



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY, 2022

Week-4

22-28 Feb, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd FEBRUARY 2022

National Digital University

- **Context:** To implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Union Budget for 2022-23 mentioned the establishment of a National Digital University that will look to solve India's seat scarcity problem in educational institutions.

Key Highlights

- The digital university will provide access to high-quality higher education in several languages while also complying with the National Education Policy 2020.
- The Indian government plans to establish a digital university to provide world-class quality education and promote online learning in several Indian languages.
- The government will also expand the 'One Class One TV Channel' programme under the PM e-Vidya scheme to address the learning loss which has been caused due to the closure of schools because of the pandemic.
- The digital university which has been proposed along with the increased education through television programmes will help in guiding the nation through a pioneering, modern, and practical blueprint.

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa

- **Context:** India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has defeated the reigning world champion Norway's Magnus Carlsen. He did by using black pieces and took 39 moves to checkmate Carlsen. This win came in the eighth round of Airthings Masters chess tournament's preliminary stage being held online.

Key Facts

- This tournament is the first of the nine events that will take place under the USD 1.6 million Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. This tour is scheduled to run from February to November 2022.

- The tournament is timed at 15 minutes per game per player, with a 10-second increment after each move.
- The 16-year-old Praggnanandhaa is only the third Indian to have defeated Magnus Carlsen after Viswanathan Anand and Pentala Harikrishna.
- Magnus Carlsen is a five-time World Chess Champion from Norway. He has won the World Rapid Chess Championship three times and the World Blitz Chess Championship five times. Since, 1st July 2011, he has been ranked first in the FIDE world chess rankings. With a peak rating of 2882, he holds the record of having the highest peak recorded in the history of the game.

RBI Sell/Buy Swap Auction

- **Context:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced to undertake a Sell/Buy Swap Auction of USD 5 billion in March, 2022.

Key Facts:

- The Sell/Buy Swap Auction will help in levelling the liquidity of rupee in the light of expected behemoth IPO of Life Insurance Corp of India. This move will lead to inflow of US dollar.
- RBI will conduct a spot sale to sell USD 5 billion to banks in exchange of rupees, through this auction. After that, it will make a forward purchase from banks in two years. Forward purchase will help in reducing RBI's current foreign exchange reserves and increase its two-year forward USD purchases.

About Swap Auction

- Under the swap auction, a bank sell US dollar to the RBI. It is also agreed to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of swap period. In swap transaction only authorised dealers are allowed to deposit US dollars in exchange for rupees.
- Swap auction is done with an agreement to reverse the transaction at fixed exchange rate by the end of 3 years. Final exchange rate is decided by an auction where banks put bid on forward premium.

- Swap Auction is done with the objective of meeting durable liquidity needs of the system. It injects rupee liquidity for longer duration by means of long-term foreign exchange Buy/Sell swap.

23rd FEBRUARY 2022

J&K Delimitation Commission

- **Context:** The Union Government, for the second time, has extended Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission's term. This commission was given the task of redrawing the Union Territories' assembly constituencies.

Key highlights:

- The term of this commission has been extended for two months and will end on May 6. Election process is to be held in the Union Territory after the completion of the Delimitation process.
- The Delimitation Commission was set up on 6th March 2020. The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- The number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill.
- Along with Desai, ex-officio members of the panel are Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K State Election Commissioner KK Sharma.

Eastern Bridge-VI Air Exercise

- **Context:** Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) were took part in a bilateral exercise names "Eastern Bridge- VI", in a bid to bolster operational efficiency through interoperability.

Key Facts

- The Eastern Bridge- VI Air Exercise was started from February 21, 2022 and concluded on February 25.
- This is the 6th edition of the exercise, taking place at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

- This exercise is being held with the aim of providing an opportunity to enhance operational capability as well as interoperability between two Air Forces.
- Participation of IAF and RAFO in the exercise promoted professional interaction, enhancement of operational knowledge and exchange of experiences. It also strengthens bilateral relations between both the countries.

NOTE:

Oman is among one of the strongest defence partners of India in Gulf region. All the three services in India have bilateral exchanges and exercises with Oman's services. Oman also provides operational support to Indian Navy in Arabian Sea.

KISAN Mobile App

- **Context:** A farmer's awareness program was organized by IIT Roorkee under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) project.

Key Highlights

- The participating farmers were taught about the Agromet Advisory Services which is jointly provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and AMFU Roorkee.
- Agromet Advisory Services are already being provided twice a week to the farmers of six blocks of Haridwar. Through this KISAN app, the bulletins can be accessed via mobile phone.
- One unique feature of this app is that advisory bulletin and weather forecasts will be displayed only for that particular block that has been selected by the farmers.

About Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa to provide farmers with crop-specific information twice a week via print, visual, radio, and IT such as SMS. It has been implemented by Indian Meteorological Department in association with different state agriculture universities and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

24th FEBRUARY 2022**FSSAI Health Star Rating**

- **Context:** According to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), packaged food goods will soon display a 'health star' as part of the new system.

Key Highlights

- Health Star system will be similar to the one that is being used by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for assessing the energy efficiency in electrical devices.
- The packaged foods will have number of stars displayed on them which will indicate whether the item is healthy or unhealthy.
- The amount of fats, sugar, and salt in the food item will be used to determine the rating.

About FSSAI

- The FSSAI was established as a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- FSSAI was formed under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, which is an act related to food regulation and safety in the country.
- FSSAI is in charge of promoting as well as protecting public health in the country by effectively regulating food safety. Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.

J&K FDI Policy

- **Context:** Jammu & Kashmir Govt. has approved a foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for the union territory with a foreign stake of a minimum of 51 percent.

Key Highlights

- This new policy has been based on the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DPIIT) and Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guiding framework on FDI.
- This policy will be effective for the next ten years.
- The FDI policy in J&K aims for foreign investments

worth more than Rs 100 crore with a minimum foreign stake of 51 percent.

- The J&K government has plans to develop multifunctional complexes for foreign investment.
- The government of Jammu and Kashmir has already approved the transfer of approximately 290 acres in seven villages in 17 places in Budgam and Srinagar districts for the construction of housing complexes accessible to foreign investment.

25th FEBRUARY 2022**OCEANS 2022 conference**

- **Context:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in association with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) hosted the OCEANS 2022 conference.

Key Facts

- OCEANS conference is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers. It was hosted in India, for the first time.
- The OCEANS 2022 conference was held in hybrid mode.
- It had 400 presentations by delegates on topics like climate change, global warming, marine pollution, microplastics, vagaries of weather and combating coastal erosion.
- The theme of the OCEANS 2022 conference was "Inspire-innovate-sustain".
- The OCEANS 2022 conference highlighted on how the "U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" is making attempts to reduce impact of climate change through renewable energies.

About Marine Technology Society

- Marine Technology Society was incorporated in June 1963. It was incorporated to give members of academia, industry and government a common forum to exchange of information and ideas. Their purpose is to promote awareness, advancement, understanding, and application of marine technology.

Chernobyl Nuclear Plant

- **Context:** Recently, Russian troops launched a full-scale invasion in Ukraine and took control of the Chernobyl nuclear plant. It has attacked Ukraine, from three sides (Land, Sea, Air).

Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster

- World's deadliest nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in April 1986. Then, a nuclear reactor exploded and spread radioactive radiation across Europe.
- This plant is located in Pripyat, which is at a distance of 130 from Kyiv. The reactor has now been covered with a protective device in order to prevent radiation leakage. Entire plant has been disabled.
- After the Chernobyl accident, 18 million Soviet rubles were required to be spent to free environment from nuclear radiation. After explosion, effect of radiation spread up to 2600 sq. km.
- According to scientists, no human can live in this place for the next 24 thousand years. It acts as a storage centre for nuclear waste.

Sustainable Cities India Program

- **Context:** Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to design 'Sustainable Cities India' program.

Key Highlights

- The partnership between WEF and NIUA is significant in the light of India's commitment of achieving net zero carbon emission by 2070, made at COP26 summit in Glasgow.
- WEF and NIUA will adapt WEF's 'City Sprint' process as well as 'Toolbox of Solutions' for decarbonisation of five to seven Indian cities in two years.

About City Sprint process

- City Sprint Process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops that involved government, business, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonisation, specifically through clean electrification and circularity.
- It will help to jumpstart and accelerate net zero action and planning.
- The workshop series will shortlist relevant policies and business models, which will help in reducing emissions and maximizing System Value, like improved air quality or job creation.

About Sustainable Cities India Program

- The Sustainable Cities India Program aims to enable cities to generate decarbonisation solutions in different sectors including energy and transport.
- It seeks to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way, in a bid to reduce emissions and deliver equitable and resilient urban ecosystems.

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

The WEF is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was founded on January 24, 1971 by Klaus Schwab.

26th FEBRUARY 2022

India's First e-waste Eco-Park

- **Context:** The Delhi Government has announced that Delhi will get India's first e-waste eco-park.

Key Highlights

- First electronic-waste eco-friendly park will be set up in Delhi, to handle the increasing e-waste. Dismantling, Re-cycling, Re-furbishing and re-manufacturing of the waste will be done in a safe and scientific manner.

- It will be built on 20 acres of land.
- Currently, Delhi produces 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year. However, it is not being handled scientifically and safely. It is handled and recycled by informal recyclers. This led to many life-threatening incidents such as fire breakouts, which in turn impacts the health of residents and waste handlers of Delhi.

Key Features of Eco- Park

- The e-waste eco-part will comprise of an authorised refurbishing market as a secondary product sale market for batteries, electronic goods, laptops, chargers, mobiles and PCs.
- The e-waste eco-park will provide infrastructure, training and tools to the operators from informal sector, in a bid to groom them as formal recyclers.
- This facility will comprise of dismantling, refurbishing, segregation, plastic recycling, material wise storage, and testing, and precious metal extraction facilities, from Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) through high-end technologies.

Dharma Guardian Exercise

- **Context:** Dharma Guardian- the Indo-Japan Joint Military Exercise is being held in Belagavi, Karnataka.

Key Facts

- This exercise with Japan is significant and crucial in the matters of security challenges that are faced by both nations in the backdrop of the current global situation.
- This exercise covers platoon-level joint operations training in semi-urban and urban environments and forests.
- Indian Army's 15th Battalion the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment and Japan's 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces are participating in this year's exercise.
- This exercise is being conducted between the two troops to share various experiences gained during

operations so as to enhance inter-operability in the execution and planning of various operations in jungle, urban and semi-urban terrain.

Ombudsperson App

- **Context:** The Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj launched the Ombudsman App for MGNREGA.

Key highlights

- This App is a step toward e-governance, and it will help in accountability and transparency. This app will help the Ombudsman in carrying out their duties in a transparent and accountable manner.
- The Ministry of Rural Development developed this app with the aim of smooth categorization and reporting of grievances by the appointed Ombudsperson based on complaints that they have received from various sources i.e. digital, physical, and mass media, related to the MGNREGA Scheme implementation in the States and UTs.
- This app will allow for easy tracking and timely redressal of complaints by the Ombudsperson. The app will also allow the Ombudsperson to upload annual and quarterly reports to the website.
- Currently, the grievances are reported, as well as resolved in a physical format. Ombudsperson App is designed to make reporting and resolving complaints as quickly as possible. This will assist the Ombudsperson in carrying out their duties without facing any difficulty.

27th FEBRUARY 2022

Operation Ganga

- **Context:** The Ministry of External Affairs has set-up 24x7 control centres in order to assist the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine. India also launched a multi-prong evacuation plan titled 'Operation Ganga'.

Key Highlights

- Under this Operation, Indian nationals will be evacuated through border crossing points with Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Slovak Republic. Ministry has activated a dedicated Twitter handle, 'OpGanga'.
- India started the evacuation of stranded citizens on February 26, under Operation Ganga, as Russia intensified its offensive against Ukraine. Evacuation operation started after Ukrainian airspace was shut for civil aircraft operations from February 24.
- The Indian Government is bearing the cost of evacuation, amid prevailing emergency situation.
- Under Operation Ganga, around 15,000 stranded Indians will be evacuated from Ukraine.
- Government is also facilitating evacuation of stranded Indians from its borders crossing Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Poland.

SWIFT

- **Context:** The United States and the European Union (EU) have decided to cut off a number of Russian banks from SWIFT, the main international payment system.

Key Highlights

- Under this, Russia's central bank assets will also be frozen, which will limit Moscow's ability to access its foreign reserves.
- This move's intention is to further isolate Russia from the international financial system keeping in view the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- These sanctions are the most severe against Moscow since its forces invaded Ukraine. This is going to have a significant impact on Russia that relies significantly on the SWIFT platform for its natural resource trade, such as gas and oil exports.
- In the financial world, cutting a country off from SWIFT is equivalent to restricting a country's Internet access.

- Prior to Russia, Iran was the only country that was cut off from the SWIFT. Being cut off from SWIFT resulted in losing a third of Iran's foreign trade revenue.

About SWIFT

- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) system is a secure platform that is used by various financial institutions to exchange information related to global monetary transactions like money transfers.
- SWIFT does not directly move money around. Instead, it serves as a middleman by providing secure financial communications services for more than 11,000 institutions located in over 200 countries.
- SWIFT is located in Belgium and central banks from 11 countries oversee it. The countries are France, Canada, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Belgium.

'Hit and Run' Solatium

- **Context:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have decided to increase the compensation to the kin of hit-and-run victims by eight times to Rs 2 lakh in case of death starting April 1.

Key Highlights

- The solatium for a person who suffers serious injuries in a hit-and-run case would be increased from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.
- The ministry has come up with a method for conducting extensive investigations of road accidents, preparing Detailed Accident Reports (DARs), and reporting them, as well as timelines for the various stakeholders for quick claim settlements.
- The Solatium Scheme, 1989 will be superseded by this new scheme from April 1, 2022, onwards.
- The government will also establish a Motor Vehicles Accident Fund, which will be used to compensate the victims of hit-and-run accidents and provide treatments for those who have been injured.

- The application process for compensation and the victims' release of payment has also been made time-bound.
- During 2020, in India, a total of 3,66,138 road accidents occurred which caused 1,31,714 deaths.

28th FEBRUARY 2022

International Atomic Energy Agency

- **Context:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has decided to hold an emergency meeting regarding the war situation in Ukraine. The country has four nuclear power plants that are operational and various waste facilities including Chernobyl.

Key Highlights

- The member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency that are not on IAEA's Board can call a meeting but if a Board member calls one the possible range of topics is increased.
- Board members Poland and Canada called the meeting on Ukraine's request which is not on the IAEA board.
- Ukrainian authorities have said that a Russian missile hit a site of radioactive waste disposal although there was no visible damage and the results of on-site radioactive monitoring were still pending.

About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- The IAEA is a non-governmental organization that aims to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while prohibiting its use for military purposes, such as nuclear weapons.
- In 1957, the IAEA was established as an autonomous organization. The IAEA, even though it was established independently of the United Nations by its own international treaty i.e. the IAEA Statute, reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Members:** 173 nations.

National Science Day 2022

- **Context:** On 28 February, every year National Science Day is celebrated in India to recognize the contributions of scientists towards the nation's development.
- The objective of National Science Day is to increase awareness about the importance of science.
- Radio, public speeches, science movies, television, science exhibitions on various concepts and themes, quiz competitions, debates, science model exhibitions, and lectures are some of the ways that educational institutions celebrate National Science Day.

Key Facts

- On 28 February 1928, an important discovery in the field of spectroscopy was made by renowned Indian Physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. Later, this discovery was named after him i.e. the Raman Effect.
- In 1930, CV Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work.
- The theme of National Science Day 2022 was 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future'.

About CV Raman

- CV Raman was an Indian physicist and is known for his work in light scattering under the fields of physics.
- He discovered that when light passes through a transparent medium, the frequency, and wavelength of the deflected light change. They named this phenomenon "modified scattering" and was later termed the Raman scattering or Raman effect.
- In 1930, CV Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics for this discovery and was Asia's first person to receive a Nobel Prize in science.

Palk Bay Dugong Reserve

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu government has begun work to set up the first Dugong Conservation Reserve of India in the Palk Bay region.

Key Highlights

- The size of the reserve will be spread over around 500 sq km and will be located in Palk Bay's northern part from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam.
- For the first 5 years, Rs 5 crore would be the initial cost for the reserve's establishment.
- There are plans to build enhanced seagrass beds and an international conservation centre under the Climate Change Mission.

About Dugong

- The dugong is a sirenian species found along the Indian coast. Dugongs are related to manatees and have a similar plump appearance to them, but they have a tail that looks like a dolphin's fluke. Unlike manatees, which live in freshwater, dugongs are purely marine mammals.
- Dugongs are also known as Sea Cows. They graze on seagrass in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
- Dugongs are endangered species and are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act's, 1972 Schedule 1.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) states that only 200-250 dugongs are left, of which 150 are found in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay. The dugong is on the verge of becoming extinct. The Dugong population of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is less than 100.

