

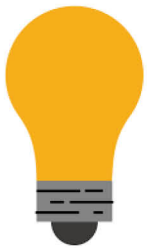
PLUTUS ACADEMY



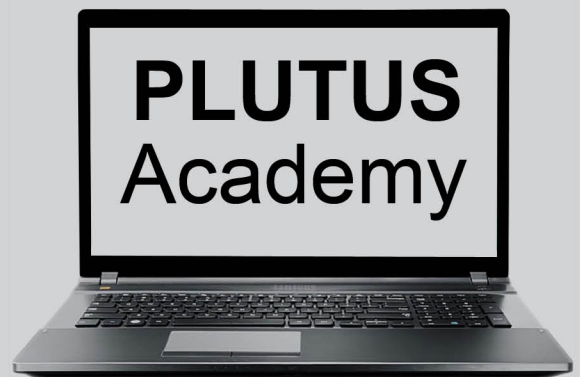
MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

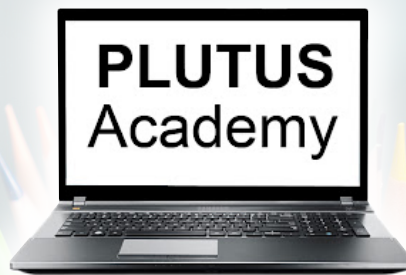


2022



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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

National News

1. ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY



- The Budget Session of Parliament begins today. Economic Survey 2021-22 will also be tabled today.
- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, will present the Union Budget for the year 2022-2023 tomorrow in the Lok Sabha and its copy will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha soon thereafter.

2. INDIA'S LARGEST EV CHARGING STATION OPENED AT GURGAON

- India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station with a capacity of 100 charging points for 4 wheelers, was opened at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram.
- Previously, India's largest EV charging station was situated in Navi Mumbai with 16 AC & 4 DC charging ports for EVs.
- The new EV charging station has been developed by tech-piloting company Alektrify Private Limited.

- This EV charging station will not only boost the electric vehicles industry in the region but will also act as a benchmark for large EV charging stations across the nation in future.
- The electric vehicle charging station of this size and magnitude is rare and will be instrumental for the industry to experience actual Ease of Doing Business in smooth 'Certification Compliance' and 'Safety Standards'



3. PM MODI HOSTS FIRST INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT, OUTLINES 3 GOALS



- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit, through the virtual platform.
- It was the first of its kind engagement between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.

- The central Asian region has five recognized countries.
- These are the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.
- The first India-Central Asia Summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- firstly, the Prime Minister said the mutual cooperation between India and central Asia was necessary for regional security and prosperity.
- second goal, Modi said, “Today’s meeting is to give an effective structure to our cooperation, which will pave the way for the establishment of a platform for regular interaction among all stakeholders.”
- third goal, Modi said it was crucial to prepare an ambitious roadmap for the cooperation between India and Central Asian countries

4. PM MODI PRAISES THOUNAOJAM NIRANJOY SINGH FOR RECORD PUSH-UPS



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the work done by Lourembam Bino Devi in the field of art and Thounaojam Niranjay for breaking the world record in fitness.
- In Mann Ki Baat programme on Sunday, Prime Minister Modi said that the 77 year old Lourembam Bino Devi of Manipur has been conserving the textile art of the state for decades.
- Bino Devi has been awarded Padma Shri this year for her contribution to art by the government. She is a resident of Singjamei in Imphal West District.
- Mrs Bino Devi said that our traditional culture is diminishing day by day, so all of us need to work hard to conserve our art and culture.
- Twenty four year old Thounaojam Niranjay of Manipur made a world record by doing 109 knuckle push ups with one hand in a minute.
- Prime Minister Modi said that the achievement of Niranjay Singh will inspire everyone to make physical fitness a part of life.

Appointments

5. PUSHP KUMAR JOSHI NAMED TO BE NEW CHAIRMAN AND MD OF HPCL



- Pushp Kumar Joshi has been picked by government headhunter PESB to be the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the nation's third largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.
- Joshi, who is currently Director - Human Resources at HPCL - was picked after PESB interviewed 10 candidates on January 24
- The recommendation will now go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ACC will decide on his selection after getting reports from anti-corruption agencies such as CVC and CBI.
- He will replace Mukesh Kumar Surana, who superannuates on April 30 this year.

Sports News

6. WOMEN'S ASIA CUP HOCKEY: INDIA BEAT CHINA 2-0 TO WIN BRONZE MEDAL

- Japan continued their impressive run at the 2022 Hockey Asia Cup as they thrashed the mighty South Koreans 4-2 at Muscat.
- India won bronze medal beating China 2-0 for third and fourth place play off
- Sharmila Devi in the 13th minute and Gurjit Kaur in the 19th minute scored goals for India.



7. AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS: RAFAEL NADAL CREATES HISTORY BY WINNING RECORD 21ST GRAND SLAM TITLE



- The Spaniard defeated World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev in a thrilling 5-set Australian Open men's singles final last night.
- After being two sets down, Nadal made an incredible comeback in a pulsating match which lasted five hours and 24 minutes and emerged victorious by 2-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.
- The win has also put Nadal one step ahead of the other two big men of tennis, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, both having 20 Grand Slam titles each to their credit.
- In the history of Open era, 35-year-old Nadal has become the third-oldest man to win a Grand Slam title.
- Ken Rosewall and Roger Federer are the earlier two.
- He is also only the second man to have won all four Grand Slams at least twice.

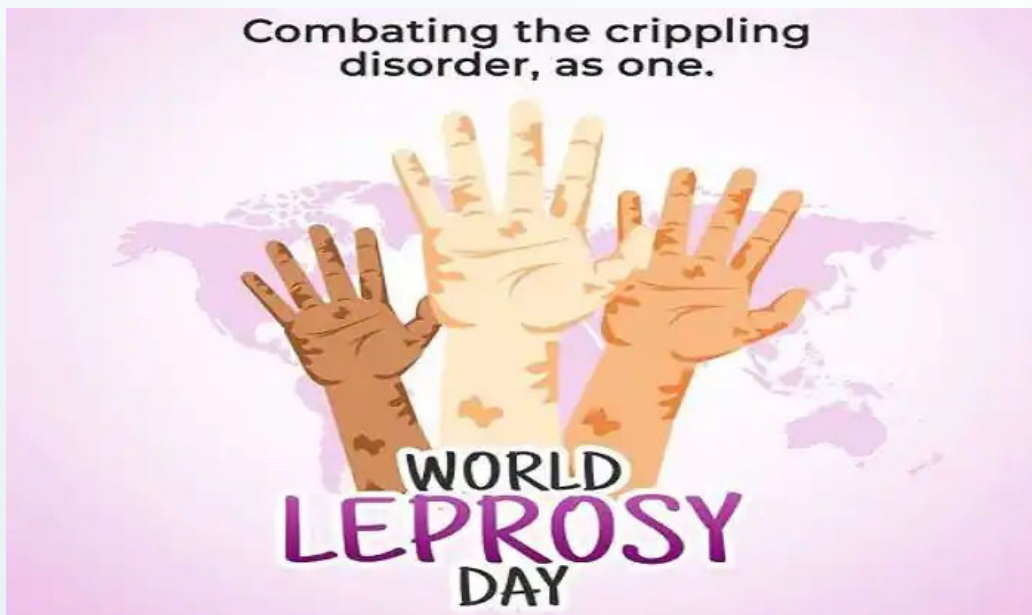
8. ASHLEIGH BARTY WINS HER FIRST AUSTRALIAN OPEN TITLE



- World Number one Ashleigh Barty, won her first Australian Open title after defeating Danielle Collins of the United States in the Women's Singles final at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne today.
- Top seed Barty defeated 27th seed Collins in straight sets, 6-3, 7-6.
- With the win, Barty became the first Australian to claim a Grand Slam title on home soil in 44 years since Christine O'Neill in 1978.

Important Days

9. ANTI-LEPROSY DAY :JAN 30



- In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year. 30th January is Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day.
- He was deeply committed to the cause of leprosy-affected persons.
- Leprosy is also one of the neglected tropical diseases. Today is also World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day.
- This year, World Leprosy Day is also being celebrated today.
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Its vision is "Leprosy-free India". Under this, action is taken for early case detection, complete treatment of detected cases and to contain the onset of disease in close contacts.

Obituary News

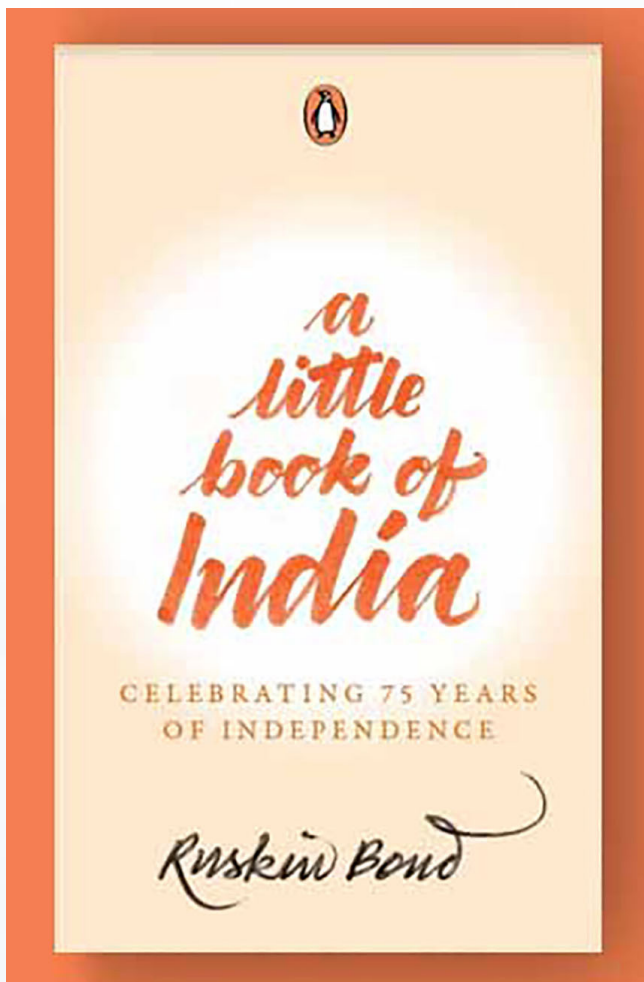
10. AKAL ACADEMIES' FOUNDER BABA IQBAL SINGH DIES AT 96



- Founder of Akal Academies and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh died in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district on Saturday, a district official said.
- He was 96. Iqbal Singh breathed his last at Baru Sahib in Sirmaur district
- As an in-charge of Kalgidhar Trust, which he founded in 1965, he built the organisation brick-by-brick.
- It now runs 129 CBSE-affiliated schools with over 70,000 children.
- Far away from the urban milieu, these schools impart value-based education to children from the marginalised sections of the society.

Books and Authors

11. A LITTLE BOOK OF INDIA: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE'

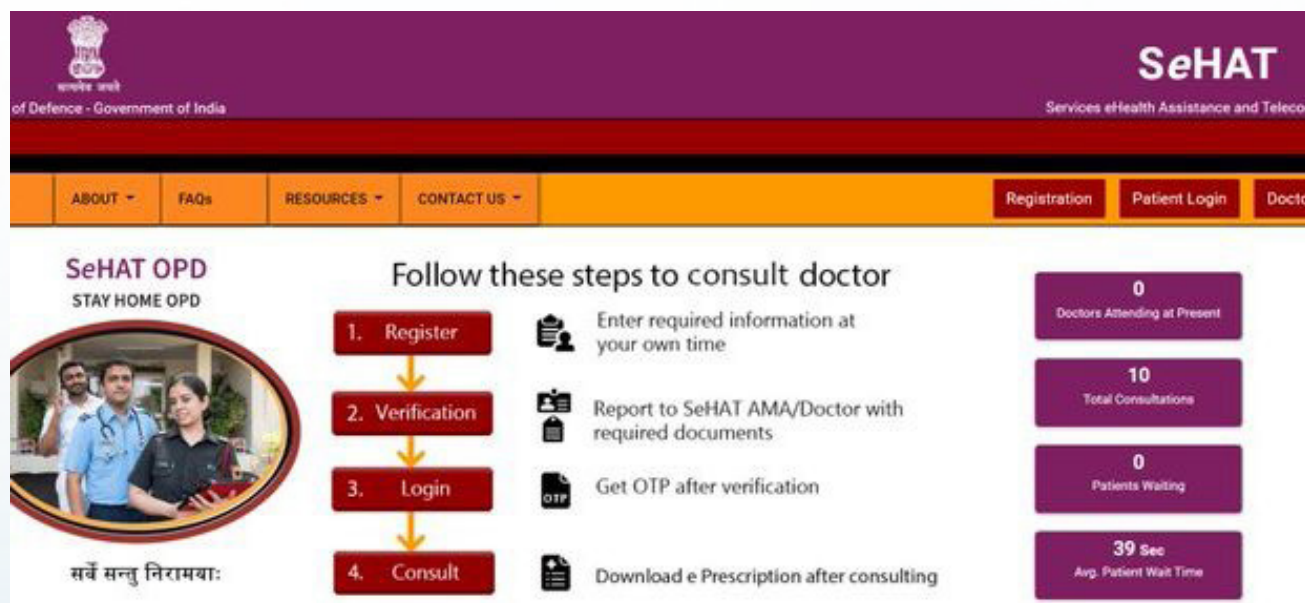


- A new book titled “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence” authored by Ruskin Bond was released, marking 75 years of India’s Independence.
- The book is the blend of “physical and spiritual” attributes of India and also highlights the last 75 years of India’s progress as a nation. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- It is a record of some of my memories and impressions of this unique land — of its rivers and forests, literature and culture, sights, sounds and colours — an amalgamation of the physical and spiritual.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

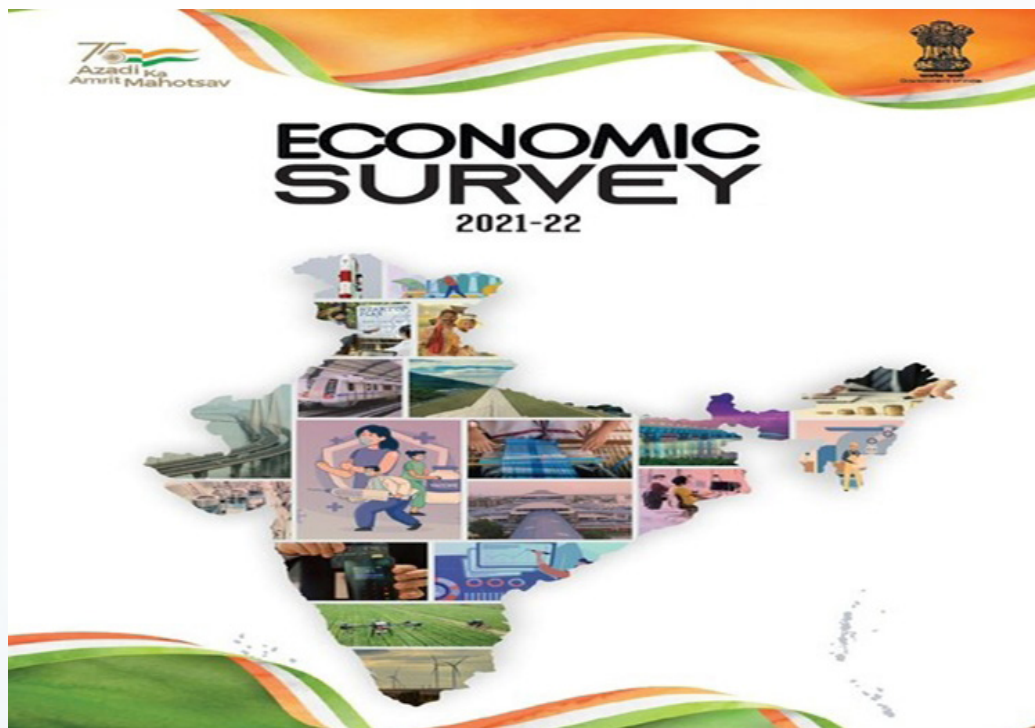
1. HOME DELIVERY OF MEDICINES WILL BEGIN FROM FEB 1 UNDER SeHAT: DEFENSE MINISTRY



- The Defence Ministry has said that home delivery of medicines will begin from tomorrow under Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation, SeHAT.
- As part of the Government's commitment to Digital India and e-Governance, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh had launched SeHAT in May last year.
- SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defense designed for all entitled personnel and their families.
- The Ministry said, Home Delivery will be started with Base Hospital Delhi Cantt from tomorrow and it will be extended to more and more stations in coming times.

2. INDIA TO WITNESS GDP GROWTH OF 8 TO 8.5 PC IN 2022-23, STATES ECONOMIC SURVEY

- India will witness GDP growth of 8 to 8.5 per cent in 2022-23, supported by widespread vaccine coverage, gains from supply-side reforms and easing of regulations, robust export growth, and availability of fiscal space to ramp up capital spending.
- Finance Minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament on Monday, which states that the year ahead is well poised for a pick-up in private sector investment with the financial system in a good position to provide support to the revival of economy.
- Referring to First Advance Estimates, the Survey states that the Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2 per cent in real terms in 2021-22, after a contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21.



3. INDIAN COAST GUARD TO CELEBRATE ITS 46TH RAISING DAY ON FEB 1



- The Indian Coast Guard will celebrate its 46th Raising Day tomorrow. The Indian Coast Guard, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.
- The Defense Ministry said, as the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, it has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing regulations in the maritime zones of India.
- The ICG has saved over one thousand two hundred lives at sea in the last one year and more than 11 thousand since its inception.
- One of the primary duties of the Indian Coast Guard is prevention of smuggling through maritime routes in its area of responsibility.

4. PR SREEJESH WINS WORLD GAMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2021 AWARD



- Veteran Indian Hockey goalkeeper P R Sreejesh has won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.
- In 2020, Indian Women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her 2019 show.
- Sreejesh beat competition from sport climber Alberto Gins Lopez of Spain and Italy's wushu player Michele Giordano for the award.
- The 33-year-old was the only Indian nominated and was recommended by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- In the FIH Stars Awards in October, Sreejesh was named the goalkeeper of the year for 2021.

5. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST UNICORN SPORTS ENTERPRISE

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK), has become the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 crores and its share in the grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band.
- The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which won its fourth IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements. India Cements' market cap stood at Rs 6,869 crores.

- Two key reasons which have led CSK's market cap to go past its parent entity are the team winning its fourth IPL title in Dubai, and two new franchises being added to the upcoming season at record prices



6. TATA STEEL LONG TO ACQUIRE NEELACHAL ISPAT NIGAM FOR Rs 12,100 CRORE



- Tata Group company, Tata Steel Long Products Ltd's (TSLP) has acquired Odisha-based Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) for Rs 12,100 crore.
- Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) is a steel plant located in Kalinganagar in Odisha and was shut in March 2020 due to continued losses.
- It has a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes a year. This is the 1st instance of privatization of a public sector steel manufacturing enterprise in India.
- Tata Steel CEO: T. V. Narendran
- Tata Steel Headquarters: Mumbai.

7. SPMCIL OPENS NEW BANK NOTE PRINTING LINES AT NASHIK AND DEWAS



- Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), under its modernisation initiatives, has set up 'new bank note printing lines' each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas.
- In India, four printing presses for printing and supply of Banknotes. These are at Dewas in Madhya Pradesh, Nasik in Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL), Mysore in Karnataka, and Salboni in West Bengal
- SPMCIL Chairman and Managing Director: Tripti Patra Ghosh
- SPMCIL Founded: 10 February 2006.
- SPMCIL H.Q.- New Delhi

8. PAYTM MONEY LAUNCHES "INDIA'S FIRST" INTELLIGENT MESSENGER CALLED 'POPS'

- 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.
- The platform will also serve as a marketplace to offer sophisticated stock recommendations, news insights, and other services.
- Paytm Money CEO: Varun Sridhar
- Paytm Money Headquarters location: Bengaluru
- Paytm Money Founded: 20 September 2017.



International News

9. XIOMARA CASTRO SWORN IN AS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS



- In Honduras, the Freedom and Refoundation Party (Libre) member Xiomara Castro has been sworn in as the first female President of the country.
- The 62-year-old Castro replaces President Juan Orlando Hernández, as 56th President of Honduras.
- Hernández has held the position for eight years from 27 January 2014 to 27 January 2022.
- The oath was sworn before Judge Karla Romero, flanked by Castro's choice of Congress president, Luis Redondo, who draped the presidential sash over his new boss before a crowd of some 29,000.
- Honduras Capital: Tegucigalpa
- Currency: Honduran lempira
- Continent: North America

10. WINTER STORM MALIK HITS NORTHERN EUROPE, KILLS SEVERAL PEOPLE



- A powerful winter storm has swept through northern Europe this weekend, killing several people, destroying houses and vehicles.
- Strong winds have struck the United Kingdom, Denmark, Poland and Germany, leaving hundreds of thousands of homes without power.
- Bridges were shut, trains cancelled and ferries docked as coastal surges led to flooding.
- The storm system, which is known as Nadia in Germany and Malik in other countries, intensified a day earlier bringing hurricane-level winds at times to the North Sea and Baltic Sea coastlines.

Books and Authors

11. A BOOK TITLED “FEARLESS GOVERNANCE” AUTHORED BY KIRAN BEDI

- Fearless Governance’ launched by Indra Nooyi and Prof Debashis Chatterjee; it’s a one-of-its-kind book with QR codes to access live photos and videos
- Based on the ground-realities of nearly five years of service as the 24th Lt Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi has penned down her journey of governance in the book ‘Fearless Governance’.
- It was launched by Indra Nooyi (former chairperson & CEO of PepsiCo) and Prof Debashis Chatterjee (director, IIM Kozhikode).
- “Fearless Governance is a blueprint for good and effective governance.
- The leadership practices cut across public and private sectors,” Nooyi said. “Gutsy governance, eco-centric leadership!

Fearless Governance Book Launched!



INDRA NOOYI
FORMER CHAIRMAN
AND CEO, PEPSICO

DR. KIRAN BEDI
AUTHOR, FORMER
Lt.GOVERNOR
PUDUCHERRY

**PROF. DEBASHIS
CHATTERJEE**
CHAIRMAN
IIM KOZHIKODE

*Royalties of the book are dedicated to the causes of Puducherry,
Navjyoti India Foundation and India Vision Foundation*

By Sameer Singhal

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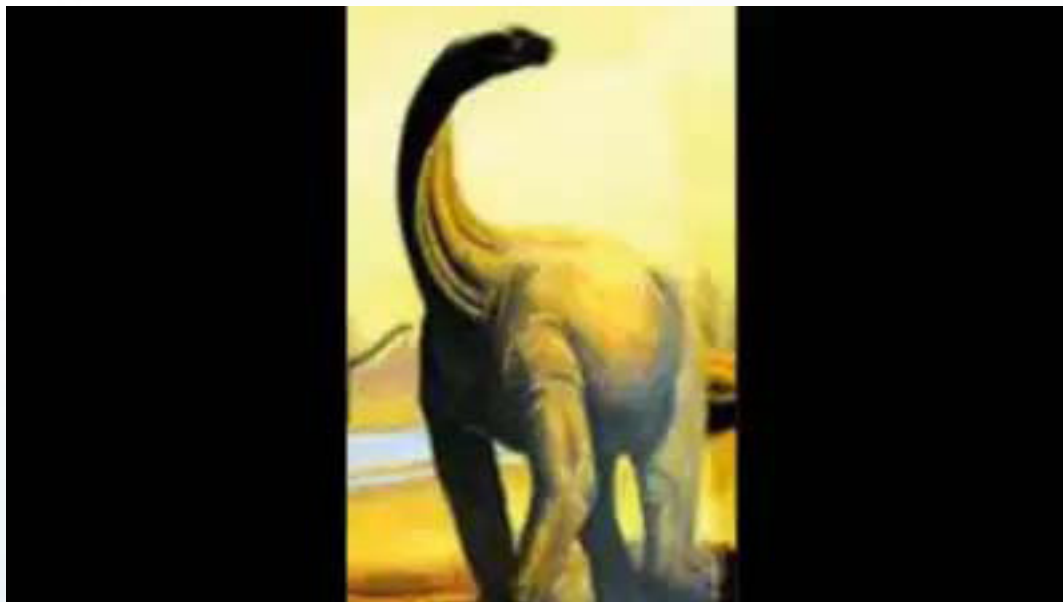
1. INDIAN RAILWAYS RECEIVE AN OUTLAY OF ONE LAKH 37 THOUSAND CRORE RUPEES CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUPPORT IN BUDGET



- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that Indian Railways have received an outlay of one lakh 37 thousand crore rupees capital investment support.
- This outlay was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2022-23 in parliament today.

- Briefing reporters in New Delhi today, Mr Vaishnav said, 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains will be developed during the next three years.
- As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, two thousand kilometers of network will be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world-class technology for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.

2. INDIA'S FIRST GEOLOGICAL PARK WILL BE BUILT IN JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH



- The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining.
- Park will be constructed with an investment of Rs 35 crores, over five-acre land.
- The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view.
- In 1928, William Henry Sleeman had discovered a Dinosaur fossil from this area.
- UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as a geo heritage site. Lameta Formation is also called Infratrappean Beds.
- It is a sedimentary geological formation found in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

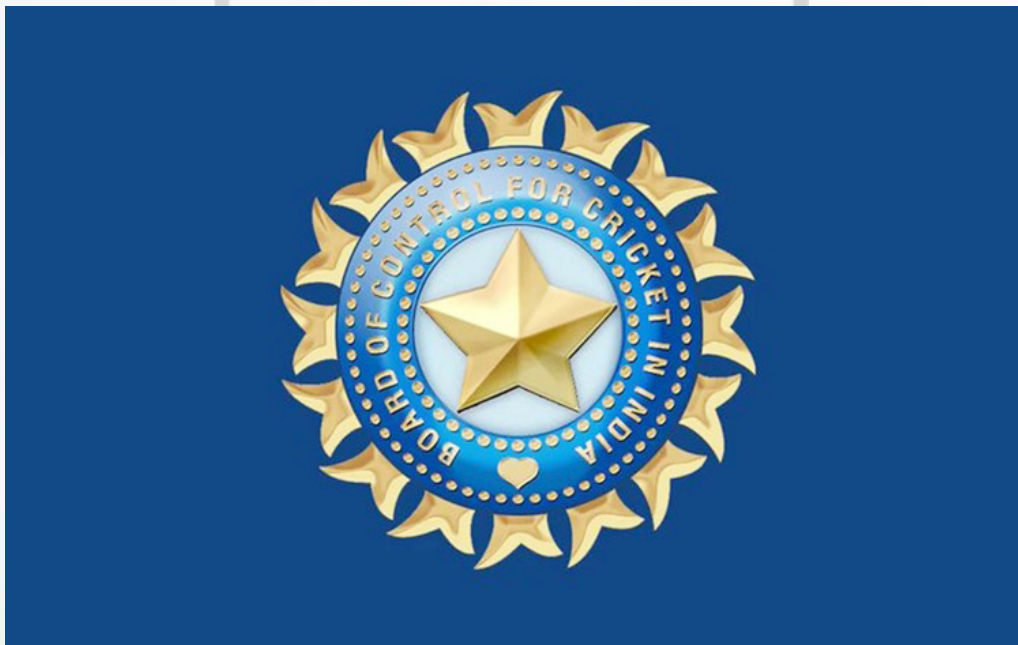
3. UNION BUDGET 2022 IS BEING PRESENTED BY FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

- Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is presenting the Union Budget 2022 for the 4th time in a row.
- She will be presenting the financial statements and tax proposals for the fiscal year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023).
- A Made in India tablet has replaced the traditional 'Bahi Khata' as Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman leaves the Finance Ministry's office to go to the Parliament to present the Budget.
- The government sees the Indian economy growing at 8-8.5 per cent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23).
- The Union Budget is the yearly financial report estimating the income and expenditure presented to outline future policies to be adopted by the government for sustainable growth and development.

- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
- The first Budget of Independent India was presented in 1947



4. IPL 2022 AUCTION: BCCI RELEASES FULL LIST OF 590 CRICKETERS



- Board of Control for Cricket in India BCCI yesterday announced the list of players to be auctioned in Bengaluru on 12 and 13 February for the Indian Premier League IPL 2022.
- The BCCI released a list of 590 cricketers who will go under the hammer in IPL.
- Out of the 590 players, 370 are Indians while the rest 220 are from overseas. A total of 33 players were retained earlier by the 10 IPL franchises.
- This is the 15th season of the IPL and the tournament hopes to rope in big names of the cricketing world.

5. DEFENCE MINISTRY MAKES INDUCTION OF WOMEN FIGHTER PILOTS IN IAF A PERMANENT SCHEME



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that his Ministry has decided to convert the Experimental Scheme for Induction of Women Fighter Pilots in the Indian Air Force into a permanent scheme.
- Indian Air Force undertakes various induction publicity measures to encourage youth, including women to join it.
- A total of 16 women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after the experimental scheme for their induction.
- Supreme Court had directed the Centre last year to allow women candidates to appear for the entrance exam to the National Defence Academy

6. SPITUK GUSTOR FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN LADAKH



- Spituk Gustor Festival, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory.
- To witness the colourful festivities, devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colourful mask dance locally called “Chams”.
- Spituk monastery is 8 km from Leh.
- It is a celebration of peace and prosperity that is celebrated at the Spituk Monastery in Leh and Ladakh UT.
- The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.
- Ladakh (UT) Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur

7. TATA SKY REBRANDS ITSELF AS TATA PLAY



- Tata Sky has dropped the ‘sky’ brand name after 15 years and has rechristened itself as Tata Play.
- The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content-centric channel packs as well.
- The new name of the company will be visible to the viewers.
- Tata Play Binge will hosts content from 13 leading OTT apps through a single User Interface while offering the flexibility of a single subscription and payment.
- Through the new identity as Tata Play, companies simply aim to signify their expanded range of products and services and their desire to be future-ready while making tomorrow better than today for homes and families.

Important Days

8. WORLD WETLANDS DAY: WETLANDS ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET



**United
Nations**

World Wetlands Day
2 February



- Today is World Wetlands Day. This Day is observed every year to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.
- The 2nd of February also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.
- A call to take action for wetlands is the focus of this year's campaign.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. TOKYO OLYMPICS GOLD MEDALLIST NEERAJ CHOPRA NOMINATED FOR LAUREUS WORLD BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards.
- India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, Neeraj has been selected as one of the six nominees for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.
- The other five sportspersons who have been nominated for the award are Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, British tennis star Emma Raducanu, Barcelona and Spain footballer Pedri, Venezuelan athlete Yulimar Rojas and Australian swimmer Ariarne Titmus.

- 24-year-old javelin thrower is only the third Indian to be nominated for the award after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket star Sachin Tendulkar, who won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020.



2. GOVERNMENT APPROVES CONTINUATION OF SCHEME FOR ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS



- The government has approved continuation of Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations with an outlay of one thousand 575 crore rupees for 15th Finance Commission Cycle 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations is the flagship Central Sector Scheme and the main source of funding for the preparation of national teams for all major national and international competitions.
- These include the Olympic Games, Para-Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and other major international tournaments.
- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for according approval for continuation of Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations.

3. ONE COMMON SERVICE CENTRE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH OF 2.50 LAKH GRAM PANCHAYATS ACROSS COUNTRY



- Union Minister of State for Electronic and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrashekhar has told Lok Sabha that at-least one Common Service Centre will be established in each of the 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.
- In written reply, he said, it will help in the delivery of various government-to-citizen and other citizen-centric e-Services.
- He said, his ministry has implemented the network of Common Services Centres (CSC) under the Digital Indian programme.
- He further said, as on December 2021, a total of 4 lakh 46 thousand 789 Common Services Centres are functional across all states and union territories of the country, out of which a total of 3 lakh 48 thousand 391 CSCs are functional at Gram Panchayat level.

4. CENTRE INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM INDIAN COMPANIES WITH INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES IN SEMICONDUCTOR AND SENSORS SECTOR FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



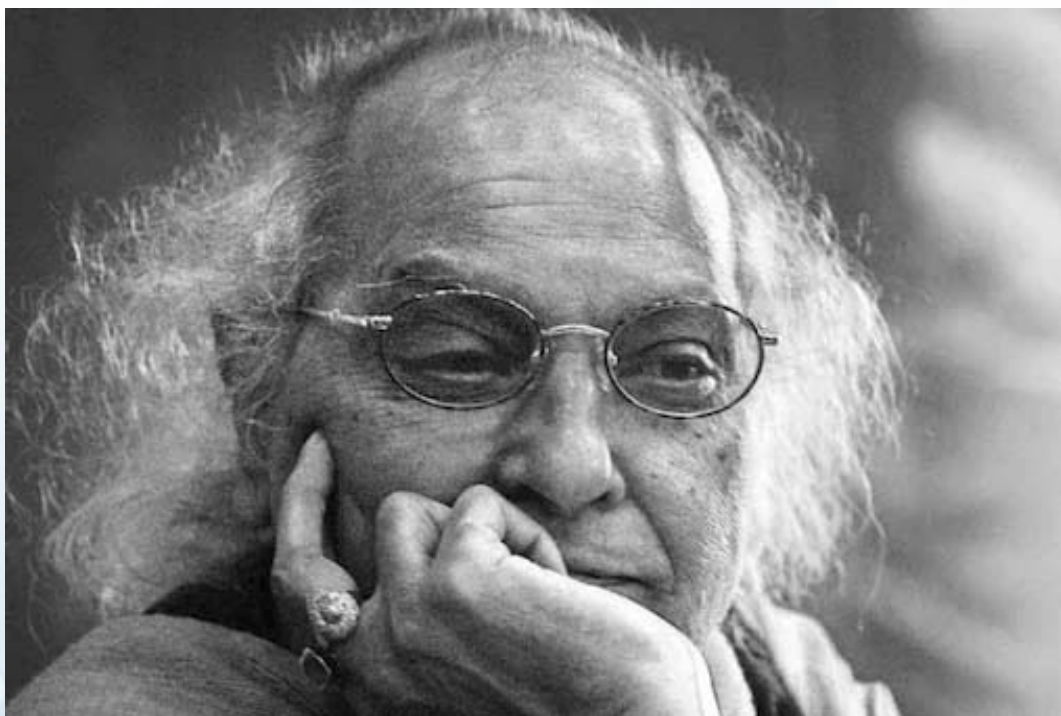
- Department of Science and Technology invited applications for financial support to Indian companies with indigenous technologies in semiconductor and sensors sector for commercialization.
- The department said, Indian companies having innovative technologies at commercialization stage in semiconductor and sensor domain now have an opportunity of being supported financially for commercialisation and of financial assistance in the form of loans, equity, and grants.

5. PUNJAB CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER UNVEILED ITS MASCOT NAMED 'SHERA'



- Chief Electoral Officer's office of Punjab unveiled its election mascot, "Shera" (Lion).
- It aims to increase voter awareness, participation and promote ethical voting in the Punjab Assembly polls that is scheduled on 20 February 2022.
- The mascot "Shera", depicting a lion. It represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab.
- It is promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Punjab Capital: Chandigarh
- Punjab Chief minister: Charanjit Singh Channi
- Punjab Governor: Banwarilal Purohit.

6. PRIME MINISTER MODI LAUNCHES PANDIT JASRAJ CULTURAL FOUNDATION



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of the Indian classical vocalist.
- Prime Minister Modi said that the World is entitled to benefit from Indian music like they have from Yoga.
- Durga Jasraj and Pandit Shaarang Dev keep alive the glorious legacy of the maestro.
- The Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation has been founded by Pandit Jasraj's son Shaarang Dev Pandit, and his daughter, Durga Jasraj.
- The main objective of the fluctuation is to protect, preserve, develop and promote the National Heritage, Art & Culture of India.
- He passed away on August 17, 2020, after he suffered from cardiac arrest at his home in New Jersey.

International News

7. SAMSUNG SURPASSES INTEL AS WORLD'S TOP SEMICONDUCTOR COMPANY IN 2021

Table 1. Top 10 Semiconductor Vendors by Revenue, Worldwide, 2021 (Millions of U.S. Dollars)

2021 Rank	2020 Rank	Vendor	2021 Revenue	2021 Market Share (%)	2020 Revenue	2020-2021 Growth (%)
1	2	Samsung Electronics	75,950	13.0	57,729	31.6
2	1	Intel	73,100	12.5	72,759	0.5
3	3	SK Hynix	36,326	6.2	25,854	40.5
4	4	Micron Technology	28,449	4.9	22,037	29.1
5	5	Qualcomm	26,856	4.6	17,632	52.3
6	6	Broadcom	18,749	3.2	15,754	19.0
7	8	MediaTek	17,452	3.0	10,988	58.8
8	7	Texas Instruments	16,902	2.9	13,619	24.1
9	10	NVIDIA	16,256	2.8	10,643	52.7
10	14	AMD	15,893	2.7	9,665	64.4
		Others (outside top 10)	257,544	44.1	209,557	22.9
		Total semiconductor	583,477	100.0	466,237	25.1

Source: Gartner (January 2022)

- South Korean electronics manufacturing giant, Samsung Electronics surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021, according to a report released by research firm Counterpoint Technology Market Research.
- While Intel posted relatively flattish results, Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021.
- Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year.
- Samsung Electronics Founder: Lee Byung-chul;
- Samsung Electronics Founded: 13 January 1969.
- Samsung Electronics CEO: Kim Hyun Suk, Kim Ki Nam & Koh Dong-Jin.

8. DUBAI WILL LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED FLYING BOAT 'THE JET'

- Dubai firm, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- 'THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots and also has a capacity of carrying 8-12 passengers.

- This announcement comes as a result of the agreement signed between Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission, UAE-based Zenith Marine Services, and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet' in Dubai.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

Obituary News

9. SENIOR ADVOCATE & ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL RUPINDER SINGH SURI PASSES AWAY



- Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG), Rupinder Singh Suri has passed away.
- He was appointed the ASG in June 2020.
- He was designated as a senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.
- He served as standing counsel in the Supreme Court for Punjab for about 15 years.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. ISRO TO LAUNCH CHANDRAYAN-3 IN AUGUST THIS YEAR



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in August this year.
- This was stated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha yesterday.
- Dr. Singh revealed that the realization of Chandrayaan-3 is in progress, and the mission team is making preparations based on the learnings from Chandrayaan-2 and suggestions by national-level experts.
- He said, the mission-related hardware and their tests are successfully completed and ISRO is all set to launch Chandrayaan-3 in August.
- This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline.

2. PM MODI TO DEDICATE NATION 216-FEET STATUE OF EQUALITY IN HYDERABAD TOMORROW

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad tomorrow.
- He will visit the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad, and kickstart the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Institute.
- In the evening, Prime Minister will dedicate the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to the nation.
- The 216-feet tall Statue of Equality commemorates the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste, and creed.
- The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals. These are gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. It is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.
- It is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi'.

- It has floors devoted to a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Sri Ramanujacharya.



3. GLOBAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY LAUNCHED IN IIT DHARWAD



- The Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy was recently launched at IIT Dharwad.
- The center will enhance the research in affordable and clean energy.

- The center will create, incubate technologies, physical infrastructure.
- Also, it will create clean energy solutions. The solutions will target on livelihoods of rural communities.
- The center is to be supported by CSR funds. CSR is Corporate Social Responsibility. The CSR funds are to come from HHSIF.
- HHSIF is Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation. HHSIF provides funds in five main areas such as family safety and security, science and math education, housing and shelter, sustainability and humanitarian relief.

International News

4. BANGLADESH: 24 EMINENT PERSONS TO GET EKUSHEY PADAK 2022



- The government of Bangladesh announced the names of 24 eminent personalities for the award of the country's second highest civilian honour- Ekushey Padak.
- The names were announced on Thursday in a press release issued by the Ministry of Culture.
- Two persons have been nominated for the award under Language Movement Category, four in the Liberation war category, seven in art, music and dance category, two in social service, two in language and literature, four in research and one each in journalism, science and Technology and Education.

5. WINTER OLYMPICS HOST CHINA WELCOMES YEAR OF TIGER WITH QUIET CELEBRATIONS AMID COVID OUTBREAKS



- China is celebrating the Spring Festival, its most important annual festival as it entered the Lunar new Year of the Tiger on Tuesday, bidding goodbye to the Lunar Year of the Ox.
- Chinese residents normally ring in the start of the New Year with fireworks, lanterns, balloons, food, and family time.
- The new year's atmosphere has faded with the closure of temples and seasonal fairs to prevent large crowds.
- Due to a ban on public spectators for Olympics and tighter virus controls have again affected the usual bump up in tourism and consumption.
- Nearly 3,000 athletes from approximately 90 countries and regions will compete at Beijing 2022, which will feature more events and produce more gold medals than any of the previous games.
- The Year of the Tiger, according to the Chinese Zodiac, runs from Feb. 1, 2022 to Jan. 21, 2023.

6. INDIA TO BOYCOTT BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS AFTER CHINA PICKED GALWAN SOLDIER AS TORCH-BEARER

- India will not attend the opening or closing ceremony of the 17-day-long 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, announced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday.
- The decision was taken after China honored a military commander involved in the Galwan Valley clashes as its torchbearer for the mega sporting event.
- The People's Liberation Army (PLA) regiment commander involved in the June 15, 2020 clash with India in Galwan Valley was chosen by China to carry the Winter Olympic torch in Beijing.
- The eastern Ladakh border row escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020.



Important Days

7. BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM FIGHTER SATGURU RAM SINGH IS BEING CELEBRATED



- The Birth Anniversary of Sikh philosopher, reformer, and freedom fighter, Satguru Ram Singh is being observed today.
- Born on 3 February 1816, in the Kuka Samparda lineage.
- Satguru Ram Singh was a great spiritual guru, thinker, seer, and social reformer.
- He is credited as being the first British Indian to use non-cooperation and boycott British goods and services as a political tool.

8. WORLD CANCER DAY: MANSUKH MANDAVIYA ASKS EVERYONE TO SPREAD AWARENESS AND HELP PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM CANCER



- Today is World Cancer Day. It is observed on the 4th of February every year to create awareness about cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.
- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has asked everyone to join hands to intensify the global fight against cancer by spreading awareness about the fatal disease and helping those who are suffering from it.
- In a tweet, Mr Mandaviya said, the government is committed to ensuring early detection and affordable treatment of cancer.

9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY OBSERVED ON 04 FEBRUARY



- The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on 4th February.
- The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance; and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- It also aims to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021.
- The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare 4 February as International Day of Human Fraternity on 21 December 2020.

Banking News

10. VEDANTA TIED UP WITH UNION BANK OF INDIA TO TAKE OVER SYNDICATED FACILITY



- Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of Rs 8,000 crores (replacement facility) with Union Bank of India at 7.75% to take over the majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders.
- During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10K crores with the State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5 per cent.
- This replacement facility was availed on December 28, 2021, to take over the existing Syndicated facility to reduce the overall interest cost of the company and to prepay high-cost debt raised at over 10% two years ago.

11. SBI TIE-UP WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT CENTRE FOR DESIGN



- The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi.
- The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India.

12. RAVI MITTAL NAMED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA



- The former secretary, Department of Sports, Ravi Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- He is a 1986 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre.
- He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professionals and Information Utilities in India.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. UTTAR PRADESH WINS BEST STATE TABLEAU OF REPUBLIC DAY PARADE 2022



- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has been picked as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2022.
- The theme of the tableau of Uttar Pradesh was 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'.
- A total of 12 states and union territories had participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26.
- The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'cradle of traditional handicrafts' while the third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau based on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.

- Best marching contingent among three Services: Indian Navy
- Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- The tableaux of the ministry of education and the ministry of civil aviation have been declared as joint winners in the category of central ministries and departments.

2. IUCN DESIGNATES ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK IN GURUGRAM 2022

- The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.
- This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.
- OECM is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests.
- The park, which once was an abandoned mining pit, was transformed into a lush green forest patch in 10 years. Now, it has about 400 native species of plants.



Books and Authors

3. A BOOK TITLED 'GOLDEN BOY NEERAJ CHOPRA' BY NAVDEEP SINGH GILL RELEASED



- A short biography of Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra has titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' authored by sports author Navdeep Singh Gill has been released.
- Neeraj Chopra won a Gold medal in Javelin Throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by the chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members.
- The book has 72 pages and covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj Chopra right from his childhood to the Tokyo Olympics.
- The book very aptly covers his sporting techniques, numerous awards and contemporaries in different chapters with coloured photos in each chapter.

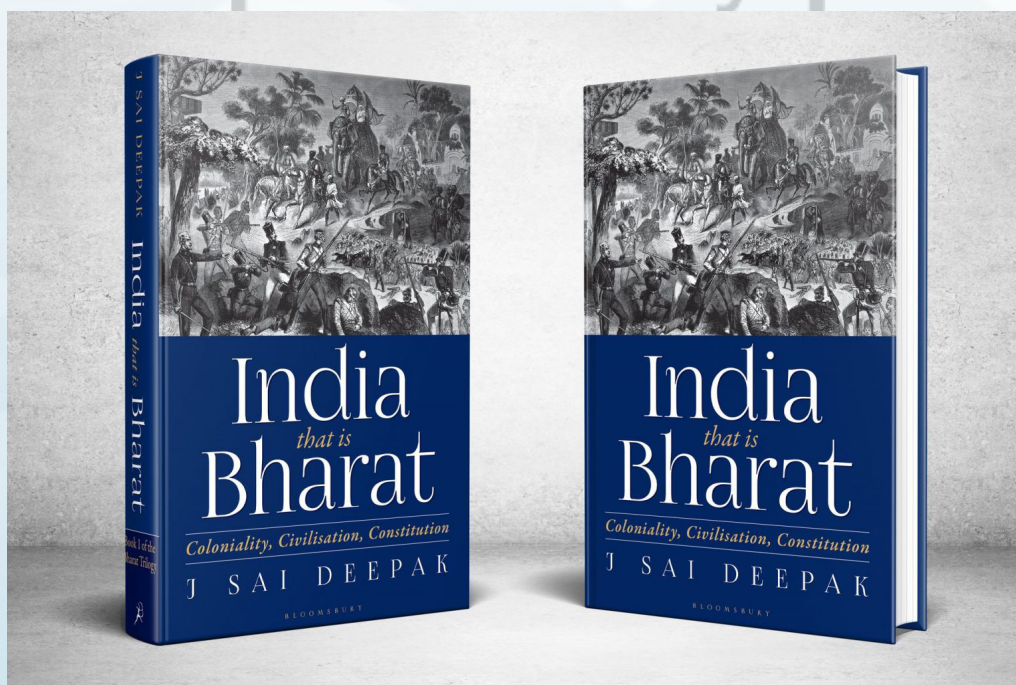
4. MS DHONI'S FIRST LOOK FROM GRAPHIC NOVEL 'ATHARVA': THE ORIGIN' RELEASED



- Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals Pvt Ltd has released the motion poster of its upcoming graphic novel, Atharva – The Origin.
- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva in this graphic novel.
- The motion poster features a rugged looking Dhoni, giving fans a glimpse into the world of Atharva and also a sneak peek into the first look of him as a superhero.
- The graphic novel authored by Ramesh Thamilmani features over 150 lifelike illustrations which present the gripping, racy narrative.
- It is produced by Vincent Adaikalaraj and Ashok Manor. Reportedly, the makers are also planning to make a web-series based on the novel.

5. INDIA, THAT IS BHARAT: COLONIALITY, CIVILISATION, CONSTITUTION' AUTHORED BY J SAI DEEPAK

- A Trilogy book series titled, 'India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution' is authored by J Sai Deepak and published by Bloomsbury India.
- The 1st part was released on 15th August 2021, is set to launch the 2nd part in June 2022. Whereas, the 3rd and last parts will be released in June 2023.
- It is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy, which examines the impact of European 'colonial consciousness' (or 'coloniality'), on Bharat (India).
- It highlights how colonialism changes the socio-religious culture, history, education, language and racial patterns in India.



Appointment

6. GOI NAMED SONALI SINGH AS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS (CGA) ON ADD. CHARGE



- The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, with effect from February 01, 2022.
- She has been appointed in place of Dipak Dash, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.
- Sonali Singh is a 1987 batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).
- She is serving as the Additional Controller General of Accounts since October 2019.
- Prior to that, she had also served as Additional Secretary at Central Vigilance Commission.

7. JNU VICE-CHANCELLOR M JAGADESH KUMAR NAMED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF UGC



- The government of India has appointed JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University) Vice-Chancellor, M Jagadesh Kumar as the new Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- He has been appointed for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest.
- The post of the UGC Chairman was vacant since December 07, 2021, after Prof D P Singh resigned upon attaining 65 years of age. He was appointed in 2018.
- University Grants Commission Founded: 1956

- University Grants Commission Headquarters: New Delhi

8. SENIOR SCIENTIST GA SRINIVASA MURTHY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF DRDL

- Senior scientist GA Srinivasa Murthy has been appointed director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad.
- He joined DRDL in the year 1987 and made significant contributions in the area of structural dynamics, ground resonance testing, electrical integration and checkout for various projects of the missile complex.
- G A Srinivasa Murthy completed his BE in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Andhra University in 1986 and pursued his ME in Digital Systems from Osmania University in Hyderabad.



Reports and Index

9. CMIE REPORT: INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN JANUARY 2022 STOOD AT 6.57%



- The unemployment rate in India in January 2022 fell sharply to 6.57%, according to the data from the economic think-tank, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- This is the lowest rate witnessed since March 2021. In December 2021, the unemployment rate rose to a four-month high of 7.91%, compared to 6.97% in November.
- CMIE is a Mumbai-based independent non-government entity that serves both as an economic think-tank as well as a business information company.
- Telangana recorded the lowest unemployment rate in January at 0.7%.
- This was followed by Gujarat at 1.2%, Meghalaya at 1.5%, Odisha at 1.8% and Karnataka at 2.9%.
- Haryana witnessed the highest unemployment rate of 23.4% in January 2022. It was followed by Rajasthan (18.9%), Tripura (17.1%), Jammu & Kashmir (15%) and Delhi (14.1%).

By Sameer Singhal





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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

National News

National News

1. NATION BIDS FAREWELL TO THE LEGEND, LATA MANGESHKAR; CONDOLENCES POUR IN FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES 1. ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY



Government announces **Two-Day National Mourning** in memory of

Bharat Ratna

Lata Mangeshkar

- As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary 2 days state mourning observed from 06.02.2022 to 07.02.2022
- National Flag flown at half-mast throughout India for 2 days
- State funeral will be accorded to the departed soul



- Nation bid tearful adieu to Nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar whose mortal remains were consigned to flames at Shivaji Park in Mumbai with full state honours yesterday.
- The funeral of the legendary singer was attended by a galaxy of leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi who placed a wreath on the mortal remains of the iconic singer, draped in the national flag.

- Bharat Ratna awardee Lata Mangeshkar passed away yesterday at the age of 92 due to multiple organ failures.
- The Queen of Melody was admitted to Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai on 8th of January after she was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The government has declared a two-day national mourning as mark of respect to the departed soul.
- Maharashtra government has also declared public holiday today due to demise of the veteran singer.
- The West Bengal government has also declared a half-day holiday as a mark of respect to the icon.
- Bihar Government has also declared two-day state mourning.

2. HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH 4.0



- Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya today launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 in New Delhi to protect children and pregnant mothers from severe diseases in the country.
- It is a special drive to expand full immunization coverage in India.
- In a tweet, Dr Mandaviya said, Mission Indradhanush 4.0 will give more impetus to the vaccination coverage in the country.

3. PROF SANTISHREE PANDIT APPOINTED AS VICE-CHANCELLOR OF JNU

- Prof Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi for a period of five years.
- She is the first female Vice-Chancellor of JNU.
- Former Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission UGC.



4. SOURAV GANGULY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST CRICKET STADIUM



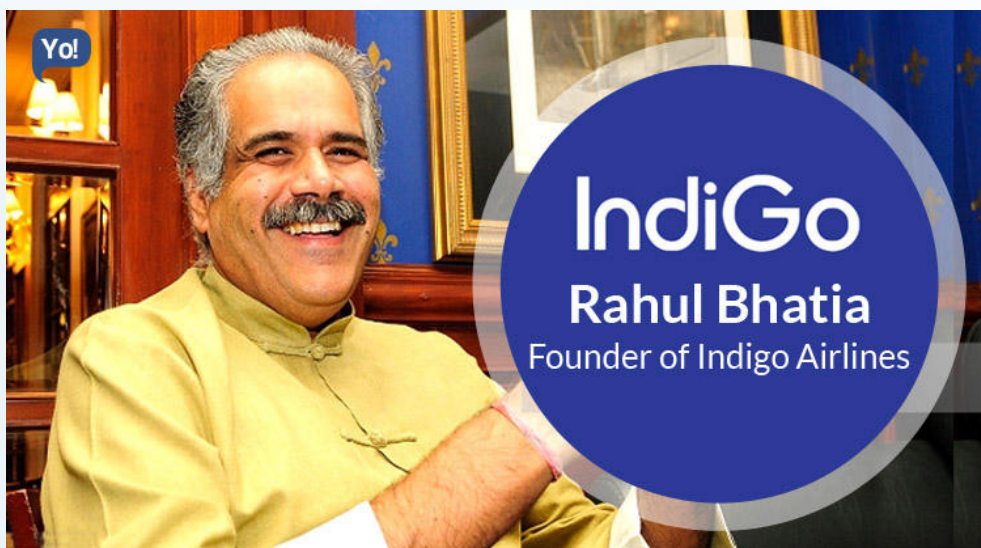
- Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Jaipur.
- The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world.
- The new international stadium will be built by the Rajasthan Cricket Academy (RCA) on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass, over 100 acres of land in Jaipur.
- The stadium will have a seating capacity of 75,000 spectators.

5. U19 WORLD CUP 2022: INDIA BEAT ENGLAND IN FINAL TO WIN 5TH TITLE



- India defeated England by four wickets to clinch a record-extending fifth title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua.
- India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018.
- Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw.
- Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for 189 in 44.5 overs.
- India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022 Final between India and England.
- The Indian all-rounder picked 5/31, the best bowling figures for any final in the history of the championship and also scored crucial 35 runs with the bat to help his team in its 4 wicket win.

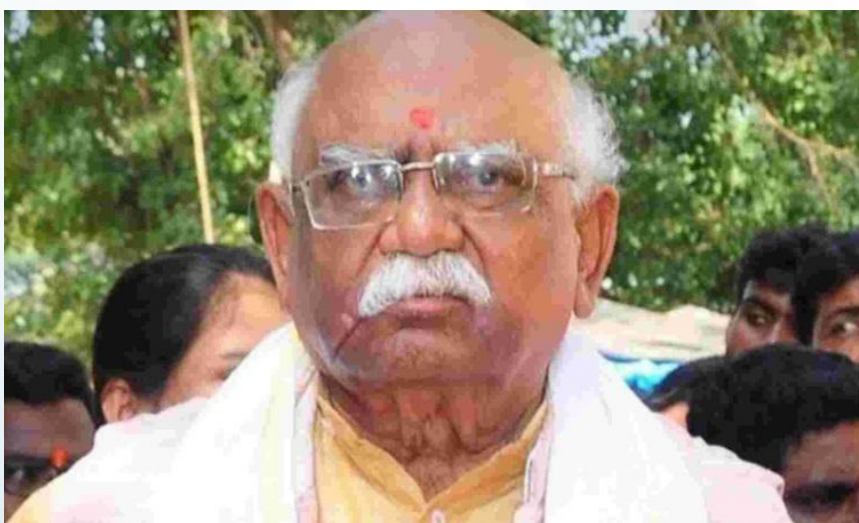
6. INDIGo's CO-FOUNDER RAHUL BHATIA NAMED AS FIRST MD OF THE COMPANY



- The low-cost Indian airline, IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as the Managing Director (MD) of the company with immediate effect.
- He is the first-ever MD of Indigo, because before this the company never had a managing director.
- Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.
- The board of directors, during its meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of Bhatia as the managing director with immediate effect, subject to the approval of the shareholders.
- IndiGo is back in the black with a net profit for the December quarter at Rs 130 crore.

Obituary News

7. BJP'S FIRST TORCHBEARER IN LOK SABHA, C JANGA REDDY PASSES AWAY



- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Chandupatla Janga Reddy has passed away in Hyderabad following health issues.
- He was a native of Warangal and a former MLA in Andhra Pradesh.
- He is best known for his time as a Member of Parliament in the 8th Lok Sabha in 1984, which also marked the BJP's debut in the Lok Sabha, following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
- Reddy was one of the only two BJP MPs who got elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984 in 543 Parliament constituencies. The other was A K Patel.
- He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in undivided Andhra Pradesh thrice.

Banking News

8. LIC TIE-UP WITH POLICYBAZAAR FOR DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE INSURANCE

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with Policybazaar to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India.
- This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products.

- To facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across India.
- The alliance will provide insurance services in smaller cities to ensure financial inclusion and social security.
- It will increase its penetration digitally in rural and remote areas and offer a wide range of term and investment products to the customers.



9. ADB LENDS RECORD USD 4.6 BN LOANS TO INDIA IN 2021

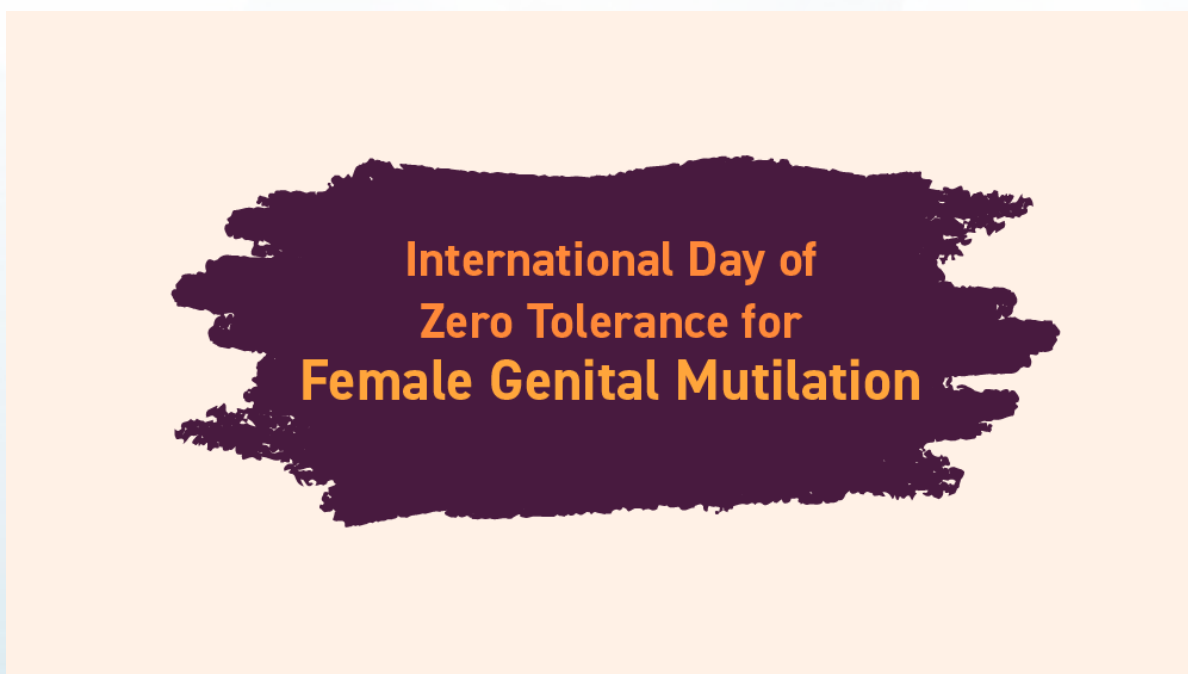


- As per the data official released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it provided a record USD 4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021.

- This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response.
- The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building.
- The ADB's project portfolio in 2021 reflected the Indian government's focus on transforming cities into economically vibrant and sustainable communities.

Important Days

10. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is observed on 6th February globally.
- This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- It was first introduced in 2003. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.
- Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. DRUGS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA, GRANTS EMERGENCY USE OF SINGLE-DOSE SPUTNIK LIGHT COVID-19 VACCINE



- Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has informed that Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI has granted emergency use permission to Single-dose Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine in India.
- In a tweet, Dr Mandaviya said that this is the 9th COVID19 vaccine in the country.
- He said, this will further strengthen the nation's collective fight against the pandemic.

2. CONSTITUTION (SC/ST) ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 INTRODUCED IN RAJYA SABHA



- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha today.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to omit Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- The Bill was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.

3. INDIA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 DNA VACCINE



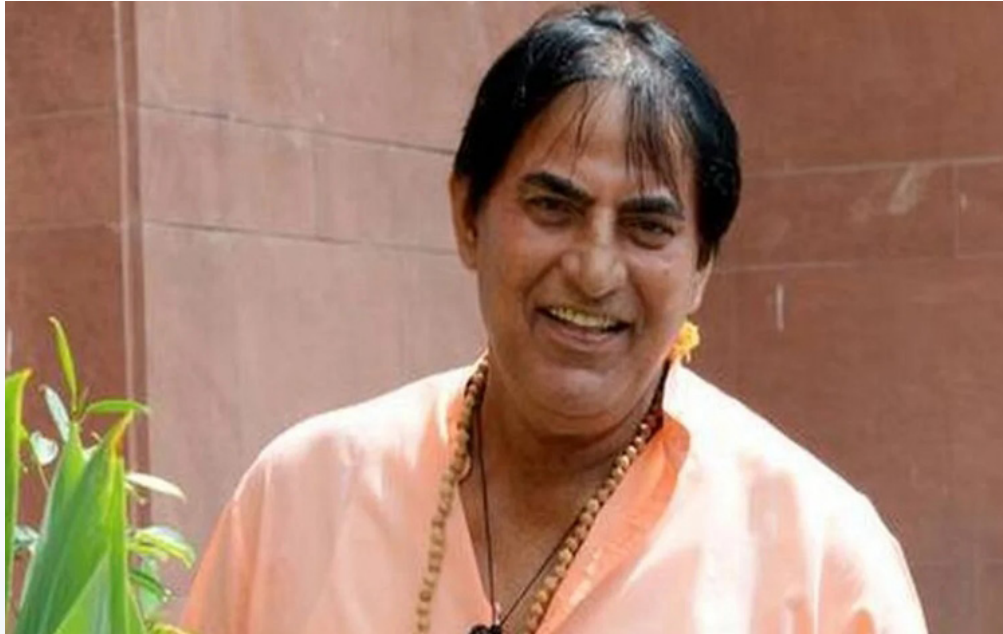
- India has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.
- The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna.
- It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
- It is the second India-made vaccine to get emergency authorization in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- The Indian government approved emergency use authorisation for Zydus Cadila's DNA vaccine earlier this year, citing initial results from Phase III clinical trials that showed approximately 66 per cent efficacy for symptomatic cases.

Obituary News

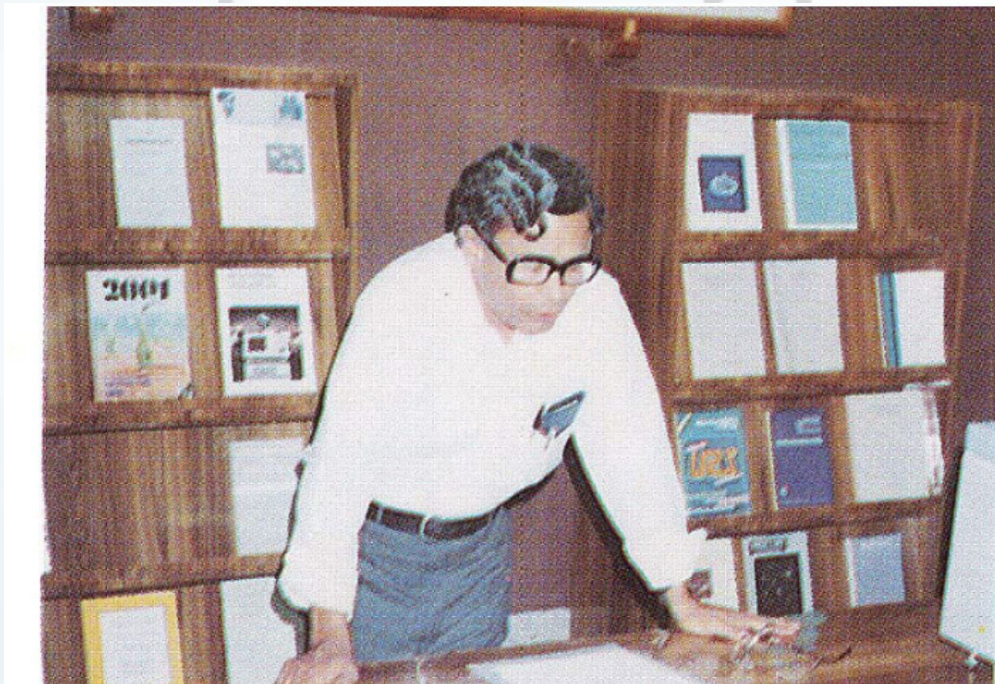
4. PRAVEEN KUMAR SOBTI POPULARLY KNOWN FOR HIS ROLE AS 'BHEEM' IN MAHABHARAT PASSES AWAY

- Praveen Kumar Sobti popularly known for his role as 'Bheem' in Mahabharat passes away.
- He was 74. Border Security Force has expressed grief over the demise of Praveen Kumar Sobti, former Deputy Commandant and Arjuna Awardee.

- In a tweet, BSF said, he was two-time Olympian and four-time Asian Games medallist



5. R RAJAMOHAN, WHO LED THE 1ST ASTEROID DISCOVERIES IN INDEPENDENT INDIA, PASSES AWAY



- Professor R Rajamohan, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away.
- He is best known for his Kalki Project, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India.
- This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.

International News

6. NASA WILL RETIRE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION IN 2031



- According to NASA, the International Space Station will continue its operation until 2031 and then crash into an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo.
- It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement.
- NASA also selected Houston-based Axiom Space to provide the ISS's first commercial module.
- The International Space Station was the brainchild of former US President Ronald Reagan, who in 1984 proposed building a permanently inhabited spacecraft in cooperation with a few other countries.
- In 1998, the first piece of the space station, a control module, was launched into space onboard a Russian rocket.
- About two weeks later, a crew onboard the US' Endeavour space shuttle attached the control module with another part, the Unity node.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

Sports News

7. SRI LANKAN FAST BOWLER SURANGA LAKMAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

- Veteran Sri Lankan fast bowler Suranga Lakmal has announced his retirement from international cricket, after Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of India.

- The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement.
- The Derbyshire County Cricket Club has signed Lakmal on a two-year contract.
- Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.



8. AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS: SENEGAL BEAT EGYPT 2022



- Senegal has defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- Sadio Mane scored the winning spot-kick as Senegal claimed a first-ever Africa Cup of Nations title with a 4-2 penalty shootout victory over seven-time winners Egypt.
- The final had ended 0-0 after extra time.

9. CHINA WINS AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP INDIA 2022 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



- China PR (People's Republic) defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China. India is hosting the 20th edition of the football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from January 20, 2022, to February 06, 2022.
- China now qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand.

Appointment News

10. PROFESSOR DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI NAMED AS NEW NCERT DIRECTOR



- Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- He has replaced Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term a year ago.
- The new director has been appointed for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till he attains the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- NCERT Headquarters: New Delhi
- NCERT Founder: Government of India
- NCERT Founded: 1961.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. AYUSH MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL LAUNCHES DEDICATED STOREFRONT FOR AYURVEDA PRODUCTS ON AMAZON



- AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today launched a dedicated storefront for Ayurveda products on Amazon in the marketplace.
- This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products such as various kinds of juices, skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils and more from small businesses and startup brands.
- It will make shopping easier as product selection has been organized according to focus areas and health benefits such as pain management, immunity boosters, blood purifiers, women's health, weight management, and mental wellness.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sonowal said, it is important to scientifically develop Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy medicines for COVID-19 and it is equally important to establish a robust marketing network of these products to reach the masses.

2. EAM S JAISHANKAR TO PARTICIPATE IN 4TH QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON FEB 11 IN MELBOURNE



- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will be on a six day visit to Australia and Philippines from tomorrow.
- In a statement External Affairs Ministry said, Dr. Jaishankar is paying an official visit to Australia at the invitation of his Australian counterpart Marise Payne.
- This will be his first visit as External Affairs Minister to Australia. It will be also the first high-level visit to Australia from India after the opening of its borders which were closed following the outbreak of the Covid19 pandemic.
- Dr. Jaishankar will participate in the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Friday in Melbourne, along with the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Japan and the United States.

3. AMAZON INDIA SIGNS MoU WITH KARNATAKA TO MAKE RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS STATE

- Amazon India signed an MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.
- Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products.
- The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.
- Through this, Amazon and the government bodies will come together to assist and empower lakhs of women entrepreneurs associated with them from the four states to register their business with Amazon India and access a wider market base.
- Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru

- Karnataka Chief Minister: Basavaraj S Bommai



4. KERALA SIGNED AN MoU WITH SOCIAL ALPHA TO DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY TECH



- Kerala Government has signed an MoU with the Social Alpha's Energy Lab – “Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC)” to support innovative and clean energy technology programmes in Kerala.
- The Government of Kerala signed this agreement through Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre (EMC).
- The EMC Kerala represents the Power Department agencies including the Kerala State Electricity Board, Electrical Inspectorate and ANERT (Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology).
- To establish a clean energy incubation centre to boost green energy development and energy conservation activities in Kerala.

International News

5. SONATA SOFTWARE TIE-UP WITH MICROSOFT FOR ITS LAUNCH OF 'MICROSOFT CLOUD'



- A global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company, Sonata Software has announced its partnership with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'.
- The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades.
- The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship.
- Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers worldwide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.
- The partnership with Microsoft Cloud for Retail will further enhance our capabilities, with its emphasis on leveraging data, elevating the shopping experience, building real-time, sustainable supply chains, and empowering store associates.
- Sonata Software Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Sonata Software Founded: 1986
- Sonata Software MD & CEO: P. Srikar Reddy

6. ENGLAND APPOINTS PAUL COLLINGWOOD AS INTERIM HEAD COACH

- For the three-Test tour of the West Indies next month, Yesterday, England appointed Paul Collingwood as interim head coach.
- The appointment comes after former head coach Chris Silverwood and managing director Ashley Giles were sacked last week, following England's 4-0 Ashes defeat to Australia.
- Paul Collingwood said that he is genuinely excited to be leading the Test team for the tour of the Caribbean and can't wait to get started.

- The tour squad is due to be announced later this week. The first test in Antigua starts on March 1.



Appointment News

7. AMITABH BACHCHAN NAMED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF MEDI BUDDY



- MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms, has signed legendary Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as the official brand ambassador.
- As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health.
- With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India.

- Leveraging the veteran actor's popularity, especially across tier II and tier III cities, the brand aims to position itself as a household name.

8. AKSHAY KUMAR HAS ACCEPTED TO WORK AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF UTTARAKHAND



- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar on Monday (February 7, 2022) met Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at the CM residence in Dehradun.
- Following the visit, Dhami said that Akshay Kumar will work as a brand ambassador of Uttarakhand.
- “We had given him (Akshay Kumar) a proposal, he has accepted it. He will also work as a brand ambassador of Uttarakhand,” Dhami was quoted as saying.
- Dhami also presented Akshay with a cap.

9. S R NARASIMHAN TAKES ADDITIONAL CHARGE AS CMD POSOCO 2022



- S. R. Narasimhan, Director (System Operation) has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) w.e.f. 1st February 2022 at New Delhi.
- He has a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance.
- He has over three decades' experience in Power System Operation spread across CEA, POWERGRID and POSOCO after an initial stint with BHEL.
- POSOCO Founded: March 2010
- POSOCO Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. GOVT BANS IMPORT OF FOREIGN DRONES TO PROMOTE MAKE-IN-INDIA INITIATIVE



- As part of efforts to promote domestic manufacturing of drones in the country, the Government has banned import of foreign drones with certain exceptions.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade DGFT has issued a notification banning the import of foreign drones.
- However, import of drones for Research and Development, defence and security purposes have been exempted from the ban but such imports will require due clearances.
- Import of drone components shall not require any approvals.

2. ATAL TUNNEL CERTIFIED BY WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS AS WORLD'S LONGEST HIGHWAY TUNNEL

- Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10 thousand Feet.
- Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry received the award for the stupendous achievement of the organization in constructing this engineering marvel connecting Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley.

- World Book of Records in the United Kingdom, is an organisation that catalogues and verifies extraordinary records across the world with authentic certification.
- Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3rd October 2020.
- The 9.02 kilometers long strategically significant Atal Tunnel, that runs under the Rohtang Pass was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.



3. KANCHOTH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR



- The ancient festival of Kanchoth is annually celebrated, mainly by the Nag followers, during the Shukla Paksha of Magh month which usually falls in January or February.
- The festival is celebrated with religious fervour across the Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- The 3-day festival is celebrated by married women who pray for the long life of their husbands. Kanchoth or Gauri Tritiya is widely celebrated in hilly kishtwar, Ramban and Doda of Jammu province.
- The festival is celebrated across Bhaderwah (also known as mini-Kashmir), Kotli, Mathola, Ghata, Khakhal, Gupt Ganga, Chinnote, Kapra, Bhalra, Bheja, Chinchora and other regions.

4. GUJARAT UNVEILS NEW IT/ITES POLICY TO GENERATE 1 LAKH DIRECT JOBS



- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday unveiled new “IT/ITES Policy 2022-27” which offers both capital and operational support to Information Technology (IT) firms making investments in Gujarat, and promises to generate one lakh direct jobs.
- Having missed the IT bus twice in 1980s and 2000, Gujarat introduced a special employment generation incentive in the new policy to encourage IT and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) firms for hiring local talent.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the new policy would take the state to “newer heights in IT sector” and will place Gujarat among top five performing states of India in IT sector.
- The policy launched at a formal event at a club in GIFT City in Gandhinagar replaces the 2016-2021 policy that had set an ambitious target to increase exports up to USD two billion (Rs 13,000 crore), IT turnover to USD 15 billion (Rs 75,000 crore) and create 10 lakh direct jobs.
- The policy provides support for both capital (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) expenditures.

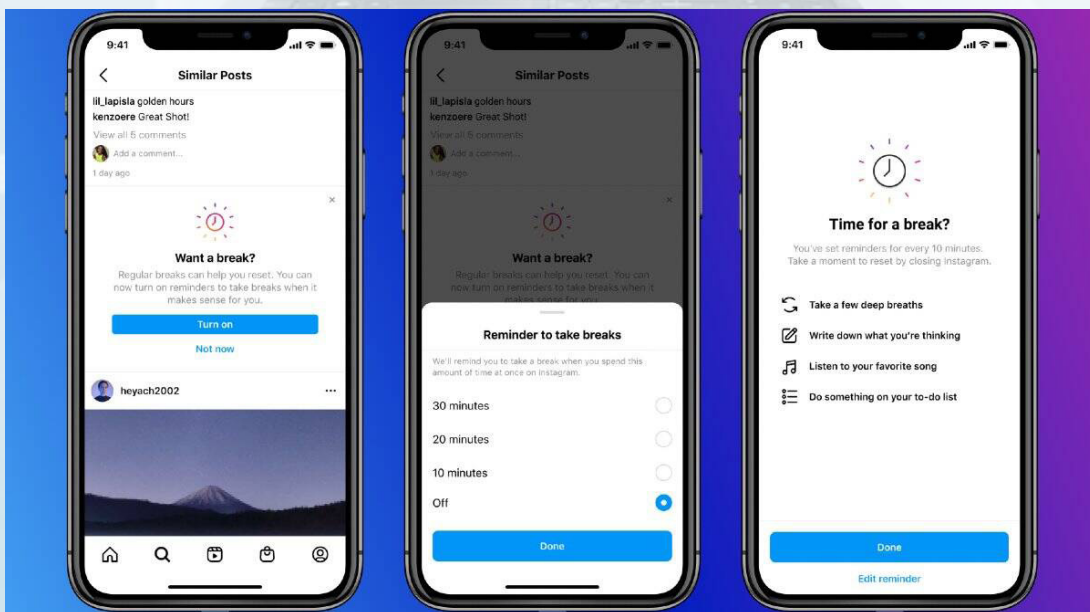
5. INDIA’S FIRST BIOMASS-BASED HYDROGEN PLANT TO COME UP AT MADHYA PRADESH

- India’s first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.

- The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs 24 crore.
- The company owns the technology for a ‘thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor’ that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass.
- Biezel Green will own 50 per cent in the yet-to-be-named joint venture; the other 50 per cent will come from interested farmers.



6. INSTAGRAM ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO ‘TAKE A BREAK’ FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



- Instagram has announced the launch of ‘Take a Break’ in all countries, including India, to empower people to make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time.
- This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with ‘We The Young’, called ‘Break Zaroori Hai’.

- ‘Take a Break’ was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.
- ‘Take a Break’ is a feature that will show up for people, as they have been scrolling for a certain amount of time. They will be asked to take a break from Instagram and suggest that they set reminders to take more breaks in the future.
- They will also be shown expert-backed tips to help them reflect and reset. To make sure that young people are aware of this feature, they will be shown notifications suggesting they turn these reminders on.
- Instagram Founder Kevin Systrom.

Important Days

7. WORLD PULSES DAY 2022



- The United Nations designated World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February.
- The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- This year World Pulses Day’s theme: “Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems”.
- In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day.
- The first WPD was held on February 10, 2019. On 20 December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/231) proclaiming 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).

8. SAFER INTERNET DAY 2022



- Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked.
- This year February 8 is being celebrated as Safer Internet Day across the world.
- This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe.
- This year, the occasion is being marked under the theme 'Together for a better internet', calling upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

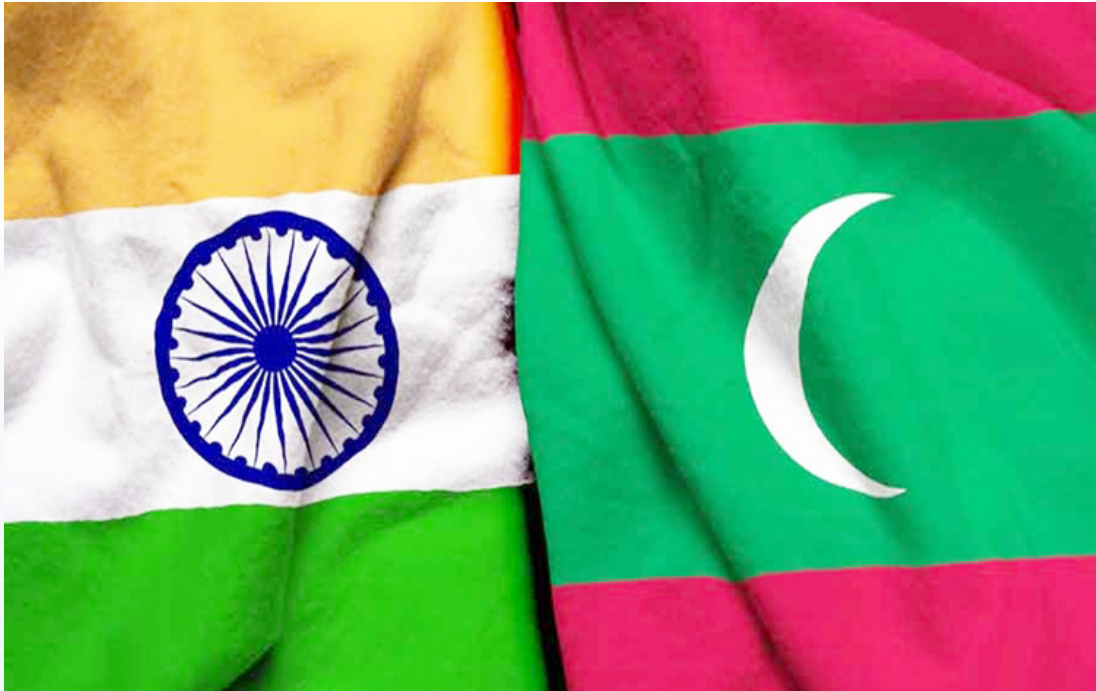
By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. MUGHAL GARDENS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC FROM SATURDAY

- The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be open for the public from coming Saturday.
- The gardens will remain open till 16th March and people can visit between 10 AM to 5 PM except on Mondays.
- President Ram Nath Kovind today opened the annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Visitors will be allowed to see the Gardens only through advance online booking. The booking can be made on
- www.rashtrapatisachivalaya.gov.in
- Each slot can accommodate a maximum of one hundred persons.
- During the tour, visitors have to follow COVID protocols such as wearing of mask and maintaining social distance.

2. VISA-FREE ENTRY FOR INDIAN BUSINESS TRAVELLERS TO MALDIVES COMES INTO FORCE



- Maldives has announced that the Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to the island nation, comes into effect.
- In a statement, the Maldivian Foreign Ministry said, starting from the 1st of this month, it has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days.
- This is according to the Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements between both the governments, signed on the 17th of December, 2018.
- As part of the reciprocal arrangement, a multiple entry, non-resident, business visa will be granted for Indian Nationals for a period of 90 days within 6 months.
- Any Indian National with an approved business visa is eligible to renew their visa up to 180 days within a calendar year.

3. NATION REMEMBERS REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM FIGHTER, TRIBAL LEADER TILKA MANJHI ON HIS 272ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

- The Nation is remembering revolutionary freedom fighter and tribal leader Tilka Manjhi on his 272nd birth anniversary today.
- He organized Adivasis into an army and led the famous Santhal Hool in 1784 against the exploitative British.
- In 1770, there was a severe famine in the Santhal region and people were dying of hunger.
- Tilka Manjhi looted the treasury of the Company and distributed it among the poor and needy.
- Inspired by this noble act of Tilka, many other tribals also joined the rebellion. With this began his Santhal Hool, the revolt of the Santhals.

- He continued to attack the British and their sycophantic allies. From 1771 to 1784, Tilka Manjhi never surrendered.



4. NATION COMMEMORATES REVOLUTIONARY BENGALI POET, WRITER NABIN CHANDRA SEN ON HIS 175TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



- The nation is remembering revolutionary Bengali poet and writer Nabin Chandra Sen on his 175th birth anniversary today.
- He described the battle of Plassey and the arrival of British rule in India as A Night of Eternal Gloom”.

- Nabin Chandra Sen's novel-in-verse Bhanumati and memoir of his travels 'Prabaser Patra' brought him fame.
- His five-volume autobiography, Aamar Jiban-My Life is an important document chronicling the politics and social aspirations of the Bengali literati in the late nineteenth century.

5. SURAT TO GET INDIA'S 1ST BULLET TRAIN STATION BY DEC 2024



- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will be India's first bullet train route. While Surat city will get India's first bullet train station.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.
- The cost of the project is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore of which Rs 88,000 crores will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Of the 508.17-kilometre Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, 155.76 km is in Maharashtra, 384.04 km in Gujarat and 4.3 km in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

6. GUJARAT TITANS UNVEILED AS NAME FOR NEW AHMEDABAD IPL FRANCHISE

**GUJARAT
TITANS**

- The Ahmedabad-based IPL franchise, bought by CVC Capital, will be officially known as the Gujarat Titans.
- Titans picked allrounder Hardik Pandya (Rs 15 crore), legspinner Rashid Khan (Rs 15 crore), and top order batter Shubman Gill (Rs 8 crore) as their three picks ahead of the IPL 2022 mega auction set to be held on February 12 and 13.
- Debuting in the 15th season of the IPL, the Gujarat Titans will pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy, which has seen it produce countless Indian international cricket legends over the years.
- The franchise is inspired by the opportunity to represent and build on this deep cricketing heritage, as well as build on its future success on the pitch.

Important Days

7. TODAY IS NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY



- Parasitic worms or helminths, present in the soil, enter people and animals through the soles of their feet.
- These organisms can also infiltrate our bodies through worm-infested food or by touching infected faecal matter.
- The worms attach to the intestines and cause weakness, anaemia, indigestion, weight loss, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting.
- The worms may even enter the brain. Dewormers paralyse or kill adult worms.
- National Deworming Day is observed on February 10, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children from 1 to 19 years of age, who are the most vulnerable.
- The theme for National Deworming Day 2022, has not been announced yet

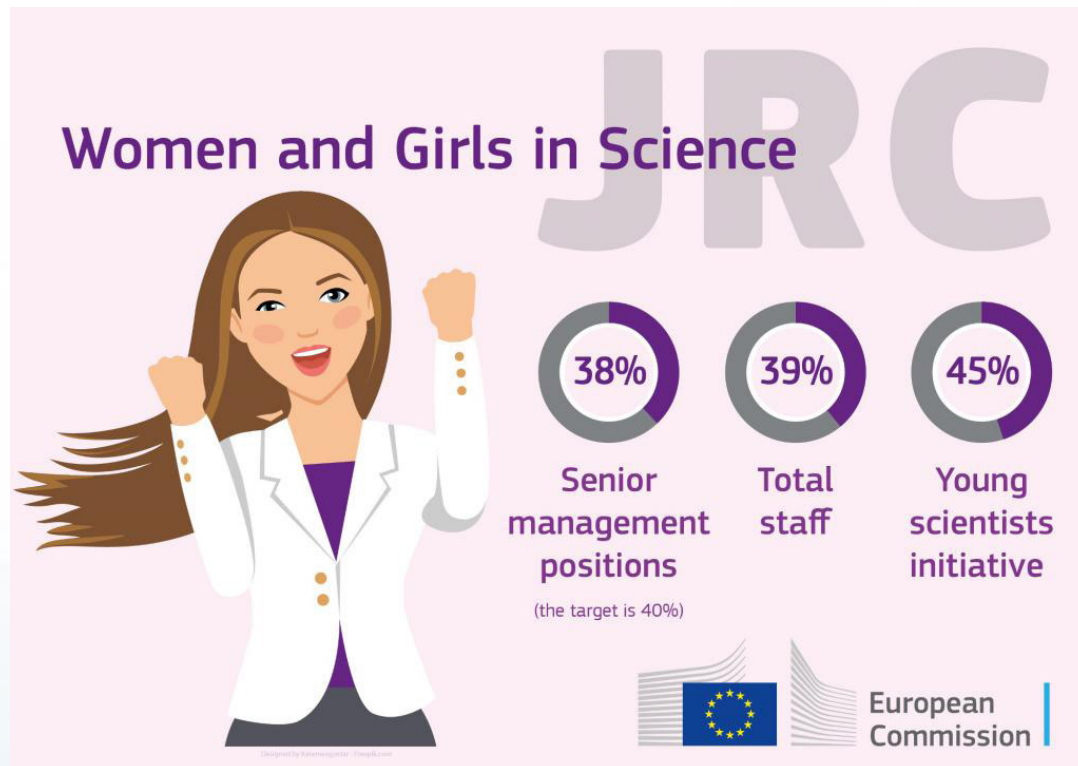
8. WORLD UNANI DAY 2022



- World Unani Day celebrates the Islamic Unani system of medicine.
- The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician Hakim Ajmal Khan, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.
- Below, we look at this year's theme, the history of World Unani Day, its significance, and key facts about Ajmal Khan.
- The Unani system treats patients based on body fluids, phlegm, blood, yellow bile and black bile.
- These are the four humors present in the body, attuned to the natural elements of earth, air, fire and water.
- This theory was developed by Hippocrates in Greece and the name Yūnānī literally means "Greek." The system was further developed by Arabian and Persian physicians or Hakims and became the traditional medicine of Islam.
- Mohammad Ajmal Khan (11 February 1868 – 29 December 1927), better known as Hakim Ajmal Khan, was a physician in Delhi, India, and one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia University.
- He also founded another institution, Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, better known as Tibbia College, situated in Karol Bagh, Delhi.

9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: 11 FEBRUARY

- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed globally on 11 February.
- The 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, taking place on 11 February 2022, aims to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change, including in view of accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
- The 2022 theme of the Day is "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us".



10. POWER MINISTER R K SINGH LAUNCHED POWERTHON-2022



- Union Minister of Power, R K Singh has launched Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply.
- The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks.
- He also encouraged technologists to come forward not only with solutions to existing problems but also with other problem statements and ideas for reliable power supply.

- Technology Solution Providers (TSPs), start-ups, educational institutions, research institutes, equipment manufacturers, state power utilities and other state and central power sector entities, shall be briefed on the current challenges/ problem statements faced across the power distribution sector and invited to showcase their technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems.

11. ISRO DECOMMISSIONED INSAT-4B THROUGH 11 RE-ORBITING MANEUVERS



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decommissioned the INSAT-4B, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the Indian National Satellite System.
- The INSAT-4B underwent Post Mission Disposal (PMD) at the end of its service, followed by decommissioning on January 24.
- INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.
- The development is in compliance with the UN and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommended space debris mitigation guidelines.
- The IADC guidelines provide guidance for limiting the generation of orbital debris both during and after space operations.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES 14.5 KM LONG RAIL-CUM-ROAD-BRIDGE OVER GANGA RIVER AT MUNGER IN BIHAR



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over the Ganga river at Munger in Bihar through video conferencing yesterday.
- The bridge has been constructed on NH 333B at the cost of 696 crore rupees.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the NDA government is committed to empowering every city and village of Bihar with better connectivity.
- He said, one of the major tourist and pilgrimage sites of Bihar, the city of Munger is known for its rich ancient history, culture, education and commerce.
- He said, with the construction of this bridge, the distance from Munger to Khagaria will be less than 100 km and the distance from Munger to Begusarai will be less than 20 km.
- He said, there will be a saving of three hours in traveling from Munger to Khagaria - Saharsa and 45 minutes in traveling from Munger to Begusarai - Samastipur.
- The Minister said, this rail-cum-road-bridge will get rid of traffic jams, fuel will be saved and traffic will accelerate.

2. GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME “SMILE” IN NEW DELHI TOMORROW

- The government will launch the Central Sector Scheme “SMILE- Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” in New Delhi tomorrow.

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in a statement said that the umbrella scheme is designed to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- The Ministry has allocated 365 crore rupees for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.



3. 45TH INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR TO START FROM FEBRUARY 28

- The 45th International Kolkata Book Fair will start from February 28 and will go on till March 13. The focal theme country this year is Bangladesh.
- Due to both Bangabandhu's birth centenary and Bangladesh's 50 years of Independence the theme this year is Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Day will be celebrated on March 3 and 4. The fair will be inaugurated on February 28 by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Kolkata Book Fair had got recognition from International Publishers Association, Geneva and also that Geneva has incorporated International Kolkata Book Fair in the calendar of book fairs published by them.
- Apart from Bangladesh, Britain, USA, Russia, Italy, Japan, Iran, Spain, Argentina, Mexico and other Latin American countries will participate in the Kolkata Book Fair.

4. INDIA'S GOA SHIPYARD LTD DELIVERED THE 5TH VESSEL ICGS 'SAKSHAM'

- India's Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project ahead of contractual schedule.
- The vessel was named ICGS 'Saksham'. The point to be underlined- all 5 vessels have been delivered before time to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The contract for 5 CGOPVs was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence on 26 August 2016.
- All the five CGOPVs will be the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the coast guard.

- Also, the 2,400 tonnes vessels are fitted with additional features including quick response boats for rescue and anti-piracy and gunnery simulators.
- The hull is designed to provide fuel efficiency, crew comfort and enhanced sea keeping qualities. With computerised control systems, they are the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the Coast Guard.



5. INDIA TO HELP SRI LANKA LAUNCH ITS VERSION OF AADHAAR CARD



- India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card.
- The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level programme.
- The initiative follows bilateral talks between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa & Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019.
- It is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices.

6. TELANGANA GOVT TIE-UP WITH BRITISH COUNCIL TO EXPAND HIGHER EDUCATION



- The Government of Telangana and the British Council, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in education, English and arts.
- To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana.
- Under the extended 3-year MoU, the British Council has also signed an agreement with the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) to work closely to engineer new partnerships between universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in the UK and in Telangana.

International News

7. INDIA MOVED TO 46TH POSITION IN DEMOCRACY INDEX

- India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.

- With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.
- The list was published on February 10, 2022. India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the list.
- Our neighbour Pakistan has been placed further below in the hybrid regime with a rank of 104.
- Norway In the full democracy segment, Norway topped the charts. It had an overall score of 9.75.
- New Zealand ranked second in the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.37.
- Finland came in at number three on the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.27.



Appointment News

8. N CHANDRASEKARAN REAPPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF TATA SONS

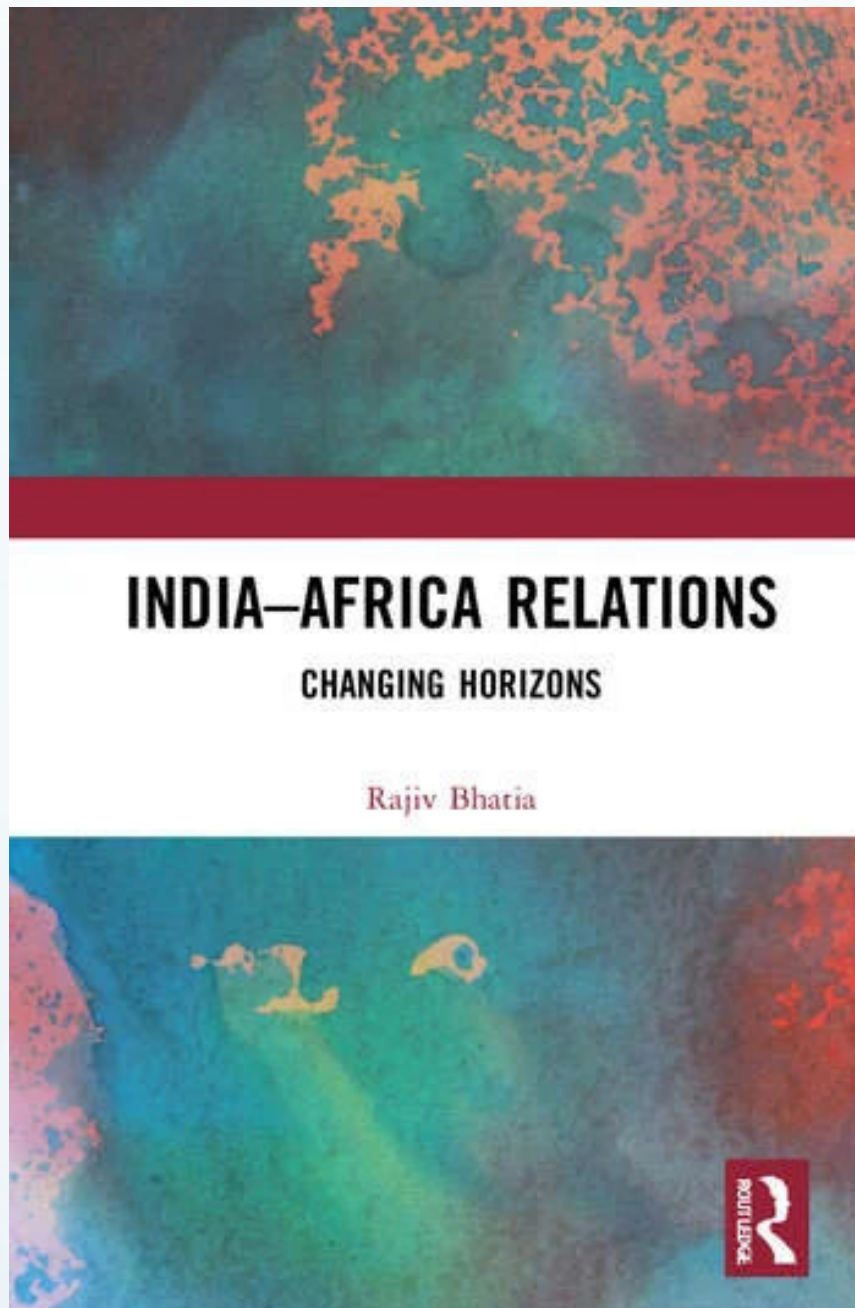


- The board of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has approved the re-appointment of N Chandrasekaran as the Executive Chairman of the company for the second five years term.

- Chandrasekaran's current tenure as the chairman was to expire at the end of February 2022.
- He joined the board of Tata Sons in 2016 and took over the role as Chairman in 2017.
- Chandrasekaran's tenure in the last five years saw several mergers and acquisitions by the group in the steel, aviation and digital sectors and a complete exit from the cellular telephony industry.
- One of the first tasks of Chandra, as he is popularly known, was to get rid of Tata Teleservices which lost around Rs 60,000 crore in paying back bank loans apart from paying the AGR dues till date.

Books and Authors

9. "INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONS: CHANGING HORIZONS" AUTHORED BY RAJIV BHATIA



- Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons”
- Which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.
- The book also provides a detailed exploration of India–the Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.
- The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualize the evolution of the India – Africa engagement.

By Sameer Singhal





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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

National News

KARNATAKA SCHOOLS REOPEN, CRUCIAL HIJAB HEARING IN COURT



- At a Mandya school, however, some parents argued that their children should be allowed to wear the hijab, but a teacher refused permission. The students were only allowed to enter after removing the hijab.
- Last week a frenzied mob waving saffron scarves cheered and chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' as one student ran up a saffron flag on campus - took out a flag march and banned gatherings on or around high school premises. This was after flag marches in three other towns - Udupi, Chitradurga and Doddaballapura
- Schools up to Class 10 will re-open from Monday. I have instructed (district and police officials) and school administrations to conduct a 'peace committee' meeting. Schools for higher classes and degree colleges will re-open after reviewing the situation

INDUSTRIALIST RAHUL BAJAJ LAID TO REST WITH FULL STATE HONOURS



- Hamara Bajaj' was the iconic jingle that resonated with the aspirations of the middle class in a pre-liberalised India
- He was awarded the third-highest civilian award in India, the Padma Bhushan, in 2001.
- Bajaj was elected to the Rajya Sabha, India's Upper House of Parliament, filling the seat vacated by the death of Pramod Mahajan for the 2006–2010 period.

ABG Shipyard Bank Fraud



- The CBI has booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its then Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks led by SBI of over ₹22,842 crore

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently booked ABG Shipyard Limited, its former chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of two dozen lenders led by ICICI Bank.

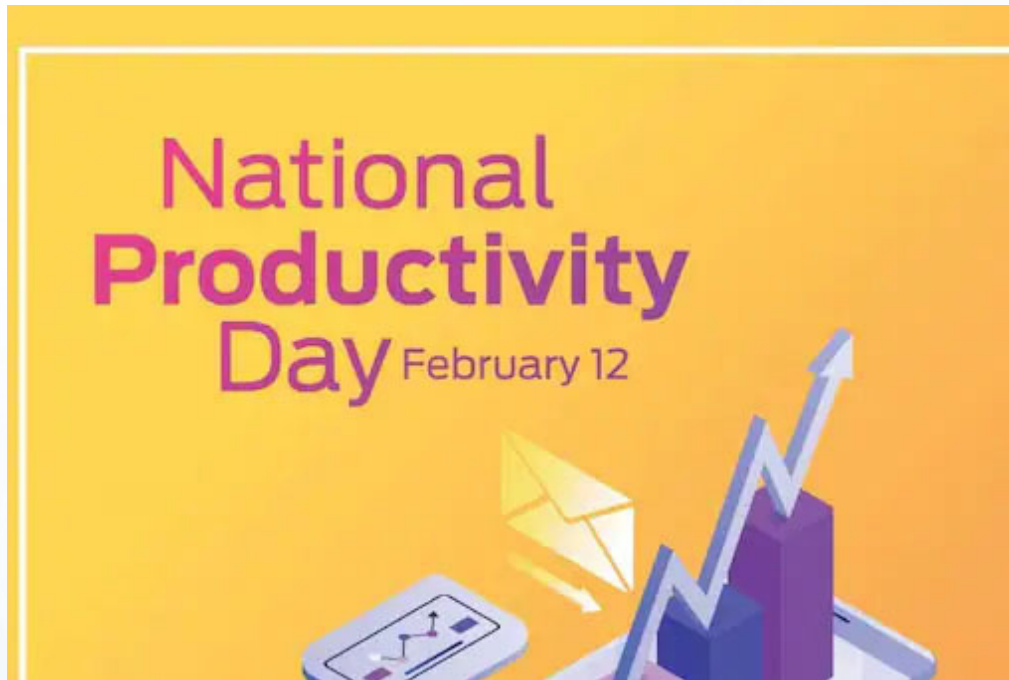
JIO, SES FORM JOINT VENTURE TO PROVIDE SATELLITE BASED BROADBAND SERVICES



- Jio Platforms Ltd., (JPL) a digital service provider, and SES, a global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider, on Monday announced the formation of a joint venture — Jio Space Technology Ltd.— to deliver next generation scalable and affordable broadband services in India
- JPL and SES will own 51% and 49% equity stake in the joint venture respectively. “The joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations

National Productivity Day 2022

- From February 12 to 18, the National Productivity Council will be celebrating productivity week across the nation under the theme “Self Reliance Through Productivity.”
- The National Productivity Council (NPC) is the organiser of this special day.
- The NPC is an autonomous organisation established in 1958 under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Day also celebrates the formation of the National Productivity Council.
- The importance of marking National Productivity Day is to raise awareness of productivity, efficiency, and innovation. Raising productivity awareness is an imperative aspect of maximising production with optimal resource utilisation.



INDIA BANS 54 MORE CHINESE APPS THAT THREATEN SECURITY



- The list of banned apps include - Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera - Selfie Camera, Garena Free Fire - Illuminate, Viva Video Editor, Tencent Xriver, Onmyoji Arena, AppLock and Dual Space Lite.
- These 54 apps allegedly obtain various critical permissions and collects sensitive user data. These collected real-time data are being misused and transmitted to servers located in hostile country,
- In June last year, India banned 59 Chinese mobile applications including the widely-used social media platforms such as TikTok, WeChat, and Helo citing a threat to the nation's sovereignty and security. The apps were banned under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said.
- India has blocked 321 apps since border tensions with China in May 2020.

GOVERNMENTS URGE CITIZENS TO LEAVE UKRAINE



- Among the countries that have called on their nationals to leave Ukraine are the US, Germany, Italy, Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Canada, Australia, Japan, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- In March and April 2021, Russia started to mass thousands of military personnel and equipment near its border with Ukraine, representing the highest force mobilization since the country's annexation of Crimea in 2014.
- The Russia-Ukraine conflict began when pro-Europe protests against the alleged misrule of Ukraine's pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich were violently suppressed forcing him to flee the country in 2014.
- In a move to defuse the crisis and to prevent it from triggering the possible Third World War, the United Nations Security Council has appealed to both sides to resolve all issues amicably through diplomatic channels.

RBI MONETARY POLICY UPDATE



RBI Monetary Policy

Key Highlights



- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting today (February 10, 2022) decided to:
- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4.0 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 per cent.
- The first advance estimates (FAE) of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on January 7, 2022 placed India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 9.2 per cent for 2021-22.

SMILE scheme



- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme “SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”, which includes a sub-scheme - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’.
- The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on. Persons engaged in the act of Begging are to be covered under the scheme. Scheme is to be implemented on pan-India basis.
- Ministry has allocated Rs. 365 Crore for the scheme for the financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26. Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons-
- Skill Development and Livelihood under PM-DAKSH scheme of the Department.
- Scholarships for students studying in IX and till post-graduation to enable them to complete their education.
- A comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospitals.
- Shelter Homes ‘Garima Greh’ where food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, recreational activities, medical support etc. will be provided.

National News

PNB LAUNCHES CO-BRANDED CONTACTLESS CREDIT CARDS WITH PATANJALI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RuPAY



- Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants - PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.
- The cardholders may enjoy suitable cashback @2% for transactions over and above 2500, subject to ceiling of 50 per transaction at Patanjali Stores.
- PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select cardholders will receive a welcome bonus of 300 reward points on activation. Additionally, the customers will get complimentary domestic and international airport lounge access, PNB Genie Mobile Application for card management, add-on card facility. Lucrative reward points on spends, along with cash advance/revolve, EMI and auto-debit facilities.

RBI TO OBSERVE FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK DURING FEBRUARY 14-18

- The theme of this year's week-long financial literacy and awareness programme will be "Go Digital, Go Secure".
- This theme is one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025. The focus will be on creating awareness about (a) Convenience of digital transactions; (b) Security of digital transactions; and (c) Protection of customers, the RBI said in a statement.
- The RBI has been conducting financial literacy week every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on various themes among members of the public across the country.



NABARD LAUNCHES JIVA TO PROMOTE NATURAL FARMING UNDER ITS EXISTING WATERSHED, WADI PROGRAMMES

NABARD launched 'JIVA Programme' to promote natural farming

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the 'JIVA programme' to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.

Aim: To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.

JIVA is an agroecology-based programme, an amalgamation of several projects under the watershed programme of NABARD and will be implemented in 11 states covering five agro-ecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas. The JIVA programme will be implemented with investment of Rs 50,000 per hectare.

About NABARD:

- Formation: July 12, 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairman: Govinda Rajulu Chintala



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Ambitious Baba



Telegram - @ambitiousbaba

- The JIVA programme will be implemented on a pilot basis in 25 projects across 11 states covering five agroecological zones.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on Wednesday launched an agroecology-based programme JIVA that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.
- JIVA aims to ensure using the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital, and nudge the farming community towards natural farming as commercial farming cannot work in these regions.

- The Joint Initiative for Village Advancement (JIVA) is an integrated community development program supported by the John Deere Foundation and implemented by PYXERA Global and local partners in three rural villages of Rajasthan, India.
- JIVA, which means “livelihood” or “life” in the local dialect, focuses on improving agricultural productivity, bolstering educational opportunities, and building basic infrastructure to improve the quality of life for local residents.

HOW TO PREVENT THE NEXT PANDEMIC



- The book, to be published by Penguin Random House internationally and Knopf in the US, will release on May 3.
- Touted to be a clear and hopeful plan of what countries, government leaders, and individuals must do to help prevent another pandemic, the book, according to Gates, lays out the “specific steps we can take to not only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world”.
- His last book, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need”, was released in February 2021.

GERMANY RE-ELECTS PRESIDENT FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER FOR SECOND TERM

- German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected to a second five-year term Sunday by a special assembly of lawmakers and state-nominated delegates.
- The position of president in Germany is largely symbolic, but its holder is nonetheless the country’s highest authority.
- Prior to his first election as president in 2017, Steinmeier was served twice as foreign minister under Merkel, and also as her vice chancellor from 2007 to 2009. Before that he was chief of staff to former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

Germany Chancellor: Olaf Scholz;

Germany Capital: Berlin;

Germany Currency: Euro.

RBL BANK TIE-UP WITH CREDITAS SOLUTIONS FOR 'NEO COLLECTIONS' PLATFORM



- Customers can access their consolidated account information anytime, on any device and choose the most convenient payment option for repayments in a few clicks. The intuitive platform will guide customers with personalised and insights to improve their credit score
- Private sector lender RBL Bank has announced a partnership with Creditas Solutions, a global technology company in the field of delinquency management, for its 'Neo Collections' platform.
- RBL Bank will utilise the SaaS-based (software as a service) platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle.
- The platform can also determine the best course of action for every customer by offering customised payment plans to service debt, schedule an EMI plan or opt for payment resolution options. The Neo Collections Platform, a Do It Yourself (DIY) debt management platform, will help our customers seamlessly monitor, manage and pay their dues.

RBL Bank Founded: 1943;

RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;

RBL Bank CEO & MD: Rajeev Ahuja;

RBL Bank Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.

INDIAN RAILWAYS TO SET UP COUNTRY'S BIGGEST & WORLD-CLASS WRESTLING ACADEMY IN DELHI



- The Indian Railways will provide a world class wrestling academy at Delhi's Kishanganj at an approximate cost of ₹30.76 crore, ministry informed.
- The most of the medals won by India in wrestling in Olympics were from Indian Railways like Sushil (2008 and 2012), Sakshi Malik (2016), Ravi Kumar and Bajranj (2020)".
- Lauding the performances of railways wrestlers in Tokyo Olympics 2020, the railway minister said that the railway sportspersons had done marvelous and out of 7 medals won by India 3 individuals medals were won by the railway sportspersons.
- The Railways sportspersons have been honoured with 27 Padamshree, 176 Arjuna, 12 Dhayanchanad, 14 Dronacharya and 9 major Dhayanchand Khel Ratna awards for their outstanding sports achievements".

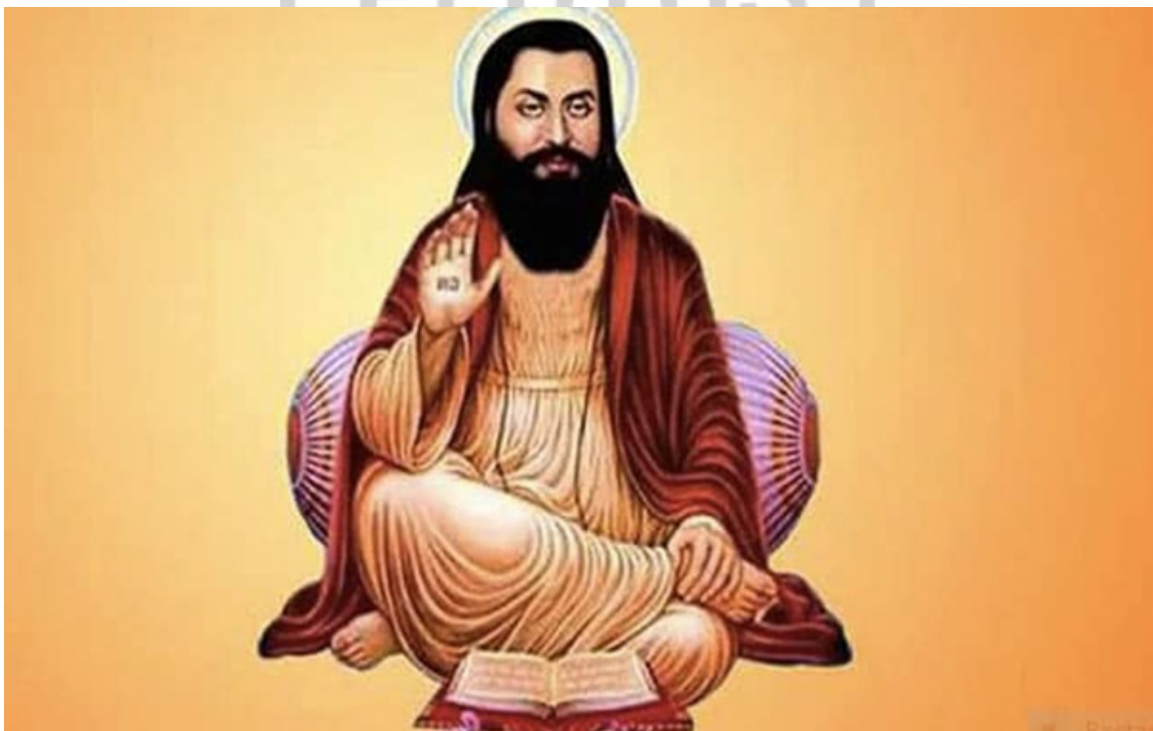
INSPIRESAT-1 SATELLITE- FIRST TAIWAN PRESENCE IN ISRO



- INSPIRESat-1 has jointly been developed by team of international researchers including from universities of India, US, Taiwan, and Singapore.
- The first signals from INSPIRESat-1, the student satellite launched aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-52 (PSLV C-52/EOS-04) mission on Monday, indicate that the satellite is 'healthy' and in orbit as planned,
- INSPIRESat-1 is part of a constellation of satellites planned under the International Space Program in Research and Education (INSPIRE) involving the Small-spacecraft Systems and Payload Centre (SSPACE) at IIST, LASP, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, and National Central University (NCU), Taiwan.
- Both the satellite will provide information on Sun's corona as well as its impact on Earth's ionosphere.

National News

1. RAVIDAS JAYANTI BEING CELEBRATED ACROSS COUNTRY TODAY; PM MODI VISITS GURU RAVIDAS VISHRAM DHAM TEMPLE IN DELHI



- Ravidas Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas, is being celebrated across the country today. Sant Ravidas was a 14th century saint and founder of Bhakti movement in North India.
- Lakhs of people converge at Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan Mandir, Seer Goverdhanpur in Varanasi to celebrate his anniversary.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has greeted people on the occasion of birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. In his message, the President said Guru Ravidas was a great saint, poet and social reformer who tried to eradicate the social evils and bring about harmony in the society through his devotional songs.
- He is considered a leading poet saint of the Bhakti Movement. Mr Kovind said Guru Ravidas tried to inculcate the feeling of mutual love and equality among the people.

- He added that his teachings of peace and fraternity are even more relevant today.
- He asked people to pledge to follow the path shown by Guru Ravidas and contribute in building a society based on equality and harmony.

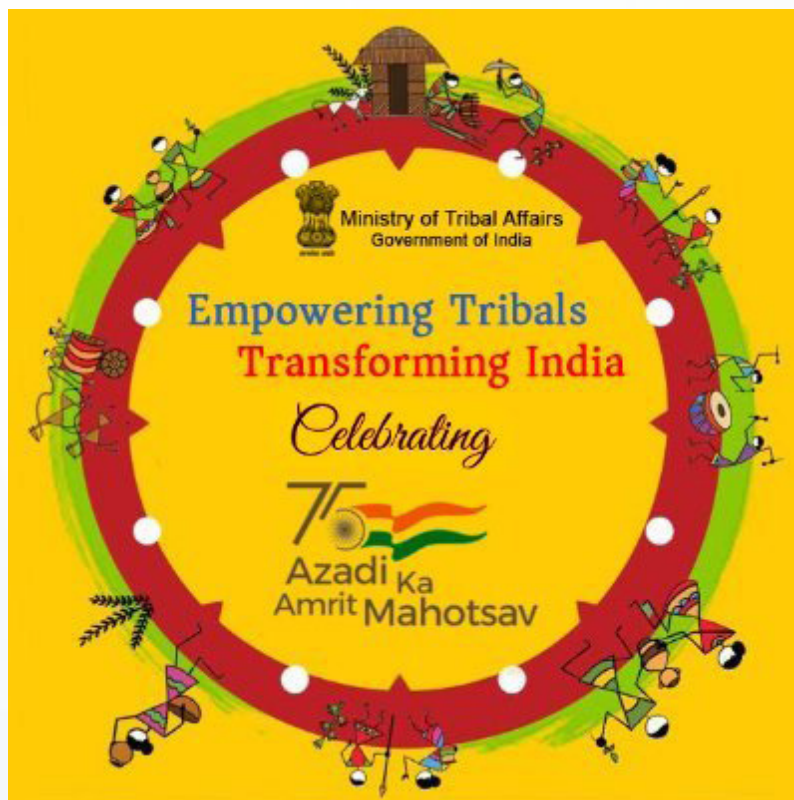
2. COMMANDER OF OMAN NAVY ON INDIA VISIT TO CONSOLIDATE BILATERAL RELATIONS



- Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi is on a goodwill visit to India.
- The visit aims to consolidate bilateral relations with Indian Navy, as also to explore new avenues for defence cooperation with India.
- He commenced his visit by paying homage at National War Memorial.
- He was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- Both the Naval Principals held discussions to explore avenues to further enhance cooperation between the Navies.

3. UNION MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS SANCTIONS RS 2.26 CR FOR FESTIVAL OF MEDARAM JATHARA 2022

- Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned 2.26 crore rupees for various activities pertaining to the festival of Medaram Jathara 2022.
- The Medaram Jathara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana - the Koya tribe for four days.
- This year it is being celebrated from Wednesday till 19th of this month.
- Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Government has announced that tribal culture and heritage will be the cynosure of 2022.
- This Jathara is conducted in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. It is celebrated once in two years in the month of February.



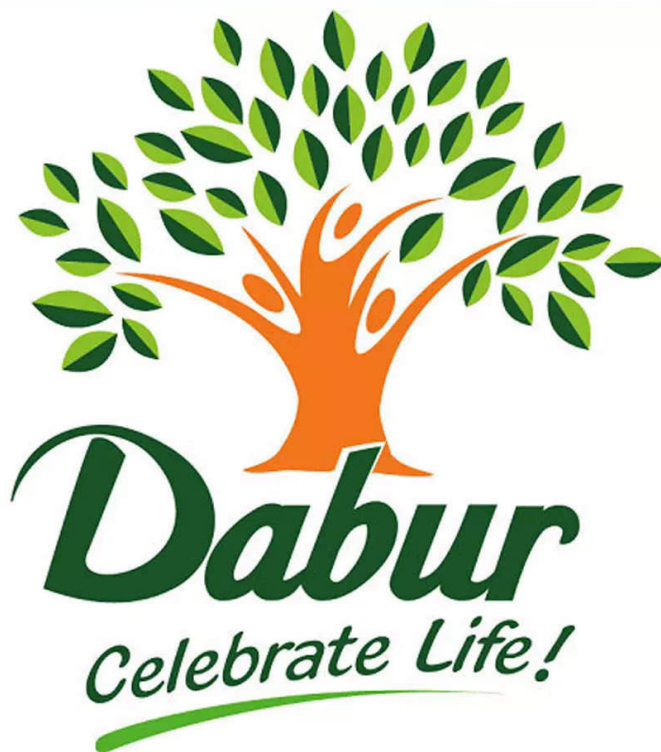
4. INDIA TO REPLACE DIESEL BY RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE BY 2024



- Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.
- For this, states should develop action plans to achieve the assigned targets and specific agencies dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation.
- This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.

- Union minister chaired a virtual meeting with additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of power in states for collaboration between the Central and state governments for achieving energy transition goals.

5. DABUR BECOMES FIRST INDIAN PLASTIC WASTE NEUTRAL' FMCG COMPANY

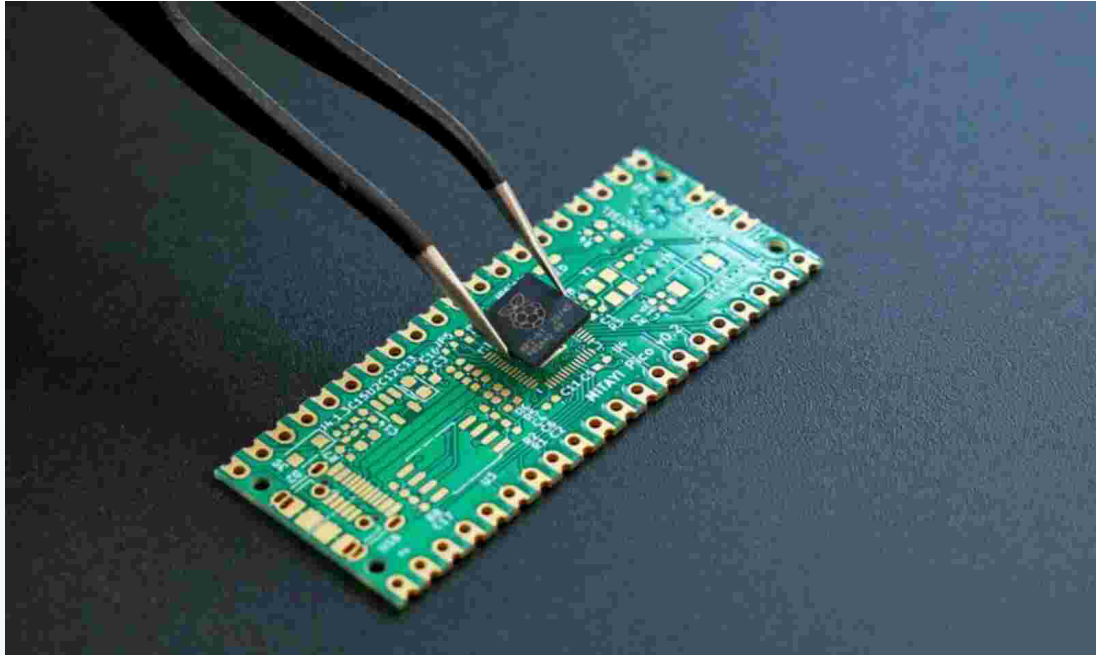


- Dabur India has become the first Indian consumer goods company to become completely plastic waste neutral.
- It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22.
- Dabur has achieved the landmark of surpassing its plastic packaging usage with recycling.
- Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was launched in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule.
- Dabur has also announced the beginning of a new 'Save the Environment' campaign in Himachal Pradesh to raise community awareness about how to manage home plastic waste.
- They have also been working with school children in towns and villages as part of this commitment, educating them about different forms of garbage and the benefits of sorting them at the source.
- They have been assisting government schools by providing waste bins, sanitary facilities, and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials.

6. INDIAN MINING MAJOR VEDANTA TO MANUFACTURE SEMICONDUCTORS IN INDIA

- The Indian mining major Vedanta has tied up with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Hon Hai Technology Group (better known as Foxconn) to form a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing semiconductors in India.
- Anil Agarwal, the non-executive Chairman of Vedanta, will be the Chairman of the JV company.

- This is the first JV in the electronics manufacturing sector after the government announced a Rs 76,000 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display manufacturing, to create an ecosystem of local production of semiconductors in India.
- Vedanta will be the majority shareholder in the JV while Foxconn will hold minority share.



Obituary News

7. VETERAN SINGER-COMPOSER BAPPI LAHIRI PASSES AWAY IN MUMBAI



- Legendary Bollywood Music Composer and singer Bappi Lahiri passed away in Mumbai.
- He was 69. Doctor treating him at a private hospital in Mumbai said the singer died last night due to multiple health issues.
- Bappi Lahiri was instrumental in popularizing Disco music in India and has many hit songs to his credit.
- Some of his memorable songs include 'Chalte chalte mere yeh geet rakhna', 'I am a Disco Dancer', 'Pag Ghunghroo baandh Mira nachi thhi' from 'Sharabi' and 'Yaar bina Chain kaha re' among others.

International News

8. BANGLADESH: PRIME MINISTER SHEIK HASINA INAUGURATES EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR 2022



- The largest book fair of Bangladesh Amar Ekushey Boi Mela was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday.
- The fair is being held in Dhaka at the Bangla Academy premises and the adjoining Suhrawardy Udyan.
- The book fair is currently scheduled to continue till Feb 28 but it is likely to be extended with the easing of the corona situation in the country and Prime Minister Hasina also asking for its extension till March 17 to coincide with the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Important Days

9. APEDA CELEBRATES ITS 36TH FOUNDATION DAY



- Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) today celebrated its 36th Foundation Day.
- APEDA actively supported the Government in taking the export of agricultural products to 20.67 billion dollar in 2020-21 from 0.6 billion dollar in 1986 when it was founded.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry said, it also helped to expand the export basket to several countries.
- The target given to APEDA in the current financial year is 23.7 billion dollar, out of which more than 70 per cent has been achieved till January this year.
- The Ministry said, keeping in mind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for vocal for local and Atmanirbhar Bharat, APEDA has been focusing on promotion of exports of locally sourced Geographical Indications tagged as well as indigenous, ethnic agricultural products.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN PARTICIPATES IN FIRST G20 FINANCE MINISTERS, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS' MEETING UNDER G20 PRESIDENCY OF INDONESIA



- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today participated in the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting under G20 Presidency of Indonesia.
- The Minister will virtually join sessions during the two-day meeting to discuss current global economic issues and G20 priorities for 2022.
- The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in November this year in Bali, Indonesia.
- In the first session, Finance Minister talked about the global economic outlook and risks including inflation, supply disruptions and new variants of the corona virus.

2. SC SETS ASIDE HIGH COURT ORDER STAYING 75% QUOTA IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS FOR HARYANA RESIDENTS

- The Supreme Court has set aside the High Court order staying the 75 percent quota in private sector jobs for Haryana residents.
- The Punjab and Haryana High court on 3rd February had granted an interim stay on the Haryana government's law providing 75 percent reservation in private sector jobs for residents of the state.
- A bench of justices L Nageswara Rao and Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha also directed the Haryana government today not to take coercive action against employers.
- The court said it did not intend to deal with merits of matter as it proposes to request the high court to decide expeditiously and not later than four weeks.



3. INDIA TO SHOWCASE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING PROWESS AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI



- India will showcase its Agriculture and Food Processing prowess at EXPO2020 Dubai.
- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi will inaugurate the Food, Agriculture and Livelihood fortnight at the India Pavilion tomorrow.
- The fortnight will showcase India's prowess in sectors like food processing, horticulture, dairy, fisheries, and organic farming.
- India will exhibit investment opportunities in millets, organic farming, horticulture and dairy to investors worldwide.
- Millets Food Festival will also be held as part of Dubai EXPO.
- The fortnight will conclude on the 2nd of next month.

4. INDIA'S WHOLESALE INFLATION DECLINES TO 12.96% IN JANUARY



- India's wholesale inflation has eased to 12.96 % in January from 13.56 % in the previous month.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation has declined consistently in recent months.
- It fell from 14.87 % in November 2021 to 13.56 % in December 2021 and further to 12.96 % in January 2022.
- However, inflation still remains at an elevated level and is a matter of concern for economic policymakers.
- The high rate of inflation in January 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, chemicals, and chemical products, food articles etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year”.
- Wholesale food inflation hardened during the month of January. The rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased marginally from 9.24 % in December 2021 to 9.55 % in January 2022.

Banking News

5. YES BANK LAUNCHES 'AGRI INFINITY' PROGRAMME

- Private sector lender, Yes Bank has launched an 'Agri Infinity' programme for digital financing solutions in the food and agriculture sector ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in this field.
- Agri-fintech start-ups working on financial innovations across the food and agriculture value chain are eligible to apply under this programme and can work with Yes Bank for digital solutions.
- Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Yes Bank Tagline: Experience Our Expertise.



6. SIDBI LAUNCHES 'WASTE TO WEALTH CREATION' PROGRAMME 2022



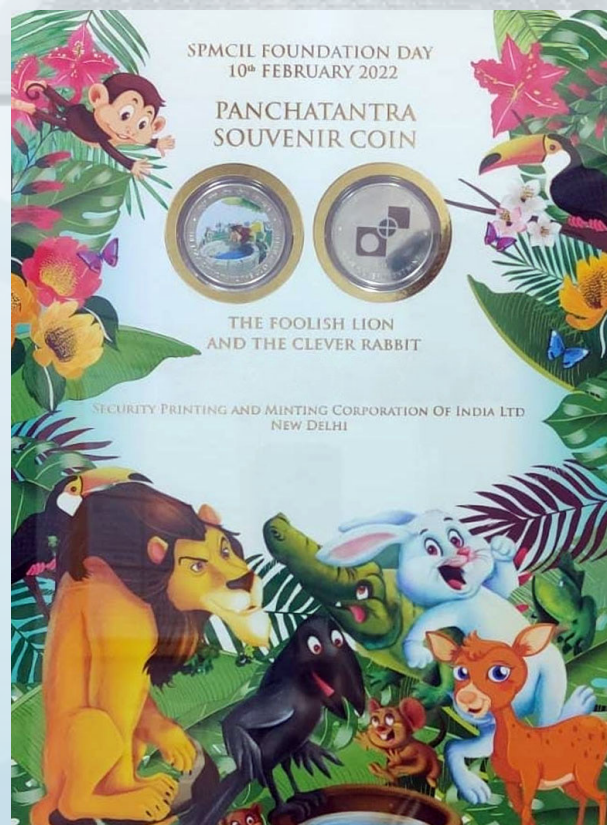
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales.
- SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women indirectly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
- Under this programme, Later, these women are expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants.
- This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.

7. ICICI BANK'S SANDEEP BAKHSHI IS BUSINESS STANDARD BANKER OF THE YEAR



- Sandeep Bakhshi has been named the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21. He is the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.
- The winner was chosen by a jury of 5 members chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor S S Mundra.
- For 2020-21, ICICI Bank reported a net profit of Rs 16,193 crore against Rs 7,931 crore during the previous financial year.

8. FM SITHARAMAN LAUNCHES FIRST COLOUR SOUVENIR COIN ON 'PANCHATANTRA'



- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' on the occasion of the 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).
- The finance minister in her address stressed on upskilling and acquiring new skills, and up-gradation to meet the technology-driven economy.
- Further, she emphasized on ramping up the quality of products and to brand SPMCIL as lead producers of currency and other sovereign products.

Obituary News

9. BENGALI SINGER SANDHYA MUKHERJEE PASSES AWAY



- Legendary Bengali singer, Sandhya Mukherjee has passed away at the age of 90 years due to cardiac arrest.
- Her full name was Geetashree Sandhya Mukhopadhyay.
- She had recently refused to accept the Padma award from the central government that was awarded in January 2022.
- She told him that Padma Shree is not an award that should be conferred on a veteran like her. It would be demeaning for her to accept it.
- Mukherjee received the Banga Bibhusan, the highest civilian honour given by the Bengal government, in 2011 and the National Film Award for best female playback singer in 1970 for the movies Jay Jayanti (a Bengali remake of Sound of Music) and Nishi Padma.

Defence News

10. BANGLADESH-US AIR FORCES TO CONDUCT JOINT AIR EXERCISE BETWEEN 20-25 FEB



- The air forces of Bangladesh and the US will conduct a joint air exercise between Feb 20-25.
- The six day long Pacific Air Forces-sponsored, bilateral tactical airlift exercise 'Cope South 22' will be conducted at BAF Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka, and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh, said a statement of the Pacific Air Forces.
- Approximately 77 US Airmen along with two US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules from the 36th Airlift Squadron (AS) will join approximately 300 Bangladesh armed forces members and 2 Bangladeshi C-130Js for the exercise.
- During the exercise flight operations like aircraft generation and recovery, daytime low-level navigation, tactical airdrop, and air-land missions will be conducted.
- Subject-matter expert exchanges in the operations, maintenance and rigging career fields will also take place during this period.

By Sameer Singhal

GOVERNMENT APPROVES ' NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME, A NEW SCHEME OF ADULT EDUCATION FOR FYs 2022-27"

Term "Adult Education" to be replaced with "Education For All"

- Salient Features of the scheme
- School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme.

- Schools to be used for conducting survey of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs).
- Different strategies are to be adopted for different age cohorts. Flexibility for States/UTs will be provided to undertake innovative activities.
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- Use of Technologies to impart Adult Education for wider coverage of the scheme.
- Priority will be given in terms of categories to the Girls and women, SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, Persons with Special Needs (Divyangjans), Marginalized/ Nomadic/ construction workers/laborers/etc.
- The estimated total outlay of “New India Literacy Programme” is Rs.1037.90 crore which includes Central share of Rs.700 crore and State share of Rs.337.90 crore respectively for the FYs 2022 -27.
- The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all state/UTs in the country. The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 (five) crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)” in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS in which a learner may register him/herself with essential information like name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, mobile number etc.



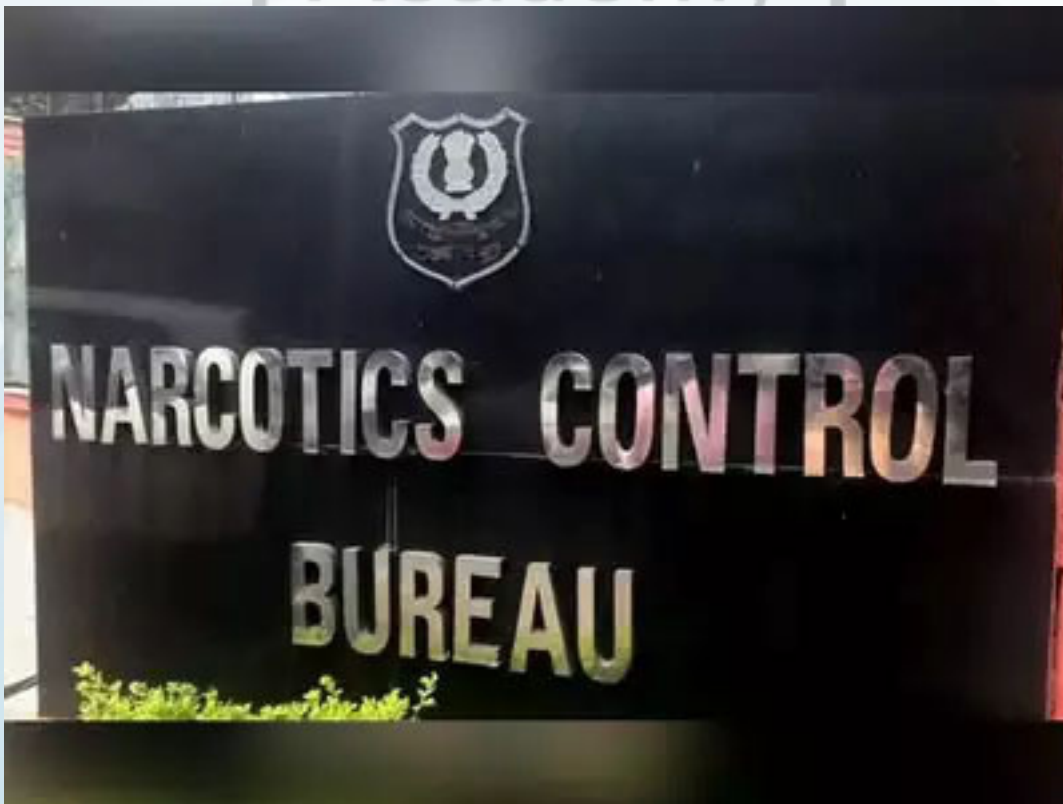
TWITTER PARTNERS PAYTM FOR TIPS IN INDIA.

- Twitter Inc has partnered with Paytm’s payment gateway to improve the support for its ‘Tips’ feature in India.
- Through Tips, users can support their favourite creators or small business owners on Twitter by using any Paytm Payment Instrument like Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later), debit and credit cards, and netbanking.
- Tips is available to all individuals above 18 years of age on iOS and Android in India. It is a new way to monetise on Twitter and enables people on the service to send and receive funds as a token of appreciation.
- Turning on Tips adds an icon to your Twitter Profile, which will now also have the ability to add a link to your Paytm account, for quick and easy person-to-person tipping. Tap the icon, and users will see

Paytm in the list of payment options. On selecting Paytm, users will be taken off Twitter to the Paytm app to send funds instantly through any convenient payment method. Twitter takes no cut.



NCB ORGANISES “DARKATHON-2022” TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING



- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is organising a “Darkathon-2022” to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet. The agency recently smashed three groups of drug peddlers that were operating on the network that is accessed through encryption software which enables anonymity of users.

- NCB Director-General S.N. Pradhan on Tuesday inaugurated the event which is being held in three phases till April 22. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Chairman, Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe and National Cyber Security Coordinator Lieutenant-General (retired), Dr. Rajesh Pant, were present.
- The prize money for the first winner is ₹2.50 lakh, the runner-up would get ₹2 lakh and the third winner ₹1.50 lakh. The consolation prize for the 4th and 5th place is ₹25,000 each. The online registration will continue till March 31.

KUNSNYOM SCHEME LAUNCHED BY LAHDC



- 17 February 2022 Current Affairs: Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh has launched Kunsnyoms scheme for differently-abled persons.
- Kunsnyoms, which means “equal for everyone” and “fair for all,” attempts to make Ladakh more inclusive and accessible.
- Leh Hill municipality is offering assistive gadgets and technologies to needy persons at a 90% cost under the new scheme.
- Mr. Tashi Gyalson, LAHDC Leh Chief Executive Councillor and Chairman, and his executive councilors launched the new scheme by handing away 28 tri scooters, battery-powered wheelchairs, walking aids, and other assistance required for the people’s unique needs.
- Capitol Hill Councils in Ladakh are using monies for welfare projects after becoming a Union Territory and being financially empowered with adequate budget allocations.

SEBI MAKES PROVISION OF SEPARATION OF CHAIRPERSON & MD/CEO ROLES VOLUNTARY

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) board on Tuesday has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO as ‘voluntary’ against ‘mandatory’ earlier.
- The market regulator had in June 2017 set up a committee on corporate governance under Uday Kotak with a view to seek recommendations to further enhance corporate governance norms for listed companies.
- Sebi said it received representations from industry bodies and corporates expressing various compelling reasons, difficulties and challenges for not being able to comply with this regulatory mandate.
- The Sebi board, in its meeting in March 2018 approved the proposal for the top 500-listed entities. Later the deadline for compliance was extended by two years in January 2020.



PM MODI TO VIRTUALLY INAUGURATE ASIA'S LARGEST BIO-CNG PLANT AT INDORE IN MADHYA PRADESH ON FEB 19 2022



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh tomorrow. This Bio CNG plant will be operated from 100% wet waste. AIR Correspondent reports, This plant is built on PPP mode, from which Indore Municipal Corporation will get revenue of 2.5 crores per annum.
- The plant has been set up on 15 acres of a trenching ground of the Indore Municipal Corporation in Devguradia area with an investment of Rs 150 crore. About 400 buses can be run daily with the gas generated from the Bio-CNG plant.
- Mission directors of Swachh Bharat Mission from about 20 states of the country will also participate in the programme. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will also remain present during the event

NEPAL TO BECOME FIRST COUNTRY TO DEPLOY INDIA'S UPI PLATFORM



- This collaboration will enable the last-mile consumers in Nepal to reap the benefits of an open interoperable payments system driving immediate payment transfers between bank accounts and merchant payments in real-time.
- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Thursday.
- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Thursday.
- The collaboration will serve the larger digital public good in Nepal and bolster interoperable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in the neighbouring country, NPCI said in a statement.

2008 AHMEDABAD SERIAL BLASTS: 38 TERROR CONVICTS SENTENCED TO DEATH



- A special court here on Friday awarded death penalty to 38 convicts and sentenced 11 others to life imprisonment in the case related to the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts, which had claimed 56 lives and left over 200 injured. The pronouncement of the quantum of punishment by judge A R Patel came nearly 14 years after the deadly blasts. The blasts were claimed by Indian Mujahideen terror outfit to avenge the 2002 Gujarat riots.
- The court convicted the 49 under the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act, and Damage to Public Property Act. They faced murder, attempt to murder, and criminal conspiracy charges.
- As many as 22 bombs went off in Ahmedabad on July 26, 2008, at multiple locations, including the trauma centre of a hospital, where some of the injured were taken for treatment.
- The Gujarat Police said a nationwide network of radical elements were involved in the blasts and that they were associated with the Indian Mujahideen, a faction of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India.
- Legal experts said the death sentences can only be executed after the high court confirms the sentencing.

PHONEPE, NITI AAYOG PARTNER UP TO LAUNCH FINTECH OPEN HACKATHON



- Leading digital payments platform PhonePe on Thursday announced that NITI Aayog, in association with the platform, will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all hackathon that aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the fintech ecosystem.
- The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.
- Winning teams stand to win exciting cash prizes worth Rs 5 lakhs, the platform said in a statement.
- The winning team will be awarded Rs 1,50,000. Two teams, in second and third places, will win Rs 1 lakh and Rs 75,000, respectively.

By Bhupendra Yadav

Sports News

1. KERALA'S FIRST CARAVAN PARK TO COME UP IN VAGAMON



- Kerala's first Caravan park is all set to come up in Vagamon, a scenic hill station located in the Idukki district.
- The park, as part of the state governments new Caravan Tourism policy, would be thrown open to travellers.
- Caravan Tourism was introduced by the state Tourism department as a safe means for holidaying at a time when people are unable to step out or travel due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- To meet the rising demands and preferences of tourists in the post-pandemic world, Kerala had announced a comprehensive, stakeholder-friendly Caravan Tourism Policy, promising the visitors safe, customized and closest-to-nature travel experience.
- Under the initiative, there will be two types of caravans. In one model, two guests shall be accommodated, while the other is for a family of four, department sources said.

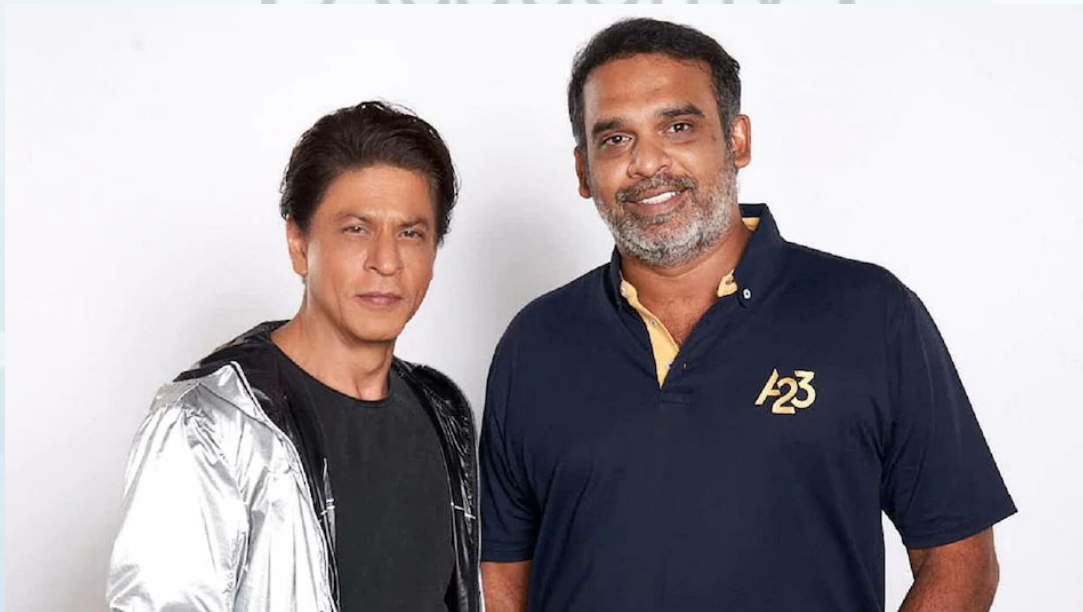
2. WATER TAXI SERVICES BETWEEN MUMBAI AND BELAPUR FLAGGED OFF

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal virtually flagged off the 'Most Awaited' Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT.
- The service promises a comfortable, stress-free journey, is time-saving and promotes eco-friendly transport."
- The Ministry also informed that the newly constructed Belapur jetty, built at a cost of Rs. 8.37 crore was funded in the 50-50 model under the Sagarmala scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

- “The new jetty will enable movement of vessels to locations like Bhaucha Dhakka, Mandwa, Elephanta and Karanja.



3. SHAH RUKH KHAN NAMED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF GAMING APP A23



- Online skill gaming company Head Digital Works has announced Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador for its online multi-gaming platform – A23.
- The ‘Baazigar’ actor will feature in the company’s Chalo Saath Khele campaign coupled with a first-of-its-kind responsible gaming campaign.
- The campaign will showcase all of A23’s offerings which include games of skill such as carom, fantasy sports, pool and rummy, among others, A23 said in a release.
- It further stated that through this campaign, A23 aims to share the message of playing responsibly and indulging in safe online gaming practices for users across all gaming platforms.

4. CAREER COUNSELLING WORKSHOP 'PRAMARSH 2022' LAUNCHED IN BIKANER



- On 26th January 2022, Minister of State Parliamentary Affairs – Arjun Ram Meghwal, Bikaner, Ministry of Labor and Employment - National Institute of Career Service (NICS), Directorate of Education, Bikaner in partnership with Edumilestones, has launched its largest initiative of career counselling for students and teachers training in career counselling in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- The “Pramarsh 2022” workshop is an extension of the effort to bridge the industry-academia gap and impart the knowledge about various choices available to the student, to help them make a more informed decision.
- The Workshop was organised jointly by The National Institute of Career Services (NICS), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Bengaluru-based educational start-up Edumilestones, with support from the Directorate of Education, Rajasthan.

5. AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES 'SHAstra APP' AND 'SMART CARD ARMS LICENSE' OF DELHI POLICE

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'Smart Card Arms License' and 'Shastra App' of the Delhi Police, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police.
- In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital.
- According to Delhi Police, the smart card, with inherent security features, is easy to carry and handle.
- The card will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders.



PLUTUS Sports News Academy

6. HARYANA MEN'S & KERALA WOMEN'S TEAM WINS SENIOR NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



- Kerala women defeated Railways 25-21, 17-25, 25-21, 25-17 to clinch the national senior volleyball championships title in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.
- The Kerala women triumphed for the fourth successive edition.

- In the men's final, Haryana beat Railways 3-0.
- The Kerala team mainly consisted of KSEB and Kerala Police spikers. The team was led by K P Anusree.

International News

7. NEPAL WILL BECOME 1ST COUNTRY TO DEPLOY INDIA'S UPI PLATFORM



- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services.
- GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.
- The collaboration will serve the larger digital public good in Nepal and bolster interoperable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in the neighbouring country

8. JPMORGAN BECOMES FIRST BANK TO ENTER THE METAVERSE

- JPMorgan has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse.
- The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland.
- Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened 'Onyx Lounge' after its suite of Ethereum-based services.
- The lounge also features a digital image of the bank's CEO Jamie Dimon.
- Metaverse is a virtual universe where users can do multiple activities like socialising, shopping or even attending events through their avatar.

- Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) headsets are becoming more pocket-friendly, and both technologies have together contributed to a significantly enhanced user experience



Banking News

9. 17TH IBA'S ANNUAL BANKING TECHNOLOGY AWARDS 2021 ANNOUNCED



Indian Banks' Association

- Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.
- In total South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event.
- This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year

10. RBI EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR NBFCs TO MEET NEW NPA UPGRADATION NORMS



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to comply with new Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) classification norms (the norms are issued by RBI in November 2021) to September 2022 from the earlier deadline of March 2022.
- As per the 'Prudential norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances – Clarifications', which was issued by RBI on November 15, 2021, the loan accounts that are classified as NPAs could be upgraded as 'standard' assets only if entire arrears of interest and principal are paid by the borrower.
- Currently, RBI has clarified that, the definition of 'out of order' as applicable to all loan products being offered as an OD facility, including those not meant for business purposes and/or which entail interest repayments as the only credits.

By Sameer Singhal



PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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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.

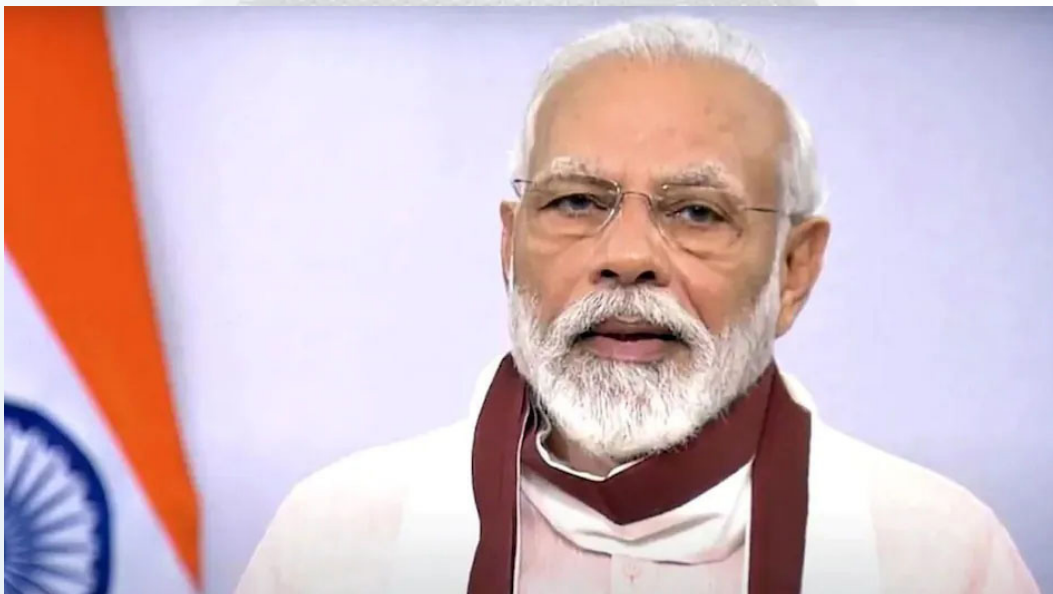
2. GOI TO LAUNCH 'MERI POLICY MERE HATH' TO DELIVER CROP INSURANCE POLICIES

- 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.



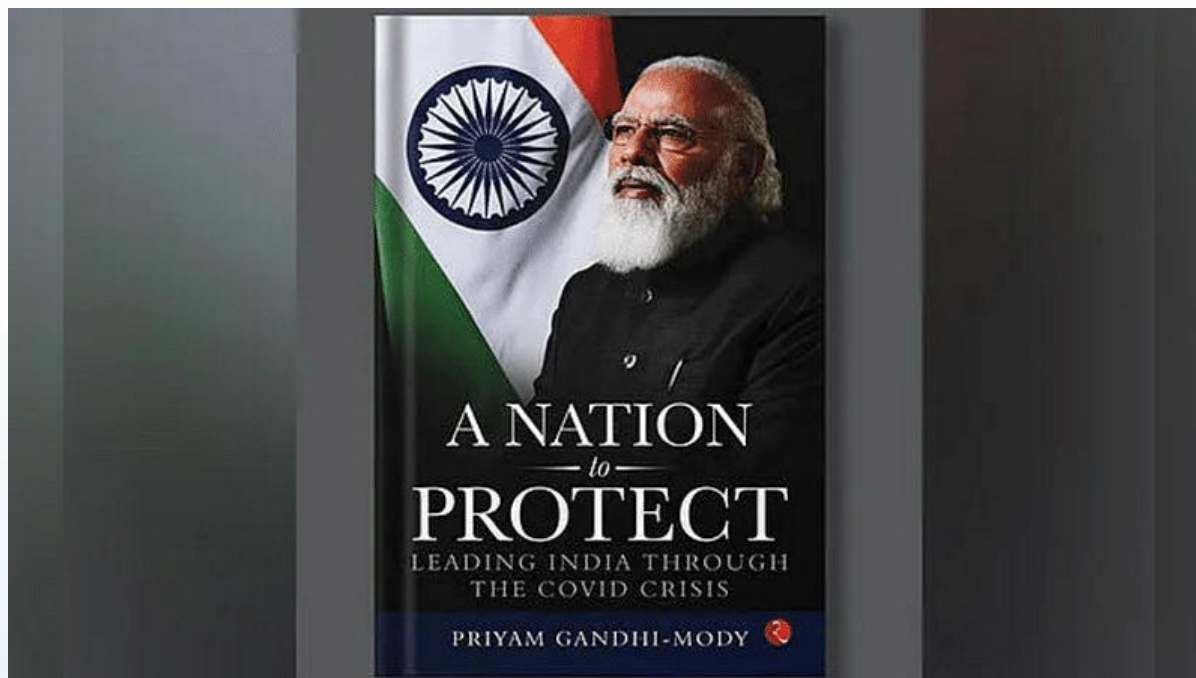
6. FRANCE ANNOUNCES MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM MALI AFTER NINE YEARS



- 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.

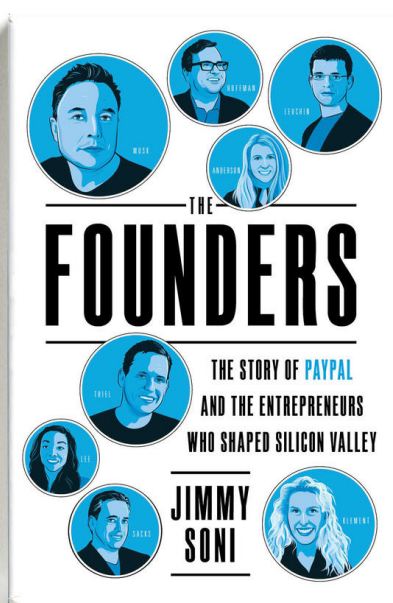
6. MANIKA BATRA JOINS ADIDAS AS BRAND AMBASSADOR



- 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’

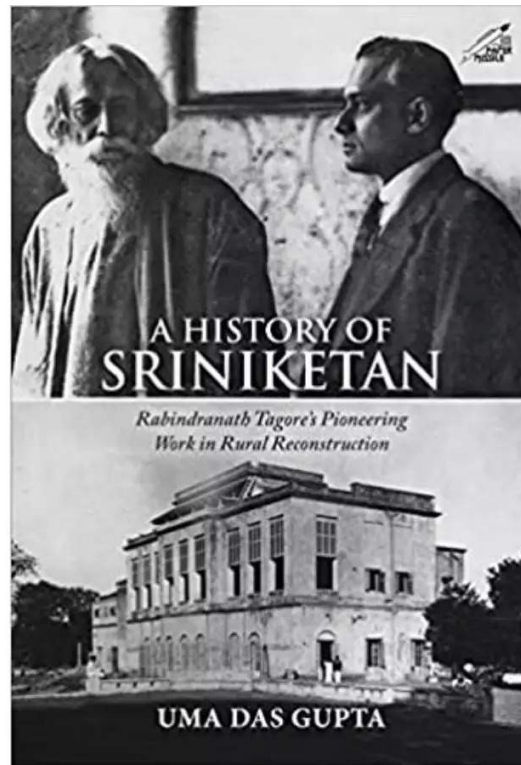


- A new book titled “The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley”, authored by author Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster released soon.
- It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal and how it covered the journey of a start-up 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 (NCOC) 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 Pragganandhaa 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.

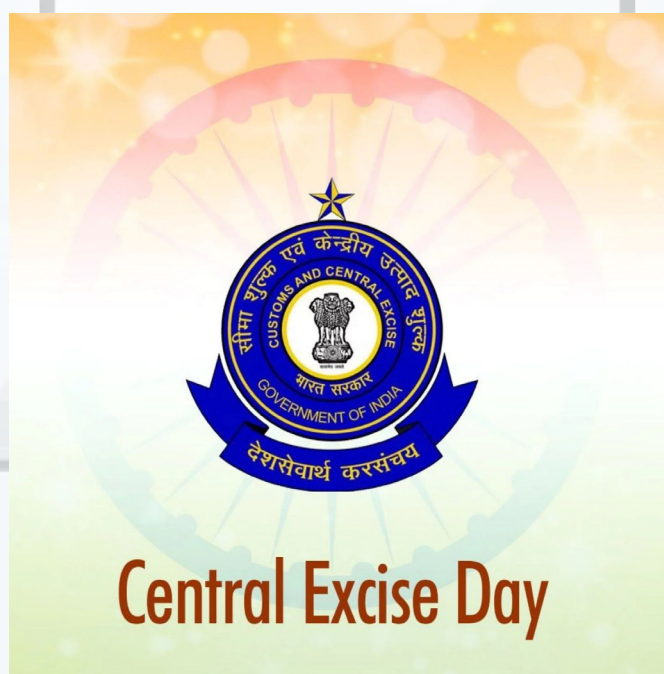
9. EXERCISE COBRA WARRIOR 22: INDIA TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTI-NATION EXERCISE IN MARCH



- 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