

Weekly Current Affairs 4th Week November 2021

Important News: India

Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses



- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** recently unveiled a plaque at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi to rename the institute after former Defence Minister late Manohar Parrikar.
- The renaming as **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDS)** by the Defence Minister, who is the President of the Institute, follows the unanimous decision by the general body earlier this year to effect the change in the memory of the former Defence Minister.

Source: PIB

Aspirational Districts



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for provisioning of 4G based mobile services in Uncovered Villages of **Aspirational Districts** across **5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Odisha**.
- The project would be funded by the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme**.
- The Project envisages to provide 4G based mobile services in the **7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts** across 5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Odisha at an estimated cost of implementation about Rs 6,466 crore including operational expenses for 5 years.
- It will enhance digital connectivity useful for self-reliance, facilitate learning, dissemination of information and knowledge, skill upgradation

Source: PIB

Important News: World

Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first Global Innovation Summit of the Pharmaceuticals sector** on 18th November 2021.
- This is a distinctive initiative that aims to bring together key Indian and international stakeholders from the government, industry, academia, investors, and researchers to discuss and strategize priorities to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals industry in India.
- It will also highlight the opportunities in the Indian pharma industry that has huge growth potential.
- The Indian pharmaceutical industry has also risen to the challenge. The global trust earned by the Indian healthcare sector has led to India being called the “pharmacy of the world” in recent times.

Source: PIB

UNESCO executive board



- India was re-elected to the executive board of the **UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** for the **2021-25 term** with 164 votes.
- India was re-elected to Group IV of Asian and Pacific States which also include Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Cook Islands and China.
- The **executive board of UNESCO** is one of three constitutional organs of the UN agency.
- The other two are the **General Conference** and **the Secretariat**.
- The General Conference elects members of the executive board.
- The **executive board** consists of 58 member-states, each with a four-year term.
- It examines the programme of work for the organisation and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the director-general, according to the Unesco website.

Facts about UNESCO:

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Founded:** 16 November 1945
- **Parent organization:** United Nations
- **Member states:** 193

Source: HT

Important News: Economy

Scientific Expedition to Antarctica



- **India's Ministry of Earth Sciences** launched the **41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent.
- The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the **Indian Antarctic station Maitri**.
- Four more batches shall be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV VasiliyGolovnin by mid-January 2022.
- The 41st expedition has **two major programs**.
- The **first program** encompasses geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station. This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past.
- The **second program** involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri. It will help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for the past 10,000 years.
- The Indian Antarctic program, which began in 1981, has completed 40 scientific expeditions, and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012).

Source: PIB

Important News: Defense

India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol



- The **37th edition of India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** was conducted between the Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy from 23 to 24 Nov 2021.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Khanjar*, an indigenously built Missile Corvette along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in coordinated patrol with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI *Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin*, (376), a Kapitan Patimura-Class Corvette.
- India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice in a year since 2002, with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

Source: PIB

Science and Technology

Quasi-satellite Kamo'oalewa



- Recently, scientists have observed a **quasi-satellite named Kamo'oalewa**, tracking the Earth's orbit around the Sun, could be a fragment from the moon.
- A mission to collect Kamo'oalewa's samples has been scheduled for a launch in 2025.
- In 2016, the PanSTARRS telescope in Hawaii spotted a quasi-satellite — a near-Earth object that orbits the Sun and yet remains close to the Earth.
- Scientists named it Kamo'oalewa, a word that is part of a Hawaiian chant.
- The asteroid is roughly the size of a Ferris wheel – between 150 and 190 feet in diameter – and gets as close as about 9 million miles from Earth.
- Now, a study in the journal *Communications Earth and Environment* offers insights into where this satellite could have come from.
- **One possibility** is that Kamo'oalewa was a part of the Earth's Moon, the study suggests.
- **Another possibility** is that Kamo'oalewa was captured in its Earth-like orbit from the general population of Near Earth Objects.
- **A third possibility** could be that it originated from an as-yet-undiscovered quasi-stable population of Earth's Trojan asteroids.

Source: Indian Express

INS Visakhapatnam



- **INS Visakhapatnam**, a P15B stealth guided missile destroyer, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- The event marks the formal induction of the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and can rightfully be regarded as one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India.

Source: ET

Grass Conservatory



- **India's first 'Grass Conservatory'** was inaugurated by the research wing of Uttarakhand forest department in Ranikhet of Almora district.
- Established in an area of 2 acre, the project has been funded under central government's **CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme**.
- The project aims to create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote conservation and to facilitate further research in these species, as it has been proved in latest research that grasslands are more effective in carbon sequestration than forest land.

Source: TOI

Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana



- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to the proposals of Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I and II (PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II)** upto **September, 2022** for completion of balance road and bridge works.
- The CCEA also approved continuation of **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA)** upto **March, 2023**.
- A total of Rs. 1,12,419 crores including state share is likely to be incurred from 2021-22 to 2024-25 for completion of all the ongoing interventions of PMGSY.

About Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

- PMGSY was launched in the year 2000 to provide connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations of 500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East and Himalayan states as per census 2001.

About Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas:

- Launched in 2016 for construction/upgradation of 5,412 Km road length and 126 bridges of strategic importance in 44 districts in 9 states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, with an outlay of Rs. 11,725 crore.

Source: PIB

2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup



- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has decided that **India and Bangladesh** will jointly host the 2031 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.
- The ICC confirmed the 14 host countries for the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031.
- The USA and Namibia will host an ICC World Cup event for the first time.
- The USA and West Indies will jointly host the 2024 Men's T20 World cup.

Source: newsonair

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin



- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)** completed 5 years on 20th November 2021.
- To achieve the objective of providing “*Housing for All*” by the year 2022, the Government of India rolled out the revamped rural housing scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched on 20th November, 2016 with effect from 1st April 2016.
- Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG gas connection etc. under different Government programmes is also an inherent thematic component.

Source: PIB

World Fisheries Day

- World Fisheries Day is celebrated on 21st November every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world.
- It started in 1997 where “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to formation of “World Fisheries Forum” with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.



- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.

Source: PIB

Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme



Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,
Government of India



- The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** launched the Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) for the services sector.

About Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS):

- The scheme will help in meeting the technology related requirements of enterprises in the services sector and has a provision of 25% capital subsidy for procurement of Plant & Machinery and service equipments through institutional credit to the SC-ST MSEs without any sector specific restrictions on technology upgradation

Source: PIB

Awards and Honours

Indian Film Personality of the Year Award 2021



- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the **Indian Film Personality of the Year Award for 2021** will be conferred on **Hema Malini** and **Praseon Joshi**.
- Hema Malini is an Actor, Member of Parliament from Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Praseon Joshi is a Lyricist and Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- They shall be conferred this honour at the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa.

Source: PIB

2021 JCB Prize



- **Malayalam writer M Mukundan** has been selected for the prestigious **JCB Prize for Literature 2021** for his novel 'Delhi: A Soliloquy'.
- Known as the Indian Booker Prize, the award carries Rs 25 lakh.
- Delhi: A Soliloquy, published by Westland Books, is the English translation of his Malayalam novel Delhi Gaathakal.

Source: TOI

Swachh Survekshan 2021 Awards



- **President of India, Ram Nath Kovind** felicitated the awardees of the cleanest cities of India at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' hosted as part of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- For the **fifth consecutive year**, **Indore** was awarded the title of **India's Cleanest City** under Swachh Survekshan, while **Surat** and **Vijayawada** bagged the **second and third spots respectively** in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category.
- In the **population category of 'less than 1 lakh'**, **Vita, Lonavala and Sasvad**, all from **Maharashtra**, bagged the **first, second and third positions respectively**.
- **Varanasi** emerged as the 'Best Ganga Town' while **Ahmedabad Cantonment** won the title of 'India's Cleanest Cantonment', followed by **Meerut Cantonment** and **Delhi Cantonment**.
- In the category of 'Fastest Mover', **Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh)** emerged as the 'Fastest Mover City'.
- In the **State awards**, **Chhattisgarh**, for the **third consecutive year** emerged as the 'Cleanest State' in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies" while **Jharkhand**, for the **second time**, won the **Cleanest State** award in the "less than 100 ULBs category".
- **Karnataka and Mizoram** became the 'Fastest Mover States' in the big and small state category respectively.
- **Maharashtra** has **successfully bagged a total of 92 awards**, the highest by any State in this year's Survekshan.

Source: PIB

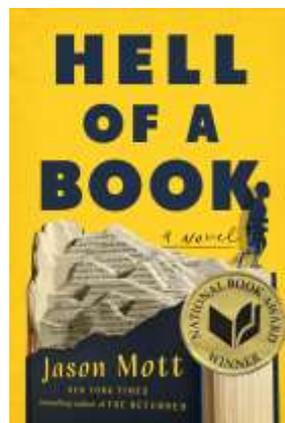
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Source: PIB

National Book Award



- The **72nd edition of the National Book Award** was organized by the National Book Foundation.

- Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel “Hell of a Book”.

Winners of 2021 National Book Awards:

Category	Author	Book
Fiction	Jason Mott	Hell of a Book
Non-Fiction	Tiya Miles	All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake
Poetry	Martín Espada	Floaters
Young People’s Literature	Malinda Lo	Last Night at the Telegraph Club
Best Translated Literature	Elisa Shua Dusapin and Aneesa Abbas Higgins	Winter in Sokcho

Source: nationalbook.org

UNESCO-ABU Peace Media Awards 2021



- In yet another remarkable feat which has showcased the world Prasar Bharati’s excellence in quality content creation, TV and Radio shows produced by **Doordarshan and All India Radio** respectively got multiple awards at the recently held **ABU - UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021** at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- Doordarshan’s programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' won an award under ‘Living Well with Super Diversity’ category, while All India Radio’s programme ‘Living on the edge – The coastal lives’ won another award in the category of ‘Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature’

Source: **PIB**

Indira Gandhi Prize 2021



- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021** has been awarded to civil society organisation ‘**Pratham**’.

About Pratham:

- Set up in 1995 in Mumbai by Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambay, Pratham has sought

to give practical shape to its belief that every child should be in school and learning.

About Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development:

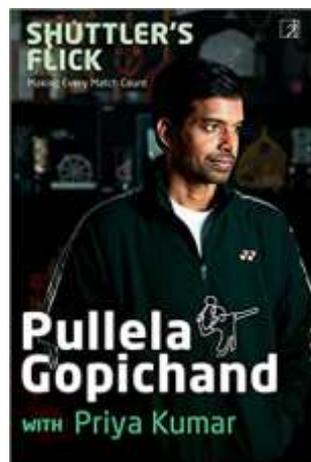
- It was instituted in the memory of the former prime minister by a trust in her name in 1986.
- It consists of a monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation.

Source: ET

Books and Authors

Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count: Autobiography

- India's chief national badminton coach **P. Gopi Chand** formally launched his autobiography '**Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count**'.



- The book has been co-authored by Priya Kumar.
- It narrates his journey into badminton as a player, coach and the challenges he faced in producing top players, including Olympic medallists Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, B. Sai Praneeth and former World No.1 K. Srikanth.
- The book is published by Simon & Schuster India.

Source: The Hindu

Important Days

World Television Day



- World Television Day is celebrated every year on 21 November.
- On 21 and 22 November 1996 the United Nations held the first World Television Forum, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to

discuss the growing significance of television in today's changing world.

- No specific theme is announced each year.
- The inspiration for World Television Day is "Recognizing the impact of television on decision-making by drawing the world's attention to conflict, danger, peace and security."

Source: un.org

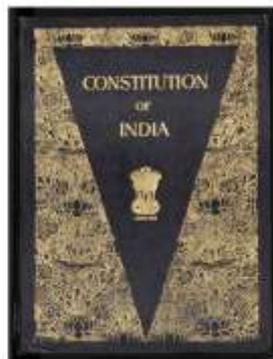
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated on 25 November every year.
- **2021 Theme:** Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!
- The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Source: un.org

Constitution Day



- **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)**, also known as **National Law Day**, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.

Source: India Today

Sports

Chairman of ICC Cricket Committee



- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president and former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as the chairman of the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee**.
- Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.
- Ganguly replaced Anil Kumble.
- He was president of the Cricket Association of Bengal between 2015 and 2019 and took over as BCCI president in October 2019.

Source: India Today

Asian Archery Championships 2021



- India bagged a total of **7 medals (1 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze)** at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 held in Dhaka.
- India finished **2nd** in the overall medal tally.
- South Korea topped with 15 medals.
- Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the gold medal in the women's individual compound.

Source: newsonair

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2021

- In cricket, Tamil Nadu won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title 2021.
- Tamil Nadu defeated Karnataka by four wickets in the finals in Arun Jaitley Stadium Delhi.
- It was the **3rd** title of Tamil Nadu.
- The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic T20 cricket championship in India, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from the Ranji Trophy.



Source: India Today

Reports and Indexes

World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database Report 2021



- According to the **World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database Report 2021**, India has become the world's largest recipient of remittances, receiving USD 87 billion (a gain of 4.6 % from previous year) in 2021.
- India had received over USD 83 billion in remittances in 2020.
- The **United States** was the biggest source of **remittances in India**, accounting for over 20 percent of these funds.
- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.
- In India, remittances are projected to grow three percent in 2022 to \$ 89.6 billion.
- Remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to have grown a strong 7.3 percent to reach \$589 billion in 2021.
- **Remittances** are usually understood as financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants to friends and relatives back in communities of origin.

Source: Indian Express

IPF Smart Policing Index 2021



- **Bihar** has scored the **lowest** in overall policing, followed closely by Uttar Pradesh, according to findings of a nationwide survey conducted by independent think-

tank **Indian Police Foundation (IPF)**.

Findings of Smart Policing Index 2021:

- **The top five states** with the highest score on overall policing are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, and Sikkim.
- **From bottom** upwards are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Punjab.
- In Police Accountability, the top states are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala and Odisha, while Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh are at the bottom.
- Southern states and some in the Northeast fared better on most policing indices compared to states in the north.

Source: Indian Express

All India Survey on Domestic Workers



- **Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav** flagged off the first ever **All India Survey on Domestic workers** being conducted by Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.
- **Domestic workers (DWs)** constitute a significant portion of total employment in the informal sector.
- On the occasion, the Minister also released instruction manual with questionnaire for All India Survey on Domestic workers.
- This is for the first time in Independent India that such a nationwide survey is being conducted.

Source: PIB

SDG Urban Index



- **NITI Aayog** under the **Indo-German Cooperation** released the inaugural **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021–22**.

About SDG Urban Index and Dashboard:

- The index and dashboard are a result of the NITI Aayog-GIZ and BMZ collaboration

focused on driving SDG localization in cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.

- It ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework.

Results:

- **Top 3 Performers:** Shimla, Coimbatore, and Chandigarh
- **Worst 3 Performers:** Dhanbad, Meerut and Itanagar

Source: PIB

New Appointments

United Nations Resident Coordinator in India



- **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** appointed **Shombi Sharp** of the United States as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India.
- Shombi Sharp will serve as the secretary-general's representative for development at the country level and lead the UN team on the ground, including for support to India's COVID-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- He recently served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Armenia.

Source: newsonair

Global Goodwill Ambassador



- Golden Globe-nominated actor and director **Daniel Bruhl** was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**.
- As conflict, climate change and the impact of the pandemic increase global hunger, Bruhl joins the world's largest humanitarian organization in its mission to reach a world with Zero Hunger.

Facts about United Nations World Food Programme:

- The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Founded:** 1961

Source: wfp.org

Obituaries

Mannu Bhandari



- **Mannu Bhandari**, a famous **Hindi literateur**, passed away at the age of 90.
- Mannu Bhandari has been credited with writing many books, which date back to the late 1950s and early 1960s India.
- Two of her most renowned Hindi novels, however, remain 'Aapka Banti' and 'Mahabhoj'.
- She received awards such as Delhi's Shikhar Samman, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, Vyas Samman, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.

Source: Indian Express

Miscellaneous

Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended '**Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv**' in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day '**Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv**' in Jhansi on November 17, 2021.
- It was organised from November 17-19, 2021 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Prime Minister dedicated several new initiatives of the Ministry of Defence to the Nation in a grand ceremony celebrating 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' organised in the precincts of Jhansi Fort.

Source: PIB

Food Museum

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal launched **India's first Food Museum at Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu**.
- The food museum has been established by **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** in

association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru at a cost of Rs. 1.1 crore.



- Thanjavur is the birthplace of FCI where its first office was inaugurated on January 14, 1965.

Source: TOI

Guinness World Records



- **Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry** received the Guinness World Records certificate on November 16, 2021 for the achievement of **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** of constructing and black topping the World's highest motorable road at 19,024 feet at **Umlingla Pass in Ladakh**.
- The 52-kilometre long Chisumle to Demchok tarmac road passes through the 19,024 feet high Umlingla Pass and better the previous record of a road in Bolivia, which connects volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 feet.

Source: PIB

International Law Commission



- **Professor Bimal Patel** has been elected to the **International Law Commission**.
- He will serve a 5 years term starting January 1, 2023.
- Bimal Patel is the Vice-Chancellor of the Rashtriya Raksha University and a Member of the National Security Advisory Board of India.

About International Law Commission (ILC):

- It is a body of experts responsible for helping develop and codify international law.
- **Founded:** 1947

Source: ET

Noida International Airport



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation Stone of **Noida International Airport (NIA)** in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- With this, Uttar Pradesh will become the only state in India to have five international airports.
- **Noida International Airport (NIA)** will be the second international airport to come up in Delhi NCR.
- It will be India's first net zero emissions airport.
- It will be executed by the international bidder **Zurich Airport International AG**.

Source: PIB

Dosti 2021

- The **15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti 2021'** involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka was conducted in the Maldives.



- Indian Coast Guard vessels, the ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva joined the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, SLCGS Suraksha for the 5 day exercise (20-24 November, 2021).
- For many years after it was first launched in 1991, these exercises were bilateral, involving the Indian and the Maldives Coast Guards. In 2012, however, Sri Lanka joined these exercises for the first time and since then, it has been a trilateral exercise.

Source: Indian Express

Quality Control Laboratory

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** under Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has developed its first state-of-art laboratory for in house testing of food grain samples.
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the '**Quality Control Laboratory**' at **Institute of Food Security (IFS), FCI, Gurugram (Haryana)**.



About Food Corporation of India (FCI):

- The Food Corporation of India is a statutory corporation created and run by the Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Founded:** 14 January 1965

Source: PIB