

June 10th

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena gifts Samadhi Buddha Statue to PM Modi

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena gifted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi a Samadhi Buddha statue (Buddha in meditation posture), during latter's visit to Island nation.

ASI declares Chaukhandi Stupa as Monument of National Importance

According to a notification issued by Union Ministry of Culture, Chaukhandi Stupa, an ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been declared as 'protected area of national importance' by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

India & Portugal to set up National Maritime Heritage Museum

India and Portugal will cooperate in setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat. Lothal (literally means the mound of dead) was one of port cities of **Indus Valley Civilization** (Harappan Civilization).

India to train 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next 5 years

India's leading civil services training institution, National Center for Good Governance (NCGG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maldives Civil Services Commission for capacity building (training) of 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next five years. This agreement was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Male (Maldives capital).

India's first Dinosaur Museum inaugurated in Gujarat

On June 8, 2019, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the new Dinosaur Museum-cum-Park at Raiyoli village in Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.

This is the first such park in the country and also the world's third park which exhibits remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records.

As per UNICEF, 1 in every 5 boys married off before they turn 15

After the first-ever in-depth analysis of child grooms, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) study revealed that an estimated 115 million boys and men around the world were married as children. Of which 1 in 5 children (23 million) were married off before the age of 15. The Central African Republic had the highest number of child marriage among males which accounted for 28%, followed by Nicaragua with 19% and Madagascar with 13%.



French Open 2019

The 123rd Edition of French Open 2019, a Grand Slam Tennis Tournament was held from May 26- June 9, 2019 at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

List of Winners:

Event	Winners	Runners
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (Germany)	Fabrice Martin and Jeremy Chardy (France)
Women's Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic (France) Timea Babos (Hungary)	Duan Yingying and Zheng Saisai (China)
Mixed Doubles	Latisha Chan (Taiwan) Ivan Dodig (Croatia)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) Mate Pavic (Croatia)

Other Facts:

- i. Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, aged 40, became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam match against Spain's fellow veteran Feliciano Lopez with 7-6(4) 7-5 6-7(7) 7-5 scores.
- ii. Rafael Nadal became the first tennis player to win a single event 12 times. He registered the win with 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 over Dominic Thiem. This was his 18th Grand Slam Title.
- iii. Ashleigh Barty clinched her first Grand Slam singles title and became the first women's singles player since Margaret Court in 1974 from Australia to win the Roland Garros title with 6-1, 6-3 scores. She has also played **professional cricket** of the Australian Domestic teams like Brisbane Heat & Queensland Fire.
- iv. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies became the first German pair to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title with 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) scores.

About French Open:

- ◆ Official name: Roland-Garros



◆ Founded: 1925



June 11th

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev elected Kazakhstan president

Interim President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, won the country's snap Presidential elections with nearly 71%. He was also the chosen successor of veteran ruler and former leader Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Snap Election: In recently held snap election, a total of seven candidates ran for Presidency which also included Daniya Yespayeva, the first woman candidate to do so in country's history. The voter turnout in elections was 77.4% and Tokayev's nearest rival Amirzhan Kosanov of United National Patriotic Movement ('Ult Tagdyry') received about 16% of votes.

For the first time in almost thirty years, the Kazakh presidential elections held in 2019 paved the way for a new candidate coming to power. Tokayev's predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev was serving as Kazakh President since the independence of country in 1992 until his resignation in March 2019.

Girish Karnad

The renowned playwright, actor and Jnanpith awardee Girish Karnad died at the age of 81 at his residence in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He succumbed to multiple-organ failure.

To honour the well-known writer who brought 7th Jnanpith to Kannada, Karnataka Government declared a holiday for schools and colleges and a 3-day State mourning as a tribute.

About Girish Karnad

He was born in May 1938. He became one of the most prominent theatre personalities in period of 1960s and 1970s, which was regarded as Renaissance of Indian theatre.

Playwright: He wrote his first play Yayati in 1961 when he was a Rhodes scholar (world's oldest fellowship program) in England, UK. He worked with mythology, history and gave them a contemporary resonance in plays like Tughlaq and Hayavadana. He translated most of his plays himself. His last play was Rakshasa Tangadi, (a Kannada play on the Battle of Talikota) which was published in 2018.

Director and Actor: He made his acting debut in the classic movie- Samskara. He made his name not only in parallel cinema but was also celebrated for his roles in mainstream films in multiple languages. He directed around 12 films and documentaries in Kannada and Hindi.



Awards: He was recipient of Padma Shri (1974) for his contributions to theatre and Padma Bhushan (1992) in recognition of his contributions to arts. He was also conferred Jnanpith Award in 1998.

India to be guest country at Guadalajara International Book Fair

India has been designated as Guest of Honour at 33rd Guadalajara International Book Fair (also called Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara), in Mexico. The book fair, will be organised from 30 November 2019 to 8 December 2019.

IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics

World athletics' governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will re-brand itself as World Athletics. The rebranding would be operational from October 2019.

Key Highlights

IAAF's new brand identity as World Athletics will begin its rollout in October 2019 following the completion of world championships in Doha, Qatar and after congress grants approval of change to federation's legal name.

Election Commission grants national party status to NPP

The Election Commission of India granted the National party status to National People's Party(NPP) led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. It becomes the first Party from North East region to get this tag.

Key points:

- i. With this tag, it becomes the eighth national party in the country among All India Trinamool Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), BSP, CPI, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Indian National Congress (INC) and NCP parties.
- ii. It has fulfilled eligibility criteria as laid down in paragraph 6B (iii) (the party is recognized as State party in at least four States) to become a national party.
- iii. It is getting status of the state party in four states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- iv. Meghalaya CM's father and former Lok Sabha Speaker, late Purno Agitok Sangma has founded the party in 2013.



v. Eligibility criteria: As per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, a political party should be recognized as a national party if candidates of the party secure at least 6 percent of votes which is polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha election or assembly elections.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visit to Bhutan

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Bhutan from 7th to 8th June, 2019. This was his first two-day trip after assuming charge of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Sashakt Committee recommends RBI's changes in Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) framework

Sashakt Committee headed by Punjab National Bank non-executive Chairman Sunil Mehta has stated that the new guidelines of RBI regarding the mandation of Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) framework is a right move to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans).

Tapan Ray, former Corporate Affairs Secretary appointed as MD of Gift City

Tapán Ray, former Secretary of Corporate Affairs was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City), India's first international financial services center. He succeeded Ajay Pandey. Recently, he was also given the additional charge as interim Economic Affairs Secretary.

Lewis Hamilton won 2019 Canadian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) of United Kingdom won 2019 Canadian Grand Prix officially named as the Formula 1 Pirelli Grand Prix du Canada 2019. It was held in Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Veteran Journalist E Gopinath died at 88 in Chennai

E Gopinath, the eldest journalist of Tamil Nadu passed away at 88 in Chennai. He was also a Chief of news agency 'ANI', Tamilnadu.

Mekathoti Sucharitha appointed as the Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) YS Jaganmohan Reddy appointed Mekathoti Sucharitha, aged 45, a representative from Prathipadu (SC) reserved constituency in Guntur district, as the



Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh. She became the first Dalit woman home minister of Andhra Pradesh after the formation of Telangana.

Veteran Tamil playwright and actor 'Crazy' Mohan, aged 67, passed away in Chennai

Renowned Tamil playwright and comedy actor Mohan Rangachari, popularly known as 'Crazy' Mohan, passed away at Kauvery Hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu after he suffered a major heart attack. He was 67.

Former Puducherry Chief Minister and DMK leader R.V. Janakiraman passed away

RV Janakiraman, a former Chief Minister of the union territory of Puducherry and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) passed away in Puducherry.



June 12th

Indian girl honoured in UAE for Green efforts

An 8 year old Indian origin student named Nia Tony was honoured during 22nd edition of Emirates Recycling Awards in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). She won the award in the paper section in individual category for collecting a total of 14,914 kg of paper waste.

Virendra Kumar: Pro-tem Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha

The Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) from Madhya Pradesh Dr Virendra Kumar will be the Pro-tem Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.

Key Highlights

The 65 year old Virendra Kumar, is a seven-term MP. He won the 17th Lok Sabha election from Tikamgarh Lok Sabha constituency. Tikamgarh is one of the 29 parliamentary constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

Function: As Pro-tem Speaker, he will preside over the 1st sitting of newly constituted Lok Sabha, administer the oath of office to newly elected MPs, and also oversee the election of LS Speaker.

About Pro-tem Speaker

The word Pro-tem is a Latin phrase which in English means 'for the time being' or 'temporary'. Thus a Pro-tem Speaker performs the duties of office of Speaker from commencement of 1st sitting of newly constituted Lok Sabha till the election of the Speaker. This is because Speaker of last Lok Sabha vacates his office before the 1st meeting of newly elected Lok Sabha.

The Article 94 of constitution states that previous Speaker must resign immediately before 1st sitting of the new Lok Sabha.

Article 93 of constitution states that, a Speaker and Deputy Speaker to Lower House of Parliament must be elected in 1st sitting of Lok Sabha.

The appointment of Pro term speaker is a convention and there is no provision mentioned in the Constitution for this position.

President appoints and administers the oath of a member of Lok Sabha as Pro-tem Speaker. By convention a seniormost Lok Sabha member is usually selected.



A Pro-tem Speaker has powers same as a Lok Sabha Speaker. His main duty is to administer oath to newly elected members of parliament and election of new Speaker.

The office of Pro-tem Speaker ceases to operate once new Speaker is elected by members.

CO2 emissions rose by 2% in 2018: Study

As per a closely-watched review by United Kingdom (UK) based energy giant BP, titled “The BP Statistical Review of World Energy”, the global carbon emissions grew by 2.0% in 2018, the highest rate since 2010-2011. BP is a London based, British multinational oil and gas company.

Thawar Chand Gehlot appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha

Thawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment was recently appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The Leader of the Rajya Sabha is appointed by the party in power at Centre.

This position was occupied by senior BJP leader and former Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley in previous Narendra Modi-led government (2014-2019).

Leader of Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament)

A Leader of House is a Rajya Sabha member who either holds a rank of cabinet minister or another nominated minister. The Leader has a seat next to ex-officio Chairperson of Rajya Sabha (the Vice President of India), in the front row.

- **Manipur man detects WhatsApp bug, enters Facebook Hall of Fame 2019**

Zonel Sougajam, a civil engineer from Manipur was included in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019, for detecting a WhatsApp bug that violated privacy of a user.

Key Highlights

Facebook, the social media giant honoured 22-year-old Mr. Sougajam, by including him in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019 and also awarded \$5000.

His name is currently at 16th position in a list of 94 people who are included in Facebook Hall of Fame for this year.

RBI constitutes high-level committee to review ATM charges



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

Bancha became the first solar kitchen village in India

Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh became the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves. There was no use for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders as all 75 houses relied on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs. The solar-powered stoves were developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai. The project of installing plates, solar-powered batteries and stoves in all the houses was started in September 2017 and was completed by December 2018.

Amasebailu becomes Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat

On June 11, 2019, Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has been named as the Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. The allocation of fund between the Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30: 20, and the rest is given by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.

India ranked 113 out of 176 countries in End of Childhood Index

According to the 3rd End of Childhood Index, a part of Changing Lives in Our Lifetime – Global Childhood Report 2019, India was ranked 113 in 176 countries on the wellbeing of children with 769 score out of 1000. The Index was released on May 28, 2019 by 'Save the Children', a United Kingdom (UK) based non-profit organisation which works for child rights.

Amazon beats Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand: Survey

According to the report, "BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brand ranking 2019", compiled by WPP research agency Kantar states that American multinational technology company, Amazon has overtaken Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand at \$315.5 billion.

World Day against Child Labour 2019 celebrated on June 12

World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL) was observed on June 12, 2019. It was introduced to focus on the extent of child labour worldwide and the efforts required to eliminate it.

The theme for the year is "Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!".

Karnataka Government Launches "Pink Sarathi vehicles"



On June 9, 2019, The state government of Karnataka launched “Pink Sarathi vehicles” for women safety. This was launched by the Chief Minister of Karnataka, H.D.Kumaraswamy. The vehicles were procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) under the ‘Nirbhaya’ scheme.



June 13th

Centre sets target to provide Clean Drinking Water to all by 2024

The Central government has set a target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024. It includes increasing coverage of piped water to households from current 18 to 100% by 2024.

Priyanka Chopra selected for Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF

Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by United Nations International Children's Fund's (UNICEF) American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December 2019.

Priyanka Chopra

She is known for her contribution to social causes and for being a voice for children's education. She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and most recently she visited Ethiopia as part of it. She also has been a part of United Nation's global "Girl Up" Campaign. She is also associated with several NGOs in India to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.

Bimal Jalan led panel defers report on RBI surplus funds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee led by Bimal Jalan (former RBI governor) constituted for considering guidelines for transfer of central bank's surplus funds to government delayed submitting its report after lack of consensus among its members. The panel was originally supposed to submit its report in April 2019.

Background

The RBI committee was appointed in December 2018 to review Economic Capital Framework (ECF) for central bank after then Union Ministry of Finance under Arun Jaitley advised RBI to transfer surplus funds to central government.

Central Government approved to set up DSRO

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved to set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO), a new agency which will develop sophisticated weapon systems and technologies. It will enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space.

Central India got its First Sikh Museum in Raipur, Chhattisgarh



On June 7, 2019, Central India got its First Sikh Museum in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The museum Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh Museum is located at Gurudwara Gurusingh Sabha in Guru Nanak Nagar.

Japan will invest Rs 13,000 crore in North-East in infrastructure projects

On June 12, 2019, The Government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, nearly Rs 13,000 crore in several ongoing as well as new infrastructure projects in the North-East Region.

El Salvador Legislative Assembly Declares “Forests as Living Entities”

The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador has recognized forests as living entities on the World Environment Day(5th June, 2019).Its citizens will now be required to preserve forests and respect them as more than just property.

Key points:

- i. Since 1960s, El Salvador has lost about 85 % of its native forests and the planet as a whole have lost about 80 percent of its native forests.
- ii. A coalition in El Salvador named “Yes for the Rights of Nature” (Sí por los Derechos de la Naturaleza), has environmentalists and social leaders called for recognizing forests as living entities.

PM Modi to attend the G7 Summit in France as a special invitee

French President, Emmanuel Macron has invited Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to attend the 45th session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz in France as a special invitee. The summit of the G7 group of countries scheduled to take place from August 24 to August 26.

Key points:

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation for the summit.
- ii. The Seven (G7) countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- iii. France ‘s Minister of state for foreign affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne is recently visting India for the first time.
- iv. The G7 Summit 2018 (44th Summit) was held in Quebec, Canada.



Renowned English writer Amitav Ghosh honoured with 54th Jnanpith Award, 2018

Noted English Fiction writer Amitav Ghosh(63) received the country's highest literary honour 54th Jnanpith Award in New Delhi. The decision taken by the Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by Jnanpith laureate Pratibha Ray.

Jnanpith Award

- ◆ It was instituted in 1961
- ◆ Jnanpith Awards is Indian literary award presented annually by the Bhartiya Jnanpith to an Author for their outstanding contribution towards literature.
- ◆ The award given to the writer with a cash prize of Rs. 1.5 Lakh, bronze replica of 'Sraswathi'

Kohli only Indian among Forbes Highest paid athletes, Messi tops the list

Star Cricketer Virat Kohli remains the only Indian in the Forbes list of World's highest paid athletes 2019 with the annual earnings of \$25million(mn). He has slipped 17 spots (ranked 83rd on 2018) to be 100th in the list. The list has been topped by the Barcelona and Argentina professional Footballer Lionel Messi with the annual earnings of \$127mn.

Sourav Kothari wins 2019 Pacific International Snooker Championship

Indian billiards player Sourav Kothari won the 2019 Pacific International Snooker Championship that held in the Reventon Classic, in Melbourne, Australia. He defeated Tyson Crinis of Australia to win the title.

Veteran journalist and former BJP MP Rajanath Singh 'Surya' passed away in Lucknow

On June 13, 2019, Veteran journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Rajanath Singh 'Surya' passed away at his Gomtinagar residence in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh after a brief illness. He was 82.

Renowned Indian-origin writer Ahmed Essop passes away

Noted author and former educationist of Indian origin Ahmed Essop has passed away in South Africa, at the age of 88. He was born in India in 1931 then emigrated to South Africa.

Farmers contribution to be Rs 100 per month to PM-Kisan Pension Yojana

On June 13, 2019, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced that farmers in the country are expected to contribute Rs 100 per month under the Pradhan Mantri (PM) Kisan



Pension Yojana. It seeks to provide a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 on attainment of 60 years of age. The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund.



June 14th

Chinese President conferred Kyrgyzstan's Highest National Award

Chinese President Xi Jinping was conferred with highest national award of Kyrgyzstan titled Manas Order of the First Degree in Bishkek (capital of Kyrgyzstan). Kyrgyzstan is hosting 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit starting 14 June 2019.

Key Highlights

Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan awarded the country's highest national prize to the Chinese counterpart (Xi Jinping) who is on a state visit to Kyrgyzstan and to take part in two-day 19th SCO summit.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

It is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance in which China plays an influential role.

The founding member of SCO includes China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

India and Pakistan were admitted to Beijing-based regional security grouping in 2017.

The year 2019 will see the 19th SCO summit which is being hosted by Kyrgyzstan.

Global Peace Index 2019: India ranked 141

In the recently released Global Peace Index (GPI) of Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), India's rank slipped by five places to 141 among 163 countries on GPI 2019 and Iceland was ranked 1st. India was ranked 136 in GPI 2018.

Key Findings of Report

Most Peaceful Country: Iceland with rank 1st remains the most peaceful country in world. It has held this rank since 2008. Other countries at top of GPI are New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark.

Least Peaceful Country: As per GPI 2019 Afghanistan is now ranked as least peaceful country in world. It has replaced Syria, which is now the 2nd least peaceful. Other least peaceful countries includes South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq.



Countries with highest risk of multiple climate hazards: includes China, Japan, India, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Countries with largest total military expenditure: United States (US), China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

South Asia: Bhutan topped the index in South Asia with its 15th rank. Other countries of region include Sri Lanka (72), Nepal (76) and Bangladesh (101). The neighbouring country Pakistan is ranked 153rd on index.

Both India and Pakistan had highest rating at five in the score for internal conflicts fought. Only deaths from internal conflict showed improvement, with fewer fatalities in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India than the year before.

The report observed that China, India and Bangladesh score in bottom half of GPI and have significant exposure to climate hazards, with over 393 million people in high climate hazard areas.

16th Asia Media Summit concludes in Cambodia

The Asia Media Summit 2019 was organised in Siem Reap province, Cambodia from 12 June to 14 June 2019 to deliberate on many issues pertaining to media & broadcasting industry. The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) was hosted by India. This year was 16th edition of summit.

World Investment Report 2019: UNCTAD

According to the World Investment Report 2019, released by United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to India grew by 6% to USD 42 billion in 2018. India was ranked among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.

Key Findings of Report

FDI to India: It grew by 6% to \$42 billion in 2018 saw strong inflows in manufacturing, financial services sectors, communication and cross-border merger and acquisition activities.

About UNCTAD

It was established in 1964 for integrated treatment of trade and development and related issues in areas of investment, finance, technology, enterprise development and sustainable development. It is organ of UN General Assembly (UNGA).



Dell tops the list of most trusted brand in India, while Amazon is most trusted Internet Brand: TRA Research 2019

According to the report “Brand Trust Report, 2019”, by Trust Research Advisory (TRA), Dell tops the list as the most trusted brand for 2019 in India. It is followed by automobile brand Jeep and LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India).

Brand Trust Report, 2019 While largest E-commerce player Amazon has emerged as a most trusted internet Brand ranked as 4th in the list followed by Google (18th).

World Blood Donor Day 2019 observed on June 14

World Blood Donor Day 2019 (WBDD) was observed on June 14. It is celebrated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness on blood donation.



June 15th

Australia, Qatar invited to 2020 Copa America

South America's governing body of football CONMEBOL has invited Australia and Qatar to take part in 2020 COPA America. COPA 2020 will be co-hosted by Argentina and Colombia. The final of Copa 2020 will be played in one match and in one host city.

Key Highlights

The Copa America is contested between national teams from South America and usually features 12 teams but CONMEBOL only has 10 members which means that there is often pair of invitees to tournament. Qatar and Japan are guest teams at Copa 2019 scheduled to be held in Brazil. Qatar which is 2019 AFC Asian Cup champions and 2022 FIFA World Cup host will be making their Copa America debut at 2019's edition of tournament. It will be Australia's third time participation at Copa.

NGO Akshaya Patra wins BBC Award

Akshaya Patra, a Bengaluru-based non-profit organisation (NGO) running one of the world's largest school meals project in India was awarded BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.

Nomination: The Akshaya Patra NGO was selected by an international panel of judges from nominations sent in by BBC World Service audience from all over the world.

Award Ceremony: The Award was presented to Akshaya Patra at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol in London, UK.

World's Highest Weather Stations installed on Mt Everest

The National Geographic Society (NGS), a US based non-profit scientific and educational organizations announced successful installation of world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest. This installation was part of National Geographic and Rolex's Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Everest.

Peter Gilchrist wins Pacific International Billiards Championship



Multiple times world champion Peter Gilchrist defeated India's Sourav Kothari in final to win the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship played at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia.

20th anniversary of Operation Vijay to be celebrated

India will be celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of Operation Vijay also called Kargil Vijay Diwas for over three days from 25 July to 27 July 2019 at Dras and New Delhi. The day is observed to commemorate victory in Kargil war with pride, honour and inspiration. The day will be celebrated with theme- Remember, Rejoice and Renew.

Central Government granted the approval to set up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam

Central Government has permitted to set up e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam. It is a quasi-judicial authority which assesses the question of authenticity of a person's citizenship. It should be set up by July 31, 2019 when the final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published. The people left out in the final NRC can challenge their exclusion through these tribunals.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of e-FT Mission is Anand Prakash Tiwari.

India constitutes 12% of global internet users

According to the report on internet trends released by the venture capitalist Mary Meeker stated that India ranks second by witnessing 12% world internet users (close to 455 million). China leads the chart with 21% of global internet users while U.S (United States) placed third with 8%.

Canada to curb single use plastics from 2021

On June 10, 2019, The Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced to ban single use plastics from 2021. The products which are expected to be banned are cotton swabs, cutlery, plates, straws, bags and drink stirrers. The goal of the government is "Zero plastic waste (from) coast to coast". This is done to reduce ocean waste.



Social activist Makarand Tilloo conferred with 'Save Water Hero Award'

On June 11, 2019, Social activist Makarand Tilloo was conferred with 'Save Water Hero Award'. He received this award for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city. The award ceremony was held in Pune, Maharashtra.

ISRO to launch its own space station by 2030: ISRO Chief

On June 13, 2019, The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan announced that India will have its own Space station by 2030. This will help ISRO to send more astronauts to space. A space station is like a habitable artificial satellite that is designed to remain in space and is capable of being inhabited by crew members for an extended period of time.

Bihar Government launches Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna

On June 14, 2019 The state Government of Bihar launched Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above 60 years of age which is effective from April 1, 2019. This was launched by the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Key points:

Under the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna, Poor people above the age of 60 years will get Rs 400 per month and those people above the age of 80 years will get Rs. 500 per month.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed committee to work on modalities of revising pension under OROP

On June 14, 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed a committee to work on modalities and methodology on the implementation of the next revision of pension to over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme.

Key Points:

i. The newly constituted committee is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Sanjiv Mittal and consists of representatives from the three services.

June 16th

Venezuela to roll out three new banknotes due to Hyperinflation



On June 12, 2019, The Venezuelan government announced that it will issue new banknotes due to ricketing hyperinflation which eroded the currency's value. The central bank of Venezuela will release new Banknotes of 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 bolivar denominations.

Suman Rao crowned as Miss India 2019

On June 15, 2019, A 20-year-old model, Suman Rao, a resident of Rajsamand, Rajasthan was crowned Miss India 2019. The ceremony was held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was crowned by Miss India 2018 Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu.

Former S. Korean first lady, feminist activist Lee Hee-ho passes away

Lee Hee-ho, a South Korean feminist & democracy activist and wife of the late South Korean president Kim Dae-jung, passed away. She was 96. Lee Hee-ho was born in September 1922 in Seoul, South Korea.

Female Labour Force Fell In India: Report

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data published by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) reported that female labour force declined in India in 2017-18. It is one among the world's bottom 10. In 2011-12, India was placed at 12th from the bottom globally.

India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) pointed out that three out of four women over the age of 15 in India were neither working nor seeking work.

Bihar had the lowest rate of female workforce participation whereas the southern and eastern states did better.



June 17th

Operation Sunrise 2: Armies of India, Myanmar target NE Militants

Starting from 16 May 2019, the armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas called 'Operation Sunrise 2' to bust terror camps. The operation was targeted at militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. This was the 2nd edition of Operation Sunrise.

Denmark's Inger Andersen takes over as UNEP's Executive Director

Denmark's Inger Andersen recently took charge as the new Executive Director (ED) of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). She will hold the designation for period of 4-years.

Centre constituted committee headed by Kirit Parikh, an economist, to review LPG marketing

To review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, the Central Government constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh.

Zuzana Caputova sworn in as first female president of Slovakia

On June 15, 2019, lawyer and Anti-corruption campaigner, Zuzana Caputova (45) sworn in as country's Slovakia's first female president. She defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.

Bihar Cabinet approved the proposal to punish children who abandon their elderly parents

Bihar Cabinet led by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approved the proposal seeking provisions to punish children who abandon their elderly parents. They could face jail time over charges of abandonment.



June 18th

DCC approves levy of penalty on Airtel, Vodafone Idea

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body of Department of Telecom (DoT), has approved levying of penalty on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd. for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. when the latter had entered market in 2016.

India to host COP-14 of UNCCD in September 2019

For the first time ever India will be hosting the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019, to address the issue of land degradation and desertification.

Presidency: India will be taking over the COP presidency from China for the next two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021.

About Bonn Challenge

It is a global effort towards bringing 150 million hectares of world's degraded and deforested land under restoration by the year 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

Major UN Conventions

The United Nations has 3 major Conventions-

1. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)– It was established in 1994, and at present has 197 parties working towards maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity as well as mitigating effects of drought. It is the only legally binding international agreement that links environment and development issues to land agenda.

Indian high commissioner visits Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge 1



Riva Ganguli Das, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh visited the ongoing construction of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge 1 (Feni Bridge) and land port (Ramgarh Land Port) in Khagrachhari, Bangladesh.

Background: The Feni Bridge also known as Maitree Setu, is a bridge being constructed over Feni River started in 2017, and it is expected to be completed by April 2020.

World Food India 2019 to be held in New Delhi

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, recently announced that World Food India 2019 will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi from 1st to 4th November 2019.

Lt Gen Faiz Hameed: appointed Pakistan's new ISI chief

Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, was appointed by Pakistan military as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the military-led powerful spy agency.

Himachal Pradesh makes GPS device mandatory for trekkers

The Himachal Pradesh (HP) government has made it compulsory for trekkers to carry a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to tackle any exigency.

Amazon India Most Attractive Employer Brands in India 2019

According to a study conducted by Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR), e-commerce player Amazon India has been rated as India's most 'attractive employer brand, followed by Microsoft India which emerged as the runner-up.

Lucknow builds its first road from plastic waste

In an environment-friendly initiative, Lucknow constructed its first plastic waste road. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has started using plastic waste to construct roads as a pilot project. This environment-friendly road is being constructed as a trial from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow.

India will overtake China as world's most populous country: UN report

On June 17, 2019, According to the 26th edition of the UN (United Nations) population estimates and projection report, 'The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights' published by



the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs states that India is going to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027.

NASA to shut down Spitzer Space Telescope after 16 yrs in 2020

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Spitzer Space Telescope will be shut down on January 30, 2020, after 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light. It was launched in January 1983 as Infrared Astronomical Satellite to conduct the first infrared survey of the sky. It was jointly developed by the United States, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

India beats South Africa to win FIH Series Finals 2019

On June 16, 2019, In the FIH (Federation Internationale de Hockey) Men's Series Finals hockey tournament 2019, India thrashed South Africa with 5-1 in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

In Bihar, 160 children lost their lives due to Encephalitis and heat-wave

In Bihar, 160 children have lost their lives due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and heat wave. The total toll due to AES and heat wave has been pegged at 104 and 56 respectively.



June 19th

Centre to remove Minimum Education requirement for Transport Drivers

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided to remove requirement of minimum educational qualification (class 8th pass) for transport vehicle drivers in country.

Key Highlights

Background: Currently, as per the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, a transport vehicle driver must need to have passed Class VIII.

Facebook's Cryptocurrency 'Libra'

After months of speculations and rumours, Facebook has officially announced the details of its new global cryptocurrency called Libra. This Facebook owned cryptocurrency Libra will be launched by social media giant in 2020.

Subsidiary Company: Facebook is also launching its Subsidiary Co. called Calibra that will handle its crypto dealings.

Indian engineer wins Innovation for Sustainable Development Award

An Indian engineer named Nitesh Kumar Jangir won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom (UK). He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called 'Saans' for premature babies.

India extends \$15 Million assistance to Niger for holding AU summit

India has for the first time extended \$15 Million financial support to Niger as a support for organising African Union (AU) summit scheduled to be held in 7-8 July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger). This will be the 1st time that Niger will be hosting an AU summit.

Ireland plans to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2030

In order to combat greenhouse gas emissions, Ireland Government decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 as part of a major strategy to protect the environment.

IIT-Bombay secured top position among Indian institutions in QS World University Ranking 2020



In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2020, The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) emerged as India's best institution. For the past three years, it has been securing the top position among Indian institutes. It was followed by IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. These are the only three universities in India that made it to the top 200 universities in the world.

Key Points:

- i. The ranking comprised of world's top 1000 colleges which were divided on the basis of several factors including subjects, location, study level, academic reputation, employer reputation, and research impact.
- ii. IIT Bombay secured 152th rank, IIT Delhi secured 182th rank and IISc Bangalore secured 184th rank.
- ii. IIT-Madras (271), IIT-Kharagpur (281), IIT-Kanpur (291) and IIT-Roorkee (383) are among the top 400 institutes. IIT-Guwahati, was ranked 491 and the Delhi University was placed at 474th rank.
- iv. O P Jindal Global University (JGU), established in 2009, became the youngest university to break into top 1,000 in the rankings.
- v. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) secured the first position in the rankings.

Maharashtra topped the USGBC list of Top 10 States for LEED in India

In the Second Edition of the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) list of India's top 10 states which have maximum number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified green buildings, Maharashtra bagged the top slot with 334 LEED-certified green buildings. It was followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with 232 and 157 buildings respectively.

Om Birla named as the new Lok Sabha Speaker by the NDA

A two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) from Rajasthan's Kota district, Om Birla, aged 56, was unanimously elected as the new Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha. 13 motions were moved in support of Om Birla as the Speaker. He was elected as the speaker by pro-tem Speaker Virendra Kumar.



Microsoft's GitHub takes over pull panda for code-review collaboration

On June 17, 2019, Microsoft owned GitHub announced that it has acquired US(United States)-based start-up Pull Panda, a firm that creates code review tools for the platform for an undisclosed sum.



June 20th

Raavana-1: Sri Lanka's 1st satellite successfully launched

Sri Lanka's first ever satellite 'Raavana-1', designed and developed by two Sri Lankan engineers, was successfully placed into orbit. It was launched from International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal.

About Raavana-1

Background: The satellite was officially handed over to JAXA (Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency) on February 18 and was sent to International Space Station on April 17, through assistance of Cygnus-1 spacecraft from United States.

About BIRDS 3 Project

The 'Birds project' is an acronym for 'Joint Global Multi-Nation Birds Satellite project', which is a cross-border interdisciplinary satellite project for non-space faring countries supported by Japan. It is first step towards creating an indigenous space program by designing, building, operating, testing and launching 1st satellite for participating nations.

The Birds 3 project is led by Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology and involves students from **Sri Lanka, Nepal and Japan.**

DD India channel to be available in Bangladesh, South Korea

In bid to boost India's relations with its neighbours, the government has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to broadcast DD (Doordarshan) India channel in two countries and their state channels will be shown on DD Free Dish in India.

GI Tag: Namma Kolhapuri chappals

Kolhapuris, the sturdy ethnic leather chappal (footwear) that rose from its humble rural origins to occupy high table of fashion globally, now has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The GI tag approval was jointly received by Karnataka and Maharashtra for making these chappals.

Key Highlights

The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) has granted GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts in each state of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Joint GI: There is a perception that Kolhapuris artisans are from Maharashtra alone, but a large number of them are from Karnataka as well, and have been making these chappals for centuries.



Moreover, Maharashtra and Karnataka jointly applied for GI tag last year and it was approved few weeks back.

Benefits of GI Tag: It will help artisans export these chappals and also tie up with e-commerce giants such as Flipkart and Amazon. With GI tag now these local artisans get legal support. Thus, anyone who is going to copy this can be punished.

NITI Aayog has proposed to sell only e-vehicles after 2030

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030. This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers.

Worldwide Displacement tops 70.8 million at the end of 2018: UNHCR report

According to the recently released UNHCR's (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) annual Global Trends report, almost 70.8 million people are forcibly displaced in 2018, the most since World War II and doubled the number of 20 years ago.

Bangladesh emerged as the fastest economy in Asia-Pacific: Asian Development Bank

Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) stated that Bangladesh emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

PU Chitra and Sreeshankar strikes Gold & Johnson wins silver at Folsam Grand Prix 2019

Asian champion PU Chitra (Palakkeezhil Unnikrishnan Chithra) of India won a gold medal in women's 1500m at Folsam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden. She ran her season best by clocking 4 minutes 12.65 seconds (4:12.65s).

World Refugee Day Observed On 20 June 2019

World Refugee Day is observed across the world on June 20, 2019, to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The Theme for the 2019 World Refugee Day is #Step With Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day.

Former Mizoram minister and MNF leader, Lalrinchhana dies at 84



On June 19, 2019, Lalrinchhana, Former Mizoram minister and MNF (Mizo National Front) leader passed away after battling with cancer.

RBI panel on MSMEs headed by U K Sinha recommended to double collateral-free loans limit to Rs 20 lakh

The 8 member panel on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2019, headed by the former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman U K Sinha submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on June 17, 2019. The panel was formed to suggest long-term measures for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.

The Committee suggested doubling collateral-free loans for MSMEs to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.

