

Current Affairs

23rd November 2021

Today's Important News

President awards Vir Chakra to Abhinandan Varthaman, who downed Pak F-16.



1. President awards Vir Chakra to Abhinandan Varthaman, who downed Pak F-16

- Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman has been awarded Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi
- He shot down a Pakistani F-16 jet during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) in 2019
- Abhinandan is IAF's first Vir Chakra awardee after 1999 Kargil war when Ajay Ahuja and Wing Commander AK Sinha were awarded the wartime gallantry medal.



Foot Notes:

About Vir Chakra:

India's third highest wartime gallantry award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.

2. El Salvador plans to build world's first 'Bitcoin City'

- El Salvador President Nayib Bukele has announced to build the world's first Bitcoin City in the country
- This new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds.



- It would get geothermal power from a volcano.
- Bitcoin City will not levy any taxes except for value-added tax (VAT).
- One half of this VAT levied will be used to fund the bonds issued to build the city.

Foot Notes:

About El Salvador:

President: Nayib Bukele

Capital: San Salvador

Currencies: Bitcoin, U.S. Dollar

3. CII to organize 20th edition of 'Connect 2021' in Chennai

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize its flagship event titled 'Connect 2021' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- It will be held from 26th to 27th November
- Theme: Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem
- Connect: It is an international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT)
- **Partner countries:** Australia and UK
- It is hosted by Govt of Tamil Nadu and co-hosted by Software Technology Parks of India and MeitY.



4. Jitendra Singh inaugurates ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-21

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-2021, highlighting the Futuristic and Disruptive Technologies to be developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is being organized by Directorate of Technology Development and Innovation (DTDI) under the aegis of ISRO.
- Development of Satellite-Based Quantum Communication will enable unconditional data security to the country's communication network.



5. Bhupender Yadav initiates first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey

- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav has flagged off the first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey.
- It will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- Objective: To estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at the national and state level and find out household estimates of live-in and live-out domestic workers.



- It will also estimate the average number of domestic workers engaged by different types of households.

6. Venezuelan musicians set world's largest orchestra record

- Venezuela has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest orchestra with 8,573 musicians playing together for more than five minutes.
- This record was set by National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of India, known as 'El Sistema'.
- Prior to this, such record for an orchestra was made by Russia when 8,097 musicians played together in St. Petersburg.
- Venezuela is a country on the northern coast of South America



Foot Notes:

About Venezuela:

Capital: Caracas

Currency: Venezuelan bolívar

President: Nicolás Maduro

7. SBI Ecowrap report projects India's GDP for FY22 between 9.3%-9.6%

- State Bank of India (SBI) economists in its research report 'Ecowrap' has revised upwards the GDP growth projection for India to range from 9.3% to 9.6% for FY22 (2021-22).
- Earlier, this was estimated in the range of 8.5% to 9%.
- Reason for the upward revision is decline in the number of COVID cases.
- Average GDP growth of 28 selected economies has decelerated to 4.5% in Q3 (2021) as against 12.1%.



Foot Notes:

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Founded: 1 July 1955

Headquarters: Mumbai

8. EPFO gets approval to park 5% of annual deposits in InvITs

- Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) have approved that up to 5% of the annual deposits can be invested in alternative investment funds (AIFs) including infrastructure investment trusts



(InvITs).

- This investment will offer diversification to EPFO's investment basket.
- Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC) have been tasked to decide upon investment options, on case-to-case basis.
- AIFs are regulated by SEBI.

Foot Notes:

About EPFO:

Founded: 4 March 195

Headquarters: New Delhi

9. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Aayakar Bhawan-cum-Residential Complex

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated new Aayakar Bhawan-cum- Residential Complex 'The Chinars' at Rajbagh in Srinagar.
- Income Tax Building had got damaged in a terrorist attack in 2005
- Establishment of new office complex and attached 'Aayakar Seva Kendra' will go a long way in providing better service to tax payers in the spirit of Jan Bhagidari.
- Number of developmental works shall be carried out for the overall benefit of the people




10. AIR, Doordarshan win awards at ABU-UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021

- Doordarshan and radio show by All India Radio has received multiple awards at ABU - UNESCO Peace Media Awards-2021 at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- 'Ethical and Sustainable Relationship with Nature' award: AIR's 'Living on the edge - The coastal lives'
- Living Well with Super Diversity category: Doordarshan's programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way'
- The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union under 'Together for Peace' initiative.



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