



WEEKLY G.K.

**29 July – 04 August
(2019)**

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National News

✚ 1. Glorious Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019 begins in Puri, Odisha

- The world famous Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019 (also known as Chariot Festival) began at Puri in Odisha. The religious procession commemorates a journey by Hindu god Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, in specially made chariots as they travel to Gundicha temple, their birthplace.
- Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019
- The Rath Yatra draws lakhs of devotees from across the country. The Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri coincides with Gujarat's Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra where it marks 142nd annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath.
- President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Yatra.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Odisha

1. **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
2. **Chief minister:** Naveen Patnaik
3. **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal

✚ 2. India Post Payments Bank will be converted into SFB: postal Department

- The postal department has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB) with the aim to provide micro-credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's (Small and medium-sized enterprises).
The postal department also sets a target to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

❖ Foot points

- The decision was taken during the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to adopt a 100-day action plan and a five-year vision to align the Department of Posts with the Prime Minister's New India initiative.

➤ About IPPB:

1. **Founded:** 1 September 2018
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
3. **Parent organization:** India Post
4. **MD & CEO:** Suresh Sethi

✚ 3. Pilot basis of one Nation one ration card scheme launched in 4 States

- In order to boost the National Food Security, pilot basis of One Nation One Ration Card scheme was launched by the government in four states namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
Families holding this card can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these four states.

❖ Foot points

- This program is expected to be implemented by August next year.
- A trial run of the project was conducted by the Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation last week where consumers from Andhra Pradesh bought their commodities from the fair price shop in Hyderabad.
- White ration card holders in Telangana can buy the subsidized rice and wheat from any fair price shops in the state and this same facility is available in Andhra Pradesh also through POS (Point Of Sale) machines.
- Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog's AMFFR Index
- Maharashtra achieves first rank in NITI Aayog launched "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)".
- The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- AMFFRI has a score that can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

➤ About NITI Aayog

1. **NITI Aayog CEO:** Amitabh Kant
2. **Vice Chairman:** Rajiv Kumar.

✚ 4. India is the 46th highest risk country in the world: Water Stress Index

- ❖ According to the Water Stress Index, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world. It measured the water consumption rates

of households, industries and farm sectors and the available resources in rivers, lakes and streams and plotted the index with projected population growth trends to rank the cities facing the biggest threat to their water resources. Chennai is the “tip of the iceberg” for India’s water stressed cities.

Foot points

- 11 out of India’s 20 largest cities face an ‘extreme risk’ of water stress and 7 are in the ‘high risk’ category. Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Nashik, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Indore are among the cities facing ‘extreme risk’.
- Bengaluru and Surat are experiencing the greatest surge in demand for water and are most at risk of facing scarcity. Chennai and Delhi are also extremely vulnerable.

✚ 5.UP Government to install 251-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram in Ayodhya; Set to become the world’s tallest statue

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has decided to install a 251-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram at Ayodhya which will become the world’s tallest statue surpassing the record held by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s Statue of Unity in Gujarat (182-metre).
- A separate unit of “Rajkiya Nirman Nigam” will be set up for the purpose of installation of the statue.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled the 7-foot tall statue of Lord Ram which depicts Kodamb Ram, one of the five avatars of Lord Ram, during his visit to Ayodhya at the Shodh Sansthan Museum.
- The statue is made of a single block of rosewood and purchased for Rs. 35 lakh from Karnataka.

❖ Foot Notes :

➤ About Uttar Pradesh:

1. **Capital:** Lucknow
2. **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
3. **Wildlife Sanctuary:** Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary
4. **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park

✚ 6.Rajya Sabha passed the IBC amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha approved the amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides clarity about preference to secured lenders over operational creditors.

❖ Foot Notes :

Provisions of the amendments:

- The amendments gives a loan defaulting company explicit authority over the distribution of proceeds of an auction in the resolution process.
- With reference to the IBC, it has fixed a firm timeline of 330 days for resolving cases.
- Clean air initiative launched by India,UK in Bengaluru
A two year UK-India joint initiative , the “Innovation for Clean Air” (IfCA) was launched by the British Deputy High Commissioner Dominic McAllister in Bengaluru to test interventions related to equality and support India’s transition to EV (electric vehicles) integration.

✚ 7.Tarun Chaudhary Becomes First Pilot to Accomplish Wingsuit Skydive Jump

- Wing commander Tarun Chaudhary became the first pilot of Indian Armed Forces (IAF) to do a wingsuit jump.
- Tarun Chaudhary jumped from a Mi-17 helicopter from an altitude of 8500 feet. He has accomplished this feat in first attempt.
- It was for the first time when wingsuit jump demonstration held before an organised gathering. The jump was a tribute to the heroes of the Kargil.

✚ 8.Parliament passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019

- On July 30, 2019, Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019. It was passed with 99 votes in favour and 84 opposed against it. The bill criminalizes instant triple talaq among Muslims and attracts a jail term of three years for the husband.

❖ Foot Notes :

i. Definition: Talaq-e-biddat refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of the word ‘talaq’ thrice in one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.

ii. Benefits: It protects the rights of married Muslim women and prevent divorce by the practice of instantaneous and irrevocable ‘talaq-e-biddat’ by their husbands.

iii. Bail: The Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused only after hearing the woman (against whom talaq has been pronounced)

iv. Compounding of the offence: Upon the request of the woman, the offence may be compounded (stop the legal proceedings) by the Magistrate.

✚ 9. Flipkart launched 'Samarth' initiative to support weavers, artisans and makers of handicrafts to its platform

- Anurag Thakur, Minister of State, Finance and Corporate Affairs and Kalyan Krishnamurthy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Flipkart Group launched 'Samarth', an initiative of Flipkart, to support weavers, artisans and makers of handicrafts to its platform.
- It will help the community to on-board and sell the goods on the internet.
- Flipkart has tied up with 5 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to help the artisans use online marketplace to sell the products.

➤ About Flipkart:

1. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
2. **Founded:** October 2007

✚ 10. J&K District Administration Udhampur launches helpline "Jeene Do"

- Jammu and Kashmir, District Administration Udhampur has launched a helpline, "Jeene Do".
- The objective is to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques PCPNDT Act under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
- A Mobile Number 9469793363 has been dedicated to the public to register complaints regarding sex determination during prenatal checkups.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Jammu & Kashmir

1. **Governor of Jammu & Kashmir:** Satya Pal Malik.

✚ 11. NITI Aayog partners with WhatsApp to promote women entrepreneurs

- NITI Aayog and Facebook-owned WhatsApp, under the aegis of its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), have announced a partnership to support the growth of a robust ecosystem to promote women entrepreneurs in India.
- WhatsApp, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, will announce an annual calendar of events aimed at capacity building of women entrepreneurs and develop specific programmes aimed at addressing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
- The initiative would target the registered users of WEP.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About NITI Aayog

1. **Formed:** 1 January 2015
2. **Objectives:** Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
3. **Jurisdiction:** Government of India
4. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
5. **CEO:** Amitabh Kant

✚ 12. West Bengal Government launched awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean'

- The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in Kolkata, which will be celebrated every year. She participated in the Padayatra for this purpose. Save Green, Stay Clean. The percentage of tree plantation increased to 19% from 11% in the past 8 years.
- State Government will also distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

➤ About West Bengal:

1. **Capital:** Kolkata
2. **Governor:** Jagdeep Dhankhar
3. **National Parks:** Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Singalila National Park, Sunderban National Park, Jaldapara National Park

Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ballavpur WLS, Bethuadahari WLS, Bibhuti Bhusan WLS, Buxa WLS, Chapramari WLS etc

13. "Pink coaches" introduced for women by the Northeast Frontier Railway zone

- As a new initiative that would enhance the security of women, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NRF) zone has introduced pink colored SLRcoach (second Class -cum- Luggage-cum Guard's Coach) for women. NRF Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO)PranavJyoti announced that these pink coaches will help women passengers to identify their coach during rush hours.
- Railway Police Force (RPF) and ticket checking staff will be deployed by the railway authorities to stabilize the new system. Initially a total of 8 trains in Rangiya district have begun the operations.

➤ They are-

- i. 6 trains between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati
- ii. 2 trains between Rangiya and Murkongselek.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Indian railways**

1. The section 58 of the Railways act 1989 provides earmarking of accommodation for female passengers in trains.
2. **Headquarters-** New Delhi
3. **Employees-** 13,08,000
4. **Headquarters-** New Delhi
5. **Railway minister-** PiyushGoyal
6. Indian Railways is the world's largest employer by number of employees.

International News

1. Nagar Kirtan(Sikh religious procession) from Pakistan reaches India for the first time since Partition

- To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev , the Sikhism founder, a Nagar Kirtan , a Sikh religious procession was taken out for 1st time after Independence from Nankana Sahib district(birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev) of Pakistan's Punjab province entered into Attari village in Amritsar,Punjab Indian side through the Attari-Wagah land route .

❖ Foot Notes :

- The procession which comprising around 500 Sikh devotees will halt will at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district of Punjab after passing through various cities and towns.
- The procession carrying the holy Guru Granth Sahib ji was organized by Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), an apex religious body of the Sikhs with the support from both Indian and Pakistani authorities.
- Nagar Kirtan will stop at Golden Temple of Amritsar before it begins its onward journey.
- 2019 marks the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. Government of India(GoI) will celebrate the event throughout the country and across the globe for a period of one year from November 2018 to November 2019.

➤ About Pakistan:

1. **Capital:** Islamabad
2. **Currency:** Pakistani rupee
3. **Prime minister:** Imran Khan
4. **President:** Arif Alvi

2. London named as World's Best Student City in QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019

- In the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019 compiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global education consultancy, London, the capital of United Kingdom (UK), was named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year. Tokyo and Melbourne were ranked second and third positions respectively.
- The Ranking was based on each city's performance across 6 categories- the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population made up of students; quality of life on offer; job opportunities available after graduation; affordability; and the feedback of the students themselves.
- Indian Students: Student numbers from India going to study in London registered an increase of 20% in 2017-18 from 4,545 in 2016-17 to 5,455 in 2017-18.
- Indian Cities: Bangalore was ranked 81st and Mumbai stood at 85th position, Delhi was ranked 113th and Chennai stood at 115 out of a total of 120 cities ranked in the list.

❖ Foot Notes :**➤ About Quacquarelli Symonds:**

1. **Founded:** 1990

2. **Founder:** Nunzio Quacquarelli

✚ **3.US finalizes \$670 million foreign military sales to support India's C-17 aircraft**

- The United States (US) approved foreign military sales worth \$670 million to support India's C-17 military transport aircraft in order to enhance operational readiness and ability to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) assistance in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The implementation of the proposed sale requires the assignment of 1 US government representatives and 23 contractor representatives to India

❖ **Foot Notes :**

➤ **About USA:**

1. **Capital:** Washington, DC
2. **Currency:** US Dollar
3. **President:** Donald Trump

✚ **4.North Korea successfully test fired two short range ballistic missiles off its East coast**

- North Korea successfully test fired two short range ballistic missiles off its east Coast. They were fired from mobile launch vehicles.
- The first short-range missile, launched from Wonsan, a coastal town east of the capital, Pyongyang, flew 430 kilometers (267 miles), reaching a height of 50 kilometers (31 miles) before landing in waters between North Korea and Japan.
- The second missile flew 690 kilometers (430 miles).

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About North Korea:**

1. **Currency:** Pyongyang
2. **Capital:** North Korean won

✚ **5. Bangladesh records highest level of Dengue cases in 18 years**

- According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Bangladesh, 10528 patients were infected with dengue and nearly 700 more people were reported with dengue infection across Bangladesh. It is the highest in 18 years. Dengue cases in Bangladesh were first detected in the year 2000.
- 8 people were dead in the current spate of dengue outbreak. Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) data revealed that out of 800 beds in the medicine department, 561 were occupied by dengue patients .
- In 2018, a total of 10,138 Dengue patients were hospitalised. 72 cases were reported in Dhaka division (except Dhaka city), 142 in Chittagong, 71 in Khulna, 40 in Rajshahi, 35 in Barisal and 13 in Sylhet division accounting for 373 cases.

❖ **Foot notes:**

➤ **About Bangladesh:**

1. **Capital:** Dhaka
2. **Currency:** Bangladeshi taka
3. **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Hasina

New Appointments and Person in News

✚ **1.Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India appointed as new Director of ICTP, Italy**

- Atish Dabholkar(56), an Indian theoretical physicist from Kolhapur, Maharashtra has been appointed as the new director of Italy based International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) for a five year term starting in November 2019 with the rank of Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He succeeds Fernando Quevedo, who has led the centre since 2009.

❖ **Foot Notes :**

- He is currently the head of ICTP's high energy, cosmology and astroparticle physics section.
- He was also a professor at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai), is well-known for his research on string theory and quantum black holes.

- He has been conferred with awards including India's coveted '**Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award**' (2006), a most prestigious national science prize awarded by Prime Minister, ANR(National Research Agency) Chaire d'Excellence (2007) award and National Leadership Award (2008).

➤ **About ICTP:**

1. **Headquarters:** Trieste, Italy
2. **Formation:** 1964
3. **Founder:** Abdus Salam
4. **Director:** Fernando Quevedo

➤ **About Maharashtra:**

1. **Capital:** Mumbai
2. **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis
3. **Governor:** C. Vidyasagar Rao

✚ **2.Guruprasad Mohapatra takes charge as secretary of DPIIT**

- Guruprasad Mohapatra(an IAS Officer of 1986 batch) assumed charge of the office of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in New Delhi. He served as chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), a statutory body working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, where he brought many changes in AAI's strategic operations.

❖ **Foot points**

- He also served as a **joint secretary** in the Department of Commerce, where he worked for the promotion of special economic zones (SEZs), public procurement and project exports (financing and insurance).
- As a **municipal commissioner** in Surat, Gujarat, he was involved in the process of converting Surat into one of the models of urban governance with its impetus on solid waste management, quality infrastructure, and financial management.
- He also served as **managing director(MD)** in several listed public sector undertakings(PSU) in India and held a position as the transport commissioner and commissioner (commercial taxes) in Gujarat.

➤ **About DPIIT:**

1. **Formation:** 1995
2. **Parent agency:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in January 2019.
4. It is responsible for the formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.

✚ **3.R N Ravi took charge as 20th governor of Nagaland**

- On August 1, 2019, RN Ravi(A 1976-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Kerala cadre,), a former Intelligence Bureau(IB) officer was sworn in as the 20th governor of Nagaland.

❖ **Foot points**

- Ravi, who is the interlocutor for the central government for the Centre-Naga peace talks.
- He played a key role in the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Indian government and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim Isak-Muivah(NSCN-IM).
- Ravi was appointed as Nagaland Governor by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 20, 2019.
- He was worked closely with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during the Doval's stint in the Intelligence Bureau(IB).

➤ **About Nagaland:**

1. **Capital:** Kohima
2. **Chief minister:** Neiphiu Rio
3. **National Park:** Intanki National Park
4. **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Fakim WLS, Puliebadze WLS, Rangapahar WLS.

✚ **4.Jagdeep Dhankar takes oath as West Bengal Governor**

- Jagdeep Dhankhar a former Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He is a supreme court lawyer sworn in as the 28th governor of West Bengal.
- The function carried out at the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata.The function in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, state ministers, including urban development minister Firhad Hakim and finance minister Amit Mitra, and other dignitaries. He was administered oath by the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court TBN Radhakrishnan. He succeeded Keshari Nath Tripathy.

❖ **Foot Notes :**

- **West Bengal Capital:** Kolkata

5. IAS Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Finance Secretary

- A 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre, Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the new Finance Secretary.
- Kumar, who also served as Joint Secretary and then Additional Secretary in Ministry of Finance, succeeded 1983-batch IAS officer Subhash Chandra Garg as the Finance Secretary.
- Garg was transferred to the Power Ministry as the secretary on July 24.

6. India signs MoUs with Benin

- India and Benin signed four MoUs on education, health and e-visa facilities.
- The signing of the agreement on mutual exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports and agreement on the fresh line of credit of 100 million US dollars by India to finance development projects in Benin.
- Benin also extended its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Benin

1. **President of Benin:** Patrice Talon
2. **Capital of Benin:** Porto-Novo.
3. **Currency of Benin:** West African CFA franc.

Banking

1. N S Vishwanathan gets extension by one year as RBI deputy governor

- The government and the RBI started looking for a replacement of Vishwanathan and a few internal candidates were identified.
- The portfolios got reshuffled based on the availability and seniority of deputy governors for the past 15 years.
- Acharya's resignation complicated the matter because two deputy governors would be leaving the central bank in a month's interval. Acharya set to leave on July 23. The central bank refused for power sector loans. The Supreme Court turned down the RBI's objections.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About RBI

1. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
2. **Founder:** British Raj
3. **Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata

2. India is the 7th largest economy in the world in 2018: World Bank

- The World Bank data for 2018 showed that India is the 7th largest economy in the world at \$2.73 trillion.
- India's GDP rose from \$2.65 trillion in 2017 to \$2.73 trillion in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the sixth largest economy.
- It still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- The growth is estimated to slow to 7% in the current fiscal year that ends in March 2020.

3. RBI granted Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India

- India's central banking institution, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has allowed Bank of China (BoC) to provide regular bank services in India.

❖ Foot Notes :

- **Second schedule:** All commercial banks including State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and ICICI Bank (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) are in the second schedule. Banks in this schedule have to comply with RBI regulations.
- **Addition:** Jan Small Finance Bank Ltd has also been included in the second schedule. Apart from this, the name 'Royal Bank of Scotland' has been changed to 'Net West Market Plc'.
- **Removal:** 'National Bank of Australia' has been removed from the bank list under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The bank has been excluded from the second schedule.

4. 7th Economic Census began from Tripura

- 7th Economic Census (EC) for the year 2019 which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) commenced from Tripura on July 29, 2019. It is held after a gap of 5 years. This is done to get a complete count of all economic units in India. After Tripura, it will be launched in Puducherry, and in other states and union territories in August and September, 2019.
- Implementing Agencies: Common Services Centers (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY), are the implementing agencies for the development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) platform system and conduction of fieldwork for the 7th Economic Census.
- Method: 7th EC will use technological interventions in the fieldwork and develop a nationwide Business Register for dynamic updation. The data will be collected through door to door survey of each household and commercial establishments under the provisions of Collection of Statistics Act 2008.
- iv. Schedule: The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December and the results at the national level is expected to be available by March 2020.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About EC**

1. It is the census of the Indian economy through counting all entrepreneurial units in the country which are involved in any economic activities of either agricultural or non-agricultural sector engaged in production and/or distribution of goods and/or services not for the sole purpose of own consumption.

Science Tech & Defence

4. 1. Indian Air Force and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) participating in a bilateral air exercise Garuda VI at Mont de Marsan in France

- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) are participating in the Garuda VI bilateral exercise at Mont de Marsan in France. The exercise has been started on July 1 and will conclude on July 12. The objective of this exercise is to validate the latest defence strategies by enhancing the interoperability level of the French and Indian crews in air defence and ground attack missions.
- Indian side – It comprised of 120 air-warriors and four Sukhoi 30 MKI along with an IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft. Also, IAF's C-17 Globemaster strategic lift aircraft will provide logistics support to contingent during induction and de-induction phases.
- French side – It comprises of Rafale, Alpha Jet, Mirage 2000, C135, E3F, C130, and Casa.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Garuda exercise**

1. It is a part of their Indo-Pacific cooperation. It is alternately held in France and India. The last exercise, 'Garuda V', was held at Air Force Station Jodhpur in June 2014.

➤ About IAF

1. **Founded:** 8 October 1932
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **Commander-in-Chief:** President Ram Nath Kovind
4. **Chief of the Air Staff:** Birender Singh Dhanoa

4. 2. NASA's TESS satellite discovers first nearby super Earth

- A super-Earth was discovered by an International team of astronomers led by Lisa Kaltenegger and is considered to be the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system.
- The super Earth is named as GJ 357 d and it was discovered in NASA's Transiting Exoplanets Survey Satellite (TESS) according to new modelling research in "Astrophysical Journal Letters".

❖ Foot Notes :

- This super Earth ,GJ 35 70 located about 31 light years away from our solar system is more massive than earth and could contain liquid on its surface.
- This discovery of the GJ 357 system was announced in the journal "Astronomy & Astrophysics" by Astronomers of Spain.

4. 3. Microsoft acquired BlueTalon, a data privacy & governance startup

- Microsoft acquired BlueTalon, a data privacy and governance service, for an undisclosed sum. BlueTalon works with leading Fortune 100 companies. It helps enterprises to set policies for how their employees can access their data.

❖ **Foot points**

- It will become part of the Azure Data Governance group.
- It had raised \$25.87 million and was backed by firms like Biosys Capital, Signia Venture Partners, Maverick Capital, and Divergent Ventures.

➤ **About Microsoft:**

1. **Headquarters:** Washington DC, US
2. **CEO:** Satya Narayana Nadella
3. **Chairman:** John Wendell Thompson

✚ **4. Air Force specification-cum-publicity Pavilion inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank"**

- The Union Minister for Human Resource Development (MHRD) Mr Ramesh pokhriyal 'Nishank', inaugurated the Indian Airforce Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion in National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion

i. The setup comprises of a flying simulator, a self-interactive career information kiosk(a counter, newsstand etc), a selfie point in G suite(cloud computing, collaboration and productivity tool) and mannequins.

ii. The pavilion has running videos related to IAF exercise/ operations, aircraft models of Indian Air Force, digital flexes etc.

Mobile gaming app launched

"**Indian Air Force: Cut Above**" official Mobile gaming application was launched by Air Chief Marshal Shri B.S. Dhanoa. The app features facilities like experiencing first hand roles of IAF air warrior and also to apply and appear for recruitment from mobile phone itself.

✚ **5. Scientists from IIT Hyderabad developed an eco friendly solar cell using kumkum dye- DSSC**

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad developed a low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells named Dye-sensitised solar cell (DSSC) by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make kumkum or vermilion.
- DSSC is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes. The research was published in the Solar Energy Journal.
- The research was led by Professor Sai Santosh Kumar Raavi from the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad.

✚ **6. Lt Gen Paramjit Singh to be new DGMO of Army**

- Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, who has vast experience in counter-terror operations, will be the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
- Lt Gen Singh, currently serving as General Officer Commanding of the Army's Nagrota-based XVI Corps, will take over as the new DGMO on October, succeeding Lt Gen Anil Chauhan.

Important days

✚ **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July**

- United Nations observes 30 July every year as World Day Against Trafficking. In 2013, the General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- On the 2019 World Day UNODC is focusing on highlighting the importance of Government action with a tagline:

- **Human Trafficking:** call your government to action

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About UN**

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

Awards

✚ 1.2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award won by Ravish Kumar for journalism

- India's senior executive editor of NDTV was awarded 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. Five other individuals were declared winners of this award along with Ravish Kumar.
- The winners will be awarded with a certificate and a medallion with the image of Ramon Magsaysay on August 31,2019

➤ **About Ramon Magsaysay award :**

1. The award is named after the 3rd President of Philippine Mr. Ramon Magsaysay in memory of his leadership. Every year it is given to Asian individuals who manifest the same selfless service like the Filipino leader.
2. **First awarded-** 1958
3. **Presented by-** Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation

✚ 2.Bollywood's Advocate Dinesh Tiwari conferred with Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019

- Bollywood's Advocate Dinesh Tiwari was conferred with 'The Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019', for his excellence in the field of law at an event hosted in London by the Society Magazine. He was presented the award by Gopichand Hinduja in presence of Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar who were the Chief Guests of the event.

❖ **Foot Notes :**

- He started his career in the year 1997 under the guidance of the great Ram Jethmalani.
- He has represented many high profile individuals as well as corporate entities including Reliance Industries, City Limousine, National Spot Exchange Limited, High Ground Enterprise, among others.

✚ 3. DD News received "Champions of Empathy Award" for spreading awareness about hepatitis

- DD News(Doordarshan), a 24*7 terrestrial cum satellite News Channel of India has awarded "Champions of Empathy Award" for spreading awareness about hepatitis.
- Mayank Agrawal, Director General of DD News has received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- Agrawal stated that it is the responsibility of DD News to aware people about various diseases and preventives by showing health-related programs, reports, and policies that help to spread awareness towards health in society.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Hepatitis:**

1. Hepatitis name has derived from the Greek word 'Hepar' meaning liver and 'itis' meaning inflammation. Thus, it is a medical condition in which inflammation occurs in liver cells and its complications vary with the type of infection. It is mostly caused by a group of viruses called hepatitis viruses. There are 5 types of hepatitis viz. A, B, C, D, and E. Each type is caused by a different hepatitis virus.

✚ 4.Former International tennis player Vidisha Balyan from Uttar Pradesh wins Miss Deaf World 2019 title

- 21 year old VidishaBaliyan from Muzaffarnagar,Uttar Pradesh became the firstIndian, crowned Miss Deaf World 2019 which was held in Mbombela, South Africa. S
- he is a former International tennis player who represented India in the Deaflympics.
- Vidisha Balyan from Uttar Pradesh wins Miss Deaf World 2019 title Mr. Deaf World 2019 was won by South Africa's Phumelela Mapukata

❖ **Foot Notes:**

• **Miss Deaf World**

- It is a beauty pageant award managed by the Miss & Mister Deaf World, a non profitorganisation ever since 2001
- **Official language-** International Sign Language
- **First Miss Deaf World-** Viktoriaprytychenko from Ukraine

✚ 5. Priya Priyadarshini Jain facilitated with "Indian Women of Influence" award

- Social entrepreneur philanthropist and eminent fashionista Priya Priyadarshini Jain was conferred with the prestigious “Indian Women of Influence” award at the House of Lords, The United Kingdom Parliament, London. Priya Priyadarshini Jaini.
- She was also one among the others featured in the coffee table book on ‘50 most influential Indian women worldwide’ featuring top Indian women like former Indian president Pratibha Patil, Nita Ambani, MP Caroline, Hema Malini, Shilpa Shetty.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Indian Women of Influence Awards**

1. The award recognises the power of Indian women residing in different parts of the world and it is presented by the Barons of the UK parliament.

Sports

✚ 1. PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal retained their top 10 place in the latest Women’s singles rankings in badminton

- In the recently released women’s singles ranking by Badminton World Federation, India’s star players PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal have retained 5th spot and 8th spot respectively. The ranking is topped by Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi.

❖ **Foot points**

- Chinese Taipei’s Tai Tzu Ying was overtaken by Akane Yamaguchi to become the new world no. 1 champion.
- Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara is ranked second and Tai Tzu Ying is ranked third in the BWF rankings.
- In BWF men’s ranking Japan’s Kento Momota is ranked first whereas India’s Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma are ranked 10th and 13th respectively

➤ **About**

1. It is the International governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee
2. **Headquarters-** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3. **Founded-** 5 July 1934
4. **President-** Poul Erik Hoyer Larsen

✚ 2. Former SC judge AK Sikri appointed as Ombudsman officer of Indian Federation of Sports Gaming

- India’s first and only Sports Gaming self-regulatory industry body, Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) has appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge, Justice A. K. Sikri, as its ombudsman and Ethics Officer.
- He will have the responsibility of investigating queries & complaints raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms and provide strategic council, resolve disputes brought forward regarding binding rules or financial discrepancies as well as steer hearings and make announcements for smooth operation and ease of functioning.
- With Sikri as Ombudsman of IFSG, it will be able to frame strong industry benchmarks with great governance protecting its 8 crore users and 32 operators interests and create standardized best practices.
- IFSG has already emerged as India’s 1st Gaming Unicorn (Dream11) and it has the great potential to reach over 10 crore users by 2020.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About IFSG**

President: John Loffhagen

CEO: Anwar Shirpurwala

✚ 3. ICC officially launches WTC

- International Cricket Council (ICC) officially launched the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC). It will begin from August 1, 2019 where Australia and England will face each other in the Ashes. It will bring relevance and context to bilateral Test cricket over the next 2 years (2021).
- WTC will comprise of the top 9 Test teams of the world- Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. 71 Test matches will be played across 27 series over two years. The top two teams will contest in the ICC World Test Championship final from June 14-20, 2021 in the United Kingdom (UK).
- Points will be given for grabs during each match. Each team will play three home and three away series. Each series will count for 120 points, distributed over the number of matches in a series.

- The matches will be played in the same format as bilateral series. The number of matches in each series can vary between a minimum of two matches to a maximum of five matches. The first cycle of the WTC consists of only five-day matches and will include day-night matches.
- ❖ **Foot Notes:**
- **About ICC:**
1. **Motto:** Cricket for good
 2. **Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 3. **Chairman:** Shashank Manohar
 4. **CEO:** Manu Sawhney

Obituaries

✚ 1. Madhubani painting and Sujni artist Karpuri Devi passed away in the Madhubani district of Bihar

- Madhubani painting and Sujni artist Karpuri Devi, aged 94, passed away at the Heart Hospital at Mangarauni village in Madhubani district of Bihar where she was undergoing treatment. She hailed from Ranti village of Bihar and belonged to the first generation of Mithila painting artists. Karpuri Devi. The National Award recipient contributed towards setting up of the Mithila Museum which is located in Tokamachi hills in Japan's Niigata region.
- She was the recipient of several state awards and national merit certificate given by the Ministry of textiles, Union government.

✚ 2. Indian coffee tycoon, V. G. Siddhartha Hegde found Dead

- Indian billionaire and a founder of the largest coffee chain in India, Cafe Coffee Day (CCD), V. G. Siddhartha Hegde has been found dead on the banks of the Netravati river near Mangaluru. V. G. Siddhartha Hegde. Siddhartha was the son-in-law of former Karnataka chief minister SM Krishna.
- ❖ Foot points
- He is from the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka, established Cafe Coffee Day in 1996, which is an Indian café chain owned by Coffee Day Global Limited serves 1.8 billion cups of coffee, annually, in six countries like Malaysia, Egypt, the Czech Republic, and Austria.
 - He was in talks with Coca-Cola about selling a large stake in Cafe Coffee Day. The business had come under pressure and in 2017. As on March 31, 2019, the borrowings of Coffee Day Enterprises stood at Rs 6,547.38 crore.
- **About CCD:**
1. **Founded:** 1993
 2. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka

✚ 3. Gujarat's former MP and farmer leader Vitthal Radadiya dead

- Former Member of Parliament (MP) from Porbandar, Gujarat Died at his residence in Ahmedabad, after a prolonged illness.
 - Vitthal radadiya also served as director of Indian farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO)
 - He was also the chairman of Rajkot district Cooperative Bank
- ❖ **Foot Notes :**
- Gujarat Capital-** Gandhinagar
Chief minister- Vijay Rupani
Governor- Acharya DevVrat
National parks- Gir national park, Vansda national park, Marine national park, Blackbuck national park.

✚ 4. The voice of Disney's Minnie Mouse, Russi Taylor, passed away in Glendale, California, US

- Veteran actor Russi Taylor, who voiced Disney's Minnie Mouse for more than 30 years, passed away in Glendale, California, US. She was 75. Born on May 4, 1944 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she became the voice of Minnie Mouse in 1986.
- She voiced for Martin Prince in The Simpsons, the cartoon character Strawberry Shortcake, Donald Duck's nephews- Huey, Dewey and Louie, in the original "Ducktales" animated series and filled roles in "TaleSpin" and "Kim Possible." She also played a part in different films and voiced for different TV shows & TV animated series.
- She was named a Disney Legend in 2008. She was nominated for Annie Awards in 2005 & 2007 and Emmy Awards in the year 2006, 2007 & 2018.

❖ **Foot Notes:**➤ **About United States**

1. **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
2. **President:** Donald Trump

✚ **5. Former Gujarat MP Vitthal Radadiya passes away**

- Former Gujarat MP Vitthal Radadiya passed away. He was one of the Saurashtra's most prominent politicians and was former Member of Parliament from Porbandar in Gujarat.
- Vitthal Radadiya also served as a director of IFFCO and was the chairman of the Rajkot District Co-operative Bank.
- Former Andhra Pradesh state Minister Mukesh Goud passes away
- Former Andhra Pradesh congress state Minister M. Mukesh Goud passed away. The Congress leader was suffering from cancer.
- He served as BC Welfare and Marketing Minister in Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy and Kiran Kumar Reddy Cabinets.

