

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (23 -29 June 2019)

### 1. National Statistics Day 2019 observed in India

- The “Statistics Day” is being observed every year on 29th June in India to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2019 is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- The theme has been chosen for intensive and focused discussions towards filling the data gaps and improvement of timelines/quality in SDGs.
- The day acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.
- The main function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation and Ministry of Planning, Rao Inderjit Singh.

#### Related Information:

- Indian scientist and applied statistician ‘Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis’ (29 June 1893 – 28 June 1972) remembered for the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure.
- He was also one of the members of the first Planning Commission of India.

### 2. Samant Goel appointed as new RAW chief

- Senior IPS Officer Samant Goel (1984 batch- Punjab Cadre) has been appointed as the new chief of Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW).
- Samant Goel will succeed Anil Dhasmana whose tenure comes to an end on June 29.
- Mr. Goel played a key role in planning the February 2019 Balakot airstrikes and the 2016 surgical strikes.
- Senior IPS Officer Arvind Kumar (1984 batch-Assam- Meghalaya Cadre) will be the new Director of Intelligence Bureau (27th).
- Arvind Kumar will succeed Rajiv Jain.
- Previously Arvind Kumar was involved in tackling the Left-Wing Extremism at IB.

#### The Research and Analysis Wing:

- The Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) is the foreign intelligence agency of India, established in 1968 following the intelligence failures of the Sino-Indian War.
- The agency's primary function is gathering foreign intelligence, engaging in counter-terrorism, promoting counter-proliferation, advising Indian policymakers, and advancing India's foreign strategic interests.
- The first Director of R&AW was Rameshwar Nath Kao.

#### Intelligence Bureau (IB):

- The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's internal intelligence agency.



- It was renamed as the Central Intelligence Bureau in 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The first director of the IB was T. G. Sanjeevi Pillai.

### 3. China's Qu Dongyu elected new Director-General of UN food agency FAO

- China's Qu Dongyu (56-year) has been elected as the new Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) based in Rome, Italy.
- The Qu will officially take over as new FAO chief from 1st August 2019.
- He is the first Chinese national to be elected as FAO Director-General.

#### Related Information:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy.

### 4. ISRO forms new PSU to commercially exploit technology, launch satellites

- The ISRO has formed a public sector undertaking (PSU) named as the New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- It will commercially exploit the research and development work of the space agency, co-produce PSLV and launch satellites through SSLVs.
- The functions of NSIL will involve small satellite technology transfer to industry, manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
- The new company will also look after the production and marketing of space-based products and services, including launch an application, developed by ISRO Centres.
- Antrix Corporation Ltd is another PSU under the Department of Space that acts as a commercial arm of the ISRO.

### 5. West Bengal launches free crop insurance scheme for farmers

- West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme 'Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB)' in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) for the 2019 kharif season.
- The scheme 'BSB' is applicable for farmers in 15 districts - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum, Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.
- The crop insurance scheme would be free of cost for the farmers since the government will pay the full premium.
- The crops that will come under insurance are aman paddy, aus paddy, jute and maize.

### 6. Milan-Cortina (Italy) to host Winter Olympics 2026

- The city of Milan and Cortina of Italy have been selected to host the Winter Olympics 2026.



- This will be the fourth Olympic Games hosted in Italy and the first Olympic Games hosted by Milan.
- The 2026 Winter Olympics scheduled to take place from 6 to 22 February 2026 in Italy.

S. No	Olympics	City/Country
1.	2020 Summer Olympics	Tokyo, Japan
2.	2022 Winter Olympics	Beijing, China
3.	2024 Summer Olympics	Paris, France
4.	2026 Winter Olympics	Milan-Cortina, Italy

## 7. Hardeep Puri inaugurates Central ATFM Complex

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (Minister of State (I/c) for Civil Aviation) has inaugurated the Air Traffic Flow Management - Central Command Centre at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.
- The C-ATFM system is primarily meant to address the balancing of capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization of the major resources viz., airport, airspace and aircraft at every Indian airport where there is a capacity constraint.
- The C-ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages.
- The system processes the demand and capacity information and provides decision-making tools to the ATFM Flow Manager for collaborative decision making and to ensure regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India.

### Related Information:

- After successfully implementing the Air Traffic Flow Management System, India has become the seventh country after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Brazil.
- The C-ATFM system is supported by 36 Flow Management Positions (FMP) at various airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad among others.
- Eight defence airports are also part of the ATFM network which is provided with FMPs.

## 8. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigns

- RBI Deputy Governor Viral V Acharya has resigned from his post, six months before the scheduled end of his term.
- Mr. Acharya joined the Reserve Bank in January 2017 and was RBI's youngest deputy governor, post-economic liberalisation.
- Acharya will be returning to New York University as CV Starr Professor of Economics.
- With Acharya's resignation, the RBI is now left with three Deputy Governors N.S. Vishwanathan, B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.

### Related Information:



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- Viral Acharya has co-authored research papers with former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and has called him a “source of inspiration.”

### 9. 23rd June: International Olympic Day

- The International Olympic Day (IOD) is observed every year on 23rd June to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability.
- The three pillars of Olympic Day are ‘move’, ‘learn’ and ‘discover’.
- Move: Can refer to all sorts of physical activity for people of all ages and abilities.
- Learn: Olympic Day is a wonderful opportunity to look at the contribution of sport to global social issues that can affect your community
- Discover All about inviting and encouraging people to try new sports and activities that they have never done before.

#### Related Information:

- The ‘Olympic Day’ was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23rd June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris.
- The goal was to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability.

### 10. 23 June: International Widows’ Day

- The International Widows day (IWD) is observed every year on 23rd June to raise awareness of the issue of widowhood.
- The day addresses the poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries.
- International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation.

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### 11. Lewis Hamilton wins French Grand Prix 2019

- Defending World Drivers' Champion, Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) continued his run of form as he won the 2019 French Grand Prix at Circuit Paul Ricard.
- British racing driver Hamilton defeated his teammate Valtteri Bottas.
- Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel (5th) was outgunned by colleague Charles Leclerc (3rd), while Red Bull star Max Verstappen just missed the podium in fourth.
- The win also marked Hamilton's sixth triumph in eight races this season.

#### Related Information:

- The 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship is an ongoing motor racing championship for Formula One cars which marks the 70th running of the Formula One World Championship.

### 12. Maharashtra to get floating solar power generation plants on four dams



- According to state Water Resources minister Girish Mahajan, Maharashtra is all set to get floating solar power generation plants on four dams.
- The backwater of Wardha, Begala, Khadakpurna and Pentakli dams has been selected for setting up the floating solar panels as per the Swiss Challenge method.
- The estimated investment per megawatt is 4.45 crore rupees, with a total installed capacity of 500 MW.
- A committee headed by the executive director of the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC) is currently scrutinising the detailed project report and drafting the tenders.
- The work to set up the plants is under progress as permitted under the Maharashtra Infrastructure Development Enabling Authority Act.

### 13. Government to launch Universal Smart Card Driving License

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha that his Ministry has prescribed a common standard format and design of the Driving Licence for the whole of the country.
- This Ministry, through its flagship application called SARATHI developed by NIC, has a common countrywide database of all driving license holders.
- Almost 15 crore driving license records are available in its central repository.
- The SARATHI application has the feature to identify duplicate records online in real time and access information about the challans if any.

### 14. 25th June: Day of the Seafarer

- The Day of the Seafarer is being observed on 25th June by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- The theme of the 2019 Day of the Seafarer is 'Get on board with gender equality'.
- The theme supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 5.
- The Day was proclaimed with an aim to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers from all over the world to international seaborne trade and civil society as a whole.

#### Related Information:

- The Day of the Seafarer was established in a resolution adopted by the 2010 Diplomatic Conference in Manila.
- IMO is the United Nations specialised agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

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### 15. Saudi Arabia becomes first Arab Nation to get FATF Membership



- Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The decision was taken during the group's annual general meeting in the United States.
- With the induction of Saudi Arabia as FATF member, the number of permanent members in the group is now 39.

### **16. International Olympic Committee opens new headquarters in Switzerland**

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- It has been opened exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.
- The Olympic House has been built on the site of the former headquarters, and 95% of the old materials were reused and recycled.
- Designed by architecture firm 3XN of Denmark, the energy-efficient building has won international awards for sustainability.

### **17. K Natarajan to be the new director general of Indian Coast Guard**

- Krishnaswamy Natarajan has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- He will take over from Rajendra Singh, who retires on 30th June 2019.
- Currently, Mr. Natarajan is the Additional Director General of the ICG's Western Sea-Board, which looks after the security of the sensitive maritime boundary from Gujarat to Kerala.
- Mr Natarajan holds a master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University.

#### **Related Information:**

- The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (DG ICG) is the head of the Indian Coast Guard.

### **18. 'Kalu' in Rajasthan is India's best police station**

- As per Ranking of Police stations for 2018 by the Home ministry, Rajasthan's 'Kalu Police Station' (in Bikaner district) has been ranked the best Police Station in the country (in 15,666 - PS ) on its performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, crime detection, community policing and maintenance of law and order.
- The No-2 rank goes to 'Campbell Bay police station' in Nicobar district of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The No-3 rank goes to 'Farakka police station' in Murshidabad, West Bengal, which has facilities like air-conditioners, besides a gymnasium and playground that provide a comfortable environment for public-police interaction.

#### **Related Information:**

- The 2018 survey covered a set of police stations shortlisted from across the country.



- The stations were evaluated on the basis of crimes against women and SCs/STs, and property-related offences
- Around 20% weightage was also given to the police station's infrastructure and citizen feedback on the performance of the police personnel posted at the police station.
- The score was calculated depending on the number of FIRs charges sheeted within 60 days.

### **19. Amitabh Kant gets a two-year extension as Niti Aayog CEO**

- Amitabh Kant was given a two-year extension as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Mr Kant tenure for a further period of two years beyond June 30, 2019, on the same terms and conditions. (up to 30th June 2021).
- Mr Kant has been a key driver of the 'Make in India', Startup India and 'Incredible India' initiatives.
- Kant did his schooling from Modern School, Delhi, graduation in Economics (Honours) from St Stephens, Delhi University and masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- The NITI Aayog is a policy think tank of the GoI, established (in 2015) with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

#### **Related Information:**

- It was established in 2015 to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model.
- The permanent members of the governing council are all the state/UT Chief Ministers, the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, and a vice Chairman nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister is the Ex-officio chairman.

### **20. Meenakshi Lekhi Writes her first Novel 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'**

- BJP MP & Supreme Court lawyer Meenakshi Lekhi has written her debut novel titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'.
- The book has been co-authored by Krishna Kumar who works with her and is published by Harper Collins India, is slated for release on 8th July.
- Meenakshi Lekhi is a Lok Sabha member from South Delhi and is a Supreme Court lawyer.

### **21. 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) begins in Hyderabad**

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary formally inaugurated the 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) in Hyderabad.
- Over 600 delegates including seed experts, officials, policy makers and representatives of national and international companies from nearly 70 countries like the UK, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada, Austria are taking part in the Congress.



- Several pre and post-event workshops, conferences and exhibitions are also being held as part of the 8-day long Congress.
- The deliberations will be mainly focusing on various technologies for increasing quality seed production and seed export-import policies.
- The Seed Congress is being held for the first time in South Asia.

## **22. G-20 summit begins in Osaka, Japan**

- 2019 G-20 summit (14th-meeting) has begun in Osaka, Japan.
- The theme of the G-20 summit 2019 is 'Human centred future society'.
- The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.
- The members of G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.
- The next G20 Summit will be hosted by Saudi Arabia in November 2020.

## **23. Justice PK Saikia sworn-in as Arunachal Lokayukta chief**

- Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) has been sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Governor Brig (Retd) Dr B D Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Saikia at a function held in the Raj Bhavan in Itanagar.
- Retired IAS officer Mr Yeshi Tsering was sworn in as Member of the Lokayukta.

## **24. Nuclear-capable missile Prithvi II successfully test-fired**

- India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II as part of a user trial by the Indian Army from a test range off the Odisha coast.
- It was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- The surface-to-surface missile has a strike range of 350 km.
- The missile can carry 500 to 1000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- Prithvi-II was also successfully test-fired on 21st February, last year from the ITR at Chandipur.

## **25. Virat Kohli becomes the fastest batsman to score 20,000 runs**

- India captain Virat Kohli (417- innings) has become the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs.
- Virat Kohli (131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs and 62T20I) broke Sachin Tendulkar (453 innings) and Brian Lara's (453 innings) record to become the fastest to 20,000 international runs.
- Now, Virat Kohli became the 12th batsman and 3rd Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs) and Rahul Dravid (24,208 runs) to reach 20,000 International runs.
- Virat Kohli has already become the fastest to score 11,000 ODI runs.
- Now, Virat Kohli has registered 11,124 runs in ODIs (C-66 & HC-93) and has 6,613 Test runs and 2,263 in T20Is.





S. No.	Indian Players	Matches	Total Runs	100's	50's
1.	SR Tendulkar (India)	664	34357	100	164
2.	R.Dravid(Asia/ICC/INDIA)	509	24208	48	146
3.	V Kohli (India)*	376	20035	66	93

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