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SEPTEMBER

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We Shine Study Circle

TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- India will organise '**Gandhi March**' from the iconic **Peace Palace at the Hague to Grote Kerk** to launch the two-year long celebrations of the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. The 'Gandhi March' will see participation of people of all nationalities and around 20 ambassadors of different countries.
 - **Special commemorative stamps** issued by the Indian postal department will also be released. A '**Gandhi Walk**' will also be held in Amsterdam.
- The **Supreme Court** has constituted a **three-member committee headed** by its **former judge Justice Amitava Roy** to look into the aspect of **jail reforms** across the country and suggest measures to deal with them. The committee will also look into the various issues concerning women prisoners.
 - A bench headed by **Justice M B Lokur** said the panel will look into the issues including over-crowding in prisons.
- For the first time, **India and China** will sign an **internal security cooperation agreement** during the forthcoming visit of China's Minister of Public Security, marking a new beginning in bilateral relations. The proposed pact is expected to cover areas of intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, cooperation in disaster mitigation besides others.
 - **Zhao Kezhi, China's Minister of Public Security**, is expected to visit India next month and hold meetings with **Home Minister Rajnath Singh** during which they will discuss various aspects of security cooperation between the two countries.
- **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance and **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** have jointly developed a mobile app called **Jan Dhan Darshak** as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative. This app will act as a **guide for the common people** in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
 - While over **5 lakh** FI touch points (**Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices**) have been mapped on this App, approx. **1.35 lakh** Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by 01.12.2018.
- State-run **Indian Oil Corp (IOC)** said that a high-level **committee** of experts has been set up to draw a roadmap for settlement of land acquisition issues facing the proposed **\$44 billion Ratnagiri refinery project** in Maharashtra.
 - The panel will be headed by former Maharashtra Chief Secretary **D.M. Sukthankar**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Women Foreign Ministers meeting** for the first summit of its kind vowed to bring a 'women's perspective' to foreign policy. The two-day meeting began in **Montreal**.
 - It brought together more than half of the world's top women diplomats, focussed on topics such as conflict prevention, democratic growth and eliminating gender-based violence.

- According to a study by Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation published in **The Lancet**, India ranks **158th** in the world for its investments in education and healthcare. According to the survey, **Finland tops** the list in the two key sectors.
- **A statue of Nelson Mandela** has been unveiled at the **United Nations to honour the late South African leader's birth**. The country of South Africa donated the statue in commemoration of a **100-years since Mandela's birth**.
 - This year marks the **100th anniversary of Mandela's birth**, and the U.N. is declaring 2019-2028 the "**Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace**".

ECONOMY

- The National Mission on **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**, was launched by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu, on 5th of September 2018**. This was followed by the launch of the Mission in 19 States and Union Territories.
 - The Government of India decided to launch a six week long National Mission on GeM from **6th Sept. to 17th Oct 2018** in order to increase awareness, accelerate the use of GeM and to further augment the proven benefits of procurement through GeM for all government departments and organisations.

APPOINTMENTS

- Air Marshal **Anil Khosla** will be appointed as the **new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force**. Air Marshal R Nambiar, who is currently serving as the Deputy Air Chief, is all set to be designated as the Commander-in-Chief of Eastern Air command which is headquartered at Shillong.
 - The position of Commander-in-Chief of Western Air Command, on the other hand, will be handed over to Air Marshal HS Arora.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Annual Antyodaya Divas organized across the country on September 25**. It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**. This year it was celebrated as part of fortnight Swachhata Hi Sewa movement that was launched in September 15, 2018.
 - As a part of this, work will be done on ODF and ODF activities in the villages, depending on the ODF status of the villages.