

Current Affairs: 17.11.2021

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Purvanchal Expressway at Karwalkheri in Sultanpur district of UP



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Purvanchal Expressway at Karwalkheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh** on November 16, 2021. It will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur. The **341-km long Purvanchal Express** has been constructed at an estimated cost of **Rs 22,500 crore**. The Expressway starts from village Chaudsarai, located on Lucknow-Sultanpur road (NH-731) and ends at village Hydaria located on National Highway No. 31, 18 km east of UP-Bihar border. A **3.2-km long airstrip** has also been constructed on the expressway to enable landing and take-off of Indian Air Force fighter planes in case of emergency.

'Kaiser-i-Hind' declared as Arunachal Pradesh's State Butterfly



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has approved the declaration of large and brightly coloured **Kaiser-i-Hind butterfly as the State butterfly**. The Kaiser-i-Hind butterfly is scientifically known as **Teinopalpus imperialis**. The Kaiser-i-Hind literally means **Emperor of India**. This species of butterfly has a 90-120 mm wingspan. They are found in six Indian States along the Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain. These are Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim and Manipur. Apart from this, the butterfly are also found in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam

and southern China.

RBI introduces Internal Ombudsman mechanism for select NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India has announced to introduce the **Internal Ombudsman mechanism** for following two types of **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**:

Deposit-taking NBFCs (**NBFCs-D**) with **10 or more branches** and

Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (**NBFCs-ND**) with **asset size of Rs.5,000 crore and above** having public customer interface

Consequently, these two categories of **NBFCs will have to appoint Internal Ombudsman (IO)**. The internal Ombudsman will be responsible for handling the public grievance at the entity level before the grievance is escalated to Ombudsman at RBI. RBI has given a timeline of six months to the NBFCs for the appointment of the Internal Ombudsman.

Total corpus of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) reaches Rs 614 crore

The total corpus of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) of RBI has reached **Rs 614 crore**. The PIDF scheme was launched by RBI in January 2021, to **subsidize deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure (PoS) in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres** with a special focus on the North-Eastern States of the country. At that time it was decided that, RBI will make an **initial contribution of Rs. 250 crores** to the PIDF covering half the fund and the remaining contribution will be from card-issuing banks and card networks operating in the country. **Initially** when the scheme was launched **the corpus of PIDF was Rs. 345 crore** (Rs. 250 crores contributed by RBI and Rs. 95 crores by the major authorized card networks in the country).

Cross & Climb, Rohtak

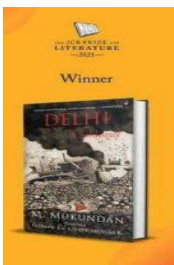


Now various other Authorised Card Networks (Rs. 153.72) and Card Issuing Banks (Rs. 210.17 crores) have increased their contribution to the PIDS Scheme hence taking the total corpus to Rs. 613.89 crore (approx Rs 614 crore).

Indian Oil and NTPC collaborate on renewable energy

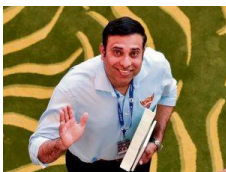
State-owned **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** and **NTPC Ltd** have inked an MoU for the **generation and storage of renewable energy** or other cleaner forms of energy, including gas-based power. The energy generated will primarily be used to cater for IndianOil Refineries or other installations. The collaboration is a first-of-its-kind initiative by two leading public sector energy majors of India. The partnership will help to support country's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Malayalam writer M. Mukundan's 'Delhi: A soliloquy' wins 2021 JCB Prize for Literature



The novel titled "**Delhi: A Soliloquy**" written by **Malayalam writer M Mukundan** has won the **2021 JCB Prize for literature**. The book originally written in Malayalam has been translated into English by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar. The JCB Prize for Literature was established in 2018. It is the most expensive Indian award for writing. The prize carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh for author and Rs 10 lakh for translator. It honours distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or translated fiction by an Indian writer.

VVS Laxman named as new head of National Cricket Academy (NCA)



Former Indian international cricketer **VVS Laxman** has been named as the next head of the **National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru** by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He is expected to assume the new role before the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled to be held in Kolkata on December 4 2021. Laxman will replace **Rahul Dravid**, who has been appointed as Team India's national men's head coach.

Eminent Hindi writer Mannu Bhandari passes away at 90

Renowned Hindi author **Mannu Bhandari** has passed away. She was 90 years old. Bhandari was the wife of illustrious Hindi fiction writer late **Rajendra Yadav**, often credited to be the pioneer of the Hindi literary movement 'Nayi Kahani' along with Bhandari. Some of the well known works of Bhandari are Aapka Bunt, Mahabhoj, and Yahi Sach Hai. Her novel Yahi Sach Hai was adapted into a movie titled 'Rajnigandha' 1974.

World Famous Legendary Author Wilbur Smith Passes Away at 88

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 movie with 15 sequels. Smith published his autobiography "On Leopard Rock" in 2018.

World COPD Day 2021: 17 November (Third Wednesday of November)



World COPD Day is observed on **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**. The day is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) in collaboration with health care professionals and COPD patient groups throughout the world.

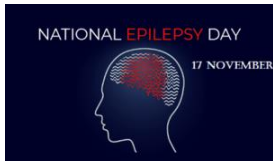
Cross & Climb, Rohtak



The first World COPD Day was held in 2002. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a lung disease that block airflow and make it difficult to breathe.



National Epilepsy Day : 17 November



In India, **November 17** is observed every year as **National Epilepsy Day** by the Epilepsy Foundation, to create awareness about epilepsy. Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. The month of November is observed as 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month'.