

## Top Current Affairs of the week (1 - 6 July 2019)

### 1. India signs Rs 200 Crore deal with Russia for 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missiles

- India has signed a deal with Russia for acquiring the 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missiles.
- The deal has been signed under the emergency clause as a result of which the missile would be delivered within a time of 3 months of the signing of the contract.
- The deal is worth around Rs 200 Crore.
- The deal would give an added capability to the Mi-35 attack choppers to take out enemy tanks and other armoured elements.

### 2. Abu Dhabi to host first ISA's joint security exercise 'ISALEX19'

- Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the International Security Alliance are taking part in the first joint security exercise 'ISALEX19' in Abu Dhabi.
- Joint Security Exercise will test the readiness of the different teams and to evaluate the tools, strategies and procedures developed jointly between member countries.
- The participants include representatives from tactical teams, rapid intervention units, communications, civil defence, and explosive ordnance disposal, teams.

#### Related Information:

- The International Security Alliance (launched in 2017) is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes in Abu Dhabi.
- Now, the alliance comprises nine countries, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.

### 3. Former Navy Chief Sushil Kumar authors Book 'A Prime Minister to Remember'

- A Book titled 'A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief' has been released.
- The book has been written by Admiral Sushil Kumar.
- The book is about the huge impact that the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had on the Armed Forces of India.
- Former Navy Chief Sushil Kumar served with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (from 1998 to 2001) during challenging times of Kargil War, hijacking of IC 814 and Operation Parakram.

### 4. NASA announces 'Dragonfly' mission to explore Saturn's moon, Titan

- The US space agency NASA has announced to launch a spacecraft in 2026 to explore the richly organic world of Titan.
- A rotorcraft called 'Dragonfly' will arrive at the Saturn's moon in 2034, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and Earth.
- It may lend clues to how life may have arisen on Earth.



- Titan is the second largest moon in the solar system and is an icy world whose surface is completely obscured by a nitrogen-based golden atmosphere, four times denser than Earth's.

#### **5. ITBP DIG Aparna Kumar becomes the first civil servant to summit Mount Denali**

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Aparna Kumar (IPS officer - 2002 batch-UP cadre) has become the first civil servant to scale Mount Denali (in the third attempt), the highest peak in North America.
- Currently, Ms Kumar posted as DIG, ITBP Northern Frontier at Dehradun.
- She also became the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition.

#### **6. 'Tamil yeoman' declared Tamil Nadu's state butterfly**

- Tamil Nadu Government has declared Tamil Yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) as the state butterfly, based on the recommendation of state forest department.
- With this, Tamil Nadu became the fifth state in the country to announce its state butterfly.
- Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).
- These butterflies are also known as Tamil Maravan, which means warrior.

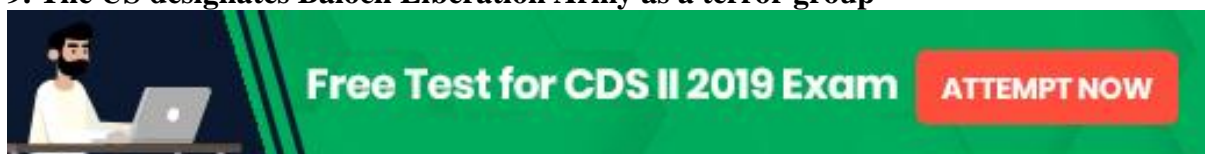
#### **7. Max Verstappen wins Austrian Grand Prix**

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen (21-years) has won the Austrian Grand Prix for the second year in a row.
- The win was only confirmed three hours after the race finished following an investigation into whether Verstappen unfairly ran Leclerc off the track.
- The victory of Max Verstappen in the Red Bull Racing RB15 was the first win for a Honda-powered F1 car since Jenson Button in the 2006 Hungarian Grand Prix.
- He also become the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in 2019.
- He is the son of former Formula One driver 'Jos Verstappen'.

#### **8. S. Vishwanathan reappointed RBI deputy governor for one year**

- N.S. Vishwanathan has been reappointed as deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the extension of Vishwanathan's term as RBI deputy governor by one year (from 4 July 2019).
- Vishwanathan is in charge of regulation of banks, non-banking finance companies and cooperative banks.
- Besides Vishwanathan, the other deputy governors of the RBI include B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.

#### **9. The US designates Baloch Liberation Army as a terror group**



- The United States has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which is fighting Pakistani rule in Balochistan province, as a terrorist organisation.
- BLA is an armed separatist group that targets security forces and civilians, mainly in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan.
- The department has also made it a crime for anyone in the US to assist the BLA terrorists and freezing any US assets they may have.
- The US has also sanctioned Hezbollah operative Husain Ali Hazzima, chief of the Beirut-based terrorist group's intelligence unit.

#### **10. Jio launches ‘Digital Udaan’, a digital literacy initiative in partnership with Facebook**

- Reliance Jio has launched a new digital literacy programme “Digital Udaan”.
- The objective of the Digital Udaan’ is to provide digital literacy to first-time internet users who are using the connected internet ecosystem and apps for the very first time.
- The Jio Digital Udaan programme is being launched across 200 locations in 13 states in partnership with Facebook.
- As a part of the Digital Udaan initiative, Jio will engage with users every Saturday to help them learn about the JioPhone features, use of various apps and internet safety including use of Facebook on JioPhone.

#### **11. Union budget 2019-20 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**

- Today, the union finance minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the maiden union budget for 2019-20 in Lok Sabha.
- This is the first Budget of the Narendra Modi Government in the second tenure.
- The annual financial statement of a government, the Union budget gives details about the revenue and expenditure of the Centre in the past and estimated spending and projections for the coming year.

#### **12. UIDAI Opens its First ‘Aadhaar Seva Kendra’ in Delhi and Vijayawada**

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has set up its first exclusive ‘Aadhaar Seva Kendra’ (ASK) at Akshardham Metro station in New Delhi.
- It will be operational six days a week excluding Tuesdays and public holidays.
- The second such Aadhaar centre has been opened in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).
- These Aadhaar centres will make it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones.
- UIDAI has an ambitious plan to set up 114 such centres by the end of 2019.
- Although thousands of Aadhaar centres are being run by banks and post offices currently but the Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASK) are the first specialized centres operationalized by UIDAI.

#### **Related Information:**

- Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number that can be obtained by residents of India, based on their biometric and demographic data.



- The data is collected by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a statutory authority established in January 2009 by the government of India, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric ID system.

### **13. UP govt launches toll-free CM helpline 1076**

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline 1076.
- It will enable people from across the state to register their complaints, ensure time-bound action on the complaints.
- According to CM Yogi Aditya Nath, he will personally review the complaints every month.
- If a department gets more than 100 complaints in a month, action will be taken against the concerned officials.
- The 500-seater call centre has been established for the helpline and it has the capacity to handle 80,000 inbounds and 55,000 outbound calls on daily basis.

#### **Related Information:**

- When the complainant calls the helpline, he/she will get an SMS informing that the complaint has been sent to the department concerned.
- The Chief Minister's helpline number 1076 will work 24x7 and anyone from any part of the state can call on this number anytime.

### **14. India's first Design Development Centre 'Fashionova' launched in Surat**

- India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' has been launched in Surat, Gujarat.
- The launch of Fashionova will promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.
- The main objective of this studio is to provide a strong platform to all those who have a flair of the apparel business.
- It fulfils, on a large scale, all business needs from co-working space, technicians, expert advises to cognitive workshops and exposure to the industry.

### **15. Hima Das wins Gold in women's 200 metres in Poznan Athletics Grand Prix**

- Indian sprinter Hima Das (19 years) has won the women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix, Poland.
- National record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze medal in the men's shot put with a best effort of 19.62 metre.
- Hima Das is the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to the 200m gold.
- India's V K Vismaya finished third with a personal best time of 23.75 seconds in the race.
- Muhammed Anas was third in the men's 200-metre race with a timing of 20.75 seconds.



- KS Jeevan won the men's 400-metre bronze in 47.25 seconds.

#### **16. PMMSY: A new scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector**

- While presenting Union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a new scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector.
- The new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), will be established under the Department of Fisheries for a robust fisheries management framework.
- She also announced the creation of a new ministry for fisheries sector Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The new ministry was formed in order to promote the allied farm sector that has huge potential to help achieve the government's target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- The budget allocated for the newly carved out Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is Rs 3,737 crore.
- Of the total budget allocated to the new ministry, Rs 2,932.25 crore is estimated to be spent on various schemes to promote animal husbandry and dairying, while Rs 804.75 crore for the fisheries sector in the current fiscal.

#### **17. Budget 2019: Rs 3.18 lakh crore allocated to the defence budget**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman did not mention the defence outlay in the budget speech in the Lok Sabha on 05th July 2019.
- During an interview to Finance Minister Sitharaman said she had - an allocation of Rs 3.18 lakh crore was made in the Union Budget to the defence sector for 2019-20 as against last year's Rs 2.98 lakh crore.
- Out of the total allocation, Rs 1,08,248 crore has been set aside for capital outlay to purchase new weapons, platforms and military hardware.
- The revenue expenditure, which includes expenses on salaries and maintenance of establishments, is pegged at Rs 2,10 lakh crore as against Rs 1.88 lakh crore for 2018-19.
- The outlay for pension is Rs 1.12 lakh crore to accommodate the rise in view of the implementation of the one rank one pay principle.
- The interim budget presented on February 1 ahead of the general elections made a Rs 3.05 lakh crore (\$43 billion) outlay for the defence sector.

#### **18. First ever IICTF to be held in India**

- The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) to be held in New Delhi, India.
- It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to the global trade arena which will be held from 11th till 13th October 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The Trade Fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.





### **19. Indian Railways commissions longest electrified tunnel between Cherlopalli-Rapuru Station**

- South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel, measuring 6.6 Kms between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations.
- The tunnel is part of the recently completed Obulavaripalli-Venkatachalam new railway line.
- The tunnel has been completed in a record time of 43 months.
- It is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru Railway stations in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.
- New Australian Tunnelling Method (NATM) is used and the cost incurred is Rs.460 crores
- The height of the tunnel (rail level to roof) is 6.5 meters and the minimum height of the contact wire is maintained at 5.2 meters.

#### **About South Central Railway**

- It is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways.
- The jurisdiction of the zone is spread over the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, and some portions of Madhya Pradesh.
- It has three divisions under its administration, which include Nanded, Secunderabad, Hyderabad.

### **20. India's first highway corridors for e-vehicles expected by March 2020**

- India's first highway corridors with charging stations for electric vehicles are expected to come up along the Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways by 2020.
- The combined stretch of the corridors on the Yamuna Expressway (between Delhi and Agra) and the National Highway 48 (between Delhi and Jaipur) will be 500 km.
- Eighteen charging stations will be set up on the two routes. Eight will be between Delhi-Agra and 10 between Delhi-Jaipur.
- On a full charge, an SUV-like vehicle can travel 180 km, he said, adding that a DC charger takes around 1.25 hours to fully charge such a vehicle.
- The e-corridors are proposed to be the first under the Ease of Doing Business Programme (EODB) of the Advance Services for Social and Administrative Reforms (ASSAR), a private entity which is supported by the central government, an official engaged in the project said.

### **21. India could lose the equivalent of 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming: ILO**

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work.'
- According to the report, India will be the most affected country due to global warming because of its large population.

#### **Key highlights of the report:**



- By 2030 the 2.2 per cent of total working hours worldwide is projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace.
- The global productivity losses would be around 80 million full-time jobs (equivalent to an economic loss of US\$ 2,400 billion).
- The accumulated global financial loss due to heat stress is expected to reach USD 2,400 billion by 2030.
- Heat stress is defined as generally occurring at above 35 degrees Celsius, in places where there is high humidity.
- Temperatures exceeding 39-degree Celsius can kill.
- In agriculture – 60% of working hours will be lost due to heat stress by 2030.
- In construction – 19% of global working hours to be lost.

### **Projections for India**

- India is expected to lose an equivalent of 34 million jobs as a result of global warming and heat stress by the year 2030.
- The country most affected by heat stress in India, which lost 4.3 per cent of working hours in 1995 and is projected to lose 8 per cent of working hours in 2030.
- Although most of the impact in India will be felt in the agricultural sector.
- More and more working hours are expected to be lost in the construction sector where heat stress affects both male and female workers.
- ILO report also noted that Ahmedabad (in Gujarat) incorporated a cool roofs initiative into its 2017 Heat Action Plan. Under it notably provided access to affordable cool roofs for city's slum residents and for urban poor.

### **About ILO**

- The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards.
- It was the first specialised agency of the UN.
- It was founded on 29 October 1919 with Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **22. World Zoonoses Day observed on July 6**

- The World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6.
- The day is observed to create awareness on zoonotic diseases, how to prevent them and what actions to take when exposed.
- The day has been observed since 1885 to mark the day Louis Pasteur administered his first rabies vaccine.
- Millions of people across the globe every year fall prey to the diseases like swine flu, bird flu, cat scratch fever, rabies, leptospirosis, Lyme disease, cowpox, Ebola, SARS, hantavirus, anthrax, monkeypox, etc. these diseases are known as zoonotic diseases.

### **About Zoonotic diseases**



- Zoonotic diseases are caused when animals carrying dangerous pathogens come in contact with humans. Some animals are hosts of these pathogens or are infected by them.
- People who interact with animals on a daily basis and many also keep pets or others.
- When the climate is warmer, it tends to create a change in the behaviour of vectors (animals who harbour dangerous pathogens like virus and bacteria).

### **23. International Day of Cooperatives observed on July 6**

- The International Day of Cooperatives observed every year on the first Saturday of July since 1923.
- The aim of this celebration is to increase awareness of cooperatives.
- 2019 theme: COOPS 4 DECENT WORK
- According to a recent estimate, cooperatives around the world employ or are the main source of income for more than 279 million people—almost 10% of humanity's total working population.

### **24. Centre constitutes High Powered Panel of CMs for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'**

- The Union Government has constituted a high-powered committee of chief ministers of several states for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister 'Devendra Fadnavis' will be the convenor of the committee.
- While the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members.
- Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister will also be a member of the committee.
- Besides, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been named the Member Secretary.
- It will suggest the modalities for adoption and time-bound implementation of agriculture sector reforms.

#### **Related Information:**

- The panel will suggest a mechanism for linking of market reforms with e-NAM, GRAM and other relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- It will also suggest policy measures to boost agricultural export, raise growth in food processing and attract investments in modern market infrastructure, value chains and logistics, besides making other key suggestions.

### **25. UGC approves a scheme “STRIDE” to boost research culture in India**

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) to boost research culture in India.
- The scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges & Universities.





- It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- An Advisory Committee has been set up by the UGC under the chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan to oversee the entire scheme.

**STRIDE Objectives:**

- To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.
- To fund multi-institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.

**Related Information:**

- STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development.
- It will also support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for the public good and strengthening civil society.

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