



# WEEKLY G.K.

23 September – 29 September  
(2019)

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## National News

### 1. Arunachal yields a new frog species

- Scientists have reported the discovery of a new species of frog from the northeastern State of Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting India's amphibian diversity amid rising concerns over biodiversity loss.
- A team of scientists from the University of Delhi and the Zoological Survey of India discovered the new species from riparian habitats in a primary evergreen forest in the Namdapha tiger reserve, which is the easternmost protected area in the country.
- It is described as the 50th member of the genus *Microhyla*, a group of narrow-mouthed frogs commonly known as Rice Frogs or Chorus Frogs, primarily and widely distributed in Asia.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Arunachal Pradesh

1. **Capital:** Itanagar
2. **Chief minister:** Pema Khandu

### 2. Tamil Nadu, Kerala decide to form panel to resolve issues on water sharing

- The southern neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have decided to form a panel to resolve issues on water sharing. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have decided to form a panel to resolve water sharing issues. An inter-state committee comprising five members from each side will be formed to sort the difference between the two states.
- It may be noted that the chief ministers of both the states have met after fifteen years to try to resolve amicably the inter-state water sharing issues.
- It is said that the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project, Paniyaaru-Punnampuzha Project, Neyyar Dam water sharing and the interlinking of Pampa-Achchankoil rivers were discussed in meeting.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Tamil Nadu

1. **Chief Minister:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami
2. **Capital:** Chennai

##### About Kerala

1. **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
2. **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan

### 3. India's first private train IRCTC Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is here.

- India's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is all set to start its journey from the next month. It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- Starting from October 4, Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will run six days a week, except Thursday.
- The IRCTC has not announced the ticket prices yet but it will be 50% less than the flight tickets operating in Delhi-Lucknow route, according to the media reports.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Minister of Railways of India

**Minister of Railways of India:** Piyush Goyal

### 4. Maharashtra, Haryana Assembly Elections held on 21st October

- Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) Election 2019 Date, Scheduled on 21st October, while counting of votes will be held on October 24.

- Both Maharashtra and Haryana are the first states to go to polls after the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct has come into effect in the two states.
- Maharashtra, which has a total of 288 assembly seats. Whereas, in Haryana has 90 assembly seats.

#### About Maharashtra

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

#### About Haryana

1. **Capital:** Chandigarh
2. **CM:** Manohar Lal Khattar

#### 5. Report says period from 2015 to 2019 is the hottest since 1850

- A report by the world's leading climate agencies said that the period from 2015 to 2019 is likely to be the hottest five-year period on record since 1850. The report was released ahead of the United Nations Climate Action Summit which is to be held in New York.
- The report pointed out that the gaps between agreed targets to combat global warming and the ground reality.
- The report pointed out that the gaps between agreed targets to combat global warming and the ground reality.  
The report said that the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere have risen to record levels. This will cause locking in the warming trend for decades to come.

#### 6. Centre launched 2 mobile app for farmers

- Centre has launched two mobile Apps for the farmers. The mobile applications named CHC Farm Machinery and Krishi Kisan App for Geo Tagging will give easy access to high value and technical agricultural equipment at their doorstep.
- The mobile app was launched by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

#### Krishi Kisan App:

The Krishi Kisan App will provide the farmers with the information of the best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds in their nearby area.

#### CHC Farm Machinery:

The Multi-lingual Mobile App CHC Farm Machinery is already available to customer service providers for registration and uploading with geo-reference photographs of agricultural machinery custom service centers and photographs of machinery available in it.

#### 7. Govt issues notification announcing amendments in pension rules

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the amendment to the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. These rules called as the Central Civil Services (Pension) Second Amendment Rules, 2019 will come into force from October 1, 2019.
- The government felt that the need for family pension at enhanced rate is more in the case of a government servant who dies early in his career as his pay at the initial phase of service is much less, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said in a statement.
- As per the amended Rule 54, the family of a government servant, who dies within seven years of joining service, will also be eligible for family pension at enhanced rate of 50 per cent of last pay drawn, for a period of 10 years.

#### 8. Doctors, nurses need not take TOEFL, IELTS exam to practice in UK

- Doctors, nurses, dentists and mid-wives who wish to practice in the UK will no longer have to appear for English language tests like TOEFL and IELTS as the country will now accept scores of Occupational English Test (OET) which the candidates have to anyway clear for registering with the relevant healthcare regulator.

- The OET is an international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of healthcare professionals, who seek to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.
- The candidates had to earlier take OET to register with Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council, which are the two healthcare boards in the UK, as well as TOEFL or IELTS like exam to apply for visa.

**Foot Notes:****About UK**

1. **Prime minister:** Boris Johnson
2. **Capital:** London
3. **Currency:** Pound sterling

**9. Single emergency helpline number 112 launched**

- The Delhi Police launched the single emergency helpline number '112' for immediate assistance. Now, instead of '100, 101 and 102', the Delhi residents can just use '112'.
- The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) was launched by Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy. With the implementation of the new ERSS-112 system, the police response time has reduced tremendously.
- The main call centre has been set up in Shalimar Bagh in Delhi which is operating under the control of DCP (Ops and Communication).

**Foot Notes:****About Delhi****Chief Minister:** Arvind Kejriwal**Home Affairs Minister:** G Kishan Reddy**10 .Bangladesh lifts ban on Hilsa export to India**

- Bangladesh has lifted the ban on the exports of Hilsa fish to India as a goodwill gesture during the Durga Puja.
- Bangladesh will allow 500 tonnes of Hilsa fish for the occasion as a one time arrangement. Export of the popular Hilsa or 'Ilish' fish from Bangladesh was banned in 2012 after local business establishments called for controlling the price of fishes.
- Bangladesh accounts for nearly 75 percent of world Hilsa production and nearly 2 million people get direct and indirect employment from its cultivation.

**About Bangladesh**

1. **Capital:** Dhaka
2. **Currency:** Taka
3. **PM:** Sheikh Hasina

**11. Tamil Nadu, Kerala decide to form panel to resolve issues on water sharing**

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**Foot Notes:****About Tamil Nadu**

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2. **Capital:** Chennai

**About Kerala**

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2. **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan

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- It is described as the 50th member of the genus *Microhyla*, a group of narrow-mouthed frogs commonly known as Rice Frogs or Chorus Frogs, primarily and widely distributed in Asia.

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## International News & Foreign Affairs

### 1. Saudi Arabia to offer visa for the first time

- Saudi Arabia announced that it will offer tourist visas for the first time. It aims to diversify its economy away from oil. Female tourists are required to wear modest clothing.
- The announcement comes as a part of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform programme.
- The programme aims to prepare the biggest Arab economy for a post-oil era. The move is after the devastating attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure. This has spurred the global energy markets and raised wider regional conflict.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Saudi Arabia

1. **Capital:** Riyadh
2. **Currency:** Saudi riyal

### 2. Mahatma Gandhi's 80-year-old letter wishing Jews era of peace unveiled in Israel

- The handwritten letter by Mahatma Gandhi 80-years-ago unveiled for the first time by the National Library of Israel, NLI. Gandhi ji was wishing the afflicted (Jewish) people an era of peace in the letter, written on the same day World War II broke out.
- Gandhi wrote the letter to Head of the Bombay Zionist Association, A E Shohet trying to enlist support of Indian leaders in favour of the movement to establish a national home for the Jewish people.
- Written on Rosh Hashana Jewish new year on September 1, 1939, the letter marked the beginning of the War when Germany invaded Poland. It also set the stage for the despicable atrocities of the Holocaust.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Israel

1. **Capital:** Jerusalem
2. **Currency:** Israeli new shekel

### 3. World's biggest transport space ship carrying over 4 tons of supplies lifts off from Japan

- Japan launched an unmanned H-2B rocket towards the International Space Station.
- The H-2B rocket lifted off with cargo vessel Kounotori8, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.



- The launch took place from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan.
- This Rocket is considered as the world's biggest transport spaceship. It intends to deliver about 5.3 tonnes of supplies to astronauts at the ISS.

**Foot Notes:****About Japan**

1. **Japan Capital:** Tokyo
2. **Currency:** Japanese yen
3. **PM:** Shinzo Abe.

**4. Indo-US first tri-services exercise code "Exercise Tiger Triumph" for the year 2019 at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in November**

- In November 2019, India and the United States(US) are set to host the first ever tri-services exercise codenamed "Exercise Tiger Triumph" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, both of state Andhra Pradesh.
- India held similar such tri service exercise previously with Russia named "Indra Wargames" in 2017 in Vladivostok, Russia. The announcement for the 'Tiger Triumph' was made by US president Donald Trump during the 'Howdy Modi!' event in America.
- So far the two countries have conducted defence hardware trade around USD 18 billion over the last 10 years.

**Foot Notes:****About US**

- President:** Donald Trump  
**Capital:** Washington, D.C.

**5. Israel cuts off power to parts of West Bank**

- Israel cut off power to some parts of occupied West Bank . The national electricity company of Israel announced that it was cutting off power to some parts of West Bank due to outstanding payments.
- The Israel Electric Corporation said that the outstanding electricity payments from the region amount to almost US\$483 million.
- The company said that it was owed 1.7 billion shekels in debts from Palestine's main power distributor for the West Bank. The power distributor is based in east Jerusalem.

**About Israel**

- President:** Reuven Rivlin  
**Capital:** Jerusalem  
**Currency:** Israeli new shekel

**6. India and Bangladesh to boost maritime ties**

- India is to join Bangladesh to commemorate 100 years of Bangabandhu, the founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2020. It also commemorates an International Fleet Review in 2021 to mark 50 years of the Liberation of Bangladesh.
- Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh is on a four-day visit to Dhaka. His visit aims to further consolidate maritime cooperation between the two countries. He will also be holding discussions with his Bangladeshi counterpart Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury on other maritime and security issues.
- He will be visiting Khulna Shipyard Limited Bangladesh's naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna. During his visit, he will participate in the first-anniversary celebration of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD).

**About Bangladesh**

- Capital:** Dhaka  
**Currency:** Bangladeshi taka  
**Prime minister:** Sheikh Hasina

# New Appointments and Person in News'

## 1. IMF names Kristalina Georgieva as new head

- The International Monetary Fund formally selected Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria as the second woman ever to lead the 189-member institution. The selection guaranteed after the global crisis lender earlier this month that Georgieva, a former World Bank CEO, was the sole candidate.
- She inherits the helm of an institution buffeted by the rise of populism in advanced economies and escalating trade conflicts, the largest of which has been driven by the United States, the fund's single biggest shareholder.
- Georgieva championed by Paris, overcame a challenge within the divided European Union from Germany which had backed former Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem. The European led the IMF since its creation in the aftermath of World War II while the leader of the fund's sister organization, the World Bank.

## 2. Hurun India Rich List 2019: Mukesh Ambani richest Indian

- Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani is India's richest man as mentioned in the IIFL Wealth-Hurun India Rich List 2019. He has topped the list of richest Indians for the 8th consecutive year. He currently has a net worth of Rs 3.8 lakh crore.
- The 8th edition of report was released by Hurun Report India and IIFL Wealth Management. London-based SP Hinduja & family, with assets worth Rs.1.86 lakh crore, retained 2nd rank in the list, while Wipro founder Azim Premji secured 3rd place with a net wealth of Rs.1.17 lakh crore.
- As per latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, the number of Indians having a net worth of over Rs 1,000 crore has grown to 953 this year from 831 in 2018.

## 3. Scarlett Johansson tops Forbes highest-paid actresses list

- For the second consecutive year, Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has topped the Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors in the world.
- Spurred by the success of her summer Marvel film Avengers: Endgame, the 34-year-old actor's earning reached USD 56 million.

Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actresses Of 2019 listed by Forbes:

1. **Scarlett Johansson:** \$56 million
2. **Sofia Vergara:** \$44.1 million
3. **Reese Witherspoon:** \$35 million

## 4. Nilesh Shah got appointed as Chairman of AMFI

- The Managing Director (MD) of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd., Nilesh Shah has been appointed as Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) at its board meeting held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- He will replace Nimesh Shah, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India )Prudential AMC, who was appointed to the position in the year 2018.
- The AMFI board has also elected Saurabh Nanavati, Chief Executive Officer, Invesco Mutual Fund as its new vice-chairman.Nilesh has over 25 years of experience in capital markets and market related investments.

**Foot Notes:****About AMFI**

1. **Founded:** 1995
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**5. Ravi Shankar inaugurated Bihar's first all women employee post office**

- Union Minister of Communications and Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated Bihar's first all-women employee post office on the campus of Bihar Public Service Commission.
- The post office will deal with all correspondent materials of BPSC competitive examinations. It will also help aspirants in providing required postal services. It is a move to encourage the empowerment of women.
- Bihar's first all-women employee post office will be dealing with all correspondent materials of Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) competitive examinations and help the aspirants in providing required postal services.

**Foot Notes:****About Bihar**

**Governor:** Phagu Chauhan  
**Chief minister:** Nitish Kumar  
**Capital:** Patna

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- The RBI has taken this action under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Limited
- Key points:
  - Under this decree, no depositor can withdraw more than 1,000 thousand money from his savings account, current account or any other deposit account. Apart from this, the issuance of new loans of the bank has also been banned.

**Foot Notes:****About PMC Bank**

1. **Formation:** 1983
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. **Chairman :** S. Waryam Singh

**7. SBI Life Insurance & Repco Home Finance signs corporate agency agreement**

- Repco Home Finance Ltd (RHFL), an Indian banking and financial services company has signed corporate agency agreement with SBI (State Bank of India) Life Insurance, a leading life insurance company in India to provide SBI Life's range of products to its customers.
- SBI Life Insurance will now be available in RHFL's over 148 branches and 27 satellite centres of RHFL spread across the country.
- Through this partnership, SBI Life Insurance will reach its product offers and enable more new customers across geographies to meet their diverse insurance needs.



- The corporate agency agreement was signed by RHFL CFO T Karunakaran, General Manager K Prabhu and SBI Life, Regional Director, E Thirumudi Pandian in the presence of Repco Home Finance Ltd MD and CEO, Yashpal Gupta and others.

**Foot Notes:****About SBI Life Insurance:**

1. **Founded :** March 2001
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **MD & CEO:** Mr. Sanjeev Nautiyal

**About RHFL :**

1. **Founded:** 2000
2. **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## Books and Authors

### 1. Author Neha's book Girl Power Indian Women Who Broke The Rules was released

- Author Neha J Hiranandani's book titled "Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules" was released. The new book elaborates the struggles and achievements of stories of 50 Indian women role models.
- The book includes the contemporary women like Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, Actress Priyanka Chopra, Subhasini Mistry, Chandro Tomar. It also includes historical figures like queen Abbakka of Chowta dynasty.
- Neha J Hiranandani is a writer from Mumbai. She worked for UNICEF and several development organizations across the world. She works in creating access to quality education for children everywhere.

**About UNICEF****The United Nations Children's Fund****Headquarters:** New York, United States**Head:** Henrietta H. Fore**Founded:** 11 December 1946, New York, United States**Founders:** United Nations General Assembly

### 2. Pranab Mukherjee launches the book titled 'Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy'

- Former president Pranab Mukherjee released a book named 'Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy'.
- The book was written by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy that tracks the country's economic development over the years and offers solutions for future growth. The book has been published by Rupa Publications India.

## Science Tech & Defence

### 1. Indian Navy inaugurates its largest dry dock.

- The Indian Navy's first aircraft-carrier dry dock was inaugurated in Mumbai on Friday. However, there is a connection between this Aircraft Carrier Dock and the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- India's only aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, weighing 44,500 tons and the first indigenous carrier Vikrant
- In a dry dock, water is drained out after a ship is brought in to enable repair and inspection. This dry dock has been under construction for nine years. Five lakh tonnes of concrete has gone into making it.

**Foot Notes:****Indian Navy**

1. **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS):** Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar
2. **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral Karambir Singh,
3. **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS):** Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar

## 2. NASA releases the new visualization of the image of a black hole

- NASA has released the new visualization of the image of a black hole. The new visualization of the image was created by Jeremy Schnittman. It is hoped that the visualization will make Einstein's theory of special relativity a bit easier to understand. The visualization shows the black hole appearance.
- The infalling objects or matter gets collected into a thin, hot structure called an accretion disk.
- The extreme gravity skews light that is emitted from the black hole by different regions of the disk, produces the misshapen appearance.

### Foot Notes:

#### About NASA

1. **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
2. **Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower
3. **Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States

## 3. Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat to be new Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

- Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat will take over as the new Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. He succeeding Indian Air Force (IAF) chief, Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, who retires from service by end of this month.
- The Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) comprises chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and the senior-most member is appointed its chairperson.
- The Chairman of COSC is tasked with ensuring synergy among the three services and evolve a common strategy to deal with external security challenges facing the country.

## 4. INS Tarkash at Maputo, Mozambique

- Indian Naval Ship Tarkash, which is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, arrived at Maputo, Mozambique for a three-day visit.
- It is a part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to Africa, Europe, and Russia. The ship would be kept open for visitors on 27 September 19.
- INS Tarkash is commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev. It is a potent frontline frigate of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. It is under the Operational Command of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai.

### About Indian Navy

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## 5. ISRO initiates 'Project NETRA' to safeguard Indian space assets from debris and other harm

- In the middle of its two-month Chandrayaan-2 campaign, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) last month quietly initiated 'Project NETRA' – an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- The space agency says our SSA will first be for low-earth orbits or LEO which have remote-sensing spacecraft. Under NETRA, or Network for space object Tracking and Analysis, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.

### Foot Notes:

#### About ISRO

**Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan

**Headquarters:** Bengaluru  
**Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai  
**Founded:** 15 August 1969

### 6. Mega naval war game among India, US and Japan begins

- In its 23rd edition this year, the trilateral maritime exercise between India, Japan and United States (US) is scheduled to be conducted from 26 September to 4 October off the coast of Japan.
- Two frontline indigenously designed and built Indian naval ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri and ASW Corvette Kiltan have been dispatched for the exercises, along with a P8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft.
- The exercise would encompass conduct of complex maritime operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains, and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Firings, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Indian Navy

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**Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral Karambir Singh

**Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS):** Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar

##### About Japan

**Capital:** Tokyo

**Currency:** Japanese yen

**Prime Minister:** Shinzō Abe

##### About US

**President:** Donald Trump

**Capital:** Washington, D.C.

### 7. Indian Coast Guard Ship Varaha Commissioned By Rajnath Singh

- The ICGS Varaha, the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) It was commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The ship based at New Mangalore under the administrative and operational control of Commander Coast Guard Region (west). The ship will have onboard 14 officers and 89 men, says a press release from ICG.
- The ship designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Katupalli ship building yard in North Chennai.

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### 8. Infosys, TCS, HDFC among 17 Indian firms in Forbes

- The 17 Indian companies, including Infosys, TCS and HDFC named in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies compiled by Forbes. IT major Infosys has been ranked third in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies, along with global payments technology company Visa and Italian car-maker Ferrari on the first and second position, respectively.
- Infosys jumped to the third spot from 31st position in 2018. The Infosys leading position headlined an Asian invasion in the rankings," Forbes said.
- The other top ten companies in the list for 2019 are
- Netflix at the 4th position followed by PayPal (5), Microsoft (6), Walt Disney (7), Toyota Motor (8), Mastercard (9), Costco Wholesale (10).

- Indian companies Tata Consultancy Services (22nd position) and Tata Motors (31) featured among the top 50 in the coveted list.

**About Infosys**

1. **CEO:** Salil Parekh
2. **Founded:** 7 July 1981, Pune
3. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru

**About TCS**

1. **CEO:** Rajesh Gopinathan
2. **Founded:** 1 April 1968
3. **Headquarters:** Mumbai

**9. Astronomers 13-Billion-Year-Old Protocluster Galaxy Discovered**

- Astronomers have discovered a 13-billion-year-old galaxy cluster that is the earliest ever observed.
- The early-stage cluster called a protocluster is not easy to find Yuichi Harikane, a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan who led the international team.
- A protocluster is a rare and special system with an extremely high density. The researchers used the wide viewing field of the Subaru telescope in Hawaii to map a large area of the sky in their search.
- The discovery of the protocluster, a collection of 12 galaxies, suggests that large cosmic structures were present in the very early stages of the universe which scientists believe was born 13.8 billion years ago.

**Foot Notes:****About National Astronomical Observatory of Japan**

1. **Founded:** 1988

**About Japan**

1. **Capital:** Tokyo
2. **Currency:** Japanese yen

## Important Days

**1. World Tourism Day: 27 September**

- The United Nations observes 27 September every year as World Tourism Day. The UN World Tourism Organization expects that tourism will continue to grow at an average of 3% annually until 2030.
- The sector also represents an estimated 10% of the world's GDP and 1 in 10 jobs globally. UN World Tourism Organization organizes the special event every year on the occasion of World Tourism Day, and this year it will be held in New Delhi, India. Theme for 2019: Tourism and Jobs: A Better Future For All.

**Foot Notes:****About United Nations**

**Headquarters of United Nations:** New York

**Founded:** 24 October 1945.

**Secretary General of the United Nations:** Antonio Guterres

**2. Goa govt bans single-use plastic in its offices from Oct 2**

- Goa government imposed a ban on the usage of single-use plastic in its offices from October 2. The Government of Goa decided to ban the usage of single-use plastic water bottles, glasses, plates, etc in the government offices, canteens, meetings and functions from October 2, 2019. The directive has been issued following approval from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

- The government wants to promote eco-friendly and re-usable items in the coastal state. The Goa Legislative Assembly passed a bill banning manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic items and carry bags, with a penalty ranging from 2,500 to 3 lakh for violators.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to people to shun single-use plastic

**Foot Notes:****About Goa**

1. **Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant

**3. Last Thursday of September celebrated as World Maritime Day (WMD), 2019 September 26, 20**

- Every Year, World Maritime Day (WMD) is observed on the last Thursday of September. This year, it is being observed on September 26, 2019.
- This day marks date of adaptation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention in 1958.
- The day was first observed in 1978. It acknowledges the importance of maritime industry.

**4. International Day of Sign Languages is observed on 23 September 2019**

- International Day of Sign Languages is observed on 23 September 2019 globally. The day aims to create awareness to bring out the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf. It also aims to preserve the sign languages as a part of linguistic and cultural diversity.
- The theme for the 2019 International Day of Sign Languages is Sign Language Rights for All!
- The International Day of Sign Languages on 23rd September was observed proclaimed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The resolution was passed by UNGA to acknowledge that early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language.

**About UN General Assembly**

**President:** María Fernanda Espinosa

**Headquarters:** New York, United States

**Founder:** United Nations

**Founded:** 1945, New York, United States

**5. Last Thursday of September celebrated as World Maritime Day (WMD), 2019 September 26, 20**

- Every Year, World Maritime Day (WMD) is observed on the last Thursday of September. This year, it is being observed on September 26, 2019.
- This day marks date of adaptation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention in 1958.
- The day was first observed in 1978. It acknowledges the importance of maritime industry.

## Awards'

**1. Journalist Paolo Borrometi Won Mackler Prize For Mafia Coverage In Italy**

- Italian journalist coverage of mafia activity in Sicily won the Peter Mackler Award. Paolo Borrometi, 36, worked for Italian agency AGI before founding the news website La Spia in 2013, where he documented the role of organized crime in local agribusiness.
- The family's home in the town of Modica targeted in an attempted arson attack. He dedicated the prize to three journalists killed while working, including Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, and Italy's Antonio Megalizzi and Giulio Regeni.
- The award was established in 2008 to recognize courageous and ethical journalism. It honors the memory of longtime AFP journalist Peter Mackler, who died of a heart attack that year.

**Foot Notes:****About Italy**



**President:** Sergio Mattarella  
**Capital:** Rome  
**Currency:** Euro

## 2. A 17 year old girl who fought to abolish child marriage gets an award from Bill and Melinda Gates

- Narendra Modi, the prime minister of India and Payal Jangid were honored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that “Works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives” at the annual Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards celebration held on Sept. 24 at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.
- Prime Minister Modi was honored at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards for the progress India is making in improving sanitation through the Swachh Bharat mission. Jangid, a 17-year-old girl from Rajasthan, India, has received the Changemaker Award in recognition of her campaign against child labor and child marriage.
- The Gates Foundation’s fourth annual Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards to celebrate outstanding work around the world is directly linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals).

### Foot Notes:

#### About United Nations

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

## 3. PT Usha conferred with IAAF Veteran Pin Award

- India’s former Athlete and famous as ‘Payoli Express’, PT Usha has been recently awarded with IAAF Veteran Pin Prize. PT Usha shared this information on her Tweeter handle.
- Usha has been conferred with the prestigious International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) Veteran .
- "Expressing my deep gratitude towards IAAF and President Sebastian Coe for awarding me the Veteran Pin at the 52nd IAAF conference in Doha. I look forward to continually contributing to the growth of athletics in our country!" Usha tweeted .

### Foot Notes:

#### About PT Usha

1. She is often called the "queen of Indian track and field".
- Born:** 27 June 1964 (age 55 years), Payoli  
**Full name:** Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha  
**Nickname:** Payoli Express  
**Awards:** Padma Shri, Arjuna Award for Athletics.

## 4. Centre institutes national unity award named after Sardar Patel

- The Centre has instituted the highest civilian award for contribution to the unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.
- The award will be announced on the occasion of the National Unity Day on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st of October.

### Foot Notes:

#### About Sardar Patel

- Born:** 31 October 1875, Nadiad  
**Died:** 15 December 1950, Mumbai  
**Full name:** Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel  
**Nicknames:** Bismarck of India, Strong (Iron) Man, Sardar, Iron Man Of India  
**Awards:** Bharat Ratna

**5. Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke award**

- Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for the highest Indian film honour- Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2019.
- The announcement was made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, through a tweet, in which he said that the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, who entertained and inspired for 2 generations, has been selected unanimously for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award.
- Following the Union Minister's tweet, warm wishes and congratulatory messages poured in for the acting legend from all corners of the film fraternity including from the likes of Karan Johar, Anil Kapoor, Asha Bhosle and southern superstars Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna.

**Awarded for:** "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema"

**Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)**

**First awarded:** 1969

**Last awarded:** 2019

**Most recent winner:** Amitabh Bachchan

**Total awarded:** 50

**First winner:** Devika Rani

**6. CPWD-DG Prabhakar Singh selected for 'Eminent Engineer Award 2019'**

- Prabhakar Singh, Director General, Central Public Works Department has been chosen for the 'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019'. This award will be given by the Institution of Engineers (India) for his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology.
- This Elite and Prestigious Award shall be conferred to him on the 'Engineers Day' on September 15, 2019, in New Delhi.

**Foot Notes:**

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) Housing & Urban Affairs:** Hardeep Singh Puri.

**7. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2019**

- Lionel Messi has bagged the FIFA's Best Men's Player Award for his outstanding performance. It was Messi's sixth FIFA best player award.
- In women's category, Megan Rapinoe has been awarded the FIFA Best Player Award 2019.
- Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe picked up the top honours at the star-studded ceremony in Milan's famous opera house.

**8. Ladakhi Shondol dance creates history by entering into Guinness book of records**

- Shondol dance, which is known as the royal dance of Ladakh, has created history by entering into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Ladakhi dance.
- Shondol is a famous dance, which artistes used to perform for the king of Ladakh. The event was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.
- As many as 408 women attired in traditional dresses and beautiful headgears performed the dance, which broke the previous record of 299 artists dance of Shondol in the 2018 festival.

**About Ladakh**

**Districts:** Kargil District, Leh District

**Headquarters:** Leh and Kargil (Joint)

**Largest city:** Leh

**9. Zoya Akhtar's 'Gully Boy' India's official entry to Oscars 2020**

- The Film Federation of India (FFI) has chosen 'Gully Boy' as India's official entry to the Oscars.

- “Gully Boy”, produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar and directed by Zoya Akhtar’, featured Ranveer as an up-and-coming rapper who sets out to achieve his dream by rhyming about his life on the Mumbai streets.
- Assamese film “Village Rockstars”, directed by Rima Das, was India’s official submission to the Oscars last year.

**Foot Notes:****President of Film Federation of India: Shri Firdausul Hasan****10. Kerala Tourism receives three PATA Gold Awards**

- Kerala Tourism has won three prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold awards in Nur-Sultan (Astana), Kazakhstan.
- The awards are given for an ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom(Kerala) under its Responsible Tourism(RT) mission, the second one for Kerala tourism campaign advertisement ‘Come Out and Play’ and the third one was for its website www.keralatourism.org.
- This year(2019), Kerala Tourism won the highest number of PATA awards in the South Asia region.

**Foot Notes:****About Kerala****Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram****Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.****Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan****11. CPWD-DG Prabhakar Singh selected for ‘Eminent Engineer Award 2019’**

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**Foot Notes:****Minister of State (Independent Charge) Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri.**

## Sports

**1. Deepak Punia reached first rank in Wrestling Ranking**

- World Championship silver medallist wrestler Deepak Punia jumped to world number one position in 6kg. He lost the top rank in the 65kg category in the latest rankings issued by the international federation (UWW).
- He settled for a silver after an ankle injury forced him to pull out of the final against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani. The 20-year-old now has 82 points, four more than World Champion Yazdani.
- Deepak won a silver Yasar Dogu and bronze medals at Asian Championship and at Sassari tournaments. He has been rewarded for his consistent show. The 25-year-old now has 63 points while Russia’s Gadzhimurad Rashidov, who won gold in Nur Sultan, is the new world number one in 65kg.
- Ravi Dahiya has entered the top-five bracket. He is ranked exactly five with 39 points while Rahul Aware’s bronze medal has pushed him to world number two.

**2. Deepti Sharma creates history, becomes 1st Indian cricketer to bowl 3 maidens in T20Is**

- All-rounder Deepti Sharma had an extraordinary outing in India’s first T20I against South Africa in Surat. She ended with figures of 4/8 with three of the four overs to lead India to victory. If that was not enough she bowled three maidens and made her way into the record books. This is the first time that an Indian has bowled as many maidens in a T20I match.

- Deepti gave away runs only off the 19th ball that she bowled in the match. Two of these overs were wicket maidens with Deepti taking two on the trot in the 9th over and a wicket in the 14th.
- The Agra girl's spell helped India defend a target of 131.

### 3. Rahul Aware wins bronze in 61 kg free-style category at World C'ship

- Indian wrestler Rahul Aware has won a bronze medal in men's 61-kilogram freestyle category at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- He beat 17th seeded American Tyler Lee Graff 11-4 to ensure he finished on the podium. It was India's fifth medal at this edition of the World Championships with a total haul of 1 silver and 4 bronzes.

### 4. Deepti Sharma creates history, becomes 1st Indian cricketer to bowl 3 maidens in T20Is

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## Obituaries

### 1. Veteran actor and multi-faceted artiste S.K. Padmadevi passes away

- Veteran actor and multi-faceted artiste S.K. Padmadevi passed away. she was part of the first Kannada talkie film 'Bhakta Dhruva' (1934).
- She also starred in 'Samsara Nouke', first Kannada social film (1936).
- She was the recipient of R. Nagendra Rao award for lifetime achievement by Karnataka Chalanchitra Academy in 2016.

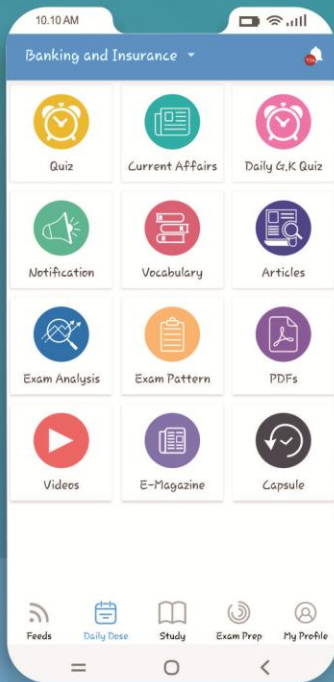


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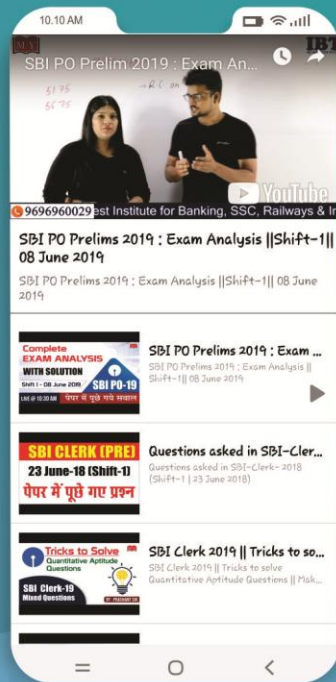
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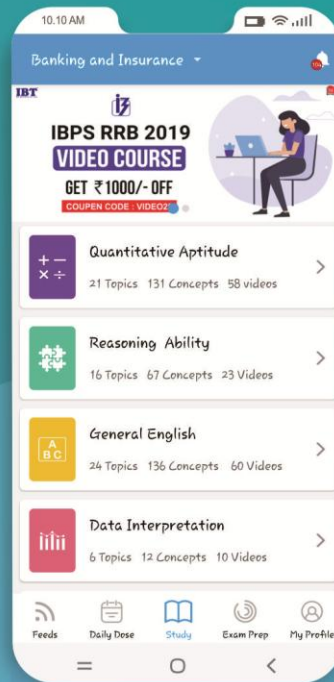
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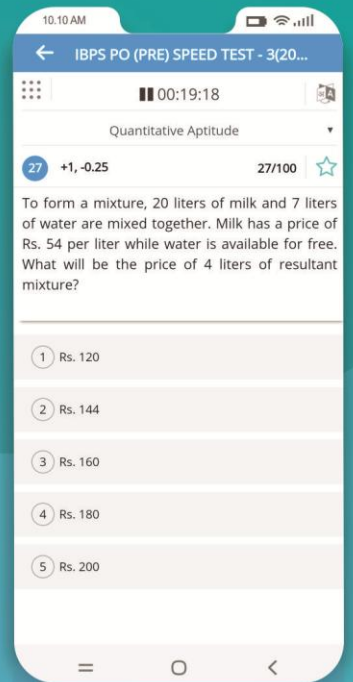
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