



CURRENT AFFAIRS (NOVEMBER, 2021) :

National

- ⇒ Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched a portal named PRANA for the regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country. PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air pollution in Non-Attainment cities. The portal (prana.cpcb.gov.in) will support tracking of physical as well as the financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality to the public.
- ⇒ The historic tripartite Karbi Anglong Accord has been signed between the government of India, the government of Assam and six factions of Karbi. Located in central Assam, Karbi Anglong is the state's largest district and has been a melting pot of insurgency that did not allow the region to develop. After the agreement, the militant organisations laid down arms and more than 1000 of their armed cadres have given up violence and joined the mainstream of the society. In return, a special development package of Rs 1000 crore will be allocated over five years by the Central Government and the Assam government to take up special projects for the development of Karbi areas.
- ⇒ Two more beaches in India – 'Kovalam' in Tamil Nadu and 'Eden' in Puducherry have received the 'Blue Flag' certification. Blue Flag certification is an international eco-level tag. With this, the total number of such beaches in India has reached to 10. Eight other Blue Flag beaches in India are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman & Nicobar. All these beaches were awarded this certificate in the year 2021.
- ⇒ India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). INS Dhruv is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range, which makes it useful to provide early warning of attacks by ballistic missiles launched from Pakistan and China. India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such ships.
- ⇒ The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla has inaugurated the NIDHI 2.0 (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) scheme. The NIDHI 2.0 database will have more inclusivity, by not only including accommodation units, but also travel agents, tour operators and others. The NIDHI scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism

to facilitate the digitalization of the tourism sector and promote ease of doing business for the hospitality and tourism sector, by encouraging all accommodation units to register themselves on the platform to become part of the hospitality industry.

- ⇒ India has been elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a prestigious institution that promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries. India's Comptroller and Auditor General GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of IAEA.

International

- ⇒ Indian Army participated in a 13-day long Multilateral Joint Strategic Exercise ZAPAD 2021, conducted by Russia. Zapad is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces focussing primarily on operations against terrorists. The large scale military drills, held at Nizhny, reportedly involved as many as 2,00,000 troops from Russia, Belarus, and several other countries including India.
- ⇒ President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka has declared a state of economic emergency as the food crisis worsened after private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports.
- ⇒ Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21st summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The other members of the SCO are China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan.
- ⇒ El Salvador has become the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as a legal tender.

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*): 6.50% - 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%.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed lenders to sell loans that are tagged as fraud to the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). This permission by RBI potentially paves the way for focussed recovery efforts on loans worth trillions of rupees. With RBI's permission, now banks can sell stressed loans in default for more than 60 days or those classified as bad loan including the fraudulent loans.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India has announced the removal of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) restrictions on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). This decision gives the bank more freedom for lending, especially to corporations and grow the network, subject to prescribed norms. IOB was placed under PCA in 2015. In September 2021 itself, Kolkata-based UCO Bank exited the PCA framework. Now, only the Mumbai based Central Bank of India is under the PCA regime. Under the PCA framework, RBI imposes several business restrictions on banks with weak financial metrics. The nature and degree of curbs are decided on the basis of threshold and depends on the financial profile of individual bank.
- ⇒ State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs 4,000 crore through additional Tier 1 (AT1) bonds at a coupon rate of 7.72%. It was the first such issuance in domestic market after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified new rules. AT1 bonds are also called perpetual bonds. They carry no maturity date but are having a call option. The issuer of these bonds may call or redeem the bonds in case it is getting money at a cheaper rate, especially when interest rates are decreasing.
- ⇒ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' for the exclusive use of its Development Officers. PRAGATI stands for "Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator".
- ⇒ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' (MPMR) initiated by NABARD and its NAB Foundation at Killa village in Gomati district of Tripura. The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment. The Union Minister also flagged off the mobile ATM van of Tripura State Co-operative Bank Limited.
- ⇒ Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has issued India's first ever Euro Green Bond with an aim to mop up 300 million Euro. Green Bonds are bonds that are used to finance new and existing projects that offer climate change and environmental benefits. The bond issuance would assist the company in managing the renewable energy portfolio. According to RR Dhillon, the Chairman and Managing Director of PFC, this issuance also demonstrates our commitment for achieving India's renewable energy goals.
- ⇒ The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue publication of its 'Doing Business' rankings of countries after data irregularities were found in the 2018 and 2020 reports.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at the 46th place out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2021 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Switzerland topped the index followed by Sweden and the USA.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya has released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. Among the larger states, Gujarat topped the index followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ⇒ According to Asiamoney 2021 Poll, HDFC Bank has received the most votes among listed companies in India, leading to the bank being awarded the 'Overall Most Outstanding Company' in India. This is in addition to the bank being voted 'Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector,' for the 4th consecutive year, since the inception of the poll in 2018.
- ⇒ The Reserve bank of India has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 i.e., October 2021 to March 2022 at Rs. 50,000 crore. The RBI gives temporary loan facilities to the central and state governments to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government. This loan facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA). If taken, the concerned government has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing Repo rate.



- ⇒ State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.
 - ⇒ Netherlands-based Prosus NV has announced to acquire the Indian digital payments provider BillDesk and merge it with its own fintech service business PayU.
 - ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. The five-member committee is headed by Shri. P. Vasudevan. NUEs will be a non-profit entity that will set-up, manage and operate new payment systems, especially in the retail space such as ATMs, white-label PoS, Aadhar-based payments and remittance services.
 - ⇒ According to the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021, released by Hurun Research Institute, India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world. The USA is on top followed by China. India has 51 unicorns according to the list. The USA has 396 and China has 277 unicorns. Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India with the headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore. Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city. Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns. *Unicorn is a term given only to 'startups' with a valuation of over \$ 1 billion valuation and have a founding date that stands after the year 2000. The startup that exceeds the valuation of \$ 10 billion is grouped under the term called 'decacorn'. Dropbox, SpaceX and WeWork are some of the examples of decacorn.*
 - ⇒ Government has tasked a group of ministers (GoM) headed by Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj S. Bommai to propose a rationalisation of tax rates and consider the merger of different tax slabs within two months. Presently, the GST regime has five broad tax rate slabs viz., zero, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
 - ⇒ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) World Giving Index 2021 was published recently, in which India has been ranked at the 14th spot. According to the report, 61% Indians have helped a stranger during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. 36% of Indians donated money. 34% Indians volunteered for social causes in India. Indonesia has been ranked at first position in the CAF Index and has become the most generous country across the world this year. Indonesia is followed by Kenya and Nigeria.
 - ⇒ The Government of Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency recently because of rising food prices, depreciating currency and depleting forex reserves. The President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa called in the army to manage this crisis by rationing the supply of essential goods.
 - ⇒ The world's highest Electronic Vehicle (EV) charging station was opened at Kaza town, which is located in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Sports**
- ⇒ Lewis Hamilton of Britain has become the first ever Formula-one driver who reached to his 100 wins after finishing first in the Russian Grand Prix.
 - ⇒ Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj, the current District Magistrate of Noida, has become the first IAS officer to win a Paralympics medal. He ended his campaign with the winning of a silver medal in badminton SL4 in the men's singles final at the Tokyo Paralympics. In SL4 class, shuttlers have lower limb impairment and they play standing.
 - ⇒ India finished their campaign at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 with an all-time high of 19 medals which include five gold, eight silver and six bronze. India is placed at the 24th position in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations. Javelin thrower Tek Chand was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics and shooter Avani Lekhara was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony. India's theme song of Paralympics 2020 was "Kar de kamaal tu". The composer and singer of the song was Sanjeev Singh, a Divyang cricket player from Lucknow.
 - ⇒ The 130th edition of the Durand Cup, the oldest club football tournament in Asia, kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. FC Goa won the cup by defeating Mohammedan Sporting in the final. Durand Cup was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh.
 - ⇒ Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo, with 111 goals, now holds the world record for most goals scored in men's international football. Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals by scoring a brace against Ireland in a World Cup Qualifier.
 - ⇒ Daniil Medvedev of Russia has lifted his first Grand Slam trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the US Open men's singles final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. Great Britain's tennis player Emma Raducanu defeated Canada's Leylah Annie Fernandez to win the 2021 US Open women's singles final title.
 - ⇒ The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unveiled its official motto, "Together for a Shared Future", during a ceremony at the city's Capital Museum. The Games will be held from February 4-20, with Beijing set to become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics.
 - ⇒ North Korea was formally suspended from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 10th Sept as punishment for refusing to send a team to the Tokyo Games citing the COVID-19 pandemic.



- ⇒ Pankaj Advani has grabbed his 24th World title when he triumphed at the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup with a victory over Pakistan's Babar Masih in the final.

Awards

- ⇒ Right Livelihood Award 2021 was conferred on Delhi-based environmental organisation 'Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)'. This award is also known as Sweden's 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. LIFE has received the award for its 'grassroots approach to empower vulnerable communities in protecting their livelihoods and claiming their right for a clean environment.
- ⇒ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) awarded the five-star 'Eat Right Station' to the Chandigarh Railway Station. This certification was awarded for providing high-quality and nutritious food to passengers.
- ⇒ Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction.
- ⇒ The Golden Rock Railway Workshop, Tiruchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for having adopted and implemented various energy conservation measures.
- ⇒ Mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021 for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative, which prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam.
- ⇒ The 'Florence Nightingale Award' 2020 will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat. She has been in charge of COVID-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries as well as infant care.
- ⇒ Brigadier SV Sarasvati, the Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service has been honoured with the 'National Florence Nightingale Award' 2020, the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve.
- ⇒ Fairouz Faizah Beether, the co-founder of 'Moner School' in Bangladesh has been chosen for the 2021 Changemaker Award for her work promoting good health and well-being by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Changemaker Award is a part of the Goalkeepers Global Goals award instituted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.

Persons

- ⇒ Pawan Kumar Goenka, former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra has been appointed Chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe).

- ⇒ Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla is the richest person in the history of the world with a net worth of \$289 billion. 'Tesla Inc' designs, develops, manufactures and sells electric vehicles. He is also the founder, CEO and Chief Engineer of SpaceX, which designs, manufactures and launches advanced rockets and spacecrafts.
- ⇒ Dorje Angchuk, an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in the Ladakh region, has been included as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU Headquarter : Paris).
- ⇒ Mirabai Chanu, the Tokyo Olympic Silver-medallist has been roped in as the face of its "Stay in Play" campaign by Adidas.
- ⇒ Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of the public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd.
- ⇒ Baby Rani Maurya, the Uttarakhand Governor has announced her resignation from the position, almost two years before completing her term, citing personal reasons.
- ⇒ Lt Gen Gurmit Singh – Governor, Uttarakhand
- ⇒ Banwarilal Purohit – Governor, Punjab
- ⇒ R.N.Ravi – Governor, Tamil Nadu
- ⇒ Bhupendra Patel has been chosen as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat following the resignation of Vijay Rupani.
- ⇒ Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.
- ⇒ GC Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has been elected Chairman of the assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027.
- ⇒ Pankaj Tripathi, the Bollywood actor has been appointed first brand ambassador of Fino Payments Bank (FPBL), for a period of two-years.
- ⇒ R Raja Rithvik has become the 70th chess Grandmaster of India.
- ⇒ Air Marshal, Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed the next Chief of Air Staff.

Died

- ⇒ Sidharth Shukla, the Bigg Boss 13 winner actor has passed away.
- ⇒ Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a veteran Kashmiri separatist leader and former chief of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), passed away.
- ⇒ Former France footballer Jean-Pierre Adams, who had been in a coma for 39 years, has passed away. In 1982, Adams slipped into a coma following a medical error during his routine knee surgery. His anaesthetist, who was a trainee, made a mistake which caused his brain starved of oxygen and he slipped into a coma.



- ⇒ Chandan Mitra, a former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist has passed away.
- ⇒ Jacques Rogge, former President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has passed away.
- ⇒ Rajni Kaul who was the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away.
- ⇒ Oscar Fernandes, veteran Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister has passed away. The senior Congress leader had served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways and Labour and Employment in Manmohan Singh's UPA government.
- ⇒ Manorama Mohapatra, an eminent Odia litterateur, social worker and journalist passed away.
- ⇒ Kamla Bhasin, a veteran women's rights activist and noted author has passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The Indian Naval Ship, INS Tabar, is on her goodwill visit to the number of ports in Africa and Europe since June 2021 till September 2021. As a part of this visit, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy, off the Algerian coast, in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ⇒ The Union Territory of Ladakh has declared 'snow leopard' (Panther unica) as the new state animal and 'black-necked crane' (Grus nicricollis) as the new state bird. Jammu and Kashmir has already declared the 'Kashmir stag' (Hangul) as its state animal and the 'black-necked crane' as its state bird.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.
- ⇒ The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City', a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad, the sister city of Pune.
- ⇒ Tamil Nadu state government has announced to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay. Dugongs are commonly known as sea cows. According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the world, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.
- ⇒ The 4th edition of AUSINDEX, a bilateral navy exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy was held in Australia recently. Indian Navy Task Group comprised INS Shivalik and INS Kadmat.
- ⇒ The International Day of 'Clean Air for blue skies' is observed globally on September 7 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality. The 2021 theme for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet".

- ⇒ International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September.
- ⇒ International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) observes World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10 September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The theme for the 2021 World Suicide Prevention Day is "Creating hope through action".
- ⇒ 'World Patient Safety Day' was observed on September 17 to create a global awareness for patient safety. The World Health Organisation (WHO) urged people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer. The theme for 2021 WPSD is 'Safe maternal and newborn care'.
- ⇒ 'International Equal Pay Day' was celebrated on 18 September. The day aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and break the walls against all forms of discrimination.
- ⇒ The 'International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste' is celebrated on September 29, to promote and implement global efforts to resolve the issue of food wastage. The theme for 2021 is 'Stop food loss and waste -- For the people, For the planet'.
- ⇒ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will observe October 01, 2021 as the National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas).
- ⇒ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs is setting up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world in the next 3 months. The first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at the Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand on August 15, 2021.
- ⇒ India's first Emergency Landing Facility on National Highway has been constructed on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer, Rajasthan. This is the first time that a national highway (NH-925) will be used for the emergency landing of IAF aircrafts.
- ⇒ Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID19, using home-grown jabs not recognised by the World Health Organisation.
- ⇒ India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet of Uttarakhand. The new centre will serve the dual objective of 'conservation of fern species' as well as 'create awareness about their ecological role' and promote further research. The fernery is home to a large number of fern species, some of which are endemic to the state, some hold medicinal value while some are threatened species that demand care and conservation.



- ⇒ Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari launched 'iRASTE', an Artificial Intelligence-powered project to help reduce road accidents. iRASTE stands for Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering. The project has been launched on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra with the aim of reducing accidents by 50 per cent in the city.
- ⇒ Niti Aayog in collaboration with the US-based Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has launched a campaign named 'Shoonya', to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry. The campaign will promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).
- ⇒ India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus in Nalanda, Bihar.
- ⇒ Billionaire Jared Isaacman's privately chartered spaceflight 'Inspiration4', the first crewed orbital mission with no professional astronauts on board was launched on SpaceX Dragon from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, headed by Baijayant Panda for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). The 15-member committee will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members.
- ⇒ The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' was held recently at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
- ⇒ Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice launched the 'Ek Pahal' campaign to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law. Tele-Law means the use of communications and information technology for the delivery of legal information and advice.
- ⇒ Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India. The aim of this challenge is to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector that will not only help them learn about the space but create something that the space programme can use itself.
- ⇒ Assam is setting up a Tea Park at Chayygaon in Kamrup District. This tea garden will have rail and port connectivity, cargo and warehouse amenities, processing facilities like tea grinding, blending, packaging and other utility services under one roof.
- ⇒ An 'Electronic Park' is being built along the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area, near Noida, UP. National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
- ⇒ The first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF) was held at Leh, Ladakh.
- ⇒ Indian and Indonesian Navy participate in the 3rd edition of the naval exercise 'Samudra Shakti'. Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and Kadmat took part in the exercise.
- ⇒ Hungary has unveiled the statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto. This is the first such statue across the world to pay homage to the creator of Bitcoin digital currency. It is said that his real The true identity of Satoshi Nakamoto, the mysterious developer of Bitcoin is still unknown.
- ⇒ The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curricula for schools, early childhood, teachers and adult education. The panel is headed by K Kasturirangan.
- ⇒ Ministry of Defence will procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A for the Indian Army from Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, Chennai. It will support the Make in India initiative in the defence sector and it will help in achieving the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ⇒ Indian Army organized "Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav" in Kolkata to mark the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war 1971.
- ⇒ Apple's co-creator Steve Wozniak has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space with a focus on cleaning up space junk. The Union of Concerned Scientists has claimed that there are now 4,084 operational satellites in the space. Researchers have warned about the potential for a cascading series of collisions dubbed 'Kessler Syndrome'. If humanity wants to keep expanding into space, it may have to consider how to keep it clean.
- ⇒ Supreme Court of India has approved an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records). The FASTER system will be used for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons. Under the FASTER system, courts can send e-authenticated copies of bail orders, stay orders, interim orders and proceedings through secured electronic communication to duty officers at prisons.
- ⇒ The government of India has started work for the development of 'Parshuram Kund', a Hindu pilgrimage site on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched India's first Pan-India helpline for senior citizens named 'Elder Line' for which the toll-free number is 14567. The platform will allow senior citizens to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis. Tata Trusts and NSE Foundation are the technical partners for 'Elder Line'.



- ⇒ American Space Agency NASA sent its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. The spacecraft, named 'Lucy' was launched from "Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida" on October 16, 2021.
- ⇒ E-commerce giant Amazon India announced the launch of 'Amazon Future Engineer' in India. As per the company, Amazon future programme will enable access to quality computer science education as well as career opportunities for students from under-represented and under-served communities.
- ⇒ Defence Ministry dissolved the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), an establishment which was formed by the British in 1775. OFB had 41 factories. Its assets, employees and management have been transferred to seven newly constituted Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- ⇒ Facebook Inc is set to invest \$50 million to partner with organizations in order to build metaverse, which is a digital world where people can use different devices to communicate and move in a virtual environment. Metaverse is a set of virtual spaces where one can create and explore with other people who aren't in same physical space. Using this virtual space, one would be able to hang out with friends, play, work, learn, shop and create. This space is not necessarily about spending more time online but is about making time one spends online more meaningful.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal announced to set up a 'Weaver Services and Design Resource Centre' in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ The first in-person meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) of India, Australia, the United States and Japan was held in Washington. The meeting was participated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with leaders of the US, Japan, and Australia.
- ⇒ Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a \$2.5 billion contract for the acquisition of 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft from Spain. The Airbus C-295 aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) legacy fleet of Avro HS-748 aircraft. As per the contract, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircrafts in 'fly-away' condition. It will be delivered from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain. Other 40 aircrafts will be manufactured and assembled in India by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL). Manufacturing will be done in India as part of an industrial partnership between Airbus and TASL.
- ⇒ National Mission for Clean Ganga organised Himalaya Diwas in collaboration with Naula Foundation, as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year in the state of Uttarakhand on September 9.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Law and Justice conducted a Pan-India Special Campaign called "Ek Pahal Drive" that aims to grant Justice Delivery at the doorstep. The campaign was executed to encourage mass registration under 'Tele-Law' and create aspiration of access to justice for people. The Tele-Law means the use of communication and information technology for the delivery of legal information and advice. It provides pre-litigation advice consultation to beneficiaries by panel lawyers through a network that covers 51,434 Common Service Centres. The campaign includes the deployment of 185 mobile vans and other vehicles to showcase films and documentaries which display the Access to Justice Programme.
- ⇒ IIT-Bombay launched its "Project Udaan" on the occasion of Hindi Diwas on September 14, 2021. The Project Udaan enables the translation of textbooks and other study materials of the engineering and other streams from English to Hindi and some other Indian Languages.
- ⇒ Railway Ministry has closed down the Indian Railways Organization of Alternate Fuel (IROAF), a separate enterprise that works in the field of green fuels for transport. The work of IROAF will be transferred to Northern Railways and Railway Board. Solar power rolling stock or Alternate Fuel Electrical Directorate of the IROAF will be transferred to the Railway Board, while the existing tenders will be handled by Northern Railway.
- ⇒ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed India's Sherpa for G20. Sherpa is the personal representative of the head of state or government, who prepares an international summit, specially the annual G7 and G20 summits. G20 is an influential grouping which brings together the major economies of the world. Next G20 Summit is scheduled to take place from October 30 to 31, 2021 under Italian Presidency. India will hold the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022 and will also convene G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time. India will also be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2024. The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- ⇒ The Allahabad High Court put hold on the order of the Varanasi court that had asked for a 'comprehensive archaeological physical survey' of the disputed Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple complex of Varanasi.



- ⇒ The fossilised remains of Big John, the largest tricerapods dinosaur ever found, have been sold at an auction in France. A private, anonymous US collector bought the 66 million years old fossil for 6.65 million euros (\$7.74 million).
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state of the art Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad. He also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay on the occasion.
- ⇒ A road connecting Leh to the Pangong Lake was inaugurated recently. The stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet is the world's highest motorable way. It will reduce the distance between Leh (Zingral to Tangtse) to Pangong Lake crossing the Kela Pass by 41 kms.
Pangong Lake is 134 km long and divided into five sub lakes namely, Pangong Tso, Rum Tso (twin lakes), Tso Nyak, and Nyak Tso. 50% of the length of overall lake is located in Tibet China while 40% in Ladakh India. 10% of the lake is disputed and is considered as de-facto buffer zone between India and China.
- ⇒ Gujarat government launched Vatan Prem Yojana for rural development. Under the scheme, Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) and NRIs can contribute 60 percent of the cost of a village-level project. Remaining 40 percent amount will be borne by the state government. Vatan Prem Yojana is a repackaged version of Madar-e-Vatan scheme by the state government of Gujarat.

- ⇒ Amazon India announced the launch of 'Kisan Store', an online platform that will enable farmers of India to get access of more than 8,000 agriculture inputs like farm tools & accessories, seeds, plant protection, nutrition etc. These products will be available at competitive prices on Amazon India and will be delivered at the doorstep of farmers. These stores comprise of thousands of products listed from over 20 brands.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth – Angelina Jolie
- ⇒ A Rude Life : The Memoir – Vir Sanghvi.
- ⇒ Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey – Dr Utpal K. Banerjee.
- ⇒ Human Rights and Terrorism in India – Subramanian Swamy.
- ⇒ Chetan Bhagat released his new novel titled '400 Days'. It is the third novel in the Keshav-Saurabh series, after 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'
- ⇒ Jungle Nama – Amitav Ghosh (Audiobook)
- ⇒ The Fractured Himalaya : How the Past Shadows the Present in India-China Relations – Nirupama Rao.
- ⇒ My Life in Full : Work, Family and our Future – Indra Nooyi.
