

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 30, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Rashika Raj, a transwoman - received her B.Sc Nursing degree from Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the 31st convocation of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University on June 29**



- ✓ According to Dr.Sudha Seshayyan, Vice-Chancellor of the university, this was the first time a transperson received the degree at the convocation of the university.
- ✓ Ms. Rashika Raj, born as Raj Kumar in Walajabad in Kancheepuram district, studied nursing at Padmasree College of Nursing in the same district
- ✓ She enrolled to the nursing course as a male candidate, changing her name and gender after joining the course
- ✓ However, her application to register as 'nurse' was rejected by the Tamil Nadu Nurses and Midwives Council (TNNMC), the statutory body for registering nurses in the State, because of her gender.

SCHEMES

- ◆ **“Jal Hi Jeevan Hai’ Scheme - launched by Haryana Government**



- ✓ The scheme has been launched with an aim to encourage farmers to adopt crop diversification

- ✓ The farmers are advised to sow crops consuming less water like Maize, Arhar etc. instead of water guzzling crops such as paddy so as to conserve water.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the amount Rs. 2000/acre will be transferred into the accounts of farmers in two phases i.e. Rs. 200/- at the time of registration and the balance Rs. 1800/- after verification of sowing data within two months.
- ✓ Free of cost hybrid seeds would also be provided under the scheme.
- ✓ The diversified crops produced, would be completely procured by the State Government.

NATIONAL

- ◆ **People living in 15 districts, including Trichy in Tamil Nadu, Naxal-affected Garhchiroli in Maharashtra, Narmada in Gujarat, Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh and Ernakulam in Kerala - will start getting subsidized rice rich with added vitamins and minerals from November 2019**

PILOT PROJECT

<p>IDENTIFIED DISTRICTS FOR FORTIFIED RICE DISTRIBUTION</p> <p>Garhchiroli (Maharashtra), Godavari (Andhra Pradesh), Narmada (Gujarat), Chandili (UP), Bongaigaon (Assam), Yadgir/ Raichur (Karnataka), Ernakulam (Kerala), Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu) & Malkangiri/ Nuapada (Odisha)</p>	<p>Status of ration cards (National)</p> <p>Total ration cards 23,18,46,416</p> <p>Aadhaar seeding 85.41%</p> <p>Number of fair price shops 5,34,911</p> <p>Fair price shops with e-PoS machines 4,12,050 (77.03%)</p>
<p>➤ Interoperability of using ration card to be rolled out in Maharashtra-Gujarat & Andhra Pradesh-Telangana from Aug, 2019</p>	

- ✓ The fortified rice will be made available to the beneficiaries under National Food Security scheme after the next kharif crop arrives in October this year
- ✓ The centre has selected nine states, which has already given the name of list of districts picked for the scheme
- ✓ The rice will be fortified with vitamins A and B12 and minerals such as iron and zinc.
- ✓ Fortification is a complementary strategy to fight malnutrition.
- ✓ The government has allocated ₹147.6 crore for this pilot run for the next three years.

◆ **The 'One nation, one ration card' scheme allowing portability of food security benefits - will be available across the country from July 1, 2020**

- ✓ Using the card, poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country if their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura already offer this portability
- ✓ The system of interoperability of ration cards will be rolled out in Andhra Pradesh-Telangana and Gujarat-Maharashtra from August.
- ✓ This means beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh can buy grain in Telangana and viceversa.
- ✓ It will be similar for beneficiaries from Gujarat and Maharashtra.

◆ **Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal - announced that 50% of about 9,000 vacancies that are coming up for the posts of Constables and Sub-Inspectors in the Railway Protection Force (RPF) will be for women**



- ✓ The work of Railway Protection Force (RPF) is to take care of railway's infrastructure, trains, stations etc. Government Railway Police (GRP) comes under the state government that looks after law and order
- ✓ At present, only 2.25% of women are present in the RPF

◆ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has developed herbal drug 'lukoskin' for treatment of Leucoderma.**

- ✓ Lukoskin, available in ointment and oral liquid form, has seven herbal ingredients having properties such as skin photosensitizer, anti-blister, anti-irritation, antiseptic, wound healing and copper supplementing properties.
- ✓ In India, its incidence is around 4-5% in some parts of Rajasthan.
- ✓ In Gujarat, it is very high at more than 5-8%.

◆ **Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad - introduced the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha**



- ✓ The bill proposed voluntary use of Aadhaar number as an identity of a person to open a bank account and for getting a mobile connection.
- ✓ It also allows 'offline verification' of an individual's identity, through the Unique Identification Authority of India

- ✓ The legislation will now replace an ordinance issued in March this year, and proposes to impose strict penalties for violation of norms
- ✓ The Bill also amends the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ The Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park, a dedicated free trade zone built with India's assistance - has been inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire

- ✓ The facility was jointly inaugurated by the Ambassador of India and Cote d'Ivoire Vice-President Daniel Kablan Duccan at a ceremony in Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire

PERSONALITIES

◆ India-born Priya Serrao - has been crowned Miss Universe Australia 2019

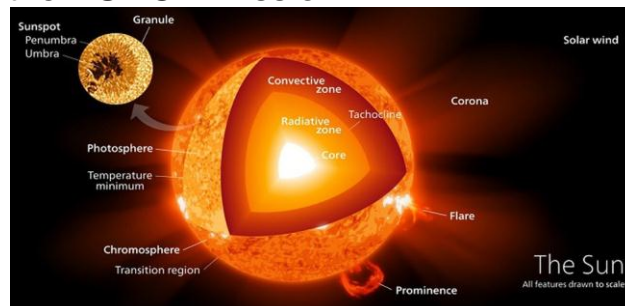


- ✓ The 26-year-old Priya was born in India, spent most part of her childhood in Oman and Dubai before moving to Melbourne with her family at the age of 11.
- ✓ Priya is a law graduate and works as a full-time policy adviser with the Australian government in Melbourne

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ NASA - has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.

- ✓ This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona.
- ✓ Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission.



- ✓ PUNCH, which stands for “Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere,” is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun’s outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.
- ✓ The team also plans to observe the Sun using joint observations from PUNCH and Indian mission Aditya, which is underway.
- ✓ India is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1, a mission to study the Sun’s corona, and Prof. Banerjee is the co-Chair of the Science Working Group
- ✓ PUNCH will consist of a ‘constellation’ of four suitcase-sized microsats that will orbit the Earth in formation and study how the corona, which is the atmosphere of the Sun, connects with the interplanetary medium.
- ✓ Other missions such as NASA’s Parker Solar Probe and the ESA-NASA joint project, Solar Orbiter, which is due to be launched in 2020, can study the structures of the Sun’s atmosphere.
- ✓ The PUNCH mission enhances these by tracking these structures in real time
- ✓ The mission is expected to be launched in 2022.

ECONOMY

◆ **A Group of Ministers’ (GoM) meeting, chaired by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi – took place in Bengaluru on June 29**



- ✓ Highlights
- ✓ A new return filing mechanism ‘Goods and Service Tax 2.0’ — will be rolled out from October 2019 for big businessmen and from January 2020 for small businessmen
- ✓ The GST, which is entering the third year from July 1, 2019, registered an average monthly collection of ₹91,334 crore in the past 21 months.
- ✓ The traders and businessmen having zero transactions or nil filers could now file returns through SMS.
- ✓ Those dealing with business-to-consumer with an annual turnover of less than ₹5 crore a year would have a new format, “Sahaj”, and they could file returns once in four months
- ✓ A new single return format called “Sugam” is ready for those in business-to-consumer and business-to-business. Businessmen having an annual turnover of more than ₹5 crore will have to file returns every month

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Qu Dongyu - became the first Chinese national to be elected to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization**



- ✓ Qu, 55, a biologist by training, won 108 votes, followed by Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France with 71 votes and Georgia's Davit Kirvalidze with 12.
- ✓ His election to the helm of the Rome-based agency, which brings together 194 member countries, comes as the fight to eradicate world hunger takes a blow from global warming and wars.

AWARDS

- ◆ **Rachna Khaira of The Tribune News Service - has bagged prestigious RedInk Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism 'Journalist of the Year' 2019**



- ✓ The award recognizes her effort in exposing the functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache in 2018
- ✓ An investigation conducted by Rachna Khaira confirmed that personal data of millions of citizens was at risk of being traded for a price

OBITUARY

- ◆ **Jaya Arunachalam, Pioneer of Women's self help groups (87 years)**



- ✓ Jaya Arunachalam is the founder of the Working Women's Forum (WWF), and a pioneer of the women's self-help group movement in the country
- ✓ Through WWF, she motivated and helped several lakhs of women from underprivileged background to organise themselves in becoming financially independent.
- ✓ Since 1978 when WWF was founded, Jaya Arunachalam helped more than 600,000 women organise themselves and rise from extreme poverty to become powerful and confident leaders of their households and community.

- ✓ Dr. Arunachalam was conferred the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1987.
- ✓ She received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award in 2009 for her work towards the welfare of women and children.
- ✓ A graduate in Economics and Geography, she was awarded a honorary doctorate by the University of Lueneberg, Germany in 1999.
- ✓ She is a recipient of the International Activist Award by Glietsman Foundation in 2003, and the Godfrey Phillips National Bravery Social Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.
- ✓ Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited WWF during her visit in July 2011.
- ✓ Mrs. Arunachalam also took part in the Clinton Global Initiative Asia Meet in 2008 to discuss the work of WWF and the ICNW

SPORTS

- ◆ **India U-19 coach Rahul Dravid - will take charge of the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore on July 1, on a two-year contract.**



- ✓ Dravid will also spearhead the NCA's rehabilitation programme for injured cricketers.
- ✓ Dravid famously coached the India Under-19 team led by Prithvi Shaw, which won the ICC Under-19 World Cup in 2018.

- ◆ **Indian skipper Virat Kohli - has broken Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara's world record and has become the fastest batsman to score 20,000 international runs in his 417th innings**



- ✓ Virat Kohli who had 19,963 runs before India vs West Indies world cup match surpassed the coveted mark during the match and risen to the top of the legends list, overtaking Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- ✓ Both Tendulkar and Lara had taken 453 innings to complete 20,000 international runs
- ✓ They were followed by former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting who scored 20,000 runs in 468 innings

Most runs								
Player	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	0
SR Tendulkar (INDIA)	664	782	34357	248*	48.52	100	164	34
KC Sangakkara (Asia/ICC/SL)	594	666	28016	319	46.77	63	153	28
RT Ponting (AUS/ICC)	560	668	27483	257	45.95	71	146	39
DPMD Jayawardene (Asia/SL)	652	725	25957	374	39.15	54	136	47
JH Kallis (Afr/ICC/SA)	519	617	25534	224	49.10	62	149	33
R Dravid (Asia/ICC/INDIA)	509	605	24208	270	45.41	48	146	21
BC Lara (ICC/WI)	430	521	22358	400*	46.28	53	111	33
ST Jayasuriya (Asia/SL)	586	651	21032	340	34.14	42	103	53
S Chandernepaul (WI)	454	553	20988	203*	45.72	41	125	21
Inzamam-ul-Haq (Asia/ICC/PAK)	499	551	20580	329	43.32	35	129	35
AB de Villiers (Afr/SA)	420	484	20014	278*	48.11	47	109	20
V Kohli (INDIA)	375	416	19963	243	56.39	66	92	22
CH Gayle (ICC/WI)	456	524	19186	333	38.99	42	103	43

- ✓ Virat Kohli has become the 12th batsman in the world to make 20,000 international runs and the third Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs) and Rahul Dravid (24,208 runs).

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26



- ✓ The observance of this day is an important initiative to tackle drug abuse and trafficking.
- ✓ The day, also known as World Drug day, highlights drug abuse and illegal drug trade
- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Health for justice, justice for health"
- ✓ By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the UN General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

SUPERCOMPUTERS – A REPORT

◆ Supercomputers - have powered heavy-duty programs for studying quantum physics, forecasting the effects of climate change, improving the design of aircraft and engines, etc. in the last 50 years

- ✓ With better chips and other technology, supercomputers are becoming faster by the day.

- ✓ They are capable of completing a task in 10 seconds which will take around half an hour to finish manually
- ✓ Things we take for granted — such as next week’s weather predictions — won’t be possible without fast computers
- ✓ Last year’s fastest machine may not feature in the top 10 or even the top 50 now

