

Weekly Current Affairs

1st March 2022 – 05th March 2022

साप्ताहिक करंट अफेयर्स 01-05 मार्च 2022

Important News: World

UNGA adopts resolution deploring Russian aggression in Ukraine

Why in News

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted a resolution deploring the Russian aggression in Ukraine and urged Russia to immediately withdraw all forces from Ukraine.

Key Points

- The resolution came up for voting with 141 members voting for and five members voting against it.
- India and 34 other nations abstained from voting.
- The emergency session of the UN General Assembly was called by the Security Council amidst ongoing Russian military operations in Ukraine. It came after the 193-member assembly convened its first emergency session since 1997.

Note:

- The UNGA resolution was similar to the one circulated in the 15-nation Security Council recently.
- The UNSC resolution, which received 11 votes in favour and three abstentions, was blocked after permanent member Russia exercised its veto.

Source: newsonair

Montreux Convention

Why in News

- Turkey is set to activate the **Montreux Convention** in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Key Points

- Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkey's foreign minister said that the situation in Ukraine had become a war, a declaration that authorises Turkey to activate

the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.

Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits:

- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara.
- It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.

About Montreux Convention:

- It was signed by Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey and has been in effect since November 1936.
- Turkey has control over both the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
- In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.

Source: Indian Express

Fifth UN Environment Assembly

Why in News

- Recently, the **Fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5)** concluded in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- The Assembly will be followed by "UNEP@50", a two-day Special Session of the Assembly marking UNEP's 50th anniversary.

Key Points

- The UN Environment Assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide.
- The world's ministers for the environment agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.
- This was the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Note:

- Earlier, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single use plastic product pollution in the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in 2019, bringing global focus on the issue.

- India had announced the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, which notified the instructions on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging.

About UN Environment Assembly:

- The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.
- It is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: Business Standard

Wealth Report 2022: India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally

Why in News

- According to Knight Frank's latest edition of the **Wealth Report 2022 (16th edition)**, at 145 billionaires, India has the third-highest billionaire population globally, after the US and China.

Key Points

- The number of Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3% in 2021.
- Over the next five years, Knight Frank forecasts that the global UHNWIs population will grow by a further 28%.
- In India, the number of Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) with net assets of \$30 million (Rs 226 crore) or more, increased 11% in 2021. This is the highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific.
- Mumbai leads with the highest number of UHNWIs at 1,596, followed by Hyderabad at 467, Pune at 360, Bengaluru at 352, Kolkata at 257, Delhi at 210, Chennai at 160 and Ahmedabad at 121.

Note: The **Wealth Report** is Knight Frank's flagship annual publication, offering a unique perspective on global wealth, prime property and investment.

Source: TOI

Ukraine files an application before the International Court of Justice, instituting proceedings against the Russia

Why in News

- Ukraine has filed an application before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, instituting proceedings against Russia.
- The dispute is related to the interpretation, application and fulfilment of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the "Genocide Convention").

Key Points

- Ukraine has accused Russia of falsely claiming that “acts of genocide have occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine”, and of using that as a pretext to recognise the independence of these regions and of going to war against Ukraine.

About International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The court is the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was brought into being through, and by, the League of Nations, and which held its inaugural sitting at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, in February 1922.
- After World War II, the League of Nations and PCIJ were replaced by the United Nations and ICJ respectively.
- The PCIJ was formally dissolved in April 1946, and its last president, Judge José Gustavo Guerrero of El Salvador, became the first president of the ICJ.
- Like the PCIJ, the ICJ is based at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Judges of the court:

- The ICJ has 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.
- Four Indians have been members of the ICJ so far.

India at the ICJ:

- India has been a party to a case at the ICJ on six occasions, four of which have involved Pakistan.

Source: Indian Express

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on Climate Change

Why in News

- India welcomes the release of the **Working Group II (WG2)** contribution to the **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)** of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**.
- The report is about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.

Key Points

Key findings of the Report:

- The Report affirms that climate change due to historical emissions is leading to serious impacts which are already being felt globally including in developing countries with low contribution to cumulative emissions.

- These impacts will rise as warming proceeds and will rise rapidly at higher levels of warming.
- The Report is a clarion call for the world to abandon their unsustainable production and consumption and move urgently to climate resilient development.
- The Report notes that the impacts and the consequent limitations to adaptation would rise beyond 1.5 degree warming above pre-industrial levels.

In India:

- India notes that the Working Group I contribution to AR6 released in August, 2021 had made clear that developed countries need to rapidly decrease their emissions and reach net zero by 2050.
- India faces multiple climate hazards and has high vulnerability to climate change.
- India reaffirmed its commitment to climate actions, including the goal of net zero by 2070.

About Report:

- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The four subsequent assessment reports came out in 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2015. These have formed the basis of the global response to climate change.

The Assessment Reports – by three working groups of scientists:

- Working Group-I – Deals with the scientific basis for climate change.
- Working Group-II – Looks at the likely impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation issues.
- Working Group-III – Deals with actions that can be taken to combat climate change.

About Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

- IPCC is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change.
- It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is composed of 195 member states.

Source: PIB

Ukrainian President signs formal request to join European Union

Why in News

- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy** has said that he has signed an official request for Ukraine to join the **European Union (EU)**.

Key Points

- Zelenskiy has asked the European Union to allow Ukraine to gain membership immediately under a special procedure as it defends itself from invasion by Russian forces.

Facts about the European Union (EU):

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Founded:** 1 November 1993
- **Members Countries:** 27
- The **United Kingdom** became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.
- **Note:** European Union has recently joined **India's International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-CDRI**.

Source: newsonair

Removal of Russian banks from SWIFT system

Why in News

- Recently, in a move to counter Russia's war over Ukraine, the US and the European Union (EU) issued a joint statement to exclude some Russian banks from the **SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)** messaging system.

Key Points

- The assets of Russia's central bank are also expected to be frozen, constraining Moscow's ability to access its overseas reserves.
- The intention of the moves is to further isolate Russia from the international financial system.
- Prior to this, only one country had been cut off from SWIFT — Iran.

About SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication):

- The SWIFT is a secure platform for financial institutions to exchange information about global monetary transactions such as money transfers.
- While SWIFT does not actually move money, it operates as a middleman to verify information of transactions by providing secure financial messaging services to more than 11,000 banks in over 200 countries.
- Based in Belgium, it is overseen by the central banks from eleven industrial countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, besides Belgium.

Source: Indian Express

Canada approves world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine

Why in News

- Canada approved the use of **Covifenz**, the world's first plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine.

Key Points

- Covifenz was jointly developed by Medicago Inc., a biopharma company and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
- Covifenz is made from plant-based proteins that look like coronavirus and uses Glaxo's adjuvant that contains DL-alpha-tocopherol, squalene, polysorbate 80, phosphate-buffered saline.
- The other ingredients include potassium phosphate monobasic anhydrous, anhydrous sodium chloride, sodium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, and water for injection.
- In simple terms, the vaccine uses plant-based proteins to produce particles that resemble the target viral pathogen.

Source: HT

USCC's International IP Index 2022: India ranks 43rd

Why in News

- **India** has ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2022** (10th edition).
- This index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the **US Chambers of Commerce (USCC)**.

Key Points

The top 3 countries in the ranking are:

- Rank 1- United States
- Rank 2- United Kingdom
- Rank 3- Germany
- The International IP Index benchmarks the IP framework in 55 global economies across 50 unique indicators.
- India's overall score has increased from 38.40 percent in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent in the 10th edition.

Source: Business Standard

Important News: India

India slips 3 spots to rank 120 on 17 SDG goals adopted as UN's 2030 agenda: Report

Why in News

- According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015.

Key Points

- With the latest rankings, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129.
- The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka 87, Nepal 96 and Bangladesh 109.
- India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100.
- India's rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.
- India also performed poorly in dealing with quality education and life on land aspects.
- On the state-wise preparedness, Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Kerala ranked first.
- Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was ranked first.

Source: ET

Union Minister for Women & Child Development launches “Stree Manoraksha Project”

Why in News

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the “**Stree Manoraksha Project**”.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the International Women's Day week from 1st to 8th March, 2022.

Key Points

- The ‘Stree Manoraksha Project’ was launched in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
- The project is aimed at extending mental health training to 6000 One Stop Centres (OSC) functionaries across India.

- The project would emphasise on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

Women Empowerment Schemes:

- One Stop Centres (OSC) Scheme
- Women Helpline Scheme
- NIRBHAYA Fund
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- KIRAN Scheme
- Mahila e-haat
- Mahila Police Desks and Anti Human Trafficking Units
- Nari Shakti Puraskar
- Mahila Shakti Kendras

Note: **International Women's Day** is celebrated annually on 8 March.

Source: PIB

India signs Host Country Agreement with the International Telecommunication Union for establishment of Area Office & Innovation Centre at New Delhi

Why in News

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.

Key Points

- The agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony during the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- WTSA is a four-yearly global conference of ITU dedicated to standardisation of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).
- India has proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024.

Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi:

- The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.
- The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for establishment and operations of the Area Office.

Note: India has been taking concrete steps towards development of telecom standards. The 5G standards developed within India have now been recognised by ITU as one of the three technologies for 5G.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

- ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies.
- ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Tourism starts Swadesh Darshan Awards

Why in News

- In order to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and various implementation agencies, the Ministry of Tourism has constituted **Swadesh Darshan Awards** in different categories.

Key Points

- The awards will highlight best practices including achievement of planned objectives, innovative approach, adoption of sustainability principals in planning, design and operations, efficient project monitoring, ability to attract private investments in peripheral development and efforts undertaken to ensure optimal operations and maintenance etc.

Note:

- The Ministry of Tourism under its flagship scheme of 'Swadesh Darshan' has sanctioned 76 projects in 31 States / Union Territories of India for more than Rs.5500 Crore.
- As part of this scheme, tourism related infrastructure has been developed at more than 500 tourist destinations.

About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a Central Sector scheme launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.

Source: PIB

India and Japan renew Bilateral Swap Arrangement of \$75 billion

Why in News

- India and Japan renewed their **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** to the extent of \$75 billion.

Key Points

- The Bank of Japan, acting as an agent for the Minister of Finance Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the BSA.

- **BSA** is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for dollars.

Note:

- The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 2018.
- Consequently, the swap arrangement was signed to the tune of \$75 billion in October 2020, to bring greater stability to foreign exchange.

Source: Business Standard

Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2022 launched

Why in News

- The field assessment for the seventh consecutive edition of world's largest urban cleanliness survey, **Swachh Survekshan (SS)**, was launched on 1st March 2022 by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

Key Points

- MoHUA kicked off the SS 2022 survey with around 3,000 assessors of the Assessment Agency - Ipsos Research Pvt. Ltd., ready to go on the field to assess the performance of cities.
- The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.

About Swachh Survekshan (SS):

- SS was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
- The journey that started in 2016 with only 73 cities with million plus population, has grown manifold, with 434 cities in 2017, 4,203 cities in 2018, 4,237 cities in 2019, 4,242 cities in SS 2020 and 4,320 cities in SS 2021, including 62 Cantonment Boards.

Source: PIB

Government has approved proposal for continuation of seven existing sub-schemes under Umbrella Scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates"

Why in News

- The Centre Government has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme "**Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**" for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.

Key Points

- The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme, continues to reach beneficiaries through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The scheme enables migrants and repatriates, who have suffered on account of displacement, to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

The Government, at different points of time, had started different schemes. These seven schemes provide assistance for –

- Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb,
- Relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees,
- Relief assistance to Brus lodged in relief camps in Tripura,
- Enhanced relief to 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Victims,
- Financial Assistance and other facilities to the families of affected civilian victims of terrorist violence,
- Grants-in-aid to Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC),
- Grants-in-Aid to Government of West Bengal for infrastructure development in 51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in India, situated in Cooch Behar District and for resettlement of 922 returnees from erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

Source: PIB

MyGov launches “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series of 14 episodes

Why in News

- In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the **“Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series**, on 1st March, 2022.
- This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes.

Key Points

- “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz series” aims to sensitise the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives.
- This includes yojanas that resulted in the unprecedented number of houses built (PM Awas Yojana), water connections given (Jal Jeevan Mission), bank accounts (Jan Dhan), direct benefit transfer to farmers (PM KISAN) or free gas connections (Ujjwala) and many more life changing interventions for the poor.
- The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). PM-GKAY is a pro-poor package intended to reduce the challenges encountered by the poor as a result of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: PIB

Smriti Irani launches new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Why in News

- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launched the new motto of **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** - 'भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः' on its 17th foundation day (1st March, 2022).

Key Points

- Smriti Irani also complemented the collaboration between NCPCR & Border Security Force for the special initiative called 'SAHARA', which is an initiative to provide psycho-social counselling & support to children of BSF jawans who made the supreme sacrifice.

About National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

- NCPCR is an Indian statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Commission began operations on 5 March 2007.

Source: newsonair

Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman will launch a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system

Why in News

- Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman will launch a major **e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system** as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system on 2nd March 2022.
- The electronic bill processing system launch will be a part of the **46th Civil Accounts Day** celebration.

Key Points

- The Finance Minister had announced this major e-governance initiative in the Union Budget 2022-23 presented in Parliament on February 1.
- The e- Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments.
- This will be a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system.
- Suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online which will be trackable on a real-time basis.

Note: The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observes the “Civil Accounts Day” since its inception in 1976. ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

Source: Business Standard

National Conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities’

Why in News

- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is organizing a **National conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management’** in Raipur, in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh, on 3 March 2022.

Key Points

- The day-long event will serve as a platform for peer learning for States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on various centralised and decentralized waste management practices, as part of the Mission’s capacity building initiatives.
- The event will also witness the release of the “National Capacity Building Framework for Garbage Free Cities” under SBM-Urban 2.0, which will help build capabilities of relevant stakeholders to strengthen the urban sanitation sector in the country.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:

- On 1st October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0** with the overall vision of creating “**Garbage Free Cities**”.
- The Mission is being implemented under the overarching principles of “**waste from wealth**”, and “**circular economy**” for maximising resource recovery.
- Recently, a **Swachhata Startup Challenge** has been launched by the Mission, in partnership with the Government of France.

Source: PIB

President of India inaugurates ‘Arogya Vanam’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Why in News

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated a newly developed ‘**Arogya Vanam**’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Key Points

- Spread in 6.6 acres, the Arogya Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.

- It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda.
- The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.

Source: newsonair

International Monsoons Project Office launched

Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.

Key Points

- The **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years.
- It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- Both the World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme are international programmes coordinated by the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- As part of its core responsibilities, the IMPO would support activities of the Monsoons Panel, jointly established by the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) projects.

Note: It also precedes the 7th WMO International Workshop on Monsoons which is being organized in India jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, World Climate Research Programme, and World Weather Research Programme in March 2022.

Source: PIB

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Why in News

- Recently, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated a Camp in Maharashtra for distribution of daily living aids and assistive devices to Senior citizens under '**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**' (RVY Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

Key Points

- In the inauguration camp, 4800 Daily Living aids and assistive have been distributed among as much as 895 senior citizen beneficiaries.

About Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana:

- It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a central sector scheme funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund.
- It aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category who suffer from age-related disabilities.

Note: As per the Census figures of 2011, the population of senior citizens in India is 10.38 crore. More than 70% of the population of senior citizens lives in rural areas of the country.

Other Schemes Related to Elderly:

- SACRED Portal for Elderly
- SAMPANN Project
- Elder Line: Toll-Free Number for Elderly
- SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) Initiative
- Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)
- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007
- The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
- Vayoshreshtha

Source: PIB

Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022

Why in News

- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals is going to celebrate their 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas by organizing weeklong (1st March to 7th March 2022) celebrations at different locations across the country covering all States/UTs.
- The last day of the week i.e. 7th March will be celebrated as 'Janaushadhi Diwas'.

Key Points

- The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas is "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".
- This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

- PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in November, 2008.
- As on 31st January, 2022, the number of stores has increased to 8,675.
- Under the PMBJP, all 739 districts of the nation have been covered.
- The scheme ensures easy reach of affordable medicine to the people in every nook and corner of the country.
- The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Education launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

Why in News

- The Ministry of Education launched a campaign '**Bhasha Certificate Selfie**' to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.

Key Points

- **Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative** aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- The initiative will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages.
- To achieve this, a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.
- The initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate from their social media accounts.

About Bhasha Sangam Initiative:

- It is an initiative to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages).
- It is developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with a budget of Rs.1,600 crore for five years

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the national roll-out of the Central Sector Scheme, **Ayushman Bharat Digital**

Mission (ABDM) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with a budget of Rs.1,600 crore for five years.

Key Points

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** will be the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.
- The pilot of ABDM was completed in the six Union Territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with successful demonstration of technology platform developed by the NHA.
- During the pilot, a digital sandbox was created in which more than 774 partner solutions are undergoing integration.
- As on 24th February 2022, 17,33,69,087 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in ABDM.

Source: PIB

Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launches the National Polio Immunization Drive, 2022

Why in News

- Dr. Mansukh Mandavia, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022** by administering polio drops to children below five years of age.

Key Points

- **Universal Immunization Programme** is focusing to protect children from more diseases than ever before and has introduced several new vaccines like Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), Rotavirus vaccine, and Measles-Rubella vaccine (MR) in the recent past.

About Polio National Immunization Day and Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID):

- The Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) has been organized across the country on 27th February 2022.
- India conducts one nationwide NID and two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNIDs) for polio every year to maintain population immunity against wild poliovirus and to sustain its polio free status.
- During the Polio NID, Over 15 crore children will be covered across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.
- India has been free of polio for more than a decade, with the last case of wild poliovirus reported on 13th January 2011.

- However, India continues to remain vigilant to prevent re-entry of the poliovirus into the country from neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where wild poliovirus continues to cause the disease.

Source: PIB

Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme

Why in News

- The Government has approved the continuation of the **Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme** beyond March 31, 2021 for a period of five years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial outlay of Rs.1,364.88 crore.

Key Points

- The Ministry of Home Affairs aims to provide a secure and integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travelers while strengthening national security, through this scheme.
- The project has a global outreach and seeks to interlink and optimize functions relating to immigration, visa issuance, registration of foreigners and tracking of their movements in India by covering 192 Indian Missions across the globe, 108 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India, 12 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and offices and more than 700 Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs), Superintendents of Police (SPs)/Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) across the country.
- After the commencement of IVFRT, the number of Visa and OCI cards issued increased from 44.43 lakh in 2014 to 64.59 lakh in 2019 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.7 percent.
- Average visa processing time of 15 to 30 days (during pre-IVFRT period) has been reduced to a maximum of 72 hours in e-visas, with 95 percent of e-visas issued within 24 hours.
- International traffic to and from India grew from 3.71 crore to 7.5 crore during the last 10 years at a CAGR of 7.2 percent.

Source: ET

Flights under ‘Operation Ganga’ to evacuate stranded Indian nationals in Ukraine

Why in News

- Following the closure of Ukrainian airspace, India is facilitating evacuation of stranded Indians from Ukraine through its land border crossings with Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

- India has named the evacuation mission as '**Operation Ganga**'.

Key Points

- The Ukrainian airspace has been closed for civil aircraft operations since February 24 when the Russian military offensive began.

Note:

- **Ukraine** is in the east of Europe, and is bound by Russia to its northeast, east, and southeast, and the Black Sea in the south.
- In the southwest, west, and north, Ukraine shares borders, in the clockwise direction, with Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Belarus
- Recently, Russia recognised two independent republics out of Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk - Donbass region), signaling the inevitable war that followed.

Source: India Today

Important News: State

Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh

Why in News

- The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend Article 80 of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha.

Key Points

Private Member Bill — the Constitution (Amendment Bill, 2021) and Amendment of Article 80:

- The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house.
- Article 80 of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House.

Where does Chandigarh stand?

- Chandigarh is a Union Territory without any legislative assembly.
- Chandigarh has a seat of Member of Parliament (MP) in the lower house (Lok Sabha) or House of the People.
- Chandigarh residents elect an MP every five years through direct voting.

Note:

- The union territories of Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and the National Capital Territory of Delhi have representation in the Rajya Sabha, while Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli — Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are unrepresented in the upper house.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Books

Rahul Gandhi releases Tamil Nadu CM Stalin's autobiography

Why in News

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi released DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's autobiography, titled 'Ungalil Oruvan,' (One Among You).

Key Points

About MK Stalin:

- MK Stalin is an Indian politician and the 8th and current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Since 28 August 2018 he has been the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.
- He is the son of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.

Source: TOI

Important News: Economy

Cabinet allows up to 20% FDI in LIC under automatic route

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a proposal to allow **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** up to 20 percent in **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** through the automatic route.

Key Points

- The decision is expected to open doors for foreign investors who are keen to participate in the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of LIC scheduled for next month.
- The LIC public issue would be the biggest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market.
- The existing FDI policy did not prescribe any specific provision for foreign investment in LIC, which is a statutory corporation established under LIC Act, 1956.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India:

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Chairman:** M R Kumar
- **Founder:** Government of India
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Source: Business Standard

Defense

INS Visakhapatnam

Why in News

- Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh dedicated **INS Visakhapatnam**, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam, in a formal ceremony held at Naval Dockyard on 27 Feb 2022.

Key Points

- INS Visakhapatnam is on her maiden visit to the port for participating in the PFR and MILAN 2022.
- It is the lead ship of the P15B class of guided missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on 21 Nov 2021.
- The ship symbolises India's matured shipbuilding capability and quest for the Make in India initiative towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Source: PIB

Joint military exercise, “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022”, between India and Japan

Why in News

- A joint military exercise, “**EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022**”, between India and Japan has been started at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka) on 27 February 2022. It will continue till 10 March 2022.

Key Points

- **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022** is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018.
- It will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces, which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.

Source: PIB

Boeing delivers 12th P-8I patrol aircraft to Indian Navy

Why in News

- US aerospace major **Boeing** has delivered the **12th Poseidon-8I** maritime patrol aircraft to India.

- The fleet is being operated by the Indian Navy primarily to carry out surveillance in the Indian Ocean region.

Key Points

- The first of these aircraft was inducted in 2013, and it made India the first country outside the United States to get one.
- The aircraft is designed for “long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions”.
- It is a “multi-mission aircraft” with “state of the art sensors, proven weapons systems, and a globally recognised platform”.

Source: India Today

Sports

India's Sadia Tariq wins gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022

Why in News

- India's Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.

Key Points

- The Wushu Stars Championship was held in Moscow, Russian from February 22 to 28.
- Sadia Tariq, who hails from Srinagar, is a two-time gold medalist in the Junior National Wushu championship.

Source: TOI

Appointments

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of SEBI

Why in News

- Former banker **Madhabi Puri Buch** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.

Key Points

- Ms. Buch was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term.

- Starting her career with ICICI Bank, she went on to become the managing director and CEO at ICICI Securities from February 2009 to May 2011.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

Source: The Hindu

Important Personality

Odisha's former CM Hemananda Biswal passes away

- Former Odisha Chief Minister and prominent tribal Congress leader **Hemananda Biswal** passed away at 82.
- Biswal was a six-time MLA from Jharsuguda district, besides being the state's Chief Minister twice.
- He was the first tribal Chief Minister of Odisha.

Source: India Today

Important Days

March 4, National Safety Day

Why in News

- **National Safety Day** is observed on March 4 every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of National Safety Day 2022 is 'Nurture Young Minds-Develop Safety Culture'.

History:

- National Safety Day was first observed on the foundation day of the National Safety Council in 1972.
- The National Safety Council (NSC) of India was set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1966.
- The vision and mission of the Council is the successful running of the safety, health and environment (SHE) campaign.

Source: India Today

March 3, World Wildlife Day

Why in News

- World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3rd March every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of World Wildlife Day 2022 is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.

History:

- On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild fauna and flora.
- The date is the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species’ survival.

Note:

- According to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable.

Source: un.org

March 3, World Hearing Day

Why in News

- World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of World Hearing Day 2022 is “To hear for life, listen with care.”
- The campaign is held every year by the Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The campaign's objectives are to share information and promote actions towards the prevention of hearing loss and improved hearing care.
- The first event was held in 2007. Before 2016 it was known as International Ear Care Day.

Note: Across the world, 360 million people suffer from disabling hearing loss.

Source: who.int

March 01, Zero Discrimination Day

Why in News

- Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated on 1 March each year by the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations.

Key Points

- The **theme** of the Zero Discrimination Day is “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”.
- The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé on 27 February of that year.

Source: un.org

February 28, National Science Day

Why in News

- National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated annually on February 28.

Key Points

- The **theme** for NSD of the year 2022 is 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future'.
- National Science Day is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect by Nobel laureate, physicist CV Raman on this day in 1928.
- For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Source: Business Standard

Award And Honours

Ujjain enters Guinness Book for lighting more than 11 lakh diyas on Mahashivratri

Why in News

- In Madhya Pradesh, Ujjain entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** for lighting more than 11 lakh earthen lamps simultaneously on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Key Points

- The people of Ujjain have set a new record by lighting more than 11 lakh 71 thousand lamps simultaneously breaking the record of 9 lakh 41 thousand lamps lit in Ayodhya last November.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the ‘Shiv Jyoti Arpanam’ festival at Ramghat of Kshipra River.

Note: Ujjain is home to Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 jyotirlingas associated with Shiva.

Source: ET

Government invites applications for National Startup Awards 2022

Why in News

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the third edition of the **National Startup Awards 2022**.

Key Points

- The first National Startup Awards were announced in 2020 and witnessed applications from over 1,600 startups and ecosystem enablers across India.
- The recently concluded National Startup Awards 2021 saw participation from over 2,200 startups and ecosystem enablers.

About National Startup Awards 2022:

- The awards for startups will be given in 17 sectors classified into 50 sub-sectors.
- The 17 sectors are Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Construction, Drinking Water, Education & Skill Development, Energy, Enterprise Technology, Environment, FinTech, Food Processing, Health and Wellness, Industry 4.0, Media & Entertainment, Security, Space, Transport, and Travel.
- In addition, there are seven special categories of awards for startups.

Note:

- Startups are the key reason behind India's meteoric rise in **Global Innovation Index from 76 in 2014 to 46 in 2021**.
- In the startup world, 2021 has been recognised as the 'year of unicorns,' with 40+ unicorns added in the year.
- India is emerging as a global innovation hub, boasting the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.

About Startup India scheme: It was launched on January 16, 2016 with the aim of promoting and supporting the start-ups in India by providing bank finances.

Source: PIB

IISER professor Deepak Dhar becomes first Indian to bag Boltzmann Medal 2022

Why in News

- Physicist Professor Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal 2022.

Key Points

- He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.

- Prof Dhar is presently the emeritus faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.

About Boltzmann Medal:

- The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics.
- The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year.

Source: Indian Express

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