

September 23rd news:

International issues:

- India at United Nations Organizations

India has said that, Pakistan is promoting terrorism, in the United Nations General Assembly summit. India on 22nd September described Pakistan as “Terroristan” and “land of pure terror”. India had called Pakistan the “Ivy League of terrorism”. Like last year, India’s reply was given by Eenam Gambhir, a 2005-batch diplomat in New York.

Emboldened by the US, Japan, BRICS and Heart of Asia naming Lashkar-e-Taiba in joint statements, Indian diplomat said: “Its current state can be gauged from the fact that Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, a leader of the UN-designated terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba, is now sought to be legitimised as a leader of a political party.”

Bhutan backs G-4 countries: Bhutan on 22nd September said countries like India, Japan, Brazil and Germany must be given permanent seats in the UN Security Council, as it backed reforms in the world body to revitalise and strengthen it. India, Japan, Brazil, Germany formed a group known as Group-4. The main objective of G-4 is to help each other in securing permanent membership in United Nations Security Councils

Sushma Swaraj raises issue of terrorism: India’s External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj raised the issue of terrorism and H-1B with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson as the two leaders met for the first time in a bilateral meeting. Swaraj and Tillerson, who met in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly session, also discussed strengthening of the US-India political and economic partnership.

- The two sides reviewed all aspects of the bilateral relationship and discussed the situation in the neighbourhood and the Indo-Asia Pacific region.
- This was the highest-level meeting between the leaders of the two countries since June when Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with US President Donald Trump.

Sushma at SAARC summit

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has reaffirmed India’s commitment to regional cooperation. Addressing SAARC Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly, Mrs Swaraj said, India believes that Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is as relevant to foreign policy as it is to domestic one. She said....

- India has attached the highest priority to the development and prosperity of the region under its neighbourhood first policy.
- Regional prosperity, connectivity and cooperation can take place only in an atmosphere of peace and security which remains at serious risk in the region

National issues:

- **PM Modi launches Mahamana Express**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the third Mahamana Express running between Vadodara and Varanasi from on 22nd September
 - The train will traverse a distance of 1,531 km crossing over four states: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
 - The unique features of the train include ergonomically-designed ladders for climbing to upper berths, snack tables for side berths, windows powered with Venetian blinds and roller blinds, LED lights across the coaches as berth indicators and reading lights, fire extinguishers in all coaches

Ramayana Stamp launched: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a postal stamp on “Ramayana,”

The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation, the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts – at Varanasi. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of this Centre in November 2014.

- **India’s first electric bus service launched**

India’s first electric bus service for Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh was launched. It a pioneering initiative to check vehicular pollution at Rohtang Pass in the wake of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders to restrict the number of diesel and petrol operated tourist vehicles in the ecologically fragile area.

What is an electric bus?

An electric bus is a one that is powered by electricity. There are two main electric bus categories

1. Autonomous, where the energy is stored in the bus
2. Non-autonomous, where the electric energy is supplied continuously from outside the vehicle

Autonomous electric buses mainly comprise battery electric buses, although examples of other storage modes exist, such as the gyrobus which used flywheels.

In non-autonomous buses electricity can be supplied by contact with overhead wires, as in the trolleybus, or more recently with non-contact conductors on the ground, as with the Online Electric Vehicle

Economy issues:

- **SBI launches Indian bond index series in London**

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which it is hoped will give tools to investors from India, the UK and globally to analyse India’s government bond market, and drive growth in this market.

The index will consist of Indian rupee-denominated government bonds – a first of its kind for India

In November 2015 the two countries signed a collaboration during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United Kingdom.

Bond Index: Most investors are more familiar with stock indices than bond market indices. While a stock market index is a weighted average made up from the prices of selected stocks, a bond index is made up from the prices of selected bonds, which are a lot more fluid and often harder to value than equities.

Mutual Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds are some of the more popular stock indices investors are familiar with.

A bond index will typically be described in terms of the mix of bonds it holds, and it may hold more individual securities than an ETF. It's a pool of investments controlled by a fund manager, who makes the decisions

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