

# Headlines at a Glance - 9th October 2021

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## **Government asks Supreme Court to set norms for quota in promotions**

Seventy-five years of Independence have not been able to bring members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on par with the forward classes of society, the government said in the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Appearing before a Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal said it is tough for a member of the SC/ST to reach the 'Group A' category jobs. Mr. Venugopal said the time has come for the apex court to firm up and draw the basis for reservation in promotions for SC/ST candidates to fill up vacancies in top jobs. The Bench referred to records filed before it to note that there was low representation of SC/ST category in Group A jobs. Instead of improving the situation in the Group A ranks, the court said, efforts are on to ensure adequate representation in Groups B and C. This was not fair, it remarked.

**SOURCE:** *The Hindu*

## **India, Nepal to conduct joint patrols for controlling trans-border crime**

The border guarding forces of India and Nepal will conduct regular joint patrolling along the border to control trans-border crimes, smuggling of arms, human trafficking and other areas of concern, a statement by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) said on Thursday. SSB, a central armed police force, secures the Nepal and Bhutan borders. The fifth annual coordination meeting between the Director General, SSB and Inspector General, Armed Police Force,

Nepal concluded on Thursday. The Indian delegation was led by Kumar Rajesh Chandra and the Nepal delegation was led by Shailendra Khanal, IG, APF.

**SOURCE:** *The Hindu*

### **India joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People**

India, at a ceremony held between the French and Indian Governments on October 7, 2021, officially joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People. HAC is a group of 70 nations encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30×30 (30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030). The Union Environment Ministry in an official statement said that India is the first BRICS bloc of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. India's announcement of joining HAC comes in the lead up to a high-level biodiversity meeting in China from October 11 to 15. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta handed over the signed agreement to Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain.

**SOURCE:** *Jagran Josh*

### **Fitch cuts India's FY22 GDP forecast to 8.7%**

Fitch Ratings has cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal but raised GDP growth projection for FY23 to 10 percent, saying the second COVID-19 wave delayed rather than derail the economic recovery. In its APAC Sovereign Credit Overview, Fitch Ratings said India's 'BBB-/Negative' sovereign rating "balances a still-strong medium-term growth outlook and external resilience from solid foreign- reserve buffers, against high public debt, a weak financial sector and some lagging structural factors". The Negative outlook, it said, reflects uncertainty over the debt trajectory following the sharp deterioration in India's public finances due to the pandemic shock. Fitch said it has further lowered India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year ending March 2022 (FY22) to 8.7 percent from 10 per cent in June as a result of the severe second virus wave.

**SOURCE:** *Business Standard*

### **WB leaves India's 2021-22 growth projection unchanged at 8.3%**

The World Bank said increasing the pace of vaccinations will determine India's economic prospects this year and beyond while leaving the growth projection for the country unchanged at 8.3% from its June forecast. It flagged higher than expected inflation and slow recovery of the informal sector as the main risks to consumer spending. The Production-Linked Incentives scheme to boost manufacturing and a planned increase in public investment should support domestic demand. The trajectory of the pandemic will cloud the outlook in the near-term until herd immunity is achieved. Growth is projected to stabilize around 7% FY23 onwards, helped by recent structural reforms to ease supply-side constraints, and increased infrastructure investment, as per the bank's South Asia report.

**SOURCE:** *Economic Times*