

Weekly Current Affairs PDF September 20 to September 26, 2020

Current Affairs PDF- September 26, 2020

National

UP govt launches unified portal 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, employment

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state. Uttar Pradesh was the first state to launch a unified portal along with the implementation of NEP.
- It is the biggest reform programme in the education sector after the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
- The programme would connect students with practical and technical knowledge.

Banking and Economy

RBI publishes "'Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for UCBs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will implement the "Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Co-operative Banks (2020-2023) to enhance the IT security system of Urban Co-operative banking to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from cyber-attacks.
- The Technology Vision Document aims at enhancing the cybersecurity posture of the Urban Co-operative banking sector against evolving IT and cyber threat environment. RBI will achieve this objective using its five-pillared strategic approach 'GUARD'. GUARD denotes:
G – Governance Oversight,
U – Utile Technology Investment,
A – Appropriate Regulation and Supervision,
R – Robust Collaboration
D – Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skills set.

To accomplish the five pillared approach, RBI has established 12 specific action points spires to:

- Involve more Board Oversight over Cybersecurity.
- Enable UCBs to better manage and secure their IT Assets.
- Implement an offsite supervisory mechanism framework for UCBs on cybersecurity-related controls.
- Develop a forum for UCBs so that they can share best practices and discuss practical issues and challenges.
- Implement a framework for providing awareness/ training for all UCBs.

Awards

Kerala wins UNIATF award for prevention and control of NCD 2020

- Kerala bagged a United Nations award 'United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force' for its "outstanding contribution" towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.
- The award recognises achievements during 2019 on the multisectoral action in the

prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Science and Technology

India successfully conducts testing of Prithvi II missile

- India recently conducted the test fire of Prithvi II missile, developed indigenously and was successful.
- The test was conducted at Chandipur Integrated Test Range, Odisha.

Obituary

Music legend S. P. Balasubramaniam passes away

- Veteran playback singer SP Balasubramaniam passed away in Chennai hospital. He was 74.
- Balasubramaniam won numerous awards over the span of his 50-year career. He sang more than 40,000 songs, a Guinness World Record, in 16 languages, including Tamil, Telegu and Hindi.
- He was a recipient of six national awards, including the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri, India's third and fourth-highest civilian awards.

Appointments and Resignations

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed appointed new PM of Somalia

- Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has appointed political newcomer Mohamed Hussein Roble as the country's prime minister, hours after brokering an agreement with regional leaders for elections next year that abandons a promised one-person, one-vote model.
- He will replace former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairi, who was voted out of office by parliament in July for failing to pave the way for fully democratic elections due before February 2021.

EESL appoints Rajat Sud as new Managing Director

- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) announced the appointment of Rajat Sud as its managing director from immediate effect.
- Sud takes over from S Gopal, director (commercial), who had taken on the additional charge of interim managing director.
- Before joining EESL, he served as executive vice president at Sterlite Power Transmission Ltd. He has also served in leadership positions at Siemens IT Solutions and PwC.

Days

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

- Every year, September 26 is observed as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- The aims of the day are to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.

World Environmental Health Day

- World Environmental Health day is celebrated on 26th September every year to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world.
- The Theme for the 2020 World Environmental Health Day is "Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention".

Current Affairs PDF- September 25, 2020

National

Labour Codes passed by Parliament to reform labour laws

- In a historic move, the Parliament has passed three labour codes on September 23, 2020 to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code) and Social Security Code, 2020.
- These labour codes aim to introduce transparency in the changing business environment.

Railways target to complete 100% electrification of broad gauge routes by 2023

- Railways has planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023 said by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar attends Special Ministerial Meeting of FMs of CICA

- The Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar participated in the Special Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CICA on 24 September 2020.
- CICA is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. CICA stands for the 'Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia'.
- The Secretariat of CICA is based at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. It has 27 member states including India; 8 observer states and 5 observer organizations.

International

Alexander Lukashenko sworn in as President of Belarus for 6th term

- President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has been sworn in for a sixth term on 23 September 2020.
- The 66 year-old authoritarian leader won 80% of the vote in the presidential election to gain another 5 year term.
- Lukashenko is serving as the President of Belarus since the establishment of the office 26 years ago, on 20 July 1994.

Acquisitions and Mergers

CCI approves merger of Medlife with PharmEasy

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination of Medlife and API Holdings.
- The deal pertains to the proposed acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of Medlife by API Holdings. Medlife shareholders are to get up to 19.59 per cent equity share capital of API Holdings.
- Medlife, a Patna-based company, was valued at \$375 million as of January 31, 2020.

Obituary

Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi passes away at 65

- Union Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi has passed away after he contracted Chinese virus disease. He was 65-years-old.
- Suresh Angadi was a four-time Lok Sabha MP from Karnataka's Belagavi constituency. He was elected in 2004, 2014 and 2019.

Former Australian Cricketer Dean Jones passes away

- Former Australian cricketer and renowned commentator, Dean Jones passed away. He made his debut for Australia in a Test match in the West Indies in 1984.
- He played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia between 1984 and 1994 before venturing into the commentary. He scored almost 9500 international runs.

Appointments and Resignations

17-Year-Old Khushi Chindaliya Appointed As UNEP's Indian Green Ambassador

- A 17-year-old girl from Surat, Khushi Chindaliya has been appointed as the Regional Ambassador for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation, a recurring event with monthly goals.
- Khushi, who has been named India's 'Green Ambassador' for her contribution to the conservation of the environment.
- Khushi will work with TEG on various awareness programs till February 2021. Crucially, Khushi is one of the 100 youths in India whose essays will be featured in a UNESCO book.

Govt extends term of Uday Kotak as Chairman of Debt-ridden IL&FS by One Year

- The government extended the term of Uday Kotak as non-executive chairman of debt-ridden IL&FS group by one year with effect from the 3rd day of October 2020.
- Kotak was appointed by the Government as the head of the lender's board in 2018 to help the troubled company come out of difficulties, after the state took over the board.

Ranking

Shivangi Singh becomes first woman pilot to fly Rafale aircraft

- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh makes history by becoming the first woman fighter pilot to fly the recently inducted Rafale aircraft. The Rafale was officially inducted on September 10, 2020 in the Indian Air Force.
- Singh is currently receiving the training to fly the Rafale, which is based in Ambala.

Days

World Pharmacist Day

- The World Pharmacist Day is observed on September 25 annually to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health.
- 2020 theme: "Transforming global health".
- The day was designated in 2009 by the FIP Council (International Pharmaceutical Federation or Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique) at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul, Turkey.

World Maritime Day 2020

- World Maritime Day 2020 is observed globally on 24th September in the form of an online event. The exact date of celebrating World Maritime Day is left to the individual governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September.
- The theme of World Maritime Day 2020 is "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet".

Current Affairs PDF- September 24, 2020

National

Government implements O-SMART Scheme

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences has implemented the Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources, and Technology (O-SMART) Scheme.
- The scheme covers 16 sub-projects related to the Ocean development activities including resources, services, technology, observations, and sciences. The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre is also working under the O-SMART Scheme.
- The Scheme generates and regularly update information on Marine Living Resources and their relationship with the physical in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Government to set up Neutrino Observatory in the country

- The central government is planning to set up a Neutrino Observatory in the country. This was informed by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on September 21, 2020 in a written reply in the lower house of the Parliament, Lok Sabha.
- The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) will be a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover that will study the neutrinos produced in the atmosphere of the Earth.

Railway plans to complete 100 % electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023

- The Indian Railways have set the target to achieve 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023.
- This information was stated by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 23 September 2020.

Banking and Economy

Sebi constitutes technical group on social stock exchange

- Sebi set up a technical group on social stock exchange to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organisations and for-profit enterprises as well as prescribe disclosure requirements on financials and governance.
- The regulator has constituted the technical group under the chairmanship of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, former chairman of Nabard.
- Other members of the group include Ingrid Srinath, founder-director, Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy at Ashoka University; Pushpa Aman Singh CEO of Guidestar; and Santhosh Jayaram, Partner and Head- Sustainability and CSR Advisory at KPMG.

HDFC Life enters into partnership with YES Bank to sell insurance policies

- HDFC Life said it has entered into a partnership with YES Bank to sell policies to the bank's customers.
- This CA arrangement will enable customers of YES Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products, which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

UNCTAD sees India growth moderating at -5.9% in 2020

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted that the GDP of India will contract by 5.9% in the year 2020.
- For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020.

Acquisitions and Mergers

KKR to invest in Reliance Retail for 1.28% stake

- Global investment firm KKR is going to invest in the Reliance Retail ventures Limited (RRVL). With investment of Rs 5,550 crore, KKR will be acquiring 1.28% equity stake in the RRVL on a fully diluted basis.
- This is the second such investment deal with Reliance Retail in past one month after American private firm Silver Lake invested Rs 7,500 cr into the company for a 1.75% Stake.
- This is also KKR's second investment in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, as earlier this year, the firm had invested Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms for a 2.32 percent stake.

Science and Technology

DRDO successfully test fires high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT)- ABHYAS

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested an indigenously-developed unmanned aerial vehicle, Abhyas, that can be used as target for evaluation of various missile systems.
- Two Abhyas vehicles, developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), were flight tested from a test range off Odisha coast.
- The High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was launched using twin underslung booster.

Sports

Former cricketer Ash Barty wins Golf Club Championship

- Ashleigh Barty, who is the top-ranked WTA player in the world, and a former professional cricket player, has now added another feat in her sporting list by winning golf club championship.
- The 24-year-old, world number one Australian, has won the Brookwater Golf Club women's championship.
- Ash Barty had withdrawn from participating in US Open and French Open due to C-19 pandemic.

Appointments and Resignations

RBI appoints AK Das as the new administrator of PMC Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed AK Das (ex-general manager at Union Bank of India), as the new administrator of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.
- He has replaced JB Bhorla who has stepped down from his role as the administrator of the bank due to health reasons.
- In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC bank due to fraud and financial irregularities in the PMC bank.

Bah Ndaw named Mali's interim president

- Former Mali defense minister and retired colonel Bah Ndaw has been named the president of the country's new transition government, while the leader of the junta that seized power last month.
- Colonel Assimi Goita, was appointed vice president of the country.
- He will be in power for 18 months before holding elections and returning Mali to civilian rule.

Simanchala Dash appointed as advisor to IMF Executive Director

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Simanchala Dash as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.

Books and Authors

A book titled "Voices of Dissent" authored by Romila Thapar

- A new book titled "Voices of Dissent" authored by Historian Romila Thapar will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books.
- The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.

Current Affairs PDF- September 23, 2020

National

Narendra Modi becomes second Indian PM to win Ig Nobel Prize

- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education.
- He has been awarded the prestigious award for “using the C-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can”.
- PM Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to be honored with the Ig Nobel Prize. Prior to this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded in 1998.
- PM Modi shares the award with Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Donald Trump of the USA, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan.

Govt launched Platform “YuWaah” to make young people career ready.

- Government has launched YuWaah – a multi-stakeholder platform to make young people career ready. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) have signed a “Statement of Intent” on 20.07.2020 to establish YuWaah, Generation Unlimited (GenU), a global multi-stakeholder platform in India.
- Basic objective of YuWaah project
 - } Support young people by providing entrepreneurship classes (online and offline)
 - } Upskilling of young people on 21st century works and skills
 - } Create linkages with aspirational economic opportunities
 - } Providing career guidance support to young people

J&K launched National Generic Document Registration System

- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System for the union territory.
- The system was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to address the diversity and variations that prevails across the states on account of formats, languages, processes and formulae.
- The national generic document registration system was developed under Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme.

Banking and Economy

India's nominal GDP to grow 19 per cent in 2022: Finance Ministry

- Finance ministry has estimated that India's nominal GDP will grow by 19 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22.
- In the first quarter of this financial year, the nominal GDP contracted by 22.6 per cent to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, compared to Rs 49.18 lakh crore in the same period last year.
- The finance ministry said it is not able to submit Medium Term Expenditure Framework

with rolling targets of indicative expenditure for FY22 and FY23 as mandated under the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act because it is not possible to obtain reliable projections of GDP growth at this time due to the continuing impact of C-19 pandemic on the Indian economy.

Google Pay partners with Visa for card-based payments with tokenization

- Google Pay has partnered with VISA for the rollout of tokenization that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards.
- Through tokenization, Google Pay users can make payment by using the debit or credit card without physically sharing their credit or debit card details through a secure digital token attached to their phone.

Summits and Mou's

HCL & Google Cloud expands partnership for HCL's Actian portfolio

- HCL Technologies and Google Cloud has announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring HCL's Actian portfolio, starting with Actian Avalanche, to Google Cloud.
- HCL's Actian Avalanche hybrid cloud data warehouse has been deployed by Fortune 500 customers to deliver powerful insights to manage business complexities for a variety of use cases, including fraud detection, real-time offers and market basket analysis.
- Actian Avalanche is a high-performance hybrid cloud data warehouse designed to power an enterprise's most demanding operational analytics workloads.

India-UK held Water Partnership Forum on water conservation issue

- India-UK held the Water Partnership Forum on September 22, 2020 virtually to discuss issues related to the water conservation and infrastructure development.
- The inaugural address was given by Gaitri Issar Kumar, Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom.
- During the forum, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ganga and the British water.

Acquisitions and Mergers

HCL tech acquires Australian IT firm DWS for \$115.8 million

- HCL Technologies has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for \$115.8 million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand.
- The DWS Group closed FY 2020 with revenues of \$ 122.9 million and has over 700 employees with operations in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Canberra.

Obituary

Former Canadian PM John Turner passes away

- Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner has passed away at his residence in Toronto. He was 91.
- Turner, who spent decades in federal politics as a cabinet minister and Liberal Party leader during some of the most turbulent moments, led Canada for 79 days in 1984, the second-

shortest time in office of any Prime Minister.

- During his political career, Turner held several prominent cabinet posts, then he resigned as Liberal leader in 1990 and retired from politics in 1993.

Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away

- Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood's veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away due to C-19 infection at a hospital in Satara in Maharashtra. She was 79.
- The actress had also worked in several Marathi films and Bollywood movies. She has over 100 movies, plays, and series to her credit.
- She also authored a book, 'Gard Sabhowati'.

Days

International Day of Sign Languages

- The International Day of Sign Languages is observed globally on 23 September every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status of sign languages.
- The theme for the 2020 International Day of Sign Languages is "Sign Languages are for everyone!"
- Also, the last full week of September is observed as International Week of the Deaf.

Current Affairs PDF- September 22, 2020

National

Women officers to join Indian Navy's helicopter stream for first time ever

- For the first time ever, two women officers will be joining the helicopter stream of the Indian Navy as "Observers" (Airborne Tacticians).
- These women officers will be first batch of women airborne combatants to operate from warships. The entry of women officers was earlier restricted to fixed-wing aircraft of Indian Navy.

Govt launches Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.

International

India extends soft loan of \$250 million to Maldives in largest bilateral financial aid

- India has extended financial assistance of USD 250 million to the Maldives to help it mitigate the economic impact of the C-19 pandemic.

- The budgetary support of USD 250 million has been extended without conditions.
- This financial assistance is being routed through the State Bank of India (SBI), Male so that it does not reflect in the external borrowings of the Maldives.

Summits and Mou's

MoU signed between AYUSH Ministry and WCD Ministry for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.

Acquisitions and Mergers

HCL Technologies to acquire Australian IT solutions company DWS

- Noida-based IT company HCL Technologies (HCL) announced that it would acquire DWS Limited, an Australian IT, business and management consulting group.
- The acquisition of DWS will enhance HCL's contribution to digital initiatives in Australia and New Zealand while strengthening HCL's client portfolio across key industries.

Science and Technology

FELUDA: First Gene based C-19 test approved in India

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently approved the gene-based C-19 test called Feluda. The test was indigenously developed and uses cutting edge CRISPR (Clustered Regulatory Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) gene editing technology to detect the C-19 virus.
- The test was developed by scientists based in Council of scientific and Industrial Research Institute of genomics and integrative Biology CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group.
- FELUDA is the acronym of FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection. It is a paper strip test.

Obituary

Assam Musician Bibhuranjan Choudhury passes away

- Music composer, singer, lyricist and actor Bibhuranjan Choudhury passed away at the age of 71 years due to cancer. He was from Assam.
- Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condoled the demise of Bibhuranjan Choudhury.

Winston Groom, Author of 'Forrest Gump,' passes away

- Winston Groom, the writer whose novel "Forrest Gump" was made into a six-Oscar winning 1994 movie that became a soaring pop-cultural phenomenon, has died at age 77. He wrote 16 books, fiction and nonfiction.
- Groom served in the Army's Fourth Infantry Division from 1965 to 1969, the university said. His service included a tour in Vietnam – one of the settings for "Forrest Gump."

Sports

Simona Halep & Novak Djokovic wins 2020 Italian Open title

- World number one Novak Djokovic beat Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men's Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title.
- In Women's single, top seed Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.

Winners List

1. Men's Single- Novak Djokovic
2. Women's Single- Simona Halep
3. Men's Double- Marcel Granollers /Horacio Zeballos
4. Women's Double- Hsieh Su-wei / Barbora Strýcová

Appointments and Resignations

Anil Dhasmana becomes new chief of NTRO

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief, Anil Dhasmana, as the new Chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) for a period of two years with effect from 18 September 2020.
- NTRO is a technical intelligence Agency under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which looks after geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery.
- He will replace former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Satish Chandra Jha. Dhasmana, a 1981-batch officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been the chief of RAW from 31 January 2017 to 29 June 2019.

Ranking

World Largest Telescope to have IT controls built in India

- The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world's largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India.
- Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS.
- The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) operating under Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the leading manager of the project.

Books and Authors

Chef Vikas Khanna's Next Book To Give Insights Into His 'Feed India' Initiative

- Michelin Star chef Vikas Khanna announced his next book titled "Kitchens of Gratitude". In this book he will write about his Feed India initiative, one of the world's largest food drives serving meals to the underprivileged amid the ongoing pandemic, said by publishing house Penguin Random House India.
- The book, "Kitchens of Gratitude", will be released in 2021 under the 'Ebury Press' imprint.

Current Affairs PDF- September 21, 2020

National

PM to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on 2nd October 2020

- Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit on 2nd October'2020 through videoconferencing.
- The VAIBHAV Summit is a joint initiative of all S&T and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- The month-long Summit will provide a platform to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving emerging challenges and create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

10th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors

- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security was held virtually. The 10th meeting of the NSAs was hosted by the current chair of BRICS i.e. Russia.
- The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations met to deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries.
- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval represented India in a virtual meet of top security officials from Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping.

Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country

- Tamil Nadu has become the first state in India to launch policies on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies.
- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami unveiled the Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy, 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy, 2020, and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020 at Connect 2020.
- The project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure.

Banking and Economy

Fitch Solutions projects India's GDP growth at -8.6% in 2020-21

- Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India's GDP will contract by 8.6% in 2020-21 (FY21). Earlier this was estimated at -4.5%.
- It has also forecasted a 5 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in 2021 and 2022.

Obituary

Renowned US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away at 87

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an American jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, has passed away due to complications of metastatic

pancreatic cancer. She was 87.

- She was appointed in 1993 by President Bill Clinton and served until her death in 2020. She was the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande passes away

- Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. She was 91. Deshpande, was the daughter of Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders of the Communist Party of India.
- Deshpande had taken part in the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement (the movement for the creation of the State of Maharashtra) and the Goa liberation struggle as a Member of the All India Students' Federation. In 1974, she was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Bombay South Central constituency.

Ranking

HDFC Bank leads 'BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands' ranking

- HDFC Bank has topped the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2020 Rankings. HDFC Bank has topped this ranking for the 7th consecutive year. It has a total brand value of more than \$20.2 billion
- LIC is ranked second while Tata Consulting Services has been ranked at no.3.

Days

International Day of Peace

- The International Day of Peace (or World Peace Day) is observed annually on 21 September to spread awareness and preach peace and harmony all across the globe.
- The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Shaping Peace Together."
- The Day established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. It is also known as World Peace Day.

World Alzheimer's Day

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September every year to spread awareness about Alzheimer and Dementia disease.
- The theme for World Alzheimer Day 2020 is 'Let's talk about dementia'.
- In Alzheimer's disease loss of connections between nerve cells (neurons) in the brain occurs. Progressively brain disorder which slowly destroys memory and thinking skills etc. In older adults it is the most common cause of dementia.

Current Affairs PDF- September 20, 2020

National

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announces 1350 crore relief package for traders

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced an economic package of Rs 1350 crore for Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to boost the business and the other ailing sectors that have suffered huge losses for several years in the

newly formed Union Territory.

- This is additional to the benefits of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and other measures taken by the government to comfort the business community.
- The state government has been decided to give 5% interest subvention to every borrower from the business community, without any conditions for six months in the current financial year.

Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee

- The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021.
- The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma.
- It was set up to suggest measures to de-clog and improve functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to implementation of the Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act.

Banking and Economy

Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

- Canara Bank has launched a lead management system(LMS) named as i-Lead 2.0(Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- The initiative aims that each and every customer gets their banking needs covered, irrespective of where they are based, urban or rural.
- Customers can use internet banking, mobile banking, call center, SMS and missed call services to enquire and get services rendered to them. They can also use the CANDI mobile app of Canara Bank.

Awards

Udit Singhal named in UN's 2020 list of Young Leaders

- Indian teenager Udit Singhal has been named in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has been named in the 2020 list of young leaders who promote sustainable development goals.
- Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, an initiative that is based on a zero-waste ecosystem to tackle the challenge of glass waste in Delhi.

Margaret Atwood wins 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize

- Margaret Atwood (Canada) has won the 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize's lifetime achievement award.
- The award celebrated the power of literature in fostering peace, social justice and global understanding. It is a United States literary award
- Margaret Atwood is famous for her novel, "The Handmaid's Tale".

Sports

ITF Renames Fed Cup as Billie Jean King Cup

- The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has renamed the Fed Cup, an annual team

competition in women tennis, as the “Billie Jean King Cup.”

- Billie Jean King was a pioneer in women’s tennis who helped the United States win the inaugural event.
- The Billie Jean King Cup is the world’s largest annual women’s international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete.

Days

International Coastal Cleanup Day

- The International Coastal Cleanup Day is being celebrated on 3rd Saturday of September of every Year. This year September 19 was celebrated as the International Coastal Cleanup Day to encourages people to clean beaches, remove the garbage plaguing it
- The theme of this year is “Achieving a trash free Coastline”.

Books and Authors

Barack Obama’s first presidential memoir, ‘A Promised Land,’ to hit stands in November 2020

- Former US President Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.”
- A Promised Land is the first of two volumes of the book. This volume tells about his early political life, his presidential campaign in 2008, and ending with the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.
- The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020 in 25 languages.