

## 1-3 July 2019 Current Affairs



**1)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2019 constituted a high powered committee of chief ministers for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income. Who is heading this committee? – **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**

(On 1 July 2019 Prime minister Narendra Modi constituted a high powered 9-member committee of Chief Ministers to be headed by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income. Other members of this committee are – Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Narendra Singh Tomar (Union Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj) and Ramesh Chand (NITI Aayog member). The primary task of the committee is to suggest policy measures to raise farmers' income, attract investments in agricultural sector and raise growth in the food processing sector. The committee has been asked to submit its report in 2 months)



**2)** Which country on 1 July 2019 resumed commercial whaling (whale hunting) operations after 31 years? – **Japan**

(Japan resumed commercial whaling operations after a period of 31 years from 1 July 2019 as a small fleet of its whaling ships entered the oceans and caught their first whales. It is worth mentioning that in 1988 Japan had changed the nature of whaling from whale hunting to whaling for research purposes. From 30 June 2019 Japan has withdrawn from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) so is no longer subject to its rules. However, Japanese boats will not be allowed to venture more than 200 miles off its Pacific coast)



**3)** The US President Donald Trump on 30 June 2019 created which historic moment with respect to North Korea? – **He became the first sitting US President set foot in North Korea**

(US President Donald Trump on created history as he crossed into North Korea through the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on 30 June 2019 and thus became the first-ever sitting US President to step into North Korea. He met North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a summit meeting. But the talks produced only an agreement between the two nations to restart talks about North Korea's nuclear ambitions)



**4)** Which private popular e-ticketing portal has been integrated with the IRCTC to continue its ticket booking services? – **RailYatri**

(During June 2019, Popular e-ticketing website RailYatri was authorised by the IRCTC to continue its ticket booking services. It is worth mentioning that during April 2019 the Delhi High Court termed the services of RailYatri as "unauthorized" after a complaint against it was filed by IRCTC alleging that the portal was providing illegal bookings and meals on trains. Now IRCTC will charge fee for reservations done by RailYatri)

**5)** Which airline on 1 July 2019 launched the shortest Airbus A380 flight that lasts just 40 minutes? – **Emirates**

(Dubai-based Emirates on 1 July 2019 launched the shortest Airbus A380 flight between Dubai and Muscat, which lasts for 40 minutes. The new flight broke Emirates' own record of previously operating the shortest A380 flight between Dubai and Doha. Airbus A380 is presently the world's largest passenger aircraft which can carry over 500 passengers)



1) On 2 July 2019 who was nominated as the next President of the European Central Bank (ECB)? - **Christine Lagarde**

(International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde was on 2 July 2019 nominated as the president of the European Central Bank (ECB). Following her nomination she announced to temporarily relinquish her responsibilities as head of IMF. Lagarde succeeds Mario Draghi, whose term ends on 31 October 2019. ECB is the central bank for 19 members of the Eurozone and is headquartered at Frankfurt in Germany)



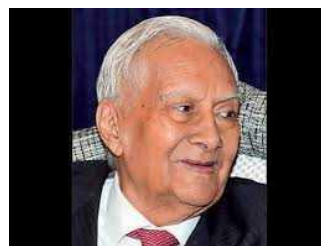
2) What is the name of the comprehensive water conservation campaign launched by Jal Shakti Ministry during July 2019? - **“Jal Shakti Abhiyan”**

“Jal Shakti Abhiyan” is the name of water conservation campaign that was launched from 1 July 2019 by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. This campaign has been launched with an emphasis on 1592 blocks in 256 districts facing water shortage. It will focus on five aspects - water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation)



3) Lee Iacocca, who passed away on 2 July 2019, was a renowned former CEO and business leader associated with which industry? - **Auto industry**

(Lee Iacocca was renowned American auto executive. He was known for putting the iconic Mustang in Ford's lineup in 1960s and became ever more famous for resurrecting Chrysler in the 1980s. In his 32-year career at Ford and then Chrysler, Iacocca helped launch some of Detroit's best-selling and most significant vehicles. He reached a level of celebrity matched by few auto moguls. He passed away on 2 July 2019 at the age of 94)



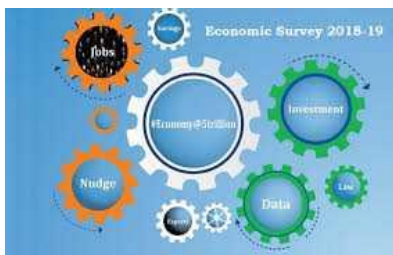
4) Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Basant Kumar Birla passed away on 3 July 2019 at the age of 98. What is the name of the trust founded by him that is involved in running numerous religious, educational and philanthropist bodies all over India? - **Krishnarpan Charity Trust**

(Basant Kumar Birla (B.K. Birla was the youngest son of noted industrialist and freedom Fighter G.D. Birla and the Chairman of the B.K. Birla Group. The main companies of this group are Century Textiles and Industries, Kesoram Industries, Century Enka and Jaishree Tea. He was the grandfather of noted industrialist Kumarmangalam Birla. B.K. Birla was an avid philanthropist and had founded the Krishnarpan Charity Trust to oversee numerous religious, educational and philanthropist activities across India. He breathed his last on 3 July 2019 in Mumbai)

5) Which outfit of Pakistan was designated as a terrorist organization by the US Government on 2 July 2019? - **Balochistan Liberation Army – BLA**

(On 2 July 2019 the United States Department of State added Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) to its Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) list. US Department of State accused Balochistan Liberation Army of targeting Chinese engineers in Balochistan and Gwadar terrorist attack. BLA is an armed separatist group that targets security forces and civilians, mainly in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan)

## 5 July 2019 Current Affairs



**1)** What is the projected growth rate for Indian economy for 2019-20, as was disclosed in the Economic Survey for 2018-19 that was tabled in the Parliament on 4 July 2019? – **7%**

(The Union Govt. pegged the growth rate for the current fiscal (2019-20) at 7%, marginally up from the five-year low of 6.8% recorded in the previous fiscal. The previous fiscal is considered to be lowest during last five years. The Economic Survey for 2018-19 was tabled in both houses of Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The fiscal deficit, as per the survey deteriorated to 5.8% of the GDP as compared to 3.4% for 2018-19 estimated in the interim Budget)



**2)** Recently India's longest electrified railway tunnel was commissioned in which railway division of the Indian Railway? – **South Central Railway**

The South Central Railway (SCR) commissioned India's longest electrified railway tunnel of 6.6 km length built at a total cost of Rs. 460 crore between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations in Andhra Pradesh. This tunnel has reduced distance between Krishnapatnam Port and hinterland areas by 60 km. The tunnel will facilitate operating freight trains on Obulavaripalli-Venkatachalam-Krishnapatnam Port new railway line for a distance of 113 km)

**3)** The RBI on 3 July 2019 constituted a 6-member committee to strengthen the corporate governance framework of systematically important Core Investment Companies (CICs). Who is heading this committee? – **Tapan Ray**

(Tapan Ray, former Secretary in Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and non-executive

Chairman of the Central Bank of India, is heading the 6-member committee constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework for CICs. CICs are the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have their assets predominantly as investments in shares for holding stake in group companies but not for trading. CICs also do not carry out any other financial activity)

**4)** Which South Asian country climbed into the upper-middle-income group for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 according to the World Bank's classification of countries by income levels that was released during July 2019? – **Sri Lanka**

(Sri Lanka became the second South Asian country after Maldives to enter World Bank's classified upper-middle-income group. This was disclosed in its annual report on classification of countries by income levels. Sri Lanka's per capita income stood at \$4,060 or Rs. 2,77,542 during the year. Sri Lanka entered the lower-middle-income group in FY 1999, from the low-income category and continued for over two decades, before moving to the upper-middle-income group this year. With a per capita income of \$2,020 or Rs. 1,38,087, India continues to be a lower-middle-income country along with 46 others. Among fellow developing economies-BRICS- India is the only country in the lower-middle-income group)

## 6 July 2019 Current Affairs



**1)** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman broke which old tradition while presenting the Union Budget for 2019-20 on 5 July 2019? – **She carried the budget in a red cloth instead of the usual leather briefcase**

(Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman broke tradition by carrying the budget in a red cloth instead of the usual leather briefcase. Finance Ministers in the past have carried the budget in a leather briefcase. The tradition was established by first Finance Minister RK Shanmukham Chetty. The Finance Minister was of the view that leather products aren't

auspicious for big occasions like presenting Union Budget and represented colonial mindset)

2) What is the name of the proposed commercial arm of ISRO, as was announced in the Union Budget 2019-20 on 5 July 2019? – **New Space India Limited**

(Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her Budget presentation on 5 July 2019 announced that New Space India Limited (NSIL) is the name of the newly formed commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO). NSIL will aid ISRO to commercialise its space products like launch vehicles and transfer of technology)

3) What is the name of the new pension scheme announced in the Union Budget under which pension benefits will be extended to 3 crore retail traders and shopkeepers? - **Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi MaanDhan Scheme**

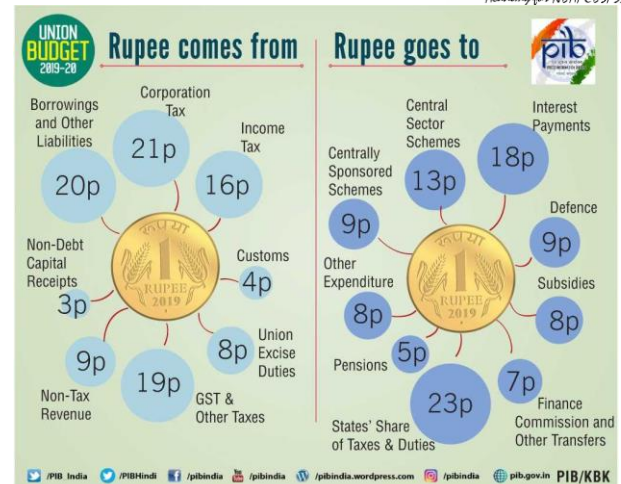
(Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 5 July 2019 announced the Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi MaanDhan (PMKYMD) Scheme. Under the scheme, pension benefits will be extended to 3 crore retail traders and shopkeepers whose annual turnover is less than Rs. 1.5 crore. It is worth mentioning that a similar scheme named 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi MaanDhan Yojana' for workers in the unorganised sector was announced in the Interim Budget presented earlier this year)

4) How much increase in prices of petrol and diesel was announced in the Union Budget in form of road and infrastructure cess and increased excise duty? – **Rs. 2 per litre**

(Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman imposed Rs. 2 per litre cess on both petrol and diesel. This increase is in form of road and infrastructure cess and increased excise duty. The government expects to raise over Rs 28,000 crore through this increase)

5) What is the total disinvestment target of Union Government for 2019-20, as was announced in the Union Budget on 5 July 2019? – **Rs. 1.05 lakh crore**

(In her Budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a target of Rs. 1.05 lakh crore to be realised from disinvestment proceeds of public sector companies during 2019-20. The target is markedly higher than the Rs. 80,000 crore in the previous fiscal (2018-19) and is 5% over the Rs. 1 lakh crore target in 2017-18)



6) Which is the largest source of revenue and the largest expenditure head for Union Budget 2019-20? – **Corporate Tax** (Largest Revenue source) and **States' Share of Taxes and Duties** (Largest Expenditure Head) - According to the budget document, Centre gets 21% of its total income from corporate tax while the largest expenditure head is the States' Share of Taxes and Duties (23%). The other main sources of revenue are borrowings and other liabilities (20%), GST and other taxes (19%) and Income Tax (16%). On the other hand other important expenditure heads are Interest payments (18%), expenditure on central schemes (13%), centrally sponsored schemes (9%) and Defence (9%)

Photo Credit : **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**

## 7-12 July 2019 Current Affairs



1) Brazil defeated which country in the finals of Copa America on 7 July to win the title? – **Peru**

(A last minute penalty from substitute Richarlison sealed a 3-1 win for Brazil over Peru thus handing them their ninth Copa America triumph and first since 2007. The final between Brazil and Peru was held on 7 July 2019 at the iconic Maracana stadium in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro. This was Peru's first appearance in final of Copa America since 1975, when Peru won the title. Copa America is men's international football country to determine the continental champion of South America)



**2)** The United States women's soccer team claimed the 2019 FIFA Women's Football World Cup title as it defeated the Netherlands in final on 7 July 2019. With this title win, the US has now won how many Women's Football World Cup titles? – **Four**

(Dominating yet another opponent in yet another final, the United States women's soccer team claimed its fourth FIFA Women's World Cup title on 7 July 2019 by defeating the Netherlands 2-0, in Lyon, France. Megan Rapinoe and Rose Lavelle scored second-half goals for the United States. US were the defending champion and have now won this prestigious title in 1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019, being the most successful team)



**3)** Which Indian city was included as an official entry into UNESCO's World Heritage List at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee during July 2019? – **The Walled City of Jaipur**

(The Walled City of Jaipur was included into UNESCO's World Heritage List. This decision was taken during UNESCO World Heritage Committee's 43<sup>rd</sup> Session that was held from 20 June 2019 to 10 July 2019 in Baku (Azerbaijan). Jaipur's walled city was founded in 1727 AD during the reign of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Also called 'Pink City', it was nominated for its value of being an exemplary development in architecture and town planning)

**4)** IBM acquired which IT company in a \$34 billion deal, thus setting up the world's third-largest technology deal ever? – **Red Hat**

(During July 2019 IBM closed its \$34 billion purchase of Red Hat, a major distributor of open-source software and technology. This deal is the world's third-largest technology deal ever. With this deal IBM intends to compete with top software purveyors in the cloud. The 108-year-old International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), once

synonymous with mainframe computing, has been struggling to adopt cloud-related technologies)

**5)** The Union Government on 10 July 2019 banned which US-based pro-Khalistani group for being involved in anti-national activities? – **Sikhs for Justice**

(The Union Cabinet on 10 July 2019 announced to ban Sikh fundamentalist organisation Sikhs For Justice(SFJ) under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for its alleged anti-national activities. SFJ is a US-based organisation formed in 2007 and it came to prominence in the last 5 years as it started advocating a separate Khalistan state. It also started an online secessionist campaign, the 'Sikh Referendum 2020')

## 13-14 July 2019 Current Affairs



**1)** The World Bank Group on 12 July 2019 announced to have appointed which Indian woman banker as its next MD and CFO with which she becomes the first woman CFO of the Bank? - **Anshula Kant**

(The World Bank Group on 12 July 2019 announced that Anshula Kant, an Indian national, has been appointed its next MD and CFO (Chief Finance Officer). She will be the first woman CFO of the Bank and will be responsible for financial and risk management and report to David Malpass, World Bank Group president. A PG degree holder in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and having more than 35 years of expertise in banking and finance, Anshula Kant's tenure as SBI's CFO has been especially praised)

**2)** What was the primary aim of "Operation Thirst" that was launched across the zones of Indian Railway (IR) by Railway Protection Force (RPF) on 8 and 9 July 2019? – **To stop selling of unauthorized packaged drinking water**

(The RPF launched a pan-India crackdown to stop selling of unauthorized packaged drinking water across all major railway stations in the country on 8 and 9 July. This operation was named "Operation

Thirst” and its aim was to stop selling of spurious mineral water bottles in railway premises)



3) On 13 July 2019 who won the Wimbledon women’s singles title and thus became the first-ever Romanian to win this prestigious Grand Slam tennis title? – [SimonaHalep](#)

(SimonaHalep of Romania defeated Serena Williams of US by 6-2, 6-2 to win her maiden Wimbledon women’s singles title on 13 July 2019. She also became the first Romanian to win a Wimbledon singles title. The result denied Serena from equalling Margaret Court’s all all-time record of winning 24 Grand Slam singles titles)



4) Rishikesh’s iconic LakshmanJhula bridge was closed to all types of traffic from 12 July 2019 due to which reason? – [Due to fears that the bridge cannot sustain more load](#)

(The LakshmanJhula is a 136-metre suspension bridge on the Ganga river connecting Tapovan village in Tehri district with Jonk in Pauri district. Built in 1923, it is one of the main attractions for tourists and devotees in Rishikesh. The bridge is used by pedestrians and two-wheelers. A panel of experts from the Public Works Department found most parts of the bridge in the “fail” or “collapse” condition and recommended immediate closure. Hence the local authorities on 12 July 2019 closed the bridge completely)



5) The production of which of its iconic car was stopped during July 2019 by Volkswagen? – [Beetle](#)

(German auto giant Volkswagen launched the final edition of its iconic "Beetle" car from its Mexican factory in Puebla on 10 July 2019. With this the production of Beetle has been closed all over the world. The vehicle's history goes back to the Nazi era, having first been developed by Ferdinand Porsche with support from Adolf Hitler, who in 1937 formed the state-run Volkswagenwerk, or "The People's Car Company." The advertising agency Doyle Dane Bernbach in 1959 rechristened the car the "Beetle," and began touting the vehicle's small size as an advantage to consumers. But with changing times the demand of Beetle decreased to unsustainable levels)

## 15-17 July 2019 Current Affairs



1) England won its maiden ICC World Cup as it defeated New Zealand in one of the greatest ODI matches played in the form of final at the Lords on 14 July 2019. What was the margin of England’s victory? – [More boundaries scored by England in the match](#)

(After the match was tied with England scoring exactly 241 runs in 50 overs, the super-over was needed to find the winner. But the super-over was also tied with both New Zealand and England scoring exactly 11 runs. Hence, England was declared the winners as it had more boundaries (26) than what New Zealand (17) scored through the match. This final was one of the greatest and pulsating ODIs ever played and hosts England won its first-ever ICC World Cup trophy)



2) Who became the first-ever female European Commission President after the European Parliament gave its approval to her appointment for the post on 16 July 2019? - [Ursula von der Leyen](#)

(Germany's Ursula von der Leyen secured European parliamentary approval on 16 July 2019 to become the first female European Commission President. She is a long-standing ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and will take her role on 1 November 2019. She secured 383 votes to 327 against while the threshold was 374. She replaces Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg)

.....  
**3)** Which state became the first in India to have its own Water Policy and ensure conservation of water? – [Meghalaya](#)

(Northeastern state of Meghalaya became the first state in India to come up with its own Water Policy and come up with a comprehensive strategy ensure conservation of water. This happened as the State Cabinet on 12 July 2019 approved a draft Water Policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state. The policy intends to achieve sustainable development, management and use of water resources with community participation)



.....  
**4)** Who was awarded “Player of the Tournament Award” in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 that concluded on 14 July 2019? – [Kane Williamson](#)

(New Zealand’s captain Kane Williamson was chosen as the “Player of the Tournament” for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. He scored 578 runs in the tournament and led the Kiwis to their second successive World Cup final. On the other hand England’s Ben Stokes was chosen the player of the match for final for his incredible performance with the bat (84 not out).

.....  
**5)** Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer in an epic 5-set final to win the Wimbledon men’s singles title on 14 July 2019. This was his fifth Wimbledon title. With this win, Djokovic has now won how many Grand Slam singles titles? – [16](#)

(With his Wimbledon men’s singles title win over Switzerland’s Roger Federer on 14 July 2019, Serbia’s Novak Djokovic has now won 16 Grand Slam singles titles. He is thus just two titles behind Rafael Nadal and 4 behind Federer. The final one of the greatest finals of all time in which Djokovic

prevailed over Federer 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, 4-6, 13-12 to win the Wimbledon title. Federer wasted two championship points to lose the epic final that lasted 4 hours 57 minutes)

.....  
**18-22 July 2019 Current Affairs**



**1)** The WHO on 17 July 2019 declared the Ebola outbreak in which African country as a global health emergency? – [Congo](#)

(The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on 17 July 2019. During the second week of July 2019, the first Ebola case was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border with an international airport. This city has a population of around 2 million. A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures. This is the fifth such declaration in history)

.....  
**2)** Indian Parliament on 17 July 2019 passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that provides a big push for India’s national security. What is the most important power that this bill provides to the NIA? – [It provides for expansion of NIA’s jurisdiction to investigate offences committed outside India](#)

(The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to expand the agency’s jurisdiction to investigate offences committed outside India, such as the Easter day bombings in Sri Lanka. The bill also proposes three major amendments to the NIA Act of 2008)

.....  
**3)** Who was appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 July 2019? - [Vivek Kumar](#)

(Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Vivek Kumar was appointed as Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kumar, a 2004 batch IFS officer, is currently working as a Director in the

Prime Minister's Office. He will be succeeding Sanjeev Kumar Singla, who has been appointed India's ambassador to Israel)



4) How many years of nationalization of 14 banks were completed on 19 July 2019? – **50 years**

(Exactly 50 years back on 19 July 1969 the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi nationalized 14 banks and thus the Central Govt. virtually took over the banking system in its own hand. These 14 banks together controlled 85% of bank deposits. In 1980 six other banks were nationalized)

5) Who were appointed new Governors of the states of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh by the Union Govt. on 16 July 2019? – **Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** and **Anusuiya Uikey**

(BJP's BiswaBhusanHarichandan and RajyaSabha MP AnusuiyaUikey were made Governors of the states of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively by the Union Govt. on 16 July 2019. Harichandan took over from incumbent Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan who was additionally handling Andhra Pradesh. Uikey succeeded Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, who took the additional charge of Chhattisgarh following Balram Das Tandon's death)

6) The Union Government on 20 July 2019 shifted whom as the new Governor of Uttar Pradesh? – **Anandiben Patel**

(Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel was on 20 July 2019 shifted to Uttar Pradesh where she replaced Ram Naik. Her place will be filled by Bihar Governor LaljiTandon. PhaguChauhan replaced Tandon as Bihar governor. Ramesh Bais has been appointed as the governor of Tripura. Noted lawyer and former Janata Dal MP JagdeepDhankhar was appointed as the West Bengal governor while former interlocutor on Naga talks R N Ravi has been appointed as Nagaland governor)



7) Which two new districts were carved in Tamil Nadu, as was announced by the state government on 18 July 2019? - **Tenkasi** and **Chengalpattu**

(Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on 18 July 2019 announced that two new districts, Tenkasi and Chengalpattu, would be carved out of Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram respectively. With these two, the total number of districts in the state has reached 35)

### 23-26 July 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which state on 22 July 2019 became the first in India to reserve 75% jobs in private sector for locals? – **Andhra Pradesh**

(Andhra Pradesh on Monday became the first state to reserve jobs for local youth after the assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019. This act reserves 75% jobs in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode. It also puts the government under obligation to provide training to eligible local candidates)



2) Who took over as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on 24 July 2019? – **Boris Johnson**

(Conservative leader Boris Johnson took over as the new British Prime Minister on 24 July 2019. Earlier he was chosen the new leader of the Conservative Party as he defeated his rival Jeremy Hunt in the election for new party leader. Johnson defeated Hunt by 92,153 votes to 46,656. He



replaced Theresa May whose tenure ended on the same day as she tendered her resignation to the Queen)



3) Who were appointed the new Home Secretary and Economic Affairs Secretary respectively by the Union Govt. on 24 July 2019? - [Ajay Kumar Bhalla](#) and [Atanu Chakraborty](#)

(1984 batch IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla was appointed the new Economic Affairs Secretary. He replaced Rajive Gauba. On the other hand Gujarat cadre IAS officer Atanu Chakraborty was appointed the new Economic Affairs Secretary. He replaced Subhash Chandra Garg who will be the new Power Secretary)



4) On 23 July 2019 who took charge as Britain's new Home Secretary and thus became the first-ever Indian-origin person to occupy this post? - [Priti Patel](#)

(Priti Patel, an ardent Brexiteer who was among the most vocal critics of Theresa May's Brexit strategy, on 23 July 2019 took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary in the newly-unveiled Boris Johnson Cabinet. 47-year old Priti is a Gujarati-origin politician and is a prominent guest at all major Indian diaspora events in the UK)

5) Who took over as the new Defence Secretary of the United States of America (USA) on 23 July 2019? - [Mark Esper](#)

(US Army veteran Mark Esper was sworn in as US' Defence Secretary (Defence Minister) on 23 July 2019 following confirmation by the Senate. Esper succeeded James Mattis, who resigned in December last year following differences with US President Donald Trump over the withdrawal of American troops from Syria)

6) Who was assigned to run the monetary policy portfolio of the RBI, as was announced was by the RBI on 24 July 2019? - [BP Kanungo](#)

(The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assigned Deputy Governor BP Kanungo to run the monetary policy portfolio after the resignation of fellow Deputy Governor Viral Acharya. Kanungo, who will retain his currency management portfolio, would become the sixth member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Acharya had earlier announced his resignation from the RBI and his resignation came into effect from 23 July 2019)



7) China's former premier Li Peng, who passed away on 22 July 2019, had been country Premier in which years? - [From March 1988 to March 1998](#)

(Li Peng was the fourth Premier of People's Republic of China and was in office from 25 March 1988 to 17 March 1998. He was regarded as a staunch supporter of the ruling Communist Party's iron-fisted clampdown on the pro-democracy student protests at the Tiananmen Square in 1989 and was hence also called "Butcher of Beijing". Peng was in Communist Party's Politburo till 2002. He was 90)



8) Which anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed on 26 July 2019? - [20<sup>th</sup>](#)

(20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed on 26 July 2019. Exactly 20 years ago on 26 July 1999 India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistan in the Kargil area of Jammu & Kashmir state. The operation to take over these outposts was named Operation Vijay in which Indian armed forces lost 527 of its soldiers)

## 27-31 July 2019 Current Affairs



1) During July 2019, the Union Cabinet increased the strength of the judges of Supreme Court by how many percent? - [10%](#)

(The Cabinet approved increasing the number of Supreme Court judges by 10% that effectively

increased the number of judges of the apex court from 30 to 33. After including the Chief Justice of India, the strength of the SC will reach 34)

.....  
**2)** In which African country more than 200 million trees were planted on a single day during July 2019? – Ethiopia

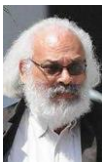
(Ethiopians planted more than 200 million trees on 29 July. The ambitious initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed aims to help restore the country's landscape, which is fast being eroded by deforestation and climate change. Ethiopia is in the midst of a tree planting campaign in which it aims to plant 4 billion trees between May and October 2019)

.....  
**3)** According to the results of a tiger census made public on 29 July 2019 by Prime Minister NarendraModi what is the total tiger population in the country? - 2,967

(India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a Tiger Census made public by Prime Minister NarendraModi. Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442). Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population and all other States saw a "positive" increase. It is worth mentioning that the tiger population had come down to as low as 1,411 in 2006)

.....  
**4)** Which company is acquiring smartphone modem business of Intel for \$1 billion, as was announced during July 2019? – Apple Inc.

(Apple and Intel have signed an agreement for Apple to acquire the majority of Intel's smartphone modem business for \$1 billion. Approximately 2,200 Intel employees will join Apple, along with intellectual property, equipment and leases. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2019, subject to regulatory approvals)



**5)** Noted economist SubirGokarn, who passed away on 30 July 2019, was the Deputy Governor of the RBI during which years? – 2009-2012

(SubirGokarn was the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from November 2009 to January 2013. Earlier he was the Chief Economist

of global rating agency Standard and Poor's (S&P) Asia-Pacific from August 2007. He passed away on 30 July 2019 at the age of 59)

.....  
**6)** Which city was ranked India's best city for students in the global ranking agency QS' (Quacquarelli Symonds) latest Best Student Cities Ranking 2019? – Bengaluru

(Bengaluru topped the rankings among Indian cities in QS' latest Best Student Cities Ranking 2019 that was released on 31 July 2019. It was ranked 81 globally out of 120 cities. The other top Indian cities include Mumbai (85), Delhi (113), and Chennai (115). Globally, London emerged the world's best student city for the second consecutive year, followed by Tokyo and Melbourne)