

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name	Award Name	Additional Information
Sir Mark Tully	Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 at UK-India Awards	The award celebrate special talents and organisations who use their worldwide influence to strengthen UK-India ties.
National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)	President's award for excellent CSR in social development	Odisha-based Navaratna Company has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.
Babylon city	Unesco World Heritage Site	Iraq had been lobbying since 1983 for the 4,000-year-old site to be added to the United Nations' prestigious list.
Jaipur	Unesco World Heritage Site	The announcement was made after the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC).
Sunil Chhetri and Ashalata Devi	top honours at the All India Football Federation's AIFF Awards	Chhetri was named the men's footballer of the year, while the title in the women's category was won by Devi.
Gully Boy	Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award	NETPAC Jury Committee, comprised of NETPAC members and film professionals which features newer genres and varied stories of comedy, fantasy and drama.
Northeast Frontier Railway's Plan Bee	Best Innovation Award	It is an amplifying system that imitates the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks.
Nagarkirtan	Best Feature Film award at SAARC film festival	Nagarkirtan, a love story of a transwoman and flautist, stars Riddhi Sen and Ritwik Chakraborty.
Raghu Ram	the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand	Popular breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee P.Raghu Ram bagged with Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand
Sharath Kamal	Sportsperson of the Year	Sharath Kamal is a professional table tennis player from Tamil Nadu, India

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Rohan Bopanna, Smriti Mandhana	Arjuna Award	Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju conferred Arjuna Awards to tennis player Rohan Bopanna and women cricketer Smriti Mandhana
Repco Micro Finance	Nabard's award	The Chennai-headquartered micro finance institution currently operates from 90 branches in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Incredible India Campaign	Pata Gold Award 2019	The Incredible India "Find the Incredible You" campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019
Benjamin Netanyahu	becomes the longest serving Prime Minister of Israel	Netanyahu has spent 4,876 days, more than 13 years, in office as on 20 July, 2019
Ravinder Malik	Mr South Asia title	He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
Carnatic vocalist Sowmya	Sangita Kalanidhi award	She would preside over the 93rd annual conference of the academy that will be held from 15 December 2019 to 1 January 2020.
Keshav Dutt, Prasun Banerjee	Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2019	Two-time Olympic gold medal winning Hockey Player Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee
Vidisha Baliyan	Miss Deaf World 2019	Vidisha Baliyan, a 21-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh, has been crowned Miss Deaf World 2019, the first Indian to bag the title
Meryl Streep	Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2019 - Tribute Actor award	Veteran actor Meryl Streep will be honoured with Tribute Actor award at 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
Sudarsan Pattnaik	People's Choice Award in U.S	Renowned Indian sand artist and Padma Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik has won People's Choice Award

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation	Additional Information
NS Vishwanathan	Deputy Governor of RBI for 1 year	NS Vishwanathan's term as Deputy Governor was supposed to end on July 3, 2019.
Paramjit Singh	Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army	He will replace Lt Gen Anil Chauhan who has been appointed new General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command.
Manoj Kumar Nambiar	chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)	Nambiar is also a director on boards of IntelleCash Microfinance Network Company. He will be replacing Ujjivan Financial Services CEO and MD Samit Ghosh.
Frank Lampard	new manager of Chelsea	Lampard, adored by Chelsea fans as the heart and soul of the club's midfield during a trophy-laden.
Ursula von der Leyen	European Commission president	Ms.Ursula, the 60-year-old gynecologist, started her political career in her early age of 40. In 1990 she joined Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party (CDU) and worked for 14 years.
Christine Lagarde	head of European Central bank (ECB)	International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde has been confirmed as new head of European Central bank (ECB). Her appointment would make her 1st woman to lead powerful institution of ECB.
A K Misra	additional director on J&K Bank board	Misra shall hold the office for a period of two years up to July 2, 2021 or till further orders, whichever is earlier, a spokesman of the bank said.
Harideesh Kumar	Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection	Earlier, he was Executive Director of Canara Bank and brings with him a lot of domain related experience in the banking sector.
Rajni Saraf	chief financial officer in J&K Bank	"As part of its succession planning, J&K Bank today announced the appointment of Rajni Saraf as the chief

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		financial officer (CFO) of the bank,” a spokesman of the bank said.
Rajat Bhargava	head of EV business in Hero MotoCorp	India’s largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp appointed Rajat Bhargava as the head of its new ‘Emerging Mobility’ business unit.
Kyriakos Mitsotakis	Greece’s Prime Minister	Greece’s new conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in after a sweeping election victory.
Rahul Dravid	head of cricket at National Cricket Academy	Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), the BCCI has announced
Ashutosh Gupta	LinkedIn-country manager for India	Microsoft-owned social networking site for professionals, LinkedIn, has appointed Ashutosh Gupta as the new country manager for India operations.
Dr. Nalin Singhal	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)	Dr. Singhal has served also in past with IRCTC as ED-Marketing before joining CEL.
Arun Kumar	DGCA Director General	Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved appointment of Arun Kumar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, to Union Ministry of Civil Aviation as the new Director General (DG)
Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar	Force Commander of the UN mission in South Sudan	Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar resumed his office as the Force Commander of UNMISS.
Rajat Bhargava	head of EV business in Hero MotoCorp	hargava is the Head of Strategy & Performance Transformation and Global Business at the company.
Kyriakos Mitsotakis	Greece’s Prime Minister	Greece’s new conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in after a sweeping election victory.
Rahul Dravid	head of cricket at National Cricket Academy	Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), the BCCI has announced.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Ashutosh Gupta	country manager for India for LinkedIn	Microsoft-owned social networking site for professionals, LinkedIn, has appointed Ashutosh Gupta as the new country manager for India operations.
Vikas Swarup	Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs	Secretary in the Consular, Passport, Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs division
Anshula Kant	World Bank's MD and CFO	She will be the 1st woman CFO of World Bank.
BL Santosh	National General Secretary (Organisation)	Santosh, previously the party's Joint General Secretary (Organisation), took over from Ramlal
Balbir Singh Dhillon	Audi- India Head	Audi, the third biggest German luxury car maker in the fiercely competitive luxury car market
Kalraj Mishra	HP Governor	replacing Acharya Devvrat, who has been transferred and appointed as the Governor of Gujarat
Chandrakant Kavlekar	deputy chief minister of Goa	Former leader of opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar has been appointed as the deputy chief minister of Goa
Kiran More	USA interim coach	Kiran More, the former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman, has been named as the interim coach of the USA cricket team.
Sarvita Sethi	Coca cola- M&A role	Sarvita Sethi become the first woman to head the company's finances for the region
Biswa Bhusan Harichandan	Governor of Andhra Pradesh	Bhusan will take over from ESL Narasimhan, who has served as Governor for Andhra Pradesh since December 2009.
Justice Sikri	Singapore International Commercial Court Judge	He retired from Supreme Court of India on 6 March 2019.
Ursula von der Leyen	first female President of the European Commission	Von der Leyen has resigned from the post of Germany's Defence Minister to take over the new role at the European Union's executive body
Anusuiya Uikey	Governors of Chhattisgarh	Anusuiya Uikey is a sitting member of Rajya Sabha.
Vivek Kumar	Private Secretary to PM Modi	Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Vivek Kumar has been appointed as private secretary

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		to Prime Minister Narendra Modi
A M Naik	Mindtree's new chairman	Bengaluru-based IT services firm Mindtree Ltd., which has recently been acquired by engineering giant Larsen and Toubro Ltd
Anandi Ben Patel	Governor of Uttar Pradesh	
Lal Ji Tandon	Governor of Madhya Pradesh	
Phagu Chauhan	Governor of Bihar	
Jagdeep Dhankhar	Governor of West Bengal	
Ramesh Bais	Governor of Tripura	
R.N.Ravi	Governor of Nagaland	
Yan Xiao	New Deputy CEO Of Indian Operations – ZTE	Yan will report to India CEO Peng Aiguang and will look after telco partners such as Bharti Airtel, BSNL, Reliance Jio
Ajay Bhadoo	Joint Secretary to President	Bhadoo, a 1999 Gujarat batch IAS officer, is currently serving as the Vadodara Municipal Commissioner
Sanjeev Kumar Singla	India's Ambassador to Israel	He was serving as Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Kalraj Mishra	Governor of Himachal Pradesh	Mishra resigned as Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in 2017 after crossing the age of 75
Boris Johnson	UK Prime Minister	Johnson has in the past served as UK foreign minister and London's Mayor.
Manoj Mukund Naravane	Vice Chief of Indian Army	Lt Gen M M Naravane will be in contention for Chief of Indian Army post as he will be the senior-most commander when incumbent Gen Bipin Rawat retires on 31 December 2019.
Dejan Papis	India's table tennis coach	He signed a one-year contract. He will be the in-charge through the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
Ehsan Mani	chairperson of powerful ICC committee	The PCB announced that another PCB official, Salman Naseer, who is its general counsel and barrister, has been included on the ICC's Safeguarding panel.
Sanjeev Naryani	Bandhan Bank - Head Of Business	At SBI, where he worked for 32 years, Naryani was handling the lender's real estate and

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		housing business as a general manager.
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Next Union Home Secretary	Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre,
Priti Patel	UK's First Indian-Origin Home Secretary	Priti Patel had been a prominent member of the "Back Boris" campaign for the Conservative Party leadership
B S Yeddyurappa	Chief Minister of Karnataka	His appointment comes 3 days after collapse of Congress-JD(S) government.
V. K. Johri	New BSF Director General	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed IPS officer VK Johri as new Director General (DG)
AK Sikri	Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) - ombudsman and ethics officer.	Justice Sikri is an eminent jurist, a former judge of the Supreme Court of India
Siddhartha Sanyal	Bandhan Bank - chief economist	Sanyal joined Bandhan Bank from Barclays Bank Plc where he was the director and chief India economist
Srinivas BV	interim President of Indian Youth Congress	Srinivas was earlier the National Vice President of the IYC
Rajiv Kumar	Finance Secretary	1984 Jharkhand cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer
Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri	Karnataka Assembly Speaker	Kageri was the only one to file the nomination papers for the post following Congress MLA KR Ramesh Kumar
Debashis Chatterjee	Mindtree CEO	Chatterjee served as the executive vice president and president, global delivery, in Cognizant before he quit in May after serving the company for 23 years.

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI board finalises 'Utkarsh 2022

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, which met in New Delhi, finalised a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- This medium term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism, sources aware of the board meeting told The Hindu.

ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for this year

- Asian Development Bank lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for the current year on the back of fiscal shortfall concerns.
- "India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 (FY20) and 7.2% in 2020 (FY21), slightly slower than projected in April because the fiscal 2018 outturn fell short," ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019.

RBI slaps Rs 7 crore fine on SBI for non-compliance of directions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a penalty of Rs 7 crore on State Bank of India (SBI) based on findings of an inspection report. The regulatory lapses relate to bad loans classification, fraud risk management and reporting of frauds.

Corporation Bank pact with Bajaj Allianz

- Corporation Bank has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd for providing insurance cover for accidental death to the specified saving bank account holders of the bank under the group personal accident insurance policy of the insurer.
- A press release by the bank said here that Murala Paul Kennedy, General Manager, Corporation Bank, and TA Ramalingam, Senior President, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd, inked the pact recently.

Asian Development Bank sanctions Rs 1,925 cr power project in Tripura

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) sanctioned a Rs 1,925 crore project for up-gradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura, Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma.
- The amount was recently sanctioned to the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) after the state government had sought the ADB's assistance, Dev Varma who is also the power minister.

Fairfax-backed CSB Bank set to file for up to ₹500 crore share sale

- Kerala-based private lender CSB Bank, earlier known as The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd, is set to file its draft initial public offering (IPO) papers, said two people aware of the development.
- Last year, Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax acquired a 51% stake in CSB Bank for around \$168 million, following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) first such approval given to a foreign firm.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

CapitaLand completes \$8 bn acquisition of Ascendas-Singbridge

- Singapore-based investor CapitaLand Ltd on Sunday said it has completed the purchase of Temasek Holdings-owned Ascendas-Singbridge Pte. Ltd.
- The deal creates one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups with over S\$123 billion of assets under management (AUM).

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

Aparna Kumar created history by becoming the first civil servant and IPS officer to achieve the 7 Summits challenge

- Aparna Kumar created history by becoming the first civil servant and IPS officer to achieve the incredible and rare feat of completing '7 Summits' challenge'.
- Kumar hoisted India's tricolour on Mount Denali in Alaska, USA. Mount Denali is the highest peak of North America standing at 20,310 ft. She scaled the summit in her third attempt.

Cabinet approves Code on Wages bill

- The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the Code on Wages Bill which seeks to subsume existing laws related to workers remuneration and enable the Centre to fix minimum wages for the entire country.
- The Code on Wages is one of the four codes that would subsume 44 labour laws with certain amendments to improve the ease of doing business and attract investment for spurring growth.
- The four codes will deal with wages, social security, industrial safety and welfare, and industrial relations.

PM Narendra Modi releases book on Former PM Chandra Shekhar

- PM Narendra Modi released the book "Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics";. The book has been written by Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, and Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai. The book release eats the Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building. The Prime Minister presented the first copy of the book to the Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

The celestial object has landed in a village of Madhubani, Bihar

- A celestial object has landed in a village of Madhubani, Bihar. The object weighs more than 10 kilograms. It has magnetic properties. The object looks like a piece of rock. It glitters much more than that of an unpolished stone.

EESL to install 100 EV charging stations in Noida

- In a major step towards promotion of cleaner mobility alternatives, the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed a pact with the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) to install nearly 100 public charging stations in the city and bolster the adoption of electric vehicles.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed between EESL Managing Director Saurabh Kumar and NOIDA CEO Ritu Maheshwari, will fast-track the adoption of e-mobility in Noida by promoting robust electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. NOIDA Chairman Alok Tandon was also present during the signing of the pact.

ICMR launches platform to boost health

- With an aim to improve quality of health and demographic data in India, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Wednesday launched an integrated national-level platform that can help close the knowledge gap and boost policy formulations.
- The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) will integrate learning from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences.

5th Dharma-Dhamma conference being held in Rajgir, Bihar

- 5th International Dharma-Dhamma conference is being held Rajgir International Convention Centre in Rajgir, Bihar from 27-28 July 2019. The conference was inaugurated Union Minister of State Kiren Rijiju who is also the Chief Guest of Conference. It is being hosted by Rajgir for 2nd time.

22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 to be held at Shillong on 8-9, 2019

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya will organize the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya. This is the first time the event is being organized in North-Eastern region of the country.

Rajya Sabha passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019. The Bill aims to introduce a mechanism that will curb the ponzi schemes. It will protect the interest of depositors. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 24, 2019. The Bill will now replaced the Ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Rajya Sabha passed the IBC amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha approved the amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides clarity about preference to secured lenders over operational creditors.

Khelo India Youth Games 2020 to be held in Guwahati

- Union Minister of Sports Kiren Rijiju announced that 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati, Assam between 18-30 January 2020. Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018, while Pune hosted 2nd edition in 2019.
- 2020 Games will be conducted in partnership with Indian Olympic Association (IOA), School Games Federation of India (SGFI) & Assam as host State. The event will see a participation of over 10,000 athletes and officials from all over country and it will be held

Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 passed in Lok Sabha

- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 was passed by the Lok Sabha with a voice vote on July 19, 2019. The lower house of the Parliament passed the bill on July 19, 2019. The bill aims to accelerate the process of appointment of chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Income Tax Department to celebrate Aaykar Diwas 2019

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and all field offices will be observing and celebrating the 159th Income Tax Day i.e. Aaykar Diwas on 24th July, 2019. It was on 24th July, 1860 that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule. This is why 24th July is observed as Income Tax Day.

JATAN: special software for Digitization of Archaeological Museum

- The Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel informed Lok Sabha about JATAN: Virtual Museum software. JATAN has been developed by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune, Maharashtra.

Cabinet approves 2880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for Dibang Multipurpose Project (MPP) in Arunachal Pradesh for an amount of Rs 1600 crore.
- The estimated total cost of Project is Rs 28080.35 including IDC & FC of Rs 3974.95 crore at June 2018 price level. The estimated completion period for the project shall be nine years from receipt of Government sanction.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Health Ministry launches Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have launched a 3 day special campaign called Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi. It is a campaign aimed towards sensitizing and mobilising community for prevention and control of vector borne diseases (VBDs) such as Dengue, Chikungunya and Malaria. The 3 day campaign will be held from 17 to 19 July 2019 in New Delhi.

10th Jagran Film Festival inaugurated in New Delhi

- The 10th Jagran Film Festival was inaugurated in an event held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting. In today's world Cinema has become a great tool for soft power and Indian films are loved and accepted globally.

Sports Person P T Usha nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin

- Former Olympic track and field athlete P T Usha nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federations Veteran Pin. The olympic track for her long and meritorious service to the cause of World Athletics. She will receive the pin during the opening ceremony of the 52nd IAAF Congress in Doha.

Cabinet approved the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 17 July 2019. The approval will place a greater emphasis on more time-bound resolution and lays down voting rules of the financial creditors.

Indian secured the first spot in the medal tally of Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship

- Indian team secured the first spot in the medal tally of Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2019 held at Samoa, a country in Oceania. 37 Indian players participated in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship in Apia, Samoa. It won 35 medals including 22 golds, 10 silvers and 3 bronze medals in the youth, junior, and senior categories.

Reebok signs Katrina Kaif as brand face

- Leading fitness brand Reebok, which boasts of global assets like Victoria Beckham has announced Bollywood actor and wellness enthusiast, Katrina Kaif, as their new Indian brand ambassador.
- According to Katrina, 'Being a fitness aficionado myself, the brand serves as a motivation for me to be disciplined and also gives me a platform to endorse the need to be fit.'

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

LS passes National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by Lok Sabha, to allow NIA to probe terrorist acts against Indians and Indian interests abroad. The Bill seeks to give more teeth to National Investigation Agency (NIA). NIA was set up in 2009 in aftermath Mumbai terror attack that had claimed 166 lives.

IFFI has been scheduled to be held from 20-28 November 2019 in Panaji, Goa

- The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has been scheduled to be held from 20-28 November 2019 in Panaji, Goa. The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced the schedule regarding IFFI 2019.
- IFFI 2019 is to be organised jointly by the Directorate of Film Festivals and state-run Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) in Panaji. The celebrations in the year 2019 will mark the 50th edition of IFFI. Russia is to partner with IFFI.

The Lok Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Lok Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill aimed at establishing a Central University and Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh on July 12.
- The government has allotted Rs.450 crore for the central university and Rs.420 crore for the central tribal university for offer research facilities in the fields of art, culture and technology to the tribal population.

India is to host the ISSF Combined World Cup from March 15-26, 2020

- India is to host the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Combined World Cup from March 15-26, 2020. The events will be held in New Delhi, India. ISSF finalised and approved the final dates of the events.
- The ISSF Combined World Cup includes events in rifle, pistol and shotgun. In 2020's event of shooting, the World Cup provides golden platform to hit in Tokyo 2020 Olympics. India has hosted a World Cup in February 2019, which offered Olympic quota places for Tokyo.

Rajya Sabha passes Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2019

- The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to amend Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008. It is yet to be passed by Lok Sabha.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars for 2018 announced

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi on Tuesday announced the names of 32 young Indian artistes conferred the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2018.
- Named after the shehnai maestro, the award is presented to artistes aged below 40 years with the objective of identifying and encouraging outstanding young talent in diverse

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

fields of performing arts and giving them national recognition early in their life. It carries a cash amount of Rs 25,000 and will be presented at a special ceremony.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships Awards for 2018 announced

- Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, has elected 4 eminent personalities in field of Performing Arts namely tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, dancer Sonal Mansingh, dancer and choreographer Jatin Goswami and Bharatnatyam exponent K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai for the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows or Akademi Ratna Awards for 2018. The fellowship, referred to as Akademi Ratna, is a coveted honour conferred on artists.

Triple Talaq Bill: History created in Rajya Sabha, Triple Talaq bill passed

- Triple Talaq Bill known as Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 has been passed in the Rajya Sabha in a landmark vote with 99 votes in favour and 84 against. This is a historic victory for Modi Government.
- The Triple Talaq bill was tabled in the upper house of the Parliament by Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 aims to ban and criminalise the practice of divorce among Muslims by simply stating Talaq three times.

India's 7th Economic Census begins from Tripura

- India's seventh Economic Census began from Tripura on Monday and a similar task would be launched in other States and Union Territories across the country next month, officials said.
- "The three-month long fieldwork of seventh Economic Census launched in Tripura. The fieldwork in other States and Union Territories would be undertaken in August and September," said Economic Census nodal officer Arup Kumar Chanda.

Government Aims To Raise Rs 15,000 Crore By Stake Sales: Report

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman set an ambitious target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore (\$15.33 billion) from the sale of stakes in state-run companies, compared with Rs 85,000 crore the previous year.

State of the Education Report for India 2019 launched

- The State of the Education Report for India 2019: Children with Disabilities, was recently launched at an event organized by UNESCO in New Delhi. The event was attended by more than 200 representatives from government, civil society, academia, partners and youth.

Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill 2019

- Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill 2019. The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 4 June.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- The Bill was introduced by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. It allows for the supersession of the Medical Council of India (MCI) by a Board of Governors for a two-year period from 2018 till 2020.

Economic Survey predicts 7% GDP growth in 2019-20

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday tabled the Economic Survey for the financial year 2019-20 in the Rajya Sabha, projecting gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7%.
- The Survey, prepared by Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian, projects the growth higher than the five-year low economic growth of 6.8% for the year ended March 31.

Indian Railways' NFR zone introduces new 'pink coaches' for women passengers

- Indian Railways' Northeast Frontier Railway zone has started a unique initiative to earmark a special portion of the SLR coach with pink colour. This is done to specially help the women passengers with better safety and security.
- This special colour will help the women passenger to easily identify the coach in the platform even during rush hours.

Rajya sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 8 July

- Rajya sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 8 July.
- It allows the voluntary linking of the 12-digit identification number as part of know your customer (KYC) guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection.
- The bill will become a Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) law after President's approval.

UIDAI sets up first Aadhaar centres in Delhi and Vijayawada, to set up 114 more centres in 2019

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has set up its first "Aadhaar Seva Kendra" (ASK) in Delhi and Vijayawada.
- In a tweet, UIDAI also said that it plans to set up 114 such centres in 53 cities across India.
- These two centres are currently operating on a pilot basis. Citing sources, PTI reported that the Aadhaar centres will facilitate enrollment, updation and other activities.
- The source also added that UIDAI is looking to set up the remaining centres by this year at a cost of ₹300-400 crores.

Six Indian metros are hotspots of air pollutant nitrogen oxide: Greenpeace

- Several Indian cities, including the national capital are major hotspots for rising levels of nitrogen oxide, a dangerous pollutant which contributes to the formation of ozone, an analysis has revealed.
- An analysis by environmental NGO Greenpeace India said that as per satellite data, transport and industrial clusters are giving rise to the country's worst Nitrogen Oxide

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

(NOx) hotspots like Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad which have high vehicular population and diesel consumption.

Vice President releases book titled Vivekadeepini

- Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releases a book titled ‘Vivekadeepini’, a concise book of aphorisms (a memorable expression of a general truth or principle initially written by Adi Shankaracharya, one of India’s greatest spiritual and literary geniuses).

Government Aims To Raise Rs 15,000 Crore By Stake Sales: Report

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman set an ambitious target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore (\$15.33 billion) from the sale of stakes in state-run companies, compared with Rs 85,000 crore the previous year.

Centre fixes price for Sovereign Gold Bonds at Rs.3,443 per gram

- Government of India has fixed the price at Rs.3,443 per gram for the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) opening July 8. Union Finance Ministry recently announced that Centre in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow a discount of Rs.50 per gram from issue price to those investors who apply online and payment which is made via digital mode.
- This implies that for such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs.3,393 per gram of gold.

Reliance Jio ‘Digital Udaan’ program launched for first-time Internet users

- Reliance Jio has launched a digital literacy program for first-time Internet users in India. As part of the “Digital Udaan” initiative in collaboration with Facebook, Reliance Jio will engage with its users every Saturday.
- The company will help users learn about JioPhone features and use of various apps. This also includes Internet safety and use of Facebook.

Rajya sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 8 July

- Rajya sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 8 July. Rajya sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 8 July.
- It allows the voluntary linking of the 12-digit identification number as part of know your customer (KYC) guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection. The bill will become a Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) law after President’s approval.

Government launches pan-India Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- The ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan’ will focus on five aspects — water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation, Drinking Water Sanitation Secretary Parmeswaran Iyer said.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- Officers from the central government, led by additional secretaries and joint secretaries, have been assigned to these 256 districts, he said.

Reebok signs Katrina Kaif as brand face

- Leading fitness brand Reebok, which boasts of global assets like Victoria Beckham has announced Bollywood actor and wellness enthusiast, Katrina Kaif, as their new Indian brand ambassador.
- According to Katrina, 'Being a fitness aficionado myself, the brand serves as a motivation for me to be disciplined and also gives me a platform to endorse the need to be fit.

Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by Parliament

- Central Universities (Amendment) Bill 2019, for establishing a Central University and Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh has been passed by both the houses of Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend Central Universities Act, 2009, which establishes universities for teaching and research in various states. Moreover, establishment of a Central University and Central Tribal University in State of Andhra Pradesh is obligatory under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Piyush Goyal to launch Global Innovation Index on July 24

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will launch the Global Innovation Index, GII on 24th of this month in New Delhi. The GII has been a charter for assessing the innovation capabilities of national economies worldwide.
- An official release said, the launch of GII will reveal the innovation rankings of economies and the findings for this year. This year's theme is Evaluating the Medical Innovation Scenario of the Next Decade. Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization, Mr. Francis Gurry, will also be present during the event.

Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released Deeksharambh

- Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released Deeksharambh, an UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme.
- **Deeksharambh:**
- Deeksharambh aims to help new students to adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment. It will also guide them to inculcate the ethos and culture of the institution and help the students to build bonds with other students and faculty members. It will also help them to expose to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.

New book to tell untold stories from Kargil War

- On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War, a new book will revisit the freezing battle grounds of the 1999 conflict through untold stories of its bravest soldiers. Titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War", the book published by Penguin Random House, is authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- “This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War and this book is our tribute to the many brave soldiers who fought valiantly in the war and gave up their lives to protect the honour of the nation,” said Gurveen Chaddha, commissioning editor, Penguin Random House India.

India’s longest electrified train tunnel in Vijayawada now ready for business

- The railway division of Vijayawada commissioned the longest electrified tunnel in India on Wednesday.
- The 6.6 km tunnel stands as an engineering marvel situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations which are a part of the recently completed Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam railway line.

Akshay Kumar only Indian in Forbes Highest-Paid Entertainers List

- With \$65 million (₹444 crore), Akshay Kumar has become the only Indian to enter Forbes magazine’s Highest-Paid Entertainers List 2019.
- The magazine wrote that he earns at least \$5 million (₹34 crore) and up to \$10 million (₹68 crore) per film, along with earnings from endorsements. Akshay, who came 33rd, beat Hollywood actors including Chris Evans and Bradley Cooper.

Kaziranga National Park: Special Rhino Protection Force deployed

- An 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force which is trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was recently deployed in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- The process of setting up special force was initiated in 2015. In July 2018 members recruited were given appointment letter after which they were trained at Forest Guard School in eastern Assam’s Makum.
- All recruits also underwent weapons training at 9th Assam Police Battalion in Nagaon district of Assam.

Cabinet approves bill to merge 13 central labour laws into single code

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a bill that seeks to merge 13 central labour laws into a single code which would apply on all establishments employing 10 or more workers.
- The proposed Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019, would enhance the coverage of workers manifold, an official release said.

MoU signed between Ministry of Defence and NRDC to boost Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

- To give a boost to Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
- Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti was launched last year with the aim to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Swadhar Greh Scheme Implemented

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- The scheme covers women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension and natural disaster.
- Ministry is also implementing Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme which is envisaged to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence.

CCMB and CDFD inks MoU on Genetic Disease Diagnostics

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) to improve understanding and to enable better ways diagnosis and treatment of human genetic disorders.

UGC launches STRIDE scheme to boost research culture in universities

- University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched STRIDE scheme to boost research culture and innovation in colleges and universities. STRIDE stands for Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy.

High Powered Committee for 'Transformation of Agriculture' constituted

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted a High-powered Committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'.
- HPC was set up subsequent to the deliberations of Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog and in keeping with promise of Centre government for Agriculture reforms, rural development, water conservation and its proper.

MoEF has recommended for the survey and exploration of uranium in Amrabad Tiger Reserve

- The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has recommended for the survey and exploration of uranium in Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana.
- The exploration was approved by the Atomic Minerals Directorate. The approval comes inspite of the contrary reports by forest officials after field inspections which was conducted in 2016.

Union Cabinet takes big ticket Cabinet decisions

- In a major boost to rural connectivity Cabinet approves launch of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III; 1,25,000 Km of Roads to be networked at estimated cost Rs 80,250 Cr; Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill gets green signal; 13 Central Labour Laws brought in the ambit of New Code; Rules framed for women working in night shifts.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

India's first elephant rehabilitation centre in the works at Kerala's Kottoor

- The Kerala government is working to set up the country's first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottoor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram.
- The first phase of the Rs 105 crore-project was launched last month by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The centre, expected to have an elephant museum, mahout training centre, super-specialty hospital, a retirement home and crematorium for the animals, will house orphaned, injured and older elephants.
- It is being planned on the lines of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka.

Overall Homicide Rate Declines by 10% in India, Increases 'Noticeably' in Some Northern States: UN Report

- The overall homicide rate in India has decreased by 10 per cent over a period of six years till 2015 but the trend increased "noticeably" in some northern states, according to a UN report.
- The Global Study on Homicide 2019 published on Monday by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also found that the number of female homicide victims were more than that of males in India.

Centre to raise Health Services Expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025

- Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan while addressing a query during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha announced that Government has set a target to raise health services expenditure to 2.5% of country's GDP (Gross domestic product) by 2025.
- He also highlighted that public expenditure on health services has increased continuously over the years and continues to increase.

National Seminar Cum Workshop on Statistics and Sustainable Development in Lucknow

- A two days' National Seminar Cum Workshop on "Statistics and Sustainable Development Goals" was inaugurated by Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India inaugurated " at the Malviya Auditorium, University of Lucknow.

India to overtake Japan to become 3rd largest economy in 2025

- India will this year overtake the UK to become the world's fifth biggest economy, and is poised to surpass Japan to be the third largest in 2025, IHS Markit said in a report Friday.
- Following the re-election of the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a second term of office in May 2019, the Finance Ministry has published an economic roadmap to 2025 in its latest annual Economic Survey.

Film Divisions to launch documentary film club in Mumbai

- Film Divisions launch KSHITIJ, a documentary film club in Mumbai. An acclaimed documentary film “Secret Life of Frogs” by Ajay and Vijay Bedi screened as the inaugural film.
- The Public screenings will begin at 5:30 PM on the second and fourth Friday of every month. The screenings will be held at Films Division Complex.

Operation Thirst: launched by Railway Protection Force

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently launched ‘Operation Thirst’ to stop selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW). During the operation, which was carried out on 8 and 9 July 2019 fines were imposed on those found guilty and many were arrested.

Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs 1 lakh crore

- Deposits in bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan scheme, launched about five years ago by the Modi-government, have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 36.06 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts was at Rs 1,00,495.94 crore as on July 3.

National Museum of Indian Cinema’s news bulletin launched

- A fortnightly bulletin of the National Museum of Indian Cinema as “NMIC Bulletin“, brought out by the Films Division was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- About NMIC Bulletin National Museum of Indian Cinema are not just about artefacts kept in them but are also about witnessing journey that made cinema possible as well as about narrating untold stories behind those cinemas.

Retail inflation rises 3.18% in June due to costlier food products

- India’s retail inflation hit a eight-month high in June on higher food prices, but stayed below the central bank’s target, potentially giving it room for a further interest rate easing to boost slowing growth.
- Annual retail inflation in June was 3.18%, up from 3.05% the previous month, but below analyst forecasts, government data showed on Friday. A Reuters poll had predicted retail inflation at 3.20% for June.

National Film Heritage Mission Project reviewed by I&B Minister

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar reviewed Ministry’s prestigious project of National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) and various activities undertaken under the project in a meeting held at National Film Archives of India (NFAI) in Pune, Maharashtra.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Donald Trump becomes 1st sitting US president to enter North Korea

- United States President Donald Trump became 1st sitting US president to set foot in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (or North Korea) when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between North Korea and South Korea.

World Hindu Economic Forum launches its Nepal Chapter in Kathmandu

- World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister of State for Health and Population Dr. Surendra Kumar Yadav in Nepal's Capital of Kathmandu. The event was attended by large number of industrialists, business persons, traders, thinkers and other eminent personalities from Nepali society.

ICC Suspends Zimbabwe Cricket Board With Immediate Effect

- The International Cricket Council (ICC), in its Annual Conference meeting held in London, decided to suspend Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect. The suspension will see the ICC's funding to Zimbabwe Cricket frozen and representative teams from Zimbabwe will not be allowed to participate in any ICC events.
- "We do not take the decision to suspend a Member lightly, but we must keep our sport free from political interference. What has happened in Zimbabwe is a serious breach of the ICC Constitution and we cannot allow it to continue unchecked," ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar said according to the media release.

NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Caracas, Venezuela

- Ministerial meeting of Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held in Caracas, capital of Venezuela. Theme for 2019 Meet was- Promotion and Consolidation of Peace through Respect for International Law. Since 2016 Venezuela has held the presidency of NAM which will now be passed on to Azerbaijan in October 2019.

Palau became the 76th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The agreement was opened for signature during COP22 at Marrakech, Morocco on 15 November 2016.
- **About International Solar Alliance (ISA):**
- ISA is a group of 122 solar resource-rich nations. It was jointly launched by India and France on November 2015. It is headquartered at campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Haryana, India.

Bernard Arnault is the second richest person in the world with a fortune of \$108 billion

- French billionaire Bernard became the second wealthiest person in the world this week, according to Bloomberg. Arnault, the chairman and chief executive of the luxury goods conglomerate LVMH, saw his net worth jump to \$108 billion.
- The 70-year-old started 2019 as the fourth richest person in the world, but after earning \$40 billion since the year began, he's surpassed both Warren Buffett and Bill Gates in the ranking.

European Commission elects its first female President

- Germany's Ursula von der Leyen was elected as the first female President of the European Commission by the European Parliament on Tuesday. Von der Leyen has resigned from the post of Germany's Defence Minister to take over the new role at the European Union's executive body. She will succeed Jean-Claude Juncker who is set to step down on October 31.

Disgusting Food Museum located in Sweden

- Disgusting Food Museum in Sweden has a display of "bizarre looking and smelling" food items. It features 80 foods from around the world, including frog smoothies from Peru, fruit bat soup, Iceland's shark meat and more. Visitors can also taste and smell some of the food items which are on display at the museum.

Fuzhou (China) to host 2020 session of World Heritage Committee

- The city of Fuzhou (China) will host the next session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020. This decision concluded the work of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in Baku since 30 June.
- During this year's session, the World Heritage Committee inscribed a total of 29 new sites on the World Heritage List (one in Africa, two in the Arab States, ten in the Asia Pacific region, 15 in Europe and North America and one in Latin America).

India, EU hold high-level talks on migration, mobility

- India and the European Union (EU) held the fifth high-level dialogue on migration and mobility (HLDMM). They discussed steps aimed at realizing the full potential of further strengthening cooperation in the key areas.
- Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) and Paraskevi MICHOU, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs), European Commission put out by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Russia launches Soyuz carrier rocket with 33 satellites

- Russia's carrier rocket launch: Russia successfully launched its Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket on Friday with a hydrometeorological satellite and 32 small satellites, the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos said. The rocket blasted off at 8.41 a.m. (local time) from the Vostochny spaceport in the Far Eastern Amur Region, it said in a statement.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Australia's Budj Bim Cultural Landscape included in UNESCO's WHS

- Australian Aboriginal site 'Budj Bim Cultural Landscape' in south-west Victoria has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. It was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List at a meeting in Baku, in Azerbaijan following a decades-long campaign by traditional owners.

Biggest earthquake in 20 years hit Southern California

- US meteorologists say it is the biggest ever earthquake to hit Southern California in last 20 years. The quake was recorded outside Ridgecrest which is just 240km north-east to Los Angeles.
- Also, the same region was hit with a 6.4 magnitude earthquake on Thursday causing severe damage to roads and buildings.

Dutch football star Arjen Robben announces retirement

- Former Bayern Munich and Netherlands forward Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from football.
- The 35-year-old Robben, who was thought to be looking for a new club after playing his last game for Bayern in May, said Thursday in a statement, "I have decided to put an end to my career as a professional football player.
- It is without a doubt the most difficult decision I have had to make in my car.

WHO declares Sri Lanka measles free

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Wednesday said that Sri Lanka had successfully eliminated measles from the island country. The WHO praised Sri Lanka's achievement in a statement at a time when measles cases were increasing globally.
- The WHO South-East Asia Regional Director Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh said Sri Lanka's success demonstrated its commitment, the determination of its health workforce and parents to protect children against measles

1st-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair to be held in India

- The First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It scheduled from 11th till 13th October 2019. It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to global trade arena.

STATE RELATED AFFAIRS

Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog's ease of doing farm business

- Maharashtra achieved first rank in NITI Aayog launched "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI), which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing. Gujarat ranks second with a

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

score of 71.5 out of 100 closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh,” the Economic Survey 2018-19 highlighted.

West Bengal CM launches ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ campaign

- Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched a unique initiative called ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ (Tell your sister) campaign to reach out to people of State.
- This campaign for common masses, is devised to entertain voters’ regarding various issues for which phone number (9137091370) and website www.didikaybolo.com are also launched. The move is being seen as fresh plans to mobilise people and strengthen party at booth level ahead of Assembly polls due in 2021.

Odisha Rasagola’ gets GI Tag

- After years of controversy around sweet, Rasagola, a popular dessert of Odisha, has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in GI Registry from Registrar of Geographical Indication. Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting origin of rasagola and West Bengal had got GI for ‘Banglar Rasogolla’ in 2017.
- As per Historical records submitted Odisha Rasagola has an age-old tradition and is associated with world famous Puri Jagannath Temple as it is offered to Lord Jagannath as part of bhog since centuries.

Odisha Secretariat renamed Lok Seva Bhavan

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced in the State Assembly that the Sachivalaya or Secretariat building in Bhubaneswar will now be called ‘Lok Seva Bhavan’.
- “In a democracy people are masters and we all exist to serve them,” said Mr. Patnaik while making the announcement during the budget discussion on the expenditures of the home and general administration departments.

Odisha Government implements Centre’s Witness Protection Scheme

- The state government on Monday informed the Orissa High Court that it has implemented the Centre’s Witness Protection Scheme-2018. Endorsing the Central scheme on December 5 last year, the Supreme Court had directed all States and Union Territories to implement it in letter and spirit.

Andhra Pradesh Becomes First State to Reserve 75% Private Jobs for Local Youths

- Andhra Pradesh became the first state to reserve jobs for local youth after the assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019, which reserves 75 per cent jobs in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode.
- According to the new law, if a company does not find the necessary skills in locals, then it will need to train them in association with the state government, the Times of India reported. This way, no company will be able to hide behind the excuse of not finding skilled local labourers.

West bengal Governor releases Bengali version of Great Minds of India

- West Bengal Governor Kesri Nath Tripathi released the Bengali version of the famous book “Great Minds of India” . It is released at Shillong, Meghalaya, on July 7, 2019. The special function organized for the book release was attended by a galaxy of scholars, academicians and representative of various colleges, universities, media houses, and social organizations.

Agri-Business Incubation Centre started in Chhattisgarh

- An Agri Business Incubation Centre has started in Chhattisgarh. The centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur. AIR Raipur correspondent reports that Agri Business Incubation Centre is set up under the National Agriculture Development Scheme- RAFTAAR.

Meghalaya becomes 1st state to ensure water conservation

- Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure the conservation of water and have own water policy following a nod given by the State Cabinet yesterday. The draft policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.
- The objective of the policy is to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic and sanitation and livelihood development to all residents of the state.

Bhubaneswar most affordable city for homebuyers: RBI survey

- Bhubaneswar remains the most affordable city for homebuyers, while Mumbai remains the least affordable one in India. This was revealed in a survey report published by the Reserve Bank of India.
- RBI has been conducting a quarterly residential asset price monitoring survey (RAPMS) since July 2010 on housing loans disbursed by select banks or housing finance companies (HFCs) across 13 cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar.

UP becomes No. 1 in implementation of Pradhanamtri Suraksha Beema Yojna

- Uttar Pradesh has become number one in implementation of Pradhanamtri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country. As per the statement released by state government 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019.
- AIR Lucknow Correspondent reports that implementation of this ambitious central government scheme started in state from January 2018 under which people between age group of 18 to 70 get accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying a nominal premium of 12 rupees annually.

Goa State government is planning to make HIV tests mandatory before the registration of marriages

- Goa State government is planning to make HIV tests mandatory before the registration of marriages. The announcement was made by Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane. The law will be placed in the state Assembly after it gets clearance from the law department.

Uttar Pradesh State government has started DASTAK campaign against communicative diseases Acute Encephalitis Syndrome

- Uttar Pradesh State government has started DASTAK campaign against communicative diseases Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease on 1 July in the State. DASTAK campaign will run from 1st to 31st July.
- This campaign is part of the State's comprehensive Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy. The vector-borne disease sensitive states have been marked.

34th Sailing Championship inaugurated in Telangana

- The 34th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week National Ranking Multi-Class Championship 2019 was inaugurated by Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, ESL Narasimhan in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The YAI Multi-Class (Ranking) Sailing Championship is one of oldest sailing competitions in India.
- It is held every year in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is taking place at Hussain Sagar Lake.

Nagaland declared 'Disturbed Area' under AFSPA for 6 more months

- Centre has declared entire State of Nagaland a 'disturbed area' for a period of 6 more months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) with effect from 30 June 2019. The central government opinion was notified by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

12 July: 'Save Water Day' observed by West Bengal government

- On 12 July 2019, West Bengal government observed Save Water Day across the state to spread the message of water conservation. This is the 1st time the day was observed. From now onwards it will be observed in state each year to create awareness among people to check misuse of water.

Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Fest organized by Kerala

- Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Festival is being organised by Kerala Tourism in Thiruvananthapuram. The five-day annual music festival is being held from 20 to 24 July 2019. It marks state's successful entry into music tourism and seeks to attract more tourists to Kerala

Kharchi Puja Festival being celebrated in Tripura

- The annual festival of worship of 14 Gods, popularly known as Kharchi Puja is being celebrated in Tripura. It started at Chaturdash Devata Bari in old Agartala (Puran Agartala). The festival began on 10 July will continue till 16 July 2019.
- According to an agreement signed with Royal family of Tripura, the Tripura government has been bearing all the expenses of the festival for the last several decades.

Kerala Startup Mission to host Women Startup Summit in Kochi on August 1

- The 'Women Startup Summit 2019' aims at encouraging aspiring women professionals to take up their entrepreneurial journey and developing an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem in the State.
- Successful women leaders, startup founders, policy makers and women entrepreneurs will share their experiences, aspirations and celebrate their success stories revolving round the theme "Developing an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem" at the one-day event.

Kerala to set up India's first space tech park in Thiruvananthapuram

- The Kerala government will set up the country's first space tech park at Thiruvananthapuram's Knowledge City. The move is aimed at making the city a manufacturing hub for space-related technology.
- A space museum named after former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will also be a part of the infrastructure. The state government has issued orders to allot the land required for the facility. This will be an added attraction. The entire investment will be made by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Global Ayurveda Summit at Kochi

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organising the third edition of Global Ayurveda Summit 2019 on October 30 and 31 at Kochi. While the main theme will be 'Mainstreaming Ayurveda Startups, Innovation and Branding,' the event will feature an international conference, expo, start-up contest, and a focussed B2B meeting platform. Over 500 industry leaders and experts from India and abroad are expected to participate.

Haryana invites Nepal to be partner country for Gita Jayanti Mahotsav

- Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be Partner Country for International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra from 3-8 December 2019. He extended invitation to Ambassador of Nepal to India Nilamber Acharya.

Gujarat tops in solar rooftop installations

- In the area of solar rooftop installations, Gujarat has stood first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity as on July 23, 2019.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

As per the Central government data, total rooftop solar installations in India is 1700.54 MW.

- Responding to a question raised by MP Parimal Nathwani in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Power R K Singh informed that Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have solar rooftop installations at 198.52 MW and 151.62 MW respectively.

Tamil yeoman: now Tamil Nadu's State Butterfly

- Butterfly species Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. The southern State formally notified this by an order on lines of the State Tree (Palm), Bird (Emerald Dove), Flower (Gloriosa) and Animal (Nilgiri Tahr).

RANKS

Money in Swiss banks: India ranked 74

- India has moved down one place to 74th rank in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with Swiss banks, while the U.K. has retained its top position, as per data released by the central banking authority of the Alpine nation.
- India was ranked 73rd last year, after jumping from its 88th rank a year ago.

India jumps 5 places to 52nd rank in global innovation index 2019

- India improved its ranking in the global innovation index by five places to 52nd in 2019 from 57th position last year, according to a report released. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal released the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings here. The GII rankings are published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.

Bengaluru tops list of most digitised cities, accounts for highest card payments

- Bengaluru has topped the list of “most digitised cities” accounting for highest card payments in a study conducted by payments solution company Razorpay.
- According to the Era of Rising Fintech Report, released by Razorpay Software Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru is followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Delhi. The top five digitised states as per the report are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi.

Maharashtra tops in ATM frauds, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka follow

- Maharashtra reported 233 cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19, the highest in the entire country, Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) data, accessed by TOI, revealed. The data showed that Delhi grabbed the second spot with 179 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu with 147 cases of ATM fraud.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- In Maharashtra, people lost Rs 4.8 crore to bank fraud, while in Delhi people lost Rs 2.9 crore. The country witnessed an increase in ATM fraud cases in general (up from 911 to 980).

Tata India's most valued brand at \$19.6 bn, LIC next at \$7.3 bn

- The brand 'Tata' has again been ranked as India's most valuable brand in 2019, according to a report by London-based consultancy Brand Finance. Tata's brand value rose 37% from last year to \$19.6 billion, surpassing the combined value of the second and third most valued brands in India, LIC (\$7.3 billion) and Infosys (\$6.5 billion), respectively.

Asia has 60% of hungry people in the world

- Asia they are 820 million people enough to eat in 2018, up from 811 million in the previous year. It is the third year of increase in a row. This underscores the immense challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030. The edition of the annual 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World'.
- The 'immense challenge' to reach the target of zero hunger more than 820 million people worldwide. There are about 820 million people to eat in 2018, up from 811 million in the previous year. This underscores the immense challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.

Asia on track to top 50% of World GDP by 2040: Report

- India is poised to overtake the UK to become the world's fifth largest economy, with a GDP or gross domestic production about double the size of either Canada or Russia, in the coming years, according to research by the Mckinsey Global Institute (MGI).
- Also, along with China, which competes as an economy with the US, the institute says, Asia is now the centre of global economic activity.

India drop two places to 103 in FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the FIFA rankings released on Thursday. India lost two matches and drew one in the Intercontinental Cup earlier this month in Ahmedabad. It lost 2-4 to Tajikistan and 2-5 against eventual winners DPR Korea before playing out a 1-1 draw against Syria.

Bengaluru is India's best student city, London global best: Study

- Bengaluru has been rated as the best student city in India and London the world's best based on a ranking that focuses on the number and performance of universities, employers hiring, the city's affordability, desirability and quality of life, and the diversity of student body.
- London is the world's best student city for the second consecutive year, according to the sixth edition of the QS Best Student Cities Ranking compiled by global consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- The 2019 global rankings of 120 top student cities released here on Wednesday include four Indian cities: Bengaluru (81st), Mumbai (85th), Delhi (113th) and Chennai (115th).

Most Powerful Passport 2019: Japan tops, India ranks 86th

- Henley Passport Index 2019 has recently published on its website that shows Japan and Singapore holds first position collectively as most powerful passports in the world.
- The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations including micro-states and territories. India stands at 86th position in this index with a mobility score of 58. India shares this 86th position with Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

Asia on track to top 50% of World GDP by 2040: Report

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- Also, along with China, which competes as an economy with the US, the institute says, Asia is now the centre of global economic activity.

BUSINESS NEWS

Bernard Arnault is the second richest person in the world with a fortune of \$108 billion

- French billionaire Bernard became the second wealthiest person in the world this week, according to Bloomberg. Arnault, the chairman and chief executive of the luxury goods conglomerate LVMH, saw his net worth jump to \$108 billion.
- The 70-year-old started 2019 as the fourth richest person in the world, but after earning \$40 billion since the year began, he's surpassed both Warren Buffett and Bill Gates in the ranking.

Reliance Jio partners with Facebook to launch literacy drive "Digital Udaan" for first-time internet users in India

- Indian mobile network operator, Reliance Jio partnered with Facebook to launch a digital literacy initiative
- e named "Digital Udaan". The main aim is to empower first-time internet users with digital literacy and understanding of the Internet in real time.
- The initiative is launched in nearly 200 different locations across 13 states. It is expected to reach over 7,000 locations in the country. Through this program, it has audio-visual training in 10 regional languages

Infosys launches Cyber Defence Center in Romania

- Infosys announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Cyber Defence Center in Bucharest, Romania. The Defence Center is an expansion of services delivered through Infosys Digital Innovation Center which opened in Bucharest.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- They will provide end-to-end, real-time, 24/7 cyber security monitoring and protection services to support European and global businesses on their digital transformation journey.

Samsung partners with Paisabazaar.com to offer financial products on Samsung Pay

- Paisabazaar.com, India's largest online marketplace for financial products, today announced its partnership with Samsung, the country's most trusted smartphone and consumer electronics company.
- Paisabazaar.com supports Samsung Pay users by providing one stop solution to their financial requirements.
- By using the facility, Samsung Pay users can apply for Credit Cards and Personal loans from the platform. The move will enable millions of existing and potential Samsung Pay users to get the benefit of seamlessly opting for a host of financial services.

RIL becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list. It has jumped 42 places and was ranked 106 this year. In this year's list, RIL replaced Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) which ranked 117 as top-ranked Indian company.

PepsiCo to invest Rs 514 cr to set up snacks plant in UP; create 1,500 jobs

- Food and beverages major PepsiCo India on Sunday said it plans to invest Rs 514 crore over the next three years to set up a greenfield snacks manufacturing plant in Uttar Pradesh.
- The new investment plan is in line with PepsiCo's goal to double its snacks business in the country by 2022 and is expected to help create over 1,500 jobs, both direct and indirect, the company said in a statement.

Apple to acquire Intels smartphone modem business for a transaction value of \$1 billion

- Apple announced the acquisition of chip-maker Intel's smartphone modem business for \$1 billion.
- There are around 2,200 Intel employees will join Apple along with intellectual property, equipment and leases, the Cupertino-based iPhone. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2019.

PayPal opens new centre in Hyderabad, to have around 100 techies

- American digital payments firm PayPal announced expansion of its India footprint with the launch of third global technology centre. PayPal India house involves 100 engineers across roles including risk management and operations.
- Their main is to provide cutting-edge digital payments solutions to customers around the world. The expansion follows the acquisition of fraud prevention platform Simility in 2018.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Amazon invests ₹51 crore in Ques Corp arm

- US-based e-commerce giant Amazon has made an equity investment of ₹51 crore in QDigi, an after-sales support company for electronic products. QDigi is a subsidiary of Ques Corp, a Bengaluru-based listed business services firm.
- Ques Corp board has approved issue of 754,437 equity shares to Amazon.com at an issue price of ₹676 on a preferential basis, according to a stock exchange filing. The issue price is nearly 50% higher than its current trading price of ₹430.

CapitaLand completes \$8 bn acquisition of Ascendas-Singbridge

- Singapore-based investor CapitaLand Ltd on Sunday said it has completed the purchase of Temasek Holdings-owned Ascendas-Singbridge Pte. Ltd.
- The deal creates one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups with over S\$123 billion of assets under management (AUM).

FOREIGN RELATION

Kuwait supports India in countering terror

- Kuwait supports India in countering terror. Kuwait completes its two-year term as the non-permanent member in the UNSC (United Nations Security Council) played a major role at JeM chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist and in UNSC condemnation of Pulwama terror strike.
- They support India's global ambitions including investments. In the 8543rd United Security Council meeting held on June 11, 2019. Kuwait proposed draft resolution 2474.

Israel inks \$50m deal with India to supply MRSAM to Navy

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a \$50 million deal with India to supply complementary Naval MRSAM systems to Indian Navy and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. IAI is a state-owned company of Israel.

India and China both are exercising restraint in Doklam', Rajnath Singh ensures enhanced security along border with China

- India and China bilateral pacts to ensure peace and tranquillity along the border. Rajnath Singh addressing the lower house of parliament, adding that both India and China were exercising restraint in Doklam.
- The complete restraint by the Armed Forces of India and China in Doklam there was a month-long stalemate between the armed forces of the two countries in Doklam in 2017.

Walmart Labs acquires Indian startups FloCare and BigTrade

- Walmart Labs, the technology arm of the US retail giant Walmart, has bought two Bengaluru-based startups to strengthen its customer service systems. The company

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

acqui-hired healthtech startup FloCare and B2B wholesale trading platform BigTrade for undisclosed sums.

Saudi Arabia adopts Digital India, equality of women in this year's Haj

- Indian Haj mission in Saudi Arabia has adopted digital technology to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of the Government of India's initiative of Digital India.
- With the introduction of Haj App, Indian diplomats in Saudi Arabia are trying to form a bridge with the pilgrims not only to facilitate a smooth and hassle-free Haj operation but also to receive grievances and feedbacks to improve the service.

US-India bilateral trade could reach USD 238 billion by 2025

- US India Strategic and Partnership Forum decided the bilateral trade between the two countries could reach 238 billion Dollars by 2025. From the current 143 billion Dollars given the present dynamics of the commercial engagement. The growth will occur if trade grows by 7.5 per cent each year been the trend for the last seven years.

India And Italy Set Up Fast Track Mechanism To Facilitate Investors And Companies

- In order to facilitate Italian companies and investors in India and Indian companies and investors in Italy, it has been decided to establish fast-track system for companies and investors of both the countries.
- The key objectives of the fast – track system in India will be to pave the way for and identify and solve problems faced by Italian companies and investors with their operations in India.
- The system will also serve as a platform for discussing general suggestions from the point of view of Italian companies and investors with regard to ease of doing business in India.

New India-UK bilateral scheme launched on Pilot basis

- UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India, a new India-UK bilateral scheme has been launched on pilot basis to support Britain's universities to collaborate with Indian partners to facilitate United Kingdom (UK) students to visit India during their studies. UKERI stands for 'UK-India Education Research Initiative.

India Holds First Ever Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in Tanzania

- The doctrine of Humanity, India offering to the world since long ago through 'actions'. The six-week-long Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in Tanzania which benefited over 500 differently abled Tanzanians.
- The camp was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Jaipur Foot and held at Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute, Dar es Salaam.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

NASSCOM & NSDC launches “World Skills India”-International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019

- NASSCOM & NSDC launches “World Skills India”- International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019 from July (1st – 6th 2019) at NASSCOM Campus, New Delhi.
- Main Aim: The initiative is aimed at recognizing the best practices from the world in the areas of cloud computing. The challenge initiated in the presence of the minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey.

India, China to have Joint Military Exercise in Meghalaya

- The annual Joint Military Exercise ‘Hand-in-Hand’ between India and China will be held at Umroi, near Shillong, Meghalaya in December 2019. The two-week long company-level exercise will take place in 2nd half of December while the planning conference to finalise modalities for joint.

India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka

- India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka. India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka.
- The anti-tank missile will be added to the fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- This deal comes in wake of an IAF’s attempt to keep itself battle-ready in situations like post-Balakot aerial strikes.
- The Strum Ataka anti-tank missile would give an added capability to Mi-35 attack choppers of IAF to take out enemy tanks and other armoured elements.

Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea

- Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea.
- The Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea. It was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Maldives on 8 June 2019.

Centre raised its foreign aid to Nepal from Rs.750 crore to Rs.1,050 crore in the 2019-20 budget

- Centre raised its foreign aid to Nepal from Rs.750 crore to Rs.1,050 crore in the 2019-20 budget. The Indian government has raised the foreign aid to Nepal from Rs.750 crore in 2018 to Rs.1,050 crore in the 2019-20 Budget. It is an increase of 40%.
- Due to the 2015 Madhesi agitation, anti-India sentiments is growing in Nepal. Despite this, India never faltered its aids to Nepal.
- During a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal PM K.P.Sharma Oli in May, India committed to expediting a few pending projects that India is pursuing for infrastructure development in Nepal. India is engaged in creating Arun-III, a 900-MW hydroelectric project, in Nepal.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

India to contribute USD 5 Millions in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency

- India to contribute USD 5 Millions in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency. India pledged USD 5 million in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency.
- The agency's difficult financial situation due to voluntary contributions from a limited donor base and called for ensuring sustained fiscal support for its work.
- India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu the government increased its annual financial contribution four fold to the UNRWA core budget from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2018.

DEFENCE NEWS

Garuda-VI: Indo-French Joint Air Exercise begins

- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) are participating in Garuda VI, a bilateral air exercise at Mont de Marsan in France.
- The last edition of joint exercise between IAF-FAF was held in June 2014 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This year is the 6th edition of exercise which is taking place from 1 July to 12 July 2019.

Spektr-RG: Telescope launched by Russia into space

- Russia launched a Powerful X-ray space telescope called Spektr-RG from cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, in a joint project with Germany. The launch of telescope was originally scheduled for 21 June 2019 but was postponed twice because of a battery problem.
- It is launched to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields. It is a space observatory that intends to replace Spektr-R, known as the Russian Hubble.

Eleventh DefExpo India- 2020 to be held in Lucknow

- The 11th DefExpo India-2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow. The main theme of the DefExpo India-2020 will be 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'

Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems bags \$100 million missile kit order

- Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems Ltd (KRAS) has secured \$100-million order from Israel's Rafael for manufacturing 1,000 Barak-8 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) Missile kits for Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

ISRO calls off Chandrayaan 2 launch due to technical glitch

- India's ambitious second lunar mission, Chandrayaan 2, suffered a jolt in the early hours of July 15 with a technical snag forcing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to call off the launch for the time being. ISRO, which aims to touch down on

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

the South Pole of the Moon where no country had gone before, tweeted, "Revised launch date will be announced later."

INS Tarkash reaches Morocco for overseas development programme

- To establish India's credentials as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific region, Indian Naval Ship Tarkash reached Tangier in Morocco on Monday for a three-day visit. It is part of an ongoing overseas deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe.
- It will now strengthen the friendship between India and Morocco. The ship would also take part in numerous professional, social and sporting interactions planned with the Royal Moroccan Navy.

Operation Sudarshan: launched by BSF to fortify border with Pakistan

Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu. The operation was launched on 1 July and is expected to be finished within a fortnight.

Army, NeGD ink pact for developing revamped app

- The Army and the National eGovernance Division on July 5 inked a pact for developing a revamped application to maintain the centralised database for personnel, equipment and major stores to provide management-related information to the force, a statement said.
- The National eGovernance Division is a part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Indian Navy commissions fifth Dornier Aircraft Squadron in Chennai

- Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313 It is the fifth Dornier aircraft squadron commissioned into the Indian Navy by Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM AVSM ADC Chief of the Naval Staff. The ceremony held at Naval Air Enclave, Meenambakkam.
- Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Rear Admiral KJ Kumar VSM, Flag Officer and Puducherry Naval Area (FOTNA) present during the commissioning ceremony.

Jordan: Underwater Museum Of Military Vehicles unveiled

- Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba. As part new underwater military museum the kingdom submerged several military vehicles, including tanks, troop carriers and even a decommissioned Jordanian Armed Forces' AH-1 Cobra helicopter into the waters of the Red Sea. Before the vehicles were submerged, all hazardous materials were removed from them.

ISALEX19: ISAs joint security exercise begins

- Abu Dhabi, capital of United Area Emirates (UAE) is hosting International Security Alliance (ISAs) first joint security exercise named ISALEX19.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

- It will simulate a real-life security threat in a virtual context, to test readiness of different teams and to evaluate strategies, procedures and tools developed jointly between member countries since formation of Alliance in 2017.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA launched an incredible new atomic clock into orbit to navigate distant planets

- NASA launched an incredible new atomic clock into orbit to navigate distant planets. NASA has launched an incredible new atomic clock into orbit on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy.
- It was developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The mission aims to revolutionise how mankind explores the cosmos.

India's first space war drill, IndSpaceEx, to kickstart this week: Report

- The Indian armed forces plan to conduct the country's first ever stimulated space warfare exercise this week, The Times of India has reported. The exercise, the report states, aims to assess "imminent threats" to the nation beyond earth. It also plans on drafting a joint space doctrine for future battles.

Dracaena cambodiana: India's first dragon blood-oozing tree

- Researchers have discovered Dracaena cambodiana, a dragon tree species in Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong District in Assam. This is for 1st time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India. This research which added to India's botanical wealth has been published in Journal of Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

Spektr-RG: Telescope launched by Russia into space

- Russia launched a Powerful X-ray space telescope called Spektr-RG from cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, in a joint project with Germany. The launch of telescope was originally scheduled for 21 June 2019 but was postponed twice because of a battery problem.
- It is launched to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields. It is a space observatory that intends to replace Spektr-R, known as the Russian Hubble.

Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft successfully launched by GSLV MkIII-M1

- Chandrayaan-2, India's 2nd moon mission (after Chandrayaan-1, 2008) was successfully launched by GSLV-MkIII-M1 from Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- This successful launch comes exactly a week after Missions' liftoff was aborted due to a technical snag.

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Telecom giant BT and IISc set up R&D centre to focus on AI, cybersecurity

- Telecom giant BT and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), on Thursday, said that they have started a new phase of UK-India joint research with the opening of a new collaborative research centre in Bengaluru.
- The centre would focus on the development of the next generation of cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), mobility and software engineering technologies.

SPORTS

Name	Title	Additional Information
Max Verstappen	Austrian Grand Prix	Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix, beating Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who registered his best finish in a Formula 1 Grand Prix
Spain	Euro Under-21 title	Spain claimed the Under-21 European Championship title after beating Germany 2-1 in Italy
Vaibhav Yadav	World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver Welterweight Champion	He won the title after defeating Fahpetch Singmanassak of Thailand. Vaibhav clinched a 3rd-round knockout win over Singmanassak.
Rohit Sharma		Become the leading run-getter in the ongoing World Cup after scoring his fourth hundred of the tournament.
Cori Gauff		Becomes the youngest player to win a match at the premier tournament.
Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul		registered the highest ever opening partnership for India in a World Cup match
Hima Das	women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix	She was clocked 23.65s on her way to the 200m gold. This was Hima's first competitive 200m race of the year 2019.
Mohammed Afsal, Gagandeep Singh, Senthil Kumar Mithravarun, Navjeet Kaur Dhillon, Jyoti Jakhar Ran, Anita	Qasanov Memorial Meet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mohammed Afsal won the men's 800m gold• Gagandeep Singh added another gold in men's discus throw• Senthil Kumar Mithravarun took the

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		<p>silver with a 49.54m throw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navjeet Kaur Dhillon, who had won a bronze in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, won the third gold for India with another below-par effort of 54.80m • India then took a silver and bronze in women's hammer throw through Jyoti Jakhar Ran (58.69m) and Anita (55.38m) respectively.
USA	FIFA Women's World Cup for 4th time	This is USA's fourth Women's World Cup title after having won the 1991, 1999 and 2015 editions.
Sweden	third at FIFA Women's World Cup	This was Sweden's third bronze medal finish at the event after their third-place finishes at the 1991 and 2011 editions.
Brazil	9th Copa América title	Brazil defeated Peru 3-1 to win their ninth Copa América title and their first since 2007.
Mexico	8th CONCACAF Gold Cup title	Mexico defeated USA 1-0 to claim a record eighth CONCACAF Gold Cup title
Vinesh, Divya	Grand Prix of Spain Women's Wrestling	Vinesh Phogat won her 1st gold medal after shifting to 53kg category and Divya Kakran claimed top honours in 68kg category
Li Shifeng	CANADA OPEN TITLE	It was youth over experience as 19-year-old Li Shifeng beat India's Parupalli Kashya
Mirabai Chanu	gold at Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting C'ship	Former world champion Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship
Dhoni		becomes 2nd Indian cricketer after Sachin to play 350 ODIs
Rakhi Halder and Davinder Kaur		won a gold medal each in the senior women's section on the

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		second day of Commonwealth Championships
Toran Yadav	4th World Wealth Yoga Championship	Para-athlete Toran Yadav from chhattisgarh has won 3 silver medals at 4th World Wealth Yoga Championship in Europe.
Dutee Chand	100m gold at World University Games	This is the first time that an Indian has won a 100-metre gold in any edition of the World University Games.
Mirabai Chanu	Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting C'ship	Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship
Simona Halep	maiden Wimbledon	defeated seven-time champion Serena Williams 6-2, 6-2 in the women's singles final
Sathyan, Amalraj	India's 1st ever medal at Australian Open	won India its first-ever medal at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open
Ajay Singh	Wins Gold and Creates New Commonwealth Record	lifting more than double his body weight (190kg) to score vital points at the Olympic qualifying event.
Cabal-Farah	Grand Slam men's doubles title	They beat France's Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin
Shintaro Mochizuki	boy's Grand Slam title	became the first Japanese player to win a boy's Grand Slam title, beating Carlos.
Novak Djokovic	Wimbledon singles final	Novak Djokovic saved two championship points in Wimbledon's longest singles final to retain his title
England	Cricket World Cup final	England triumphed over New Zealand
Ben Stokes	Man of 2019 WC final vs New Zealand	England all-rounder Ben Stokes, who scored 84*(98) in the 2019 World Cup final against New Zealand, was named Man of the Final
Lewis Hamilton	sixth British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton won a record sixth British Grand Prix at Silverstone
Mohammed Salahuddin	Won gold the men's triple jump gold at the Tatyana Kolpakova memorial international athletics	The 25-year-old's 16.53m in the second round brought him an easy gold
Vinesh Phogat	gold medal at Yasar Dogu International	India women wrestler Vinesh Phogat has defeated Russia's Ekaterina Poleshchuk and won

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

		gold at Yasar Dogu International in the 53kg category.
Vijayveer Sidhu	gold at Junior Shooting World Cup	Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany
Anish Bhanwala	gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2019	Bhanwala secured 584 and shot 29 in the final.
Hima Das	Tabor Athletics Meet- gold	Hima won in 23.25 seconds though the race had a mediocre field with most of the competitors representing clubs of Czech Republic.
Sarabjot Singh	Gold At ISSF Junior World Cup	Sarabjot Singh shot a 239.6 to bag the men's 10m air pistol gold
Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar	Gold At ISSF Junior World Cup	he hit a 10.4 in his last shot in the finals of ISSF Junior World Cup to finish with world record score of 459.3
Algeria	Africa Cup of Nations	Algeria won the Africa Cup of Nations for the second time after beating Senegal 1-0 in the final.
Shiva Thapa	India's first gold at 2019 President's Cup boxing tournament	Thapa, who was making his international debut in 63 kg category, was scheduled to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin, who pulled out due to injury
Wolverhampton Wanderers	win Premier League Asia Trophy	Wolverhampton Wanderers defeated Premier League champions Manchester City to claim the Premier League Asia Trophy 3-2 in a penalty shootout in Shanghai
Hima Das	5th international gold - international meet in Czech Republic	India's 19-year-old sprinter Hima Das won her fifth international gold in 19 days after winning the 400-metre race by clocking 52.09 seconds
India's mixed relay team - Hima Das, Mohammad Anas, Arokia Rajiv & M R Poovamma	won silver at Jakarta Asian Games 2018	Bahrain's mixed relay team comprising Kemi Adekoya had won the gold in the event.
PV Sindhu	first silver medal of the year at Indonesia Open	The 24-year-old lost her first final of the year to world number four Akane Yamaguchi 15-21, 16-21 in 51 minutes

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

Shiva Thapa	India's first gold-medallist in Kazakhstan President's Cup – Boxing	Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament
G Sathiyar-Archana Kamath	Table Tennis Championships - mixed doubles gold	Sathiyar and Archana Kamath won 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship
Adam Peaty	Swimming - 100m breaststroke world title	world title for the third time with his victory at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju, South Korea
John Isner	Tennis - Fourth Newport Title	Becoming the first player to win four titles in Newport with a 7-6(2), 6-3 win over seventh-seeded Kazakh Alexander Bublik.
Abhay Singh, Tanvi Khanna	Bengal Open Squash Titles	sixth Bengal Open squash tournament at the Calcutta Racket Club.
Kristof Milak	Swimming - 200 metres butterfly at the FINA world championship 2019	Milák is a swimmer from Hungary.
Virat Kohli	number one spot in ICC Test Rankings	Virat Kohli (India) – Topped the Test Batting Rankings.
Cristiano Ronaldo	Instagram Sports Rich List	He received \$975,000 per post to endorse products from companies on the social media platform.
Meg Lanning	Australia Women captain - highest ever score in a women's T20I	breaking the record for the highest individual score in a women's T20I
Ashish Kumar	Thailand Open – gold	Ashish won the gold after defeating Korea's Kim Jinjae 5-0 in the 75 kg category.
Mary Kom	President's Cup – gold	Six-time world champion Mary Kom won the gold medal at the 23rd President's Cup in Indonesia's Labuan Bajo.
Max Verstappen	German Grand Prix	Red Bull's Max Verstappen took his second win of the year in a chaotic and incident-strewn German Grand Prix held in intermittent rain
Egan Bernal	Tour de France champion	He succeeds teammate Geraint Thomas.
Dalilah Muhammad	400 m hurdles Women's athletics at the U.S. Championships athletics	New world record in the 400m hurdles women's athletics at the U.S. Championships athletics

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

OBITUARY

Name	Additional Information
BK Birla	Chairman of BK Birla Group
Sudershan Agarwal	Former Uttarakhand Governor
Cameron Boyce	Actor
A.U. Celestine	Former India Football goalkeeper
Fernando Corbató	Computer password inventor
H.M. Ershad	Bangladesh former military dictator
Swarup Dutta	Veteran Bengali actor
JS Gharaya	Indian generals , who was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra in the 1971 Indo-Pak war
Johnny Clegg	South African musician and activist
Sheila Dixit	Ex- Delhi CM
Ram Chandra Paswan	Lok Sabha member
Yukiya Amano	Chief - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Peter McNamara	Former Australian Tennis Star
Li Peng	Former Chinese premier known as 'Butcher of Beijing'
Rutger Hauer	Blade Runner actor
Beji Caid Essebsi	Tunisia's first democratically leader
Jaipal Reddy	Veteran Congress leader
Donkumar Roy	Ex-Chief Minister And Meghalaya Assembly Speaker
Vithalbhai Radadiya	Senior BJP leader
Subir Vithal Gokarn	Former RBI Deputy Governor

IMPORTANT DAYS

Name	Day	Theme
GST Day	July 01	
National Doctors' Day	July 01	
World UFO day	July 02	
International Day of Cooperatives	July 06	COOPS 4 DECENT WORK
International Chocolate Day	July 07	
World Population Day	July 11	
National Simplicity Day	July 12	
World Youth Skills Day	July 15	"Youth Skills for Sustainability and Innovation"
World Day for International Justice	July 17	
International Chess Day	July 20	
National broadcasting day	July 23	
Kargil Vijay Diwas	July 26	
World Hepatitis Day	July 28	Find the Missing Millions
International Tiger Day	July 29	

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2019 PDF

International Friendship Day	July 30	
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	July 30	Human Trafficking : Call your government to Action