



CURRENT AFFAIRS (JANUARY, 2022) :

National

- ⇒ The central government promulgated two ordinances for extending the tenures of the Directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from existing two years to up to five years.
- ⇒ In continuation of a tradition that started in 1950, Nepal Army Chief Gen Prabhu Ram Sharma was conferred with the honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army' by President Ram Nath Kovind. Nepal conferred the honorary rank of 'General of the Nepal Army' to Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane during his visit to Kathmandu in November last year.
- ⇒ Kerala Tourism is set to launch "STREET Project" at select spots across seven districts, in order to take tourism deep into the interiors and hinterland of the state. STREET is the acronym for 'Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs'. Under the project, themes like Green Street, village life experience street, cultural street, experiential tourism street, water street, agri-tourism street, and art street have been planned. These streets will be in line with the peculiarities of the select locations and will also focus on experiential tourism.
- ⇒ During a 'National Consultative Workshop on Citizen Charter & Delivery of Services by Panchayats', the participants from 16 States signed the 'Mysuru Declaration'. Under it, these states resolved to roll out Common Minimum Service delivery by Panchayats in India from April 1, 2022. The Mysuru Declaration aims to recognise Citizen Centric Services as the "Heart of Governance". As a part of the declaration, participating states have committed (i) To increase availability of Citizen Services at grassroot levels in an efficient and timely manner and (ii) To implement highest standards of professional integrity and accountability to deliver Public Services in a timely manner.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson jointly launched the 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative at the COP 26 Climate Meet in Glasgow. This project is about setting a 'trans-national electricity grid to supply solar power across the world. The vision behind OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets'. It is a constant at some geographical location, across the globe, at any given point of time. This is the most ambitious scheme undertaken by India and is significant in terms of economic benefits.
- ⇒ The central government of India promulgated two ordinances for extending the tenures of the Directors of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from existing two years to up to five years.

- ⇒ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme of 2018 called 'Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)' for the period of 2021-26. The O-SMART scheme aims at promoting ocean research and setting early warning weather systems.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 341-km long Purvanchal Expressway, the longest expressway in India. The expressway connects Chand Saray village in Lucknow district with Haydaria village in Ghazipur district on NH-31. The Purvanchal Expressway also comprises of a 3.2 km long airstrip at Akhalkiri Karwat village near in Sultanpur district for emergency landing of aircrafts.
- ⇒ Russia has started the delivery of S-400 missile system to India, in a bid to boost India's air defence capabilities. This deal between India and Russia became contentious amid a threat of sanctions from the United States on countries engaging in defence deals with Russia. The S-400 is considered as the most advanced air-defence system worldwide. The missile is capable of protecting its air defence bubble against missiles, rockets, cruise missiles and aircraft. This system is available with China and was deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, amid military standoff with India.

International

- ⇒ The United States of America (USA) has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA). With 124 members, the International Solar Alliance is the largest grouping of countries worldwide after the United Nations. The initiative for the formation of the ISA was taken by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was founded at Paris in 2015 with the headquarters in Gurugram, Haryana. Ajay Mathur is the Director-General of ISA.
- ⇒ Clean Ocean International Expert Group of UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development presented "Clean Ocean Manifesto" whose goal is to obtain a clean ocean by 2030. The manifesto's goals include increasing the understanding of ocean pollutants, reducing as much as 90% of top-priority pollutants and improving the monitoring system to observe real time tracing of events like oil spills.
- ⇒ The 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 26) was held in Glasgow in Scotland, UK. The participating 197 countries agreed to a new deal, known as the 'Glasgow Climate Pact'. The pact reaffirms the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2⁰ Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5⁰ Celsius above pre-industrial level. It was decided that Egypt will host COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022.



Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 10.01.2022) 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*) : 7.25% - 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% - 5.60%.
 - * Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the 'NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure' as an account aggregator. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure is an IT-enabled services provider. It got an in-principle approval from RBI for setting an account aggregator business under the wholly owned subsidiary called NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd. (*Account aggregation is a process in which data from many, or all, of an individual's or household's financial accounts are collected in one place*).
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions imposed on the credit card issuer Diners Club International Ltd to onboard new customers. RBI restricted Diners Club International Ltd. from onboarding new domestic customers for violating data storage norms. Earlier, RBI banned American Express and Mastercard from enrolling new customers. RBI has not yet lifted its ban.
- ⇒ The government think tank NITI Aayog has released the first-ever Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure poverty at the national, State/UT, and district levels. As per the inaugural index, Bihar has been adjudged as the state with the highest level of multidimensional poverty (51.91 % of the state's population are multidimensionally poor), followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, Kerala (0.71 %) topped the index with lowest poverty state, followed by Goa and Sikkim. Kottayam in Kerala is the only district that registered zero poverty across the country as per the index.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog published its report on India's 'Multidimensional Poverty Index' (MPI) recently. As per NITI Aayog's report, in the year 2015-16, one in every four i.e., 25% people in India were multidimensionally poor. MPI for 2021, Launched by UNDP and OPHI, showed that 27.9 per cent of India's population were multidimensionally poor. The MPI is based on three dimensions namely education, health, and standard of living.
- ⇒ India Government has advised its people not to subscribe to 'Starlink Internet Services', which is operated by Elon Musk-led SpaceX. Starlink provides satellite internet access to most of the Earth. The India Government is opposing it because the company does not have a licence to operate in the country. The Department of Telecom has also directed Starlink to comply with regulatory framework to offer satellite-based communication services.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016. The Wage Rate Index (WRI) is being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 is going to replace the old series with base 1963-65. The central government periodically revises base year of major economic indicators for reflecting the changes in economy and for capturing wage pattern of workers. The New WRI series will be compiled twice a year, as on January 1 and July 1 each year, on point-to-point half-yearly basis. In the new WRI basket, total 37 industries have been covered as opposed to 21 industries in 1963-65 series.
- ⇒ The RBI has issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at "appropriate time" and also act as a tool for effective market discipline. Capital, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India has launched its first global hackathon named "HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation". The theme of HARBINGER 2021 is 'Smarter Digital Payments'.



- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for investors. The two initiatives are- 'RBI Retail Direct Scheme' and 'Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme'. Under the RBI Retail direct Scheme, retail investors will get access to the government securities market. It offers a new avenue for investing directly in securities issued by Centre and state governments. Investors will be able to open and maintain government securities account online easily & free of cost with the RBI. RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme was launched to help in improving grievance redress mechanism to resolve customer complaints against regulated entities of RBI. This scheme is based on the principle of 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' comprising of 'one portal, one e-mail, and one address' for customers to file their complaints.
- ⇒ Paytm Payments Bank has been given the scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the approval will help it to bring more financial services and products.
- ⇒ HSBC India has launched India's 1st credit card made from recycled PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) plastic. The cards have been introduced in partnership with global cards manufacturer IDEMIA to gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic
- ⇒ The State Bank of India has launched a video life certificate service for pensioners. This new facility will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes.
- ⇒ According to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators the Financial Stability Board (FSB), 'JPMorgan Chase' has once again been named the world's most important bank.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog launched the inaugural SDG Urban Index & Dashboard 2021-22, to further strengthen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Shimla topped NITI Aayog's inaugural SDG Urban Index at the city level.
- ⇒ Private sector lender ICICI Bank has launched an online platform called 'Trade Emerge' for Indian exporters and importers to offer them digital banking and value-added services.
- ⇒ El Salvador (Capital – San Salvador) has announced that the country is planning to build the world's first 'Bitcoin City'.
- ⇒ The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India. The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.
- ⇒ According to the latest report by the World Bank titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database', India became the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving \$ 87 billion in 2021 followed by China and Mexico. The United States (US) was India's biggest source of remittance.
- ⇒ India has slipped to the 82nd position out of 194 countries in the global list of 2021 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix) that measures business bribery risks, which was released by TRACE International. Denmark topped the index followed by Norway and Sweden.
- ⇒ The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) got the award for the best 'Digital Financial Services', in line with India's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', under the 'Regional Rural Banks' (RRBs) category by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
- ⇒ HDFC Bank Ltd has launched the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign to raise awareness on fraud prevention in support of International Fraud Awareness Week 2021 (November 14- 20, 2021). HDFC Bank aims to increase awareness of its customers that they may not share confidential banking information with anyone.
- ⇒ According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group, Delhi is the most polluted city in the world. Kolkata ranked 4th and Mumbai 6th.
- ⇒ Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed on the Marusudar river in Jammu and Kashmir. Marusudar River is a major tributary of the Chenab River.
- ⇒ The RBI has issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at appropriate time and also act as a tool for effective market discipline. Capital, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework. Prompt Corrective Action is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022. The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner so as to restore its financial health.
- ⇒ RBI constituted a Working Group on Digital Lending including Lending through Online Platforms and Mobile Apps, headed by Jayant Kumar Dash. In its report, the working group suggested (i) setting up a nodal agency in consultation with stakeholders to verify the technological credentials of the Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) of the balance sheet lenders and (ii) Lending Service Providers (LSPs) operating in the digital lending ecosystem.



Sports

- ⇒ Tamil Nadu has lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy cricket tournament defeating Karnataka in Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi.
- ⇒ Women's cricket will make its debut at the Commonwealth Games 2022 with the T20 format in Birmingham, England.
- ⇒ Australia won their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final in Dubai. Mitchell Marsh was named as the player of the match and David Warner was named as the player of the series.
- ⇒ Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He had already retired from international cricket in 2018. However, AB de Villiers was still playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), ever since joining the franchise in 2011.
- ⇒ Unmukt Chand has become the first Indian male cricketer to sign up for the Big Bash League of Australia as he is set to feature in the Melbourne Renegades side in the upcoming edition. He led India to the Under-19 World Cup title in 2012. He announced his retirement from Indian cricket in August this year stating that he would explore 'better opportunities from around the world'.
- ⇒ The 2021 Asian Archery Championships was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Indian archers bagged seven medals, including one gold at the competition to occupy second place after South Korea. Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the only medal for India.
- ⇒ India's first Physical 'National Yogasana Championships' was organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.
- ⇒ Tajamul Islam (13 years) is the first Kashmiri girl to have represented India and won the gold medal in the under-14 age category in World Kickboxing Championship held at Cairo in Egypt.
- ⇒ The Jammu & Kashmir team for deaf clinched 1st position in World Deaf Judo Championship held at Paris Versailles, France.
- ⇒ International Olympic Committee (IOC) has published advice on transgender athlete rules. The IOC maintains that, no athlete should be excluded from competing on the basis of an "unverified, alleged or perceived unfair competitive advantage because of their sex variations, transgender status or physical appearance. The IOC took this decision after the Tokyo Olympics, in which first openly transgender athlete, weightlifter Laurel Hubbard of New Zealand, competed.

Awards

- ⇒ Two Delhi-based teenage brothers Vihaan (17) and Nav Agarwal (14) have won the 17th annual KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize for tackling pollution in their home city by recycling household wastes. The International Children's Peace Prize is given annually by the International children's rights organization KidsRights based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- ⇒ Anita Desai has been awarded Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 in recognition of her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
- ⇒ The 'Poet Laureate' award for 2021 has been conferred upon Indian poet Adil Jussawala.
- ⇒ Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone has been selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council.
- ⇒ The 52nd edition of the International film festival of India concluded in Goa. Important awardees:
 - *Most friendly State for film shooting: Uttar Pradesh
 - *Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male): Jitendra Bhikulal Joshi (Godavari)
 - *Best actor (female): Angela Molina (Paraguay) for Charlotte
 - *Best director: Vaclav Kadrnka (Czech Republic) for 'Saving One Who Was Dead'
 - *Golden Peacock Award for Best Film: Japanese film 'Ring Wandering' (Masakazu Kanyeko).
- ⇒ On the occasion of World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2021, Balasore district in Odisha received India's 'Best Marine District' award.
- ⇒ Dr S K Sohan Roy from Kerala, CEO, and founder of Aries Group of Companies has become the first Indian to be honoured with the 'Knighthood of Parte Guelfa' of Italy for his humanitarian and Environmental protection efforts in business and movies.
- ⇒ Pratham, a civil society organisation has been conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021. Pratham is dedicated to improving the quality of education among underprivileged children in India and across the world.
- ⇒ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021 at the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi. Some of the Award-Winning Cities:
 - * Cleanest City: Indore
 - * Cleanest Ganga town: Varanasi
 - * Cleanest State (with more than 100 urban local bodies): Chhattisgarh
 - * Cleanest District: Surat



Persons

- ⇒ Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of United Arab Emirates has been elected President of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL Headquarters: Lyon, France) for a period of 4 years.
- ⇒ Geoff Allardice has been appointed permanent CEO of The International Cricket Council (ICC; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates). He replaced Manu Sawhney who officially resigned from his position in July 2021.
- ⇒ Parag Agrawal has been appointed new CEO of Twitter after the social media giant's co-founder Jack Dorsey stepped down. Agarwal, now 37, is the youngest CEO in the Standard & Poor's top 500 companies. However, Meta Platform Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg is also of 37 years.
- ⇒ Vivek Johri has been appointed new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). He succeeded M Ajit Kumar.
- ⇒ Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah has been appointed new Prime Minister of Kuwait.
- ⇒ VVS Laxman has been selected as the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Laxman will take over from his former batting colleague Rahul Dravid, who was recently appointed as chief coach of the Indian team following the end of Ravi Shastri's tenure.
- ⇒ Fumio Kishida, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been re-elected Prime Minister (PM) of Japan. Fumio Kishida succeeded Yoshihide Suga who resigned as PM of Japan in September 2021.
- ⇒ R Hari Kumar has been appointed new Chief of the Naval Staff by the Government of India. He replaced Admiral Karambir Singh.
- ⇒ Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021 of Indian donors has been published. Azim Premji, the founder chairman of Wipro, has topped the list with a donation of Rs 9,713 crore during fiscal 2020-21 which is around Rs 27 crore a day. He is followed by HCL's Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 crore) and Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 crore).

Died

- ⇒ Gurmeet Bawa, the renowned Punjabi folk singer has passed away.
- ⇒ Balwant Moreshwar Purandare, popularly known as Babasaheb Purandare has passed away. He was 99. He was an eminent historian, orator and author.
- ⇒ Mannu Bhandari, the renowned author and one of the key members of the Nayi Kahani movement of Hindi literature has passed away.
- ⇒ Koneru Ramakrishna Rao, an internationally recognized psychologist and well-known educationist, teacher, and philosopher, passed away.

- ⇒ Puneeth Rajkumar, the Kannada superstar and the son of legendary actor Rajkumar passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ South Korea is soon going to get the world's first floating city off the coast of Busan, to deal with the problem of floods due to rising sea levels. The floating city project is a joint effort by the UN Human Settlement Programme (UNHabit) and OCEANIX.
- ⇒ Kulgam district administration and the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir organized the first ever Aharbal Festival at Kulgam, J & K to promote tourism in Kashmir, particularly at the Aharbal waterfall.
- ⇒ World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the new COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 as Omicron. New COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 was first reported to WHO from South Africa.
- ⇒ Cherry Blossom Festival 2021 was celebrated in Meghalaya from November 25 to 27.
- ⇒ Skyroot Aerospace, a space technology startup based in Hyderabad, has successfully test-fired 'Dhawan-1', India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine.
- ⇒ The Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in Manipur. The ambitious project of the Railways in Manipur is part of the Jiribam-Imphal railway line.
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh will become the first state in the country to have a Cyber Tehsil, which will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit. With this, the process of conversion will become convenient in the cases of undisputed land.
- ⇒ According to the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS), which was released by the Union health ministry, India now has 1,020 women for every 1000 men.
- ⇒ Union Home Minister Amit Shah, through video conferencing, laid the foundation for 'Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum' in Manipur.
- ⇒ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at IIT Guwahati.
- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh has been named the best marine state in the country by the Department of Fisheries.
- ⇒ INS Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. This is the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers. It has been designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organization Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.



- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh Police has topped the 'IPF Smart Policing' Index 2021, among 29 states and Union Territories, released by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF).
- ⇒ The Border Roads Organisation has received the Guinness World Record for constructing and blacktopping the world's highest motorable road passing through the 19,024 feet (5798 m) high Umlingla Pass in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ⇒ India's first Digital Food Museum has been launched in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The museum is co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- ⇒ Pochampally, India's silk city in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana, known for its famous hand-woven Ikat saris, has been selected as one of the best tourism villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- ⇒ Skyroot Aerospace test-fired India's first privately built cryogenic rocket engine called Dhawan-1. It has been named after Satish Dhawan, who was the third chairman of ISRO. The rocket uses a combination of Liquid Natural Gas, which is more than 90 per cent methane. Liquid Natural Gas is used in combination with Liquid Oxygen. In Combined form, it is called as "Methalox", which forms a cryogenic rocket fuel.
- ⇒ Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh launched a 'unique' face recognition technology. The face recognition technology would act as a proof of life certificate for pensioners without visiting physically. This unique technology will ensure ease of living for retired & elderly citizens. All pensioners are required to submit their life certificate to their employers in the month of November every year in order to receive pension.
- ⇒ India's only certified organic kiwi fruit from Ziro Valley Farms of Arunachal Pradesh was launched at a mega National Tribal Festival called Aadi Mahotsav. This festival is being held in Dilli Hat, INA in New Delhi.
- ⇒ The Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh is set to get 13 African cheetahs this year -- 10 from South Africa while 3 are from Namibia.
- ⇒ India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka conducted the 15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti' in the Maldives.
- ⇒ Indian Railways has opened the first Pod retiring rooms for passengers of Indian Railways as well as common people, at the Mumbai Central station. One is required to pay Rs 999 for 12 hours and Rs 1,999 for 24 hours to stay in this pod hotel or capsule hotel. It will also provide facilities like Wi-Fi, TV, adjustable mirror, small locker, and reading lights
- ⇒ Indian Railways has launched "Bharat Gaurav Scheme". Under this scheme, private tour operators can take trains on lease from railways and run these trains on any circuit of their choice. Private operators would also get the freedom to decide routes, fares and quality of services on the trains.
- ⇒ Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv was held from November 17 to November 19, 2021 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The 19th of November is the Birth Anniversary of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the epitome of bravery and courage and a great National icon of Rashtra Raksha and India's Independence struggle.
- ⇒ India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.
- ⇒ Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has decided to set up a tax plan for cow welfare in the State.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor Project in Jhansi, UP.
- ⇒ 'Water Heroes – Share Your Stories' Contest has been launched by Jal Shakti Ministry. This contest is organised with the aim of encouraging and collecting best practices in water conservation and management from entire India.
- ⇒ Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh Ministry of Rural organised a National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). The workshop was organised in a bid to boost to national land record modernization programme. This workshop would enable States to share the best practices with each other in the field and learn regarding the latest software developments.
- ⇒ The first Audit Diwas was observed on November 16, 2021 to mark the historic origins of the institution of CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) and the contribution made by it to the governance, transparency and accountability. Former Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu Kashmir G. C. Murmu is serving as the 14th CAG of India.
- ⇒ India observing the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15, 2021 on the birth anniversary date of Birsa Munda who had played a significant role in India's independence.
- ⇒ Bhadla Solar Park, located in Bhadla, a dry and sandy region in Rajasthan is the world's largest solar power park. It spans over 14,000 acres. The Park comprises of 10 million solar panels at the park. These solar panels contribute to an operational capacity of 2245 MW.



- ⇒ During a recent health check of London's famous River Thames, it was found that it is now home to seahorses, seals, eels, and sharks. This news is significant because River Thames was declared 'biologically dead' in 1957.
- ⇒ World's longest bi-lane road tunnel called 'Sela Tunnel' is being built on Balipara-CharduarTawang (BCT) road by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under Project Vartak. The BCT road connects East Kameng, West Kameng, and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of India. It is being constructed to provide all weather connectivity to Tawang.
- ⇒ The Centre has approved a new Rajya Sainik Board (RSB) for Ladakh. The Board will be an effective link between the Centre and the Ladakh Administration. Rajya Sainik Board will play an advisory role on the matters relating to the ex-servicemen, war widows, widows and non-combatants, including serving soldiers and their dependents.
- ⇒ The government of Arunachal Pradesh approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh', which aims to promote "climate resilient development" in the state. The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country. For the first time, the state's cabinet meeting was conducted outside the capital Itanagar, at Pakke Tiger Reserve, where the 'Pakke Declaration' was adopted.
- ⇒ India observed its first 'Audit Diwas' on the 16th of November to mark the historic origin of the institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years. Currently, former Lt. Governor of Jammu Kashmir G. C. Murmu is serving as the 14th CAG of India.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 341-km long Purvanchal Expressway in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh. The expressway links state capital Lucknow with Ghazipur.
- ⇒ India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-21 was held recently in the Andaman Sea. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk participated in SITMEX-21.
- ⇒ The Navies of India and France carried out the 6th edition of the biennial training exercise "EX SHAKTI 2021" from November 15 to 26, 2021 in Frejus, France. The Indian Army was represented by the Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion.
- ⇒ An idol of Goddess Annapurna that was stolen from Varanasi about 100 years ago and later found in Canada recently is all set to be back at its rightful place and will be gracing the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi.
- ⇒ India has been placed at 10th spot in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022 released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26 held in Glasgow, the UK. India has retained its position as the top 10 best-performing countries with higher climate performance for the third year in a row. Meanwhile, the top three places in the overall ranking are once again empty as none of the countries performed well enough to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Moving ahead, Denmark occupied the fourth place as the highest-ranked country in CCPI 2022, followed by Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) respectively.
- ⇒ India ranked 18th out of 30 countries in the 1st edition of the Global Drug Policy Index which was released by the Harm Reduction Consortium. Norway topped the index followed by New Zealand and Portugal.
- ⇒ Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is among the 49 cities selected worldwide to join the UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN). Srinagar has been designated as a creative city of craft and folk arts.
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- ⇒ The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) has unveiled a £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the first time Mahatma Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin.
- ⇒ Britain's health regulators have approved the world's first pill 'Molnupiravir' to treat cases of symptomatic COVID19.
- ⇒ The United States lawmakers led by Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney from New York, introduced a bill to declare Diwali a national holiday in the country. The lawmaker announced the Deepavali Day Act in the House of Representatives.
- ⇒ Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel took part in the international multilateral combat exercise 'Blue Flag 2021', along with IAF's Mirage 2000 aircraft squadron at Israel's Ovda Airbase. The exercise involves Air Force missions from 8 countries, to share knowledge and combat experience to improve operational capabilities. The other seven countries that have participated in the exercise include the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, and Israel.



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⇒ World's richest person Elon Musk-owned SpaceX has incorporated its wholly-owned subsidiary in India to start local broadband operations. SpaceX's satellite broadband arm 'Starlink' aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022.

Books & Authors

⇒ Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947' -- Ayaz Memon.
⇒ Contested Lands: India, China, and the Boundary Dispute -- Maroof Raza
⇒ Conversations: India's Leading Art Historian Engages with 101 themes, and More -- Brijinder Nath Goswamy.
⇒ Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World -- Ban Ki-moon (the autobiography of the Former United Nations Secretary-General).
⇒ Cooking to Save your Life -- Abhijit Banerjee, the Nobel laureate.

⇒ Lal Salaam: A Novel -- Smriti Zubin Irani
⇒ Hell of a Book -- Jason Mott (winner of the 2021 National Book Award for fiction).
⇒ Delhi: A Soliloquy -- M Mukundan (2021 JCB prize for Literature).
⇒ Nehru: The Debates that Defined India -- Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain.
⇒ Sunrise over Ayodhya : Nationhood in our Times -- Salman Khurshid.
⇒ The Cinema of Satyajit Ray -- Bhaskar Chattopadhyay.
⇒ The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology -- Sudha Murty. (This is her 5th and last book of the "Unusual Tales from Mythology" series).
