

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 12,2021

### TAMIL NADU

- On September 10, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin – announced various initiatives to commemorate poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati's 100th death anniversary.



- ✓ The CM declared September 11 as “Mahakavi Day”, recalling the contributions of the freedom fighter who also advocated equal social rights to all.
- ✓ A state-level poetry competition will be conducted for school and college students.
- ✓ The CM announced that ‘Bharati Ilankavignar’ award will be presented to a male and a female student with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each.
- ✓ A compilation of Bharati's select poems and essays, titled ‘Manathil Uruthi Vendum,’ will be distributed to 37 lakh students studying in government and government-aided schools at Rs 10 crore.
- ✓ The chief minister also announced that the state would honour six scholars, who have researched on Bharati's works, with an award, a citation and a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh each.
- ✓ Poompuhar will sell Bharati's statues and artefacts.

- ✓ A special edition of manuscripts of Bharati, a comic book on his life and a book with paintings of famous artists on his best 100 poems will also be released.
- ✓ The significant works of Bharati and the important research works on him would be translated into English, said the CM.

## NATIONAL

- **Senior BJP leader Vijay Rupani – resigned as the Chief Minister of Gujarat ahead of an assembly elections next year**

### SUCCESSOR FROM PATIDAR COMMUNITY?

➤ 5th BJP CM in 6 months after **Sarbananda Sonowal** (Assam), **Trivendra Singh Rawat & Tirath Rawat** (Uttarakhand), and **B S Yediyurappa** (Karnataka) who had to make way for another

➤ Rupani exit buzz began doing the rounds after **second Covid wave hit state hard and questions were raised over govt's handling of crisis**. It was also speculated that an **understanding had been**

reached late last year that **Rupani would be replaced** ahead of state polls in Dec 2022

➤ Replacement most likely from Patidar community, which has had grouses with state BJP

➤ Dy CM **Nitin Patel**, Union ministers **Mansukh Mandaviya & Parshottam Rupala**, state leaders **R C Faldu, Gordhan Zadafia** and Lakshadweep administrator **Praful Patel** among frontrunners



Vijay Rupani

- ✓ Rupani has submitted his resignation letter to Governor Acharya Devvrat at the Raj Bhawan
- ✓ With this, Rupani becomes the fifth CM to leave the top post in a BJP-governed state in six months.
- ✓ Rupani, who completed five years in office on 7 August last month, was present at the inauguration of Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad, where PM Modi was present virtually on September 11
- ✓ Sardardham Bhavan has been developed at the Vaishnodevi circle in Ahmedabad, Gujarat by Patidar Samaj at the cost of Rs. 200 crore
- ✓ The PM also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Girls Hostel, which can house around 2000 girls, on the occasion.
- ✓ Rupani took the state's Chief Ministerial position on 7 August, 2016, following the resignation of incumbent Anandiben Patel, the first woman CM of Gujarat
- ✓ Anandiben Patel had succeeded Narendra Modi after he became Prime Minister in 2014
- ✓ She quit on August 1, 2016, following the violent Patidar quota protest and the dalit agitation
- ✓ Rupani, a RSS campaigner, was born in Burma (now Myanmar) and rose from the ranks of Mayor of Rajkot to Gujarat CM in his 40-year political career
- ✓ He has the distinction of being the only BJP politician after PM Modi to have completed a five-year term as chief minister.

- ✓ Elections are scheduled in December 2022 to elect 182 members of the Gujarat Assembly.
- **The government - has announced the reduction in import duty on edible oils with immediate effect.**
  - ✓ According to a finance ministry notification, the base import duty on crude palm oil has been reduced to 2.5% from 10%, while the tax on crude soya oil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5% from 7.5%.
  - ✓ With this reduction, the effective duty, which includes agri cess on crude palm oil, crude soya oil and crude sunflower oil will come down to 24.75% from the earlier 30.25%.
  - ✓ In the case of refined palm oil, soya oil and sunflower oil, the effective duty will be 35.75% from 41.25%
  - ✓ The fresh round of cuts could bring down the retail prices by Rs. 4- Rs. 5 per litre
- **The National Mission for Clean Ganga – has celebrated ‘Himalaya Diwas’ recently under the theme ‘Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities’.**
  - ✓ The day was observed, in collaboration with Naula Foundation, to highlight the conservation efforts of Himalayan ecosystem and the surrounding region
  - ✓ During the event, proceedings of ‘Stakeholders Webinar on Pahad-Paani-Parampra’ were also released.
  - ✓ The session was conducted to highlight the need and importance of Ganga rejuvenation for sustainable Himalayas.
  - ✓ The Himalaya Diwas is observed every year in the state of Uttarakhand on September 9 since 2015
- **Indian Railways – has introduced a new economy class in the AC 3-tier trains.**
  - ✓ The new economy class will consist of two coaches, leading to the increase in number of berths from 72 to 83
  - ✓ The ticket price of new coaches will be 8% less than the existing AC 3-tier railway fares
  - ✓ The new economy class has been launched for the first time in Prayagraj-Jaipur train (Train no. 02403)
  - ✓ The new class provides several features, especially for the disabled people
  - ✓ It comprises of personalized AC vents and also a smoke detector
- **The Ministry of AYUSH - had launched a new campaign “AYUSH AAPKE DWAR” from 45 locations across India**
  - ✓ The campaign aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in the country within the next one year

- ✓ The campaign was launched by Minister of State for Ayush from Ayush Bhawan by distributing medicinal plants to staff.



- ✓ About 21 states are participating in the launch activities of the campaign under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lankan Government - had declared an economic emergency recently due to the rising food prices, depreciating currency, and depleting forex reserves.**
- ✓ President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, called in the army to manage this crisis by rationing the supply of essential goods.
- ✓ Sri Lanka is facing an economic crisis at present due to the decline in Tourism industry, which contributes 10% of its GDP
- ✓ Further, Sri Lankan President seeks to make Sri Lankan agriculture 'fully organic' which will significantly decrease the domestic food production and cause a further rise in prices
- ✓ Sri Lankan government blamed speculators for the rise in food prices by hoarding essential supplies.
- ✓ During the crisis period, army has been tasked to seize the food supplies from traders and supply them to consumers at fair prices.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman - chaired the 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi recently**
- ✓ FSDC is an apex-level body created to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism of maintaining financial stability, to enhance inter-regulatory coordination and to promote financial sector development
- ✓ The constitution of the Council was first recommended by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.

- ✓ Finally in 2010, Pranab Mukherjee (the then Finance Minister of India) decided to set up this autonomous body to deal with financial stability and financial regularities of entire financial sector in India.



- ✓ It is not a statutory body and hence no funds are allocated separately to the council to undertake its activities.
- ✓ The Union Finance Minister serves as the Chairperson of the Council, which consists of 11 members
- ✓ Other members of the council include the Governor of RBI, Finance Secretary, Chief Economic Advisor to Ministry of Finance, Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority etc.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal - has been appointed as India's Sherpa for G20.**



- ✓ Sherpa is the personal representative of the head of state or government who prepares an international summit, like the annual G20 summits.
- ✓ India is scheduled to hold the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022 and will also convene G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
- ✓ The next G20 Leaders' two-day Summit is scheduled on October 30 this year under the Presidency of Italy
- ✓ G20 is an intergovernmental forum consisting of 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

- ✓ It collectively accounts for 90% of gross world product, 75-80% of international trade, half of world's land area and two-thirds of the global population.
- ✓ Since 2008, it organises summits at least once a year, involving each member's head of government or state, foreign ministers, finance minister, and other high-ranking officials.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – has launched a two-day ‘Lunar Science Workshop’ to commemorate the completion of two years of operation of Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft across the moon’s orbit**



- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft has completed more than 9,000 orbits around the Moon
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 comprises of eight payloads and is conducting remote sensing and in-situ observations of the Moon at 100 km altitude from the lunar surface.
- ✓ During the event, Isro chairman K Sivan released data product and science documents besides the data from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter payloads.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 is the second lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), after Chandrayaan-1.
- ✓ It comprises of indigenously developed lunar orbiter, Vikram lander and Pragyan lunar rover.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 was launched to the Moon on July 22, 2019 by a GSLV Mark III-M1.
- ✓ It reached to the Moon's orbit on August 20, 2019.
- ✓ However, its' lander crashed after deviating from its intended trajectory
- **The Perseverance rover of the American Space Agency, NASA - has successfully collected the first rock sample from Mars for return to the Earth.**
- ✓ The NASA's Mars Exploration Program comprises of rover Perseverance and a small robotic, coaxial helicopter 'Ingenuity'.
- ✓ This mission was launched from Earth on July 30, 2020 on an Atlas V launch vehicle.



- ✓ It touched down the Martian crater Jezero on February 18, 2021.
- ✓ NASA named the landing site of the rover as Octavia E. Butler Landing on March 5, 2021.
- ✓ Perseverance and Ingenuity have been on Mars for 191 sols (196 total days) as of now.
- ✓ Sol is a solar day on Mars, indicating the apparent interval between two successive returns of the Sun to the same meridian as witnessed by observer on Mars.

## DEFENCE

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to Indian Air Force (IAF) at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.**
- ✓ An advanced air defence system, MRSAM was jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with Indian industry partners
- ✓ As per the agreement signed in February 2009, the IAF will buy 450 MRSAMs and 18 firing units at the value of \$2bn
- ✓ The firing units of MRSAM consists of missiles, mobile launcher systems, combat management system , advanced long-range radar, reloader vehicle, radar power system and field service vehicle.
- ✓ MRSAM system, with a length of 4.5m, is capable of attacking multiple targets at range up to 70 kms
- ✓ It can attack several threats like fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, sub-sonic & supersonic cruise missiles guided & unguided ammunitions, etc.
- ✓ Powered by indigenously developed rocket motor and control system, the MRSAM will help in achieving high manoeuvrability during the terminal phase.

## ECONOMY

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) – signed a \$300 million loan with the Union Government to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra**
- ✓ Further, the ADB had also signed a \$112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure in the state of Jharkhand.

- ✓ Under the “Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project”, the ADB will provide additional financing to improve 1,100 more rural roads and 230 bridges in 34 districts of the state
- ✓ The project to scale up rural connectivity was approved in August 2019 with \$200 million assistance
- ✓ In Jharkhand, this is the first ever urban project of ADB
- ✓ Under the project, four water treatment plants will be established in four towns with a combined capacity of 275 million litres per day.
- ✓ It will ensure continuous, treated piped water supply in Ranchi and other three towns namely Jhumri Telaiya, Hussainabad, and Medininagar
- ✓ The project will also establish 940 kilometres of water distribution network in order provide continuous water supply across 115,000 households
- ✓ ADB is a regional development bank established on December 19, 1966.
- ✓ With its headquarters in Philippines, the bank functions now with 68 member countries

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Former Mahindra & Mahindra managing director Pawan Goenka – is set to become the chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**



- ✓ The appointments committee of the Union Cabinet has cleared the department of space’s proposal for formation of the board of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)
- ✓ The board would have a senior executive from L&T’s defence business, among others.
- ✓ An official order is pending as terms and conditions of the appointment are being finalised.
- ✓ IN-SPACe will be the nodal agency to regulate private industry in the space sector.
- ✓ The agency, by last December, had more than 22 proposals from Indian firms and institutions, and four foreign companies.
- ✓ Jeff Bezos’ US-based Amazon Web Services and Bharti Group-backed UK-based OneWeb also showed interest in it.

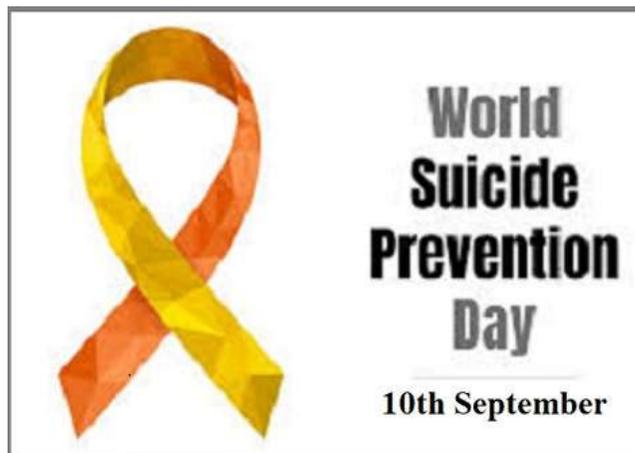
# INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **The United States - marked the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with solemn ceremonies**



- ✓ At the 9/11 memorial in New York, the names of the 2,977 people killed in the Al-Qaeda attacks were read out
- ✓ US President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden were joined at the New York memorial service by former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and their first ladies Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama respectively
- ✓ On this day in 2001, AL Qaeda terrorists had hijacked four aircrafts in United States
- ✓ Two aircrafts crashed into the World Trade Center towers, New York while one aircraft crashed into Pentagon outside Washington
- ✓ Fourth aircraft crashed into rural Pennsylvania after passengers tried to take back the control from hijackers.
- ✓ Osama bin Laden, the founder of terror outfit Al Qaeda, is the mastermind behind the terror attacks
- ✓ Osama Bin Laden was finally killed on 2nd May 2011 in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

- **World Suicide Prevention Day – September 10**



- ✓ World Suicide Prevention Day is observed to highlight various ways by which suicide can be prevented.
- ✓ The day is commemorated every year with the aim of creating awareness among people to avoid committing suicide and prevent it
- ✓ For the first time, this day was observed on September 10, 2003, as an initiative by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in association with the World Health Organization (WHO)
- ✓ Each year, IASP organizes hundreds of events or programs in more than 60 countries to mark the day.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Creating Hope Through Action"
- ✓ Suicide is a global phenomenon and according to the World Health Organization, it was the 17th leading cause of death in 2019
- ✓ IASP is an international suicide prevention organization, which was founded by Erwin Ringel and Norman Farberow in 1960.

