



WEEKLY G.K.

16 September – 22 September
(2019)

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National News

1. Kiren Rijiju flags off 'Great Ganga Run' marathon to create awareness about Ganga

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju along with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat flagged off "Great Ganga Run" at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The marathon was organised to create awareness about 'Ganga'.
- "It is a good initiative by Ministry of Jal Shakti. This marathon has been organised by them. It has a very elaborative message. Ganga is very important for the country and we needed to create awareness.
- In this marathon, people from every age group are participating. I would like to congratulate the organisers on getting a number of people involved with Namami Gange Marathon," Rijiju told reporters.

Foot Notes:

1. **Jal Shakti Minister:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

2. **Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Youth Affairs and Sports:** Kiren Rijiju.

2. Rajasthan Government launches Jan Soochna Portal 2019

- The first-ever public information portal launched in Rajasthan promising to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement started in 1990s.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the portal at B.M. Birla Auditorium in the presence of former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former Law Commission chairman Justice A.P. Shah and a galaxy of RTI activists, including Magsaysay Award winner Aruna Roy.
- The State government collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal, the first of its kind in the country, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform. The different sections divided into districts, blocks and panchayats, the portal empowers the common people with access to useful information.

About Rajasthan

1. **Chief minister:** Ashok Gehlot

2. **Capital:** Jaipur

3. Kerala govt and RCC jointly signs MoU with Maldives on cancer care

- The govt. of Kerala and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) jointly signed Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Maldives to strengthen cancer care in the island nation by giving training to doctors.
- Maldivian minister Abdulla Ameen and Kerala's health minister KK Shylaja signed the MoU in presence of Kerala Chief Minister(CM) PinarayiVijayan.Kerala govt and RCC jointly signs MoU with Maldives

About Kerala:

1. **Capital-** Thiruvananthapuram.

2. **Governor-** Arif Mohammad Khan.

3. **Important rivers-**Bharathapuzha River, ChalakkudyRiver,Neyyar River, Periyar River, Kurumali River.

4. Indian Railways undertakes "Massive Shramdan" drive with main focus on collection of plastic waste

- The Indian Railways has once again carrying out a "Massive Shramdan" drive movement aimed at collecting plastic waste from all railway premises to create awareness for a greater impact against single-use plastic.

About Indian Railways:

1. **Founded** : 8 May 1845
2. **Headquarters** : New Delhi
3. **Union Minister**: Piyush Goyal

5. Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated NCCCR&D at IISc-Bengaluru

- Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)- Bengaluru, Karnataka which was set up by the union government through the Department of Science & Technology (DST)

About Ministry of Science & Technology:

1. **Formed**: May 1971
2. **Constituency of Dr Harsh Vardhan**: Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

6. EAM and MHRD launched PhD fellowship programme for ASEAN students in IITs

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India Dr S Jaishankar and Minister of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) fellowship programme, initially launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for the students from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

7. The Supreme Court has set date October 18th as the deadline to conclude the hearings in Ayodhya land dispute case

- The Supreme Court has set the deadline for the conclusion of hearings in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute as October 18.
- The constitution bench hearing the Ayodhya dispute is headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi, who is set to retire on November 17, 2019 so the verdict has to be delivered before then or the case will be heard afresh with a new judge in place of Justice Gogoi.

About Supreme Court Of India :

Founded: 1950

Motto: यतो धर्मस्ततो जयः॥ (IAST: Yato Dharmastato Jayah); Where there is righteousness (dharma), there is victory (jayah)

Chief-Justice: Ranjan Gogoi, Dipak Misra

8. India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub inaugurated in Kolkata, West Bengal

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) inaugurated India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It was developed by ICMR in association with the United States (US) Department of Health and Human Services.
- ICMR director-general Balram Bhargava, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) director Shanta Dutta and US ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster were among the dignitaries present at the inaugural ceremony.

About ICMR:

1. **Headquarters**: New Delhi
2. **Founded**: 1911

9. Hyderabad-Karnataka Region has been renamed as the 'Kalyana Karnataka' recently

- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa recently announced that Hyderabad-Karnataka Region has been renamed as Kalyana Karnataka Region that comprises six districts of Karnataka: Koppal, Ballari, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur.

About Hyderabad

1. **Hyderabad founded by :** Qutb Shahi sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah
2. **National Parks :** Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park, Mahavir Hirana Vanasthali National Park, Mrugavani National Park, Pench National Park etc.

10. Google to launch AI Research Lab in Bengaluru

- Google Pay has grown more than three times to 67 million monthly active users, driving transactions worth over \$110 billion on an annualized basis across offline and online merchants.
- The two-thirds of the transactions are coming from tier-II and -III cities and towns. Google Pay competes with players like Paytm and PhonePe is introducing the Spot platform that will enable merchants to create branded commercial experiences and reach new customers.
- Google already onboarded merchants like UrbanClap, Goibibo, MakeMyTrip, RedBus, Eat.Fit and Oven Story through its early access programme.

Foot Notes:

1. **About Google**
2. **CEO:** Sundar Pichai
3. **Founded:** 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States

11. NTPC to build India's biggest solar park in Gujarat

- India's largest energy conglomerate NTPC Ltd. has unveiled its plans to set up a 5 gigawatt (GW) solar park in Gujarat. This solar park is expected to be the biggest in the country. The move of the company is toward cleaner energy.
- NTPC has located a spot in Gujarat for the project. The estimated cost for the project is Rs.250 billion. The project will begin in the year 2024. It is also expected that the company might invite bids from developers to set up projects in the park.
- Recently, the Central government has laid regulations to cap emissions from coal-fired power plants. This has also triggered the NTPC to turn to green energy for growth.

Foot Notes:**About Gujarat**

1. **Capital:** Gandhinagar
2. **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
3. **Chief minister:** Vijay Rupani

12. Google partners with BSNL to bring public WiFi to villages

- The search engine giant Google has signed a partnership agreement with the state-owned operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). The partnership aims to bring public WiFi to villages in states namely Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra. The agreement will focus on villages that had no Wi-Fi connection previously.
- The announcement comes after the 5th edition of Google for India event which took place in New Delhi on 19th September.
- In July 2019 Google collaborated with Cisco for its gStation to provide free and high-speed WiFi at public locations across India.

Foot Notes:**About Google**

1. **CEO:** Sundar Pichai
2. **Subsidiaries:** YouTube, DoubleClick, Google AdMob, Google Nest
3. **Founders:** Larry Page, Sergey Brin

13. Andhra Pradesh State to ban the private practice by govt. doctors

- The Andhra Pradesh State government has announced that it is to ban the private practice by doctors working in government hospitals. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy after consulting with the committee on reforms in the health sector.
- Also, as compensation, the govt. has announced to increase their salaries in accordance with the recommendations made by the experts committee on reforms in the health sector headed by former Union Health Secretary K. Sujatha Rao.
- The committee members have been asked to prepare proposals for an increase in doctors' salaries.

14. Centre to launch NEAT AI learning scheme to boost higher education

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has announced a new National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Artificial Intelligence (AI) scheme.
- MHRD will start awareness programmes to create awareness of the NEAT solutions to teachers and students. The NEAT AI scheme will be launched and made operationalized in early November 2019.
- The scheme aims to boost better learning outcomes in Higher Education. The scheme will ensure to use Artificial Intelligence which will make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.

15. Uttarakhand school children to learn Sanskrit poems sung by teachers

- The children studying in government schools would now learn Sanskrit poems of their curriculum sung by their teachers as per an effort by the state education department to make the ancient language an easy learning process for them, said officials.
- The initiative is for the school children studying in classes 3-8 of the government schools in state. Chief Minister (CM) Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the CD comprising the Sanskrit poems in the form of songs along with some written content, added officials.

About Uttarakhand

1. **Capital:** Dehradun
2. **Chief minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat

16. India's first central police university to come up in Greater Noida

- The country's first central police university will be set up by the Union home ministry off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.
- The Centre had given in-principle approval for the university and a 100-acre plot has been identified in Sector Techzone.
- The government wants to set up an institution to tackle modern-day policing challenges. The national university for policing will help in improving police personnel training, skills, research and also policymaking with regard to policing in India.

Foot Notes:

1. **Uttar Pradesh**
2. **Union Minister of Home Affairs:** Amit Shah.
3. **CM:** Yogi Adityanath
4. **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.

17. Tata Communications partners with Cisco

- Tata Communications has partnered with Cisco to offer enterprises a secure, fully-managed, multi-channel, intelligent and cloud-based Cisco Webex Contact Center solution.
- This joint offering is an end-to-end managed solution and gives contact centre users a seamless user experience across up to 150 countries on the back of Tata Communications' global network.
- The solution will allow for simplified licensing; pre-deployed hardware and software with integrations to workforce optimisation.

Foot Notes:**About TATA**

1. **CEO:** Guenter Butschek

About Cisco

1. **CEO:** Chuck Robbins

2. **Headquarters:** San Jose, California, United States

18. Shri Amit Shah launches Emergency Response Support System ERSS- Dial 112

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh. The services include the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App'.
- The 'Dial 112' emergency response service is an initiative to strengthen proactive community policing that would end confusion amongst distress callers, who at times end up dialling 100 in fire or medical emergency cases.
- The Emergency Number for Road Accidents (1073), Women Helpline (1091, 181), Child Help Line (1098), including other Helpline services would be added under the 112 unified emergency response number.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Robert O'Brien becomes National Security Adviser of US

- Robert O'Brien has been appointed as the National Security Adviser of United States of America.
- Robert O'Brien will replace John Bolton as the NSA of US.
- Robert O'Brien has had a long career in foreign policy working for both main US parties and currently heading the hostage negotiations at the State Department.

Foot Notes:**About US**

1. **US President:** Donald Trump

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

3. **Currency:** US Dollar.

2. US lawmakers have urged President Trump to reinstate India's preferred trade status

- Forty US lawmakers have urged US President Donald Trump to reinstate India's preferential trade treatment under GSP programme.
- The lawmakers stated that the withdrawal of India's preferential trade status has resulted in retaliatory tariffs from India, which are hurting the US industry.

About USA:

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

2. **Largest city :** New York City

3. **President:** Donald Trump

3. UNESCO to publish an anthology of Guru Nanak Devs writing in world languages

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to translate and publish an anthology of the writings of Guru Nanak Dev in world languages to mark his 550th birth anniversary.
- The main aim is to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of GuruNanak Devji, UNESCO decided to translate and publish an anthology of his writings into world languages.The government holding a series of events They initiated projects to mark 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The main aim is to construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district in Punjab to the international border, the development of the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi as a heritage town on the smart city principle. The upgradation of Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and release of commemorative coins and postage stamps.

About UNESCO

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
2. **Headquarters:** Paris, France
3. **Head:** Audrey Azoulay

4. The US becomes the world's top oil exporter surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) notified that the United States (US) became the top oil exporter in the world by overtaking Saudi Arabia and Russia. In June 2019, crude exports grew above 3 million barrels per day (bpd) in the US.
- IEA has estimated the growth in global oil demand in 2019 at 1.1 million bpd and 1.3 million bpd for 2020.Non- Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production growth will grow to 2.3 million bpd in 2020, up 400,000 from 2019.
- The demand for OPEC crude is set to reach 28.3 million bpd in the first half of 2020.

Foot Notes:**About IEA**

1. **Established:** November 1974
2. **Headquarters:** Paris, France

5. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

- The United Nations observes 16 September every year as International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun and thus help in preserving life on the planet.
- 32 Years and Healing.The theme for this year celebrates over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.
- The Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and many other products.

Foot Notes:**About United Nations**

1. **Headquarters of United Nations:** New York, USA
2. **Founded:** 24 October 1945.
3. **Secretary General of the United Nations:** Antonio Guterres.

6. Taiwan loses second ally in a week as Kiribati switches to China

- Taiwan has lost its second diplomatic ally in less than a week after the Pacific nation of Kiribati moved to sever diplomatic ties with Taiwan and establish foreign relations with China.
- The decision comes after the Solomon Islands announced it was breaking away from Taiwan, and means that in just a week the number of Taiwan's diplomatic allies has dropped from 17 to 15.
- Taiwan's foreign minister Joseph Wu announced that the country was cutting diplomatic ties with Kiribati and immediately closing its embassy in the country.

Foot Notes:**About Taiwan**

1. **Capital:** Taipei
2. **Currency:** New Taiwan dollar

7. PM jointly unveiled the Buddha Statue in Mongolia

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President H.E. Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha and his two disciples. The statue was installed at the historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- In 2015, during his visit to Mongolia, Prime Minister had announced to gift a statue of Lord Buddha to the monastery. The gift was announced to honour the common Buddhist heritage and civilizational links between the two countries and peoples.
- The 3rd edition of SAMVAAD dialogue which was held from 6 September to 7 September 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The SAMVAAD dialogue brought together Buddhist religious leaders, experts, and scholars from different countries. The dialogue focused on contemporary issues related to Buddhism.

8. Overview Of EAM Dr S Jaishankar's Visit To Finland

- The External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, Dr S Jaishankar made an official visit to Finland from 19-21 September, 2019. It was his first visit to Finland, after assuming charge as EAM.S Jaishankar's visit to Finland
- He was received by Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland.He unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Helsinki, sculpted by Gautam Pal. It was gifted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India to the Government of Finland to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji.
- He also met the Indian community in Finland; Visited the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) and delivered a speech on "India and the World – Priorities of Indian Foreign Policy".

About Finland:

1. Finland is the new president of the European Union Council.
2. **Capital:** Helsinki
3. **Currency:** Euro

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Sitharaman hands over 12th century Buddha statue to culture minister

- Almost a month after a 12th century was Buddha statue stolen from the ASI Museum at Nalanda in 1961 was returned to the Indian High Commission by the London Met. Police, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over the statue.
- "The 12th Century AD Bronze image of Buddha seated in the Bhumipasara mudra was amongst the 19 bronze statues stolen from the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Nalanda site museum in August 1961. After a gap of nearly 57 years, in early 2018, the image was spotted by Art enthusiasts at an auction organised by a London based dealer.
- On receipt of the information, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) through its attaché posted in High Commission of India, London, UK took up the matter with the ASI, UK Customs and London Metropolitan Police. The ASI confirmed the findings and provided documentary evidence including an FIR which was filed in 1961.

Foot Notes:

1. **About UK**

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

2. GoI Appoints Four Supreme Court Judges

The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are:

- **Himachal Pradesh High Court:** Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian
- **Punjab and Haryana High Court:** Chief Justice Krishna Murari
- **Rajasthan High Court:** Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat
- **Kerala High Court:** Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy
- The Supreme Court vacancies had increased its judicial strength from 31 to 34 following the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019.

About GoI

1. **Chief Justice of India:** J Ranjan Gogoi
2. **Founded:** 28th January 1950.

3. Mayank Vaid becomes first Indian to complete Enduroman triathlon

- Mayank Vaid becomes the first Indian to complete the Enduroman. It is a triathlon from England to France which is considered to be one of the toughest endurance competitions in the world. He is the 44th person in the world to have completed this triathlon. He is also the first Asian person to complete this triathlon in solo capacity.
- He also broken the record for the shortest time taken to complete the Enduroman Arch to Arc triathlon. He completed the triathlon involving running, swimming and cycling. The time duration is around in 50 hours and 24 minutes.
- The previous record for this triathlon was 52 hours and 30 minutes. It is held by Julien Deneyer of Belgium.

Foot Notes:

About Belgium.

1. **Capital:** Brussels
2. **Currency:** Euro

4. Justice P Lakshman Reddy sworn in as first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh

- Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of the state after its bifurcation in 2014.
- Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office to Justice Reddy at a function in Vijayawada.
- Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, judges of the High Court and senior state government officials attended the event.

Foot Notes:

1. About Andhra Pradesh

2. **Governor:** Biswabhusan Harichandan
3. **Chief minister:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

5. Anurag Kashyap's 'Gangs Of Wasseypur' in the Guardian Best 100 list

- Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's Gangs Of Wasseypur has become the only Indian film to feature in "The Guardian" list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century. The film has bagged the 59th position.
- The two film Gangs Of Wasseypur series was released in 2012 and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseypur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.

- Both films were loved by the masses for their drama and rawness and acclaimed by the classes for cinematic aesthetics.

6. Wing Commander Anjali Singh becomes India's first female military diplomat to join Indian Mission in Russia

- Wing Commander Anjali Singh became India's first female military diplomat posted in an Indian mission abroad after joining the Indian Embassy in Russia as Deputy Air Attache (air force officer involved in diplomatic operations).
- She previously served the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 17 years as an Aeronautical Engineer (AE) and is also trained on MiG-29 aircraft.

7. Actor Govinda appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh to promote the state's traditions and tourist places

- Public Relations Minister of Madhya Pradesh government PC Sharma notified that Indian Bollywood actor Govinda, aged 55, is appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh to promote the state's traditions and tourist places.
- The government also has plans to set up a film city in the state. Brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh

About Madhya Pradesh

1. **Governor:** Lalji Tandon
2. **Capital:** Bhopal
3. **Chief minister:** Kamal Nath

Banking

1. EPFO to credit 8.65% interest in over 6 crore accounts for 2018-19

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar notified that over 6 crore members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will get 8.65% interest on deposits, which will be credited to the accounts, for 2018-19 after the approval from the Ministry of Finance. The decision was made on February 21, 2019.

About EPFO:

1. **Founded:** 4 March 1952
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **Central Provident Fund Commissioner:** Sunil Barthwal
4. **Parent Organization:** Ministry of Labour & Employment

2. Airtel Payments Bank launched 'Bharosa' savings account

Airtel Payments Bank, a public limited company with its headquarters in New Delhi has launched "Bharosa" savings account services with the aim of deepening the financial inclusion in India.

About Airtel Payment Bank:

1. **Headquarters :** New Delhi
2. **MD, CEO :** Anubrata Biswas

3. Visa in partnership with BillDesk to launch interface for recurring payments , "Standing Instructions (SI) Hub"

- Visa Inc, the world's leader in digital payments technology and BillDesk, an Indian online payment gateway company have partnered for the launch of SI (standing instructions)-Hub which is a smooth and secure way to make recurring payments using cards with a one-time enrollment.
- This comes after the introduction of guidelines for e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions by RBI (Reserve Bank of India).

About Visa Inc:

1. **Founded : 1958**
2. **Headquarters: California, United States**
3. **CEO :Alfred F. Kelly**

About BillDesk:

1. **Founded: 2000**
2. **Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra**
3. **Founder(s) :M.N. Srinivasu Ajay Kaushal Karthik Ganapathy**

4. RBI allows all recurring bill payments through BBPS

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has extended the use of the Bharat Bill Payment System(BBPS) for all recurring(repetitive) payments such as school fees, insurance premiums and municipal taxes, Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) on a voluntary basis except for prepaid recharges to extend the scope and coverage of BBPS.

About RBI:

1. **Governor-** Shaktikanta Das.
2. **Headquarters-** Mumbai.
3. **Founded-** 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

5. ECGC introduces 'NIRVIK' scheme to provide 90% insurance cover on the loan amount of exporters: Piyush Goyal

- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has released a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to ease the lending of loan to exporters so that they can get loans easily from banks.
- The details of the scheme were shared by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal during a press conference at New Delhi.

About ECGC:

1. **Founded :30 July 1957**
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra,
3. **Chairman & MD :** Geetha Muralidhar
4. It provides export credit insurance support to Indian exporters and is controlled by the Ministry of Commerce. Government of India.

6. Max Bupa and Indian Bank signed bancassurance corporate agency agreement

- A state-owned financial services company, Indian Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with a standalone health insurance player, Max Bupa to provide Max bupa's suite of health insurance products to its customers. Max Bupa and Indian Bank signed
- The product portfolio comprises Max Bupa's both retail & group health insurance products besides Indemnity and Fixed Benefit products.
- In South India, Indian Bank has a strong presence. Through this partnership, Max Bupa will deepen the penetration of its wide range of product offers and enable more customers to access their risk solutions anytime, anywhere.

Foot Notes:**About Indian Bank:**

1. **Founded:** 15 August 1907
2. **Headquarters :** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
3. **MD & CEO:** Ms. Padmaja Chundurur
4. **Tagline:** Your Tech-friendly bank

About Max Bupa:

1. **Founded:** 2008
2. **MD & CEO:** Ashish Mehrotra

Science Tech & Defence

1. Rajnath Singh, the first Defence Minister to fly indigenously-built fighter aircraft Tejas.

- Union minister Rajnath Singh became the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft —Tejas— from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
- He was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru. The minister flew a sortie in the twin-seater version of Tejas. Rajnath Singh was wearing a G-suite, a white helmet and an oxygen mask.
- Rajnath Singh would also be attending an exhibition of DRDO in Bengaluru.

About Tejas

1. Tejas last week became the first aircraft in India to successfully perform an 'arrested landing' in Goa.

About DRDO

Headquarters location: New Delhi

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

2. First-ever 'arrested landing' of Naval Tejas successfully executed

- DRDO and the Aeronautical Development Agency successfully executed the first-ever arrested landing of Light Combat Aircraft(LCA) Tejas (Navy) at the shore-based test facility in Goa.
- This is a step towards the aircraft getting operational on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- This arrested landing heralds the arrival of true indigenous capability and displays the professional prowess of our scientific community Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) embedded with design plus build the capability of HAL(ARDC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Static/Current Takeaways Important For RRB NTPC/IBPS RRB Mains:

Foot Notes:

About DRDO

1. **DRDO Chairman:** G Satheesh Reddy
2. **Established:** 1958
3. **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

3. First edition of SITMEX- Trilateral Maritime exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand of 2019 begins in Port Blair

- 5 day organised maiden trilateral exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand named SITMEX was commenced on September 16, 2019 at Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar islands to strengthen the maritime relationships of the three countries and to enhance security.
- The maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral exercise will conclude on September 20, 2019.

About IN:

1. **Founded-** 5 September 1612.
2. **Motto-** Sham No Varunah (May the Lord of the Water be auspicious unto us).
3. **Commander in Chief-** President Ram NathKovind.
4. **Chief of Naval Staff-** Admiral Karambir Singh.

4. ISRO has signed MoU with DRDO to procure critical technologies for Human Space Mission

- ISRO has signed an agreement with DRDO to develop human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate India's human space flight capabilities. DRDO will be providing critical technologies to ISRO such as space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, space food and parachutes for the crew module's safe recovery.

About ISRO:

1. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
2. **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai
3. **Founded:** 15 August 1969
4. **Chair Person :** K.Sivan

About DRDO:

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

5. DRDO successfully test flighted Astra

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested Astra, the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM). It was launched from Sukhoi Su-30 MKI platform off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. Indian Air Force (IAF) has completed the user trial phase of the weapon system of Astra successfully.
- The state-of-the-art BVRAAM was built by DRDO along with IAF. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has modified the aircraft for weapon integration.
- Apart from this, more than 50 public and private industries have contributed to building the Astra weapon system.

About DRDO

1. **Headquarters location:** 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

6. Chandrayaan-2 is 98% successful, Gaganyaan our next priority: Isro chief K Sivan

- K Sivan said that while they were trying to establish contact with 'Vikram', the orbiter's life had increased to 7.5 years due to the optimal mission operation though its designed life was one year.
- Chandrayaan-2 has achieved 98 per cent of mission objectives and India's next space priority is the launch of crewed orbital spacecraft Gaganyaan by end of next year, chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan said.
- The ISRO chairman advised IIT students to take a risk and be innovative to achieve success in life. Innovation comes with a high level of risk and failure. It may sound crazy, but initial outcomes of innovation could be imperfect. In fact, most of the successful innovations of the world come from crazy ideas, he said.

About ISRO

1. **Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan
2. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
3. **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai
4. **Founded:** 15 August 1969

Important Days

1. World Alzheimers Day is observed on 21 September

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September every day.
- The month of September is dedicated to bringing awareness about Alzheimer's and other dementia conditions.

- Per 2018 World Alzheimer Report, over 50 million people worldwide suffer from the disease. The number that will almost double every 20 years, reaching 131.5 million in 2050.

Theme:

The theme for World Alzheimer's Month 2019 is Raising awareness and challenging stigma. The day focuses on stigma and how to break stereotypes and myths that surround the diagnosis of dementia.

Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Disease is registered every 3.2 seconds totalling up to 9.9 million cases worldwide per year. It is the most common form of dementia.

Disease:**2. International Day of Peace or World Peace Day observed on 21 September, 2019**

- The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, is observed all over the world by the United Nations (UN) annually on 21st September.
- The day aims to strengthen the ideals of peace and recognises the efforts of those people who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. The theme of this Day for 2019 is 'Climate Action for Peace'.
- The theme focuses on the need of fighting climate change by protecting and promoting peace throughout the world.
- The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples. In 2015, the United Nations (UN) member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ((SDG) including poverty, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment) to obtain peace from focusing on the economic and social development.

About UN:

1. **Founded:** 24 October 1945
2. **Headquarters:** New York, United States
3. **Secretary general:** António Guterres

**1. Secunderabad station received the first green Platinum rating**

- Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has awarded Secunderabad junction station of Indian Railways with a green Platinum rating. The biggest rail hub is the first Indian Railways to be awarded so.

Various initiatives:

The Secunderabad station has been awarded as it has introduced several energy conservation initiatives and inclusion of modern passenger amenities. Other initiatives include:

- Air-conditioned waiting halls equipped with CO2 sensors
- Installation of solar panels and LED lights
- Solid waste management system
- It has been awarded ISO 14001-2015 Certificate- Environmental Management system. It has also received the National Tourism Award 2016-2017.

2. Spy thriller 'Raazi' steals show at Bollywood's Oscars

- Spy thriller Raazi stole the night at Bollywood's answer to the Oscars, taking best film and best actress for its young star Alia Bhatt in Mumbai where the glitzy awards gala was held for the first time since being established two decades ago.
- Megastar Ranveer Singh won best actor for his role in the controversial Padmaavat, a historical action movie that enraged Hindu radicals but was an international success.
- The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards went on into the early hours of today and Indian-British star Bhatt said it had been worth the wait as she received her prize.

3. Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg wins 2019 Amnesty's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award in Washington D.C

- Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg(16 years) and the 'Fridays for Future youth movement' won the Amnesty International's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award for the year 2019. The award ceremony which was held at the George Washington University, Washington D.C, America, is the highest human rights award constituted by the Amnesty International.

About Amnesty International:

1. It is a British Non-Government Organisation(NGO) focused on human rights.
2. Headquarters- London, United Kingdom.
3. Founded- July 1961
4. Founder- Peter Benenson.

About Sweden:

1. Capital- Stockholm.
2. Currency- Swedish krona.

4. Indian documentary Moti Bagh has been nominated for the Oscars

- Moti Bagh, a documentary based on the life of an Uttarakhand farmer Vidya dutt has been nominated for the Oscars.
- The documentary film has been directed by Nirmal Chander.
- The film shows how the 83-year-old struggles to keep his farm alive and till the uninhabited hilly lands.

About Oscars awards:

1. Presented by: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
2. Country: United States
3. First awarded: May 16, 1929; 90 years ago

5. Overview of 71st Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards for 2019

- The 71st annual Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony for 2019 was held over two nights on September 14- 15, 2019 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, United States.
- They were presented in technical and acting categories. They were given away before 71st Emmy Awards (Primetime Emmy Awards) scheduled to be held on September 22, 2019.

6. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was conferred 2019 Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award in Dhaka

- Bangladesh Prime Minister(PM) Sheik Hasina was awarded DrKalamSmriti International Excellence Award for the year 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- She was awarded by T.P. Sreenivasan, Chief Adviser of the DrKalamSmriti International Advisory Council former ambassador , for her contribution in holding a healthy relation between India and Bangladesh, International peace and cooperation.
- With this award, Hasina has so far received 37 international accolades.

Sports

1. Anurag Thakur announces cricket and sports academy for Leh

- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur announced that a cricket and sports academy will be set up in Leh, Ladakh.
- This cricket and sports academy will ensure that talented athletes of the region get the required training to excel. He also joined Army personnel in Leh to carry out a cleanliness drive to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 69th birthday.

Obituaries

1. Veteran Malayalam Actor Sathar Passes Away

- Veteran Kerala actor Sathar passed away.
- He made his acting debut in 1975 with Malayalam movie Bharyaye Aavashyamundu directed by M. Krishnan Nair & in 1976 with Vincent Master's directorial Anavaranam.
- He was acted in more than 300 films, majority of them in Malayalam.

2. Film editor Sanjib Kumar Datta passes away

- Film editor Sanjib Kumar Datta, who has movies like Iqbal, Ek Hasina Thi and Mardaani to his credit, passed away.
- He was an alumnus of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and worked as an assistant to late editor Renu Saluja. His first big project was the 1998 film Bada Din.

3. Former Dutch football player Fernando Ricksen passes away

- The former Rangers and Netherlands football player Fernando Ricksen passed away at the age of 43.
- He earned 12 caps for the Netherlands between 2000 and 2003.
- In six years (2000-2006) with the club of Rangers (Glasgow, Scotland), he also won 2 Scottish Premier League titles, 2 Scottish Cups and 3 Scottish League Cups.

4. Famous filmmaker Shyam Ramsay passes away

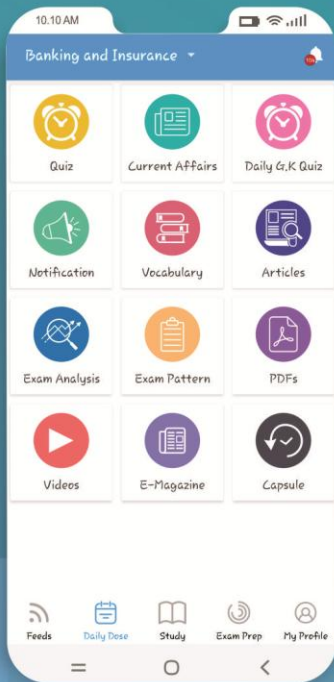
- Bollywood's famous horror film producer Shyam Ramsay passed away. He helmed horror movies like Andhera (1975), Saboot (1980), Purana Mandir (1984), Purani Haveli (1989), Dhund: The Fog (2003), Koi Hai (2017).
- He pioneered the horror genre on Indian television too, giving us the first horror series- The Zee Horror Show which ran from 1993 to 2001.

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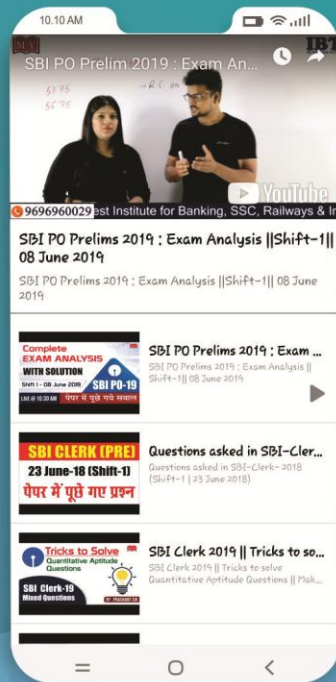
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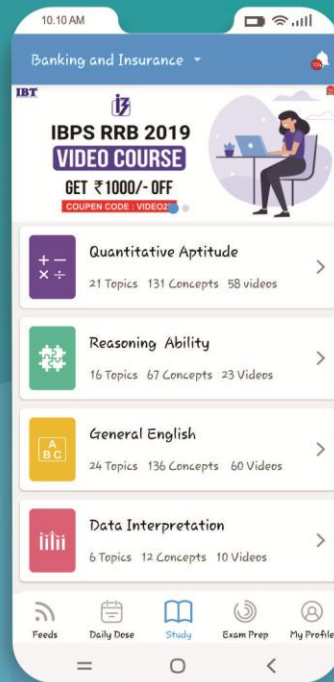
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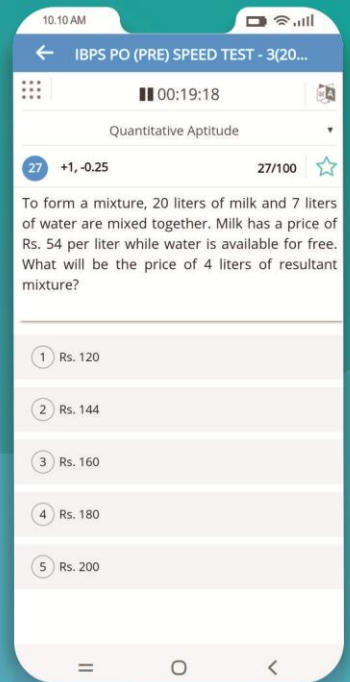
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