



WEEKLY G.K.

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National News

1. Rajya Sabha hits new milestone as 250th session begins

- ✦ History was made when the Rajya Sabha convened for its winter session. It was the upper House's 250th session and came 67 years after its first sitting on May 13, 1952.
- ✦ With the landmark 250th session of Rajya Sabha commencing chairman M Venkaiah Naidu released a publication on a day earlier that commemorated the upper House's journey since its first sitting barely five years after India's independence from the British colonial rule.
- ✦ Through the course of its 67-year existence, the upper House has passed 3,924 bills, discarded many, and expelled three MPs, and overseen the only impeachment proceedings in India's Parliamentary history.

Foot Notes:

About Rajya Sabha

Chairperson: Venkaiah Naidu

Seats: 245 (233 Elected + 12 Nominated)

Founded: 3 April 1952

2. Union Minister Smriti Irani and Bill Gates launch Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

- ✦ Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) and Textiles, Smriti Irani, along with Bill Gates, co-chair of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) here on Monday. A press note from the WCD Ministry said, "The BPKK will be a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes."
- ✦ "The government has created a separate Ministry of Jal Shakti which is now working on providing clean drinking water to every household in the country," she said adding in September this year Poshan Maah was celebrated and in one month 36 million Poshan related activities were held across the country," she said.
- ✦ The minister further said that the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Scheme (PMMVY) has reached out to 10 million beneficiaries by compensating for wage losses and since 2013 maternal mortality rate has come down by 26.9 percent.

3. NITI Aayog released a report on "Health Systems for a New India"

- ✦ On November 18, 2019, NITI Aayog released a report on "Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks-Potential Pathways to reforms". The report provides a framework to build a rigid health system for India.
- ✦ The financing structure of the health care system in the country has to be changed. The out-of-pocket expenditure should be reduced and the spending should be directed towards purchasing capabilities.
- ✦ The financing structure of the health care system in the country has to be changed. The out-of-pocket expenditure should be reduced and the spending should be directed towards purchasing capabilities. It suggests to extend the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the cashless insurance scheme to cover entire country. The scheme is now focusing on 10 crore poor families.

4. Golden Chariot Train to Restart Service from March Next Year

- ✦ The luxurious Golden Chariot train will start running from March next year, Indian Railways. The announcement was made after the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corp (KSTDC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to market and operate the Golden Chariot train.
- ✦ The Golden Chariot is South India's only luxury train. Its services were, however, suspended by the Karnataka government temporarily on account of huge losses.
- ✦ The Golden Chariot, which started running in 2008, began as a joint initiative of the Karnataka government and the Indian Railways. It is an 18-coach-long train with 44 guest rooms. At least, 84 passengers can enjoy the train ride at one time.

5. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by the Parliament

- ✦ Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by the Parliament after it was passed in Rajya Sabha today. The Bill was earlier passed in Lok Sabha on 2nd August 2019. It seeks to make apolitical the trust that runs Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial by removing the clause pertaining to the President of INC as a permanent member of the trust.
- ✦ The Bill also amends to include the Leader of Opposition recognised as such in the House of the People (Lok Sabha) or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in that House as a member of the trust.
- ✦ The Bill also amends that a nominated trustee may be terminated before the expiry of the period of five years by the Central Government.
- ✦ Jalliawalan Bagh massacre has completed its 100th anniversary and after 100 years, it is necessary to build Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial as National Memorial in true sense. These amendments will make this Memorial a National Monument in true spirit.

Foot Notes:

Minister of State for Culture and Tourism: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

6. Google removes '2020 Sikh Referendum' app from Play Store

- ✦ According to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's demand, IT giant Google has removed the secessionist, "anti-India" mobile application '2020 Sikh Referendum' from its Play Store with immediate effect.
- ✦ The app had asked the general public to register themselves to vote in the 'Punjab Referendum 2020 Khalistan'. A website with the address of www.yes2khalistan.org was also launched on the same lines for the same purpose.
- ✦ During analysis of the said application and the website in the DITAC Lab, Punjab, it was found that the data of voters registered through the app was also linked and stored in the web server of the website, namely www.yes2Khalistan.org, created and handled by 'Sikhs For Justice' (SFJ), an Association banned by the Indian Government.

7. National Investigation Agency to host first counter-terrorism cooperation exercise for 'Quad' countries

- ✦ National Investigation Agency is hosting the first counter-terrorism exercise for the "Quad" countries -- India, the US, Japan and Australia -- at the NIA headquarters in Delhi on November 21 and 22.
- ✦ The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) is first such engagement among the Quad countries on regional and global issues of common interest and also in the domain of counter-terrorism and cooperation.
- ✦ The exercise is aimed to enable the participating countries to understand much better the response systems to terror incidents that exist in other member countries. This will help in recognition of the best practices prevalent in respective countries. The table-top exercise also aims to further improve the interagency cooperation between different CT and other agencies of Quad countries.

Foot Notes:**About National Investigation Agency**

General nature: Federal law enforcement

Headquarters: New Delhi

Elected officer responsible: Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

Founder: Radha Vinod Raju

Chief: Yogesh Chander Modi

8. Infosys tops Rs 10,000-crore exports, becomes IT Ratna of Karnataka

- ✦ Software giant Infosys has been recognised as the IT Ratna of Karnataka at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019 for IT exports by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- ✦ Featuring in the category of IT exports greater than or equal to Rs 10,000 crore, Infosys was awarded for fiscal 2018-19 in STPI's Karnataka chapter.

- ✦ As many as 15 global companies were recognised as IT Prides of Karnataka, for exports greater than or equal to Rs 2,000 crore and less than Rs 10,000 crore. IT Pride awardees included Oracle, Goldman Sachs, SAP Labs, and Intel, among others.

Foot Notes:**About Infosys****CEO:** Salil Parekh**Headquarters:** Bengaluru**9. Aruna Bhoomi: First Hindi daily launched in Arunachal Pradesh**

- ✦ Hindi language is the bond that unites the diverse ethnic tribes of the state who speak different dialects, the chief minister said at the launch programme of 'Aruna Bhoomi' the first Hindi daily in the north-eastern state.
- ✦ The publisher cum chief editor of the daily Takam Sonia informed that 'Arun Bhoomi' would be flexible as far as grammar is concerned and patronise writings in Arunachalee Hindi.

Foot Notes:**About Arunachal Pradesh****Capital:** Itanagar**Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu**10. Lok Sabha passes Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- ✦ A bill to raise the monetary limits for chit funds by three times and the commission for the person managing the fund to 7 per cent from the current 5 was approved by Lok Sabha.
- ✦ The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also introduces words such as "fraternity fund", "rotating savings" and "credit institution" to make chit funds more respectable.
- ✦ According to the bill, it is proposed to raise the maximum chit amount from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh for those managed by individuals or less than four partners, and from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh for firms with four or more partners.

Foot Notes:**Minister of State for Finance:** Anurag Thakur.**11. Home Ministry cancels citizenship of Telangana MLA Ramesh Chennamaneni for concealing facts about his visits abroad.**

- ✦ Telangana MLA Ramesh Chennamaneni is no longer an Indian citizen, the government declared, accusing him of misrepresenting and concealing facts and securing citizenship by fraud. It was "not conducive to the public good that Mr Chennamaneni continues to be a citizen of India," said the home ministry in a 13-page order.
- ✦ Mr Chennamaneni, a member of the state's ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), had concealed facts about his visits abroad during the one-year period preceding his application for Indian citizenship, the home ministry said in its order.
- ✦ The government said he had German citizenship and did not fulfil the criteria for seeking Indian citizenship in 2009.

Foot Notes:**About Telangana****Capital:** Hyderabad**Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan**Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao

12. PM Modi unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the CAG office premises in New Delhi

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) office premises on November 21. He also addressed the conclave of Accountants General in Delhi.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said, the government wants to move to evidence-backed policy-making by 2022 and the CAG can play a role by becoming a think tank and focusing on big data analysis.
- ✦ Mr. Modi also asked the CAG to play a role in making India a five trillion dollar economy.

Foot Notes:**About CAG****Comptroller and Auditor General of India:** Rajiv Mehrishi**13. Cabinet approves code to allow fixed-term employment**

- ✦ The Union cabinet approved the Labour Code on Industrial Relations 2019, allowing companies to hire workers on fixed-term contract of any duration. The code has retained the threshold on the worker count at 100 for prior government approval before retrenchment, but it has a provision for changing 'such number of employees' through notification.
- ✦ Fixed-term employment means a worker can be hired for any duration, three months or six months or a year depending on season and orders.
- ✦ The bill is expected to be tabled in the ongoing winter session of the Parliament. "While this means workers can be hired seasonally for six months or a year it also means that all workers will be treated at par with regular workers for benefits," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

14. The National Investigation Agency will host the first "Counter Terrorism Exercise" for QUAD countries

- ✦ The National Investigation Agency will host the first "Counter Terrorism Exercise" between November 21, 2019 and November 22, 2019. The CT-TTX, Counter Terrorism Table Top Exercise will exercise the Quad countries namely India, Japan, US and Australia.
- ✦ The exercise will validate and assess the counter terrorism mechanisms and will provide opportunities to explore areas of enhanced cooperation and will also share their best practices against emerging terrorism threats. It will also enhance the cooperation between the countries in terms of counter terrorism.
- ✦ The dialogue between the four countries was initiated in 2007 by the Japanese President Shinzo Abe. The first ministerial level negotiations of the grouping were held in September 2019, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

Foot Notes:**About National Investigation Agency****Headquarters:** New Delhi**Elected officer responsible:** Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs**Chief:** Yogesh Chander Modi**15. Assam govt. to gift 10 grams of gold to every bride under its 'Arundhati Gold Scheme' from January 1, 2020**

- ✦ The Assam government would give 'one tola' (10 gramme) of gold to every bride of the state from 2020 onward. BJP government in the state will roll out the 'Arundhati Gold Scheme' in the state from January 1, 2020.
- ✦ Assam Finance minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma said the move was aimed to strengthen women empowerment and reduce child marriage.
- ✦ "Assam government has decided in our budget that we will give one tola [10gm] of gold to the bride if a marriage is solemnised and registered. Because, if you register a marriage then there will be a minimum age which is notified as 18 years and 21 years for the bride and bridegroom.

Foot Notes:**About Assam****Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal**Capital:** Dispur**16. J-K achieves highest road length in country under PMGSY, 11,400 km construction completed**

- ✦ The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in this year. The region has witnessed construction of 11,400 kilometres covering 1,838 habitations so far.
- ✦ The PMGSY is an initiative launched by the central government to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages in the country.
- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh, came into existence as UTs on October 31 after the Centre revoked Article 370 and passed a bill bifurcating the erstwhile state into two separate UTs.

Foot Notes:**About Jammu and Kashmir****Governor:** G.C Murmu**17. Assam government releases the new Land Policy 2019 after 30 years**

- ✦ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal released the new Land Policy 2019 in Guwahati. The Land Policy was approved by Cabinet on 21st October and it has been prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department after 30 years. It was last prepared in 1989.
- ✦ Chief Minister said that the state government has given a lot of emphasis in preparing the Policy to safeguard the interest of the indigenous people.
- ✦ He said, the Policy would remove complications regarding land allotments and settlements.

Foot Notes:**About Assam****Capital:** Dispur**Chief minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal**18. Uttar Pradesh: Seven-year jail term for forced conversion in law panel draft**

- ✦ Forced conversion in Uttar Pradesh may attract a jail term of up to seven years, while changing one's religion for the sake of marriage may be nullified if either party contests it as 'forced'.
- ✦ Reverting someone, as in 'Ghar Vapsi', may not be a crime at all. These recommendations are part of the state law commission's draft bill on religious conversion submitted to the government.
- ✦ Commission secretary Sapna Tripathi said in case of marriage where either party is forced to convert for the purpose, "both the conversion and marriage may be declared null and void".

Foot Notes:**About Uttar Pradesh****Governor:** Anandiben Patel**Capital:** Lucknow**Chief minister:** Yogi Adityanath**BANKING ALL EXAMS Video Course**• **395 VIDEOS**~~₹4749/-~~ **₹3749/-**

19. IIM Indore inks MoU with Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy

- ✦ IIM Indore has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie. The MoU has been signed with a view to exchange faculty members for various training programmes.
- ✦ The MoU is in line with the vision to remain socially conscious and contribute to the society and nation. The two organisations have agreed for joint participation in research activities of common interest in the areas of public administration, management and public policy.
- ✦ The motive behind the training programme is to bring together representatives from these three fields, help them understand one another's problems and find solutions.

Foot Notes:**About Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy****Director:** Dr Sanjeev Chopra**Established:** 1959**Located:** Mussoorie, UK.**20. Madhya Pradesh govt to give 5% reservation to sportspersons in Govt. jobs**

- ✦ Sportspersons in Madhya Pradesh will now get a 5 per cent reservation in state government jobs. Madhya Pradesh Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Jitu Patwari announced while inaugurating the Regional Olympic Games in Gwalior.
- ✦ Jitu Patwari said that sportspersons who have won medals on national and international levels often remain without jobs and providing the 5 per cent reservation will benefit these players.
- ✦ The minister said public participation would be ensured in the expansion of sports facilities, adding that the Kamal Nath government was creating a better environment for the sports in the state.

Foot Notes:**About Madhya Pradesh****Chief minister:** Kamal Nath**Governor:** Lalji Tandon**Capital:** Bhopal**21. Literacy rate 73.5% in rural and 87.7% in urban areas as per National Sample Survey**

- ✦ The literacy rate among those in the age group of seven years and above was recorded at 77.7 per cent during July 2017-June 2018 in the country, showed a National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.
- ✦ This rate was 73.5 per cent in rural and 87.7 per cent in urban areas, showed the NSO survey on Household Social Consumption: Education as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey (NSS).
- ✦ The study further showed that among persons in the age group of 15 years and above, 30.6 per cent had completed secondary or above level of education in villages, 57.5 per cent in urban areas.

Foot Notes:**About National Sample Survey****Headquarters:** New Delhi**22. Jal Shakti Minister releases short documentary film named 'SHIKHAR SE PUKAR'**

- ✦ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released a short documentary film on Water Conservation named 'SHIKHAR SE PUKAR' in New Delhi.
- ✦ The film has been made to promote 'Jalshakti Abhiyan' and is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar, who climbed Everest this year to attract the attention of people from top of the Everest on the serious issue of Water Conservation and stopping Water Pollution.
- ✦ Film also gives a glimpse on the significance of Himalaya as the main source of water needs of India by means of the river. It also picturizes the difficulties and challenges in climbing the highest peak of the world.

Foot Notes:

Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

23. PM Modi launches Fit India School grading system

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Fit India School grading system in schools across the country.
- ✦ The Fit India School rankings have been divided into three categories -- The Fit India Schools, which is the first level of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star). The level of ranking will depend on how much importance the school gives to inculcating fitness among its students and teachers, besides facilities available for fitness activities.
- ✦ Explaining the ranking system, the Prime Minister said, "Schools can declare themselves as fit by visiting the Fit India portal. Fit India three star and Fit India five star ratings will also be given.

24. NK Singh, 15th FC Chairman calls for further simplification of the GST structure

- ✦ The 15th Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh for significant changes in the GST structure, including reducing the complicated procedures with frequent rate changes, to improve collection. He pitched for rationalization of Centrally- sponsored schemes.
- ✦ The commission has visited nearly all the states in the run-up to the preparation of its report and that many of them have complained that GST has circumscribed the fiscal autonomy.
- ✦ A further simplification of the Goods and Services Tax structure could help increase revenue and foster better tax compliance, according to N K Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, who also called for a better co-ordination between the finance commission and GST Council to better monitor, scrutinise and optimise revenue.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Gotabaya Rajapaksa wins Sri Lanka presidential election

- ✦ Sri Lanka's former wartime defence chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa has won the Sri Lankan presidential elections with 52.25% votes.
- ✦ Rajapaksa, who oversaw the military defeat of Tamil separatists under his brother and then president Mahinda Rajapaksa 10 years ago, has promised strong leadership to secure the island of 22 million people, the majority of whom are Sinhalese Buddhists.
- ✦ With half the votes counted, Rajapaksa led with 50.7 percent, while his main rival Sajith Premadasa had 43.8 percent, the election commission said. Rajapaksa's party claimed victory.

Foot Notes:**About Sri Lanka**

President: Gotabhaya Rajapaksa

Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

2. India extends Visa-on-Arrival facility to UAE nationals

- ✦ The Centre has extended the Visa-on-Arrival facility to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) nationals travelling to India in a bid to strengthen people-to-people and trade links, as well as the strategic ties between the two countries, Indian embassy.
- ✦ "The government of India has decided to extend the Visa-on-Arrival facility to nationals of the United Arab Emirates. This facility is aimed at further strengthening people to people and trade links as well as strategic ties between the two countries," the embassy said in a statement.
- ✦ However, the visa will be available to only those nationals who have earlier obtained an e-visa or a normal paper Visa for India, irrespective of whether the person actually visited India or not.

Foot Notes:**About UAE****President:** Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**Capital:** Abu Dhabi**Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham**3. India ranks 59 on IMD World Talent Ranking Report; Switzerland first**

- ✚ India has slipped 6 places to 59 rank on a global annual list of 63 countries, due to low quality of life and expenditure on education, according to the latest edition of IMD World Talent Ranking, which was topped by Switzerland.
- ✚ The ranking, which is based on the performance in three main categories -- investment and development, appeal and readiness, noted that India is also lagging behind fellow BRICs countries - China ranked 42nd on the list, Russia (47th) and South Africa (50th).
- ✚ India also witnessed one of the sharpest declines among Asian economies owing to low quality of life, negative impact of brain drain, and the low priority of its economy on attracting and retaining talents.

4. Microsoft launches 'K-12 Education Transformation Framework' to facilitate digital transformation of schools in India

- ✚ Microsoft has launched its "K-12 Education Transformation Framework" to facilitate comprehensive digital transformation of schools in India, a model which has been adopted in over 50 countries so far, the company said on Thursday.
- ✚ According to officials at Microsoft's Education wing, the framework comprises four pillars -- leadership and policy, modern teaching and learning, intelligent environments and technology blueprint.
- ✚ To help school principals initiate their journey of digital transformation, the programme will offer a series of workshops based on each of these pillars. Education leaders in more than 50 countries have already adopted the framework to help plan their learning strategies, they said.

Foot Notes:**About Microsoft****CEO:** Satya Nadella**Founded:** 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States**Headquarters:** Redmond, Washington, United States**Founders:** Bill Gates, Paul Allen**5. Four Indian-origin lawmakers inducted in Canadian PM Trudeau's new Cabinet**

- ✚ Four Indian-origin MPs have been included in Canadian Cabinet as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's unveiled his "strong and skilled" team of 37 ministers. The four Indian-origin MPs are Navdeep Bains (42), Bardish Chagger (39), Harjit Sajjan (49) and Anita Anand, who is the first ever Hindu minister in the Cabinet. Anita Anand is a former law professor at the University of Toronto.
- ✚ In the Canadian general election held in October, the Liberal Party bagged 157 seats, the opposition Conservative 121, Bloc Quebecois 32, Indian-origin Canadian Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (NDP) 24, Green Party 3 and one Independent.
- ✚ To reach the majority of 170 in the 338-seat House of Commons, the Liberals are short of 13 members. This means that in order to pass votes and advance their agenda, the Liberals must gain the support of the opposition MPs, the CTV reported.

Foot Notes:**About Canada****Capital:** Ottawa**Currency:** Canadian dollar

6. Oxford Dictionary names 'Climate Emergency' its 2019 Word of the Year

- ✦ Oxford Dictionaries has named “climate emergency” as its 2019 Word of the Year, choosing it from an all-environmental shortlist that also included “climate action,” “climate denial,” “eco-anxiety,” “extinction” and “flight shame.
- ✦ The word is selected because it shows the increase in usage since 2018. Climate emergency defines as “a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and also to avoid the possible irreversible environmental loss resulting from it.

Foot Notes:**About Oxford University Press****Headquarters:** Oxford, United Kingdom**CEO:** Nigel Portwood**7. Chitharesh Natesan, Indian Monster crowned Mr Universe 2019 in South Korea.**

- ✦ Chitharesh Natesan who is a 33yr old former hockey player turned bodybuilder. He is known as the 'Indian Monster' by bodybuilding circles. He became the first Indian to win Mr. Universe (Pro) 2019 in the 90kg category at the 11th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship(WBPF) in South Korea. India secured the second position in the team championship category at the same event.
- ✦ The title of IBFF Mr. World (Overall Champion category 2018) and a recipient of Professional Body Building Card by IBFF.
- ✦ He awarded Mr. Asia, 2017 (Overall Category) four times Mr. India Champion for the years 2015-2018. I also won the title of Mr. Delhi four times for the years 2015-2018.

Foot Notes:**About South Korea****President:** Moon Jae-in**Capital:** Seoul**Currency:** South Korean won

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Justice R Banumathi joins collegium as Gogoi demits office

- ✦ Justice R Banumathi, in the news recently for dealing with P Chidambaram’s bail plea, will be the first woman judge in more than 13 years to be inducted into the Supreme Court collegium.
- ✦ She will replace outgoing chief justice Ranjan Gogoi. Ruma Pal was the last woman member of the collegium.
- ✦ SA Bobde will be sworn in as the chief justice of India succeeding Gogoi. Banumathi’s induction will also take place. As part of the collegium, she will have a say in all appointments to the top court, which has only had eight woman judges since Independence.

2. Sarita Devi elected as member of AIBA athletes commission

- ✦ Laishram Sarita Devi (Manipur) is among the 6 boxers from 5 continents who were elected as members of AIBA Athletes Commission.
- ✦ She was inspired by Muhammad Ali’s achievements and turned professional in boxing in the year 2000. She is DSP in Manipur Police.
- ✦ The election of the Athletes Commission members was organized during AIBA Men and Women World Boxing Championships 2019 in Russia. Boxers from all over the world voted for new members – one per continent, except Europe which has two representatives.

Foot Notes:**About International Boxing Association****Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland.**3. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella tops Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list**

- ✦ Microsoft's India-born Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list, an annual compilation that also includes Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga and Arista head Jayshree Ullal.
- ✦ Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions". The list is topped by Nadella, who has been at the helm of the technology giant since 2014.
- ✦ Banga is ranked 8th, while Ullal comes in at the 18th spot in the list for which Fortune looked at 10 financial factors ranging from total return to shareholders to return on capital. Both Banga and Ullal are of Indian-origin.

4. Devendra Fadnavis takes oath as Maharashtra CM, Ajit Pawar as his deputy

- ✦ BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as Maharashtra chief minister and NCP's Ajit Pawar as his deputy in an early morning political strike that stunned the Shiv Sena and Congress.
- ✦ This came just hours after the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress went through the final motions of forming a new coalition government with NCP chief Sharad Pawar saying there was "unanimity" over Uddhav Thackeray as chief minister.

Foot Notes:**About Maharashtra****Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari**Capital:** Mumbai**1. India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) of bluechip PSUs may be launched next month**

- ✦ The government is expected to launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of about a dozen state-owned companies by mid-December 2019. The ETF is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore.
- ✦ Government sources said road shows are currently on for the Fund, which could be launched as early as December, and that there is significant interest in the market. The fund will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies.
- ✦ The debt ETF provides a new option to conservative investors to own securities of government-owned companies along with the facility of overnight liquidity as ETF units will be listed on exchanges.

Science Tech & Defence

1. A three-day naval exercise, Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted between between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces.

- ✦ A three-day naval exercise, Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted between November 17 and November 21, 2019 between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces.
- ✦ The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces. The exercise is being held for the first time.

- ✦ The first diplomatic defense agreement between India and Qatar was signed in 2008. According to the agreement the countries permit annual defense training. However, an exercise between the countries is being conducted for the first time.

About Qatar**Capital:** Doha**Currency:** Qatari riyal**Prime Minister:** Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani**2. Pakistan successfully conducts test launch of surface-to-surface ballistic missile**

- ✦ Pakistan conducted a successful test launch of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of delivering all types of warheads up to 650 km, the military announced.
- ✦ According to a press release issued by the media wing of Pakistani military, the launch of Shaheen-I missile was held as part of a training exercise "aimed at testing the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command".
- ✦ The Shaheen-1 missile is capable of delivering all types of warheads up to range of 650 KMs, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) . "The launch was aimed at testing operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) ensuring Pakistan's credible minimum deterrence,".

Foot Notes:**About Pakistan****President:** Arif Alvi**Capital:** Islamabad**Currency:** Pakistani rupee**Prime minister:** Imran Khan

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3. ISRO to launch Cartosat-3, 13 commercial nano satellites on November 25

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would launch its earth imaging and mapping satellite Cartosat-3 along with 13 commercial nano satellites from the US, on November 25, the space agency said.
- ✦ The satellites would be launched by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C47 into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launch is tentatively scheduled at 09:28 hrs IST on November 25, 2019 subject to weather conditions, ISRO said.
- ✦ The Cartosat-3 is a "third generation agile advanced satellite" having high resolution imaging capability, it said, adding that the satellite would be placed in an orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degree. ISRO has said, this would be the 74th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota.

Foot Notes:**About ISRO****Headquarters:** Bengaluru**Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai**Founded:** 15 August 1969**Director:** K. Sivan

4. Robot “CYBIRA” launched to aid cops in Visakhapatnam to take complaints

- ✦ In a bid to improve the efficiency to address the complaints, Visakhapatnam Police have launched first of its kind cybersecurity interactive robotic agent robot, CYBIRA stationed at Maharanipecta Police Station, which can automatically take complaints in an effective manner. The new facility was launched by the Commissioner of Police (CP) R K Meena.
- ✦ A start-up company Robo Coupler Private Limited has designed a robot 'CYBIRA' (cybersecurity interactive robotic agent) for registering and disposing of complaints at the police station in an effective manner.
- ✦ The CP, Meena was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Zone I) S Ranga Reddy, CEO of the start-up company Praveen Malla, among others at the police station.

5. Defence Minister visits Kranji War Memorial in Singapore, pays tribute to World War martyrs

- ✦ Visiting the Kranji War Memorial in Singapore, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on a two-day visit to the island city, paid tributes to those who sacrificed their lives during the World War-II.
- ✦ Comprising the Memorial Walls, the State Cemetery, the War Graves and the Military Graves, the memorial is dedicated to the men and women from countries, including, the UK, India, Malaya, the Netherlands, Canada, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, who laid down their lives defending Malaya and Singapore against the invasion of Japan forces during the second World War.

Foot Notes:**About Singapore****Currency:** Singapore dollar**6. President’s Colour awarded to Indian Naval Academy**

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, awarded the President’s Colour to Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala on 20 November 2019.
- ✦ The President’s Colour - the highest honour that is bestowed upon a military unit - was received by Academy Cadet Captain Sushil Singh on behalf of the INA.
- ✦ A special postal cover was also released by the President to commemorate the occasion.

7. Nuclear-capable Prithvi-II Missile successfully testfired off Odisha coast.

- ✦ India successfully testfired night its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Indian Army from a test range off Odisha coast, an official of the ITR said.
- ✦ "Two Prithvi-2 missiles were test fired consecutively and both tests met all parameters," the official said from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- ✦ The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the ITR between 7 pm to 7.15 pm, he said.

8. Lieutenant Shivangi, the First Woman Pilot Of Indian Navy To Join Operations On 2 December

- ✦ First woman pilot of Indian Navy will join Naval operations in Kochi on December 2, two days ahead of Navy Day on December 4.
- ✦ "Shivangi will graduate to become the First female Pilot of Indian Navy. She hails from Muzzafarpur, Bihar and completed her schooling from DAV Public school, Muzzafarpur, .
- ✦ She was inducted into Indian Navy as SSC (Pilot) as part of 27 NOC course in Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and got formally commissioned by Vice Admiral AK Chawla, in June last year.

Foot Notes:**About Indian Navy****Chief of the Naval Staff :** Admiral Karambir Singh.**Navy Day:** 4 December

9. 2019 Global Terrorism Index: India 7th in the list of countries most affected by terrorism

- ✦ The 2019 Global Terrorism Index was released by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- ✦ The Index ranks 163 countries according to the impact of terrorism, based on factors such as the number of attacks, fatalities, injuries and the extent of property damage.
- ✦ The country most affected by terrorism in 2018 was Afghanistan (7,379 killed).

Foot Notes:**About Global Terrorism Index**

Published by: Institute for Economics and Peace

10. India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.

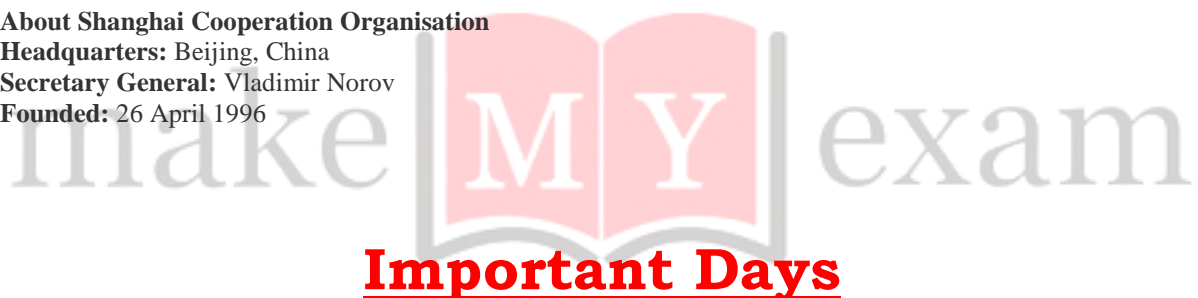
- ✦ India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020, a proposal it had mooted in the grouping's meeting on cooperation in the field of science and technology this week.
- ✦ The 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia.
- ✦ Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Dr. Shekhar Mande led the Indian delegation.

Foot Notes:**About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

Headquarters: Beijing, China

Secretary General: Vladimir Norov

Founded: 26 April 1996

**1. World Toilet Day observed on November 19, 2019 with its theme as 'Leaving No One Behind'**

- ✦ World Toilet Day is celebrated on 19th November every year, is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030.
- ✦ Established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001, World Toilet Day was made an official UN day in 2013. UN-Water leads a taskforce of international agencies to campaign around a common theme.

Foot Notes:**About World Toilet Organization**

Headquarters: Singapore

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR: Jack Sim

Founded: 19 November 2001

2. World Children's Day observed on November 20

- ✦ World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- ✦ November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- ✦ Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Foot Notes:**About UN General Assembly****President:** Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**Headquarters:** New York, United States**3. Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November**

- ✦ Africa Industrialization Day is celebrated on November 20 each year. It is a time when governments and other organizations in many African countries examine ways to stimulate Africa's industrialization process.
- ✦ It is also an occasion to draw worldwide media attention to the problems and challenges of industrialization in Africa.
- ✦ 2019 Theme: "Positioning African Industry to Supply the AfCFTA Market" will raise awareness in the international community on the challenges and opportunities for Africa's industrialization within the framework of the newly created African Continental Free Trade Area.

4. World Television Day celebrated on November 21

- ✦ Television is a mass medium that provides entertainment, education, news, politics, gossip, etc. It is a medium for transmitting moving images in two or three dimensions and sound. No doubt, it is a healthy source of education and entertainment both. It plays a crucial role in society by delivering information.
- ✦ On 21 November and 22 November, 1996, the U.N. held the first World Television Forum. It provides a platform and allow media to discuss the importance of TV in delivering information and also how it is participating in the changing world. It is the single largest source of video consumption.
- ✦ Therefore, UN General Assembly on 17 December 1996, through resolution 51/205 established 21 November as World Television Day to commemorate the date on which World Television Forum was held.

Foot Notes:**About UN General Assembly****President:** Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**Headquarters:** New York, United States**Founder:** United Nations**Founded:** 1945**5. World Philosophy Day celebrated on November 21**

- ✦ The World Philosophy Day is observed globally on the third Thursday of November every year.
- ✦ This year it was observed on 21st November. On this day, UNESCO highlighted the value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and individual.
- ✦ The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts.
- ✦ The goal is to obtain regional contributions to global debates on contemporary challenges that support social transformations. World Philosophy Day was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO

Foot Notes:**About UNESCO****The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization****Headquarters:** Paris, France**Head:** Audrey Azoulay**Founded:** 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom**Formation:** 4 November 1945

6. Lachit Divas celebrated in Assam on November 24 in memory General Lachit Borphukan

- ✦ On the occasion of Lachit Divas, celebrations took place in various parts of the state of Assam in the memory of the famed general Lachit Borphukan of Ahom kingdom in the seventeenth century. Various events and competitions were held in the memory of the legendary warrior in Assam.
- ✦ Lachit Borphukan is a cultural idol in the state of Assam after he defeated a large Mughal Army on the banks of Brahmaputra in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671 to defend Guwahati.
- ✦ BK Borah, Director of Cultural Affairs, said: "He was the commander of the western Assamese forces. Despite being severely ill, Borphukan managed to fight the naval battle and defeat the Mughal army and became a cultural hero for the citizens of Assam." (ANI)

Foot Notes:**About Assam****Chief minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal**Capital:** Dispur**1. Virat Kohli named PETA India's 2019 Person of the Year**

- ✦ India captain Virat Kohli was named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.
- ✦ A vegetarian, Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter on PETA India's behalf to officials calling for the release of Malti, an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort, who was reportedly violently beaten by eight men, a PETA India statement said.
- ✦ Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year award include Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, and actors Anushka Sharma, Hema Malini, R Madhavan, and Jacqueline Fernandez.

Foot Notes:**About PETA****People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals****Headquarters:** Norfolk, Virginia, United States**Founded:** 22 March 1980, Rockville, Maryland, United States**Motto:** "Animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way."**President:** Ingrid Newkirk**2. Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan, Divyansh Panwar clinch golds in historic day at ISSF World Cup Finals**

- ✦ India's young shooters touched another sensational high with Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan and Divyansh Panwar clinching gold medals in their respective events to give the country its best ever single-day show in the ISSF World Cup Finals at Putian in China.

- ✦ The 17-year-old Bhaker fired her way to the gold with a junior world record in the women's 10m air pistol event, while the 20-year-old Elavenil claimed the top honours in the women's 10m air rifle competition.
- ✦ Later, another teen sensation Divyansh, who is all of 17, finished on top in the men's 10 air rifle competition with a final score of 250.1. India are currently top of the table with three gold medals, followed by China (two gold, one silver, one bronze).

Foot Notes:**About ISSF****Headquarters:** Munich, Germany**President:** Vladimir Lisin**Founded:** 1907

Awards

1. Veteran actors Sridevi and Rekha were conferred with the ANR National Award for 2018 and 2019

- ✦ The veteran actors Sridevi and Rekha were conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- ✦ The award was presented by renowned Telugu actor Chiranjeevi.
- ✦ The award is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation and honours those who have made a lasting impact on Indian cinema.

2. British naturalist David Attenborough to get 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- ✦ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 will be conferred on renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.
- ✦ His name was selected for the prize by an international jury chaired by former president Pranab Mukherjee, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- ✦ The 2019 prize, it added, is awarded to Attenborough for a lifetime of doing more to reveal the wonders of the natural world to us than perhaps any other individual.

3. Tamil Nadu (State category) and Peddapalli (District category) topped in Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2019

- ✦ The Union Minister of the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers, conferred the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards to top-ranked states, union territories, and districts in the various categories on the occasion of World Toilet Day at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- ✦ The top-ranked state: Tamil Nadu, and the top-ranked district: Peddapalli (Telangana), along with the state with the maximum citizen participation: Uttar Pradesh.

Foot Notes:**Union Minister of the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers:** D.V. Sadananda Gowdaand.**World Toilet Day :** 19 November

4. I&B Minister inaugurates Film Bazaar on sidelines of IFFI 2019 in Goa

- ✦ The Film Bazaar, which is being organised by the National Film Development Corporation, was inaugurated by the Information and Broadcasting Minister on the sidelines of the golden jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India.
- ✦ The Film Bazaar encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities.
- ✦ Over the years, films such as Lunch Box, Margarita With A Straw, Chauthi Koot, Qissa, Miss Lovely, Dum Lagake Haisha and Thithi have been through one or more programmes of the Bazaar.

Foot Notes:**Information and Broadcasting Minister:** Prakash Javadekar.

Obituaries

1. MP's first non-Congress CM Kailash Chandra Joshi dies at 90

- ✚ Kailash Chandra Joshi, the first non-Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, died at a private hospital in Bhopal after prolonged illness. He was 90. The state government has announced a three-day state mourning.
- ✚ Joshi will be cremated at his native place in Hatpipliya in Dewas district. In the elections held immediately after the Emergency was lifted, the Janata Party defeated the Congress and Joshi became CM for less than seven months between June 1977 and January 1978 — he resigned on health grounds. Before being elected as the CM, he was the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly for five years.

2. Veteran actor Shaukat Kaifi passes away at 93

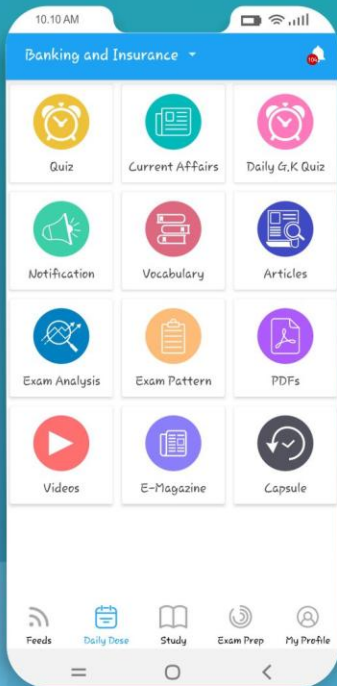
- ✚ She is remembered for her roles in MS Sathyu's Garm Hawa, Sagar Sathadi's Bazaar and Muzaffar Ali's Umrao Jaan.
- ✚ Her last film was the Vivek Oberoi-Rani Mukerji starrer Saathiya. Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi. Kaifi and Shaukat were leaders of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA).

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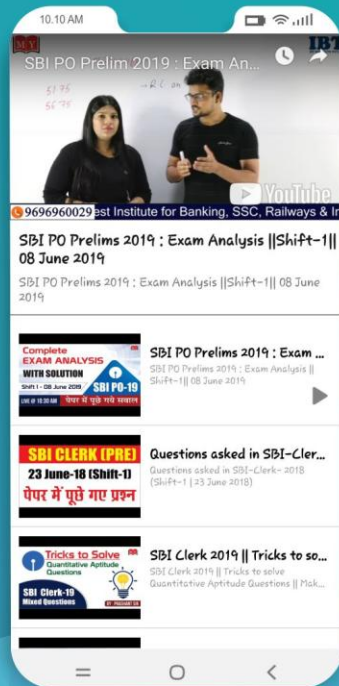
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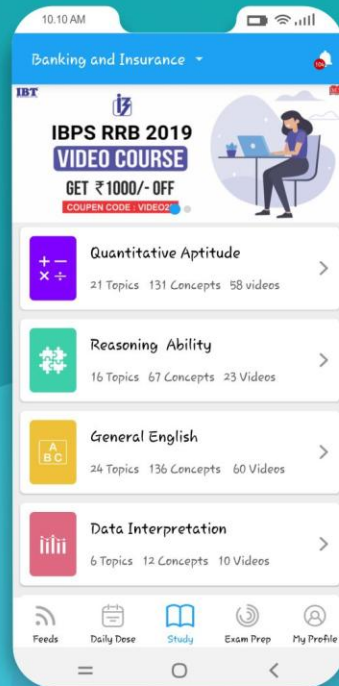
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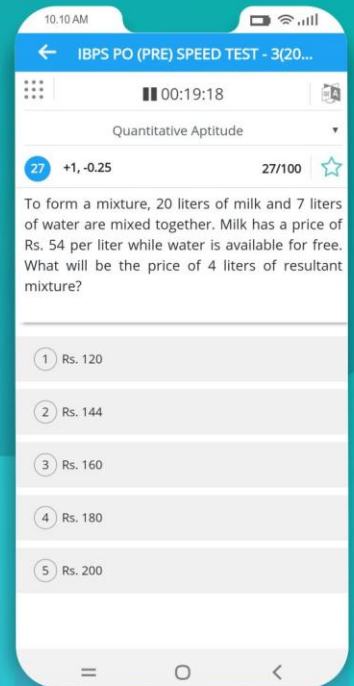
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