

Current Affairs

17 September 2020

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Current Affairs: 17 September 2020

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.