

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (16 -22 June 2019)

### 1. 'Suman Rao' crowned 'Miss India 2019'

- Suman Rao (20-year-old from Rajasthan) has been crowned fbb Colors 'Miss India 2019' (56th edition) in an extravagant ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai.
- Chhattisgarh's Shivani Jadhav (23-years) was crowned Miss Grand India 2019.
- Shreya Shanker (21-years) from Bihar won 'Miss India United Continents 2019 title'.
- Now, Suman Rao will represent India at Miss World 2019 in Thailand.
- Telangana's Sanjana Vij was adjudged as Miss India Runner Up 2019.
- Anukreethy Vas (Miss India 2018), Meenakshi Chaudhary (first runner-up 2018) and Shrey Rao Kamvarapu (second runner-up 2018) crowned their successor at the end of the event.
- The Judges panel included renowned designer duo Falguni Shane Peacock, Miss World 2018 Vanessa Ponca de leon, actors Huma Qureshi, Chitrangda Singh, Aayush Sharma, choreographer-filmmaker Remo D'Souza, sprinter Dutee Chand and football captain Sunil Chhetri.

#### Related Information:

- 'Miss India' is a national beauty pageant in India that annually selects representatives to compete in Miss World.

S. No.	Results	Winner
1.	Miss India World 2019	Suman Rao (Rajasthan)
2.	Miss Grand India 2019	Shivani Jadhav (Chhattisgarh)
3.	Miss India United Continents 2019 title	Shreya Shanker (Bihar)

### 2. Sahitya Akademi announces Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar 2019

- Sahitya Akademi has selected 22 writers for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019.
- Six books of children's poetry, including works by Vijay Sharma (Dogri), Naji Munauwar (Kashmiri), and Sanjay Chaubey (Sanskrit); five storybooks by authors including Govind Sharma (Hindi), Mohammad Khalil (Urdu), and Swmim Nasrin (Assamese); and five authors for their total contribution in children's literature won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- Apart from these, one folk tale author, Lakhminath Brahma, in Bodo language, three novels by Chandrakanth Karadalli (Kannada), Salim Sardar Mulla (Marathi), and Pawan Harchandpuri (Punjabi); one history book by Devika Cariapa in English, and one play by R K Sanahanbi Chanu in Manipuri won the prestigious award.
- Eleven books of poetry, including works by Anuj Lugun (Hindi), Sagar Nazir (Kashmiri), Anuja Akathoottu (Malayalam); six of short stories by authors, including Tanuj Solanki (English), Ajay Soni (Gujarati), Keerti Parihar (Rajasthani); five novels by Moumita (Bengali), and Salman Abdus Samad (Urdu) among others won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2019.



- The winners of both the awards will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000.

### **3. 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought observed across the world on 17th June every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- World Day to Combat Desertification 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The theme of 2019 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is “Let’s Grow the Future Together”.
- Today, Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has delivered a keynote address at an event in New Delhi to mark the occasion.

### **4. 16th June: International Day of Family Remittances**

- The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is being celebrated every year on 16th June.
- The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.
- The day is a universally- recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/72/281).

### **5. Father’s Day: 16 June 2019**

- Father's Day is celebrated every year on the third Sunday of June to honour the journey of fatherhood and the role that father's play in the family structure and society.
- This year, it is be celebrated on 16th June in India.
- It complements similar celebrations honouring family members, such as Mother's Day, Siblings Day and Grandparents' Day.

### **6. Zuzana Caputova sworn in as Slovakia’s first female President**

- Anti-corruption campaigner Zuzana Caputova (45-years) was sworn in as Slovakia’s first female president.
- Caputova scored a convincing victory against Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.
- Her allies from the Progressive Slovakia/Together party hope to use the momentum to unseat the ruling party in a 2020 general election.
- Caputova is the fifth president in modern Slovak history.

#### **Related Information:**

- The President of the Slovak Republic is the head of state of Slovakia and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.
- The president's official residence is the Grassalkovich Palace in Bratislava.



## 7. World's highest weather stations installed on Mount Everest

- A team of Tribhuvan University and National Geographic Society scientists & researchers have installed the world's highest, fully automated weather stations atop Mount Everest.
- Total five weather stations, including one at a record height of 27,657 feet, were installed on the Earth's highest mountain above sea level.
- The weather station will record data on temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction.

## 8. Archery World Championships: Indian men's recurve team bags, Silver Medal

- The Indian men's recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in The Netherlands.
- Indian trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin lost to Chinese team of Ding Yiliang, Wei Shaoxuan and Feng Hao 6-2 in the summit clash.
- India ended their campaign with one silver and two bronze medals won in the women's compound team and individual events.
- The men's recurve team was playing in the final of World Championships after a gap of 14 years.
- This was India's sixth silver at the World Championships where the country is yet to win a gold medal.
- This was also for the first time since 2014 that the Indian men's team made the final of a world event.
- The silver and two bronze at the 2019 World Championships took India's overall count to eight medals in the premier biennial competition.

## 9. Autistic Pride Day is observed on 18th June

- Autistic Pride Day observed every year on 18th June, to recognise the importance of pride for autistics and understands it not as a disease but as a difference.
- 'Autism Spectrum Disability' is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, restrictive and repetitive pattern of behaviour.
- It is a lifelong condition which usually occurs in the first three years of life.
- The exact cause of autism is not known but it is known to be associated with genetic and environmental factors.

### Related Information:

- Autistic Pride Day was initiated by Aspies For Freedom, a group that raises public awareness about autism rights.

## 10. JP Nadda appointed BJP working president

- Senior BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) leader J P Nadda has been appointed as the BJP working President (till January 2020).



- The decision was taken at the BJP Parliamentary Board meeting held at party headquarters in New Delhi.
- Mr Nadda will remain the working president till the BJP's membership drive and organisation elections are over.

**Related Information:**

- The BJP's origins lie in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (formed in 1951) by Syama Prasad Mukherjee.
- In 1977, the Jana Sangh merged with several other parties to form the Janata Party (dissolved three years later) after which the members of the erstwhile Jana Sangh reconvened to form the BJP.

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**11. Lt General Faiz Hameed appointed Pakistan ISI Chief**

- Lt General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (military-led spy agency).
- Earlier, He was serving as the head of the Counter-Intelligence wing in the ISI.
- Lieutenant General Hameed replaces current head Lieutenant Gen Asim Munir.

**Related Information:**

- The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is the premier intelligence agency of Pakistan, operationally responsible for gathering, processing, and analyzing national security information from around the world.
- The ISI consists primarily of serving military officers drawn on secondment from the three service branches of the Pakistan Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy).

**12. Assam govt to set up Skill University at Darrang district**

- Assam government will set up a 'Skill University' at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district in the state.
- According to Mission Director of Assam Skill Development Mission, AP Tiwari, 80% seats will be reserved for Assam and rest 20% for other North Eastern states.
- This will be perhaps the first skill university of the country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats.
- The admission test for the first batch of the North East Skill Centre will be held on 30th June 2019.

**13. Gary Woodland wins the 2019 US Open Trophy (golf)**

- Gary Woodland (35-years) has won the 2019 US Open (119th),
- He captured his first Major title after defeating two-time defending champion Brook Koepka.

**Related Information:**



- The 2019 United States Open Championship was the 119th U.S. Open, played at Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, California.

#### **14. Om Birla unanimously elected as Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha**

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Birla was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha on 19th June.
- He was declared elected and the Speaker by pro-tem Speaker Virendra Kumar.
- His candidature as the Speaker was supported by all major parties including Congress, TMC, DMK and BJD.
- He succeeded Sumitra Mahajan to replace her as the LS speaker.
- Sumitra Mahajan did not contest the Lok Sabha elections this year.
- A total of 13 motions were moved in support of Birla.
- Om Birla represents the Kota parliamentary constituency since the 2014 general elections and well-known political leader from Rajasthan.

#### **Related Information:**

- Birla's political career took off at the age of 17 when he became president of the students association of the Government Senior Secondary School in Gumanpura in Kota in 1979.
- Birla has been a three-time member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Rajasthan. He first contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.
- The 56-year-old Birla has been an agriculturalist and social worker in Rajasthan. He is married to Amita Birla and has two daughters.

#### **15. 19th June: World Sickle Cell Day**

- World Sickle Cell Day observed every year on 19th June.
- It is observed each year to raise public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment methods.
- Sickle cell disease is an inherited form of anaemia in which red blood cells are not able to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body.
- Government has organised several campaigns for the proper treatment and cure of those suffering from the disease.

#### **16. World Refugee Day observed on 20th June**

- World Refugee Day is observed on 20th June every year to raise awareness about the conditions and problems that refugees face in their lives.
- The theme for World Refugee Day 2019 is 'Step with Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day.'
- The theme focuses on that there is a need to take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees from around the world.
- Millions of people are forced to move from their homes every year to keep safe from war, persecution or natural disaster.
- According to the United Nation (UN) every minute, around 25 people have to leave everything in the search for a better and safer life.



## 17. India to cross China's population by 2027: United Nations

- As per a United Nations report, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050.
- UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin said the report offers a roadmap indicating where to target action and interventions.

### Key highlights of the report

- India is expected to add nearly 273 million people between 2019 and 2050 and remain the most populated country through the end of the current century.
- The population of Nigeria is projected to grow by 200 million.
- Together, India and Nigeria could account for 23 per cent of the global population increase to 2050," the report has said.
- China, with 1.43 billion people in 2019, and India, with 1.37 billion, have long been the two most populous countries of the world, comprising 19 and 18 per cent, respectively, of the global total in 2019.
- India is still among the countries where the working-age population (25-64 years) is growing faster than other groups.

### World Population

- The UN report 'The World Population Prospects 2019' added that the world's population is expected to increase by two billion people in the next 30 years -- from 7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion in 2050.
- In China, the population is projected to decrease by 31.4 million, or around 2.2 per cent, between 2019 and 2050.
- The Central and the Southern Asia region is expected to see a 25% increase in population till 2050.
- The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime.

### Population Growing Older

- By 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65 (16 per cent), up from one in 11 in 2019 (9 per cent).
- The number of persons aged 80 years or over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.

### Average life expectancy

- The report also projected people would survive longer in the future, with global average life expectancy expected to reach 77.1 years in 2050 against 72.6 years currently.
- In 1990, the average life expectancy worldwide was 64.2 years.

## 18. Mexico ratifies US-Mexico-Canada agreement



- Mexico has ratified the US-Mexico-Canada agreement. This makes it the first country to give the new North American trade deal final approval despite recent tensions with the US.
- The Mexican government called the deal's passage a clear message in favour of an open economy and deepening economic integration in the region.
- Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador claimed the deal would bring in more foreign investment and jobs in Mexico, and access to the US market.
- The deal aims to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which helped turn Mexico into an exporting powerhouse over the past 25 years.
- It now falls to Canada and the US to ratify the deal.
- The three countries signed the agreement on 30th November after a year of negotiations triggered by US President Donald Trump's insistence on replacing NAFTA.

### **About NAFTA**

- The North American Free Trade Agreement was implemented in 1994 to encourage trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada.
- NAFTA's purpose was to encourage economic activity among North America's three major economic powers.
- President Trump made a campaign promise to repeal NAFTA, and in August 2018, he announced a new trade deal with Mexico to replace it.
- In Sept. 2018, Canada joined the deal: the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was signed on Nov. 30, 2018.

### **19. 21st June: 5th International Yoga Day**

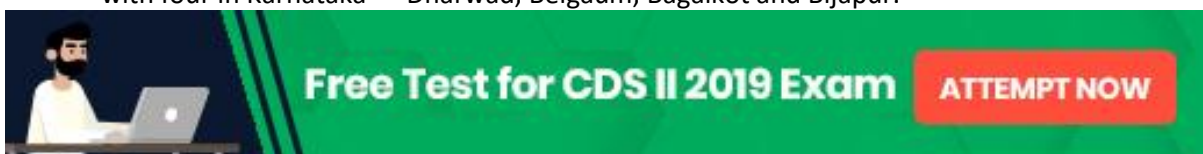
- Fifth International Yoga Day is being celebrated on 21st June.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand. The main function was held at the Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi this morning.
- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India.
- The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- This year, the International Yoga Day's theme is "Climate Action" and it will be celebrated at the UN on 20 June as "Yoga with Gurus," followed by a panel discussion on 21 June.

### **Related Information:**

- The idea of the International Day of Yoga was first proposed by PM Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27, 2014.
- The first International Yoga Day (IYD) was celebrated across the world on 21st June 2015.

### **20. Namma Kolhapuri chappal gets GI boost**

- Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear industry, renowned for its handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad.
- The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted the GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts of Maharashtra — Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara — along with four in Karnataka — Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur.



- The GI tag approvals imply that the artisans producing Kolhapuris in these districts will now be able to make and market their product in domestic and international markets.
- This also means the artisans can tie up with leading e-commerce players for higher profits.
- More importantly, it also prohibits the usage of the term "Kolhapuris" for similar products made in other parts of the country.

### **About Geographical Indication (GI) tag**

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- Geographical Indication Tag provides rights and protection to holders.
- For a product to get GI tag, it has to have a unique quality, reputation or characteristic which is attributable to its geographic origin.
- For example – In April 2019, 'Kandhamal Haldi', a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India.
- 'Kandhamal Haldi' has been placed under Class-30 type

### **21. Japan will host the G20 summit for the first time in 2019**

- Japan is going to host this year G20 Summit in the city of Osaka. It will be the first-ever G20 summit to be hosted in Japan.
- The G20 Osaka Summit will be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 in Japan.
- The summit under the Japanese presidency is centred around the theme "Human centred future society".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G20 summit in Osaka. Apart from participating at the summit, PM will also have bilateral meetings.
- Saudi Arabia will host the annual G20 leaders' summit on November 21-22, 2020, in its capital, Riyadh.
- In 2018, the G20 summit was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### **Related Information:**

- The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.
- The G20 Summit is formally known as the "Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy".
- In November 2008, the inaugural G20 Summit was held in Washington, D.C.
- 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.
- Collectively, the G20 economies account for nearly 90% of the gross world product, 80% of world trade, two-thirds of the world population, and approximately half of the world land area.

### **22. Telangana CM Chandrashekar Rao inaugurates Kaleshwaram project**





- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao dedicated one of the largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation schemes, the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.
- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) worth Rs 80,000 crore, touted as the world's largest multi-stage multi-purpose scheme.
- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project envisages irrigation over 37 lakh acres of new and existing ayacut in 21 districts of the State.

### **23. 'Operation Bandar' was IAF's code name for Balakot airstrike**

- According to the senior defence sources, in order to maintain secrecy and ensure that the plans don't leak out, the Balakot operations were given the codename Operation Bandar,".
- On February 26, 12 Mirages having taken off from multiple air bases crossed over into the Pakistani air space and carried out missile attacks on Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Balakot town of Khyber Pakhtunwa province.
- The attacks carried out by the Indian Air Force, pilots had dropped five Spice 2000 bombs.

### **24. Indian Navy launches 'Operation Sankalp' in the Gulf of Oman**

- Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region.
- INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance in the area is also being done by IN aircraft.
- The operation has been launched in the wake of escalating tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers were attacked last week. The incident has since heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington.

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### **25. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 35th GST council meeting in Delhi**

- The 35th Goods and Service Tax (GST) council meeting was held in New Delhi.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting for the first time after assuming the office.

#### **Key points**

- The Council extended the tenure of the anti-profiteering authority by two years till November 2021.
- The Council has decided to use Aadhaar as the identity and address proof required for registration for GST. No other documents will be required, and authentication can be done using a one-time password.
- The Council decided to extend the deadline for the filing of the annual return forms GSTR 9, 9A and 9C to August 30, 2019. The earlier deadline was June 30, 2019.
- The council also approved the rollout of the single-return filing system for all by January 1, 2020.



- The council also approved imposing a penalty of up to 10 per cent of the profiteered amount on entities for not passing on benefits of GST rate cuts to consumers, as against the current norm of levying a maximum fine of Rs 25,000.
- The Council also approved the rollout of an electronic invoicing system on a pilot basis from January 1, 2020, made it mandatory for GST-registered multiplexes to issue e-tickets.
- According to the proposal, entities with a turnover of more than Rs 50 crore will be required to generate electronic invoices on a government portal for B2B sales.
- The proposal to reduce GST rate on electric vehicles to 5 per cent from the current 12 per cent and that on chargers for e-vehicles to 12 per cent from 18 per cent has been referred to the fitment committee for fine-tuning.
- Explaining the rationale behind seeking AG opinion on taxing lotteries, Sitharaman said the principle of taxation under GST is that it should be one rate across the country, whereas in case of lotteries there were two rates being charged.
- Currently, a state-organised lottery attracts 12 per cent GST while a state-authorized lottery attracts 28 per cent tax.

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