

## Highlights of 19 June 2026 Current Affairs

- Veeraswamy, a 100-year-old Indian restaurant in London and one of the oldest of its kind, which once hosted Mahatma Gandhi, is being forced to close as its 100-year lease has expired and the building's landlord, the Crown Estate, is unable to renew the lease.
- Olympic gold medalist Noah Lyles set the world's best time in the 150 meters at the Golden Spike, clocking 14.67 seconds.
- Lionel Messi has added another feather to his cap by becoming the oldest Argentine player to score a goal in the World Cup, with a remarkable hat-trick against Algeria. He is also the youngest goal scorer for Argentina in World Cup history, having scored in the 2006 edition at just 18 years old.
- By scoring a hat-trick, Lionel Messi of Argentina has surpassed Germany's Miroslav Klose to become the highest goal scorer in World Cup history, with 17 goals, breaking Klose's record of 16.
- India has shown an impressive jump in the QS World University Rankings, with a total of 52 Indian universities featured in the list compared to just 14 in 2017. The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) retained its position as India's top-ranked university, placed 118<sup>th</sup> globally. IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, and IIT Kanpur followed in second, third, fourth, and fifth positions respectively. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the overall top position worldwide.
- Digital India's BHASHINI and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the BHASHINI Seva/Sanchalan – A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program, to integrate advanced language technologies into India's public procurement framework. This initiative aims to remove language barriers and create a more inclusive, accessible, and efficient procurement ecosystem.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has issued a notification banning the over-the-counter sale of cough syrups. Pharmacies are now required to have a valid doctor's prescription before selling cough syrup medicines, under the Drugs Rules, 1945.
- India has surpassed the United States of America to emerge as the world's second-largest contributor to construction growth by volume during the 2020–2030 decade, according to the *State of Project Economy 2026* report published by global venture capital firm Fundamental.
- India has seen a sharp rise in merchandise exports, hitting a record high of \$45.2 billion in May 2026. Strong growth in petroleum products, engineering goods, electronics, and manufactured products has driven this surge, with exports expanding across regions such as Asia, Africa, Europe, and West Asia.
- Assam has received four new Geographical Indication (GI) tags for its traditional products, including Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Craft, and Deuri Handloom Products. With this, the number of GI-certified products from Assam has increased to 12.
- Tripura's traditional musical instrument, the Sarinda, has also received GI tag recognition.