

Current Affairs

Weekly PDF

16 - 22 September

2020

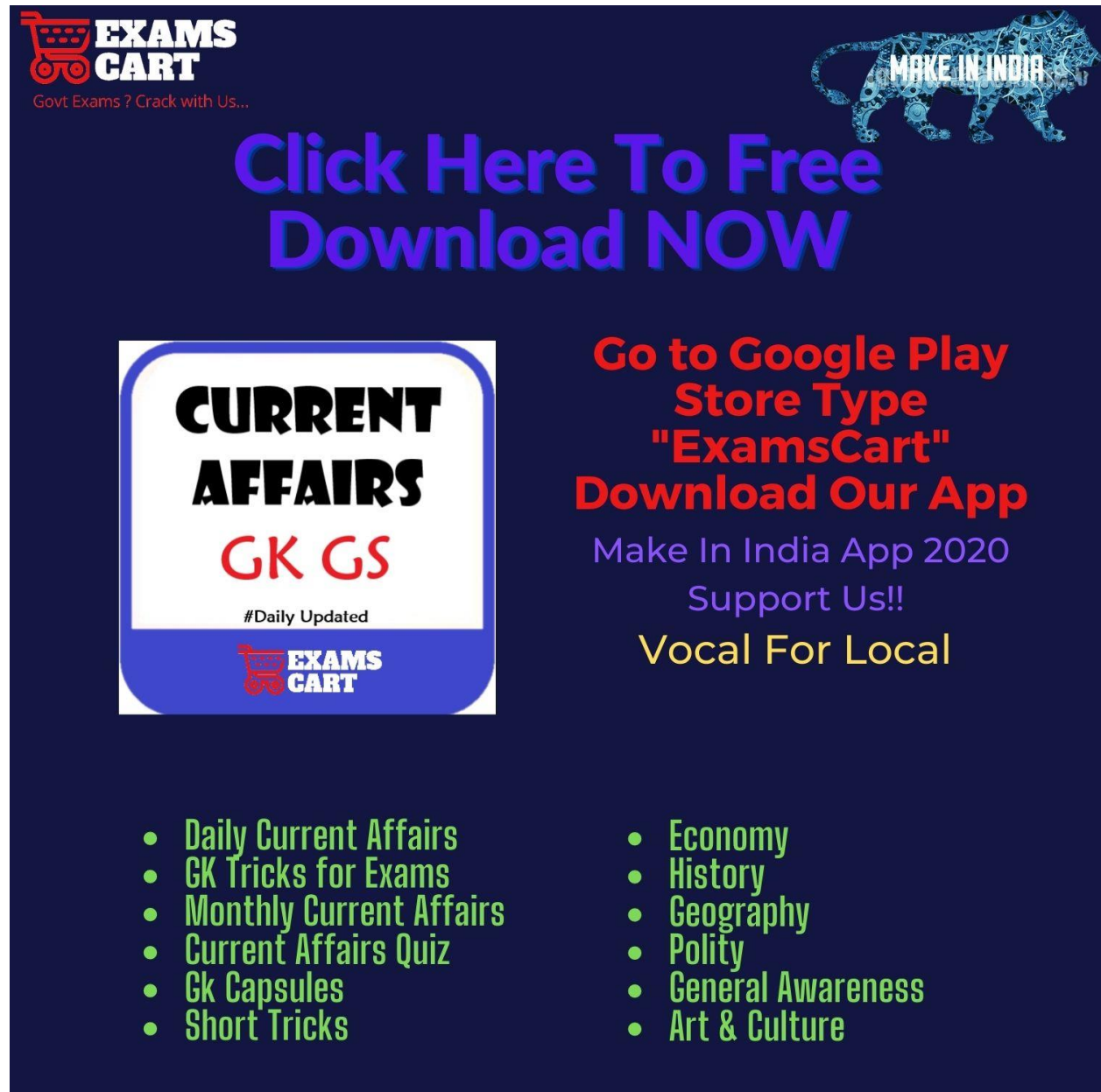
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Current Affairs Weekly Capsule

16th to 22nd September

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed on September 16

World Ozone Day is observed to create awareness related to climate change and ozone depletion. On this day in 1987, the Montreal Protocol was signed. Since 1994, World Ozone Day is celebrated which was established by the United Nations General Assembly to remind the world about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and its dangers.

Industry Dept, SIDBI enters into MoU to encourage MSME sector in Gujarat

In Gujarat, Industry Department and the Small Industries Development Bank of India-SIDBI entered into a MoU to encourage the MSME sector in the State. The MoU was signed by Additional Chief Secretary for Industry and Mines M.K. Das and SIDBI Dy. M D Vasantharao Satya Venkata Rao at Gandhinagar last evening. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said that the state government is committed to encourage the MSME sector.

BMC launches My Family My Responsibility' campaign in Mumbai for spreading awareness about coronavirus

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday launched My Family My Responsibility' campaign in Mumbai for spreading more awareness about coronavirus. It is part of a state wide campaign of the Maharashtra government to stop the spread of COVID19 virus.

PM Modi inaugurates various projects under 'Namami Gange' & 'AMRUT' schemes in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for seven projects related to urban infrastructure in Bihar under 'Namami Gange' and 'AMRUT' schemes through video conferencing. Out of these, four projects are related to water supply, two to sewerage treatment and one to riverfront development. The total cost of these projects is 541 crore rupees. The implementation of these projects has been undertaken by Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.

Cabinet gives nod to establishment of new AIIMS at Darbhanga in Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. This will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The Cabinet also approved creation of one post of Director for Darbhanga AIIMS. The total cost on setting up the new AIIMS will be 1264 crore rupees and is likely to be completed within a period of 48 months. New AIIMS will add 750 hospital beds and add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats.

Cabinet gives nod to Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval to the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda. This Rail Line will start from Palwal and end at the existing Harsana Kalan station on Delhi-Ambala section. This will also give connectivity enroute to existing Patli Station on Delhi-Rewari line, Sultanpur station on Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line and Asaudha Station on Delhi Rohtak Line.

Parliament passes 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020'

Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and declare it an Institute of National importance. The bill also has the provision to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one. The institutes are, the Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and the Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.

Provision of Rs 40,000 cr made under MGNREGA Scheme through Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur has said that the Government has made a provision of 40 thousand crore rupees under MGNREGA Scheme through Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package to provide employment to the needy workers.

India is elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

India is elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The 54-member the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall. The principal global body held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Three countries namely Afghanistan, India, and China competed. Afghanistan garnered 39 votes and India won 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China got 27 votes failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.

DBS Bank India unveils online loan platform for SMEs, offers credit up to ₹20 cr

DBS Bank India launched an online platform for making loans available to small and mid size businesses in a hassle-free manner, with credit facility up to ₹20 crore. Driven by its constant focus on building seamless, intuitive and hassle-free banking solutions for customers, DBS Bank India has unveiled its online credit solutions platform - DBS Digital Business Loans for SMEs, the bank said in a release.

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presents first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day. The event was organised in virtual mode

and the faculty members were felicitated by the Minister through online interaction. Sir M Visvesvaraya was a pioneer of Engineering in India. Visvesvaraya was one of the most eminent Engineers and Statesmen of India, whose contribution to the advancement of the country is unforgettable. He was awarded the highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in 1955 for his indispensable contribution to nation-building.

Yoshihide Suga formally elected as Japan's new PM

Yoshihide Suga was formally elected as Japan's new Prime Minister in a Parliamentary vote. Mr Suga replaced former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who resigned earlier in the day because of ill health.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe resigns

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet resigned, clearing the way for his successor to take over after parliamentary confirmation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, was chosen as the new head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, virtually guaranteeing his election as prime minister in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the party's majority.

Renowned scholar of Indian classical dance Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan passes away

Leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passed away. She was a former Member of Parliament and also served as Secretary to the Government in the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for the establishment of a large number of national institutions of higher education. Dr Vatsyayan served as the founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. She was former President of India International Centre (IIC) and an IIC Life Trustee and the Chairperson of the IIC International Research Division.

Bill Gates Sr., father of Microsoft's co-founder, dies at 94

William H. Gates Sr., a lawyer raised in the Great Depression who helped his son give away an immense fortune, has died. He was 94. He had played a role in the development of Microsoft, the world's largest software company.

Road accident victims to get ₹30,000 under Balasaheb Thackeray Insurance Scheme

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced the approval of the Balasaheb Thackeray Accidental Insurance Scheme that will ensure accident victims get maximum benefit of ₹30,000 or free treatment in hospital.

India's first terminal for private jets inaugurated at Delhi Airport

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first General Aviation Terminal at Delhi airport. The exclusive terminal will handle the flight operations of private jets. The terminal has 57 parking bays and can handle up to 150 private jet flights per day. Flight operations of private jets are classified under the 'general aviation' category.

Ministry of MSME announces new guidelines to support artisans including Pottery & Beekeeping activity

Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME come out with new guidelines for two more schemes which include Pottery Activity and Beekeeping Activity. These new initiatives of the Ministry with beneficiary oriented Self-Employment schemes, are aimed at rejuvenating the grass root economy contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. For Pottery Activity Government will provide assistance of pottery wheel, Clay Blunger, Granulator etc. It will also provide Wheel Pottery Training for traditional pottery artisans and Press Pottery training for pottery as well as non-pottery artisans in Self-Help Groups. A total of 6,075 Traditional and others non-traditional pottery artisans, Rural Un-employed youth, Migrant Labourers will get benefitted from this Scheme.

India, Brazil, South Africa call for comprehensive reform of UN Security Council

India, Brazil and South Africa emphasized the need for the international community to redouble efforts to achieve tangible progress for accelerated and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, chaired the customary meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers through video conferencing. On this occasion, the ministers adopted the IBSA Joint Ministerial Statement on the Reform of the UN Security Council, as a common endeavour of the Global South. The Ministers also exchanged views on furthering IBSA cooperation. They exchanged views on various issues of global significance including peace, security, countering terrorism, climate change, and sustainable development.

10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs chaired by Russia

10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia held via video link. The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations will deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries. India, Russia and China are members of BRICS, SCO and RIC and act as platform for mutual trust building and cooperation.

RBI announces straight purchase of government securities worth ₹10,000 crore

Reserve Bank of India on announced the straight purchase of government securities worth ₹10,000 crore through open market operations. In a notification RBI said that it will purchase long term securities maturing in 2026, 2029 and 2031. During 2020-21 (up to July 31), RBI has injected ₹1,24,154 crore through open special market operation (OMO) purchases.

SBI, Titan launch India's first contactless payment watch

Country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) and Titan Company have partnered have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called Titan Pay. "Now, make your payments fast, hassle-free, contactless, and from your watch. Presenting the all-new Titan Pay, a new-age collection of stylish timepieces from Titan.

Lok Sabha passes Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill

Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020. This Bill replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 26th June

this year. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said it will help in safeguarding interest of the co-operative bank depositors' in the country. She also raised the issue of PMC bank and asserted that this bill will protect depositors' interest in similar situations. She said the amendments to section 3, 45 and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, proposed in the current bill seeks to bring parity in terms of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in the commercial banks. The bill also enables the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation of co-operative banks to secure its proper management, and in the interest of depositors.

Amazon India sets up all-women delivery station in Gujarat

E-commerce major Amazon India on Thursday said it has set up an all-women delivery station in Kadi, Gujarat - its second such facility in the country. The new all-women delivery station at Gujarat's Kadi, operated by a delivery service partner, is part of the company's efforts towards increasing participation of women in the workforce.

Toyota appoints Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador for Urban Cruiser

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), announced the appointment of actor Ayushmann Khurrana as the brand ambassador for the soon-to-be launched SUV model Urban Cruiser ahead of the festive season. The one-year long partnership will see the actor appearing in an advertising campaign for Urban Cruiser across media platforms including television, digital and print.

Singapore, Helsinki and Zurich top index of world's smartest cities

Singapore, Helsinki and Zurich are the world's smartest cities, according to an index published on Thursday amid a growing debate on the future of urban design for a post-COVID era. From smart traffic cameras and car sharing apps to pollution monitoring and free wifi for all, cities around the world are racing to embrace technology, but researchers said the real test was whether citizens felt the benefits. Others in the top 10 included Auckland, Oslo, Copenhagen, Geneva, Taipei City, Amsterdam, New York, while Abuja, Nairobi and Lagos ranked bottom.

India ranks 116 in World Bank's human capital index

India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

Astronomers detect first-ever giant planet orbiting a dead star

Scientists have, for the first time, discovered a Jupiter-sized planet orbiting a white dwarf or a dead star located about 80 light years away. The finding, published in the journal Nature, shows the likely presence of the planet, named WD 1856 b, orbiting the smaller star remnant every 34 hours. This planet is roughly the size of Jupiter, but it also has a very short orbital period -- a year on this planet is only 1.4 days, so it's quickly whipping around its white dwarf star.

Facebook joins hands with Ray-Ban to launch smart glasses

Facebook is joining hands with one of the most popular eyewear brands in the world and even in India. The social media company is pairing with the Ray-Ban in order to develop new smart glasses. The new smart glasses are being built to help users connect to near and dear ones. The partnership with EssilorLuxottica SA was announced by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg at Facebook's annual conference. The new move seems to be an attempt to popularize smart glasses technology with help from the Ray-Ban brand.

Oracle will review TikTok source code to watch for Chinese access

ByteDance Ltd. would allow Oracle Corp. to review TikTok's source code and software to ensure there are no backdoors that allow the Chinese government or other entities to access the data, according to people familiar with the matter. Provision offered to the U.S. government by Beijing-based ByteDance in its effort to verify the security of TikTok.

Newly elected RS MP Ashok Gasti passed away

Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karnataka minister Ashok Gasti passed away in Bengaluru. He was admitted to Manipal Hospital after he tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19). The BJP leader had taken oath as a Rajya Sabha MP on July 22 this year.

PM Modi inaugurates Kosi Rail mega bridge & 12 railway projects in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu (mega bridge) to the nation through video-conference this afternoon. He also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities to benefit the people of Bihar. The 1.9-kilometre long Kosi mega bridge has been completed at a total cost of 516 crore rupees.

Tamil Nadu introduces 'Covid Suspects Wards' in all major hospitals

In Tamil Nadu, the health department is introducing "Covid Suspects Wards" in all major hospitals of the state. They are for treating patients having strong symptoms of COVID-19 infection, though their RT-PCR tests show negative results.

Meghalaya BJP Chief launches e-book- Seva Hi Sangathan

In Meghalaya, State BJP launched a COVID-19 report card on the initiatives taken up by the party during the COVID 19 pandemic in the form of an e-book- Seva Hi Sangathan. Meghalaya BJP Chief, Ernest Mawrie launched the book at the party office, Shillong. He said that the e-book Seva Hi Sangathan literally means service is an organisation which emphasizes on the importance of service to the nation and people.

Himachal Pradesh CM inaugurates "Swachhata Cafe" in Solan district on PM's birthday

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur virtually inaugurated the "Swachhata Cafe" at Nalagarh in Solan district on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Shimla. While wishing the Prime Minister on his birthday Jairam Thakur said that the

nation and the state is blessed to have Narendra Modi for guiding the nation and making it strongest amongst the comity of the nations.

UP CM Adityanath announces film city near Noida

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that a film city will be set up in the state. This film city will give provide a good option to film producers and it will also help in generating employment. For this purpose, an action plan should be made soon.

Lt Governor Sinha announces ₹1350 cr economic package for Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday announced a relief package of ₹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 (UT).

Home Ministry asks all States, UTs to ensure free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles without any restriction

The Home Ministry has asked all the States to ensure free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles without any restriction as medical oxygen is an important prerequisite for managing moderate and severe COVID-19 cases.

Indian Navy aircraft carrier 'Viraat' to begin last journey

Viraat, the decommissioned aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, will begin its last journey today from Mumbai's Naval Dockyard to Alang in Gujarat, where it will be dismantled. The vessel had served the Indian Navy for 30 years before being decommissioned in 2017. There were attempts to convert 'Viraat' into a museum or a restaurant, but none of the plans materialised.

ICAR organizes training programme for capacity development of Anganwadi Workers & Farm Women

A training programme for capacity development of Anganwadi Workers and farm Women to achieve the national nutrition goals was organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It was organised yesterday as part of the third Rashtriya Poshan Maah being celebrated in the month of September throughout the country. Around one lakh Poshan kits were also distributed among Anganwadi workers by Krishi Vigyan Kendras all over the country.

FM introduces Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation & Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in Lok Sabha

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha today for consideration. The bill will replace the ordinance which was promulgated in March this year to provide relaxations related to compliance by extending the time limit and waiving penalty in relation to certain specified laws. These laws include the Income Tax Act, 1961 (IT Act), some Finance Acts, the Central Excise Act, 1944, the Customs Act, 1962, and the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988. The ordinance which

was brought earlier also extended the deadline for filing declaration and due amount under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme.

Rajya Sabha passes two Bills to reduce salary, allowances of MPs, Ministers by 30%

The Rajya Sabha today unanimously passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The two legislations are related to reduction in the salaries, allowances of the Ministers and Members of Parliament. The bills will replace the two ordinances amending the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by 30 per cent. These changes have been made for a period of one year effective from 1st of April this year.

Rajya Sabha passes Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020 and Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020

The Rajya Sabha today passed the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill amends the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. The Act sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homoeopathic education and practice. The bill replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which was promulgated in April this year. The legislation amends the 1973 Act to increase the period for the supersession of the Central Council from two years to three years.

Lok Sabha passes two agriculture reform bills aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers

Lok Sabha yesterday passed two bills aimed at transforming agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income. The bills are Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. Both the bills were passed by the Lok Sabha with voice vote.

Union govt approves amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector

The Union Government has approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that for new licensees, FDI is allowed upto 74 per cent through automatic route and beyond 74 per cent to be permitted through government route. For existing licensees, infusion of fresh foreign investment up to 49 per cent can be done by making declaration of change or transfer within 30 days.

Eight Indian beaches recommended for coveted Blue Flag international eco-label

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label. He said, clean beaches are a testimony to good environment in coastal areas and India's many

beaches are among the best in the world. Speaking on the eve of 'International Coastal Clean-Up Day' celebrated across 100 countries since 1986, Mr Javadekar said, for the first time, eight beaches of India have been recommended for the Blue Flag certification. Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by an international agency 'Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark' based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

Rajya Sabha passes Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases. The Bill repeals the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance that was promulgated in April this year. The legislation makes harm, injury, hurt or danger to the life of healthcare service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence. It has provisions of imprisonment from three months to five years and a fine between 50 thousand rupees to two lakh rupees.

Rajya Sabha passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2020

Rajya Sabha today passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020. It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 which provides a time bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt. The Bill seeks to temporarily suspend initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process, CIRP under the Code.

BRICS countries agree to continue support WHO to tackle COVID pandemic

BRICS countries have agreed to continue supporting the World Health Organization in playing a leading role, and to strengthen BRICS countries' cooperation in bio-safety governance and vaccine research and development. The 10th meeting of National Security Advisors of BRICS countries was held via video link.

US bans Chinese apps Tik Tok and WeChat from tomorrow citing threat to national security

The United States has banned download of Chinese app TikTok and use of messaging and payment platform WeChat, saying they threaten national security. The ban will come into effect from tomorrow night. In a statement, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said, Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated the means and motives to use these apps to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and the economy of the US.

Bangladesh govt orders closure of largest Deobandi Madrasa

The government of Bangladesh ordered the closure of the largest and oldest Deobandi Hathazari Madrasa till further orders. The Education Ministry in its order said that the Hathazari Madrasa at Chittagong will be closed due to the breach of conditions. On

August 28, the Ministry had allowed Madrasas to resume their academic activities on the condition that the health guidelines issued by the government are followed.

India, Bangladesh agree to resume Joint Coordinated Border Patrolling to reduce criminal activities

India and Bangladesh have agreed to resume the joint coordinated border patrolling to reduce criminal activities like smuggling of cattle, weapons and narcotics on the border. The decision was taken during the 50th DG level conference of the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh which concluded in Dhaka. Both countries agreed to take effective steps for the prevention of human trafficking and illegal crossing of the International Border (IB).

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launches 'ESG Fund'

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched ICICI Prudential ESG Fund, an open-ended equity scheme which encourages sustainable investing, by investing in companies which follow Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) theme. Companies will be assigned a composite ESG score based on the factors mentioned and exposure will be taken in companies by assessing them on the mentioned factors.

FDI inflow of Rs. 2883 crore reported in Defence and Aerospace sector

FDI inflows of two thousand 883 crore rupees have been reported in Defence and Aerospace sector through automatic route till June this year. This was stated by the Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Indian short-video platform Chingari signs licensing deal with T-Series

Homegrown short-video platform Chingari, which has gained some prominence since TikTok's ban in India, announced a licensing deal with music label T-Series on Friday. The deal will allow Chingari's users and creators in India, West Asia and SAARC nations to access music owned by T-Series.

IFC to provide two trillion dollars to India to develop green buildings

The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy. Addressing the "e-DIALOGUE on Ease of Living and Sustainable Development Goals-2020-21" held in Mumbai, IFC's Country Head Jun Zhang said the organisation is committed to urban development in India.

Morningstar India appoints Jiju Vidyadharan as head of India business

Morningstar India, a subsidiary of independent investment research provider Morningstar, Inc. has announced, Jiju Vidyadharan as their new Head of India Business. In this role, Vidyadharan will work closely with the company's clients and will be responsible for driving Morningstar's business and enhancing the brand in India. He will report jointly to Brian Cullen, head of international sales, and to Aditya Agarwal, managing director of Morningstar India.

Cricketer Suresh Raina to set up cricket schools in J&K

International cricketer Suresh Raina called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar. The celebrity cricketer, on the request of Lt Governor, agreed to set up five schools in Kashmir division and an equal number in Jammu division to train the aspiring cricketers, particularly the youngsters from remote areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

International Day of Peace (UN) is observed on September 21

International Day of Peace (UN) is amongst the most special days in September which is observed around the world since September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution 55/282, which established September 21 as International Day of Peace of non-violence and cease-fire.

World Alzheimer's Day is observed on September 21

World Alzheimer's Day helps in raising awareness among people about the challenges faced by the due to dementia. In 2012, World Alzheimer's Month was launched.

Nutrition park to be set up near Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy. This is part of the National Nutrition Month programme being undertaken in Tamilnadu.

PM Modi launches optical fibre for internet services in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched optical fibre cable link in poll-bound Bihar to connect all 45,945 villages in the eastern state through internet and provide digital services such as e-education, e-agriculture, tele-medicine and tele-law. The project will include setting up of one Wi-Fi and free five connections at government institutions such as primary schools, anganwadi centres, Aasha workers, Jeevika Didi.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches new Covid-19 application

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a unified COVID-19 application which will help in better tracking of the pandemic in the state. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a unified coronavirus application. The new Covid-19 application will help in better tracking of the pandemic in the state.

Lok Sabha has passed The National Forensic Science University Bill 2020

Lok Sabha has passed The National Forensic Science University Bill 2020. The Bill establishes National Forensic Science University as an institute of national importance. The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.

Lok Sabha has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill

The Lok Sabha also passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill. The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat. The key objectives of the University include providing dynamic and high standards of learning

and research, and providing a working environment dedicated to advancing research, education and training in the domain of policing.

Lok Sabha has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill to decriminalise various corporate offences

Lok Sabha has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which decriminalises a number of technical and filing-related corporate offences. It also allows direct listing of Indian companies on foreign stock exchanges and revokes the criminal provisions added to the Companies Act for violations of provisions of corporate social responsibility rules.

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 today 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.

Govt launches Nasha Mukh 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.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on Sunday. The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year. The proposed amendments seek to bar public servants from receiving foreign funding. The amendments seek to make Aadhar mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.

India extends 250 million dollars support to Maldives to overcome economic impact of Covid-19

India has provided financial assistance of 250 million dollars as budgetary support to the Maldives government to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. India has provided substantial and continued assistance to the Maldives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

50th meeting of border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh concludes in Dhaka

The 50th meeting of border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh, Border Security

Force and Border Guard Bangladesh concluded in Dhaka. The biannual meeting discussed the issues related to India-Bangladesh border management and security.

SBI launches portal to help retail customers with loan restructuring

The country's largest bank State Bank of India launched a portal within its website to enable its retail customers to check their eligibility for loan restructuring under the Reserve Bank of India scheme. Retail customers will be offered a simple option to opt for 1-24 months of moratorium and reschedule the loans.

SBI Life inks pact with Yes Bank to sell insurance policies

SBI Life Insurance said it has signed bancassurance agreement with Yes Bank to offer a comprehensive bouquet of life insurance solutions to the bank's customers across the country. SBI Life's diverse range of individual and group insurance solutions will be offered to the customers of Yes Bank through the bank's branches spread across 28 states and 8 Union Territories in India.

Google Pay introduces tap-to-pay option for SBI Card users in India

India's largest credit card issuer SBI Card announced a collaboration with Google to enable customers to use their cards on Google Pay platform. Users will now be able to make card payments using Google Pay app on their Android smartphones in three modes.

Australian Judge resigns from Hong Kong top court

A veteran Australian judge, one of the 14 foreign judges on Hong Kong's highest court has resigned citing unspecified reasons related to the new national security law imposed by Beijing on the city.

HD Deve Gowda takes oath as Rajya Sabha member

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD Deve Gowda took oath as Rajya Sabha member. Mr. Gowda was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka.

Airbus unveils hydrogen powered designs for zero-emission flight

European planemaker Airbus SE unveiled three designs it's studying to build hydrogen-powered aircraft as it races to bring a zero-emission passenger plane into service by 2035. The approaches include a turbofan jet with capacity for as many as 200 passengers that can fly more than 2,000 nautical miles. It would be powered by a modified gas-turbine engine running on hydrogen.

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

Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. Deshpande, 91, was the daughter of Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders of the Communist Party of India.

Former Maharashtra BJP MLA Sardar Tara Singh passes away

Former Maharashtra BJP MLA Sardar Tara Singh died in Mumbai due to prolonged illness. He was 82. Senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya said, Sardar Tara Singh breathed his last this morning at a private hospital in Mumbai. Mr Somaiya said, Singh had been in the hospital since the last several days and was undergoing treatment for various illnesses. He was elected from Mulund Assembly Constituency in Mumbai four times in a row.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha formally launches home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad

LG Manoj Sinha formally launched home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the Hindu pilgrimage, during the Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu. Once the booking is done, the Board ensures that Pooja is performed within 72 hours and Prasad is dispatched through Speed Post.

National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 passed in parliament

Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it today. The Lok Sabha has already approved the Bill. The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

Parliament passes Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Bill amends the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which regulates the functioning of banks and provides details on various aspects such as licensing, management and operations of banks.

Parliament passes Essential Commodities Amendment Bill

The Bill allows the central government to regulate the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances such as war and famine. It will replace the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which was promulgated in June this year.

Parliament passes IIIT Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020

The Bill amends the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017 declares certain IIITs established under public-private partnership mode as institutions of national importance. The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the public private partnership mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance.

Lok Sabha passes Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020

Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill amends the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. The Act sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates

homoeopathic education and practice. The bill replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which was promulgated in April this year.

Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Maldives, Ms Aishath Nahula jointly e- launched a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives. During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of break bulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi, from where it will proceed to Kulhudhuffushi port in North Maldives and then to Male port.

HDFC Life joins hands with Yes Bank to sell insurance policies

HDFC Life Insurance has joined hands with corporate agency agreement with Yes Bank to offer a comprehensive bouquet of life insurance solutions to the bank's customers across the country. As part of the agreement, HDFC Life's diverse range of life insurance products will be offered to the customers of Yes Bank through the bank's branches spread across the country. HDFC Life's insurance products include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

Earth-sized 'Pi planet' discovered by astronomers at MIT

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), along with others, have discovered an earth-sized "Pi Planet" that revolves around its star every 3.14 days. The orbit of the planet is reminiscent of the universal mathematics constant. The researchers discovered signals of the planet in data taken in 2017 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kepler Space Telescope's K2 mission.

NASA reveals plan to return to Moon in 2024; to cost \$28 billion

NASA revealed its latest plan to return astronauts to the Moon in 2024, and estimated the cost of meeting that deadline at \$28 billion, \$16 billion of which would be spent on the lunar landing module. Three different projects are in competition to build the lunar lander that will carry two astronauts to the Moon. The first one is being developed by Blue Origin, founded by Jeff Bezos. The other two projects are being undertaken by Elon Musk's SpaceX and by the company Dynetics.

Novak Djokovic wins Men's Singles event in Italian Open

In tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters title by beating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome.

Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away

Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood's veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away this morning due to Covid 19 infection at a hospital in Satara in Maharashtra. She was 79.