

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 1

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

NATIONAL

- ① The State of Telangana has become India's first state to compete 100 per cent 1st dose Covid-19 vaccination. This milestone was achieved with the efforts of all health workers, including the ASHA workers and ANMs to doctors. Telangana has vaccinated 2.77 crore citizens with the first dose. State is ahead of national average by 9 per cent in terms of first dose while it is ahead of national average by 3 per cent in second dose.
- ① Leading telecom service providers are set to roll out the Fifth Generation or 5G telecom services across selected cities in India in 2022. 5G telecom services will be rolled out in cities like Gurugram, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Lucknow, and Gandhinagar. Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio have established 5G trials sites across the mentioned cities.
- ① Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the foundation of Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh. It is a Rs 6,700-crore project on the Giri river in Sirmaur district.



The project, once completed, is likely to generate 200 million units of energy in a surface power house which have the installed capacity of 40 MW. Storage capacity of the dam will be 498 million cubic meters. It will fulfil around 40 per cent of the drinking water requirement of Delhi.

- ① On December 20, 2021, Delhi Cabinet approved to set up Delhi Teachers' University. The university will offer a four-year integrated teacher education programme after Class 12. In the programme, BA & B.Ed, BSc & B.Ed, and BCom & B.Ed courses will be incorporated. While pursuing these courses,

those enrolled in the university will also be linked to Delhi government schools for training purposes. Government will introduce "Delhi Teachers University Bill 2021" for the same in the next session of Delhi Assembly.

- ① Karnataka Government has announced to give 1 per cent reservation to transgenders in Police. Reservation will be given to them across all the ranks in police department. This move will help in changing the perception towards transgenders. It will bring them into mainstream and remove all the prejudices against them in society. Karnataka police department is also recruiting both men and women by giving them equal opportunities. There was reservation for women in police department, three-four decades back. But now the department aims to reach 25 per cent of women in the police force.
- ① The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to provide USD 350 million loan for improving access to urban services across India. Access to urban services will be improved by accelerating policy actions and reforms of enhancing service delivery and by promoting performance-based central fiscal transfers to urban local bodies (ULBs). ADB will also provide knowledge and advisory support to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs for programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- ① On December 20, 2021, Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik inaugurated T-Setu over River Mahanadi. T-Setu is Odisha's longest bridge, constructed over Mahanadi River in Cuttack district. It is a 3.4 km long and 7.5 metre wide bridge.



Bridge connects Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha, which is



located in the middle of Mahanadi River. Bridge has been built in the shape of English alphabet 'T'. Total cost of the bridge is Rs 111 crore. T-Setu bridge comprises of footpath on both sides. It is of 1.5 metre width.

- ⊙ Ladakh received its first ever FM radio station in the capital city Leh. The first-ever Top FM radio in Leh was launched by Advisor of Ladakh, Umang Narula. The frequency for Leh & Kargil will be 91.1 FM. It will cover 50 kilometres aerial distance in radius.
- ⊙ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi on December 13, 2021.



This project was a long pending dream of PM for creating an easily accessible pathway between Kashi Vishwanath Temple and banks of Ganga River. PM had laid the foundation stone for the project on March 8, 2019.

- ⊙ On December 8, 2021, Indian Air Force Helicopter Mi-17V5 crashed in the Nilgiris, near Coonoor city. This helicopter crash is another addition to the list of accidents involving VVIPs.



The helicopter crash has killed Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife along with 11 members of his personal staff. Reasons for the crash are not yet known. In similar accident on

September 2, 2009, helicopter carrying Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, crashed into the hills near Kurnool. Then, the pilot was pressured to go ahead even when weather was bad. On September 30, 2001, former Civil Aviation minister Madhavrao Scindia, insisted to proceed to Kanpur in bad weather for a meeting. Aircraft crashed and all died.

- ⊙ Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project, ahead of elections to major North Indian states worth Rs 44,605-crore project. This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP). This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay the foundation stone for this project soon.

ECONOMY

- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent for the ninth consecutive time while maintaining an 'accommodative stance' as long as necessary. The reverse repo rate will continue to be 3.35 per cent. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. The meeting was held between December (6 to 8). The remaining will take place in February (7 to 9, 2022). The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 18.00%

- ⊙ Asian Development Bank has trimmed its 2021 growth forecast for India to 9.7 per cent from 10 per cent but left the 2022 growth forecast unchanged at 7.5 per cent. The inflation forecast of developing Asia was revised to 2.1 per cent for 2021 and unchanged at 7 per cent for 2022.

- ⊙ Producers' inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has reached an all-time high in the current series at 14.23 per cent in November. This is the eighth successive month of double digits WPI (mainly due to the hardening of prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas). Wholesale Price-based Index (WPI) inflation base year is 2011-12. Also, the spike is highest since April 2005.
- ⊙ India has registered the highest ever annual Foreign Direct Investment inflow of \$ 81.97 bn in 2020-21. FDI inflows in the last seven financial years is over \$ 440 bn, which is nearly 58 % of the total FDI inflow in the last 21 financial years. The top five countries from where FDI Equity Inflows were received during 2014-2021 are Singapore, Mauritius, USA, Netherland & Japan.
- ⊙ According to the finance ministry, advance tax collection increased by 53.50 per cent to ₹ 4.60 lakh crore so far this fiscal year, indicating a recovery in the economy. Direct tax collections for 2021-22, as of December 16, show that net collections are at ₹ 9.45 lakh crore compared to ₹ 5.88 lakh crore over the year-ago period, representing an increase of 60.8 per cent.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ⊙ The Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named, ASIGMA, which is dubbed as "Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application". It will replace the AWAN (Army Wide Area Network) messaging application. AWAN has been in service for last 15 years.
- ⊙ The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved world's first injectable medication for reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. Apretude is an injectable drug. Its generic name is "cabotegravir extended-release injectable suspension". The drug provides an alternative to daily pills for HIV prevention, like Truvada and Descovy. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDS), these pills are effective up to 99% at preventing the sexual transmission of HIV. However, it must be taken every day to be effective.

SPORTS

- ⊙ Indian Shuttler and 2-time Olympic medalist Pusarla V Sindhu, world's number 7, won the silver at the 2021 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals, officially known as the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021. The reigning world champion PV Sindhu has won the BWF World Tour finals in 2018 and became the only Indian to achieve the feat.

HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021 Winners:

Category	Winner
Women's singles title	An Se Young (South Korea)
Men's single title	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Men's double title	Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
Women's double title	Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)

- ⊙ Argentina showcased its organised game with great composure to beat six-time champion German side 4-2 and win the title after 16 years in the men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium. Argentina has become the only third team after Germany (six wins) and India (2001, 2016) to win multiple Junior Hockey WC titles. Defending champions India finished fourth in the junior hockey world cup 2021 after losing 1-3 to France in the third-place match.

Other Awards:

- Best Player of the Tournament: Timothée Clément (FRANCE)
- Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Anton Brinckman (GERMANY)
- Hero Top Scorer of the Tournament: Miles Bukkens (NETHERLANDS) (18 goals)
- Odisha Fair Play Award: Team Chile
- Odisha Fans Choice Award for Best Goal of the Tournament: Ignacio Nardolillo (ARGENTINA)
- Hockey India Maximum Team Goals: NETHERLANDS (45 goals)
- Hockey India Best Goal Saved of the Tournament: Mahmoud Seleem (EGYPT)
- AM/NS India Best Coach of the Tournament: Johannes Schmitz (GERMANY)

- © All-rounder Hayley Matthews have been voted the ICC Players of the Month for November. Warner, nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award.



Alongside, Pakistan's Abid Ali and New Zealand's Tim Southee, emerged victorious with the most votes, following his crucial role in Australia's triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021.

- © Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur, introduced "Anti-Doping Bill" on December 17, 2021 in Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to provide statutory framework for the functioning of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). Bill empowers NADA to conduct raids and strengthen measures of tackling drug abuse in Indian. It will also provide statutory framework for the operation National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and other dope testing laboratories as well. It also provides for creation of a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports in order to strengthen anti-doping activities in sport.
- © On December 19, 2021, Shutler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at BWF World Championships.



In the final, he was defeated by Singapore's Loh Kean Yew by 21-15, 22-20. This was the first time that a men's player from Singapore won gold at BWF World Championships.

- © On December 15, 2021, seven times Formula One (F1) champion Lewis Hamilton has received "kighthood" for services to motorsport. He received knighthood, days after he lost at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.



He lost out to Red Bull driver Max Verstappen on December 12, 2021. Lewis Hamilton holds the record of most race wins with 103. He is tied with Michael Schumacher from Germany, on seven drivers' championships. Hamilton is the fourth F1 driver to be knighted. Before him, late Australian Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss and triple champion Jackie Stewart have been knighted. However, Lewis Hamilton is the only one to have received this award while still racing.

- © The Indian Athlete Anju Bobby George has won the Woman of the Year Award from World Athletics. She has won the award for grooming young girls to take up sports.



She is a gold medallist in 2005 IAAF World Athletics Finals. She was the first Indian athlete to win bronze medal in long jump at the World Championships in Athletics held in 2013 in Paris. In 2004 Olympics, she finished sixth.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ⊙ IPO-bound hospitality unicorn OYO Hotels and Homes (OYO) has appointed Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) as Strategic Group Advisor. In his role, Kumar will advise OYO's management on short-term and long-term strategy, regulatory and stakeholder engagement, and enhancing the brand of the company globally. He is currently a part of the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T infotech, Hero Motocorp and BharatPe.
- ⊙ Indian-origin technology executive, Parag Agrawal has been appointed as the new CEO of Twitter after the social media giant's co-founder Jack Dorsey stepped down.



He is now the youngest CEO in the S&P 500 elbowing Meta Platform Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg. However, Agrawal is 37 and the same age as Mark Zuckerberg.

- ⊙ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) announced that Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), will be appointed as its President. Mehta, presently the Senior Vice President of FICCI, will be succeeding media industry veteran Uday Shankar. Mehta is also the President of Unilever South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Nepal), and is a member of the 'Unilever Leadership Executive' which is Unilever's Global Executive Board.

- ⊙ Pradip Shah, the founder of IndAsia Fund Advisors, has been appointed chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).



Shah, an MBA from Harvard and chartered accountant, is credited for establishing India's first and largest housing finance company, HDFC, and rating firm Crisil.

- ⊙ The Centre has appointed Alka Upadhyaya as chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). A 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, Upadhyaya is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
- ⊙ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Catherine Russell as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund. Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden. She also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Russell will succeed Henrietta Fore, who resigned in July 2021 because of a family health issue.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- ⊙ Has set up an Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS is a 7-member committee headed by Madhabi Puri

Buch, a former whole-time member of SEBI and has experts from various technology domains as members.

- ⊙ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has formed a committee for the differently-abled cricketers of the country. Disability cricketers have welcomed the decision of the BCCI to form a Differently Abled Committee for the differentlyabled cricketers. On the basis of the recommendation of the Justice Lodha committee, a board of three former disabled cricketers was being awaited for the last several years. The Proposal was approved by BCCI headed by president Sourav Ganguly & secretary Jay Shah.
- ⊙ Tamil Nadu government has launched the Chief Minister (CM) Dashboard monitoring system, “CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360” in Chennai. It will enable CM to track all welfare schemes, including the status of their implementation, fund allocation, and the number of beneficiaries along with updates on the storage of water in dams and rainfall patterns.
- ⊙ State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) for empowering women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance. The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model. This is the first of its kind collaboration between UIL and SBI in coming forward together for the upliftment of the social and economic status of women entrepreneurs in rural areas of the country by making them self-reliant and providing equal opportunity for achieving financial growth and inclusion.
- ⊙ Walmart and its subsidiary Flipkart have signed an MoU with the Department of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Government of Madhya Pradesh to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in Madhya Pradesh. Under this MoU, Walmart, Flipkart, and MSME Department will assist MSMEs to digitize their business and enable them to sell their products through online retail.
- ⊙ State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has signed a pact with Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL) to provide its techno-financial expertise in developing renewable energy projects and fundraising. Under the MoU, IREDA

will undertake techno-financial due diligence of renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia, etc. for BVFCL.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ⊙ Actor-model Harnaaz Sandhu made history as she was crowned Miss Universe 2021 beating contestants from 80 countries, 21 years after India last brought home the title. While Paraguay’s Nadia Ferreira, 22, finished second, South Africa’s Lalela Mswane, 24, came third. Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe— actors Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000. The 70th edition of the event was held in Eilat, Israel, where the 21-year-old bagged the coveted pageant.
- ⊙ Sahitya Akademi announced its prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 in various languages. According to the board, an engraved copper plate, shawl and an amount of Rs. 1 lakh will be given to the main Sahitya Akademi prize winner and an engraved copper plate and an amount of Rs 50,000 each will be given to the Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar. Seven books of poetry, two novels, five books of short stories, two plays, one book each of biography, autobiography, criticism, and epic poetry have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021. Author, Namita Gokhale was awarded for her novel Things to Leave Behind.

The list of Sahitya Akademi Awards winners is given below.

Winner	Category
Anuradha Sarma Pujari	Assamese
Bratya Basu	Bengali
Mwdai Gahai	Bodo
Raj Rahi	Dogri
Namita Gokhale	English
Daya Prakash Sinha	Hindi
DS Nagabhushana	Kannada
Wali Mohd Aseer Kashtawari	Kashmiri
Sanjiv Verenkar	Konkani
George Onakkoor	Malayalam

Winner	Category
Kiran Gurav	Marathi
Chhabilal Upadhyaya	Nepali
Hrushikesh Mallick	Odia
Khalid Hussain	Punjabi
Meethesh Nirmohi	Rajasthani
Vindeshwariprasad Mishr "Vinay"	Sanskrit
Niranjan Hansda	Santali
Arjun Chawla	Sindhi
Ambai	Tamil
Gorati Venkanna	Telugu

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021:

The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 were awarded for 22 Indian languages and the award in Tamil will be declared later, there was no award given in Rajasthani language this year. Author Megha Majumdar won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book 'A Burning', published in 2020. The list of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 is given below.

Winner	Category
Abhijit Bora	Assamese
Gourob Chakraborty	Bengali
Gautom Daimary	Bodo
Arun Akash Dev	Dogri
Megha Majumdar	English
Drashti Soni	Gujarati
Himanshu Vajpai	Hindi
L.Lakshmi Narayan Swamy	Kannada
Razi Tahir Bhagat	Kashmiri
Sharddha Garad	Konkani
Amit Mishra	Maithili
Mobin Mohan	Malayalam
Lenin Khmancha	Manipuri
Pranav Sakhadeo	Marathi
Mahesh Dahal	Nepali
Debabrata Das	Odia
Veerdavinder Singh	Punjabi

Winner	Category
Swetapadma Satapathy	Sanskrit
Kuna Hansdah	Santali
Rakesh Shewani	Sindhi
Thagulla Gopal	Telugu
Umar Farhat	Urdu

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 was given in 22 Indian languages, no Bal Sahitya Puraskar was given in Gujarati and Punjabi languages this year. Anita Vachharajani has been named as the recipient of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 for the biography "Amrita Sher-Gil: Rebel with a Paintbrush". Hindi writer Devendra Mewari won the award for his play titled "Natak Natak me Vigyan".

Winner	Category
Mrinal Chandra Kalita	Assamese
Sunirmal Chakraborty	Bengali
Ratneshwar Narzary	Bodo
Narsingh Dev Jamval	Dogri
Anita Vaccharajani	English
Devendra Mewari	Hindi
Basu Bevinagida	Kannada
Majeed Majazi	Kashmiri
Sumedha Kamat Desai	Konkani
Anmol Jha	Maithili
Raghunath Paleri	Malayalam
Ningombam Jadumani Singh	Manipuri
Sanjay Wagh	Marathi
Sudarsha Ambatey	Nepali
Digaraj Brahma	Odia
Kirti Sharma	Rajasthani
Asha Agarwal	Sanskrit
Sova Hansda	Santali
Kishin Khubchandani "Ranjayal"	Sindhi
Mu. Muruges	Tamil
Devaraju Maharaju	Telugu
Kausar Siddiqui	Urdu

- © Legendary Indian long jumper Anju Bobby George has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics at the World Athletics Awards 2021 for grooming talent in the country and advocating gender equality. She is the first Indian to be honoured by the sport's world body during its annual awards function.

Category	Winner
World Athletes of the Year	Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica) and Karsten Warholm (Norway)
Female Rising Star	Athing Mu (United States)
Male Rising Star	Erriyon Knighton (United States)
Member Federations Award	Federacion Costarricense de Atletismo (Costa Rica) Brazi
Inspiration Award	Mutaz Barshim (Qatar) and Gianmarco Tamberi (Italy)
President's Award	Peter Diamond, Executive Vice President of NBC Olympic Programming (US)
Coaching Achievement Award	Bobby Kersee (United States)
Woman of the Year Award	Anju Bobby George
Jean-Pierre Durand World Athletics Photograph of the Year	Photograph by Ryan Pierse of the women's high jump qualifying at the Tokyo Olympic Games

- © The Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) has decided to honour former Indian Cricketer and cricket commentator Sunil Manohar Gavaskar with its prestigious 'SJFI Medal 2021' at SJFI Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati, Assam. SJFI Medal is the highest honour of SJFI. SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

Other SJFI Awards:

Award	Winner
SJFI Sportsman of the year 2021	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin)
SJFI Sportswoman of the year 2021	Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
SJFI Team of the Year 2021	Indian Men's Hockey team
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Men)	Pramod Bhagat (Badminton) and Sumit Antil (Javelin)
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Women)	Avani Lekhara (rifle shooter)
SJFI Special Recognition Award	Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ)

