

Daily Current Affairs 08.02.2022

Important News: Appointment

Santishree Pandit is first woman VC of JNU



Why in News

- Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a political science professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, has been appointed as the first woman Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

Key Points

- She was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind. She will hold the job for the next five years. She succeeds M. Jagadesh Kumar, who was appointed Chairperson of the University Grants Commission last week, after a stormy tenure.
- Dr. Pandit is herself an alumna of JNU, having completed her M.Phil. and Ph.D there at the School of International Relations.

Jawaharlal Nehru University

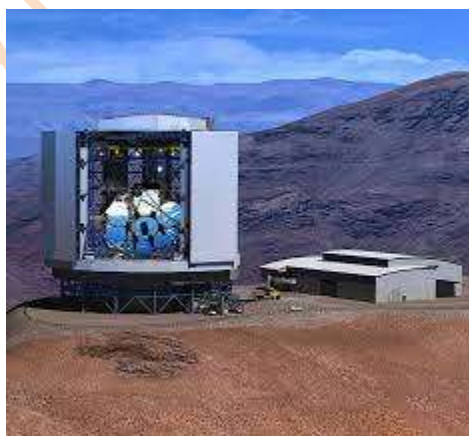
- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is a public central major research university located in New Delhi, India.
- It was established in 1969 and named after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister.
- The university is known for leading faculties and research emphasis on liberal arts and applied sciences.

Source: Hindu

Important News: Science & Tech

Giant Magellan Telescope

Why in News



- The location of the telescope is Las Campanas Observatory, which is also the site of the Magellan Telescopes, some 115 km (71 mi) north-northeast of La Serena, Chile and 180 km (112 mi) south of Copiapó, Chile, at an altitude of 2,516 m (8,255 ft).
 - It will consist of seven 8.4 m (27.6 ft) diameter primary segments, that will observe optical and near infrared (320–25000 nm) light, with the resolving power of a 24.5 m (80.4 ft) primary mirror and collecting area equivalent to a 22.0 m (72.2 ft) one, which is about 368 square meters.
 - The telescope is expected to have a resolving power 10 times greater than the Hubble Space Telescope. As of November 2017, five mirrors had been cast and the construction of the summit facility has begun.
 - A total of seven primary mirrors are planned, but it will begin operation with four. The US\$1 billion project is US-led in partnership with Australia, Brazil, and South Korea, with Chile as the host country.
- Source: Wikipedia

Important News: State

Kerala Governor gives assent to Lok Ayukta Ordinance

Why in News



- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan to sign an Ordinance seeking to amend the Kerala Lok Ayukta Act, 1999.

Key Points

- Mr. Khan assented to the Ordinance early on Monday. The executive order made it Nonbinding on the “competent authority” to mandatorily eject, sans appeal, any public official found guilty by the Ombudsman.
- The Lok Ayukta Act specifies the Governor as the “competent authority” if the Chief Minister is the public official at fault. In the case of a Minister, the Chief Minister is the competent authority.
- The Act applies at various tiers of the administration, from the Cabinet level and downward. The amended Act makes it obligatory for the competent authority to review the “declaration of guilt” by the Lok Ayukta under Section 14 of the Act before acting against the culpable official.
- The Lok Ayukta would serve for a five year term or till the age of 70, whichever comes first.

Source: Loksatta

Important News: Person in News

4. Death of Dashavtar artist Sudhir Kalingan



Key Points

- Sudhir Kalingan, a veteran Dashavatar artist from Nerur, who was known as the 'King of the People' at the Dashavatar Natya Darbar and played a pivotal role in bringing Dashavatar art across the ocean, died during his treatment.
- He is being treated at a private hospital in Goa. Sudhir Kalingan was running Kaleshwar Dashavtar Natya Mandal Company for last 20 years

Important News: International

Cyclone Batsirai



Why in News

- On February 6, 2022, Cyclone Barsirai made landfall on coast of Madagascar, killing at least six people. It was an intense tropical cyclon

Key Points

- Cyclone had the packing winds of 235 km/h.
- It struck the Mananjary district, which is around 530 kilometres southeast of the capital Antananarivo.
- As per disaster management agency of Madagascar, about 48,000 people moved to emergency accommodation.
- Madagascar is an island country in Indian Ocean. It is located approximately 400 kilometres, off the coast of East Africa across Mozambique Channel. It is world's second largest island country while world's fourth largest island.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Schemes

Swachhta Saarthi fellowship 2022

Why in News



- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its “Waste to Wealth” Mission announced the “Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022”.

Key Points

- To empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management, waste awareness campaigns, waste surveys etc. as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet.
- The fellowship was launched in 2021 to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.
- The fellowship is aimed at sensitizing the society towards waste management and offer innovative solutions for conversion of waste to value.
- Targeted to encourage community participation, the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowships invites applications from students, researchers and community workers who have done previous work or are currently engaged in waste management activities, including awareness campaigns, surveys & studies.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Important Environment

New gecko species



Why in News

- A team of researchers has identified a new gecko species from the hills of Attappady, in the Western Ghats, Kerala. The new large species of gecko belonging to the genus *Hemidactylus goldfuss* was found close to human habitation in tribal settlements and rock formations in the region. The team was on an expedition surveying amphibian reptile in the forest areas of Attappady.

Key Points

- The new species, named *Hemidactylus easai* after former director of the Kerala Forest and Research Institute (KFRI) and wildlife conservationist PS Easa, was found in the drier parts of the region.
- The gecko measures 105 mm from snout to vent (10.5 cm) and is a light brown to grey in colour. The genus *Hemidactylus goldfuss* has 180 species of geckos distributed across the globe and India has 48. Kerala has over 30 species of gecko and with this new addition, there are nine under the *Hemidactylus* genus.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Sports

Nehru boat race to be held in UAE this year

Why in News



Key Points

- The Nehru Trophy boat race, a popular fixture held annually in the Punnamada Lake near Alappuzha in Kerala, is slated to be held in Ras al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates this year, in a move to build on the close-knit ties between the Gulf nation and the southern Indian state, the organisers said on Friday.
- The race, named after former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, will be held on March 27, 2022 at the Al Marjan Island. The move is to build on the beautiful relationship between UAE and Kerala, a statement from the organisers said. The organisers of the UAE Nehru Trophy boat race met Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is currently in the UAE, and briefed him about the same.

Source: TOI

Important News: Environment

Mumbai polluted by dust storm

Why in News



- Dust storms in the home desert again reduced Mumbai's air quality on Monday. This is the second incident in the last 15 days. On Monday, the air in Mazgaon had exceeded the maximum pollution level, while other places were also witnessing high levels of pollution.

Key Points

- Due to the western catastrophe, it reached from Ahmedabad to Mumbai. Scientists around the world are studying this. Thus, there is no denying the possibility that climate change is a result of climate change due to the formation of hurricanes in the current season.
- The air temperature in Borivali, Worli and Bhandup days decreased by 3 and 4 degrees respectively during the winter days.