

Current Affairs: 26/28.11.2021

Modi lays foundation stone of Noida International Airport at Jewar in UP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation Stone of **Noida International Airport at Jewar** in Uttar Pradesh on November 25, 2021. The Jewar airport is the **second international aerodrome in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)**. It is the **fifth international airport in Uttar Pradesh**. Uttar Pradesh has now become the **state with the highest number of international airport** in India. The airport has been developed by Zurich Airport International AG over 1,330 acres of land area. The airport is expected to be operational by September 2024. Once operational, this airport will be the **largest airport of India** and the **first net zero emissions airport of the country**.

Cabinet approves extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) till March 2022



The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)** for another four months. The Phase V of PMGKAY scheme will be operational from **December 2021 till March 2022**. Under the scheme all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) receives food grains @ 5 kg per person per month. The estimated additional food subsidy for Phase V of the scheme is of Rs. 53344.52 Crore. The total food-grains outgo for PMGKAY Phase V will be about 163 LMT.

Venkaiah Naidu Represents India at 13th ASEM Summit Virtually



The **13th edition of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit** has been organised on November 25 and 26, 2021. The Summit is being hosted by **Cambodia** as ASEM Chair. The theme of the two-day ASEM Summit is **Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth**. The Indian delegation is being led by **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** through virtual platform.

The ASEM Summit will bring together countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas. ASEM grouping have 51 member countries and two regional organisations — the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The 2021 summit marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEM process.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurates 5th World Congress on Disaster Management at IIT Delhi

The **fifth edition of the World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)** was virtually inaugurated by the Union Defence minister Shri Rajnath Singh on November 24, 2021.

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The event has been organised at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** campus from November 24-27, 2021. The theme of the 5th WCDM



is **Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19**. WCDM is a unique initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) Hyderabad to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world on a common platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management.

The first WCDM was held in 2008 in Hyderabad and inaugurated by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam.

15th Biennial Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise 'Dosti' Between India, Maldives & Sri Lanka Concludes



The **15th edition** of the **biennial Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise 'Dosti'** between the **Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka** was held from November 20 to 24 in Maldives. Indian Coast Guard was represented by **ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva**. The aim of this exercise is to further strengthen the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability, and interoperability and build cooperation between the Coast Guards of the three nations. Exercise Dosti was launched in

1991 between Indian and Maldives Coast Guards. Sri Lanka joined the drill for the first time in 2012.

Moody's Projects India's GDP growth forecast in FY22 at 9.3%; FY23 at 7.9%

Moody's Investors Service has projected the GDP growth rate prediction for India for FY22 and FY23 as follows: India's GDP growth rate prediction for **FY22 as per Moody's : 9.3%**. India's GDP growth rate prediction for **FY23 as per Moody's : 7.9%**.

Govt changes base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI) from 1963-65 to 2016

Ministry of Labour & Employment has changed the **base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI)** from 1963-65=100 to **2016=100**. The government had formed an **Expert Group on Minimum Wages & National Floor Wages** headed by **Prof. S.P. Mukherjee**. Based on the recommendation of this committee, the base year has been changed. Further, new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) from July 2016 to July 2020 based on the new series 2016=100 has been released by the government. This is compiled and maintained by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment. A total of **37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100)** as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series. The New WRI Series with base 2016=100 would be compiled twice a year on a point-to-point half-yearly basis, as on 1st January and 1st July of every year.

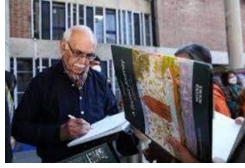
ADB approves USD1.5 bn loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **\$1.5 billion loan** (approx Rs 11,185 crore) to help the Government of India purchase safe and effective vaccines against the coronavirus (COVID-19). The fund will be used to procure at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people of the country.

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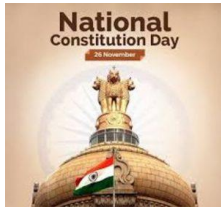


Art historian BN Goswamy pens book on Indian arts titled 'Conversations'



Renowned art historian and critic **Brijinder Nath Goswamy** has announced his new book based on and around the Indian arts. The book is titled **"Conversations: India's Leading Art Historian Engages with 101 themes, and More"**. The new book will be published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and will hit stands in 2022.

Indian Constitution Day: 26 November



In India, the Constitution Day is observed every year on November 26 to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the country. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the **Indian Constitution Day** celebrations organised by the Supreme Court, on **November 26**, 2018 in New Delhi. On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

National Milk Day: 26 November



Every year **November 26** is celebrated as **National Milk Day in India**. The day is being observed since 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the **Father of India's White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien**. Dr. Verghese Kurien is also nicknamed as **Milkman of India**. The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state level milk federations.

Indian Railways launches Bharat Gaurav theme-based circuit trains to boost tourism



The Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed that the Ministry of Railways has introduced a new **theme-based circuit trains for tourism sector** under the name **Bharat Gaurav Trains**. These trains will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and historical places to the people of India and the world. The Bharat Gaurav tourists trains can be run by any entity including a government enterprise or a private players. The service providers will be free to decide the theme of the train circuit and rates to be charged.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches World's First Multimodal Brain Imaging Data and Analytics 'SWADESH'

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Project SWADESH on November 19, 2021. The project **SWADESH** is a first of its kind large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for Indian population. The unique brain initiative has been developed by the **DBT-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC), Gurgaon, Haryana**. SWADESH brings big-data architecture and analytics for various neurological disease under one platform. It will enable the researchers in conducting multimodal brain studies to understand and manage Alzheimer's disease and several neurological disorders.

- DBT-NBRC is the only institute in India dedicated to Neuroscience Research and Education.

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India and Germany launches WISER program for lateral entry for women researchers in joint R&D projects

The **Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC)** has launched a first-of-its-kind programme to promote women researchers in the field of research and development (R&D) through lateral entry. The programme is called **Women's Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER)**. WISER will encourage women researchers in joint R&D projects. IGSTC is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Government of Germany.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) Celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the theme 'Children Ideas, Rights & Nutrition'

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** commemorated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week from **November 14-21, 2021** as a part of India's 75 years' independence celebrations. The theme of the week long event was **'Children Ideas, Rights & Nutrition'**. The event was organised with the objective to generate awareness about child rights mainly through outreach activities in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and Specialised Adoption Agencies. During the week long celebrations various activities were organized for children in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment.



S. Jaishankar represent India at 20th Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Nur-Sultan

The External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** led the Indian delegations at **20th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG)** on November 25, 2021. The meeting was held in **Nur-Sultan** in virtual format under the chairmanship of **Kazakhstan**. The SCO-CHG meeting is held annually to deliberate on a range of pressing regional issues with focus on the trade and economic agenda of the bloc and to approve its annual budget.

Collins Dictionary names 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021

Collins Dictionary has named the term **'NFT'** as the **Word of the Year 2021**. NFT is the acronym for "non-fungible token. As per Collins Dictionary, NFT is defined as "a unique digital certificate, registered in a blockchain, that is used to record ownership of an asset such as an artwork or a collectible." Collins English Dictionary is published by HarperCollins in Glasgow.

Kuwait reappoints Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Prime Minister

Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah has been re-appointed the **Prime Minister of Kuwait**. Sabah was first appointed as the 8th prime minister of Kuwait in November 2019. Prior to that he has served in various capacities like Foreign Minister and first Deputy Prime Minister etc. He was also associated with the permanent Kuwaiti mission at the UN from 1983 to 1989.

Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City; Currency: Kuwaiti dinar.

Sweden's first woman PM Magdalena Andersson steps down within hours of being elected

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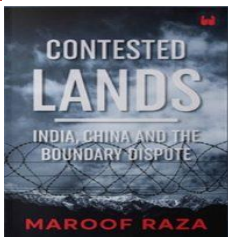
Magdalena Andersson who was appointed as the first ever female Prime



Minister of Sweden on November 24, 2021 has resigned within few hours of appointed. Andersson was forced to resign after she presented her government's budget in the Parliament and the Swedish parliament voted in favour of the budget presented by the opposition.

Book titled 'Dispute'

Maroof Raza, a book **Boundary** historical China. It has been published by Westland Non-fiction.



'Contested Lands: India, China and the Boundary released by Maroof Raza

retired Indian Army officer has come out with his new titled **"Contested Lands: India, China and the Dispute"**. The book provides detailed understanding of the background and complexities of India's borders with

National Organ Donation Day: 27 November

- In India, the **'National Organ Donation Day'** is observed every year on **27 November** since past 10 years.
- The day aims to promote awareness and recognize the selfless contribution made by deceased donors to healthcare and mankind re-instill our faith in humanity.
- **2021** marks the **12th National Organ Donation Day**.
- It is organised by the **National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

Bihar has highest level of multidimensional poverty while Kerala is least poor state: NITI Aayog's Multi-dimensional Poverty Index

- The government think tank **Niti Aayog** has released the first ever **Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** to measure poverty at the national, State/UT, and district levels.
- As per the inaugural index, **Bihar** has been adjudged as the state with **highest level of multidimensional poverty. 51.91 percent** of the state's population are multidimensionally poor.
- Jharkhand is at second position with 42.16 percent of the state population as multidimensionally poor. This is followed by Uttar Pradesh at 37.79 percent, Madhya Pradesh (36.65 per cent) and Meghalaya (32.67 per cent) in top five poorest states.
- Meanwhile, **Kerala (0.71 percent)**, Goa (3.76%), Sikkim (3.82%), Tamil Nadu (4.89%) and Punjab (5.59 %) are the top 5 lowest poverty state across India.
- **Kottayam** in Kerala is the only district which registered zero poverty across the country as per the index.

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FIRST SUCH INDEX BY NITI AAYOG



* Share of multi-dimensionally poor in states

TOP 5*

Kerala	0.71%
Goa	3.76%
Sikkim	3.82%
Tamil Nadu	4.89%
Punjab	5.59%

BOTTOM 5*

Bihar	51.91%
Jharkhand	42.16%
UP	37.79%
MP	36.65%
Meghalaya	32.67%

Madhya Pradesh announces launch of India's first Cyber Tehsil

- The **Madhya Pradesh** Cabinet has approved the proposal to create **Cyber Tehsils**.
- Madhya Pradesh will be the first state in India to create Cyber Tehsil.
- Cyber Tehsil will make the property mutation process easy and people can avail the benefit of the system from anywhere in the state .
- Similarly the process of conversion will also become convenient in the cases of undisputed land through this service.

Indian Armed Forces undertake military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' in Jaisalmer

- The Indian Army had organised the biggest military exercise called **Dakshin Shakti** in **Rajasthan's Jaisalmer** from November 19 to 22, 2021.
- Exercise Dakshin Shakti witnessed the participation of over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence.
- The drills were undertaken in the deserts of **Thar to the Rann of Kutch**.
- The main objective of this exercise was to test the capability of the troops in the marshy and marine areas and to see how well the forces worked together and how well they connected.
- The aim was also to establish the best coordination among armed forces, space technology and artificial intelligence.

Indian Navy commissions 4th Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela at Naval Dockyard Mumbai

- The Indian Navy formally commissioned the fourth Scorpene-class submarine **INS Vela** at the **Naval Dockyard in Mumbai** on November 25, 2021.
- INS Vela is the **fourth in the series of six submarines being developed under the Kalvari-class submarine Project-75**.
- It has been built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in collaboration with M/s Naval Group of France.

Indian candidate Praveen Sinha elected to top committee of INTERPOL

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Special Director Praveen Sinha** has been elected as **'Delegate for Asia' on the executive committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)**.
- Sinha was elected in the elite panel on November 25, 2021 during the 89th Interpol general assembly in Istanbul, Turkey
- Meanwhile, **Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has been elected as the new **President of INTERPOL** (Headquarters: Lyon, France).