

WEEKLY G.K.

05 August – 11 August
(2019)

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National News

+ 1. Gujarat government launched Vhali Dikri Yojna

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' from his hometown Rajkot, Gujarat. The scheme is introduced for the welfare of the girl child.
- The meaning of this scheme is Dear Daughter Scheme. The main details about this scheme is stated before. Vahali Dikri Yojana is launched to improve the sex ratio of girl child in the State. The successful implementation of this scheme State government allocated a budget of Rs 133 Crore.
- According to the scheme State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000. There will be a time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 at the time of marriage. It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat.

➤ About Gujarat

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

+ 2. Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to implement biofuel policy

- Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan state Government, Sachin Pilot stated that Rajasthan is the 1st state in the country that released biofuel rules-2019 (after the notification of the Centre on April 30, 2019) with the vision to promote the use of biofuels. He introduced the biofuel rules-2019 at a state level function on the eve of the World Biofuel Day.
- The pilot also stated that there will be no delay in taking necessary steps for progress and welfare of the society and country.
- Present status: 82% of fossil fuel in India comes from overseas which is a big burden on the taxpayers and India's economy. It categorizes the biofuels called Basic Biofuels into 3 categories which include
- First Generation (1G), bioethanol & biodiesel
- "Advanced Biofuels", Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels and
- Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG (Compressed natural gas) among others to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Rajasthan

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

+ 3. RS passed the National Institute of Design Amendment Bill

- Rajya Sabha passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It was introduced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The Bill sought to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.
- Provisions of the Bill
- The Bill declares four National Institutes of Design, from states namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana, as institutions of national importance.
- These institutes were registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. These institutes do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. As the four institutes are now declared institutions of national importance, the institutes will be allowed to grant degrees and diplomas.
- The institute will become socially inclusive and address the needs of design in various sectors including agriculture, health care, and transportation.

+ 4. Samjhauta Express not suspended

- The Pakistan Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed declared a decision that Samjhauta Express services will be permanently stopped on 8th August.
- It also said that the people who had already purchased their tickets can get their money reimbursed from Lahore DS office.
- Despite announcement Indian Railways maintained that the train that runs between the 2 neighbouring countries has not been suspended and it will run normally.

- Reason for the issue:
- The decision of Pakistan follows after after the resolution revoking Article 370 was passed by the Parliament of India.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Samjhauta Express:**

1. The Samjhauta Express was named after the Hindi word for agreement. The samjhauta train service was started on July 22 in 1976 under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations.
2. The train runs on the Indian side from Delhi to Attari and from Lahore to Wagah on the Pakistan side. The train departs in every Monday and Thursday from Lahore. The train comprises of six sleeper coaches and an AC 3-tier coach.

✚ **5. President signs National Medical Commission Bill into a law**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has signed National Medical Commission Bill which was passed by both houses of Parliament.
- The NMC bill aims at mega reforms in the medical education sector and will replace the nearly 63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act. The bill will ensure probity, quality education and bring down costs of medical education.
- National Medical Commission Bill will also simplify procedures and provides wider access to people for quality healthcare. The NMC will have eminent medical personalities as members who will be appointed for only one term of four years and will not be eligible for any further extension.

✚ **6. Union environment ministry unveiled a draft 'Nation Resource Efficiency Policy'**

- In order to save the natural resources, the Union environment ministry unveiled a draft 'Nation Resource Efficiency Policy' which suggests the institutional mechanism and a three-year action plan through the principle of 6R and 'green public procurement'.
- In India, the consumption of fossil fuels, biomass, metal ores and non-metal ores was increased by over 6 times in 45 years, from 1.18 billion tonnes (BT) in 1970 to 7.4 BT in 2015. It is projected to be doubled by 2030 from 2015 level.
- The draft pitches for moving towards 'zero landfill' approach. It may impose 'landfill taxes' and 'high tipping fees' for bulk generators of waste so that they can move towards optimal use of materials and better waste management.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About MoEFCC:**

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Founded:** 1985
3. **Minister In-charge:** Prakash Javadekar

✚ **7. Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal**

- Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- The wireless system, called 'Intelights', has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road, on a pilot project basis, and will regulate traffic signals with a smart bird's eye view wireless sensor system.
- The new system will have sensors which would automatically switch on the green and red signals depending upon the number of vehicles coming from that particular side.

✚ **8. Udaipur to host India's Largest Education Brainstorm**

- The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will held in the city of lakes, Udaipur. It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse.
- The theme for the fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from Conformity to Creativity'.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Udaipur**

1. Udaipur, formerly the capital of the Mewar Kingdom, is a city in the western Indian state of Rajasthan.
2. Founded by Maharana Udai Singh II in 1559 .

✚ **9. Rajya Sabha passes Consumer Protection Bill**

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019. The bill will lead to setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- The Bill seeks to strengthen the rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.
- The bill will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

1. **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution:** Ram Vilas Paswan.

✚ **10. 5th edition of 'IASMC' kicks off in Jaisalmer**

- The 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition with teams from 8 countries including India, China and Russia as participants was inaugurated at the Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of the Southern Command.
- Lt Gen DS Ahuja, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Southern Command, and Deputy Defence Minister of Russia Yunus Bek Evkurov unveiled the trophy of the competition and unfolded the event's flag at the inaugural ceremony. Army Scout Master Teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and India are participating in the 9-day event from August 6 to 14.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

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

✚ **11. India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement**

- The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed.
- On this date in 8 Aug 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to "Do or Die" in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai. The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About The Quit India Movement**

1. The Quit India Movement, or the August Movement, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.

✚ **12. Odisha police station in top 10 in India**

- Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in India in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
- The certificate of excellence and a trophy awarded by the Union Home Ministry were handed over to Tarava police inspector Dulamani Bhoi by Odisha DGP R.P. Sharma.

➤ **About Odisha**

1. **CM :** Naveen Patnaik
2. **Governor of Odisha:** Ganeshi Lal.

✚ **13. Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record**

- The Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day. The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.

✚ **14. 'One Nation, One Ration Card' to be rolled out in India by June 1, 2020**

- "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020. To implement the scheme successfully, centre has kick started inter state portability of ration card pairing two states each.
- The pairs are made between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.
- This means that beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the states.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

1. **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution:** Ram Vilas Paswan.

✚ **15. Manipur tops the Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country**

- Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions of the report card.
 - National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States. The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.
 - The Breastfeeding Improves the child's IQ level. The benefit of Breastfeeding not only saves child but also saves the mother from breast cancer and ovarian cancer.
- ❖ **Foot Notes:**
- **About Manipur**
1. **Capital:** Imphal
 2. **Governor:** Padmanabha Acharya
 3. **Chief Minister:** N. Biren Singh

International News& Foreign Affairs

✚ 1. Iran launched 3 new precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" & "Ghaem"

- Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of "Ghaem" in Tehran. The air-to-air missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence of Iran and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.
- Yasin is a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres (30 miles) of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.
- Balaban is guided by GPS (Global Positioning System) and sensors. It is equipped with folding wings and can be mounted under the aircraft.
- Ghaem is a heat-seeking missile which can hit within 50 centimetres of a target.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Iran**

1. **Capital:** Tehran
2. **Currency:** Iranian rial
3. **President:** Hassan Rouhani

✚ 2. U.S. labels China a 'currency manipulator'

- The United States has officially labeled China a "currency manipulator". The US has accused China of using yuan to gain "unfair competitive advantage" in trade.
- The US took the action as Beijing has allowed its yuan to fall below the politically sensitive level of "seven" to the U.S. dollar for the first time in 11 years.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About US**

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

✚ 3. Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia

- Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).
- The deal was signed in Dhaka between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).
- Under this deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Russia**

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

4. Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles

- Iran unveiled 3 precision-guided missiles. The new line-up of air-to-air missiles named the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Iran**

- President of Iran:** Hassan Rouhani
- Capital of Iran:** Tehran.
- Currency of Iran:** Rial.

5. Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh

- 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR's Bio-metric Identity Management System (BIMS) fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and UNHCR to all verified refugees over the age of 12.
- These cards will help in establishing and safeguarding the right of Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar. UNHCR's (BIMS) captures bio-metric data, including fingerprints and iris scans, which secure each refugee's unique identity as well as other important information such as family links.

❖ Foot Notes:**About UNHCR**

- UNHCR Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- UNHCR Head:** Filippo Grandi.

6. Hoverboard inventor Franky zapata crosses English Channel in his second attempt

- 40 year old Jet powered hoverboard inventor and former jet ski champion Franky zapata of France, crossed the English Channel for the first time within 10days after his first failed attempt.
- He Started his 22 mile journey at 715 am from Sangatte, Northern France and landed at Saint Margaret's bay in Dover in around 25 minutes. Franky zapata Previous attempt Franky Zapata made his first attempt to cross the English Channel on 25th July but failed as he fell into the water half-way when he tried to land on a boat for refuelling.
- Mr. Zapata received widespread attention following the annual Bastille Day parade in Paris on 14th July, as he took part in a military display on his futuristic flyboard(hoverboard). The attempt took place exactly 110 years since Louis Blériot made the first powered flight across the Channel in 1909.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Hoverboard**

- It is half the size of a skateboard and has 5 small jet engines It is fuelled by kerosene and is kept in the backpack of the rider.
- About English Channel
- It is also called as channel. It is the busiest shipping areas in the world and it separates Southern England from Northern France and link the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The first person to cross the English Channel by swimming was Captain Matthew Webb in 1875 (in 21hours 45min). Location- between Celtic sea and North Sea.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. India's Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity 2019

- Naaz Joshi made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity. She competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius.
- She dressed up in blue lehenga and choli and portrayed herself as the powerful Indian Goddess, who stands for 'shakti' - the feminine source of power and women empowerment.
- She is a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. She was sent to her relative's house in Mumbai.

❖ Foot Notes:**➤ About Mauritius**

- Capital:** Port Louis
- Currency:** Mauritian rupee

3. **Prime minister:** Pravin Jugnauth

✚ **2. Abhinandan Varthaman and Balakot pilots to get top military honours**

- Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, an Indian Air Force pilot, is likely to be awarded a Vir Chakra for his gallantry.
- Mirage-2000 fighter jet pilots who dropped bombs on the terror facility of the Jaish-e-Mohammed will also get the Vayu Sena Medal for gallantry.

✚ **3. Sonia Gandhi chosen as Interim Chief of Congress**

- The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party, selected Sonia Gandhi, aged 72, as interim president of the Congress party.
- She had held the post of Congress President between 1998 and 2017. She succeeds Rahul Gandhi.

✚ **4. Mission Shakti sports initiative launched by Bollywood actor Aamir Khan**

- Mission Shakti which is an initiative to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics by the Maharashtra minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, was launched by Bollywood film actor Aamir Khan in presence of Maharashtra sports minister Ashish Shelar.
- A team of tribal mountaineers who climbed Mount Everest under the "Mission Shaurya" by Maharashtra govt., were facilitated by Aamir Khan.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Mission shakthi**

1. This initiative will focus on sports like archery, shooting, swimming, athletics, volleyball, weight lifting and gymnastics.
2. Mega sports complex is planned at Ballarpur in Chandrapur and is to be funded by state govt. iii. The Maharashtra govt. Started this initiative to train and produce athletes of Olympic level and to make them participate in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

➤ **About 2024 Paris Olympics**

1. It is the 2024 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad.
2. **Host city**- Paris, France.
3. **Stadium**- Stade de France.

✚ **5. Noel Quinn named as the new HSBC's interim CEO**

- HSBC bank announced that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HSBC John Flint steps down from his post after 1.5 years and is to be replaced by Noel Quinn, head of HSBC's global commercial banking unit, as the new interim CEO.
- Chairman of HSBC Mark Tucker informed that this replacement of a new CEO was needed for a change to meet the challenges
- The lender bank also announced buyback of \$1 Billion.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About HSBC**

1. HSBC was ranked 7th largest bank in the world in 2018 and the largest in Europe.
2. **Headquarters**- London, UK.

Banking

✚ **1. SBI Life Insurance, Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact**

- Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank. SBI Life Insurance said that Bank assurance as a channel has been a strong differentiator for the life insurer and it continues to explore more opportunities through partnerships with credible organisations. The bank assurance agreement was signed in the presence of Padmaja Chunduru and Sanjeev Nautiyal.
- It comes on the heels of a similar agreement between Aditya Birla Sun Life SBI Life Insurance and Chennai-headquartered Indian Bank entered into a bank assurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter's customers. The partnership will see for 2,851 branches of Indian Bank across the country for insurance solutions.
- SBI Life will work with Indian Bank to ensure sales training, product support and smooth operational processes in order to offer life insurance policies to its customers. Indian Bank's customers have access to an array of life insurance products from SBI Life catering to varied life stage needs of the customer.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

1. **Chairperson:** Rajnish Kumar
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Founded:** 1 July 1955
4. **Managing directors:** P.K.Gupta

✚ 2. RBI to set up "Central Payment Fraud Registry"

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up a "Central Payment Fraud Registry". The registry will track frauds in the payment systems.
- Under this registry, payment system participants will be provided access to it for near-real time fraud monitoring. The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks.
- Currently, banks report all banking frauds to the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell of the Reserve Bank of India.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About RBI

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

✚ 3. India's Reliance Industries Ltd is partnering with iconic US-based luxury jeweller Tiffany & Co to open a line of stores in the country.

- Tiffany popular for its engagement rings and robin's egg blue boxes plans to open stores in New Delhi and Mumbai in the second half of fiscal years 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- The tie-up comes as Reliance, which is run by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani and runs a sprawling conglomerate bolsters its consumer-focused units such as retail and telecoms to match the strength of its dominant oil and gas business. The company bought British toy retailer Hamleys.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Reliance Industries

1. **CEO:** Mukesh Ambani
2. **Founder:** Dhirubhai Ambani

✚ 4. India's first National Time Release Study conducted from August 1-7, 2019

- The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance conducted India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) from August 1-7, 2019. It will be conducted on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter. It is lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC).
- It is an internationally recognized tool advocated by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows. The WCO TRS is specifically referenced in Article 7.6 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as a tool for Members to measure and publish the average release time of goods.
- Objective: To identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Ministry of Finance:

1. **Founded:** 29 October 1946
2. **Minister In-Charge:** Nirmala Sitharaman

➤ About WCO:

1. **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
2. **Formed:** January 26, 1952

✚ 5. Google backed firm -Fynd's majority stake acquired by Reliance industries

- 7 year old Mumbai startup Fynd, which is a Google backed firm that connects retailers with online stores and consumers, is now acquired by Reliance industries.
- Fynd's majority stake acquired by Reliance industries The acquisition announcement was made by Fynd's co-founder Harsh Shah. Reliance industries will now be owning 87.6% stake in Fynd.
- The acquisition has been made at a cost of 2.95 Billion Indian rupees(\$42.33 million).

❖ Foot Notes:

➤ About Reliance Industries Ltd

1. **CEO:** Mukesh Ambani
2. **Founder:** Dhirubhai Ambani.

3. **Headquarters-** Mumbai.4. **Walmart tops Euromonitor's 2019 list of India's top retailers**

- As per the latest report "Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019" by market research firm, Euromonitor International, Walmart Inc which acquired Flipkart in 2018(\$16 Bn deal) has topped the rankings in India for 2018 with Gross Merchandise Volume(GMV) of \$14. 49 Bn. Amazon(US) came on the second spot with \$9.8 Bn GMV followed by Mumbai based retail company Future Group with \$3.8Bn GMV(3rd position) and Reliance Group(4th position) with \$3.6 Bn GMV.
- The Indian list also includes Tata Group(5th) & One 97 Communications' e-commerce unit, Paytm Mall(6th). For the list of the top 100 retailers in the whole Asian region, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (China) was ranked first.
- The report stated that behavioural change in urban households which adopt more modern lifestyles and shopping at large branded retail outlets impacts retailing in the country.

❖ **Foot Notes:**➤ **About Walmart:**

1. **Headquarters:** Bentonville, U.S
2. **President and CEO, Walmart:** Doug McMillon
3. **Chairman:** Greg Penner

➤ **About Euromonitor International:**

1. **Founded:** 1972
2. **Headquarters:** London
3. **CEO:** Tim Kitchin

4. **Reserve Bank tightens fit and proper guidelines for the position of elected directors on the board of PSBs**

- To keep out political appointees, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a new master direction called 'Fit and Proper' Criteria for Elected Directors on the Boards of PSBs(Public Sector Banks)) Directions, 2019 to determine 'fit and proper' status of person to be eligible to be elected as a director . These Directions are applicable to all PSBs & separate norms for private banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) will be issued soon.
- Fit and proper direction 2019:
 1. **NRC:** RBI requires all PSBs (State Bank of India and nationalized banks) to have a nomination and remuneration committee (NRC) with at least three non-executive directors(half should be independent and include at least one member from the risk management committee)from amongst the board of directors.

Directors nominated by the Government under Section 19(f) of the SBI Act/Section 9(3)(c) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 should not be part of the Committee.
 2. **Eligibility:** The new rule requires that the candidate (He/She), who wants to become an elected director should at least be a graduate aged between 35-67 years with the special knowledge or practical experience in areas of banks. He/she should not be a member of Parliament, state legislature, municipal corporation, municipality, or other local bodies can hold office for three years and eligible for re-election & Maximum tenure for them pegged at six years whether served continuously/intermittently. Shareholders of PSBs allowed electing 2-3 directors, depending on the level of public shareholding.
 3. **Omission:** The new rules bar the person, who is board members of the RBI or any bank, financial institution, insurance company or bank holding company. candidates who are in line with the business of stock broking hire purchasing, financing, money lending, investment, leasing or para banking activity are also exempted.

❖ **Foot Notes:**➤ **About RBI:**

1. **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
3. **Founded:** 1 April 1935

4. **Mastercard launches 'Identity Check Express' for uninterrupted secured online transactions**

- On August 6, 2019, American multinational financial services corporation, Mastercard has launched a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution, called "Identity Check Express" that will help customers to do uninterrupted secured transactions while shopping online.
- The new card payment feature was showcased in New Delhi at the Global Mastercard Cybersecurity Summit 2019, held for the 1st time in India.

- As per the Mastercard's analysis, up to 20% of mobile e-commerce transactions are interrupted mid-way. The present rules to verify an identity online are time-consuming which led to the shoppers away from a merchant's website due to the issues such as consumers being redirected to a third website to complete the payment process or mobile network fluctuations.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Mastercard:**

1. **Headquarters:** United States
2. **Founded:** 16 December 1966
3. **President and CEO:** Ajay Banga

Science Tech & Defence

1. ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research as a reward and recognition to journalists.
- Nominations: All Indian journalists can be nominated and those articles that are published from the year 2019 till 2020 can be submitted.
- Candidates will be nominated and judged based on the standard criteria set by ISRO. The names of the selected will be declared on August 1, 2020.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Vikram Sarabhai Award:**

1. Vikram Sarabhai is the father of Indian space program. He was an Indian Scientist. The centenary year celebrations of the father of Indian space programme announced the award.
2. ISRO institutes two categories of awards instituted in the field of journalism:
3. An award that includes a cash price of Rs.5,00,000, a medal and citation to two journalists or freelancers of print media.
4. An award that includes 3 cash prizes such as Rs.3,00,000, Rs.2,00,000 and Rs.1,00,000 to the articles or the success stories that are published in Hindi, English, or Regional languages in popular Periodicals, Science magazines, or Journals in India from 2019 to 2020.

2. First nearby super-earth planet GJ357d discovered by NASA

- The NASA scientists have characterized the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system that may be suitable for life. The super-earth planet - named GJ 357 d - was spotted by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- It is estimated that planet is about six times the size of our planet and located a mere 31 light-years away. The planet orbits a dwarf star in the Hydra constellation and may have the right conditions to support liquid water as it lies within its star's habitable zone.
- It may be noted that a super-Earth is an extrasolar planet with a mass higher than Earth's, but substantially below those of the Solar System's ice giants, Uranus and Neptune

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About NASA**

1. **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
2. **Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower
3. **Founded:** 29 July 1958, United State

3. SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israel's Amos 17 telecommunications satellite

- The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called Amos-17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.
- The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit .
- The launch was a makeup launch for Spacecom when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded on the launch pad in 2016. Amos-17 has been designed to provide enhanced voice, video and data services to customers in Africa and parts of Europe, the Middle East, India and China.
- Before AMOS 17, SpaceX launched the Europe's Arianespace consortium with two satellites from its spaceport in the South American country of French Guiana using its heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket.
- The second satellite called EDRS-C is part of an effort led by the European Space Agency and Airbus to facilitate high-speed laser communications between orbiting satellites and ground stations.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About SpaceX**

1. **Headquarters:** Hawthorne, California, U.S
2. **Industry:** Aerospace
3. **CEO :** Elon Musk

✚ **4. IIT-Guwahati develops hand-held device to detect bacteria**

- A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has developed a portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays.
- The hand-held device, with the bio-compatible sensor, can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis.
- This research has enabled rapid detection of bacteria, which is not just important in healthcare, but also in anti- bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring.

✚ **5. DRDO successfully test fired QRSAM Missile**

- The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from a mobile truck-based launch unit from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile type. QRSAM missile has been developed for the Army.
- The entire mission was tracked by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About QRSAM**

1. **Operational range:** 30 km
2. **Designer:** DRDO
3. **Manufacturer:** BEL and BDL
4. **Place of origin:** India

➤ **About DRDO**

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

✚ **6. ISRO sets up SSAM in Bengaluru**

- K Sivan, chairman, Isro, laid the foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre at Peenya in Bengaluru.
- Isro has set up a directorate of space situational awareness and management aiming at protecting high valued space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions. The control centre would facilitate the intensified activities foreseen for SSAM, in view of increasing debris population and operational space assets.
- The control centre would host a range of activities pertaining to the protection of Indian space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near-earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About ISRO**

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

✚ **7. NASA satellite uncovers 'first nearby super-Earth'**

- The Super-Earth planet named GJ 357 d was discovered in early 2019 owing to NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a mission designed to comb the heavens for exoplanets.
- Scientists have characterised the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system located about 31 light-years away.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About NASA**

1. **Administrator of NASA:** Jim Bridenstine
2. **Headquarter of NASA:** Washington DC, US

Important days

1. Hiroshima Day 2019 observed on August 6

- It marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States (US) in 1945. An American B-29 bomber had dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
- Three days later i.e on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb "Fat Man" was dropped on the city of Nagasaki.
- Hiroshima Day, the annual event is organised by the Galway Alliance Against War (GAAW) in Eyre Square, Ireland. 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the disastrous event.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About Japan**

1. **Capital:** Tokyo
2. **Currency:** Japanese Yen
3. **Prime Minister:** Shinzo Abe

2. 7th August: National Handloom Day

- **Objective:** to honour and revive the roots of handlooms and thus provide work to weavers and to spread awareness about the importance of the handloom industry to the socio economic development of the country.
- Handloom Mela and exhibition, workshops, panel discussion were organised and special stalls were put up for handloom products at Gandhinagar and Kolkata NIFT campuses.
- On 7 August, 2015 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Handloom Day at Madras University in Chennai.

Sports

1. BCCI agreed to come under the jurisdiction of NADA

- The Indian Sports Secretary, Radheshyam Jhulaniya stated that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to come under the jurisdiction of the anti-doping watchdog, National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) after years of resisting the move.
- BCCI had raised a number of concerns (quality of the dope testing kits, competence of pathologists and sample collection) but finally agreed to come under NADA after the sports ministry gave assurances about resolving issues of the cricket board.
- Background: BCCI calling itself an autonomous body, and was against the signing up with NADA for a period of time. The Indian cricket board decided in March 2019 to work with the country's anti-doping agency on a trial period of 6 months.

❖ **Foot Notes:**

➤ **About BCCI in India**

1. **Founded** : 1928
2. **Headquarters**: Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. **CEO**: Rahul Johri

➤ **About NADA**

1. **Director-General & CEO** : Navin Agarwal
2. It is mandated for Dope free sports in India.
3. Its objectives are to implement anti-doping rules, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.

2. P.V. Sindhu among Forbes 2019 list of worlds highest-paid female athletes

- India's badminton star P.V. Sindhu is the only athlete from the country to be named among the world's highest-paid female athletes by Forbes, a list topped by tennis great Serena Williams. Sindhu is tied for 13th place in The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 list released by Forbes.
- She secured total earnings of \$5.5 million, She became the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour finals in 2018. The list of the world's top 15 female athletes is topped by Williams. She earned total earnings of \$29.2 million. She built a venture portfolio worth more than \$10 million. The second spot is Naomi Osaka, who won the 2018 US Open. She defeated champ Williams at 23-time Grand Slam. She has total earnings of \$24.3 million.
- There are 15 female athletes who made at least \$5 million during that time period. The top 15 earned a cumulative \$146 million, compared with \$130 million. Williams and Osaka earned more than twice as much as the third-highest-paid female athlete in the world. Angelique Kerber, who pulled in \$11.8 million from tennis.

Amla retires from international cricket

- South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all formats of international cricket.
- Amla played 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is between his 15-year-long cricketing career.
- Scoring more than 18,000 runs, including 55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50.

Obituaries

1. Former T.N. Minister Jennifer Chandran passes away

- Former Fisheries Minister S. Jennifer Chandran passed away. She won from the Tiruchendur Assembly constituency in 1996 and served as a Minister in the DMK government from 1996-2001.

2. The 'supermom' of India, former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away

- The 'supermom' of India, former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away after late Tuesday night on 6th of August after a massive cardiac arrest.
- Sushma Swaraj was an Indian politician and a Supreme Court lawyer. A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, Swaraj served as the Minister of External Affairs of India from 26 May 2014 to 30 May 2019.
- She was the second woman to hold the office, after Indira Gandhi.

3. Former Padma Shri award winner Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passes away

- Former Padma Shri award winner and educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passed away. She received the Padma Shri award in 2010 for her contribution to the field of education. She was the founder of the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB) Group of Schools.

4. Veteran Gujarati journalist Kanti Bhatt passed away in Mumbai

- On August 4, 2019, Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist Kanti Bhatt, aged 88, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra after a long illness. Kanti Bhatti. Born on July 15, 1931 in Sachra village in erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat, he had joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai.
- He worked as a journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitrallekha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan.

5. Veteran cricket commentator of All India Radio, Anant Setalvad passed away

- Long term member in Cricket Club of India and veteran cricket commentator, Anant Setalvad from Mumbai, passed away at the age of 84 due to old age ailments. He is survived by his two sons.
- He was a cricket commentator for All India Radio (AIR) in Ranji Trophy, BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) tournaments and also for some test matches from the mid 1960s to 1980s. He shared the mike with former test opener and ex-selection panel Chief Vijay Merchant on AIR.
- His last rites would take place at Worli crematorium, Mumbai.

Foot Notes:

About AIR

1. **Founded-** 1930
2. **Motto-** Bahujanahitaya Bahujanahitaya
3. **Owner-** Prasar Bharati
4. **Headquarters-** New Delhi.