

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 1

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

NATIONAL

- ◎ **Hindi Diwas** or **Hindi Day** is observed every year on 14 September to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India. Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 14 September because, on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India. The language was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution. The first Hindi day was celebrated on 14th September 1953. Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world.
- ◎ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **state of art Sardardham Bhavan** at Ahmedabad through video conferencing on September 11, 2021. He also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay on the occasion.



It has been constructed at the cost of 200 crore rupees and comprises of modern facilities such as library, hostel, career guidance & training centre for boys as well as girls coming from rural areas and a multipurpose auditorium. Kanya Chhatralaya will house 2000 girls, irrespective of their economic criteria. Both the establishments are dedicated to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- ◎ Nine new judges, including three women, have been administered the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) **NV Ramana**. The strength of the Supreme Court would go up to 33, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of 34, after the swearing-in of the nine new judges. Three out of these nine new judges- Justice Vikram Nath and Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice PS Narasimha- are in line to become the Chief Justice of India. This is the first time that nine judges were sworn in together in the history of the top court. Traditionally,

new judges take the oath of office in the CJI's courtroom, but due to that Covid pandemic, the swearing-in ceremony would be held in the auditorium of the Supreme Court's additional building complex.

- ◎ Union Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** and Union Highways Minister, **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **Emergency Landing Facility** on a National Highway in Rajasthan on September 9, 2021. This emergency landing facility has been constructed on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer, Rajasthan. On the occasion, C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) landed at the emergency field landing at the National Highway in Jalore, Rajasthan. It is the first time when a National Highway is used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft.
- ◎ The **Varanasi-Chunar Cruise** service started and added a new dimension to the tourism facilities in Varanasi. This cruise service in **Ganga River** will run from Varanasi to historic Chunar fort in Mirzapur. Tourists travelling to Varanasi can now travel around 30 km long journey in River Ganga. Tourists can now enjoy the day-long luxury cruise ride which starts at 9 a.m. in the morning from Ravidas ghat.
- ◎ Railway Ministry has closed down the **Indian Railways Organization of Alternate Fuel (IROAF)**, in effect from September 7, 2021. IROAF is a separate enterprise that works in the field of green fuels for transport. It recently invited bids for hydrogen fuel cell-based technology to run the trains. This closure would not affect the ongoing projects or contracts of IROA. With some administrative change, projects will be executed as usual. Work of IROAF will be transferred to Northern Railways and Railway Board.
- ◎ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has started a historic initiative to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district in Odisha. The silk yarn production centre was inaugurated on September 24, 2021 by Chairman of KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena. This centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, reduce the silk production cost as well as create local employment.
- ◎ World's highest **EV charging station** was opened at **Kaza** town, which is located in of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. The EV

charging station was opened on September 23, 2021 in order to promote a sustainable environment. It is the world's highest electric vehicle charging station located at 500 ft. Along with the EV charging station, two women drove electric vehicles from Manali to Kaza to promote a clean and green environment.

- ③ NITI Aayog has partnered with **BYJU'S** on September 17, 2021, in a bid to provide free access to education to students in 112 Aspirational Districts in India. Under the partnership, Byju's will provide free access to its high-quality and tech-driven learning programmes to students in order to ensure access to quality education. This project envisages for establishment of a dedicated working group, which in turn will help in creating a knowledge, innovation, and strategy support system.
- ③ Central government announced an Aadhaar-like authentication system to access the **covid vaccination status** of an individual on the CoWin platform. This new application programming interface (API) has been developed by CoWin. It is called **Know Your Customer's or Client's Vaccination Status** or **KYC-VS**.
- ③ **Facebook** launched the largest **Creator Education and Enablement Programme** in India. This programme will provide an opportunity to content creators, on its platform and Instagram, to learn, earn and grow their communities. While addressing the 2021 edition of 'Creator Day India', Instagram Head Adam Mosseri noted that India is one of the fastest growing markets for photo sharing and short video platform.

ECONOMY

- ③ Reserve Bank has given its nod to the **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** to form a special committee of directors on September 15, 2021 in order to oversee the operations in absence of an MD and CEO. Special Committee of Directors will comprise of three independent directors as its members. This committee will oversee the operations and administration of the bank in effect from September 16.
- ③ The Union cabinet has approved a relief package for telecom sector on September 15, 2021. The relief package includes a four-year moratorium

on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies. Cabinet has also allowed 100 percent foreign investment (FDI) through the automatic route. Overall, nine structural reforms have been approved for the telecom sector. These measures are expected to relax the cash flow issues that some of the telecom industry is facing.

- ③ The **wholesale price-based inflation (WPI)** increased marginally to 11.39 per cent in August 2021 due to higher prices of manufactured goods, even though the prices of food articles softened. Inflation in August got reversed from the easing trend of two months (June and July). WPI remained in double-digit for the fifth consecutive month. In July 2021, WPI inflation was 11.16 per cent. WPI inflation was at 0.41 per cent, in August 2020.
- ③ Central government has allowed 11 states to borrow an additional fund of Rs 15,721 crore from the market, because they achieved the capital expenditure target that finance ministry had set for June quarter the fiscal year 2021-22. States that have been allowed to borrow include-Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. Additional financial resources will help these states to push their capital expenditure further.
- ③ Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs & Distribution, **Piyush Goyal**, launched the **National Single Window System** for Investors and Businesses which is a giant leap, towards making India Aatmanirbhar. This system will usher in independence from the legacy of running towards Government offices for approvals and registrations. This portal will become a one-stop-shop for investors for the purpose of approvals and clearances.
- ③ Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired the 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. FSDC is an apex-level body that was set by the government of India in order to create a super regulatory body. Its establishment was first recommended by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008. In 2010, Pranab Mukherjee (the then Finance Minister of India) decided to set up this autonomous body to deal with macro

prudential and financial regularities of entire financial sector in India. It is not a statutory body. No funds are allocated separately to the council to undertake its activities.

- ⊙ The **Asian Development Bank (ADP)** has reduced its forecast for India's GDP growth to 10 percent in 2021-22, from 11 percent it projected earlier. GDP growth was reduced as the downside risks were dominating the economic outlook. ADB also noted that, rising input costs is increasing the inflation to a faster pace of 5.5 percent, against 5.2 percent estimated earlier.
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed lenders to sell loans that are tagged as fraud to the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). This permission by RBI potentially paves the way for focussed recovery efforts on loans worth trillions of rupees. As per RBI's annual report, banks have reported frauds of about Rs 95 trillion in between Financial Year 2019 and Financial Year 2021. With RBI's permission, now banks can sell stressed loans in default for more than 60 days or those classified as bad loan including the fraudulent loans. However, this permission is subject to some conditions.
- ⊙ India and Singapore have announced the linking of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and **PayNow**, in order to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers. The project to link the fast payment systems of both the countries was announced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). This linked payment interface is expected to be operationalised by July 2022. Linked interface will help in making instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis without onboarding onto the other payment system.
- ⊙ India has emerged as the second biggest **trading partner of Dubai**, after China. India's overall volume, in the first half of 2021, is touching 38.5 billion dirhams. As per a statement of Dubai government, Dubai had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021. It is followed by India and the U.S. respectively at second and third positions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ⊙ **Chandrayaan-2** spacecraft of India has completed more than 9,000 orbits around the

Moon. Imaging and other scientific instruments on the aircraft have been providing excellent useful data since then. According to Chairman of ISRO, K Sivan, Chandrayaan-2 comprises of eight payloads and are conducting remote sensing and in-situ observations of the Moon at 100 km altitude from the lunar surface.

- ⊙ The **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)** has developed its indigenous charger for electric vehicles (EV) in order to give a push to EV ecosystem in India. According to ARAI Director, Reji Mathai, in order to promote EVs, infrastructure for charging is important. Currently, in India, mobility chargers are imported. So, ARAI focused on developing these indigenous chargers. These chargers are cost-effective and boost the local economy.
- ⊙ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has tested a new version of Akash Missile called **Akash Prime**. It was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) of Chandipur, Odisha. Missile intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aerial target mimicking an enemy aircraft during its maiden flight test after improvements.
- ⊙ China developed a prototype miniature helicopter for the purpose of surveillance work on future Mars missions. According to Chinese space science agency, this miniature helicopter was developed after the historic landing of robotic rover on the Mars. The prototype helicopter is similar to the robotic helicopter Ingenuity in appearance, which was developed by NASA for its Perseverance mission.

SPORTS

- ⊙ India finished their campaign at the **Tokyo Paralympics 2020** with an all-time high of 19 medals which includes five gold, eight silver, and six bronze. This is the best medal tally (24th out of 162 nations) for India a single edition of the Paralympic Games. Javelin thrower **Tek Chand** was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics while Shooter **Avani Lekhara** was at the closing ceremony. India sent its biggest ever contingent of **54 paraathletes** at Tokyo Paralympics to compete across as many as 9 sporting disciplines at the Games.

List of Indian medallists winners of Tokyo

Paralympics 2020:

Medal	Winner	Category
Gold	Sumit Antil	Athletics: Men's Javelin Throw
Gold	Pramod Bhagat	Badminton: Men's Singles
Gold	Krishna Nagar	Badminton: Men's Singles
Gold	Manish Narwal	Shooting: Mixed 50m Pistol
Gold	Avani Lekhara	Shooting: Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing
Silver	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics: Men's Discus Throw
Silver	Nishad Kumar	Athletics: Men's High Jump
Silver	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics: Men's High Jump
Silver	Praveen Kumar	Athletics: Men's High Jump
Silver	Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics: Men's Javelin Throw
Silver	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton: Men's Singles
Silver	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting: Mixed 50m Pistol
Silver	Bhavina Patel	Table Tennis: Women's Singles
Bronze	Harvinder Singh	Archery: Men's Individual Recurve
Bronze	Sharad Kumar	Athletics: Men's High Jump
Bronze	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics: Men's Javelin Throw
Bronze	Manoj Sarkar	Badminton: Men's Singles
Bronze	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting: Men's 10m Air Pistol
Bronze	Avani Lekhara	Shooting: Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions

- © **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has been declared the winner of the Belgian Grand Prix 2021. The Belgian Grand Prix was stopped due to rain and only two laps were completed. The winner was decided based on progress made in these two laps. **George Russell Williams** came second and **Lewis Hamilton**, Mercedes came third.
- © Shooter **Avani Lekhara** has scripted history as

she became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the **Paralympics**, firing her way to the top of the podium in the R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event.

- © South African cricketer **Dale Steyn** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with immediate effect on August 31, 2021, ending his 20 years long cricket journey.



The 38-year-old pacer last played for South Africa in T20 vs Australia in February 2020. He had also played for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

- © Star Indian golfer **Jeev Milkha Singh** has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious **10-year Dubai Golden Visa** in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.



The 49-year-old Jeev has had a long association with Dubai, having featured in several tournaments and making many friends in the city.

- © BCCI announced that the former India captain **MS Dhoni** will mentor the team for the tournament, which will be played in UAE and Oman in October and November. He announced his retirement from international limited-overs

cricket on August 15, 2020.

- ⊙ **North Korea** was formally suspended from the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympics** by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 10th Sept as punishment for refusing to send a team to the Tokyo Games citing the COVID-19 pandemic.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ⊙ The former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman, **Rajnish Kumar** has been appointed as an independent director of the **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)** Asia entity on August 30, 2021.



He has also been appointed as a member of the Audit Committee and Risk Committee of the company.

- ⊙ **Dorje Angchuk**, an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in the Ladakh region, has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). Angchuk is the first and only Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.
- ⊙ Tamil Nadu Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** has been given the additional charge of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Earlier, **V P Singh Badnore** as the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh. The President has also appointed Purohit as the Administrator of Chandigarh, in addition to his duties as the Governor of Punjab. Traditionally, Punjab Governor has functioned as the Administrator of Chandigarh.
- ⊙ IRS officer **JB Mohapatra** was appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. His appointment was approved today by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has already served as the acting chairman of

the CBDT.

- ⊙ **Pankaj Kumar Singh**, a 1988-batch IPS officer from the Rajasthan cadre, has taken charge as the new **Director General (DG)** of the Border Security Force (BSF). Prior to this, he was serving as the special DG at the BSF headquarters in Delhi.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- ⊙ **Indian Railways** took a leap in advancement of Skill India Mission by launching the **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** under the aegis of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**. It was launched by Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw with the mission to provide Railways an entry level training in industry relevant skills with the help of 75 Railway training institutes across India.
- ⊙ In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled **Saath** for Self Help Group (SHG) women. The programme aims to transform the lives of women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects, by mentoring the women associated with SHGs and create market linkages of products created by these women.
- ⊙ The Ministry of Defence has constituted a High Level Expert Committee, for a comprehensive review of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**. Former Member of Parliament (MP) Baijayant Panda will be the Chairperson of the Committee. The 15-member committee will also include Cricketer **MS Dhoni** and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members.
- ⊙ Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development **Giriraj Singh** inaugurated a national meet on SVAMITVA Scheme: A Stepping-Stone towards Upliftment of Rural Economy in New Delhi. SVAMITVA is aimed to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India leveraging property as a financial asset by the citizens with accurate land records for rural planning. States to complete the implementation of SVAMITVA scheme well before the deadline

2024.

- © The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education. The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by **National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020)** drafting committee chairperson **K Kasturirangan**. The committee will discuss **position papers** finalised by national focus groups on different aspects of the four areas drawing inputs from state curriculum frameworks. The NCFs serve as a guideline for syllabus, textbook and teaching practices for schools in India.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- © **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for science and technology 2021, were announced during the 80th foundation day of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Every year, CSIR presents this award to scientists below 45 years of age for their contributions in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, engineering and earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. During the ceremony, vice president M Venkaiah Naidu advised CSIR to reinvent itself and turn futuristic while pursuing the science of the highest order.

Here is the list of 11 scientists awardees.

Biological Sciences Category:

- Dr Amit Singh, Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- Dr Arun Kumar Shukla, Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Chemical Sciences Category:

- Two researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, Dr Kanishka Biswas from the International Centre of Materials Science and Dr T Govindaraju, from the Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory, announced as recipients.

Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences Category:

- Dr Binoy Kumar Saikia from Coal and Energy Research Group, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat

Engineering Sciences Category:

- Dr Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, received the award under the engineering sciences category

Mathematical Sciences Category:

- Dr Anish Ghosh, school of mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
- Dr Saket Saurabh, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, were announced winners.

Medical Sciences Category:

- Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram
- Dr Rohit Srivastava, department of biosciences and bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Physical Sciences Category:

- Dr Kanak Saha, from Pune's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, received the award for physical sciences

- © **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021** awardees have been announced, the winners will be formally awarded the Magsaysay Award during the November 28 event at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila. Among the awardees is Dr Firdousi Qadri of Bangladesh and Muhammad Amjad Saqib of Pakistan, as well as Philippine fisheries and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon, American citizen Steven Munci, who works for humanitarian work and help refugees, and Indonesian WatchDoc for investigative journalism. List of awardees of Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021:

- Muhammad Amjad Saqib: A visionary who founded one of the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan, servicing millions of families.
- Firdausi Qadri: A Bangladeshi scientist who has been instrumental in discovering vaccines that have saved millions of lives.
- Steven Munci: A humanitarian who has been



helping the displaced refugees of Southeast Asia rebuild their lives.

- **WatchDoc:** A production house that ingeniously combines documentary filmmaking and alternative platforms to highlight underreported issues in Indonesia.
- **Roberto Ballon:** A fisherman from Southern Philippines who has led a community in restoring their rich aquatic resources and their primary source of livelihood.

© In the men's category, **Daniil Medvedev** has lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating **Novak Djokovic** 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the US Open men's singles final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. In the women's category, Great Britain's tennis player **Emma Raducanu** defeated

Canada's **Leylah Annie Fernandez** to win the 2021 US Open women's singles final title.

List of Winners in Different Categories:

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev	Novak Djokovic
Women's Singles	Emma Raducanu	Leylah Annie Fernandez
Women's Doubles	Stosur/Zhang	Coco Gauff/ McNally
Men's Doubles	Ram/Salisbury	Jamie Murray/Bruno Soares
Mixed Doubles	Krawczyk/Salisbury	Giuliana Olmos/Marcelo Arevalo

