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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 16-30, 2021

SI. No	TOPICS	Pg.No
1	Tamil Nadu	3
2	State	10
3	National	13
4	India and Other Countries	20
5	International	21
6	Economy	24
7	Science and Technology	25
8	Appointment	28
9	Conferences and Summits	29
10	Schemes	32
11	Defence	33
12	Books and Authors	35
13	Personalities	36
14	Report	37
15	Ranking	41
16	Obituary	42
17	Important Days	43
18	Awards	48
19	Sports	51
20	Miscellaneous	54

TAMIL NADU

➤ **Food Security Museum**

- ✓ Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food, and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal on 15 November 2021, virtually launched India's first Food Security Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The museum showcases India's agriculture revolution from dependency to self-sufficiency.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC)**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) - has framed regulations for solar power generation plants and fixed tariffs for low tension (LT) consumers and high tension (HT) consumers.
- ✓ The regulations were issued by TNERC on November 15.
- ✓ The new regulations are aimed at boosting solar power installations in the state and to encourage small land holders to get into solar power generation.

➤ **Thooya Tamizh Patralar Award**

- ✓ 18-year-old V Varatharajan wins 'Thooya Tamizh Patralar' award.
- ✓ The Thooya Tamizh Patralar award instituted by the Tamil Nadu government, has been conferred on V Varatharajan, an 18-year old student from Melur.
- ✓ The award was instituted to honour those who use pure Tamil in daily life.

➤ **Tamil Film Koozhangal**

- ✓ Tamil film Koozhangal selected to be screened at IFFI 2021, the Indian Panorama segment in the 52 International Film Festival Goa.
- ✓ Koozhangal is also India's official entry for Academy Award for Oscars.

➤ **Tancem's 'Valimai' Cement Brand**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday launched 'Valimai' – a new cement brand from the Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited (Tancem), a State government undertaking.
- ✓ The two varieties of the Valimai cement brand are priced at 350 and 365 a bag.

➤ **Pongal Gift Hampers**

- ✓ On November 17, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced Pongal gift hampers for 2.15 crore PDS family cardholders in the state.

- ✓ The gift hampers costing 1,088 crore will be given to rice cardholders and Sri Lankan Tamils staying in rehabilitation centres during the Pongal festival in January 2022.
- **Madras Sappers**
 - ✓ The Madras Sappers celebrated its 241st Corps Day on 18 November 2021.
 - ✓ The Indian Army's Corps of Engineers officially recognizes its birth in 1780 when the oldest group of the Corps, the Madras Sappers, was raised.
- **Innuyir Kaappom Thittam**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu - has become the first state in the country to offer free 81 lifesaving emergency treatment procedures to accident victims for two days of their hospitalisation.
 - ✓ The procedures worth 1 lakh can be availed at 609 empanelled government and private hospitals in the state.
 - ✓ The scheme - **Nammai Kaakkum 48** (saving our lives in 48 hours) – was announced by the Government on November 18.
 - ✓ The scheme will cover all those who don't have any insurance schemes.
 - ✓ The state has set aside 50 crore for the first phase of implementation of the 'Innuyir Kaappom Thittam' (saving precious lives).
- **Silambam**
 - Silambam or stick fencing is a pre-historic ancient martial art form which originated in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ On November 18, the Tamil Nadu government - included 'Silambam' as one of the sporting disciplines which will be eligible under the 3% sports quota for recruitment in public sector undertakings (PSUs) and government departments.
 - ✓ Silambam was included as one of the sports disciplines for consideration under the sports quota for admission into professional courses like medical, engineering, law, etc.
- **V O Chidambaram's Literary Works**
 - ✓ On November 18, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled books on freedom fighter V O Chidambaram's literary works at the Secretariat to mark the beginning of the year-long celebration of his 150th birth anniversary.
 - ✓ The first volume of the compendium of VOC's works (V.O.C Pannool Thirattu) and the second volume of VOC's speech on 'Thirukkural' (V.O.C. Thirukkural Urai) were published by Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTBESC).

➤ **National Highways**

- ✓ On November 18, Chief minister M K Stalin - requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare eight state roads in Tamil Nadu as national highways.
- ✓ In this regard, the CM requested the Centre to direct the Union ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) and entrust the development work with the state government with requisite funding.

➤ **FinTech Governing Council**

- ✓ On November 19, the Tamil Nadu government - formed a FinTech governing council comprising members from the government and the industry
- ✓ It has been formed based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.
- ✓ The council will form sub-committees to address various aspects in the upcoming Fin-Tech Policy such as marketing and branding, business development and outreach, partnerships, education, venture capital and regulation.

➤ **Helpline Number '14417'**

- ✓ The government - to print the helpline number '14417' in all the school textbooks to create awareness about child abuse and harassment among the student community as well the general public.
- ✓ The helpline number,14417, was created specifically for school students, teachers, and parents to extend counselling.

➤ **Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission**

- ✓ Vidya Mahambare, professor of Economics and Program Director, PGDM, at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai - has been appointed on the expert committee of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.
- ✓ The appointment has been made for the commission's preparation of the state's draft policy on 'Employability and Skilling for a Transitioning Economy'.

➤ **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children 2021**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on 20 November 2021 launched the Tamil Nadu State Child Policy.
- ✓ The policy has been formulated taking holistically the needs of the children like their growth targets in their various stages, nutrition, education, healthcare, etc.
- ✓ He also launched the Forensic DNA Profile Search Tool that would enable restoring the lost children to their parents.

➤ **Chennai Metropolitan Area Project**

- ✓ AIIB approves USD 150 million loans for Chennai Metropolitan Area project.
- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$150 million loans to India for the implementation of the Sustainable Urban services program for the Chennai metropolitan area (CMA).

➤ **3-D Eye Surgery Facility**

- ✓ India's first 3-D eye surgery facility inaugurated in Chennai.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian inaugurated India's first 3D eye surgery facility at a government hospital in Chennai on 19 November 2021.
- ✓ The country's first three-dimensional eye surgery facility has been developed at Chennai's Egmore Eye Hospital.

➤ **Bala Sabhas**

- ✓ T.N. to get 'bala sabhas' in all panchayats.
- ✓ The creation of 'bala sabhas' at all village panchayats for children aged 12 to 18, on the lines of gram sabhas, the introduction of a child protection policy at all panchayats and urban bodies and a child safeguarding policy at all schools are among the provisions envisioned in the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children, 2021, released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday.

➤ **DNA Profile-Based Search Tool**

- ✓ On November 20, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a new DNA profile-based search tool at the Secretariat.
- ✓ The new device will help trace abandoned children, inter-state criminals and child sexual predators among others.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has become the first state in the country to get the state-of-the-art device as part of the efforts to modernise the state forensic department.

➤ **Swachh Survekshan Report**

- ✓ Chennai - improved its ranking in cleanliness in 2021 by securing 43rd spot in the Swachh Survekshan report for 2021 released on November 20.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India
- ✓ It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to make India clean and free of open defecation.

➤ **Palar River**

- ✓ Palar witnessing flows never seen before.

- ✓ Originating from the Nandi Hills in Karnataka, the Palar flows down to Tamil Nadu through Andhra Pradesh. Of its total length of 348 km, 93 km lies in Karnataka, 33 km in Andhra Pradesh and 222 km in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The river, having seven tributaries, enters Tamil Nadu near Vaniyambadi. It covers many important towns such as Vellore and Kancheepuram.
- **Tamil Nadu - Investors' first Port of Call' Conclave**
- ✓ On November 23, the Tamil Nadu government - signed 59 MoUs for projects worth 35,208 crore across various sectors, including aerospace and defence, which are expected to create 76,795 direct employment opportunities.
- **FinTech Policy**
- ✓ On November 23, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled a FinTech Policy for the state and released a handbook on aerospace and defence systems at the investment conclave in Coimbatore.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy 2021 has set a vision to transform the State into a leading global destination for fintech firms by 2025 and aims to develop Chennai as a FinTech hub.
- **The Tamil Nadu school education department**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu school education department - has decided to add the 'medium of instruction' for all classes on the Class X mark sheets from this year.
- **4GW Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Cell**
- ✓ Tata Group's solar power arm - is in talks with the Tamil Nadu government to set up a 4GW integrated solar photovoltaic cell manufacturing unit in Gangaikondan near Tirunelveli.
- **Vir Chakra Award - Tamil Nadu soldier**
- ✓ More than 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash between Chinese and Indian forces in the Kalwan Valley on June 15 last year.
- ✓ Palani from Tamil Nadu was one of the notables. The Vir Chakra award was given in his honour.
- **Welspun One**
- ✓ Welspun One signs MoU with Tamil Nadu to invest Rs 2500 crore.
- ✓ Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP) has signed an MoU with Guidance - the Government of Tamil Nadu's nodal agency.
- ✓ It has been signed for investment promotion and single window facilitation.

➤ **L&T**

- ✓ L&T signs pact with Tamil Nadu to build data centre at Kanchipuram.
- ✓ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has entered into a pact with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a data center in the state.

➤ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index**

- ✓ Chennai - has been ranked 11th among 56 cities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index.
- ✓ The NITI Aayog report considered 16 goals including 'no poverty', good health and well-being, quality education, reduced inequalities, climate action, life below water and on land and peace, justice and strong institutions to arrive at a composite score for the index.

➤ **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5**

- ✓ T.N. ahead in Reproductive, Child Health.
- ✓ With significant improvements in several social and health parameters, when compared with the previous edition, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 seems to have set the State on its regular path ahead yet again, particularly in reproductive and child health.

➤ **Vaccination**

- ✓ While the drastic reduction in vaccination rates during NFHS 4 was disconcerting for a State that is usually ahead of the national averages, particularly in the health sector, it is of some solace that the vaccination rates are climbing back up. From lower down the scale at 69.7% during the 2015-16 assessment, the percentage of fully vaccinated children in the 12-23 months age group has risen to 89.2% in the current assessment (2019-2021).

➤ **Green Certification**

- The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - had announced 'Green Certification' for schools in Chennai.
- ✓ The certification will be provided for the schools to which the children come either by walk or by riding bicycles.

➤ **Advisory Panel**

- ✓ On November 25, the Tamil Nadu government - formed an advisory panel to harness the strength of the Tamil diaspora and streamline investments into the state.

- ✓ The panel will strive to tap the potential of the global Tamil community, members of which are in various positions of influence in public and private institutions, to promote business investments into the State.
- **Guidelines For the Release of 700 Life Convicts**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government - released a set of guidelines for the release of 700 life convicts in the state jails.
- ✓ The completion of at least 10 years in jail is the basic eligibility for the premature release.
- ✓ The premature release, under Article 161 of the Constitution, is to mark the 113th birth anniversary of former chief minister C N Annadurai.
- **Covid Vaccination**
- ✓ 100% first installment dose district Kanchipuram.
- ✓ So far more than 76% of people in Tamil Nadu have been vaccinated with the first dose and 40% with the second dose.
Kanchipuram is the first district to get 100% first dose of vaccine.
- **Nimirndhu Nil, Thunindhu Sol**
- ✓ The Karur district administration - launched the initiative 'Nimirndhu Nil, Thunindhu Sol' to dispel fear among school girls to report sexual assault
- ✓ As part of the scheme, a questionnaire seeking personal details including name, class, school, address, parents' mobile number and information on sexual abuse on them or their friends in school or near their houses was given to the students.
- **100cm Rain**
- ✓ Chennai - has recorded more than 100cm rain in November for the third time in nearly 100 years, with Chennai Nungambakkam weather station crossing the 100cm mark.
- ✓ As per Meteorologists, the Chennai-based observatory recorded the highest rainfall for November in 1918 with 1088mm, followed by 1049mm in 2015.
- ✓ Chennai's normal rainfall for the entire North East monsoon season is 87cm.
- **Initiative for Women's Safety Launched**
- ✓ To mark the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - November 25", the 'Niruthuda Women's movement' was formally launched by Karunalaya Social Service Society on Thursday.
- ✓ The members of the Nirthuda movement met police officials last year and urged them to look into complaints of violence against women and take action immediately.

STATES

➤ **Purvanchal Expressway**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 341-km long Purvanchal Express in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The expressway links state capital Lucknow with Ghazipur and has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore.
- ✓ The key feature of the Expressway is the 3.2 km long airstrip to enable landing and take-off of Indian Air Force fighter planes in case of emergency.

➤ **Agartala City Urban Development Project**

- ✓ India and ADB sign \$61 million loan for Agartala.
- ✓ The Indian government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$61 million loan in November 2021.
- ✓ It has been signed to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in Agartala, Tripura.

➤ **Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change**

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet adopts declaration on climate change.
- ✓ The state cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, adopted the Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change-Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh. The declaration is aimed at lowering emissions and achieving sustainable development.

➤ **Pochampally in Telangana**

- ✓ The Pochampally village in Telangana has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- ✓ The award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2 Dec 2021 in Madrid, Spain.
- ✓ Pochampally is often referred to as the Silk City of India.

➤ **World Food Programme (WFP)**

- ✓ The Meghalaya government has signed an MoU with the United Nations World Food Programme to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system in the state.
- ✓ The partnership will help the WFP authorities and the state government work together towards Sustainable Development Goal two - Zero Hunger.

➤ **Clean Yamuna River**

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, pledged to clean Yamuna River completely by 2025.
- ✓ He announced a six-point action plan to clean the holy river.
- ✓ He also promised to make Yamuna River fit for drinking and bathing by 2025.

- **School Transformation Program**
- ✓ On November 16, 2021, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 130 refurbished schools as part of the state's educational reform initiative.
- ✓ The school transformation programme was established with the goal of instilling a competitive mindset among students in order to achieve academic achievement.

- **Best Performing Marine District**
- ✓ Balasore awarded 'Best Performing Marine District' in India.
- ✓ For the first time, a district from Odisha got this award.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh was awarded the Best Marine State, while Telangana got Best Inland State Award.

- **Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum**
- ✓ Home Minister to lay foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Manipur.
- ✓ Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah will lay the foundation stone of the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal freedom fighters Museum at Luangkao village, Tamenglong District in Manipur on November 22, 2021 through video conference.

- **Learning Transformation Project**
- ✓ India, World Bank sign loan worth \$250 million to improve learning across Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The Central Government, the state government of Andhra Pradesh, and the World Bank on November 18, 2021, signed a loan agreement worth \$250 million for the Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation Project which aims to improve the quality of learning for more than 50 lakh students in Andhra Pradesh.

- **Patalpani Railway Station**
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Patalpani railway station in Indore will be renamed as Tantya Mama railway station.
- ✓ Indore Bus Stand will also be named after him.
- ✓ Tantya Bhil or Tantya Mama was a dacoit (bandit) active in India between 1878 and 1889.
- ✓ He is recognized by Indians as a heroic figure.

➤ **(SALT) Project**

- ✓ Government of Andhra Pradesh, Union government and the World Bank have signed legal agreements for a loan of \$250 million for the “Supporting Andhra’s Learning Transformation (SALT) project”.
- ✓ SALT project aims to improve the quality of learning for more than 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

➤ **Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana**

- ✓ The Delhi government – decided to include Kartarpur Sahib in Punjab province of Pakistan and Velankanni Church in Tamil Nadu to its pilgrimage scheme called “Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana”.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Delhi government will provide travel packages for free pilgrimage to senior citizens of the state, who are above 60 years.

➤ **First Cyber Tehsil of India**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil. Cyber Tehsil will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit. With this, the process of conversion will become convenient in the cases of undisputed land.

➤ **STREET Project**

- ✓ Kerala Tourism – to launch ‘STREET project’ across seven districts to enrich visitor experience and take tourism deep into the interior regions of the state
- ✓ The STREET is an acronym for “Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism” hubs.

The project is conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission and inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

NATIONAL

➤ **Grass Conservatory**

- ✓ India gets first 'Grass Conservatory' in Uttarakhand's Almora district.
- ✓ India's first grass conservation centre has been set up at the Kalika Forest Research Center of Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The grass is the most economically important of all flowering plants because of its nutritious grain and soil-forming function.

➤ **Tax Devolution**

- ✓ Centre to release over 95 thousand crore rupees as tax devolution to States this month.
- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the Centre will release 95 thousand 82 crore rupees as tax devolution to States in the current month after including one advance instalment to help them push their capital expenditure.

➤ **Bhumi Samvaad**

- ✓ The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh has inaugurated 'Bhumi Samvaad'.
- ✓ It is a national workshop on the digital India land record modernization programme.

➤ **Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv**

- ✓ Three day Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv will be held in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- ✓ 19th of November is the Birth Anniversary of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the epitome of bravery and courage and a great National icon of Rashtra Raksha and India's Independence struggle.

➤ **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**

- ✓ On November 17, the Union Cabinet - cleared utilisation of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of mobile connectivity in 7,287 uncovered villages.
- ✓ These uncovered villages of 44 aspirational districts across five states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha will get 4G-based mobile services.

➤ **Covovax**

- ✓ Covishield maker Serum Institute of India (SII) - to start the paediatric trial of Covovax by including children in the 2-6 years age bracket across 10 sites in India.

➤ **Indian Railways**

- ✓ The first pod hotel of the Indian Railways - was inaugurated virtually by Raosaheb Danve, Union minister of state for Railways, from the Churchgate station in Mumbai on November 17.
- ✓ The pod hotel, also known as capsule hotels, has several small bed-sized capsules and provides overnight accommodation at affordable rates.

➤ **LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC)**

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind, dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in Gurugram of Haryana to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.
- ✓ The incubator is known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC). The centre has been established at a cost of Rs. 3.23 crore under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

➤ **New Model Concession Agreement - 2021 announced**

- ✓ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on 18 November 2021 announced the revised Model Concession Agreement (MCA) - 2021 for PPP (Public-Private Partnership) projects at Major Ports.
- ✓ It will be applicable to all the future PPP projects at major ports, as well as projects which are under bidding stage.

➤ **Rezang La War Memorial**

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a newly revamped war memorial in Ladakh's Rezang La, on 18 November 2021.
- ✓ The memorial has names of soldiers who died in the June 2020 Galwan Valley clash with the Chinese.
- ✓ 18 November is marked as this battle's anniversary.

➤ **Centre to Roll Back Three Farm Laws**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that his government will repeal the three contentious agricultural laws and requested protesting farmers to go back to their fields and homes.

➤ **The Three Contentious Bills:**

- ✓ The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020.
- ✓ The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- ✓ The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.

➤ **Sustainable Development Cell**

- ✓ Ministry of coal has constituted a “Sustainable Development Cell”, in line with the commitment of clean energy.
- ✓ The Sustainable Development Cell was constituted in the backdrop of Prime Minister’s announcement on new climate targets at COP26 under ‘Panchamrit Strategy’.

➤ **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA)**

- ✓ The Centre - has asked Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha to expedite notification and implementation of the rules of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA).
- ✓ These four states account for a significant part of India’s tribal population.
- ✓ The provisions of the PESA Act seek to empower local self-governments in the Schedule V areas of the country to help safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the tribal communities.

➤ **India's Cleanest City**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Indore city has been declared as India's cleanest city for 5th time in a row under the Centre's Swachh Survekshan 2021 on 20 November 2021.
- ✓ Surat (Gujarat) and Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh) grabbed the second and third positions respectively.
- ✓ Among Indian states, Chhattisgarh has bagged top position as the country's cleanest state.

➤ **BSNL and MTNL**

- ✓ The Centre - has started the process of auctioning non-core assets of the two loss-making state-run telecom companies, BSNL and MTNL.
- ✓ The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) has invited bids on the MSTC portal for six properties of BSNL and MTNL
- ✓ This commences the non-core asset monetisation of the two struggling telecom PSUs in a phased manner.

➤ **TRIFED Aadi Mahotsav**

- ✓ Mary Kom has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of TRIFED (**Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd**) Aadi Mahotsav.
- ✓ TRIFED Aadi Mahotsav is a national tribal festival and a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the TRIFED.

➤ **Police Technology Mission**

- ✓ On November 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - called for setting up of a high-powered Police Technology Mission led by the Union Home Minister.
- ✓ The mission aims to adopt future technologies for fulfilling grass-root policing requirements.

➤ **National Resources Accounting (NRA)**

- ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) - has started National Resources Accounting (NRA) process to ensure tighter scrutiny and accounting of mineral and energy resources of states.
- ✓ All states and Union Territories have been asked to submit their 'assets account' of their mineral and energy resources for 2020-21 by March next year.

➤ **Swachh Survekshan Awards - 2021**

- ✓ In 'Swachh Survekshan 2021,' President Ram Nath Kovind will honour 342 cities that have received a star rating for being garbage-free and clean.
- ✓ Under the 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge,' the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav will also honour sanitation workers by recognising top-performing cities.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan is a government initiative that aims to improve sanitation in India.

➤ **Centre for Nanotechnology**

- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology and Centre for Indian Knowledge System at IIT Guwahati. He also released a book on NEP 2020 implementation.
- ✓ The Centre for Nanotechnology will work towards meeting future challenges and augmenting academic partnerships with industry in Nanotechnology.

➤ **Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021**

- ✓ The Centre - has proposed to introduce the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 during the winter session of Parliament, which starts on November 29, 2021.
- ✓ The proposed legislation will also put in place a framework for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to create an official digital currency.

➤ **Bharat Gaurav" Trains**

- ✓ The Indian Railways - has decided to allow travel and tour operators, state tourism entities and any interested party to run theme-based "Bharat Gaurav" trains.

They can run these trains on any route of their choice and will be free to determine the fares as well.

➤ **PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY)**

- ✓ On November 24, the Union Cabinet - approved the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY) till March 2022
- ✓ This entitles 5 kg free food grain per month to nearly 81 crore people in the country.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**

- ✓ Centre approves construction of 3.61 lakh houses in 17 states and UTs.
- ✓ The Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) on November 23, 2021, approved the construction of 3.6 lakh houses in 17 States and Union Territories under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

➤ **Disaster Management (WCDM)**

- ✓ Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, virtually inaugurated the “5th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)” on November 24, 2021.
- ✓ While inaugurating the conference, minister noted that, Indian Armed Forces have demonstrated time and again that they care for and stand by India’s partners when they need without distinguishing between natural or man-made disasters.

➤ **E-portal of Accreditation Scheme for Mineral Exploration**

- ✓ The Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Shri Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated the **E-portal of accreditation scheme for Mineral exploration** on November 23, 2021.
- ✓ The portal was inaugurated at the **5th National conclave on Mines and Minerals in New Delhi**.

➤ **Primary Health Care in India**

- ✓ The Government of **India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed loan agreement worth **\$300 million** on November 23, 2021 to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas. The programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states.

➤ **Noida International Airport**

- ✓ On November 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for the Noida International Airport at Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ The airport, which would be one of the largest in Asia, is located at about 72 kilometres of the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- ✓ The first phase of the airport is scheduled to be completed by 2024.
- ✓ It will also be India's first net zero emissions airport.

- **River Cities Alliance**
- ✓ Jal Shakti Minister launches River Cities Alliance on 25 November 2021.
- ✓ The alliance is a dedicated platform for river cities in India to ideate, discuss and exchange information for the sustainable management of urban rivers.
- ✓ It will focus on three broad themes, networking, capacity building and technical support.

- **Wage Rate Index (WRI)**
- ✓ Union Labour Ministry has released the new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016=100, which will replace the old series with a base of 1963-65 =100.
The government periodically revises the base year for major economic indicators to reflect the changes in the economy and to capture the wage pattern of workers.

- **Covid-19 and Vaccination**
- ✓ On November 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chaired a meeting to review the situation relating to Covid-19 and vaccination in the country.
- ✓ The meeting was conducted immediately after the World Health Organisation designated the new variant, B.1.1.529 or Omicron, as 'variant of concern' on November 26.

- **Starlink Internet Services**
- ✓ On November 26, the government - advised the public not to subscribe to the satellite-based internet services being advertised by Starlink Internet services, a division of Elon Musk-led SpaceX.
- ✓ The Elon Musk-backed company has not obtained licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for offering such services.

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - collaborates with Vigyan Prasar to promote scientific attitude among students.
As part of this partnership, AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and 'Engage with Science' (EWS), an interactive platform powered by Vigyan Prasar will come together to bring students closer to science and technology.

- **Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC)**
- ✓ On November 26, Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) - launched a first-of-its-kind programme to promote women in the field of research and development through lateral entry.
- ✓ The programme is called 'Women's Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER)' program.

- **World's Tallest Pier Bridge**
- ✓ The Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in Manipur.
- ✓ The bridge is being built at a height of 141 metres.

- **Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021**
- ✓ On November 29, Parliament - passed the **Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021** during the first day of its winter session without a debate.
- ✓ The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 was passed in just four minutes in the Lok Sabha through a voice vote and in the Rajya Sabha it was passed after a short discussion.

- **India Young Water**
- The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Australia India Water Centre, and Western Sydney University - virtually launched the first edition of the India Young Water on 29th November 2021.
- ✓ The objectives of the Programme are to equip water professionals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and networks to contribute to the development and management of water resources in India.

- ✓ **Ropeway Service in Public Transportation**
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ Vaccine Exports to Four Nations

- ✓ India - resumes vaccine exports to four nations - Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Iran.
- ✓ The Centre stopped vaccine exports due to rising Covid-19 cases, as the second wave hit India in April-May.
- ✓ India now has a long list of vaccines – Covavax, Corbevax, ZyCovD, Gennova's mRNA vaccine – at various stages of regulatory approval.

➤ Trade Policy Forum (TPF)

- ✓ India, US re-launch their joint Trade Policy Forum (TPF).
- ✓ India and the United States have agreed to expand farm trade and re-launched their joint Trade Policy Forum (TPF) to resolve differences on issues including market access.

➤ 21st India-Russia Annual Summit

- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin - will visit India on December 6 for the 21st India-Russia annual Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ This will be the first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders after their meeting on the side-lines of the BRICS Summit in Brasilia in November, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ Resident Coordinator

- ✓ The United Nations has appointed Shombi Sharp, a sustainable development expert from the US as its Resident Coordinator in India.
- ✓ Within the world organization, he most recently served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia.

➤ 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.

➤ UNESCO

- ✓ India re-elected to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) executive board for 2021-25 term.
- ✓ India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the UN, for the 2021-25 term.
- ✓ The election took place on 17 November 2021.

➤ US Presidential Powers

- ✓ US vice president, Kamala Harris – became the first woman to get US presidential powers, though briefly, on November 19.
- ✓ Harris held presidential powers for a total of one hour and 25 minutes, when President Joe Biden went under anaesthesia for a colonoscopy procedure.
- ✓ The US' first female, first Black and first South Asian vice president Harris broke another barrier as she became the first woman to hold presidential powers in the country.

➤ Bitcoin City

- ✓ 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 new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds.

➤ **World's Most Systemic Bank**

- ✓ JP Morgan Chase has become the world's most systemically important bank once again according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators.

➤ **New German Chancellor**

- ✓ Olaf Scholz will be Germany's next Chancellor, replacing Angela Merkel who has led Germany for 16 years.
- ✓ He is currently serving as the Finance Minister.

➤ **New Prime Minister of Kuwait**

- ✓ Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait.

➤ **World Heritage Committee - 2021-25**

- ✓ India was elected to the United Nations World Heritage Committee for a four-year term from 2021 to 2025.

➤ **New COVID variant named Omicron**

- ✓ The new COVID-19 variant, B.1.1.529, first found in South Africa, has been designated as a "Variant of Concern" by the World Health Organisation.

- ✓ This variant of SARS-CoV-2 has been named as Omicron.

This variant was first detected in Botswana region of South Africa on November 24.

➤ **World's Newest Republic**

- ✓ Barbados, a former British colony – becomes the world's newest republic this week.

- ✓ Famous for its beaches and love of cricket, Barbados will replace its head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, with her current representative, Governor General Sandra Mason.

➤ **Petr Fiala named new Prime Minister**

- ✓ Petr Fiala has been named as the new Prime Minister of Czech Republic. President Milos Zeman named him as the PM on November 28, after his electoral win in October.

➤ **Word Of The Year For 2021**

- ✓ The American publishing company Merriam-Webster has chosen the word "vaccine" as its 2021 Word of the Year.

➤ **Twitter CEO**

- ✓ Parag Agarwal, an IIT Mumbai alumnus and chief technology officer of Twitter - will take over as CEO of the social media platform, Twitter.

➤ **President of INTERPOL**

- ✓ The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has elected Inspector General Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (United Arab Emirates) as its President for a 4-year term at the 89th Interpol general assembly meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey.

➤ **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 rising sea levels.
- ✓ The floating city project is a joint effort by the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habit) and OCEANIX.

➤ **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**

- ✓ The ships and aircraft of the Indian Navy participated in the first-ever Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean region, along with Sri Lanka and the Maldives, a statement from the Indian Navy said.

➤ **Sweden's First Woman PM Returns**

- ✓ Magdalena Andersson, who last week was Sweden's first woman Prime Minister for a few hours before resigning because a budget defeat made a coalition partner quit, was on elected again on Monday as the head of Government.

ECONOMY

➤ **Illegal Digital Lending**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India - has proposed new norms and asked the government to frame a new legislation to curb illegal digital lending.
- ✓ The proposals come after a panel set up by RBI found that there are 1,100 loan apps in various app stores, of which 600 are illegal.

➤ **SIDBI- Google to support MSMEs**

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ The partnership will pilot a social impact lending programme, providing a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.

➤ **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

- ✓ Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - released an investor charter on November 17.
- ✓ The new charter outlines the rights and responsibilities of investors and dos and don'ts of investing in the securities market.
- ✓ The Investor charter was first proposed in Union Budget 2021-2022 with the aim of protecting investors from mis-selling the financial products.

➤ **Micro-Credit Facility**

- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched a micro-credit facility for the street vendors.
- ✓ HDFC Bank launched a micro-credit facility for the street vendors under PM Street vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres.
- ✓ PM SVANidhi provides a collateral-free affordable loan of Rs 10,000 along with an interest subsidy of 7 percent.

➤ **Tejasvini and Hausala Schemes**

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 23 November 2021 launched Tejasvini and Hausala schemes of J&K Bank.
- ✓ Tejasvini scheme focuses on providing financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to girls between 18-35 years for starting their business.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **“Tech NEEV@75”**

- ✓ Ministry of Science & Technology inaugurated “Tech NEEV@75” on November 15, 2021 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ Central Government will set up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs across the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by end of 2022.
- ✓ These STI hubs will help in promoting scientific talent among tribal communities as well as overall socio-economic development.

➤ **India launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica**

- ✓ India on 15 November 2021 launched the 41st scientific expedition to Antarctica.
- ✓ The 41st expedition has two major programs.
- ✓ The first program encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station.
- ✓ The second program involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri.

➤ **Direct-Ascent Anti-Satellite (DA-ASAT)**

- ✓ On November 15, Russia - tested a direct-ascent anti-satellite (DA-ASAT) missile test that destroyed one of its older satellites.
- ✓ These are usually launched from the ground or from the wings of an airplane and destroy satellites by running into them at high speeds.

➤ **Portable Wireless Spirometer**

- ✓ Cipla launches India’s first portable wireless spirometer for early diagnosis of COPD, asthma.
- ✓ Pharmaceutical giant Cipla launched India’s first pneumotach-based portable wireless spirometer called Spirofy to diagnose Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (DOPD) and asthma on the occasion of World COPD Day on November 17.

➤ **Star-Planet Bigger than Jupiter**

- ✓ Indian scientists discover star-planet bigger than Jupiter.
- ✓ The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of the Sun and located 725 light-years away.
- ✓ The planet is called TOI 1789b or HD 82139b.

➤ **Hypersonic Cruise Missile 'Zircon'**

- ✓ Russian Navy successfully test-fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Frigate - Admiral Gorshkov warship, which rightly hit the test target placed in the Russian Arctic waters.

➤ **Cryptocarya Muthuvariana**

- ✓ The plant was discovered by a team of scientists from the University of Kerala and the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI).
- ✓ Cryptocarya Muthuvariana, a new species of the plant is named after the Muthuvar tribal group, has been discovered.
- ✓ For the first time in the state's history, a plant species has been named after a local tribe.

➤ **Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)**

- ✓ NASA is set to test a "Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) technology" in space, with the aim of speeding up space communications.
- ✓ It will be launched into space by Department of Defence, on-board United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket during Space Test Program Satellite-6 (STPSat-6) mission.

➤ **DART Spacecraft**

- ✓ The world's first planetary defense system called the DART spacecraft was successfully launched by NASA on 24 November 2021.
- ✓ The DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) blasted off aboard a SpaceX rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

➤ **Ultra-Pure Hydrogen**

- ✓ India's first device for production of ultra-pure Hydrogen developed.
- ✓ Scientists at IIT BHU, Varanasi have developed a first-of-its-kind device in India for the on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen.

➤ **India's First 5G Trial**

- ✓ Bharti Airtel successfully conducted India's first 5G trial in the 700 MHz band in partnership with Nokia in November 2021.
- ✓ It was conducted on the outskirts of Kolkata and it was also the first 5G trial in Eastern India.

➤ **Skyroot Aerospace**

- ✓ Hyderabad-based Spacetech start-up Skyroot Aerospace - has successfully tested Dhawan-1, India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine.



APPOINTMENT

➤ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

- ✓ On November 15, senior IPS officer Sheel Vardhan Singh - took charge as Director-General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ✓ Singh served as special director, Intelligence Bureau, before becoming the 29th DG of CISF.
- ✓ He has been awarded the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2004 and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2010.

➤ **Ambassador of India to Myanmar**

- ✓ IFS Officer Vinay Kumar appointed as next Ambassador of India to Myanmar.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that the 1992-batch IFS (Indian Foreign Services) officer Vinay Kumar, has been appointed as the next Ambassador for India to Myanmar.

➤ **Interpol**

- ✓ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) special director Praveen Sinha was elected as the delegate for Asia in the executive committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) following a tough contest involving China.

➤ **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**

- ✓ On November 28, senior bureaucrat, Vivek Johri - has been appointed as the chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ✓ Vivek Johri has been holding the position of Member (Tax Policy) in CBIC, handling GST and tax policy.

➤ **New Chief of Naval Staff**

- ✓ Admiral R Hari Kumar has received the Guard of Honour as the new 25th Chief of Naval Staff. He took over as the new Chief of Naval Staff on November 30, 2021.

➤ **UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador**

- ✓ UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has appointed Japanese film director Naomi Kawase as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **Virtual Summit between US and China**

- ✓ The Presidents of the US and China will hold their first virtual summit on November 16.
- ✓ As per the Foreign Ministry of China, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will have a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the strategic issues related to the future of US-China relations.

➤ **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”.

➤ **First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals Sector**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the “First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector” on November 18, 2021.
- ✓ The summit will also highlight the opportunities in Indian Pharmaceuticals industry that has huge potential for growth.

➤ **Sydney Dialogue**

- ✓ The Sydney Dialogue is being held from 17- 19 November as an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
- ✓ PM Modi spoke on the theme of India's technology evolution and revolution.
- ✓ The summit, co-hosted by the Australian government and Meta, will focus on space, the quantum computing race, etc.

➤ **All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)**

- ✓ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated two-days **82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)** on November 17, 2021 in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh** through video conferencing.
- ✓ AIPOC is the supreme body of legislatures in India.
- ✓ The year 2021 marks the centennial year of the AIPOC (**100th anniversary**).

➤ **Conference of Director Generals of Police (DGPs)**

- ✓ DGPs’ meet discusses emerging challenges.

- ✓ Violence perpetrated by Maoists, action against terror modules and cybercrime were some of the issues that figured prominently at the conference of DGPs here on Saturday attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah, DGPs of all States and Union Territories, DGs of central police organisations and 350 other senior police officers attended the three-day conference.
- **The G7 Summit of Foreign and Development Ministers**
- ✓ The G7 summit of Foreign and Development Ministers is scheduled to take place from December 10-12, 2021 in Liverpool, United Kingdom.
 - ✓ UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will host the summit and welcome counterparts from countries including France, Germany, US, Canada, Italy, Japan and the EU.
 - ✓ This would be the second in-person meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers this year.
 - ✓ The UK is holding the G7 presidency this year.
- **5th East Asia Summit Conference**
- ✓ 5th East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation to be held on November 23-24.
 - ✓ The 5th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will be held in Kolkata from November 23 to 24, 2021.
 - ✓ India will organize the event in partnership with Australia.
- **Connect 2021**
- ✓ The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** will organise its flagship event '**Connect 2021**' from November 26 to 27 in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - ✓ Connect is an international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT).
 - ✓ Theme : "**Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem**".
 - ✓ The main focus of 'Connect 2021' is to take the state's GDP to **US\$ 1,000 billion by 2030**.
- **1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy**
- ✓ The 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy - Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges is being held from 24-25 November 2021.
 - ✓ It is being organized by Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) with the support of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit**

- ✓ The 13th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit is being held virtually from 25 November 2021.
- ✓ The theme of the two-day summit is Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth.

- **'Enhancing electoral participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) & Senior citizen Voters: Sharing Best Practices and New Initiatives'**
- ✓ The Election Commission of India - organized an international webinar on the theme 'Enhancing electoral participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) & Senior citizen Voters: Sharing Best Practices and New Initiatives' at New Delhi on November 26, 2021.

- **Ayurveda Parv-2021**
- ✓ Minister of State (MoS) for Ayush, Munjpara Mahedrabhai - virtually inaugurated the Ayurveda Parv-2021 on November 26 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The three-day event has been organised to promote Ayurveda.

- **9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers' Meet**
- ✓ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh - addressed the 9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers' meet at New Delhi on November 26.
- ✓ During the meeting, the Minister said that BRICS countries must come together and innovate cost-effective, affordable, accessible, sustainable and scalable scientific solutions for many similar and unique challenges.

- **Tribes India Conclave**
- ✓ A Tribes India Conclave - was organized in association with the Ministry of External Affairs at Tribes India 'Aadi Mahotsav' in New Delhi on November 27, 2021.
- ✓ The 'diplomats day' event was attended by around 100 diplomats from more than 20 foreign missions in India besides senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and other ministries.

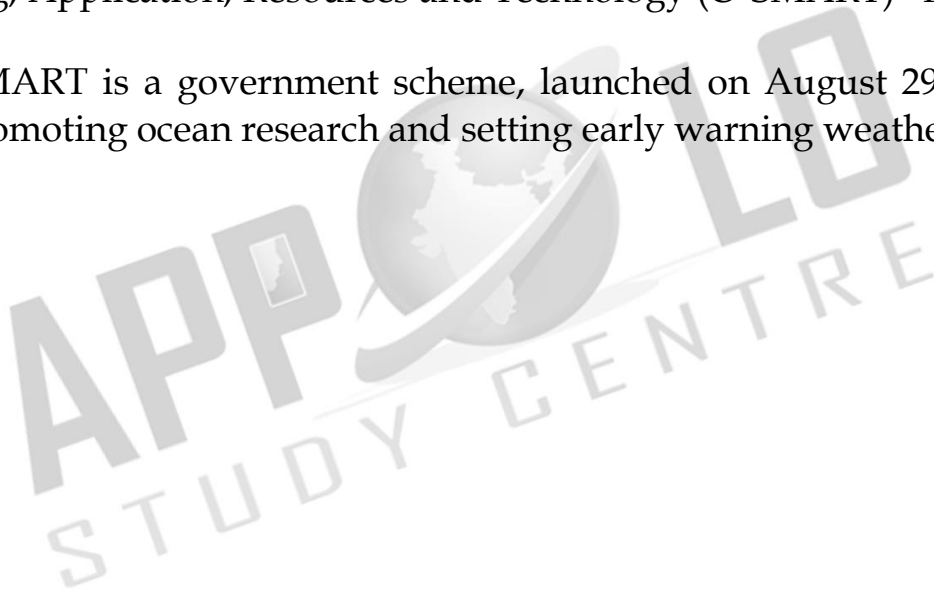
SCHEMES

➤ **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme**

- ✓ Union Government approves continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme till 2026.
- ✓ The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme is a well-established scheme of the Indian government which has shown enhancement in the employability of students who successfully completed the apprenticeship training.

➤ **O-SMART**

- ✓ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of umbrella scheme called “Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)” for the period of 2021-26.
- ✓ The O-SMART is a government scheme, launched on August 29, 2018 with the aim of promoting ocean research and setting early warning weather systems.



DEFENCE

➤ **SITMEX-21**

- ✓ The 3rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise named SITMEX-21 is being held from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in the Andaman Sea. The Navies of the India, Singapore and Thailand will participate in the event.

➤ **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenously built light combat helicopters (LCH), developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, to the Indian Air Force chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.

➤ **Advanced Electronic Warfare System Shakti**

- ✓ In the Uttar Pradesh city of Jhansi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over an advanced electronic warfare system known as 'Shakti' to the Navy on 19 November 2021.
- ✓ Shakti is designed to intercept, detect, classify, identify, and jam both traditional and modern radars. Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) built it for the Navy's capital warships.

➤ **Officers Training Academy**

- ✓ A total of 153 cadets - were commissioned in Indian Army on November 20, after completing training at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai.
- ✓ Witnessing the passing-out parade, Vice-Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen CP Mohanty said women officers have been playing a significant role in the Army over the past few decades.

➤ **INS Visakhapatnam**

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the indigenously developed missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam into Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on November 21, 2021.
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam is the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B. It is named after the historic city of Visakhapatnam.

➤ **Operation Sankalp**

- ✓ As part of Operation Sankalp, INS Trikand is currently deployed by the Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art guided missile stealth frigate.

- ✓ Operation Sankalp ensure safety of India's Mercantile Marine in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- **Dakshin Shakti**
- ✓ Indian Army - is conducting a major combat exercise with other forces along the western border in Gujarat and Rajasthan to test new concepts and doctrines for wars of the future.
- ✓ The theatre-level 'Dakshin Shakti' exercise includes over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence agencies.
- **CORPAT**
- ✓ The **37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** is being held in the **Indian Ocean region** on November 23 and 24, 2021.
- ✓ CORPAT is held twice in a year to ensure safety and security in the region for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.
- **Dosti**
- ✓ The India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are holding the 15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti', in the Maldives.
- ✓ Year 2021 marks the 30th year of Dosti Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise.
- ✓ The exercise was started on November 20 and will conclude on November 25.
- **Submarine INS Vela**
- ✓ The Indian Navy on 25 November 2021 commissioned Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.
INS Vela is the fourth Scorpene-class submarine to be commissioned under Project 75.
- **Ex SHAKTI- 2021**
- ✓ 6th edition of biennial Indo - France joint military exercise called "Ex SHAKTI-2021" concluded on November 26, 2021 in France.
- ✓ Ex SHAKTI 2021 involved twelve days of intense joint military training.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ **The Disruptor**

- ✓ A new book based on the life of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, India's eighth Prime Minister, is set to hit stands on December 08, 2021.
- ✓ The book titled "**The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India**" has been authored by **Debashish Mukerji**.

➤ **Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World**

- ✓ A book titled 'Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World' is an autobiography of the Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- ✓ It consists of life experiences and challenges that the author faced in his life & elaborates his tenure in the United Nations (UN).

➤ **The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win**

- ✓ Former India's Permanent Representative to the UN Syed Akbaruddin has released his new book titled 'India Vs UK: The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win'.
- ✓ It highlights the view of India's victory at the UN body-International Court of Justice in the 2017 elections, in a close fight with the UK.

➤ **Contested Lands**

- ✓ A book titled "Contested Lands: India, China and the Boundary Dispute" by Maroof Raza, Former Army Officer.
The book features the history of India's boundary making with Tibet and China and analyses the current India-China boundary contestation stemming from interpretations of history in the post-colonial period.

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Jessica Watkins**

- ✓ Jessica Watkins, a Nasa astronaut - is all set to become the first black woman to join its crew for a long-term mission.
- ✓ On November 16, Nasa announced that Watkins, a geologist, would join as a mission specialist on SpaceX's next astronaut flight, known as Crew-4, to the International space station.

➤ **Harshwanti Bisht**

- ✓ Uttarakhand mountaineer, Harshwanti Bisht - has become the first woman in the history of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation to become its president.

➤ **MC Mary Kom**

- ✓ Olympic medalist and Padma Vibhushan, MC Mary Kom - was selected as brand ambassador of the TRIFED Aadi Mahotsav.
- ✓ Aadi Mahotsav is a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, cuisine, craft, and commerce, which showcases their arts and crafts at the national level.

REPORT

➤ **IQAir Air Quality Index**

- ✓ Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai among world's top 10 polluted cities.
- ✓ According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are among the top ten most polluted cities of the world.
- ✓ Delhi topped the list with AQI at 556, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at 4th and 6th position. The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China.

➤ **Richest Countries**

- ✓ China overtakes US to grab top spot in list of richest countries.
- ✓ Global wealth tripled over the last two decades, with China leading the way and overtaking the US for the top spot worldwide.
- ✓ This was stated in a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co. that examines the national balance sheets of ten countries.
- ✓ Net worth worldwide rose to \$514 trn in 2020, from \$156 trn in 2000.
- ✓ China accounted for almost one-third of the increase.

➤ **WHO - World Health Organization**

- ✓ Number of tobacco users decreased globally since 2015: WHO.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) published the 4th edition of Global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000-2025.
- ✓ The number of people using tobacco globally decreased to 1.30 billion in 2020, from 1.32 billion in 2015.
- ✓ This was stated in the fourth World Health Organization (WHO) global tobacco trends report released on 16 November 2021.

➤ **IndiGo**

- ✓ IndiGo - has emerged as the tenth largest airline globally and the largest in Asia Pacific by seat volume, according to UK-based air consultancy firm OAG.
- ✓ The low-cost carrier has 280 aircraft currently in its fleet and operates over 1,400 daily flights.
- ✓ At the moment, it has about 1,400 daily flights of which nearly 80 are international
- ✓ On November 19, OAG released a report on "essential metrics on the world's major airlines".

➤ **Avian Flu**

- ✓ Around 300 Demoiselle Cranes (*Grus virgo*) - have been reported dead in the latest bout of avian flu in Rajasthan's Jodhpur and Udaipur.
- ✓ This was revealed in a report by the Wildlife Trust of India.
- ✓ According to the report, the virus has affected only Demoiselle cranes, locally called "kuranja".

➤ **India - World's Largest Recipient of Remittances**

- ✓ According to the latest report by the World Bank titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database', India became the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving USD 87 billion in 2021.
- ✓ The United States (US) was its biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.
- ✓ In India, remittances are projected to grow 3% in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion.

➤ **Best Regional Rural Bank**

- ✓ KVG Bank adjudged Best Regional Rural Bank by ASSOCHAM.
- ✓ In recognition of its initiatives in Digital Financial Services in response to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', KVG Bank has been adjudged Best Regional Rural Bank under 'Regional Rural Banks Category' by ASSOCHAM, Mumbai.

➤ **Personal Data Protection Bill**

- ✓ On November 22, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Personal Data Protection Bill - adopted its draft report on the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019.
- ✓ The report will be tabled for discussion in the Parliament session beginning November 29, following which the government will reintroduce the bill.

➤ **All India Survey on Domestic Workers**

- ✓ Union Labour Minister, Bhupender Yadav, started India's first survey of domestic workers on November 22, 2021.
- ✓ The survey of domestic workers is latest among a group of five national jobs enumeration campaigns, launched with the aim of discerning data on vast informal workforce in India.
- ✓ India's informal workforce will feed a forthcoming national employment policy in the third-largest economy in Asia.

➤ **Himalayan Glacier**

- ✓ Indian researchers studying an unnamed glacier in the upper Kali Ganga valley, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, have reported that the glacier had abruptly changed its main course.

- ✓ It is for the first time that such change in course has been reported from a Himalayan glacier.
- **NITI Aayog Poverty Index**
- ✓ Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya have emerged as the poorest states in India, as per NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index.
- ✓ Over 50% of the population in Bihar is classified as multidimensionally poor.
- ✓ Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab have registered the lowest poverty across India and are at the bottom of the index.
- **Word of the Year 2021**
- ✓ 'NFT', an abbreviation of the word 'non-fungible token', was revealed as Collins Dictionary Word of the Year 2021.
- ✓ Collins Dictionary defines NFT as a unique digital certificate, registered in a blockchain, that is used to record the ownership of an asset such as an artwork or a collectible.

ASER 2021 - SURVEY REPORT

- **Enrolment in Government Schools in Rural India**
- ✓ Enrolment in government schools in rural India - crossed 70%, even higher than pre-Covid days.
- ✓ This was revealed in the Annual Status of Education (Rural) (ASER-2021) survey report
- ✓ The survey was held across 25 states and three UTs.
- ✓ Gender-wise enrolment in government schools for girls is at 80% in 2021.
- ✓ State-wise, Uttar Pradesh (13.2%) and Kerala (11.9%) registered maximum increase in government school enrolment.
- **Smartphone Ownership**
- ✓ The smartphone ownership in Tamil Nadu - has increased from 40% in 2018 to 66.1% in 2021.
- ✓ This was revealed in the 2021 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).
- ✓ One in three students in rural Tamil Nadu does not have a smartphone at home, as per the report.
- ✓ The survey also found that the percentage of students enrolled in government schools increased by around 10% to 76.3% in 2021 compared to 2018.

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS)- REPORT

➤ **India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

- ✓ India's total fertility rate (TFR) or the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime - has dropped below replacement level for the first time and stands at 2 now.
- ✓ The replacement level TFR, at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, is estimated to be 2.1.
- ✓ This was revealed in the fifth edition of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data for 2019-21.
- ✓ It was released by the International Institute of Population Sciences for the phase-2 states along with all-India data on November 24.

➤ **National Family and Health Survey: India has more women than men**

- ✓ All three radical findings are part of the summary findings of the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), which were released by the Union health ministry.
- ✓ India now has 1,020 women for every 1000 men, is not getting any younger, and no longer faces the threat of a population explosion.
- ✓ According to NFHS-3, conducted in 2005-06, the ratio was equal, 1000: 1000; it went down to 991:1000 in 2015-16 in NFHS-4.
- ✓ This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favour of women.

RANKINGS

➤ **SMART Policing Index**

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - were rated with the highest 'SMART policing index' score of 8.11 and 8.1 respectively on a scale of 1-10.
- ✓ SMART is an acronym for reforms to be introduced in the police department.
- ✓ 'S' stands for strict and sensitive police, 'M' expands to modern and mobile, 'A' alert and accountable, 'R' reliable and responsive and 'T' techno-savvy and trained.

➤ **IPF Smart Policing Index 2021**

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Police ranks 1st on IPF Smart Policing Index 2021.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh secured first rank among police forces of the country in a survey conducted by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF).
- ✓ The survey, conducted in 29 states and Union Territories of the country assessed the force on competence, values, and public trust.
- ✓ Telangana ranked second while Assam was third.

➤ **Best Police Station**

- ✓ The Sadar Bazar police station in Delhi has been ranked as the best police station of India for the year 2021 by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The list of the top 10 police stations in India is released annually by the Ministry of Home Affairs to rank the police stations in terms of the services and facilities available at the police station.

➤ **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index]**

- ✓ Shimla - has topped Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) index. The index ranks 56 urban areas based on the progress in meeting SDG goals on 77 SDG indicators related to ending poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality, among others.

➤ **Poverty Index**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has the fourth lowest poverty index among states with 4.89%, after Kerala (0.71%), Goa (3.76%) and Sikkim (3.82%).
- ✓ This was revealed in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report prepared by the Niti Aayog based on the National family health survey - 4 done in 2015-16.

OBITUARY

➤ **Mannu Bhandari**

- ✓ Eminent Hindi writer Mannu Bhandari passes away at the age of 90. Eminent Hindi writer Mannu Bhandari passed away at the age of 90.
- ✓ She was known for her novels 'Aapki Banti' and 'Mahabhoj'. Her famous novel 'Yahi Sach Hai' was adapted into a Hindi movie 'Rajnigandha' in 1974.
- ✓ She is one of the pioneers of the Nayi Kahaani literary Movement.

➤ **World Famous Legendary Author Wilbur Smith**

- ✓ Internationally acclaimed Zambia-born South African author, Wilbur Smith has passed away. He was 88. The global bestselling author has authored 49 novels and sold over 140 million copies worldwide in more than 30 languages.
- ✓ He rose to fame in 1964 with his debut novel "When the Lion Feeds" which turned in the movie with 15 sequels. Smith published his autobiography "On Leopard Rock" in 2018.

➤ **Kovi Manisekaran**

- ✓ Sahitya Akademi award winning writer, Tamil scholar and film director, Kovi Manisekaran - died at the age of 96 on November 18.
- ✓ A prolific writer and a respected figure in Tamil literary and cinema circles, Manisekaran has written eight plays, several short story collections, novels, poems, and essays.
- ✓ He was awarded Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Kutrala Kuravanji' in 1992.

➤ **World's Oldest Woman**

- ✓ The world's oldest woman, Francisca Susano passed away at the age of 124, in November 2021.
- ✓ She was the last person alive who was born in the 19th century.
- ✓ Born and brought up in the Philippines, she was affectionately known as Lola.

➤ **Former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan**

- ✓ Former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan died at 90.
- ✓ He served as the 5th president of South Korea from 1980 to 1988.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **International Day of Tolerance - November 16**
 - ✓ The International Day for Tolerance is observed every year to raise awareness of the effects of intolerance and encourage mutual understanding among different cultures.

- **National Press Day - November 16**
 - ✓ National Press Day is observed on 16th November every year to celebrate free and responsible press in India. On this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not constrained by any influence or threats.

- **75th Anniversary of UNESCO: November 16**
 - ✓ 16 November 2021 marked the 75th anniversary of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization).
 - ✓ The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture.

- **Audit Diwas - November 16**
 - ✓ First Audit Diwas will be observed at the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) office premises, on 16 Nov 2021.
 - ✓ Audit Diwas will be celebrated to mark the historic origins of the institution of CAG and the contribution it has made to governance, transparency, and accountability.

- **World COPD Day 2021: 17 November**
 - ✓ World COPD Day is observed on the third Wednesday of November every year to raise awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and improve COPD care throughout the world.
 - ✓ The World COPD Day 2021 falls on November 17, 2021. The 2021 theme is Healthy Lungs – Never More Important.

- **National Epilepsy Day observed on 17 November**
 - ✓ In India, November 17 is observed every year as National Epilepsy Day by the Epilepsy Foundation, to create awareness about epilepsy.

- **Lala Lajpat Rai's 93th death anniversary: 17 November 2021**
 - ✓ November 17, 2021, marked the 93rd death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai.

- ✓ He was an Indian nationalist leader affectionately called 'Punjab Kesari'.
- **World Prematurity Day: 17 November**
- ✓ World Prematurity Day is observed on 17 Nov each year to raise awareness of preterm birth and the concerns of preterm babies and their families worldwide.
- **Naturopathy Day is celebrated on 18 November**
- ✓ The National Naturopathy Day is observed in India on 18 November every year, to promote positive mental and physical health through a drugless system of medicine, called as Naturopathy.
- **World Philosophy Day 2021: 18 November**
- ✓ World Philosophy Day is celebrated on the Third Thursday of November each year. In 2021, the day falls on 18 November.
- **World Pancreatic Cancer Day: 18 November 2021**
- ✓ World Pancreatic Cancer Day is observed on the third Thursday of November every year.
- ✓ For 2021, it is being observed on 18 November.
- **World Toilet Day - November 19**
- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness on importance of toilets and sanitation to promote health, hygiene & safety in our daily lives
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Valuing toilets".
- **552nd Guru Nanak Jayanti - 19 November 2021**
- ✓ Guru Nanak Jayanti is observed every year as the birth anniversary of the Sikh founder, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- **National Newborn Week 2021: 15-21 November**
- ✓ In India, the National Newborn Week is observed every year from 15 to 21 November.
- ✓ The theme of National New-born Week 2021 is 'Safety, quality and nurturing care - the birth right of every new-born'.
- **National Integration Day: 19 November**
- ✓ National Integration Day is observed on 19 November, the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi.
- **193rd birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmi Bai: 19 November 2021**

- ✓ The 193rd birth anniversary of Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi is being celebrated on 19 November across the country.
- **International Men's Day: 19 November**
- ✓ International Men's Day 2021 is celebrated on November 19 worldwide.
- ✓ The theme for 2021 is “Better relations between men and women”.
- **World Children’s Day: 20 November**
- ✓ The Universal/World Children’s Day is celebrated on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.
- ✓ 2021 Theme: A Better Future for Every Child.
- **World Fisheries Day: 21 November**
- ✓ World Fisheries Day is celebrated on 21 November every year by fishing communities across the world.
- ✓ **World Television Day: 21 November**
- ✓ The World Television Day is commemorated on 21 November every year.
- ✓ The day is a reminder of the power of visual media and how it helps in shaping public opinion and influencing world politics.
- **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2021: 21 November**
- ✓ The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is marked every year on Third Sunday in the month of November.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - “ACT for LOW SPEEDS / ACT for LOW SPEED STREETS”.
- **Fibonacci Day: 23 November**
- ✓ Fibonacci Day is celebrated on November 23 every year.
- ✓ It honours Leonardo Bonacci, a leading mathematician of middle age, who brought the Fibonacci sequence.
- ✓ It is observed on November 23 because the digits of this date form a Fibonacci sequence.
- ✓ When written in mm/dd format (11/23), it forms 1,1,2,3.
- **World Investor Week 2021**
- ✓ Stock exchanges, BSE and NSE launched the celebrations of globally popular event “World Investor Week 2021”. Under the event, they will conduct several educational activities.

- **Martyrdom Day of 'Guru Tegh Bahadur' observed on 24 November**
 - ✓ Every year, November 24 is celebrated as Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs of Sikh religion.

- **National Milk Day - November 26**
 - ✓ National Milk Day is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of milk in our day to day life.
 - ✓ The Day is observed in memory of Dr Verghese Kurien, fondly known as the Father of White Revolution.

- **India to celebrate Constitution Day on November 26**
 - ✓ India will celebrate Constitution Day on November 26, 2021, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - November 25**
 - ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden.
 - ✓ This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!".

- **World Antibiotic Awareness Week Observed**
 - ✓ According to a press release, the week was observed from November 18 to 24.
 - ✓ The theme for this year was "Spread awareness. Avoid resistance".

- **India to celebrate Constitution Day on November 26**
 - ✓ 26 November is celebrated as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas in India annually.

- **National Organ Donation Day: November 27**
 - ✓ In India, the 'National Organ Donation Day' is observed every year on 27 November since past 10 years.

- **International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People: 29 November**
 - ✓ International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is annually observed on November 29.

- **World AIDS Day to be observed on December 1st**

- ✓ World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS. The day has become one of the most widely recognized international health days.
- **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare - November 30**
- ✓ The United Nation recognised Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is held every year on November 30.



AWARDS

➤ **Lifetime Achievement Award**

- ✓ Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone has been selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council.
- ✓ Padukone is the first-ever Indian to win a medal at World Championships in the 1983 Copenhagen tournament.

➤ **52nd International Film Festival of India**

- ✓ Union minister for information & broadcasting Anurag Thakur - presented the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2021 Award to MP & actress Hema Malini at the 52nd International Film Festival of India, Panaji.
- ✓ The festival was embracing new technology by including, for the first time, OTT (over the top) platforms.
- ✓ The IFFI also conferred the first 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement' award on filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Istvan Szabo.

➤ **Manipur State Award**

- ✓ Novelist Beryl Thanga alias Laishram Biramangol Singh received the 12th Manipur State Award for Literature 2020 for his book - 'Ei Amadi Adungeigi Ithat' (I and the island), in November 2021.
- ✓ Manipuri language is one of the 22 scheduled languages under the Constitution of India.

➤ **JCB Prize for Literature**

- ✓ M Mukundan wins 2021 JCB Prize for Literature for his novel 'Delhi: A Soliloquy', translated from Malayalam by Fathima EV and Nandakumar K.
- ✓ This is the third win for a Malayalam translation since the award's first edition in 2018, the earlier being "Jasmine Days" (2018) by Benyamin and S Hareesh's "Moustache" (2020).

➤ **Vir Chakra**

- ✓ IAF Group Capt Abhinandan Varthaman awarded Vir Chakra.
- ✓ Indian Air Force ace pilot Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded the Vir Chakra in an investiture ceremony on 22 November 2021.
- ✓ Varthaman shot a Pakistan F-16 fighter aircraft during aerial combat on February 27 a day after the Balakot airstrike in 2019.
- ✓ Vir Chakra is the third highest wartime gallantry medal in India.

➤ **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021**

- ✓ Pratham NGO has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 for its work on expanding the scope for education in India.
- ✓ It's pioneering work for more than a quarter-century in ensuring that every child has access to quality education. Its innovative use of digital technology to deliver education.
- ✓ It's regular evaluation of the quality of education. It's timely response in making children learn amid Covid-19 restrictions.

➤ **Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award**

- ✓ India's one of the best-selling authors, Anita Desai has been conferred with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 to recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.

➤ **UNESCO-ABU Peace Media Awards**

- ✓ Doordarshan and All India Radio received multiple awards at the recently held ABU - UNESCO Peace Media Awards-2021 in Malaysia in November 2021.
- ✓ AIR's programme 'Living on the edge - The coastal lives' won an award in the category of 'Ethical and Sustainable Relationship with Nature'.

➤ **Gallants of Galwan**

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind – conferred the Maha Vir Chakra to the “Gallants of Galwan” at an investiture ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan on November 23.
- ✓ Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu, the then commanding officer of 16 Bihar, was posthumously conferred with the nation's second-highest wartime gallantry medal Maha Vir Chakra.
- ✓ Vir Chakra is the country's third-highest wartime gallantry award.

➤ **Knighthood of Parte Guelfa**

- ✓ Dr S K Sohan Roy from Kerala, CEO, and founder of Aries Group of Companies has become the first Indian to be honoured with the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa for his humanitarian and Environmental protection efforts in business and movies.
- ✓ The Parte Guelfa is concerned with environmental protection and the knighthood is recognised as the protector of the World Environment.

➤ **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**

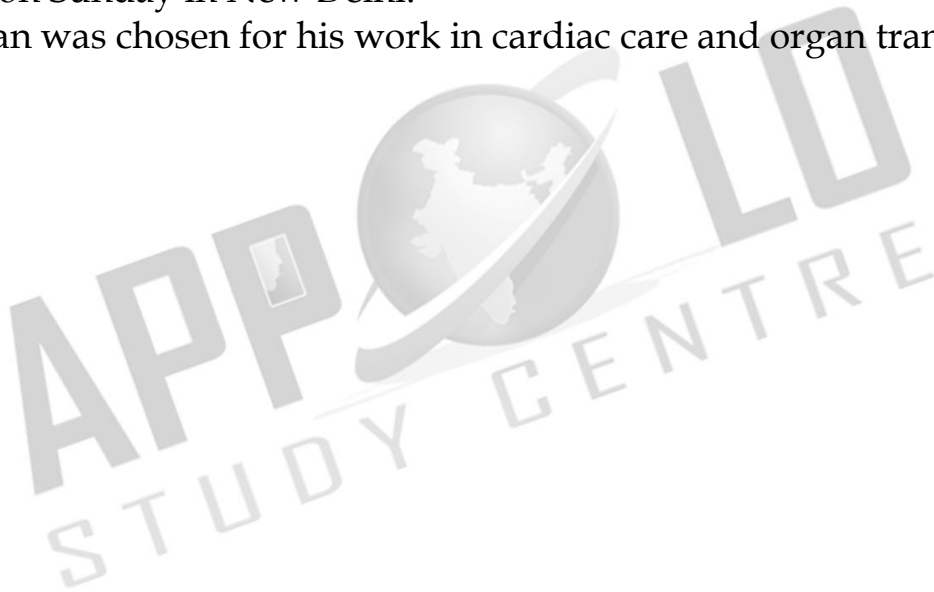
Japanese director Masakazu Kaneko's 'Ring Wandering' - bagged the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the closing ceremony of the 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 28.

➤ **IPI-India Journalism Award**

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

➤ **NOTTO Honours K.M. Cherian**

- ✓ The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) honoured cardiac care surgeon K.M. Cherian at the 12th Indian organ donation day observed on Sunday in New Delhi.
- ✓ Dr. Cherian was chosen for his work in cardiac care and organ transplantation.



SPORTS

➤ **Transgender Athlete Rules**

- ✓ International Olympic Committee (IOC) published advice on transgender athlete rules, recently.
- ✓ This move is aimed at helping sports write eligibility rules for transgender athletes.
- ✓ IOC advises to shift the focus from individual testosterone levels.
- ✓ IOC maintains that, no athlete should be excluded from competing on the basis of an “unverified, alleged or perceived unfair competitive advantage because of their sex variations, transgender status or physical appearance.

➤ **Asian Archery Championships**

- ✓ The Indian men’s team of compound archers clinched the bronze medal at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 after beating Bangladesh, on 17 November 2021.
- ✓ This was India’s first podium finish at the on-going continental event.

➤ **Sports Authority of India - SAI Institutional Awards**

- ✓ SAI confers 246 athletes with first-ever SAI Institutional Awards.
- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur conferred the first ever SAI Institutional Awards to 246 athletes and coaches on 17 November 2021 in New Delhi.

➤ **Asian Archery Championships**

- ✓ World championship triple silver medallist Jyothi Surekha Vennam – won the women’s compound individual gold at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka, Bangladesh on November 18.

In the final, the Indian defeated top seed and former world champion Oh Yoo Hyun by a one point win with 146-145.

➤ **Indian National Basketball League**

- ✓ Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on 20 November 2021 inaugurated the Indian National Basketball League (INBL) in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The league which has been announced by the Basketball Federation of India aims to strengthen basketball and make it reach the rural areas of the country.

➤ **Beijing Winter Olympics 2022**

- ✓ Jammu & Kashmir alpine skier Arif Khan qualifies for the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

Arif Khan has become the only Indian ski racer to secure a place in the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

➤ **Sam Whitehead**

- ✓ Spin-bowling allrounder Sam Whitehead - achieved the rare feat of picking up all 10 wickets in an innings of a First-Class match.
- ✓ With the feat, Whitehead registered the best figures in 115 years in South African domestic cricket.

➤ **Asian Archery Championships**

- ✓ India ends with 7 medals at the 2021 Asian Archery Championships.
The 2021 Asian Archery Championships was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Indian archers bagged seven medals at the competition to occupy second place in the medal table. This included one gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

➤ **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - defeated Karnataka to lift the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy 2021-22 for the national T20 title on November 22.
With this, Tamil Nadu became the most successful team in the history of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after winning their 3rd straight title.

➤ **Men's Junior World Cup**

- ✓ The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup - is scheduled to commence on 24 November at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ A total of 16 teams will fight for the coveted trophy at the prestigious hockey tournament.

➤ **Asian Youth Para Games**

- ✓ 2025 Asian Youth Para Games will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and the approval given by the Asian Paralympic Committee's (APC) Executive Board.

➤ **Malaysian Open Squash Championship**

- ✓ Indian Squash star Saurav Ghosal has scripted history as he became the first Indian squash player to win the Malaysian Open Championships.

➤ **World School Team championship**

- ✓ Velammal Nexus - wins the World School team championship in Dubai on November 29.
- ✓ In the final, Velammal Nexus defeated Saco Oliveros of Peru by 3-2 to win the title.

- **Ballon d'Or Award 2021**
- ✓ Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or award for the best footballer in the world for 2021.



MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **Guinness World Record - World's Highest Motorable Road**

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has received the Guinness World Record for constructing & blacktopping the world highest motorable road passing through the 19,024 feet 0.73 inches (5798.251m) high Umlingla Pass in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ The 52-kilometre long Chisumle to Demchok tarmac road was developed under Project HIMANK of BRO.

➤ **World's Largest Orchestra Record**

- ✓ 8,573 Venezuelan musicians set world's largest orchestra record.
- ✓ Venezuela has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest orchestra with 8,573 musicians playing together for more than five minutes.
- ✓ The record was set by the country's National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras, known as "El Sistema".

