

# WEEKLY G.K.

04 November – 10 November  
(2019)

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## **National News**

### **1. Finance Minister launches IT initiatives ICEDASH, ATITHI for improved customs clearance**

- Finance Minister unveiled two new IT Initiatives - ICEDASH and ATITHI for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods and facilitating arriving international passengers.
- ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public to see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.
- The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.

#### **Foot Notes:**

**Finance Minister:** Nirmala Sitharaman

### **2. WHO will identify online shopping as addictive disorder by 2024**

- By 2024, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will identify online shopping as an addictive disorder, as millions abuse digital commerce and encounter financial stress, predicts research firm Gartner.
- Consumer spending via digital commerce platforms will continue to grow over 10 per cent year over year through 2022, according to its top strategic predictions for 2020 and beyond.
- The ease of online shopping will cause financial stress for millions of people, as online retailers increasingly use artificial intelligence (AI) and personalisation to effectively target consumers and prompt them to spend discretionary income that they do not have, it said.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About WHO**

1. **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
2. **Head:** Tedros Adhanom
3. **Founded:** 7 April 1948

### **3. IFFCO launches nano-tech based fertilizers for on-field trials**

- The world's largest fertilizer cooperative Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced India's 1st nanotechnology-based product range by introducing Nano Nitrogen, Nano Zinc, Nano Copper for on-field trials at an event held at its Kalol unit in Gujarat.
- The products were produced at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) in Kalol unit. The first phase of the launch was tested with support from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These nanostructured formulations effectively deliver nutrients to the plants.
- Other benefits of these Nano-products include a reduction in the requirement of conventional chemical fertilizer by 50%, up to 15-30% increase in crop production, improvement in soil health, reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About IFFCO**

1. **MD:** Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **Founded:** 3 November 1967, New Delhi

### **4. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library society reconstituted, all Congress leaders replaced: PM is President and Defence Minister is Vice-President**

- The Centre reconstituted the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library society by removing Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Karan Singh as its members. It instead inducted Home Minister Amit Shah, TV journalist Rajat Sharma and censor board chief Prasoon Joshi, among others, PTI reported. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the society's president and Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh its vice president. The Centre also inducted Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Prakash Javadekar, V Muraleedharan and Prahlad Singh Patel.

- The committee has been cut down from 34 members to 28. The reconstitution gains significance as the government plans to extensively revamp the museum.
- "The term of the members is for a period of five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the order dated November 5 said. Former Culture Secretary Raghavendra Singh was appointed the museum's director in October for a six-month period.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Nehru Memorial Museum

1. **Located in:** Teen Murti House
2. **Director:** Shakti Sinha
3. **Founded:** 9 November 1964
4. **Architect:** Robert Tor Russel

#### 5. MCG organises 'Ganga Utsav' in Delhi to spread awareness about river cleaning

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in coordination with the Jal Shakti Ministry, organised 'Ganga Utsav' in the Major Dhyanchand stadium in the national capital to mark the 11th anniversary of Ganga being declared as the national river.
- The event was organised in a bid to create awareness and gather public participation in the efforts to clean River Ganga and its tributaries.
- Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Director General of NMCG Rajiv Ranjan Mishra also attended the event.

#### 6. India, Indonesia hold Joint Naval Exercise "Samudra Shakti" In Bay Of Bengal

- India is jointly exercising its anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kamorta along with Indonesian warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role corvette, in the Bay of Bengal as part of an ongoing bilateral exercise "Samudra Shakti".
- The joint exercise include, manoeuvres, surface warfare exercises, air defense exercises, weapon firing drills, helicopter operations and boarding operations.
- "INS Kamorta, an anti-submarine warfare corvette, is jointly exercising with Indonesian warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role corvette in the Bay of Bengal as part of the ongoing Indian Navy-Indonesian Navy bilateral exercise "Samudra Shakti" from November 6-7," the Indian Navy said in a statement.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Indonesia

**Capital:** Jakarta

**Currency:** Indonesian rupiah

#### 7. Khadi gets separate unique HS code, export to get a boost

- Khadi has once again come out of its customary veil, marking its presence in the exclusive HS code bracket, issued by the central government on 4th Nov'19 to categorize its products in export. In a long-awaited move to make export of Khadi, exclusively categorized from the general league of textile products, the ministry of commerce and industries has allocated separate HS code for this signature fabric of India this week.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said that this decision of government will open a new chapter in the field of Khadi export. Earlier, Khadi did not have its exclusive HS code. As a result, all the data regarding export of this signature fabric used to come as a normal fabric under the textile head.
- Now, we will be able to keep a constant eye not only on our export figures, but it will also help us in planning our export strategies.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Khadi and Village Industries Commission

**1. Founded:** 1956

**2. Purpose:** To plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries

**3. Headquarters:** Mumbai

**4. Agency executive:** Vinai Kumar Saxena (Chairperson)

#### **8. Kalapani an integral part: Nepal objects inclusion of unresolved territory as part of India in new maps**

- A few days after India redrew the political map of Jammu and Kashmir after scrapping Article 370, the Nepal government strongly objected to the inclusion of 'Kalapani' under the Indian Territory.
- In the new political maps released by India, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir while Gilgit-Baltistan is in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- However, the Nepal government made it clear that Kalapani is an integral part of the country and that talks are still on between New Delhi and Kathmandu over this "unresolved" area.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About Nepal**

**1. Capital:** Kathmandu

**2. Currency:** Nepalese rupee

**3. Prime minister:** KP Sharma Oli

#### **9. CBSE to observe Fitness Week in the second and third week of November as part of Fit India Movement**

- In an attempt to promote fitness among school children, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be observing Fitness Week in the second and third week of November as a part of Fit India Movement.
- The prime objective of the initiative is to bring about a behavioural change in school children from spending "Passive Screen Time" to "Active Field Time". As many as 22,000 CBSE schools from all over the country will participate in this first-of-its-kind endeavour.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju expressed his happiness over CBSE's move and said Fit India Movement is the need of the hour.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About CBSE**

**1. Chairperson:** Anita Karwal

**2. Headquarters :** New Delhi

#### **10. The National Steel Policy released on November 8, 2019 aims at developing globally competitive steel industry.**

- The National Steel Policy that was released on November 8, 2019 aims at developing globally competitive steel industry. It aims at creating 300 million tons of steel per annum by 2030. The policy was released by Ministry of Steel.
- The policy aims at promoting scientific collection and processing activities of recyclable ferrous and non-ferrous scraps. The objective of the policy is to produce high quality ferrous scrap that helps to increase high quality steel production.
- It also promotes the '6R' principle. It includes Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Recover, Remanufacture and Redesign

#### **Foot Notes:**

**1. Minister of Steel:** Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

#### **11. Maharashtra tops list of states delivering justice, followed by Kerala: Report**

- According to 'India Justice Report 2019', Maharashtra is the top state in delivering justice to its citizens followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana in the first-ever ranking of states on their capacity to deliver justice to citizens.

- The ranking is part of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2019, an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS- Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- The India Justice Report brings together, in the first such exercise, otherwise soiled statistics, from authoritative government sources, on the four pillars of justice delivery - police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

**Foot Notes:****About Maharashtra**

1. **Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari
2. **Capital:** Mumbai

**About Kerala**

1. **Governor:** Arif Mohammad Khan
2. **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram

## **International News& Foreign Affairs**

### **1. Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference begins in Colombo, Sri Lanka**

- In Sri Lanka, the biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference began in Colombo under the theme Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law. Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad will be representing India at the conference.
- The four-day conference participated by Law Ministers and Attorney Generals from Commonwealth countries seeks to address challenges faced by millions of people seeking to resolve legal problems or disputes. Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland emphasized the event's significance in the current global context in which obstacles to justice are prevalent in many forms.

**Foot Notes:****About Sri-Lanka**

1. **Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
2. **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee
3. **Prime minister:** Ranil Wickremesinghe

### **2. Bangladesh-US navy joint exercise carat-2019 inaugurated**

- A joint exercise titled 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019' between Bangladesh Navy and the US Navy started at Bangladesh Navy's School of Maritime Warfare and Tactics.
- Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (operations) Bangladesh Navy Rear Admiral M Makbul Hossain was present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony while Rear Admiral Murray Tynch, commander logistic group, Western Pacific Command Task Force 73 (CTF-73) of the US Navy was present as special guest.
- Exercise CARAT is the biggest naval exercise between Bangladesh Navy and the US Navy. In addition to Bangladesh Navy, US Navy operates this bilateral exercise at various times along with other countries.

**Foot Notes:****About Bangladesh**

1. **Capital:** Dhaka
2. **Currency:** Bangladeshi taka
3. **Prime minister:** Sheikh Hasina

**About US**

1. **President:** Donald Trump



**3. US, India, Australia, Japan 'Quad' Holds Senior Officials Meeting in Bangkok**

- Consultations between the “quadrilateral” are picking up in 2019. For the first time since their ministerial-level meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, senior officials from the United States, India, Australia, and Japan met in Bangkok.
- According to the U.S. Department of State’s readout on the meeting, the four met “for consultations on collective efforts to advance a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.” The meeting marked the continuation of the September 26 New York ministerial-level meeting’s agenda.
- The U.S. statement noted that the Bangkok meeting focused on “advancing practical collaboration on counter-terrorism, cyber, development finance, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response.”

**Foot Notes:****About Bangkok**

1. **Bangkok:** Capital of Thailand

**4. India decides to opt out of RCEP, says key concerns not addressed**

- India won’t join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) because concerns about getting swamped by imports under the agreement — putting its domestic industry and agriculture at risk — haven’t been assuaged.
- The RCEP, which includes China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), aims to cover about a third of the world economy and half its population.
- “The present form of the RCEP Agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP,”

**5. US notifies UN of withdrawal from Paris climate accord**

- The US has formally notified the UN of its withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate accord, a landmark global agreement which brought together 188 nations, including India, to combat global warming.
- The Paris Agreement, in which Trump’s predecessor Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi played instrumental roles, was adopted at the UN climate conference “COP 21” held in the French capital in 2015 with an aim to reduce the hazardous greenhouse gas emissions.
- Although Trump announced his decision to withdraw from the historic agreement on June 1, 2017, the process began with the formal notification and the US will be out of the pact on November 4, 2020.

**Foot Notes:****About UN**

1. **Founded:** 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States
2. **Headquarters:** New York, United States
3. **Secretary General:** António Guterres

**6. The first-ever tri-services India-US amphibious exercise named Tiger TRIUMPH in Andhra Pradesh from November 13 to 21.**

- The first-ever tri-services India-US amphibious exercise named Tiger TRIUMPH will be conducted from November 13 to 21 near Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- Tiger TRIUMPH will include events and field training that simulate moving a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief force from ship to shore, a press release from the US Consulate said.
- The exercise helps build the capacity of both the Indian and US participants, while improving their ability to operate together.

**Foot Notes:****About Andhra Pradesh**

1. **Capitals:** Hyderabad, Amaravati
2. **Governor:** Biswabhusan Harichandan
3. **Chief minister:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

**7. China Is World's Worst Abuser of Internet Freedom: Freedom House Report**

- China was again ranked the worst among governments for increased exploitation of the internet for social control and political purposes, according to a report released by Freedom House .
- The report surveyed 65 countries and concluded that 33 of them had an overall decline in their internet freedom score compared to a year earlier. The score is assessed based on factors including obstacles to internet access in that country, limitations set on content, and user rights violations.
- The report also noted that at least 40 countries possessed advanced social media surveillance programs, including China.

**Foot Notes:****About China****Currency:** Renminbi**Capital:** Beijing**President:** Xi Jinping**8. India attends China's biggest import expo as 'Guest of Honour Country'**

- Making a strong pitch for increasing its exports to China to reduce the trade deficit, India took part in China's 2nd International Import Expo (CIIE) where it has been accorded the status as the "Guest of Honour Country".
- An Indian delegation headed by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan took part in the import expo which is aimed at enabling countries from the world over to showcase products to enhance their exports to China.
- In this year's expo inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, India is among the fifteen nations given the symbolic designation of "Guest Countries of Honour".

**9. Nepal's President appoints new governors in all seven provinces**

- Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari has appointed new governors in all seven provinces of the country. According to a press release issued by the Office of President, new governors have been appointed on the recommendation of cabinet.
- Somnath Adhikari 'Pyasi' will be the new governor of Province 1, Tilak Pariyar for Province 2, Bishnu Prasad Prasai for Province 3, Amik Sherchan for Gandaki Province, Dharmanath Yadav for Province 5, Govinda Kalauni for Karnali Province and Sharmila Kumari Panta for Sudur Paschim Province. They are likely to be administered oath of office and secrecy.
- Nepal adopted federalism after the promulgation of new constitution in September 2015. First time in the history of the country elections for seven provincial assemblies were held in two phases on 26 November and 7 December 2017. Left Alliance had registered landslide victory in the historic elections.

**Foot Notes:****About Nepal****1. Capital:** Kathmandu**Currency:** Nepalese rupee**Prime minister:** KP Sharma Oli**10. 19th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting on 7 November 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE), as the incoming IORA Chair, will host the 19th IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting on 7 November 2019 in Abu Dhabi under the theme of "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean".
- At the COM, the UAE will assume the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period 2019-2021. The Chairship passes from the Republic of South Africa, which has been IORA Chair for the period 2017-2019.
- The People's Republic of Bangladesh will assume the position of Vice Chair of IORA (also for 2019-2021), and form part of the Troika along with the UAE (as incoming Chair) and South Africa (as past Chair).

**Foot Notes:****About United Arab Emirates**

1. **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
2. **Currency:** United Arab Emirates Dirham

**About Bangladesh**

1. **Capital:** Dhaka
2. **Currency:** Bangladeshi Taka
3. **Prime minister:** Sheikh Hasina

**11. India is the 3rd Biggest Startup Hub in the World – NASSCOM**

- The NASSCOM report on Indian Tech Start-Up Ecosystem said that India continues to be the third largest start-up ecosystem after China and US. India has added more than 1300 tech start-ups in 2019 according to the report.
- Between January to September in 2019, there were 8900 to 9300 startups as compared to 7700-8200 a year ago.
- NASSCOM is National Association of Software and Services Companies. It is a non-profit trade association of Indian IT and BPO industries.

**Foot Notes:****About NASSCOM**

**Chairperson:** Rishad Premji  
**Headquarters location:** New Delhi  
**Founded:** 1 March 1988  
**Founders:** Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani

**12. PM Modi To Visit Brazil On November 13, 14 For BRICS Summit**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Brazil from November 13-14 to attend the BRICS Summit where deliberations are expected to focus on key areas such as trade, investment and counter-terrorism. During the visit, PM Modi will also hold a bilateral meeting with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.
- The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- He will hold bilaterals through the day and then attend the closing ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum in the evening along with other BRICS leaders.

**About BRICS**

1. **Founded:** June 2006
2. **Formation:** 2006
3. **Official language:** English, Russian, Hindi, Chinese
4. **State Leaders:** Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
5. **Founders:** India, Brazil, China, Russia
7. **Leaders:** Jair Bolsonaro, Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi, Xi Jinping

**13. 2nd 'No money for terror conference 2019' held in Australia**

- The 2nd 'No Money for Terror' 2019 conference going on in Melbourne, Australia. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G.Kishan Reddy is leading a five-member delegation to the 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference taking place in Melbourne, Australia.
- This conference is Organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of over 100 countries. This conference jointly called The Egmont Group, which was created to provide FIUs around the world a forum to exchange information confidentially to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and other predicate offences.
- The first "No Money for Terror" conference was held in France in 2018. India would host the next 'No Money for Terror' Conference in 2020.

**Foot Notes:****About Australia**



**Prime Minister:** Scott Morrison  
**Capital:** Canberra  
**Currency:** Australian dollar

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. IPS officer Aditya Mishra appointed chairman of Land Ports Authority of India**

- Senior IPS officer Aditya Mishra was appointed as the chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), according to an order issued by the personnel ministry. Mishra is a 1989 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mishra as the chairman of the LPAI on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection panel, the order said.
- Mishra has been appointed for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge, it said.

### **2. Pillai takes oath as new governor of Mizoram**

- PS Sreedharan Pillai was sworn-in as the new governor of Mizoram at the Raj Bhavan. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of Guwahati high court Justice Ajai Lamba.
- Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthangam his cabinet colleagues, legislators, former chief minister Lal Thanhawla and senior officials attended the swearing-in ceremony.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About Mizoram**

1. **Governor:** P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
2. **Capital:** Aizawl
3. **Chief Minister:** Zoramthanga

### **3. Devendra Fadnavis Resigns as Maharashtra CM, Chances of President's Rule Likely**

- After political drama that spanned 15 days, Bhartiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis finally resigned as the chief minister of Maharashtra. The resignation was first handed over to state governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and subsequently an announcement was made at a press conference in Mumbai.
- The two parties have been having a public war ever since the elections, with the Sena demanding an "equal share" in government and asking for the chief ministerial post for two-and-half years along with plum ministerial berths
- Of the 288 state assembly seats, BJP managed to snag 105, while the Sena picked up 56 seats. The Shiv Sena, ever since the results have been declared, has been asking for a lot more than the BJP has been willing to give. Fadnavis, in the media, said that the talks for equal share was never conducted in his presence.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About Maharashtra**

1. **Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari
2. **Capital:** Mumbai

### **4. Google India appoints former Star and Disney head Sanjay Gupta as new Country Manager**

- Google India has appointed Sanjay Gupta, former Star and Disney head as its new country manager. Gupta will also serve as Vice President of Sales and Operations for India.
- Gupta will be taking over his role at Google early next year.
- Gupta will be replacing Rajan Anandan, the VP for Google South East Asia and India, who had resigned in April 2019. Anandan was replaced by Vikas Agnihotri, Google's director of sales, who took on the role of Google Interim MD.

## **Banking**

### **1. RBI issues new guidelines over private bank CEO remuneration**

- The Reserve Bank of India has told private banks to raise the variable portion of remuneration to at least half of the total for their chief executives and whole-time directors so that top management rewards reflect the 'pay for performance' principles.
- "In order for incentive-based remuneration to work, the variable part of remuneration should be truly and effectively variable, and can even be reduced to zero in line with the symmetry principle," the RBI said.
- The new rules are applicable to private sector banks, including local area banks, small finance banks and payments banks from April 1, 2020.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About RBI**

1. **Bank rate:** 5.40%
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

### **2. Forex reserves soar \$3.5 billion to new lifetime high of \$446.09 billion**

- The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 3.515 billion to touch a fresh lifetime high of USD 446.098 billion in the week to November 1, helped by increase in foreign currency assets. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by USD 1.832 billion to USD 442.583 billion.
- The increase in reserves in the reporting week was mainly on account of a jump in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.
- Expressed in US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and the yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. During the week, gold reserves increased by USD 301 million to USD 27.353 billion.

### **3. Moody's revises India's economic outlook to "negative" from "Stable"**

- The American financial service company Moody's has downgraded India's economic outlook to "Negative" from "Stable". This downgrade was due to slow growth in the economy. It also predicted that slow growth would be prolonged and would also have debt rises.
- Moody's has also predicted a budget deficit of 3.7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the year through March 2020, which is a breach in the govt's target of 3.3%.
- This was due to corporate tax rate cuts, slow growth etc. The long term foreign currency bond and bank deposit ceilings were unchanged at Baa1 and Baa2(both being 2nd lowest investment-grade score), respectively.

#### **About Moody's**

1. **CEO of Moody's:** Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.
2. **Headquarters:** New York, United States
3. **Founded:** 1909

### **4. Exim Bank grants \$30 million line of credit to Ghana**

- The Export-Import (Exim) Bank has provided USD 30 million (about Rs 210 crore) line of credit to Ghana for a potable water project in the country.
- Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods, works and services from India would be allowed subject to their being eligible for export under the Foreign Trade Policy of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank.
- As per the agreement, the terminal utilisation time is 60 months period after the scheduled completion date of the project.

**Foot Notes:****About Ghana**

1. **President of:** Nana Akufo-Addo.
2. **Capital of Ghana:** Accra
3. **Currency of Ghana:** Ghanaian cedi.

## **Science Tech & Defence**

### **1. 1st-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 begins**

- The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 will begin at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent today. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Uzbekistan counterpart Major General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov presided over the Curtain Raiser of the military drill.
- The exercise, which will be focused on counter-terrorism, will continue till November 13. During the exercise, an Indian Army contingent will train along with Uzbekistan Army.
- The exercise will enable the sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and will lead to greater operational effectiveness.

**Foot Notes:****About Uzbekistan**

1. **Capital:** Tashkent
2. **Currency:** Uzbekistani so'm
3. **Prime minister:** Abdulla Aripov

### **2. DRDO Igniter Complex inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune**

- A Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) Igniter Complex was inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune. The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.
- The new complex is equipped with sieve shaker, granulating machine, planetary mixer, pelleting machine, etc. A design, modelling, simulation laboratory are a part of the complex.
- The complex also has an assembly centre and a testing centre.

**Foot Notes:****About DRDO**

1. **Headquarters location:** New Delhi
2. **Motto:** बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्; "Strength's Origin is in Science" (Sanskrit)
3. **Founded:** 1958

### **3. IIT-Madras launches country's first standing wheelchair 'Arise'**

- IIT-Madras has launched the country's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair. The project, in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems, enables a differently-abled person requiring a wheelchair to shift from sitting to standing position, and vice versa, independently and in a controlled manner.
- The wheelchair 'Arise' was launched in the presence of Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot at the institute.
- Union Minister Gehlot lauded IIT-Madras for its initiative, and also recalled the Narendra Modi government's various welfare measures for the 'divyang', including setting up five national-level sophisticated sports centres for differently-abled sportspersons in different parts of the country.

**Foot Notes:****About IIT-Madras**

1. **Director:** Bhaskar Ramamurthy

**4. China launches Sudan's first ever satellite "SRSS-1"**

- Sudan's first-ever satellite for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by China. Sudan's remote-sensing satellite (SRSS-1), was developed by the Shenzhen Aerospace Oriental Red Sea Satellite Co.
- The satellite was launched aboard China's Long March-4B rocket along with other Chinese satellites including Gaofen 7, Xiaoxiang-1 08, Whampoa 1 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern China.
- The Sudanese satellite has been mainly designed for civil and military remote sensing over Sudan.

**Foot Notes:****About Sudan**

1. **President of:** Omar al-Bashir.
2. **Capital:** Khartoum
3. **Currency:** Sudanese pound.

**5. Goa: Indian Coast Guard conducted ReSAREX-2019**

- The Indian Coast Guard conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019) here to check the preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner.
- The ReSAREX - 19 tested the efficiency of operations of various SAR agencies in Goa. Five ICG Ships, Dornier aircraft, two Chetak helicopters besides resources from other resource agencies like Captain of port, State Marine Police, Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC) Bengaluru, Goa state administration, Goa Medical College and Marmugao Port Trust participated in this workshop cum exercise.

**6. IAF launches multiplayer version of mobile game "Indian Air Force - A Cut Above"**

- The Indian Air Force launched the multiplayer version of its interactive mobile game which lets users experience the thrill of flying a combat aircraft.
- The multiplayer version of the game named "Indian Air Force - A Cut Above" was launched by Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora here.
- The then chief of air staff, B S Dhanoa, had launched the single-player version of the game on May 31.

**Foot Notes:****About IAF**

**Founded:** 8 October 1932, India

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Commander-in-Chief:** President Ram Nath Kovind

**7. Meet Maxwell X-57, Nasa's first electric plane powered by 14 motors**

- NASA, most prominent for its many Florida-launched exploits into space, showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the X-57 Maxwell in the aeronautics lab in the California desert.
- Tecnam P2006T twin-engine propeller plane, the X-57 under development since 2015 and remains at least a year away from its first test flight in the skies over Edward Air Force Base.
- The two largest of 14 electric motors that will ultimately propel the plane - powered by specially designed lithium-ion batteries - NASA deemed the Maxwell ready for its first public preview. The newly built simulator that allows engineers, and pilots to get the maneuver the finished version of the X-57 in flight, even as the plane remains under development.

**About NASA**

1. **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
2. **Administrator:** James Frederick "Jim" Bridenstine

## Important Days

### 1. World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November

- The World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on 5 November. The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- In 2019, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes Target of the “Sendai Seven Campaign,” which focuses on reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
- World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

### 2. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict Observed on Nov 6

- The International Day for preventing environmental exploitation during war and armed conflict was observed on November 6, 2019. The day aims to ensure that the environment is not destroyed during incidents of armed confrontations.
- The environment has often remained a silent victim of wars and armed conflicts, as war casualties are usually counted in terms of the dead or wounded or the destruction caused to livelihoods and cities.
- However, the most common target during the conflicts has been the environment, as forests have been cut down, water wells polluted, crops burned, soil poisoned and animals killed.

## Sports

### 1. Sensational Lakshya Sen claims SaarLorlux Open title

- India's Lakshya Sen has won the Saar LorLux Open badminton tournament at Saar brücken in Germany.
- He defeated Sen Weng Hong Yang of China. Lakshya, seeded eighth, needed 59 minutes to overcome Weng 17-21 21-18 21-16 in the summit clash for his third successive singles title of the season.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About SaarLorlux

1. **Tournament details**
2. **Dates:** 29 October – 3 November
3. **Venue:** Saarlandhalle
4. **Location:** Saarbrücken, Germany

### 2. Shubman Gill creates history, breaks Virat Kohli's record in Deodhar Trophy final

- 20-year-old right-handed batsman Shubman Gill made his way into the record books when he walked out to lead India C in the 47th Deodhar Trophy final against India B on Monday at the JKCA International Complex in Ranchi.
- Shubman Gill became the youngest-known captain to lead a side in the Deodhar Trophy final. The Punjab right-hander broke India captain Virat Kohli's 10-year-old record. Kohli had led North Zone in the Deodhar Trophy final when he was 21 years and 124 days old in 2009-10. Gill is only 20 years and 57 days old.
- Gill, however, could not make the occasion more special by scoring a big one. He was dismissed for 1 by Mohammad Siraj when slapped it straight to cover. Batting first, India B notched up 283 for 7 riding on a fighting 86-run knock by Kedar Jadhav. For India C, Bengal pacer Ishan Porel picked up five wickets for 43 runs in his 10 overs.



**3. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian cricketer to play 100 T20 International cricket matches.**

- Rohit Sharma has achieved another feat during India vs Bangladesh 2nd T20I match. He gave an important victory gift in his 100th T20 International match at Saurashtra Cricket Stadium in Rajkot. India defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets thanks to Rohit's 85 runs.
- Rohit Sharma has also made many records during the match. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian cricketer to play 100 T20 International cricket matches. Rohit achieved this feat while leading the team during the second T20 International against Bangladesh at Rajkot.

**4. India to host men's Hockey World Cup in 2023**

- India will host the Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time after the country was picked to host the game's showpiece event in 2023 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in Lausanne.
- According to the FIH, the Men's Hockey World Cup will be held in India from January 13 to 29.
- In another decision made by the Executive Board during the FIH's last meeting of the year, Spain and the Netherlands were named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women's World Cup scheduled to be held from July 1 to 22.

## **Books And Authors**

**3. Union HRD Minister and Union Minister for Food Processing Industries launch three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji**

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi today on the occasion of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- The National Book Trust under Ministry of HRD has published three Punjabi titles – Guru Nanak Bani, Nanak Bani, and Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev. The title Guru Nanak Bani has also been published in Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati were also released on the occasion. The translation in Assamese, Bangla, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi and English has been taken up.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, passed a Resolution in November 2018, to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the year 2019, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad.

**Foot Notes:**

1. **Human Resource Development Minister:** Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal
2. **Minister for Food Processing Industries:** Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal

## **Awards**

**1. Madhuri Vijay has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel 'The Far Field'.**

- The 27-year-old, Madhuri Vijay has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel 'The Far Field'. She has been selected from a shortlist featuring novels from five accomplished writers. She is also a recipient of Henfield Prize and the Pushcart Prize.
- JCB is an annual Indian literary award founded in 2018. It is the richest literary honour in the country. It is awarded to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or to a translated fiction by an Indian writer.
- The award consists of cash prize of Rs.25 lakh (US\$38400). The award is funded by English construction manufacturing group JCB, which established the JCB Literature Foundation to maintain this award.

**2. Ellen DeGeneres to Receive the 2020 Carol Burnett Award**

- Comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres will be honored at the 77th Golden Globes ceremony with the Carol Burnett Award for outstanding contributions to television, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced.
- DeGeneres has scored three Golden Globe nominations in her career, all for her performance as quirky bookstore owner Ellen Morgan in ABC's "Ellen."
- The 90s sitcom broke ground when its titular character — along with DeGeneres — came out of the closet in 1997, making it one of the first major TV shows with an openly gay lead character.

**3. Kolkata students create Guinness World Records with largest astrophysics assemble**

- The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectrometers was created at the Science City Kolkata on the first day of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 with the participation of over 1,598 students.
- An official release said astronomers use spectrometers to know details like temperature, the chemical composition of celestial objects hundreds or millions of light-years away from us.
- On the second day of IISF, the largest electronics lesson and assembly of optical media communication units at a single location will be attempted with the participation of over 1,000 students. (ANI)

**4. Tata Literature Live! to honour Shanta Gokhale, K Satchidanandan with Lifetime Achievement award**

- Writer Shanta Gokhale will be honoured with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement award 2019, while poet K Satchidanandan will receive the Poet Laureate award for their work which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.
- Recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Gokhale is a multi-hyphenate personality. She recently published her memoirs, "One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body".
- Satchidanandan has represented the country at several literary meetings overseas and has headed several national literary institutions. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2012.

**5. IIT-B's Sunita Sarawagi, G Mugesh of IISc-Bengaluru among Infosys prize winners**

- The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the 11th edition of the Infosys Prize 2019 in six categories — Engineering and Computer Sciences, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences. The prize for each category comprises a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse of \$100,000 this year.
- In 2009, Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee won the Infosys Prize in its first year in 2009 for social sciences-economics for his contributions to the economic theory of development as well as his work in the empirical evaluation of public policy.
- This year, the prize received 196 nominations.

**6. Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari to be awarded Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by PCI**

- Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism, the council announced.
- The award will be presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day.
- In a statement, the Press Council of India (PCI) also announced other winners of the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019. Sanjay Saini, Correspondent, Dainik Bhaskar, Mandi, and Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director, India Today, have been jointly named as winners of the award in the category of 'Rural Journalism'.

**Foot Notes:****About Press Council of India**

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Chairman:** Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad

**About Rajasthan**

1. **Capital:** Jaipur
2. **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra
3. **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot

**7. West Bengal based writer Abhishek Sarkar wins award at Dhaka Lit-fest**

- At the 9th edition of the Dhaka Literature festival, West Bengal-based writer Abhishek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award.
- Abhishek and Rofiquzzaman won the awards for their manuscripts, “Nishiddho” and “Dhoashar Tamate Rong,” respectively.
- The special focus of this year’s lit-fest is on Indigenous Languages as the UNESCO has marked 2019 as the year of Indigenous Language Protection.

**8. Ullas Karanth, was awarded the George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science**

- Wildlife biologist K. Ullas Karanth, Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru, was awarded the George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science for his contribution to the field of conservation.
- He is the first recipient of the award instituted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), New York, in honour of Dr. George Schaller, who is considered one of the greatest wildlife scientists and conservationists globally.
- A release said the WCS George Schaller Lifetime Award in wildlife conservation science has been created to honour WCS colleagues for outstanding contributions to saving wildlife and wild places.

## Obituaries

**1. French Resistance member and concentration camp survivor Yvette Lundy dies at 103**

- French Resistance legend & Nazi camps survivor Yvette Lundy who helped Jewish prisoners of war to escape prison during the Nazi occupation of France passed away at the age of 103.
- She was born on 22 April 1916 in France, Yvette was made Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, which is one of the highest decorations in France.

**2. Sahitya Akademi awardee Nabaneeta Dev Sen passes away**

- A poet, novelist and short-story writer, Dev Sen won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for her book ‘Naba-Nita’. She was also the recipient of the Padma Shri in 2000.
- She is the founder and president of the West Bengal Women Writers’ Association. Nabaneeta Dev Sen’s 1978 book on ‘Naxal movement in Bengal’ was published in English.

**3. T N Seshan, former chief election commissioner, passes away**

- TN Seshan passed away on November 10, 2019. He was famous for strictly enforcing electoral rules in India when he was Chief Election Commissioner of the country. He was 86. Seshan had played an important role in electoral reforms in the country in the 1990s.

- TN Seshan's full name was Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan. He was 10th Chief Election Commissioner of India. He held this position from 12 December 1990 to 11 December 1996. He made many changes in the Indian election system. The voter ID card was also started in India by him.
- He also wrote the books 'The Degeneration of India' and 'A Heart Full of Burden'. TN Seshan was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1996.



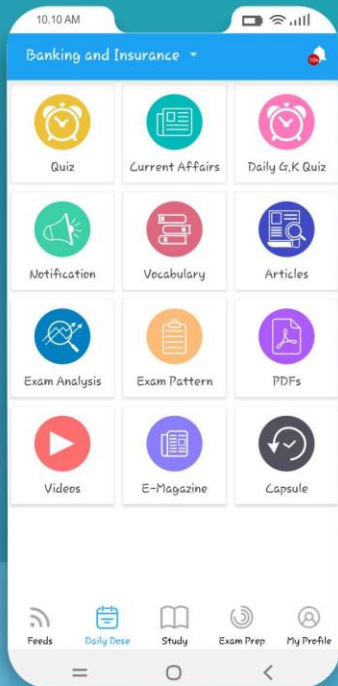


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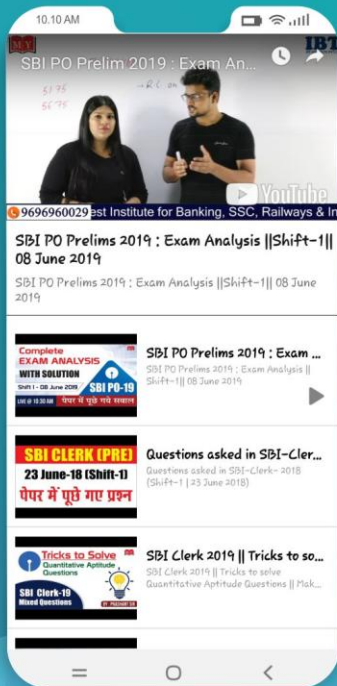
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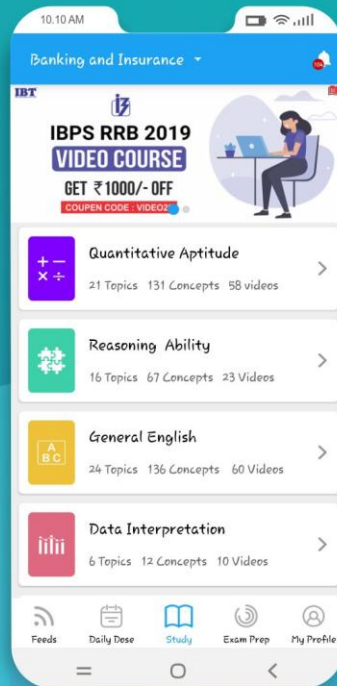
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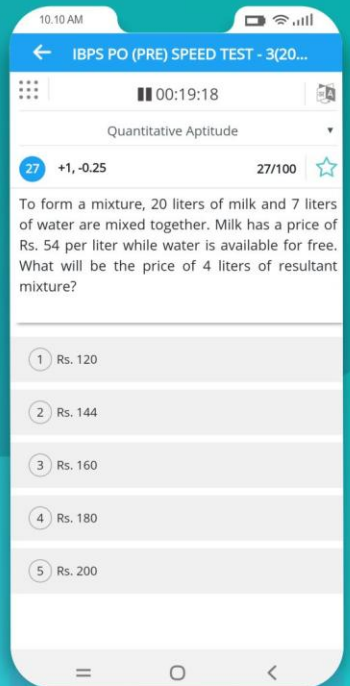
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