

Weekly Current Affairs September 2017- Week I

Banking and Financial Awareness

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added **HDFC Bank** in the list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). HDFC Bank is third bank in country to be added in list of D-SIBs after State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank which were added in 2016.
- ➔ Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based chatbot '**Eva**' of **HDFC** bank has successfully addressed over 2.7 million customer queries in six months and became the country's largest banking chatbot. It was built for HDFC Bank by Bengaluru-based Senseforth AI Research.
- ➔ India's largest public sector bank **State Bank of India** (SBI) has launched its own Artificial Intelligence-powered **chatbot Sia**. It will take care of customer queries by giving out information on SBI's range of products and services.
- ➔ **Fincare Small Finance Bank** started its banking operations with about 25 operational branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The bank (previously known as Disha Microfin Limited) was given final small finance bank (SFB) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May this year.
- ➔ **Singapore based bank DBS** has got final approval to operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India. DBS is the second bank after State Bank of Mauritius to receive the nod for its operation in India
- ➔ **R A Sankara Narayanan** has taken charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank.
- ➔ **K V Rama Moorthy** has appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.

New Appointments

- ➔ **Senior IAS officer Inder Jit Singh** was given the additional charge of post of Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).
- ➔ **Viveck Goenka**, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group, and N. Ravi, former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu, were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency.

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➔ The Advertising Council of India (ACI) & The Advertising Club has announced the appointment of **Sunil Kataria**, business head, Godrej Consumer Products as leader of the Indian delegation for the AdAsia Congress to be held in Bali.

➔ The Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) chief executive officer (CEO) **A.B. Pandey** was appointed interim chairman of the goods and services tax network (GSTN)—the firm providing information technology (IT) backbone and portal for registration and tax returns under the GST regime.

➔ **Nirmala Sitharaman** became first full-time woman Defence Minister of India after she was promoted to the Union Cabinet.

Obituaries

➔ Former Union Minister of India **Sultan Ahmed** passed away on Sep 6 2017.

➔ Pulitzer-prize winning poet **John Ashbery**, a post-modern American trailblazer, has died at age 90 in Hudson, New York.

➔ Noted poet and activist **Shirish Pai** had passed away on 2nd sept 2017.

Important Days

➔ **The National Teachers Day** is observed every year on 5th September in India to commemorate birthday of country's first Vice President and second President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

➔ **International Day of Charity** was celebrated on 5 September 2017 to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

➔ **International Literacy Day** was celebrated on 8 September 2017. September 8 was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on November 17, 1965.

Important News- World

➔ **Parali I island**, one of the biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands part of Lakshadweep has disappeared due to coastal erosion, according to a recent study,

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- ➔ India's zero-subsidy **UJALA** (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme was launched in Melaka State of Malaysia by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Union Ministry of Power.
- ➔ The **9th BRICS summit** was held in Xiamen, China. The theme of the summit was "Stronger Partnership for brighter Future". At the end of summit, BRICS leaders adopted Xiamen declaration
- ➔ The 12th edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise- **Surya Kiran XII** was held at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS) in Saljhandi, Nepal
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will grant **gratis VISA** to Myanmar citizens wanting to visit the country.

The Vatican declared Mother Teresa a patron saint of the Archdiocese of Calcutta at a Mass in the city where she dedicated her life to the poorest of the poor. The honor came 16 months after Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint.

On 5th September 2017, the **National Nutrition Strategy** was launched by the recommendation of NITI Aayog.

Important News- India

- ➔ State-run oil marketing company **Bharat Petroleum Corporation** (BPCL) is all set to become a **Maharatna company**. At present, it is possessing Navratna status
- ➔ The Indian Army has finalised a plan to induct **women in military police**. The plan is seen as a major step towards breaking gender barriers in force.
- ➔ **India's first Hyperloop** project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati
- ➔ The seventh edition of India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise **SLINEX 2017** was held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal. It will be conducted from 7th to 14th September 2017
- ➔ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched two new **free contraceptives Antara and Chayya** in 10 states under Mission Parivar Vikas, a central family planning initiative. These 10 states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi and Goa

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➔ The Modi government has appointed an expert **committee**, headed by former Supreme Court judge **B N Srikrishna**, to "identify key data protection issues" in India and recommend methods to address any potential problems.

➔ **The Integrated Child Development Services Mission** would be expanded to form a National Nutrition Mission along the lines of National Health Mission under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)

Science and Technology:

➔ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has developed a mobile **app "Hortinet"** for farmers to facilitate registration, testing and certification of certain fruits and vegetables.

➔ CSIR scientists have developed an **ultra-thin wireless device** that mimics plant leaves to produce energy using water and sunlight.

➔ The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) has launched **Diksha Portal** (diksha.gov.in) for providing digital platform to teacher to make their lifestyle more digital. It will serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully twice flight tested indigenously developed 3rd generation **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag** in Rajasthan.

Important News- States

➔ Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu gave her assent to the **Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017**.

➔ President Ramnath Kovind laid foundation stone for **link-4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI)** Yojana in Rajkot district, Gujarat.

➔ **Karnataka stands at top** among the states of the country in terms of manufacturing excellence, according to a study by industry chambers ASSOCHAM.

➔ Home Minister Naini Narasimha Reddy inaugurated **the first water ATM** that would dispense clean and safe drinking water in Hyderabad.

➔ **Shramik Annapoorna Yojana** (Construction Workers' Meal Scheme), under which each registered worker is provided a plateful of food for a Rs 10 , has been launched by the Gujarat government

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- ➔ Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched state-wide '**Gyankunj Project**' on Teachers' Day. The objective of the project is to produce world-class students.
- ➔ Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar launched an online portal for redressal of public grievances — aimed at addressing complaints within 30 days.
- ➔ Shri Nitin Gadkari has flagged off a fleet of first batch of **1000 E-rickshaws** from Huda City Centre metro station in Gurugram on 3rd of Sept 2017.
- ➔ On 5th September 2017, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first run of the **Lucknow Metro** from the Transport Nagar Metro Station in Lucknow.

Sports News

- ➔ **Lewis Hamilton** wins Italian Grand Prix Title and takes the lead from Sebastian Vettel.
- ➔ **Virat Kohli** reached 15,000 international runs in just 304 matches and became the fastest to achieve the feat.
- ➔ Indian wrestler **Sonam Malik** won a gold medal in the 56kg category at the World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Athens, Greece. Among other Indians in the event, Neelam settled for bronze in the 43kg category.
- ➔ Indian women's hockey team coach **Sjoerd Marijne** has been appointed as the chief coach of the men's team, replacing the sacked Roelant Oltmans.
- ➔ Indian shooter **Ankur Mittal** clinched the silver medal in the double trap event of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Shotgun Championship
- ➔ The captain of the Indian basketball team, **Amritpal Singh** scripted history by becoming the first Indian-born player to be picked up by an Australian NBL team.
- ➔ India's Kongsam **Ormila Devi** bagged a gold medal in 44kg weight category on the opening day of the Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships, held at Gold Coast, Australia.
- ➔ Indian boxer **Gaurav Bidhuri** clinches Bronze Medal at World Boxing Championship AIBA 2017 at Hamburg , Germany