National

Union govt approves amendment in FDI policy in Defence Sector
- The Union Government has approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector. The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that for new licensees, FDI is allowed up to 74 percent through the automatic route and beyond 74 percent will be permitted through the government route.
- The Minister further said that for existing licensees, infusion of fresh foreign investment up to 49 percent will be allowed by making a declaration of change or transfer within 30 days.
- The move aims to enhance ease of doing business and contribute to the growth of investment, income and employment. The foreign investments in the defence sector shall be subject to scrutiny on grounds of national security.

Atal Tunnel, World's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet, connecting Manali to Leh ready after 10 years
- World's longest highway tunnel connecting Manali to Leh under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of Himalayas on the Leh-Manali highway is now completed after 10 years.
- The Tunnel is named after late and former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It’s the world’s highest tunnel situated at an altitude above 10,000 metres. The Tunnel is 9 km long. The tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by up to 46 kms. It will also reduce the travel time by up to 4 hours.

Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed in Rajya Sabha
- The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homeopathic education and practice. The Bill replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 that was promulgated on April 24, 2020.

PM inaugurates Kosi Rail mega bridge in Bihar through video conferencing
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the historical Kosi Rail Mega Bridge to the nation and also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities to benefit the people of Bihar in Bihar via video-conferencing.
- The bridge has strategic importance along the India-Nepal border, which connects the Mithila and Kosi region. The historical project to build the bridge, which is 1.9 kilometres long and has been constructed at a cost of Rs 516 crore.
- With the construction of the bridge the rail distance between Nirmali and Saraigarh would come down from the present 298 kilometres to 22 kilometres.
India’s first exclusive private jet terminal inaugurated at International airport in Delhi
- The Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on September 17, 2020, inaugurated India’s first exclusive private jet terminal at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The terminal will handle the flight operations of the private jets. The new terminal also has the capacity to handle over 50 passengers every hour.
- The private jet terminal will enable the smooth movement of the chartered aircraft and the business jets.

Fourth Global Ayurveda Summit organised virtually
- The fourth edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held virtually with the theme ‘Ayurveda For Immunity’. The summit was inaugurated by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- The objective of the summit is to showcase Ayurveda and herbal medicine to the world as a solution named ‘Health as One’ and ‘Immunity through Ayurveda’.
- The Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 will have 8-day International Conference, 30-day International Exhibition and Focused Business to Business Meetings.

International
New Zealand becomes first country to mandate climate risk disclosures
- New Zealand has become the first country to pass legislation requiring financial entities to declare their climate-related risks. The rule will apply to banks, insurers, all listed debt and equity issuers.
- Financial entities in New Zealand will have to comply with the framework laid down by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Science and Technology
Scientists Develop World’s Smallest Ultrasound Detector
- Researchers at Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) have developed the world’s smallest ultrasound detector. It is based on miniaturized photonic circuits on top of a silicon chip.
- With a size 100 times smaller than an average human hair, the new detector can visualize features that are much smaller than previously possible, leading to what is known as super-resolution imaging.

Obituary
Former RBI governor Amitabha Ghosh passes away
- Amitabha Ghosh, the shortest-serving Governor of the Reserve Bank of India passed away at the age of 90.
- He had served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for 21 days between January 15, 1985 to February 4, 1985.
- It was a stop-gap arrangement when Amitabha Ghosh was serving as a deputy governor of RBI and waiting to hand over charge to the 17th RBI Governor R N Malhotra.
Veteran Ayurveda physician from Tamil Nadu PR Krishnakumar passes away
- Tamil Nadu based prominent Indian Ayurveda physician PR Krishnakumar has passed away. He was 69.
- Krishnakumar was the Founder and Managing Director of the iconic Coimbatore Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (AVP) as well as the Chancellor of the renowned Avinashilingam University in Coimbatore.
- The Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri award in 2009 for his contribution to medicine.

International Equal Pay Day
- International Equal Pay Day is observed globally for the first time on 18th September 2020. On the occasion of the first International Equal Pay Day, and in the midst of the fallout from the global C-19 pandemic.
- On November 15 2019, The third Committee at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted resolution (A/C37/74/L.49) proclaiming 18 September as International Equal Pay Day.

World Bamboo Day
- World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products.
- WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
- The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is ‘BAMBOO NOW.’

Books and Authors
A new book titled “Azadi” authored by Arundhati Roy
- The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism.
- The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to C-19.

The End of an Era; India Exits Tibet by Claude Arpi
- French-born author, journalist, historian Claude Arpi has written fourth and final volume of his book titled End of an Era, India Exits Tibet.
- The book highlights India Tibet relation between 1947 and 1962. it also focuses on India losing all its influence in Tibet.
- It shows Nehru Memorial Library papers, de-classified Indian and Chinese documents and personal interviews.
National

Tata Groups win new Parliament Building Contract under Central Vista Project
- Tata Group has won the contract for the construction of the new Parliament Building with a bid of Rs. 861.90 crores. Tata has beaten Larsen & Toubro whose bid was at Rs. 865 crores.
- The Central Public Works Department had opened the financial bid for the new Parliament Building on September 16, 2020. In total, 7 companies had placed the pre-qualification technical bids for the construction of the new Parliament Building.

Lok Sabha passes bill to bring Cooperative Banks under Reserve Bank of India
- The Lok Sabha has passed an amendment bill to the Banking Regulation Act on September 16, 2020, to bring Cooperative Banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The amendment bill has replaced an ordinance that was issued on June 26, 2020. The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified that the powers of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies have not been encroached upon but the banking activities of the Cooperatives will not be regulated by RBI.

International

Brazil, India, and South Africa jointly call for comprehensive reforms in UNSC
- India South Africa and Brazil have jointly called for the comprehensive reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the virtual meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers on September 16, 2020.
- The meeting was chaired by the Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and was attended by his South African Counterpart Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor and Brazilian Counterpart Fabio Marzano.
- The three ministers adopted a joint statement on the reform of the UNSC and emphasized the expansion of its membership by including the representation from developing and emerging countries.

Banking and Economy

UBS Securities projects India’s GDP to contract by 8.6% in FY21; For FY22=+10%
- UBS Securities has projected India’s GDP for 2020-21 (FY21) to contact by 8.6%. (Earlier it was -5.8%). For FY22, UBS Securities projects India’s GDP to grow by 10%.
- UBS Securities is a Chinese investment bank and brokerage firm headquartered in Beijing, China.

Govt to infuse Rs.20,000 cr into PSBs via recap bonds
- State-run banks are poised to get ₹20,000 crore through recapitalization bonds this financial year, at a time the C-19 crisis threatens to bump up bad loans across the banking system.
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the first batch of supplementary demand for grants in the Parliament, reflecting additional expenses sought by various ministries.
beyond the budget allocations.
- The government has sought the Parliament's nod for additional cash expenditure of Rs 1.67 lakh crore, less than 1 percent of GDP, in the first supplementary demand for grants for FY21 tabled in the Parliament.

**Titan ties up with SBI to launch contactless payment watches**
- Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India’s first contactless payment watches named “Titan Pay”.
- Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI.
- Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.

**Awards**
**Chef Vikas Khanna Named for 2020 Asia Game Changer Award**
- New York-based Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna has been chosen to be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the C-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive ‘FeedIndia’.
- The Asia Game Changer Awards was launched by the Asia Society, a US-based non-profit organization, in 2014, to identify and honor true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of Asia.
- Khanna is the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation.

**Obituary**
**Legendary scholar of Indian classical dance & arts, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, passes away at 92**
- Veteran scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan has passed away. She was 92-year-old.
- Dr. Vatsyayan was the former Member of Parliament and had served as Education Secretary. She was the founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- Some of the prestigious honors received by Dr Kapila Vatsyayan includes, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship, and the Padma Vibhushan.

**Mali’s former president Moussa Traore passes away**
- Former President of Republic of Mali, who was in power from 1968 to 1991, General Moussa Traore passed away. He was born in 1936 in Kayes, Mali.
- He was a former military leader, forcibly took over the reign from Modibo Keita (known as the ‘father of independence’).

**Ranking**
**India ranks 116 in World Bank’s 2020 Human Capital Index**
- India has been ranked at 116 positions among 174 countries in the latest edition of the World Bank’s annual Human Capital Index. The Index benchmarks the key components of the human capital across all over the countries.
- The 2020 Human Capital Index has included education and health data for 174 countries.
As per the analysis by the World Bank, pre-pandemic most of the countries had made steady progress in building the human capital of children and the biggest strides were made in low-income countries.

India’s four major cities drop in ranking in Global Smart City Index
- India’s four major cities- New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad witnessed a drop in their rankings in the Global Smart City Index. The index was topped by Singapore.
- The Smart City Index 2020 was released by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD). The index is based on key findings on how technology is playing a role in the C-19 era.
- While New Delhi was ranked 86th on the 2020 Smart City Index, down from 68 in 2019, Hyderabad was placed 85th position (down from 67 in 2019), Bengaluru at 95th (79 in 2019) and Mumbai was at 93rd rank (down from 78 in 2019).

World Water Monitoring Day
- The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 since 2003 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. Theme for 2020 WWMD is ‘Solve Water.’
- The day was established in 2003 by America’s Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational outreach program by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

World Patient Safety Day
- The World Patient Safety Day is observed on September 17 to create global awareness for patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to make healthcare safer.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the first WPSD in 2019. It was adopted at the 72nd World Health Assembly on 25 May 2019. The theme for 2020 WPSD is ‘Safe health workers, Safe patients.’

Current Affairs PDF- September 17, 2020

National
Lok Sabha passes Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020
- Lok Sabha on September 15, 2020, passed Essential Commodities Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill allows the central government to regulate the supply of some of the food items only under the extraordinary circumstances which include natural calamity of grave nature, war, famine, and extraordinary price rise.
- The latest bill passed in Lok Sabha seeks to increase the competition in the agricultural sector and to increase farmers’ income. It also aims to liberalise the regulatory system while also protecting the interests of the consumers.
Cabinet approves establishment of new AIIMS at Bihar's Darbhanga

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar.
- The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within four years from the date of the approval of Government of India. The medical college will have 100 MBBS seats.

International

Israel, Bahrain, UAE sign historic US-brokered peace deals

- Israel, Bahrain, and UAE signed Abraham Accords on September 15, 2020, in a signing ceremony which was presided over by the President of United States Donald Trump at the White House.
- The Abraham Accords have been signed to establish the foundation of peace agreements between Israel and the two Arab nations- Bahrain and UAE.

TikTok chooses Oracle as its technology partner for its US operations

- ByteDance has chosen Oracle as a US partner for its popular TikTok video service, a decision that comes as a deadline for a ban of the popular app draws near.
- Microsoft was also in a bid to acquire TikTok in the United States but the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform “TikTok” chose Oracle over Microsoft to be its technology partner for its American operations.

Banking and Economy

OECD projects India’s GDP at -10.2% in FY21 & 10.7% in FY22, Global GDP at -4.5% in 2020

- OECD projects India’s GDP at -10.2% in FY21 & 10.7% in FY22, Global GDP at -4.5% in 2020
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2% in FY21 (2020-21) as compared to its previous estimate of 16.7% in June.
- For FY22 (2021-22), the Paris-based OECD projects India’s gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 10.7%.
- OECD expects the global GDP at -4.5% in 2020, which is an upward revision from its previous estimate of -6%. For the year 2021, the global economy is estimated to increase by 5%.

RBI asks banks to fully automate NPA recognition process

- The Reserve Bank of India has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process.
- All borrower accounts will be covered under the new regime. Lenders will have time till June 30, 2021 to complete this process.
- The new guidelines will include all borrower accounts, including temporary overdrafts, irrespective of size or sector. Banks’ investments will also be covered under the new system.
Scientists detect potential signs of extra terrestrial life on Venus

- Scientists revealed on September 14, 2020 that they have detected potential signs on life on the inhospitable Venus.
- The scientists have detected a gas called phosphine in the acidic clouds of Venus that indicates microbes may inhabit Earth’s neighbour.

Sports

BWF Postpones Thomas And Uber Cup Finals To 2021

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that the Thomas Cup and the Uber Cup, which were scheduled to be held from 3 to 11 October 2020 in Denmark, has been postponed for 2021.
- This decision has been taken following the withdrawal of many participating countries from the tournament due to the C-19 pandemic.
- The alternative dates to reschedule the World Men’s and Women’s Team Championships is yet to be decided by BWF.

Appointments and Resignations

Facebook India appoints Arun Srinivas as Director of Global Business Group

- Facebook India appoints Arun Srinivas as Director of Global Business Group. Facebook announced the appointment of Arun Srinivas as the Director of Global Business Group.
- Srinivas will spearhead the strategy and delivery of the India Marketing Solutions which aims to tap large advertisers and agencies.
- Srinivas has worked with Ola where he served as Chief Operating Officer and Global Chief Marketing Officer.

Ranking

India Happiness Report 2020: Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Top List; Maharashtra & Delhi at Bottom

- The first all India Happiness Report covering all states and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country, which is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 by Professor Rajesh K Pillania.
- In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three. Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states whereas, among smaller states, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.
- Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana have shown the worst possible impact of C-19 on happiness, whereas Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir are neutral and Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep have shown the best possible impact of C-19 on happiness.
Current Affairs PDF- September 16, 2020

National
Parliament passes Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020, after Rajya Sabha approval
- The Parliament on September 15, 2020, passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 after it was approved by Rajya Sabha. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha on March 17, 2020.
- The bill aims to amend the Aircraft Act of 1934 and convert the 3 regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry into the statutory bodies.
- The 3 regulatory bodies include the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

International
India becomes member of United Nation's Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW)
- UNCSW is a body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is responsible for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- India will be a member of the UNCSW for four years — from 2021 to 2025. Three countries, India, China and Afghanistan had contested the elections in which India and Afghanistan have been elected to UNCSW while China has failed to do so.
- TS Tirumurti, permanent representative of India to the United Nations shared the information.

Liberia declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases
- Liberian President George Weah has declared rape a national emergency and ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the West African state.
- The move comes after thousands of Liberians protested against rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month in a bid to draw attention to the country's alarming rate of sexual assault.
- The government will also establish a so-called “national security task force” on sexual and gender-based violence.

Banking and Economy
Asian Development Bank projects Indian economy to shrink by 9% in FY21, grow by 8% in FY22
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that the GDP of India is expected to contract by 9 percent in the fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). This estimate is worse that ADB’s previous estimate of -4%.
- However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India’s GDP at 8 percent.
- ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at – 0.7 percent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.

Infosys to acquire Europe-based Guide Vision for €30 million
- IT major Infosys has signed a definitive agreement to acquire European consultancy firm Guide Vision for up to Euro 30 million (approximately $35 million).
Guide Vision is one of the largest Service Now Elite Partners in Europe, specialised in offering strategic advisory, consulting, implementations, training and support.

With this acquisition, Infosys will enhance its Cobalt portfolio of cloud services and further strengthen its Service Now capabilities for its clients in Europe.

Infosys launched Cobalt in August 2020, which is a set of services, solutions, and platforms to help its clients, mostly large enterprises, build new cloud-first capabilities.

S&P Projects Indian Economy to Contract 9 Percent

S&P Global Ratings slashed its growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent in the current fiscal, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that rising C-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.

S&P Global Ratings now expects the country’s economy to contract by 9 percent in the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2021.

Science and Technology

Vi launches integrated 4G network GIGAnet

VI (erstwhile Vodafone Idea) has launched GIGAnet network that is an integrated 4G network.

With the launch of GIGAnet, VI aims to overcome the loss of customers and attract new customers from rivals Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.

GIGAnet offers faster downloads & uploads, low latency, and real-time connectivity. It is built on many principles of 5G architecture that help in delivering a superior network experience.

Appointments and Resignations

Harivansh re-elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote. BJP President JP Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted. Later, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu announced his name.

Amazon signs Amitabh Bachchan for its Alexa voice assistant

Amazon.com Inc has signed up Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan for its Alexa voice assistant.

Alexa users will be able to access Amitabh Bachchan’s voice on Alexa by purchasing the Amitabh Bachchan voice experience.

He is the first Indian celebrity to lend his voice to Alexa.

Days

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

The International Day for the preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed annually on September 16 to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.

The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 2000, to
commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.

- Theme for 2020 World Ozone Day: ‘Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection’.

**World Lymphoma Awareness Day**

- The World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is observed on September 15 every year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of lymphoma, an increasingly common form of cancer.
- WLAD is a global initiative, initiated in 2004 by the Lymphoma Coalition (LC), a non-profit network organisation of 83 lymphoma patient groups from 52 countries around the world.

**Books and Authors**

*Gauri Khan authors book titled ‘My Life in Design’*

- Interior designer Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled “My Life In Design”, which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021.
- It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.

**Current Affairs PDF- September 15, 2020**

**National**

*Govt moves ahead with Orientation and Training Programme of iRAD App*

- Road Transport and Highways Ministry is in the process of implementing Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) which will be applicable across the country.
- In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in six states. These are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The basic iRAD app has been developed and will be customized as per the requirements of concerned states.

*UP Government to set up a special security force that can arrest or search without a warrant*

- The Uttar Pradesh State Government had announced on September 13, 2020, that a special security force will be constituted to protect airports, courts, administrative buildings, banks, metros, and other government offices.
- The Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) will be allowed to conduct searches and arrests without any warrants if it is sure about the crime.
- The information regarding the special security force was shared by UP’s Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi during a press briefing.

**International**

*Yoshihide Suga wins Japan’s ruling party’s leadership vote, set to become PM*

- Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga won the leadership vote of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan on September 14, 2020. Mr. Suga will soon secure the position of the new Prime Minister of the country as on September 16, 2020, the Japanese parliament will confirm Suga as the head of the government.
As per the final count, Mr. Suga had secured 377 votes of a total of 534 votes. Yoshihide Suga will be replacing the long-serving Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, who had resigned in August 2020 due to health problems.

**Summits and Mou’s**

**HCL Technologies joins NVIDIA partner network, will pursue opportunities in AI space**
- HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, announced it has joined NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN), the US-based technology company’s partner program, with plans to pursue expanded opportunities in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space.
- HCL also announced the launch of NEXT.ai, HCL’s AI Lab, focused on upskilling engineers and architects utilizing AI solutions across hardware and software technology stacks.
- This will enhance their capabilities to build AI-led solutions for multiple HCL clients across industry verticals.

**Awards**

**Euromoney honours HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri with Lifetime Achievement Award**
- Aditya Puri, MD of HDFC Bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.
- He has been awarded for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence.

**Sports**

**Japan’s Naomi Osaka beats Victoria Azarenka to win US Open Tennis Tournament**
- In Tennis, Japan’s Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, to clinch the Women’s Singles title in the 2020 US Open Tennis tournament.
- This is the third Grand Slam title for the fourth seed Osaka. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.
- The 22-year old Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles.

**Dominic Thiem wins US Open Men’s Tennis Tournament 2020**
- Austria’s Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men’s singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.
- It was Thiem’s first Grand Slam title, and he becomes the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in a US Open final.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Sameer Kumar Khare appointed Executive Director at ADB**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sameer Kumar Khare as new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.
- Khare is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance.
Rajesh Khullar appointed Executive Director at World Bank

- A 1988 batch IAS officer, Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director at World Bank in Washington DC. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khulla for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023).
- Khullar is currently posted as principal secretary to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Ranking

TCS Becomes Second Indian Firm to Cross Rs 9 Lakh Crore-market Valuation Mark

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.
- The company’s market valuation went past Rs 9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price.
- The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91 per cent to Rs 2,442.80 - its record high on the BSE.

International Day of Democracy

- International Day of Democracy is observed globally on 15th September every year. The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
- The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy. The day was observed for the first time in 2008.

National Engineer’s Day

- In India, the Engineer’s Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, to recognise the contribution of engineers’ in the development of the nation.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV).Sir MV was regarded as the “Father of Modern Mysore”.
- He was awarded ‘Bharat Ratna’ for his exceptional contribution to the building of India in 1955.

Current Affairs PDF- September 14, 2020

National

Odisha Launches ‘GARIMA’ Scheme For Sanitation Workers

- The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched a new scheme named ‘GARIMA’ which aims to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state. Initially, the state government has allocated a corpus fund of Rs 50 crore for the scheme.
- GARIMA Scheme will be implemented by state Housing and Urban Development
department in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.

- Around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families with about one lakh population will benefit from the scheme.

**AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launches ‘YSR Aasara’ scheme; 87 lakh women to benefit**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ‘YSR Aasara’ programme aimed at “empowering women economically and socially”.
- Under the YSR Aasara scheme, Andhra Pradesh government will reimburse outstanding bank loans of self-help groups as on April 11, 2019, in four instalments.
- Rs 6,792.2 crore towards the first installment of the total dues of Rs 27,169 crores was released to the banks of 87,74,674 women belonging to 8.7 lakh SHGs.

**Banking and Economy**

**Razorpay launches collateral free line of credit for SMEs**

- In a bid to rescue MSMEs and improve their cash flows, Razorpay has launched a collateral free line of credit called Cash Advance.
- MSMEs can borrow working capital with a credit limit of Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh, within 10 seconds through the Razorpay dashboard, depending upon the credit history of the business.
- With this, Razorpay aims to support businesses with up to Rs 100 crores of credit by end of 2020.

**Obituary**

**Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who recently quit RJD, passed away**

- Former Union minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away while undergoing treatment in New Delhi. Singh, who had recently resigned from RJD, had fallen critically ill.
- He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar. Often called the architect of the MGNREGA scheme, which was floated when he was the Union minister for rural development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s cabinet.

**Sports**

**Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Tuscan Grand Prix 2020 held on September 13, 2020. This was his 6th win of the season and 90th F1 win of his career.
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came second followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull – Thailand) at third place.
- The Tuscan Grand Prix (first edition) was the ninth race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Jane Fraser named the first female CEO of Citigroup**

- Multinational investment bank, Citigroup named Jane Fraser as its next chief executive,
tapping a woman to lead a giant Wall Street bank for the first time.

- Fraser began her career at Goldman Sachs Group Inc’s mergers and acquisitions department in London, before starting to work for Asesores Bursátiles in Madrid. She has been working for Citigroup for 16 years and been serving in her current capacity since 2019.

**Subhash Kamath elected as Chairman of ASCI**

- Subhash Kamath has been elected as the chairman of the board of governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).
- He is the chief executive at advertising agency BBH & Publicis Worldwide, India. He will replace Rohit Gupta, president, Sony Pictures Networks.

**Ranking**

**India is second-fastest-growing freelance market in the world**

- India is the second-fastest-growing freelance market in the world with a massive increase in the number of freelancers this year, according to a report on ‘freelancing in 2020: An Abundance of Opportunities’ by Pioneer.
- Furthermore, India witnessed a 46 per cent increase in new freelancers from Q1 to Q2, 2020 as per the report. Apart from India, other popular markets for gig workers include the US, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

**Days**

**National Hindi Day**

- Hindi Divas or Hindi Day is an annual day celebrated on 14 September in India to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of the country.
- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.
- The language was adopted under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.

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**National**

**MoHUA launches Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0)**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0. To provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- The initiative was launched by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs on 11 September in a virtual event organised by the Smart Cities Mission. The framework comprise of 28 indicators across five categories. They are:
  1. Energy and Green Buildings,
  2. Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity,
3. Mobility and Air Quality,
4. Water Management and 
5. Waste Management.
   - The CSCAF 2.0 initiative will be implemented by the MoHUA, with support from the Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). CSCAF initiative will inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

Govt Releases Rs 6,195 crore to 14 States As Revenue Deficit Grant
- The government released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 states as the sixth equated monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. This would provide them additional resources during the C-19 crisis.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal are the 14 states to whom the grant has been released.

India announces the states’ startup ranking list – Gujarat gets the best performer, while Karnataka and Kerala are top performers
- Karnataka and Kerala have emerged as the top performers, while Gujarat was ranked as the best performer in second edition of States’ Startup Ranking 2019, as per the results announced by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The states in the leader category are Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Chandigarh.
- In the aspiring leaders category, states like Telangana, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Nagaland were included.
- In the Emerging Startup Ecosystem category, states included are Andra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.
- In the Best Performers category – Andaman and Nicobar Islands (among UTs and north eastern states) Gujarat (among all other states).

Asian Development Bank and Suguna Foods Sign $15 Million Financing Deal
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has signed a pact for a USD 15-million debt financing through the subscription of non-convertible debentures for Suguna Foods, to help sustain poultry farming operations, rural livelihoods and food security in India during the C-19 pandemic.
- DB’s assistance will provide essential liquidity support to Suguna’s operations during this C-19 crisis, help the company build inventory buffers and make timely payments to contract farmers and suppliers.
- The Bank’s assistance comprises two-year amortising senior secured non-convertible debentures in three tranches.

ADB, ENGIE sign Rs.466-crore loan for developing solar project in Gujarat
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and France’s ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan of up to ₹ 466 crore for setting up a 200-MW solar power project in Gujarat.
The project will be developed in the Raghanesda Solar Park. Electro Solaire Private Limited (ESPL), a special purpose vehicle owned by the ENGIE group, will implement the project. ESPL is collaborating with the Gujarat government to construct the project and has signed a power purchase agreement for 25 years with the State government.

Banking and Economy

**RBI defines Role and selection criteria of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in Banks**

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the guidelines to be followed by commercial banks for the appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO).
- Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding RRBs), Local Area Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) to have an effective compliance culture, independent corporate compliance function and a strong compliance risk management programme at bank and group level.
- The CCO shall have an overall experience of at least 15 years in the banking or financial services, out of which minimum 5 years shall be in the Audit / Finance / Compliance / Legal / Risk Management functions.

**CARE Ratings projects India’s GDP to contract between 8-8.2% in FY21**

- Indian rating agency, CARE Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract in the range 8 to 8.2% for 2020-21 (FY21).
- This is more than its earlier projection of -6.4%. The forecast for GVA growth in FY21 is -7.7%.

**Obituary**

**Arya Samaj leader, Social activist Swami Agnivesh passes away**

- Arya Samaj leader and social activist Swami Agnivesh passed away at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, ILBS in New Delhi. He was 80.
- Agnivesh was elected to Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1977 and served as a Cabinet Minister for Education in the state in 1979.
- He founded Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked against bonded labour. He also led numerous movements against alcoholism.
- Swami Agnivesh also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, World Council of Arya Samaj.

**‘Game of Thrones’ & Bond star Diana Rigg passes away at 82**

- Actress Dame Diana Rigg, famous for roles including Emma Peel in TV series The Avengers and Olenna Tyrell in Game of Thrones, has died at the age of 82. Dame Diana also played the only woman who became Mrs James Bond.
- She played Tracy, who married George Lazenby’s 007 in the 1969 film On Her Majesty’s Secret Service. She has won Emmy, Tony and Bafta awards.