

PRACTICE **MOCK**

November 2021 - Week 3

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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the third week of November 2021

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Ministry of Tourism has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry.
 - The primary objective of this MOU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the OTA platform.
 - **OTA platform:** Over-The-Air (OTA) is a technology that updates and changes data in the SIM card without having to reissue it. It is also referred to as Over-the-Air provisioning. It's both crucial for subscribers and carriers.
2. The Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance has released an amount of over **8,453 crore** rupees as health sector grant for rural and urban local bodies of 19 States. The grants have been released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
3. India has successfully 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** last week.
4. The Centre has brought ordinance to extend the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) directors up to 5 years.
 - At present, director of CBI and ED have been appointed for two-year tenure in office by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.
5. Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijju has launched the **Citizen's Tele-Law Mobile App**. He also felicitated the Tele-Law Frontline Functionaries. The event was part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations, celebrated by the Department of Justice from 8th to 14th November 2021.
6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled a plaque to rename Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses after late Manohar Parrikar.
 - The renaming as *Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses* (MP-IDSA) by the Defence Minister, who is the President of the Institute, follows the unanimous decision by the general body earlier this year.

7. Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal has virtually launched India's first Food Museum in **Thanjavur District**, Tamil Nadu and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world.
 - The museum has been established by **Food Corporation of India** (FCI) in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru, at an investment of about ₹ 1.1 crore.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched key initiatives for the Janjatiya community on **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Mahasammelan**. Among the schemes introduced, the PM launched the 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme in Madhya Pradesh, the Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell Mission, and laid the foundation of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country.
9. Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh has inaugurated '**Bhumi Samvaad**' – a National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) at India Habitat Centre in the national capital.
10. The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in Maharashtra to authorities of the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory** (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.
11. The Indian Navy has conducted a security exercise, called "**Prasthan**", in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai.
12. As per the defence ministry, the government has signed a contract for procurement of two simulators at a cost of **Rs 357 crore** for imparting training to pilots of Jaguar fighter jets.
13. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has recently completed its five years on 20th November 2021.
 - Rs. 7775.63 crores have been allocated to the PMAY-G for FY 2021-22.
 - 1.63 Crore houses completed under the scheme.
 - PMAY-G was launched on 20th November 2016 with effect from **1st April 2016** by the Ministry of Rural Development. The program envisages the completion of 2.95 crore PMAY-G households with all basic amenities by the year 2022.

14. Kartika Purnima (Boita Bandana) is celebrated on the full moon of the Kartika month where Odisha people across the State head for the nearest water body to set afloat tiny banana, paper or thermocol boats with diyas, betel leaves, crackers, fruits and coins.
15. Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has projected a real rate of growth of **7 to 7.5 per cent** and a nominal rate of growth of more than 11 per cent in 2022-23.
16. The Union Government has notified uniform goods and services tax rate at 12 percent on Man-Made Fibre (MMF), MMF yarn, MMF fabrics, and apparel.
- The changed rates will come into effect from 1st January of next year. This will help the MMF segment grow and emerge as a big job provider in the country.
17. Atal Innovation Mission, a flagship initiative of Niti Aayog has announced a collaboration with **Vigyan Prasar** to drive synergies between AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs and Vigyan Prasar's unique interactivity platform, Engage with Science.
18. The fifth edition of the EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation is being organised on November 23 and 24 in Kolkata by ASEAN India Centre and National Maritime Foundation in collaboration with the MEA and Government of Australia.
19. President Ram Nath Kovind has recently announced the 'Swachh Survekshan 2021' awards at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Swachh Survekshan 2021	
Category	Winners
Cleanest City (more than 1 lakh population)	1. Indore (Madhya Pardesh) 2. Surat (Gujarat) 3. Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
Cleanest City (population between 1-10 lakh)	1. New Delhi 2. Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) 3. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)

Cleanest City (population less than 1 lakh)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vita (Maharashtra) 2. Lonavala (Maharashtra) 3. Sasvad (Maharashtra)
Best Ganga Town	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Cleanest Cantonment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahmedabad 2. Meerut 3. Delhi
Fastest Mover City (more than 1 lakh population)	Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh)
Cleanest State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chhattisgarh (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies) • Jharkhand (less than 100 Urban Local Bodies)
Fastest Mover States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies) • Mizoram (less than 100 Urban Local Bodies)

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STATES AFFAIRS

20. The Government of Gujarat has recently launched the '**Niramay Gujarat Yojana**' for screening and protection of people above **30 years** from Non-Communicable diseases like high blood pressure, heart attack, paralysis, cancer, renal diseases, anemia, diabetes, etc.

- People under the age of 30 will be screened at government healthcare centres and hospitals free every Friday (Mamta Divas).
- A 'Niramay Gujarat Card' containing findings and health status will be given to the patients.

21. For the first time, Arunachal Pradesh's cabinet meeting was held outside the state capital of Itanagar and at the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Pakke Kessang district instead.
22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Tribal Pride Day Mahasammelan held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. In 2020, the state government of Madhya Pradesh has declared to observe Tribal Pride Day annually on **15th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**.
- During the Mahasammelan, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **India's first PPP (Public-Private Partnership) mode** built **Rani Kamlapati Railway Station** (formerly Habibganj railway station) in Bhopal.
 - Rani Kamlapati was the first Gond queen of Bhopal.
 - The station has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore.
 - He has also launched Sickle Cell Eradication Mission and Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in Madhya Pradesh.
23. India's first grass conservatory or germplasm conservation centre has been developed by the research wing of **Uttarakhand** Forest Department in Ranikhet, Almora district in Uttarakhand. It aims to create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.
- It is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme.
24. The All India Presiding Officers' Conference, AIPOC, the apex body of the Legislatures in India, is celebrating its hundred years this year. To commemorate the Centennial Year of AIPOC, the 82nd edition of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference began in Shimla.
25. Punjab Education Minister Pargat Singh has unveiled a career portal aimed at providing professional guidance to students of schools and colleges of the State.
- The state education department has launched the portal in association with UNICEF India and Aasman Foundation.
26. The state government of **West Bengal** has recently launched a "Duare Ration Scheme" for doorstep delivery of ration. This will benefit around 10 crore people of the state. For this scheme, the government will be spending **Rs 160 crore**.
- The government has also inaugurated the "Khadya Sathi: Amar Ration Mobile App". This app will help people to apply for ration cards and get related information.

27. Under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Cabinet has given its approval to start **Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana** to connect educated youths of the State with self-employment.
- The benefit of the scheme will be available to the minimum 12th class pass youths of the State between the ages of 18 to 40 years.
28. West Bengal's Food & Supplies department has launched a dedicated **WhatsApp chatbot** to make it easier for the citizens of the State to apply for a ration card, lodge grievances and get access to other critical resources.
29. The Union Minister of Textiles Piyush Goyal has announced that the **Ministry of Textiles** has decided to set up a Handloom Village at Moirang of Manipur.
30. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has recently launched the 7th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF). IISF 2021 will be held from 10th-13th December in **Panaji, Goa**. It is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science & Technology, in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati.
- **Theme 2021:** Celebrating Creativity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Prosperous India
31. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has jointly launched an online certificate course on Experiential Learning for the 21st Century for Eklayva Model Residential School and CBSE teachers.
- It was jointly launched by Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Anil Kumar Jha and CBSE Chairman Manoj Ahuja.
32. Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched first of its kind, latest, world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the **National Brain Research Centre** (NBRC), Manesar in Haryana.
33. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the country's northeast, where people speak in at least 180 different languages, epitomise diversity, and Assam, being the gateway to the region, will be made a "laboratory" for mother tongue-based education.
- The levels of popular satisfaction with the quality of policing is reported to be highest in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Gujarat, a new survey revealed.

34. Meghalaya government has signed an MoU with the United Nations **World Food Programme** to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system in the state.
35. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched '**Aatmanirbhar Gram Yatra**' from Mahemdabad near Ahmedabad to reach out to the villages in the state.
36. Uttar Pradesh's first air pollution control tower opened in **Noida**, located in the posh Sector 16A, the 20-metre-high tower with a diameter of nine metres can filter air in an area of one square kilometre around.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

37. China has surpassed the United States to become the **richest nation in the world** as global wealth tripled over the past two decades, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.
- The report has been prepared after examining the national balance sheets of 10 countries, representing more than 60 per cent of world income.
38. The sixth edition of Indo France joint military exercise '**EX-SHAKTI 2021**' is being conducted at the French port town of Frejus. The 12-day long bilateral exercise, will conclude on the 26th of this month.
- The exercise SHAKTI will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-urban terrain under UN Mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies.
39. Indian Naval Ship INS Karmuk and an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participating in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral two day Maritime Exercise SITMEX - 21 in Andaman Sea.
40. **Pochampally village** in Telangana about 50 km has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), an official release from the office of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said.

41. **Barbados** has broken new ground as it prepares to become the first sovereign country with an embassy in the metaverse.
42. India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term.
43. In a major boost to the Indian Navy, INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- It is the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B and a crucial step for the Navy to demonstrate its indigenous capability to build complex combat platforms.
44. The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs was hosted by French Navy at Paris. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and Western Naval Command, lead a two member Indian Naval delegation for this Conclave.
45. **Venezuela** has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest orchestra with 8,573 musicians playing together for more than five minutes.
46. A prospective Russian hypersonic missile has been successfully test-fired from a nuclear submarine for the first time, the military said.

REPORTS & INDICES

47. As per the World Health Organization report, the number of people using tobacco globally decreased to 1.30 billion in 2020, from 1.32 billion in 2015. This number was expected to decline to 1.27 billion by 2025.
48. 2021 TRACE Global Bribery Risk Ranking has been released by TRACE International. India's rank has decreased to **82nd** in 2021 with a risk score of 44, while it was ranked 77th in 2020 with a risk score of 45. Countries like Vanuatu, Peru, North Macedonia, and Montenegro have also scored 44, the same as that of India, in the matrix.
- **Denmark** has topped the ranking with a risk score of 2, followed by Norway and Sweden.
 - North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Eritrea have the highest commercial bribery risk.

49. According to the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey, the Enrolment of children in government schools has leaped from 65.8 per cent to 70.3 per cent over the last one year. The survey aims to capture the transition in the education system in the country as the Covid-19 pandemic shows signs of receding.
50. Air Quality Index (AQI) has been published by IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group that is also a technology partner of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).
- **Delhi** has topped the list with an AQI of 556, while Kolkata has been ranked 4th with an AQI of 177 and Mumbai has been ranked at 6th with an AQI of 169.
 - Delhi has been followed by Lahore (354) in Pakistan, and Sofia (178) in Belgrade.
51. World Bank has recently released a report titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database'. As per the report, India has become the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving **\$87 billion** in 2021 with the **USA** being the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.
- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

52. NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, has recently signed an MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** to collaborate in the field of renewable energy and mutually explore opportunities for the supply of low carbon/RE RTC (round the clock) captive power.
53. **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati** has recently collaborated with Oil India Limited (OIL) to develop new technologies for Energy and Allied Sectors. This partnership will also focus on cooperation in the Transfer of existing technologies, Knowledge up-gradation and innovation partnership, Training and skill development, and other areas of mutual agreement.
54. Tata Projects Limited has recently bagged a \$120 million order for a 400kV double circuit transmission line project from the **Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB)**. It is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura to be executed in 30 months. The funding will be done by **EXIM Bank** India under the Indian Line of Credit.
- It will also facilitate **1,600MW** power transmission from a power plant based in Jharkhand to Bangladesh.

55. The **World Bank** and the **Asian Development Bank** in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) have launched the 'WePower India Partnership Forum' to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India
- World Bank, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, launched the WePOWER in February 2019.
56. The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) has inked an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Government of Navarra, Spain to further promote trade and investments between the two countries.
57. The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (AIIB) has approved USD 150 million loan to the Government of India for implementation of the Sustainable Urban services program for Chennai metropolitan area (CMA).
58. **Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited** has recently launched its car leasing and subscription business 'Quiklyz' with which the customer can access a brand-new car without all the hassles of car ownership.
- The new venture would be called 'Quiklyz' and would target both individuals as well as corporate buyers.
59. The central board of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved investing up to 5 percent of the annual deposits in alternative investment funds (AIFs) including **infrastructure investment trusts** (InvITs).
- The central board also approved setting up four subcommittees on employee pension, social security and augmentation of digital capacity to make EPFO a better user-friendly organisation.

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FINANCE & BANKING

60. **HDFC Bank** has recently integrated with the government's **National Agriculture Market** (eNAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries. The bank has partnered with the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to

improve the ease of doing business on the e-NAM platform by offering collection modes like multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT/RTGS, and UPI/IMPS.

61. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Laxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Solapur, including Rs 1,000 cap on withdrawals for customers, due to deterioration in its financial position.
62. RBI has recently introduced an **Internal Ombudsman Mechanism** for certain categories of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) that have a higher customer interface.
- These two types of NBFCs are Deposit-taking NBFCs with **10 or more branches** and Non-Deposit taking NBFCs with assets size of **Rs. 5,000 crore**.
 - The RBI has given a timeline of **six months** to the NBFCs for the appointment of the Internal Ombudsman.
63. **Paytm Money**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm Limited, has recently launched AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered '**Voice Trading**' to enable users to do trade or get information about stocks via single voice command.
64. Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has launched the second window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) with **Green Bharat** as prioritised theme.
- The focus of the fund is on innovative projects addressing the green, clean or efficient climate change.
65. IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of '**Indus Merchant Solutions**' a comprehensive mobile application to enable merchants, retailers and professionals to carry out banking transactions digitally, on a single platform.
66. With an aim to support and promote Indian football, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), has entered into a strategic partnership with JFC, the football club owned by Tata Steel.
67. The **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has recently received the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Award for Best Digital Financial Services under the 'Regional Rural Banks' category.
68. Kotak Mahindra Bank and PVR Cinemas have launched a co-branded movie debit card.

- With the Kotak PVR Movie Debit Card, cardholders will receive joining vouchers and earn points on every transaction on the debit card at PVR and outside PVR as well, with no upper limit on the points earned.
69. Mswipe has recently partnered with **OneCard**, a mobile-first credit card company, to offer no-cost Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) to its retail customers while purchasing at Mswipe POS (Point of Sale) terminals.
70. State Bank of India has entered into a co-lending agreement with fintech firm **U GRO Capital** to offer financing solutions to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
71. HDFC Bank has announced the launch of micro-credit facility for street vendors, **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi** (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres (CSC).
72. HDFC Bank would facilitate PM SVANidhi for its village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) on the digital sewa portal where vendors can complete the entire process online. It is a collateral-free affordable loan of ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy of 7%.
73. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited, an IT-enabled services provider, has recently received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to set up an **Account Aggregator** business under its wholly-owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.
74. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released the report of the **Working Group on Digital Lending**.
- Group has recommended to set-up a nodal agency in consultation with stakeholders to verify the digital lending applications.
 - The group has recommended to set-up a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) covering the participants in the digital lending ecosystem to maintain a 'negative list' of Lending Service Providers.
 - The group has recommended that in the medium term, the Central Government may consider bringing in legislation to prevent illegal lending activities by introducing the 'Banning of Unregulated Lending Activities Act'.
 - Use of unsolicited commercial communications for digital loans to be governed by a Code of Conduct to be put in place by the proposed SRO.

75. Network International, the leading enabler of digital commerce across the Middle East and Africa, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **NPCI International Payments Ltd** (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to discuss their collaboration on acceptance of NIPL's mobile-based real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
76. RBL Bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to collect direct taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.
77. IDFC First Bank has partnered Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to facilitate fuel payments at their retail outlets using the bank's FASTags.
78. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has recently entered into a partnership with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) for piloting a social impact lending programme with financial assistance up to **Rs 1 crore** at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.
- Under this partnership, MSMEs having turnover up to Rs 5 crore will get the loan ranging between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore which is being implemented by SIDBI.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

79. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently (Nov 2021) inducted three new cricketers into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- **Mahela Jayawardene** – Sri Lanka
 - **Shaun Pollock** – South Africa
 - **Janette Brittin** – England (She passed away in 2017 due to cancer)

Indian players in ICC Hall of Fame	
Player	Induction year
Bishan Bedi	2009
Kapil Dev	2009

Sunil Gavaskar	2009
Anil Kumble	2015
Rahul Dravid	2018
Sachin Tendulkar	2019
Vinod Mankad	2021

80. The West Bengal school education, higher education and tourism departments have been conferred with the prestigious **Skoch Gold Award**.

81. Mukundan's "Delhi: A Soliloquy", translated from Malayalam by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar K., was announced winner of the **JCB Prize for Literature**.

- While Mukundan will receive a prize amount of Rs 25 lakh, Fathima and Nandakumar will receive an amount of Rs 10 lakh.
- Besides the cash amount, M. Mukundan won a trophy created by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra, titled 'Mirror Melting'.

82. Two Indian teenage brothers have won the **2021 KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize** for tackling pollution from household waste.

- Vihaan (17) and Nav Agarwal (14) have developed the "One Step Greener" initiative segregating recyclables and organising pickups for trash from thousands of homes.

83. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced Karnataka Ratna award for the film star **Puneeth Rajkumar** popularly known as Power Star who passed away last month. He will be the 10th recipient of the state's highest civilian honour.

84. Rajeev Chaudhry has received the Guinness World Records certificate for the achievement of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) of constructing and black topping the World's highest motorable road.

85. **Jason Mott's Hell of a Book**, a surreal meta-narrative about an author's promotional tour and his haunted past and present, has won the National Book Award for fiction — a plot twist Mott did not imagine for himself.
86. In a great achievement for the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has adjudged Basant Garh Police Station in Udhampur district of Jammu division as 'one among 10 Best Police Stations' in the country in the Annual Ranking of Police Stations for the year 2021.
87. The Governor conferred the 12th Manipur State Award for Literature on Beryl Thanga, a 65 year old writer, for his book 'Ei Amadi Adungeigi Ithat' a novel published in the year 2015.
88. The Sports Authority of India gave out its first-ever Institutional Awards to a total of 162 athletes and 84 coaches for their performance in national and international competitions.
89. **Prakash Padukone** will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
90. **Anita Desai** has been awarded the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 to recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
91. Indian poet **Adil Jussawala** has been conferred with the Poet Laureate award for 2021 to recognise exceptional work which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

92. Navdeep Singh Gill has recently authored a new book titled '**Uddna Baaz**'. The book depicts the biography of the first Arjuna awardee Olympian **Gurbachan Singh Randhawa**.
- Gurbachan Singh Randhawa is a former Indian athlete who won a gold medal at the 1962 Asian Games in the decathlon. He is the first **Arjuna Awardee** in 1967. He is honored with the **Padma Shri** in 2005.
93. A new book titled 'The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India' has been authored by **Debashish Mukerji**. The book has been published by HarperCollins India.
- The book features a detailed account on India's 8th Prime Minister **Vishwanath Pratap Singh**.

94. A book titled 'Shuttlers' Flick: Making Every Match Count' has been authored by Pullela Gopichand. The book has been co-authored by **Priya Kumar**. The book features the autobiography of the former badminton player **Pullela Gopichand**. The book is published by Simon & Schuster India.
95. The book titled 'Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival' co-authored by Ajay Chhibber and Salman Anees Soz.
- The book examines whether India can use the next 25 years, when it will reach the hundredth year of independence, to not only restructure its economy but rejuvenate its democratic energy and unshackle its potential to become a genuinely developed economy by 2047.
96. Union Minister of Women and Child Development **Smriti Zubin Irani** has recently authored his debut novel named 'Lal Salaam: A Novel'. The book depicts the story of a young officer, Vikram Pratap Singh, and of the challenges he faces against a system that is steeped in backroom politics and corruption. The book has been published by Westland Publications.
97. The book titled "Cooking to Save your Life" written by Economist **Abhijit Banerjee** has been released recently.
- The book is published by Juggernaut.
 - In this book, Banerjee explores the social dimension of food in his latest book 'Cooking to Save Your Life' with grocery runs, dinner parties and lemon dal.

PERSON IN NEWS

98. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President, Sourav Ganguly has recently confirmed, that former India batter **VVS Laxman** will be the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will succeed Rahul Dravid.
99. Professor **Bimal Patel**, Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University and Member of National Security Advisory Board of India, has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term starting January 1, 2023 in a hard-fought election at the United Nations.
100. Children's footwear brand Plaeto has recently appointed Indian cricketer **Rahul Dravid** as its brand ambassador and mentor. Plaeto is India's first D2C foot-health-focused footwear brand designed specifically for Indian children. It was founded in March 2020 by Ravi Kallayil, Sara Kilgore, and Pavan Kareti.

101. After retiring as a Head Coach for Men In Blue, former cricketer Ravi Shastri has joined Legends League Cricket (LLC) as commissioner.
102. The United Nations (UN) secretary-general Antonio Guterres has recently appointed **Shombi Sharp** of the United States as the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in India. He will lead the UN team in India, and work towards India's COVID-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals.
103. **Sourav Ganguly**, the BCCI president, has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee. He will replace Anil Kumble who assumed the charge in 2012.
- Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies, has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.
104. Australian Geoff Allardice has been appointed as permanent **CEO of the International Cricket Council** after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months

OBITUARIES

105. Eminent **historian and author** Babasaheb Purandare has passed away recently in Pune, Maharashtra. He was born on 29th July 1922 in Saswad, Pune.
106. Renowned writer of **Hindi** language Mannu Bhandari has passed away recently in Gurugram, Haryana. She was born on 3rd April 1931 in Bhanpura, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Literary works**- Ek Inch Muskaan, Aapka Bunty, Mahabhoj, Teen Nigahon Ki Ek Tasvir, Trishanku, and Aankhon Dekha Jhooth, etc.
107. Renowned legendary **author** Wilbur Smith has passed away recently in South Africa. He was born in Zambia in 1933 to a British family.
- He published his first novel named "When the Lion Feeds" in 1964. He published his autobiography "**On Leopard Rock**" in 2018.
108. Veteran author, football journalist and **sports commentator** Novy Kapadia has passed away recently due to health complications. He was popularly known as 'the voice of Indian football'. He had covered nine FIFA World Cups, as well as Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
- **Literary Works**: 'Barefoot To Boots', 'The Many Lives Of Indian Football', etc.

109. Acclaimed short-story writer and **literary figure** of Bangladesh Hasan Azizul Haque passed away at Rajshahi. He was 82.

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SPORTS

110. **Australia** has recently won their maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 title by defeating New Zealand in the final match held at the Dubai International Stadium, Dubai in UAE. Mitchell Marsh has been named as the player of the match. It has been hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

- **Player of the Series** – David Warner (Australia)
- **Top Run Scorer** – Babur Azam (Pakistan)
- **Highest Wicket Taker** - Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka)

111. **Alexander Zverev**, a German professional tennis player, has recently won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18th overall by defeating American Frances Tiafoethe at the Vienna Open 2021 or Erste Bank Open.

Note: At present, Alexander Zverev is ranked 3rd in the ATP World Ranking.

112. American **high jumper** Erik Kynard has recently received his gold medal from the 2012 London Olympics after the International Olympic Committee approved reallocating some results from those games because of doping cases.

- With Kynard upgraded to men's gold, the three bronze medalists in 2012 will each now get silver medals: Derek Drouin of Canada, Robbie Grabarz of Britain, and Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar.

113. UK's Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** has recently won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021 held at the Interlagos Circuit in São Paulo, Brazil. This marks the 101st victory of Lewis Hamilton in Formula One Racing, and the 6th win in 2021.

114. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently announced 14 host nations for the upcoming One-Day International (ODI) World Cups, Twenty20 World Cups, and Champions Trophy tournaments from 2024 to 2031.

Host countries of ICC Events 2024 to 2031:

T20 World Cup:

- 2024: US and West Indies
- 2026: India and Sri Lanka
- 2028: Australia and New Zealand
- 2030: England, Ireland and Scotland

ODI World Cup:

- 2027: South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia
- 2031: India and Bangladesh

Champions Trophy:

- 2025: Pakistan
- 2029: India

115. Former South Africa captain and superstar batter **AB de Villiers** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, thus ending his 10-year-long association with the Indian Premier League franchise, Royal Challengers Bangalore.

116. The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) has announced that Tashkent will host the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games.

117. The decision was taken by the APC's executive board following a bidding process that saw a number of national Paralympic committees express interest in hosting the event.

118. India bagged a total of seven medals at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 held in Dhaka. India's recurve archery teams added two silver medals and a bronze on the final day of the Championships. India ended the week-long continental event with seven medals – one gold, four silvers and two bronze.

119. Lewis Hamilton has won the 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix. Max Verstappen came second while Fernando Alonso came third. With this win, Lewis Hamilton has become the first driver to have won at 30 different circuits in Formula 1.

120. In badminton, top-seeded Kento Momota of Japan beat Anders Antonsen of Denmark 21-17, 21-11 to win men's singles title at **2021 Indonesia Masters** Super 750 badminton tournament.

- Men's Single – Kento Momota (Japan)
- Women's Single – An Seyoung (South Korea)

IMPORTANT DAYS

121. International Day for Tolerance is observed annually on **16th November** to raise awareness about the dangers of intolerance. The UN General Assembly adopted 16 November as the International Day for Tolerance in 1966. The day also marks the anniversary of UNESCO's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

- The theme for International Day of Tolerance is based upon the basic premise that 'Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human'.

122. **National Press Day** is observed annually across India on **16th November** to recognize the importance of the free and responsible press in a democratic society. The day also marks the establishment of the Press Council of India.

- Press Council of India is a statutory and quasi-judicial body that works as a watchdog to oversee the print media's conduct. It works under the Press Council Act 1978. It was formed on the recommendations of the First Press Commission in 1966.

123. National Newborn Week is observed every year from **15 to 21 November**.

- The objective of the week is to reinforce the importance of new-born health as a key priority area of the health sector and reduce the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period.
- The theme of National New-born Week 2021 is 'Safety, quality and nurturing care – birth right of every newborn'.

124. India has recently observed its first edition of '**Audit Diwas**' on **16th November** to mark the historic origin of the institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.

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