

November 2nd week Current Affairs

National News

India launches its 41st scientific expedition to Antarctica

- India successfully launched the 41st scientific expedition to **Antarctica**. The first batch comprises 23 scientists and support staff.
- The 41st Antarctic expedition of India features two major programmes. One has to do with the Amery Ice Shelf, while the other has to do with the ice core drilling near the Maitri research station.
- The Indian Antarctic programme began in **1981** has completed 40 scientific expeditions so far.
- India has built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named **Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri** and **Bharati**.

Union Government brings an ordinance to extend the tenure of Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) directors for five years

- The Union Government has brought an ordinance to extend the tenure of **Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) directors** up to **five years**.
- At present, the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate have been appointed for **two-year** tenure by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.

India observes its first edition of Audit Diwas on 16 November

- Prime Minister Modi presented a statue of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** at the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on 16 November to commemorate the **first edition of Audit Diwas**.
- Audit Diwas is celebrated to mark the historical origin of the institution of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years

Maharashtra signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) to boost the adoption of electric vehicles

- The **Maharashtra Government** signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian arm of the USA-based **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)** to support the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in **Maharashtra**. This MoU was signed in Glasgow amid the ongoing **COP26 Summit**.
- Maharashtra's new draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2021 aims to bring at least **1,46,000** new battery-operated electric vehicles (BEVs) on state roads by

Maharashtra

- Capital: **Mumbai**
- Chief Minister: **Uddhav Thackeray**
- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**

SALEM INSTITUTE OF BANKING

- National Parks: **Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench (Jawaharlal Nehru) National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park**

Oil India Limited joins hand with IIT-Guwahati to boost tech in the energy sector

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** will collaborate with **Oil India Limited (OIL)** on the development and introduction of new technologies in energy and related sectors.
- This partnership will also focus on cooperation in the Transfer of existing technologies, knowledge upgradation and innovation partnership, training and skill development and other areas of mutual agreement.

A three-day festival 'Kashi Utsav' was held in Varanasi

- A three-day festival **Kashi Utsav** was held in **Varanasi** to celebrate the classic heritage and culture of **Kashi**, especially the centuries-old luminaries — Goswami Tulsidas, Sant Kabir, Sant Raidas, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Munshi Premchand and Shri Jaishankar Prasad.

Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: **Lucknow**
- Chief Minister: **Yogi Adityanath**
- Governor: **Anandiben Patel**
- National Park: **Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)**
- Zoological Parks: **Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates world-class redeveloped Rani Kamlapati railway station in Bhopal

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the redeveloped **Rani Kamlapati railway station** in Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The redevelopments include the gauge converted and electrified Ujjain-Fatehabad Chandrawatiganj Broad Gauge section, third line in Bhopal-Barkhera section, gauge converted and electrified Mathela-Nimar Kheri Broad Gauge section and electrified Guna-Gwalior section.
- He also flagged off two new **MEMU trains** between **Ujjain-Indore** and **Indore-Ujjain**.

Madhya Pradesh

- Capital: **Bhopal**
- Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**
- Governor: **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
- National Parks: **Bandhavgarh National Park, Dinosaur Fossils National Park, Fossil National Park, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Kuno National Park, Madhav National Park, Panna National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park**

Union Tourism Ministry signs a pact with IRCTC to boost hospitality and tourism industries

- The **Union Ministry of Tourism** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to strengthen the **hospitality and tourism industries**.
- The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the Online Travel Aggregator (OTA) platform.
- The Union Ministry of Tourism has already signed similar MoUs with **EaseMyTrip, Cleartrip, Yatra.com, MakeMyTrip** and **Goibibo**.

Indian Oil partners with NTPC to collaborate on green energy

- **Indian Oil** and **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** have partnered together for the generation and storage of **renewable energy** or other cleaner forms of energy, including gas-based power, primarily to cater for Indian oil refineries or other installations.
- This is a first-of-its-kind initiative by two leading **public sector energy** majors of India to support **India's** commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce **greenhouse gas emissions**.

Union Cabinet approves the restoration of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- The **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** was restored by the Union Cabinet.
- The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) constituency is **₹5 crores**, released in two instalments of **₹2.5 crores** each, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as per the MPLADS guidelines.
- The MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by **the Government of India**.
- The scheme's goal is to allow MPs to promote developmental projects in their constituencies, with a focus on the establishment of long-term community assets in areas like drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads.

Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijju launches Citizens' Tele Law mobile application

- Union Law and Justice Minister **Kiren Rijju** launched **the Citizens' Tele Law mobile application** and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' event.
- This app in the Android version would be available on Google Playstore for download.
- This app will connect the beneficiaries directly with panel lawyers offering legal advice and consultation.

Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar launches a book titled 'Force in Statecraft'

- Defence Secretary **Ajay Kumar** released a book titled **'Force In Statecraft'** which is a collection of writings on counter-insurgency operations, the conflict in the Northeast, airpower and nuclear posture that provide a conceptual understanding of India's national security.
- This book's contributors are all veterans of the Indian Armed Forces with extensive operational experience and knowledge of a number of key forces and their applications.

Narendra Modi launches the RBI Retail Direct and RBI Integrated Ombudsman schemes

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — **retail direct scheme and integrated ombudsman scheme** to provide opportunities to retail investors to participate in the government securities market and contribute towards nation-building.
- With the help of the RBI Retail Direct scheme, we can access the government securities market both primary and secondary markets by opening a **gilt securities account (Retail Direct)** with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The **Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)** is aimed at further improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by the RBI.

India's first Centre for Research on Drone Technology was launched at IIT Guwahati

- Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation General **K. Singh** launched **India's first Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence** at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati.
- IIT Guwahati will share its research expertise, impart skill development, set up a drone port and provide all administrative support and fulfill the vision of the Indian Prime Minister to realise the potential of India to be a global drone hub by 2030.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is set to inaugurate the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021

- The **40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021** will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on 14 November 2021 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The India International Trade Fair 2021 focuses on the theme "**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**", which aims to promote investment and self-reliance in diverse sectors to meet domestic demand and be a part of the global supply chain eco-system.
- Bihar is the Partner State, while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the Focus States in the India International Trade Fair 2021.

National Internet Exchange of India launches a digital payment gateway

- The **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched a **digital payment gateway** across its business units by integrating payment gateways on all its customer-facing websites for ease of use.
- This will enhance convenience for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring a seamless experience for all stakeholders.
- NIXI has partnered with **PayU and NSDL** to offer payment gateway services.
- PayU is enabling payment digitisation for crucial initiatives across the three key domains of NIXI.

India launched 'E-Amrit' web portal for electric vehicle related information at the COP26 Summit

- **India** launched '**E-Amrit**', a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs) at the ongoing COP26 Summit in **Glasgow, UK**.

- This portal serves as a **one-stop destination** for all information about **electric vehicles**, including debunking myths about their adoption, purchasing, investment opportunities, policies and subsidies.
- This portal has been developed and hosted by **NITI Aayog** under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK Government and as part of the UK–India Joint Roadmap 2030.

Union Ministry of Civil Aviation launches 'e-governance for Civil Aviation (e-GCA)' online platform

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **e-governance for Civil Aviation (e-GCA)** online platform, which will allow the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), to conduct 298 services. These services include pilot licencing and medical examination.
- This platform will provide services to various DGCA stakeholders such as pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers, air operators, airport operators, flying training organisations, maintenance and design organisations.
- The portal was developed by **Tata Consultancy Services**.

State News

Jharkhand celebrates its foundation day on 15 November 2021

- **Jharkhand** celebrated its foundation day on 15 November 2021. It was on **15 November in 2000** when the Chhotanagpur area was segregated from the southern half of **Bihar** to form another state named **Jharkhand**. It became the **28th** Indian state.

Jharkhand

- Capital: **Ranchi**
- Chief Minister: **Hemant Soren**
- Governor: **Ramesh Bais**

Wangala Festival is celebrated in Meghalaya

- The **Wangala Festival**, also known as the 100 drum festival, is celebrated in **Meghalaya** on 12 November 2021.
- It has been celebrated since 1976. It is the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists.
- This festival honours the Sun God and commemorates the conclusion of the long harvest season. For the Garo tribe, this festival also marks the end of a lengthy period of toil in the field before the onset of the winter.

Meghalaya

- **Capital:** Shillong
- **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma
- **Governor:** Satya Pal Malik

India's first-ever National Yogasana Championships begins in Bhubaneswar from 11-13 November 2021

- India's first-ever **National Yogasana Championships** began in **Odisha's Bhubaneswar** from 11-13 November 2021, organised by National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF).
- Yogasana sport for both male and female categories has been included in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021.

Odisha Government launches the road safety initiative 'Rakshak'

- **Odisha** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a road safety initiative '**Rakshak**', under which 30,000 first responders will be trained by 300 master trainers in all 30 districts.
- These 30,000 first responders will be equipped to administer first aid and pre-hospital trauma care to accident victims within the golden hour.

Odisha

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal
- **Festivals:** Dhanu Yatra, Budi Thakurani Yatra, Magha Saptami, Chhau, Dola Purnima
- **Lakes:** Kanjia Lake, Chilika Lake, Ansupa Lake, Pata Lake
- **Folk Dances:** Chhau, Gotipua, Ghumura, Ranappa, Chaiti Ghoda, Sambalpuri
- **Dams:** Hirakud Dam, Indravati Dam, Rengali Dam, Jalaput Dam, Mandira Dam, Patora Dam
- **National Parks:** Bhitarkanika National Park, Simlipal National Park,

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin is set to receive the Ambedkar Sudar Award for 2021

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **K. Stalin** will receive the '**Ambedkar Sudar**' award for the year 2021, given by Thol. Thirumavalavan for satisfying a long-pending demand of Dalits and tribals to commission for their welfare.

Tamil Nadu

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **National Parks:** Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park

Meghalaya Chief Minister inaugurates the Eastern West Khasi Hills district

- Chief Minister of Meghalaya **Conrad Sangma** inaugurated the new **Eastern West Khasi Hills district**, which was split from its parent district, West Khasi Hills.
- This will be the 12th district of Meghalaya.
- It will comprise Mairang and Mawthadraishan community and rural development blocks and will be headquartered at Mairang.

Meghalaya

- **Capital:** Shillong

- **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma
- **Governor:** Satya Pal Malik

The third edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021 was held from 7–9 November 2021

- The **third edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021** was hosted by the Indian Navy from 07 November to 09 November 2021 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- The theme for this year's (2021) edition of GMC is "**Maritime Security and Emerging Non-traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies**", which has been derived keeping in mind the necessity of 'winning everyday peace' in the maritime domain.
- The Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) was symbolic of India's constructive engagement in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

International News

India and Sri Lanka revive Parliament Friendship Association

- **India and Sri Lanka** have set up **Parliamentary Friendship Association**. This association existed in the past and is being revived for the current Parliament, elected in August 2020.
- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka **Gopal Baglay** was also present during the event.

Dubai Airshow begins at the Al Maktoum International Airport

- The biggest-ever **Dubai Airshow** began at the **Al Maktoum International Airport** in Dubai World Central, with more than 1,200 exhibitors taking part in the **five-day**
- Dubai Airshow also features more than **160** of the world's most advanced aircraft on the ground and in the air.

The United States joins the International Solar Alliance as the 101st member country

- The **United States** has joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as the **101st member country** to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then-French President Francois Hollande announced the beginning of ISA in **November 2015** at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- **Director-General :** Ajay Mathur
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana

Banking & Economy

Union Government and the Asian Development Bank signed a pact for the development of Agartala

- Union Government has inked a pact with the Asian Development Bank for a **\$61 million** (around ₹454 crores) loan to fund development projects in **Agartala, Tripura**.

- This agreement was signed to increase liveability, harness technology and promote new developments in Agartala in order to handle the city's growing population while also strengthening state agencies' capability for improved service delivery.

Tripura

- **Capital:** Agartala
- **Chief Minister:** Biplab Kumar Deb
- **Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya

Reserve Bank of India introduces an internal ombudsman mechanism for NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed a few non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to appoint an **internal ombudsman** to oversee their internal grievance redressal mechanisms within six months under **Section 45 (L)** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- All deposit-taking NBFCs with 10 or more branches as well as non-deposit taking NBFCs with asset size of **₹5000 crores** and more and having public customer interface, to appoint internal ombudsman at the top of their internal grievance redressal mechanism.
- Any complaints that have been partially or completely rejected by the NBFC will be evaluated by the ombudsman before the final decision of the NBFC is conveyed to the complainant.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Formation:** 1 April 1935
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Deputy Governors:** K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar
- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

Karnataka Bank launches CASA (current account savings account) campaign for 2021-22

- **Karnataka Bank** launched **CASA (current account savings account) campaign** for 2021-22 and introduced a new current account scheme named '**KBL Current Account - Premium**', which is specifically designed to meet the needs of small and medium entrepreneurs.
- Under this scheme, customers can have a new current account by maintaining a monthly average balance of **₹25,000** and can avail a host of premium facilities.

Karnataka Bank

- **Headquarters:** Mangalore
- **MD & CEO:** S. Mahabaleswara

HDFC Bank integrates with the Union Government's e-NAM platform

- **HDFC Bank** has announced its integration with the Union Government's **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries.

- HDFC Bank has partnered with the **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** to further improve the ease of doing business on the e-NAM platform by offering collection modes like **multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT/RTGS and UPI/IMPS**.

HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman: **Deepak Parekh**
- MD & CEO: **Sashidhar Jagdishan**
- Tagline: **“We understand your world”**
- Established: **1994**

Indian Bank launches video KYC facility enabled by VCIP technology

- **Indian Bank** has launched the **video KYC (Know Your Customer)** facility, which allows applicants to open accounts from anywhere using its **Video-based Customer Identification Process (VCIP) technology** on its web-based platforms.
- The video KYC facility is developed in collaboration with Gieom Business Solutions, which simplifies the next stages by delivering the checkbook and ATM card to the customer's registered address.
- After completing the initiation processes, customers can deposit the minimum sum either offline or online and transact easily using the ATM card and through mobile banking.

Indian Bank

- **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **MD and CEO:** Shanti Lal Jain
- **Establishment:** 1907
- **Tagline:** “Your Own Bank”
- Allahabad Bank was amalgamated with the Indian Bank on 1 April 2020.

BharatPe is set to launch Merchant Shareholding Programme for its merchant partners

- **BharatPe** is set to launch the world's first-ever **Merchant Shareholding Program (MSP)** for its merchant partners to provide an opportunity to the company's millions of offline merchant partners to become part equity owners of BharatPe.
- It intends to develop an equity pool structure for MSP worth up to \$100 million, which will be distributed to qualified merchants over the next four years.

BharatPe:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 2018

India Post Payments Bank ties up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launches the insurance products

- **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** has tied up with the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** and the Department of Posts (DoP), launching two insurance products to tap the vast rural customers across India.

- This partnership will assist customers, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups and those living in unbanked or underserved areas, in becoming financially secure and empowered and is in keeping with IPPB's goal of providing consumers with value-added goods and services.
- Through this alliance, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company (BALIC) has become the first private life insurer in India to enter into a tie-up with the Department of Posts for the sale of Point of Sale (PoS) products.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Bombay Stock Exchange joins hands with All India MSME Association (AIMA MSME) to promote the listing of MSMEs and start-ups

- **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has collaborated with the All India MSME Association (**AIMA MSME**) to encourage and promote the listing of MSMEs and start-ups.
- AIMA MSME will assist BSE in evaluating MSMEs and start-ups for listing on the exchange's Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) platform, as well as raising awareness of listed MSMEs among its investor network.
- Those two entities will hold collaborative roadshows and events around India to boost awareness of the exchange's SME section among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Vikramajit Sen
- **MD & CEO:** Ashishkumar Chauhan

Mobikwik ties up with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Axis Bank Mobikwik RuPay card

- Mobikwik has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Axis Bank to launch **MobiKwik RuPay card**.
- Customers may now obtain up to **₹2 lakhs** of their MobiKwik wallet balance mirrored on the MobiKwik RuPay prepaid card and the card is free of charge and fully digital, in line with the growing demand for digital payments across online and brick & mortar stores.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Non-Executive Chairman:** Biswamohan Mahapatra
- **MD & CEO:** Dilip Asbe
- **Founded:** 2008

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permits banks to offer interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to allow banks to provide interest rates on **Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account (FCNR) (B)** deposits based on the commonly used

Overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) for the relevant currency, with a 50 basis point (bps) increase in the interest rate ceiling.

- This comes in view of the impending discontinuance of LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) as a benchmark rate.
- The RBI stated that the interest rate ceiling on FCNR (B) deposits with terms ranging from one to three years will be overnight ARR for the corresponding currency/Swap plus 250 basis points, against LIBOR/ Swap plus 200 basis points now.

Appointments

Pradeep Kumar was appointed as the Chairman of Karnataka Bank

- **Pradeep Kumar** was appointed as the Chairman of **Karnataka Bank** for a period of **three years** from 14 November.
- He succeeds **Jayarama Bhat**.
- He became a member of the State Bank of India as a probationary officer in 1976 and was the Managing Director of the State Financial institution of Travancore throughout 2010–

Rajeev Srivastava was appointed as the CEO of Standard Chartered Securities

- **Rajeev Srivastava** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Standard Chartered Securities (India)**.
- Before this appointment, he was associated with **Reliance Securities** as Chief Business Officer (CBO), leading their brokerage and distribution business. He has also worked with **ICICI Bank** in its private banking division.

Former Indian cricketer Rahul Dravid was appointed as the brand ambassador of Plaeto

- **Plaeto**, a footwear brand for children, has roped in former Indian cricketer **Rahul Dravid** as its brand ambassador and mentor for campaigns. The campaign has been developed by Bangalore-based People Design and Communication, in partnership with team **Plaeto**. The video campaign will be promoted across the brand's social media channels.

Former CBDT Chairman P.C. Mody was appointed Rajya Sabha Secretary-General

- Former Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), **Pramod Chandra Mody** was appointed as the new Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha. He replaced **P.K. Ramacharyulu**. He is a 1982-batch retired IRS officer.

Ashu Sayush was appointed as the Independent Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

- Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has appointed **Ashu Suyash** as an Independent Director on its Board.
- She has over 33 years of experience in the financial services and global information services sector.

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

Amy Oldenburg was appointed as the emerging markets equity head of Morgan Stanley

- Morgan Stanley has appointed **Amy Oldenburg** as the Head of emerging markets equity at its investment management business.
- She replaced **Ruchir Sharma**.
- She has spent over 20 years in Morgan Stanley's asset management business and has been the Chief Operating Officer overseeing its emerging markets platform since 2013.

Morgan Stanley

- **Headquarters:** New York, the United States
- **CEO:** James P. Gorman
- **Founded:** 5 September 1935

Daniel Bruhl was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations' World Food Program

- **Daniel Bruhl**, a German-Spanish actor, has been appointed as a **Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP)**.
- He has joined the WFP's mission to reach a world with zero hunger.
- In this role, he will raise awareness about the millions of people who go to bed hungry every night and rally his supporters to advocate for a world where there is no hunger.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Executive Director: David Beasley
- Founded: 1961

Satya Narayan Pradhan was appointed as the Director -General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Satya Narayan Pradhan** was appointed as the Director -General of **the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** till August 2024.
- He succeeded Rakesh Asthana.
- He is a Jharkhand cadre 1988-batch IPS officer and is currently holding additional charge as the NCB Chief despite holding the responsibility as the Director -General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Sheel Vardhan Singh and Atul Karwal were appointed as the chiefs of CISF and NDRF

- Senior IPS officers **Sheel Vardhan Singh** and **Atul Karwal** were appointed as chiefs of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** and the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**,
- Sheel Vardhan Singh is an IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, whereas Atul Karwal is from Gujarat cadre.
- Sheel Vardhan Singh is currently serving as the Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau and Atul Karwal is presently working as a Director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

Awards and Recognitions

UST was named as a leader in the Nelson Hall NEAT Report for Blockchain Services in banking

- A leader in digital transformation solutions, **UST** was named a **Leader in the Nelson Hall NEAT Report for Blockchain Services** in the banking capability marketplace.
- UST's blockchain services are focused on transforming organisations and ecosystems by creating custom solutions that enable innovative business models based on data reliability and operational agility.

President Ram Nath Kovind presents the National Sports Awards 2021

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **National Sports Awards 2021** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards for 2021.
- National Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports. **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** was given to 12 sportspersons:
- **Neeraj Chopra** (Athletics)
- **Ravi Kumar** (Wrestling)
- **Lovlina Borgohain** (Boxing)
- **Sreejesh P.R.** (Hockey)
- **Avani Lekhara** (Para-Shooting)
- **Sumit Antil** (Para-Athletics)
- **Pramod Bhagat** (Para-Badminton)
- **Krishna Nagar** (Para-Badminton)
- **Manish Narwal** (Para-Shooting)
- **Mithali Raj** (Cricket)
- **Sunil Chhetri** (Football)
- **Manpreet Singh** (Hockey)
- **Hockey India team (Men's)** who has won the historic bronze medal in Tokyo 2020 Olympics has been awarded **Arjuna Award** with the exceptions of PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh.
- **Dronacharya Award** in the Lifetime Category went to **P. Ouseph, Sarkar Talwar, Sarpal Singh, Ashan Kumar and Tapan Kumar Panigrahi**.
- Dronacharya Award in the Regular category was awarded to **Radhakrishnan Nair P, Sandhya Gurung, Pritam Siwach, Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Subramanian Raman**.
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement went to **Lekha KC, Abhijeet Kunte, Davinder Singh Garcha, Vikas Kumar and Sajjan Singh**.
- **Punjab University** (Chandigarh) received the **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy** for 2021.
- The full list of athletes who received the **Arjuna Award** are: Arpinder Singh, Simranjit Kaur, Shikhar Dhawan, Bhavani Devi, Monika, Vandana Katariya, Sandeep Narwal, Hiimani Uttam Parab, Abhishek Verma, Ankita Raina, Deepak Punia, Dilpreet Singh, Harman Preet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shamsher Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Varun Kumar, Simranjeet Singh, Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Suhash Yathiraj, Singhraj Adhana, Bhavina Patel, Harvinder Singh and Sharad Kumar.

IIT Bombay team wins \$2,50,000 grant from Elon Musk Foundation at the COP26 Summit

- A team of **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** students have won a **\$250,000 grant** for creating a tri-modular technology for large-scale carbon dioxide removal from source points of emission and changing them into salts.
- This grant was awarded to the team of students by the **XPRIZE Foundation**, a part of the Elon Musk Foundation at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow. The student team is also known as **'SASIITB'**.

Defence News

India, Singapore and Thailand participates in the third SITMEX trilateral maritime exercise

- The **third edition** of the Singapore–India–Thailand maritime exercise **SITMEX 21** took place in the **Andaman Sea** hosted by the Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- This trilateral exercise will focus on tactical naval manoeuvres and surface warfare drills.
- The indigenously built missile corvette Indian naval ship **INS Karmuk** took part in the trilateral maritime exercise.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Uttar Pradesh's first private-sector defence manufacturing facility

- Union Minister of Defence **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the first operationalised private sector defence manufacturing facility in the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)** in Lucknow.
- This facility is run by **Aerolloy Technologies**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PTC industries and will manufacture parts for aircraft engines, helicopter engines, structural parts for aircraft, drones and UAV, submarines, ultra-light artillery guns, space launch vehicles and strategy systems.

Sixth-edition of the Indo-France joint military exercise 'Ex-Shakti 2021' commences from 15 November

- The sixth edition of the biennial training exercise **'Ex-Shakti 2021'** between **India** and **France** is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in **Frejus, France**.
- Both the countries will be participating in the three biennial training exercises namely — **Garuda, Varuna & Shakti**.
- The joint exercise comprises of training of India-France air forces termed (Garuda), India-France navies (Varuna) and India-France armies (Shakti).
- The goal of this exercise is to improve military cooperation and interoperability between the two armies by focusing on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations mandate.

Ranks and Indices

Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar becomes India's wealthiest self-made female billionaire

- Nykaa's founder **Falguni Nayar** has become India's wealthiest self-made female billionaire, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index** published by Bloomberg News.
- Falguni Nayar, who formerly led a top Indian investment bank, founded Nykaa in 2012. The word Nykaa is derived from the Sanskrit word for heroine. The firm sells items including

exfoliation creams, bridal make-up essentials and hundreds of shades of lipstick, foundation and nail colour.

India ranks 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index by Germanwatch

- **India** was ranked **10th** in the 17th edition of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), compiled by **Germanwatch**.
- The first three ranks of the overall rankings were kept empty because no country had performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating, whereas Denmark was ranked 4th in the index.
- The CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators — greenhouse gas emissions (40 per cent of the overall score), renewable energy (20 per cent), energy use (20 per cent) and climate policy (20 per cent).
- The last five on the CCPI were **Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Canada and Taiwan**.

Sports News

Lewis Hamilton wins Sao Paulo F1 Grand Prix 2021

- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the **Sao Paulo Formula 1 Grand Prix (earlier known as Brazilian Grand Prix) 2021**.
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** came second and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas came third in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Australia beat New Zealand by eight wickets to clinch maiden ICC men's T20 world cup title

- **Australia** won the **2021 T20 World Cup title** after defeating **New Zealand** in the ICC men's T20 world Cup final at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. **Australia** lifted the T20 World Cup trophy for the first time since the tournament's inception in **2007**.
- **David Warner** was adjudged as the Player of the Tournament (289 runs from seven innings). **Mitchell Marsh** was adjudged as the Player of the Match in the final.

Mitrabha Guha becomes the 72nd Chess Grandmaster of India

- **Mitrabha Guha** from Kolkata became the **72nd Chess Grandmaster** of India at the Grandmaster Third Saturday Mix 220 tourney held in Novi Sad, Serbia.
- He secured his Fide Master rating back in 2009 and then went on to claim the International Master norm in 2019.

U-23 Women's World Wrestling Championships 2021 takes place in Belgrade, Serbia

- **Senior U-23 Women's World Wrestling Championships 2021** took place in Belgrade, Serbia, in which Indian wrestlers Shivani, Anju, Radhika and Nisha won medals for India.
- Shivani Pawar (50 kg) – Silver medal

Anju (55 kg) – Bronze medal

Radhika (62 kg) – Bronze medal

Nisha (65 kg) – Bronze medal

India finishes the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup 2021 with five medals

- India finished the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup 2021 with five medals.
- **Manu Bhaker** – two gold medals in the 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Mixed Team event and 10 m Air Pistol Mixed Team

Rani Sarnobat – silver medal in the Women's 25 m Pistol event.

Saurabh Chaudhary – silver medal in the Men's 10 m Air Pistol event

Abhishek Verma – bronze medal in the Men's 10 m Air Pistol event.

Brazilian footballer Formiga is set to retire from international football

- **Brazil's** most-capped player **Formiga** is to retire from international football.
- She has played 233 matches for Brazil and her final game will be a friendly against India on 25 November in Manaus.
- She was part of the Brazil football team that lost to Germany in the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup final and has won the silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics and again at Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Important Days

International Day of Tolerance – 16 November

- **International Day of Tolerance** is observed on **16 November** to create public awareness about the dangers of intolerance.
- The United Nations had declared **1995** as the Year for Tolerance.
- The Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was formulated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 16 November 1995.
- Theme for 2021: '**Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human**'.

National Press Day – 16 November

- **National Press Day** is observed on **16 November** to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India.
- This day is aimed at highlighting the importance of an independent press in a democracy.
- The Press Council of India was established on **16 November 1966** to oversee the quality of reporting in the Indian press.
- This day symbolises freedom of the press and its responsibilities towards society.

World Diabetes Day – 14 November

- **World Diabetes Day** is observed every year on **14 November** to spread awareness about **diabetes**. This day marked the birth anniversary of **Sir Frederick Banting**, who co-discovered insulin along with **Charles Best** in **1922**.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021–23 is '**Access to Diabetes Care – If Not Now, When?**'.

Public Service Broadcasting Day – 12 November

- **Public Service Broadcasting Day** was observed on **12 November** to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi, in 1947.

World Kindness Day – 13 November

- **World Kindness Day** is observed on **13 November** to promote the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself and to the world.
- The World Kindness Movement, founded at the 1997 Tokyo summit of like-minded kindness organisations from throughout the world, first observed World Kindness Day in 1998.

World Pneumonia Day – 12 November

- **World Pneumonia Day** is observed on **12 November** to raise awareness about Pneumonia disease.
- Pneumonia is considered to be the world's leading infectious disease and the most impacted age group are children below five years of age.
- World Pneumonia Day was first established in 2009.
- Theme for 2021: '**Stop Pneumonia/Every Breath Counts**'.

National Education Day – 11 November

- **National Education Day** is observed on **11 November** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Union Education Minister, **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.
- He served as the first Education Minister of independent India from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958.
- The first National Education Day was celebrated on 11 November 2008.

Obituary

Veteran Hindi writer Mannu Bhandari passed away

- Renowned **Hindi** writer **Mannu Bhandari** passed away in New Delhi at the age of 90.
- She wrote 'Aapki Banti' and 'Mahabhoj' novels.
- Her famous novel '**Yahi Sach Hai**' was adapted into a Hindi movie 'Rajnigandha' in 1974.

Noted historian and Padma Vibhushan awardee Babasaheb Purandare passed away at 99

- Noted **historian** and **Padma Vibhushan** awardee **Balwant Moreshwar Purandare**, popularly known as **Babasaheb Purandare**, died at Pune in Maharashtra.
- He was awarded with the **Padma Vibhushan** (India's second-highest civilian award) in **2019**.

Former South African President F. W. de Klerk passed away

- **South Africa's** last white President, **Frederik Willem (FW) de Klerk** passed away at the age of 85.
- He shared the **Nobel Peace Prize** with Mandela in **1993** for helping to negotiate an end to apartheid.
- He served as a President from 1989 to 1994 and as Deputy President from 1994 to 1996.

- He and his government dismantled the apartheid system and introduced universal suffrage.

Noted academician and philosopher Koneru Ramakrishna Rao passed away

- Noted academician and former chancellor of GITAM (deemed to be University) and Padma Shri awardee **Koneru Ramakrishna Rao** passed away at the age of 89.
- He was a well-known internationally recognised psychologist, Gandhian scholar and educator, who won the Padma Shri award in 2011.



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