

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

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1st November

International Affairs

Microsoft surpasses Apple to become the world's most valuable company

Microsoft Corp. has surpassed Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable publicly-traded company by market capitalization.

Microsoft reached nearly USD 2.49 trillion market cap surpassing Apple's market cap of USD 2.46 trillion as of October 29th, 2021.

Apple had held the top position for more than a year.

Quick Facts: Microsoft is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, USA.

Economy

Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with NPCI to launch Rupay credit cards 'Veer'

Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with NPCI to launch Kotak credit cards on the RuPay network named 'Veer' for the Indian armed forces.

'Veer' is Kotak's first credit card under the Rupay network launched exclusively for the Indian Army.

The credit card is available in two variants as Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum and Kotak RuPay Veer Select.

Quick Facts: The tagline of Kotak Mahindra Bank is "Let's make money simple".

Science and Technology

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches 'Samudrayan Project'

The Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh has officially launched India's first manned Ocean Mission called "Samudrayan Project" at Chennai.

The unique ocean mission aims to have deep underwater manned vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.

The deepwater manned submersible codenamed 'MATSYA 6000' has been developed by the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

State Affairs

Kerala tops the Public Affairs Index 2021 in governance performance

According to the 6th edition of the Public Affairs Index 2021 report, the top three positions in governance performance have been taken by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

The index has been prepared by a Bengaluru-based non-profit think tank, Public Affairs Center (PAC).

PAI 2021 highlights the state government's quality governance and the state's involvement over the curb of COVID-19.

Quick Facts: Pinarayi Vijayan is the Chief Minister of Kerala.

Environment

India endorses Emission list ahead of COP26

India has officially endorsed a website made by Indian climate experts listing the historical CO2 emission of the developed countries ahead of the commencement of the 26th UN COP in Glasgow, Scotland.

The emission list highlights the disparity between the emission of the developed and the developing countries.

The website is called "Climate Equity Monitor" and seeks to debunk the narrative provided by several developed countries which focuses on what the developing countries must do.

Art and Culture

Ministry of Culture launches 3 nation-wide competitions

The Ministry of Culture has launched three nationwide competitions for Deshbhakti Geet writing, Lori writing, and Rangoli Making on the occasion of National Unity Day.

The initiative was launched with the aim of encouraging participation to ensure substantive 'Jan bhagidaari'.

The competitions announced by PM Narendra Modi in Mann Ki Baat recently will be held from tehsil to the national level.

Miscellaneous

IRCTC and Truecaller partner to reduce fraud in the railways

IRCTC has partnered with Truecaller India to provide passengers with greater trust in communication and to reduce fraud in the railways.

Under the partnership, the integrated National Railway Helpline 139 has been verified by the Truecaller Business Identity solutions.

The partnership will ensure those critical communications such as booking details and PNR status are delivered only by IRCTC.

Quick Facts: IRCTC is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

2nd November

Art and Culture

5th edition of 'Ganga Utsav 2021- The River Festival' begins

The 5th edition of 3-day long virtual Ganga Utsav 2021- The River Festival has been organized recently.

The festival has been organized under the leadership of Jal Shakti Minister by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) jointly with the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The festival will celebrate the glory of the river Ganga and all the rivers across India to promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav'.

National Affairs

Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Bhasha Sangam' initiative for schools

The Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools along with Bhasha Sangam Mobile App and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Mobile Quiz.

Bhasha Sangam is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha' Bharat to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages.

The 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Quiz' is targeted towards children, youngsters for helping them learn more about different regions, states, and cultures.

Quick Facts: Dharmendra Pradhan is serving as the Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Environment

Critically endangered long tailed bat from New Zealand named as the Bird of the Year

A critically endangered New Zealand long-tailed bat has been named the New Zealand Bird of the Year 2021.

The long-tailed bat is the only land mammal of New Zealand and can fly at around 60 km per hour.

The competition has been organized by New Zealand-based independent organization 'Forest & Bird'.

Quick Facts: The long-tailed wattled bat is also known as pekpeka-tou-roa.

International Affairs

'Vax' selected as the Oxford English Dictionary's 2021 Word of the Year

'Vax' has been chosen as the word of the year by Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021.

Vax is derived from the Latin word 'vacca' which means cow.

The word is used as a short form for vaccine and means a substance put into a person's body to prevent them from getting a disease.

Quick Facts: The Oxford English Dictionary was first published on 30 March 1989.

India and the World

India signs MoU with World Bank to strengthen health systems in Meghalaya

The Government of India and Meghalaya have signed USD 40 million with World Bank to strengthen the health project agreement for the state of Meghalaya.

The Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project will improve the quality of health services in the state and strengthen the management to handle health emergencies in the near future.

The Project will also benefit health sector staff at primary and secondary levels.

Quick Facts: The World Bank is headquartered in Washington DC, USA.

Defense

Indian Navy stealth frigate Tushil launched in Kaliningrad, Russia

The seventh Indian Navy frigate of P1135.6 class has been launched at the Yantar Shipyard at Kaliningrad, Russia.

The ship has been formally named Tushil derived from a Sanskrit word that means protector shield.

The ship has been developed under the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between India and Russia in 2016.

Person in News

Australian cricket legend 'Alan Davidson' passes away at the age of 92

Australian and New South Wales cricket all-rounder Alan Davidson has passed away at the age of 92.

Davidson was the first player to achieve the feat of scoring 100 runs and taking 10 wickets in a single Test match.

Davidson was the legendary left-arm swing bowler who played 44 Tests for Australia in which he claimed 186 wickets and scored 1328 runs.

Quick Facts: Justin Langer is the current coach of the Australia National Cricket Team.

3rd November

Art and Culture

National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 held in Chhattisgarh

The annual 2nd National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 has been observed at Chhattisgarh.

The festival was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, and the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel.

The festival will host artists belonging to diverse tribal communities from countries including Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Syria, Mali, Palestine, and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Quick Facts: Raipur is the capital of Chhattisgarh.

Economy

Axis Bank signed MoU with Indian Navy to offer 'Power Salute'

Axis Bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to offer a defense service salary package under 'Power Salute' in New Delhi.

The agreement will provide several benefits to all ranks of Indian Navy veterans and cadets.

Major benefits included under 'Power Salute' are an accident cover up to INR 56 lakh, children grant up to INR 8 lakh, permanent disability cover up to INR 46 lakhs, and much more.

Quick Facts: Axis Bank is headquartered in Mumbai.

Defense

IAF participates in International Exercise 'Blue Flag 2021'

A total of 84 Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel took part in the international multilateral combat exercise Blue Flag 2021 along with IAF's Mirage 2000 aircraft squadron at Israel.

The theme of the Blue Flag 2021 was "Integration of fourth and fifth-generation aircraft in complex operational scenarios".

The other seven countries that have participated in the exercise include the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, and Israel.

Quick Facts: Jerusalem is the Capital of Israel.

Science and Technology

SpaceX sets up subsidiary in India

World's richest person Elon Musk-owned SpaceX has incorporated its wholly-owned subsidiary in India to start local broadband operations.

SpaceX's satellite broadband arm Starlink aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022,

The company is charging a deposit of INR 7,350 per customer and claims to deliver data speed in the range of 50 to 150 megabits per second in the beta stage.

Quick Facts: SpaceX was founded in 2002.

Sports

Indian GM P Iniyan has won the Rujan Zora Chess tournament

Indian Grandmaster (GM) P Iniyan has won the 5th Rujna Zora Chess tournament held in Serbia.

International Master (IM) Makarian Rudik of Russia stood 2nd followed by VS Raaghul who clinched 3rd place.

P Iniyan is the 16th Indian Grandmaster from Erode, Tamil Nadu, and is ranked 2556 at the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Quick Facts: FIDE was founded in 1924 in Paris, France.

State Affairs**Government of Haryana launched 'Uttam Beej portal'**

The Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the 'Uttam Beej portal' which will benefit the farmers of Haryana by providing them quality seeds.

The seed portal has been linked with 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora Portal' and Family Identity Card ID.

The portal will ensure that farmers get good high-quality seeds which will improve their manufacturing and revenue.

Quick Facts: Chandigarh is the capital of Haryana.

Miscellaneous**IREDA launches 'Whistle Blower' portal**

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has launched a 'Whistle-Blower Portal' as part of the celebration of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'.

The portal was launched by Shri Pradip Kumar Deo who is the Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA.

The IREDA is a PSU under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution.

Quick Facts: IREDA is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

5th November**Science and Technology****ISRO to provide 'solar power calculators'**

PM Modi announced that ISRO will soon provide the world with a 'solar power calculator'.

The calculator will use satellite data to measure the solar energy potential of any region and help decide the location of solar energy projects across the globe.

PM Modi has launched the One Sun One World One Grid Initiative jointly with the UK at the 'Accelerating Clean Technology, Innovation and Deployment' leaders' event at COP26.

Quick Facts: ISRO was founded on 15 August 1969.

Sports**Rahul Dravid appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team**

Former captain and batsman, Rahul Dravid has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team by BCCI.

Dravid has been appointed for a period of two years till 2023.

He will begin his tenure as a full-time coach from the T20I series against New Zealand starting November 17, 2021, in Jaipur.

Quick Facts: Rahul Dravid is the Director of Cricket Operations at the National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru.

Sports

Akash Kumar settles for Bronze in 2021 AIBA Men's World Championships

The 21-year-old Indian boxer Akash Kumar clinched bronze at the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships at Belgrade in Serbia.

Akash lost 0-5 in the 54 kg category to Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhstan.

Akash is the 7th Indian male boxer to win a medal at the World Championships.

International Affairs

Britain health regulators approves World's first pill to treat COVID-19

Britain's health regulators, Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have approved the world's first pill to treat cases of symptomatic COVID-19.

The antiviral Lagevrio (molnupiravir) has been found to be safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalization and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19.

Molnupiravir was originally created to treat flu.

Person in News

Damon Galgut bags Booker Prize 2021 for his novel 'The Promise'

South African author Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel 'The Promise'.

Damon has won the award in his third appearance on the shortlist after making the cut in 2003 and 2010.

The Promise is set in Pretoria where the author grew up and takes place against the backdrop of South Africa's transition out of apartheid.

Defense

DRDO successfully conducts flight test of smart anti-airfield weapon

DRDO and the Indian Air Force have jointly conducted two flight tests of an indigenously developed smart anti-airfield weapon in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The electro-optical seeker-based flight test has been conducted for the first time in India and is equipped with Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) Seeker technology.

The test has been carried out for two different configurations of the weapon based on satellite navigation and electro-optical sensors.

Quick Facts: The Indian Air Force (IAF) was founded on 8 October 1932.

Miscellaneous

Azim Premji tops Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021

Founder-chairman of Wipro, Azim Premji has topped the 'Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021' by making the highest contribution of INR 9,713 crore between April 2020 and March 2021 towards philanthropic causes.

Founder of HCL Tech. Shiv Nadar retained the second spot followed by Mukesh Ambani.

The 'Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021' is compiled by the Edelgive Foundation and Hurun Research Institute.

6th November

International Affairs

Yahoo Inc. stops its services in China

Yahoo Inc. has announced that the company has stopped providing services in mainland China with effect from November due to the increasingly challenging business and legal environment in the country.

Yahoo has officially ended its 22-year presence in the Chinese market.

Services like Yahoo Weather, Yahoo Finance, and other websites run by Yahoo will not be accessible from within China.

Quick Facts: Jerry Yang and David Filo are the founders of Yahoo.

Economy

RBI commits to Support Greening India's Financial System

RBI has published its 'Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System- NGFS' to contribute towards the global response for meeting the climate goals.

RBI also praised the coordination efforts of NGFS in defining, promoting, and contributing towards the development of best practices in climate finance.

NGFS is a network of 83 central banks and financial supervisors that aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance.

Quick Facts: The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) was established in 2017 at the Paris One Planet Summit.

Environment

Tamil Nadu sets up first ever Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

Tamil Nadu in a big leap towards climate action has set up the first-ever Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to manage natural conservation missions in the state.

The SPV is being dubbed as "Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company".

The company will professionally manage three critical natural conservation missions namely Tamil Nadu Climate Change mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands mission, and Tamil Nadu Green movement mission.

State Affairs

Delhi's Air Quality deteriorates to 'severe' category

As per the Central Pollution Control Board's Data, the air quality of Delhi has deteriorated to the 'severe' category after Diwali.

The AQI of Delhi was recorded as 444 on November 5, reaching a peak of 451 on the same day.

Air pollution of severe levels affects healthy people and also has serious impacts on people with existing diseases.

Quick Facts: National Air Quality Index was launched in 2014 with the tagline 'One Number-One Colour-One Description'.

Science and Technology

China launches 3 new remote sensing satellites

China has successfully launched three new remote sensing satellites from the Xinchang Satellite Launch Centre.

The satellites belong to the Yaogan-35 family and were launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket.

The Long March carrier rocket series has been developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

Quick Facts: CASC was officially established in July 1999.

International Affairs

UK unveils commemorative coin celebrating Mahatma Gandhi

The United Kingdom's government has unveiled a Euro 5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

The special collector's coin has been designed by Heena Glover.

The coin features an image of a lotus, India's national flower alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes- 'My life is my message'.

Quick Facts: Chandigarh is the capital of Haryana.

Miscellaneous

UNEP calls for sustainable cooling in cities to limit carbon emissions

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has published a report titled 'Beating the Heat: A Sustainable Cooling Handbook for Cities'.

The report says the world's rapidly growing urban centers should adopt cooling technologies that are cleaner to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the report, investing in air condition systems that are less carbon-intensive is key to greening the urban environment.

Quick Facts: UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

8th November

International Affairs

WFP report unveils 3 million more at edge of famine

A report by the World Food Programme (WFP) has revealed that acute hunger has increased across the world.

The report states that 5 million people are living on the edge of famine across 43 countries.

The report suggests that fuel prices and food prices are increasing and fertilizer is more expensive which feeds into the new crises of starvation unfolding in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Syria.

Quick Facts: WFP is headquartered in Rome.

Science and Technology

Landsat 9 satellite sends 1st picture of Earth

NASA and US Geological Survey led the Landsat 9 mission to collect and send its first light images of the Earth.

All the acquired images provide a preview of how this mission will help people in managing vital natural resources and understanding the impacts of climate change.

Landsat 9 is an Earth observation satellite that was launched from the Space Launch Complex-3E at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Defense

Goa Maritime Conclave 2021 begins

The 3rd edition of the annual Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) will be hosted by India to the Navy chiefs of 12 nations of the Indian Ocean Region.

The three-day conclave will focus on the significance of interoperability for effectively dealing with emerging and future maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.

The theme of GMC 2021 is "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A case for a proactive role for Indian Ocean Region".

Quick Facts: Panaji is the capital of Goa.

Science and Technology

Australia announces rover on the Moon Project

Private companies in Australia and Canada are developing a moon mission in association with the University of Technology Sydney.

Under the mission, the Australian Technology will be sent to the moon by mid-2024 to hunt water on it.

The rover will be launched onboard the Hakuto lander both of which are built by space, a Japanese lunar robotic exploration company.

Economy

PhonePe launches 'SafeCard' to help users meet RBI norms

PhonePe has launched a tokenization solution named 'SafeCard' for online debit and credit card transactions.

RBI has made a device-based tokenization framework applicable to Card-on-File Tokenization services as well as Card-on-File (CoF).

Tokenization provides users an added layer of security by converting sensitive card information like card name, card number, and CVV, etc.

Quick Facts: Sameer Nigam is the CEO of PhonePe.

National Affairs

Civil Aviation Ministry declares Srinagar as a major airport

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has declared Srinagar airport as a 'major airport' under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Act, 2008 (AERA).

The move will allow AERA to determine the tariff including development fee and passenger service fee for aeronautical services at the airport.

Previously AAI was used to determine the tariff for the Srinagar airport.

Summits and Conferences

Silchar to host Northeast Green Summit from 16th November

Silchar (Assam) will be hosting a three-day long Northeast Green Summit from 16th November with the agenda of sustainable development.

The focus area of the summit will be Greening after COVID: Regional Cooperation, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

The summit will be organized by Vibgyor NE Foundation and will be supported by the UN Environment.

9th November

National Affairs

PM Modi dedicates multiple National Highways and road projects to nation

PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated various national Highway and Road projects to the nation in Pandharpur, Maharashtra.

The projects are aimed at improving connectivity in the region to facilitate the hassle-free and safe movement of devotees.

PM laid the foundation stone for the four laning of five sections of Sreesanth Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965).

Summits and Conferences

14th edition of Cyber security conference to be inaugurated by Bipin Rawat

The Chief Defense of Staff, General Bipin Rawat will inaugurate the 14th edition of the Cyber Security conference which will be held virtually from November 10 to 13.

The conference will be conducted by the Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organizations, the Society for the Policing of Cyberspace and the Information Security Research Association.

The theme of the year's conference is "Improvise, Adapt and Overcome".

Sports

Manika Batra and Archana Kamath clinches WTT Contender Table Tennis Tournament

The Indian duo Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament held in Lasko, Slovenia.

The Indian pair defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz to win the title.

Manika Batra also clinched a bronze medal in the women's singles title after Wang Yidi of China defeated her by 2-4.

Quick Facts: Panaji is the capital of Goa.

Sports

Max Verstappen wins 2021 Mexico City Grand Prix

Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Netherlands) has won the 2021 Mexico City Grand Prix held at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

Mercedes-driver Lewis Hamilton stood second while Sergio Perez came third.

Perez became the first Mexican to stand on his home podium at a jubilant Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

Person in News

India's Tajamul Islam wins gold medal in World Kickboxing Championship

The 13-year old Tajamul Islam is the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the gold medal under the 14 age category in the World Kickboxing Championship.

Tjamul defeated Argentina's Salina in the final.

Tjamul was born in Tarkpor (Kashmir) and is also a brand ambassador of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

Art and Culture

Srinagar join UNESCO creative cities network

Srinagar has been selected to join UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN) for the vibrant cultural ethos of the old city.

Srinagar has been designated as a creative city of craft and folk arts by UNESCO.

Apart from Srinagar, 48 cities have been added to the network of 246 cities following their designation in recognition of their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of development.

Quick Facts: UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, France.

National Affairs

'Tele-Law on Wheels' campaign launched by the Ministry of Justice

The Department of Justice has started a week-long 'Tele-law on Wheels' campaign from the 8th to the 14th of November.

The initiative will host a series of activities that will be undertaken to empower people through pre-litigation advice for rightfully claiming their entitlements.

Special Login week is also being organized for encouraging those in need to seek legal advice and consultation through tele and video conferencing facilities.

10th November

National Affairs

96 countries recognise India's COVID-19 vaccination certificate

According to Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya, about 96 countries have agreed to mutually recognize India's COVID-19 vaccination certificate.

The recognition will provide certain relaxation for people traveling from these countries.

The international travel vaccination certificate can be downloaded from the CoWIN portal.

Quick Facts: CoWIN stands for Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network.

International Affairs

Russia reveals new Forest Plan

Russia has revealed its new Forest Plan in an effort to deal with climate change.

Russian authorities have set an ambitious goal to make the Sakhalin Island carbon neutral by 2025.

The new Forest Plan was unveiled as tree growth will absorb much of the planet-warming carbon dioxide that half-million residents of the Island and its businesses produce.

Person in News

Wang Yaping becomes the first Chinese woman astronaut to walk in space

Wang Yaping became the first Chinese woman astronaut to walk in space.

China had launched the Shenzhou-13 spaceship on October 16 sending three astronauts on a six-month-long mission to the under-construction space station.

Wang Yaping moved out with her male colleague Zhai Zhigang from the core module called Tianhe and spent 6.5 hours on the spacewalk.

Quick Facts: China invented Kites in 5 BC.

Economy

RBI launches the 1st Global Hackathon named HARBRINGER 2021

The Reserve Bank of India has launched its first global hackathon named 'HARBRINGER 2021- Innovation for Transformation'.

The theme of HARBRINGER 2021 is 'Smarter Digital Payments'.

The Hackathon invites participants to identify and develop solutions that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served.

Sports

Rohit Sharma becomes the 3rd cricketer to score 3000 runs in men's T20Is

Indian batter Rohit Sharma has completed 3000 T20I runs and became the third cricketer in the world to achieve this.

Tajamul defeated Argentina's Salina in the final.

Tajamul was born in Tarkpora (Kashmir) and is also a brand ambassador of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

National Affairs

Union Minister launches Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched the first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators to mark the 75th year of India's Independence.

The program is a pan-India scheme that envisages Star College in every district of India supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The plan envisages organizing workshops, meetings per month, handhold at colleges, particularly in rural areas.

Defense

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar to be the next Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar has been appointed as the next Chief of Naval Staff with effect from 30th November 2021.

Kumar is presently the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

Kumar has succeeded Admiral Karambir Singh who will retire from the service on 30th November 2021.

11th November**Summits and Conferences****Piyush Goyal to inaugurate the 40th edition of IITF**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal will inaugurate the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021 at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

The theme of IITF 2021 is "Atma Nirbhar Bharat".

The overseas participation includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE, Tunisia, and Turkey.

National Affairs**India ranked 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022**

India has been ranked 10th in the Global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022 on the sidelines of the COP26.

The Index has been released by German-watch along with the Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute.

Scandinavian countries Denmark (4th), Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) together with UK and Morocco lead the 'race to zero'.

Quick Facts: Denmark is the world's largest exporter of wind turbines

Summits and Conferences**India launches E-Amrit portal for Electric Vehicles at COP26**

India has launched the 'E-Amrit' portal on electric vehicles (EVs) at the COP26 summit in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

The portal has been developed by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange program with support from the UK government.

The E-Amrit portal is a one-stop destination to provide all information regarding electric vehicles.

Quick Facts: PM Narendra Modi is the Chairman of NITI Aayog.

National Affairs

'Digital Payment Gateway' launched by the National Internet Exchange

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) under MeitY has launched the 'Digital Payment Gateway' to make the internet accessible to everyone.

The gateway will offer real-time payments and provide uninterrupted services ensuring a seamless experience for all the stakeholders.

NIXI has partnered with PayU and NSDL to offer payment gateway services.

Quick Facts: Ashwini Vaishnaw is the Union Minister of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Sports

Rohit Sharma to captain India's T-20 International team for upcoming series

India's vice-captain Rohit Sharma has been officially announced as Team India's T-20 International captain.

Rohit will be replacing Virat Kohli as the captain of the team.

The decision was announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Miscellaneous

Government to conduct National Achievement Survey (NAS)

The Government of India will conduct a National Achievement Survey (NAS) across the country on November 12.

The Union Government has been implementing the rolling program of sample-based NAS aimed at Classes III, V, VIII, and X with a cycle period of 3 years.

The test to be conducted in 22 mediums will assess the learning interruptions and new learning during the COVID pandemic suggesting remedial measures based on the tests.

International Affairs

US joins International Solar Alliance as a member country

The United States of America (USA) has become the 101st member country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The announcement was made at the UNFCCC COP26 on November 10, 2021.

ISA is an alliance of 124 countries that was initiated by India with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Quick Facts: ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India.

12th November

Economy

World's longest bi-lane road tunnel being constructed near Indo-China border

The world's longest bi-lane road tunnel called 'Sela Tunnel' is being built on the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang (BCT) road by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Vartak.

The tunnel is being constructed at an altitude of 13,800ft near the Indo-China border.

The tunnel would ensure better movement of troops and weaponry to different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Environment

Egypt to host COP27 Climate Summit next year

During the COP26 conference in Glasgow, it was decided that Egypt will host the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in 2022.

Egypt will host the conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Quick Facts: The first COP meeting was held in March 1995 in Berlin, Germany.

International Affairs

India and Sri Lanka revive Parliament Friendship Association

India and Sri Lanka have revived their 'Parliamentary Friendship Association' for which Minister Chamal Rajapaksa has been selected as its president.

The association will help in reinvigorating Parliamentary exchanges and strengthening bilateral ties between both countries.

Sri Lanka formed the Sri Lanka- India Parliamentary Friendship group after deciding to buy fertilizer from India on November 11, 2021.

Quick Facts: The spice cinnamon originated in Sri Lanka.

Space and Technology

SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission

US Space agency NASA and SpaceX have launched the 'Crew 3' mission which consists of Indian-origin NASA astronaut Raja Chari as its mission commander.

The other three astronauts are NASA's Tom Marshburn (pilot), Kayla Barron (mission specialist), and ESA's Matthias Maurer (mission specialist).

Under this mission, four astronauts have been sent to the ISS for a six-month science mission until April 2022.

Quick Facts: Bill Nelson is the administrator of NASA.

International Affairs

Fumio Kishida re-elected as the PM of Japan

Fumio Kishida, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan.

Fumio Kishida succeeded Yoshihide Suga who resigned as the PM of Japan in September 2020.

Elected just over a month ago by the parliament, Kishida called a quick election in which the governing party secured 261 seats in the 465 members lower house.

Quick Facts: Japanese Yen is the currency of Japan.

State Affairs

Odisha government launches road safety initiative 'Rakshak'

The state government of Odisha has launched a road safety initiative 'Rakshak' to train first responders of road accidents.

Under the program, 300 master trainers will train 30,000 local people staying or working at the eateries and different businesses established near accident-prone spots.

The initiative has been organized by the Commerce and Transport Department.

Quick Facts: Ganeshi Lal is the Governor of Odisha.

Miscellaneous

Falguni Nayar becomes India's richest self-made woman billionaire

Falguni Nayar, the CEO, and founder of fashion e-commerce platform Nykaa has become the richest self-made woman in India.

Nayar holds a 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion.

Nayar founded Nykaa in the year 2012.

13th November

International Affairs

Daniel Bruhl named as the Goodwill Ambassador of UN-World Food Programme

Spanish-German actor Daniel Bruhl has been named as the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations World Food Programme.

As a goodwill ambassador, he will inform about the main drivers of hunger and showcase the efforts of UN WFP to tackle both immediate needs and the root cause of hunger.

Bruhl will raise awareness for the millions of people going to bed hungry every night and engage his supporters in advocacy.

Quick Facts: UN World Food Programme was founded in 1961.

Defense

32nd edition of Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol begins

The 32nd edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted from 12-14 November 2021.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette, and his Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are participating in the CORPAT.

CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between the navies and facilitates the institution of measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities.

Quick Facts: Thailand is the largest exporter of Orchids.

Sports

Women's cricket to make its debut in Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The first matches for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will feature Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games with the T20 format.

The last time cricket was played in the multi-sporting showplace was in the 1998 edition in Kuala Lumpur.

The women's cricket T20 competition will be held at the Edgbaston Stadium from the 29 July with the bronze and gold medal matches taking place on 7 August.

Quick Facts: The Commonwealth Games were first held in 1930.

Defense

President confers 'General of Indian Army' rank to Nepal Army Chief

In continuation of a tradition that started in 1950, the Nepal Army Chief Gen Prabhu Ram Sharma was conferred with the honorary ranks of 'General of the Indian Army' by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Nepal conferred the honorary rank of the 'General of Nepal Army' to the Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane during his visit to Kathmandu last year.

Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region.

National Affairs

India's 1st National Yogasana Sports Championships organized in Bhubaneshwar

India's first physical National Yogasana Championship has been organized in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.

Around 500 young Yogasana Sports athletes from across 30 states would be taking part in the event.

The championship has been organized by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.

Person in News

Neeraj Chopra receives Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award

Neeraj Chopra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist in athletics has received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award from Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

Chopra won the gold medal at the Javelin throw event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics earlier this year.

The Major Dhyan Chand Award is given every year to recognize excellence in sports.

Science and Technology

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launches Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App

A part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App.

The app would connect the beneficiaries directly with the Panel Lawyers offering legal advice and consultations.

The app was created keeping in mind the responsibility of the government to ensure justice to the poor through whatever services they require.

15th November

Science and Technology

Norovirus confirmed in Wayanad, Kerala

The first case of Norovirus was confirmed in the Wayanad district of Kerala.

Norovirus is an animal-borne disease and is transmitted through contaminated water and food.

Norovirus is a group of viruses causing gastrointestinal illness and causes inflammation in the lining of the stomach and intestines, severe vomiting, and diarrhea.

Quick Facts: Arif Mohammad Khan is the Governor of Kerala.

Art and Culture

The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to begin

The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from November 20 to November 28, 2021.

IFFI to be hosted in Goa will witness 15 films including 'Land of Dreams' and Charlotte fighting for the top awards.

IFFI is one of the most significant film festivals of Asia held annually to provide a common platform for cinemas across the world to project the excellence of film art.

Quick Facts: IFFI was founded in 1952.

Defense

India-France to hold the 6th edition of Shakti 2021

Indian Army is set to conduct the sixth edition of the biennial training exercise with the French Army from November 15, 2021.

Shakti 2021 to be held in Frejus, France will witness the platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Regiment representing India.

The exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in light of semi-urban terrain under the mandate of the UN.

Environment

Sharks and Seahorses found in Thames River

During a recent health check of London's famous Thames river, it was found that it is now home to seahorses, seals, eels, and sharks.

The survey conducted by the Zoological Survey of London (ZSL) showed that the 364-kilometer long river has three kinds of sharks namely starry smooth-hound, the tope, and spurdog.

The news is significant because River Thames was declared 'biologically dead' in 1957.

Quick Facts: River Thames is the longest river entirely in England and the second-longest river in the UK.

Sports

Mitrabha Guha named as India's 72nd Grandmaster

A 20-year-old boy, Mitrabha Guha has become India's 72nd chess Grandmaster by bagging the third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia.

Guha achieved the GM title after securing the final norm at the ongoing GM Third Saturday Mix 220 tournament in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Guha had scored his second GM norm at the Sheikh Russel GM tournament held in Bangladesh.

Person in News

Nandita Sinha appointed as the CEO of Myntra

Fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra have named Nandita Sinha as its CEO recently.

Sinha has succeeded Amar Nagaram as the CEO of Myntra.

Sinha was also the co-founder at MyBabyCart.com which is an e-commerce site.

Quick Facts: Myntra is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

Miscellaneous

Defense Secretary releases a book titled 'FORCE IN STATECRAFT'

Defense Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar released a book titled 'FORCE IN STATECRAFT' recently.

The book is a compilation of essays on topics including counter-insurgency operations, conflicts in the North East and facets of India's national security.

The stalwarts of the armed forces are the contributors of the book who have vast operational experience and understanding of several important cornerstones of the forces.

16th November

Environment

'Kaiser-i-Hind' approved as the state butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh

The State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh headed by CM Pema Khandu has approved 'Kaiser-i-Hind' as the state butterfly.

'Kaiser-i-Hind' is a large and brightly colored butterfly that carries 'India' in its name.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed the Kaiser-i-Hind.

Quick Facts: Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under the Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Defense

Russia starts delivery of S-400 missile systems to India

Russia has started the delivery of the S-400 missile system to India in a bid to boost India's air-defense capabilities.

India bought this system for USD 5 billion in 2018.

The S-400 is considered the most advanced air-defense system worldwide.

Quick Facts: The world's longest continuous railway can be found in Russia.

Science and Technology

Longest Partial Lunar Eclipse of the Century

On November 19, 2021, in the morning, several countries will witness the next eclipse of the moon and it will be the longest partial lunar eclipse of the century.

It is going to be the longest lunar eclipse in 580 years and will last about 3 hours, 28 minutes, and 23 seconds.

The partial lunar eclipse will be visible across Eastern Asia, Australia, North America, South America, and the Pacific Region.

Science and Technology

Science and Technology Ministry inaugurates 'Tech NEEV@75'

The Ministry of Science and Technology has inaugurated "Tech NEEV@75" as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the setting up of 40 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs across the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the end of 2022.

Tech NEEV@75 is a year-long celebration highlighting the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI) in empowering the community to create equitable inclusive economic growth.

Quick Facts: Tech NEEV@75 is launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Sports

Australia wins their maiden T20 World Cup title by eight wickets

Australia has won the 2021 T20 World Cup after defeating New Zealand by eight wickets that were held on November 14, 2021, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, UAE.

This is the first T20 World Cup title won by Australia.

The Player of the Match has been awarded to Mitchell Marsh.

Quick Facts: The Player of the Tournament has been clinched by David Warner.

National Affairs

India successfully launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

India has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of 1st batch of its contingent.

The first batch comprising 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri.

The 41st expedition has 2 programs- Geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station and reconnaissance surveys-preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri.

Quick Facts: Indian Antarctic program began in 1981.

Miscellaneous

Indian Teenage brothers win 2021 International Children's Peace Prize

Two Delhi-based teenage brothers Vihaan and Nav Agarwal have won the 17th annual Kids Rights International Children's Peace Prize for tackling pollution in their home city by recycling household waste.

The duo received the award from Indian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

Vihaan and Nav have developed the One-Step Greener initiative for segregating rubbish and organizing waste pickups for trash for thousands of homes, schools, and offices.

17th November

Person in News

VVS Laxman named as the Head of National Cricket Academy (NCA)

Former Indian international cricketer VVS Laxman (47 years) has been named as the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

He will assume the office as NCA's head on 4th December 2021.

He will replace Rahul Dravid who has been appointed as Team India's national men's head coach.

Quick Facts: NCA is headquartered in Bengaluru.

Summits and Conference

VP Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Bengaluru Tech Summit

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a three-day annual flagship Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021.

The summit has been organized by the Department of Electronics IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka, and was co-hosted by STPI.

The central theme of BTS 2021 is "Driving the Next".

National Affairs

PM Modi inaugurates Purvanchal Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway at Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The 341 km long Purvanchal Express and will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur.

The expressway constructed at an estimated cost of INR 22,500 crore also has a 3.2 km long airstrip constructed there.

Quick Facts: Sarus Crane is the State Bird of Uttar Pradesh.

Economy

HDFC Bank has launched the 2nd edition of 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign

HDFC Bank has launched the 2nd edition of its 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign to raise awareness on fraud prevention in support of the International Fraud Awareness Week 2021.

The campaign aims to increase awareness of customers on all types of frauds and the importance of keeping your mouth shut to prevent them from sharing confidential banking information.

HDFC Bank will organize 2,000 workshops in the next four months under this campaign.

Quick Facts: HDFC bank has been headquartered in Mumbai, India.

Economy

Kotak Mahindra Bank and PVR Cinemas launch co-branded movie debit card

Kotak Mahindra Bank and PVR Cinemas have launched co-branded movie debit cards.

Kotak PVR debit cardholders will get automatically enrolled in the PVR Privilege Plus program.

The cardholders will receive joining vouchers and earn points on every transaction on the debit card at PVR and outside PVR as well.

Quick Facts: The Player of the Tournament has been clinched by David Warner.

International Affairs

ADB and the World bank has launched 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum'

The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held through a virtual platform on November 9, 2021, to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India

The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF).

The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition.

Quick Facts: David Robert Malpass is the President of the World Bank.

Environment

India's 1st grass conservatory inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation center' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.

The conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme.

The conservatory has been created to raise awareness about the importance of grass species and promote their conservation.

Quick Fact: Uttarkhand Capitals- Dehradun (Winter) and Gairsain (Summer).

18th November

State Affairs

Arunachal Pradesh Government adopted 'Pakke Declaration' on climate change

The government of Arunachal Pradesh approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh'.

The declaration aims to promote climate-resilient development in the state.

The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes or Panch Dharas.

Quick Facts: Itanagar is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh.

Sports

Mahela Jayawardena, Shaun Pollock and Janette Brittin inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced cricket legends Mahela Jayawardena (Sri Lanka), Shaun Pollock (SA), and Janette Brittin (England) to be inducted into the hall of fame.

The ICC Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history.

In total, 106 players have been inducted since its launch in 2009.

Quick Facts: ICC is headquartered in Dubai, UAE.

Summits and Conferences

PM Modi to open All India Presiding Officers Conference in Shimla

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) in Shimla.

ALL India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) is celebrating its hundred years in 2021.

The first conference was held in Shimla in 1921 and the AIPOC is being held in Shimla for the seventh time.

Quick Facts: The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are the Presiding Officers of Lok Sabha.

Books and Authors

"The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India" by Debashish Mukerji

A book titled "The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India" has been authored by Debashish Mukerji.

The book presents a detailed account of India's eighth Prime Minister (PM) Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Vishwanath served as the PM between 1989 to 1990 and also served as the Defense Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Quick Facts: BCCI is headquartered in Mumbai, India.

Person in News

World Famous Legendary author Wilbur Smith passes away

Internationally acclaimed Zambia-born South African author Wilbur Smith has passed away recently at the age of 88.

The global bestselling author has authored 49 novels and sold over 140 million copies worldwide in more than 30 languages.

Wilbur rose to fame in 1964 with his debut novel "When the Lion Feeds" which turned in the movie with 15 sequels.

Quick Facts: Wilbur published his autobiography "On Leopard Rock" in 2018.

Miscellaneous

Tamil film Koozhangal selected to be screened at the IFFI 2021

Tamil film Koozhangal will be screened at the Indian Panorama segment in the 52 International Film Festival to be held in Goa.

The story is about a relationship between an alcoholic, abusive husband and his wife narrated from the viewpoint of their child.

Koozhanagal is also India's official entry for Academy Award for Oscars.

Quick Facts: The IFFI will be organized from 20 to 28 November 2021.

Science and Technology

Kerala to launch mobile app for Waste Disposal

The Kerala government is set to launch a mobile application to improve and track the collection of inorganic waste across local self-governing bodies.

The app will be launched across all six municipal corporations, 200 village bodies, and 70 odd municipalities in the initial phase.

The waste collection will be tracked by the volunteers of state poverty alleviation and women empowerment program called 'Kudumbashree Mission'.

Quick Facts: The poverty eradication and women empowerment program is being implemented in the state of Kerala by State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM).

19th November

National Affairs

Piyush Goyal launches India's 1st Digital Food Museum in Tamil Nadu

Union Minister Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Digital Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

The museum was co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) span an area of 1,860 sq ft.

The museum is the first one-of-its-kind effort to depict India's food story from the beginning to India becoming the largest food grain exporter in the world.

Quick Facts: Atish Chandra is the MD and Chairman of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

State Affairs

Telangana's Pochampally selected as one of the best tourism villages

Pochampally village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana known for its famous hand-woven ikat saris was selected as one of the best tourism villages by UNWTO.

The award will be given at the 24th session of the UNWTO general assembly on December 2 in Madrid.

The best tourism villages by the UNWTO pilot initiative aims to award those villages which are outstanding examples of rural destinations and showcase good practices.

Quick Facts: K Chandrashekhar Rao is the Chief Minister of Telangana.

Person in News

Shombi Sharp appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator in India

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Shombi Sharp of the United States as a sustainable development expert, as the UN Resident Coordinator in India.

Sharp will lead the UN team in India and work towards India's COVID-19 response plans to recover better for the SDGs.

Prior to this, Sharp served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia.

Quick Facts: United Nations was founded in 24 October, 1945.

Sports

Sourav Ganguly appointed as the Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee

The President of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee.

Ganguly will replace Anil Kumble who assumed charge in 2012.

Kumble stepped down having served a maximum of three separate three-year terms.

Quick Facts: BCCI is headquartered in Mumbai, India.

State Affairs

PM Modi launches 'Ration Aapke Gram' and 'Sicke Cell Mission' scheme in MP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a series of Tribal welfare programs- Ration Aapke Gram and Sickle Cell Mission in Madhya Pradesh.

Modi also laid the foundation stone for the construction of 50 new Eklavya Model Residential schools across India.

PM Modi also praised the richness of their spiritual and cultural life and that every aspect of tribal songs as well as dances carries a life lesson.

Quick Facts: Bhopal is the capital of Madhya Pradesh.

Summits and Conferences

21st Indian Ocean Rim Association Annual Council of Ministers' Meeting

India virtually participated in the 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

The summit was held in a hybrid format in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

IORA is an inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.

Quick Facts: IORA has 23 member states and 9 dialogue partners.

Defense

BDL signs USD 21 million contract with Airbus Defense and Space

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a USD 21 million export contract for Counter-Measures Dispensing System (CMDs) with Airbus Defense and Space.

Under the contract, BDL will supply its Counter Measures Dispensing System to the Spanish entity.

The public sector firm is looking at export opportunities for offerings such as Akash Weapon System, Astra Weapon System, Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon, and Helina Light Weight Torpedo.

20th November

Environment**Delhi pledges to clean Yamuna by 2025**

Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal has pledged to clean the Yamuna river completely promising to make the water fit to drink and bathe by the year 2025.

He has announced a six-point action plan to clean the holy river.

Yamuna River has become one of the most polluted rivers worldwide and is particularly polluted downstream of New Delhi.

Quick Facts: The Yamuna is the second-largest tributary of Ganga and the longest tributary in India.

Economy**The Ministry of Coal constitutes 'Sustainable Development Cell'**

The Ministry of Coal has constituted a Sustainable Development Cell in line with the commitment to clean energy.

The Sustainable Development Cell was constituted in the backdrop of the Prime Minister's announcement on new climate targets at COP26 under the 'Panchamrit Strategy'.

The SDC will mentor, advise and plan action of minimizing the adverse impact of mining.

Economy**SIDBI-Google join hands to support MSMEs**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India to support MSMEs

The partnership will pilot a social impact lending program providing financial assistance of up to INR 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.

The main focus of the program is to support enterprises run by women entrepreneurs.

Quick Facts: SIDBI was established on April 2, 1990.

International Affairs

Japan PM unveils USD 490 billion stimulus package

PM of Japan Fumio Kishida unveils a record-breaking stimulus package which approximately equals 56 trillion Japanese Yen.

The plan comprises 100,000 yen payments for people aged 18 years or younger and aid for ailing businesses.

The Japanese government will also compile an extra budget by the end of 2021 to fund the stimulus program to deliver necessary aid to the public.

State Affairs

Odisha's School Transformation Programme

Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated 130 reconstructed schools as part of a school transformation program.

The program has been launched to create an atmosphere to bring a competitive attitude among students.

In all, 351 transformed schools have been inaugurated in the state.

Quick Facts: Ashoka is the State Flower of Odisha.

Miscellaneous

Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi to be awarded the Film Personalities of the Year 2021

Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi will be facilitated with the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the 52nd IFFI 2021 in Goa.

Actor Hema Malini is a 2-time BJP MP from Mathura while lyricist Joshi is a former chairperson of CBFC.

IFFI 2021 will kick off on November 20th in a hybrid format.

Economy

IndusInd Bank launches mobile app for merchants

IndusInd Bank has launched a comprehensive mobile app 'Indus Merchant Solutions' to enable merchants, retailers, and professionals to carry out banking transactions digitally on a single platform.

The app will enable merchants and retailers to undertake an array of activities.

The app can be used by any current account holder of IndusInd Bank and start using it.

Quick Facts: Sumant Kathpalia is the CEO of IndusInd Bank.

22nd November

International Affairs

Russia successfully tests fired Hypersonic Cruise Missile 'Zircon'

The Russian Navy has successfully test-fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Frigate- Admiral Gorshlov warship.

The missile rightly hit the test target placed in the Russian Arctic waters.

Russia destroyed its satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named 'Nudol' which led to the formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites.

Quick Facts: Rouble is the currency of Russia.

Defense

INS Vishakhapatnam commissioned into Indian Navy

INS Vishakhapatnam, a P158 stealth guided-missile destroyer has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

INS Vishakhapatnam is the first of the four 'Vishakhapatnam' class destroyers designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organization Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai.

The destroyer measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.

Quick Facts: Indian Navy was founded on 26 January 1950.

National Affairs

President Ramnath Kovind presents Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021 at the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi.

The cleanest city award has been presented to Indore.

2021 is the 6th edition of Swachh Survekshan awards in which as many as 4,320 cities were surveyed.

Quick Facts: The cleanest district award has been awarded to Surat.

Sports

Lewis Hamilton wins 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes- Great Britain) has won the 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix.

Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Netherlands) came second while Fernando Alonso (Alpine- Spain) came third.

Lewis Hamilton has become the first driver to have won at 30 different circuits in Formula 1.

Person in News

AB de Villiers announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

He had already announced retirement from International cricket in 2018 however he was still playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

The 37-year-old made the announcement ending a 17-year career which saw him play in 114 Tests, 228 ODIs, and 78 T20Is for the Proteas.

Sports

India ends with 7 medals at the 2021 Asian Archery Championships

The 2021 Asian Archery Championship was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Indian archers bagged seven medals at the competition to occupy second place in the medal table.

South Korea won 15 medals to top the medal table while the host Bangladesh settled at third place with 3 medals.

Quick Facts: The gold medal in the women's compound event by Jyothi Sureksha Vennam.

Miscellaneous

Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction

The 72nd edition of the National Book Awards was organized as a virtual event by the National Book Foundation.

Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel "Hell of a Book".

The book is a narrative about a black author's adventure while traveling around on a book tour.

Quick Facts: Young People's Literature Award under the 2021 National Book Awards has been given to 'Last Night at the Telegraph Club'.

23rd November

International Affairs

Australia signs submarine deal with US and UK

Australia signed a submarine deal with new defense alliances, namely the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) recently.

The deal was signed by Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton with US and British diplomats.

The first of a kind agreement on technology to be publicly signed will allow the exchange of sensitive "naval nuclear propulsion information" between three countries.

Government Schemes

Virtual Science Lab launched under the CSIR Jigyasa Programme

The Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children.

The program will connect students with scientists across India providing a virtual tour of CSIR labs and exposing students to research infrastructure.

JIGYASA is a major national-level initiative of CSIR which has been launched to widen and deepen its Scientist Social Responsibility (SSR).

Quick Facts: The full form of CSIR is the 'Council of Scientific and Industrial Research'.

Economy

World Investor Week 2021 begins

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE have launched the celebrations of the globally popular event "World Investor Week 2021".

WIW is a week-long global celebration promoted by IOSCO which is observed to raise awareness on the importance of investor education and protection across India.

The celebrations will witness market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) like stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories conducting educational activities.

Quick Facts: The full form of IOSCO is "International Organisation of Securities Commissions".

International Affairs

ABU-UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021

The Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)- UNESCO Peace Awards were presented at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In the event, Doordarshan received an award for its program "DEAFinitely Leading the Way" while All India Radio's program "Living Well with Super-Diversity" also won an award.

The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with ABU under an initiative called "Together for Peace".

Quick Facts: Ibrahim Erin is the President of ABU.

National Affairs

Educational Minister launches Centres for Nanotechnology at IIT Guwahati

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Indian Knowledge System at IIT Guwahati.

The Centre for Nanotechnology will work towards meeting future challenges and augmenting partnerships with industry in Nanotechnology.

The funding for the Centre came from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

International Affairs

El Salvador plans to build World's first 'Bitcoin City'

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele has announced that the country is planning to build the world's first "Bitcoin city".

The city which will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds would get geothermal power from a volcano.

The Bitcoin city will not levy any taxes except for Value-Added Tax (VAT).

Quick Facts: San Salvador is the capital of El Salvador.

Miscellaneous

Pratham NGO wins Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021

Pratham NGO has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 for its work on expanding the scope of education in India.

The pioneering work of the NGO for more than a quarter-century is ensuring that every child has access to quality education through the use of digital technology.

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award that is conferred every year since 1968 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

24th November

Environment

94 out of 100 most polluted cities in India, China and Pakistan

According to air quality tracker 'IQAir', air pollution is estimated to cost the global economy upwards of USD 2.9 trillion each year because of fossil fuel emissions alone.

According to IQAir data, India has 46 of the world's 100 most polluted cities in 2020 followed by China with 42 cities and Pakistan with 6 cities.

IQAir is a Swiss air quality technology company that specializes in protection against airborne pollutants, air cleaning products, and developing air quality monitoring.

Quick Facts: In 2020, Hotan city in China's Xinjiang province had the worst average air quality with 110.2.

Defense

Sagar Shakti Exercise conducted in Kutch Peninsula

The Sagar Shakti Exercise was held recently in the creek sector of the Kutch peninsula for four days.

The exercise witnessed participation of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Gujarat Police, Border Security Force, and the Marine Police.

During the exercise, capability and readiness of India to confront any multidimensional security threat were elaborately tested.

Quick Facts: Sir Creek was originally called Ban Ganga.

International Affairs

US invites Taiwan to its Summit for Democracy

US President Joe Biden has invited Taiwan along with more than 100 countries for a virtual summit.

The first-ever "Summit for Democracy" is scheduled to take place online on December 9 and 10, 2021 is being organized because democracy has suffered setbacks across different countries.

The US did not invite China and Russia into this meeting.

Quick Facts: Taipei is the capital of Taiwan.

Government Schemes

Bharat Gaurav scheme launched by Indian Railways

The Indian Railways has launched a new scheme called 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme' allowing private tour operators to take trains on lease from railways.

Private operators would also get the freedom to decide routes, fares, and quality of services on the trains.

Anyone including trusts, societies, consortia, and even state government can apply to lease these trains and run them on special theme-based tourism circuits.

Quick Facts: Indian Railways was founded on 16 April 1853.

Sports

Tamil Nadu defeats Karnataka to win Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

In cricket, Tamil Nadu has lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy defeating Karnataka after chasing a target of 152.

The match was held in the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi.

Tamil Nadu has won the trophy for the third time having previously won in 2006-07 and 2020-21.

Quick Facts: The Madras High Court building is the second biggest judicial structure in the world.

Person in News

Abdalla Hamdok reappointed as Sudan's PM

Sudan's removed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok who was reappointed after signing a political declaration to end the current political crisis by Hamdok and Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

Hamdok and Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan are the general commanders of the Sudanese Armed Force.

Before becoming the PM, Hamdok worked for the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

Quick Facts: Khartoum is the capital of Sudan.

Miscellaneous

International Emmy Awards 2021 announced

The 2021 International Emmy Awards was the 49th edition of the annual ceremony held in New York City.

The award recognizes excellence in television programs produced and aired originally outside the US and non-English language US primetime programs.

The Best Actor and Actress have been awarded to David Tennant for Des (UK) and Hayley Squires for Adult Material (UK) respectively.

25th November

International Affairs

JPMorgan named world's most systematic bank

JPMorgan Chase has once again been named the world's most systematic bank according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators.

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) made up of regulators from G20 countries published its latest table of the world's 30 most systematic banks.

The 30 lenders are divided into four buckets in order of how systematic, international, interconnected, and complex they are.

Quick Facts: Jamie Dimon is the current CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Science and Technology

NASA launches world's first DART Mission

The US space agency NASA has launched a first-of-its-kind mission named DART to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it.

The USD 325 million DART mission was launched into orbit from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

The mission aims to test asteroid-deflecting technology.

Quick Facts: DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

Defense

India, Maldives and Sri Lanka conducts biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti'

The 15th edition of the biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' was conducted between Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka recently.

The five-day exercise was conducted between the Coast Guards of the three countries marking the 30th year since the initiation of the exercise.

Indian Coast Guard vessels, Integrated Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) Vajra and Apoorva along with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship (SLCGS) Suraksha participated in the exercise.

Quick Facts: Taipei is the capital of Taiwan.

Agreement

SBI signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op Milk Producers' Union Ltd.

SBI signed an MoU with Pondicherry Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd. for financing individual dairy farmers up to INR 3 lakhs.

The loan will be made available through the YONO application of the SBI Bank.

Around 3,500 dairy farmers supplying milk to 98 primary milk societies of PONLAIT would be benefitting from the arrangement.

Quick Facts: Dinesh Kumar Khara is the Chairperson of SBI.

Person in News

SK Sohan Roy becomes the first Indian to be honoured with the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa

Dr. SK Sohan Roy from Kerala has become the first Indian to be honored with the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa for his humanitarian and environmental protection efforts in business and movies.

Roy is the CEO and Founder of Aries Group of Companies,

The honorary title of 'Knight of Parte Guelfa' has been conferred upon him during the conferencing ceremony organized at the Basilica of Santa Croce and the Palagio di Parte Guelfa in Florence, Italy.

Quick Facts: The color of the Italian flag represents three virtues- hope (green), faith (white), and charity (red).

Sports

Alexander Zverev beats Daniil Medvedev to win ATP Finals title

Alexander Zverev of Germany has beaten the World No. 2, Daniil Medvedev of Russia, in the men's singles finals to clinch the 2021 ATP Finals title held in Turin, Italy.

The title is Zverev's second Nitto ATP Finals title after winning the first in 2018.

Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut of France have clinched the men's doubles title by defeating Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury.

Miscellaneous

Shimla tops NITI Aayog's inaugural SDG Urban Index

NITI Aayog launched the inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22 to further strengthen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Shimla has topped among the 56 urban areas while Dhanbad in Jharkhand is at the bottom of the index.

The index is an SDG progress monitoring tool at the ULB level to highlight the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems.

26th November

Economy

PM Modi inaugurates Noida International Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Gautam Buddh Nagar.

The airport is being developed by the Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (YIAPL) under the PPP model in association with the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Indian Government.

The airport will be India's first net-zero emissions airport and will also have the provision of multi-modal seamless connectivity.

Summits and Conferences

13th ASEM Summit held

The 13th edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit is scheduled to be held on November 25 and 26, 2021.

The summit to be led by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is titled "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth".

ASEM is an Asian-European political dialogue forum that works to enhance relations and several forms of cooperation between its partners.

Quick Facts: ASEM was established on March 1, 1996, at the 1st ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

Government Schemes

Cabinet approves continuation of O-SMART

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme called "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources, and Technology (O-SMART)".

The scheme was launched on August 29, 2018, to promote ocean research and set early warning weather systems.

The approval for the scheme has been given for INR 2177 crore.

International Affairs

Germany announces Euro 1.2 billion to aid India in fighting climate change

Germany has announced new development commitments of around Euro 1.2 billion aid to India in support of India's fight against climate change.

The announcement for the aid was made aid the visit of a delegation from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development.

The Indo-German cooperation rests on four key megatrends namely Urbanisation, Climate Change, Pressure on democracy and society, and the degradation of natural resources.

Person in News

India's candidate elected to execute committee of Interpol

Praveen Sinha, Special Director of CBI was elected as the delegate for Asia in the executive committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

The elections involved four contestants from China, Singapore, South Korea, and Jordan and were held in Istanbul, Turkey during the ongoing 89 INTERPOL General Assembly.

Interpol is the world's largest international police organization with a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states.

Quick Facts: Interpol is headquartered in Lyon, France.

Defense

37th India-Indonesia CORPAT exercise held in Indian Ocean

The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was held in the Indian Ocean region recently.

Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khanjar and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in the CORPAT.

CORPAT was conducted for the first time in the year 2002.

Quick Facts: Indonesia is home to Komodo Dragon, the largest lizard in the world.

Government Schemes

Nirmala Sitharaman launches Tejasvini and Hausala schemes

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched two schemes named 'Tejasvini and Housala schemes' of J&K bank for girls and Shikhar and Shikara schemes of PNB.

Tejasvini scheme focuses on providing financial assistance of INR 5 lakhs to girls between the age of 18-35 years for starting their business.

Shikhar scheme focuses on meeting the credit requirement of up to INR 2 crore for the hotel, tour, and tourism industry.

Quick Facts: Manoj Sinha is the Lieutenant of J&K.

27th November

National Affairs

ADB approves USD 1.5 billion loan to India for purchasing COVID-19 vaccines

The ADB has approved a USD 1.5 billion loans to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.

The loan from ADB will fund at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people.

The loan will support India's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which aims to fully vaccinate 94.47 crore people aged 16 years and above.

Quick Facts: ADB is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines.

Economy

YES Bank partners with Amazon Pay for UPI Transactions

Yes Bank has collaborated with Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer customers an instant real-time payment system through a UPI transaction facility.

The partnership will enable Amazon Pay to issue UPI IDs with the @yapl handle allowing customers to make secure, fast, and convenient payments.

The collaboration also allows Yes Bank to acquire merchants through the Amazon Pay platform.

Quick Facts: Prashant Kumar is the CEO of Yes Bank.

Agreement

Prime Volleyball League signs RuPay as title sponsor for three years

The flagship product of NPCI, RuPay has come on board as the title sponsor of the Prime Volleyball League.

The card payment network has acquired the title sponsorship rights of the sporting league for three years of the league which is scheduled to take place in early 2022.

The tournament will consist of 24 games and the player auction will be held in Kochi on December 14.

Quick Facts: The tagline of RuPay is "ONE LIFE, ONE RuPay".

National Affairs

MPI Report: Bihar, Jharkhand, UP emerge as poorest states in India

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by NITI Aayog, Bihar, Jharkhand, and UP have emerged as the poorest states in India.

Bihar has the highest number of malnourished people followed by Jharkhand, MP, UP, and Chhattisgarh.

Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab have registered the lowest poverty rate across India.

Government Schemes

Women's Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER) program

The WISER program has been launched recently to promote women in the field of research and development by lateral entry.

The program has been launched by Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) to encourage women researchers in R&D projects

The project is a joint initiative of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), India, and the Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF) of Germany.

Quick Facts: DST was established in May 1971.

Summits and Conferences

21st India-Russia Annual Summit to be held

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to pay an official visit to New Delhi on December 6, 2021, to attend the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit.

The summit will be the first face-to-face meeting between Vladimir and PM Narendra Modi following their meeting at the BRICS Summit in November 2019 in Brasilia.

During the summit, the leaders will review the state and prospects of bilateral relations and discuss ways to further strengthen the strategic relationship of the two countries.

Quick Facts: Astronauts who have been shortlisted for the Human Space Programme of India were trained by Russia.

Miscellaneous

Amazon, Asian Paints, Tata Tea top the 'Most Purposeful Brands Banking'

According to Kantar's BrandZ India 2021 report, Amazon, Tata Tea, and Asian Paints emerged as the most powerful brands in India across technology.

In technology ranking, Amazon leads the index followed by Zomato, YouTube, Google, and Swiggy jointly in 4th place.

Asian Paints has topped the non-FMCG category while Tata Tea has topped the FMCG category.

29th November

Environment

Kuno National Park to get 13 cheetahs next year

The Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh is set to get 13 cheetahs in 2022.

The project is crucial in India as it would mean the introduction of the fastest animal on Earth into the wild after 69 years of the last surviving cheetah to be hunted down in 1952 in Chhattisgarh.

As per the United Nations, Cheetahs have been listed as 'Vulnerable' in the Red List of Threatened Species by IUCN.

Quick Facts: IUCN stands for the "International Union for Conservation of Nature".

International Affairs

Petr Fiala has been named the new PM of Czech Republic

Petr Fiala has been named the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic by President Milos Zeman recently.

Fiala ousted the outgoing populist PM Andrej Babis with the help of several left-wing parties.

Fiala aged 57 heads the three-party coalition namely Civic Democratic Part, the TOP 09 party, and the Christian Democrats together.

Quick Facts: The Czech Republic also known as Czechia was formerly known as Bohemia.

Government Schemes

Kerala Tourism launches STREET project

Kerala Tourism is set to launch the "STREET Project" at select spots across seven districts to take tourism deep into the interiors and hinterland of the state.

STREET is an acronym for "Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experimental, Ethnic, Tourism Hubs".

Under the project, themes like Green Street, village life experience street, cultural street, experiential tourism street, water street, agri-tourism street, and art street have been planned.

Art and Culture

7th India International Science Festival 2021 to be held in Goa

The 7th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in Panaji, Goa.

IISF is a 4-day event that will be held from 10th to 13th December 2021.

IISF has been organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and the Government of Goa.

Quick Facts: Goa is India's smallest state by area.

International Affairs

WHO classified a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 named 'Omicron'

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 titled 'Omicron'.

The variant is currently circulating in South Africa as a 'variant of concern'.

The variant has been identified as Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA).

Defense

Maiden Colombo Security Conclave Focused Operation being conducted

Maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation is being conducted between lead Maritime Security Agencies of India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

The conclave is a two-day focused operation.

The aim of CSC Focused Operation is to keep the vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade, and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

Person in News

Harshwanti Bisht becomes the first women President of Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Noted mountaineer from Uttarakhand Harshwanti Bisht has earned the distinction of being elected the first woman President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).

The 62-year-old Bisht won 60 out of a total of 107 votes to get elected to the coveted post.

This is the first time that a woman has been elected as the President of the IMF which was founded in year 1958.

30th November

International Affairs

UAE's Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi elected as the President of INTERPOL

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has elected Inspector General Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (UAE) as its President for a 4-year term.

The announcement was made at the 89th Interpol General Assembly meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Ahmed has replaced Kim Jong Yan from South Korea.

Quick Facts: INTERPOL is headquartered in Lyon, France.

International Affairs

South Korea to get world's first floating city by 2025

South Korea is soon going to get the world's first floating city to deal with the problem of floods due to the rising sea levels.

The floating city is a joint effort by the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habit) and OCEANIX.

The city will be built off the coast of Busan in South Korea and will have "flood-proof infrastructure".

Quick Facts: South Korean Won is the currency of South Korea.

Person in News

Indian-origin executive Parag Agrawal appointed as the new Twitter CEO

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.

Parag is now the youngest CEO in the S&P 500 besides Meta Platform Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Parag joined Twitter 10 years ago when there were fewer than 1,000 employees and has been behind every critical decision that helped uplift the company.

Quick Facts: Twitter was founded on 21 March 2006.

Economy

India's 1st credit card made from recycled PVC plastic launched by HSBC

HSBC India has launched India's first credit cards made from recycled PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) plastic.

The cards have been introduced in partnership with global cards manufacturer IDEMIA to gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic.

The cards have been made from 85 percent recycled plastic and each card will save 3.18 grams of plastic waste in addition to helping lower overall carbon emission.

Quick Facts: Hitendra Dave is the CEO of HSBC India.

Sports

Saurav Ghosal wins Malaysian Open Squash Championship 2021

Indian Squash star, Sourav Ghosal has scripted history by becoming the first Indian squash player to win the Malaysian Open Championships.

The second-seeded Ghosal beat Miguel Rodriguez of Colombia in the men's singles final in Kuala Lumpur to win the 2021 Malaysian Open Squash Championships title.

The women's singles title of the 2021 Malaysian Open squash championships has been won by Malaysia's Aifa Azman.

Miscellaneous

Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

The UN has recognized the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare that is held annually on November 30.

The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of chemical weapons.

The first day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare was held in 2005.

Miscellaneous

IPI India Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2021 announced

The International Press Institute (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2021 has been awarded jointly to Sreenivasan Jain & Mariyam Alavi of NDTV and Lakshmi Subramanian & Bhanu Prakash Chandra of "The Week".

The IPI India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2020 has been awarded to Ritika Chopra of the Indian Express.

The Vienna-based IPI is a global organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of press freedom and the improvement of journalism practices.

Quick Facts: IPI was founded by 34 editors from 14 countries at Columbia University in 1950.