



CURRENT AFFAIRS
19 September 2020

Today's Important News

US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away at 87.



1. Karnataka Govt launches “Arthika Spandana” loan disbursal programme

- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched the “Arthika Spandana” programme on 16 September 2020, under which loans worth Rs. 39,300 crore would be disbursed through various cooperative institutions, for helping people during the times of COVID-19 and floods.
- Of the total amount approved under the scheme, Rs. 15,300 crore would be disbursed to the agriculture sector while Rs. 24,000 crore would be earmarked for the non-agricultural sector.
- The Chief Minister handed over cheques towards loans to 50 beneficiaries, during the launch.



Foot Notes:

About Karnataka:

Chief Minister: B.S. Yediyurappa

Governor: Vajubhai Vala.

Capital: Bengaluru

2. China’s new bacterial outbreak Brucellosis infects thousands

- Brucellosis, also known as Malta fever has recently affected thousands of people in Northwest of China. It has been caused due to an outbreak caused by a leak at a biopharmaceutical company last year.
- The disease, also known as Malta fever or Mediterranean fever, can cause symptoms including headaches, muscle pain, fever and fatigue.
- The disease is generally caused by direct contact with livestock carrying the bacteria called brucella.
- So far, China has not reported any fatalities due to the disease. However, around 1401 have tested positive to the disease.



Foot Notes:

About China:

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Renminbi

3. International Equal Pay Day observed first time on 18 September

- International Equal Pay Day is being celebrated for the first time ever on 18 September, 2020. On November 15, 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming September 18 as International Equal Pay Day.
- The resolution was introduced by the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), with the support of Canada, Australia, Germany, Panama, New Zealand, South Africa and Switzerland.
- EPIC is led by the International Labour Organization, UN Women and OECD. Its goal is to achieve equal pay for women. International Equal Pay Day represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.
- According to the United Nations (UN), Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at 23 per cent globally.



Foot Notes:

About ILO:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founder: Paris Peace Conference

Founded: 1919

Heads: Juan Somavía, Guy Ryder

4. Onions lying on ports in transit to all countries including Bangladesh

- The Indian government has allowed export of onions lying on ports in transit to all countries including Bangladesh. The order came after Bangladesh expressed "deep concern" over India's decision to ban onion exports.
- Around 20,089 metric tonnes of onion are lying in the Kolkata zone, while 4,576 metric tonnes of onion are lying in the Mumbai-II zone. Besides this, 933 metric tonnes of onion are lying at Trichy port and about 258 metric tonnes of onion are lying at Nagpur port.
- India had on September 14, 2020 banned the export of all varieties of onions except those cut, sliced or broken in powder form, with immediate effect. The export of onions was banned to increase domestic supply and reduce the prices.



Foot Notes:

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

5. Union government approves amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in the Defence Sector

- The Union Government has approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector. Commerce and Industry Minister 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 percent can be done by making declaration of change or transfer within 30 days.
- This will enhance ease of doing business and contribute to growth of investment, income and employment.



Foot Notes:

Commerce and Industry Minister: Piyush Goyal



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6. Govt sets up group under cyber security head Rajesh Pant to probe China Watching

- The Government set up an expert committee under the National Cyber Security Coordinator to study the revelations in China watching that a Shenzhen-based company, with links to the Chinese government, is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and entities. The “targets,” as the ongoing investigation has revealed, include President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, key Opposition leaders and men and women from across a range of disciplines, politics, legislature, science and strategy to business, judiciary and the media.
- The expert committee, led by Lt Gen (retd) Rajesh Pant, India’s chief coordinator on cyber security, will evaluate the “implications” of the digital surveillance by Data Information Technology Co. Limited and “assess any violations of law and submit its recommendations within thirty days.”



7. US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away at 87

- US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, dubbed as the 'Notorious RBG' passed away at the age of 87 years after suffering from complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg was regarded as an iconic champion of women's rights. She had developed a rock star status during her vast career. She was the second woman appoint to the US Supreme Court bench.
- Her passing has created a vacancy that enables incumbent President Donald Trump to nominate his third justice, switching the bench further to the right. However, Ginsburg had reportedly told her granddaughter that her replacement should be appointed by the next President of the United States.



Foot Notes:

About US:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Donald Trump

Currency: US dollar

8. Gujarat Chief Minister announces subsidy schemes for e-scooters, rickshaws

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced an assistance scheme to encourage use of battery-operated two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the state. The announcement was made to check air pollution in the state.
- Gujarat Government will provide subsidy of 12,000 rupees to school students studying in Standard-9th to colleges for battery-operated two-wheelers. Government is targeting to provide such subsidies for 10,000 such vehicles. Similarly, a subsidy of 48,000 rupees will be given for three-wheeler e-rickshaw for individual and institutional beneficiaries. This subsidy will be given for 5,000 e-rickshaw.
- Chief Minister also announced a 50-lakh rupee scheme for creating necessary infrastructure for charging e-vehicles. This was announced on the occasion of foundation day of the climate change department in the state.



Foot Notes:

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani

9. Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

- Canara Bank has launched a lead management system (LMS) - i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0). This new initiative is being introduced with the motive of building and sustaining business relationships with both new customers to bank and existing customers to bank.
- Through LMS, customers can enquire and get services rendered through simple modes such as internet banking, mobile banking, call centre, SMS and missed call.
- A unique reference number will be generated, which is communicated to the customers at the time of lead generation from above sources.
- Along with that, SMS/notifications are triggered to the customer at every stage of the lead cycle (from lead generation to lead closure).



Foot Notes:

About Canara Bank:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

CEO: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar

Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai

10. Stage all set for 13th edition of IPL Cricket in Abu Dhabi

- After a long wait, cricket stars will be in action at the 13th edition of Indian Premier League at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.
- The fans will have a lot to cheer as Rohit Sharma led Mumbai Indians will take on Mahendra Singh Dhoni led Chennai Super Kings.
- The tournament, which has been shifted to the UAE due to COVID-19 pandemic, is a TV only event.
- In all, 60 matches will be held in three avenues- Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai.
- All the participating teams have arrived in UAE to fight it out in a neutral venue away from their home conditions. The organizers have ensured adequate safety arrangements in place creating bio bubbles.



Foot Notes:

About UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

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