

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 10-09-2020

RESERVATION FOR MARATHA COMMUNITY

The Supreme Court has stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra.

About:

- A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao referred the case to a larger bench to consider the constitutional validity of 2018 Maharashtra government law providing reservation to Marathas in the State.
- Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 16 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.
- The law was challenged before Bombay High Court which in June 2019 upheld its validity but reduced the quota to 12 per cent in educational institutions and 13 per cent in jobs.
- Appeals were filed before Supreme Court stating that the reservation would lead to breach of the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Apex Court in its 1992 judgment of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India.
- Maharashtra government had on August 26th asked the Court to place the matter before a larger bench considering the fact that it involves determination of substantial legal questions.

Turkey- Russia Military Drill in Eastern Mediterranean announced



- Recently, Turkey has announced that Russia will hold live-fire naval exercises in the eastern Mediterranean.
- Already there has been escalating tensions between Turkey and its coastal neighbors Greece and Cyprus over the rights to search for energy resources in the region.

Key takeaways

- Turkey and Russia will also coordinate closely on their military presence in Syria.
- Turkey has also purchased Russia's advanced S-400 missiles and has agreed to go with a Russian-built nuclear power plant on its southern coast.

EASE BANKING REFORMS INDEX

Union Minister of Finance inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index.

Top 3 banks in each theme

Top 3 banks for EASE 2.0 Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Baroda • State Bank of India • Oriental Bank of Commerce 	Theme 1: Responsible Banking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Baroda • State Bank of India • Punjab National Bank 	Theme 4: UdyamiWitra for MSMEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oriental Bank of Commerce • State Bank of India • Union Bank of India
	Top 3 banks in improvement from March baseline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Maharashtra • Central Bank of India • Corporation Bank 	Theme 2: Customer Responsiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Bank of India • Oriental Bank of Commerce • Bank of Baroda
	Theme 3: Credit Off-take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oriental Bank of Commerce • Union Bank of India • State Bank of India 	Theme 6: Governance and HR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Bank of India • Bank of Baroda • Punjab National Bank

Doorstep Banking Services:

- As part of the EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App.
- Customers can also track their service request through these channels. The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centres across the country.

- The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges.

EASE Banking Reforms Index:

- A common reform agenda for PSBs, EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018. PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda.
- Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three in the ‘Top Performing Banks’ category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results.
- Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India and erstwhile Corporation Bank were awarded in the ‘Top Improvers’ category basis EASE 2.0 Index.

KISAN RAIL

Inaugural run of South India’s 1st and country’s 2nd Kisan Rail between Anantapur and New Delhi was flagged off by Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare.



About:

- On 7th August, the first Kisan Rail was flagged off between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar as a weekly service, which was later made bi-weekly due to increasing demand. Now the 2nd Kisan Rail will benefit farmers of the states coming en route.

- Introduction of Kisan Rail is conceptualized to provide priority to the farming sector and facilitate transportation of perishable agricultural products to various market places across the country.
- India’s second and South India’s first Kisan Train commenced its inaugural run from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to Adarsh Nagar in New Delhi. Anantapur is

fast becoming the Fruit Bowl of Andhra Pradesh.



- South India's 1st Kisan Rail train service between Anantapur - New Delhi will cover a distance of 2150 kms in 40 hours.

HIMALAYAN DAY

On the occasion of Himalayan Day (September 9), the Vice President of India called for making nature's conservation a people's movement.



About:

- Himalayan Day is celebrated on the 9th of September every year so as to sensitize the people on the importance of this fragile ecosystem as also to highlight the various issues concerning it.
- Himalayan Day was first observed in Uttarakhand in 2010 as an initiative of a group of noted environmentalists including Sunderlal Bahuguna, Anil Prakash Joshi and Radha Behen.
- Himalaya plays an important role to save and sustain nature and protect the country from adverse weather conditions. The Himalayan range is also responsible for rain besides being a rich repository of floral and faunal biodiversity.