



# WEEKLY G.K.

26 August – 01 September  
(2019)

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## National News

### 1. Feroz Shah Kotla to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

- ✦ Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi will be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium in the memory of former DDCA President. The decision was announced by the DDCA (Delhi and District Cricket Association) on August 27, 2019.
- ✦ Speaking on the same, current DDCA president Rajat Sharma said, "What can be better to have it named after the man who got it rebuilt under his presidentship.
- ✦ It was Arun Jaitley's support and encouragement that players like Virat Kohli, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Ashish Nehra, Rishabh Pant and many others could make India proud."

### 2. Lieu Governor launches QR Code Scheme on Himmat Plus app

- ✦ Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal launched a QR Code Scheme on the Himmat Plus app which can be used by cab or auto-rickshaw passengers to verify the identity of the driver and raise an alarm.
- ✦ Around 3,000 taxis and auto-rickshaws plying outside airports, railway stations and metro stations in the city have been registered under this scheme of the Delhi Police Transport Range and can be verified by scanning the QR code of the card pasted on the back of the headrest of the driver's seat.
- ✦ if driver is not registered, the user receives the pop-up notification on the application. In this case, the passenger can call the control room or press the SOS button from the application .On the occasion of the launch, Baijal distributed QR Codes to some of the auto and taxi drivers

#### Himmat Plus

- ✦ Himmat Plus is a mobile app launched by the Delhi Police to ensure the safety of women.
- ✦ This added feature is to ensure that only genuine and verified drivers ferry passenger to their destinations from airports and railway and metro stations.

### 3. World Vision India and IFMR LEAD released India child well being index

- ✦ World Vision India and IFMR LEAD released a report on the India child well-being index 2019 on 27 August.
- ✦ In the Index states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry topped the charts. States like Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh ranked bottom in the index. The centre is fully committed to secure the rights and well-being of children.
- ✦ NITI Aayog said that the India child well-being index is very crucial that the Government and civil organizations should take note and the needed measures. This will achieve the goal of child well-being and the report will; be used effectively. The report provides nutrition for the children, education, insights on health, sanitation and child protection.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About NITI Aayog

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **Chairperson:** Narendra Modi
3. **CEO:** Amitabh Kant

**4. Government sets up 5-member GoM for Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh**

- ✦ The Union Government has constituted a 5-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into issues concerning the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✦ The GoM will look into the development, economic and social issues of the two UTs and suggest ways to improve the situation. The two UTs will come into existence on October 31.
- ✦ The GoM will comprise Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Jitendra Singh, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Narendra Singh Tomar and Dharmendra Pradhan.

**5. Assam's National Register of Citizens List released**

- ✦ State coordinator of the National Register of Citizens, Prateek Hajela has released the most awaited Assam's final National Register of Citizens list. The list has been made accessible online and at all NRC seva kendras in the state.
- ✦ The process of NRC Update was started in the state of Assam as per order of the Supreme Court of India in 2013. The NRC took five years and Rs 1,220 crore before getting published.
- ✦ From the 3.29 crore applicants, a total of 3.11 crore people have been found eligible for inclusion in final NRC list. 19.06 lakh people have been excluded from the final NRC list. Those excluded from the final NRC list will have 120 days to approach the Foreigners' Tribunals. If a person is dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision, he/she can appeal against it.

**Foot Notes:****About Assam**

1. **Capital:** Dispur
2. **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal
3. **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi

**6. Govt Launched mobile app "Janaushadhi Sugam"**

- ✦ Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers launched a mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam". This app will enable people to search for Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers.
- ✦ "Janaushadhi Sugam" mobile application would have user-friendly options like- to locate nearby Janaushadhikendra, direction guidance for the location of the Janaushadhikendra through Google Map, search Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine in form of MRP & overall Savings, etc.
- ✦ The mobile application is available on both Android & iOS platforms.

**Foot Notes:****About Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers**

1. **Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers:** D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

**7. Jio tops telecom market with 31.7 percent revenue share, Airtel second**

- ✦ Reliance Jio has topped the telecom market with a 31.7 percent market share in the second quarter of 2019. Bharti Airtel has regained its second spot, leaving behind Vodafone Idea, the revenue of which plunged substantially.
- ✦ Jio achieved the feat merely three years after its launch. Jio reported a modest 15 basis points (bps) sequential growth in the June quarter to reach an RMS of 31.7 percent.

- ✦ Airtel gained 277 bps in the same quarter for a 30 percent revenue market share. Airtel bounced back from its heavy fall in the previous quarter due to one-time bad debt write-offs linked to interconnect usage charges from operators.

**About Reliance Jio**

1. **Founder:** Mukesh Ambani
2. **Founded:** 2007

**About Airtel**

1. **CEO:** Gopal Vittal
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **Founder:** Sunil Bharti Mittal
4. **Founded:** 7 July 1995, India

**8. Delhi government to launch "10 Hafte, 10 Baje 10 minute Har Ravivar, Dengue Par War"**

- ✦ Delhi government will launch mega 10-week campaign against dengue and chikungunya. The campaign has been titled as "10 Hafte, 10 Baje 10 minute Har Ravivar, Dengue Par War".
- ✦ As per the campaign, people of Delhi are requested to give 10 minutes every Sunday at 10 a.m. to check all sources of stagnant water at their homes as the dengue mosquitoes breed only in clean water.

**Foot Notes:****About Delhi**

1. **Chief Minister of Delhi:** Arvind Kejriwal
2. **Lt. Governor:** Anil Bajjal.

**9. Citizens of Indore (Madhya Pradesh) take big steps to become No. 1 in Jal Shakti Abhiyan**

- ✦ The citizens of Indore (Madhya Pradesh) have taken a rapid step to become number one in Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a campaign for water conservation and water security after they got the top spot in Swachhata Abhiyan continuously since the last 3 years.
- ✦ In Indore Municipal Corporation area, a record has also been created by installing 1500 water harvesting systems in a day. The Indore Municipal Corporation has implemented the Jal Shakti Abhiyan on a priority basis & for this, an App has also been launched, in which citizens can apply for water harvesting system.
- ✦ The installation of water harvesting system capsules is being given free of cost under CSR (Corporate social responsibility) for homes to discharge roof rainwater into the ground during the rainy season. The homeowners are required to pay the amount of wages and material.

**About Jal Shakti Abhiyan:**

1. It is a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign.
2. It is launched in two phases

- July 1, 2019 -September 15, 2019
- October 1 – November 30, 2019

**10. 12th India Security Summit held in New Delhi**

- ✦ The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was “Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy”.
- ✦ Protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response, are some of the issues which were discussed during the conference.

**Foot Notes:**

**1. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology:** Ravi Shankar Prasad.

**11. Union HRD Minister launches Integrated Online junction ‘Shagun’**

- ✦ Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the world’s largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education ‘Shagun’ in New Delhi. Shagun is coined from two different words- ‘Shala’ meaning Schools and ‘Gunvatta’ meaning Quality.
- ✦ School Education Shagun is an over-arching initiative to improve the school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.

**Foot Notes:****About HRD Minister**

**1. Union HRD Minister:** Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’.

**12. Air India to ban single-use plastic on flights**

- ✦ Air India, India’s national airline, will ban the usage of single-use plastic aboard its flights from October 2, 2019.
- ✦ The ban will come into effect on all flights of Air India Express and Alliance Air flights. Air India will replace plastic teacups and tumblers with sturdy paper cups and tumblers.

**Foot Notes:**

**Chairman and MD of Air India Ltd:** Ashwani Lohani.

**13. HM Amit Shah flags off the first fleet of eco-friendly e- buses in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

- ✦ In a bid to make the city cleaner & greener, the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah has flagged off the first fleet of eco-friendly e-buses (electric buses) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which will be operated on major junctions in the city.
- ✦ He also inaugurated the India’s 1st automated battery charging & changing station for e-buses in the city. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) will operate the electric buses on a regular basis. In the 1st phase, a total of 50 buses will be rolled out, of which 18 e-buses will have swappable battery technology facility, while other 32 e-buses having fast charging facility will become operational.
- ✦ Amit Shah also culminates the Mission Million Trees project, which was organized by the AMC at the Science City on World Environment Day (5 June 2019). Under this mission, AMC has enabled planting of one million saplings since the launch of the initiative.

**Foot Notes:**

**About FAME scheme**

1 .It is an incentive scheme for the promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles in India

**The Scheme run in 2 phases.**

**Phase I:** It started in 2015 and was completed on March 31st, 2019.

**Phase II:** It started from April 1st, 2019 and will be completed by March 31st, 2022.

**Focus:** It focuses on 4 areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.

**About Gujarat:**

1. **Capital:** Gandhinagar

2. **Chief minister:** Vijay Rupani

3. **Governor:** Acharya Dev Vrat

**14. Government gives nod to set up Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur, Maharashtra**

- ✚ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar has announced the approval for the establishment of new International Standard Zoo and Biopark on 1914 hectares in the forest land at Gorewada in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ✚ The Zoo will be equipped with Bio Park, Indian Safari, African Safari, Night Safari, Research, Education and Training, facilities for tourists among others. Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (FDCM), a wholly-owned company of the Government of Maharashtra (GoM) has been established for this purpose.
- ✚ Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formation was approved between the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (having 51% shareholding) and the Joint Venture (JV) Company of private investors under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode Partner (with 49%).

**Foot Notes:****About Maharashtra:**

1. **Capital:** Mumbai

2. **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis

3. **Governor:** C. Vidyasagar Rao

4. **National Parks:** Chandoli National Park ,Gugamal National Park ,Nawegaon National Park , Pench National Park ,Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park.

**✚ 15. New logo and certificate identity of CBFC unveiled**

- ✚ The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) getting a new logo and certificate design. It is unveiled at a first-of-its-kind film industry interaction between eminent industry leaders and CBFC board members, being held in Mumbai on August 31, 2019.
- ✚ The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Shri Prakash Javdekar will be the Chief Guest. Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Shri Amit Khare will be the Guest of Honour. The new logo and certificate identity revealed by the Chairman, CBFC.
- ✚ The new design in its approach and in sync with the new digital world. It is interactive in its design sensibility. Shri Prasoon Joshi design has been done by designer Shri Rohit Devgun, with technical support from NSDL.

**Foot Notes:****About Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**

1. **Founded:** 1951

2. **Headquarters:** Mumbai

3. Agency executive: Prasoon Joshi

4. Parent agency: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

### 16. "Special Tiger Force" for Corbett Reserve to be set up by Uttarakhand

- ✚ The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve. The STPF will be effective in checking illegal human intrusion into the reserve through villages located on its fringes.
- ✚ The STPF will serve as a second layer of protection for tigers at the Corbett Tiger Reserve.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Uttarakhand

1. Chief Minister :Trivendra Singh Rawat

2. Governor: Baby Rani Maurya.

### 17. India will overtake China as the largest importer of coking coal by 2025

- ✚ According to the report of Fitch Solutions Macro Research, India will overtake China as the largest importer of coking coal by 2025. It has been estimated that India's coking coal consumption will grow at an annual average rate of 5.4% between 2019 and 2028, driven by an equally robust expansion in steel production.
- ✚ China will remain dominant in terms of overall market share. But India will become increasingly important in terms of seaborne demand. India is the largest importer of Australian coking coal. It saw a 25.8% year-on-year (YoY) increase in coking coal imports from Australia in the second quarter of 2019.
- ✚ China is the second largest importer of Australian coking coal. It decreased imports by 8.8% YoY in the second quarter of 2019. China will continue to account for roughly two-thirds of global coking coal production and consumption over the coming years.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About China

1. Capital: Beijing

2. Currency: Renminbi

3. President: Xi Jinping

### 18. Bihar bans 12 pan masala brands containing magnesium carbonate

- ✚ The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has banned 12 pan masala brands containing magnesium carbonate. The manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation or sale of pan masala containing magnesium carbonate is banned in Bihar, the state government said.
- ✚ The food and safety department of the state issued the order to raise the health concerns in Bihar. Earlier, the food and safety department had examined few pan masala brands and found that it contains magnesium carbonate which could cause heart disease.
- ✚ The brands which were examined by the food and safety department were Rajnigandha Pan Masala, Raj Niwas Pan Masala, Supreme Pan Parag Pan Masala, Pan Parag Pan Masala, Bahar Pan Masala, Bahubali Pan Masala, Rajshree Pan Masala, Raunak Pan Masala, Signature Pan Masala, Kamala likes include Pan Masala, Madhu Pan Masala.

#### Foot Notes:

1. Governor: Fagu Chauhan

2. **Chief minister:** Nitish Kumar
3. **Capital:** Patna

### 19. West Bengal passed anti lynching Bill

- ✦ The West Bengal State Assembly passed West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019. The Bill aims to prevent and punish mob assaults and lynching. The state government mentioned that the Bill was passed as the Centre has failed to take the initiative. The Bill was passed by a voice vote. The Bill aims to prevent the spreading of hatred or incidents of mob lynching.
- ✦ The State describes lynching as social malice. The State also urged the Centre and other State governments to bring similar legislation.
- ✦ The bill was passed after several cases in which the people were beaten to death over rumors of cattle smuggling and child theft. This offense will carry the punishment of a jail term for three years to life imprisonment. In case of assault leading to injury, the penalty includes a fine of a minimum of Rs.1 lakh to a maximum of Rs.3 lakh.
- ✦ The Bill defined terms such as lynching and mob. The Bill said that the West Bengal Lynching Compensation Scheme may be framed under this Act.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About West Bengal

1. **Capital:** Kolkata
2. **Governor:** Jagdeep Dhankhar
3. **Chief minister:** Mamata Banerjee

## International News & Foreign Affairs

### 1. Trump Has Just the Place for the Next G7 Meeting: His Own Golf Resort

- ✦ The United States will be hosting G7 Summit 2020. President Donald Trump announced that he is looking at hosting the next G7 at his Trump National Doral Miami Golf Resort.
- ✦ And not just for any personal business: The Trump National Doral Miami Golf Club is the Trump family's biggest moneymaking asset, which has shown signs of financial struggle since Mr. Trump began running for president in 2015.
- ✦ Mr. Trump said his property, a "great place," was uniquely equipped to handle the Group of 7 meeting in 2020.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About United states

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

### 2. 45th G7 Summit begins in Biarritz, France

- ✦ The Group of 7 or G7 Summit has begun in Biarritz, France. It is an informal meeting between France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada as well as the European Union. These world powers, which represent 50% of the global economy, also share the values of freedom and democracy, as well as a collective ambition to deal with the world's major issues.



- ✦ India has been invited as a special guest in the summit. PM Narendra Modi will address sessions on the environment, climate, oceans and digital transformation at the G7 Summit.

**Foot Notes:****About France**

1. **President of France:** Emmanuel Macron
2. **Capital:** Paris.

**3. PM Modi launches a redevelopment project of the Sri Krishna temple in Bahrain**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Sri Krishna temple in Manama, Bahrain.
- ✦ The \$4.2 million redevelopment project will be on a piece of land measuring 16,500 square feet. The new 4-floor structure covering will cover 45,000 square feet, will have an overall height of 30 meters.

**Foot Notes:****About Bahrain**

1. **King:** Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
2. **Capital:** Manama

**4. Shri Narendra Modi launches RuPay card in UAE**

- ✦ Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched the RuPay card. The UAE the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfill the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments.
- ✦ RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. India launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.
- ✦ RuPay card scheme was conceived and launched by National Payments Corporation of India . It was created to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

**Foot Notes:****About UAE**

1. **President:** Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
2. **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
3. **Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham

**About RBI**

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

## New Appointments and Person in News

### 1. PK Sinha is appointed as OSD in Prime Minister Office

- ✦ Former cabinet Secretary PK Sinha has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Prime Minister's Office (PMO). He will replace Nripendra Misra who is the Principal Secretary of PMO. Sinha's place will be taken by Rajiv Gauba who was appointed as Cabinet Secretary.
- ✦ Nripendra Misra 1967-batch retired IAS officer. He has relieved his position as a senior government official. Misra was the first senior-level appointment created by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. He is an outstanding officer who has an excellent grasp of public policy associate degree administration. Misra had retired as TRAI chairman.
- ✦ Pradeep Kumar Sinha is the 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is the 31st cabinet Secretary of India. Before this appointment, he served as the Power Secretary of India.

### 2. Govt accepts the resignation of SBI's MD Anshula Kant, following her appointment as MD and CFO of the World Bank

- ✦ The Central Government has accepted the resignation of Anshula Kant, Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI). This comes after her appointment as the MD and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of World Bank Group.
- ✦ Anshula is from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. She is a graduate in Economic Honours from Lady Shri Ram College for Women and a Post-Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics. She has more than 35 years of expertise in finance, banking will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group. She will also have to work closely with the World Bank CEO on the mobilization of the International Development Association (IDA) of WB and other financial resources.
- ✦ She joined SBI in 1983 as a probationary officer (PO) and also worked as the Deputy MD of Operations for National Banking Group. She has been a Managing Director and member of the Board since September 2018.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About SBI:

1. **Headquarters:** Mumbai
2. **Founded:** 1 July 1955
3. **Chairman:** Shri Rajnish Kumar
4. **Tagline:** The Nation banks on us; Pure Banking Nothing Else; With you all the way

##### About World Bank:

1. **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C, U.S.
2. **President:** David Malpass
3. **Chief Executive Officer:** Kristalina Georgieva

### 3. India appoints Pavan Kapoor as ambassador to UAE

- ✦ India appointed Pavan Kapoor as its next Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.
- ✦ The 1990 cadre IFS officer will replace Navdeep Singh Suri, who has been heading the Indian mission in UAE since October 2016. "Pavan Kapoor (IFS (Indian Foreign

Service): 1990 has been appointed as the next Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates," said Ministry of External Affairs in a statement.

- ✦ The diplomat has also served as the ambassador to Israel over the last three years with a new representative being appointed in his place last month. He has also served in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi. Kapoor was also appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of India from 2010 to 2013.

#### Foot Notes:

**Union Minister of External Affairs:** Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

#### About UAE

1. **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
2. **Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham
3. **Prime minister:** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

#### 4. Delhi HC judge who rejected Chidambaram's bail appointed as new PMLA tribunal chairman

- ✦ Delhi High Court judge Justice Sunil Gaur, who revoked former UPA minister P Chidambaram's anticipatory bails in INX Media case by ED and CBI 48 hours before his retirement, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal for Prevention of Money Laundering Act. He will take over the post on September 23.
- ✦ Earlier, Justice Sunil Gaur had also heard several high profile cases. He had also passed an order clearing the decks for the prosecution of top Congress leaders, including Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, in the National Herald case.

#### 5. IAF's Shalija Dhani becomes a first female flight commander

- ✦ Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Shalija Dhani has become the first female officer in the country to become Flight Commander of a flying unit.
- ✦ Dhani took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase. Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit after the commanding officer.

#### About Indian Air Force

1. **Chief of the Indian Air Force:** Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.
2. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
3. **Commander-in-Chief:** President Ram Nath Kovind

## Banking

#### 1. India's GDP growth slows to 5% in Q1 FY20

- ✦ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation notified that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India registered a growth of 5% in April to June quarter of 2019-20 from 8% of 2018-19 quarter. It is the lowest in 7 years due to a sharp dip in the manufacturing sector and agriculture output.
- ✦ The previous lowest GDP was recorded at 4.9% in April to June 2012-13. The manufacturing sector grew by 0.6% as compared to a growth of 12.1% in Q1 2018-19. Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector grew by 2% as compared to growth of 5.1% in Q1 2018-19.

- ✦ Mining and quarrying sector grew by 2.7% as compared to a growth of 0.4% in Q1 2018-19. Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services sector grew by 8.6% as compared to growth of 6.7% in Q1 2018-19. The passenger vehicle industry suffered its worst performance in 19 years in July 2019. It declined at 31% in sales and it was the 9th consecutive month of declining sales, underscoring a sharp decline in demand.

## 2. Nirmala Sitharaman Announces Consolidation of 27 Govt Banks Into 12, Assures No Job Cuts or Disruption in Economy

- ✦ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a series of mergers involving 10 state-owned banks as the government moves to strengthen a sector struggling under a mountain of debt and ensure stronger balance sheets to boost lending and revive economic growth.
- ✦ The biggest merger is that of Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank. The three banks together will merge to form India's second-largest bank after the State Bank of India (SBI), with business worth Rs 17.95 lakh crore and 11,437 branches nationwide.
- ✦ Sitharaman also announced the merger of Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank; Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank, and Corporation Bank; and Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank.

### Foot Notes:

#### About Punjab National Bank

1. **Headquarters:** New Delhi
2. **CEO:** Sunil Mehta
3. **Founded:** 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan
4. **Owner:** Government of India (75.4%)

#### About Oriental Bank of Commerce

1. **Headquarters:** Gurugram
2. **CEO:** Mukesh Kumar Jain
3. **Founder:** Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal

#### About United Bank of India

1. **Headquarters:** Kolkata
2. **CEO:** Ashok Kumar Pradhan
3. **Founder:** Narendra Chandra Dutta

## 3. Indian Bank signs MoU with Tata AIG

- ✦ Public sector Bank, Indian Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata AIG General Insurance.
- ✦ This MoU offers the latter's diverse range of general insurance policies benefiting the bank's customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings. Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes.

### Foot Notes:

#### About Indian Bank & Tata AIG General Insurance

1. **CEO of Indian Bank:** Padmaja Chundurur.
2. **CEO of Tata AIG General Insurance:** Neelesh Garg.

## Science Tech & Defence

### 1. 'Ghaznavi' surface-to-surface ballistic missile test fired by Pakistan

- ✦ Pakistan army successfully test fired its 290km range surface to surface(SSM) name "Ghaznavi" during its night training launch.
- ✦ The missile was launched from Sonmiani flight test range of Balochistan and is developed by National Development Complex (NDC) which is a missile developer for Pakistan army headquartered at Fatehjang, Punjab (Pakistan).

#### About Pakistan

1. **Capital-** Islamabad.
2. **President-** ArifAlvi.
3. **Prime minister-** Imran Khan.
4. **Currency-** Pakistani Rupee.

### 2. IMD hands over Kochi Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to Indian Navy

- ✦ India Meteorological Department (IMD) has handed over its Kochi Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to Indian Navy. In this regard, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Navy (IN) and IMD.
- ✦ The MoU will enable Indian Navy to utilise CDR building within naval premises at Kochi for meteorological purposes
- ✦ It was constructed during period 1983–86 inside Naval Base. It has S-band Cyclone Detection Radar installed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

#### About Indian Navy

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

#### About Bharat Electronics Limited

1. **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
2. **Owner:** Government of India
3. **Founded:** 1954, Bengaluru

### 3. The air forces of China and Pakistan began joint exercise 'Shaheen-VIII' near Ladakh

- ✦ The air forces of China and Pakistan began joint exercise Labelled 'Shaheen-VIII' in the Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border of around 300 km north of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). This is the 8th such exercise undertaken by two countries with the participation of Chinese J10 & J-11 and Pakistani JF-17s planes.
- ✦ Pakistani JF-17 planes (a single-engined light jet aircraft)passed through the Skardu airbase in Gilgit Baltistan area occupied by Pakistan, which India claims is a part of the former princely state of J&K.
- ✦ The single-engine, single-seat J-10 is a product of the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group. JF-17, a lightweight, single-engine, multi-role combat aircraft developed jointly by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation of China.The exercise will help India's two neighbours of China &Pakistan to improve bilateral relation.In 2018, 'Shaheen-VII' was held in Pakistan.

#### Foot Notes:

#### About China:

1. **Capital:** Beijing
2. **Currency:** Renminbi
3. **President:** Xi Jinping

#### 4. Intel launches first artificial intelligence chip Springhill

- ✦ Intel Corp launched its latest processor, it's first using artificial intelligence (AI), designed for large computing centres.
- ✦ The chip developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel. The name of the chip is Nervana NNP-I or Springhill and it is based on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor that will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Intel

1. **Ceo:** Robert H. Swan; Intel
2. **Established:** 18 July 1968.

#### 5. Microsoft and ISB partner to advance AI skilling in India

- ✦ The Indian School of Business (ISB) and Microsoft India announced a new partnership to take forward their shared vision for an AI-empowered India. Through the creation of the AI Digital Lab, the two organizations will collaborate in research which will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to study issues that are relevant for business and public policy.
- ✦ The partnership will also jointly introduce a new executive program titled "Leading Business Transformation in the Age of AI" in October 2019 which will equip business leaders with tools and strategies to transform their respective organizations to AI-driven organizations.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Microsoft

1. **Microsoft CEO:** Satya Nadella
2. **Established:** 4 April 1975.

#### 6. DGCA bans some Apple MacBook Pro from flights in India due to battery risk

- ✦ DGCA, which is India's aviation regulatory, is banning some 15-inch MacBook Pro laptops sold by Apple between September 2015 and February 2017 from flights.
- ✦ The regulatory body said that these laptops have been deemed fire hazard because their batteries can overheat. The banned MacBook Pro laptops will neither be allowed in checked-in baggage nor in hand-baggage unless they have their battery replaced or they have been deemed safe by Apple.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Apple Technology company

1. **CEO:** Tim Cook
2. **Founded:** 1 April 1976, Cupertino, California, United States
3. **Headquarters:** Cupertino, California, United States

**7. 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference to be held in Thailand.**

- ✦ Air Chief Marshal and Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, Birender Singh Dhanoa will pay a three-day visit to Thailand beginning August 26 where he will attend the 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference in Bangkok.
- ✦ Chiefs of Defence of more than 33 countries are scheduled to attend the conference. The theme for the conference is "Collaboration in a free and Open Indo - Pacific".
- ✦ The conference will provide perspectives on common challenges faced by attending nations and elicit open discussions on the same.

**Foot Notes:****About Thailand**

1. **King:** Maha Vajiralongkorn
2. **Currency:** Thai baht

**8. 7 new species of insects that can walk on water discovered**

- ✦ The journal 'Zootaxa' has published about 7 new species of insects that can walk or run on the surface of the water. This was discovered by scientists of the 'Zoological Survey of India'.
- ✦ The species belongs to the genus Mesovelgia ranging from 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm equipped with hydrophobic setae (bristles) on their legs and are pale green in colour with silver-white wings and black veins.
- ✦ This combination of hydrophobic setae and water surface tension prevents the insects from sinking. There are currently 12 species of genus Mesovelgia found in the country.

**9. 4th edition of Internet of Things (IOT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru**

- ✦ The 4th edition of India's largest confluence of digital - technology stakeholders, the Internet of Things (IOT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from August 22 – 23, 2019 with the theme of 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.
- ✦ The 2-day Congress was organized by Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) IoT Panel with a footfall of over 1600 participants and about 70 speakers from over 6 countries. It was inaugurated by Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (GoI).
- ✦ The event focussed on 10 segments such as Energy, Healthcare, Defence, Standards and Regulatory, Retail, Digital Communication, Skills and Development, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Smart Cities. Each of the tracks included business-case led panel discussion, use cases, and a Future Tech Spotlight, where discussions on current industry problems conducted.

**Foot Notes:****About Karnataka**

1. **Capital:** Bengaluru
2. **Chief minister:** B. S. Yediyurappa
3. **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala

## Important days

### 1. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August

- ✦ The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August every year. The Day was established by the international organization General Assembly resolution.
- ✦ The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances aims to lift awareness on enforced or involuntary disappearances that occur with arrest, detention, abduction or deprivation of the State with support by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate.
- ✦ Enforced disappearance became a global issue as it was not restricted to a particular region of the world. It is also concerned to stop the rising issues concerning the ill-treatment, harassment, and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About United Nations

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

### 2. International Day Against Nuclear Tests: 29 August

- ✦ United Nations observes International Day Against Nuclear Tests on 29 August every year. It is observed to increase awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- ✦ 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About United Nations

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

### 3. National Fortnight On Eye Donation 2019 is observed from August 25- September 8, 2019

- ✦ The National Eye Donation Fortnight is observed every year from August 25- September 8, 2019. It aims to create mass public awareness about the importance of eye donation and to motivate people to pledge their eyes for donation after death. National Fortnight On Eye Donation 2019.
- ✦ According to World Health Organization (WHO), corneal diseases (Damage to the tissue covering the front of eye called cornea) are among the major causes of vision loss and blindness, after cataract and glaucoma.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About WHO

1. **Established:** 7th April 1948



2. **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

3. **Director General:** Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

#### 4. Women's Equality Day 2019 observed on August 26

- ✦ Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26, 2019. It commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in the United States of America (USA) that provides equal rights to women, including the right to vote.
- ✦ It is an annual event in the US. The colour for Women's Equality Day is purple. It was first celebrated in 1973.
- ✦ The amendment was first introduced in 1878. In 1920, the then US Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed a proclamation at his residence in Washington, ending a struggle for the right to vote and in 1971, the US Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

## Awards

#### 1. Virgil van Dijk, Lucy Bronze win UEFA Award

- ✦ Liverpool Football player Virgil van Dijk has won UEFA's Player of the Year award. He was beating Barcelona captain Lionel Messi and Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, while England footballer Lucy Bronze taking the Women's Player of the Year award.
- ✦ UEFA also handed out positional awards for male players, with Van Dijk for Champions League Defender of the Season.

#### Foot Notes: About UEFA

1. **Union of European Football Associations**
2. **Headquarters location:** Nyon, Switzerland

#### 2. Prestigious award to Sattriya danseuse

- ✦ Noted Sattriya danseuse and scholar Dr Anwesa Mahanta chosen for the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman for her contributions to the Sattriya tradition. Sayanacharya Ghanakanta Bora, a Sangeet Natak Akademi and Padma Shri awardee, Anwesa extensively in India also overseas, including the USA, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, France, England, Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. The academic presentations in various institutions of higher learning and research.
- ✦ She was also awarded Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by Sangeet Natak Akademi. Currently, Dr. Anwesa is the Director of Kalpavriksha that imparts training in Sattriya dance, music and theatre.
- ✦ The coveted Kelucharan Mohapatra National Award instituted by Srijan, an acclaimed institution of Odissi in memory of its founder guru, is offered to both senior and young scholars and practitioners to mark the 25th anniversary of Srijan.

#### 3. IPS Officer Aparna Kumar will be honoured with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 in the 'Land adventure' category.

- ✦ The names of the winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2018 were announced by the government on August 27, 2019.

- ✦ Aparna Kumar is a 2002 batch IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh Cadre.
- ✦ She is currently posted as DIG in the Indo Tibetan Police Force at Dehradun.
- ✦ Aparna Kumar is the first IPS officer to be honoured with the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018.

#### 4. Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja' wins award at We Care Film Festival

- ✦ Indian documentary film "I'm Jeeja" has won the award at the 14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'.
- ✦ "I'm Jeeja" has won the award in the 'Under 30 minute' category. The documentary directed by Swati Chakraborty attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability. Another Indian film "Post Dark" received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category.

## Books And Authors

#### 1. "Obama: The Call of History" written by Peter Baker reveals Barack Obama's years in office

- ✦ A book on Barack Obama, former United States (US) President, titled "Obama: The Call of History" has been written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times.
- ✦ It gives an in-depth account of Obama's years in office. It has been published by Penguin India.

#### 2. Big Billion Startup: A book on the untold Flipkart story to release in Oct

- ✦ A new book recounting the story of how Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal (both-former founders of Flipkart) built e-commerce giant Flipkart.
- ✦ This book is written by Mihir Dalal. The book is titled as "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story" and will be published by "Pan Macmillan India". This book will be launched in October 2019.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Flipkart

1. **CEO:** Kalyan Krishnamurthy
2. **Founded:** October 2007
3. **Founders:** Binny Bansal, Sachin Bansal
4. **Parent organization:** Walmart

## Sports

#### 1. National Sports Day observed on 29th August, 2019

- ✦ National Sports Day was observed across the country to create awareness about sports in public. August 29 marks the birth anniversary of India's hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.
- ✦ Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi has launched a nation-wide 'Fit India' Movement on the occasion of National Sports Day in New Delhi.

- ✦ He urged the people to head the Fit India campaign & stated that this initiative is the need of the hour & will take India towards a healthier future by preventing lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension. He also congratulated all sportspersons on the occasion of National Sports Day.

**Foot Notes:****About Dhyan Chand:**

1. He was the key member of Indian hockey team which earned 3 Olympic gold medals in Hockey games.
2. He was honored with Padma Bhushan by the Government of India (GoI) in the year 1956 for his great contribution to the field of Indian Hockey.

**2. Komalika Bari becomes recurve cadet at the World Archery Youth Championships**

- ✦ India's Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain. She defeated higher-ranked Sonoda Waka of Japan 7-3 in the final.
- ✦ India also won a gold in the compound junior mixed pair event and a bronze in the compound junior men's team.

**Foot Notes:****About Spain**

1. **King:** Felipe VI of Spain
2. **Capital:** Madrid
3. **Currency:** Euro

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**Obituaries****1. Veteran Bengali actor Nimu Bhowmik passes away**

- ✦ Veteran Bengali actor Nimu Bhowmik passed away. He acted characters of different shades in 'Ganadebata' (1979), 'Baghini' (1968), 'Dadar Kirti' (1980), 'Guru Dakshina' (1987). His last film, 'Dash Mash Das Diner Galpo'.

**2. India's first woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passes away**

- ✦ India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away.
- ✦ She was a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of Uttarakhand.
- ✦ She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country.

**3. Naval war hero Noel Kelman passes away**

- ✦ Naval war hero and Kirti Chakra awardee Commander Noel Kelman passed away. Commander Kelman was awarded the Kirti Chakra for valour during the liberation of Goa in 1961.
- ✦ He was involved in an operation to flush out the Portuguese from the Anjadip Island, Karnataka. Kelman had also been awarded the King's commendation in the Second World War for his role in sinking a Japanese submarine.

**4. Punjab (MLA) Rajnish Kumar Babbi passes away**

- ✚ Congress (MLA) from the Mukerian assembly seat in Punjab, Rajnish Kumar Babbi passed away. He was first elected to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in the 2012 assembly polls as an Independent from Mukerian. In 2017 assembly elections, as a Congress candidate, he had defeated (BJP) nominee Arunesh Kumar.

**5. Socialist leader and former Palghar MLA Navnitbhai Shah passes away**

- ✚ Socialist leader and former MLA of Palghar Navnitbhai Shah passed away. He took part in the freedom struggle in 1942 at the Gowalia Tank maidan in Mumbai.
- ✚ He was an active member of the Rashtra Seva Dal in Mumbai between 1943-49. He was elected as the first Sarpanch of Palghar (Maharashtra) in 1952 and as MLA in 1957 and 1962.

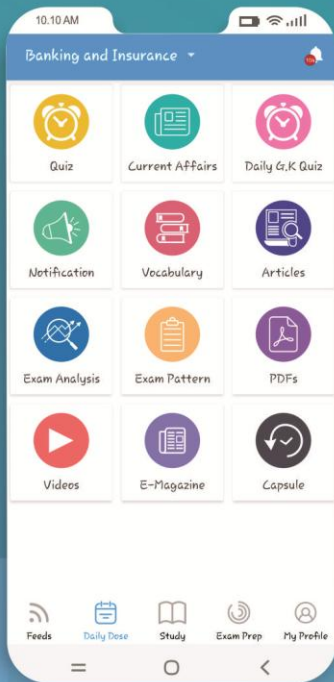


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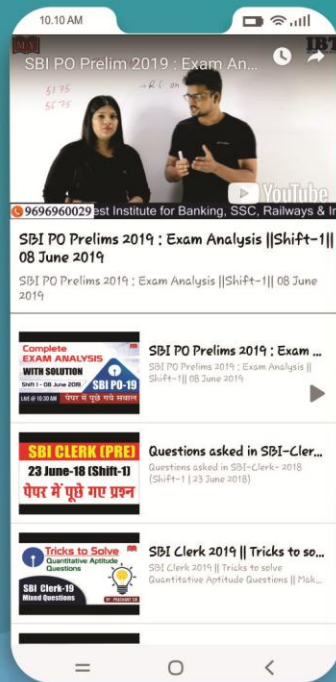
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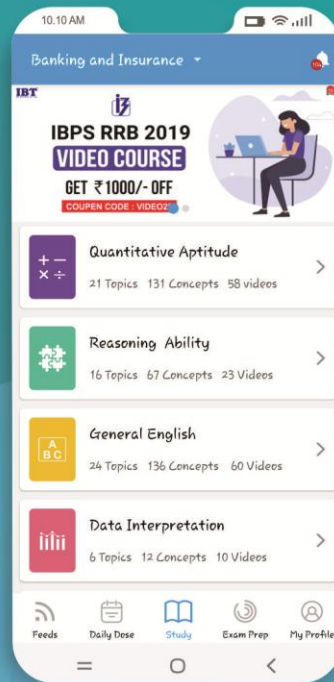
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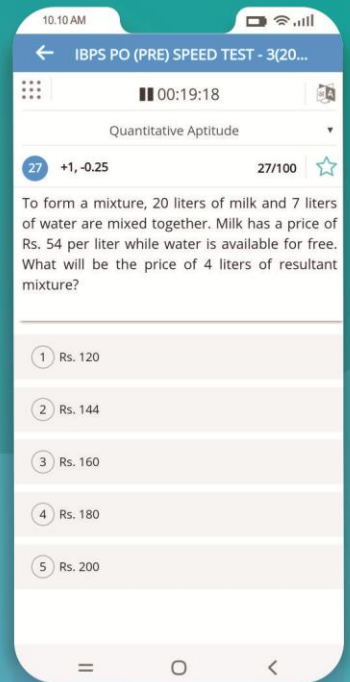
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