Daily Current Affairs – 19 June 2026

Banking, Finance & Business

RBI to Discontinue Weekly Statistical Supplement Data from July 2024

Key Highlight: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it will discontinue the publication of the **Weekly Statistical Supplement (WSS)** data starting **July 2024**.

The **WSS** currently provides data on **Foreign Exchange Reserves**, **Money Supply**, and **Reserve Money**.

This decision follows the recommendation of the **Internal Working Group** on the **Rationalisation of Reports**.

Users can still access this data through the **RBI Data Warehouse** and the **Database on Indian Economy (DBIE)**.

The data will be transitioned to a **fortnightly** or **monthly** release schedule as per the new framework.

About Reserve Bank of India

Established: 1935

Headquarters: Mumbai

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

World Bank Approves $1.5 Billion to Support India's Low-Carbon Energy Transition

Key Highlight: The **World Bank** has approved a **$1.5 billion** second program to help **India** scale up **low-carbon energy** and develop its **green hydrogen** ecosystem.

The financing is aimed at achieving **India's** goal of **500 GW** of non-fossil fuel capacity by **2030**.

The program will support reforms to enhance **renewable energy** penetration and encourage **private sector** investment.

It focuses on the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, which targets **5 MMT** of annual production capacity.

This is the second such funding, following a similar **$1.5 billion** operation in **June 2023**.

National & State News

Nalanda University's New Campus Inaugurated by PM Modi in Bihar

Key Highlight: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** officially inaugurated the new campus of **Nalanda University** in **Rajgir, Bihar** on **June 19, 2024**.

The original **Nalanda University**, established in the **5th century**, was one of the world's first residential universities.

The new campus is a **Net Zero** campus, sprawling over **455 acres** with state-of-the-art facilities.

Representatives from **17 countries** participated in the event, highlighting its international significance.

The university was revived under the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**, following the **East Asia Summit** initiative.

Andhra Pradesh Government Re-establishes 'Anna Canteens' for Affordable Food

Key Highlight: The newly formed **Andhra Pradesh government** under Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** has announced the revival of **'Anna Canteens'** across the state.

The canteens aim to provide meals at a highly subsidized rate of **₹5** to the poor and middle-class.
A total of **203 canteens** are planned to be reopened in the first phase of the rollout.
The scheme was originally launched in **2018** but was discontinued by the previous government in **2019**.
The **Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation** is the technical partner for food preparation.

Bihar Government to Increase Reservation for BC, EBC, SC, and ST to 65%
Key Highlight: The **Bihar Cabinet** has approved a proposal to increase the reservation for **Backward Classes**, **Extremely Backward Classes**, **Scheduled Castes**, and **Scheduled Tribes** from **50% to 65%**.
Including the **10% EWS** quota, the total reservation in the state will now reach **75%**.
This move follows the findings of the **Bihar Caste-Based Survey 2023**.
The state government has requested the **Central Government** to include this under the **Ninth Schedule** of the Constitution for legal protection.
Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** emphasized this as a step toward social justice for marginalized communities.

Awards & Honours
Arundhati Roy Honored with the Prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2024
Key Highlight: Renowned Indian author **Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the **PEN Pinter Prize 2024** for her "unflinching" commitment to justice.
The prize was established in **2009** by **English PEN** in memory of Nobel Laureate **Harold Pinter**.
Roy is known for her debut novel **The God of Small Things**, which won the **Booker Prize** in 1997.
The judges praised her for her powerful **political essays** and activism against environmental and social issues.
She will receive the award at a ceremony co-hosted by the **British Library** in **October 2024**.

Appointments & Resignations
Atul Kumar Chaudhary Appointed as Secretary of TRAI
Key Highlight: The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has appointed **Atul Kumar Chaudhary** as its new **Secretary**.
Atul Kumar Chaudhary is a **1989-batch ITS** (Indian Telecommunication Service) officer.
Prior to this, he served as the **Deputy Director General** in the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
He succeeds **V. Raghunandan**, who retired from the post earlier this year.
The appointment is seen as crucial for implementing the new **Telecommunications Act, 2023**.
About TRAI
Established: 1997
Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairman: Anil Kumar Lahoti

Girish Chandra Murmu Re-elected as External Auditor of WHO
Key Highlight: India's **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, **Girish Chandra Murmu**, has been re-elected as the **External Auditor** of the **World Health Organization**

(WHO).
The re-election is for a **four-year term** from **2024 to 2027**.
He secured a majority of **114 out of 156** votes in the first round of voting at the **World Health Assembly**.
This marks his second consecutive term at the **WHO**, having held the position since **2019**.
Murmu also serves as the external auditor for the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and **FAO**.

Science & Technology

ISRO Completes the Third Consecutive Landing Experiment of 'Pushpak' RLV

Key Highlight: The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully completed the third and final **Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)** Landing Experiment (LEX-03) on **June 23, 2024**.
The test was conducted at the **Aeronautical Test Range (ATR)** in **Chitradurga, Karnataka**.
The winged vehicle, named **Pushpak**, was released from a **Chinook helicopter** at an altitude of 4.5 km.
It successfully performed autonomous landing under high crosswind conditions.
This milestone brings **ISRO** closer to developing low-cost space access through reusable technology.

About ISRO

Established: 1969
Headquarters: Bengaluru
Chairman: S. Somanath

China's Chang’e-6 Probe Returns to Earth with First Samples from Moon's Far Side

Key Highlight: China's Chang’e-6 lunar probe has successfully returned to **Earth**, carrying the first-ever samples collected from the **far side of the Moon**.
The reentry capsule landed in the **Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region** on **June 25, 2024**.
The mission lasted **53 days** and involved complex operations in the **South Pole-Aitken Basin**.
Scientists expect the samples to provide insights into the early history of the **solar system**.
This achievement solidifies **China's** position as a leading global space power.

Rankings & Index

India Ranks 129th in Global Gender Gap Index 2024

Key Highlight: India has been ranked **129th** out of 146 countries in the **Global Gender Gap Index 2024**, released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
India slipped two places from its **127th** rank in **2023**.
Iceland maintained its top position for the 15th consecutive year as the most gender-equal country.
India showed improvement in **educational attainment** but lagged in **economic participation** and **health**.
The report noted that it will take **134 years** to reach full parity globally at the current pace.

Sports

Indian Men's Hockey Team Secures Bronze in Asian Champions Trophy

Key Highlight: The **Indian Men's Hockey Team** defeated **South Korea** to secure the **Bronze Medal** at the **Asian Champions Trophy 2024**.

The match ended with a score of **5-2** in favor of **India**.
Captain **Harmanpreet Singh** was the top scorer for the Indian side during the tournament.
This victory follows India's strong performance in recent international outings including the **Pro League**.
The tournament was held in **Hulunbuir, China**.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold at Paavo Nurmi Games 2024
Key Highlight: Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra** won the **Gold Medal** in the men's javelin throw at the **Paavo Nurmi Games** in **Turku, Finland**.
He recorded a best throw of **85.97 meters** to claim the top spot.
He finished ahead of **Toni Keranen** of Finland and **Oliver Helander**.
This was Chopra's first competition since the **Doha Diamond League** earlier this year.
The win serves as a major boost ahead of the **Paris 2024 Olympics**.

International News
Vladimir Putin Visits North Korea for the First Time in 24 Years
Key Highlight: Russian President **Vladimir Putin** arrived in **Pyongyang, North Korea** on **June 18, 2024**, for a high-profile state visit.
This was Putin's first visit to **North Korea** since the year **2000**.
The two nations signed a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty**, which includes a mutual defense clause.
The visit signals deepening military and economic ties between **Russia** and the **DPRK**.
Leader **Kim Jong Un** described the relationship as a "new era of friendship."

South Africa Re-elects Cyril Ramaphosa as President for Second Term
Key Highlight: Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the **President of South Africa** by the country’s parliament for a second term.
His party, the **African National Congress (ANC)**, formed a government of **national unity** after losing its majority.
Ramaphosa defeated **Julius Malema** of the **EFF** in the parliamentary vote.
He was inaugurated in **Pretoria** on **June 19, 2024**.
The new government includes the **Democratic Alliance (DA)** and other smaller parties.

Obituaries
Renowned Kannada Poet Chennaveera Kanavi Passes Away
Key Highlight: Veteran **Kannada poet** and litterateur **Chennaveera Kanavi** passed away at the age of 93 in **Dharwad, Karnataka**.
He was popularly known as **'Samanvaya Kavi'** (Poet of Reconciliation).
He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1981 for his work **'Jeeva Dhwani'**.
He was a leading figure in the **Navodaya** and **Bandaya** movements of Kannada literature.
The **Government of Karnataka** honored him with the **Pampa Award**.

Defence News
India-USA iCET Dialogue Focuses on Advanced Defence Cooperation
Key Highlight: The **National Security Advisors** of **India** and the **USA** met in **New Delhi** for the second **iCET (initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology)** dialogue.
Ajit Doval and **Jake Sullivan** reviewed progress in defense space and AI sectors.
A major focus was on the co-production of **GE F414 jet engines** in India.
Both sides agreed to launch a new **Strategic Trade Dialogue** to ease technology exports.
The partnership aims to reduce dependence on **Russian** military hardware.

Indian Navy Conducts 'PASSEX' with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force

Key Highlight: The **Indian Navy** ship **INS Shivalik** conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **JMSDF** ship **JS Yakushima** in the **South China Sea**.
The exercise focused on enhancing **interoperability** and maritime cooperation.
Activities included tactical maneuvers, communication drills, and helicopter operations.
INS Shivalik is currently deployed to the **South China Sea** and **North Pacific**.
The exercise reinforces the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** between India and Japan.