

Current Affairs

18 & 19 September

2020

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[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.