

# WEEKLY G.K.

02 December – 08 December  
2019

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## National News

### 1. Taxation Laws Bill, 2019, will amend the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No 2) Act 2019.

- ✚ The Centre in the Lok Sabha on moved the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill 2019 for its passage, seeking changes in the Income Tax law aimed at lowering tax rate options to domestic companies to promote growth and investment and attract fresh investment in the manufacturing sector.
- ✚ The Bill seeking amendment to the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and to amend the Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 was moved in the House by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

#### Foot Notes:

**Finance Minister:** Nirmala Sitharaman

### 2. India's first maritime museum coming up at Lothal in Gujarat

- ✚ Underwater or marine archaeology in India is all set to get a boost with the government deciding to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal, a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat.
- ✚ The museum will also be an independent research centre of underwater archaeology for reconstruction of maritime history, archaeology of boat building and materials traded.
- ✚ Underwater archaeology is a specialized branch of archaeology that involves recovering submerged remains such as ports, shipwrecks and studying proxy records of maritime activity from archaeological excavations as well as archival and historical records.

#### Foot Notes:

**About Gujarat**

**Chief Minister:** Vijay Rupani

**Capital:** Gandhinagar

**Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

### 3. Vice President launches 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem'

- ✚ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the "Bharatiya Poshan Anthem" which aims at taking the message of making India malnutrition free to all corners of the country.
- ✚ The anthem has been penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.
- ✚ Poshan Abhiyan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018 with an objective to make India malnutrition free by 2022.

### 4. Mumbai Central gets first 'Eat Right Station' certification from FSSAI

- ✚ The Mumbai Central station of Railways was conferred with the 'Eat Right Station' certification with four stars rating by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), as a part of 'Eat Right India' movement launched last year.
- ✚ According to a press note, the Mumbai Central Railway Station is the country's first "Eat Right Station."
- ✚ "Mumbai Central station has been judged on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, transshipment and retail/serving point, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal food and creating awareness on food safety and healthy diet," as per a press note.

#### Foot Notes:

**About Maharashtra**

**Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**Capital:** Mumbai

**Chief Minister:** Uddhav Thackeray

**5. Global Climate Risk Index 2020: India fifth most affected country in 2018**

- ✚ India was the fifth most climate-affected country in 2018, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 released on December 4, 2019.
- ✚ India also recorded the highest number of fatalities due to climate change in 2018. The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 is published by International Environmental think tank Germanwatch.
- ✚ The Climate Risk Index 2020 published its results after assessing 181 countries and quantifying the impacts of climate change through economic fatalities.

**6. Cabinet clears Citizenship Amendment Bill, Govt gears up for crucial Parliament test**

- ✚ The Union Cabinet cleared the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill for Parliament to take over. The Bill is now likely to be tabled in the Lok Sabha for clearance. The Parliament is likely to take up the Citizenship Amendment Bill next week.
- ✚ The Citizenship Bill seeks to grant citizenship to all non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan if they faced religious persecution in these neighboring countries.
- ✚ Union minister Rajnath Singh asked BJP MPs to be present in large numbers in the Parliament when Home Minister Amit Shah tables the Citizenship Bill in Parliament.

**7. Odisha Govt launches "MadhuApp" for school children**

- ✚ Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched a smart learning phone application "MadhuApp" for school children. The app named after 'Utkal Gourab' Madhusudan Das, has been developed by the Ganjam district administration in accordance with the 5T initiative of the state government.
- ✚ Launching the App, Chief Minister interacted with students from Ganjam District through video conferencing and advised them to focus on their studies to make the state and country proud.

**Foot Notes:****About Odisha****Capital:** Bhubaneswar**Governor:** Ganeshi Lal**Chief minister:** Naveen Patnaik**8. EC to implement Political Parties RTMS**

- ✚ The Election Commission of India will implement the political parties Registration Tracking Management System (RTMS). It will be implemented through an online portal to facilitate tracking of the status of the application by applicants.
- ✚ The Commission said, the applicant who is applying for party registration from 1st January 2020 onwards will be able to track the progress of his or her application and will get status through SMS and email.
- ✚ Chief Election Commissioner : Sunil Arora

**9. Avantee mega Food Park inaugurated in MP's Dewas**

- ✚ In Madhya Pradesh, Union Minister for food processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas.
- ✚ This first food park of central India is spread over 51 acres and has been constructed at a cost of about 150 crore rupees.
- ✚ About 5 thousand local people will get employment from this Mega Food Park. Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameshwar Teli was also present on the inaugural ceremony.

**Foot Notes:****About Madhya Pradesh****Governor:** Lalji Tandon**Capital:** Bhopal**Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath

**10. Cabinet approves Personal Data Protection Bill 2019**

- ✚ The Cabinet approved Data Protection bill to be tabled in Lok Sabha. The bill lays down legal framework to preserve sanctity in data sharing. The Draft of the bill was released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2018.
- ✚ The bill provides rules for collection, storage and handling of personal data. It regulates the processing of personal data of individuals incorporated in India and abroad.
- ✚ The bill makes it compulsory for the collecting authority to store the data within the territory of India. The bill divides data into three types namely critical, general and sensitive. The sensitive data are the data that are related to passwords, health, finances, religion, biometric and sexual orientation.

**11. India Water Impact Summit-2019 to be held from 5th-7th December in New Delhi.**

- ✚ Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate India Water Impact Summit 2018, being jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) from 5-7 December 2018 in New Delhi.
- ✚ The India Water Impact Summit is an annual event where stakeholders get together to discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of the biggest water related problems in the country. The discussions this year will be on rejuvenation of the Ganga River Basin.

**Foot Notes:**

**Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation:** Shri Nitin Gadkari

**12. MHA sanctions Rs 100 cr to set up women help desks in police stations.**

- ✚ A home ministry statement said the women help desks would focus on making police stations more women-friendly and approachable, as they would be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station.
- ✚ The ministry has sanctioned a sum Rs 100 crore from the Nirbhaya fund for setting up and strengthening of the women help desks in police stations, the statement said.
- ✚ The scheme would be implemented by the states and Union Territories, and lady police officers would be deployed at these help desks.
- ✚ The officials of women help desks would be trained to be sensitive towards women. These help desks would have enlisted panel of experts like lawyers, psychologists and NGOs to facilitate legal aid, counselling, shelter, rehabilitation and training among others.

**Foot Notes:**

**Home Minister:** Amit Shah

**Home Secretary:** Ajay Kumar Bhalla

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**13. Piyush Goyal inaugurates third edition of National Public Procurement Conclave**

- ✚ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the third edition of National Public Procurement Conclave in New Delhi today.
- ✚ The two-day conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace, GeM in association with Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ✚ In his inaugural address, Mr Goyal said, GeM epitomizes the speed, skill and scale which is essential in an e-marketplace platform. He further said that GeM rests on the three pillars of openness, fairness and inclusiveness and is a symbol of a truly transparent e-marketplace.
- ✚ The Minister hoped that during this conclave, a road map for the future of GeM will be put in place that will unify all government procurement, across all Ministries and Departments.

**Foot Notes:**

**Commerce and Industry Minister:** Piyush Goyal

**14. India's top 10 Police Stations for 2019 announced: Andaman tops the list**

- ✚ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOH) has released the list of best performing Police Stations across the country for the year 2019. Aberdeen police station from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Balasinor police station from Gujarat and Ajk Burhanpur from Madhya Pradesh take the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively.
- ✚ The grading system of the police stations comes after the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the DsGP (State Police Chief) during the 2015 Conference held in Kutch, Gujarat.

**15. SC ruled that no pension will be given for govt staff who resign**

- ✚ SC's move is to make a distinction between voluntary retirement and resignation. This cause impacts the pensionary benefits under the Rules while deciding a case relating to the resignation of an employee.
- ✚ The Supreme Court (SC) ruled that an employee will become ineligible for a pension when he resigns because he forfeits his past service. It was passed under the Central Civil Services Pension Rules (CCS Pension Rules).
- ✚ SC's move is to make a distinction between voluntary retirement and resignation. This cause impacts the pensionary benefits under the Rules while deciding a case relating to the resignation of an employee.

**Foot Notes:**

**Chief Justice of India:** Sharad Arvind Bobde

## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

**1. Saudi Arabia recently became the first Arab Nation to assume the G20 Presidency.**

- ✚ Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation to take over the G20 presidency as it seeks to bounce back onto the world stage following global uproar over its human rights record. The G20 presidency, which Saudi Arabia takes over from Japan, will see it host world leaders for a global summit in its capital next November 21-22.
- ✚ Saudi Arabia will host more than 100 events and conferences in the run-up to the summit, including ministerial meetings, the agency said.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Saudi Arabia**

**King:** Salman of Saudi Arabia



**Capital:** Riyadh  
**Currency:** Saudi riyal

## 2. Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland

- ✚ The Hornbill Festival was inaugurated on December 01 in Kohima, the capital of Nagaland.
- ✚ Nagaland got a state status on 01 December 1963. Nagaland was the 16th state of India. The festival will conclude on 10 December.
- ✚ The festival is named after a bird named Indian Hornbill. Cultural presentations, sports competitions, and food stalls, etc. are organized during this festival.

### Foot Notes:

#### About Nagaland

**Capital:** Kohima

**Governor:** RN Ravi

**Chief Minister:** Neiphiu Rio

## 3. Hollywood actor Joaquin Phoenix named 2019 PETA Person of the Year

- ✚ "Joker" star Joaquin Phoenix has been named 2019 Person of the Year by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- ✚ According to The Hollywood Reporter, Phoenix is vegan since the age of three and has been a longtime supporter of the animal rights organisation.
- ✚ He recently appeared in PETA's "We Are All Animals" billboards in Times Square and on Sunset Billboard as he promoted legislation to ban travelling wild-animal circuses.

### Foot Notes:

#### About PETA

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

**Founded:** 22 March 1980

**Headquarters:** Norfolk, Virginia, United States

**Motto:** "Animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way."

**President:** Ingrid Newkirk

## 4. Finland's PM resigns after losing trust of coalition partner

- ✚ Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne resigned after a member of the ruling coalition said it had lost confidence in him following a series of disruptive strikes.
- ✚ The Center Party asked Rinne to step down after a more than two-week strike at Finland's state postal service, Posti, spread to the national airline, Finnair, and to other industries before being settled last week.

### Foot Notes:

#### About Finland

**Capital:** Helsinki

**Currency:** Euro

## 5. Malta PM Joseph Muscat to resign amid journalist murder probe protests

- ✚ Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, under fire over his handling of the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, he would step down after his replacement is chosen in January.
- ✚ Muscat declined to make a link with Caruana Galizia's 2017 murder, saying in a televised address that he was resigning "as this is what needs to be done."

**6. India 5th worst country in terms of invasive use of biometric data.**

- ✚ According to a new report from Comparitech, a Britain-based tech research firm, India is fifth worst country after China, Malaysia, Pakistan and United States in terms of extensive and invasive use of biometric data.
- ✚ The study was conducted based on- 50 different countries were analysed to find out where biometrics are being taken, what they are being taken for, and how they are being stored.
- ✚ Each country was scored out of 25, with high scores indicating extensive and invasive use of biometrics/ surveillance. India scored 19 and was ranked relatively lower in the list of worst countries for biometric data collection.

**7. Uttarakhand: Swedish royal couple inaugurate Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant.**

- ✚ King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurated a 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) here on Thursday. The Swedish royal couple jointly inaugurated the STP in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, state Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj and Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ✚ The STP has been constructed at a cost of Rs 41.40 crore under the Centre's Namami Gange programme. The Swedish King and Queen arrived in the state earlier in the day for a visit to Ram Jhula Bridge in Rishikesh and Bathing Ghat in Haridwar.
- ✚ The royal couple, who are on a five-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral ties, was received by the state Protocol Minister Dhan Singh Rawat at the Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun.

**Foot Notes:**

**Uttarakhand Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya

**Uttarakhand Chief Minister:** Trivender Singh Rawat

**8. NATO Summit 2019 held in Watford, United Kingdom.**

- ✚ The United Kingdom(UK) hosted two days organized 2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit in London. The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit. It was attended by NATO leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.
- ✚ The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

**Foot Notes:**

**NATO Headquarters:** Brussels

**NATO Secretary General:** Jens Stoltenberg

**9. India's forex reserves cross \$450 billion for the first time.**

- ✚ The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$450-billion mark for the first time ever on the back of strong inflows which enabled the central bank to buy dollars from the market, thus checking any sharp appreciation of the rupee.
- ✚ "India's foreign exchange reserves were at \$451.7 billion on December 3, 2019 — an increase of \$38.8 billion over end-March 2019," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at the post monetary policy press conference. At \$451.7 billion, the country's import cover is now over 11 months.

**10. Zozibini Tunzi was crowned as the 2019 Miss Universe**

- ✚ South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi was crowned as the Miss Universe 2019. Zozibini and Miss Universe Puerto Rico Madison Anderson were the top two contestants for the 2019 Miss Universe title.
- ✚ Miss Universe Mexico Sofia Aragon won third place. Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray crowned Zozibini Tunzi, the winner of the title, at the event held in Atlanta on 8 December.
- ✚ Zozibini Tunzi, 26-year-old, is from South Africa. She fights against gender-based violence. She devoted her social media campaign to change the narrative around gender stereotypes. She is a proud advocate for natural beauty. She encourages women to love themselves the way they are.

**Foot Notes:**

**Winner:** Zozibini Tunzi, South Africa

**Runner up:** Madison Anderson, Puerto Rico

**3rd place:** Sofia Aragon, Mexico

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

### **1. Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi resigns**

- ✚ Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi has submitted his resignation to Parliament amid ongoing anti-government protests across the country.
- ✚ The formal resignation came after an emergency cabinet session in which ministers approved the document and the resignation of key staffers, including Abdul Mahdi's chief of staff.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Iraq**

**President:** Barham Salih

**Capital :** Baghdad

**Currency:** Iraqi dinar

### **2. Pritivirajsing Roopun appointed as new President of Mauritius by the Parliament**

- ✚ Lawmakers in Mauritius picked former arts and culture minister Pritivirajsing Roopun as president of the island nation, a largely ceremonial post.
- ✚ His predecessor Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned in March 2018 after being embroiled in a scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items. She denied wrongdoing.
- ✚ In Mauritius, the prime minister is head of the government and holds most political power while the president is head of state but has no executive role and is considered the guardian of the constitution.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Mauritius**

**Capital:** Port Louis

**Currency:** Mauritian rupee

### **3. Hari Mohan took charge as the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).**

- ✚ Senior officer Hari Mohan took charge as the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). He replaced Saurabh Kumar who was superannuated from the services.
- ✚ Hari Mohan is a 1982-batch Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS) officer. He topped at University of Allahabad and University of Pune post-graduate degree in mechanical engineering.
- ✚ With his almost four decades of service, Mohan contributed significantly at various positions including Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Haridwar, Ordnance Factory Chanda and Ordnance Factory Dehu Road, Maharashtra, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Engine Factory Avadi, Heavy Vehicle Factory Avadi, Ammunition Factory Khadki, Ordnance Factory Bolangir, Odisha, OFB New Delhi Office and Ministry of Steel & Mines.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Hari Mohan**

**Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**

**Founded on:** 1712

**Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal

**Director-General and Chairman:** Saurabh Kumar



**4. Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO**

- ✦ Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO after Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.
- ✦ Google CEO Indian-American Sundar Pichai will be assuming the role of Alphabet Inc CEO, making him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world.
- ✦ Alphabet and Google no longer need two CEOs and a President and Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.

**Foot Notes:****About Google**

**Google established:** 4 September 1998.

**Headquarters:** Mountain View, California, United States.

**5. Kiren Rijiju announces Ripu Daman Bevli as Plogging Ambassador of India.**

- ✦ Fit India Plogging Run, which was launched on October 2, 2019, concluded today in Delhi's Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, having covered 50 cities across the country.
- ✦ During the event, Minister of State(I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju felicitated Ripu Daman Bevli, popularly known as the Plogman of India and named him the Plogging Ambassador of India. The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.

**6. K Vijay Kumar appointed senior security advisor in MHA**

- ✦ K Vijay Kumar has been appointed as a senior security advisor in the Union Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah. The 1975 batch officer of Indian Police Service will "advise the ministry on security-related matters of Union Territory of J&K and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States.
- ✦ He will be in the position for a period of 1-year from the date of his taking charge. He has served as Director-General of CRPF, Director of National Police Academy in Hyderabad and his most talked-about stint was as the chief of the Tamil Nadu police special task force that killed forest brigand Veerappan in 2004.
- ✦ After his retirement from service and as DG, CRPF in 2012, Kumar was appointed as senior security advisor LWE in the Home Ministry then headed by Rajnath Singh.

**Foot Notes:**

**Governor:** G. C. Murmu

**7. National Stock Exchange appoints Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new Chairman**

- ✦ Leading stock exchange NSE it has appointed Public Interest Director Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new chairman.
- ✦ The position was vacant since Ashok Chawla resigned as the chairman of the National Stock Exchange(NSE) in January.
- ✦ The board and the management of NSE has welcomed Chaturvedi, a retired IAS officer and former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, as the new chairman of the NSE.

## **Banking**

**1. Masatsugu Asakawa elected ADB President**

- ✦ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) board has unanimously elected Masatsugu Asakawa as its new President.

- ✚ He is currently a special advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, will assume office as ADB's 10th President on January 17, 2020. He will succeed Takehiko Nakao, who will leave office on January 16, 2020.
- ✚ He served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo from 2012 to 2015 and at Saitama University from 2006 to 2009.

**Foot Notes:****About Asian Development Bank****Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines**ADB established:** 1966**Membership:** 68 countries**2. Walmart launches credit card in partnership with HDFC Bank**

- ✚ Walmart India, in partnership with HDFC Bank, launched a co-branded credit card exclusively for members of its Best Price Modern Wholesale "B2B Cash & Carry" stores, offering "free credit up to 50 days."
- ✚ The card is being supported by Diners Club International which has acceptance of its own membership card in 185 countries.

**Foot Notes:****About Walmart****Headquarters :** Gurgaon, Haryana.**President and CEO of Walmart India:** Krish Iyer.**3. RBI releases guidelines for on-tap licensing of Small Finance Banks in the private sector.**

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today has released "Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector". Major changes from the earlier Guidelines on Small Finance Banks dated 27 November 2014, are

- The licensing window will be open on-tap;
- minimum paid-up voting equity capital / net worth requirement shall be Rs 200 crore;
- for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), desirous of voluntarily transiting into Small Finance Banks (SFBs) initial requirement of net worth shall be at Rs 100 crore, which will have to be increased to Rs 200 crore within five years from the date of commencement of business. Incidentally, the net-worth of all SFBs currently in operation is in excess of Rs 200 crore;
- SFBs will be given scheduled bank status immediately upon commencement of operations;
- SFBs will have general permission to open banking outlets from the date of commencement of operations;
- Payments Banks can apply for conversion into SFB after five years of operations, if they are otherwise eligible as per these guidelines.

**Foot Notes:****Governor of the RBI:** Shaktikanta Das**RBI Headquarters:** Mumbai**4. BlackBuck partners with IDFC Bank, Yes Bank to offer free FASTags to truckers.**

- ✚ Online trucking platform BlackBuck on Thursday said it has partnered with private lenders IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to provide FASTags to truck owners free of cost.
- ✚ Truck owners can order FASTags on BlackBuck's Boss App, a digital services platform exclusively for truck fleet owners, and it will be delivered at their doorstep free of cost until December 31, 2019, the company said in a statement.

**5. NEFT transactions to be made 24×7 from December 16**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India announced round-the-clock transactions will be allowed 24×7 facility under the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system on all days including weekends and holidays from December 16.
- ✦ These transactions after the usual banking hours are set to be automated initiated using 'Straight Through Processing (STP)' modes by the banks. The existing discipline for crediting the beneficiary's account or returning the transaction within 2 hours of settlement to the originating bank will also continue.
- ✦ Member banks are also advised to initiate necessary action and ensure availability of all necessary infrastructural requirements at their end for providing seamless NEFT 24×7 facility to their customers.

**Foot Notes:****About Reserve Bank of India****RBI 25th Governor:** Shaktikant Das**Headquarters:** Mumbai**Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata

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## Science Tech & Defence

**1. Sub-lieutenant Shivangi becomes 1st woman of Indian Navy; to fly Dornier surveillance aircraft.**

- ✦ Shivangi Swaroop has become the first woman pilot to fly Indian Navy fixed-wing Dornier surveillance planes. She has joined the Indian Navy as the first female pilot on December 2, 2019. She will be involved in Operation Duty in Kochi.
- ✦ Sub-lieutenant Shivangi is from Muzaffarpur in Bihar. She has done her studies from DAV Public School. After completing school education, Lieutenant Shivangi did B.Tech from Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology.
- ✦ Bhawna Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force this year after qualifying all the required tests.

**2. ISRO to launch second 'spy' satellite RISAT-2BR1 on December 11 to enhance India's surveillance capability**

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 that would enhance the country's surveillance capabilities, The Times of India has reported, citing sources in the space agency.
- ✦ According to the report, ISRO is looking to launch the satellite with the help of PSLV-C48 rocket from Sriharikota on December 11.
- ✦ This will be the second in the RISAT-series satellites. The first in the bunch was RISAT-2B (Radar Imaging Satellite-2B), which was put into orbit on May 22. Dubbed as a 'spy' satellite, RISAT-2B was launched to replace its predecessor RISAT-2, which was used by India to monitor activities in terror camps across the border in Pakistan to thwart infiltration bids by terrorists.

**Foot Notes:****About ISRO****Headquarters:** Bengaluru**Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai

**Founded:** 15 August 1969

**Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan

### 3. India test-fires surface-to-surface nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile of 350-km range off Odisha coast

- ✦ India conducted a night trial of its indigenously developed, nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile off Odisha coast.
- ✦ The Strategic Forces Command conducted the night trial of short-range ballistic missile Prithvi-II from launch complex-3 of Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, said defence sources.
- ✦ The missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was test-fired at 7.48 p.m. on Tuesday, the sources added. The last night time test of the Prithvi-II was on November 20 this year. Prithvi-II, which is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. It was inducted into the Indian defence forces in 2003.

### 4. Exercise Indra between India, Russia to be conducted from Dec 10-19

- ✦ Exercise Indra 2019, a joint, tri-services exercise between India and Russia will be conducted in India from December 10 to 19 simultaneously at Babina, near Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Pune, and Goa.
- ✦ The Indra series of exercise began in 2003 and the first joint tri-services exercise was conducted in 2017.
- ✦ Company-sized mechanized contingents, fighter and transport aircraft, as well as ships of respective Army, Air Force, and Navy, will participate in this exercise of ten days duration. The exercise will consist of a five-day training phase consisting of a comprehensive training curriculum.

#### Foot Notes:

**Chief of Indian Army:** General Bipin Rawat

**Chief of Indian Navy:** Karambir Singh

**Chief of Indian Air Force:** Rakesh Kumar Singh

### 5. Chief of the Air Staff participates in Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019

- ✦ Chief of the Air Staff of India is participating in the Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 (PACS 2019) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.
- ✦ The theme for this year's symposium is 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'. The conference will bring together Air Chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region who will provide perspectives on common challenges faced and on shared mutual interests while focusing on relevant topics like 'Regional Security', 'Domain Awareness', 'Multi-Domain Awareness', 'Interoperability' and 'HADR'.
- ✦ The symposium will also entail discourse and discussions on the combined effort required to maintain peace and security within the region.

#### Foot Notes:

**Chief of the Air Staff:** Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

### 6. CSIR and BHEL join hands for commercialization of indigenous technologies.

- ✦ Soon Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) would start commercialization of various indigenous technologies developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). CSIR and BHEL have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate, collaborate and pursue industrial application oriented research programmes and its commercialization in large scale.
- ✦ The first joint project to be taken up under this collaboration shall be for commercialization by BHEL of various water purification / sewage disposal related technologies developed by CSIR.

#### Foot Notes:

**CSIR Headquarters:** New Delhi

**BHEL Headquarters:** New Delhi

## Important Days

### 1. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December

- ✚ The United Nations observes International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2nd of December every year.
- ✚ The day focuses on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- ✚ According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery. Also, more than 150 million children are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Iraq

**Headquarters:** New York, USA;

**Founded:** 24 October 1945.

**Secretary-General:** Antonio Guterres.

### 2. International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December

- ✚ International Day of Persons with Disabilities is being observed on the 3rd of December every year.
- ✚ This day is observed to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.
- ✚ The theme this year is – Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

### 3. Navy Day celebrated to mark Indian Navy's attack on Karachi harbour on December 4, 1971

- ✚ Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 in commemoration of Operation Trident, the attack launched by the Indian Navy on Karachi harbour during 1971's Indo-Pakistan war.
- ✚ It was for the first time that an anti-ship missile was used in the operation.
- ✚ The operation was conducted on the night of December 4-5 and it inflicted heavy damage on Pakistani vessels. India did not suffer any loss during the operation.

#### Foot Notes:

**Chief of the Naval Staff:** Chief Admiral Karambir Singh.

### 4. International Volunteer Day: 5 December

- ✚ The International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed across the world on 5 December every year.
- ✚ This year theme is "Volunteer for an inclusive future".
- ✚ This year's theme highlighting Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10) and the pursuit of equality including inclusion through volunteerism.

### 5. World Soil Day: 5 December

- ✚ World Soil Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of December at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This year, by addressing the increasing challenges of soil management, the FAO campaign "Stop soil erosion, Save our future" aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being.
- ✚ By encouraging people around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health, the campaign also aims to raise the profile of healthy soil.
- ✚ The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), in 2002, adopted a resolution proposing the 5th of December as World Soil Day to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human well-being.



**Foot Notes:****About Food and Agriculture Organization****Headquarters:** Rome, Italy**6. Armed Forces Flag Day: 7 December**

- ✚ Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7th of December every year across the country to honour the martyrs and Armed Forces personnel, who safeguard the mother land. The day provides an opportunity to express gratitude to the nation towards forces guarding the borders and their families.
- ✚ The fund collected on this day is used for the welfare of the serving personnel and ex-servicemen. The day reminds that the welfare of the soldiers and their families is the responsibility of the entire nation.
- ✚ Chief of the Army Staff: General Bipin Rawat

**7. SAARC Charter Day celebrated on December 8**

- ✚ On 8th of December in 1985, the leader of the Seven South Asian Countries (means Maldives, India, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladeshi and Sri Lanka) had signed the contract (means charter) in order to set up the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- ✚ SAARC was joined by the Afghanistan as a Member in the month of April, 2007. Accordingly, 8th December is being celebrated as SAARC Charter Day.

**Foot Notes:****About SAARC****Founded:** 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh**Headquarters:** Kathmandu, Nepal**Currencies:** Afghan afghani**8. International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December**

- ✚ International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December 2019. It is celebrated every year. The day aims to celebrate the unique role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.
- ✚ The Day aims to create awareness about the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States.

**Foot Notes:****About International Civil Aviation Day****Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada**Head:** Fang Liu**Founder:** Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation**Founded:** 1944

## Sports

**1. GS Lakshmi has become the first woman match referee to oversee a Men ODI**

- ✚ Former India cricketer GS Lakshmi has become the first woman match referee to oversee a men's One Day International (ODI). She officiated the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✚ Lakshmi will oversee the match between the UAE and the US at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.
- ✚ This is the second significant achievement for Lakshmi in 2019. The first achievement of Lakshmi was her appointment as the first woman onto the ICC International Panel of Match Referees in May. Lakshmi, 51, was first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket matches in 2008-09. She has now overseen 16 men's T20 Internationals, 3 women's ODI matches, and seven women's T20 Internationals.

## **Books and Authors**

### **1. 'The Vault of Vishnu', by author Ashwin Sanghi, to release in January 2020**

- ✚ Bestselling author Ashwin Sanghi will come out with his next book, "The Vault of Vishnu", on January 23, 2020, announced publishing house Westland.
- ✚ The book, which will be the sixth installment of the author's famous mythological 'Bharat series', will be released at the upcoming Jaipur Literature festival (JLF).
- ✚ "'The Vault of Vishnu' is no different, just one difference that almost one half of the story is set in a land that I was not too familiar with -- China.



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## **Awards**

### **1. New Zealand win Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for 2019**

- ✚ New Zealand cricket team was awarded the Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for 2019. The Kane Williamson-led team's on and off-field display during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup final at Lord's has earned them the award. New Zealand gained praise for their humility after losing the premier tournament.
- ✚ The award, which was created in 2013, was the brainchild of the MCC and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). It was created in memory of Martin-Jenkins, the former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator, to honour his longstanding passion and desire to see the game played in the right spirit.
- ✚ Williamson was presented with the award during the drawn second Test between his team and England. Kumar Sangakkara, the president of the Marylebone Cricket Club, one of the creators of the award, said New Zealand are worthy winners of the award.

### **2. VP Naidu presents Uttar Pradesh with National Award for Excellence for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**

- ✚ Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment conferred Uttar Pradesh with the National Award of Excellence, which was given by Vice president M Venkaiah Naidu, for doing a commendable job in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (Divyangjan).
- ✚ The award was received by Uttar Pradesh Additional Chief Secretary (Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities) Mahesh Kumar Gupta on behalf of the state government. Besides, Shabina Saifi (Lucknow), Vidisha (Ghaziabad), Seema Tiwari (Jhansi) and Priyanka Devi (Lucknow) received national awards in different categories.

#### **Foot Notes:**

**About Uttar Pradesh**

**Governor:** Anandiben Patel

**Capital:** Lucknow

**Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath

### 3. Priyanka Chopra honoured with UNICEF's Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award

- ✦ Priyanka Chopra has been awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award from UNICEF. Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra is quite active not only in the entertainment and fashion world but also in social work. The award was announced in June 2019 and Priyanka was nominated for the award by the United Nations Children's Fund.
- ✦ Priyanka Chopra has been associated with UNICEF for the past 15 years as a Goodwill Ambassador. Now she has been awarded UNICEF's 'Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award' for her work. She was awarded this honor in the presence of many eminent personalities at the Snowflake Ball in New York.

#### Foot Notes:

**About The United Nations Children's Fund**

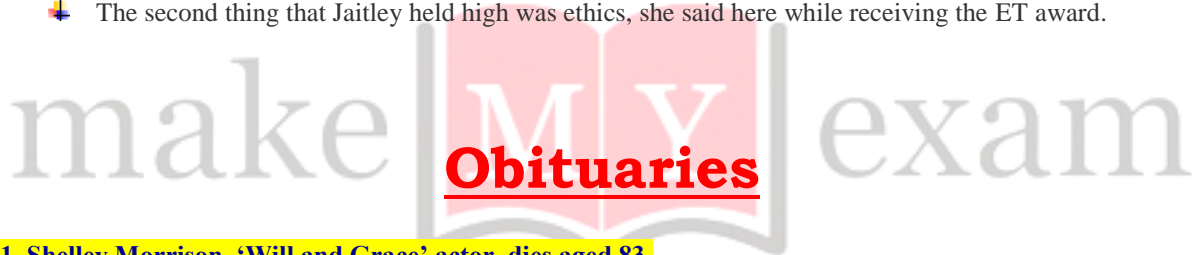
**Headquarters:** New York, United States

**Head:** Henrietta H. Fore

**Founded:** 11 December 1946

### 4. Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley conferred with ET Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✦ Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was conferred posthumously the Lifetime Achievement award for Public Service at the Economic Times Award 2019. Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was conferred posthumously the Lifetime Achievement award for Public Service at the Economic Times Award 2019.
- ✦ The second thing that Jaitley held high was ethics, she said here while receiving the ET award.



### 1. Shelley Morrison, 'Will and Grace' actor, dies aged 83.

- ✦ Shelley Morrison, best known for her role as maid Rosario Salazar in the US comedy Will and Grace, has died at the age of 83 from heart failure following a short illness.
- ✦ Born to Sephardic Jewish parents who emigrated to the US from Spain, Morrison appeared in 68 episodes of the pioneering LGBT comedy between 1999 and 2006.

### 2. Veteran journalist Bhaskar Menon passes away

- ✦ Bhaskar Menon, Veteran Journalist in the Press Trust of India (PTI) passes away.
- ✦ He was the Regional Manager in the south division of the PTI.
- ✦ He has also handled many crucial news like the assassination of former Prime Minister (PM) of India, Rajiv Gandhi in the year 1991.

### 3. Former England fast bowler Bob Willis (90 Tests, 325 wickets) dies at the age of 70

- ✦ Former England cricket captain and 1981 Ashes hero Bob Willis has died aged 70 after a short illness, his family said in a statement on Wednesday.
- ✦ The fast-bowler played in 90 Tests and 64 one-day internationals for England over more than a decade after his debut in 1971, retiring in 1984.
- ✦ Willis, who finished his test career with 325 wickets despite bowling with pain from 1975 after surgery on both knees, worked for the broadcaster as a cricket expert after his retirement.

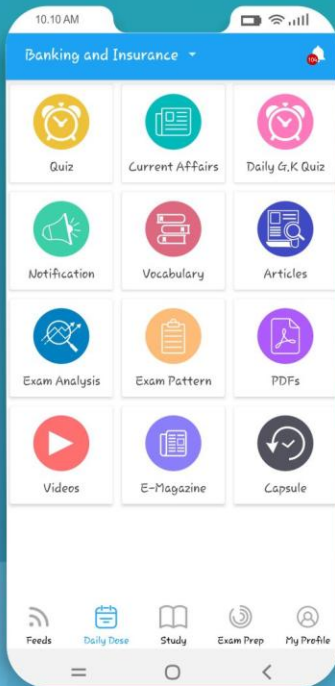


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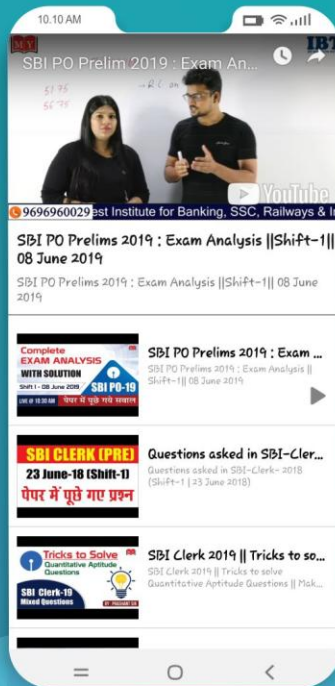
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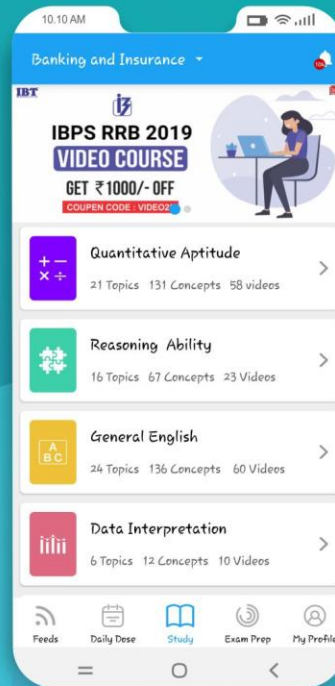
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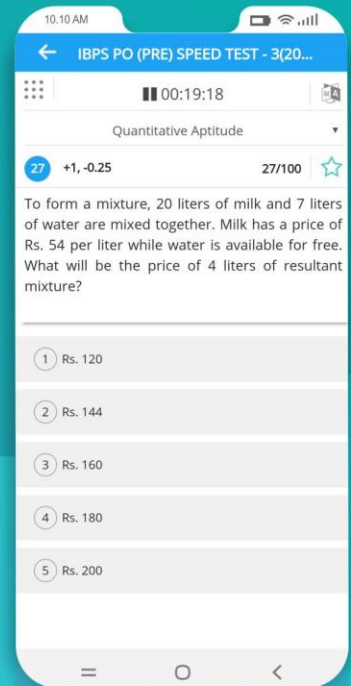
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