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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**1 To 14 November 2021**



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## G-20 SUMMIT ADOPTS ROME DECLARATION

On 30-31 October Rome hosted the G20 Summit, the first held in Italy. At the end of two days of working sessions and side events, the G20 Leaders adopted the Rome Declaration. The document is the final outcome of an intense year of negotiations and events organized in the framework of the Italian G20 Presidency.

### Key Points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the summit as fruitful.
- During the summit, leaders elaborated deliberations on issues of global importance like fighting covid-19 pandemic, improving health infrastructure, strengthening economic cooperation and furthering innovation.
- They also adopted the 'Rome Declaration' and under the health section communicate gives a very strong message. Countries agreed on the fact that, Covid-19 immunisation is a global public good.
- During the summit, countries also agreed that the World Health Organisation (WHO) will be strengthened to fast-track the process for emergency use authorisation of Covid-19 vaccines.
- Main focus of the session was on energy and climate.
- Several developing countries called for safeguarding the interest of developing world.

### ROME DECLARATION

The Rome Declaration consists of 16 mutually agreed principles, which aims to guide joint action for preventing future health crises and to build a safer, equitable and sustainable world. 16 principles are as follows:

1. Supporting and enhancing the existing multilateral health architecture for detection, response, prevention and preparedness.

2. Working towards monitoring & implementation of multi-sectoral, evidence-based One Health approach in a bid to address risks emerging due to interface between human, animal & environment.
3. Fostering all-of-society and health-in-all policies.
4. Promotion of multilateral trading system
5. Enabling equitable, affordable and global access to high-quality, safe & effective health systems.
6. Supporting low and middle-income countries in a bid to build expertise, and develop local & regional manufacturing capacities.
7. Focus on data sharing, capacity building, voluntary technology and licensing agreements.
8. Enhancing support to existing preparedness and prevention structures.
9. Investing in worldwide health & care workforce
10. Investing in adequate resources, training, and staffing of diagnostic public & animal health laboratories.
11. Investments for developing and improving inter-operable early warning surveillance, information, and trigger systems
12. Investments in domestic, international & multilateral cooperation for the purpose of research, development & innovation
13. Increasing effectiveness of preparedness & response measures by extending support and promoting meaningful & inclusive dialogue
14. Ensuring effectiveness of financing mechanisms
15. Coordination on pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures and emergency response with respect to sustainable and equitable recovery
16. Addressing the need of streamlined, enhanced, sustainable and predictable mechanisms for financing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response in the long term.

## **SRINAGAR JOINS UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK 2021**

On November 8, 2021, UNESCO designated Srinagar as a creative city of craft and folk arts.

49 new cities worldwide have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). These cities were included in the list in recognition of their commitment of placing culture & creativity at the heart of their development as well as for sharing knowledge & good practices.

With the inclusion of 49 new cities this year, total numbers of cities in this network stands at 295 from across 90 countries.

### **WHICH INDIAN CITIES ARE THERE IN THE UNESCO'S NETWORK?**

- 1) Chennai and Varanasi are included in UNESCO Cities of music.
- 2) Jaipur is included in UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts.
- 3) Mumbai is included in UNESCO city of film.
- 4) Hyderabad is included in UNESCO City of gastronomy.

## **UK UNVEILS COMMEMORATIVE COIN CELEBRATING MAHATMA GANDHI**

A new £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled by the United Kingdom's government on the occasion of Diwali.

Available in a range of standards, including gold and silver, the special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover and features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes - 'My life is my message'.

It is the first time Mahatma Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin.

## **CABINET APPROVES TO OBSERVE NOVEMBER 15 AS JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. 15 November has been chosen

as this date marks the birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda who is revered as Bhagwan (God) by tribal communities across the country.

The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is dedicated to the brave tribal freedom fighters and their sacrificed for the country. The day will be celebrated every year from now on to recognize the efforts of the tribals for the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride.

### **OVER 33 LAKH CHILDREN ARE MALNOURISHED IN INDIA, MAHARASHTRA HAS HIGHEST NUMBER**

More than 33 lakh children are malnourished in India and over half of them are in the severe category. According to the Women and Child Development Ministry, as of October 14, there were 17,76,902 severely acute malnourished children and 15,46,420 moderately acute malnourished children in the country.

According to the report, Maharashtra had the highest number of malnourished children at 6,16,772, followed by Bihar (4,75,824) and then Gujarat (3,20,465).

The most malnourished children ranged in age from six months to six years and the data was collected from 36 states and union territories. According to the current statistics, nutrition information of children of all ages has been collected from the Anganwadi system.

These figures were directly entered into the Poshan tracker app by anganwadi workers and accessed by the Centre. The Poshan Tracker app was developed by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to track all anganwadi centres and their beneficiaries.

### **FACEBOOK IS NOW CALLED 'META',**

The overall Facebook company will now simply be called Meta. However, the Facebook instagram and whats app will retain its name.

The new name also invites people to participate in its "next chapter" - a 3D journey into the metaverse, which it sees as the future of the internet.

The word "meta" comes from the Greek word meaning "beyond".

### **WHAT IS THE METAVERSE?**

Metaverse is a broad term. It generally refers to shared virtual world environments which people can access via the internet.

The term can refer to digital spaces which are made more lifelike by the use of virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR).

Some people also use the word metaverse to describe gaming worlds, in which users have a character that can walk around and interact with other players.

### **SAMUDRAYAAN**

Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched India's first manned ocean mission "Samudrayaan" in Chennai.

With this Unique Ocean Mission, India joined the elite club of nations such as the US, Russia, France, Japan, and China to have niche technology and vehicles to carry out subsea activities.

### **KEY POINTS**

It is India's first unique manned ocean mission that aims to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for deep-ocean exploration and mining of rare minerals.

It will send three persons in a manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 to a depth of 6000 metres into the sea for deep underwater studies.

Submarines go only about 200 metres.

It is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission.

### **DEEP OCEAN MISSION**

It was approved in June 2021 by the (MoES). It aims to explore the deep ocean for resources, develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, and support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Indian Government.

The cost of the Mission has been estimated at Rs. 4,077 crores over a five-year period and will be implemented in phases.

#### **MATSYA 6000:**

It is an indigenously developed manned submersible vehicle.

It will facilitate the MoES in conducting deep ocean exploration of resources such as gas hydrates, polymetallic manganese nodules, hydro-thermal sulfides, and cobalt crusts which are located at an approximate depth between 1000 and 5500 metres.

Polymetallic nodules, also called manganese nodules, are mineral concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

This will open up more growth avenues to explore ocean resources for clean energy, drinking water, and blue economy.

Developed countries have already carried out similar ocean missions. India is the 1st country among the developing nations to carry out a deep ocean mission.

#### **PORTALS AND APPS**

Sr no	app/ portal name	Started by	Purpose
1	WhistleBlower	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd.	To help the IREDA employees to raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power among other things.

2	Uttam Beej	Haryana Govt	<p>The portal will provide transparency in the seed production programme arranged by both the Government and private seed producing agencies and ensure the quality of certified seeds.</p> <p>This seed portal has been linked with Meri Fasal Mera Byora Portal and Family Identity Card ID.</p> <p>Farmers will now get good high-quality seeds, which can improve their manufacturing and revenue. Along with authorities' businesses, non-public visa businesses will even register.</p>
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## ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID

The untapped potential of the sun is well known – all the energy humanity uses in a year is equal to the energy that reaches the earth from the sun in a single hour. The sun never sets – every hour, half the planet is bathed in sunshine. By trading energy from sun, wind and water across borders, we can deliver more than enough clean energy to meet the needs of everyone on earth. To meet the sheer scale of the challenge, efforts need to be brought together and supplemented to create a more interconnected global grid. We call this vision: One Sun One World One Grid.

This initiative was announced on the second day of COP26 by India and the United Kingdom to tap solar energy and have it travel seamlessly across borders.

The initiative brings together the International Solar Alliance and the UK's green grid initiative and complements India's focus on harnessing the sun's energy.

Members of the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid Steering Committee: Australia, France, India, United States of America, United Kingdom

### IMPLEMENTATION:

A Ministerial Steering Group will work towards accelerating the making of large solar power stations and wind farms in the best locations, linked together by continental-scale grids crossing national borders.

The Ministerial Steering Group includes France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States, and will also have representatives from Africa, the Gulf, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

## **GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE**

The Global Methane Pledge was launched on November 2, 2021 at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

over 90 countries have signed this pledge, which is an effort led jointly by the United States and the European Union.

Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, after carbon dioxide.

## **WHAT IS THE GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE?**

The pledge was first announced in September by the US and EU, and is essentially an agreement to reduce global methane emissions. One of the central aims of this agreement is to cut down methane emissions by up to 30 per cent from 2020 levels by the year 2030.

## **METHANE'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL TEMPERATURE**

According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, methane accounts for about half of the 1.0 degrees Celsius net rise in global average temperature since the pre-industrial era.

## **METHANE**

According to the UN, 25 percent of the warming that the world is experiencing today is because of methane, a greenhouse gas, which is also a component of natural gas.

There are various sources of methane including human and natural sources. Human sources of methane include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes. Human sources accounts for 60 percent of the global methane emissions, among which Oil & gas sectors are the largest contributor.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), methane has a much shorter atmospheric lifetime of 12 years as compared to centuries for CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **WHY IS DEALING WITH METHANE IMPORTANT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas simply because it absorbs more energy while it is in the atmosphere.

The IEA has also said that more than 75 percent of methane emissions can be mitigated with the technology that exists today, and that up to 40 per cent of this can be done at no additional costs.

### **INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP (ICGS) 'SARTHAK' DEDICATED TO THE NATION**

A new Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak' was dedicated to the nation on October 28, 2021 at Goa. It will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat.

#### **ABOUT THE ICGS SARTHAK:**

ICGS Sarthak is fourth in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG, to boost maritime safety and security of India.

The 105-meter-long ship displacing 2,450 tons is propelled by two 9,100-kilowatt diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.

The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, sensors and weapons which enables it to function as a command platform and undertake mandated Coast Guard charter of duties including search & rescue, combating maritime crimes and

preserving & protecting the marine environment. Indian Coast Guard is a pioneer in inducting indigenous platforms and ICGS Sarthak is a glowing example of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’

## INDIAN NAVY RECEIVED 4TH SCORPENE SUBMARINE ‘VELA’

Indian Navy has taken the delivery of its fourth Scorpene-class submarine. The vessel has been named ‘Vela’. INS Vela is known to have advanced stealth and combat capabilities when it comes to engaging with the enemy.

Project – 75 includes construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

The first submarine, INS Kalvari was commissioned in December 2017. The second one, INS Khanderi was commissioned in September 2019. The third submarine, INS Karanj was commissioned on March 10, 2021. INS Vela, the fourth in the series, was launched in May 2019.

The fifth one, INS Vagir, was launched in November 2020 and has commenced harbour trials. It is expected to go for its maiden surface sortie in December 2021. The sixth submarine, INS Vagsheer, is in the advanced stage of outfitting.

## MILITARY EXERCISE

No	Name	Countries	When and Where
1	SHAKTI (army)	India-France	6 <sup>th</sup> edition, 15 to 26 Nov 2021, Frejus, France
2	CORPAT (navy)	India Thailand	32 <sup>nd</sup> edition 12 to 14 Nov 2021 International Maritime Boundary Line

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## COVID NEWS

### BRITAIN APPROVES WORLD'S FIRST ORAL PILL TO TREAT COVID-19

Britain's health regulators have approved the world's first pill to treat cases of symptomatic COVID-19. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said, the antiviral molnupiravir has been found to be safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19, who are at increased risk of developing the disease.

### COVAXIN

the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an emergency use listing (EUL) for COVAXIN (developed by Bharat Biotech)

The vaccine is formulated from an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 antigen and is presented in single dose vials and multidose vials of 5, 10 and 20 doses.

The SAGE recommended use of the vaccine in two doses, with a dose interval of four weeks, in all age groups 18 and above. COVAXIN was found to have 78% efficacy against COVID-19 of any severity, 14 or more days after the second dose, and is extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements.

## DISEASES IN NEWS

### RICE BLAST DISEASE

A fungal infection affecting paddy called Rice blast, is affecting farmers who had grown "Manuvarna rice".

anuvarna rice is a brand-new rice selection, that Kerala Agricultural College has launched across more than 250 acres in Wayanad district.

This new brand rice was cultivated by president of Cheekkallur Padashekhara Samiti, Kesava Marar, on 70 acres of rented land after a study showed that this brand had given larger yields as compared to standard rice varieties.

## **NOROVIRUS CONFIRMED IN WAYANAD, KERALA**

Norovirus is an animal-borne disease. It is transmitted through contaminated water and food.

Following the confirmation of case, Health Minister Veena George issued guidelines and urged people to be vigilant for the same.

People were directed to intensify preventive activities and to spread awareness regarding the disease.

Norovirus are a group of viruses, causing gastrointestinal illness. Virus causes inflammation in lining of the stomach & intestines, severe vomiting and diarrhoea. The virus does not significantly affect healthy people. However, it can seriously affect elderly, young children, and people with other comorbidities.

## **SAMBHAV**

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched an e-National Level Awareness Programme SAMBHAV.

Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched the e-National Awareness Program 2021 'Sambhav' in New Delhi.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

It is a mass outreach programme under the Ministry of MSME in which students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship.

Awareness programs will be conducted in more than 1,300 colleges across the country in which 1,50,000 students are expected to participate.

During the campaign the college students will be made aware of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of MSME through Audio/Video film presentations.

To promote engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship, boost domestic manufacturing with a view to push economic growth.

## MISSION YUVA SWASTHYA

'Mission Yuva Swasthya' is being implemented in colleges in Maharashtra for vaccination.

Many students in the state are yet to be vaccinated against corona, which is hurting their actual college attendance. Therefore, with the help of the Public Health Department, a 'Mission Yuva Swasthyah' will be undertaken for vaccination in colleges, said Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant at a press conference in Pune on Saturday.

The campaign will be implemented in 5,000 colleges and universities in the state from October 25 to November 2. The campaign aims to vaccinate about 4 million students in the state. Remaining students will again be given priority for vaccination after Diwali.

## DAIRY SAHAKAR SCHEME

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Dairy Sahakar Scheme on 31st October, 2021. The scheme has been launched at Anand in Gujarat with the objective of creating a self-reliant India by doubling the income of farmers.

The scheme was launched with a total investment budget of Rs 5,000 crore. It will be implemented by the NCDC under the Ministry of Co-operation to realize the vision of "Cooperation to Prosperity"

NCDC will provide financial assistance to eligible cooperatives for activities such as milk procurement, cattle development, quality assurance, branding, packaging, transportation, storage of milk and milk products and export of dairy products.

## HAR GHAR DASKTA

Har Ghar Dastak campaign to start soon in the poor performing districts to enthuse and motivate people towards full COVID vaccination.

Government has asked the States and Union Territories to expedite areas where the coverage of first and second dose vaccinations is lower than the national average.

The 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign will be launched with the objective of increasing the Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

As part of the campaign, vaccine vans were launched and reviewed daily

### **VACCINE COVERAGE**

As of October 27, 2021, 10.38 crore people in 17 states of India have not yet received the second dose of the vaccine. More than 1.6 crore people are from Uttar Pradesh, 1.1 crore from Madhya Pradesh and 76 lakh from Maharashtra.

### **CUT-OFF FOR VACCINE COVERAGE**

The central government has fixed a cut-off of 77% for the first dose and 33% for the second dose. This statistic is also the national average of the first and second shots, respectively.

### **OTHER STEPS TO PROMOTE VACCINATION**

The Center is taking special initiative to sensitize the people and make them aware that Covid-19 is a preventable Covid-19 vaccine.

State under focus

Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are focusing on low vaccination rates. For example, in Bihar, vaccination coverage is 39% for the first dose and 13% for the second dose.

### **VIRBHRAKALI TARARANI SWAYAMSIDDHA YOJANA**

Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif has taken the initiative to implement the Virbhradkali Tararani Swayamsiddha Yojana for widowed women to provide them with a source of income and a decent livelihood.

- Through the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Campaign (UMED), efforts are being made to create a conducive environment for the poor and vulnerable women in rural areas to lead prosperous and self-respecting as well as secure

livelihood opportunities. As a part of this, the government has given approval to implement this scheme through action confluence in various schemes.

- Single / widowed women will be given priority in SHGs.
- As per the rules of Reserve Bank of India, a separate self-help group of at least five women members of single / widowed women will be set up as a special case. They will be provided the benefits of Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- Members of this group will also be given priority to pay revolving funds and community investment funds.
- These women will also be provided interest free loans to pay Rs 342 for PMJJBY (Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Vima Yojana) and PMSBY (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Vima Yojana).
- Eligible women will be included in the Mahatma Phule Janaarogya Yojana to avail the benefits of Arogya Vima Yojana
- Employment and self-employment opportunities will also be given priority to single / widowed women through Umed.
- Priority will also be given to these women as well as young men and women in the age group of 18 to 35 years in their families through training through Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
- Under the RCT scheme, young people in the age group of 18 to 45 years will be provided free and residential training in various occupations such as 10 to 45 days of agricultural training, processing industry training, productive training.

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## MAHARASHTRA ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY, 2021

### VISION

- 1) Adoption of sustainable and clean mobility solutions in Maharashtra.
- 2) Transform Maharashtra into a leading state in terms of adoption of electric vehicles in the country.
- 3) Retain Maharashtra's leadership in automotive manufacturing in India.

### MISSION

- 1) To bring a transition in the transportation ecosystem of Maharashtra by creating demand for the purchase and use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state through demand-side initiatives.
- 2) To stimulate manufacturing of electric vehicles in the state through a set of supply-side initiatives that aim to attract investment, facilitate the establishment of manufacturing units, and encourage the production of electric vehicles, electric vehicle components including Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) batteries, electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) and recycling industry.

### POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1) The primary objective of Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 is to accelerate adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) in the state so that they contribute to 10% of new vehicle registrations by 2025.
- 2) In the six targeted urban agglomerations i.e., Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad and Amravati in the state, achieve 25% electrification of public transport.
- 3) In the six targeted urban agglomerations i.e., Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad and Amravati in the state, achieve 25% electrification of fleet operators, fleet aggregators and last-mile delivery vehicles by 2025.
- 4) Transition of 15% of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation's (MSRTC) existing bus fleet to electric.

- 5) Make Maharashtra the country's top producer of BEVs in India, in terms of annual production capacity.
- 6) Target establishment of at least one Gigafactory for the manufacturing of advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries in the state.
- 7) Promote research and development (R&D), innovation, and skill development across the EV ecosystem in the state.

## **PM LAUNCHES TWO RBI INITIATIVES FOR INVESTORS**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for investors on November 12, 2021.

The two initiatives are- RBI Retail Direct Scheme and Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

With the launch of these scheme, India has opened up Government bond market for retails investors.

### **RBI RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME**

- The RBI Retail Direct Scheme will allow retail investors to invest easily in government securities.
- the scheme will allow retail investors to open and maintain their government securities account free of cost.
- The central bank said investors would have to open and maintain the Retails Direct Gilt Account or RGD with the RBI for investments in government securities.

### **RBI - INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SCHEME**

- The RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by the central bank.

- It may be noted that PMO said the theme of the scheme is based on “One Nation-One Ombudsman” with one portal, one email address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

## **THE COP 26**

The COP 26 United Nations Climate Change Conference was hosted by the UK in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November.

The conference follows a strong signal from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Italy and Britain are co-hosts of COP-26.

Britain has called for decisive action to curb carbon emissions. He has also proposed to stop the sale of fuel-powered vehicles by 2040. They are also prepared to spend to prevent deforestation.

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE GLASGOW CONFERENCE**

Under the Paris Agreement, world leaders will have to consider rapidly reducing the country's carbon emissions

Approval given by all member countries to review the Carbon Emission Reduction Plan every five years.

Rich countries that are polluting the environment more should fund poor countries that are facing climate change

‘Net-Zero or Carbon Neutrality

India’s Commitments at the Summit: While delivering his national statement on India's behalf, the PM presented five commitments (Panchamrit) from India towards climate action at COP26.

## **PANCHAMRIT**

- 1) Taking India’s non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.
- 2) Fulfilling 50% of India’s energy requirements through renewable energy by 2030.

- 3) Bringing down the carbon intensity of India's economy by more than 45% by 2030.
- 4) Cut down its net projected carbon emission by 1 billion tons from now until 2030.
- 5) Achieve the target of net zero carbon emission by 2070.

The UK is ready to provide India Green Guarantee to the World Bank in support of eco-friendly projects in India. As a result, India will receive 75 crores from the bank.

A similar conference on climate change was held in Berlin in 1995 with the support of the UN. The Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and the Paris Agreement of 2015 are part of it.

#### **PARIS AGREEMENT (COP-21)**

The goal was to make special efforts to control global temperatures below two degrees Celsius and 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to the pre-industrial era. The agreement came into force on November 4, 2016. It also aims to achieve "net-zero" carbon neutrality by the middle of the 21st century. It also called on developed countries to come to the aid of the weak and needy in the fight against climate change. Despite the signing of this agreement, fuel is being burned all over the world, trees are being cut down for development.

#### **EGYPT TO HOST COP27 CLIMATE SUMMIT NEXT YEAR**

During COP26 conference in Glasgow, it was decided that Egypt will host COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022.

Egypt will host the conference in Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.

This decision was taken after Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi showed in September Egypt's interest in hosting COP27 on behalf of the African continent.

Apart from that, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was selected to host COP28 international climate conference in the year 2023.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHOR DAMON GALGUT WINS BOOKER PRIZE**

South African playwright and novelist, Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for “The Promise”, his third shortlisted novel which chronicles a family in his homeland from the late apartheid era through to Jacob Zuma’s presidency. Spanning several decades, the book shows the family’s growing disintegration as the country emerges into democracy.

Mr. Galgut took the prize on his third time as a finalist, for a book the judges called a “tour de force.” He was previously shortlisted for “The Good Doctor” in 2003 and “In a Strange Room” in 2010, but lost both times.

### **THE NOMINEES**

- Anuk Arudpragasam - A Passage North
- Patricia Lockwood - No One Is Talking About This
- Nadifa Mohamed - The Fortune Men.
- Richard Powers – Bewilderment
- Maggie Shipstead - Great Circle

## **PADMA AWARDS 2021**

The Padma Awards are India's highest civilian honors announced annually on the occasion of Republic Day. The awards are given for outstanding achievements in arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and civil service. The Padma Awards are classified into three categories namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

This year, the President has approved 119 Padma Awards, including 7 Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans and 102 Padma Shri awards. The list includes 29 women, 10 foreigners and 16 posthumous award winners and 1 transgender person.

**PADMA VIBHUSHAN**

No.	Name	Sector	Country/State
1	Shinzo Abe	Public Affairs	Japan
2	SP balasubrahmanyam (posthumously)	Art	Tamil Nadu
3	Dr. Belle monappa Hegde	medicine	Karnataka
4	kapani Narinder Singh (posthumously)	Science and Engineering	U S A
5	vahiduddina Khan, Maulana	other - metaphysics	Delhi
6	B. B. lala	other- archeology	Delhi
7	Sudarshan Sahoo	art	Odisha

**PADMA BHUSHAN**

No.	name	sector	country / state
1	Krishnan Nair Shanthakumaran chitra	art	Kerala
2	Tarun Gogoi (posthumously)	public Affairs	Assam
3	Chandrasekhar Kambar	literature and education	Karnataka,
4	Sumitra Mahajan	public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh

5	Nrupendra Mishra	Civil Service	Uttar Pradesh
6	Ram Vilas Paswan (posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
7	Keshubhai Patel (posthumous)	Public Affairs	Gujarat
8	Kalbe Sadiq (posthumous)	Others - Spiritualism	Uttar Pradesh
9	Rajnikant Devidas Shroff	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
10	Tarlochan Singh	Publicpractice	Haryana

102 persons received the Padma Shri award this year. List is in the link given below

<https://padmaawards.gov.in/PDFS/2021AwardeesList.pdf>

#### **AWARD WINNERS FROM MAHARASHTRA.**

Six persons from Maharashtra have been awarded the prestigious Padma Award by the Government of India.

No.	Name	Area	Award
1	Rajnikant Shroff	Industries	Padmabhushan
2	Parashuram Gangavane	Art	Padmashree
3	Namdev Kamble	Literature and Education	Padmashree
4	Jaswantiben Popat	Industries	Padmashree
5	Girish Prabhune	Social Work	Padmashree
6	Sindhutai Sapkaal	Social Work	Padmashree

## MAHARASHTRA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Maharashtra's efforts in environmental conservation have been noted by the United Nations Climate Change Council. Maharashtra has received the award for 'Inspiring Regional Leadership' at the COP26 Conference in Scotland.

Maharashtra has received this award from Under 2 Coalition for Climate Action. Maharashtra is the only state in India to have won one of the three awards from the Under 2 Coalition for Climate Action in Scotland.

To protect the environment, the government has started a movement called 'My Planet'. It is also focusing on the Panchmahabhutas. The state government is considering clean energy instead of conventional energy. A highway has recently been solarized and 250 MW of energy will be generated from it.

## IMPORTANT INDICES AND REPORTS

No	Index	Who release	Important points
1	Global Climate Tech Investment trend	London & Partners, and Co,	In accordance with the report 'Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement' by London & Partners, and Co, India ranked 9th in the list of top 10 countries for climate technology investment from 2016 to 2021. Indian climate tech firms received USD 1 billion in venture capital (VC) funding in this period.

			USA -1, China - 2, Singapore- 10
2	QS World University Ranking	QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)	<p>The ranking has been topped by the National University of Singapore (NUS) for the 4th year in a row.</p> <p>It is followed by China's Peking University at 2nd position and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong at 3rd.</p> <p>Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) (42nd regionally) and IIT Delhi (45th regionally) are the only two Indian institutions among the Top-50.</p> <p>IIT Madras, which was in 50th place last year, has lost four places and now ranks 54th.</p> <p>India features 118 Indian Universities following China with 126 universities.</p>
3	Public Affairs Index 2021	Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bengaluru, non-profit think tank,	<p>6th edition</p> <p>Toppers among large states: - Kerala (1.618)</p> <p>Tamil Nadu (0.857), Telangana (0.891)</p> <p>Toppers among small states: - Sikkim (1.617) Meghalaya (1.144), Mizoram (1.123)</p>

			Toppers among Union Territories: - Puducherry (1.182) Jammu and Kashmir (0.705), Chandigarh (0.628)
4	LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) Index 2021	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab emerged as best performing states with respect to mobility of goods and efficiency of the logistics chain. Tamil Nadu (4th) and Maharashtra (5th) For representation purposes, states were ranked in three separate classes: North Eastern States Himalayan UTs' and 'Other UTs' group. Within Himalayan UTs, Jammu & Kashmir emerged as top ranker. In North Eastern States, Sikkim and Meghalaya emerged as toppers. Delhi was ranked at top position among "other United Territories" category.
5	Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India report	World Economic Forum (WEF)	The report was published in the backdrop of India's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
6	Global Drug Policy Index	The Harm Reduction Consortium	Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia are the five leading

			<p>countries with respect to humane and health-driven drug policies.</p> <p>Five lowest-ranked countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries</p> <p>The Global Drug Policy Index is a data-driven analysis of drug policies and their implementation across the world.</p> <p>The index comprises 75 indicators and it runs across five broad dimensions of drug policy namely- criminal justice, health &amp; harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, extreme responses, and development.</p>
7	The Climate Change Performance Index 2022	German watch, New Climate Institute and CAN	<p>The CCPI analyses and compares climate change mitigation efforts across 60 countries (plus EU as a whole) with the highest emissions.</p> <p>Together these countries account for 90 percent of global emissions.</p> <p>The index aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enable comparison of mitigation efforts and progress made by individual countries.</p>

GUIDANCE  
G R O U P

			<p>Scandinavian countries, together with the United Kingdom and Morocco, lead the ‘race to zero’</p> <p>Australia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan are among the worst performers</p> <p>The world’s largest emitter, China, slips four places to 37th, with an overall ‘low’ rating.</p> <p>India retains its 10th place in the ranking and is a high performer except for its rank in the renewable energy category, where it is rated ‘medium’.</p> <p>The report says that India is benefiting from its relatively low per-capita emissions.</p>
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## NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2020.

On November 1, 2021, Sports Ministry physically handed over trophies to the winners of National Sports Awards 2020.

Winners of the Awards had already received the cash rewards but were unable to collect their trophies and citations during the 2020 event because the Sports Awards ceremony was held virtually amid Covid-19 pandemic.

The Sports Ministry had handed over a total of 74 National Sports Awards, including 27 Arjuna Awards & 5 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards, on August 29, 2020.

award	winner
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020	Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Manika Batra (Table Tennis) Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para-Athletics), Rani Rampal (Hockey) and Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling).
Arjuna Award 2020	Atanu Das (Archery), Dutee Chand (Athletics), Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty (Badminton), Vishesh Bhriguvanshi (Basketball), Manish Kaushik (Boxing), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Ishant Sharma (Cricket), Deepti Sharma (Cricket), Sawant Ajay Anant (Equestrian), Sandesh Jhingan (Football), Aditi Ashok (Golf), Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), Deepika (Hockey), Deepak (Kabaddi), Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), Manu Bhaker (Shooting), Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), Madhurika Patkar (Table Tennis), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), Divya Kakran (Wrestling), Rahul Aware (Wrestling), Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para-Swimming), Sandeep (Para-Athletics), Manish Narwal (Para Shooting)
Dronacharya Award (Life-Time Category) 2020	Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery), Purushotham Rai (Athletics), Shiv Singh (Boxing), Romesh Pathania (Hockey), Krishan Kumar Hooda (Kabaddi), Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar (Para Powerlifting), Naresh Kumar (Tennis), Om Parkash Dahiya (Wrestling).
Dhyan Chand Award 2020	Kuldip Singh Bhullar (Athletics), Jincy Philips (Athletics), Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe (Badminton), Trupti Murgunde (Badminton), N Usha (Boxing), Lakha Singh (Boxing),

	Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football), Ajit Singh (Hockey), Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi), J Ranjith Kumar (Para-Athletics), Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton), Manjeet Singh (Rowing), Late Shri Sachin Nag (Swimming), Nandan Bal (Tennis), Netarpal Hooda (Wrestling).
Dronacharya (Regular Category):	Jude Felix (Hockey), Yogesh Malviya (Mallakhamb), Jaspal Rana (Shooting), Kuldeep Kumar Handoo (Wushu), Gaurav Khanna (Para Badminton).
Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards	Anita Devi (Land Adventure), Col Sarfraz Singh (Land Adventure), Taka Tamut (Land Adventure), Keval Hiren Kakka (Land Adventure), Satendra Singh (Water Adventure), Gajanand Yadava (Air Adventure), Late Magan Bissa (Life Time Achievement).
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy	Panjab University, Chandigarh.
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar	Lakshya Institute & Army Sports Institute. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd. Air Force Sports Control Board.

## NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2021

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2021. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th November, 2021. 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award' is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of the previous four years.

‘Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games’ is given for good performance over a period of previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

‘Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games’ is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.

‘Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games’ is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports events after their retirement.

‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar’ is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

award	winner
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021 (In August 2021 government rename the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award)	Neeraj Chopra (Athletics), Ravi Kumar (Wrestling) Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Sreejesh P.R (Hockey) Avani Lekhara (Para Shooting) Sumit Antil (Para Athletics) Pramod Bhagat (Para Badminton) Krishna Nagar (Para Badminton) Manish Narwal (Para Shooting) Mithali Raj (Cricket) Sunil Chhetri (Football) Manpreet Singh (Hockey)
Arjuna Awards	Arpinder Singh (Athletics), Simranjit Kaur (Boxing)

	<p>Shikhar Dhawan (Cricket) Bhavani Devi  Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman (Fencing)  Monika (Hockey) Vandana Katariya (Hockey)  Sandeep Narwal (Kabaddi)  Himani Uttam Parab (Mallakhamb) Abhishek Verma  (Shooting) Ankita Raina (Tennis) Deepak Punia  (Wrestling) Dilpreet Singh (Hockey) Harman Preet  Singh  (Hockey) Rupinder Pal Singh (Hockey) Surender  Kumar  (Hockey) Amit Rohidas (Hockey) Birendra Lakra  (Hockey) Sumit (Hockey) Nilakanta Sharma  (Hockey) Hardik Singh (Hockey) Vivek Sagar Prasad  (Hockey)  Gurjant Singh (Hockey) Mandeep Singh (Hockey)  Shamsher Singh (Hockey) Lalit Kumar Upadhyay  (Hockey) Varun Kumar (Hockey) Simranjeet Singh  (Hockey) Yogesh Nathuniya (Para Athletics) Nishad  Kumar (Para Athletics) Praveen Kumar (Para  Athletics)  Suhas Yathiraj (Para Badminton) Singhraj Adhana  (Para Shooting) Bhavina Patel (Para Table Tennis)  Harvinder Singh (Para Archery) Sharad Kumar (Para  Athletics)</p>
<p>Dronacharya Award  Life-Time Category</p>	<p>T. P. Ouseph (Athletics) Sarkar Talwar (Cricket)  Sarpal Singh (Hockey) Ashan Kumar (Kabaddi)  Tapan Kumar Panigrahi (Swimming)</p>

Dronacharya Award Regular Category	Radhakrishnan Nair P (Athletics) Sandhya Gurung (Boxing) Pritam Siwach (Hockey) Jai Prakash Nautiyal (Para Shooting) Subramanian Raman (Table Tennis)
Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games 2021	Lekha K.C. (Boxing) Abhijeet Kunte (Chess) Davinder Singh Garcha (Hockey) Vikas Kumar (Kabaddi) Sajjan Singh (Wrestling)
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar	ManavRachna Educational Institution Indian Oil Corporation Limited
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2021	Panjab University - Chandigarh

## INDIA CLINCHES WOMEN'S DOUBLES TITLE IN WTT CONTENDER TOURNAMENT

Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath from India have won the women's doubles title at World Table Tennis Contender Lasko 2021.

Both, Batra & Kamath, are ranked at 36th They beat 23rd ranked Puerto Rico's Diaz sisters, Adriana and Melanie, in three games at the final on November 7, 2021.

In the three games, score was 11-3, 11-8 & 12-10.

## INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL YOGASANA SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS SETUP IN BHUBANESWAR

India's first Physical National Yogasana Championships has been organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from November 11-13, 2021. The National Yogasana Sports Championships 2021-22 has been organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.