



CURRENT AFFAIRS (SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2021) :

National

- ⇒ Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched NIPUN Bharat programme. The aim of the NIPUN programme is that every child in India gets foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. NIPUN stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- ⇒ Uttar Pradesh government has renamed a landmark freedom movement called "Kakori Train Conspiracy" as "Kakori Train Action" and paid tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori in Uttar Pradesh. Kakori Train Action was a train robbery that took place on August 9, 1925 in a village called Kakori near Lucknow to buy weapons during Indian Independence Movement against British Raj. Robbery was organised by Hindustan Republican Association (HRA). It was conceived by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan. HRA was established to carry out revolutionary activities against British Empire with the objective of achieving independence.
- ⇒ India and Nepal have signed a \$ 1.3 billion deal to develop a 679-megawatt 'Lower Arun Hydropower Project', located between Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts in eastern Nepal on the river 'Arun'. The project will be developed under the build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model. This 679 MW Hydropower project is the single largest foreign investment project in the country, based on the 2017 cost estimates.
- ⇒ The government of India has accorded sanctions to Team CLAW (Conquer Land And Water) to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier. This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'. It aims to shatter the common perception of pity, charity, and inability associated with the people with disabilities and transform it to that with dignity, freedom, and ability. Operation Blue Freedom was launched in 2019 by CLAW Global, a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy. The Operation is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.
- ⇒ Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate, via video conferencing. With this, PM Modi has become the first Prime Minister of India to chair a UNSC open debate.
- ⇒ The Athletics Federation of India has decided that the 7th of August will be celebrated as 'Javelin Throw

Day' every year in honour of Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra. The 23-year-old Neeraj is India's second individual Olympic gold medallist after Abhinav Bindra. Neeraj bagged the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on 7th August 2021. Neeraj has scripted the history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has roped in Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra to start a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.

- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the target of becoming an 'energy independent country' by the year 2047, the year when India will celebrate the 100th year of Independence. For this, PM has announced a 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.
- ⇒ The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to launch a unique national Hackathon named 'MANTHAN 2021'. The basic objective of this hackathon is to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by the intelligence agencies of the country and empower these enforcement agencies.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day and announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains would connect different parts of the country. The 75 Vande Bharat trains will connect every corner of the country in 75 weeks of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', which is being celebrated from March 12, 2021, upto August 15, 2023.

International

- ⇒ The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy. It was held in mixed format i.e people participated in physical form and via video conference also. The Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Irani addressed the meet on behalf of India.
- ⇒ The International Day for People of African Descent was celebrated for the first time on 31 August 2021. The United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.



- ⇒ The United States announced the end of its 20-year-old war in Afghanistan before the deadline of August 31, 2021. This announcement was made after the last American military flight flew out of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. America announced the formal end of their longest war, just before the 20th anniversary of the September 9/11, 2001, on which Al Qaeda terrorists led by Osama bin Laden hit the Twin Towers in New York. The 9/11 terrorist strike had forced the US to enter Afghanistan and overthrow the Taliban rulers who had provided safe havens to the Al Qaeda leadership. The Taliban rule was overthrown and replaced by US-backed Afghans. They then ruled the country for 20 years. On August 15 the President Ashraf Ghani fled the country and 3,00,000 Afghan armed forces troops, who were trained by United States, gave up without any fight. The Taliban is now ruling Afghanistan.
- ⇒ To solve the Afghanistan crisis, the Troika Plus - China, Russia, Pakistan, and the US - kicked off a meeting in Doha, Qatar. However, India was not invited to the Russian-led talks, which sparked discussions in New Delhi. Some Indian media believe that the exclusion of India from the extended Troika meeting proves that India's position on the Afghan issue is not completely on par with Russia's. China, Russia, Pakistan and the US established a mechanism among themselves - the Troika Plus, a balanced combination of countries with different interests in various directions in the Afghan issue.
- ⇒ Militaries of China, Mongolia, Thailand and Pakistan took part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise called "Shared Destiny-2021" at the combined-arms tactical training base in central Henan province of China.
- ⇒ The UN's cultural agency UNESCO has voted to remove Liverpool's waterfront from its list of world heritage sites, citing concerns about overdevelopment, including plans for a new football stadium. 13 delegates voted in favour of the proposal and five against, just one more than the two-thirds majority required to delete a site from the global list.
- ⇒ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces, which entered Kabul and sought the unconditional surrender of the central government.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 15.09. 2021) are :

- * Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 4.00%.
- * Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 3.35%
- * Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 18.00%
- * CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
- * Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 4.25%
- * MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 4.25%.
- * Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 7.30% - 8.80%.
- * MCLR (*The Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI*): 6.55% - 7.00%.

(Difference: Base Rate is governed by the average cost of funds while MCLR is governed by the current cost of funds. MCLR replaced the Base Rate on April 1, 2016. Under the MCLR regime, banks must adjust their interest rates as soon as the repo rate changes. Earlier it was not so).

- * Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 4.90% - 5.50%.
- * Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.

⇒ HDFC Bank launched a 'SalaamDilSey' initiative on the Doctors' Day (July 1) to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during the pandemic.

⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'National Automobile Vehicle Scrapping Policy', also called 'Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme'. The policy dictates that all automobiles over a certain age should be off the road in the interest of better pollution control and safety, which new vehicles ensure. Commercial vehicles over 15 years old and personal vehicles over 20 years old are marked for scrapping – if they fail an automobile fitness test. The PM said that it would create thousands of jobs and bring in a fresh investment of more than Rs 10,000 crore. The policy implementation will start with heavy commercial vehicles from April 1, 2023.



- ⇒ Union cabinet has approved the highest ever fair & remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane farmers. FRP for sugarcane has been increased to Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22. This price will be based on 10% recovery. If recovery is less than 9.5%, then farmers will be given a FRP of Rs 275 per quintile.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the nation on August 15, highlighted India's target to become 'energy independent' by 2047, when India will be celebrating 100th year of Independence. As of 2017, India has attained 63% overall energy self-sufficiency.
- ⇒ According to the triennial ranking of youth development index released by the Commonwealth Secretariat, India was ranked at 122nd position amongst 181 countries in Global Youth Development Index, 2020. Singapore was ranked at the top, followed by Slovenia and Norway.
- ⇒ Jalan Kalrock Consortium, the new owner of Jet Airways in a public notice told the existing Staff of Jet Airways that they wont be able to re-employ all of them.
- ⇒ The government has created a Ministry of Cooperation, headed by Amit Shah, to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises.
- ⇒ The Government of India has decided to bring Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the finance ministry. DPE was earlier under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. It has been brought under the finance ministry in a bid to ease coordination regarding future disinvestment plans.
- ⇒ Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat. Digital Kendras of Amazon are centres that will provide micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.
- ⇒ The country's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana. It is an automatic machine, which works just like a bank ATM. This machine has been installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations (UN), and is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity Grain Dispensing Machine'.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched 'the RBI Retail Direct' scheme for retail investors, through which they can directly buy and sell government securities (G-Secs), both primary and secondary. The RBI Retail Direct scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Secs) by individual investors.
- ⇒ ICICI Bank has launched India's most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors, titled as 'Salute Doctors' on July 1.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July 2021. MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.
- ⇒ Banking and financial services major, Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to expand its global centre for engineering and business innovation in India.
- ⇒ The Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kotak Mahindra for salary accounts of all its personnel – both serving and retired.
- ⇒ The standalone health insurer 'Max Bupa Health Insurance' has rebranded itself as 'Niva Bupa Health Insurance'.
- ⇒ India ranked 9th in the list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019 with a significant share within the export of rice, soya beans, cotton and meat, according to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on trends in world agricultural trade. European Union topped the index followed by the USA.
- ⇒ India has ranked second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis. This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
- ⇒ Google-parent Alphabet has launched a new robotics company, Intrinsic which will focus on building software for industrial robots.
- ⇒ The Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the highest ever general allocation of \$650 billion in IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR), to help boost global liquidity. The \$650 billion SDR allocation aims to support member countries, especially emerging and developing nations, battling the coronavirus pandemic.
- ⇒ Seven Indian companies have found places in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company (155th globally) on the list in terms of revenue, with revenues of nearly \$63 billion. Walmart has topped the list in terms of revenue for the eighth consecutive year. China has dominated this year's list for the highest number of companies featuring in the list at 143, including those from Taiwan. This is followed by the U.S. with 122.



- ⇒ According to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021, Apple is the world's most valuable company (\$ 2,443 billion). The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent. Globally, the US has the highest 243 companies while 12 Indian companies found their positions in the list. Reliance Industries (\$ 188 billion) ranked 57th, is the top Indian company in the list.
- ⇒ SEBI has allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issue. Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI). 'Banker to an issue' means a scheduled bank carrying on all or any of the following issue related activities : (i) acceptance of application and application monies; (ii) acceptance of allotment or call monies; (iii) refund of application monies; (iv) payment of dividend or interest warrants.
- ⇒ The market capitalisation (m-cap) of the information technology major 'Infosys' crossed \$100 billion recently. Infosys is the fourth Indian company to achieve this milestone. Reliance Industries (m-cap of \$140 billion), Tata Consultancy Services (m-cap \$115 billion) and HDFC Bank (m-cap \$100.1 billion) are the other Indian firms in the club with Infosys.
- ⇒ SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading General Insurance companies, announced a tie-up with 'SahiPay', the fastest growing tech-enabled financial inclusion platform of Manipal Business Solutions, to increase insurance penetration in the rural markets.
- ⇒ The Finance Ministry has informed Rajya Sabha that over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative. This is 14 per cent of the total number of accounts. According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, savings, as well as current account, should be treated as inoperative/dormant if there are no transactions in the account for over a period of two years. According to the website of PMJDY, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts is 42.83 crore with a balance of nearly Rs, 1.43 lakh crore.
- ⇒ HCL Technologies' market capitalisation (market-cap) touched Rs 3 trillion for the first time. HCL has become the fourth Indian information technology (IT) firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the launch of the 'Scheme of Penalty' for non-replenishment of ATMs. The Scheme shall be effective from October 01, 2021.
- ⇒ India is ranked 122nd out of 181 countries, on a new Global Youth Development Index 2020 released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. Singapore ranked topmost followed by Slovenia and Norway.
- ⇒ Facebook India has launched the "Small Business Loans Initiative" in India in partnership with the online lending platform Indifi. India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme. The objective of this initiative is to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners.
- ⇒ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' (USF) for export-oriented firms and startups in a program at Lucknow. The Fund aims at arranging funds for the promotion of micro, small and medium companies. The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. This scheme is expected to be successful in Uttar Pradesh as the state has the highest number of MSMEs.
- ⇒ RBI appointed panel under the chairmanship of N. S. Vishwanathan has suggested a 4-tier structure for Urban Co-operative Banks, depending upon the deposits and prescribed different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for them based on their sizes. The recommended four categories: Tier-1 with deposits up to Rs 100 crore; Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1,000 crores; Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crore and Tier-4 with deposits of over Rs 10,000 crore.
- ⇒ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22. The major theme for EASE 4.0 is 'Technology-enabled, simplified and collaborative banking.' EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE).
- ⇒ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years. Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years. Now it is 18-70 years.
- ⇒ Flipkart-owned digital payments platform PhonePe has received an insurance broking licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). This means that with the new 'direct broking' licence, PhonePe can now distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India, on its platform.



Sports

⇒ The Tokyo Olympics 2020 came to an end on August 8, 2021. The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, were India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics. Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, was the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8. Indian Contingent managed to win 7 medals comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. The country stood at the 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries.

Top Five Nations in the Medal Tally: United States: 113 (Gold: 39, Silver: 41, Bronze: 33); China: 88 (Gold: 38, Silver: 32, Bronze: 18); Japan: 58 (Gold: 27, Silver: 14, Bronze: 17); Great Britain: 65 (Gold: 22, Silver: 21, Bronze: 22) and Team ROC (the Russian Olympic Committee): 71 (Gold: 20, Silver: 28, Bronze: 23). India finished the Games with its best-ever Olympic medal tally of 7 in Tokyo Games 2020, surpassing the previous best record of 6 medals at the 2012 London Olympics. Indian Medal Winners List:

Gold: Men's Javelin Throw: Neeraj Chopra

Silver: (i) Women's 49kg Weightlifting: Mirabai Chanu and (ii) Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling: Ravi Dahiya

Bronze: (i) Women's Welterweight boxing: Lovlina Borgohain, (ii) Women's Singles Badminton: PV Sindhu, (iii) Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling: Bajrang Punia and (iv) Men's hockey team.

- ⇒ Italy's Marcell Jacobs wins men's 100m gold at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ⇒ Tokyo Olympics cheer song for Indian sports personalities "Hindustani Way" was sung by Ananya Birla and the music was composed by AR Rahman.
- ⇒ Mariyappan Thangavelu, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medallist was initially named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics. Later he was replaced by Asian Games gold medallist Tekchand, as on his flight to Tokyo, Mariyappan came in close contact with a Covid positive foreign passenger.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur launched the theme song for the Indian Paralympics. The song is titled "Kar De Kamaal Tu". The composer and singer of the song is Sanjeev Singh, a Divyang cricket player from Lucknow.
- ⇒ Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune has been named as the Army Sports Institute stadium as "Neeraj Chopra Stadium".

- ⇒ Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world at 12 years, four months and 25 days.
- ⇒ India captain Mithali Raj became the highest run-getter in women's cricket (10,273 runs), overtaking former England skipper Charlotte Edwards.
- ⇒ Novak Djokovic defeated Matteo Berrettini in the Wimbledon final to win his sixth Wimbledon title and 20th Grand Slam trophy. With this win, he has equalled his total major men's singles titles record with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, with each of them winning 20 titles.
- ⇒ Lionel Messi-led Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 to win the Copa America final match, held at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. With this win, Lionel Messi has secured his first major international trophy.
- ⇒ Lionel Messi, a six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or for Europe's best soccer player joined star-packed Paris St Germain after leaving Barcelona.
- ⇒ Italy defeated England in the European Championship (EURO 2020) by 3-2 in penalties. Portugal captain and modern-day great Cristiano Ronaldo won the Euro 2020 Golden Boot after finishing as the top-scorer in the tournament.
- ⇒ The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland as new members. With this, ICC now comprises with 106 members in total, including 94 associates.
- ⇒ Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund, Germany.
- ⇒ The Assam State Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured jobs for all National Games medallists of Assam from now on. He also mentioned that all those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given Sports Pension by the State Government.
- ⇒ World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat, who won two gold medals and a bronze at the Dubai Para-Badminton Tournament this year was named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019.
- ⇒ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey. The award, inaugurated in 1991-92, comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakh. The first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend Viswanathan Anand.
- ⇒ Two-times Olympian Shankar Subramaniam, alias "Babu" Nayaran passed away. He was India's goalkeeper during the 1956 and 1960 Olympics.



- ⇒ James Anderson of England overtook Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. He achieved this huge feat when he made KL Rahul out at Nottingham. Anderson is now only behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708).
- ⇒ Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government will sponsor the Indian Hockey teams for 10 more years after the current sponsorship ends in 2023. The state government started sponsoring the national hockey teams in 2018.
- ⇒ Indian Grandmaster S P Sethuraman has won the 2021 Barcelona Open chess tournament title.
- ⇒ World's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament called Durand Cup, is all set to be held in Kolkata from September 5 to October 21, 2021.

Awards

- ⇒ The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, the national award instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu, has been awarded to renowned Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda for the year 2020.
- ⇒ Invest India has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award by OCO Global. OCO Global is a leading authority on foreign investment and offers a range of economic development services, products, and unique company assessment tools.
- ⇒ Journalist and playwright Omchery N N Pillai has been selected for the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021 for his enormous contributions as a whole to Malayalam language and literature.
- ⇒ Director Payal Kapadia's, "A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.
- ⇒ Sandesh Jhingan has been named the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21 season while Suresh Singh Wangjam was picked as the Emerging Player for the year award by the All India Football Federation.
- ⇒ Ngangom Bala Devi has been named as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21. Bala currently plays for Rangers Women's FC in Scotland.
- ⇒ Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman of the Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII), has been given the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021 for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic by manufacturing the Covishield vaccine.
- ⇒ Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has been appointed brand ambassador for Amway India and its Nutrilite range of products. Chanu, a weightlifter, won the silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49kg category.

- ⇒ Ahead of India's 75th Independence Day, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney from New York reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.
- ⇒ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards. State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards). Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.

Persons

- ⇒ Amitabh Kant, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog has been given an extension of one year till June 30, 2022 by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- ⇒ Thawar Chand Gehlot – New Governor, Karnataka
- ⇒ Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel – New Governor, Madhya Pradesh
- ⇒ Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati – New Governor, Mizoram
- ⇒ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar – New Governor, Himachal Pradesh
- ⇒ P.S. Sreedharan Pillai – New Governor, Goa
- ⇒ Satyadev Narayan Arya – New Governor, Tripura
- ⇒ Ramesh Bais – New Governor, Karnataka, Jharkhand
- ⇒ Bandaru Dattatraya – New Governor, Haryana
- ⇒ Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has been appointed Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha. He succeeded Thawar Chand Gahlot, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka.
- ⇒ Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, has made a short journey to space, in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship 'New Shepard'.
- ⇒ Ebrahim Raisi was officially sworn in as the new President of Iran, succeeding Hassan Rouhani
- ⇒ Dr Dhriti Banerjee has been appointed first female director of the Zoological Survey of India.
- ⇒ Sonu Sood has been appointed brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme.
- ⇒ Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been appointed global brand ambassador of the Italian luxury brand Bvlgari.
- ⇒ Basavaraj S Bommai is the new Chief Minister of Karnataka. He succeeded BS Yediyurappa.



Died

- ⇒ K.V. Sampath Kumar, the editor of the Sanskrit Daily 'Sudharma' has passed away.
- ⇒ Raj Kaushal, the film maker and the husband of Mandira Bedi passed away.
- ⇒ Richard Donner, the American film-maker best known for his works 'Superman', 'Lethal Weapon' and 'The Goonies', has passed away.
- ⇒ Mohammed Yusuf Khan, known professionally as Dilip Kumar passed away at 98. He was popularly known as the tragedy king of Bollywood. He was last seen in the 1998 film Qila.
- ⇒ Dr P.K. Warriar, veteran Indian Ayurveda practitioner passed away.
- ⇒ Yashpal Sharma, the former Indian cricketer and a member of the Indian team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup, has passed away.
- ⇒ Three-time national award-winning actress Surekha Sikri has passed away.
- ⇒ Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist, Danish Siddiqui, has been killed in a clash while reporting a fight between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province in Afghanistan.
- ⇒ 'Kalaimamani' Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran, the noted Carnatic Classical Violinist passed away.
- ⇒ Fakir Alamgir, legendary folk singer of Bangladesh passed away due to complications from COVID-19.
- ⇒ P.S. Banarji, Noted Kerala Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer has passed away.
- ⇒ Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away. He was the president of Nikoli Co., Ltd., a Japanese puzzle manufacturer.
- ⇒ Anandha Kannan, the Tamil star and popular TV host passed away due to bile-duct cancer.
- ⇒ O.M. Nambiar, the coach of Asia's Golden Girl P.T. Usha, passed away.
- ⇒ Kalyan Singh, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, passed away.
- ⇒ Syed Shahid Hakim, former India footballer and member of the last national team that played in the 1960 Rome Olympics, passed away.
- ⇒ Former England cricket captain Ted Dexter has passed away.
- ⇒ Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha has passed away.
- ⇒ Former India cricketer and coach Vasoo Paranjape has passed away.
- ⇒ Nandu Natekar, the legendary Indian badminton player and first Indian to win the international title in 1956, has passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ Kendrapara district of Odisha has become the only district in India where all three species of crocodiles viz., salt-water, gharial and mugger are found. The district has also claimed fame for its successful conservation programme launched for saltwater or estuarine crocodiles at the Bhitarkanika National Park.
- ⇒ Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) launched Jungle Tea Toy Train Safari from Siliguri West Bengal to Rongtong. Such trains feature a heritage steam engine and view dome dining car. Tourists take in the spectacular views of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding hills from the train.
- ⇒ The Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the 'Y-Break' app for working professionals. The app is aimed at helping people at work overcome stress, get refreshed and refocus through simple yoga asanas that can be done in just five minutes.
- ⇒ Indian construction firm AFCONS signed a contract for the largest-ever infrastructure project in Maldives. This project is dubbed as The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). It will comprise of a 6.74 km-long bridge and causeway link between Male and the islands of Villingli, Thilafushi and Gulhifalhu.
- ⇒ According Forbes India report, Delhi has surpassed the megacities like Shanghai, New York and London in having the greatest number of CCTV cameras installed per square mile. Delhi is on the top with 1,826.6 CCTV cameras per square mile followed by London with 1,138 cameras per square mile. Chennai was placed at third place with 609.9 CCTV cameras.
- ⇒ The Stockholm World Water Week 2021 was held online by the Stockholm International Water Institute. Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) was the only civic body from India that was invited at the panel discussion on the topic "Zero Liquid Discharge Cities". According to City municipal commissioner, Surat would be able to reusing 100% of sewage water after treatment by 2030.
- ⇒ World's largest and tallest observation wheel, called 'Ain Dubai', will be opened in the UAE this year. This observation wheel will be the latest addition to the long list of record-breaking attractions in Dubai. Ain Dubai is about 42.5m taller than the London Eye. It will take visitors to the height of 250 metres in order for them to enjoy the majestic view of Dubai's picturesque skyline.
- ⇒ Tamil Nadu has become the third state – after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh – to have a separate agricultural budget.



- ⇒ Supreme Court has allowed the women to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) exam. NDA is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces. It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ⇒ Supreme Court (SC) bench headed by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana issued a formal notice to government because of several petitions regarding the use of Pegasus spyware. Government maintained that disclosure on its using or not using Pegasus spyware will hamper national security. Government urged that it will open up such information only before the proposed committee. Pegasus is a spyware developed by an Israeli firm. This spyware can be installed on mobile phones and other devices running iOS and Android.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August that August 14 would now be observed as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day". The day would be observed every year to commemorate the struggles and sacrifices of millions of people who were displaced and lost their lives during Partition.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched a brand and logo called 'SonChiraiya'. This initiative is a significant step of increasing visibility and global access for the products made by urban Self Help Group (SHG) women. Under the initiative, variety of professionally packaged and hand-crafted ethnic products will reach to the doorsteps of the customers worldwide. Most of the SHGs are engaged in livelihood activities and are producing goods like handicrafts, textiles, toys, eatables etc. These products were being sold primarily in the local neighbourhood markets as a result of which they faced barriers in achieving a wide market access and visibility. To overcome the challenges of visibility and market access, the MoHUA, have signed agreement with leading e-commerce portals like Amazon and Flipkart to empower the women.
- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) GSLV rocket failed to put India's largest earth observation satellite (EOS-3) into the orbit. Though the first and second stages of the rocket had performed normally, but it failed because of the failure to ignite the cryogenic stage of the GSLV. The rocket was to place the satellite in orbit with an objective of providing near real-time imaging of large areas of India at frequent intervals and for quick monitoring of natural disasters.
- ⇒ Wildfires in Algeria have killed 42 people including 25 soldiers. The soldiers lost their lives while rescuing people at the epicentre of the blazes.
- ⇒ India and Saudi Arabia conducted their first-ever naval joint exercise called the 'Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise'. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kochi participated in the exercise. The exercise comprised several coastal and sea-based exercises between the two navies.
- ⇒ India has been ranked as the 10th best country in the world in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020, released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The United States has topped the GCI 2020. The United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia are tied on the second position.
- ⇒ India stands at the 20th spot in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink. The USA, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots.
- ⇒ Freelance filmmaker Deepti Pillay Sivan's most touted documentary, "Decoding Shankar" about the life and career of the celebrated musician Shankar Mahadevan, recently won the Best Film Award in the Documentary section (Best Biographical) at the Toronto International Women Film Festival, 2021.
- ⇒ India's oldest running newspaper, 'Mumbai Samachar', formerly called 'Bombay Samachar' entered its 200th year on July 1. The Gujarati newspaper, with its office located in an iconic red building at Horniman Circle in Mumbai's Fort area, was first published in 1822. It was founded by a Parsi scholar Fardoonji Murazban,
- ⇒ 24x7 mental health helpline 'SUKOON' has been launched in Jammu & Kashmir also. 'SUKOON' is a mental health helpline initiative (toll-free number 1800-1807159) to offer guidance to persons (or their well-wishers) who are experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, panic attack, suicidal thoughts, etc as well as pandemic induced psychological stress.
- ⇒ 'HAUSLA- inspiring her growth', a comprehensive programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship has been launched in J & K. The priority of the government is to reduce the gap between women and men entrepreneurs in a systematic manner.
- ⇒ India's first indigenous drone defence dome 'Indrajaal' has been developed by Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics.
- ⇒ Pushkar Singh Dhama is the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He replaced Tirath Singh Rawat.
- ⇒ During his four-day visit to the UK and Italy, Indian Army Chief Manoj Naravane inaugurated the Indian Army Memorial at Cassino in Italy. In the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II, over 5,000 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while fighting to save Italy from fascist forces.



- ⇒ A passenger train Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station reached the Vaingaichunpao Railway Station in Manipur for a trial run, putting the state on the Indian Railways map.
- ⇒ India's first cryptogamic garden, with around 50 different species grown, has been inaugurated in Deoban area of Dehradun in Uttarakhand. Cryptogamae means 'hidden reproduction' referring to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced. Thus, cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants.
- ⇒ India and Bangladesh signed a pact to set up the 'Bangabandhu Chair' at the Delhi University, to focus on shared cultural heritage of both the countries. The Chair will focus on the common heritage of the two countries and subjects like Anthropology, Buddhist Studies, Geography, History, Modern Indian languages including Bangla, Music, Fine Arts, etc.
- ⇒ National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) in West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring Himalayan Yak.
- ⇒ During his two-day visit to Georgia, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi park.
- ⇒ Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will come upon the bank of the Ganges in the premises of Patna University. The Gangetic dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- ⇒ NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at the Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat. The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw) (4750 MW).
- ⇒ The Kunariya village of Kutch district in Gujarat has come out with a unique idea of holding Balika Panchayat. Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat which will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre "Rudraksh", in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ⇒ Bonalu, a traditional folk festival, has been celebrated in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad,
- ⇒ Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral tabletop exercise "TTX-2021". The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region.
- ⇒ The 'monk fruit' from China, which is known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener, was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh. The plant is cultivated for its fruit extract, called mogrosides, which creates a sweetness sensation 250 times stronger than sucrose.
- ⇒ The government has decided to set up 'Indian Institute of Heritage' in Noida, near Delhi. The institute will offer post graduate and doctorate courses in history of arts, conservation, museology and archaeology.
- ⇒ China unveiled a maglev train capable of a top speed of 600 kph. The maximum speed would make the train, self-developed by China and manufactured in the coastal city of Qingdao, the fastest ground vehicle globally.
- ⇒ Indian Naval Ship Talwar participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, an annual maritime exercise conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.
- ⇒ The US space agency NASA has selected California-based SpaceX to provide launch services for Earth's first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter's moon 'Europa'.
- ⇒ Puri in Odisha has become the first city in India where people can avail high-quality drinking water directly from the tap on a 24-hour basis.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is setting up 'Garima Greh' shelter homes to provide safe and secure shelter to transgender persons in need.
- ⇒ Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide one per cent reservation for the transgender community in all the government services.
- ⇒ Indore in Madhya Pradesh, the country's cleanest city has been declared as the first 'water plus' city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2021. Indore city has also become the only city from the country to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
- ⇒ For the first time, astronomers have uncovered evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter's moon Ganymede.
- ⇒ The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the 'Pink Protection Project' for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
- ⇒ Intel, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Ministry of Education, announced the launch of the 'AI For All' initiative with the purpose of creating a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for everyone in India.
- ⇒ The United Arab Emirates has become the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel.



- ⇒ Muslim Women's Rights Day was celebrated across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq.
- ⇒ Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to achieve 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination.
- ⇒ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has launched the first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile application, named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'. It can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings regarding an earthquake occurrence in the neighbourhood and the expected time of its arrival and intensity at the location to prevent any loss of life.
- ⇒ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the world's highest motorable road at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh, situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
- ⇒ Supreme Court of India on August 3, 2021, held that the Governor of a state can pardon prisoners, including in the death sentence cases.
- ⇒ The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country has come up at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Kerala. The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.
- ⇒ Bhutan's India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the Brunel Medal by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry.
- ⇒ India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant began its first sea trial. INS Vikrant was designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). This advanced warship will be commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command by August 2022.
- ⇒ 'Pani Maah' or water month has been launched in Ladakh to inform villagers about the importance of clean water. Only 11.75 per cent of rural households in Ladakh have access to tap water connections. The Pani Maah campaign is expected to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the union territory.
- ⇒ Home interiors brand HomeLane has entered into a three-year strategic partnership with Mahendra Singh Dhoni as an equity partner and brand ambassador.
- ⇒ An 'All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team' successfully scaled Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) in Himachal Pradesh on August 15, 2021, and unfurled the national flag as a part of commemorative activities for 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', to celebrate the 75 years of Independence.
- ⇒ The Indian Navy and UAE Navy conducted the bilateral naval exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' on August 07, 2021, off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- ⇒ The Kerala Police have launched a first-of-its-kind Drone Forensic Lab and Research Centre to address a rising security threat. This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.
- ⇒ The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi has become the first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises, to meet any emergency.
- ⇒ The Indo-UK Naval Exercise 'Konkan 2021' was recently held between INS Tabar and HMS Westminster in the English Channel.
- ⇒ The Army organised a 400 Km 'JAZBAA-E-TIRANGA' Relay Marathon in Jammu & Kashmir. More than 300 troops took part, carrying the Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control (LoC).
- ⇒ India has launched a tech platform named "UNITE Aware", in collaboration with the UN, for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers. The platform was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters. The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August, 2021.
- ⇒ With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country. The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- ⇒ India celebrated the Sanskrit Week from August 19 to August 25, 2021, to promote, popularise and cherish the importance of the ancient language. Sanskrit Day was celebrated on August 22, 2021.
- ⇒ Hisar Airport in Haryana has been renamed as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport
- ⇒ India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated at Mana village in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand at a height of 11,000 feet. Mana is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple. The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region. The main aim of this high altitude herbal park is to conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species and to do research on their propagation and habitat ecology.
- ⇒ Swedish green steel venture HYBRIT has made the 'world's first' steel produced without using coal.



- ⇒ NTPC has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in India of 25MW power on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇒ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has given a name to India's complex mission of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan, as 'Operation Devi Shakti'.
- ⇒ US-based Ohmium International has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing unit at Bangaluru, Karnataka. The factory will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolysers. Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources as against blue hydrogen is made from fossil sources.
- ⇒ The third edition of the week-long annual exercise called 'Gandiv' was launched at multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the National Capital Region. These synchronised commando drills were the parts of a national mock exercise being carried out by the counterterrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak in Punjab's Amritsar, to mark 102 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (13 April 1919).
- ⇒ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the mobile application of its digital paperless solution, "ANANDA" for LIC agents. ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application.
- ⇒ The world's highest movie theatre has recently been inaugurated in the Paldan area of Leh, Ladakh, at an altitude of 11,562 feet. The inflatable theatre can operate in – 28 degrees Celsius.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine -- Kavitha Rao.
- ⇒ The Light of Asia -- Jairam Ramesh
- ⇒ The Ramayana of Shri Guru Govind Singh Ji – Baljit Kaur Tulsi
- ⇒ The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency – Ashok Chakravarti.
- ⇒ The India Story – Bimal Jalan
- ⇒ Urdu Poets and Writers : Gems of Deccan – J.S. Iftekhar.
- ⇒ Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible – Kareena Kapoor Khan (She called it her 'third child').
- ⇒ The Stranger in The Mirror – Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra (Autobiography).
- ⇒ An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation – Ashok Lavasa
- ⇒ In An Ideal World – Kunal Basu
- ⇒ Leopard Diaries : the Rosette in India – Sanjay Gubbi.
- ⇒ My Own Mazagon – Captain Ramesh Babu.
- ⇒ Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama – Manan Bhatt.
- ⇒ The Year That Wasn't : The Diary of a 14-Year-Old – Brisha Jain.
- ⇒ The Earthspinner – Anuradha Roy
- ⇒ How the Earth Got Its Beauty – Sudha Murty
- ⇒ Battlefield' – Vishram Bedekar.
- ⇒ Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin – Dhaval Kulkarni (To be published).
