

Daily News Monitor: 8 September 2020

1. India successfully tests hypersonic technology demonstration vehicle

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

Any contemporary list of cutting-edge military technologies has hypersonic, air-breathing, scramjet vehicles close to the very top. Only three countries — Russia, USA and China — have flown a vehicle in the atmosphere at a hypersonic speed: Six times the speed of sound (Mach 6), or 2 kilometres (km) per second. On 7 September, India entered that elite club when the Defence Research & Development Organisation's (DRDO's) experimental Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) took off from the APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex, off the Odisha coast, and, after separating from its launch vehicle at an altitude of 30 km, flew at Mach 6 for more than 22 seconds.

2. Kamath panel identifies 26 stressed sectors, outlines rules for recast

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

The Reserve Bank of India-appointed (RBI-appointed) expert committee on a resolution framework for bank loans stressed on account of the pandemic has outlined parameters to deal with 26 sectors buffeted by Covid-19. The findings of the committee have been accepted by the RBI, which on 7 September issued a circular detailing the financial parameters to be followed by lending institutions. According to the much-awaited report, the pandemic affected retail and wholesale trade, roads, textiles, and engineering the hardest, while sectors that were already under stress, such as non-banking financial companies (NBFC), power, steel, and real estate, piled up more misery due to the crisis. The committee identified almost all major sectors including auto, real estate, and aviation. It also found areas such as agriculture, food, pharma, and IT, among a few others, that remained mostly unaffected.

3. 'Clone trains' poised to boost railways revenue

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

In a first, Indian Railways will soon run 'clone' or duplicate trains on high-demand routes for waitlisted passengers. The proposed step will not only ensure availability of on-demand trains, but also help the national transporter boost revenues at a time when the passenger segment earnings declined due to the covid-19 outbreak. These trains will run ahead of the departure of already operating special trains. However, the travel time and the stoppages will be lesser. The railways plans to start these clone trains in a phased manner in the next 15 days. "We have been monitoring occupancy all trains. Where we feel that the occupancy has

increased and more waitlist is for over 10 days, for those trains, we will run clone or duplicate trains. These trains will run ahead of existing trains, so that for the particular train, waitlist is not there," railway board chairman Vinod Kumar Yadav had said earlier.

4. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort to re-open from Sept 21 for visitors

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Taj Mahal and Agra Fort will re-open to the public from September 21 as part of unlock 4, Basant Kumar, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI said on 7 September. According to Kumar, only 5,000 and 2,500 visitors will be allowed in both the monuments respectively in a day. As a precautionary measure, the ticket counters will not open and electronic tickets will be provided to the visitors. "Taj Mahal and Agra Fort to be opened for visitors from September 21. 5,000 and 2500 visitors to be allowed in Taj Mahal and Agra Fort respectively, in a day. Electronic tickets will be provided as ticket counters will not open," Basant Kumar told ANI. The monuments have been closed to the public since a nationwide lockdown was imposed in March to combat the pandemic..

5. Stimulus option on table as govt monitors revival

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

A second round of stimulus measures for the economy is on the table, and the central government is closely monitoring how different industries are recovering so that it can support them when needed, a senior government official said. The Centre is also paying extra attention to ensure that its planned capital expenditure is executed without any hurdles. The government wants to time any further easing of its purse strings to deliver the maximum impact. It fears that delivering another round of stimulus measures before the coronavirus pandemic has peaked in India won't provide optimal results. "We are keeping all options open and are watching the situation closely," the official said on condition of anonymity.

6. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index: Niti Aayog to leverage monitoring mechanism, sets up panel

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

The Niti Aayog will leverage the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index to push forward reforms in the country and in this regard, the government think-tank has also set up a coordination committee. The "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is part of the government's decision to monitor the performance of the country on 29 select global indices", an official release said on 7 September. "The objective of the 'Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)' exercise is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India's performance on various important social and economic

parameters and enable the utilisation of these indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes,” it said.

7. India, US, Israel collaborating in 5G tech: Official

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

India, Israel and the United States have begun collaboration in developmental area, and in next generation of emerging technologies, including a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network, a top official has said. The branching out of this trilateral initiative in development and technological arena is a result of the people-to-people collaboration, in particular those by Indian diaspora in the US and Israel, that was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his historic visit to Israel three years ago in July 2017, community leaders said. A collaboration in 5G is a just tip of the iceberg and a first step, according to US Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick.

8. Modi’s new stimulus package may bring relief for middle-class, small biz men; govt mulls ‘Booster 2.0’

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

In the Modi government’s new stimulus package, non-salaried middle class and small businessmen may finally get some relief amid the disruptions in businesses and job conditions. The new fiscal stimulus package will focus more on the group which is not completely poor and not rich, The Indian Express reported citing a government official. The non-salaried middle class has been the most affected and the timing of the rollout is crucial in getting the maximum benefit, the government official added. The government is expected to have zeroed in on who needs financial support the most but is still debating its timing and mode of delivery.

9. Ease of Doing Business 2019: Kerala, ranked 28th, seeks info on ranking criteria

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), the nodal agency for industrial promotion in Kerala, on 7 September asked the Centre to disclose the details of the criteria applied in deciding the status in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ranking for 2019. Kerala was ranked 28th position in the Ease of Doing Business 2019 ranking in which Andhra Pradesh came on top, with Uttar Pradesh ranked second in the list. S Harikishore, managing director, KSIDC, said that the EoDB ranking, as published on the website of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), did not reveal either the criteria

adopted for scoring and ranking or disclose the feedback from the states and UTs. KSIDC has approached Centre seeking the details in this regard, Harikishore said. The EoDB ranking was published on DPIIT website on September 5