

Daily News Monitor: 29 September 2020

1. New defence acquisition policy to come into force from October 1

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 28 September unveiled the new Defence Acquisition Procedure of 2020 (DAP 2020), which will govern the procurement of defence equipment from the capital budget. It will supersede the Defence Procurement Procedure of 2016 from October 1. Taking its cue from the prime minister's Atmanirbhar Abhiyan (self-reliance campaign), DAP 2020 reserves several procurement categories for indigenous firms. "The categories of Buy (Indian designed, developed and manufactured), Make I, Make II... and SP model will be exclusively reserved for Indian vendors..." stated the MoD on 28 September. DAP 2020 defines an "Indian vendor" as a company that is owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens, with foreign direct investment (FDI) not more than 49 per cent.

2. PM to inaugurate 6 mega projects in Uttarakhand under Namami Gange today

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 September will inaugurate six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission through video conference. He will also unveil the logo of Jal Jeevan Mission at 11 am through video conference. He will release the guidelines for GPs and Pani Samiti for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The projects include the construction of a 68 MLD STP, up-gradation of the existing 27 MLD at Jagjeetpur, in Haridwar and construction of an 18 MLD STP at Sarai, in Haridwar. "The inauguration of 68 MLD Jagjeetpur project also marks the completion of the first sewerage project taken up on hybrid annuity model of PPP. In Rishikesh, a 26 MLD STP at Lakkadghat shall be inaugurated," read the PMO release.

3. Delhi T2 to resume flight ops from 1 Oct

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, will begin operations at terminal 2 from 1 October, after six months of closure. "The resumption of operations at T2 will be with 96 air traffic movements (48 departures and 48 arrivals) per day and increase progressively up to 180 by October end," GMR Group, which operates the Delhi airport, said on Monday. "The terminal will resume operations with IndiGo's 2000 series flights and entire operations of GoAir in the initial phase." From 1 October, all

IndiGo (6E) flights with series 2000—flight codes between 6E 2000 and 6E 2999—which cater to 20 destinations will operate from T2.

4. Walmart looks to join hands with Tata group in retail push

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Walmart Inc. is in discussions with the Tata group for a large stake purchase in the proposed super app of the salt-to-software conglomerate, two people aware of the development said. The 'super app' aims to create a digital services behemoth offering a wide range of products in the retail space. "Tata group is in talks with Walmart for a deal entailing a strategic investment by Walmart in the super app platform business. The Walmart investment could touch \$20-25 billion eventually for a large stake in the proposed super app to be hosted under a Tata Sons subsidiary," one of the two people said on condition of anonymity. If the deal fructifies, it will be the country's largest deal in the retail space ever, eclipsing Walmart's own May 2018 purchase of a 66% stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion.

5. India, B'desh to hold JCC meeting today; water sharing, Rohingya on agenda

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

The issues related to Rohingya crisis, water sharing in common rivers, energy, connectivity, bilateral trade and border are expected to be on the agenda of a meeting in Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) to be held on 29 September, Bangladeshi media reported. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bangladesh foreign minister AK Abdul Momen will lead their respective sides in the 6th JCC meeting to be held in a virtual platform in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Both the foreign ministers may discuss the draft of the water sharing treaty of six common rivers -- Monu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gomti, Dharla and Dudhkumar -- and will give a guideline to hold the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting soon, Dhaka Tribune reported citing diplomatic sources. The last meeting of the JRC was held in New Delhi in 2010. But, during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India last year, both the countries had agreed to direct the JRC technical committee to exchange updated data and information and prepare a draft framework to this end.

6. Sikkim to get Indian Railways connectivity! What is the status of the Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Line project? Details

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Indian Railways connectivity to Sikkim with Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Line Project! In the coming years, the state of Sikkim will get Indian Railways connectivity. Although all other North-East states have been connected with Indian Railways, Sikkim is still left out of the rail map. However, the state is expected to get connected to the Indian Railways network with 44.96 km

long Sivok-Rangpo new line project, which was included in the Budget in 2008-09. The line's 41.55 km falls in the state of West Bengal, while 3.41 km falls in Sikkim. In a written reply to a question in the parliament, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal recently stated that the latest anticipated cost of the Sevoke-Rangpo Railway project is Rs 4,085 crore. Up to March 2020, Rs 682 crore expenditure has been incurred and Rs 607 crore outlay has been provided for the fiscal year 2020-21.

7. Unlock 5.0 guidelines: What relaxations can be expected in October?

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

India has been relaxing coronavirus-related lockdown restrictions in a staggered manner since June under the Centre's 'Unlock' plan. The government had allowed reopening of metro train services as part of the 'Unlock 4.0' guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on August 29. Fresh set of guidelines for easing of the lockdown further are expected to come into effect for October, under what could be possibly called 'Unlock 5.0'. This is expected to reopen up more activities outside of containment zones as the festive season is set to commence in India.

8. India working with Japan, Australia for global supply-chain diversification: PM Modi to Denmark PM during summit

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

India and Denmark share rules-based, transparent, humanitarian and democratic value-system and the events of past few months have made it clear how important it is for like-minded countries to work together, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 28 September. The Prime Minister, who took part in a virtual summit with Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, did not name any country and said COVID-19 has shown that it is risky to have global supply chains dependent on a single source. He said India is working with Japan and Australia for supply-chain diversification and resilience and other like-minded countries can also join in this effort.

9. Niti Aayog fine tuning indicators for ranking most backward districts: Amitabh Kant

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on 28 September said the policy think tank is fine tuning indicators used in ranking 112 most backward districts every month under the government's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP). Addressing a virtual event organised by Niti Aayog, he said eventually, the think tank should end up ranking all districts of the country. "We are fine tuning indicators (based on which Niti Aayog ranks 112 most backward districts)...some indicators need to be dropped," Kant said . The ADP was launched in January 2018 in 112

most backward districts. It aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and emerged as pockets of under-development.