

Weekly Current Affairs 1st Week November 2021

Important News: State

Wildlife Action plan



- **Maharashtra** became India's first state to release its own **Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)**.
- The new plan, which will be implemented over the next 10 years, recognises concerns about climate change impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna.
- The plan will be a guiding document for an action plan for wildlife conservation for the next decade.

Source: Indian Express

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences



- Lieutenant General Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar has accepted the post of Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik.
- Dr. Nitin Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor in charge of this university handed over the standards of the university to him.
- Lt. Gen. Dr. Kanitkar said that the interdisciplinary department will focus on research.

More information about Maharashtra University of Health Sciences

- Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) is a higher education institution in Nashik, Maharashtra, India.
- The University was established on 3rd June 1998 by an Ordinance of the State Government of Maharashtra.
- All the colleges and institutes teaching health sciences in the state of Maharashtra have been attached to this new university.
- The University was established in the State of Maharashtra to ensure proper and systematic teaching, learning, training and research in modern medicine and Indian medicine.

Source: Loksatta

Virbhadrakali Tararani Swayamsiddha Yojana

- The state government has decided to implement the Virbhadrakali Tararani Swayamsiddha Yojana for widows who have lost their husbands due to corona and have no other means of income.



- According to this decision, single / widowed women will be included in the self-help group by taking village wise information from the district level.
- Also, as per the rules of RBI, an independent savings group of at least five women members of single / widowed women will be set up as a special case.
- Members of this group will also be given priority in providing revolving funds and community investment funds.
- These single-widowed women will also be given interest free loans to repay Rs 342 crore of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Swachh Bharat Yojana.
- Eligible women to avail health insurance schemes will also be included in the Mahatma Phule Janaarogya Yojana.

Source: newsonair

Important News: India

Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021



- The Central Government has recently notified the **Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021** to incorporate the provisions related to nominal one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line in the **Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016**.
- The amount of one-time compensation for establishment of an overground telegraph line will be maximum one thousand rupees per kilometre.
- Also, there will be no fee other than Administrative fee and Restoration charges for establishing, maintaining, working, repairing, transferring or shifting the underground and overground telegraph infrastructure.
- These amendments will ease Right of Way related permission procedures for establishment and augmentation of Digital Communications Infrastructure across the country.

Source: Business Standard

'Knock Every House' campaign

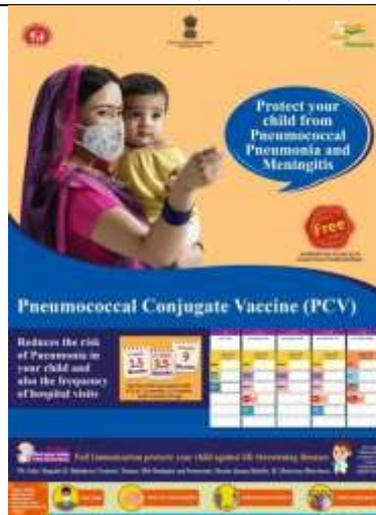
- To speed up the vaccination of Covid 19, the central government has launched a door-to-door campaign.



- Under this, health workers from all over the state will go door-to-door and give the first dose of Covid 19 preventive vaccine to the citizens and the second dose to the eligible citizens, said Dr VK Paul, a member of the Niti Aayog.

Source: newsonair

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)



- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the nationwide expansion of **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** under the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It is for the first time in the country that **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** will be available for universal use.
- Pneumonia is a leading cause of death among children under-5 years old, globally and in India.
- Pneumonia caused by pneumococcus is the most common cause of severe pneumonia in children.
- In India around 16 percent of deaths in Children occur due to pneumonia.
- The nationwide rollout of PCV will reduce child mortality by around 60 percent.

Source: PIB

Bhasha Sangam initiative

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** launched **Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- He also launched **Bhasha Sangam Mobile App** and **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Mobile Quiz App**.

About Bhasha Sangam:

- **Bhasha Sangam** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education** under **Ek Bharat**

Shreshtha Bharat, to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in **22 Indian languages**.



- The idea is that people should acquire basic conversational skills in an Indian language other than their mother tongue.
- It is developed by **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.

Source: PIB

Important News: World

India-ASEAN Summit



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the **18th India-ASEAN Summit** at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah of **Brunei**, the current Chair of ASEAN on October 28, 2021.
- Highlighting the milestone of **30th anniversary of India-ASEAN Partnership**, the leaders announced the Year 2022 as **India-ASEAN Friendship Year**.
- PM Modi underlined the centrality of ASEAN in **India's Act East Policy** and in India's Vision for the wider **Indo-Pacific Vision**.

Facts about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- **The 10-member countries of ASEAN** are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Founded:** 8 August 1967

Source: PIB

G-20 Summit-2021



- The **G20 Leaders' Summit 2021** was held in **Rome, Italy** on 30–31 October 2021 under the **Italian Presidency**.
- For 2021, the G20 focused on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet, and Prosperity**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the G-20 Summit 2021.
- The G-20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic - able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines - while building up resilience to future health-related shocks.

About the G-20:

- The G-20 is made up of **19 countries and the European Union**.
- The **19 countries** are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

Source: PIB

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2021



- Recently, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** delivered a keynote address at **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021**.
- The **theme** of **IPRD 2021** was 'Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead'.

About Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD):

- First conducted in 2018, the IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and is the principal manifestation of the Navy's engagement at the strategic-level.
- The **National Maritime Foundation** is the Navy's **knowledge partner** and **chief organiser** of each edition of this annual event.

Source: India Today

Important News: Economy

Skill Impact Bond

SKILL
IMPACT BOND



- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** launched India's first and the largest **Skill Impact Bond (SIB)** in collaboration with global partners.

- The target group includes 60 percent women and girls and to equip them with skills and vocational training and provide access to wage-employment in COVID-19 recovery sectors including retail, apparel, healthcare, and logistics.
- **Impact bonds** are innovative financing instruments that leverage private sector capital and expertise, with a focus on achieving results.

Source: Business Standard

Important News: Defense

Sarthak



- The indigenously built **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak'** was commissioned and dedicated to the nation at **Goa**.
- **ICGS Sarthak** will be based at **Porbandar in Gujarat** and operate on India's Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (Northwest).

About Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak':

- ICGS Sarthak is 4th in the series of five OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessels) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG.
- **Other OPVs:** Vighraha, Sajag, Varaha, Yard 45006 VAJRA

Source: PIB

Long-Range Bomb



- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** team jointly flight tested indigenously developed **Long-Range Bomb (LRB)** successfully from an aerial platform.
- The **Long-Range Bomb (LRB)**, after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits.
- The LR Bomb has been designed and developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, a **DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad** in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.

Source: PIB

'Tushil'



- The **7th Indian Navy Frigate of P1135.6 class** was launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, **Russia**.
- The ship was formally named as '**Tushil**'. Tushil is a Sanskrit word meaning Protector Shield.
- Based on an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the Government of Republic of India and Government of Russian Federation for construction of two ships of Project 1135.6 ships in Russia and two ships in India at M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), the contract for construction of two ships was signed between India and Russia in October 2016.

Source: PIB

Science and Technology

AI Pe Charcha



- The **National e Governance Division (NeGD)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** recently organised yet another **AI Pe Charcha (AI Dialogue)** on the theme, "**AI for Data Driven Governance**".
- **AI Pe Charcha** is a series of panel discussions involving various global and domestic leaders from the Government and industry, researchers and academicians sharing their views & experiences around Artificial Intelligence, related case studies, global best practices, breakthrough innovations and the challenges faced in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

Source: ET

Environment

Glasgow Glacier

- The 100-km long body of ice in **Antarctica**, which has been experiencing rapid melting, was formally named **Glasgow Glacier** after the **Glasgow climate summit**.
- The **26th Conference of Parties (COP26)** of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

(UNFCCC) is being held in **Glasgow, United Kingdom** from 31st of October to 12th of November.



Key Points

- Besides Glasgow, the eight newly named glaciers are Geneva, Rio, Berlin, Kyoto, Bali, Stockholm, Paris, and Incheon all named after cities hosting important UN climate meetings.

Source: India Today

GST Collection



- The country has witnessed a huge increase in GST collection in October and the revenue collected by GST has been reported only once more since the introduction of GST.
- In October, import revenue was 39 per cent higher than the previous year, while domestic trade revenue was 19 per cent higher. This is sending a positive message about the economy, the finance ministry said.
- In October, Maharashtra was number one in the country in GST collection. In October this year, the state collected revenue of Rs 19,355 crore through GST, which is 23 per cent more than the amount collected during the same period last year.
- In October, Gujarat (second only to Maharashtra) collected Rs 8,497 crore.
- Karnataka collected Rs 8,259 crore, Tamil Nadu Rs 7,642 crore and Uttar Pradesh Rs 6,775 crore.

Source: loksatta

Schemes

Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle



- NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled '**Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle**' which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation.
- The **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** - a flagship scheme towards **Universal Health Coverage**, and State Government extension schemes—provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of the population.
- Around **20% of the population** is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance primarily designed for high-income groups.
- The remaining **30% of the population**, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the "**missing middle**".
- The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle.

Source: Indian Express

"Dairy Sahakar" scheme



- **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah** launched the "**Dairy Sahakar**" scheme at **Anand, Gujarat**, during the function organised by Amul for celebration of 75th Foundation Year of Amul.
- The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of Rs 5000 crore will be implemented by NCDC under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India to realize the vision, "from cooperation to prosperity".
- Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, exports of dairy products within the overall objectives of "Doubling the farmer's income" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Source: PIB

'One District, One Product' Scheme



- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, in association with the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**, launched the **first 'One District, One Product' 'Dilli Bakes'** in the bakery products category of the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.

- This is the first product, i.e. whole wheat rusks launched under the Dilli Bakes brand and will be followed by the launch of more products.

Source: PIB

Awards and Honours

Yashwantrao Chavan State Level Award



- Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan's Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan's state level award has been announced to Siram Institute of India.
- He is being honored for his invaluable work in the development of Covid-19 restricted vaccines and in the development of special biotechnologies.
- The award consists of a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs and honorarium.

Source: newsonair

Books and Authors

'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue': Book



- The former Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has gifted his book titled 'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The book was written by Pokhriyal while he was battling COVID-19 at AIIMS in Delhi.
- It was published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.

Source: Indian express

Important Days

World Cities Day



Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

- World Cities Day is observed globally on October 31 every year to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization.

- The World Cities Day 2021's **general theme** is '**Better City, Better life**' and **sub-theme** is '**Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience**'.
- **History:** World Cities Day was established in 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly. The first World Cities Day was held in October 2014.

Source: un.org

National Unity Day



- **National Unity Day** or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated on October 31 every year.
- This year marks Patel's 146th birth anniversary.
- The Government of India introduced the day in 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in India's freedom movement and in the integration of India.
- He was appointed as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.

Source: India Today

National Ayurveda Day 2021



- National Ayurveda Day is observed every year on the day of **Dhanwantri Jayanti**. This year it falls on November 02.
- The 2021 theme is '**Ayurveda for Poshan**'.
- The aim of the day is to create a sense of awareness in today's generation and promote Ayurvedic principles of healing in society.

Source: India Today

Sports

2021 Denmark Open Badminton

- **Danish Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen** won the **Mens' Single 2021 Denmark Open Badminton**. Viktor Axelsen defeated world number one Kento Momota of Japan.
- **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan won her 2nd title in the **women's category** defeating An Se-young (South Korea).



- The **2021 Denmark Open (Victor Denmark Open 2021)** was a badminton tournament which took place at the Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark in October 2021.

Source: newsonair

FIFA Football for School Programme



- **Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha** launched the **world's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme** at **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar**.
- **Football for Schools (F4S)** is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children.

Source: The Hindu

New Appointments

RBI Governor



- The Central Government has extended the tenure of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** for a period of 3 years.
- With the second term of three years, Das will head the RBI till December 2024.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as Governor, RBI, for a period of three years beyond 10.12.2021.
- Mr. Das was appointed as RBI's 25th Governor on December 11, 2018, for a period of three years.

Source: The Hindu

NaBFID chairperson



- The Central Government announced the appointment of veteran banker **K. V. Kamath** as chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000-crore **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**.
- Parliament had in March 2021 cleared the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021** to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India, including the development of the bonds and derivatives markets necessary for infrastructure financing.
- Mr. Kamath, the first head of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS group of emerging market economies, had completed his five-year tenure last year.

Source: The Hindu

Obituaries

Puneeth Rajkumar

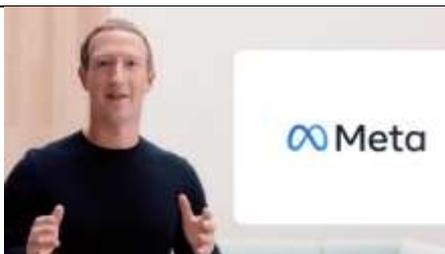


- Puneeth Rajkumar, colloquially known as Appu, was an Indian actor, playback singer, television presenter, and producer who worked primarily in Kannada cinema.

Source: TOI

Miscellaneous

Meta



- **Facebook Inc** has changed its corporate name to **Meta Platforms Inc "Meta"** as part of a major rebrand.

- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the new name as he unveiled plans to build a "metaverse" - an online world where people can game, work and communicate in a virtual environment.
- However, the social network will still be called as Facebook.

Source: HT

National Formulary of India (NFI)



- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the **Sixth Edition of National Formulary of India (NFI) 2021**.
- NFI has been published by **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** to promote rational use of medicines in the country.
- NFI 2021 would act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as clinicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists etc.
- It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices.
- NFI 2021 has been drafted by adopting the principle 'do not miss critical and do not overload' the information by revising the appendices, chapters and drug monographs.

Source: PIB