National

World's longest highway tunnel 'Atal Tunnel' to be opened by Prime Minister
- Prime Minister of India will open World’s longest highway tunnel ‘Atal Tunnel’ on 3 October 2020.
- This Tunnel is named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- This is 9.2 km long tunnel which is the longest highway tunnel in the world.
- This tunnel is connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.
- It reduces the road distance by 46 Kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.

Tribes India E-Marketplace – India’s Largest Market of Tribal Products
- Union Minister for Ministry of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda will launch – India’s Largest Market of Tribal Products named Tribes India E-Marketplace on 02 October 2020, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- This Tribes India e-Marketplace is an initiative of the government which aims to give platform for 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, organic food products across the country and brings the best of tribal produce.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches CSIR Technologies for rural development
- The Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched CSIR Technologies for rural development under a joint initiative of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA).
- The initiative was launched during the celebrations of 40th foundation day of CSIR-NISTADS.

Banking and Economy

BRICS Bank approves loans for Mumbai Metro, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Rail
- The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved loan for Mumbai metro and for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.

- $241 million loan for the Mumbai metro rail-II project will be used for implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of 14.47 km in Mumbai
- A loan of $500 million has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project.

SBI signs MoU with HUL for an end to end digital solutions for ecosystem
- India’s largest lender State Bank of India has entered into a partnership with FMCG major Hindustan Unilever to offer corporate solutions to its trade partners.
- The partnership aims to make availing of credit easy for channel partners, provides UPI
based payment solutions and PoS terminals to retailers & distributors

- The objective of the partnership is to augment the width of credit and will be beginning a pilot in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

**Awards**

**Bengal Peerless ropes in former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador**

- City based real estate developer Bengal Peerless Housing has roped in Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador for the company.
- The former national cricket team captain and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Ganguly will primarily lead the campaign of the company's residential project Avidipta II on EM Bypass.

**Gajendra Singh Shekhawat presents Swachh Bharat Awards 2020**

- The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria virtually conferred the Swachh Bharat 2020 Awards to the best performing States/UTs, districts, blocks, GPs in various categories on 2nd October 2020.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti is observing the Swachh Bharat Diwas, 2020 on 2nd October to mark six years of the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).
- The Swachh Bharat 2020 Awards were conferred under three categories which are:
  - Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) campaign
  - Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan (SSA)
  - Gandagi Se Mukt (GMB) campaign

**Science and Technology**

**DRDO successfully test fires laser-guided anti-tank guided missile**

- The indigenously developed Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test fired by DRDO on 1st Oct 2020. It defeated a target located at longer range. The test was conducted from MBT Arjun at KK ranges (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.
- This Laser guided ATGM has been developed by Armament R&D Establishment (ARDE), Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun.
- It has a tandem HEAT warhead to destroy Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 km. The missile is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Crown prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah becomes Kuwait’s new ruling emir**

- Kuwait’s Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah became the oil-rich nation’s new ruling emir, after the death of his half-brother Sheikh Sabah al- AhmadAl- Sabah at the age of 91.
- Sheikh Nawaf, 83, had served as the crown prince since 2006, jumping a traditional order of alternating rule between the Al Jaber and the Al Salim branches of the country’s ruling
RBI Approves Appointment of CoD to Run Dhanlaxmi Bank Till Appointment Of CEO
- Dhanlaxmi Bank said that the RBI has approved a three-member interim committee of directors, to run the private sector bank after the shareholders voted out its MD and CEO Sunil Gurbaxani.
- The committee of directors (CoD) will be constituted with G Subramonia Iyer as chairman and G Rajagopalan Nair and P K Vijayakumar as its members.

Apurva Chandra appointed as Secretary of Ministry of Labour & Employement
- Apurva Chandra appointed as new secretary of Union Ministry of Labour & Employement.
- Earlier he was serving as Special Director General, Defence Acquisition, Ministry of Defence.
- He belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Maharashtra Cadre.

SBI appoints Charanjit Attra as CFO
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Charanjit Singh Attra as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from 01 October 2020.
- The post was lying vacant after the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar, was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020.
- C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post on interim capacity.

Current Affairs PDF- October 02, 2020

National

Government constitutes panel to screen China’s foreign investment proposals
- The Indian government has set up a screening panel to vet all the Chinese foreign investment proposals and those which will be considered non-controversial could be approved.
- The screening panel has been headed by the home secretary and has the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary as a member. As per the senior official, more than 100 proposals involving the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China are pending.
- In April 2020, prior government clearance was made mandatory for FDI from the countries sharing a land border. The step was widely seen to be directed at curbing Chinese takeover of companies amid stock market volatility during the C-19 pandemic.

First VVIP aircraft 'Air India One' for PM, President, Vice President arrives
- The first of the two VVIP aircraft Air India One for President, Vice President, and Prime Minister arrived in India on October 1, 2020.
- The Special Extra Section Flight (SESF) aircraft for the country's VVIP arrived at Delhi’s International Airport from the United States. A joint team of senior officers from Air India, VVIP security personnel and senior government officials had gone to the US to accept the delivery of the VVIP’s flight Air India One.
• The Air India One is equipped with an advanced and secured communication system, which will enable availing audio and video communication functions mid-air without any worries of hacking or being taped.
• The VVIP aircraft B-777 will replace wide-body aircraft Boeing B-747 jumbo aircraft whose call sign is Air India One.

**Banking and Economy**

**RBI Excludes 6 PSBs from Second Schedule of RBI Act**
• The RBI has excluded six public sector banks, including OBC and Allahabad Bank, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act following their merger with other banks.
• The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank.
• These six banks merged with other public sector banks (PSBs) with effect from April 1. There were as many as 27 PSBs in 2017. The total number of PSBs in the country has now come down to 12.

**SBI Card joins hands with American Express to offer premium benefits, services**
• SBI Card has joined hands with American Express to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India.
• Under this agreement, SBI Card’s top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express’ global network.
• Customers will also get benefits like pre-ticketing access to sporting and entertainment events such as the Wimbledon and the US Open which are presently accessible virtually.

**Summits and Mou’s**

**Gujarat inks MoU with Denmark in water sector**
• The Government of Gujarat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Denmark in water sector.
• The MoU was signed through online interactive platform between the Gujarat government arm ‘Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board’ and ‘Danish Water Forum’.
• The MoU will facilitate technology exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, waste water treatment/reuse and water management.

**Science and Technology**

**ISRO to launch its Venus Mission in 2025, France to take part**
• ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it.
• The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
• CNES will coordinate and prepare the French contribution, the first time a French payload will be flown on an Indian exploration mission.
Sports

Kiren Rijiju launches new logo of Sports Authority of India
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the Sports Authority of India’s (SAI) new logo at Delhi’s Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.
- The new logo signifies SAI’s journey of metamorphosis from identifying and nurturing grassroots level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.

Ranking

“Crimes in India” Report, Released by NCRB – Crimes against women increased by 7.3%
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) which is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data released the Crimes in India Report for the year of 2019.
- As per the Report, crimes against women increased by 7.3% between 2018 and 2019.
  ✓ Crimes against women: Assam
  ✓ Crimes against scheduled castes: Uttar Pradesh
  ✓ Crimes against girl children: Uttar Pradesh
  ✓ Highest number of dowry cases: Uttar Pradesh
  ✓ Highest number of acid attack: Uttar Pradesh
  ✓ Rapes against Dalit women: Rajasthan

Days

International Day of Non-Violence
- Every year, 02 October is celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence, to mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
- This day is referred to as Gandhi Jayanti in India. On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General Assembly, voted to establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- The day aims to “spread the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.
- The year 2020 marks 151th birth anniversary of the global peace icon who was born on 2 October 1869, in Porbandar in Gujarat.

World Vegetarian Day
- World Vegetarian Day is observed annually on October 1 globally to raise awareness about the ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.
- The day was initiated by the North American Vegetarian Society in Scotland in 1977 during the World Vegetarian Congress.

International Coffee Day
- International Coffee Day is celebrated on 1st October every year to celebrate millions of people across the world who do hard work to create and serve the beverage in the consumable form such as farmers, roasters, baristas, and coffee shop owners etc.
- The first ICD was launched in 2015 by the International Coffee Organization in Milan. The
theme 2020 of the day is “Coffee’s Next Generation”.

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National
Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4 to promote innovation in defence sector

- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX event. iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) guidelines were also launched by the Raksha Mantri during the event.
- All these initiatives are aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) ecosystem in the country.
- iDEX4Fauji is a first of its kind initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers/field formations. iDEX4Fauji will allow our soldiers to become part of the innovation process and get recognised and rewarded.

International
India, Netherlands sign agreement to support decarbonisation

- NITI Aayog of India and the Embassy of the Netherlands in New Delhi have signed a Statement of Intent on September 28, 2020 to support decarbonisation and energy transition agenda in order to accommodate cleaner energy.
- The main objective of the partnership is to co-create innovative technological solutions.
- The SoI was signed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Ambassador of the Netherlands to India Marten van den Berg.

Banking and Economy
RBI sets WMA Limit for Govt at Rs 1,25,000 crore for the second half of FY21

- The Reserve Bank of India has set the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of the financial year 2020-21 (October 2020 to March 2021) for Central Government at Rs. 1,25,000 crore.
- The Reserve Bank will trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilizes 75% of the WMA limit.
- The interest rate on WMA/overdraft will be:
  - WMA: Repo Rate
  - Overdraft: Two percent above the Repo Rate

Summits and Mou’s
Flipkart partners with Bajaj Allianz to offer cyber fraud insurance

- Keeping the upcoming festive season and growing online frauds in mind, Flipkart announced a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company to offer ‘Digital Suraksha Group Insurance for customers in the country.
- The “Digital Suraksha Group Insurance” policy will cover financial losses caused by various
kinds of online frauds and cyber attacks that might occur during digital transactions.

- The customers can choose for a one-year cover at premiums as low as Rs 183 for a cover of Rs 50,000, Rs 312 for Rs 1 lakh, and Rs 561 for Rs 2 lakh for a 12-months tenure, with covers also extending up to Rs 10 lakh.

**BSE joins hands with Yes Bank to empower SMEs**

- Leading stock exchange BSE said it has signed a pact with private sector lender Yes Bank to empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on the platform.
- The pact aims at empowering the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes.
- As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), BSE and Yes Bank will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SMEs, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.

**Awards**

**Sonu Sood honoured with SDA Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP**

- The veteran actor Sonu Sood has been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 28 September 2020 during a virtual ceremony.
- The actor has been awarded for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending home lakhs of migrants, helping thousands of stranded students across geographies abroad, providing free education and medical facilities to young children and creating free employment opportunities to the needy in the wake of the C-19 pandemic.

**Science and Technology**

**India successfully test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**

- India successfully test-fired the extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on September 30, 2020. The BrahMos missile is capable of hitting targets at over 400 kilometre range.
- DRDO Chairman Dr. G Satheesh Reddy said that the successful test will lead to adding more indigenous content to the supersonic cruise missile. The BrahMos can be launched from submarines, ships, fighter jets or land.
- The test-firing was carried out under the PJ-10 project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile was launched with an indigenous booster from a land-based facility in Odisha.
- This is the second test-firing of the extended range version of the missile that has an indigenously developed airframe and booster. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has been developed as a joint venture between the DRDO and Russia’s Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM).

**Obituary**

**‘I Am Woman’ Singer Helen Reddy passes away**

- Singer Helen Reddy, whose 1972 song ‘I Am Woman’ became a global feminist anthem, died
in Los Angeles aged 78.

- Helen Reddy’s 1971 version of “I Don’t Know How to Love Him” from the musical “Jesus Christ Superstar” launched a decade-long string of Top 40 hits, three of which reached No. 1.
- In 1973, she won the best female vocal pop performance Grammy Award for “I Am Woman,” quickly thanking her then-husband and others in her acceptance speech.

Veteran lyricist songwriter Abhilash passes away

- Veteran songwriter Abhilash, who is best known for the song ‘Itni Shakti Hame Dena Daata’ from the 1986 film Ankush, has passed away. He was 74.
- His real name was Om Prakash. His song ‘Itni Shakti Hame Dena Daata’ has been translated into eight languages and is played as a prayer song across schools and other institutions even today.

Appointments and Resignations

Shekhar Kapur appointed president of FTII Society & chairman of FTII Governing Council

- Noted Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has been named as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII Society and Chairman of Governing Council of FTII.
- He has a vast experience, will add more value to the Institute, will replace television producer BP Singh.

Ranking

Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun India Rich List for ninth consecutive year

- The Reliance Industries’ Chairman, and Asia’s richest man Mukesh Ambani has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020 for the ninth consecutive year.
- He has a total net worth of Rs 6,58,400 crore.
- London-based Hinduja brothers (SP Hinduja, along with his three brothers) is at second position with combined net worth of Rs 1,43,700 crore followed by HCL’s Shiv Nadar at third spot with net worth of Rs 1,41,700 crore.

Current Affairs PDF - September 30, 2020

National

Ministry of Home Affairs approves 3 more NIA branches at Chennai, Ranchi & Imphal

- The Home Affairs Ministry (MHA) has approved to set up 3 additional branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA) at Chennai, Ranchi and Imphal.
- The move is expected to ensure quick response to any emergency situation arising in these three states. It will also strengthen NIA’s capability to interrogate terrorism-related cases and other matters related to National Security.
- Presently, there are 9 branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA) which are located at:
  1. Guwahati
  2. Jammu
  3. Mumbai
  4. Kolkata
5. Kochi
6. Hyderabad
7. Raipur
8. Lucknow
9. Chandigarh

**World’s longest span concrete deck extra-dosed cable stayed bridge inaugurated in Hyderabad**
- Union MoS for Home G Kishan Reddy and Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao inaugurated the World’s longest span concrete deck extra-dosed cable-stayed bridge at Durgam Cheruvu of Hyderabad.
- The bridge was constructed at the cost of Rs 184 crore and it was built by Larsen & Toubro.
- The cable-stayed bridge portion is 435 m long, including the approaches at both ends, 25.8 m wide with a total of 52 stay cables.

**International**
**India signs MoU with Denmark on Intellectual Property cooperation**
- To further the objectives of National IPR Policy and become a major player in global innovation, India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation.
- The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries by way of exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP awareness among public, authorities, businesses and research and educational institutions of both countries.

**Banking and Economy**
**RBI approves 3-member committee of directors for Lakshmi Vilas Bank**
- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed a 3-member Committee of Directors (CoD) to look after the affairs of Lakshmi Vilas Bank. This comes after, RBI had earlier removed seven directors of the board of LVB.
- The three members are - Meeta Makhan, Shakti Sinha, and Satish Kumar Kalra. Meeta Makhan is the head of this Committee of Directors (CoD).

**Awards**
**Usha Mangeshkar gets Lata Mangeshkar award**
- Maharashtra government announced the Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2020-21 to veteran singer Usha Mangeshkar.
- The award has been constituted for the felicitation of senior vocal artistes and their contribution. The award carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.

**Appointments and Resignations**
**Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela appointed TRAI chairman**
- Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela was on Monday appointed as chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), according to a Personnel Ministry order.
Vaghela, a 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, is currently Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals. He will succeed R S Sharma.

**ITBP chief S S Deswal given additional charge of NSG DG**
- ITBP Director General, S S Deswal has been given the additional charge of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) as its incumbent chief A K Singh is going to retire on September 30.
- This is the second time that Deswal, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service officer, has been directed to lead the NSG in an additional capacity.

**International Translation Day**
- Every year, the International Translation Day is marked on 30 September. The International Federation of Translators (FIT) organise the day ever since it was set up in 1953.
- The day aims to celebrate the work of language translation professionals which facilitates dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.
- 2020 theme: Finding the words for a world in crisis.

**International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction**
- International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed globally on 29th September. This year is the first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.
- It also comes during the global C-19 pandemic, that has brought about a global wake-up on the need to transform and rebalance the way our food is produced and consumed.
- The theme for International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction 2020 is “Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet.”

**Books and Authors**

'A bouquet of flowers' authored by Dr. Krishna Saksena launched by Rajnath Singh
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a book titled ‘A bouquet of flowers' written by Dr. Krishna Saksena.
- Dr. Krishna Saksena is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

**Current Affairs PDF- September 29, 2020**

**National**

**Defence Minister unveils Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020 in New Delhi on September 28, 2020. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 will be applicable with effect from October 1, 2020.
- The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was first promulgated in 2002. Since then, the procedure has been revised periodically to provide a boost to the growing domestic
industry and achieve enhanced self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

- The Defence Minister had approved the constitution of the Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of DG (Acquisition) Apurva Chandra in August 2019 for preparation of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP).

ICMR Vaccine web portal & C-19 National Clinical Registry launched

- The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the first-of-its-kind national vaccine portal for C-19 on 28 September 2020, created by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The vaccine web portal will act as a repository for all information related to C-19 vaccine development in India and abroad. Currently, 3 vaccines are undergoing clinical trials in India for C-19.
- The portal will also provide information related to C-19 vaccine data from the World Health Organisation (WHO). You can access the website at https://vaccine.icmr.org.in/.

Banking and Economy

SBI Card launches new brand campaign ‘Contactless Connections’

- SBI Card announced the launch of its new brand campaign, Contactless Connections that spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.
- The campaign endeavours to bring a fresh breath of positivity by demonstrating that people can connect emotionally and spread joy despite the social distancing practices by which we are bound.

Awards

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sanju Yadav win AIFF Player of the Year Awards for 2019-20 season

- Indian men’s team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and women’s squad’s mid-fielder Sanju were declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20 season.
- This is the first time Gurpreet has received the award, and in the process, he became the second goalkeeper after Subrata Paul in 2009 to be named the AIFF Player of the Year.
- Meanwhile, national women’s team mid-fielder Sanju was selected the winner after an excellent season, while Ratanbala Devi won the 2019-20 Emerging Women’s Footballer of the Year Award.

Sattra Basishta Deva Sarma Conferred Srimanta Sankaradeva Award

- Assam’s Srimanta Sankaradeva Award 2017 was conferred on eminent Vaishnavite scholar, writer and ‘Satradhikar of Barpeta’ Sattra Basishta Deva Sarma.
- The award carries a citation, a ‘sara’ (traditional Assamese bell metal item), ‘angabastra’ (scarf), a gold memento and a cheque of Rs 5 lakh.

Science and Technology

India’s first RRTS train with design speed of 180 kmph unveiled

- The Centre on Friday unveiled the first look of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)
train that can attain a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

- The design is inspired by Delhi’s iconic Lotus Temple and is aligned with PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Make in India’ policy.

**Appointments and Resignations**

Mali’s Former Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane appointed as new Prime Minister

- The interim President of Mali, Bah Ndaw, has named former Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane as the prime minister West African nation.
- The 64-year-old served as foreign minister between 2004 and 2011 during Amadou Toumani Toure’s presidency.

**World Heart Day**

- World Heart Day is observed on 29th September annually to draw people’s attention to heart illness and the range of associated health issues.
- The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures.
- The theme for World Heart Day 2020: “Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease”.

**International Day for Universal Access to Information**

- The International Day for the Universal Access to Information (commonly known as Access to Information Day) is held on 28 September every year. Theme 2020: Access to Information – Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!
- Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.
- Initially the day was designated by the UNESCO in November 2015 and was first held on 28 September 2016. It was later proclaimed on 15 October 2019 at the 74th UN General Assembly.

**Books and Authors**

'The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales' for Kids by Neelakantan

- “Baahubali” series author Anand Neelakantan has written his debut book in the children’s space which tells some of the most hilarious stories about child asuras and their antics.
- The book titled ‘The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales’ has full-colour illustrations accompanying the narrative. It was put by Puffin.

**Current Affairs PDF- September 28, 2020**

**National**

PM Modi’s address at 75th UN General Assembly

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 75th United Nations General Assembly session on September 26, 2020 through a pre-recorded video statement, which was
broadcasted at the UN General Assembly hall in New York.

- The Indian Prime Minister began his statement by congratulating each and every member country on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations on behalf of 1.3 billion people of India. He stated that India is proud of the fact that it is one of the founding members of the United Nations.
- The theme of the 75th UN General Assembly session is - "The Future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting the C-19 through effective multilateral action."

**Banking and Economy**

**Positive Pay System for Cheque Payments to Come into Effect from January 1: RBI**

- In order to check banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the ‘positive pay system’ for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- Availing of this facility would be at the discretion of the account holder. However, banks may consider making it mandatory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5 lakh and above.
- Under the positive pay system, the issuer of the cheque will be required to submit electronically, through SMS, mobile app, internet banking or ATM certain minimum details of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, amount to the drawee bank. These details will be cross-checked before the cheque is presented for payment. In case any discrepancy is flagged by cheque truncation system (CTS) to the drawee bank and presenting bank, redressal measures would be undertaken.

**IRDAI Identifies LIC, GIC, New India Assurance Systemically Important Insurers**

- Regulator IRDAI has identified LIC, GIC and New India Assurance as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) and subsequently decided to subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision.
- The three insurers have also been asked to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

**Science and Technology**

**IIT Madras Develops 'MOUSHIK' Microprocessor For IoT Devices**

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have successfully booted up MOUSHIK, an indigenously-made Microprocessor.
- MOUSHIK is a processor cum system on chip that can cater to the rapidly-growing IoT devices, an integral part of Smart Cities of a Digital India.
- There are three steps involved in the making of a microprocessor, namely design, fabrication and post-silicon boot-up,” Kamakoti Veezinathan, Reconfigurable Intelligent Systems Engineering (RISE) Group.

**Obituary**

**Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh Passes Away**

- The former Union Minister Jaswant Singh has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 82.
• Jaswant Singh had served as the external affairs minister, defense minister and finance minister of India, during the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s Cabinet.
• Prior to pursuing career in politics with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mr. Singh was an officer in the Indian Army in the 1950s and 60s.

**Noted Padma Bhusan Economist Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia passes away**
• Renowned economist Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia has passed away after a 10-month-long battle with brain cancer. She was 74.
• Dr Ahluwalia was awarded with the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.
• Ahluwalia served as the director and then the chairperson of Delhi-based Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) for a total of 15 years and built ICRIER into a leading global think tank.

**Sports**

**Valtteri Bottas wins Russian Grand Prix 2020**
• Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) has won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix 2020 held on 27 September 2020. This is his second win of the season.
• Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world-champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of penalties.

**World Rabies Day**
• World Rabies Day is observed on 28 September every year to make people aware of the prevention regarding rabies and to highlight the progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
• The theme for the 14th World Rabies Day in 2020 is ‘End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate’.
• The day also marks the death anniversary of the French chemist and microbiologist, Louis Pasteur’, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

**Current Affairs PDF- September 27, 2020**

**National**

**Country’s apex regulator of medical education ‘National Medical Commission’ comes into existence**
• The National Medical Commission (NMC), in place of the Medical Council of India (MCI), as the country’s apex regulator of medical education and profession has come into existence.
• With the NMC coming into being, the Board of Governors (BoG) which superseded the MCI on September 26th, 2018, to perform its functions, has been dissolved and the nearly 64-year-old Indian Medical Council Act abolished.
• The NMC comprises a chairman, 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members.
Govt sanctions 670 electric buses, 241 charging stations to boost electric mobility
- The government has sanctioned 670 electric buses and 241 charging stations to boost the electric mobility in the country.
- The buses have been sanctioned in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Chandigarh whereas charging stations in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat and Port Blair under Phase-II of FAME India Scheme.
- The second phase of this scheme has been implemented from last year with a total budgetary support of 10 thousand crore rupees.

Banking and Economy
NCAER predicts India GDP for FY21 at -12.6%; For FY22 +7%
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% for 2020-21 (FY21).
- For 2021-22, NCAER projects the GDP of India to grow by 7%.

ADB approves Rs 2,200 crore loan for secondary towns of Rajasthan
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of Rs 2,200 crore (USD 300 million) to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan.
- The project will strengthen the institutional capacity of local governments and Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water, Sewerage, and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.

Acquisitions and Mergers
Microsoft acquires video game company ZeniMax
- Microsoft announced that it will buy ZeniMax Media, the company that owns well-known video game publisher Bethesda, for $7.5 billion in cash.
- The deal gives Microsoft access to a raft of successful game franchises, including Fallout, The Elder Scrolls and Doom.
- It’s the biggest gaming acquisition in Microsoft’s history, after the company bought Minecraft developer Mojang for $2.5 billion in 2014.

Obituary
PadmaShri Awardee Sekhar Basu passes away
- Veteran Atomic Scientist and Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Sekhar Basu passed away due to C-19. He served as the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and as director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- He developed the highly complex reactor for INS Arihant, India’s 1st nuclear-powered submarine. He was the key person behind the design, construction and operation of nuclear recycle plants in Tarapur and Kalpakkam.

Appointments and Resignations
Acer India appoints Sonu Sood as brand ambassador
- Personal computers brand Acer India has roped in actor Sonu Sood as its brand
ambassador.

- The actor will endorse the brand’s innovative range of products to improving people’s lives through technology.
- The actor has been selected due to his contribution to empowering people which is in line with Acer India’s brand mantra of empowering people through technology.

**Ranking**

**India ranked 89th in World Risk Report 2020**

- According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).
- As per the World Risk Report 2020, India (6.62) was ‘poorly prepared’ to deal with ‘climate reality’, due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.
- The Pacific island state of Vanuatu leads the index as the country with the highest disaster risk (49.74). Qatar has the lowest risk (0.31). In terms of the continents, Oceania ranks first in terms of highest disaster risk, followed by the Americas, Asia and Europe.

**World Tourism Day**

- The World Tourism Day is observed worldwide on September 27 since 1980.
- This date was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.
- In 2020 the theme of World Tourism Day is “Tourism and Rural Development”.