



CURRENT AFFAIRS (FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022) :

National

- ⇒ The Election Commission of India has increased the existing election expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, due to the rise in inflation. The ceiling on Parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from ₹ 70 lakh to ₹ 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and ₹ 54 lakh to ₹ 75 lakh in smaller states. For Assembly constituencies, expenditure limits have been enhanced from ₹ 28 lakh to ₹ 40 lakh rupees in bigger states and from ₹ 20 lakhs to ₹ 28 lakhs in smaller states.
- ⇒ The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh entered into an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district of Haryana, which will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswati river. Adi Badri, situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border, is believed to be the origin point of the mythical Saraswati River.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 356 Km long Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh) – Panki (Kanpur, UP) Multiproduct Pipeline Project (capacity of 45 million metric tonnes per annum). It will provide for safe and efficient evacuation of products from Bina Refinery and also improve the availability of products in Eastern U.P, Central U.P., Northern Bihar and Southern Uttarakhand.
- ⇒ Docprime Tech has launched India's first health locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country. ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges. It will store and manage health records electronically.
- ⇒ India invited five central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022. But they could not come following Covid norms.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya to celebrate the 1,000th birth anniversary of the saint. Ramanujacharya was an 11th-century saint and a revolutionary social reformer. The statue is called the 'Statue of Equality'. It is located at Shamshabad, on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Telangana.

International

- ⇒ Indonesia will move its capital from Jakarta to Nusantara, in the island of Borneo. The heavily populated city of Jakarta is home to 10 million people (30 million if you include the greater metropolitan area)

and has been facing the growing issue with the overuse of groundwater by home drilling due to large-scale city developments. The problem worsened when it combined with rising sea levels. This shift of capital is set to slow down the rate at which Jakarta sinks into the Java Sea.

- ⇒ As per China, satellites from Starlink Internet Services had two close encounters with Chinese Space Stations on July 1 and October 21. To prevent collision and for safety reasons, Space Station of China implemented preventive collision avoidance control. About 30,000 satellites and other debris are believed to be orbiting the planet. So, scientists have urged governments to share data for reducing the risk of space collisions. SpaceX has deployed around 1,900 satellites for serving its Starlink broadband network and has planned more such launched. The satellite provides Internet access, covering most of the Earth.
- ⇒ NASA's 'James Webb Space Telescope', designed to capture the first glimpse of the universe just shortly after the Big Bang has been launched from the European Space Agency's Kourou, French Guiana. The James Webb Space Telescope is an international collaboration among NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.
- ⇒ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance (ISA). In November 2015, ISA was jointly launched by India and France during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy among its Member Countries. The headquarter of the ISA is at Gurugram and Ajay Mathur is its Director General.
- ⇒ NASA's Parker Solar Probe has entered the Sun's upper atmosphere, called 'the Corona' – for the first time in history. Launched in 2018, the Parker Solar Probe aims to unravel the mysteries of the Sun by travelling closer to it. After three years of launching, Parker has finally arrived in the solar atmosphere.
- ⇒ Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony. Barbados is said to have been made a 'slave society' by the British. The capital of Barbados is Bridgetown.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 10.03.2022) 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) : 6.45% - 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): 5.00% - 5.60%.
 - * Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.
- ⇒ Social media giant Meta has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India. Meta will undertake this initiative under its #SheMeansBusiness programme, in partnership with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%' initiative.
- ⇒ Paytm Money has introduced 'India's first' intelligent messenger called 'Pops'. The company has launched 'Pops', with which users can receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements in an easy to consume format, all in one place.
- ⇒ State Bank of India (SBI) has issued \$ 300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India INX GIFT IFSC. The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan. A Formosa bond is a bond which is issued in Taiwan but is denominated by a currency other than the Taiwan dollar.
- ⇒ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has set up 'new banknote printing lines' at its Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas. In India, there are four presses for printing and supply of Banknotes : (1) Dewas in Madhya Pradesh, (2) Nasik in Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL), (3) Mysore in Karnataka, and (4) Salboni in West Bengal (owned by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited). SPMCIL is a Government of India owned 'Miniratna' company which is engaged in the manufacturing/production of Currency and Bank Notes, Security Papers, Non-Judicial Stamp Papers, Postal Stamps, Passport, Visa, Cheques, Bond, Warrant, Special Certificates with security features, Security Inks, Circulation & Commemorative Coins, Medallions, Refining of Gold & Silver and Assay of Precious Metals among others.
- ⇒ Bharti Airtel and Google have announced a long-term partnership agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Under the deal, Google will invest \$ 1 billion in Airtel. The \$ 1 billion funding is part of Google's \$ 10 billion 'Google for India Digitization Fund', launched in 2020. This is Google's second investment in an Indian telecom service provider (after Reliance Jio).
- ⇒ Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at the 85th spot (Score of 40) out of 180 countries. The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries – Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88). The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- ⇒ According to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report, Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 with the brand valuation of \$ 355.1 billion in 2022. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history. The Indian conglomerate Tata Group has emerged as the most valuable brand from India and also in South Asia. It is the only brand from India in the top 100 with the Global Rank of 78. The brand value of Tata Group is \$ 23.9 billion.
- ⇒ India has ranked at the 83rd place among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index, released for Q1 of 2022. The Indian passport has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide. Japan and Singapore retained the top position jointly.
- ⇒ According to Oxfam India's 'Inequality Kills' report, the wealth of India's richest families reached to a record high in 2021. In the report, India was described as a 'very unequal,' country, as the top 10 people in India hold 57% of the wealth. On the other hand, the share of the bottom half is 13%. The report states that 84% of Indian households witnessed an income decline amid the covid-19 pandemic.
- ⇒ The 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox, Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.



- ⇒ Good Governance Index (GGI) 2021 was launched by Union Minister Amit Shah on the occasion of the Good Governance Day on 25 December. GGI 2021 was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). Gujarat topped the index followed by Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ According to the data compiled by Hurun Research Institute, India is home to 81 unicorns as on January 1, 2022, adding 44 new 'unicorns' in a single year in 2021. This has helped India to be at the third position, after the USA and China in the list of countries that are home to such enterprises. In business, a 'unicorn' is a privately held startup company with a value of over \$ 1 billion. Bengaluru, Delhi NCR and Mumbai continued to be the top cities preferred as unicorn headquarters in India. Fintech sector added the most unicorns last year in India, followed by e-commerce, SaaS and health-tech.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at 56th position in the World Talent Ranking index published by World Competitive Centre. Switzerland has retained its top spot followed by Sweden and Luxembourg.
- ⇒ Gujarat has emerged as the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing sector grow by 15.9 per cent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy. Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra, whose annual growth rate stood at nearly half of Gujarat's at 7.5 per cent for the same time period.
- ⇒ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world. The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. The 2021 WCM report is published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).
- ⇒ Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has announced the Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021. According to the Index, Israel's capital Tel Aviv has become the most expensive city in the world to live in 2021, pushing Paris and Singapore jointly to occupy the second spot with Zurich and Hong Kong at the fourth and fifth spots respectively. Syria's Damascus was ranked as the world's cheapest city.
- ⇒ Spam call rates in India have moved up in global rankings from 9th position to 4th position, according to Truecaller, the latest insights by caller ID, spam detection and blocking company. The top three countries in the world with maximum spam based calls were Brazil, Peru and Ukraine.
- ⇒ SEBI has launched Saa[₹]thi mobile app on investor education. The new app aims to empower investors with accurate knowledge about the securities market. The app will cater largely to individual investors, who have recently entered the markets and carry out trading via their mobile phones.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India has set up a separate internal department for fintech (Financial technology). The department will not only promote innovation in the sector but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.
- ⇒ Insurance regulator IRDAI has identified the state-owned LIC, GIC and New India Assurance Co. Ltd as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22. D-SIIs are insurers of such size, market importance, and domestically & globally interconnected, whose failure or distress will result into significant dislocation in domestic financial system. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers which are 'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF).
- ⇒ Egypt has been added as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank (Headquarters : Shanghai, China) after Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay joined it in September 2021. BRICS New Development Bank is a multilateral bank that was established by Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa to finance sustainable development and infrastructure projects.
- ⇒ The total number of beneficiaries under the Centre's financial inclusion scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the 44 crore mark. Uttar Pradesh tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by Bihar.
- ⇒ Reliance Industries Ltd, India's largest corporate by revenues, profits and market value, topped the 2021 Wizikey News Score ranking as India's most-visible corporate in the media. State Bank of India is a close second on the ranking, followed by Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tata Motors.
- ⇒ India has registered the highest ever annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of \$ 81.97 billion in 2020- 21. The top five countries from where FDI Equity Inflows were received during 2014-2021 are Singapore, Mauritius, the USA, the Netherlands and Japan.
- ⇒ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined the US e-commerce giant Amazon with Rs 200 crore. CCI has also suspended the 2019 Amazon deal with Future Coupons, a unit of Future Retail Ltd. Amazon was fined for concealing facts while obtaining approval for this deal.



- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework. Under the PCA framework, NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as capital adequacy ratio, non-performing assets, and Tier 1 capital will fall below the stipulated levels. Banks are already covered under the framework. The PCA framework for NBFCs will be implemented from October 1, 2022, on the basis of financial position of NBFCs on or after March 31, 2022. PCA will be imposed when the net non-performing assets is in between: 1. 6-9% (risk threshold 1); 2. 9-12% (risk threshold 2) and 3. More than 12 percent (risk threshold 3).
- ⇒ Tata group has emerged as the successful bidder of the divestment process of the national carrier Air India. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a shareholding in Air India by Talace Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons. Talace quoted an enterprise value of Rs 18,000 crore for 100 per cent equity shareholding of the Centre.
- ⇒ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has set up an Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS is a 7-member committee headed by Madhabi Puri Buch.
- ⇒ WhatsApp announced the Digital Payment Utsav – a pilot programme that is going to adopt 500 villages in Karnataka and Maharashtra in an effort to ‘accelerate financial inclusion’.
- ⇒ Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project has been approved by the Union Cabinet. The project includes the construction of the Daudhan dam across the river Betwa from Ken and the transfer of water through a canal connecting the two rivers. The project will be of immense benefit to the water starved Bundelkhand region, spread across the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Ken river and the Betwa river, both are the tributaries of the Yamuna.
- ⇒ The ‘International Day of Banks’ is celebrated on December 4 to recognise the importance of multilateral and international development banks in financing sustainable developments.
- ⇒ Walmart and its subsidiary Flipkart have signed an MoU with the Department of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Government of Madhya Pradesh to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in Madhya Pradesh.
- ⇒ India1 Payments has crossed a milestone on deploying 10000 white-label ATMs, which was called as ‘India1ATMs’. India1 Payments is IPO-bound and is promoted by the Banktech Group of Australia.

The Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) which are set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are known as ‘White Label ATMs’ (WLAs).

Sports

- ⇒ Pakistani skipper Babar Azam has been named as the captain of the ICC Men’s T20I team of the year for 2021. No Indian male player has found a place in the team of 11.
- ⇒ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed that Tata group has replaced Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.
- ⇒ New Zealand’s Ajaz Patel became the third cricketer to take all the 10 wickets in an innings when New Zealand bundled out India for 325 on the second day of the second Test at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. Previously, England bowler Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, too touched this milestone.
- ⇒ Himachal Pradesh defeated Tamil Nadu in the final to win their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy cricket title, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- ⇒ Harbhajan Singh, a senior Indian off-spinner has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He was the first Indian cricketer to take Hat-trick wickets in Test cricket.
- ⇒ Rafael Nadal of Spain defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia to win the Men’s Singles title at the Australian Open 2022. This is Nadal’s 21st Major title, becoming the first male player to do so. Ashleigh Barty of Australia defeated Danielle Collins of the US to win women’s singles final title at the Australian Open 2022.
- ⇒ Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has bagged the women’s singles title of the Syed Modi International Tournament held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Sindhu beat fellow Indian Malvika Bansod to win her second Syed Modi title after 2017.
- ⇒ Lakshya Sen has defeated World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore, in the men’s singles badminton final of India Open 2022.
- ⇒ Tasnim Mir became the first Indian to grab World No 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles category in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings.
- ⇒ Anahat Singh has scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win the U-15 girls’ category of the prestigious Junior US Open Squash tournament in Philadelphia.
- ⇒ India defeated Pakistan to win the bronze medal, while Korea defeated Japan to emerge winner of the Asian Champions Trophy men’s hockey tournament held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



- ⇒ Tennis star Emma Raducanu is the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021.
- ⇒ Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time Formula One champion received a knighthood at Windsor Castle, London. Hamilton gets the honorary title of "Sir" after being knighted by the Prince of Wales for services to motorsports.
- ⇒ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has started its '#Care4Hockey' Campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India. The company has partnered with Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain, who will be the face of the campaign.
- ⇒ The International Boxing Association has changed its acronym from AIBA to IBA, promising to adopt a set of governance reforms so as to keep the sport's inclusion at the 2028 Olympics. Boxing, weightlifting and modern pentathlon were all left off the initial list of sports for the 2028 Los Angeles Games and were asked to make changes by the International Olympic Committee.
- ⇒ Reigning world chess champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway defended his title and won the FIDE World Championship in Dubai.
- ⇒ Manipur defended their Senior Women's National Football Championship crown when they defeated Railways in the final at the EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- ⇒ Anju Bobby George, the legendary Indian athlete, has been bestowed with the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent in the country and for her advocacy of gender equality.
- ⇒ Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or for a seventh time after being named as the best player in 2021 by France Football. Chelsea Football Club has been selected the Club of the year.
- ⇒ Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.
- ⇒ Sushmita Sen has been conferred with the International Association of Working Women Award at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021. The former Miss Universe has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.
- ⇒ Lavni artist from Maharashtra, Sumit Bhale has won a gold medal at the International Folk Art Festival in Dubai. Lavani is a genre of music, popular in Maharashtra and is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.
- ⇒ Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared the winners of the third National Water Awards for the year 2020. Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged as the best state in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020. It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- ⇒ Viral Sudhirbhai Desai, an industrialist from Surat, who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat has been honoured with the Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021.
- ⇒ Bhutan has honoured the PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo. Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour.
- ⇒ The Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) has honoured former Indian Cricketer and cricket commentator Sunil Manohar Gavaskar with its prestigious 'SJFI Medal 2021'.
- ⇒ Azim Premji, the founder chairman of Wipro Limited and founder of Azim Premji Foundation is this year's recipient of the 10th annual Dr Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration, jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the U.S.-based Vellore CMC Foundation. The award is presented to Mr Premji in recognition of his contributions to society.
- ⇒ Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary award.
- ⇒ Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
- ⇒ Ropesh Goyal from IIT-Kanpur won the 'Young Geospatial Scientist' award in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software. The 'Young Geospatial Scientist' award and a gold medal have been presented every year since 2011 to promising scientists below 35 years of age.

Awards

- ⇒ Olympian Neeraj Chopra was honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal on the eve of Republic Day by President Ram Nath Kovind. Neeraj is a Subedar in the Indian Army. He had enrolled in 4 Rajputana Rifles as a direct entry to Naib Subedar in 2016.
- ⇒ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the 17th edition of ICC Awards for the year 2021. Winners are listed below:
 - Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year : Smriti Mandhana (India).
 - ICC Umpire of the Year : Marais Erasmus (South Africa)
 - Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year : Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan).
 - ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year : Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan).
 - ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year : Babar Azam (Pakistan).



- ⇒ Indian-American mathematician Nikhil Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley along with Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman were awarded the First Ciprian Foias Prize in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
- ⇒ On the occasion of Assam Divas, the state government of Assam has decided to accolade the renowned industrialist Ratan Tata with the 'Asom Bhaibav' award, the highest civilian state award for his contribution to cancer care in the state.
- ⇒ V Praveen Rao has been given the 7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-19 for his contributions in the fields of 'agricultural research, teaching, extension and administration'. This prestigious award was instituted in 2004 in honour of Dr M.S. Swaminathan, the main architect of India's Green Revolution.
- ⇒ A biography titled 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism', authored by Dinyar Patel has been selected as the winner of the 4th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF (New India Foundation) Book Prize 2021. The book marks the life events and legacy of Dada Bhai Naoroji. It also contains the historical background of India's National Movement during the 19th century.
- ⇒ Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Organization (KACV) from Kovalam, Kerala was awarded the 'International Craft Award for 2021' for the best craft village in the world by the World Crafts Council International.
- ⇒ Harnaaz Sandhu from Punjab has become the new Miss Universe 2021, held in Eilat, Israel. Before Ms Sandhu, only two Indians won the title of Miss Universe : Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.

Persons

- ⇒ Dr S Somanath, the eminent rocket scientist has been appointed new Chairman and Space Secretary of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He will succeed Kailasavadivoo Sivan who completes his extended tenure.
- ⇒ David Bennett of the USA has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically modified pig. Pigs are increasingly becoming popular candidates for organ transplantation.
- ⇒ T S Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, has been appointed Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- ⇒ Gita Gopinath, the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has been named as its new first deputy Managing Director (FDMD). Kristalina Georgieva is the Managing Director of IMF.
- ⇒ Army Chief General M.M. Naravane has assumed the charge as the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee until the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is appointed following the death of the first CDS of India General Bipin Rawat in an Indian Air Force helicopter crash.
- ⇒ Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's ousted civilian leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate was sentenced to four years imprisonment after being found guilty on criminal charges.
- ⇒ Eva Magdalena Andersson from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) became the first female Prime Minister (PM) of Sweden. Sweden's Parliament is known as Riksdag.
- ⇒ Olaf Scholz has been elected new chancellor of Germany putting an end to 16 years of conservative rule under Angela Merkel.
- ⇒ Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) is the new President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ⇒ Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla has been named as the '2021 Person of the Year' TIME magazine.

Died

- ⇒ Renowned Marathi author and social activist Anil Awachat has passed away.
- ⇒ Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini of France has passed away.
- ⇒ Prof M K Prasad, a noted environmentalist and Kerala's 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner passed away.
- ⇒ Saoli Mitra, a renowned Bengali theatre personality has passed away.
- ⇒ Narayan Debnath, a legendary Bengali comic artist, writer and illustrator, has passed away.
- ⇒ Pandit Birju Maharaj, the legendary Kathak dancer, has passed away.
- ⇒ Prominent Kannada writer Chandrashekhara Patil, popularly known as 'Champa', passed away.
- ⇒ Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a veteran leader of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule has passed away. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his non-violent opposition to apartheid (discrimination on the ground of race).
- ⇒ KS Sethumadhavan, the legendary Malayalam filmmaker has passed away.
- ⇒ Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati who headed two inquiry commissions formed to probe into the 2002 Godhra Riots and 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, passed away.
- ⇒ Konijeti Rosaiah, former Governor of Tamil Nadu and former Chief Minister of the unified State of Andhra Pradesh passed away.
- ⇒ Vinod Dua, a veteran journalist passed away.



Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The Government of India has joined hands with the Government of Israel to create 150 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States of the country, to help farmers adopt the latest technology in the farm sector.
- ⇒ India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station with a capacity of 100 charging points for four-wheelers, was opened at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram.
- ⇒ Indian Movie Jai Bhim has officially entered the Golden Globe (Oscars) 2022 as a nomination under the category of 'Best Non-English Language Film'. Jai Bhim, directed by TJ Gnanavel is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan.
- ⇒ The Indian government has decided to celebrate January 23rd as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This year is the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on Parakram Divas. The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width. A grand statue, which will be made of granite, will replace the hologram statue once it is completed.
- ⇒ Swedish defence company 'Saab' has been selected by the Indian Armed Forces for the supply of single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4. AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The order includes the AT4CS AST, which can be fired from confined spaces such as from inside buildings, bunkers and other urban environments.
- ⇒ The government of India has merged the flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti at Delhi's India Gate with the flame at the adjoining National War Memorial.
- ⇒ Iconic 'Infinity Bridge' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates has been formally opened.
- ⇒ The US Treasury has minted 25-cent coins featuring the poet Maya Angelou – the first black woman ever featured on the US coin.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared to mark the 16th of January as 'National Start-up Day'.
- ⇒ The world's largest national flag, made of Khadi fabric was put to display to celebrate the "Army Day" on January 15, 2022. It was displayed at Longewala, along the India-Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ⇒ Kumbalangi village in Kerala's Ernakulam district has become the country's first sanitary napkin-free panchayat. The village is also the first eco-tourism village in India.
- ⇒ The Philippines has become the first foreign country to place an order for the purchase of the BrahMos Shore-based cruise Missile System for its navy.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court of India has constituted a five-member committee, headed by Justice Indu Malhotra, to probe the security breach during the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Punjab.
- ⇒ Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a three-member committee, headed by Sudhir Kumar Saxena to enquire into the serious lapses in the security arrangements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.
- ⇒ Gurugram has been selected for India's first heli-hub with all aviation facilities. The heli-hub will be the first of its kind in India to have all facilities at one place for helicopters.
- ⇒ Kochi, Kerala has become India's first city to have a Water Metro Project. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Kochi Water Metro ferry service recently.
- ⇒ Kevadiya railway station in the Narmada district of Gujarat has been renamed as Ekta Nagar railway station. The Statue of Unity, i.e., the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is situated here.
- ⇒ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that starting from the year 2022, December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Baal Diwas' every year. The day will be commemorated as a tribute to the courage of the four Sahibzades (the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji), who attained martyrdom in the 17th century.
- ⇒ India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea participated in the multinational exercise 'Sea Dragon 2022' at Guam in the Western Pacific. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or Quad is a strategic security dialogue between the United States, India, Japan and Australia.
- ⇒ The Indian government and Saudi Arabian Government have finalised an air bubble agreement, to allow all eligible travellers to travel between both the countries. Air Travel Bubbles agreement are temporary arrangements between two countries. Such arrangements aim to restarting commercial passenger services, in case regular international flights are suspended. Amid the covid-19 pandemic, India has signed an air bubble agreement with 35 more countries,



- ⇒ World's longest Metro Line has been opened in China's Shanghai Province.
- ⇒ The Indian Army has established the Quantum Lab at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) in Military Headquarters of War (Mhow), Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Indian Army's research in the field of Quantum Technology will help in leapfrogging into next-generation communication and transforming the current system of cryptography in Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated / laid the foundation of four hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh – the Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project, the Renukaji Dam project, the Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project and the Dhaulasidh Hydro Power Project.
- ⇒ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit in Lucknow. He also laid the foundation of DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre there.
- ⇒ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari reached Port of Maputo, Mozambique carrying 500 tonnes of food aid as part of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) Mission. The aid was shipped to support the efforts of Government of Mozambique to tackle the challenges of ongoing drought and covid-19 pandemic.
- ⇒ India's first indigenously built missile corvettes, INS Khukri (P49), was decommissioned after 32 years of service at Visakhapatnam. INS Khukri was built by the Mazagon Dock shipbuilders, Mumbai on August 23, 1989.
- ⇒ Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed the first squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in the western Punjab sector which will take care of aerial threats from Pakistan and China. The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India from Russia.
- ⇒ India successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously-developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The solid-fuel battlefield missile, developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle.
- ⇒ Delhi Cabinet approved to set up Delhi Teachers' University. The university will offer a four-year integrated teacher education programme after Class 12. In the programme, 'BA & B.Ed', 'BSc & B.Ed', and 'B.Com & B.Ed' courses will be incorporated. While pursuing these courses, those enrolled in the university will also be linked to Delhi government schools for training purposes. It will be dedicated to prepare excellent quality teachers for Delhi across different school stages.
- ⇒ Around 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Amravati district of Maharashtra were affected by canine parvovirus, which is a highly contagious viral disease. This virus affects the intestinal tract of canines.
- ⇒ A rare variety of Assam tea called Manohari Gold Tea set a record, as it was auctioned at a record price of Rs 99,999 per kg. Manohari Gold Tea created history by breaking its own record. Saurav Tea Traders bought the Gold Tea, with the highest bid of Rs 99,999 per kg. It is being considered as the highest price ever for tea in a public auction.
- ⇒ In the higher Himalayan region, 50% of fuel-wood is consumed for the purpose of heating and is one of the major reasons for forests degradation and also the main cause of drudgery of women. Aimed at providing clean energy solutions to households in the cold mountainous regions for heating purposes and also to achieve forest conservation, a solar water-heating system, 'solar hamam' has been introduced, in the villages in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand.
- ⇒ India's First International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) has been established at Phoenix VK Tower at Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ⇒ The proposal to raise the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 years to 21 years was cleared by the Union Cabinet. Presently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 but for women, it is 18.
- ⇒ An area of 454.65 square kilometres around the boundary of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand has been declared as the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- ⇒ Chennai is all set to adopt innovative water management strategies and transform into a sponge city to curb the urban flooding. Sponge city concept seeks to make urban areas more permeable, have more open spaces to store rainwater as well to allow it to percolate to aquifers.
- ⇒ UNESCO has added Durga Puja in Kolkata to its 2021 list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city in the state of West Bengal.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh. The project will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers, mainly in eastern Uttar Pradesh.



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- ⇒ Dubai became the world's first government to turn 100% paperless.
- ⇒ ECUVERIN-21, The 11th edition of joint military exercise between India and Maldives was held recently at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives.
- ⇒ The Kazhuveli wetland, situated in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 16th Bird Sanctuary of India.
- ⇒ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata has achieved a new milestone with the launch of the first large survey vessel for the Indian Navy called 'Sandhayak'. The vessel is the first in the series of four ships being built under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project.
- ⇒ India and Bangladesh have decided to celebrate December 6, the day on which India formally recognized Bangladesh, as 'Maitri Diwas'.
- ⇒ Hornbill Festival, the biggest cultural extravaganza of Nagaland, was kicked off with colourful renditions of traditional crafts, sports, music, dances, and ceremonies at Naga Heritage village Kisama in Kohima district.
- ⇒ India recently joined the 'G20 Troika' and will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of G20's agenda. With this move, India has started the procedure for taking over the G20 presidency next year from Indonesia. Troika refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies – Indonesia, Italy and India respectively.
- ⇒ Varanasi, a city in Uttar Pradesh is all set to become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport in order to ease the traffic congestion.

Books & Authors

- ⇒ Fearless Governance – Dr Kiran Bedi
- ⇒ The \$10 Trillion Dream – Subhash Garg
- ⇒ A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence' – Ruskin Bond
- ⇒ Kintsugi – Anukruti Upadhyay (winner of Sushila Devi Award 2021 for the Best Book of Fiction),
- ⇒ Pride, Prejudice and Punditry – Shashi Tharoor
