

Important Current Affairs 21st September 2017 with PDF

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Current Affairs Quiz - 20th September 2017

- **World's fastest bullet train launched**
 - China began the process to restore the world's fastest bullet train, running at 350 km/hr, from Beijing to Shanghai, 6 years after it reduced the speed of its trains.
 - A 'Fuxing' bullet train, which will enjoy the high-speed, departed Beijing South Railway for Shanghai.
 - The Fuxing has a 30-year life, 10 years more than the existing model, and consumes 10% less power when running at 350 km/hr.
- **Udaan extended for Jammu and Kashmir**
 - The Union Cabinet extended the time period for Udaan - the Special Industry Initiative for Jammu and Kashmir till 31 December 2018.
 - Udaan is a centrally funded skill enhancement scheme for J&K youth implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
 - The scheme is run by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- **Puducherry to ban plastic bags**
 - The Puducherry government decided to ban manufacture and use of plastic packaging materials of less than 51 microns.



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- The government also advised hotel and restaurant owners to abstain from packing 'ready to eat' food items in 'butter paper' or such plastic transparent sheets.
- Alternatively, the shop owners have been asked to use plantain leaf or any such natural products for such packaging
- **Afghan Air Force receives helicopters**
 - The Afghan Air Force took delivery of its first four US made UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.
 - The U.S. plans to supply a total of 159 Black Hawks to Afghanistan in the coming years as it boosts the capacity of the Afghan Air Force.
 - The helicopters will replace the Russian made Mi-17 helicopters.
- **Optical polarisation phenomenon**
 - Over 70 years after Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar predicted that rapidly rotating stars would emit polarised light, scientists in Australia have observed the phenomenon for the first time.
 - Optical polarisation is a measure of the orientation of the oscillations of a light beam to its direction of travel.
 - It was first observed in 1946.
- **ONGC discovers oil**
 - Oil and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC) has made a significant oil discovery to the west of its prime Mumbai High fields in the Arabian sea.
 - The discovery in the well WO-24-3 is estimated to hold an in-place reserve of about 20 million tonnes.
 - Mumbai High, India's biggest oil field, currently produces 205,000 barrels of oil per day
- **India joins quantum computing race**
 - The Department of Science and Technology is planning to fund a project to develop quantum computers.
 - A quantum computer, still largely a theoretical entity, employs the principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits' instead of the typical 'bits' of 1 and 0.



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- Canada's D-Wave Systems, is a pioneer in quantum computers.
- **Bangladesh nuclear plant**
 - India said it is collaborating with Russia to build the Roppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. This will be India's first atomic energy venture abroad.
 - The Rooppur project, which is being built by the Russians near Dhaka, will be Bangladesh's first atomic energy project.
 - According to the 2014 Indo-Russia agreement, both countries can supply materials to third countries for nuclear energy.
- **50 Nations Ink UN Nuclear Ban Treaty**
 - Brazil was the first country to sign onto the ban, followed by nations from Algeria to Venezuela.
 - Before the day was out, 50 states as different as Indonesia and Ireland had put their names to the treaty.
 - The U.S., Britain and France said the prohibition wouldn't work and would end up disarming their nations while emboldening "bad actors".
- **Google to acquire HTC's Pixel division**
 - Google agreed to buy part of HTC Corp.'s engineering and design teams for \$1.1 billion to bolster the US internet giant's nascent hardware business.
 - Under the deal, Google will also receive a non-exclusive license for HTC's intellectual property. HTC however will continue to run its remaining smartphone business.
 - HTC is headquartered in Taiwan.
- **\$1.5 bln autonomous driving fund**
 - Chinese search engine Baidu has announced a 10 billion yuan autonomous driving fund as part of a wider plan to speed up its technical development and compete with U.S. rivals.
 - The "Apollo Fund" will invest in 100 autonomous driving projects over the next three years.
 - The fund aims to create technology for completely autonomous cars, which will be ready for city roads in China by 2020.
- **NPCI interim Board chairman**





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- The Board of National Payments Corporation of India has announced the unanimous appointment of B Sambamurthy as interim Chairman of the Board.
- Sambamurthy replaces retiring Chairman, Balachandran M.
- Sambamurthy is the former Director and CEO of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology and Chairman and Managing Director of Corporation Bank.
- **Aircraft services to hilly areas**
 - Centre is planning to start helicopter & smaller aircraft services to hilly areas, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands under the second phase of UDAN scheme.
 - The 2nd phase of UDAN seeks to connect unserved & under-served airports as well as make flying more affordable.
 - UDAN is a regional airport development & Connectivity Scheme aimed at making air travel affordable.
- **Shakila passes away**
 - Yesteryear Bollywood actress Shakila, who was known for her work in films like "Aar Paar" and "CID", died at her residence in Mumbai after a heart attack.
 - Besides her roles in classics like 'Aar Paar' and 'CID', Shakila also starred with Shammi Kapoor in Shakti Samanta's hit 'China Town'.
 - She was suffering from multiple ailments.
- **Military cooperation deal**
 - Britain and Saudi Arabia have signed a framework deal on military and security cooperation as the Riyadh regime intensifies its ongoing campaign against Yemen.
 - The agreement comes as Britain seeks to explore lucrative trade deals outside Europe, after voting to leave the European Union.
 - The deal comes just 2 days after Gulf rival Qatar agreed to purchase jet fighters from the European nation
- **International Day of Peace**



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- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. To inaugurate the day, United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters.
- This year, the International Day of Peace will focus on engaging & mobilizing people throughout the world to show support for refugees and migrants.
- This year's theme is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All."
- **'Lab on boat' for analysing Brahmaputra**
 - A new project of Department of Biotechnology aims at starting a 'lab on boat' on Brahmaputra river for biological analysis of the river system.
 - Project also proposes to have multiple mobile laboratories on the river & its tributaries along with providing access to local research institutions.
 - Anchored by IIT-Guwahati, project is supported by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
- **Revamped 'Khelo India' programme**
 - Union cabinet has approved a revamped Khelo India scheme under which 1,000 selected athletes will receive an annual scholarship of Rs 500,000 each for 8 years.
 - The programme would impact sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification & sports economy.
 - The new scheme will focus on nurturing talent and connecting rural India to global games
- **MoU to upgrade Thondaman Training Centre**
 - India & Sri Lanka have signed a MoU to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre at Hatton located in Nuwara Eliya district of Sri Lanka.
 - Project includes construction of new infrastructure facilities as well as renovation of existing building.
 - Project is in line with Govt of India's efforts to assist & cooperate with govt of Sri Lanka in field of vocational training & skill development.
- **Environment Ministry to conduct Quiz**
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change will hold a quiz on environment - 'Prakriti Khoj' throughout the country.





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- Quiz is planned in 5 rounds & qualifying round will begin on 25th of this month by paying tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary.
- Thematic areas like climate change, biodiversity, pollution, waste management etc. have been chosen for the quiz.

Attempt Current Affair Quiz for 21st September

2017

