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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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21/02/2022 to 27/02/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

National News

1. MUMBAI TO HOST INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION IN 2023



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

- Mumbai has been officially elected as the host for the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session, which could possibly see the election for the host country for the 2030 Winter Olympics and sports programme for LA 2028 Olympic Games.
- An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC, comprising 101 voting members and 45 honorary members.
- It discusses and decides on the key activities of the global Olympics movement including adoption or amendment of the Olympic Charter, the election of IOC members and office bearers and election of the host city of Olympics.
- The IOC Session is the yearly meeting of the 101 voting members and the 45 honorary members where they come together to decide amendments to the Olympic Charter, the election of IOC members and office-bearers and so on.

2. GOI TO LAUNCH 'MERI POLICY MERE HATH' TO DELIVER CROP INSURANCE POLICIES

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare will launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.

- A flagship scheme of the Government of India, PMFBY aims to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities.
- Over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under PMFBY, with over INR 1,07,059 crores of claims have already being paid under the scheme as of 4th February 2022.



3. PM MODI INAUGURATES 550-TONNE CAPACITY BIO-CNG PLANT IN INDORE



- Lakhs of tonnes of garbage have occupied thousands of acres of land for decades across the country causing air and water pollution, the major reason behind the spread of diseases.
- The plant is based on zero-landfill models, which means no rejects would be generated.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity “Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant” in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, through video conferencing.

- This is the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia. It has been set up at a cost of Rs 150 crore.
- The gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. Wet urban household waste and waste from cattle and farm is Gobar Dhan.

4. GOVT PLANS ‘HEAL BY INDIA’ FOR POSITIONING INDIA AS GLOBAL SOURCE FOR HEALTH SECTOR



- The government of India will be promoting the ‘Heal by India’ initiative to improve India’s educational institutions in the health sector.
- The Union Health Ministry recently organized a Chintan Shivir — ‘Heal by India’ for two days.
- ‘Heal by India’ initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India’s trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.

International News

5. UK’S RESEARCHERS FOUND 180-MILLION-YEAR-OLD FOSSIL OF ‘SEA DRAGON’

- United Kingdom researchers have found colossal 180-million-year-old fossilised remains of an Ichthyosaur, popularly known as a ‘sea dragon’.
- The researchers show one of the most significant discoveries in the region as the fossil is the biggest and most complete skeleton of its kind found in the United Kingdom.
- Ichthyosaurs resembled dolphins in body shape and became extinct around 90 million years ago, after first appearing 250 million years ago.



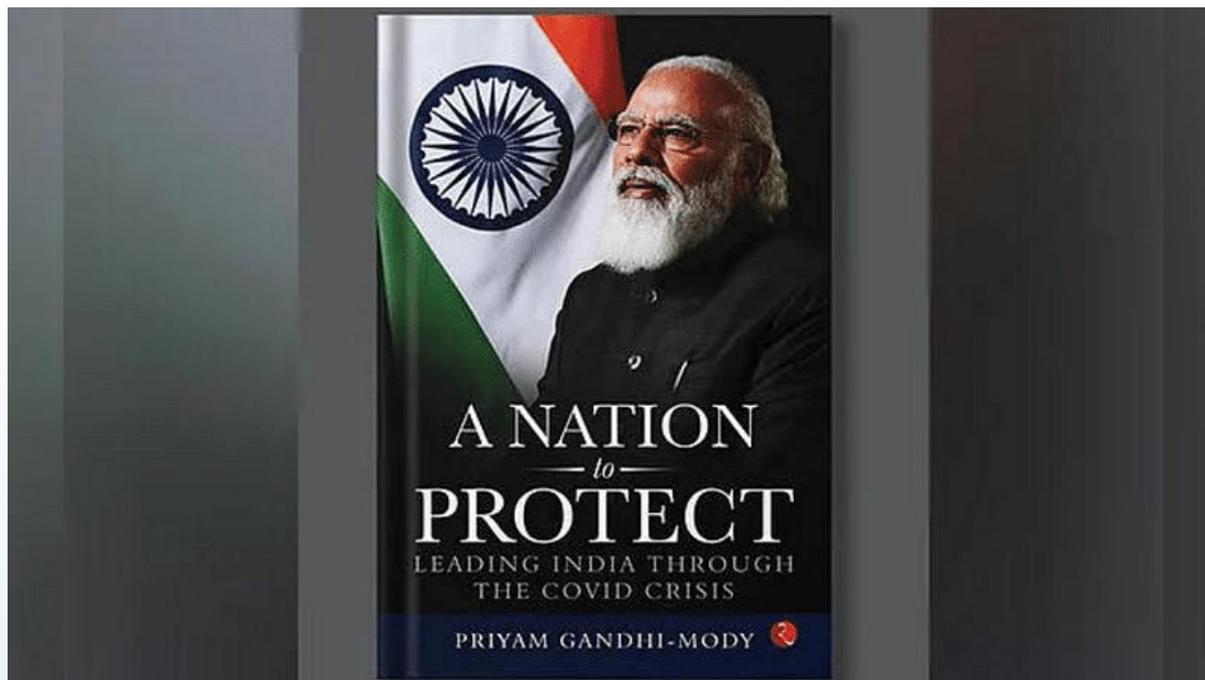
6. FRANCE ANNOUNCES MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM MALI AFTER NINE YEARS



- French president, Emmanuel Macron has announced that France and its European partners will start the military withdrawal from Mali after more than nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.
- France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 under the Socialist president François Hollande.
- The decision has been taken due to a breakdown in France's relations with the ruling junta government in the country.
- The heart of this military operation will be shifted from Mali to Niger.

Books and Authors

7. A BOOK TITLED 'A NATION TO PROTECT' AUTHORED BY PRIYAM GANDHI MODY



- The book titled “A Nation To Protect” authored by Priyam Gandhi Mody was launched by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- The book highlights the role of PM Narendra Modi during the Covid crisis in the past two years.
- The book documents the Centre’s leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.

Important Days

8. INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 21 FEBRUARY



- The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on the 21st of February.
- The day aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- The 2022 theme is “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”.
- The UN mentioned in its statement that this year’s theme raises the potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.

9. 7TH SOIL HEALTH CARD DAY 19 FEBRUARY 2022



- Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- The card would provide details about the nutritional deficiencies in the soil so that the farmers can supplement the soil with suitable fertilizers and increase the yields.
- The scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. TATA POWER, RWE RENEWABLES GMBH TIE UP TO DEVELOP OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS



- Tata Power has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India.
- The MoU between Tata Power Renewable Energy and RWE becomes significant in the light of the Government of India's announcement of achieving 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind installations by 2030 to meet the country's growing power demands in India.
- The government is in the process of conducting detailed technical studies and devising the regulatory framework to establish the first auctions for offshore wind of the coast of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- Offshore wind has the potential to spur significant infrastructure investment in these states and to support local job creation.
- Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director of Tata Power
- Sven Utermhlen, CEO Wind Offshore of RWE Renewables

2. INDIA'S FIRST BIOSAFETY LEVEL-3 MOBILE LABORATORY INAUGURATED IN MAHARASHTRA

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar has inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.

- The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR.
- The newly launched lab will be able to access remote and forested areas of the country, to investigate outbreaks using samples from humans and animal sources.



3. BHARTI AIRTEL JOINS SEA-ME-WE-6 UNDERSEA CABLE CONSORTIUM



- Telecom operator, Bharti Airtel Ltd has announced that it has joined South East Asia–Middle East–Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE-6) undersea cable consortium, in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity and serve India’s fast-growing digital economy.
- Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will be able to add 100 TBps capacity to its global network.
- The telco will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

- Apart from Airtel, there are 12 other global members in the consortium.
- SEA-ME-WE 6 is a proposed optical fibre submarine communications cable system to carry telecommunications between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe.
- SEA-ME-WE-6 is a 19,200 km network, which will run from Singapore to France.
- It will have a bandwidth of 120 Tbps
- The system is scheduled to go LIVE in 2025.

4. INDIAN BUSINESSES RANK 5TH IN THEIR CONCERN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



- As per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact', Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change.
- According to the report, 80 per cent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change compared with just 53 per cent eight months ago.
- The report was released by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL). DTTL is also known as Deloitte Global.
- The Deloitte survey, done across 21 countries during September-October 2021, has found a higher number of top-level executives in India responding to the issue of climate change compared to the survey conducted in January-February 2021.

Sports News

5. BIHAR'S SHAKIB AL GANI BECAME 1ST PLAYER TO HIT TRIPLE TON ON FIRST-CLASS DEBUT



- Bihar's Sakibul Gani become the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his first-class debut.
- He scored 341 off 405 balls, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground, Jadavpur, Bengal.
- Gani has played List A cricket before this, scoring 377 runs from 14 matches including a century. In 11 domestic T20s, he has made 192 runs.

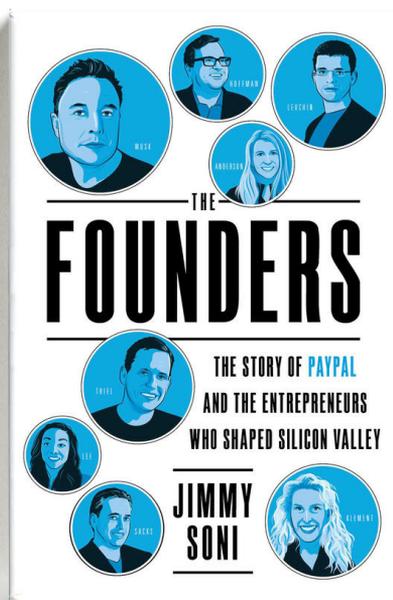
6. MANIKA BATRA JOINS ADIDAS AS BRAND AMBASSADOR



- Table Tennis player, Manika Batra was named as the brand ambassador of Adidas.
- The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports.
- With this association, the duo aims to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports, further fanning the aspirations of upcoming women sportspersons across the country.
- Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- She is the first Indian player to reach the top 10 of the (International Table Tennis Federation) ITTF World rankings in women's doubles and top 15 in mixed doubles, and the first Indian woman to reach the top 50 of the ITTF Rankings.

Books and Authors

7. JIMMY SONI AUTHORED A BOOK TITLED ‘THE FOUNDERS: THE STORY OF PAYPAL’

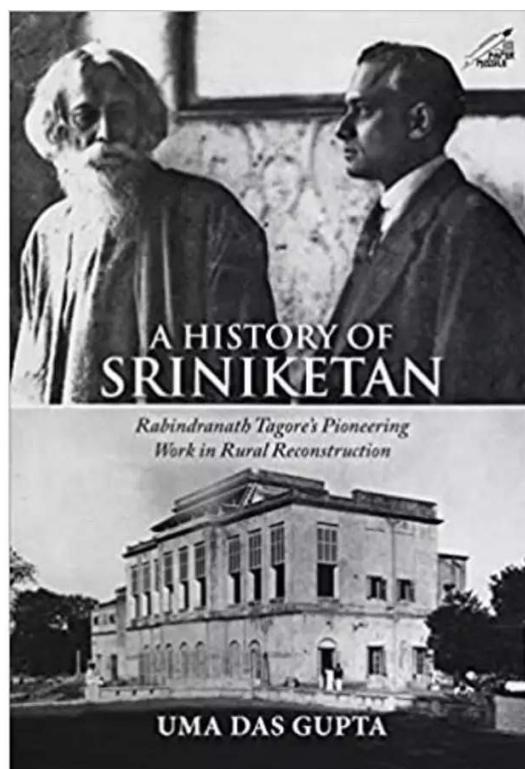


- A new book titled “The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley”, authored by author Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster released soon.
- It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today.
- It also offers colourful anecdotes about famous people like Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and Reid Hoffman.

8. A BOOK ON RABINDRANATH TAGORE AUTHORED BY UMA DAS GUPTA RELEASED

- The book titled “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” was authored by Uma Das Gupta and published under Niyogi Books ‘Paper Missile’ released.
- The book contains Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s work in ‘village reconstruction’ by setting up

'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922, which is also popularly known as a university town. It is situated in West Bengal.



Defense News

9. INDIA AND OMAN BEGINS EASTERN BRIDGE-VI AIR EXERCISE



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organized a bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.
- Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- Participation of IAF and RAFO in this exercise will promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.
- Various senior dignitaries are planning to visit Air Force Station Jodhpur during this exercise.

International News

10. PHILANTHROPIST BILL GATES CONFERRED HILAL-E-PAKISTAN HONOUR TO ERADICATE POLIO

- Microsoft founder and philanthropist, Bill Gates has been conferred with Hilal-e-Pakistan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan.
- Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

- He also visited the National Command and Control Centre (NCOCC) that oversees efforts to curb Covid-19.



By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. GURUGRAM SISTERS CHOSEN AS 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO' BRAND AMBASSADORS



- International chess player woman FIDE master -- a high ranking chess title -- Tanishka Kotia and her sister Riddhika Kotia have been announced as brand ambassadors from Gurugram for the centre's 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme.
- Tanishka is a student of SRCC, while her sister studies in Suncity School.
- Tanishka Kotia ranks 2nd in the country in the under-16 category, World Chess Federation rankings released in 2019. She won a gold medal at the ASEAN Chess Championship in 2013 and silver at the Commonwealth Chess Championship In 2014 in Scotland.
- Riddhika Kotia represented India at several prestigious international events, including the World Junior Chess Championship 2020.

2. ASSAM GOVT LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST NIGHT NAVIGATION MOBILE APP IN RIVERS



- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.
- It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.
- The Chief Minister also launched ten Aadhar-based contactless services of the State Transport Department to make public service delivery time-efficient and budget-friendly.
- The CM also launched an e-ticketing system for Dhubri and Silchar ferry services. An MoU was also signed between the Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the State Transport Department.

3. INDIA AND FRANCE ADOPT ROAD MAP ON 'BLUE ECONOMY', OCEAN GOVERNANCE



- India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance. Dr S Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to France, from February 20 to 22, 2022, to attend EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific scheduled for February 22.
- The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.
- The partnership will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law.
- The scope of the roadmap will encompass maritime trade, the naval industry, fisheries, marine technology and scientific research, integrated coastal management

4. HIMACHAL PRADESH GETS 1ST BIODIVERSITY PARK AT MANDI



- Himachal Pradesh gets the first biodiversity park to make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered Himalayan herbs.
- This park is set to come up at Mandi's Bhulah valley. With the cost of Rs 1 crore, the biodiversity park is set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP's forest department.
- The aim of the park is to link tourism activities along with extending new opportunities for researchers to conduct in-depth exploration of various medicinal herbs found in the Himalayas that are on the verge of extinction.

5. MADHYA PRADESH: 48TH KHAJURAHO DANCE FESTIVAL BEGINS



- Madhya Pradesh Governor, Mangu Bhai Patel has inaugurated the 48th 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022' at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The event will be organized till 26 February.
- This year a 5-km 'Dil Khel Ke Ghoomo' marathon was also organized under the banner of 'Safe Tourism Project for Women' at the event.
- It aims to create a sense of security among women in tourist destinations with the slogan 'Hindustan Ke Dil Mein Aap Safe Hain'.
- The Khajuraho dance festival was started in 1975 from the temple premises itself.
- It was not allowed to be performed in the temple premises only after two-three years, as a result, this ceremony was performed outside the temple premises.
- Last year, the Culture Department's effort to organize this program in the temple premises was successful and this year also this function is being done in the temple premises itself.

6. LAVENDER DESIGNATED AS BRAND PRODUCT OF J&K'S DODA DISTRICT

- The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, chaired the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meetings of several districts in Jammu & Kashmir recently.
- A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as a Doda brand product, to promote lavender under the 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government.

- Doda district in J&K is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution or the cultivation of Lavender. Though, Lavender cultivation is practised in almost all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.



7. MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH INAUGURATES WEEK-LONG COMMEMORATION EVENT 'VIGYAN SARVATRA PUJYATE' IN NEW DELHI



- The Government of India has organised a week-long science exhibition titled 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' from February 22 to 28, 2022, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemoration.
- It will be conducted simultaneously at 75 locations across the country through a hybrid model. The inaugural programme was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on the 22nd of February.
- The exhibition will celebrate science and technology (S&T) and display the country's scientific legacy and technology prowess.
- The exhibition will culminate on February 28, 2022, which coincide with the National Science Day, commemorated in remembrance of Nobel Laureate Sir C.V. Raman's path-breaking discovery of the Raman Effect in 1930.

Sports News

8. AT 16, INDIA'S BIG CHESS HOPE SCALES FIRST PEAK, BEATS HIS OWN HERO AND WORLD NO 1 MAGNUS CARLSEN



- India's teen chess Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, Magnus Carlsen, of Norway in an online chess tournament.
- The Airthings Masters is the first of the nine events of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, being held from February to November 2022.
- Pragg is also only the third Indian grandmaster to win against Magnus Carlsen apart from Viswanathan Anand and Pentala Harikrishna.

9. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN DIVIDED UKRAINE INTO 3 COUNTRIES



- Russian President, Vladimir Putin has recognised the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk.
- Putin’s announcement paved the way for Russia to openly send troops and weapons to the long-running conflict pitting Ukrainian forces against Moscow-backed rebels.
- Russian-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian troops in Donetsk and Luhansk since 2014, with regular violence despite a ceasefire agreement.
- Putin signed decrees recognizing the Donetsk and Luhansk regions’ independence, eight years after fighting erupted between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces, and called on lawmakers to approve measures paving the way for military support.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. PM CARE FOR CHILDREN SCHEME EXTENDED BY THE CENTRE TILL 28TH FEB 2022



- The PM Cares for Children Scheme has been extended by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India till February 28, 2022.
- Previously, the scheme was applicable till December 31, 2021. A letter has been written in this respect to all Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Women and Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Departments of all States and UTs, with a copy to all District Magistrates/District Collectors.
- To be eligible for the scheme, the child must be under the age of 18 at the time of their parents’ death, to be considered eligible for payments under this plan.
- All children who have suffered the following losses are covered under the scheme:
- Lost both parent due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Legal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent, from 11.03.2020, the day on which WHO proclaimed and defined COVID-19 as pandemic.

2. PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK IS NOW OFFICIAL ACQUIRING PARTNER FOR E-RUPI VOUCHERS



- Paytm Payments Bank Limited has announced that it is an official acquiring partner for 'e-RUPI vouchers'. e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via SMS or QR Code.
- Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account.
- This will benefit beneficiaries (users), even those who do not have access to formal banking services or smartphones to avail the convenience of digital payments.
- With this, merchants will be empowered with another digital payment collection method that will help them further increase their digital footprint and onboard more customers.
- PPBL is empowering merchants to accept e-RUPI vouchers, which gives it an opportunity to tap into a larger user base that is a beneficiary of this initiative.
- This will further encourage more merchants to embrace cashless transactions, leading to an increase of digital payments.

3. UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH RELEASES RURAL CONNECTIVITY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM DATA IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

- Union Minister Giriraj Singh today released Rural Connectivity Geographic Information System Data in the public domain.
- GIS technology will be utilized for improvement in the planning and implementation of projects in rural areas.
- Mr. Singh said, data will contribute immensely to the making of New India.
- Data has been collected and digitized using GIS platform developed for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- GIS data for eight lakh rural facilities, 10 lakh habitations, and 25 lakh kilometers of rural roads have been collected and digitized using GIS platform developed for the scheme.



4. MASTERCARD TIE UP WITH SBI PAYMENTS TO BOOST DIGITAL PAYMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE



- Mastercard, as an extension of its flagship campaign 'Team Cashless India' along with State Bank of India Payments partnered with the in Lucknow, Guwahati and Varanasi to boost the digital payments infrastructure.
- During these engagements, Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers and SBI Payments spoke to micro-merchants about the convenience, safety, and other benefits of accepting digital payments.
- In Guwahati, Mastercard collaborates with All Assam's Restaurant Association (AARA) in line with the Government's 'Digital Northeast Vision 2022' which equips restaurant and hotel owners with a safe, seamless, secure mode of payment to consumers.
- In Lucknow, Mastercard partnered with local transport bodies, including the Auto Rickshaw Association, to enable more than 700 auto-rickshaw drivers to accept digital payments.
- Mastercard Founded: 16 December 1966, United States
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States

Appointments News

5. SANJEEV SANYAL APPOINTED AS FULL-TIME MEMBER OF PM ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL



- Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor, Sanjeev Sanyal has been inducted as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), the panel's chairman Bibek Debroy announced.
- The appointment is for a tenure of two years. He had advised the finance ministry to devise economic policies during the pandemic.
- The EAC-PM is an independent body constituted by the Union government to advise the prime minister on economic matters.

Business News

6. RELIANCE JIO'S NEW SUBSEA CABLE 'INDIA-ASIA-XPRESS' TO CONNECT MALDIVES

- India's largest 4G mobile broadband and digital service provider, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives.
- The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.
- On the other hand, the India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.
- While IAX is expected to be ready for service by the end-2023, IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024.



Obituary News

7. VETERAN MALAYALAM ACTRESS KPAC LALITHA PASSES AWAY



- Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, KPAC Lalitha has passed away at 74. In a career spanning five decades, she starred in over 550 films in Malayalam and Tamil.
- Born as Maheswari Amma in Kayamkulam of Alappuzha, the actress had joined K.P.A.C (Kerala People's Arts Club), a prominent drama troop in Kerala.

8. ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIES MINISTER MEKAPATI GOUTHAM REDDY PASSES AWAY



- Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy has passed away.
- The 50 years old Minister returned to India from Dubai Expo. Reddy, was a two-time MLA from the Atmakur Assembly constituency in the Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh.
- He was the Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology in Andhra Pradesh Government.
- Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

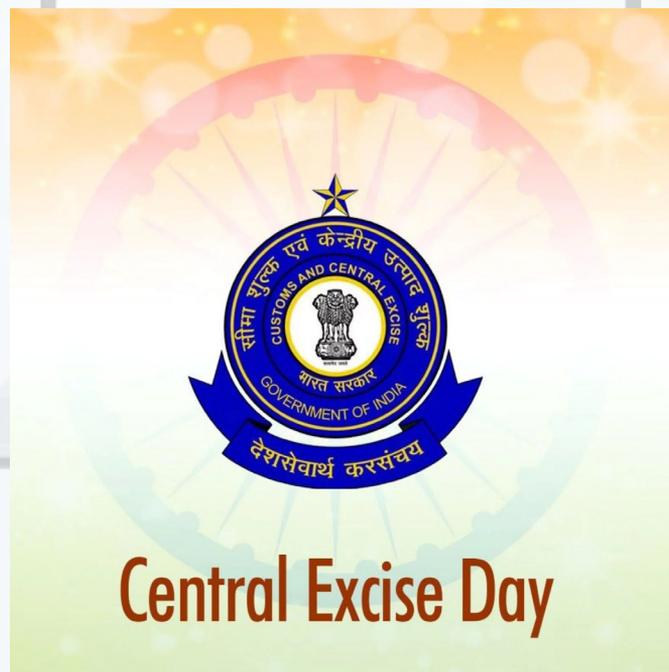
9. EXERCISE COBRA WARRIOR 22: INDIA TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTI-NATION EXERCISE IN MARCH



- The Indian Air Force will participate in a multi-nation air exercise Ex Cobra Warrior 22 at Waddington in United Kingdom from 6th to 27th of next month.
- IAF Light Combat Aircraft LCA Tejas will participate in the exercise along with fighter aircraft of UK and other leading Air Forces.
- The exercise is aimed at providing operational exposure and sharing best practices amongst the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and forging bonds of friendship.
- This will be a platform for LCA Tejas to demonstrate its maneuverability and operational capability.
- Five Tejas aircraft will fly to the United Kingdom. IAF C-17 aircraft will provide the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction.

Important Days

10. CENTRAL EXCISE DAY 2022: 24 FEBRUARY 2022



- Central Excise Day of India is celebrated every year on February 24. The day is being celebrated to honour the service of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) to the country.
- The day is celebrated to honour the officers associated with CBEC and their services.
- The day is celebrated to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt act on 24 February 1944.
- The central excise day is celebrated to raise awareness about the contribution of the central excise officers among the general public of the country.
- The jobs of the members of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs in preventing corruption among the manufacturing industries are worth appreciation and encouragement.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF PM-KISAN, OVER RS 1.80 LAKH CR TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY INTO FARMERS ACCOUNTS



PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

- The scheme was launched on 24th of February in 2019 to provide income support to all landholding farmer's families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs.
- Under the Scheme, an amount of six thousand rupees per year is transferred in three equal installments of two thousand rupees directly into the bank accounts of the farmers subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher-income status.
- The Scheme initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families having cultivable land up to two hectares, but later it was expanded to cover all farmer families irrespective of the size of their landholdings.
- So far, over 1.80 lakh crore rupees have been transferred directly into the bank accounts of the farmer families under PM -KISAN Scheme.

2. VANDE BHARATAM'S SIGNATURE TUNE RELEASED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURE



- Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, Meenakashi Lekhi has released a signature tune for 'Vande Bharatam'. The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh.
- It was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022.
- It was followed by the fascinating live performance by composers of Vande Bharatam song Ricky Kej and Bikram Ghosh.
- The two musicians, Ricky kej and Bickram Ghosh shared that it is an honour for them to have given the score for Vande Bharatam which is a very rich piece of music and is based on Indian traditions but also has modern features and fusion.
- The Ministry of Defence handed over the special trophy to the Ministry of Culture in recognition of its exemplary efforts during the Republic day Event 2022.

3. IBM OPENS A NEW CYBERSECURITY HUB IN BENGALURU



- International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) has launched a cybersecurity hub in Bengaluru to address the concerns of its clients across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- The multi-million dollar IBM Security Command Center will be located at the IBM office in Bengaluru in Karnataka. It is the first of its kind facility in the region.
- The IBM global analysis report for 2022 states that Asia emerged as the top-most targeted region for cyberattacks, representing 26% of attacks analyzed in 2021.
- This cybersecurity hub will deliver training in cybersecurity response techniques, to organisations of all types, through highly realistic, simulated cyberattacks, to prepare everyone, ranging from C-Suite to technical staff.
- The new cyber security hub is one of the only two such centres of IBM globally. The other one is located in the US.

4. WITH 3 MORE RAFALE JETS, INDIA RECEIVES ENTIRE CONSIGNMENT OF 36 PLANES FROM FRANCE



- Three more Rafale fighter aircraft landed in India from France, with Indian specific enhancements.
- With this new arrival of the three jets, the total Rafale fleet with Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached 35.
- The 36th and final aircraft will arrive in India from France by March- April 2022, and will be a trainer aircraft.
- In September 2016, India exchanged a Rs 59,000 crore deal with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets. The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived in India on July 29 last year.
- India and France had signed the inter-government agreement in 2016, under which Paris agreed to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets to New Delhi.

5. BOEING DELIVERS 12TH P-8I MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT TO INDIAN NAVY



- The Indian Navy has received the 12th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from the US-based aerospace company Boeing. This is the fourth of four additional aircraft, for which the contract was signed in 2016.
- The Ministry of Defence had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. However, later in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.
- P-8I is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft, and a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy.
- India was the first international customer of Boeing for this aircraft.
- The Indian Navy inducted the first P-8I aircraft in 2013.
- The P-8I aircraft is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that Boeing developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet.
- In May 2021, the US State Department approved the proposed sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment, a deal estimated to cost 2.42 billion dollars.

6. DELHI: CURRENCY MANUFACTURING HEADQUARTERS DECLARED AS PROHIBITED PLACE BY MHA



- Home Ministry has declared Delhi headquarters of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) as a 'prohibited place' under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.
- This prevents the entry of unauthorized persons into it. It is the only currency and banknotes manufacturer of India, that printed new series of notes of denomination Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 in 2016.
- The nine production units of SPMCIL, where banknotes and other government papers are manufactured, are already prohibited places.
- Only the Delhi headquarters where crucial decisions are taken and important files are generated was not under the purview.
- Through the recent order, even the Delhi office has been declared a prohibited place.
- The nine production units are four India Government Mints, two Currency Note Presses.

Appointment News

7. RAKESH SHARMA REAPPOINTED AS MD&CEO OF IDBI BANK FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS



- Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) has informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022.
- Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod.
- Sharma was previously the MD&CEO of Canara Bank and retired from this position in July 2018.
- Prior to that, he served as the MD&CEO of Laxmi Vilas Bank from March 2014 to September 2015. He was previously associated with the State Bank of India (SBI).

8. HUL SPLITS CMD POST, NITIN PARANJPE IS NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

- Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) has announced the separation of the position of Chairman of the Board and the CEO & Managing Director of the company.
- Nitin Paranjpe has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company with effect from March 31, 2022.
- He is currently serving as Chief Operating Officer of Unilever, the parent company of HUL.
- Sanjiv Mehta will continue to be the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the company.
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Founded: 17 October 1933.



MOU News

9. INDIA'S NIUA AND WEF TO COLLABORATE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



- World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
- The program aims to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and built environment sectors.
- This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after the Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net-zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. INDIA ABSTAINS FROM VOTING ON UNSC RESOLUTION ON SITUATION IN UKRAINE; CALLS TO RETURN TO PATH OF DIPLOMACY



- A resolution on the situation on Ukraine was tabled for action in the UN Security Council.
- In the 15 member Council, the resolution received 11 votes in favour, Russia voted against it and three nations India, UAE and China abstained.
- Since Russia voted against the resolution that is veto against the resolution, it was not passed.
- India abstained and issued an Explanation of Vote EOV after the vote. In its EOV, India called for return to path of diplomacy.
- It called for respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. India also called for immediate cessation of violence and hostilities as was also conveyed by Prime Minister Modi to President Putin.
- It said, all member states to honour principles of international law and UN Charter, as these provide a constructive way forward.
- India's Permanent Representative to UN, TS Tirumurti at UNSC meeting on Ukraine said that it is a matter of regret that the path of diplomacy was given up.
- We must return to it. For all these reasons, India has chosen to abstain on this resolution.

2. UNION MINISTER DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA TO INAUGURATE SEMINAR "INDUSTRY CONNECT 2022: INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA SYNERGY" IN NEW DELHI

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate a seminar- Industry Connect 2022, Industry and Academia Synergy in New Delhi today.
- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is organizing this seminar.

- During the seminar, two technical sessions will be organized on various issues.



Academy Defense News

3. IAF DECIDES NOT TO DEPLOY AIRCRAFT IN MULTILATERAL AIR EXERCISE IN UK



- The Indian Air Force today announced that it has decided not to deploy aircraft in multi-lateral air exercise in UK next month in light of recent events.

- Five LCA Tejas fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force were to be deployed for exercise Cobra Warrior 2022 at Waddington in the UK from March 6 to 27.
- India's light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas was all set to make its debut on foreign soil next month.
- Tejas Mk-1 fighter jets took part in the Singapore Air Show from February 15 to 18, with the move aimed at tapping the export potential of the locally-made LCA.
- The aircraft previously took in the Malaysia, Dubai and Bahrain air shows but have never participated in a combat exercise in a foreign country.

4. INDIA, OMAN SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT EASTERN BRIDGE-VI AIR EXERCISE



- The Indo-Oman exercise 2022, Eastern Bridge-VI was successfully conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 21st to 25th of this month.
- Royal Air Force of Oman RAFO participated with Indian Air Force IAF in the exercise which was aimed at providing operational exposure and undertaking mutual exchange of best practices, towards enhancing operational capabilities of both the Air Forces.
- Indian Air Force said, senior officers from both sides who visited Air Force Station Jodhpur during this exercise included RAFO's Director General Operations and IAF South Western Air Command's Senior Air Staff Officer.
- They discussed further prospects of mutual co-operation. Indian Air Force said, the exercise provided an opportunity for fruitful interaction between IAF and RAFO elements through mutual exchange of experience and operational knowledge.
- It also provided avenues of cultural exchanges between the personnel of both countries.

5. LATEST EDITION OF INDIAN NAVY'S MULTILATERAL EXERCISE MILAN 2022 COMMENCES IN VISAKHAPATNAM



- The latest edition of Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 has commenced from Friday in Visakhapatnam.
- Milan, 2022 is being conducted over a duration of 09 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from today, i.e. 25th to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March, India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence in 2022, and MILAN 22 provides an opportunity to commemorate this milestone with our friends and partners.
- The theme of the MILAN, 2022 exercise in 'Camaraderie - Cohesion- Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the World at large.
- The aim of the exercise is to hone operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain, through professional interaction between friendly navies.
- India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence in 2022, and Milan 22 provides an opportunity to commemorate this milestone with friends and partners.

Books and Authors

6. NITYANAND RAI RELEASES BOOKS PUBLISHED BY BPRD IN NEW DELHI

- Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai released books published by Bureau of Police Research and Development, BPRD in New Delhi on Friday.
- In his address, Mr Rai said, BPRD is committed to ensuring their capacity building to meet emerging challenges before police forces.
- He said, the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Umbrella Scheme of Modernization of Police Forces with central financial outlay of worth 26 thousand 275 crore rupees for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- The Minister said, this continues the initiative by the Home Minister Amit Shah for modernization and improvement of the functioning of the police forces of the States and Union Territories.



Sports News

7. MIRABAI CHANU WINS GOLD AT SINGAPORE WEIGHTLIFTING INTERNATIONAL



- Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal in the 55kg weight category at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 on February 25, 2022.
- Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium.
- With this win, the 27-year-old Chanu has qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham in the 55kg weight category.
- She has also qualified for the CWG in the 49kg weight category on the basis of her Commonwealth rankings.

Appointments

8. DIGITAL INDIA CEO ABHISHEK SINGH APPOINTS NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE DIVISION CHIEF



- 1995-batch IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO, Abhishek Singh as new National e-Governance Division chief.
- The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
- The officer will proceed to carry the extra cost of the put up of Managing Director & Chief Government Officer, Digital India Company.
- The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will maintain the place within the rank and pay of Extra Secretary.

9. DISH TV'S APPOINTS RISHABH PANT AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR



- Dish TV India, has announced the appointment of Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador.
- Pant will feature in the brand's 360-degree communication for the next two years. This investment in the D2H brand is going to make it even stronger.
- The close affinity between D2H brand and Rishabh Pant as brand ambassadors will enable deeper engagement of D2H with its TG.
- Rishabh has quickly developed into a distinctive entertainer on the cricket field, with his boundless energy behind the stumps and innovation in shot-making.
- He brings a spark each time he enters the field and appeals to the huge 18-35 age group across the country, our core audience.

By Sameer Singhal