAHAR: INDIAN ARMY, AIR FORCE JOINT EXERCISE HELD IN PUNJAB

**CHILDREN SHOULDN'T
WORK IN FIELDS,
BUT ON DREAMS!**

**WORLD DAY
AGAINST
CHILD LABOUR**
12 JUNE 2019



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will observe 2019 Financial Literacy Week across the country from 3rd to 7th of June. The theme this year is – “Farmers and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system”.

Former ISRO chief Dr. K Kasturirangan led Committee has recently submitted the draft National Educational Policy to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.

Imran Tahir, the leg-spinner of South Africa, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever spinner to bowl the first over in a World Cup during the opening match of the 2019 World Cup against England at the Oval.

The Punjab government has decided to make it mandatory for all online aggregators to ensure that food supplied by them have hygiene rating as per the guidelines of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

On the occasion of 2019 World No Tobacco Day on May 31, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has banned production, distribution, advertisement and sale of Electronic-cigarette in the state.

The Medical & Health Department of Rajasthan government has won the prestigious 2019 World Health Organization (WHO) award in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.

Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft. She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal. Lt. Mohana’s training involved flying both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions.

Puerto Williams is the main settlement, port and naval base on Navarino Island in Chile. It faces the Beagle Channel. Recently, Puerto Williams has become the world’s southernmost city after the Chilean authorities upgraded its status from hamlet to city.

Chandrani Murmu (25) has created history by becoming the youngest Member of Parliament (MP), after elected to the 17th Lok Sabha from Keonjhar (Odisha) in the 2019 Indian general election as a member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

The 10th edition of National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) is scheduled to be held in Agartala, Tripura on January and February 2020. The aim of the fest is to raise awareness about science and environment through films. This the second time the show will be held in a North Eastern city.

Scott Morrison has been sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Australia, after retaining the position in the 2019 general election.

Mumbai-based freelance writer, Annie Zaidi has been announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize for her essay 'Bread, Cement, Cactus' Her essay is the combination of memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India, where migration – within the country, especially from villages to cities – is high.

Gian Chand (93), the veteran freedom fighter, has passed away at his native village in Ramgarh of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh on May 27, 2019. Born on 26th October 1926, Chand was a member of Azad Hind Fauj led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (AMC) has launched its WhatsApp transaction platform for new as well as existing investors. It is the first of its kind initiative by any fund house in India to do mutual fund transactions through the popular cross-platform messaging app.

Ivo Karlovic (40) of Croatia has become the oldest man to win a match at the French Open since 1973, after he defeated the 37-year-old Feliciano Lopez of Spain in a first-round duel of the 2019 French Open Tennis Tournament at Roland Garros.

The Telangana government has decided to set up the India's first 'Blockchain district' in Hyderabad to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.

Conrad K Sangma, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, has launched Rs 18-crore Aroma Mission at Byrwa in Ri-Bhoi district with an aim to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state. The move will boost the cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs).

India has invited the leaders of the BIMSTEC Member States for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 30, 2019.

Ajit Doval, a 1968-batch IPS officer & a former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief, has been reappointed as the National Security Adviser (NSA) for a five-year tenure. He has also been given a cabinet rank in recognition of his contribution in the national security domain. This is for the first time that an NSA has been given a cabinet rank.

In Football, Liverpool FC won the Champions League for the sixth time at Madrid on June 1, 2019. In the final, Liverpool beat Tottenham Hotspur with a 2-nil after game defining moments at the start and end of the game.

Ruma Guha Thakurta (84), the veteran Bengali actress & singer, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. She was best known for her roles in Satyajit Ray-directed films such as Ganashatru (1989) and Abhijan (1962). Ruma founded the Calcutta Youth Choir, a song and dance troupe, in 1958.

Indian-origin Anita Bhatia has been the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has recently ruled that all animals are legal persons entitled to legal rights like human beings in Haryana. The verdict comes nearly a year after Uttarakhand High Court passed a similar order to protect and promote greater welfare of animals.

The researchers at the University of Warwick in the UK have discovered a rogue exoplanet - NGTS-4b - with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert.

Namrata Menon, the Panaji-based Yoga instructor and fitness expert, has been appointed as the Goa's brand ambassador to promote the ancient system of physical and mental practices in the coastal state.

On 1st June 2019, Ex-President Pratibha Patil has been conferred the “Orden Mexicana Del Aguila Azteca” (Order of the Aztec Eagle) in the MCCIA Bhavan, Pune.

The Government of India has formed a new 'Jal Shakti' Ministry by merging the ministries of Water Resources and Drinking Water and Sanitation with Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at its helm.

In a strong reaction, the Government of India has recently rejected the reference of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in its final communique at the 14th Islamic summit in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on May 31.

Conservative businessman Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the new President of El Salvador. His presidency breaks three decades of bipartisanship between the conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and the outgoing Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The Rajasthan government has recently increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the ‘AapkiBeti’ scheme and ex-gratia payment to the families of polling personnel who die during election duty.

In Madhya Pradesh, the state Cabinet has passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from existing 14% to 27%. The matter will now be taken up in the monsoon session of the state Assembly.

Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra (71), the celebrated chef and culinary revivalist has passed away on June 4 in New Delhi. He earned epithets like ‘Czar of Indian Cuisine’ and ‘Taste Maker to the Nation’, and was popularly known as Jiggs Kalra. Kalra was the first Asian to be inducted in the International Food and Beverage Gourmet Hall of Fame.

Enoplotrupes tawangensis is a new species of dung beetle that has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The species is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm, is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.

In Bangkok , the 2019 edition of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) was attended by senior officials of India, US, Japan and Australia to hold consultations on their collective efforts for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and to reaffirm their shared commitment to preserving and promoting the rules-based order in the region. The four countries underscored their intent to continue regular consultations on Indo-Pacific engagement and initiatives together and with other interested countries and institutions.

The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) has jointly carried out a week-long special training exercise “Kharga Prahar-2019” in the plains of Punjab. The exercise, which began on May 27, was undertaken by various units and formations of Army’s Kharga Corps.

Sheela, the veteran Malayalam actress-director, has been chosen for the prestigious J C Daniel Award for her contributions to the film world. She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnamma in 2005.

Dinyar Contractor (79), the veteran actor and theatre legend, has passed away in Mumbai on June 5. He was best known for his comic roles in films and was awarded a Padma Shri in 2019.

In United States, Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq President Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019 by business advocacy group USIBC in recognition of the two companies’ contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms.

The Indian junior women’s hockey team clinched the 2019 Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland 1-0 in the final at Dublin, Ireland on June 4. With 3 goals in 4 games, Mumtaz Khan finished as the highest goal scorer of the tournament.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Nigeria's Ambassador to UN, has been elected as President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). In accordance with the rules, the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly should be elected from among the African States. Muhammad-Bande was elected by acclamation and he will succeed Ecuador's Maria Fernanda Espinosa in September 2019.

Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, the renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist, has been appointed as the chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD). Popularly known as the 'Cyclone man of India', he will take charge of his new assignment on August 1 for a period of five years.

The book 'Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge' has been authored by veteran broadcaster and writer Ashis Ray. It is a book on the history of the tournament from an Indian perspective that has been formally unveiled by the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Tom Harrison.

The 2nd edition of Global Disability Summit will be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 6-8 June 2019. The Indian delegation will be headed by Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

India has been ranked 95th out of a total 129 countries in the first-ever SDG Gender Index, which measures strides made in achieving gender commitments against internationally set targets.

Laldingliana Sailo (76), the former Doordarshan and All India Radio news editor, has passed away in Aizawl. Sailo, a senior officer in the Indian Information Service, was inducted as Field Publicity Officer under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the year 1972.

Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel was sworn in as new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. Lt Governor Anil Bajjal administered the oath of office to Justice Patel at a function held at Raj Niwas.

India has notified a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Marshall Islands, which enables a bilateral sharing of banking & ownership information and allows officials of one country to undertake tax examinations in the other.

The Delhi Metro has become the India's first-ever project to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant. According to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the project is also in line with Prime Minister Modi's "Swachh Bharat Mission".

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will chair the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and be part of the all-important panel on political affairs headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Tom Tom Traffic Index 2018, carried out by location technology specialist Tom Tom, covered 403 cities in 56 countries and defined congestion as the extra time added to road travel when traffic doesn't flow freely.

American author Tayari Jones has won the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel "An American Marriage". The book portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently reconstituted the federal policy think-tank National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog by introducing key Cabinet ministers as members as ex-officio members.

The Sinai Peninsula is a peninsula in Egypt, and the only part of the country located in Asia. It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south, and is a land bridge between Asia and Africa.

On June 6, the 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75% from 6.0% with immediate effect in its 2nd bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20.

In Russia, the first tourist train service traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from St. Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey on June 5.

In Nagaland, the scenic Dzukou Valley has been officially declared Plastic Free Zone on the occasion of 2019 World Environment Day. The declaration was made officially by Advisor of Youth Resources and Sports, Zale Neikha.

Sunil Chhetri has become the India's highest capped footballer by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.

Facebook has launched its first interactive game show titled "Confetti" in India, which will start from June 12 on its dedicated video platform - Facebook Watch.

The US aircraft maker Boeing co and national airports body Airports Authority of India (AAI) have signed a technical assistance agreement for developing a comprehensive roadmap for modernisation of air traffic services in the country.

Indian-American Congress woman, Pramila Jayapal has become the first South Asian American woman to preside over the US House of Representatives. She is a Democrat from Washington DC. A record number of 17 Asian Americans serve in Congress, with 14 in the House and three in the Senate.

Indian tennis player Sidharth Rawat defeated Rio Noguchi of Japan to win his first title in the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament on June 2, 2019. With the ATP points being restored for events of this level, he will be able to improve his current rank of 510. He had a career-best rank of 430.

China has successfully launched a space rocket from sea for the first time and became the third nation to successfully demonstrate the ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform after Russia and United States.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Japan on June 8 and 9. This will be the first overseas visit of Ms. Sitharaman as Finance Minister.

Maldives has conferred 'Nishan Izzuddin' award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals. On June 8, Mr. Modi arrived in Male on the first leg of his two-nation tour to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. This will also be the first bilateral visit to the Maldives of an Indian Prime Minister after 2011.

The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia organised a 'Gandhi cycle rally for peace' in Riyadh on Friday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The cycle rally was organized in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently signed a deal worth around Rs 300 crore for buying more than 100 SPICE bombs from Israel. The IAF fighter jets used these bombs to target Jaish-e-Mohammed training camps in Pakistan's Balakot on 26th February 2019 after the ghastly Pulwama terror attack in which over 44 CRPF jawans lost their lives after a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden SUV into the convoy which was passing from the area.

The women members of Telangana-based Deccan Development Society (DDS) groups have bagged the prestigious United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Equator Prize for 2019. They have been selected for standing as 'an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development.

The Thai parliament has recently elected ex military government Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha as its new Prime Minister. He beat the popular billionaire leader of the anti-junta Future Forward Party, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, with 500 votes to 244 after a 12-hour session that included 10 hours of fierce debate in Parliament on June 5.

Former President Jimmy Carter will be bestowed with the George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship for his contributions to relations between the U.S. and China. A private award ceremony is scheduled June 12 at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted the first Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) for 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga. The AYDMS will be conferred to print and electronic media houses.

The 16-year-old Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and her “Fridays for Future” global movement has won a prestigious Amnesty International’s Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019.

Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has recently launched the ‘Pink Sarathi’ vehicles to attend to the complaints of women passengers travelling in city buses. The vehicles are procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) under the ‘Nirbhaya’ scheme.

Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh has become the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs.

The ruling National People's Party (NPP), which is in an alliance with the BJP in Meghalaya, has been granted recognition as a national party by the Election Commission of India (ECI). As per the party's request, the symbol ‘book’ has been allotted to it.

In Tennis, World No. 2 Rafael Nadal has lifted the French Open Men’s Singles title for the 12th time. In the summit clash played at Paris on June 9, he defeated Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 to win at the Roland Garros for the third straight year.

Girish Karnad (81), well-known writer, playwright, actor and public intellectual, has passed away on June 10 in Bengaluru. Born in May 1938, he was one of the most prominent theatre personalities of the 60s and 70s, a period regarded as the Renaissance of Indian theatre.

Crazy Mohan (67), prominent theatre artiste and ace scriptwriter for Tamil films, has passed away in Chennai on 10th June 2019.

India has partnered with Portugal to set up a national maritime heritage museum at the ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat. It is likely to come up on the lines of a similar museum at Lisbon, which is administered by the Portuguese Navy.

R V Janakiraman (79), the former Puducherry Chief Minister and senior Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader, has passed away in Puducherry on 10th June 2019.

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation for the 2-day G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy at Tsukuba city in Japan on June 8.

Dr. Romila Thapar, the well-known historian and writer, has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in United States.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has recently announced that harmful single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021 to reduce ocean waste. He declared it a global challenge to phase out the plastic bags, straws and cutlery clogging the world's oceans.

After linking its short-term loans and large savings deposits rates to the repo rate, the State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to introduce a repo rate-linked home loan product from July 1.

Mount Sinabung, on the island of Sumatra, erupted for around 9 minutes on June 9 & send clouds of volcanic ash 7 km into the sky.

India's first dinosaur museum and fossil park has recently inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Raiyoli village near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.

India is planning to conduct its first-ever simulated space warfare exercise titled 'IndSpaceEx' in the last week of July under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff of the defence ministry.

India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Guadalajara International Book Fair (GIBF) 2019 in Mexico, which is scheduled to be organized from Nov 30 to Dec 8. The book fair will be the largest book fair in the Spanish speaking world.

On 9 June, Interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has won the 2019 Presidential election of Kazakhstan with 70.96% of the vote. He was recognised as the elected president by the Central Election Commission and will take an oath of office June 12.

The researchers from Ohio State University in United States have created high-resolution maps of points around the globe where groundwater meets the oceans — the first such analysis of its kind that may help protect both drinking water and the seas.

V.S. Kaumudi, a 1986 batch Andhra Pradesh cadre IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

Virendra Kumar, the BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, will be the pro-tem speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha. Kumar is a 7-term Member of Parliament and won the Lok Sabha polls from Tikamgarh.

China has appointed veteran diplomat Sun Weidong as its new envoy to India. He is an expert in South Asian affairs and worked closely with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his tenure in Beijing as the Indian ambassador from 2009 to 2013.

Amasebailu village in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. Over 1800 houses were provided solar lamps at a total cost of Rs 2.13 crore.

Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha. He will replace senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley who opted out of the government citing health reasons.

The Sashakt Committee, headed by PNB non-executive chairman Sunil Mehta, has recommended changes in existing Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) to incorporate revised voting threshold and other changes for decision making stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Ashleigh Barty, an Australian professional tennis player and former cricketer, has clinched the women's title at the 2019 French Open tennis tournament.

A team of scientists from Delhi University (DU) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with researchers from Indonesia and the US, have discovered a new species of 'paddy frog' from Northeast India, primarily Assam.

Dr. I V Subba Rao, a 1979 batch IAS officer from Andhra Pradesh, will continue as secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on a contract basis in the rank and pay of a secretary of the Government of India. His tenure will be co-terminus with the tenure of the vice president.

The 'Mela Kheer Bhawani' is one of the biggest religious festivals of the displaced community of Kashmiri pundits, and is associated with Hindu Goddess Ragnya Devi.

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a six member high-level committee under the chairmanship of VG Kannan, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees.

Zonel Sougajam (22), civil engineer from Manipur, has been honoured by Facebook for discovering a WhatsApp bug that violated the privacy of a user. The social media giant awarded \$5000 to him and also included him in the 'Facebook Hall of Fame 2019' for detecting the WhatsApp bug.

Rajanath Singh 'Surya' (82), the veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha Member, has passed away in Lucknow, UP on June 13. He had worked in various newspapers and he was a well-known columnist.

Bestselling author and one of India's leading contemporary writers, Amitav Ghosh has been conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards literature.

Bollywood Superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be the chief guest at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), which is scheduled to be held between 8th – 17th August 2019.

Bihar Cabinet-led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has approved a proposal to punish sons and daughters who abandon their elderly parents with a jail term. The cases against the children will be registered under the non-bail able section in Bihar after receiving complaints from the elderly parents.

The Indian Navy hosted a maritime information sharing workshop under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre — Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram, Haryana on June 12.

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra, a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights, will be honored with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball on December 3 in New York.

On June 13, the meeting of Council of Heads of States (CHS) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has started in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

On June 13, 2019, The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan announced that India will have its own Space station by 2030. This will help ISRO to send more astronauts to space.

Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy has recently launched 118 websites that would enable citizens get building plan approvals, diversion of land use change

and other related permissions through online submissions, avoiding middlemen and delays.

Pazhavila Ramesan (83), a popular lyricist & Poet, has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on June 13, 2019. He is a recipient of the 2019 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. He had also served as the director of Kerala Bhasha Institute for a long time.

The Union Government has taken a historic decision to reduce the salary contribution of industrial workers who are eligible for healthcare benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Act (ESI) Act from 6.5% to 4.0%.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has decided to confer its Distinguished Alumni Award to Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The award will be presented at JNU's 3rd convocation to be held in August.

The Government of India has recently constituted a 5-member committee to review existing marketing structure in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) marketing in India.

The Union Cabinet has accorded ex-post facto approval for the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by two more months' upto 31st July 2019.

India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019 with Russian Federation as Vice Chair.

The South American Football Confederation (SAFC) has invited Australia and Qatar as guests at 2020 Copa America. Both the nations will join 10 South American nations in the 2020 tournament, which for the first time will be held jointly in two countries – Colombia & Argentina.

As per a report released by the Australian think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), India's ranking in 2019 Global Peace Index (GPI) has slipped five places to 141st among 163 countries. In 2018, India ranked at 136th among 163 countries.

Bengaluru-based NGO Akshaya Patra has been awarded the 2019 BBC World Service Global Champion Award for its school meal project programme at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, UK.

Ahmedabad-based Adani group has recently got final approval for controversy-hit Carmichael coal mine project in Australia, after Queensland State authorities approved its groundwater management plan.

On June 15, the 10th edition of Regional GRIHA Summit 2019 was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra with theme "Transformation strategies for built environment".

The Hyderabad-based defence public sector undertaking, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) has recently signed a contract worth Rs 1,187.82 crores for supply of heavy weight torpedoes - Varunastra - to the Indian Navy. The execution of the contract will be in the next 42 months.

Four Indian movies have been selected to be screened at the prestigious 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BiFAN-2019). Out of them, one is a Tamil movie, namely 'Super Deluxe' starring Vijay Sethupati and Samantha Akkineni. Three of them are Bollywood movies namely Gully Boy, Andhadhun and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2019, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India increased by 6% to \$42 billion in 2018 with strong inflows in manufacturing, communication, financial services and cross-border merger and acquisition activities making it the sub-region's largest recipient.

Peter Gilchrist from Singapore has won the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship at the Yarraville Club. In the final, he defeated India's Sourav Kothari.

Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star-studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in Mumbai.

In Pune, Social activist Makarand Tiloo has won the 'Save Water Hero Award' by the Hriday Mitra Foundation for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city.

Zuzana Caputova, a liberal environmental activist and a political newcomer, has been sworn-in as the first female President of Slovakia in Bratislava on 15th June 2019. She is also the youngest president in the history of Slovakia, at the age of 45.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently announced that India's second mission to the moon – Chandrayaan – II – will be launched on July 15 at 2.15 AM from Sriharikota. This particular mission is an advancement of Chandrayaan – I, which was launched a decade ago.

Danish economist and environmentalist, Inger Andersen has recently taken charge as the new Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for a 4 year term. She succeeded Erik Solheim of Norway.

HCL Technologies will soon roll out "TechBee" programme to hire and train students for IT jobs. The purpose of the HCL's early career programme is to provide students an opportunity to start early & become financially independent.

The Feni Bridge, which is also known as Maitree Setu, is developing as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh over river Feni and will connect Tripura with Chittagong port of Bangladesh.

Dr. Virendra Kumar, the 7-time Lok Sabha MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, has been sworn-in as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha. President Ram Nath Kovind administered oath to Dr Kumar at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-week-long coordinated operation, named 'Operation Sunrise 2', from May 16 in their respective border areas & targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

The World Food India event will be held in New Delhi from November 1-4 as part of the government's effort to boost investment into this growing sector.

The 'Snana Yatra' is a bathing festival celebrated on the full moon day (Purnima) of the Hindu month of 'Jyestha' & considered to be the birthday of Lord Jagannath. It is a significant ritual in the run-up to the annual 'Rath Jatra' festival.

Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the powerful spy agency of Pakistan. He succeeded Lt Gen Asim Munir. Hameed has previously served as the head of the Counter Intelligence wing of the ISI.

For the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in New Delhi between September 2 -14, 2019. It will see participation from at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries.

Dr. Rabi N. Mishra has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India, after the position fell vacant on Rosemary Sebastian's retirement.

Gary Woodland of the United States has clinched the 2019 US Open Golf Championship by three strokes at Pebble Beach Golf Links in California. It is his first major championship and sixth professional victory.

Mohamed Morsi (67), the former President of Egypt, has passed away in Cairo on June 17 after collapsing during his court trial that charged him of espionage and inciting violence. He was the first democratically elected President of Egypt.

NDA nominee Om Birla from Kota has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha. All major political parties including Congress, DMK, TMC, BJD,

YSR Congress, JD (U) and Shiv Sena supported the motion moved by Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Narendra Modi to choose Birla as the Speaker.

For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur. According to the Geological Survey of Bangladesh, a 400 – foot thick iron layer was found 1750 ft beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometre. The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicate the high quality of the ore.

23 Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in the latest 2020 QS World University ranking. In it, IIT Bombay has become India's best institute & secured 152nd rank globally.

Indian Coast Guard is co-hosting 12th international Capacity Building workshop in New Delhi to deepen knowledge on issues related to piracy and armed robbery on June 19-20, 2019.

The Maharashtra government has decided to launch the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which will create 10 lakh jobs in the next five years. The flagship programme of the Industries Department will have 30% reservation for women entrepreneurs.

The researchers from Hiroshima University in Japan have developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes that may help them compete safely in sweltering summer conditions. The cooling vest is filled with ice packs and features a collar that can also cool the neck.

According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019, E-commerce giant Amazon India is the most attractive employer brand in India followed by Microsoft India and Sony India.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an 8-member expert committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSMEs.

The Bangalore-based electronics engineer, Nitesh Kumar Jangir has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, UK. He received his award in the 'People' category alongside 14 other innovators from across the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth.

India has extended US\$ 15 million grant assistance to Niger in support of organizing of the African Union (AU) summit scheduled from 7-8 July, 2019 in Niamey, the capital of Niger.

India's PU Chitra has won gold in women's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden. Beside her, Asian Games gold medallist Jinson Johnson won the silver in the men's 1500m clocking 3:39.69s as he finished behind Sweden's Andreas Almgren (3:39.68s).

Global internet body Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Indian IT industry body Nasscom has collaborated to develop identifier technology that can be used for managing devices and infrastructure using internet.

In Nepal, thousands of people came onto roads in capital Kathmandu against controversial "Guthi Bill" on 19th June 2019.

Shefali Juneja, a 1992 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre), has been appointed to the post of Representative of India in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada for a period of 3 years. She will replace senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar.

The world's No.3 ODI bowler, Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan has become the most expensive bowler in ICC World Cup history during their match against hosts England at Old Trafford in Manchester on June 18.

Maharashtra bagged the top slot in the second edition of the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) list of India's top ten states that have maximum number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green buildings.

India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment center (water clinic) for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura.

In a bid to boost India's relations with its neighbours, the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has signed agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to make DD India available to viewers in the two countries respectively.

Karnataka and Maharashtra have jointly got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Namma Kolhapuri chappal. These leather chappals are hand-crafted and tanned using vegetable dyes. The art of making them is passed down one generation to another.

The book titled “Yoga and Diet for Weight Loss” has been authored by noted integrated yoga therapist Bijoylaxmi Hota. The book seeks to break slimming and weight loss myths and prescribes certain postures of yoga, along with the diet one should take in order to achieve better and faster results.

India's first solar-powered cruise boat to be rolled out in Alappuzha, Kerala in December 2019. Rs 3-crore cruise boat that can carry 100 passengers is under construction at a boatyard in Aroor.

Indian Navy has recently launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area. The development has come in the wake of the suspected attacks on two merchant ships in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman region.

A team of scientists from CSIR-NEIST Assam has developed a chemical process that turns ‘dirty’ coal into a biomedical ‘dot’ to help detect cancer cells.

The National Freight Index (NFI) has been launched by a technology-enabled logistics company Rivigo, which owns a fleet of over 3,000 trucks. The index aims to bring transparency and boost efficiency in the market.

On June 20, the first-ever International Theatre Festival of Bangladesh inaugurated at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka by the Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid. The week-long festival will feature theatre and puppet shows by eight troupes from seven countries.

The book titled “My Life, My Mission” is the autobiography of Yoga guru Baba Ramdev and is co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 14th G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28th and 29th of June 2019. Former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu will be India’s Sherpa at the summit. More than 20 countries will be participating in the G20 Summit.

The 5th edition of International Yoga Day (IYD) is celebrated across the country and abroad on 21st June with theme ‘Yoga for Climate Action’. The aim of the IYD is to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

Thanjavoor Ramamoorthy (90), former staff artist of All India Radio (AIR), has passed away in Trichy on June 22. He was the recipient of the Kalaimamani award of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan has been sworn – in as new Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. Governor ESL Narasimhan administered the oath of office to Justice Chauhan at Raj Bhavan. Justice Chauhan is the 2nd Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.

On 21st June, India’s cueist Pankaj Advani clinched the 35th men’s Asian Snooker Championship in Doha to complete a career grand slam in cue sports.

In Gymnastics, India’s Pranati Nayak from West Bengal clinched a bronze in vault event at the 8th Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaan batar, Mongolia on June 22.

The researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that gray seals can copy the sounds of human words and songs including “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little”.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a working group, headed by NSE Clearing Ltd., to review the current framework of margins in the futures and options segment. The group will look into the issue and submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.

The Punjab government has decided to launch its flagship universal health insurance scheme – Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY) from July 2019. The scheme will provide an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family.

Author Amish Tripathi has been appointed the new director of Nehru Centre in London, which is under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). He will replace diplomat Srinivas Gotru.

The second edition of the “Healthy States, Progressive India” report has been released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar. Kerala has topped among large states on overall health performance in NITI Aayog’s Health Index followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Krishnaswamy Natarajan has been appointed as the new Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He will take over the charge after incumbent Rajendra Singh retires on 30th June 2019.

In Boxing, Indian team has been adjudged the best team of the tournament in the Black Forest Cup in Villingen, Schwenningen, Germany.

The South-East Asian countries will jointly bid to host the 2034 Football World Cup. For this, the meeting of ASEAN countries was held in Bangkok.

On June 23, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived. The new headquarters costs 145 million Swiss francs.

Italy's Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo have been chosen to host the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics during the 134th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Rachna Khaira of The Tribune has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' for her expose during 2018 on the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.

Hemant Pandey, a senior DRDO scientist, has developed an herbal drug – Lukoskin – to treat leucoderma, a condition in which white patches develop on the skin.

Mohan Ranade (89), the veteran freedom fighter from Goa and Padmashri Mohan Ranade, has passed away in Pune on June 25, 2019. He received the Goa Puraskar in 1986 for social work. He authored books on the Goa liberation movement.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a unique flood hazard atlas on the basis of historic flood inundation captured through satellite imagery over the period from 2001 to 2018.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a new "Complaint Management System (CMS)" website where anyone can complain against any of the entities regulated by RBI.

A well – known educationist, paediatrician & the author, Dr. Gaurav Nigam has been conferred 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit (ALS) in Thimphu, Bhutan. Dr. Nigam is the founder of iCare - an organization working in the area of new – age child health care; and Intelligentsia, a research – based play school.

The Imphal Peace Museum has been gifted by Japan to Manipur to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, which was one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.

Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following its Annual General Meeting at Orlando in Florida, USA.

To commemorate 20 years of Kargil War, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has turned the Gwalior air base virtually into a conflict theatre with dramatic reenactment of some of the milestones of the operation in 1999.

Madan Lal Saini (75), a Member of Parliament (MP) of Rajya Sabha for Rajasthan, has passed away in Jaipur on June 24. Hailed from Sikar district, he was serving as President of Rajasthan State BJP until his death.

On June 26, the 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) has kick-started in Hyderabad, Telangana. The Seed Congress is being held for the first time in South Asia.

The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has recently approved a proposal to provide 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the general category in jobs and education.

Under the flagship Sagarmala Programme, the Union Ministry of Shipping has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with IIT Kharagpur for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur.

India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand has been bestowed an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation on June 28. He received the honour from former ISRO chairman and Chairman of the board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan.

The Union Government has constituted an 18 member working group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) under Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog.

The Rajasthan government has decided to set up Vedic education board and culture board in the state.

Vijaya Nirmala (75), the veteran actress and filmmaker has passed away in Hyderabad on June 27, 2019. Born on 20th February 1946, Nirmala made her acting debut in 1950 as a child artiste in the Tamil movie 'Machcha Rekhai'.

In Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh Singhey Khababs Sindhu Festival celebrated on the bank of Indus River at Leh. The festival presents the Indus River as a symbol of the multi-dimensional cultural identity of India that got its name from the Indus River.

Samant Kumar Goel, a 1984 batch IPS officer from Punjab cadre, has been appointed as the new of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW).

Sharad Kumar Saraf has been appointed as the new President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). He succeeded renowned exporter Ganesh Kumar Gupta.

India has signed a loan agreement worth \$400 million with the World Bank (WB) to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.

On July 28, the Union government has launched the Go Tribal Campaign in New Delhi to promote the use of tribal handicrafts and natural products.

IMPORTANT DAYS – JUNE 2018

World Milk Day - June 1

World Milk Day is a day established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001.

Theme in India: "Drink Milk: Today & Everyday".

Global Day of Parents – June 1

World Bicycle Day – June 3

The first official World bicycle day was celebrated on June 3, 2018 by UN.

World Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - June 4

World Environment Day - June 5

Theme: Air Pollution

Tamil is established as a Classical language – June 6

Tamil was the first Indian language to be declared as a classical language, which the Government of India did in 2004.

On June 6, 2004 Tamil is established as a "classical language" by the President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, in a joint sitting of the two houses of the Indian Parliament. It has official status in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the Indian Union Territory of Puducherry.

Tamil is an official language in three countries, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

World Oceans Day - June 8

Theme/Slogan: 'Gender and Ocean'

World Day against Child Labor - June 12

Theme: Children should not work in fields but on dreams

International Albinism Awareness Day - June 13

Theme: "Still Standing Strong"

World Blood Donor Day - June 14

Theme: "Blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion"

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

Theme: Access to Justice: Legal, Social and Economic Services for Older Victims of Sexual, Physical and Financial Crimes.

International Integration Day - June 16

International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) - June 16

Theme: 'Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13'.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - June 17

Theme: "Let's Grow the Future Together".

International Picnic Day - June 18

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict – June 19

World Refugee Day - June 20 (Observed from 2001)

Theme: #StepWithRefugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day.

International day of Yoga - June 21. This is the 5th Yoga Day.

Theme: Yoga for Climate Action.

International Olympic Day - June 23

Emergency period enacted day – June 25 in 1975 (44th Anniversary)

Day of the Seafarer - June 25

National Statistics Day - June 29

Theme: Sustainable Development Goals.

It is celebrated annually on the occasion of Birth anniversary of India's eminent statistician Late Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. Government of India in 2007, has designated 29th June as the "Statistics Day". Vice President of India released a commemorative coin of Rs 125 and circulation coin of Rs 5 denomination as a mark of respect/homage to Prof. Mahalanobis.

International Day of Parliamentarism - June 30