

Daily Current Affairs 25th Feb 2022

Important News : International

UNSC to vote on resolution against Russia

Context: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) decided to vote on a draft resolution demanding Moscow to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its troops from Ukraine. It is expected to be taken up by the 193-member U.N. General Assembly.

What is UNSC?

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). It is charged with
 - ensuring international peace and security
 - recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly
 - approving any changes to the UN Charter
- Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action.
- The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.
- Member countries: 15, each Member has one vote.
- India has been elected eight times to the UN Security Council, most recently from 2021 to 2022 after receiving 184 of 192 votes.

Note: Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

- India, one of the founding members of the world body has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council seven times.
- The UNSC comprises 15 members, including 10 non-permanent and five permanent members.

Source: AIR

Ukraine's Parliament imposes 'state of emergency'



- Ukraine's parliament has imposed a national state of emergency aimed at helping to forge a response to the threat of a Russian invasion.
- The state of emergency allows Ukraine's regional governments to adopt heightened security measures that range from tighter ID and vehicle checks to more stringent policing.
- The measure was approved on the same day that Russia began to evacuate its Kyiv embassy and Washington stepped up its warnings about the chances of an all-out Russian attack.

Source: AIR

US imposes new sanctions on Russia

Context: US President Joe Biden unveiled new sanctions on Russia meant to punish the country for its invasion of Ukraine.

Key Takeaways

- The US President laid out a set of sanctions including export controls that will impose a severe cost on the Russian economy.
- All Russian assets in America will be frozen.
- The new sanctions also include four Russian banks and corrupt billionaires and their families who are close to the Kremlin.
- The President also announced a new deployment of ground and air forces to NATO's eastern flank, even as he reiterated US troops would not engage in direct conflict in Ukraine.
- US forces will not be going to Europe to fight in Ukraine but defend their NATO allies and reassure those allies in the east.

Source: AIR

Important News : India

Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022



Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) released a policy proposal titled as, “Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022”.

Key Points

- The policy aims to, “radically transform India’s ability to harness public sector data”.

Why has the Draft Data Accessibility Policy been proposed?

- The generation of citizen data is slated to increase exponentially in the next decade and become a cornerstone of India’s \$5 trillion-dollar digital economy.

Draft Data Accessibility Policy’s main proposal:

- The policy will be applicable to all data and information created, generated, collected and/or archived by the Central Government.
- It would also allow State governments to adopt its provisions.
- Its operationalization will be achieved through the establishment of an India Data Office (IDO) under MEITY for overall management, with each government entity designating a Chief Data Officer.
- In addition to it, an India Data Council will be formed as a consultative body for tasks that include finalisation of standards.

Note: India does not have a data protection law that can provide accountability and remedy for privacy violations such as coercive and excessive data collection or data breaches.

Source: The Hindu

Sustainable Cities India program



Context: The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

Key Takeaways

- This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.
- The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- The WEF and NIUA will adapt the Forum's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.
- The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity.

Note:

- As per the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022, densely populated countries that are highly dependent on agriculture, such as India, are especially vulnerable to climate insecurity.
- Decarbonization in cities is a real opportunity to keep global warming well below 2°C and cities in India can make an enormous contribution in reaching this goal.

Source: PIB

Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Context: Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh launched the Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.



Key Points

- The Ombudsperson App is a step towards e-governance; this will be helpful in ensuring transparency and accountability.

About Mahatma Gandhi NREGA:

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (or, NREGA, later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" or MGNREGA), is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'.
- This act was passed on 23 August 2005.
- It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year.

Source: PIB

ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Context: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the “ICMR/DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Medical Professionals, Scientists and Technologists at Medical, Dental, Para-Medical Institutes/Colleges”.

Key Points

- The policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture and develop an innovation led ecosystem at the medical institutes across the country by promoting Make-in India, Start-Up-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Government of India.
- As per the Policy, the medical professionals/ doctors will be encouraged to pursue entrepreneurial ventures by forming start-up companies, taking adjunct position in Company- Non-Executive Director or Scientific Advisor.
- DHR- ICMR (Department of Health Research- Indian Council of Medical Research) formulated this Policy in consultation with other Government Department/ Ministries/Organisations such as DPIIT, DST, WIPO, DSIR, AIIMS, IIT Delhi etc.

Source: PIB

SPARSH initiative

Context: Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of Ministry of Defence has signed an MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to onboard pension services under the System for Pension Administration (Raksha) {SPARSH} initiative across more than four lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) all over the country.



Key Points

- The MoU will provide last mile connectivity to pensioners, especially those who reside in remote areas of the country and those who do not have the means or technical wherewithal to log on to SPARSH.

About System for Pension Administration (Raksha) {SPARSH}:

- SPARSH is an initiative of Ministry of Defence which aims at providing a comprehensive solution to the administration of pension to the defence pensioners in line with the Government's vision of 'Digital India', 'Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)' and 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

Source: PIB

National War Memorial



Context: The National War Memorial (NWM) will celebrate its third anniversary on February 25, 2022.

About National War Memorial (NWM):

- The NWM was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019.
- It stands testimony to the sacrifices made by the gallant soldiers since Independence.
- Since its inauguration, all homage ceremonies are conducted only at the NWM, including those on National Days.

Source: newsonair

DRDO and IIT Delhi demonstrate Quantum Key Distribution between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal



Context: A joint team of scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, for the first time in the country successfully demonstrated the Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres.

Key Takeaways

- This technological breakthrough was achieved over a commercial grade optical fibre already available in the field.

- With this success, the country has demonstrated indigenous technology of secure key transfer for bootstrapping military grade communication security key hierarchy.
- The performance parameters have been measured and have been found to be repetitively within the reported international standards at sifted key rates of up to 10 KHz.

About Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):

- QKD, also called Quantum Cryptography, is a mechanism to develop secure communication.
- QKD provides a way of distributing and sharing secret keys that are necessary for cryptographic protocols.

Source: PIB