

Weekly Current Affairs 1st Week February 2022



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Weekly Current Affairs

1st Week February 2022

Important News: State

Chhattisgarh becomes 35th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card plan



- **Chhattisgarh** has become the 35th State/UT to implement “**One Nation One Ration Card**” (ONORC) plan.
- Recently Department of Food & Public Distribution had reviewed the progress of States/UTs towards the implementation of “One Nation One Ration Card” (ONORC) plan and after successful testing of portability transactions, the Department has approved the integration of Chhattisgarh with the existing cluster of portability States/UTs under ONORC.
- Accordingly, the ONORC plan for nation-wide portability of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** ration cards has been enabled in the Chhattisgarh State from **2nd February 2022**.
- With the integration of Chhattisgarh, the ONORC plan is now operational in **35 States/UTs** covering almost **96.8%** NFSA population (about **77 Crore** NFSA beneficiaries) in the country.
- Since inception of the ONORC plan in August 2019, so far more than 56 Crore portability transactions have been recorded in the States/UTs under ONORC, delivering nearly total 100 LMT foodgrains through both inter-State and intra-State portability transactions equivalent to about Rs. 31,000 Crore in food subsidy.

Source: PIB

India's first Geo Park to come up in Madhya Pradesh



- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has approved the setting up of the country's first Geo Park at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada River in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The estimated cost of this project is ₹ 35 crore.
- A **Geo Park** is a unified area that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there.
- This site is already there in the UNESCO geo-heritage tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage.
- William Henry Sleeman had discovered Dinosaur fossils from this area in 1928.

Source: TOI

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveils poll mascot 'Shera'



- Ahead of Punjab Assembly elections 2022, the office of Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveiled its poll mascot '**Shera**' depicting a lion.
- The election mascot represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab.
- Promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project, the mascot aims to increase voter awareness and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: India

PM Modi launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation** on the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary classical vocalist late Pandit Jasraj.
- Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati gharana (musical apprenticeship lineage).
- He received several accolades including the prestigious Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- He passed away at the age of 90 on August 17, 2020.

Source: TOI

Lok Sabha secretariat launches Digital Sansad app



- The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched a new app, **Digital Sansad**.
- The App, planned by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, will help people get all Parliamentary updates.
- It becomes easier for citizens to access general information on MPs, on budget speeches since 1947, House discussions from 12th Lok Sabha to 17th Lok Sabha.
- The App will also contain the live telecast of Sansad proceedings, the major news of the day, etc.

Source: PIB

Hoysala Temples proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites



- The Union Culture Ministry announced that the **Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura** in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as **UNESCO World Heritage site for the year 2022-2023**.
- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are on **UNESCO's Tentative list** since 15th April, 2014 and represent one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.
- All these three Hoysala temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and therefore conservation and maintenance will be done by ASI.
- The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, built in the 12th-13th centuries and represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura, attest to the creativity and skill of the Hoysala artists and architects who built these masterpieces of a kind never seen before or since.
- The Hoysala temples have a basic Dravidian morphology but show strong influences of the Bhumija mode widely used in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- The first sites to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The latest site to be inscribed is Dholavira, Gujarat in 2021.
- As of July 2021, 19 of the 36 States and union territories of India are home to the World Heritage Sites, with Maharashtra having the highest number of sites (5).
- At present, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India. Out of these, 32 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria), as determined by the organization's selection criteria.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

Source: Indian Express

UGC releases draft National Higher Educational Qualification Framework



- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has developed a draft **National Higher Educational Qualification Framework (NHEQF)**, which is part of a set of reforms that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages.
- From job readiness to constitutional values, theoretical knowledge to technical skills, higher education institutes across the country will soon be brought under a new framework to assess students on a range of learning outcomes.
- In the draft, the UGC has clarified that the framework is not intended to promote a uniform curriculum or national common syllabus.
- The purpose is to bring up/elevate all HEIs to a common level of benchmarking to ensure that all institutions are providing quality education.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

- UGC is a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India in accordance with the UGC Act 1956.
- **Founded:** 1956
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Source: Indian Express

Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE)



- A virtual function was held to mark the launch of the **Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE)** at the Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad (IITDh), Karnataka in the presence of, Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India.
- The center is supported by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF).
- The first phase of the CSR project with HHSIF is to establish equipment for the GCoE-ACE mainly as skill development, fabrication, and R&D equipment.
- The subsequent phases are envisaged to encourage innovation and to provide incubation support for the solutions to the grass-root problem statements in the affordable and clean-energy domain.
- This also dovetails with the Government's goal of meeting 50% of the country's energy requirement from renewables by 2030.
- The center will work towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal - 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy.

Source: PIB

Villages of Excellence



- The Centre has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states with technical assistance from the Israel government.

- The 150 villages that are located around Centre of Excellence (CoEs) will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence.'
- Out of which, 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence, where India and Israel will work together.
- Already, the Israel government has established 29 Centre of Excellence in 12 states, which are producing more than 25 million vegetable plants, over 3,87,000 quality fruit plants and can train more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year.
- India is the third-largest trading partner of Israel, in Asia after China and Hong Kong.
- Recently, India and Israel also completed 30 years of diplomatic relations.

Source: ET

Important News: World

ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting



- Recently, the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held.
- Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting.
- The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022.
- The Work Plan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication, Cyber Forensics, etc.

ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN):

- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries -Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Dialogue Partner Countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.

Source: PIB

Saudi Arabia organizes first-ever yoga festival



- Saudi Arabia has organized the first-ever yoga festival on Bay La Sun Beach near Jeddah, which drew over 1,000 yoga practitioners from throughout the kingdom.
- The event kicked off on 29th January and will continue till 1st February.
- The event was organized by the Saudi Yoga Committee, which saw the participation of Saudi yoga teachers from across the Kingdom.
- The Saudi Yoga Committee is a government body that acts like a small federation established by the Saudi Arabia Olympic Committee, Ministry of Sports, to promote yoga in Saudi Arabia on 16th May last year.
- The **International Day of Yoga** has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015.

Source: newsonair

Important News: Economy

Virtual Digital Assets



- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget 2022 speech, announced a 30 percent tax on income from virtual digital assets.
- Additionally, she also proposed a TDS on payment made in relation to the transfer of virtual digital assets at 1 percent above a monetary threshold.
- There has been a phenomenal rise in such transactions and the magnitude and frequency of these transactions have made it imperative to provide for a specific tax regime.

Virtual digital assets:

- In the explanatory memorandum of the Finance Bill, the government stated, “To define the term “virtual digital asset”, a new clause (47A) is proposed to be inserted to section 2 of the Act.
- As per the proposed new clause, a virtual digital asset is proposed to mean any information or code or number or token (not being Indian currency or any foreign currency), generated through cryptographic means.

Source: Indian Express

Union Budget 2022-23



- The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament on 1st February, 2022.
- Entering Amrit Kaal, the 25 year long lead up to India @100, the budget provides impetus for growth along **four priorities**:
- PM GatiShakti
- Inclusive Development
- Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action
- Financing of investments

Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23:

- India's economic growth is estimated at 9.2 percent, the highest among all large economies.
- Outlay for Capital expenditure in the Union Budget hiked by 35.4 percent.
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) extended up to March 2023. The guarantee cover will be expanded by 50,000 crore rupees.
- Additional credit of 2 lakh crore rupees for MSME to be provided under Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.
- Productivity Linked Incentive in 14 sectors for achieving the vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat will be strengthened.
- Use of 'Kisan Drones' to be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- Implementation of the Ken-Betwa Link Project at an estimated cost of 44,605 crore rupees to be taken up.
- Four hundred new-generation Vande Bharat Trains to be developed over the next three years.
- One Station-One product concept to be popularized to help local businesses and supply chains.
- One hundred PM GatiShakti Cargo Terminals for multimodal logistics facilities to be developed during the next three years.

- PM GatiShakti Master Plan for Expressways to be formulated in 2022-23 to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- National Highway network to be expanded by 25 thousand kilometres in 2022-23.
- Allocation of 60,000 crore rupees made for Har-Ghar, Nal-Se-Jal to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23.
- 80 lakh houses to be completed in 2022-23 under PM AwasYojana, both rural and urban.
- A new Vibrant Villages Programme to be launched to cover border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and less infrastructure.
- Two lakh Aangwadis to be upgraded under the Saksham Anganwadi Mission.
- A new scheme-Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE to be implemented through North-Eastern Council.
- One class-one TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA to be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels.
- A Digital University to be established to provide access to students across the country for world-class quality universal education.
- Government to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts of the country by Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- 100 percent of post offices to be brought under core-banking system.
- Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies to be issued by RBI from 2022-23.
- E-Passports using embedded chips and futuristic technology to be rolled out in 2022-23.
- Auction of spectrum for rollout of 5G mobile services to be taken up in 2022.
- Additional 19,500 crore rupees allotted under PLI scheme to give a fillip to domestic manufacturing in solar power.
- Revised Fiscal Deficit during current year is estimated at 6.9 percent.
- Alternate Minimum Tax for cooperative societies reduced from 18.5 to 15 percent.
- Outlay for the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment' is being enhanced from 10,000 crore in the Budget Estimates to 15,000 crore rupees.
- Virtual digital assets to be taxed at the rate of 30 percent.
- Surcharge on long term capital gains arising on transfer of any type of assets to be capped at 15 percent.

Source: PIB

Economic Survey 2021-22



- The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament, 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.

- The central **theme** of this year's Economic Survey is the "Agile approach".
- India to witness GDP growth of 8.0-8.5 percent 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.
- The growth projection for 2022-23 is based on the assumption that there will be no further debilitating pandemic related economic disruption, monsoon will be normal, withdrawal of global liquidity by major central banks will be broadly orderly, oil prices will be in the range of US\$70-\$75/bbl, and global supply chain disruptions will steadily ease over the course of the year.
- The Survey says, the above projection is comparable with the World Bank's and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 percent and 7.5 percent respectively for 2022-23.
- As per the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) growth projections released on 25th January, 2022, India's real GDP is projected to grow at 9 percent in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 percent in 2023-24.
- This projects India as the fastest growing major economy in the world in all these three years.
- In conclusion, the Survey is quite optimistic that overall macro-economic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23 and one of the reasons that the Indian Economy is in good position is its unique response strategy.

Source: PIB

Forex Reserves decline by \$678 million



- According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)**, India's Forex Reserves (Foreign Exchange Reserves) posted a decline of \$678 million during the week ended 21st January 2022 to reach \$634.287 billion.
- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)** declined by \$1.155 billion to \$569.582 billion in the reporting week.
- Expressed in dollar terms, FCA includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- Meanwhile, gold reserves saw an increase of \$567 million to \$40.337 billion during the week ended January 21, as per the data.
- The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell \$68 million to \$19.152 billion.
- India's reserve position with the IMF also decreased by \$22 million to \$5.216 billion in the reporting week.

India's Forex Reserve includes:

- Foreign Currency Assets
- Gold reserves

- Special Drawing Rights
- Reserve position with the International Monetary Fund

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Defense

India successfully flight-tests marine version of Rafale for INS Vikrant



- The **marine version of the French-made Rafale fighter jet** has been successfully flight-tested at a shore-based facility in Goa where conditions similar to that on the indigenously-developed aircraft carrier INS Vikrant were simulated.
- The Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M) is pitted against the US-made Super Hornet -- both of which are being evaluated for a possible purchase by the Indian Navy for deployment on the 44,000-tonne INS Vikrant that is undergoing trials in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal for likely commissioning in August.
- The Rafale-M jet was tested for 12 days last month at Goa's INS Hansa facility using a 283 metre mock ski-jump facility.

Source: The Hindu

Tri-Service Andaman & Nicobar Command inducts Advanced Light Helicopter MK III



- The indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III** aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair.
- The ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft, in line with the government's push towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Amongst its variants, the MK III variant is a maritime role variant encompassing state-of-the-art sensors and weapons that add punch to India's prowess at sea.

Source: PIB

First sea sortie of fifth scorpene submarine 'Vagir'



- The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 Feb 22.
- The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The submarine would be named **Vagir**, after commissioning.
- The submarine will undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, including propulsion systems, weapons and sensors.
- The submarine is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after completion of these trials.
- The six Kalvari-class submarines, designed by French company DCNS, are being built in India as part of the Indian Navy's Project-75.
- Two submarines of the ongoing Project-75 Scorpene programme at MDL - Kalvari and Khanderi - have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- The third submarine, Karanj, is in the last phase of sea trials.
- The fourth Scorpene, Vela, has started sea trials, while the sixth and last submarine, Vagsheer, is being readied.

Source: India Today

Science and Technology

Chandrayaan-3



- Recently, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said in the Lok Sabha that **Chandrayaan-3** is scheduled for launch in August 2022.
- The Chandrayaan 3 mission is the third planned lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It follows ISRO's Chandrayaan 2 mission, which successfully deployed its orbiter around the Moon but failed to soft-land its lander.

- Similar to Chandrayaan 2 mission, Chandrayaan-3 will also include a modified lander and rover. The mission will not include an orbiter, due to the success of the Chandrayaan 2 orbiter. It will use the Chandrayaan 2 orbiter to communicate with the earth.

Source: TOI

Environment

Two more Ramsar sites announced in India on World Wetlands Day



- Two new Ramsar sites — **Khijadiya wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh** — were announced on the occasion of World Wetlands Day.
- India now has a network of 49 Ramsar sites covering an area of 10,93,636 hectares, the highest in South Asia.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance as per UNESCO's 1971 Convention on Wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran.

Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh:

- The Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest natural flood plain wetland in the district of Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Established in the year 1980, the sanctuary's lake is important for the migratory birds who fly down here in the winter season.
- Migratory birds from Tibet, China, Europe, and Siberia visit the place between November to January. Birds like Indian purple moorhen in addition to more than 30 fish species can be found here.

Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat:

- Located 12 km away from Jamnagar District headquarters, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is a freshwater wetland, heaven for birds. It supports marine and freshwater birds, has marshy lands, mangroves, prosopis areas, mudflats, salt pans, creeks, forest scrub, sandy beaches, and farmlands bordering the area. The sanctuary is home to 309 species of birds- resident and migratory birds.
- Endangered bird species such as Dalmatian Pelican, Asian Open Bill Stork, Black-Necked Stork, Darter, Black-headed Ibis, Eurasian spoonbill, and Indian Skimmer can be spotted here.

Source: Indian Express

New genus of parasitic flowering plant discovered from Nicobar Islands



- A new genus of a parasitic flowering plant has recently been discovered from the Nicobar group of islands.
- The genus *Septemeranthus* grows on the plant species *Horsfieldia glabra* (Blume) Warb.
- The genus belongs to the family Loranthaceae, a hemi-parasite under the sandalwood order Santalales and is of widespread importance.
- The parasitic flowering plants have a modified root structure spread on the stem of the tree and are anchored inside the bark of the host tree.
- The plant was found on the periphery of the tropical forest in one of the biodiversity hotspots referred to as the Nicobar group of islands separated from the Andaman group of Islands by a wide gap of 160 km with heavy tidal flows.
- **Parasitic Plant:** The plant that obtains all or part of its nutrition from another plant (the host) without contributing to the benefit of the host and, in some cases, causing extreme damage to the host.

Source: **The Hindu**

Awards and Honours

State Government announces Literary Award



- The Literary Awards to be given on behalf of the Marathi Language Department of the State Government to the writers who have done remarkable work in the field of literature was announced today.
- This year, the Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award has been announced for veteran writer Bharat Sasane.
- The award consists of Rs. 5 lakhs in cash, badges and honors. The award was announced by Marathi Language Minister Subhash Desai.

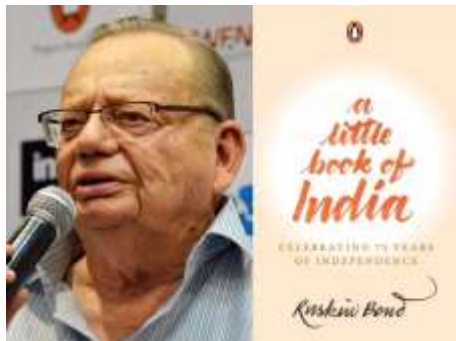
- Mr. P. Bhagwat Award (2021) was announced to Lokvangmay Griha, Mumbai. The award consists of Rs 3 lakh in cash and a badge and honorarium.
- Dr. The Ashok Kelkar Marathi Language Study Award has been announced for Ramesh Varkhede. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs.
- Poet Mangesh Padgaonkar, Marathi Language Enhancer Award (2021, for individuals) Chandrakant Patil was declared.
- Dr. Ashok Kelkar, Marathi Language Study Award 2021 (for the organization) was announced to Marathi Studies Council Pune. The Poet Mangesh Padgaonkar Marathi Language Promotion Award 2021 (for the organization) was announced at the Center for Marathi Studies, Mumbai.

Source: Deshdoot

Books and Authors

Ruskin Bond's new book, "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence"

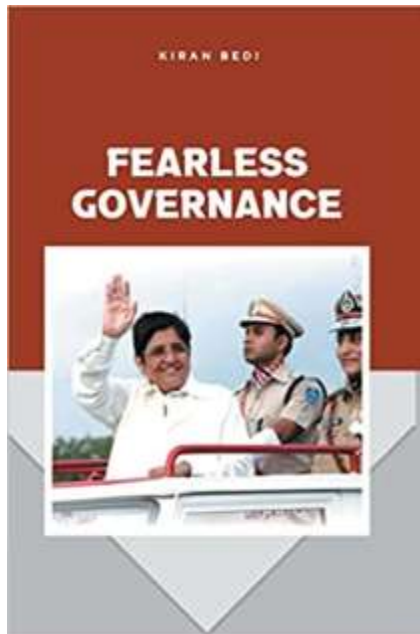
- **Ruskin Bond** authored a new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence".
- The book is an amalgamation of the "physical and spiritual" attributes of India.



- It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- **Ruskin Bond** is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, among other prestigious awards.

Source: TOI

A book titled "Fearless Governance" written by Kiran Bedi



- Dr. Kiran Bedi, former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and IPS, has released his self-written book 'Fearless Governance'.
- This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr. Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service (IPS).

Important Days

World Cancer Day



- World Cancer Day is observed every year on February 4th, to increase the awareness of Cancer globally.
- Close the Care Gap is the theme of World Cancer Day 2022-2024.
- World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008.
- World Cancer Day was established on 4 February 2000 at the World Cancer Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium, which was held in Paris.

Source: India Today

World Leprosy Day 2022



- **World Leprosy Day (WLD)** is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. In 2022, World Leprosy Day is **30 January**.
- The **theme** of World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity' and to create an environment for leprosy people to live a dignified life.
- The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau who made people know about this ancient disease.
- Data published by WHO in September 2021, for the calendar year 2020, showed a drop in new cases of 37 percent in the previous year.
- Today, about 208,000 people worldwide are infected with leprosy, according to WHO, most of them in Africa and Asia.”
- In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year, i.e., Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day.

Source: India Today

World Wetlands Day



- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2.
- 2 February 2022 is the first year that World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the General Assembly on 30 August 2021 in a resolution co-sponsored by 75 member states.
- The **theme** for 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.
- This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Source: un.org

Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 46th Raising Day



- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** celebrated its 46th Raising Day on February 1.
- From just seven surface platforms in 1978, the ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory
- It is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.
- 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.

Facts about Indian Coast Guard (ICG):

- **Director General:** Virender Singh Pathania
- **Headquarters:** Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 February 1977

Source: India Today

National Commission for Women Foundation Day



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed **30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day** programme.
- The **theme** of the programme ‘She The Change Maker’ is aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

About National Commission for Women:

- It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.
- The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik.
- Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson.

Source: PIB

Sports

Neeraj Chopra nominated for 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award



- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** has been nominated for **2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award**.
- India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, Neeraj Chopra 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.
- Neeraj Chopra 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.

Source: newsonair

Khelo India Scheme



- The Government has decided to continue the Scheme of “Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports” over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of Rs 3165.50 crore.
- The allocation in Khelo India Scheme has increased by 48 percent in Budget 2022-23 and it has been included in the PM's Awards Scheme.
- The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Source: PIB

Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022



- **India** beat China 2-0 to win a **bronze medal** in the **Women's Asia Cup Hockey tournament 2022** at Muscat in Oman.
- **Japan** defeated South Korea to win the Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022 title.
- The Women's Hockey Asia Cup is a women's international field hockey tournament organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.
- The winning team becomes the champion of Asia and qualifies for the FIH Hockey World Cup.

Source: newsonair

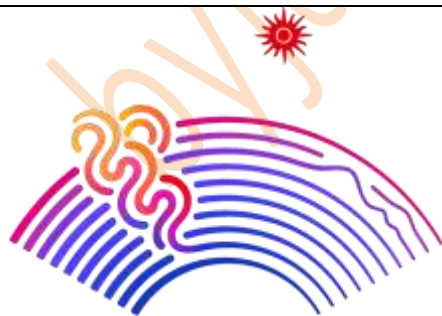
Unnati Hooda, Kiran George win Odisha Open 2022 titles



- Indian teenager **Unnati Hooda** beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal to claim the women's singles title at the Odisha Open 2022 badminton tournament.
- The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the tournament.
- In men's singles, India's 21-year-old **Kiran George** beat Priyanshu Rajawat to emerge as the winner.
- The **2022 Odisha Open** was a BWF Super 100 tournament that took place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha, India.

Source: The Hindu

2022 Asian Games



19th Asian Games
Hangzhou 2022

- The **2022 Asian Games (19th edition)** will take place from September 10 to September 25, 2022, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China and there will be five co-host cities.
- The multi-sporting event will feature 40 sports with a total of 61 disciplines, including Olympic sports like swimming, archery, athletics, badminton, equestrian, fencing, football, hockey, judo, kabaddi, and much more.
- E-sports and breakdancing will debut in the 2022 Asian Games as full medal sports after being approved by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) this year, while Cricket will be back at Asian Games in T20 format after 11 years.

Source: TOI

P R 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 2021** for his performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.
- P R Sreejesh was the only Indian nominated and was recommended by the International Hockey Federation.
- Sreejesh is a former captain of the Indian men's hockey team and a member of the bronze medal winning team at the Tokyo Olympics.
- In the FIH Stars Awards in October 2021, Sreejesh was named the goalkeeper of the year for 2021.

Note: In 2020, Indian Women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her 2019 show.

Source: newsonair

Australian Open 2022



- The 2022 Australian Open was a Grand Slam tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park, Australia from 17 to 30 January 2022.
- It was the 110th edition of the Australian Open, the 54th in the Open Era, and the first Grand Slam of the year.
- **List of winners:**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
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Winner- Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Winner- Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Winner- Nick Kyrgios (Australia), Thanasi Kokkinakis (Australia)	Winner- Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic), Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Winner- Kristina Mladenovic (France), Ivan Dodig (Croatia)
Runner-up- Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Runner-up- Danielle Collins (America)	Runner-up- Matthew Ebden (Australia), Max Purcell (Australia)	Runner-up- Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan), Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)	Runner-up- Jaimee Fourlis (Australia), Jason Kubler (Australia)

Source: newsonair

New Appointments

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi joins as Director General, NIELIT



- Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has joined as Director General of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).
- Before joining NIELIT, Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was working as Professor with Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi.
- **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

Source: PIB

Appointment of Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor



- The Government has appointed **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran** as the **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)**.
- He succeeds former CEA KV Subramanian who returned to academia at the end of his three-year tenure in December 2021.

- Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant.
- He was also a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister from 2019 to 2021.
- The CEA plays a key role in bringing out the Economic Survey, which presents the economic report card of the Government during the year and suggestions on possible reforms.

Source: Indian Express

Lt Gen Manoj Pande takes over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff



- **Lt Gen Manoj Pande** took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from Lt Gen CP Mohanty who superannuated on 31 January 2022.
- An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Lt Gen Manoj Pande was commissioned in December 1982 to the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers).
- The General Officer commanded an Engineer Regiment during Operation Parakram in the sensitive Pallanwala Sector along the Line of Control of Jammu and Kashmir.
- For his illustrious service he has been conferred with the award of Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the Chief of Army Staff Commendation and GOC-in-C Commendation twice.

Source: HT

Obituaries

Actor Ramesh Deo passes away



- Ramesh Dev, a veteran actor in Hindi and Marathi drama and film, died of a heart attack in Mumbai. He is undergoing treatment at Dhirubai Ambani Hospital.
- In 2013, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pune International Film Festival.

- He had celebrated his 93rd birthday on January 30, just four days ago. Marathi and Hindi films are mourning his demise.
- He started his career in 1951 with the film Patlachi Por
- He started his career as an actor in 1956 with the movie 'Andhala Magato Ek Dola' directed by Raja Paranjape.
- He made his Bollywood debut in the 1962 film Aarti by Rajshri Productions.
- To date, Ramesh Dev has acted in more than 180 Marathi and Hindi films.

Source: Loksatta

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