

February 16 | Daily Current Affairs 2022

Obituary – Daily Current Affairs February 16

1. Karnataka's Samanvaya Kavi Nadoja Channaveera Kanavi passes away:

- **Nadoja Channaveera Kanavi** has passed away in **Dharwad in North Karnataka**, at 93.
- Popularly known as **Samanvaya Kavi** or the **poet of reconciliation**.

Honours:

- The **Central Sahitya Akademi** has honoured him with the **Akademi award** for his **collection of poems Jeevadhvani in 1982**.
- He is also honoured with the **Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Award, Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Pampa Award and Nadoja honorary D.Litt by Hampi Kannada**.

2. 'Disco king' Bappi Lahiri dies at 69:

- **Singer-composer Bappi Lahiri**, who Popularized **disco music** in Indian cinema in the 80s and 90s, has died following multiple health issues.

Banking and Finance – Daily Current Affairs February 16

3. KVB, UNANU Technologies tie-up for digital freight finance:

- **KarurVysya Bank** has joined hands with the **Chennai-based UNANU Technologies** for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors.
- **UNANU** has built the **Freight Financing System** within their suite of software platforms.
- Using the module **"U-Turbo – a marketplace"**, can on-board logistics companies & shippers to Freight Financing programme.

4. Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance launches Flexi Edge:

- **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** has launched **"Flexi Edge"** a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan
- Provides **life cover to the policyholder** in the unfortunate event of the death.
- The plan offers customers the flexibility to choose from three options depending on their individualistic requirements:
 - i. **Flexi Savings** is a basic savings structure to serve various needs of the customer and offers lump **sum benefit equal to 100% of sum assured**, loyalty additions and accrued bonuses at end of the policy term
 - ii. The policy offers a lump **sum benefit equal to 50% of the sum assured** at the end of premium payment term.

iii. The plan offers cash bonus every year from **end of the 2nd policy year till end of the policy term (100-age at entry)**.

- Additionally, the policyholder will receive a lump **sum benefit equal to 100% of Sum Assured** and bonuses at end of the Policy Term.

Business and Economy – Daily Current Affairs February 16

5. Vedanta signs up with Foxconn to manufacture semiconductors in India:

- **Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta** and **Hon Hai Technology Group (also known as Foxconn)** have formed a joint venture (JV) to manufacture semiconductors in India.
- This is the **first JV in the electronics manufacturing space after the PLI policy**.
- The **Vedanta Group** had in January shared its intent to invest **\$15 billion** for making displays and semiconductor chips in India over the **coming 5 years**.
 - ✓ It had acquired **AvanStrate**, a **Japanese glass substrate manufacturer** in **December 2017** from the **Carlyle Group**.

REMARKS:

- In Dec 2021, **Centre** had cleared a **PLI scheme for semiconductor & display board** production, targeting an investment of **Rs 76,000 crore** over the **next 5 to 6 years**.

6. Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Assam Rifles to provide 'Central Forces Salary Package':

- It will offer the **Baroda Central Forces Salary Package** to all personnel of the **Assam Rifles, both serving and retired**.
- It will also provide **special benefits, including Personal Accident Insurance** and a co-branded credit card.
- **BoB** will offer services such as **free unlimited transactions at all Bank ATMs, free remittance services – NEFT/ RTGS online or through branch, free debit card, free unlimited demand draft facilities, 50 % discount on locker rentals, 100 % waiver on Demat annual maintenance charges and 75 % waiver** on issuance charges for Gift and Travel cards.
- **Assam Rifles:** Country's oldest paramilitary force.

Appointments – Daily Current Affairs February 16

7. Vineet Joshi appointed as new CBSE chairman, replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja:

- **Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, has been appointed as new chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE)**.
- He has replaced **IAS Manoj Ahuja, was appointed as CBSE's chairman** on May 12, 2020.



- **Vineet Joshi**: Is an IAS officer, **Manipur 1992** batch and he is also the governing body member of **National Testing Agency**.
- **Manoj Ahuja**: Also served as **Special Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie**.
 - ✓ He is a **1990 batch IAS officer of Odisha** cadre civil servant.
- **CBSE**: Is the **national level education board of India** and **administered by GoI**.
 - ✓ More than **25, 000 schools** all across India and **approx 240 schools in 28 foreign countries** are affiliated to CBSE.

International Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 16

8. India – Maldives hold 3rd 'Defence Cooperation Dialogue:

- **Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar co-chaired '3rd India Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue' with Chief of Defence Force (CDF) of Maldives National Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal.**
- During the visit to the Maldives, **Defence Secretary hold a meeting with Minister of Defence Mariya Didi.**

India's Assistance to Maldives:

- **Ajay Kumar inaugurated the Composite Training Center Phase-I Annex built with Indian grant assistance in Maldives & handed over the refitted CGS Huravee – a made-in-India patrol vessel.**
- **India supported for MNDF, with more than 170 medical evacuations & 130 surveillance missions** conducted in the past couple of years.
 - ✓ **'Coast Guard Dockyard' project**, which is set to be the most comprehensive defence infrastructure development project carried out in the **Maldives**.
- **Development cooperation** has been an imperative pillar of the **Indo-Maldives relationship with India** providing **Lines of Credit of over USD 1.2 billion (1 bn = Rs 100 crore)** for infrastructure and grants for community development projects.
- **Maldives**: Is one of **India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region** and the bilateral defence and security ties have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

9. Bangladesh: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Ekushey Book Fair 2022:

- **The largest book fair of Bangladesh Amar EkusheyBoiMela** was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**.
- The fair is being held in **Dhaka at the Bangla Academy** premises and the adjoining **Suhrawardy Udyan**.



- **Hasina also gave the literary award 'Bangla Academy Sahitya Puraskar 2021' to 15 recipients under 11 categories.**
- On behalf of the Prime Minister, **State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid** handed over **cheques of Taka 3 lakh**, a crest and a certificate to the awardees.
- More than **770 stalls** have been set up across the **two venues of the book fair.**
- The book fair is currently scheduled to continue **till Feb 28**, might be extended till **March 17 to coincide with the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**

REMARKS:

- The month-long book fair **started in 1972** to commemorate the sacrifices of people killed by **Pakistani forces on 21 February 1952** demanding **Bangla as the mother language for the then East Pakistan.**
- It has been organised every year by the **Bangla Academy since 1978.**

National Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 16

10. Sarbananda Sonowal flags off maiden voyage of shipment of steel from Haldia to Pandu through the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBP Route):

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, flagged off the maiden voyage of barges with a consignment of 1798 MT of finished steel products of Tata Steel Limited.**
- **From Haldia to Pandu (in Assam) through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBP Route).**
- The consignment of steel products, has arrived at **Haldia Dock Complex** through the Railway mode; loaded onto barges [**Db Abdul Kalam And Db Kalpana Chawla chartered by SMPK**] at berth no. 11 **operated by TMILL** who have organized movement of the cargo and loading at their berth.
- **The barges will be flagged off and will move from Haldia to IWAI Pandu terminal in Assam.**
- **The barges will move along NW-I – Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route – NW-II.** In the return leg, the barges will load **coal provided by Fuel Sources India Pvt. Ltd.**
- where LSC Solutions is providing ground logistic support along with last mile delivery, and is destined for unloading at SMPK, Kolkata.
- To improve the connectivity through waterways, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has taken up several infrastructure projects on **National Waterways-1, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route and NW-2 (River Brahmaputra) through the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).**

11. 4-day Medaram Jatara begins in Telangana, 1.25 crore footfall expected:



- **Telangana's MedaramJatara, Asia's largest tribal fair** celebrated over 4 days every two years, at Medaram village of Mulugu district.
- **Over 1.25 crore people** are expected to congregate at the village to celebrate the valour of **Adivasi icons Sammakka and Sarakka** (Protectors of the community).
- The fair will culminate on **February 19**.

History:

- About 8 centuries ago, **tribal king Medaraju** ruled the habitations along **river Godavari**, failed to pay a royalty to the **Kakatiya kings of the region** due to severe drought.
- This was taken as defiance to the Kakatiya rulers who invaded the land leading to the death of Medaraju and his daughters Sammakka and Sarakka in the fight.
- The Adivasi community believes that both Sammakka and Sarakka turned into caskets of vermilion and while the former was found near a bamboo grove on a hillock, the latter was found at Kannepalli village, 4 km away from Medaram.
- Once in two years, the tribals offer prayers at the bamboo grove and bring back a casket of vermilion and bamboo sticks wrapped in red cloth, symbolising the return of Sammakka and Sarakka.
- Both are placed under an Indian elm tree at Medaram village to begin the four-day festivities, after which they are returned to the forest.
- During the festivities, the tribals offer jaggery equal to their own weight as a replacement of gold.
- They also offer cut pieces of red cloth, vermilion and turmeric to the deities.

12. Power and NRE Minister chairs 4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue:

- **4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue was held on 15th February, 2022.** The dialogue was **co-chaired by Power Minister R.K. Singh(Indian side) & Angus Taylor (Australian side)**.
- The focus of this LoI will be scaling up manufacture and deployment of **ultra low-cost solar and clean hydrogen**.
- The **Co-chairs of the 5 Joint Working Groups** under the India – Australia Energy Dialogue viz,
 - ✓ Power
 - ✓ New & Renewable Energy
 - ✓ Coal & Mines
 - ✓ Critical Minerals
 - ✓ Oil & Gas
- Apart from the power sector, **Reducing costs of Green Hydrogen; cooperation in sphere of coal-based energy security and resource deployment;**



investment opportunities in the minerals sector; exploring potential for an LNG Partnership, among other areas.

13. PM Modi to deliver inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's World Sustainable Development Summit:

- **PM Modi** will deliver the inaugural address at **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit**.
- The summit is TERI's annual flagship event.
- **Theme:** 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future.'
- The 3-day summit starting will be attended by **President of Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader, President of Guyana, Dr. Irfaan Ali, Deputy Secretary-General of United Nations, Amina J Mohammed** & envoys from more than a dozen countries & delegates from over **120 countries**.

14. Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat and reporting structures:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, approved the **setting up of a G20 Secretariat**.
- **India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023**, culminating with the **G20 Summit in India in 2023**.

REMARKS:

- As per practice, a **G20 Secretariat is being established** to handle work relating to substantive / knowledge / content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.
- It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant line Ministries / Departments and domain knowledge experts. **The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024**.
- **The Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister, and comprising Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, and G20 Sherpa (Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister)**, to provide overall guidance to India's G20 Presidency.
 - ✓ **A Coordination Committee** will also be set up to oversee all G20 preparations and report to the Apex Committee.

15. NITI Aayog and PhonePe to launch Fintech Open Hackathon:

- **NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe** will be hosting the **first-ever open-to-all Hackathon** event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions **for the FinTech space**.
- Participants at the hackathon need to use any **open-data APIs like PhonePe Pulse** along with frameworks such as Account Aggregator as a foundation to power the following use cases:



- ✓ Alternate risk models for Lending, Insurance or Investments with focus on financial Inclusion.
 - ✓ Innovative Products that use the power data signals for various demographics and Geos for broader adoption of financial services.
 - ✓ Improved Visualisation and Derived intelligence based on the Digital payments data.
- The final app that participants come up with must incorporate one of the above.
 - **Participating teams can have one 1 (solo) to 5 participants.**
 - The **top 5 hacks will be awarded a prize money** in the following denominations:
 - a. 1st place: INR 1,50,000 for the team – 1 prize
 - b. 2nd place: INR 1,00,000 for the team – 2 prizes
 - c. 3rd place: INR 75,000 for the team – 2 prizes.

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