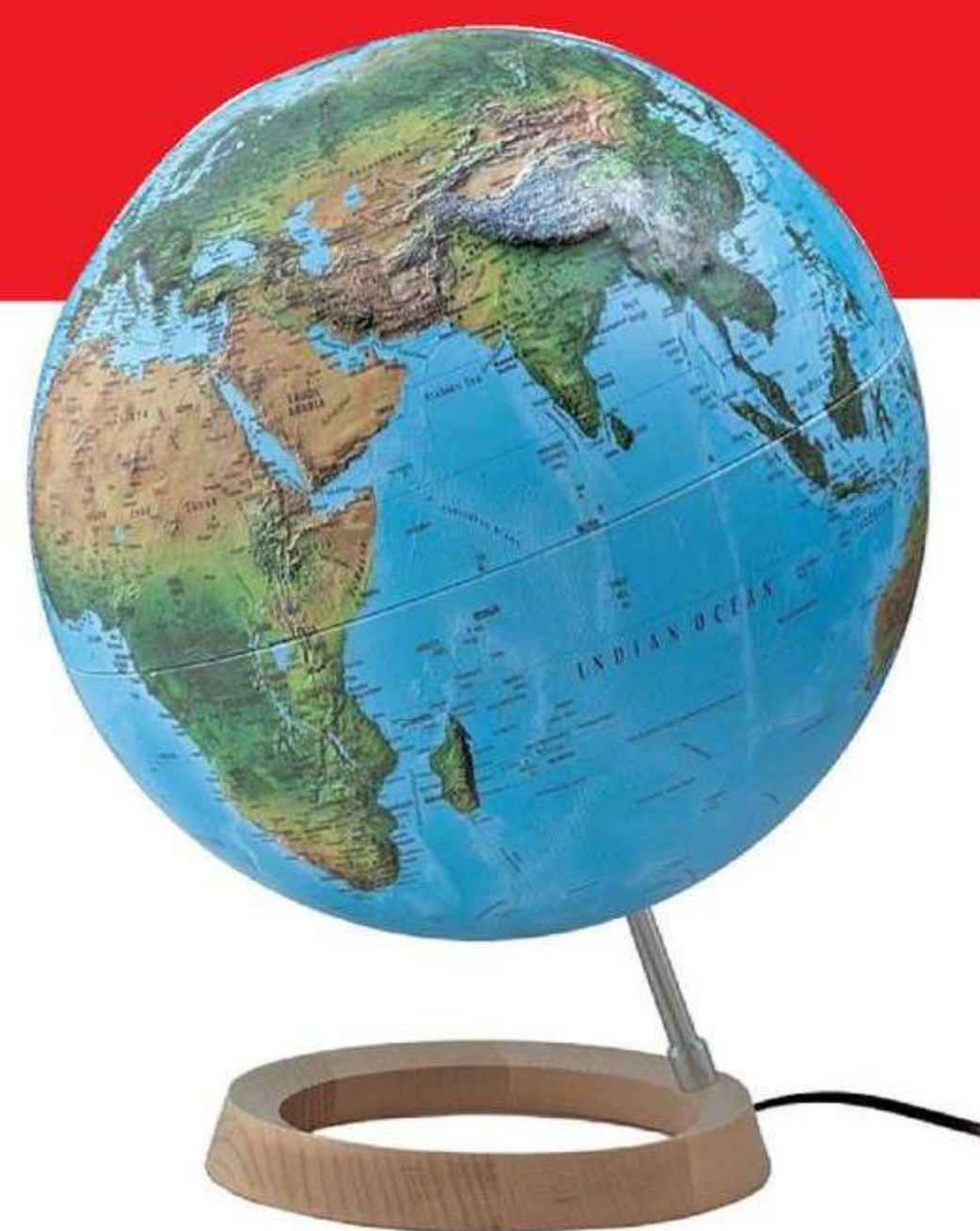


2021 - THE WORLD AT A GLANCE



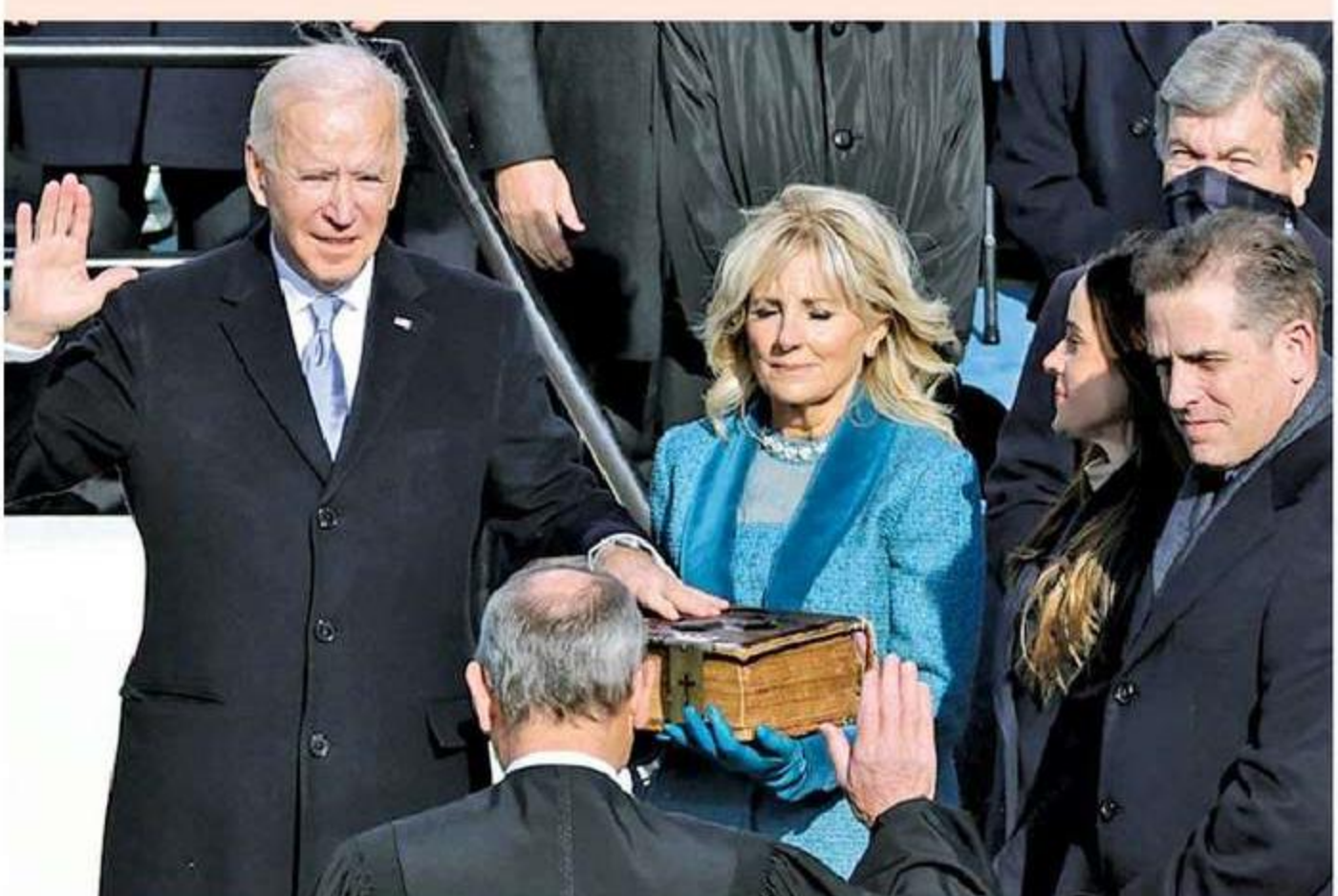
JANUARY:

January 6 – Supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump attack the United States Capitol, disrupting certification of the 2020 presidential election and forcing Congress to evacuate. Five people died during the riot, including a police officer and a woman who was shot and killed inside the Capitol building. The event is classified as a domestic terrorist attack and drew international condemnation.

January 10 – Kim Jong-un is elected as the General Secretary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, inheriting the title from his father Kim Jong-il, who died in 2011.

January 22 – The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, comes into effect.

January 26 – COVID-19 pandemic: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeds 100 million worldwide.



Joe Biden inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States on January 20.



Attack on the US Capitol on January 6.

FEBRUARY:

February 1 – A coup d'état in Myanmar removes Aung San Suu Kyi from power and restores military rule leading to widespread demonstrations across the country.

February 9 – COVID-19 pandemic: A joint WHO-China investigation into the source of the outbreak concludes: Investigators deem a Wuhan laboratory leak to be "extremely unlikely", with a "natural reservoir" in bats being a more likely origin.

February 9 – The UAE's uncrewed Hope spacecraft becomes the first Arabian mission to successfully enter orbit around Mars.

February 18 – NASA's Mars 2020 mission (containing the Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter drone) lands on Mars at Jezero Crater, after seven months of travel.

February 19 – COVID-19 pandemic: The United States becomes the first country to surpass 500,000 deaths from the virus.



A coup d'état in Myanmar removes Aung San Suu Kyi from power on February 1.



NASA's Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter drone lands on Mars on February 18.

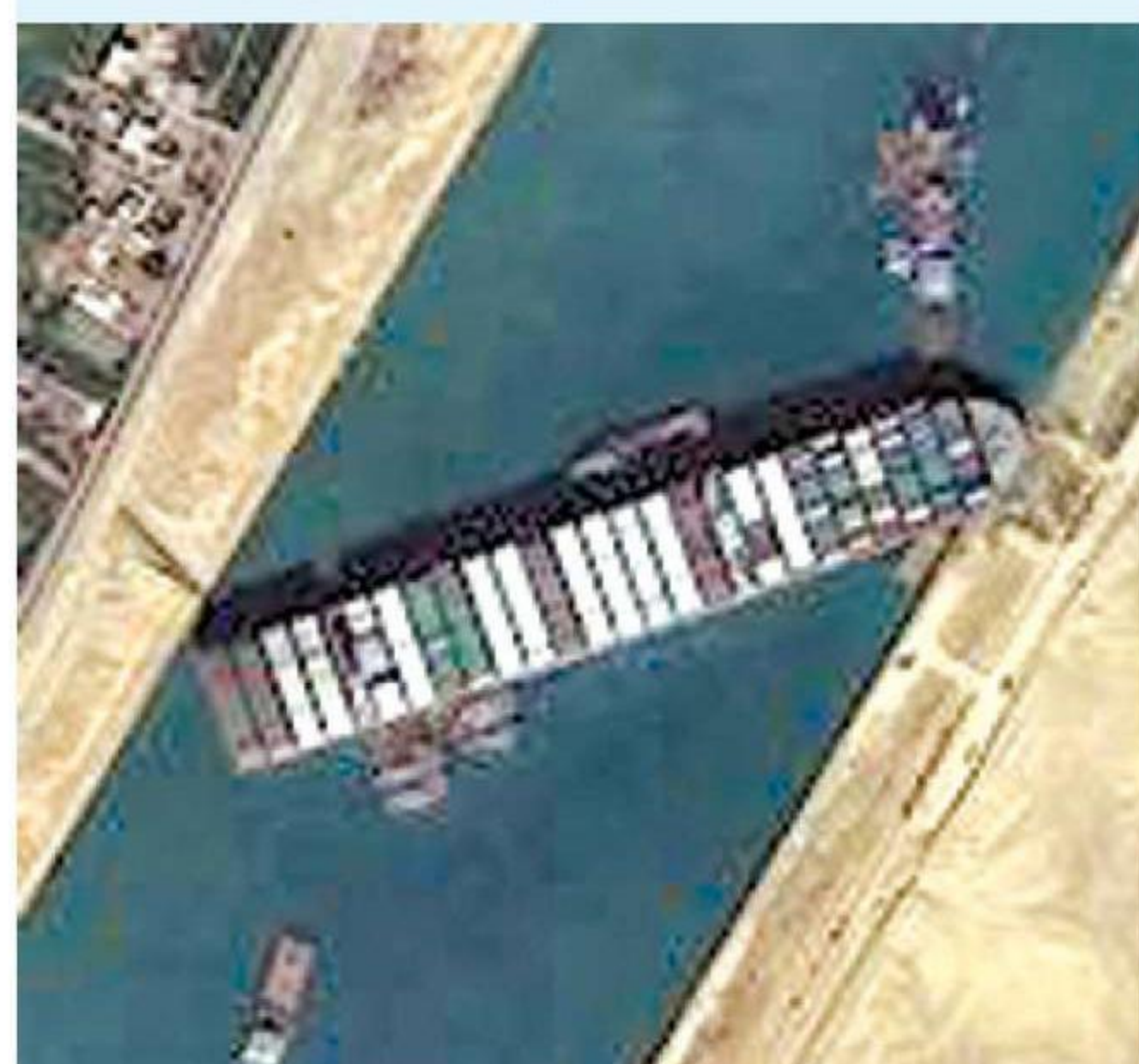
MARCH:

March 6 – Pope Francis meets with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in Najaf, Iraq. It is the first ever meeting between a Pope and a grand Ayatollah.

March 20 – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announces his country's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, the first country to do so.

March 23 – The Israeli General Elections take place, the fourth Knesset election in two years.

March 23 – Ever Given, one of the largest container ships in the world, runs aground and obstructs the Suez Canal, disrupting global trade. The ship is freed on March 29.



Aerial view of the Ever Given container ship which ran aground obstructing the Suez Canal on March 23.

APRIL:

April 2 – More than 270 people are killed in Indonesia and East Timor after Cyclone Seroja strikes East Nusa Tenggara and the island of Timor.

April 19 – Raúl Castro resigns as First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, ending more than 62 years of rule by the Castro brothers in Cuba.

April 22 – World leaders mark Earth Day by hosting a virtual summit on climate change, during which more ambitious targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions are proposed, including a 40% cut by 2030 for the United States.

April 28 – At least 55 people are killed and nearly 50,000 more are displaced in one of the most serious clashes in Central Asia following border disputes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

April 29 – The China National Space Administration launches the first module of its Tiangong space station, named Tianhe, beginning a two-year effort to build the station in orbit.



Raúl Castro waves to members before resigning as First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party on April 19. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel is on right.



The China National Space Administration launches the first module of its Tiangong space station, named Tianhe on April 29.

MAY:

May 5 – SpaceX successfully flies, lands, and recovers a Starship prototype for the first time, after four unsuccessful previous attempts.

May 7 – The World Health Organization gives emergency use listing to the Sinopharm BIBP COVID-19 vaccine, the first non-Western vaccine to be authorized.

May 15 – Fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants continues to escalate, as the death toll exceeds 150. An Israeli airstrike destroys a high-rise office building in Gaza occupied by Associated Press, Al Jazeera, and other media outlets.

May 18–22 – The Eurovision Song Contest 2021 is held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, after the cancellation of the 2020 contest due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 contest is won by Italian entrants Måneskin with the song "Zitti e buoni".

May 24 – A coup d'état in Mali removes interim President Bah N'Goué and the acting Prime Minister, Moctar Ouane, from power and restores military rule leading to the country being suspended from the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, as well as France suspending its military operations in the country.

May 26 – The 2021 Syrian Presidential election is held.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still raging and the climate crisis unresolved, much of the news has been gloomy in 2021. It was a lurching, stammering year that began in hope, flirted with whiplash, and shuddered to a halt. In 2021, miraculously effective vaccines showed up, and a new US President promised unity. It was also the year that supporters of the losing US Presidential candidate took over the U.S. Capitol and COVID-19 killed over 5 million people. But resilience was everywhere. The world emerging from the worst of the pandemic focused a new concentration on the intolerable inequities brought into high relief by lockdowns and Climate Change that made itself more evident by the day. It was the year of the "New Normal".

JUNE:

June 1 – The World Health Organization gives emergency use listing to the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine, the second non-Western vaccine to be authorized.

June 2 – The 2021 Israeli presidential election is held, and won by Isaac Herzog.

June 7 – The Juno spacecraft performs its only flyby of Jupiter's moon Ganymede, the first flyby of the moon by any spacecraft in over 20 years.

June 9 – The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador passes legislation to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender in the country, becoming the first country to adopt the cryptocurrency alongside the U.S. dollar.

June 13 – Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving Prime Minister of Israel, is voted out of office; Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid are sworn in as Prime Minister of Israel and as Alternate Prime Minister of Israel, respectively.

June 14 – COVID-19 pandemic: Novavax announces 90.4% overall efficacy in its Phase 3 U.S. and Mexico trial.

June 20 – COVID-19 pandemic: Brazil becomes the second country to surpass half a million deaths from the virus.

June 24 – Surfside condominium collapse: A portion of the Champlain South Towers condominium building collapses in Surfside, Florida, United States, leaving 98 people dead.



Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving Prime Minister of Israel who was voted out of office on June 13 congratulating his successor Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.



The World Health Organisation gives emergency use listing to the Sinopharm BIBP COVID-19 vaccine on June 1.

JULY:

July 3 – Over 130 wildfires, fuelled by lightning strikes, burn through Western Canada following a record-breaking heatwave in North America that results in over 600 deaths.

July 7 – Assassination of Jovenel Moïse: Haitian President Jovenel Moïse is shot to death at 1:00 am local time in his home. First Lady Martine Moïse is injured and hospitalized.

July 12 – 2021 European floods: Heavy rain causes flooding in the border region of Germany and Belgium, resulting in 229 deaths.

July 13 – After the Supreme Court declares his incumbency unconstitutional, KP Oli is succeeded by Sher Bahadur Deuba as 43rd Prime Minister of Nepal.

July 19 – Blue Origin successfully conducts its first human test flight, with a reusable New Shepard rocket delivering four crew members into space: its founder Jeff Bezos, Bezos' brother Mark, 18-year-old Oliver Daemen (who becomes the youngest person to go into space), and 82-year-old aviator and Mercury 13 member Wally Funk (who becomes the oldest person to go into space).

July 23–August 8 – The 2020 Summer Olympics were held in Tokyo, Japan. They were originally scheduled for 24 July–9 August 2020, but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

July 28 – The first direct observation of light from behind a black hole is reported, confirming Einstein's theory of general relativity.



Haitian President Jovenel Moïse assassinated on July 7.

AUGUST:

August 3 – The oil tanker Ashraf Princess is hijacked off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Wildfires in Greece begin.

August 14 – A 7.2-magnitude earthquake strikes Haiti, killing more than 2,100 people.

August 15 – 2021 Taliban offensive: The Taliban capture Kabul; the Afghan government surrenders to the Taliban.[179]

August 29 – Hurricane Ida strikes New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

August 30 – The UN Environment Programme announces that leaded petrol in road vehicles has been phased out globally, a hundred years after its introduction.

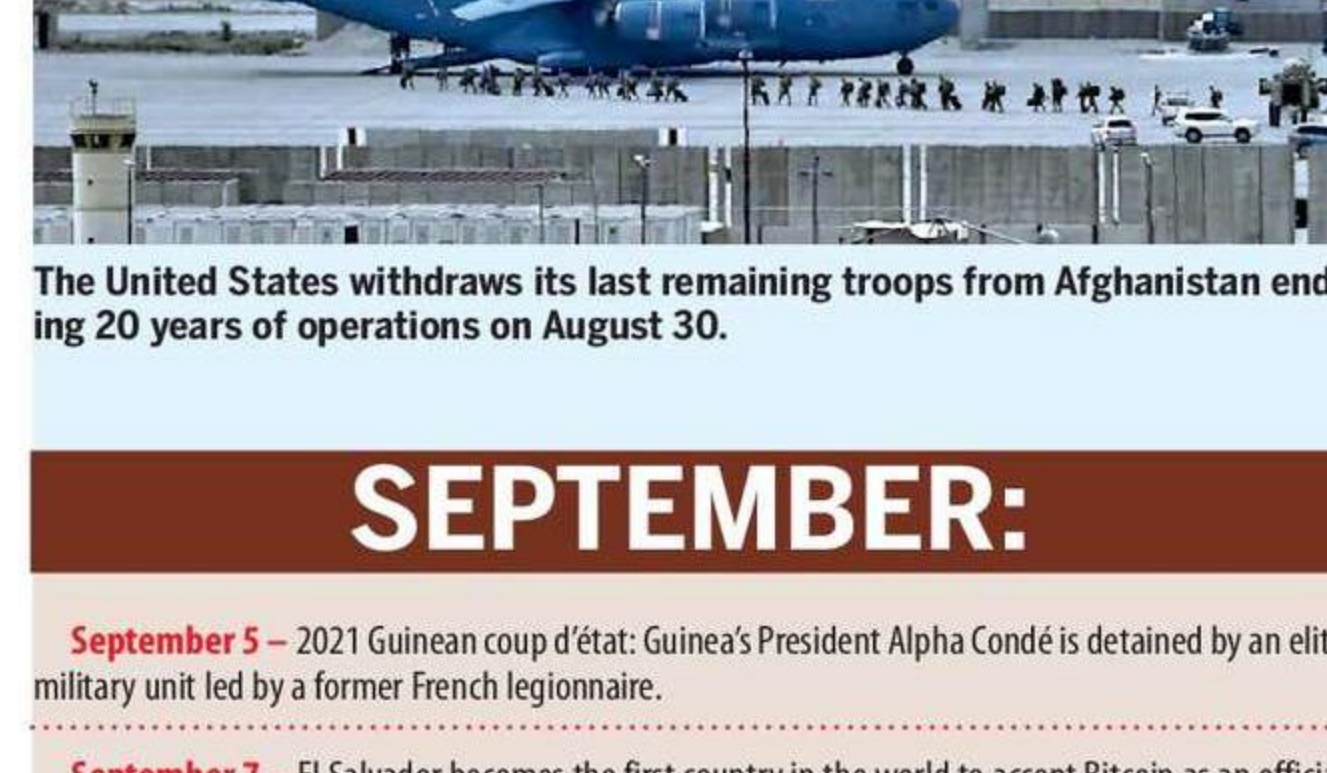
August 30 – The United States withdraws its last remaining troops from Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, ending 20 years of operations in Afghanistan.



The Taliban capture Kabul on August 15.



A woman surveys the damage caused to her house after Hurricane Ida struck New Orleans, Louisiana, USA on August 29.



The United States withdraws its last remaining troops from Afghanistan ending 20 years of operations on August 30.

SEPTEMBER:

September 5 – 2021 Guinean coup d'état: Guinea's President Alpha Condé is detained by an elite military unit led by a former French legionnaire.

September 7 – El Salvador becomes the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as an official currency.

September 14 – North Korea demonstrates two short-range ballistic missiles that land just outside Japan's territorial waters; and then only hours later South Korea demonstrates its first submarine-launched ballistic missile.

September 15 – AUKUS: A trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States is formed. This includes enabling Australia to build its first nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

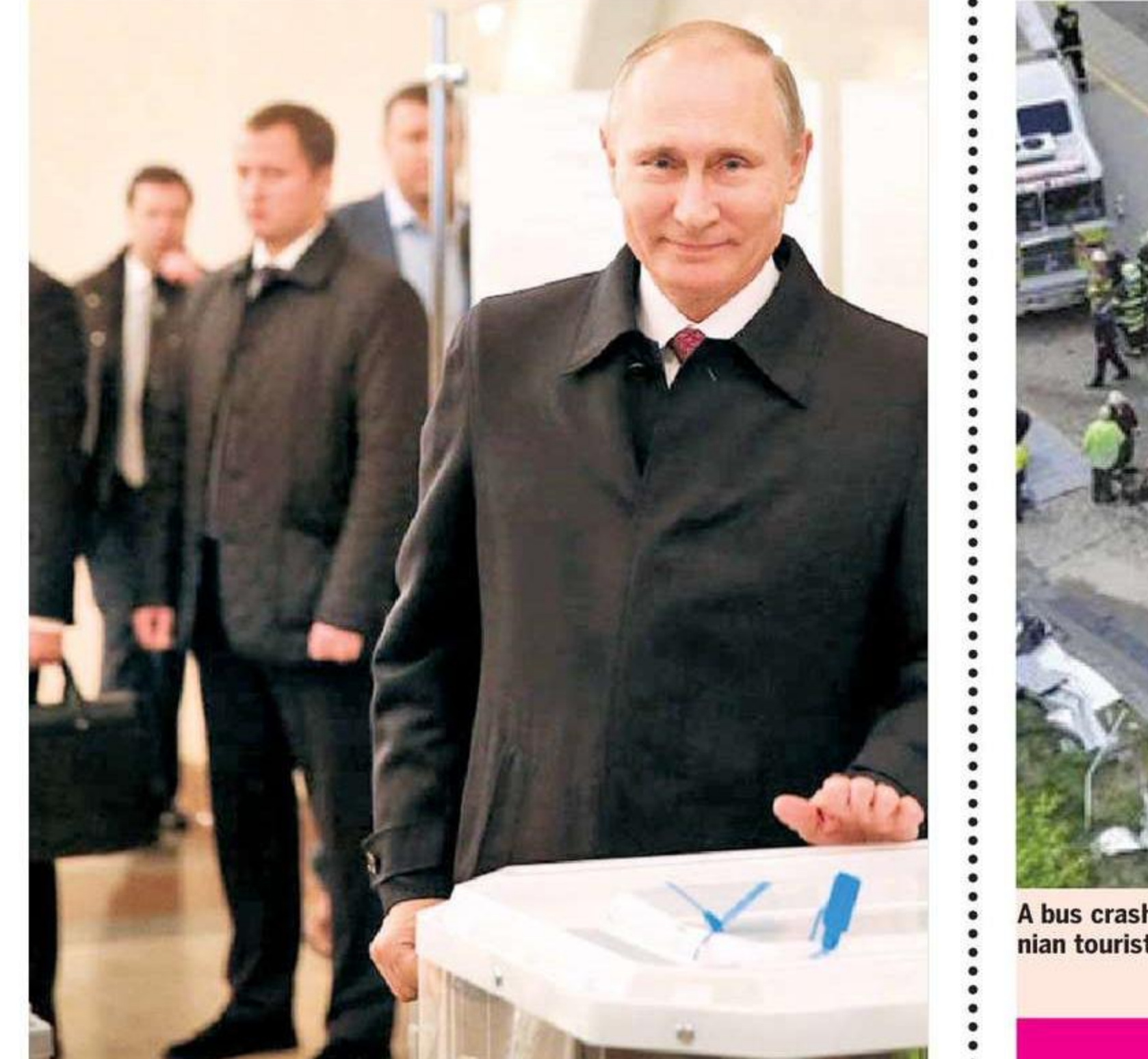
September 19 – The 2021 Russian Legislative election is held, with the United Russia party winning nearly 50% of the vote.

September 20 – The 2021 Canadian federal election is held, with Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party retaining a minority government.

September 26 – The 2021 German federal election is held, with the Social Democratic Party beating out the CDU/CSU coalition.



AUKUS: A trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States is formed on September 15. Here, US President Joe Biden announcing details about the pact with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.



Russian President Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party won the General Elections held on September 19.

OCTOBER:

October 1 – The 2020 World Expo in Dubai begins.

October 3 – The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and assorted media partners publish a set of 11.9 million documents leaked from 14 financial services companies known as the Pandora Papers, revealing offshore financial activities that involve multiple current and former world leaders.

October 4 – Fumio Kishida becomes the 100th Prime Minister of Japan, succeeding Yoshihide Suga.

October 6 – The World Health Organisation endorses the first malaria vaccine.

October 16 – The Lucy spacecraft is launched by NASA, the first mission to explore the Trojan asteroids.

October 23 – Colombia's most wanted drug lord, Dario Antonio Úsuga, whose Gulf Cart controls many smuggling routes into the US and other countries, is captured by Colombia's Armed Forces.

October 31 – November 13 – The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is held, after being postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19.



Japan's newly-elected Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stands after the election for the new Prime Minister at Lower House's plenary session at the National Diet in Tokyo, Japan on October 4. Kishida becomes the 100th Prime Minister.

NOVEMBER:

November 1 – COVID-19 pandemic: The number of recorded deaths from COVID-19 surpasses 5 million.

November 3 – COVID-19 pandemic: The World Health Organisation gives emergency use listing to the Covaxin COVID-19 vaccine, the third non-Western vaccine to be authorized.

November 11 – SpaceX launches the Crew-3 mission, carrying four Expedition 66 crew members to the International Space Station.

November 21 – The 2021 Chilean general election is held.

November 25 – A bus crashes in Pernik Province, Bulgaria, killing 46 North Macedonian tourists returning from Istanbul.

November 24 – NASA launches the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), the first attempt to deflect an asteroid for the purpose of learning how to protect Earth.

November 25 – The United Kingdom becomes the fourth country to surpass 10 million COVID-19 cases after the United States, India and Brazil.

November 30 – Barbados becomes a republic on its 55th anniversary of Independence while remaining a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.



A bus crash in Pernik Province, Bulgaria on November 23 kills 46 North Macedonian tourists returning from Istanbul.

DECEMBER:

December 6 – COVID-19 pandemic: The United States becomes the first country to surpass 50 million COVID-19 cases.

December 9 – A truck crash in Chiapas, Mexico, kills 55 migrants who were being smuggled from Guatemala through Mexico to its border with the United States.

December 9–10 – The Summit for Democracy, a virtual summit, is hosted by the United States "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad".

COVID-19 pandemic Russia becomes the fifth country to surpass 10 million COVID-19 cases after the United States, India, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

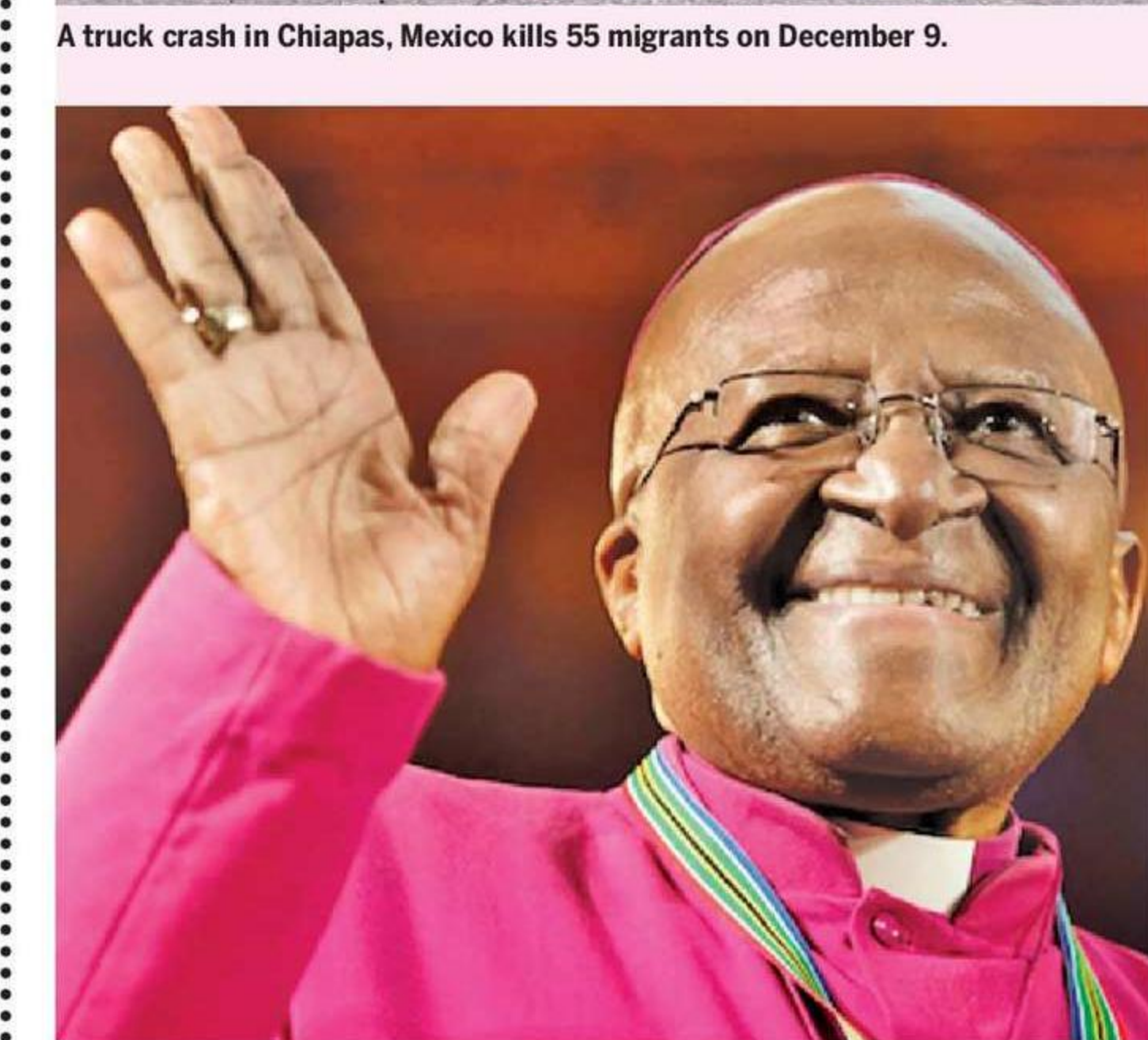
December 17 – The World Health Organisation gives emergency use listing to the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

December 25 – NASA, ESA, the Canadian Space Agency and the Space Telescope Science Institute launch the James Webb Space Telescope, the successor of the Hubble Space Telescope.

December 26 – Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate who helped to end apartheid in South Africa, dies aged 90.



A truck crash in Chiapas, Mexico kills 55 migrants on December 9.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu