



CURRENT AFFAIRS (DECEMBER, 2021) :

National

- ⇒ A National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed under the chairmanship of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to implement NIPUN Bharat Mission. NIPUN stands for “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy”. This mission was launched with the aim of achieving the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy & numeracy in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). NEP 2020 envisages providing universal proficiency in foundational literacy & numeracy to every child by end of Class 3 by 2026-27.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan called ‘Gati Shakti National Master Plan’ for multi-modal connectivity. It is a giant stride in India’s ambitious goal of achieving \$ 5 trillion economy. Gati Shakti, a digital platform, will bring 16 ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integral planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- ⇒ The Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, G.K Reddy has launched the Amrit Mahotsav Podcast, as a part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebration by the ministry. The Amrit Mahotsav Podcast series (Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani) is a tribute to the Indian National Army (persons and movements), which significantly contributed to India’s freedom struggle, some of which have remained untold and not found a place in the conventional storyline.
- ⇒ Goa has achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Electricity for every household targets. The original ODF protocol was issued in the year 2016. According to it, a city or ward is notified as ODF city or ward if not a single person is found defecating in the open, at any point of the day. Goa has also become the first state to provide tap water to every household under the ‘Har Ghar Jal Mission’.
- ⇒ The Government of India has decided to set up a ‘Vishwakarma Vatika’ at every ‘Hunar Haats’ to protect, preserve and promote India’s glorious legacy of centuries-old skills of artisans and craftsmen. The first such ‘Vishwakarma Vatika’ has been set up in ‘Hunar Haat’ at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. Hunar Haat, an initiative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, aims at promoting and preserving the traditional art and craft of the country.
- ⇒ Indian Railways has launched two long haul freight trains ‘Trishul’ and ‘Garuda’ over the South Central Railway. They are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains. Trishul comprises of three freight trains, i.e., a total of 177 wagons and runs between Kondapalli railway station

and Khurda in East Coast Railway. Garuda runs between Raichur of Guntakal and Manuguru of Secunderabad.

- ⇒ Union Home Minister, Amit Shah flagged off All India Car Rally ‘Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama’ of the National Security Guard (NSG) on October 02, 2021, as a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, to celebrate the 75th year of India’s Independence. The rally ended on October 30, 2021, when Union Minister Smriti Irani flagged in the NSG’s car rally at the Police Memorial in New Delhi. The month-long campaign covered a 7,500 km long journey through 18 cities in 12 states, passing through important and historical places associated with the Freedom Movement and Freedom Fighters of the country.

International

- ⇒ A human rights expert from United Nations has described Iran’s Death penalty as “an arbitrary deprivation of life”. UN described that the executions carried out in Iran is often used as a political tool. The death penalty is often imposed on arbitrary and vague grounds. UN asked Iran to reform laws and abolish the death penalty. As per experts, three criminal charges are used to target peaceful demonstrators and political opponents namely –corruption, armed rebellion, and waging war against God.
- ⇒ The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that tens of millions of Afghans, including children, could die of starvation if urgent action is not taken. The United Nations has set up a special trust fund for Afghanistan in order to provide urgently needed cash directly to Afghans. This special trust fund was set up through a system by tapping into donor funds which was frozen since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. It was set up with the aim of injecting liquidity into Afghan households in a bid to permit them to survive the upcoming winter and remain in their homeland.
- ⇒ Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference was recently concluded in Beijing, China, in which India strongly opposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects of China. The BRI is a multi-billion-dollar initiative which was launched in the year 2013 by Chinese President Xi Jinping. It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe and the Gulf region with a network of land and sea routes. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a \$ 60 billion project that connects Gwadar Port in the Balochistan region of Pakistan with the Xinjiang province of China. India has been opposing China’s BRI and CPEC projects because these projects impinge on India’s sovereignty and are being laid through the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).



- ⇒ American President Joe Biden has proclaimed October 11, i.e., the second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”. Indigenous Peoples’ Day recognizes the Indigenous communities who have lived in United States for thousands of years. It grew increasingly common as the replacement for Columbus Day. Columbus Day celebrates the explorer who sailed from Spain with a crew in three ships namely, Pinta, Nina and Santa Maria in the year 1492.
- ⇒ India has officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an intergovernmental group of 70 countries. It is co-chaired by Costa Rica and France; and by the United Kingdom as ocean co-chair. Its ambition is championing a global deal for nature and people with the central goal of protecting at least 30% of the world’s land and ocean by 2030. The 30x30 target is a global target which aims to halt the accelerating loss of species, and protect vital ecosystems that are the source of our economic security.
- ⇒ A global network comprising of reporters, publication houses and International Consortium of Investigative Journalism (ICIJ) leaked and exposed the secret offshore accounts of 35 world leaders, including current and former presidents, prime ministers as well as more than 100 billionaires in 91 countries including India. The exposure, called ‘Pandora Papers’ consists of 11.9 million leaked documents, surpassing the previous leak of the Panama Papers in 2016 which had 11.5 million confidential documents.
- ⇒ Dame Sandra Mason has been elected first-ever President of Barbados as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state. Barbados celebrated the country’s 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
- ⇒ India, Israel, United Arab Emirates and the United States have decided to launch a new quadrilateral economic forum. This quadrilateral builds on the ongoing cooperation between U.S., Israel and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year that saw the UAE and Israel establish diplomatic ties. This QUAD grouping had decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation and discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated virtually in the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan. The Meeting was convened by Italy, which currently holds the G20 Presidency, and chaired by Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi.
- ⇒ The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) has launched its programme in Seychelles. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration for

this programme. TIWB is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). TIWB sends expert tax auditors to assistance-requesting administrations in order to build audit capacity around the world.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 5.10.2021) 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%.
- ⇒ According to the financial statement of ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme’, it is running out of funds in 21 states. The scheme has run out of funds halfway in the financial year 2021. It is showing a negative net balance of Rs 8,686 crore. The Centre is accusing some of the states with ‘artificially creating demand’ for work.
 - ⇒ In the recent study of Public Affairs Centre (PAC) on governance performance, Kerala topped the index followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana.



- ⇒ SBI General Insurance made a technological partnership with Google Pay to enable users to buy SBI General's health insurance on the Google Pay app. This collaboration marks Google Pay's first partnership with an insurer in India to offer health insurance.
- ⇒ For the first time, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has declared a government owned company called "PEC Ltd" as 'not fit & proper'. PEC Ltd is a 100 per cent government-owned company. It has been declared as 'not fit and proper' as it acted as a broker and carried out illegal trades on NSEL's spot exchange platform in between 2010 and 2013.
- ⇒ The Henley Passport Index 2021 was released recently in which India has been ranked at 90th. Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries on the basis of number of destinations their holders can visit without getting visa in advance. This year Japan and Singapore have topped the list as their passports holders are allowed to travel across 192 countries visa-free. Japan secured the top position for the third year in a row. South Korea and Germany were at the second position. India's passport holders are allowed to travel to 58 countries visa-free.
- ⇒ India has ranked 79 out of 139 countries in the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021. Denmark, Norway and Finland topped the Index.
- ⇒ India has achieved the 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 from among a list of 113 countries. Ireland topped the index followed by Australia and the UK.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at 40th position out of 43 countries in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey. Iceland has topped this ranking followed by the Netherlands and Norway.
- ⇒ India's rank has dropped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021. In 2020, India was placed at 94th spot, out of 107 countries. A total of 18 countries including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shares the top rank.
- ⇒ India has retained the third position in the 58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) released by the consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY). According to the report, the US topped the index followed by China.
- ⇒ IndiGo and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) entered into a strategic partnership for the launch of a co-branded credit card named 'Ka-ching'. The credit card was launched under IndiGo's 6E Rewards programme and linked with it to enable the members to earn rewards by using the card on IndiGo and other merchants. Earlier Indigo tied up with HDFC Bank also for Ka-ching credit card.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated new auto-debit rules in order to strengthen the safety and security of card transactions. As per RBI's directive, there will be no automatic recurring payment for several services like utility bills, DTH, recharge of phone and OTT because additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory onwards. Under the new directives, banks will have to inform the customers in advance regarding the recurring payments due. Under the new norms, banks are required to send a one-time password to the customers for recurring payments of more than Rs 5000. However the new norms will not impact any standing instructions that have been registered using bank accounts for mutual funds, SIPs, equated monthly instalments for loans, etc.
- ⇒ 'Invest India', a young startup within the Government of India has been unanimously elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency to help investors looking for investment opportunities and options in India.
- ⇒ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book named 'Innovations for You'. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog to share success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.
- ⇒ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a four-member 'high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences'. Vijay C Daga is the Chairman of the committee.
- ⇒ Assam government launched an App 'Fishwaale', India's first e-fish market. This platform will help the fish farming community get a reasonable price for their produce and lead to the elimination of middlemen.

Sports

- ⇒ Ahmedabad and Lucknow are the two new teams that will take part in the 15th Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2022, taking the total number of teams to ten. Kolkata based RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) won the bid for Lucknow at Rs. 7090 crore while CVC Capital Partners won the bid for Ahmedabad at Rs. 5625 crore.
- ⇒ Former India captain and now Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohd Azharuddin has unveiled what is certified by the Guinness Book of World Records to be the biggest cricket bat in the world. The bat measures 56.10 feet, weighs 9-tonnes and is made of poplar wood.
- ⇒ Former Indian batsman and captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed Team India's head coach succeeding Ravi Shastri.



- ⇒ Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the finals to win the 14th edition of 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) title played at Dubai International Stadium. This was the 4th win of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL. M.S. Dhoni was the captain of CSK while Eoin Morgan was that of KKR. The first half of IPL was played in India, while the second half was played in UAE. Harshal Patel of RCB was adjudged Player of the Tournament). Mumbai Indians has won the IPL title highest number of times, i.e., 5 times.
- ⇒ China beat Japan to win the Uber Cup (Women's international team championship in Badminton) in Aarhus, Denmark. This is China's 15th Uber Cup title win in 19 finals. The match pivoted on the longest match in the Uber Cup history when Chen Qing Chan and Jia Yi Fan won their doubles match. Indonesia lifted the Thomas Cup trophy (Men's international team championship in Badminton) after defeating China.
- ⇒ India beat Nepal to win the 2021 SAFF Championship football final title held at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives.
- ⇒ FC Goa beat Mohammedan Sporting to win their maiden Durand Cup football title in the final held at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata.
- ⇒ The Union Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the first Sports Arbitration Centre of India at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. This Sports Arbitration Centre of India (SACI) will serve as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector and serve as a mechanism to redress issues related to sports.
- ⇒ Sunil Chhetri has overtaken the legendary Pele by making the 80th international goals. He is jointly at the second position with Lionel Messi (80 goals for Argentina). Cristiano Ronaldo (115 goals for Portugal) is at the top position.
- ⇒ Anshu Malik has become the first Indian woman freestyle wrestler to win the silver medal in the 2021 World Wrestling Championships, held in Oslo, Norway.
- ⇒ The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia "for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace".
- ⇒ The Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 was awarded to the Tanzanian novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugees in the gulf between cultures and continents. The Nobel Prize in literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.
- ⇒ Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and Giorgio Parisi jointly won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics. Syukuro Manabe (Princeton University, USA) and Klaus Hasselmann (Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany) awarded "for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming". Giorgio Parisi (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) was awarded "for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales".
- ⇒ The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 was awarded jointly to Benjamin List (Germany) and David W.C. MacMillan (Scotland). Researchers long believed that there were, in principle, just two types of catalysts available: metals and enzymes. Benjamin List and David MacMillan are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 because in 2000 they, independent of each other, "developed a third type of catalysis. It is called asymmetric organocatalysis" and builds upon small organic molecules.
- ⇒ The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 was awarded jointly to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, both from the USA "for their research activities leading to a rapid increase in our understanding of how our nervous system senses heat, cold, and mechanical stimuli". The laureates identified the critical missing links in our understanding of the complex interplay between our senses and the environment.
- ⇒ Actor Rajinikanth was honoured with the prestigious 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 67th National Film Awards ceremony, for his contribution as an actor, producer and screenwriter.
- ⇒ The 22nd Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence has been conferred on Dr Randeep Guleria, the eminent pulmonologist and Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. Dr Guleria is widely respected for his devotion to duty.

Awards

- ⇒ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize 2021 in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel with one half to David Card (University of California, Berkeley, USA) "for his empirical contributions to labour economics". The other half was given jointly to Joshua Angrist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA) and Guido Imbens (Stanford University, USA) "for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships".



- ⇒ Well-known Telugu filmmaker B Gopal, alias Bejawada Gopal, has been chosen for the fourth Satyajit Ray Award for his Overall Contribution to Indian Cinema.
- ⇒ Dr G Satheesh Reddy, the Secretary DDR&D and Chairman of DRDO has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.
- ⇒ The US India Business Council (USIBC) has chosen Shiv Nadar, the founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies Limited and Mallika Srinivasan, the chair and managing director, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) as the recipient of its 2021 Global Leadership Award.
- ⇒ The Delhi-based environmental organisation 'Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)' has been felicitated with the 2021 Right Livelihood Award, an international honour, also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.
- ⇒ The US India Business Council (USIBC) has chosen Shiv Nadar, the founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies Limited and Mallika Srinivasan, the chair and managing director, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) as the recipient of its 2021 Global Leadership Award.
- ⇒ Bibek Debroy will continue to be the chairman of the seven-member Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister, for a period of two years.
- ⇒ Shaktikanta Das has been reappointed Governor of the Reserve Bank of India by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a further period of three years till December 2024.
- ⇒ Gita Gopinath, the International Monetary Fund's Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department, will leave the organisation in January 2022. She will return to Harvard University's economics department.
- ⇒ Kangana Ranaut has been named as the Brand Ambassador of the Uttar Pradesh government's ambitious "One District One Product (ODOP) scheme" which aims to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the state. The scheme encourages such indigenous and specialized products and crafts of UP that are not found anywhere else.
- ⇒ Reliance Industries Chairman, Mukesh Ambani has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List for the 10th consecutive year. In 2021, his total net worth was recorded at Rs 7,18,000 crore. Meanwhile, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is in the second spot with a net worth of Rs. 5,05,900 crore. Shiv Nadar & the family of HCL technologies are third in the list with a net worth of Rs 2,36,600 crore.

Persons

- ⇒ Anita Anand, the Indian-origin Canadian politician has been appointed new Defence Minister in the cabinet of the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- ⇒ Donald Trump, the former US President, has launched his own social media network called "TRUTH Social". This platform was launched after Donald Trump faced bans from Facebook and Twitter.
- ⇒ The Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation (PaTCoF), situated in the Palakkad district of Kerala, has won the "Earth Guardian Award" which was instituted by the NatWest Group.
- ⇒ A team from 5th Battalion-4 (5/4) Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) representing the Indian Army won gold medal at the prestigious Cambrian Patrol Exercise which was held in the United Kingdom. Exercise Cambrian Patrol was organised by the UK Army. It is considered as the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit. It is sometimes also referred to as "Olympics of Military Patrolling" among militaries of the world.
- ⇒ 'Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution 2021' was conferred on the "Shillong Chamber Choir", the Assam branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust as well as the writer Nirod Kumar Baruah. This award is one of the biggest civilian awards in Assam. It carries a citation along with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

Died

- ⇒ Colin Powell, the first Black US secretary of state, passes away. He joined President George W. Bush's administration in 2001 as secretary of state. He was the first Black person to represent the US government on the world stage.
- ⇒ Three National Award-winning actor Nedumudi Venu has passed away. Known for his work in Malayalam and Tamil movies, Venu acted in over 500 movies.
- ⇒ Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the man regarded as the 'Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb', has passed away.
- ⇒ Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president passes away.
- ⇒ Arvind Trivedi, who is famously known for his iconic role of demon-king Raavan in Ramanand Sagar's TV serial Ramayan, has passed away.
- ⇒ Ghanashyam Nayak, who was famous for his role as Nattu Kaka in the TV series Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah has passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ Supreme Court of India has appointed a three-member committee, headed by the retired judge Justice R V Raveendran, to look into the allegations of unauthorized surveillance using Pegasus, a spyware developed by the Israeli firm NSO Group.



- ⇒ The first of the two additional Krivak or Talwar-class stealth frigates, 'Tushil', being built in Russia for the Indian Navy, was formally launched into the waters. It is a part of four follow-on frigates contracted by India from Russia, of which two are being built by Russia and two are under construction in India through technology transfer.
- ⇒ Facebook Inc. has changed its name and logo to Meta Platforms Inc. on October 28, 2021. However, the social network will still be called as Facebook.
- ⇒ Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Sushil Chandra led a three-member delegation to Uzbekistan to oversee the presidential election.
- ⇒ The Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Dr Hasan Mahmud inaugurated Bangabandhu Sambad Kendra at the Kolkata Press Club. It was inaugurated on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh as well as the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ⇒ The Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), K Natarajan commissioned the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) "Sarthal" which will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat. ICGS Sarthal is the 4th ship among the series of five OPVs, which are being built for ICG by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ⇒ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) organised a week long 'Deep Dive Online Training Programme' with the aim of strengthening cyber security ecosystem in India. Deep Dive Online Training Programme is a part of the series of workshops that are organised by National e-Governance Division under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative. This programme will help the CISOs and other participants in equipping themselves with better understanding of changing dynamics of the cyber environment across the world.
- ⇒ Uttarakhand gets India's largest aromatic garden in Lalkuan of Nainital district. The garden has 140 different aromatic species from across India.
- ⇒ The government of Maharashtra approved its own Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030), which will be implemented over the next 10 years. Maharashtra became India's first state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan. The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, in the Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region, by around 79 sq km.
- ⇒ The Armed Forces of India and the United Kingdom (UK) conducted the sea phase of the maiden Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021' off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.
- ⇒ International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India to become its full-time member. This membership invitation was given in the light that India is the world's third-largest energy consumer.
- ⇒ The Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 was organised by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) from 26 October to 01 November 2021. The annual event is celebrated during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, i.e., on October 31. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 was 'Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.
- ⇒ The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to rename the Faizabad Junction to Ayodhya Cantt railway station, which comes under the Northern Railway zone. Earlier in 2018, the Yogi Adityanath government had renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya. The BJP government also changed the names of Allahabad to Prayagraj and Mughalsarai railway junction to Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction.
- ⇒ India's first 'test tube' (IVF) calf of 'Banni' breed of buffaloes, found primarily in Gujarat's Kutch region, was born at a farmer's house. The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production. Banni buffalo is known for its resilience and higher milk-producing capacity in an arid environment.
- ⇒ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the Garuda app for digital mapping of all polling stations, to ensure faster, smarter, transparent and timely completion of election work.
- ⇒ Tamil-language drama film Koozhangal (internationally translated as Pebbles), has been selected as India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022).
- ⇒ The US space agency NASA has launched a first-of-its-kind mission called 'Lucy Mission' to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.
- ⇒ Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh will become the first city in India to use ropeway services in public transportation. Overall, Varanasi will be the third city in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City to use ropeway in public transportation.
- ⇒ Telangana has developed India's first smartphone-based e-Voting solution considering the Covid-19 pandemic. A dummy election was conducted in Khammam district on October 20.
- ⇒ The 17th edition of the Joint Military Training Exercise 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021' between the Indian Army and the United States Army was held at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska in the USA.
- ⇒ India's first Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) was inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur (VGU). It is the first centre in the country to be set up jointly by the Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog.
- ⇒ Siemens launched the first automated & driverless train of the world. The self-driving train was launched in the city of Hamburg, Germany.



- ⇒ Facing farmers' protests over new farm laws for over a year now, the Manohar Lal Khattar led Haryana government has banned the participation of its employees in politics and elections.
- ⇒ The state government of Maharashtra has launched a special Covid-19 vaccination drive named as Mission Kavach Kundal, with the target of inoculating 15 lakh people every day. It is to be noted that India achieved the milestone of 100 crore vaccinations on October 21, 2021.
- ⇒ The combined areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary has become the 4th Tiger Reserves in Chhattisgarh and 53rd in India.
- ⇒ The 6th Edition of India–UK Joint Company Level Military Training Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations.
- ⇒ Tata Group reclaimed Air India nearly 60 years after it was nationalised. Tata Sons bid was Rs18,000 crore for the government's 100% stake in Air India. JRD Tata founded the airline in October 1932 and it was at that time called Tata Airlines which the government nationalised in 1953. This marks the return of Air India to Tata fold after 68 years.
- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the 'Swechha' scheme which is intended to ensure affordable access to health and menstrual hygiene in adolescent girls and women. The state government will provide good quality branded sanitary napkins to female students at government educational institutions free of cost. Ten sanitary napkins will be given every month to about 10 lakh adolescent girls studying from 7th-12th grades in all government schools and intermediate colleges across the state.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan as a part of Azadi@75 celebrations. The theme of the three-day event was "New Urban India".
- ⇒ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state of India to have organized cultivation of cinnamon (Dalchini). The Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT) has introduced cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh on a pilot basis. India imports 45,318 tonnes of cinnamon annually from China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal.
- ⇒ The world's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, was installed in Leh, Ladakh, on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02, 2021. The tricolour was 225-feet long and 150-feet wide. It weighs around 1,000 kg.
- ⇒ World Day for Farmed Animals (W DFA) is observed on October 2, which marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is dedicated to exposing the needless suffering and death of farmed animals who are raised and slaughtered for food.
- ⇒ The iconic Indian comic book cartoon character, Chacha Chaudhary, whose brain works faster than a computer, has been declared as the official mascot for the centrally sponsored Namami Gange Programme.
- ⇒ 'Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa' initiative was launched by "YouWeCan Foundation" in Goa. The initiative was launched by YouWeCan foundation which is run by Yuvraj Singh. For this purpose, the foundation has partnered with SBI foundation and the state government of Goa. Under the initiative, free breast cancer screening will be done using "iBreast devices".
- ⇒ India and Kyrgyzstan held their first strategic dialogue in New Delhi. During the summit, both the countries agreed to enhance security and defence cooperation. The cooperation seeks to address common threats and challenges faced by them. Both India and Kyrgyzstan (Capital : Bishkek) are facing threat and challenges due to situation in Afghanistan.
- ⇒ National Tribal Dance Festival was held in Raipur in Chhattisgarh recently. The three-day National Tribal Dance Festival witnessed the participation of Tribal Dance Groups from several states and union territories of the country.
- ⇒ The first bilateral tri-service exercise between the United Kingdom (UK) and India called 'Konkan Shakti' was held in the Arabian Sea.
- ⇒ Mount Aso volcano in Japan erupted on October 20, 2021 and emitted a giant column of ash to about thousands of metres into the sky.
- ⇒ Sri Lanka has received the first consignment of non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India recently. The fertilizer will help Sri Lanka in the cultivation of maize and paddy
- ⇒ Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve the "Indian Railways Stations Development Corporation" (IRSDC) on the basis of recommendation of Principal Economic Advisor of Finance Ministry, Sanjeev Sanyal. Stations managed by IRSDC as well as all the projects related documents will be handed over to respective Zonal Railways. With this move, IRSDC has become the second organisation under the Ministry of Railways that will be shut down. Earlier in September 2021, Indian railway ordered the closure of Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (IROAF).
- ⇒ Global Hand-washing Day was observed on October 15 across the world.



- ⇒ Seven new defence companies were carved out of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). They are: 1. Munitions India Limited (MIL), 2. Armoured Vehicles Nigam (AVANI), 3. Troop Comforts Limited (TCL), 4. Gliders India Limited (GIL), 5. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India), 6. India Optel Limited (IOL) and (7) Yantra India Limited (YIL).
- ⇒ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam. The Prerna Sthal was inaugurated to commemorate the 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ⇒ 'Exercise Malabar', the Second Phase of multilateral maritime exercise of the Indian Navy, along with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the United States Navy (USN) was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12 October to 15 October 2021. This was the Second Phase of the Malabar exercise. The first phase of this exercise was conducted from August 26-29, 2021 in the Philippines sea.
- ⇒ Ministry of Civil Aviation has given a no-objection certificate (NOC) to new airline named 'Akasa Air' for its operation in India. Akasa Air is an ultra-low-cost carrier service (ULCC), which is being launched by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala.
- ⇒ The World Health Organization (WHO) on October 6, 2021 endorsed the Malaria Vaccine called "RTS,S/AS01". This is the world's first vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease which kills around 400,000 people in a year.
- ⇒ Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, launched state-of-the-art Heli-borne survey technology for ground water management. In the first phase, the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana are being taken up for the Heli-borne survey. This technology has been developed by CSIR-NGRI Hyderabad to map the groundwater sources in arid regions.
- ⇒ Ministry of road, transport & highways launched a scheme for "Good Samaritans". Under the scheme, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be provided per accident to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the accident. The ministry would also give 10 national level awards for the "worthiest Good Samaritans". Most Worthy Good Samaritans will be selected from those who have been awarded during the entire year. They will be given an award of Rs 1,00,000 each.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Tourism organised a 'Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour and Conference' in a bid to tap the potential of the Buddhist tourism. The FAM tour comprised the visit of prominent Buddhist sites as well as conferences at Bodh Gaya and Varanasi.
- ⇒ As per NOAA's National Centre for Environmental Information analysis, August 2021 was the 6th hottest month on the Earth in 142 years. NOAA, an American scientific and regulatory agency stands for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- ⇒ Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav started off tiger rallies as a part of "Wildlife Week Celebration" and "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". The rallies were virtually kicked off in three tiger reserves namely, 1. Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Karnataka 2. Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra and 3. Sanjay Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. The rallies were kicked off with the theme "India for Tigers - A Rally on Wheels". The rally will journey across 51 tiger reserves in 18 tiger range States.
- ⇒ The 8th Edition of the India Sri Lanka bilateral joint Exercise called 'Mitra Shakti' was conducted recently at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka.
- ⇒ According to the US Fish and Wildlife Services, the American bumblebee population has decreased by 89% in past 20 years, and it could be declared as "endangered species" if the trend continues.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ Writing for My Life – Ruskin Bond.
- ⇒ The Origin Story of India's States – V S Srinivasan.
- ⇒ Actually... I Met Them : A Memoir – Gulzar
- ⇒ The Custodian of Trust : A Banker's Memoir – Rajnish Kumar (Former SBI Chairman).
- ⇒ Economist Gandhi : The Roots and the Relevance of the Political Economy of the Mahatma – Jaithirth Rao.
- ⇒ Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth – Wole Soyinka.
- ⇒ Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman – Chidanand Rajghatta (It is a biography of Kamala Harris, who is of Indian origin, and is the first women Vice President of the United States of America).
