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## NATIONAL

### 1) Purvanchal Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 341-km long Purvanchal Express in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh. The expressway links state capital Lucknow with Ghazipur and has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore.

### 2) SITMEX-21

The 3rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise named SITMEX-21 is being held from 15 to 16 Nov 21 in the Andaman Sea. The Navies of the India, Singapore and Thailand will participate in the event. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk is participating in the 3rd edition from India. It is an indigenously built Missile Corvette.

## GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

### 1) IQAir index

As per the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are among the top ten most polluted cities of the world. Delhi topped the list with AQI at 556, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at 4th and 6th position. The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### 1) 2021 JCB prize for Literature

Author M Mukundan won the 2021 JCB prize for Literature, for his book 'Delhi: A Soliloquy'. The book, which has originally been written in Malayalam has been translated into English by Fathima EV and Nandakumar K.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### 1) VVS Laxman

Board of Control for Cricket in India President, Sourav Ganguly has confirmed, that former India batter VVS Laxman will be the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Laxman will take over from Rahul Dravid, who was recently appointed as chief coach of the Indian team.

## OBITUARY

### 1) Mannu Bhandari

Renowned author Mannu Bhandari has passed away. She was 90. Bhandari was one of the key members of the Nayi Kahani movement of Hindi literature. Some of Bhandari's notable works include Mahabhoj (1979), Ek Plate Sailab (1962), Yehi Sach Hai aur Anya Kahaniya (1966), Teen Nigahen Ek Tasveer (1969), and Trishanku (1999).





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## 2) Balwant Moreshwar Purandare

The eminent historian Balwant Moreshwar Purandare has passed away. He was 99. The author was popularly known as Babasaheb Purandare. Purandare wrote extensively about Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He had earned the moniker 'Shiv Shahir' which literally means Shivaji's bard. He was felicitated with India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, on 25 January 2019.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

### 1) KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize

Vihaan and Nav Agarwal have won the 17th annual KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize for tackling pollution in their home city by recycling household waste. Vihaan and Nav have developed an "One Step Greener" initiative for segregating rubbish and organising waste pickups for trash from thousands of homes, schools and offices.

## SPORTS

### 1) 2021 F1 Sao Paulo Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), has won the 2021 F1 Sao Paulo Grand Prix. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second while Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came third in the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1) National Press Day

National Press Day is observed on 16th November every year to celebrate free and responsible press in India. On this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not constrained by any influence or threats. It also commemorates the day when the Press Council of India started functioning.

### 2) "International Day for Tolerance"

The United Nations observes "International Day for Tolerance" on 16th November every year. The United Nations is committed to strengthening tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.

