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CURRENT AFFAIRS

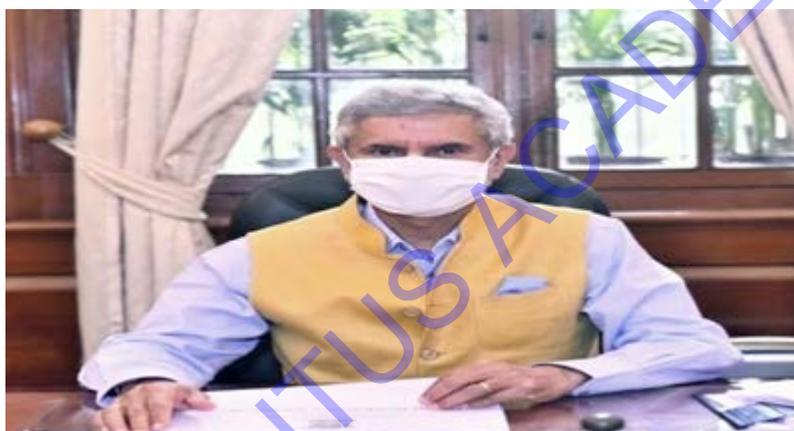


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## CURRENT AFFAIRS 25th November 2021

### National News

#### 1. EAM S Jaishankar to attend 20th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government



- The 20th Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government will be held today in Nur-Sultan in virtual format under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will represent India in the meeting.
- The SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the Organization and to approve its annual budget.
- The Meeting will be attended by the Heads of Government of the SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure RATS, Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

## 2. Department of Food & Public Distribution organising All India Food Ministers Meeting

भारत सरकार उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION



उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

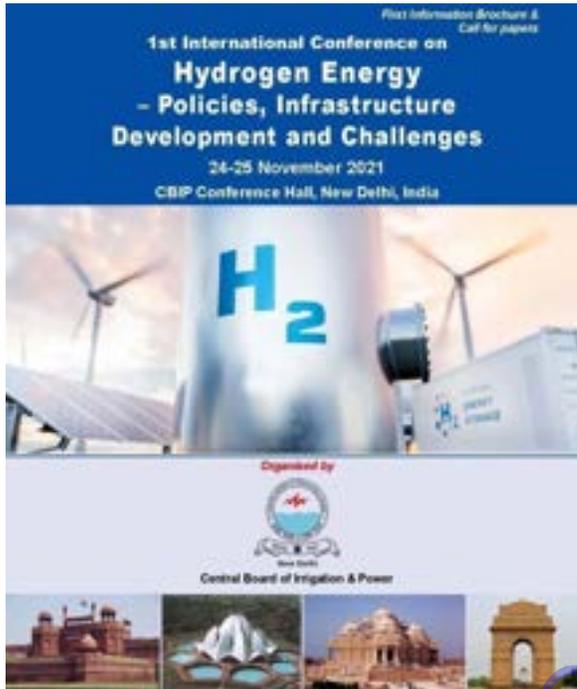
- The Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is organising an All India Food Ministers Meeting tomorrow in New Delhi.
- Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal will chair the meeting and will discuss the issue of community kitchen and other issues with Food Minister of all States and UTs
- A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court regarding establishing the concept of community kitchen across the country, formulation of requisite scheme to provide food to the needy persons and create a national food grid for those persons beyond the scope of the Public Distribution System to fight with hunger and malnutrition.

### 3. Cabinet approves Continuation of umbrella scheme ACROSS to next Finance Commission Cycle (2021-2026)



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today gave its approval for continuation of the umbrella scheme Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services ACROSS along with its eight sub-schemes to the next finance cycle of five years 2021-2026 at an estimated cost of 2 thousand 135 crore rupees.
- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its units namely India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.
- ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of Ministry of Earth Sciences and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services.

#### 4. Central Board of Irrigation and Power organizes 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy



- The 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy - Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges is being organized by Central Board of Irrigation and Power in New Delhi.
- The two day conference aims to bring key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.
- The Minister inspired technologists from IITs and other organizations for maximum research for Hydrogen Energy to culminate the challenge of reducing cost of production for eletrolyzers.

## International News

### 5. Sweden's parliament approves Magdalena Andersson as first female Prime Minister



- Magdalena Andersson has been approved by Sweden's parliament as the country's first ever female prime minister, after replacing Stefan Lofven as leader of the centre-left Social Democrats.
- Sweden is the country never to have elected a woman as national leader before. Ms Andersson, who's currently finance minister.
- A hundred years after Swedish women were given the vote, the 54-year-old Social Democrat leader was given a standing ovation by sections of the parliament, or Riksdag.
- Her election at the head of a minority government followed an 11th-hour deal with the opposition Left party, in exchange for higher pensions for many Swedes.

## 6. President Joe Biden invites 110 countries including India to virtual democracy summit



- **President Joe Biden has invited around 110 countries to a virtual summit on democracy in December, including major Western allies including India. The US has invited Iraq and Pakistan also.**
- **Among the countries of the Middle East, only Israel and Iraq will take place in the online conference, scheduled for December 9-10. Traditional Arab allies of the US -- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, are not invited.**
- **In Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Nigeria and Niger are among the countries on the list.**
- **In announcing the summit back in August, the White House said the meeting would galvanize commitments and initiatives across three principal themes: defending against authoritarianism, fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights.**

## 7. NASA launches world's first DART Mission



- The US space agency NASA has launched a first-of-its-kind mission named DART to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it. DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.
- The \$325 million DART mission was launched into orbit on November 24, 2021, from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- The mission aims to test asteroid-deflecting technology. The purpose of the mission is to crash a space probe into the asteroid so as to alter its speed and course so prevent it from hitting the Earth.
- NASA is poised to investigate just that with a first-of-its-kind mission to deflect an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it.
- NASA administrator: Bill Nelson
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958

## 8. Australia Signs Nuclear Propulsion Sharing Agreement with U.K., U.S.



- **Australia signed the agreement to share nuclear propulsion information with the United States and the United Kingdom on Monday, marking the initial steps towards the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet with the assistance of the U.K. and U.S.**
- **Under the AUKUS deal, Australia will be provided with 8 nuclear-powered submarines capable of stealthy and long-range missions. It is the first agreement on technology signed by the three countries after the formation of the defence alliance AUKUS (Australia-UK-US).**
- **AUKUS is a trilateral security pact signed between Australia, UK & USA in September 2021. The first major initiative of AUKUS would be to deliver a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia.**

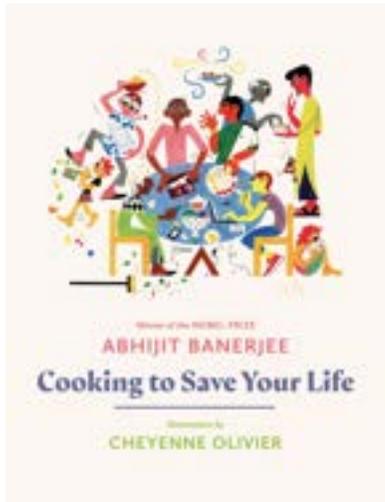
## Books and Authors

### 9. Ban Ki-moon released his autobiography “Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World”



- A book titled ‘Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World’ is an autobiography of the Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. It consists of life experiences and challenges that the author faced in his life & elaborates his tenure in the United Nations (UN).
- He served as the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations for a two 5-year term (2007-2016).

**10. Cook like a Nobel laureate: Economist Abhijit Banerjee's new book**



- Indian-born American economist & Nobel laureate, Abhijit Banerjee has authored a new book (cookbook) titled “Cooking to Save your Life”.
- He won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2019 along with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

## Important Days

### 11. PM pays tributes to Lachit Borphukanon in Lachit Divas



- Lachit Divas (Lachit Day) is celebrated annually in the Indian state of Assam on November 24, to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary Ahom army general Lachit Borphukan.
- Lachit Borphukan was born on 24 November 1622 in Charaideo and is known for his military intelligence in the Battle of Saraighat.
- Every year, since 1999, the 'Lachit Borphukan Gold Medal' is awarded to the best cadet passing-out from the National Defence Academy.
- The Battle of Saraighat was fought between the Ram Singh-led Mughal army and the Lachit Borphukan-led Ahom army in the year 1671 on the banks of the Brahmaputra river. Chao Lachit was the Borphukan (Army general) of the Ahom army.

## 12. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



- The United Nations designated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on November 25.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence.
- This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!".

## **Defence News**

### **13. Indian Navy to commission indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela in Mumbai**



- The commissioning ceremony of the indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine Vela will be held at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard today.
- A day before the ceremony, Commanding Officer of INS Vela, Captain Anish Mathew said that it is a proud moment. He added that INS Vela has an indigenous set of batteries and an advanced communication suite of indigenous make, taking the concept of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' further
- INS Vela is the fourth in that series, following Kalvari, Khanderi and Karanj.
- This fourth warship is expected to further boost Indian capability to defend and secure its strategic sea lanes.

**By Sameer Singhal**

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