



WEEKLY G.K.

15 July – 21 July
(2019)

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National News

1. Rajasthan government has launched Student Police Cadet (SPC) scheme

- The Rajasthan government has launched Student Police Cadet (SPC) scheme, a Police training program, for class 8 and 9 students on July 18. The training aims to curb rising adolescent delinquency and strengthen teenagers mentally and physically. Also, it aims to make the students aware of basic laws and legal procedures.
- All aspects of public and personal life have been developed for the SPC training.
- It would be imparted at three levels which includes:
 - ✓ indoor classes
 - ✓ outdoor activities
 - ✓ visits to relevant places and offices
- **Aim:** The training programme was jointly initiated by the state education and police departments. The program will be made available in the selected government schools in the current academic session.
- **Implementation of the Programme:** The SPC training programme has been launched successfully in 930 state government schools and 70 Kendriya Vidyalayas. The schools that were selected for the SPC training programme would be granted Rs.1 lakh for the two-year course.

Under the program, the students would be trained as Student Police Cadets (SPC). They would also render voluntary services in public functions such as the Republic Day and Independence Day in their respective areas. So far, the project has been implemented in 39 schools of the Rajasthan State.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Rajasthan**

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

2. Kerala Government to set up India's First-ever Elephant Rehabilitation at Rs 105 cr

- The Kerala government will set up India's first elephant rehabilitation centre named Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from Thiruvananthapuram, at an outlay of Rs 105 crore. The phase 1 of the project was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan in June 2019.
- ❖ **Foot notes:**
 1. It will take care of jumbos which were either orphaned or abandoned and has plans to accommodate aged captive elephants.
 2. It will house an elephant museum, mahout training centre, a well-equipped veterinary hospital and crematorium for the pachyderms.

3. First-ever Himalayan States Conclave to be hosted by Uttarakhand on July 28, 2019

- The first-ever Himalayan States Conclave will be hosted by Uttarakhand on July 28, 2019 with the main focus on sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region. It will be held at Mussoorie. The event will discuss the common issues pertaining to states located in the Himalayan Region like environmental protection, Himalayan culture and economic development. Himalayan States Conclave.
- Along with the administrators and specialists, the conclave will host the Chief Ministers of the Himalayan states – Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- Rajiv Kumar, Vice President of Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, will also be a part of the conclave. The key points adopted at the Himalayan conclave will be presented as a draft to the Niti Aayog. This will help to frame policies for the region's development.
- ❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Uttarakhand**

1. **Capital:** Dehradun
2. **Chief Minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat
3. **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya
4. **National Parks:** Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park
5. **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Askot Musk Deer WLS, Nandhaur WLS, Binsar WLS, Govind Pashu Vihar WLS, Kedarnath WLS, Mussoorie WLS, Sonanadi WLS

✚ **4. Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill aims the establishment of a Central University and Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The total outlay for the Central University project is Rs 902.07 crore and for Tribal University is Rs 836 crore.
- The Tribal University will offer research facilities in the fields of art, culture and technology to the tribal population.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

1. Union HRD Minister of India: Ramesh Pokhriyal.

➤ **About Andhra Pradesh**

1. **Chief Minister:** Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy
2. **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimhan.

✚ **5. Health Ministry to launch a "Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan" in Delhi**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will launch a Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in Delhi to accelerate measures for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya.
- It will start from 17th to 19th July, 2019 in Delhi through active involvement of people's representatives, officers from Government of India, Government of NCT Delhi, all three Delhi Municipal Corporations, New Delhi Municipal Council, Railways and Cantonment board and other stakeholders to combat malaria, dengue and chikungunya.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr Harsh Vardhan.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Andhra Pradesh**

1. **Chief Minister:** Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy
2. **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimhan.

✚ **6. Pakistan to allow 5,000 Sikh pilgrims per day to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib**

- After the second meeting of officials of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Office (FO) informed that Pakistan would allow 5,000 Sikh pilgrims per day throughout the year to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib situated in Kartarpur, Narowal District, Pakistan. It was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev. The first meeting was held in Atari, India on March 14, 2019.
- The decision was taken in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment to operationalise the corridor for the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, Punjab and ease visa-free movement of Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Sahib. The experts from India & Pakistan also discussed technical details of the Kartarpur Corridor.

✚ **7. President appoints Governors for Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Anusuiya Uikey as Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has been named as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

- CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel

- CM of Andhra Pradesh: Jaganmohan Reddy.

✚ 8. 12 beaches in India selected for Blue Flag certification

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has selected 12 beaches in India for 'Blue Flag' certification. 12 beaches in India selected for Blue Flag certification.
- The 12 beaches : It includes Bhogave (Maharashtra), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), Golden (Odisha), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Blue Flag Program:

1. **Launch:** It was launched in December 2017 for beach clean-up and development.
2. **Prime objective:** Its purpose is to enhance standards of cleanliness, upkeep and basic amenities at beaches.
3. **Installation:** Structures such container toilet blocks, change rooms, shower panels, mini greywater treatment plants in an enclosed structure, mini solid waste recycling plants and off-grid solar photovoltaic panels are installed under the program & they are a minimum 10 meters from the high tide line.
4. **Nomination & Assistance:** Under the project, each state or union territory has been asked to nominate a beach which is being funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Programme(ICMP).

➤ About Blue Flag certification

1. It is international recognition for beaches and marinas that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety. It is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a Copenhagen based international, non-governmental, non-profit organization.
2. **Ranking:** Spain has the highest number of Blue Flag beaches (566), followed by, Greece(515) and France(395). Japan and South Korea are the only countries in Asia to have Blue Flag beaches.
3. **Criteria:** There are 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for Blue Flag certification. Few of them include water meeting certain standards such as waste disposal facilities, first aid equipment, disabled-friendly facilities and no access to pets in the main areas of the beach. Some criteria are voluntary and some compulsory.
4. **Review:** Once approved, beaches are given qualification for a year and must apply annually to continue meriting the right to fly the flag at their locations.

✚ 9. Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019. This bill aims to allow NIA to probe terrorist acts against Indians and Indian interests abroad. The Bill seeks to give more power to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- **Aim:**
- The Bill also aims to create Special Courts for trial of scheduled offences under Acts like Atomic Energy Act (AEA), 1962, and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967.
- Bill also seeks cyber-terrorism and offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, offences under Explosive Substances Act (1908), manufacture or sale prohibited arms and human trafficking.
- The amendments will allow NIA to probe cybercrimes and cases of human trafficking. In every state there is only one NIA designated court and these courts would only take NIA cases and not others.

✚ 10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to share his thoughts in Mann Ki Baat on July 28

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares his thoughts with the people in the country and in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on All India Radio. The second edition of the programme after Mr Modi for the second term.

- Prime Minister invited the people to share their ideas. They can share their views in MyGov Open Forum
- The toll-free number 1800-11-7800 to record a message for the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi explained about the important issues through the monthly programme.
- The awareness campaign should focus on water-related problems. He planned to start a mass movement for water conservation and resolve to save every drop of water scarcity in several parts of the country.
- He called for an awareness campaign which should focus on water-related problems and also propagate ways to save water.

11. Tamil Nadu to get two new districts

- The total number of districts in the state will be raised to 35. Tenkasi District would be carved out of Tirunelveli and Chengalpet District would be established by splitting Kanchipuram district.
- Tirunelveli and Kanchipuram remain vast in area and splitting them would be beneficial for better administration. Revenue Minister R.B. Udhayakumar created a few more districts by splitting bigger revenue units is being considered.
- A new district with Kumbakonam as its headquarters are announced.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Tamil Nadu

1. **Chief minister:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami
2. **Capital:** Chennai
3. **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit

12. HRD Ministry launches new UGC Scheme “Paramarsh” For Higher Education

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) launched a Scheme called “Paramarsh” of University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.
- **Aim:** This scheme aims at mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions to develop quality assurance in Higher Education.
- **Mentorship:** Under the scheme, the prime Mentoring institutions will provide regular mentoring to colleges to help achieve high-quality standards. For mentoring they will get the financial assistance & also the option of appointing an expert, who can be paid a fellowship amount of Rs 31,000 per month.
- **Hub & Spoke model:** The Scheme will be implemented through a “Hub & Spoke” model where mentor institution -called ‘Hub’ has the responsibility of guiding mentee institution (through secondary branches ‘Spoke’) for self-improvement. Target: For mentoring, the scheme targets 1000 Higher Education Institutions.
- **Benefits:**

i. The scheme enhances the overall quality of the mentee institutions and enhances its profile as a result of improved quality of research, teaching and learning methodologies.

ii. It will help in providing quality education to the 3.6 crore students who enrolled in Indian Higher Education system.

iii. The mentor institution will also get NAAC accreditation.

Feature: It will also facilitate the sharing of knowledge, information, and opportunities for research collaboration and faculty development in Mentee Institutions.

❖ Foot Notes

➤ About NAAC:

1. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
2. **Founded:** 1994
3. **Chairman:** Dr. Virander S. Chauhan

➤ About UGC:

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi

2. **Chairman:** D.P. Singh

✚ **13. Ambikapur of Surguja district, Chhattisgarh gets India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers**

- The municipal officials of Chhattisgarh have launched a unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers. The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.
- Ragpickers who collect 1 kg of plastic waste will receive a full meal and those collecting 500g will be served breakfast. There is also a definitive plan to provide shelter to over 100 homeless people in the city.
- The plastic collected by the municipal corporation will be used to construct roads.
- Ambikapur city had received 5 star rating of 'Garbage Free Cities' and under Central government's Swachh Survekshan 2019 rankings, it was declared India's second cleanest city after Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Chhattisgarh:**

1. **Governor:** Anusuiya Uikey
2. **Chief Minister:** Bhupesh Bagel
3. **National Parks:** Indravati (Kutru) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park
4. **Festivals:** Rajim Kumbh Mela, Bhagoriya Festival, Boramdeo Mahotsav Festival, Chakradhar Festival, Goncha Festival, Kajari Festival, Madai Festival
5. **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Achanakmar WLS, Badakhhol WLS, Boramdev WLS, Sarangarh-Gomardha WLS, Semarsot WLS, Sitanadi WLS, Tamor Pingla WLS, Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS, Pamed Wild Buffalo WLS, Bhairamgarh WLS, Barnawapara WLS

✚ **14. Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru tops "most digitised cities" list: Razorpay report 2019**

- According to the 2nd edition of payments solution company Razorpay Software Pvt Ltd's digital transactions quarterly report, 'The Era of Rising Fintech', Bengaluru got the top position in the list of "most digitised cities" in the April-June 2019 quarter accounting for highest card payments.
- Cities list: Bengaluru is followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi.
- States list: The top five digitised states are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and New Delhi.
- Development: The report noticed Tamil Nadu is among one of the most developed states in India ranked 4th in contribution in digital transactions with its capital, Chennai's share was highest at 57%.
- P2M category: At the national level, Payments made through credit and debit cards was at 50% in the pay to merchants (P2M) category in the April-June quarter against 56 percent in the January-March quarter.
- Growth: Usage of credit and debit cards also grew by 22% during the two quarters.
- Contribution: The top three sectors contributing to the growth were food and beverage (29%) followed by the gaming industry (15%), financial services (14%). The report predicts that 40% of digital payment transaction would be driven by consumers and businesses in Tier-II regions (manufacturing industry) by 2020.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Razorpay**

1. **Founded:** 2014
2. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
3. **Founders:** Harshil Mathur, Shashank Kumar

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. India, China to carry out major military exercise 'Hand in Hand'

- Continuing to expand military to military engagements, India and China will be carrying out a major military exercise called 'Hand-in-Hand' in Meghalaya this year.
- The planning conference for the exercise will be held next month. The exercise will take place at Umroi, Meghalaya. It is at the company level, meaning around 100-120 infantry troops from both sides will be participating.
- It will be based on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

➤ **About Meghalaya**

1. Capital: Shillong
2. Governor: Tathagata Roy
3. Chief minister: Conrad Sangma

➤ **About China**

1. Capital of China: Beijing
2. Currency: Renminbi.

2. World Bank planned to offer \$250 million to Kerala

- World Bank would offer a loan of \$250 million to the Kerala Government for the Resilient Kerala project
- The main aim is at enhancing the state's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change in the wake of last year's floods.
- The World Bank recently signed a \$250 million loan agreement to help Kerala enhance its resilience against natural disasters and climate change.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About World Bank**

1. Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
2. Membership: 189 countries (IBRD)
3. Parent organization: World Bank Group
4. Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

➤ **About Kerala**

1. Governor: P. Sathasivam
2. Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

3. China gifts warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka

- China has gifted warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka. As a new member of the Lankan Navy, the 'P625' frigate will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats.
- The Type 053 frigate was commissioned into China's People's Liberation Army Navy in 1994 as the Tongling.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About China**

1. Capital: Beijing
2. Currency: Renminbi.
3. About Sri Lanka
4. Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
5. Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.

4. India & Italy to establish fast-track mechanism to facilitate investment

- In a meeting which was held in New Delhi, it was decided by India and Italy to establish a fast-track mechanism for companies and investors of both countries to help the Italian companies and investors in India and Indian companies and investors in Italy.

- In this regard, the documents were exchanged by the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Ramesh Abhishek and Ambassador of Italy to India, Lorenzo Angeloni.
- It is aimed to identify and solve problems faced by Italian companies and investors with their operations in India. It will be a platform for discussion of general suggestions from the point of view of Italian companies and investors with regard to ease of doing business in India.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Italy:**

1. Capital: Rome
2. Currency: Euro

➤ **About DPIIT:**

1. Parent Organization: Ministry of Commerce and Industry
2. Earlier: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

✚ **5. WHO declares Ebola outbreak in Congo a global health emergency**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Ebola outbreak in Congo a global health emergency and demanded that the world redouble its efforts to control it.
- This decision came after 2,512 cases of Ebola surfaced in Congo and 1,672 people died since August 1, 2018. The emergency committee also “expressed disappointment about delays in funding which have constrained the response”.
- The July 17 declaration is the fifth such public health emergency since 2005 after H1N1 influenza virus pandemic (2009), resurgence of wild poliovirus (2014), west Africa Ebola virus outbreak (2014) and Zika virus outbreak (2018).

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About WHO**

1. **Director-General :** Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
2. **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
3. **Head:** Tedros Adhanom
4. **Founded:** 7 April 1948

✚ **6. Palau Becomes 76th Country to Join ISA**

- Palau, an archipelago of over 500 islands in Oceania, became the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

❖ **Foot Notes**

➤ **About Palau**

1. Capital of Palau: Ngerulmud
2. Currency of Palau: U.S. Dollar.

✚ **7. Sri Lanka signs agreement with India to upgrade railway lines**

- Sri Lanka has signed an agreement with India to upgrade tracks in a key railway segment connecting the north and south at a cost of \$ 91.26 million.
- This is the first time in 100 years that the 130 km-long-tracks, running from Maho town in the North Western Province to Omanthai in the Northern Province, are being upgraded.
- The contract agreement for concessional financing was signed in Colombo between the Government of Sri Lanka and IRCON International Ltd (India).

❖ **Foot Notes:**

1. Chairman & Managing Director, IRCON: Sunil Kumar Chaudhary.

8. Li Na, Mary Pierce and Yevgeny Kafelnikov inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

- Chinese tennis great Li Na, France's Mary Pierce and Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia were inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame. They all are two-time Grand Slam singles champions.
- Li Na reached the world No. 2 ranking and was a champion at the French Open and the Australian Open. She is the first Asian to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame.
- Pierce is a former world No. 3 in singles and doubles, and a four-time major champion. She has won the singles title at the Australian Open, singles and doubles titles at Roland-Garros, and a mixed doubles title at Wimbledon.
- Kafelnikov is a former world No. 1, Olympic Gold Medalist, and the winner of four major doubles titles.

Banking

1. Bimal Jalan panel report on surplus RBI reserves 'finalised'

- Bimal Jalan led six-member panel on Economic Capital Framework (ECF), formed by RBI has finalised its report on surplus RBI reserves.
- The panel has recommended that surplus reserves held by the central bank should be transferred to the government in tranches over three to five years.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About RBI**

1. **RBI Governor:** Shaktikant Das
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

2. HDFC Bank GDRs Terminated, Delisted From Luxembourg Stock Exchange

- India's leading private sector bank, HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation) has terminated and de-listed its 22 outstanding global depository receipts (GDRs) from the Luxembourg Stock Exchange citing low trading volume of GDRs.
- The listing and admission to trading of the HDFC Bank GDRs on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange will be cancelled. HDFC board has approved the proposal for termination of the GDR program and delisting of 22 GDRs, which are outstanding and listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange in April 2019.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About GDR:**

1. It means any instrument in the form of a depository receipt or certificate (by whatever name it is called) created by the Overseas Depository Bank outside India and issued to non-resident investors against the issue of ordinary shares or Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds of issuing company.
2. It facilitates the trade of shares, especially those from emerging markets. Prices of GDR's are often close to values of underlying shares.

➤ About Luxembourg Stock Exchange

1. Founded: 5 April 1928
2. Chairman : Frank Wagener
3. CEO : Robert Scharfe

➤ About HDFC Bank:

1. CEO: Aditya Puri
2. Headquarters: Mumbai
3. Founded: August 1994, India

3. ADB cuts India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for FY20

- Asian Development Bank lowered India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for the current fiscal year.
- India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020, slightly slower than projected in April, ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About ADB**

1. President of ADB Bank: Takehiko Naka
2. HQ of ADB Bank: Manila, Philippines.

4. Andra Bank rolls-out AI chatbot "ABHi" in Telangana

- A medium-sized public sector bank in India, Andra Bank launched its AI(Artificial Intelligence) interactive assistant called "ABHi" at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana. AI chatbot "ABHi" Key points:
- **ABHi:** It uses new-age technologies include to understand the customer query and fetch the relevant information from possible knowledge base in a matter of milliseconds.
- **Creation:** ABHi is powered by AI startup Floatbot.ai (Bangalore) in partnership with IT(Information Technology) company Netxcell Limited(Hyderabad).
- **Benefits:** Customers will be able to get the information instantaneously 24×7, anytime by using ABHi & can also connect and know details from ABHi through (www.andhrabank.in) over Mobile/Desktop browser, Facebook Messenger and over voice using Google Assistant .it would also converse with customers on Whatsapp.
- **Queries:** Andra bank customers can ask details on digital banking, loans, banking services, govt. schemes, insurance, senior citizen, RuPay Offers, Aadhaar services, payment mode, lodge a customer complaint, know nearest Branch / ATM on Google map, recharge prepaid mobile, etc., on chat anytime.
- ABHi would also enable banking services such as balance check, ordering a cheque book, view mini statement, recent transactions in future.

➤ About Andra Bank:

1. Headquarters: Hyderabad
2. Founded: 20 November 1923
3. MD & CEO: J Packirisamy

5. ABIPBL to shut down within 18 months of launch

- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank (ABIPBL) which had started its operation on February 22, 2018, will shut down its operations within 18 months of launch due to "unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable". ABIPBL is a joint venture by Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd (51% stake) and Idea Cellular (49%).
- The bank has made full and complete arrangements for the return of deposits to the customers. It will restrict further credit to the accounts from July 26, 2019.
- It will be the first payments bank to close down after this set of niche banks were started by former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan in 2015.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank**

1. Headquarters: Mumbai
2. MD & CEO: Sudhakar Ramasubramanian

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Kalraj Mishra appointed the Governor of Himachal Pradesh

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kalraj Mishra as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- Acharya Devvrat has been transferred from Himachal Pradesh and appointed as the governor of Gujarat.
- ❖ **Foot notes:**
 - **CM of Gujarat :** Vijay Rupani;
 - **CM of Himachal Pradesh:** Jai Ram Thakur.

2. Chandrakant Kavlekar sworn in as the new Deputy CM of Goa

- Chandrakant Kavlekar to be the new Deputy Chief Minister of Goa. He will replace Vijai Sardesai as the deputy chief minister of Goa.
- Kavlekar is also known as Chandrakant 'Babu' Kavlekar. He is an Indian Politician from the state of Goa. He is a four term member of the Goa Legislative Assembly. On 11 July 2019 he left Indian National Congress and joined Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ❖ **Foot notes:**
 - Chief Minister of Goa: Pramod Sawant;
 - Governor: Mridula Sinha.

3. Shah Rukh Khan will be felicitated with an Honorary Doctorate by Melbourne's La Trobe University

- In recognition of the contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment through Meer Foundation and for the achievements in the Indian entertainment industry, Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood actor, will be felicitated with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Melbourne-based La Trobe University at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) at Bundoora, Australia.
- ❖ **Foot Notes**
 1. It will be held on August 9, 2019 where Mr. Khan will be the chief guest.
 2. It will be Khan's first Australian University Award.

4. Justice AK Sikri appointed as the Judge of SICC

- The President of the Republic of Singapore Halimah Yacob appointed Justice AK Sikri, the former judge of the Supreme Court, as an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) with effect from August 1, 2019. His term will expire on January 4, 2021. At present, SICC has 16 international judges.AK Sikri.
- He retired as a Supreme Court judge on March 6, 2019.He also served as Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court, and Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. He was appointed as a judge of the Delhi High Court in 1999.
- Recently, he was appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).
- ❖ **Foot Notes:**
 - **About Singapore:**
 1. **Currency:** Singapore dollar
 2. **Capital:** Singapore City

Science Tech & Defence

1. ISRO calls off Chandrayaan 2 launch due to technical glitch

- India's ambitious moon mission, Chandrayaan-2 has been called off due to a technical snag in just 56 minutes and 24 seconds before its scheduled launch. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed that the launch had been cancelled after a technical snag was detected in one of the launch systems of the GSLVMkIII-M1 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III).

❖ Foot notes:

➤ About ISRO:

1. Headquarters: Bengaluru
2. Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
3. Founded: 15 August 1969

✚ 2. Chairperson: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

- Russia launches space telescope Spektr-RG
- Russia launched a space telescope from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. It was a joint project with Germany. The Russian space agency, showed a Proton-M rocket carrying the Spektr-RG taking off from the launch pad.
- The Spektr-RG, is a space observatory intended to replace the Spektr-R, known as the "Russian Hubble", Spektr-R was launched in 2011 to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields. Its successor will take up similar duties.

❖ Foot notes:

- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin
- Capital of Russia: Moscow
- Currency of Russia: Ruble.

✚ 3. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has given a new date for the re-launch of Chandrayaan 2.

- The rescheduled take-off of India's ambitious Lunar Mission will now take place on July 22 at 2.43 PM from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota. Earlier, Chandrayaan 2's launch on July 15 was called off in the final hour of the countdown.
- ISRO informed that there was a technical snag that developed in the launch vehicle system and a "measure of abundant precaution" it called off that day. Revealing Chandrayaan 2' new launch date and time, ISRO tweeted: "Chandrayaan-2 launch, which was earlier called off due to a technical snag on July 15, 2019, is now rescheduled at 2:43 pm IST on Monday, July 22, 2019." This was not the first time when a mission involving India's powerful GSLV was postponed by ISRO.
- GSLV has a dozen successful missions to its credit out of 16 so far, four missions failed as well

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About ISRO

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

Important days

1. World Youth Skills Day observed globally on 15th July

- World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was observed on July 15, 2019. It is celebrated to create awareness on the importance of investing in youth skills development. The theme for the year is “Learning to learn for life and work”.
- WYSD in India
- On the occasion of WYSD, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) partnered with Canada-based BetterU to provide opportunities for India’s youth to gain access to learning at affordable prices.
- Aim is to integrate NSDC’s current solutions and technologies and collaborate with its partners to strengthen current systems.
- The fourth anniversary of the Skill India Mission was also observed with the main function held in New Delhi.

❖ Foot notes:

➤ About UNGA:

1. Headquarters: New York, US
2. President: María Fernanda Espinosa (73rd session), Prof. Tijjani Muhammad Bande (designated for the 74th session, September 2019)

➤ About Skill India Mission:

1. It is also known as the National Skill Development Mission.
2. It was launched on July 15, in 2015.

2. International Justice Day observed on 17th July, 2019

- World Day for International Justice is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day is observed annually on 17th July to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice.
- On 1st June, 2010, the Review Conference of the Rome Statute which was held in Kampala (Uganda) and the Assembly of the State Parties decided to celebrate 17 July as the International Criminal Justice Day.
- This day is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. With the help of this treaty International Criminal Court (ICC) was established. In 1998 since that day, 139 countries have signed the Courts treaty and nearly 80 States, representative of every region of the world, have ratified it.

❖ Foot Notes:

Objective:

1. The objective of the day is to unite everyone who wants to support justice as well as promote victims rights & to help prevent serious crimes and those that put the peace, security and well-being of the world at risk.

Books & Authors

1. New book to tell untold stories from Kargil War

- "Kargil: Untold stories from the War", the book published by Penguin Random House, is authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat.
- On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War, this new book will revisit the freezing battle grounds of the 1999 conflict through untold stories of its bravest soldiers.
- The book that is based on Rawat's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families, will take the readers to the treacherous Himalayan mountains where some of the Indian Army's bloodiest battles were fought.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Kargil War

1. **Date:** 3 May–26 July 1999 (2 months, 3 weeks and 2 days)
2. **Location:** Kargil district, Jammu and Kashmir
3. **Result:** Decisive Indian victory\

2. Sports Minister launches AIFF Golden Baby Leagues Handbook

- Sports Minister has launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20.
 - The launch marked the renaming of the 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to under 12 both for girls and boys.
 - The handbook is a guide to help the stakeholder to organise the Golden Baby League.
 - **Foot Notes**
1. Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports: Kiren Rijiju.

Sports

1. Archer Deepika Kumari won silver in Tokyo Olympic test event

- Indian archer Deepika Kumari won silver at the Ready Steady Tokyo test event for the 2020 Olympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan. She lost to Korean An San in straight sets 6-0. She was ranked 4th in the qualification round.
 - ❖ **Foot Notes:**
1. Schedule: 24 July- 9 August 2020
 2. Host: Tokyo, Japan

2. Djokovic beats Federer to win fifth Wimbledon title 2019

- Serbian Novak Djokovic won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- This is Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.
- Here is the Complete List of Winners of the Wimbledon 2019 (with their Respective Countries)

Sr. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	R. Federer (Switzerland)
2	Women's Singles	S. Halep (Romania)	Serena Williams(USA)
3	Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia)	Nicolas Mahut (France) and Edouard Roger Vasselin (France)
4	Women's Doubles	S W. Hsieh (Taiwan) and B. Strycova (Czech Republic)	G. Dabrowski (Canada) and Y. Xu (China)
5	Mixed Doubles	I.Dodig (Croatia) and L. Chan (Taiwan)	R. Lindstedt (Sweden) and J. Ostapenko (Latvia)

- Hima Das sprints to 3rd international gold within two weeks
- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das(24) from Assam clinched her 3rd international gold within two weeks in women's 200m race with a time of 23.43 seconds and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (Kerala) also won gold in the men's 400m with the time of 45.21 seconds at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic.
- ❖ **Foot notes:**
- Das won her second 200m gold in women's 200m race with a time of 23.97 seconds at the Kutno Athletics Meet 2019 in Poland on July 8, 2019.

- She won the 1st 200m race gold at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix with the time of 23.65 sec in Poland on July 2, 2019.

3. PV Sindhu to spearhead Indian campaign at Indonesia Open Badminton

- ❖ PV Sindhu won the Indian campaign at the Indonesia Open Badminton tournament beginning. The tournament took place at Jakarta.
- ❖ Sindhu will play her opening game against Japan's Aya Ohori. Saina Nehwal will not take part in the tournament. Kidambi Srikanth is placed at 8th position.
- ❖ B. Sai Praneeth and HS Prannoy are other Indians seen in action in the Singles. Srikanth face Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, Praneeth take on Wong Wing Ki of Hong Kong. Prannoy meet second-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi. Ashwini Ponnappa, N. Sikki Reddy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are among those will figure in the Doubles.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About PV Sindhu

1. Awards: Padma Shri, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna
2. Olympic medals: Badminton at the 2016 Summer Olympics Women's singles

4. Kiran More appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach

- Kiran Shankar More (56), Indian former cricketer & wicket-keeper has been appointed as the interim coach of the USA (United States of America) cricket team. He replaces the head coach Pubudu Dassanayake of Sri Lanka, whose contract was to end by March 2019 but was extended to December 2019 resigned due to differences with USA Cricket Board. Kiran More appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach.
- He is from Vadodara, Gujarat. The USA Cricket has also appointed former India spinner Sunil Joshi as spin bowling advisor, and Pravin Amre and Kieran Powell as advisors for the batting department. In June 2019, More was also appointed as the USA's director of cricket.
- He played for India in 49 Tests and 94 ODIs (One Day Internationals), has served as the Chairman of the Indian selection committee and also was the wicketkeeping-consultant of Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

❖ Foot Notes

➤ About the USA:

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

5. Indians bagged 6 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze at Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno

- Indian athlete Mohammad Anas won gold in men's 400m and Hima Das won gold in women's 200m event at Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno in Czech Republic.
- Indians bagged 6 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Mohammad Anas:

- Anas won his own national record in men's 400m race and clocked with an effort of 45.21 seconds. Earlier, he set the national record as he clocked 45.24 seconds which he recorded in 2018.
- Anas finished nearly one second ahead of silver winner Omelko Rafal (46.19) of Poland.

➤ About Hima Das:

1. Hima Das timed 23.43 seconds to win gold while she has personal best of 23.10 sec in 200m. She won another gold in Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland and one more at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland. This is Hima Das 3rd international triumph in within 2 weeks.
2. The other gold winner in the event are:
3. Archana in 100m (11.74 sec)
4. Lili Das in 1500m (4:19.05)

5. Harsh Kumar in 400m (46.76 sec)
6. Sahil Silwal in javelin throw (78.50m)
7. Women's 4×100 relay(45.81 sec)

6. India to host ISSF World Cup from March 15 to 26, 2020 in New Delhi

- On July 15, 2019, International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages. ISSF World Cup in rifle/pistol/shotgun events to be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020.
- The dates for the event were approved by the ISSF Executive Committee. It will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, from March 4 to 13, 2020. The World Cup in rifle, pistol and shotgun, a test event for the Olympics, will be held in Tokyo, Japan from April 15 to 27, 2020, followed by the World Cup in rifle and pistol in Munich, Germany, from June 2 to 9, 2020
- The combined World Cup for all three events will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from June 22 to July 3, 2020.

❖ Foot Notes

About ISSF:

1. Headquarters: Munich, Germany
2. Founded: 1907
3. President: Vladimir Lisin

7. Boxing legend 'Sweet Pea' Pernell Whitaker passed away in Virginia, US

- On July 14, 2019, Pernell Whitaker, former Olympic boxing gold medallist and four-weight world champion, passed away after he was hit by a vehicle in Virginia, United States. He was 55 years old. The American professional boxer who competed from 1984 to 2001 was nicknamed as 'Sweet Pea'. Sweet Pea' Pernell Whitaker passed away
- Born on January 2, 1964, in Norfolk, Virginia, he fought 46 times as a professional, where he won 40 with 17 knockouts. He won Olympic gold at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles, gold at the 1983 Pan American Games, silver at the 1982 World Championships and also won world titles at lightweight, light welterweight, welterweight and light middleweight
- He was named as the fighter of the year by Ring magazine in 1989 and was also regarded as the best pound for pound boxer in the world during the early to mid 1990s. In 2002, the Ring magazine ranked him the 10th greatest boxer of the last 80 years and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007.

8. Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah maintains top spots in ICC ODI ranking 2019

- As per the ODI (One Day International) rankings 2019 released by the ICC (International Cricket Council), right-handed top-order batsman, Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah have retained their top numbered position following the conclusion of the World Cup. Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah.
- Batsman list: Kohli tops the list with 886 points followed by Rohit Sharma, who is just five points behind Kohli. Babar Azam (Pakistan) got a 3rd position with 827 points. Faf du Plessis (820) of South Africa and Ross Taylor of New Zealand (817) are on the 4th and 5th position respectively.
- Pace bowlers chart: Jasprit Bumrah got the 1st position with 809 points followed by Trent Boult (New Zealand). Kagiso Rabada (South Africa) is on 3rd with 694 points and is followed by Pat Cummins (Australia's) with 693 points. Maiden world cup title: England have regained the first position with 125 points in the ICC ODI Team Rankings after they lifted their maiden Cricket World Cup. India is on the 2nd place with 122 points. New Zealand got the 3rd position (112 points) followed by Australia (111). South Africa (110) and Pakistan (97) are on the 5th and 6th position respectively.

- All-rounder rankings: Shakib Alasan remains at the top with 406 points followed by Ben Stokes of England(319) and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (310).

❖ **Foot Notes**

➤ **About ICC:**

1. Chairperson: Shashank Manohar
2. Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
3. CEO: Manu Sawhney

✚ **9. Vijayveer wins his 3rd gold at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup**

- Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, combining with Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to clinch the men's 25m pistol.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

- National Rifles Association of India President: Shri Raninder Singh.

✚ **10. Sachin Tendulkar 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame**

- International Cricket Council has inducted India's batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, South African pace legend Allan Donald and two-times World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick into the ICC's Hall of Fame.
- Other Indians on the list are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid.
- Sachin Tendulkar has 34,357 runs across formats and is the only batsman to have 100 internationals hundreds under his belt.
- Static/Current Takeaways Important For SBI Clerk Mains:

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About ICC**

- ICC Chairman: Shashank Manohar
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

✚ **11. Prithu Gupta of Delhi is India's 64th Grandmaster**

- Prithu Gupta of Delhi, aged 15 years, became India's 64th Grandmaster (GM). He achieved the rating stipulation of 2500 points by beating Germany's Lev Yankelevich in the fifth round of the Portuguese League 2019.
- He is a Class X student of Modern School (Vasant Vihar), Delhi. His achievement came 31 years after Viswanathan Anand had become India's first Grandmaster.
- D Gukesh is the youngest GM of India at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days.

Awards

✚ **1. "Find the Incredible You" campaign of the Tourism Ministry wins PATA Gold Award 2019**

- The Ministry of Tourism's campaign, "Find the Incredible you" has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2019 under the "Marketing – Primary Government Destination" category.
- **Aim:** The campaign which focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country won the award among 198 entries from 78 organizations and individuals worldwide.
- **Find the Incredible You:** It was launched as part of 'Incredible India 2.0' Campaign. Series of transformative experiences of foreign through unique storytelling in the format of autobiographies with the tagline "Find the Incredible You were launched under the campaign,

which had shifted strategy focus from external experience of tourist destinations to internal experience of travelers themselves.

- **PATA Gold Award:** These awards are given by PATA to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding contribution towards the promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.
- **Incredible India 2.0:** It was launched in September 2017 to take campaigns to the next level. It had shifted from generic promotions undertaken across the world to market-specific promotional plans and content creation.
- As part of the 2.0 Campaign, 5 new television commercials were produced by Tourism Ministry, which was aired on the television and social media globally. These were:
- **Yoga:** “The Yogi of the Racetrack”
- **Wellness:** “The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones”.
- **Luxury:** “The Maharani of Manhattan”.
- **Cuisine:** “The Masala MasterChef”.
- **Wildlife:** “The Sanctuary in Paris”.
- **Annual release:** The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its promotional initiatives annually releases Global Media Campaigns under the ‘Incredible India’ brand-line in the Television, Print, Digital, and Social Media, in key and potential source markets overseas.

Obituaries

1. P Rajagopal, Saravana Bhavan founder passed away in Chennai

- Founder of popular South Indian food chain Saravana Bhavan, P Rajagopal, who convicted in a murder case passed away due to a Heart attack in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 72.
- He was born in Punnaiyadi, Tuticorin District of Tamil Nadu. He had surrendered before a local court to serve a life sentence in a murder case and had been shifted to Vijaya Hospital after the Madras High Court passed an interim order.
- For murdering an employee in October 2001, he had surrendered along with another accused earlier to serve life term after the Supreme Court rejected his plea seeking more time on grounds of ill-health.

2. 3-time Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit passes away

- Former Delhi Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Shiela Dikshit passed away at a hospital in the national capital. She was 81 years old.
- She was suffering from a heart ailment for a long time. Dikshit was admitted to Escorts Fortis hospital in Delhi on Saturday morning.
- Dikshit served at the Chief Minister of Delhi for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013. Presently, she was holding the office of Delhi Congress president. She even contested in the 2019 Lok Sabha election against BJP's Manoj Tiwari from the North-East Delhi parliamentary seat.

Foot Notes:

About Delhi

1. **Chief Minister of Delhi:** Arvind Kejriwal.