

OCTOBER 2021

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

NATIONAL

- ⊙ India applied for a \$2 billion loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to purchase about 700 million **Covid-19 vaccines** for boosting immunisation rate of eligible population here. This application was meant to leverage India's membership of the multilateral financing institutions (ADB & AIIB). This loan amount will be used to purchase which will be used to purchase 667 million Covid-19 vaccines to immunize at least 317 million people across 19 states in India. ADB has agreed to provide \$1.5 billion while AIIB will provide another \$500 million.
- ⊙ **Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express** was given **IMS certification** recently. This train has become the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of the Southern Railway. It has also become the first Shatabdi train as well as second mail or express train of Indian Railways to receive this certification. Certification was granted by the certification agency following a comprehensive audit and duly verifying adherence to all the norms by Railways.
- ⊙ Indian Railway has introduced a special train 01684/01683 called **Gati Shakti Express** to ease the extra rush of passengers during festive seasons like Diwali and Chhath Puja. Train will run between Anand Vihar Terminal-Patna-Anand Vihar Terminal. Train has been introduced for the convenience of rail passengers by clearing extra rush of passengers during festivals. The special train comprises of 20 new 3 AC Economy coaches.
- ⊙ The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched **Krishi Udan 2.0 scheme** under which cargo-related infrastructure will be built in airports of hilly, tribal, and north-east regions. Such infrastructure will help in assisting farmers to transport agriculture products. Central government had launched Krishi Udan scheme in September 2020. Under the scheme, airport charges like parking charges & terminal navigational landing charges were waived off. Charges were waived off if the agricultural cargo is more than 50 per cent of the total chargeable weight carried.
- ⊙ 4 Indian institutes have made it to the Times Higher Education (THE)'s **World Reputation Rankings 2021**, the annual ranking of THE that features the top 200 universities based on the votes from leading academics across the globe. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked among the top 100 (91-100) has topped the Indian Institutes. The other 3 Indian institutes are the IIT Bombay, the IIT Delhi, and the IIT Madras.
- ⊙ The **world's largest national flag**, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in **Leh, Ladakh**, on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02, 2021.



The tricolour is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide. It weighs around 1,000 kg.

ECONOMY

- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to make micro-lending collateral-free for all the lenders, rather than just for microfinance institutions (MFIs). This proposal was announced by RBI deputy governor **Rajeshwar Rao** while he was delivering the inaugural address at Sa-Dhan National Conference on **Revitalising financial inclusion**.
- ⊙ Government of India reconstituted the seven-member **Economic Advisory Council (EAC)** to the prime minister. New EAC was constituted after its tenure ended in the month of September 2021. It has been reconstituted for a period of two years. Bibek Debroy will continue to be the chairman of council. While former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan, NCAER director-general Poonam Gupta and IIM-Ahmedabad professor TT Ram Mohan were appointed as new part-time members. Other part time members are Debroy, Neelkanth Mishra, Sajid Chenoy and Neelkanth Mishra. While V Anantha Nageswaran, dean of IFMR Graduate School of Business in Krea University, has been removed as member.

- ⊙ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and HDFC bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for offering home loans to about 4.7 crore customers of the payments bank. IPPB, that leverages its country-wide network of 650 branches and more than 1,36,000 banking access points or Post offices, aims to make home loan products of HDFC available to its customers in India through around 1,90,000 banking service providers like Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks. This partnership was signed with the aim of facilitating HDFC's home loans in unbanked and underserved areas, where there is little or no access to finance. This in turn will help in fulfilling the dream of people of owning a home.
- ⊙ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalty on two payment system operators viz., Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PBBL) as well as Western Union Financial Services Inc. RBI levied a **penalty of ₹ 1 crore on PBBL** because of an offence related to Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). It levied a **penalty of ₹ 27.78 lakh on Western Union Financial Services**, which is a cross-border in-bound service operator. Fine was imposed for non-compliance with certain directions that were issued by the central bank.
- ⊙ The private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has announced the launch of **Micro ATMs** across the country. Customers of all banks who possess a debit card can use a Kotak Micro ATM for key banking services such as cash withdrawals and checking account balances. A mini version of an ATM, micro ATMs are small handheld devices. The bank will use its extensive Business Correspondents (BC) network to launch micro ATMs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ⊙ World Health Organization (WHO) is recommending widespread use of the **RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine** among children in subSaharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high P. falciparum malaria transmission. The vaccine is developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).
- ⊙ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Mansukh Mandaviya**, launched

i-Drone, a dronebased vaccine delivery model for Northeast states.



The i-Drone has been developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). i-Drone stands for ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East.

- ⊙ A Russian film crew are back on Earth after wrapping up scenes for the first movie shot in space. **Klim Shipenko** and actor **Yulia Peresild** left the International Space Station and landed in Kazakhstan – to be met by a crew filming touchdown scenes. The movie has been in its own kind of space race – with **Tom Cruise**. He is apparently part of a Hollywood filming-in-space project involving Nasa and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- ⊙ The US space agency **NASA** has launched a first-of-its-kind mission called **Lucy Mission** to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. The mission life of Lucy is 12-year, during which the spacecraft will fly by a total of eight ancient asteroids to study about solar system's evolution. These will include one main belt asteroid and seven Jupiter Trojan asteroids.
- ⊙ **China** has successfully launched its 1st solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province aboard a Long March-2D rocket.

SPORTS

- ⊙ **Sunil Chhetri** has equalled the legendary Pele by making the **77th international goal** as his 83rd minute strike to beat Nepal by 1-0. This goal also saved his side from the verge of elimination in SAFF Championships.



This achievement was made by Chhetri while playing in his 123rd match for India. He is now placed on joint third with Ali Mabkhout from UAE, in the list of highest scorers among active footballers. He is behind Cristiano Ronaldo with 112 goals and Lionel Messi with 79 goals.

- © **Anshu Malik** has become the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final of **2021 World Wrestling Championships**. She created this history after outclassing junior European champion **Solomiia Vynnyk**.



Till date, only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds, namely **Geeta Phogat** in 2012, **Babita Phogat** in 2012, **Pooja Dhanda** in 2018 while **Vinesh Phogat** in 2019. All of them have clinched bronze medal.

- © The **Indian men's table tennis** team has won **bronze medal** at the **Asian Table Tennis Championships**. Indian team won bronze after losing to **South Korea** by 0-3 in the semi-finals. Team was assured of winning a medal after beating Iran by 3-1 in the quarterfinals on September 29. Both the semi-finalists won a bronze medal.
- © The Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey player, **Rupinder Pal Singh** has announced his retirement from international hockey to make way for young and talented players.

- © After 26 years and 72 professional bouts, Former world champion **Manny Pacquiao** announced his retirement from professional boxing. He made his professional debut in 1995 at age 16.
- © **S V Sunil**, the veteran forward and star striker of India men's field hockey team.

Also, the Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey star defender **Birendra Lakra** have announced their retirement from international hockey.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- © **Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd)**, after being into service to Indian Navy for 34 years, has taken charge as Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation. He took charges on October 18, 2021.



He has held diverse portfolios in Indian Navy, state-of-the-art technology intensive combat systems and carries rich experience in induction of missile systems. He worked as Director of Electrical Engineering at Integrated Headquarters in Ministry of Defence for five years and also served as Additional General Manager Tech Services for two years at Naval Dockyard.

- © Former higher education secretary, **Amit Khare**, was appointed as advisor to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.





He got retired from IAS position in the month of September 2021. He has been appointed as advisor to Prime Minister on contractual basis.

- © Former chief of State Bank of India, **Rajnish Kumar**, has joined the Board of **BharatPe** as chairman.



Rajnish Kumar will get involved in defining the short-term and long-term strategies of companies. He will also work closely with other Board Members and chief experience officer (CXOs) on key regulatory and business initiatives.

- © **Alexander Schellenberg** was elected as Austrian Chancellor after resignation of **Sebastian Kurz**. He resigned because of his involvement in a corruption scandal. Apart from Alexander, Michael Linhardt joined in for the role of foreign minister. He was the former ambassador to France.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- © Minister of State of Ministry of Communication, **Devusinh Chauhan**, launched a **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI Scheme)** for Telecom & Networking Products for realizing the Prime Minister's vision of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**. This scheme would help in reducing dependence of India on other countries for importing telecom and networking products.

- © Central government has notified a four-year **Integrated Teacher Education Programme**, in line with the **New Education Policy (NEP)**. With this new notification, BEd course will be integrated. It will be of four-year duration. Students pursuing a four-year BEd degree, will get B.A. & B.Ed. or B.Sc. & B.Ed. or B.Com. & B.Ed. degrees together. Earlier, these students were getting these two degrees in five years. But the integrated degree will provide both degrees in four years and thus, save a year for students.

- © **Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa** initiative was launched by **YouWeCan Foundation** in Goa. The initiative was launched by YouWeCan foundation which is run by international cricket icon and humanitarian Yuvraj Singh. For this purpose, the foundation has partnered with SBI foundation, and state government of Goa. Under the initiative, free breast cancer screening will be done using **iBreast devices**. Around 1 lakh women will be screened over a period of two years.

- © Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. This scheme is of worth ₹ 5000-crore and is India's largest scheme launched to scale-up health infrastructure. The mission was launched to improve the public health infrastructure in urban as well as rural areas. It will work in addition to the National Health Mission.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- © Every year in October, the Nobel Committee recognises and awards individuals or organisations for their contributions in specific fields. Fields considered for the awards include Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace Work, and Economic Science. The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1.14 million). The prize money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.



Nobel Prize winners 2021:

Category	Winner	Agenda
Nobel Peace Prize	Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov	For their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.
Nobel Prize in Literature	Abdulrazak Gurnah	For his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.
Nobel Prize in Physics	Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, Giorgio Parisi	For groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex systems.
Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Benjamin List and David MacMillan	For the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian	For their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.
Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	David Card	For his empirical contributions to labour economics.
Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens	For their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships.

- ⊙ Indian hockey players swept the 2020-21 edition of the **FIH Stars Awards**, the international hockey federation (FIH) announced. The winners were decided based on an online poll conducted from August 23 to September 15 which saw national associations, represented by their respective national captains and coaches, players, media and hockey fans cast their votes. Votes from national associations counted for 50 per cent of the overall result, while fans and players (25 per cent) as well as media (25 per cent), accounted for the other half.

FIH Stars Awards 2020-21 Winners list:

- **Player of the Year:** Harmanpreet Singh (men) and Gurjit Kaur (women)

- **Goalkeeper of the Year:** PR Sreejesh (men) and Savita Punia (women)
- **Rising Star of the Year:** Vivek Sagar Prasad (men) and Sharmila Devi (women)
- **Coach of the Year:** Graham Reid (men) and Sjoerd Marijne (women)

- ⊙ Danish Olympic champion **Viktor Axelsen** won the Mens' single **2021 Denmark Open Badminton** held at the Odense Sports Park, Denmark. He defeated world number one Kento Momota of Japan. Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in the women's category defeating An Se-young (South Korea).

List of all winners of Denmark Open 2021:

- **Mens' single:** Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- **Womens' single:** Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- **Men's double:** Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
- **Women's double:** Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China)
- **Mixed double:** Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan).

- ⊙ Prestigious **Martial Arts Education Prize 2021** was conferred to the world-renowned Kung Fu Nuns of Drukpa order of Buddhism. Prize was given to them from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts to honour their brave acts of service. It recognises the historic 'acts of service and championing of gender equality in Himalayas' by the Kung Fu Nuns. Through martial arts, Drukpa nuns empower young girls with defending themselves, take leadership roles across their communities and build confidence.

- ⊙ A team from **5th Battalion-4 (5/4) Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)** representing the Indian Army won **gold medal** at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Exercise which was held in United Kingdom. Exercise was held from October 13th to 15th 2021 at Brecon, Wales in United Kingdom and was organised by the UK Army. It considered as the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and sometimes also referred as **Olympics of Military Patrolling** among militaries of the world.

