

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 18, 2021

STATES

- On October 17, Punjab Chief Minister, Charanjit Singh Channi - launched "Mera Ghar Mere Naam" scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the "lal lakir" of villages and cities.



- ✓ 'Lal lakir' refers to land that is part of the village and is used for non-agriculture purposes only
- ✓ As per the CM, this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities within the "lal lakir".
- ✓ The State revenue department has been mandated to undertake drone survey of such residential properties both in rural and urban areas for digital mapping.
- ✓ Under the scheme, all the eligible residents after proper identification or verification will be given the property cards to give ownership rights to them in a time-bound manner.

NATIONAL

- The Centre – has permitted to carry small- to medium-sized drones in aircrafts



- ✓ Drones (without battery) can be carried in check-in bags and batteries (of up to certain wattage) can be carried only in cabin bags.
- ✓ For international trips, rules of destination countries will apply.
- ✓ The passengers should inform airlines when they are going to travel with a drone.
- ✓ For spare batteries, there are no restrictions if they are of less than 100 Watt-hour (Wh).
- ✓ If the Wh is more than 100 Wh but less than 160 Wh, a maximum of two batteries can be allowed with the approval of airlines.
- ✓ No spare batteries are allowed if Wh is more than 160, as per the drone rules.
- ✓ The government has already advised to carry nano drones, the most common ones for personal use weighing up to 250 grams, in cabin bags

INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lanka - has sought a \$500 million credit line from India to pay for its crude oil purchases, under the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership arrangement**
- ✓ The energy secretaries of both India and Sri Lanka are expected to sign a deal for the loan soon
- ✓ The loan facility would be used for buying petrol and diesel requirements of the island nation
- ✓ Sri Lanka is currently facing a severe foreign exchange crisis.
- ✓ Earlier, country's energy minister Udaya Gammanpila warned that the current availability of fuel in the country can be guaranteed only till January.
- ✓ The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) owes nearly \$3.3 billion to the two main government banks — Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank.
- ✓ The state oil distributors imports crude from West Asia.
- ✓ The price hike in the global oil prices has forced Sri Lanka to spend more on oil imports this year.
- ✓ The country's oil bill has jumped 41.5% to \$2 billion in the first seven months of this year, compared to last year.

COMMITTEES

- **The Centre – has constituted a working group to roll out a revamped Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from kharif season, 2022**

- ✓ The proposed panel will have officials from Centre, key crop-producing states and top executives of public sector insurance companies to suggest “sustainable, financial and operational models” for the scheme
- ✓ The panel has been set up after many states quit the scheme, defeating the objective of protecting farmers’ income
- ✓ The group will submit its report in six months.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the premium to be paid by farmers is fixed at 1.5% of the sum insured for rabi crops and 2% for Kharif crops, while it is 5% for cash crops
- ✓ The balance premium is split equally between the Centre and states.
- ✓ Already, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar exited the scheme, citing the cost of the premium subsidy to be borne by them
- ✓ According to provisional data of 19 states, there is over 10% fall in enrollment of farmers under crop insurance during Kharif 2021 from last season’s 1.68 crore
- ✓ Among major producing states namely Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, the fall in enrollment is in the range of 2-75%
- ✓ The newly formed group, headed by CEO of PMFBY, will have principal secretaries (agriculture) of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha as members.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A Russian crew – returns back to the Earth after spending 12 days in space for shooting the first ever movie in the International Space Station (ISS)**



- ✓ A Soyuz space capsule carrying Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, Russian actress Yulia Peresild and director Klim Shipenko has landed as scheduled on Kazakhstan after a 3 1/2-hour trip from the ISS.
- ✓ Actress Peresild and film director Shipenko rocketed to the space station in their Soyuz MS-18 spacecraft on October 5 to film scenes of a movie titled ‘Vyzov’ or ‘Challenge’ from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan

- ✓ Veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov also travelled with the crew.
 - ✓ If the project becomes successful, the Russian crew will overtake a Hollywood project announced last year by "Mission Impossible" star Tom Cruise together with NASA and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
 - ✓ The mission to film about 35 to 40 minutes of footage will add to a long list of firsts for Russia's space industry.
 - ✓ The Soviets launched the first satellite Sputnik, and sent into orbit the first animal, a dog named Laika, the first man, Yuri Gagarin and the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova.
 - ✓ After a decade-long pause, Russia is planning to send two Japanese tourists -- including billionaire Yusaku Maezawa -- to the ISS in December 2021
 - ✓ At present, seven astronauts remain aboard the space station - Russia's Anton Shkaplerov and Pyotr Dubrov; Americans Mark Vande Hei, Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur; Thomas Pesquet of the European Space Agency; and Japan's Aki Hoshide
 - ✓ Russian space agency Roscosmos, state television Channel One and the studio Yellow, Black and White are behind the movie project.
 - ✓ Vyzov is about a cosmonaut who loses consciousness after being hit by space debris in the middle of a spaceflight
 - ✓ As his condition does not allow him to return to earth, a surgeon is flown to the International Space Station to operate on him in zero gravity.
 - ✓ Novitskiy, who spent more than six months aboard the space station, is to star as the ailing cosmonaut in the movie.
 - ✓ Last week 90-year-old US actor William Shatner — Captain James Kirk of “Star Trek” fame — became the oldest person in space aboard a spacecraft flown by billionaire Jeff Bezos’s company Blue Origin.
- **On October 16, NASA - launched the Lucy mission, the American space agency`s first spacecraft to study Jupiter`s Trojan asteroids.**



- ✓ Lucy spacecraft was launched from the United Launch Alliance Atlas V 401 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida in the US

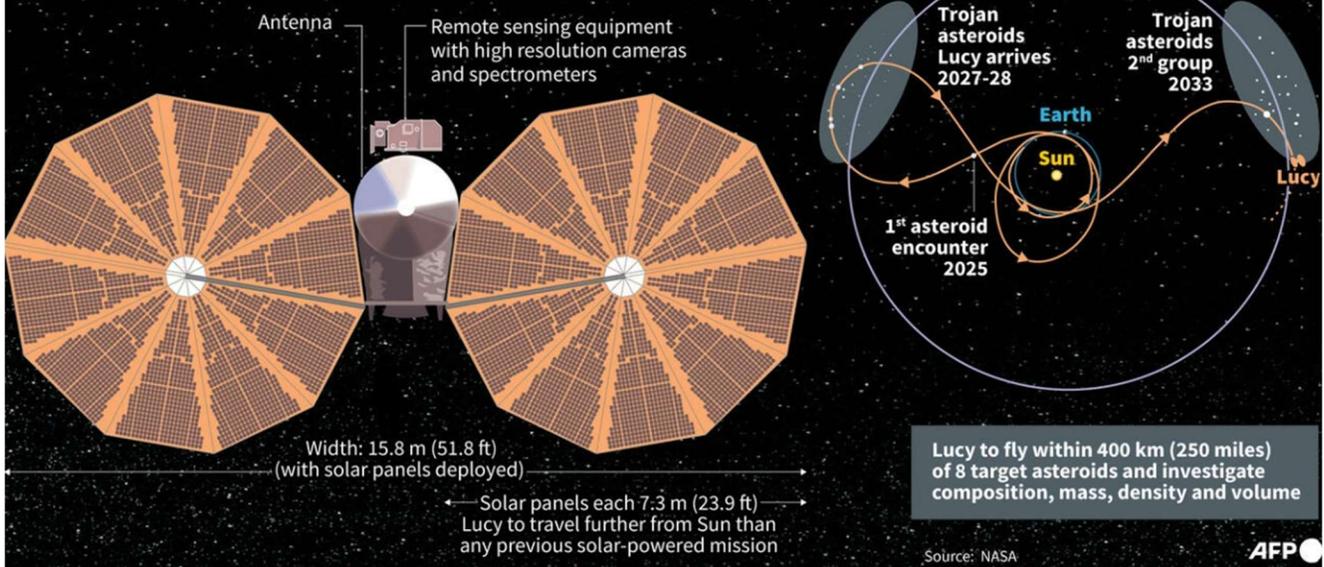
NASA mission to explore asteroids in Jupiter's solar orbit

LUCY PROBE:

6.3 billion kms (4 billion miles),
12-year journey to explore Jupiter's
2 groups of Trojan asteroids

GOAL:

To discover clues to solar
system's formation
4.5 billion years ago

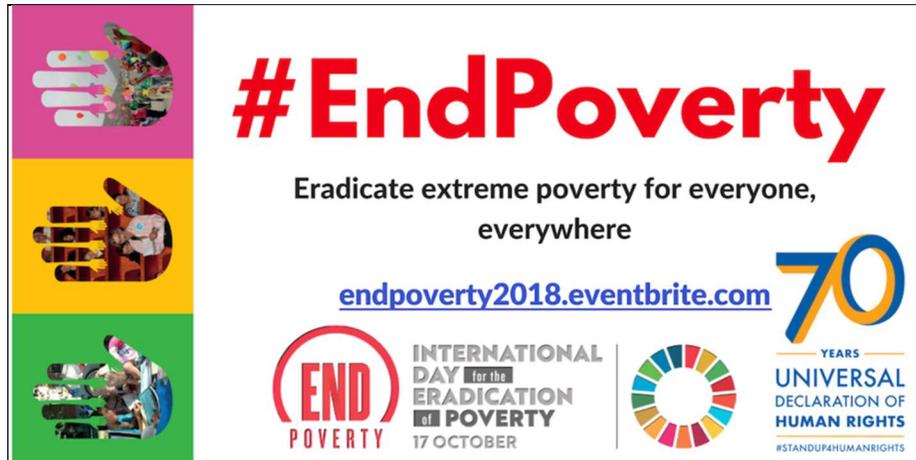


- ✓ After its launch, Lucy will circle back to Earth three times for gravity assists, making it the first spacecraft to return to the vicinity of Earth from the outer solar system.
- ✓ During its 12-year primary mission, Lucy will explore a record-breaking 8 ancient asteroids, including a flyby of one asteroid in the solar system's main belt and seven Trojan asteroids near Jupiter.
- ✓ Lucy will explore the Trojan asteroids to gain insights on the origins of solar system using remote sensing instruments.
- ✓ Further, the navigation cameras will be used to determine the shapes of the Trojan asteroids.
- ✓ Lucy has been named after an ancient fossil of a pre-human ancestor
- ✓ It will become the first solar-powered spacecraft to venture so far from the sun and will observe more asteroids than any probe before it.
- ✓ As per some planet formation and evolution models, the Trojan asteroids are believed to be formed from the same material that led to the formation of planets nearly 4 billion years ago when the solar system was formed
- ✓ The Jupiter Trojan asteroids, numbering well over 7,000, are leftover raw materials from the formation of our system's giant planets -- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- ✓ The spacecraft's first encounter in 2025 will be with an asteroid that lies in the main belt that can be found between Mars and Jupiter.
- ✓ This asteroid is named 'Donald Johnson' after the paleoanthropologist who discovered the fossilised remains of 'Lucy'.
- ✓ The spacecraft's first Earth gravity assist in 2022 will accelerate and direct Lucy's trajectory beyond the orbit of Mars.

- ✓ Between 2027 and 2033, it will encounter seven Trojan asteroids -- five in the swarm that leads to Jupiter, and two in the swarm that trails the gas giant, Jupiter
- ✓ Lucy is the 13th mission in NASA's Discovery Program, which is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama
- ✓ Lockheed Martin Space in Littleton, Colorado, built the spacecraft.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International day for Eradication of Poverty - October 17



- ✓ International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed every year to raise awareness about the condition of people living in poverty.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet"
- ✓ The UN General Assembly adopted its resolution 47/196 on December 22, 1992, to declare October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- ✓ On October 17, 1987, poverty was proclaimed as a violation of human rights by people who had assembled at the Trocadéro in Paris to commemorate the victims of extreme poverty, hunger and violence.
- ✓ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also signed on this day in 1948.
- ✓ According to a World Bank report published by the United Nations, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have pushed between 143 and 163 million people into poverty, causing an increase of 8.1% in 2020 as against 2019
- ✓ Almost half of the projected new poor will be in South Asia, and more than a third in Sub-Saharan Africa.

