

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (07 -13 November 2021)

### Third edition of Goa Maritime Conclave begins

- The **3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021** is being held from **7th to 9th November 2021** under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- Theme for GMC 2021: **Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies.**
- GMC: Indian Navy's Outreach Initiative providing a multinational platform to harness the collective wisdom of practitioners of maritime security and the academia towards garnering outcome oriented maritime thought.

### China launches earth science satellite, Guangmu

- **China** has launched Earth science satellite named as '**Guangmu**' into space from **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in the northern Shanxi Province.
- It was launched via **Long March-6 carrier rocket.**
- **Guangmu:** World's first Earth-science satellite dedicated to serving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- This was 395th flight mission of Long March rocket series
- It was developed by **Chinese Academy of Sciences.**

### Meghalaya Cabinet approves creation of Eastern West Khasi Hills District

- **Meghalaya Cabinet** has approved a proposal to upgrade **Mairang civil sub-division to a full-fledged district.**
- It will be now called as **Eastern West Khasi Hills district** and will be inaugurated on 10th Nov 2021
- Mairang is now a sub-division under West Khasi Hills district.
- Creation of the new district will ensure that administration will remain closer to the people besides implementation of various schemes will also be more effective

### Silchar to host Northeast Green Summit from 16th November

- **Silchar (Assam)** will be hosting three day long **Northeast Green Summit** from **16th November**, with agenda of sustainable development and conservation strategies for the Northeast and its contiguous biodiversity zones
- Focus area of the summit: **Greening after Covid: Regional Cooperation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship.**
- Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar will also attend the summit
- It will be organised by Vibgyor NE Foundation and supported by **UN Environment.**

### Sankalp Gupta becomes India's 71st Grandmaster

- **Nagpur** based teenager **Sankalp Gupta** has become **India's 71st Grandmaster** by finishing second in the GM Ask 3 round-robin event in **Serbia.**
- He secured the 3 required GM norms by playing three tournaments on the trot.
- To achieve the GM title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.



- He won five games, drew three and lost one to **Rudik Makrarian (Russia)** to take the second place with 6.5 points in the **GM tournament**.

## President Ram Nath Kovind confers Padma awards in Rashtrapati Bhawan

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presents the **Padma Awards** in the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of **Republic Day**.
- The Awards are given in 3 categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- **119 Padma Awards** will be presented by President this year.
- The list comprises **7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan** and **102 Padma Shri Awards**.

## Iran's military began its annual war games Zolfaghar-1400 in Gulf of Oman

- **Iran's** military began its annual war games "**Zolfaghar-1400**" in the **Gulf of Oman**.
- Navy and air force units as well as ground forces were participating in a more than 1 million square-kilometer area east of the strategic **Strait of Hormuz**.
- The war games are aimed at "**improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion**."
- Nearly **20%** of all oil shipping passes through the strait to the **Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean**.

## Australia is putting a rover on the Moon in 2024 to search for water

- **Australian Space Agency** announced plans to send a rover to the moon as early as 2026, under a deal with **NASA**.
- The rover will harvest lunar soil containing oxygen, which could eventually be used to support human life in space.
- It will be the 1st rover with **Australian-made** components to reach the moon.
- The ten-kilogram rover, measuring 60x60x50cm, will be launched aboard the **Hakuto lander** built by **ispace**, a Japanese-based robotic lunar exploration company.

## Astronaut Wang Yaping Becomes First Chinese Woman To Walk In Space

- Astronaut **Wang Yaping** became the first **Chinese woman** to walk in space.
- Her team completed a 6-hour stint outside the Tiangong space station as part of its ongoing construction.
- **Wang** and her colleague **Zhai Zhigang** stepped out of the module waving to the camera while tethered to the outside of the station and installed a suspension device and transfer connectors.
- **Tiangong**-meaning "**heavenly palace**" is the latest achievement in China's drive to become a **major space power**

## Srinagar joins UNESCO creative cities network

- **Srinagar (summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir)** has been selected to join **UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN)** for the vibrant cultural ethos of the old city
- It has been designated as a creative city of craft and folk arts by UNESCO
- Apart from it, 48 cities have been added to the network of 246 cities following their designation in recognition of their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of their development.
- UNESCO HQs: **Paris, France**



## Swarnajayanti Fellowships Award 2020-21 conferred on 17 scientist

- **Dept of Science & Technology** has selected 17 scientists for the prestigious **Swarnajayanti Fellowships 2020-21** award for their innovative research ideas and the potential of creating impact on R&D.
- Winners:
  - **Siddhesh Kamat**
  - **Mousomi Bhakta**
  - **Sakya Singha Sen**
  - **Sridharan Devarajan**
  - **Niti Kumar**
  - **Nitin Gupta**
  - **Modhu Sudan Maji**
  - **Chandramouli Subramaniam**
- The award consists of a Fellowship of **Rs 25000/- per month for 5 years**, along with research grant of Rs 5 lakh for 5 years

## Indian Army organized webinar 'Indian Army Make Projects'

- **Indian Army** in collaboration with **FICCI** organized a webinar titled '**Indian Army Make Projects**' on 8th November 2021.
- This was the 6th such webinar since the inception of the Make process in 2016.
- A booklet on '**Army Make Projects 2021**' was also released.
- During webinar, Indian Army unveiled Six new 'Make-II Projects' with spanned technologies across unmanned systems, technologies to counter such systems as well as emerging solutions for augmenting air defence capabilities.

## Zubeen Garg appointed as brand ambassador of Bandhan Bank in Assam

- Indian singer, actor, composer, **Zubeen Garg** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador for Bandhan Bank** in Assam.
- This is the 1st time ever that Bandhan Bank has on-boarded a brand ambassador
- As a part of this collaboration, Zubeen has launched brand-new music video titled '**Axom Amar Mone Praane**', which highlights diverse elements of Assamese culture and heritage.
- The song and video have been produced in collaboration with Bandhan Bank
- Bandhan Bank headquarters: **Kolkata**

## Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme released

- Union Minister Virendra Kumar has released Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme '**In-service Training & Sensitization of Key functionaries of Central & State Governments and Local Bodies**' in New
- **Rehabilitation Council India (RCI)** is the nodal agency for implementation of Central Sector Plan Scheme at national level
- RCI has developed target groups wise separate Training Modules in Hindi and English, which will be translated in regional languages as well.



## RBI launches its First Global Hackathon named 'HARBINGER 2021'

- RBI has launched its first global hackathon named as '**HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation**'
- Theme of HARBINGER 2021: **Smarter Digital Payments**
- Winner of the hackathon will get **Rs. 40 lakhs** while Runner-up will get **Rs. 20 lakh**
- **Eligibility criteria:** All entities, teams or individuals (18 years and above) eligible to enter into contractual agreement; who possess Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and those who have an element of innovation.

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

- Vice Admiral **R Hari Kumar** has been appointed as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from 30th November 2021
- He is presently the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command**
- He succeeded Admiral **Karambir Singh**, who will retire from the service on 30th November, 2021.
- He was commissioned on 1st Jan, 1983 in to the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy.
- He served as **Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet**.

## 14th edition of cyber security conference 'c0c0n' inaugurated

- Chief of Defense Staff General **Bipin Rawat** will inaugurate **14th edition of 'c0c0n'**, an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Briefing
- It will be held virtually from **10th to 13th November 2021**
- It is being conducted by Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organisations, **Society for Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB)** and **Information Security Research Association (ISRA)**.
- **Aim:** to discuss the challenges facing by the digital world during COVID period.

## Union Minister inaugurates Biotechnology Demonstration Centre

- Union Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated new **Biotechnology Centre for Northeast tribals** in remote area of Arunachal Pradesh at Kimin
- This 'Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development' will greatly help in improving the socio-economic status of tribal people in the State.
- Centre is focusing on 3 major programs:
  - State-of-the-Art Orchidarium with establishing satellite units
  - Banana fibre extraction and processing units
  - Aroma Unit.

## Indian Army signs MoU with BISAG-N for development of technologies

- **Indian Army** has inked MoU with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N)**, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Aim: Facilitate exchange of knowledge and collaboration in the emerging technologies for development of GIS and IT based Enterprise Resource Planning Software, Training Content, Telecasting of Audio-Visual Content, Research and Knowledge Partnership, Technical Support and Upgradation for Resources Developed.



## India ranked 10th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022

- **India** has been placed at 10th rank in the **global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022** on the side-lines of the COP26
- It is being released by German-watch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute
- India was at 10th place in 2020 as well
- Scandinavian countries (**Denmark (4<sup>th</sup>), Sweden (5<sup>th</sup>), and Norway (6<sup>th</sup>)**), together with UK and Morocco, lead the 'race to zero'
- Worst performers: **Australia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan**

## USA becomes 101st member country of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **United States of America (USA)** has joined **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as a member country.
- USA is now 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA.
- ISA framework was first circulated for the support of countries in **2016**
- ISA is an inter-governmental organization formed by India and France to accelerate the global adoption of solar power with headquarter at Gurugram
- ISA Director-General: **Ajay Mathur**.

## PM Modi lays off National Highway and Road projects in Maharashtra

- PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated various **National Highway and Road projects** to the nation in the temple town of **Pandharpur, Maharashtra**
- **Aim:** At improving connectivity in the region to facilitate hassle free and safe movement of devotees
- PM has laid the foundation stone for four laning of five sections of Sreesanth Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965) and four laning of three sections of Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi Marg (NH-965G).

## India & US holds 11th Defence Technology & Trade Initiative Group meet

- **India** and **United States (US)** held **11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting** virtually.
- DTTI Group meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and US.
- **Aim:** to bring sustained leadership to bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production, co-development of defence equipment.
- This forum offers an opportunity for Indian and US industries to be directly involved in **DTTI** and facilitates dialogue

## Govt to conduct National Achievement Survey (NAS)

- Govt to conduct the **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** on Friday (12th November) across the country.
- Union Govt has been implementing rolling programme of sample-based NAS aimed at Classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of 3 years.
- Earlier, NAS was held on 13th November, 2017
- **Aim:** to assess the learning interruptions and new learnings during the COVID pandemic and help to take remedial measures.
- Test would be conducted in **22 mediums of instruction**



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

- US Space agency **NASA** and **SpaceX** have launched **Crew 3 mission** named Endurance fixed to Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida
- Under this mission, 4 astronauts have been sent to International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month science mission until April 2022
- Crew 3 mission (**NASA's Tom Marshburn (pilot); and Kayla Barron, ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer**) consists of Indian-origin NASA astronaut Raja Chari as its mission commander.

## Neeraj Chopra receives Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award

- Neeraj Chopra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist in athletics, received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award from Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Chopra won the **gold medal** in the javelin throw event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics earlier this year.
- He became the only second individual gold medalist from India at the Olympics and the first in athletics.
- The awards are given every year to recognize excellence in sports.

## Railway Board issues order to drop 'special train' tag

- The Railways has issued an order to discontinue the '**special**' tag for mail and express trains and to revert to pre-pandemic ticket prices with immediate effect
- Since the **coronavirus-triggered lockdown** was eased, the Railways has only been running special trains
- It started with **long-distance trains** and now even short-distance passenger services are being run as special trains with "slightly higher fares" to discourage people from avoidable travels.

## Habibganj railway station renamed after Gond queen Rani Kamlapati

- The "**most modern**" Habibganj railway station in Bhopal has been renamed after Gond queen Rani Kamlapati.
- It is said that Rani Kamlapati was the widow of the Gond ruler of Nizam Shah, the **chief of Ginnorgarh**.
- The redeveloped station in Bhopal has been built on a cost of Rs 100 crore.

## Defence Secretary releases a book titled 'FORCE IN STATECRAFT'

- Defence Secretary **Dr Ajay Kumar** released a book titled '**FORCE IN STATECRAFT**'.
- The book is a compilation of essays on topics including **counter-insurgency operations**, conflict in the North East, airpower and nuclear posture which give conceptual understanding and facets of India's national security.
- The contributors of the book are all stalwarts of the Armed Forces, who have vast operational experience and understanding of several important cornerstones of forces.