

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (22nd – 28th September 2019)

### 1. PM Narendra Modi to address 74th session of UNGA in New York

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has arrived in **New York** during the second leg of his **week-long US** visit after historic visit to **Houston**.
- He will address the **74th Session** of the **United Nations General Assembly** (UNGA) and participate in other **multilateral** and **bilateral engagements**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will also participate in **UN Secretary General's Summit** on Climate Change.
- He will also attend a **High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage** and **Leaders' Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives** at the United Nations headquarters.
- PM Modi will also inaugurate **Gandhi Solar Park** at the **UN headquarters** and **Gandhi Peace Garden** later in the day.

### 2. NTPC to Build Country's biggest Solar Park in Gujarat

- **India's largest power** company **NTPC Ltd.** has planned to set up **5 gigawatts (GW) solar park** at Kutch in Gujarat.
- A site has been identified for the project, which is expected to cost as much as Rs. 25,000 crores and begin operations by 2024.
- It will be the biggest solar park in the country.
- The project is part of the NTPC target to build 32 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity by 2032 in order to reduce the share of fossil fuels in its energy mix to 70% from about 96%.

#### Note:

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), proposed by India as a founder member, is headquartered in India.

### 3. Bank of Baroda launches agri digital platform 'Baroda Kisan'

- Bank of Baroda has launched a digital platform 'Baroda Kisan' to provide solutions for all major agricultural requirements.
- The agri-digital platform has been executed by the IT Centre of Excellence (ITCoE) of Bank of Baroda in partnership with IBM India.
- It is a web-based portal that can also be accessed by farmers via mobile.
- The web-based portal will cater to all the needs of farmers, including weather forecasts, crop conditions, the moisture levels of the soil, information on crop worms, market prices, special crop-related consultation.
- The Bank also launched centralised processing hubs at Gandhinagar and Hyderabad of agriculture proposals.

### 4. First Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award given to senior TV journalist Ravish Kumar

- Senior journalist **Ravish Kumar** has received the **first Gauri Lankesh National Award** for Journalism in Bengaluru.
- Ravish Kumar was chosen for the award for **sharp news analysis and uncompromising secular stance** by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust.
- The award was presented to him by **freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy**.
- Three books, **Neera Nade** (by Vinaya Okkunda), **Dehali Nota**(by D. Umopathy), and **Maatige Enu Kadime** (translation of Mr. Kumar's **The Free Voice** by Harshakumar Kugwe) were released on the occasion.
- Ramon Magsaysay awardee **Ravish Kumar** is the Managing Editor of **NDTV India**.

**Note:**

- Indian journalist-turned-activist **Gauri Lankesh** was shot to death by assailants outside her home in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore.

### **5. President Ramnath Kovind inaugurates the 6th India Water Week-2019**

- President **Ramnath Kovind** inaugurates the **6th India Water Week-2019** (IWW-2019) at **Vigyan Bhawan** in New Delhi.(24 to 28th September 2019)
- The **'IWW-2019'** is being organised by the Ministry of Jal-Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.
- The theme of Water Week-2019 is "**Water Cooperation - Coping with 21st Century Challenges**".
- The **objective of IWW-2019'** is to bring new ideas for mutual-cooperation for sustainable water management in the context of changing basin dynamics across administrative boundaries.

### **6. Govt. launches 'UMMID' initiative to tackle inherited genetic diseases of new-born babies**

- The Union Science and Technology & Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched **'UMMID' initiative** to tackle inherited genetic diseases of **new-born babies** in New Delhi.
- The **new initiative aims** at creating awareness about genetic disorders amongst **clinicians** and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the benefits of developments in medical genetics could reach patients.
- According to **Mr. Vardhan**, congenital and hereditary **genetic diseases** are becoming a significant health burden and there is a need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services.
- Dr Vardhan further emphasized on the use of cutting-edge scientific technology and molecular medicine for extending Universal Health Coverage for all.

### **7. Ladakhi Shondol dance makes it to Guinness book of records**

- The royal dance of Ladakh **'Shondol dance'** has created history by entering into the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the largest Ladakhi dance.
- 'Shondol' is a **famous dance**, which artistes used to perform for the **king of Ladakh**.
- As many as **408 women** attired in traditional dresses and beautiful headgears performed the dance.

- It was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery.
- The festival had begun on **16<sup>th</sup> September and concluded on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

## 8. Amitabh Bachchan named for Dada Saheb Phalke award

- Bollywood's megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** (76-years) has been selected for the **Dada Saheb Phalke award** (for the year 2018) for his immeasurable contribution to **Indian cinema**.
- The award consists of a **golden lotus** (Swarn Kamal), a cash prize of **Rs. 10 lakhs** and a **shawl**.
- **Mr. Bachchan** is widely regarded as **one of the greatest and most influential actors** in the history of Indian cinema as well as world cinema.
- He first gained **popularity in the early 1970s** for films such as 'Zanjeer', 'Deewaar' and 'Sholay'.
- The **Government of India** honoured him with the **Padma Shri** (in 1984) the **Padma Bhushan** (in 2001) and the **Padma Vibhushan** (in 2015) for his contributions to the arts.
- Mr. **Bachchan** has won fifteen Filmfare Awards.

### Note:

- The '**Dadasaheb Phalke Award**' is India's highest award in cinema.
- The award is presented annually at the **National Film Awards ceremony** by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organization set up by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.

Year (Ceremony)	Recipient	Film industry
2015 (63 <sup>rd</sup> )	Manoj Kumar	Hindi
2016 (64 <sup>th</sup> )	Kasinathuni Viswanath	Telugu
2017 (65 <sup>th</sup> )	Vinod Khanna	Hindi
2018 (66 <sup>th</sup> )	Amitabh Bachchan	Hindi

## 9. Prime Minister Modi receives "Global Goalkeeper" award for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred the "**Global Goalkeeper**" award by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** for the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** launched by his government.
- Mr Modi dedicated the award to **those Indians who transformed the Swachh Bharat campaign** into a "people's movement" and accorded topmost priority to cleanliness in their day-to-day lives.
- According to Mr Modi, over **11 crore toilets** were built in the country in the **last five years**.
- The **campaign** has not only improved the **lives of crores of Indians**, but it has also played a significant role in achieving the **goals set by the UN**.
- The **cleanliness campaign** was launched by the **Modi government** during its first term on **2nd October, 2014**.

## 10. Ponung Doming becomes Arunachal's first woman Lieutenant Colonel

- Army officer **Ponung Doming** has become the first woman officer from **Arunachal Pradesh** to be elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army.
- She was commissioned into the Indian Army as a Lieutenant in 2008.
- Currently, she is posted in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Last month, Wing Commander **Shaliza Dhami** became the first woman officer of the Indian Air Force to be elevated as the Flight Commander of a flying unit.

### Note:

- The **lieutenant colonel** is a rank of commissioned officer in the armies, above a major and below a colonel.
- A lieutenant colonel is **typically in charge** of a battalion or regiment in the army.

## 11. Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 16th Global SME Business Summit

- The Union Minister **Shri Nitin Gadkari** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Road Transport & Highways) has inaugurated the **16<sup>th</sup> Global SME Business Summit-2019** in New Delhi.
- The theme of this year's summit is '**Making Indian MSMEs Globally Competitive**'.
- According to Mr. Gadkari, MSME will soon launch a new E-Commerce website 'Bharat Mart' to enable MSMEs to sell their products in local as well as international markets.
- The summit was attended by more than 500 delegates from more than 15 countries.
- This summit is organised by the **Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industries** (CII) every year.

## 12. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Varaha

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard Ship** 'ICGS Varaha' (98-metre offshore patrol vessel) at a special function held at Chennai Port.
- The ship is the fourth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessels of the Coast Guard.
- It is equipped with 30 milli-metre gun and has an integrated bridge system, platform management systems, automated power management system and high-power external fire-fighting system.
- It can carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats for swift boarding, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrolling operations.
- It will be deployed for the surveillance of India's Exclusive Economic Zone and to safeguard the maritime interests of the country.

## 13. India-US tri-Services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" to be held in November

- India and the **United States** are set to hold their first tri-services exercise named "**Tiger Triumph**" at Visakhapatnam and **Kakinada** (Andhra Pradesh) in November 2019.

- **India-US tri-services exercise** will be organised under the aegis of the headquarters of the **Integrated Defence Staff**.
- The plan for this exercise was discussed during the Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) concluded at Headquarters Eastern Naval Command.
- The announcement for the 'Tiger Triumph' was made by US President Donald Trump during the 'Howdy Modi!' event in America.
- The two countries have conducted defence hardware trade around USD 18 billion over the last 10 years and many more defence deals were in the pipeline.

#### 14. UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York

- The **2019 UN Climate Action Summit** was held in New York, United States to address the global climate emergency.
- UN 2019 Climate Summit theme was 'Climate Action Summit 2019: A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win'.
- Purpose of **UN Climate Action Summit 2019** is to increase the **commitments of government**, business and civil society to achieve the goals of the **Paris Agreement** and work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least **45 per cent by 2030**, and a target of achieving net-zero **carbon emissions** by 2050.

#### 15. Union Govt reconstitutes EAC-PM till 2021

- The **Union Govt.** has reconstituted the **Economic Advisory Council** to the **Prime Minister** (EAC-PM) for a period of **two years**.
- **Dr. Bibek Debroy** will continue as **Chairman** and **Mr Ratan P. Watal** will continue as the **Member Secretary**.
- The reconstituted advisory panel will be effective from 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- The strength of the reconstituted EAC-PM has been reduced from five to four (two full-time members and two part-time members).

#### Note:

- **EAC-PM** is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister on key economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.

#### Members of reconstituted EAC-PM

- **Bibek Debroy**: Chairman (full-time).
- **Ratan Watal** (former Finance Secretary): Member Secretary (full-time).
- **Sajjid Chenoy** (India economist at JP Morgan): part-time member.
- **Ashima Goyal** (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research professor): part-time member.

#### 16. General Bipin Rawat to take over as Chairman COSC

- Army Chief **General Bipin Rawat** will take over as the new Chairman of **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)**.
- **Mr. Rawat** will replace Air Chief **BS Dhanoa**.

- The **Chairman Chiefs of Staffs Committee** is the senior-most officer in the three defence forces.
- **On Independence Day 2019**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government's decision to replace the post of **Chairman, COSC** with a permanent **Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS)**.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** will act as the **single-point military adviser** to the government on military and strategic issues.

### **17. Pranab Mukherjee launches the book titled ‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’**

- Former president **Pranab Mukherjee** has released a book titled **‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’**.
- The book was authored by **BJP MP Subramanian Swamy**, published by **Rupa Publications India**.
- The book tracks the **country’s economic development** over the years and offers solutions for future growth.

### Sports

### **18. Rahul Aware wins bronze in 61 kg freestyle category at World C’ship**

- Indian wrestler **Rahul Aware** (27-years) has won a bronze medal in men's 61-kilogram freestyle category at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- Rahul beat 17th seeded **Tyler Lee Graff** (America) 11-4 to ensure he finished on the podium.
- It was India’s fifth medal at this edition of the World Championships with a total haul of 1 silver and 4 bronzes.
- **Deepak Punia** (86-kilogram category) was forced to **pull out of the final due** to an injury and settled for silver.

### **Note:**

- The **2019 World Wrestling Championships** were held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan (14th to 22nd September 2019).
- The tournament served as qualification for the 2020 Summer Olympics, the top six wrestlers from each category earned their NOCs a qualification.

### **19. Amit Panghal becomes first Indian to win the silver medal at World Boxing Championships**

- Ace Indian boxer Amit Panghal settled for a silver medal at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships at Ekaterinburg in Russia.
- He lost to Shakhobidin Zoirov (Uzbekistan) in flyweight (48-52 kg) category, by a unanimous decision from the judges.
- Amit Panghal created history as he became the first Indian male boxer to qualify for the final of the Championships.

- Before this year, India had never won more than one bronze medal at a single edition of the world championship.

**Note:**

- The past Indian medal-winners at the world meet are Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

## **20. Kushagra Rawat wins two golds at the Asian Age Group swimming championship**

- India's **Kushagra Rawat** (19-year-old) has won **two golds** in the **Asian Age Group swimming championship** at the Padukone-Draavid Center for Sports Excellence in **Bengaluru**.
- **Mr Rawat** has already achieved the B-mark Olympic Standard Time in 800m freestyle, set a new meet record by clocking 8:10.05s.
- Elsewhere, Srihari Nataraj (in 25.30s) and Maana Patel (finished in 29.92) claimed golds in the men's and women's 50m backstroke events.
- India's **other two gold medals** on the day came in the men's **4x100m freestyle relay** (Srihari, Anand Anilkumar, Sajan Prakash and Viradhwal Khade) and through **Shoan Ganguly** in the Group II boys' 200m individual medley.

## **21. PV Sindhu joins Team Visa for Tokyo Olympics**

- The **global leader in payments technology 'Visa'** has signed up P.V. Sindhu as an athlete member of Team Visa for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
- Team Visa athletes are selected based on their expected demonstration of strong competitive performance at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, regardless of nationality and background.
- Visa will provide these athletes with tools and resources including funding support and financial literacy training. Since the programme began in 2000, Team Visa has supported over 400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes and hopefuls from around the world.