

Daily Current Affairs 22 January 2024



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Important News: International

Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality

Why in News:

- “Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality” was launched at WEF 2024 with support from WEF and the Government of India.

Key Points:

- The primary and stated objective of this new Alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing, and investments in the identified areas of women’s health, education, and enterprise.
- The Alliance will be taking forward the commitments of the G20 leaders for the benefit of the larger global community as a follow-up to the activities of the Engagement Group and initiatives under the G20 framework, inter alia, the Business 20, Women 20, and G20 EMPOWER.
- The Alliance has garnered support from industry leaders, including Mastercard, Uber, Tata, TVS, Bayer, Godrej, Serum Institute of India, IMD Lausanne, and over 10,000 partners from the industry.
- Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the alliance will be housed and anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership.
- The World Economic Forum has come on board as a ‘Network Partner’ and Invest India as an ‘Institutional Partner’.

Source: PIB



Important News: National

Gole Mela Festival Commenced At Jagannath Temple, Udhampur

Why in News:

- Jagannath Temple Hosts 'Gole Mela' Festival in Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir

Key Points:

- In Jammu and Kashmir, a Popular Festival known as 'Gole Mela' was organized at Jagannath temple in Udhampur today.
- A large number of devotees assembled and paid obeisance at Jagannath temple.
- The devotees from Udhampur district as well as from outside of Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed the festival along with their families.
- Gole Mela is organized twice every year.
- Devotees believe that from today the night time starts decreasing and day time starts increasing day by day.
- Moreover, two ancient temples are dedicated to Lord Jagannatha across India.
- One is situated in Puri, Odisha, and the other in Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: News on AIR

Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme and Ramsar Sites

Why in News:

- The Amrit Dharohar initiative, part of the 2023 - 24 Budget announcement, was launched in June 2023.

Key Points:

- The launch of this initiative in June 2023 is a key component of the 2023-24 budget announcement, aimed at promoting the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites within the country.



- Spearheaded by the Union Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the initiative falls under the 'Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme' 2023.
- This scheme is being executed in collaboration with various Central government ministries, State wetland authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions, all working in tandem for a shared objective.
- Currently, 16 Ramsar sites have been identified, with 5 selected as pilot projects for the skill development of facilitators, tourism service providers, and stakeholders in the vicinity of these sites.
- These five wetlands are Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha), Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).
- A Ramsar site refers to a wetland acknowledged as globally significant under an environmental agreement established in February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, with the support of UNESCO.
- Ramsar identifies wetlands as globally crucial, particularly those serving as habitats for waterfowl.
- The agreement facilitates national efforts and international collaboration to preserve wetlands and promote their sustainable and prudent utilization of resources.

Source: The Hindu

Free Movement Regime

Why in News:

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre has decided to fence the entire length of the currently porous India-Myanmar border to stop free movement of people.

Key Points:

- India and Myanmar share a 1,643-km border along the Northeastern states of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, a porous border of which only 10 km is fenced in Manipur.



- After being put into effect in 2018, the Free Movement Regime (FMR) permits anyone living on both sides of the border between India and Myanmar to travel 16 kilometers into each other's countries without a visa.
- FMR is implemented by both governments for the people living along the IMB.
- This helps locals to get more culturally assimilated with trans-border villages through weddings, celebrating common festivals together and trans-border trade.
- While the Chin people living in Chin state of Myanmar, contiguous with Mizoram, are of the same ethnicity as the Mizos and the Kuki-Zomis of Manipur, there is also a sizeable Naga population in Myanmar, largely in the Naga Self-Administered Zone in Myanmar's Sagaing region. The Mizo-Chins and Nagas on both sides of the border share close social, economic and day-to-day ties.
- Its main objective is to misuse the free movement regime by terrorists and cross-border criminals who smuggle weapons, smuggled goods and counterfeit Indian currency notes. Taking advantage of the free-movement regime, they sometimes enter India, commit crimes and escape to their relatively safe havens.

Source: The Indian Express

Cabinet approves creation of 3 officer-level posts for 16th Finance Commission

Why in News:

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of three posts at the level of joint secretary for assisting the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

Key Points:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has granted approval for the establishment of three officer-level posts to support the



16th Finance Commission. The newly instituted positions consist of two Joint Secretary-level roles and one Economic Adviser.

- The appointments align with the notification issued on December 31, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of Article 280 of the Constitution. The 16th Finance Commission is tasked with evaluating the financial situations of both central and state governments, providing recommendations for assistance grants, suggesting tax adjustments, and determining the framework for tax distribution among states.
- On December 31, Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and a professor at Columbia University, was appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. Hrithik Ranjan Pandey has been designated as the new Secretary of the Finance Commission.
- The Commission will submit its report to the President by October 31, 2025, covering a five-year period starting April 1, 2026.
- The 15th Finance Commission was established on November 27, 2017, with recommendations spanning from 2020-21 to 2025-26. Typically, it takes about two years for the Finance Commission to present its recommendations.
- In accordance with Article 280(1) of the Constitution, the Finance Commission is constituted every five years or earlier. The Advance Cell of the 16th Finance Commission was instituted on November 21, 2022, within the Finance Ministry to oversee preliminary activities until the formal establishment of the Commission.

Source: DD News



Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

Why in News:

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of World Vision India (WVI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that focusses on children's issues.

Key Points:

- The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revoked the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of World Vision India (WVI). This U.S.-based child-focused non-governmental organization (NGO), with a footprint in India spanning seven decades, is now barred from receiving foreign donations due to alleged violations of FCRA rules.
- The move came nearly a year after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had suspended the NGO's registration under the FCRA.
- FCRA was passed in 1976 during the Emergency due to concerns that foreign governments were funding independent organizations to meddle in India's internal affairs.
- The law aimed to control foreign donations to organizations and people to ensure that they operated following the principles of a sovereign democratic republic.
- The MHA has cancelled the FCRA registration of the NGO for alleged violations of the provisions of the foreign funding law. The FCRA licence was suspended in February 2023 for 180 days and then the suspension was extended for another 180 days.

Source: Money Control

