



Monthly Updates On **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

JUNE 2019

NATIONAL

- The year 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of victory in 'Operation Vijay' popularly known as the 'Kargil War'. The Kargil War is remembered for the determination and daring junior leadership and the raw courage of our jawans at the tactical level. In 2019, it is celebrated with the theme 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew'.
- The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-weeklong coordinated operation named 'Operation Sunrise 2', starting from 16th May, 2019, in their respective border areas and targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. As part of the operation, the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), the NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB).

ECONOMY

- Financial Literacy Week 2019 was observed from June 3-7 on the theme of 'Farmers' which focusses on how farmers can get benefit by being a part of the formal banking system. It is an annual initiative by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), India's top oil and gas-producing company, has toppled Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to regain the status of being India's most profitable public sector company in June 2019. ONGC, in the previous two financial years, had lost the most profitable PSU (Public Sector Unit) tag to IOC.
- The 2019 SDG Gender Index measures the state of gender equality aligned to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 129 countries and 51 issues ranging from health, gender-based violence, climate change, decent work and others. India has been ranked at the 95th position in this index.
- India's ranking in 2019 'Global Peace Index' has slipped five places to 141st among 163 countries as per the report released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). Their criteria of level of peacefulness are based on three thematic domains - the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation. In the South Asian countries, Bhutan topped the index with 15th rank, Sri Lanka 72nd, Nepal 76th and Bangladesh 101st.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- India is going to conduct its first-ever simulated space warfare exercise titled 'IndSpaceEx' in the last week of July 2019, under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff of the defence ministry. The purpose of the exercise is to understand the possible challenges in space warfare and to counter China's growing influence in this domain.
- The world's fastest supersonic cruise missile with high rate of precision and accuracy, BrahMos can be fired from land, sea and air. It was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha in June 2019. BrahMos is a joint venture between the DRDO of India and the NPOM of Russia.

SPORTS

- On 21st June, 2019, India's Pankaj Advani has won the 35th Men's Asian Snooker Championship. He defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon of Thailand by 6-3 in the final. This championship was held in Doha.
- Sunil Chhetri became the most capped Indian football player by surpassing his mentor, Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches. He played his 108th match in the King's Cup football tournament in Buriram, Thailand.
- Peter Gilchrist of Singapore has won the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship at the Yarraville Club in the final after defeating India's Sourav Kothari.
- In 2019 French Open tennis tournament, Rafael Nadal has won the Men's Singles title by defeating Austrian player Dominic Thiem. It was his 12th French Open title after which he became the first player to win 12 Singles titles at the same Grand Slam. He has won 18 majors overall and is now just two titles behind Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors.
- Ashleigh Barty, an Australian professional tennis player, has won the women's singles title at the 2019 French Open tennis tournament. She defeated Marketa Vondrousova by 6-1, 6-3 in the final at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris. Barty is the first Australian player to win a French Open singles title.
- India's P.U. Chitra has won gold in women's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden. She had also won gold in Asian Championships by defeating Kenya's Mercy Cherono.
- Gary Woodland of the United States has won the 119th United States Open Golf Championship at Pebble Beach golf links in California. It is his first major career title.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- Thanjavoor Ramamoorthy was the noted mridangam exponent and was the former top-grade artist of All India Radio (AIR). On 22nd June, 2019, he passed away in Trichy, Tamil Nadu. He was the recipient of the Kalaimamani award of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail tycoon M.A. Yusuff Ali has become the first expat to get the UAE's first gold card permanent residency in June 2019. He is the chairman of LuLu Group and is the richest expat in UAE. With total investment exceeding USD 27 billion, he got a gold card under a scheme announced by the ruler of Dubai in May 2019.
- Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra was appointed as the chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD) in June 2019. His team members at the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD have earned praise for their accurate forecasts on cyclones, its wind-speed and likely impact on life and property.

- After the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Rakesh Makhija became the chairman of Axis Bank in June 2019. He has been an active participant and contributor to the industrial and technology sectors, both internationally and in India over four decades.
- Chandrani Murmu, a 25-year-old engineering graduate from Odisha, has become the youngest Member of Parliament (MP) to the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019. She replaced Dushyant Chautala from the Keonjhar seat.
- Odisha has a total of seven women MPs, making it the first state ever to have the largest share of women MPs of its total seats.
- Sachin Bansal has been appointed as the director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank in June 2019. He was the cofounder of Flipkart. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank commenced its banking operations from 1st February, 2017. It is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- Indian-origin Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilisation and management, has been appointed as the Deputy Executive Director in the United Nation's agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.
- Rajnath Singh 'Surya', the veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha Member, passed away in Lucknow on 13th June, 2019. He was the Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh from 1996 to 2002. He worked in various newspapers and was a well-known columnist.
- India-born Pramila Jayapal becomes the first South-Asian American woman to preside over the US House of Representatives in June 2019. A record number of 17 Asian Americans are serving in Congress, with 14 in the House and three in the Senate of the United States.
- Romila Thapar, a Professor Emerita of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS) in June 2019. APS is the oldest learned society in the United States. Romila Thapar is a well-known historian and writer.
- Girish Karnad was a well-known writer, actor and public intellectual. He passed away on 10th June, 2019 in Bengaluru. He wrote his first play Yayati in 1961. His last play was 'Rakshasa Tangadi', published in 2018. He had received Jnanpith, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and many other awards.
- Electronics system engineer, Muthayya Vanitha has been appointed as the first woman Project Director of mission Chandrayaan-2 in June 2019. This mission is an advancement of Chandrayaan-1, which was launched a decade ago. Chandrayaan-2 can scale the lunar surface and gather information on minerals, rock formations and water.
- Social activist Makarand Tiloo received the 'Save Water Hero Award' given by the HridayMitra Foundation for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation. He started a campaign to save water by replacing leaking taps with new ones. The HridayMitra Foundation is an organisation which aims to spread awareness about diseases as well as the surgeries required to remedy them.
- Dr. Rabi N. Mishra has been appointed as the new executive director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June 2019. The post was vacant after the retirement of former ED, Rosemary Sebastian. Mishra has been serving the RBI for about 30 years.
- Suman Rao from the state of Rajasthan became the Femina Miss India World 2019. Miss India 2018, Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu has crowned her. Shreya Shankar from Bihar was crowned Miss India United Continents 2019 and Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh was crowned Miss Grand India 2019.
- Om Birla from Kota has been elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha in June 2019. He was elected as the MLA for three consecutive terms for Rajasthan Assembly in 2003, 2008 and 2013. He won Rajasthan's Kota Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and again in 2019.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- The government of Punjab has launched its flagship universal health insurance scheme – Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY) in 2019. The scheme provides an annual health cover of ₹ 5 lakhs per family. Around 43.18 lakh families in Punjab can get cover under it. All government hospitals and 364 private hospitals in Punjab had been empaneled for health care. There are 14.86 lakh families covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) in the state. The cost of the premium for the families covered under the PMJAY would be borne by the Centre and the state government in the ratio of 60:40, but for the SSBY, it would be completely borne by the state government.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Nitesh Kumar Jangir, a Bangalore-based electronics engineer, has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom. He won this award in the 'People' category along with 14 other innovators. He created 'Saans' as a breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from respiratory distress syndrome due to lack of immediate access to complex medical equipment.
- Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq President, Adena Friedman have won the prestigious Global Leadership Awards, 2019. It is given by Washington-based US-India Business Council (USIBC) in recognition of the companies' contribution towards technology-driven platforms.
- In June 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) has selected the Rajasthan government's Medical & Health Department for its award to recognise its achievements in the field of tobacco control. It is the only government body in India which got such an award.
- Maldives has conferred 'Nishan Izzuddin' award to India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in June 2019. It is the highest award of Maldives to honour foreign nationals. He inaugurated the Coastal Surveillance System (CSS) and the Comprehensive Training Centre for National Defence Forces of Maldives with Indian Grants.
- Former President, Pratibha Patil was bestowed on the highest civilian award of Mexico for foreigners in June 2019. The ambassador of Mexico to India, Melba Pria, presented "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle) to her. She served as the first woman president of the country during 2007-12.
- The women members of Telangana-based Deccan Development Society have bagged the prestigious United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Equator Prize for 2019. They have been selected for standing as 'an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development'. They have built their own seed banks and grow millets in the predominantly rainfed villages of the Sangareddy district.
- One of India's leading contemporary writers, Amitav Ghosh has been conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards literature. His famous books are The Circle of Reason (1986), The Shadow Lines (1988), The Calcutta Chromosome (1996), The Hungry Tide (2004), Sea of Poppies (2008), The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable (2016).