



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 05th Feb 2024

### International News

#### 1. France Takes Lead As First EU Nation To Offer Digital Visas



As of January 1, 2024, France has pioneered the issuance of Digital Schengen visas, marking a significant leap in streamlining visa processes within the European Union. This groundbreaking initiative precedes the broader digitalization of Schengen visa procedures scheduled for full implementation in 2026.

France takes the lead in digitalizing the Schengen visa system, setting the stage for a more efficient and streamlined application process. The initiative aims to enhance visa accessibility and convenience, particularly with the upcoming major sporting events in mind.

#### 2. Michelle O'Neill Becomes Northern Ireland's First Minister



In a groundbreaking move, Michelle O'Neill, an Irish nationalist representing Sinn Féin, has been appointed as Northern Ireland's First Minister.

O'Neill's appointment reflects Sinn Féin's (Political party) aspiration for a United Ireland, a vision they believe is now within grasp. Her elevation to the position of First Minister signifies the party's growing influence and political clout in Northern Ireland.

O'Neill's commitment to serving all citizens equally, as demonstrated in her address to the assembly, underscores her role as a leader for all of Northern Ireland. Her appointment signals a new era of inclusivity and representation in the region's political leadership.

## **National News**

### **3. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates AIIMS Bhubaneswar's New Facilities**



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently spearheaded the inauguration of cutting-edge healthcare facilities at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, marking a pivotal moment for healthcare in Odisha.

The newly inaugurated Dharmasala boasts 492 beds distributed across 159 rooms. Its affordability ensures patients and their attendants have access to unprecedented lodging options within the state.

The newly inaugurated Trauma Centre, equipped with an ICU, modular OTs, and advanced diagnostic services, stands as a beacon of hope during traumatic situations. The introduction of the HELA Machine signifies a revolutionary leap in cancer care. Employing cutting-edge technology, this device ensures precise radiation therapy, significantly reducing waiting times for cancer patients.

## State News

### **4.Ellora Ajanta Festival Held From Feb 2-4, 2024**



The Ellora – Ajanta International Festival, held in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar concluded marking the end of a three-day musical extravaganza that delighted audiences with a rich cultural treat.

After a seven-year hiatus, the event returned in 2023. Now, the district plans to host it annually in early February. District Guardian Minister Sandipan Bhumre expressed confidence that the festival would bring cultural acclaim to the city, contributing to its global recognition.

The festival showcased a diverse range of performances, including Ganesh Vandana Bharatnatyam by State Tourism Youth Ambassador Naveli Deshmukh, Bharatnatyam dance by Dr. Sandhya Purecha's troupe and Instruments Fusion by Stree Shakti led by Pandita Anuradha Pal.

### **5.Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit Resigns**



Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit resigned from his post, citing “personal reasons.”

Purohit's resignation comes just a day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. The timing of his resignation, following the BJP's triumph in the Chandigarh mayoral polls where they secured all three posts.

Banwarilal Purohit, born on 16 April 1940, is an Indian politician who served as the 29th Governor of Punjab, India, and Administrator of Chandigarh until 3 February 2024. He previously served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu from 2017 to 2021 and the Governor of Assam from 2016 to 2017.

## **6.Assam Welcomes Northeast's First Naturopathy Hospital**



Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Chief Minister Assam, laid the foundation stone for the Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN) and a 100-bedded Naturopathy hospital at Dihing Khamtighat in Dibrugarh.

The institution, a pioneering force in Ayush, aims to blend traditional knowledge of Yoga and Naturopathy with modern technology. The investment of approximately ₹100 crores signifies a significant step towards promoting holistic healthcare in the region.

CRIYN is poised to set benchmark standards in education, preventive healthcare, and research in Yoga and Naturopathy. Scientific validation of traditional medicine practices will be the cornerstone, fostering evidence-based research and promoting international collaboration.

## **7.Uttarakhand Cabinet Approves Uniform Civil Code Bill: Tabled In Assembly On Feb 6**





The Uttarakhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has greenlit the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill, marking a historic move.

The bill, crafted based on recommendations from a government-appointed committee, will be presented in the Uttarakhand Assembly on February 6. The committee suggests banning polygamy and child marriage, advocating for uniform marriageable age and divorce procedures.

If passed, Uttarakhand would be the first state post-Independence to adopt the Uniform Civil Code, aiming to standardize civil laws for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations.

## Banking News

### **8.RBI Data Indicates 97.5% Return Of ₹2,000 Notes To Circulation**



**RBI Data Indicates 97.5% Return of ₹2,000 Notes to Circulation**

In a move that reshaped the currency landscape, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) declared the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes on May 19 last year. The RBI's announcement on January 1, 2024, revealed that a staggering 97.38 per cent of ₹2,000 notes in circulation had been successfully returned.

The once ubiquitous ₹2,000 banknotes, totaling ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023, witnessed a remarkable decline. As of January 31, 2024, the total value shrunk to ₹8,897 crore, signifying that 97.50 percent of these notes have made their way back to the system.

## **Business News**

### **9.State Govt Imposes Rs 6 Crore Fine On Fertilizer Plant For Ammonia Leak**



Forty days after an ammonia gas leak from a fertilizer plant owned by Coromandel International Limited shook Ennore in Tamil Nadu, the Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department has taken decisive actions against the company. The leak originated from the under-sea pipeline, which was damaged during Cyclone Michaung. This underscores the need for robust infrastructure in hazardous environments.

The department has slapped a significant penalty of Rs 5.92 crore on Coromandel International Limited for its role in the gas leak incident. This reflects the seriousness with which authorities are addressing environmental hazards.