

# **Weekly Current Affairs**

## **3rd Week**

### **February 2022**



## Table of Contents

Important News: State.....	4
• <b>Water Taxi Service in Mumbai</b> .....	4
• West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar prorogues Assembly session.....	4
• Medaram Jathara 2022 .....	5
• Central Jail Indore gets own FM radio channel .....	5
Important News: India .....	5
• <b>Govt's new rules for kids on two-wheelers</b> .....	5
• <b>G20 Secretariat for India's Presidency</b> .....	6
• Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).....	7
• Centre reduces agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil .....	7
• Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs) in India.....	8
Important News: World .....	8
• <b>India-UAE Virtual Summit</b> .....	8
• <b>WHO launches Quit Tobacco App</b> .....	9
• World Sustainable Development Summit.....	10
• Lassa Fever.....	10
• India-Australia Interim Trade Agreement.....	11
• India signs MoU to hand over wheat to WFP in Kandahar .....	11
• Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.....	12
Important News: Economy .....	12
• Fintech Open Hackathon.....	12
Important News: Defense .....	13
• CRNO visit to India.....	13
• IAF to show off Tejas fighter jets at Singapore Air Show 2022.....	13
Science and Technology .....	14
• Reliance Jio partners with SES to announce satellite-based internet for India.....	14
• ISRO successfully launches satellite EOS-04.....	14
Environment.....	15

• Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy .....	15
Schemes .....	16
• Capacity Development Scheme .....	16
• New India Literacy Programme .....	16
• Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) .....	17
• “New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy” .....	18
• Integration with Beneficiary Database under PM-JAY .....	18
• “SMILE” scheme .....	19
• Community Innovator Fellowship .....	20
Awards and Honours.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Books and Authors.....	20
• A book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee” authored by Sagarika Ghose .....	20
Important Days.....	21
• World Radio Day .....	21
• National Women's Day .....	21
Sports .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Reports and Indexes .....	21
• EIU’s Democracy Index 2021 .....	21
New Appointments .....	22
• Vineet Joshi takes charge as new CBSE chairperson .....	22
• Ilker Ayci to be Air India CEO .....	22
• Munishwar Nath Bhandari new Chief Justice of Madras High Court .....	23
Obituaries.....	23
• Music composer and singer Bappi Lahiri passes away .....	23
• Rahul Bajaj, former chairman of Bajaj Group, passes away .....	24
Miscellaneous .....	24
• Dabur becomes first Indian ‘Plastic Waste Neutral’ FMCG Company .....	24
• Global Summit on ‘Reimagining Museums in India’ .....	24

## Weekly Current Affairs

3rd Week February 2022

### Important News: State

#### Water Taxi Service in Mumbai



- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off **Water Taxi Service** for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty.
- 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 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.

#### About Sagarmala Programme:

- It is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping to promote port-led development in the country by exploiting India's 7,517 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and its strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2015.

**Source: PIB**

#### West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar prorogues Assembly session

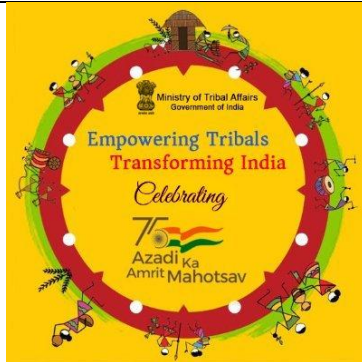


- Recently, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar prorogued the state Legislative Assembly after exercising power vested with him under Article 174 of the Constitution.
- **About Prorogation:** Prorogation is discontinuing a session of the Parliament or a legislative assembly without dissolving it.

- **Article 174:** The article provides powers to the governor to summon, prorogue and dissolve the legislative assembly. The governor can do so only based on conditions as mentioned in Article 163.
- **Article 163:** The Governor should act based on the advice of the chief minister and the council of ministers.

**Source: Indian Express**

### MedaramJathara 2022



- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned 2.26 crore rupees for various activities pertaining to the festival of **MedaramJathara 2022**.
- The MedaramJathara 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 the Jathara will be held from 16th February to 19th February 2022 (4-days).
- This Jathara is conducted in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma.

**Source: newsonair**

### Central Jail Indore gets own FM radio channel



- In Madhya Pradesh, Central Jail of Indore has started its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77'.
- Through this radio channel, the jail inmates will get to know about the happening in the world.
- The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health and social issues.

**Source: TOI**

## Important News: India

### Govt's new rules for kids on two-wheelers





- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended **Rule 138 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989** and has prescribed norms related to safety measures for children below four years of age, riding or being carried on a motor cycle.
- This has been notified under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, which mandates that the Central Government may, by rules, provide for measures for the safety of children below four years of age, riding or being carried on a motor cycle.
- Further, it specifies use of a safety harness and crash helmet.
- It also restricts the speed of such motor cycles to 40 kmph.
- These rules will come into force after one year from the date of publication of the **Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022**.

**Source: Business Standard**

### **G20 Secretariat for India's Presidency**



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures.
- It will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.
- India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.

### **About the G20:**

- The G20 is made up of **19 countries and the European Union**.

- The **19 countries** are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

**Source: TOI**

### Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

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**ORGANISATION OF  
ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

- Recently, India lashed out at the **Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** for being “communal minded” and “hijacked by vested interests” after the grouping called on the UN Human Rights Council to take “necessary measures” on the issue of Muslim girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools.
- The OIC also urged India to “ensure the safety, security and well being of the Muslim community while protecting their way of life”.

#### **About Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC):**

- It is the world’s second largest multilateral body after the UN.
- It counts 57 members, all of which are Islamic countries or Muslim majority members.
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Source: Indian Express**

### Centre reduces agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil

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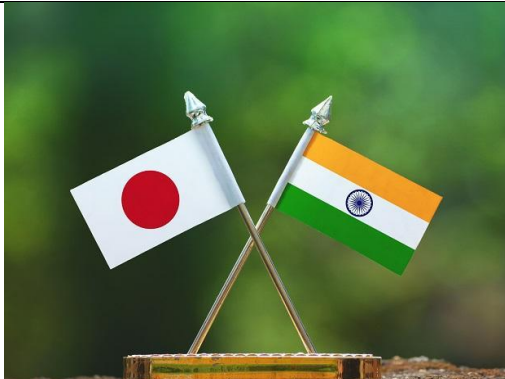


- The Government of India has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5%.
- After reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%.

- Another pre-emptive measure taken by the Government to check the prices of edible oils is to extend the current basic rate of import duty of zero percent on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.
- The above steps will augment the earlier measure taken by the Government viz. the stock limit order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022 vide which the Government had specified the stock limit quantities on edible oils and oilseeds for a period upto 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.

**Source: PIB**

### Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs) in India



- A Joint Meeting was held between India (Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Japan (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for annual review of progress under **Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs) in India**.
- It is also worth noting that this year marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- The two countries had established diplomatic relations in April 1952.
- It may be noted that Japan Industrial Townships (JITs) were set up pursuant to the “Action Agenda for the India-Japan Investment and Trade Promotion and Asia-Pacific Economic Integration” signed between METI, Government of Japan and DPIIT, Government of India in April 2015 to take steps to develop “Japan Industrial Townships” in India especially in Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) regions in order to facilitate Japanese investment to India.
- Japan is the only country that has dedicated country-focused industrial townships across India.
- Currently there are 114 Japanese companies across the JITs.
- As the 5th largest investor, Japan has contributed over USD 36.2 Billion in cumulative investments since 2000, especially in key sectors such as automobiles, Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM), Medical Devices, Consumer goods, Textiles, Food processing and Chemicals.

**Source: PIB**

## Important News: World

### India-UAE Virtual Summit





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE (United Arab Emirates) Armed Forces, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan will hold a Virtual Summit on February 18, 2022.
- Both Leaders are expected to lay out their vision of the historic and friendly relations between the two countries, at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and UAE is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation.
- The Prime Minister visited UAE in 2015, 2018 and 2019 while the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visited India in 2016 and 2017.
- A major initiative in bilateral relations is the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
- Negotiations for CEPA were launched in September 2021 and have been completed.

**Note:**

- UAE is India's third largest trade partner.
- UAE hosts a large India community which numbers close to 3.5 million.

**Source: PIB**

### **WHO launches Quit Tobacco App**



- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** launched '**Quit Tobacco App**' to help people kick the cigarette butt and give up use of tobacco in all forms - including smokeless and other newer products.
- The 'WHO Quit Tobacco App', launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign, is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region.

**Note:**

- **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)** is observed around the world every year on 31 May.
- India is the second largest producer and consumer of Tobacco products.

**Source: Indian Express**

### World Sustainable Development Summit



- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit** 16th February, 2022.
- World Sustainable Development Summit is TERI's annual flagship event.
- The **theme** for this year's Summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.
- The Summit will discuss a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.
- The Prime Minister pointed out that very little has been done despite lot of talk over the last 50 years, since the 1972 Stockholm Conference.

**Source: PIB**

### Lassa Fever



- Recently, one of the three persons diagnosed with **Lassa fever** in the United Kingdom has died.
- About Lassa fever:**
- The Lassa fever-causing virus is found in West Africa and was first discovered in 1969 in Lassa, Nigeria, the Centers for Disease Control and Pollution (CDC) notes.
  - The fever is spread by rats and is primarily found in countries in West Africa including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Nigeria where it is endemic.

- A person can become infected if they come in contact with household items of food that is contaminated with the urine or feces of an infected rat.
- Symptoms typically appear 1-3 weeks after exposure. Mild symptoms include slight fever, fatigue, weakness and headache and more serious symptoms include bleeding, difficulty breathing, vomiting, facial swelling, pain in the chest, back, and abdomen and shock.

**Source: Indian Express**

### India-Australia Interim Trade Agreement



- India and Australia have announced that they are set to conclude an **Interim Trade Agreement** in March 2022 and a **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** 12-18 months thereafter.
- An interim or early harvest trade agreement is used to liberalise tariffs on the trade of certain goods between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive **FTA (Free Trade Agreement)** is concluded.
- Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at about \$12.5 billion in FY21 and has already surpassed \$17.7 billion in the first 10 months of FY22.
- India and Australia have also signed a MoU to boost tourism between the two countries.

#### **What other Free Trade Agreements is India currently negotiating?**

- India is currently in the process of negotiating FTAs with the UAE, the UK, Canada, the EU and Israel, besides Australia.
- India is also looking to complete an early harvest agreement with the UAE and the UK in the first half of 2022.

**Source: Indian Express**

### India signs MoU to hand over wheat to WFP in Kandahar



- India signed an agreement with the **United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP)** for the distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat that it has committed to sending Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance.

- The wheat will be taken through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar beginning February 2022.
- Iran has also offered to facilitate some of the wheat through Chabahar port and then on to Afghanistan's border via Zahedan.

**About World Food Program (WFP):**

- WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- **Formation:** 19 December 1961
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy

**Source: The Hindu**

**Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting**



- Recently, the **4th Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Foreign Ministers' Meeting** was held in Melbourne, Australia.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Australia's Marise Payn held the talks in Melbourne.
- They announced plans for a Quad summit including PM Modi, U.S. President Biden and Australian PM Morrison to be hosted by Japan's PM Kishida in Tokyo in the "first half of 2022".

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: Economy

### Fintech Open Hackathon



- As a part of the Fintech Open Month, NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all Hackathon event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the FinTech space.  
The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.



- Participants at the hackathon need to use any open-data APIs like PhonePe Pulse along with frameworks such as Account Aggregator as a foundation to power.
- The last date to register for the event is 23rd February, 2022 and the deadline to submit the final entries is 25th February, 2022.
- The winners of the Hackathon will be announced on 28th February, 2022.

**Source: PIB**

## Important News: Defense

### CRNO visit to India



- Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi, **Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (CRNO)** is on a goodwill visit (13 - 17 Feb 22) of to India.
- The visit aims to consolidate bilateral relations with the Indian Navy, as also to explore new avenues for defence cooperation with India.
- The first visit of the incumbent CRNO to India, reverberates the growing cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman, which include operational interactions, training and exchange of Subject Matter Experts.
- Both Navies have been participating in the biennial maritime exercise '*Naseem Al Bahr*' since 1993.

**Source: PIB**

### IAF to show off Tejas fighter jets at Singapore Air Show 2022



- A44 member contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) reached Changi International Airport in Singapore to participate in the Singapore Air Show-2022, slated for February 15 to 18.
- The IAF will be pitching the indigenous Tejas MK-I ac alongside participants from across the world.
- The Singapore Air Show is a biennial event which provides a platform for the global aviation industry to showcase their products.



- The participation of IAF in the Air Show provides India with the opportunity to showcase the Tejas aircraft and to interact with counterparts from RSAF (Royal Singapore Air Force) and other participating contingents.

**About Tejas:**

- The Tejas is an Indian fighter jet developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy in collaboration with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- Tejas was the result of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme that began in the 1980s to replace IAF's ageing MiG-21 fighters.
- The Tejas is the second supersonic fighter developed by HAL.

**Source: India Today**

## Science and Technology

Reliance Jio partners with SES to announce satellite-based internet for India



- Reliance Jio has partnered with SES, a Luxembourg-based satellite solutions provider to form a new initiative – Jio Space Technology Limited.
- The joint venture is aimed at delivering the next generation scalable and affordable broadband services in India by making use of satellite technology.
- Jio and SES will own 51 percent and 49 percent each in the equity stake.
- The technology will use multi-orbit space networks – that is, a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to companies.

**Source: Indian Express**

ISRO successfully launches satellite EOS-04



- ISRO successfully launched **earth observation satellite EOS-04** along with two other satellites.

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 successfully injected Earth Observation Satellite EOS-04, into an intended sun synchronous polar orbit of 529 km altitude from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota.
- The satellite EOS-04 is a Radar Imaging Satellite designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as Agriculture, Forestry & Plantations, Soil Moisture & Hydrology and Flood mapping.
- PSLV C52 also placed two small satellites. One of them is a student satellite INSPIRESat-1 developed by Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology in association with Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado. Another is a technology demonstrator satellite INS-2TD from ISRO, which is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite INS-2B.
- This was the first launch of PSLV since the failure of the EOS-03 mission launched last year.
- The first launch of 2022 has set in motion ISRO's plans to conduct 18 other missions this year, including the high profile launch of Chandrayaan-3 to the Moon and the much-awaited uncrewed launch of the country's Gaganyaan mission.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Environment

### Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy



- The Ministry of Power notified Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy.

#### About National Hydrogen Mission:

- The Prime Minister launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day (i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021).
- The Mission aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.
- This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity.
- **Hydrogen and Ammonia** are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels, production of these fuels by using power from renewable energy, termed as green hydrogen and green ammonia, is one of the major requirements towards environmentally sustainable energy security of the nation.
- This will reduce dependence on fossil fuel and also reduce crude oil imports.

**Source: Business Standard**

## Schemes

### Capacity Development Scheme



- The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **Capacity Development (CD) Scheme** till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier, subject to the adherence to Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations and the financial ceilings etc.
- The outlay approved for the continuation of the Scheme during 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle is ₹3179 crore.

#### Key Points

- The CD Scheme is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** with an overall objective to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling availability of credible and timely official statistics.
- The Scheme comprises Capacity Development (Main) Scheme and two sub schemes viz. Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) and Economic Census (EC).

**Source: PIB**

New India Literacy Programme



Ministry of Education  
Government of India

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

## New India Literacy Program

A new scheme on 'Education for All' - erstwhile termed as 'Adult Education'

**Highlights:**

- Approved by Union Cabinet for FY 2022-27
- Total estimated outlay of Rs. 1037.90 Cr.
- The scheme covers all the aspects of Education for All for 15 years and above age group
- Online modules to increase the access
- Volunteerism based implementation

- Government approved a new scheme “**New India Literacy Programme**” for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.
- Adult Education is now ‘Education for All’ in the country.
- The objective of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century such as critical life skills; vocational skills development; basic education; and continuing education.
- 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.
- 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.

**Source: PIB**

### Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)





- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launches the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)** for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

**About De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities:**

- Accordingly, the first commission was set up in October 2003 during the first NDA Government to look into the problems of these communities.
- The Renke Commission was set up in 2008.
- The National Commission was constituted in 2015 under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes.
- Based on the recommendation of this commission, the Government of India set up the Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs & NTs (DWBDNCs) in 2019.

**Source: PIB**

**“New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy”**



- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)'s programme **“New Frontiers: A programme on Renewable Energy”** to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced with the inaugural event **“India's Leadership in Energy Transition”** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Shri Khuba talked about India's energy transition commitments and achievements; the citizen-centric nature of the transition and Government of India's energy compacts submitted to the UN for the High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021.
- In the past 7 years, India has increased its installed capacity of 395,000 MW whereas our peak demand is 200,000 MW.
- India now has an integrated national grid.
- Under the PLI scheme for high efficiency solar modules, the Finance Ministry will grant an additional Rs 19,500 crore.
- Diesel pumps will be replaced by solar pumps in the agricultural sector by 2024.

**Source: PIB**

**Integration with Beneficiary Database under PM-JAY**





- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is mandated with the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.
- **AB PM-JAY** provides health assurance of up to Rs. 5 Lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care-related hospitalizations.
- The 10.74 Crore beneficiary families under AB PM-JAY have been identified from the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011** basis 6 deprivation and 11 occupational criteria across rural and urban areas, respectively.
- **NHA** has collaborated with various ministries implementing welfare schemes to strengthen the different aspects of scheme implementation including inter alia beneficiary awareness campaigns, beneficiary database (SECC 2011) enrichment etc.
- The majority of AB PM-JAY beneficiaries from SECC 2011 are also eligible for benefits under the **National Food Security Portal (NFSA)**.

**About National Health Authority (NHA):**

- NHA is responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.

**Source: PIB**

**“SMILE” scheme**



- Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Central Sector scheme **“SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”**.
- The two sub-schemes of SMILE - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and ‘**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging**’ – provide comprehensive welfare and rehabilitation measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- The Ministry has allocated Rs. 365 Crore for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

**Source: PIB**

## Community Innovator Fellowship

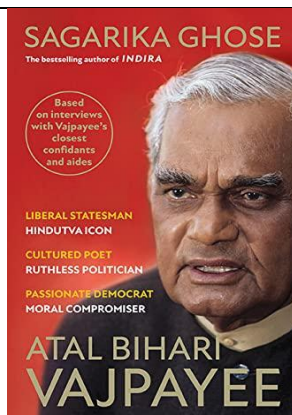


- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **UNDP, India** launched the **Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF)**.
- The fellowship is developed as a pre-incubation model which will provide youth with an opportunity to establish their social enterprise focusing on **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)** based solutions for solving community issues.
- This is going to be a one-year-long intensive fellowship program which has been designed for an aspiring community innovator irrespective of their socio-economic background.
- During the course of this fellowship, each fellow will be hosted at one of the AIM's Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) and shall acquire SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills and life skills while they are working on their idea.

**Source: PIB**

## Books and Authors

A book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee” authored by Sagarika Ghose



- Recently, a book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee” authored by Sagarika Ghose has been launched.
- The book is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India “Atal Bihari Vajpayee”.
- Sagarika Ghose is a senior journalist. She is the author of the bestselling biography Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister.

## Important Days

### World Radio Day



- World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February every year.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2022 is "Radio and Trust".
- World Radio Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2011.
- It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.
- February 13 was chosen as it is the day on which the United Nations established the United Nations Radio in 1946.

**Source: un.org**

### National Women's Day

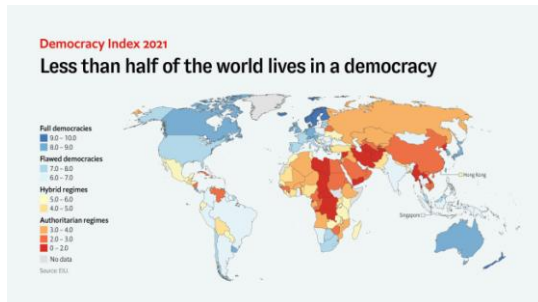


- National Women's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary (February 13) of the Nightingale of India, Sarojini Naidu.
- Sarojini Naidu played a major role in India's struggle for freedom against British colonial rule.
- She participated in the non-cooperation movement and Quit India movement.
- After independence, Sarojini Naidu was appointed as the Governor of the United Provinces which is present-day Uttar Pradesh, making her India's first woman governor.
- International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March.

**Source: India Today**

## Reports and Indexes

### EIU's Democracy Index 2021



- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking.
- With the highest score of 9.75, **Norway** topped the Democracy Index.
- India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the Index.

**Top 3 countries in the list:** Norway, New Zealand, Finland

- Afghanistan occupies the bottom place in the index.
- Out of 167 countries included in the survey by EIU, only 21 countries have been put under the category of full democracy while 53 are included under the flawed democracy category.
- 34 countries are counted among hybrid democracies and 59 are authoritarian governments.

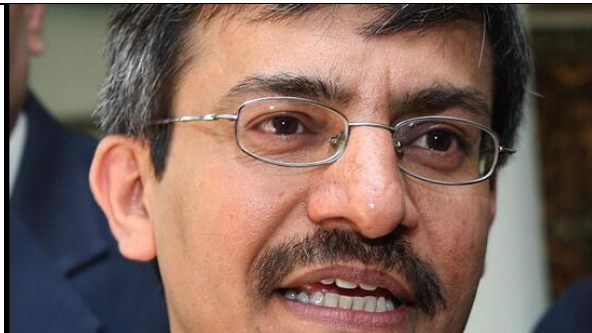
#### About the Index:

- The Democracy Index is an index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the research division of the Economist Group, a UK-based private company which publishes the weekly newspaper The Economist.

**Source:** newsonair

## New Appointments

### Vineet Joshi takes charge as new CBSE chairperson



- Vineet Joshi, additional secretary in the Ministry of Education, has been assigned the charge of **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** chairperson.
- Joshi's appointment comes after his predecessor Manoj Ahuja was appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the department of agriculture and farmers welfare.
- Currently, he is the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and also looks after the Institutes of Eminence (IoE), and Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA), among other verticals of higher education.
- Joshi, a 1992-batch IAS officer had previously also served as the CBSE chairperson.

**Source:** HT

### IlkerAyci to be Air India CEO





- Former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci has been appointed as the CEO & MD of Air India.
- The key appointment was finalised at the Air India board meeting, in which Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran was a special invitee.
- Ayci will assume his responsibilities by April 1, 2022.
- After a competitive bidding process, the government had on October 8 last year sold Air India to Talace Private Limited, a subsidiary of the Tata Group's holding company, for Rs 18,000 crore.
- Air India was started by the Tata Group in 1932. However, after the country got independence, it was nationalised in 1953.

**Source: TOI**

### Munishwar Nath Bhandari new Chief Justice of Madras High Court



- Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- Justice M N Bhandari was transferred to the Madras High Court in November, 2021 and he assumed office as the Acting Chief Justice (ACJ).
- Madras High Court, officially renamed High Court of Tamil Nadu, is the second oldest High Court of India after the Calcutta High Court in Kolkata.

## Obituaries

### Music composer and singer Bappi Lahiri passes away

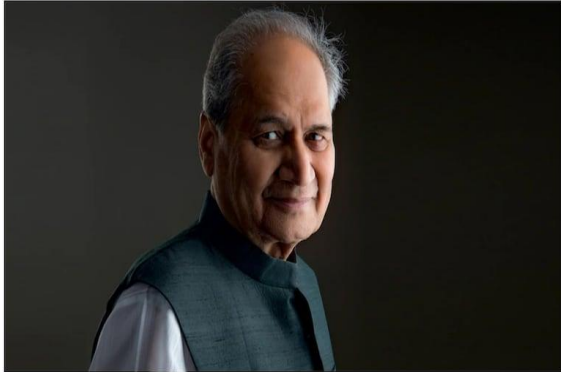




- Legendary Bollywood music composer and singer BappiLahiri passed away at 69.
- BappiLahiri, whose real name was Alokesh, was known for delivering popular songs in several films of the late 1970s-80s like ChalteChalte, Disco Dancer, and Sharaabi.

**Source: newsonair**

Rahul Bajaj, former chairman of Bajaj Group, passes away

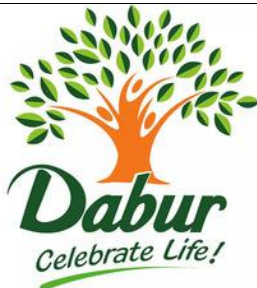


- Industrialist and former chairman of Bajaj Group, Rahul Bajaj passed away at 83.
- Rahul Bajaj acted as the chairman of the Bajaj Group for 50 years.
- He was awarded with the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- Bajaj also served as a Rajya Sabha MP from 2006-10.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Miscellaneous

Dabur becomes first Indian 'Plastic Waste Neutral' FMCG Company



- India's largest Science-based Ayurveda major Dabur India Ltd has now become a 100% 'Plastic Waste Neutral company' in India, having collected, processed and recycled around 27,000 MT of post-consumer plastic waste from all over India in the 2021-22 financial year.
- With this, Dabur has become the first Indian consumer goods company to achieve this landmark.
- Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was rolled out in the year 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule 2016, 2018 (amended).
- Dabur is a registered brand-owner with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) since November 2018 and with all State Pollution Control Boards across the country.
- Dabur India Limited is the fourth largest FMCG Company in India.

**Source: ET**

Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India'



- The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of the North- Eastern Region, G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the first of its kind, a 2- Day Global Summit in Hyderabad on '**Reimagining Museums in India**'.
- Participants from countries such as India, Australia, France, Italy, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States are participating in the summit being held virtually on 15th-16th February 2022.
- The Summit inauguration event was also attended and addressed by Alberto Garlindini, President of the International Council of Museums.

**Source: PIB**

# Weekly Current Affairs 3rd Week February 2022

