



## February 02 | Daily Current Affairs 2022

**Important Days – Daily Current Affairs February 02**

### 1. World Wetlands Day 2022:

- **World Wetlands Day is observed on 2 February to raise awareness about the need to conserve wetlands.**
- It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in **Ramsar, Iran.**
- In 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 75/317, which proclaimed World Wetlands Day on 2 February.

### Wetlands:

- **As per United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),** wetlands are areas where "water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season".
- According to the Ramsar Convention, wetlands comprises both natural and man-made sites including lakes, swamps, marshes, mangroves, salt pans, tidal flats and reservoirs.

### Theme:

- **Wetlands Action for People and Nature.**

**Sports – Daily Current Affairs February 02**

### 2. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell wins ICC's 'Spirit of Cricket' award:

- **New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell was named the recipient of 2021's ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award** for not taking an easy single during the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as he felt he had "obstructed" the way of bowler Adil Rashid in that moment.
- **Mitchell won the award for his gesture during the game in Abu Dhabi on November 10 last year, which New Zealand won by five wickets.**
- **Mitchell is the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following in the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.**

### 3. Asian Games 2022: 40 sports to feature, cricket to be back after 11 yrs:

- **The 2022 Asian Games 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 to raise the excitement of the viewers.
- India is a member of the **South Asian Zone of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** and one of the only seven countries that have competed in all the editions of the Asian Games.
- **India has won at least one gold medal at every Asian Games and always ranked within the top 10 nations of the medal table, except in the 1990 edition.**
- So far, **India has won 139 gold, 178 silver, and 299 bronze medals at the Asian Games and will look to significantly increase the medal tally this year.**
- For the first time ever, **more than 300 athletes from Oceania countries have been given the chance to compete at this year's 19th edition of the Asian Games.**
- The Oceania athletes, including those from **Australia and New Zealand, will be allowed to compete in five sports: triathlon, athletics, wushu, roller skating, and weightlifting.**
- **Sony Pictures Networks India, (SPN), has acquired the exclusive rights for the 2022 Asian Games from November 2021 to September 2023.**
- This association will give SPN exclusive rights to broadcast the **19th edition of the Asian Games on its sports channels across India and the subcontinent including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and the Maldives.**

**Obituary – Daily Current Affairs February 02**

### 4. ASG Rupinder Singh Suri passes away:

- **Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Rupinder Singh Suri died.**



- **Suri was appointed the ASG in June 2020. Suri was designated as senior advocate in 2009** and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.
- He served as standing counsel in the **Supreme Court for Punjab for about 15 years.**

### **Banking and Finance – Daily Current Affairs February 02**

#### **5. Dukaan Partners with Simpl to Provide Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) Services to its Merchants:**

- **Dukaan**, a platform that enables small and medium-sized businesses to set up online stores and sell products digitally, **has partnered with Simpl, a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform, to provide BNPL services to Dukaan's merchants.**
- **Founded in 2020 during the Covid pandemic, Dukaan is a Bangalore-based startup** that enables **D2C and SMB merchants** to set up online stores and sell products digitally.

### **Acquisitions and Mergers – Daily Current Affairs February 02**

#### **6. CCI approves acquisition of additional equity by Kubota Corp of Escorts:**

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of certain additional equity by Kubota Corporation (Kubota/ Acquirer) of Escorts Limited (Escorts/ Target) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- The Proposed Combination involves Kubota's acquisition of certain additional equity shares of Escorts by way of preferential allotment and a mandatory tender offer in compliance with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011.**

#### **REMARKS:**

- **Kubota was founded in 1890, and it is a company incorporated under the laws of Japan.** It is a agriculture product manufacturer and offers various machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters, and rice transplinters.
- **Escorts is a public limited company incorporated in India.** Escorts is engaged in the business of manufacturing and sale of agri-machinery, construction equipment, and railway equipment in India.

## Appointments – Daily Current Affairs February 02

### 7. Antonio Costa re-elected as Prime Minister of Portugal:

- **Socialist Prime Minister António Costa won re-election to his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive term** during the general election in Portugal as the new far-right party Chega took ground in the country's Parliament.
- **The Socialist Party won about 41.7% of the vote**, giving them an absolute majority in Parliament for the **first time since taking power six years ago**.
- **The party now controls at least 117 seats in the 230-seat Parliament**.

## International Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 02

### 8. Dubai firm to launch world's first hydrogen-powered flying boat:

- **Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'**.
- **"World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat, 'THE JET', set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai,"**.
- **'THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.**
  - ✓ **The boat has a capacity of 8/12 passengers, and is equipped with two fuel cells and an air conditioner** as well as other clean-tech, environmentally friendly technologies that help reduce carbon emissions.

## National Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 02

### 9. India flight tests Rafale-Marine 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-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.



- **India's new aircraft carrier has been designed as a ski-jump launch ship, different from many other such carriers, which use a catapult launch for their jets.**

### REMARKS:

- **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.**
- **The ski-jump ramp uses what naval experts call short take-off but arrested recovery (STOBAR) technology.**
- **Boeing's Super Hornet or F/A-18 jet, which is also being offered to India, is expected to undergo similar tests at INS Hansa next month.**
- **The suppliers have made modifications to both Rafale-M and Super Hornet to make them suitable for the Indian order.**
- **The Navy wants to initially purchase 26 jets for its aircraft carrier, though it had issued in 2017 a Request for Information (RFI) for 57 multirole aircraft capable of being launched from carriers.**
- **The RFI was issued as the Navy will be phasing out the MiG-29Ks, currently being used on INS Vikramaditya — a modified Kiev class carrier — in 2034.**
- **India had in 2016 placed the order for the jets with Dassault in a fly-away condition.**

### 10. Gujarat's Khijadia & UP's Bakhira wildlife sanctuary, India's two new Ramsar sites:

- **2 more wetlands in India were declared as Ramsar sites, taking the total number of protected sites in the country to 49.**
- **Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh** have been recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- **Sultanpur National Park, which was included in the Ramsar list last year.**
- **Two wetlands of Haryana – Sultanpur National Park in Gurugram and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar-** were included in the Ramsar list last year.
- **The minister along with MoS Environment Ashwini Choubey and Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar also released the National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas prepared by Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad which highlights the changes which have happened in wetlands in the past decade.**

### 11. Russia delivers all the contracted 70,000 AK203 assault rifles to India:

- **Russia has delivered to India all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles** as envisaged under a contract signed late last summer between **India and Kalashnikov**.
- **India's Ministry of Defence plans to procure 670,000 Ak203 assault rifles, and the 70,000 delivered is part of the overall objective.**
- **Rest all 600,000 will be manufactured in India's Amethi under a joint venture, the contract for which was signed 6th December 2021.**
- **The day saw the first India, Russia 2+2 meet at foreign and Defence ministers level and the visit of Russian president Putin for the annual summit in Delhi.**
- **The total cost of the contract is around Rs 5000 cr.**

### REMARKS:

- **As part of India's localisation of defence manufacturing, a special purpose Joint Venture called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL) has been created for the production of 600,000 AK 203 in India.**
- **Joint Venture is between India, represented by the Defence PSUs- Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) & Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Russia, represented by Rosoboronexport (RoE) & Concern Kalashnikov (CK).**
- **The 7.62 X 39mm caliber AK-203 Rifles will replace in-service INSAS Rifle inducted over three decades back.**
- **AK-203 Assault Rifles has an effective range of 300 meters are light weight and seen as easy to use Modern Assault Rifles.**

### 12. India-EU hold 2nd maritime security dialogue; both commit to inclusive, rules-based Indo-Pacific:

- **India and the European Union held their second maritime security dialogue** in a virtual format, during which both sides committed to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Consultations include India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative, India-EU maritime cooperation, and regional initiatives to address international maritime security issues.**
- **India and the EU discussed cooperation, including in the field of maritime domain awareness, following their successful joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Aden in June 2021.**
- **The meeting was co-chaired by Sandeep Arya, Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs at Ministry of External Affairs, India, and Joanneke Balfort, Director for Security and Defence Policy at the European External Action Service.**

### 13. Chhattisgarh becomes 35th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card:

- 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.**
- The migrant NFSA beneficiaries of Chhattisgarh State will also now be able to take the benefit of subsidised foodgrains at any Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country.

#### REMARKS:

- **ONORC is a technology driven distribution system which makes food security portable across 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 food grains through both inter-State and intra-State portability transactions equivalent to about Rs. 31,000 Crore in food subsidy.**
- As a key indicator, presently a monthly average of about **2.5 Crore portability transactions (including inter-State, intra-State and PM-GKAY foodgrain transactions)** are being recorded in the States/UTs under ONORC.
- From the high volume of about **49 Crore portability transactions done by the beneficiaries during the COVID-19 period (from April 2020 till so far),** it is evident that the flexibility of choosing any FPS (ration shop) under ONORC has proved to be a tremendous source of food security for many migrant beneficiaries/families, as they are now able to lift their entitled ration **under NFSA and PMGKAY seamlessly.**

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