

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 17, 2019

NATIONAL

◆ **Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO), a new agency to develop space warfare - was announced by the Narendra Modi's Government**

- ✓ It will look into developing sophisticated weapon systems and technologies to improve the potential of the armed forces for space wars
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared the setting up of this new agency
- ✓ A senior defence scientist will head DSRO, which is expected to be operational by the end of this year
- ✓ The organization is also charged with finding and implementing defence applications for India's entire spectrum of space technologies
- ✓ DSRO will support to the Defence Space Agency (DSA) which comprises members of all three forces.
- ✓ The DSA has been set up in Bengaluru under an Air Vice Marshal-rank office

◆ **The first day of 17th Lok Sabha - has commenced on June 17, 2019**

- ✓ The session will continue till July 26, while the budget will be presented on July 5
- ✓ In this session Triple Talaq, Aadhar Rules and Teachers Cadre Reservation Bill etc. will also be introduced.



- ✓ BJP MPs Dr Harsh Vardhan and Dr Jitendra Singh (Union Ministers) took oath in Sanskrit and Dogri, respectively
- ✓ BJP MP Virendra Kumar took oath as the Protem Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chaired the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan, keeping up the spirit of new motto of Modi 2.0 Government - "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwaas"**



- ✓ The Governing Council is the central body tasked to engage with States in shaping their development narrative and evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies.
- ✓ The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is comprised of:
 - ✓ Prime Minister
 - ✓ Chief Ministers & Lt. Governors of all the States and Union Territories
 - ✓ Other special invitees
- ✓ The First Meeting was held on February 8, 2015 which saw laying down of the key mandates of NITI Aayog
- ✓ The Second Meeting took place on July 15, 2015, the third Meeting was held on April 23, 2017 and the Fourth was held on June 17, 2018

◆ **The new and revised Income Tax guidelines - has come into effect from today, June 17, 2019**

- ✓ It aims to make strict decision against the tax invaders and those who have made serious offences under black money and benami laws.
- ✓ As per the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex direct tax policy making body, any offence connected to undisclosed foreign bank account or assets in any manner cannot be compounded
- ✓ It had also said that the offences linked to any wrongdoing covered under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act 1988 are also not compoundable.
- ✓ As per the new rules, a full tax rebate under Section 87A of the Income Tax Act applies henceforth for individual taxpayers with a net annual income up to Rs 5 lakh from the earlier limit of Rs 3.5 lakh
- ✓ The CBDT is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- ✓ It provides inputs for policy and planning of direct taxes in India, and is also responsible for administration of direct tax laws through the IT Department.
- ✓ It is headed by Chairman and also comprises six members, all of whom are ex officio Special Secretary to the Government of India.

◆ **India - to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Operation Vijay (also called Kargil Vijay Diwas) from 25 July to 27 July 2019 at Dras and New Delhi**

- ✓ The day will be celebrated with theme- **Remember, Rejoice and Renew.**
- ✓ The celebrations in National Capital of India will begin from 14th of July, with the traditional lighting of a Victory Flame from National War Memorial, New Delhi and conclude at Dras (a town in Kargil District of Jammu and Kashmir) wherein the flame will be merged with the eternal flame at Kargil War Memorial, which is built by Indian Army

◆ **The National Geographic Society (NGS), a US based non-profit scientific and educational organization - announced successful installation of world's highest operating weather stations at Mount Everest's Death Zone**

- ✓ It was part of National Geographic and Rolex's Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Everest, held from April to June 2019
- ✓ These world's two highest operating automated weather stations (a 7-foot-building) were installed at Balcony area (8,430 m) and South Col (7,945 m) that can withstand extreme winds and cold weather
- ✓ Balcony area weather station is first weather station installed at elevation of more than 8,000 metres thus it will also be 1st to sample stratosphere.
- ✓ Each weather station will record data on temperature, relative humidity (amount of water vapour present in air), barometric pressure, wind speed, as well as wind direction
- ✓ It will provide researchers, climbers, and public with near real-time information about mountain conditions

◆ **Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) - entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French Agency**



- ✓ Under this agreement, AFD a French agency, has agreed to provide in-kind grant financing up to 7,00,000 EURO, through French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC to support the Railway Station Development Program in India

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - was the first leader to arrive at SCO Summit venue on June 14**



Raveesh Kumar ✓
@MEAIndia



President Sooronbay Jeenbekov of #Kyrgyz Republic, current Chair of #SCOSummit2019 warmly welcomed PM @narendramodi as he arrived at the Ala Archa Presidential Palace ahead of the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting today morning. #SCOSummit2019 #IndiaInSCO @IndiaInKyrgy

♥ 134 10:11 AM - Jun 14, 2019

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- ✓ He met with the other leaders of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at the SCO summit in Bishkek
- ✓ Before this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the meeting of Council of Heads of States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) beginning on June 13, 2019 in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan
- ✓ The CHS is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.
- ✓ This will be the second CHS meeting after India became member of SCO.
- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation
- ✓ It was created on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China
- ✓ Its member countries includes Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of India and Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) basically works on economic and security issues.

◆ **16th Asia Media summit 2019 - held in Cambodia from June 12 to 14 to discuss on many issues pertaining to media & broadcasting industry**



- ✓ The topic for this year's summit is 'Media Digitalization Focusing on Developing Markets'
- ✓ The last edition of the summit was hosted by India
- ✓ The summit was organized by Cambodian Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)
- ✓ More than 600 media representatives from 42 countries and regions participated in event
- ✓ The participants focused the attention was on spread of disinformation/fake news and its impact on governments, media, private sector and society

PERSONALITIES

◆ **Suman Rao from Rajasthan - won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant held in Mumbai**



- ✓ She was crowned as Miss India 2019 by her predecessor Miss India 2018, Tamil Nadu's Anukreethy Vas.
- ✓ Suman has now become 56th Miss India
- ✓ She will next represent India at Miss World 2019 in Pattaya, Bangkok in Thailand on December 2019.
- ✓ Sanjana Vij of Telangana was titled as Miss India Runner Up 2019.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh's 23-year-old Shivani Jadhav was declared fbb Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2019 and Bihar's 22-year-old Shreya Shanker won fbb Colors Femina Miss India United Continents 2019

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **DRDO - has successfully test fired Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from the launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) on Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal along the Odisha coast**

- ✓ HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft

- ✓ It is designed to cruise at Mach 6 speed with scramjet engine up to an altitude of 32.5 kilometres in 20 seconds
- ✓ It can be used for launching satellites at low cost and can also be available for long-range cruise missiles of future.

◆ **NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope - will be switched off permanently on January 30, 2020**

- ✓ It has spent nearly 16 years in exploring the cosmos in infrared light.
- ✓ Spitzer is a small but transformational observatory, that is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- ✓ It captures infrared light, which is often emitted by "warm" objects that are not quite hot enough to radiate visible light.
- ✓ Spitzer has identified various hidden objects in nearly every corner of the universe, from a new ring around Saturn to observations of some of the most distant galaxies known
- ✓ In 2017, the telescope revealed the presence of seven rocky planets around the TRAPPIST-1 star.
- ✓ It was launched in January 1983 as Infrared Astronomical Satellite, jointly developed by the United States, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, to conduct the first infrared survey of the sky.
- ✓ Spitzer is the only one of the Great Observatories not launched by the Space Shuttle
- ✓ In future, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, to be launched in 2021, will study the universe in many of the same wave-lengths observed by Spitzer

ECONOMY

◆ **Yashovardhan Birla - has been declared a wilful defaulter by Kolkata-based lender UCO Bank for non-repayment of ₹ 67 crore by Birla Surya Limited — one of the companies in his group**



- ✓ Notifying him as a wilful defaulter, the bank said the company had a credit limit of ₹ 100 crore, of which ₹ 67 crore plus interest was due.
- ✓ The loan was classified as a non-performing asset in 2013.
- ✓ Birla Surya had availed of the loan for the purpose of manufacturing multi-crystalline solar photovoltaic cells.
- ✓ Once a promoter is classified as a wilful defaulter, his access to funding dries up not just for the existing business but for any company in which he is a director.
- ✓ Ironically, the Kolkata-based bank was founded by Yash Birla's great-grand uncle, Ghanshyam Das Birla.
- ✓ G D Birla's brother Rameshwar Das Birla was the grandfather of Ashok Birla, Yash Birla's father.

◆ **Reserve Bank of India - has asked banks to grout their ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) to a structure (wall/pillar/floor) by September 30, 2019 to enhance security of the cash vending machines**

- ✓ The move follows the recommendations of the Committee on Currency Movement (CCM), under the chairmanship of D K Mohanty, RBI's executive director
- ✓ As part of security measures undertaken by the central bank, all ATMs shall be operated for cash replenishment only with digital One Time Combination
- ✓ Banks may also roll out a comprehensive e-surveillance mechanism at ATMs to ensure timely alerts and quick response

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar - has been named interim CVC until a new incumbent is chosen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-headed selection panel**



- ✓ He is the former chief of anti-terror probe agency National Investigation Agency (NIA) and took over as Vigilance Commissioner on June 12 last year
- ✓ His tenure at the Central Vigilance Commission will end in October next year, when he completes 65 years of age

◆ **Denmark's Inger Andersen - recently took charge as the new Executive Director (ED) of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**



- ✓ She holds the position for a period of four years
- ✓ Inger is a Danish economist and environmentalist with over 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability
- ✓ She took over the charge from Joyce Msuya of Tanzania, who served as acting head of UNEP since late 2018.
- ✓ Inger had served as Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) between January 2015 and May 2019
- ✓ Before joining IUCN, she held various leadership roles at World Bank and United Nations

- ✓ The UNEP was founded by Maurice Strong (UNEP's 1st director) as per the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (or the Stockholm Conference) on 5 June 1972
- ✓ It has its headquarters in Nairobi, capital of Kenya

AWARDS

◆ Akshaya Patra, a Bengaluru-based non-profit organisation (NGO) - was awarded BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) World Service Global Champion Award in London, UK

- ✓ The award recognises one of the world's largest school meals project run by the NGO in the country
- ✓ The Akshaya Patra Foundation was founded by Madhu Pandit Dasa in 2000.
- ✓ Since its establishment, it is running mid-day meal programme across India.
- ✓ Starting with around 1,500 free school lunches everyday, it is currently feeding 1.75 million children all over India with freshly prepared meals
- ✓ With the motto of 'Unlimited Food for Education', its stated mission is to ensure that no child is deprived of education because of hunger

SPORTS

◆ The Indian men's recurve team – finished with Silver in the Archery World Championship final after losing against China in 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands



- ✓ The men's team of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin Jadhav has already claimed 2020 Tokyo Olympics berth in the event
- ✓ The team is yet to win a Gold medal in the event

◆ Reigning Asian Games champion Jinson Johnson - set a national record in men's 1500m at an invitation athletics competition in Nijmegen, The Netherlands



- ✓ In the process, he has bettered his own previous national record performance of 3:37.86s during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Another Indian athlete, PU Chitra, competing in the women's 1500m clinched gold with a time of 4:13.52s.

- ✓ Meanwhile, M Sreeshankar finished second in men's long jump, with a distance of 7.93m

◆ **Joshana Chinappa – wins her 17th senior National championship title and holds the record for most national crowns**



- ✓ Joshana broke a long-lasting landmark set by Rajasthan's Bhuvneshwari Kumari who held it for 27 years, winning consecutive titles from 1976 to 1991.
- ✓ The world No. 13 had defeated her Tamil Nadu counterpart, Sunayna Kuruvilla to lift the crown in Pune
- ✓ The dominance of Joshana can be measured from the fact that she has won 17 national titles since 2000
- ✓ Dipika Pallikal won twice and Mekhala Subedar won it once

◆ **Indian skipper Virat Kohli - is again the only Indian in the Forbes 2019 list of world's highest-paid athletes.**



- ✓ Argentinean football star Lionel Messi topped the list for the first time, dethroning boxing world champion Floyd Mayweather
- ✓ Messi earned a total of \$US127 million in the last 12 months, including \$92m from salary and winnings and an additional \$35m from endorsements
- ✓ Virat Kohli is ranked last on this year's Forbes list at the 100th spot, down from last year's 83rd rank
- ✓ According to the Forbes 2019 list, Virat Kohli earned a total of \$25m in the last 12 months, including \$21m through endorsements and \$4m from salary and winnings
- ✓ Mayweather, who topped the Forbes list four times in seven years including in 2018, did not make it to the top 100 this year
- ✓ Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (\$109 million) was ranked at the second spot, followed by Brazil's Neymar(\$105 million) at the 3rd rank
- ✓ Serena Williams, who is ranked at the 63rd spot is the only woman in the list of top 100 highest paid athletes

◆ **Virat Kohli - has become fastest batsman to score 11,000 runs in one-day internationals cricket in 222 innings**

- ✓ He broke the record of Sachin Tendulkar, who reached at this milestone in 276 innings
- ✓ Tendulkar is followed by former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting who reached the milestone in 286 innings, and Sourav Ganguly in 288 innings.

- ✓ Kohli is ninth player after Sachin Tendulkar, Kumar Sangakkara, Ricky Ponting, Sanath Jayasuriya, Mahela Jayawardene, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Jacques Kallis and Sourav Ganguly to score 11,000 ODI runs
- ✓ Earlier, in 2019, Virat Kohli swept all 3 ICC awards, winning the ODI Player of the Year, Test Player of the Year and the Cricketer of the Year

◆ **India's Sourav Kothari - finished runner up in the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship played at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia.**



- ✓ He lost the final to Peter Gilchrist, multiple World champion
- ✓ Sourav is the current WBL world billiards champion
- ✓ In early June 2019, Kothari had become the 1st Indian billiard player to win a Triple Crown event by bagging the International Reventon Classic Snooker championship, a triple crown event of Australia
- ✓ Peter Gilchrist was the winner of World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) World Championships in 1994, 2001 and in 2013

RANKINGS

◆ **3rd annual End of Childhood Index 2019 rankings - released by 'Save the Children'**

2019 END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX RANKINGS			
TOP 10 Where childhood is most protected		BOTTOM 10 Where childhood is most threatened	
RANK	COUNTRY	RANK	COUNTRY
1	Singapore	167	Burkina Faso
2	Sweden	168	DR Congo
3	Finland	169	Guinea
3	Norway	170	Nigeria
3	Slovenia	171	Somalia
6	Germany	172	South Sudan
6	Ireland	173	Mali
8	Italy	174	Chad
8	South Korea	175	Niger
10	Belgium	176	Central African Republic

- ✓ The index evaluated 176 countries on eight indicators to determine the wellbeing of children and teenagers (0-19 years).
- ✓ Singapore tops the ranking with a score of 989
- ✓ Eight Western European countries and South Korea also rank in the top 10
- ✓ Central African Republic ranks last among countries surveyed, scoring 394. India was ranked at 113th spot among 176 countries
- ✓ In India, Child mortality rate reduced by 55% in the last two decades
- ✓ It was 88 deaths per 1,000 live births in year 2000
- ✓ Now it was recorded at 39 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017
- ✓ Among India's neighbours, Sri Lanka (8.8), China (9.3), Bhutan (30.8), Nepal (33.7) and Bangladesh (32.4) have all outperformed India.
- ✓ In India about 38% of children under five were stunted, the second-worst performance compared to its neighbours after Pakistan (40.8%)
- ✓ China (6%) had the lowest rate in the region, followed by Nepal (13.8%), Sri Lanka (17.3%), Bangladesh (17.4%) and Bhutan (19.1%).
- ✓ India halved its number of child marriages in 18 years to 2018

◆ **Global Peace Index 2019 - Released by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an Australian think tank**

Countries ranked by state of peace in 2019 (1=most peaceful, 5=least peaceful)

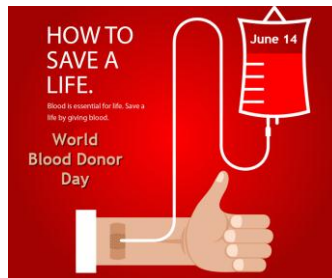


- ✓ India is ranked at 141st position among 163 countries
- ✓ It was ranked at 136th position in the last year's rankings released
- ✓ Iceland is ranked at the first position as the most peaceful country in the entire world for the record 11th year in succession
- ✓ It has held this rank since 2008
- ✓ Other countries at top of GPI are New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark.
- ✓ Afghanistan is now ranked as least peaceful country in world, replacing Syria, which is now the 2nd least peaceful
- ✓ Other least peaceful countries include South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq.

- ✓ India has been clubbed along with China, Japan, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh as the countries with highest risk of multiple climate hazards
- ✓ United States (US), China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia are mentioned as the countries with largest total military expenditure
- ✓ Bhutan topped the index in South Asia with its 15th rank
- ✓ The GPI uses 23 quantitative and qualitative indicators from highly respected sources to compile the index

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Blood Donor Day - June 14



- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) organises World blood donor day on 14 June every year to acknowledge value of blood donors
- ✓ Theme 2019 - **Blood Donation and Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion**
- ✓ The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2019 is Rwanda
- ✓ The global event was held in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 June 2019
- ✓ World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on the birth anniversary (14 June, 1868) of Karl Landsteiner
- ✓ He is known for Development and classification of blood group system (ABO), discovery of Rhesus (Rh) factor, discovery of poliovirus among others
- ✓ He is also known as the father of transfusion medicine.
- ✓ The first celebration of the day was initiated and established on 14 June, 2004

◆ World Day against Child Labour - June 12



- ✓ Theme 2019 - '**Children should not work in fields but on dreams**'
- ✓ The day was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002
- ✓ It seeks to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

- ✓ The day aims to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 set by the international community, calling for an end to child labour in all its forms by 2025
- ✓ This year marks 20 years since the adoption of the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999
- ✓ Despite efforts to curb child labour, around 152 million children across the world are still in child labour
- ✓ In India, around, 12% of all children are engaged in some form of child labour, as per the data released by UNICEF in 2017

