



WEEKLY G.K.

**19 August – 25 August
(2019)**

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National News

1. Smriti Irani launches sustainable fashion project, 'SU.RE' in Mumbai

- ✚ The Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated Project SU.RE(Sustainable Resolution), a joint project of CMAI(Clothing Manufacturers Association of India)& IMG Reliance(International Management Group, during Lakme Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✚ The project was launched by Smriti Irani as well as the organizers of Lakme Fashion Week (CMAI, United Nations in India, and IMG Reliance).The aim of this initiative is to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- ✚ It is the 1st ever project in India's apparel industry that 16 biggest fashion brands of India (such as Future Group, Aditya Birla Retail, Shoppers Stop, Arvind Brands) come together to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian Fashion Industry and is also a major step towards responsible and smart business.It would help the Indian fashion industry to reduce carbon emissions, increase the efficiency of resources, combat waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

Foot Notes:

About Ministry for Textiles:

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Founded:** 1999

2. Ladakh seeks tribal area status

- ✚ Leaders of Ladakh have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a tribal-area status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The move comes as the people are concerned to protect their land, culture, and identity after the abrogation of article 370 and the announcement of Ladakh as a Union Territory.
- ✚ The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four north-eastern states namely Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. The schedule includes Articles 244(2) and 275(1). It provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils.
- ✚ The states are provided with special provisions in terms of governance, powers of the president and the governor, type of local bodies, alternate judicial mechanisms, financial powers, etc.

3. Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme

- ✚ Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme.
- ✚ The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state.The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years.
- ✚ The 60 Assembly constituencies in the state selected under the 1st phase of the scheme.The state also set a target to increase enrollment of students from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session.The additional infrastructures like a modern school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls,

drinking water facilities will be provided to these schools as per the Right to Education (RTE) norms.

Foot Notes:

1. **Capital:** Imphal
2. **Governor:** Padmanabha Acharya
3. **Chief minister:** N. Biren Singh

4. Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

- ✚ Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as "Atal Chowk" It is named in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The first death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Hazratganj Chowk renamed after him as "Atal Chowk" from August 16.
- ✚ He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" be built on his name. The Mayor of the city prepared a draft for developing a memorial for Atal Smriti Upvan.

5. Allahabad High Court bans DJ in Uttar Pradesh, asks govt to release toll-free number for complaints

- ✚ The Allahabad High Court has banned DJs across the state and if someone is found guilty, they can be sentenced up to five years and may have to pay a hefty fine of Rs. 1 lakh.
- ✚ Citing the issue of noise pollution, the court ruled out the decision and has asked the govt to ensure that no noise pollution rules are violated in the state.
- ✚ The decision was given by Justice PKS Baghel and Justice Pankaj Bhatia of Allahabad High Court after public interest litigation was filed by advocate Sushil Chandra Shrivastava, an Allahabad native.

Foot Notes:

About Uttar Pradesh

1. **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
2. **Capital:** Lucknow
3. **Governor:** Anandiben Patel

6. Former PM Manmohan Singh Elected Unopposed To Rajya Sabha From Rajasthan

- ✚ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh got elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan after the opposition BJP failed to field a candidate against him. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJP parliamentarian Madan Lal Saini.
- ✚ Mr Singh was declared elected unopposed after the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the bypoll ended at 3 pm today. Mr Singh was a member of Rajya Sabha from Assam since 1991 until his term ended in June. The Congress did not have the strength to get him reelected from Assam, and there was no vacancy left elsewhere.
- ✚ The Congress, which had won the assembly polls last year, has the support of its 100 MLAs, 12 independents and six MLAs of Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party-- enough to get the party veteran through to the Rajya Sabha.

Foot Notes:

About Manmohan Singh

1. **Born:** 26 September 1932
2. **Spouse:** Gursharan Kaur
3. **Party:** Indian National Congress
4. **Previous offices:** Minister of Finance of India (2012–2012)

About Rajasthan

1. **Chief minister:** Ashok Gehlot
2. **Capital:** Jaipur

About Rajya Sabha

1. The Rajya Sabha or Council of States is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India.
2. **Chairperson:** Venkaiah Naidu
3. **Seats:** 245 (233 Elected + 12 Nominated)
4. **Leader of the House:** Thawar Chand Gehlot, BJP; since 11 June 2019
5. **Next election:** April 2020
6. **Founded:** 3 April 1952

7. The Karnataka government notified Nicotine as "Class A poison".

- ✚ The Karnataka government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison". The step has been taken to strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes.
- ✚ The notification has also ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion. This will curb the illegal sale, smuggling of nicotine cartridges and e-cigarettes.
- ✚ Class A poison are "Highly toxic chemicals", which even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene).

Foot Notes:

About Karnataka

1. **Chief minister:** B. S. Yediyurappa
2. **Capital:** Bengaluru
3. **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala

8. 2nd Uday Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada

- ✚ Indian Railway's 2nd double-decker Uday (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. The train would consist of 9 double-decker coaches and 2 power cars.
- ✚ The trains are primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. They are equipped with WiFi facility, have striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens.

Foot Notes:

1. **Union Railway Minister:** Piyush Goyal.

9. President of India launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- ✦ President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind planted a sapling of Maulsari in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate. They launched a plantation drive as part of Van Mahotsav celebrations. The President met students and urged them to encourage fellow citizens to plant more trees and reaffirm our commitment to a greener and sustainable planet.
- ✦ As part of Van Mahotsav celebrations, the President's Secretariat, over the next few weeks, will be planting 3,252 trees and 2,962 shrubs in the President's Estate. They include ornamental and fruit trees like Peepal, Neem, Maulsari, Champa, Gul Mohur, Mango, Chiko, Anjir and Amrud.
- ✦ President's Estate spread over 330 acres harbours a rich biodiversity. Noted trees of the Estate include, Sita Ashok, Bistendu, Shisham, Gab, Gourd Trees, Wild Almond, Lemon-Scented Gum, Doon Siris.

Foot Notes:**Van Mahotsav History**

1. It is generally celebrated in the first week of July or from 1st of July till the 7th of July. 7th of July is the ending of the first week.

10 .SMVDU, NISE sign MoU to achieve national solar mission

- ✦ Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Jammu and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work jointly to achieve the objective of National Solar Mission through training programmes. The MoU, which will be valid till 5 years.
- ✦ International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries.

Foot Notes:

1. **Headquarters of International Solar Alliance:** Gurugram, Haryana.

International News& Foreign Affairs

1. Amazon inaugurates its world's largest campus in Hyderabad

- ✦ E-commerce company Amazon, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana. The campus was inaugurated by Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, government of Telangana.
- ✦ This Hyderabad campus of Amazon, is the only one, placed outside US(United States). Having over 62,000 employees in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than 15,000 employees.

Foot Notes:**About Amazon**

1. **CEO:** Jeff Bezos
2. **Founder:** Jeff Bezos
3. **Founded:** 5 July 1994

About Telangana:

1. **Formed**- 2 June 2014.
2. **Capital**- Hyderabad.
3. **Chief minister**- K. Chandrashekar Rao.
4. **Governor**- ESL Narashiman.

2. Russia says US missile test 'escalation of military tensions'

- ✦ Russia said on August 20, 2019 that the United States was escalating military tensions by testing a medium-range cruise missile weeks after tearing up a pact with Russia. The tested missile was not nuclear equipped.
- ✦ Russia said that the United States was ramping up military tensions by testing a medium-range cruise missile weeks after tearing up a pact with Russia. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said, the US has obviously taken a course towards escalation of military tensions.
- ✦ Earlier, the US Defence Department has announced that the test of a medium-range ground-launched cruise missile from the US Navy controlled San Nicolas Island off the coast of Los Angeles, California. The Pentagon said in a statement that the test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately hit its target after more than 500 kilometres of flight.

Foot Notes:**About Russia**

1. **Capital:** Moscow
2. **Currency:** Russian ruble
3. **President:** Vladimir Putin

3. PM signs 10 MoUs during his second visit to Bhutan

- ✦ During his second visit to Bhutan PM Narendra Modi, he held talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.
- ✦ The leaders of the two countries signed 10 MoUs in fields like new energy, education, space research, aviation, IT, power and education. The talks also aimed to further improve economic and cultural ties between the two countries.
- ✦ PM Modi also inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant which was built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. PM Modi launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism. The leaders unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network. It marked India as the major partner in the development of Bhutan as India actively cooperates in Bhutan's five-year plans.

Foot Notes:

1. **Capital and largest city:** Thimphu
2. **Official languages:** Dzongkha
3. **King:** Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck
4. **Prime Minister:** Lotay Tshering

4. Pakistan, India spar over using water as a weapon in Kashmir dispute

- ✚ Accusing India of waging "fifth-generation warfare", Pakistan said New Delhi had failed to inform it about the release of water from a dam that could cause flooding across the border.
- ✚ India, however, rejected the claim saying that under the terms of a water treaty between the two nations it had informed Pakistan about the release of excess water late on Monday when it crossed a certain threshold.
- ✚ Relations between the neighbours, already hostile, have been further strained over India's decision this month to revoke the special status of its portion of the Kashmir region that both countries claim. Pakistan reacted with fury, cutting transport and trade links and expelling India's ambassador in retaliation.

Foot Notes:

1. **High Commissioner of India to Pakistan:** Ajay Bisaria

5. MoU between India and Maldives

- ✚ During the Prime Minister of India's visit to the Maldives in June 2019, India signed MoU to provide training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil servants. Maldives Civil Service Commission signed with India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The aim to emphasize India's Neighbourhood First policy.
- ✚ India is now providing its full support to the Maldives in realizing its socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.
- ✚ The training program was operationalised after the discussions between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission.

Foot Notes:

About Maldives

1. **Capital:** Malé
2. **Currency:** Maldivian rufiyaa
3. **President:** Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

6. Iceland unveils memorial plaque for lost glacier

- ✚ Iceland unveiled a plaque to its Okjokull ice sheet on Sunday, the first of the country's hundreds of glaciers to melt away due to climate change.
- ✚ Scientists see the shrinking of glaciers as one of many warning signs that the earth's climate is lurching toward dangerous tipping points.
- ✚ A ceremony to unveil the plaque was attended by scientists and locals at the glacier in west-central Iceland, which in 2014 no longer fulfilled the criteria to be classified as a glacier after melting throughout the 20th century.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Interim CEO Suparna Singh resigned from her role with immediate effect.

- ✦ Singh was the former head of NDTV Convergence named as its CEO in December 2017. Suparna Singh informed the company that she will step down from her responsibilities as Interim CEO with immediate effect. The board resolved to appoint Suparna Singh as its CEO subject to the receipt of requisite approval from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✦ This approval was promptly applied for on December 12, 2017. The media company said that the matter will be placed before the board and committee members for consideration. CEO journalist Vikram Chandra's resignation from the role in the year 2016. She is the Director of Strategy at the NDTV Group. She established and headed NDTV's Metro Nation (its first English language, city-based channel in India) in September 2007.
- ✦ The probe agency booked the media outlet's former CEO Vikramaditya Chandra under charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption. The company floated 32 subsidiaries in several tax haven countries to bring foreign funds to India through sham transactions.

Foot Notes:

About NDTV

1. **Founded:** 1988; 31 years ago
2. **Founders:** Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy
3. **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

2. King of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station

- ✦ Indian actor, film producer, Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) launched heritage postal stamp of Bandra station in Mumbai, Maharashtra on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.
- ✦ He urged the people present at the launching event to use the postal stamps instead of online texting.
- ✦ Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra was also present at the event.

Foot Notes:

About Maharashtra

1. **Chief minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
2. **Governor:** C. Vidyasagar Rao
3. **National Parks:** Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park.

3. Chief minister of Punjab launched "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana"

- ✦ The chief minister of Punjab has launched a universal health insurance scheme "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" benefiting nearly 46 lakh families. With this scheme, covering 76% of the state's population.

- ✦ Punjab has become the first state in the country to offer medical insurance cover to the maximum number of its people. The scheme would entitle beneficiaries to avail annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases.

Foot Notes:

About Punjab

1. **Chief Minister of Punjab** : Amarinder Singh
2. **Governor of Punjab**: VP Singh Badnore.

4. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina & Tennis Legend Sania Mirza will co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit 2019 to be held in New Delhi

- ✦ The World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize 2-day India Economic Summit 2019 scheduled to be held in New Delhi from October 3 – 4, 2019 with the aim of promoting strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations.
- ✦ The theme of the event will be 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.
- ✦ Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh), Sania Mirza (Sportsperson and UN – United Nations Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia), Heng Swee Keat (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore), Shobana Kamineni (Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise), and Shailendra Singh (Managing Director, Sequoia Capital India) will be the co-chairs for the Summit.

Foot Notes:

About WEF

1. **Formation**: January 1971
2. **Headquarters**: Cologne, Switzerland
3. **Founder**: Klaus Schwab
4. **Motto**: Committed to improving the state of the world

5. PM Narendra Modi to receive 'Order of Zayed' during three-day visit to UAE, Bahrain from August 23

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain from August 23, the Ministry of External Affairs said. During the visit, PM Modi will receive the 'Order of Zayed', the highest civil decoration of the UAE, which was conferred to him in April 2019 in recognition of his distinguished leadership that gave a big boost to bilateral relations between the two countries.
- ✦ "The award in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed," the MEA statement said.
- ✦ PM Modi will hold a meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interest.

Foot Notes:

About UAE

1. **Capital**: Abu Dhabi

2. **Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham
3. **Prime minister:** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Banking

1. Bandhan Bank join hands with standard Chartered for co-branded credit cards

- ✚ Private sector lender Bandhan Bank has entered into the partnership with multinational banking and financial services company, Standard Chartered Bank to provide co-branded credit cards to its 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan.
- ✚ The co-branded cards are available in three variants. It includes, (i) One- for the mass market, (ii) Plus- for the affluent segment and (iii) Xclusive- for the premium segment. The credit period offered will be of 52 days.
- ✚ As part of this partnership, Standard Chartered Bank will take the risk of credit failure & Bandhan Bank will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers. Standard Chartered currently has 100 branches in 43 cities in India & It has 12 lakh customers base having credit card.

Foot Notes:

About Bandhan Bank:

1. **Founded:** 23 August 2015
2. **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal
3. **MD & CEO:** Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
4. **Tagline:** Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai

About Standard Chartered Bank:

1. **Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom
2. **Chairman:** Jose Vinals
3. **Tagline:** Your Right Partner

2. Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the 10th fastest growing market globally

- ✚ Prime Global Cities Index of London based consultancy Knight Frank has ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin (Germany) whereas Istanbul (Turkey) and Vancouver (Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively.
- ✚ Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) were ranked 15th and 30th on the list, respectively. 46 cities' movement globally were tracked based on its luxury residential prices but only 35 out of those 46 cities have projected price growth. Despite Berlin ranking first in the index.

Foot Notes:

About Delhi

1. **Chief minister (CM)-** Arvind Kejriwal.
2. **Deputy chief minister-** Manish Sisodia.
3. **Governor-** Anil Bajjal.

About Knight Frank

1. **Founded:** 1896.

2. **Founder:** John Knight, Howard Frank and William Rutley.
3. **CMD (Chief Managing Director) Knight Frank India:** Shishir Baijal.

3. Book My Forex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card

- ✦ An online forex marketplace, Book My Forex has partnered with YES Bank and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad. They can load up to 10 currencies on the card.
- ✦ The forex travel card will be available to Customers on the Book My Forex platform and get doorstep delivery at free of cost across major cities in India. In order to promote the sale over currency notes, the platform will offer zero margin or exact inter-bank rates 24*7 on purchases made through the forex travel card.
- ✦ Customers will be able to manage the travel cards through the mobile app by getting real-time notification alerts and view the INR (Indian rupee) equivalent of all amounts they spent. They will also get value-added services like tracking currency-wise balances, locating surcharge-free ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) nearby and reload their travel cards while traveling abroad.

Foot Notes:

About Book MyForex

1. **Founded:** 2011
2. **Headquarters:** Gurgaon, Haryana
3. **Founder and CEO:** Sudarshan Motwani

About YES Bank:

1. **Formation:** 2004
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. **CEO & MD:** Ravneet Gill
4. **Tagline:** Experience our Expertise

4. Paytm promoted CFO Madhur Deora as its President

- ✦ Indian largest digital wallet company, Paytm has promoted its CFO (chief financial officer) Madhu Deora as President of the company.
- ✦ He joined the paytm in October 2016 and prior to this, he has served as Managing Director (MD) in Citigroup's investment banking business in New York, London, and Mumbai. He will now be tasked with several businesses in the consumer services segment to oversee their growth and financials.
- ✦ On May 3, 2019, Bhushan Patil quits as a president of Paytm.

Foot Notes:

About Paytm:

1. **Founded:** 2010
2. **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
3. **CEO:** Renu Satti
4. **Founder :** Vijay Shekhar Sharma

5. State Bank of India aims to eliminate debit cards

- ✚ State Bank of India bank debit cards from the banking system as the bank plans to promote more digital payment solutions and eliminate the plastic cards. The debit cards by customers of SBI which services a fifth of the population.
- ✚ Around 90 crore debit cards in the country as against 3 crore credit cards, and pointed out to digital solutions like its own 'Yono' platform as the key for achieving a debit card-less country. Kumar said through the Yono platform, one can withdraw cash at automated teller machines or pay for purchases at a merchant establishment without having a card at all.
- ✚ In the next five years, there will be a limited need to have any plastic cards in your pocket, Kumar said, pointing out that virtual coupons is the future.
- ✚ The QR code is also a very inexpensive way of ensuring payments.

Foot Notes:

About State Bank of India

1. **Chairperson:** Rajnish Kumar
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Founded:** 1 July 1955

Science Tech & Defence

1. Cerebras Systems reveals "world's largest computer chip"

- ✚ Artificial intelligence(AI) company Cerebras Systems has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor named Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine.
- ✚ This chip has 1.2 trillion transistors, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips. The rectangular shape chip measures 21.5cm sq (8.5in sq), comes with 400,000 AI (Artificial Intelligence) cores and 18 gigabytes of on-chip memory.

Foot Notes:

About Cerebras Systems

1. **CEO & Co-Founder:** Andrew Feldman
2. **Established:** 2016.
3. **Headquarters:** California, USA.

2. NASA scientists fly over Greenland to track melting ice

- ✚ NASA scientists are crossing Greenland on a mission to track melting ice. Greenland melting faster in the last decade and this summer it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.
- ✚ Global warming is the chief culprit of the melting ice issue. Both warmer air and warmer water are eating away at Greenland it causes to lose billions of tons of ice daily in the summer.
- ✚ A team of scientists and engineers aboard a research plane are dropping probes into the ice to help figure out which is the bigger cause. If water is playing a bigger role than scientists had thought, that could mean seas will be rising faster than expected.

Foot Notes:**About NASA**

1. **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
2. **Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower
3. **Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States
4. **Chairman of NASA:** Charles Bolden

3. SERB's new scheme called "Supra" will fund cutting-edge research

- ✚ In a bid to promote research in cutting edge areas of science, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) plans to launch a new scheme called "Supra" (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) to fund scientists.
- ✚ The scheme has designed as a part of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100-day transformative ideas. The aim of this scheme is to fund new scientific and engineering breakthroughs with global impact.
- ✚ This will promote new areas of study, novel scientific concepts, new products, and technologies. It will also attract high-quality research proposals consisting of new hypotheses or challenge present ones and provide innovative solutions.

Foot Notes:**About SERB**

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Secretary:** Prof Sandeep Verma

4. All CAPF personnel to retire at 60 now

- ✚ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has fixed the retirement age for all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years.
- ✚ All personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles retire at 60. However, in the other four forces—Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal—those from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at 57 while those above them retire at 60.
- ✚ The home ministry directive comes in the wake of a January order of the Delhi High Court where it had called the policy of different age of superannuation as "discriminatory and unconstitutional", and said it created two classes in the uniformed forces.

5. DRDO delivered the new Mobile Metallic Ramp to Army

- ✚ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) delivered the design of the newly innovated Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army at a ceremony held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✚ The design of MMR was handed over by Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), Lt Gen Devraj Anbu.
- ✚ The MMR will reduce the Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The requirement was projected by the Indian Army. The new MMR will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It will drastically reduce the time required for operational mobilization.

Foot Notes:**About DRDO**

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Motto:** बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्; "Strength's Origin is in Science" (Sanskrit)
3. **Founded:** 1958
4. **Minister responsible:** Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence

Important days

1. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: 22 August

- ✦ United Nations observes 22 August every year as "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief".
- ✦ The day is observed to strongly condemn continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

Foot Notes:**About United Nations**

1. **Headquarters of United Nations:** New York
2. **Secretary General of the United Nations:** António Guterres.

2. World Senior Citizen Day observed on August 21, 2019

- ✦ The day is recognized to create awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through senescence. This day is observed to thank and acknowledge elders for all that they have done for their children. They sacrifice their entire life in nurturing their relationships.
- ✦ The day was first announced on 14th of December in the year 1990, by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) & it was celebrated for the first time on October 1, 1991. The day originates from the time of 1988. It was formally settled by the former president of the United States of America i.e. Ronald Reagan. He had marked the 5847 declarations on August 19, 1988, which showed August 21 as the National Senior Citizens Day.
- ✦ As per the 2017 census, 47 million senior citizens from India live in the United States of America. Several programs are held throughout the world where elders' life studies, personal experiences are shared and solutions are offered to fight the factors that affect their well-being.

3. Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August

- ✦ Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on 20 August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✦ On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. Mr Rajiv Gandhi youngest Prime Minister of India.
- ✦ He was the youngest Prime Minister of the country. He became Prime Minister at the age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. He served from 1984-89.

Foot Notes:**About Rajiv Gandhi**

Born: 20 August 1944, Bombay Presidency
Assassinated: 21 May 1991, Sriperumbudur
Spouse: Sonia Gandhi
Awards: Bharat Ratna, Indira Gandhi Prize

4. World Photography Day observed on 19 August

- ✦ World Photography Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science, and history of photography. World Photography Day signifies about the photography event in the world.
- ✦ Early 19th century, photography has become an ever-increasing medium of personal expression and appreciation for countless people around the world..
- ✦ World Photo Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1837. World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. There are 270 photographers shared their pictures and people from over 100 countries visited the website.

Awards

1. Likee platform creates Guinness World Record for I-Day campaign

- ✦ Short video creation platform, Likee entered the 2019 Guinness World Records(formerly The Guinness Book of Records)for creating the largest online video album of people waving the Indian flag during its ‘No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN’ campaign.
- ✦ The tricolour was waved by more than 1 lakh Indians including Indian printer Hima Das who participated in this initiative on the platform as a sign of patriotism to celebrate India’s 73rd Independence Day(August 15).
- ✦ The hashtag #IAMINDIAN became the most trending hashtag among Indians in likee as well as other social media platforms.More than 2.5 lakh videos were created by the Indians with about 225.3 million views online.

About Guinness World Records

1. **Originally published:** 1955
2. **Subject:** World Records
3. **Publisher:** Jim Pattison Group
4. **Genre:** Reference work

2. Karnataka Tops In State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index(SARAL) 2019

- ✦ RK Singh, the Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index 2019 (SARAL) at the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities in New Delhi.
- ✦ As per the Index, Karnataka got the top spot with SARAL score of 78.8 as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project followed by Telangana(72.2), Gujarat(67.9) and Andra Pradesh(66.1). Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) has been ranked last with a score of 14.4. All the first 4 got A++ grade.
- ✦ The index has been designed jointly by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

Foot Notes:

About Karnataka

1. **Chief minister:** B. S. Yediyurappa
2. **Capital:** Bengaluru (Executive Branch)
3. **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala

3. Prasar Bharati introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma

- ✦ India’s largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti’s Chairman A Suryaprakash. The agency introduces 2 awards namely ‘Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award’ & ‘Achyutananda Sahoo Award’.
- ✦ The award memory of Doordarshan(DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma.
- ✦ She is a strong advocate for women empowerment. She started her career in Doordarshan in 1995. She associated with the channel for over 20 years.She was known for her programmes like ‘Tejaswini’(Through this show, she focused on women achievers of India) and ‘Badi Charcha’.She was awarded the 2018 ‘Nari Shakti Puraskar’(Highest civilian award for women in India) by the President of India Ram Nath Govind.

Foot Notes:

About Prasar Bharati

1. **Formation:** 23 November 1997
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **CEO:** Shri. Shashi Shekhar Vempati

Sports

1. Indian team bags 2 Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019

- ✦ The Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh picked up the 1st gold for India by beating their Switzerland rivals with 152-147 scores at the World Archery Youth Championships 2019 organized by World Archery Federation held in Madrid, Spain from 19 -25 August 2019.

- ✦ 17-year-old Komalika Bari has got 2nd Gold medal in the final of recurve cadet class by beating Japan's Sonoda Waka with 7-3 scores. The Indian team of Sukhbir Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare also won the junior compound men's team bronze medal by beating Colombia's Jagdeep Teji Singh Mejia, Gomez Zuluga Felipe and Toro Vasquez Manuel with 234-231 scores.
- ✦ The Indians scored 60 out of 60 points in the final round, while the Colombian team managed only 56 points.

Foot Notes:**About World Archery Federation:**

1. **Formation:** 4 September 1931
2. **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

2. Gold medal for India in World Police and Fire Games

- ✦ B.N.S. Reddy beats Bruce Barrios of the U.S. in the men's singles final to win the gold medal at the World Police and Fire Games.
- ✦ The tournament was held in Chengdu, China. In the doubles event, Reddy and Surinder Mohan Sharma lost to the pair of Sabandon Eduardo (Phi) and Helminen Risto (Fin) in the finals and bags the silver medal.
- ✦ B.N.S. Reddy is a former Additional Commissioner of Police and a current member of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit.

3. Sreesanth's Life Ban on cricket reduced to 7 Years

- ✦ Former India paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth's life ban has been reduced to 7 years. This order was passed by BCCI Ombudsman, Justice (Retd.) DK Jain. The Ban will end in 2020.
- ✦ The BCCI banned Sreesanth for life in September 2013, along with his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan, for indulging in alleged spot-fixing in the IPL.

Foot Notes:**About BCCI**

1. **CEO:** Rahul Johri
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Women's coach:** W. V. Raman
4. **Men's coach:** Ravi Shastri


Obituaries**1. Former finance minister Arun Jaitley passes away**

- ✦ Former Union finance minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley passed away.
- ✦ He was a lawyer by profession. He held the portfolios of Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs Ministry, Defence Ministry, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

2. Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passes away at 82

- ✦ Jagannath Mishra, former Bihar chief minister and JD(U) i.e., Janata Dal (United) leader passed away after battling cancer on August 19, 2019. He was undergoing treatment in New Delhi and breathed his last there.
- ✦ Born on 24 June 1937, Mishra served as the chief minister of the state thrice. He was the last Congress chief minister of the state as well as a cabinet minister at the centre.

3. Veteran Odisha based journalist and columnist Ranjit Guru passed away

- ✦ Senior journalist & editor of Odia daily Sambad, Ranjit Guru passed away following a brief illness in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was 61.
- ✦ After completing post-graduation and M Phil degree, Ranjit started his career in journalism as correspondent of Sambalpur for the language daily Sambad & with over 30 years long career, he promoted to the rank of the editor.
- ✦ He got his credit by highlighting important issues through his writings and columns. He was also associated with popular newspapers of Anandabazar Patrika and The Asian Age.

4. NS Tasneem- Sahitya Akademi winner passed away at 91

- ✦ Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi (1999) award winner Professor Niranjan Singh Tasneem passed away at his residence in Ludhiana, Punjab due to old age ailments on August 17, 2019. He is survived by wife, two daughters and a son.

- ✚ Born in Amritsar on May 1, 1929, Tasneem served as a professor in Satish Chander Dhawan(SCD) government college in Ludhiana and was also a research fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 1998-1999.
- ✚ His first Punjabi novel was 'Parchawein'. He wrote in Urdu initially before switching to English and Punjabi. His last Punjabi novel was 'Talaash Hoyi Sadeevi'(year 2000) and his last published work was 'Sahitkaari Atey Sahitik Paripekh'(2014).

5. Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passes away

- ✚ Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Babulal Gaur passed away. He served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from August 2004 to November 2005 and represented Govindpura Assembly seat for 10 times.

