



## February 22 | Daily Current Affairs 2022

**Important Days** – Daily Current Affairs February 22

### 1. MEA celebrates AzadiKaAmritMahotsav Iconic Week from 21st to 27th

#### Feb:

- **External Affairs Ministry is celebrating its AzadiKaAmritMahotsav Iconic Week.**
- **Ministry's Branch Secretariats, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and its regional offices, and regional passport offices** are organizing several events across the country to mark the Iconic Week.
- A week-long Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian media also began in **New Delhi.**
- This is being conducted jointly by the **External Publicity Division and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.**

**Sports** – Daily Current Affairs February 22

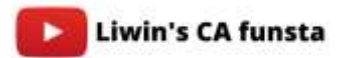
### 2. Leh: Kharu women's team wins 2nd LG Ice Hockey Championship for 2022:

- In **Ice Hockey Championship for 2022 at Leh, Kharu women's team won the 2nd Lieutenant Governor cup.**
- In the final match, **Kharu beat Lalok women in the penalty shoot out by 1:0 goals** to lift the **second title this season.**
- It took two periods for Kharu to score the leveller in the third period of the game.

#### REMARKS:

- **UT Ladakh Secretaries Padma Angmo and Ravinder Kumar** gave away individual and best goalie and best player of the tournament prizes to the winners.
- Arch-rivals in **Ladakh Ice Hockey the Ladakh Scouts and ITBP play for the Men's championship in NDS Indoor Ice Hockey rink in Leh.**

### 3. Chess: Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa defeats world champion Magnus Carlsen at Airthings Masters:



- In Chess, **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen** in the **eighth round of the Airthings Masters** competition.
- **Praggnanandhaa** won with black pieces in 39 moves to halt Carlsen's run of **three straight wins**.
- Earlier, the **Indian registered a solitary win versus Levon Aronian along with** recording two draws and four defeats.

#### REMARKS:

- **Airthings Masters**, is a 16-player online rapid chess tournament.
- **Praggnanandhaa has become only the third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna to beat Carlsen.**
- **Praggnanandhaa shot to fame in 2018 when he became India's youngest and world's second youngest Grandmaster** after entering the final round at the **Gredine Open in Italy.**
- He achieved the landmark at **just 12 years, 10 months and 13 days, which was just three months short of Sergey Karjakin's record of the youngest Grandmaster in the world at 12 years, 7 months.**

#### **Obituary – Daily Current Affairs February 22**

#### **4. Gandhian social worker & freedom fighter Shakuntala Choudhary passes away:**

- **Shakuntala Choudhary, the 102-year-old Gandhian social worker and freedom fighter, passed away in Guwahati.**
- **Hailing from Assam's Kamrup**, she worked for the wellbeing of villagers, especially women and children, and was popularly known as **Shakuntala Baideo.**
- She was named a **Padma Shri award** recipient by the Government of India.

#### **Banking and Finance – Daily Current Affairs February 22**

#### **5. HDFC Bank finances Asia's largest waste to energy plant in Indore:**

- **HDFC Bank under its ESG commitment** is to be associated with **Indore Clean Energy Private Limited (ICEPL) for the development of 550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant – the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia.**



- **ICEPL is promoted by Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)**, which is the largest climate impact fund in India with anchor investors like **NIIF & Government of UK**.
- The plant has the capacity to treat **550 tonnes/day of wet organic waste and produce 17,000 kg/day of CNG and 100 tonnes/day of organic compost**.
- **This is the largest waste to energy project** funded by **HDFC Bank under its ESG commitments** and the plant is expected to treat **50 % of municipal waste generated in Indore City and convert to 100 % green products (biogas and manure)**.
- **ICEPL has a 20-year concession agreement with Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** for procurement of municipal solid waste and converting it to CBG.

### 6. NABARD projects Rs 6 lakh crore credit outlay for priority sectors in Maharashtra:

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) **projected a credit outlay of Rs 6.13 lakh crore for priority sectors in Maharashtra in the next financial year**.
- A 'State Focus Paper' projecting a potential credit outlay of **Rs 6,13,503 crore to priority sectors by NABARD was launched by CM Uddhav Thackeray**.
- The credit projections include estimations of **Rs 1,43,019 crore (23 %) for agriculture, Rs 3,48,372 crore (57 %) towards MSME and Rs 1,22,112 crore (20 %) to other priority sectors**.

### 7. BOB, IRCTC partner to launch contactless credit card:

- **BOB Financial Solutions (BFSL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** have come together to launch the **IRCTC BoB RuPay contactless credit card**.
- The users of this card will also get multiple benefits for shopping across other categories ranging from groceries to fuel and can also use this card to transact at **international merchants and ATMs through the JCB network**.
- IRCTC CMD: **RajniHasija**

### 8. Cashaa launches personal accounts for crypto deposits:

- **Neo bank Cashaa** launched its personal accounts with the **yield program, which enable users to store, buy, sell and earn interest without risking assets to unknown Defi projects**.
- The platform has been globally providing **banking services to crypto businesses, along with physical banking services in India through UNICAS**.



- **Cashaa** has now launched personal wallet to let retail users earn better.
- Through the new wallet users can generate the **best yield on crypto, stable coin, and fiat deposits in over 22 supported currencies.**

**REMARKS:**

- The personal account feature will include two modules:
  1. Flex Earning with **upto 13 %** interest rate and no locking
  2. Fixed Deposit Earnings **up to 24 %** interest rate with funds locking period between **1 month to 12 months.**
- Fixed deposits will be available for both business and personal users.
- Users will also get **up to a 4 % bonus interest rate** on opting for Interest earn mode in **CAS tokens.**

**9. Edelweiss General Insurance partners Ashv Finance for MSME loan protection plans:**

- **Finance, a tech-led NBFC present in over 100 locations in India,** to offer financial protection to latter's business loan borrowers.
- As part of the deal, EGI will offer health insurance cover to all the customers of Ashv Finance in all major cities across the country.

**Acquisitions and Mergers – Daily Current Affairs February 22****10. BNP Paribas Arbitrage buys L&T Finance Holdings shares worth Rs 413 cr:**

- **BNP Paribas Arbitrage bought shares of L&T Finance Holdings worth nearly Rs 413 crore** through an open market transaction.
- As per BSE, **over 5.78 crore shares were purchased at an average price of Rs 71.35 apiece.** This took the **total deal value to Rs 412.9 crore.**
- **Citi Group Markets Mauritius Pvt Ltd sold shares of L&T Finance Holdings** at the same price.
- **Shares of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd declined 1.82 % to close at Rs 70.05 on BSE.**

**Books and Authors – Daily Current Affairs February 22****11. Book on 'Tribal and Indigenous languages of India' released:**



- **Ministry of Culture, GoI in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office** commenced a 2-day event on the occasion of **International Mother Language Day**, under the aegis of **AzadiKaAmritMahotsav at Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts, New Delhi.**
- The Book on **'Tribal and Indigenous languages of India'** written by **Professor Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean IGNCA** was launched by the dignitaries.

### **Appointments – Daily Current Affairs February 22**

#### **12. Delimitation panel on J&K gets two months extension:**

- The term of the **Delimitation Commission**, mandated to redraw the **assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir**, has been extended by **2 months to complete its task.**
- The panel's term was **to end on March 6**, but according to a **Law Ministry** notification issued and it has been **extended by 2 months till May 6 this year.**
- **Formed in March 2020**, the panel was granted a **one-year extension last year.**
- Headed by **Former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai**, It has **Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra** and the **state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir** as its **ex-officio members.**
- In its draft report shared with its **5 associated members all Lok Sabha members from J&K the delimitation panel** has proposed an **overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union territory.**
- **Jammu and Kashmir at present has no legislative assembly. It is a union territory** with a provision for a legislature.

#### **13. IOC Athletes' Commission re-elect Terho as chair, Walker elected as second vice-chair:**

- In Beijing following the election of **2 new members**, the **International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC)** re-elected **Emma Terho (Finland, ice hockey)** as its **Chair & Seung Min Ryu (Republic of Korea, table tennis)** as **first Vice-Chair**, and elected **Sarah Walker (New Zealand, cycling)** as **second Vice-Chair of the Commission.**
- In Dec last year, the **IOC Executive Board (EB)** accepted the proposal by the **IOC AC** to create a **second Vice-Chair position.**
- Elected to the **AC at Pyeong Chang 2018**, **Emma Terho** took the lead of the Commission after the elections held during the **Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.**
- **She was subsequently elected as a member of the IOC Executive Board.**

**REMARKS:**

- **Terho is a 5-time Olympian and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team, winning a bronze medal at both the Olympic Winter Games Nagano 1998 and Vancouver 2010.**
- She will head the Commission until the **Olympic Games Paris 2024.**
- **Elected to the IOC AC at Rio 2016 and then as Vice-Chair in Tokyo 2020, Seung Min Ryu is a Korean table tennis player who won gold in the men's singles at Athens 2004, a team silver medal at London 2012 and a team bronze medal at Beijing 2008.**
- Appointed to the **IOC AC at Rio 2016, Sarah Walker is a three-time world champion in BMX from New Zealand.**
- She competed in the inaugural **Olympic women's BMX competition at Beijing 2008, and won a silver medal four years later at London 2012.**

**Awards – Daily Current Affairs February 22****14. Coal India gets 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award:**

- **Coal India Limited, a Maharatna company of the Government of India, has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.**
- Coal India received this honor at the **"Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata.**

**International Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 22****15. India, Oman start five-day air combat exercise:**

- **India and Oman began a five-day air combat exercise in Jodhpur, in reflection of growing bilateral military cooperation.**
- **The Indian Air Force has deployed a fleet of Sukhoi-30MKIs, Jaguar and Mirage-2000 fighter jets for the sixth edition of the exercise 'Eastern Bridge'.**
- On its part, the **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) has deployed its F-16 jets.**
- **Commander of Royal Navy of Oman (CRNO) Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi visited India last week.**
  - ✓ Besides holding talks with **Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, he met Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.**

## National Affairs – Daily Current Affairs February 22

### 16. Govt approves continuation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship for five years:

- Government has approved the continuation of **Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) over the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle for a period of 5 years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**
- **With financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore** with minor modifications in eligibility criteria such as **increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum** and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.
- The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of **economically weaker sections to arrest their drop-out at class VIII** and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.
- **One lakh fresh scholarships of Rs.12,000/- per annum (Rs.1000/- per month) per student** are awarded to selected students of **class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme.**

#### REMARKS:

- The scheme is boarded on the **National Scholarship Portal (NSP).**
- Scholarships are disbursed directly into the bank accounts of students by electronic transfer through **Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode. 100% funds under the scheme are provided by Central Government.**
- This is a continuing scheme and **since launch of the scheme in 2008-09, 22.06 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned till 2020-21 involving an expenditure of Rs. 1783.03 crore.**
- **It is proposed to disburse scholarships to 14.76 lakh students with a financial outlay of Rs.1827.00 crores approved for the scheme.**

### 17. DRDO participating in 'VigyanSarvatraPujayate':

- **DRDO is participating in 'VigyanSarvatraPujayate'** being held across the country on the occasion of **75th year of India's Independence, 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav'.**
- **'VigyanSarvatraPujayate'** is a pan-India programme to showcase science, technology & innovation from every part of the country during February 22-28, 2022.



- The DRDO is also organising exhibitions on the theme '**AmritMahotsav Science Showcase: Roadmap to 2047**' at **16 cities** throughout the country.
- The cities where these science & technology mega expositions are being held by **DRDO** are **Agra, Almora, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Dehradun, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Leh, Mumbai, Mysuru, Pune, Tezpur, Eranakulam, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.**
- It is to highlight the work being done by **R&D organisations and showcasing ideas & technology efforts on the road to 2047.**
- This include models of **Nag, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), Akash, BrahMos, Astra, Pralay, Mission Shakti, Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle (AERV), Mareech, 3D Central Acquisition Radar (3D CAR), Electronic Warfare System, Bridge Layer Tank (BLT), etc.**
- The DRDO scientists are also delivering lectures at **33 centres** throughout the country on different themes and topics in **11 different Indian languages.**

#### REMARKS:

- **The event is jointly organised by DRDO, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Space, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI and the Ministry of Culture.**

### 18. All India Institute of Ayurveda launches 'Ayush Start-up Challenge':

- **The India Institute of Ayurveda**, in association with **Startup India**, has launched the '**Ayush Start-up challenge**' to encourage early-stage startups to work on innovations in the **Ayurveda sector and alternative healing.**
- The winners of the challenge will receive a **cash prize and incubation support from AIIA.**
- The Ayush market stands at a whopping **USD 10 billion and is projected to see an impressive 50 % increase in the next five years.**

#### REMARKS:

- **AIIA Director:** Prof Tanuja Manoj Nesari
- There are **three entry categories for participating start-ups Ayush food innovations, Ayush bio-instrumentation and Ayush IT Solutions.**
- There will be two winners in each of the three categories with a **cash prize of Rs 1 lakh for the winner and Rs 50,000 for the runner-up.**

### 19. PM Cares for Children Scheme extended till 28th Feb 2022:





- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has extended the PM Cares for Children Scheme till 28th February, 2022.**
- Earlier the scheme was valid **till 31st December, 2021**. A letter in this regard has been written to all Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries, Women and Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Department of all States and UTs with a copy to all District Magistrates/District Collectors for necessary action.
- All eligible children can now be enrolled **till 28th February, 2022 to avail benefits of PM CARES for Children Scheme.**
- The scheme covers all children who have lost:
  1. Both parents or
  2. Surviving parent or
  3. illegal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent due to COVID 19 pandemic.
- To be entitled to benefits **under this scheme Child should not have completed 18 years of age on the date of death of parents.**

## **20. NIRDPR inks MoU with IIMR to promote Millet based livelihoods:**

- **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR), and the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), engaged in basic and strategic research on millets under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), signed a MoU.**
- The MoU was signed by **NIRDPR Director General Dr G Narendra Kumar and IIMR Director Dr. Vilas A Tonapi.**
- **Radhika Rani** - Director, National Rural Livelihood Mission-RC).
- To encourage Rural Incubation and Entrepreneurship development by integrating with **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) activities.**
- **NOTE:** International Year of Millets in **2023.**

## **21. J&K: Govt hosts 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal with higher bandwidth for its easy, ready accessibility to public:**

- In **Jammu and Kashmir, GoI has hosted the 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal on** a different server with higher bandwidth for its easy and ready accessibility to the general public.
- **Around 70 thousand people have accessed the portal** until now and with the increase in the bandwidth. The portal can be accessed by logging on to the website **<https://janbhagidari.jk.gov.in/>**
- The portal also has links to schemes like **MGNREGA, PM AwasYojana, SMB (Urban), SBM (Rural) and PMGSY** under execution in Government.

## 22. Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh launches Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAYG) Dashboard:

- **Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh launched the PMAYG Dashboard** for stringent monitoring of the implementation of the scheme.
- **“AamJantaKa Portal”, Dashboard will be used by the Stakeholders of PMAYG** for monitoring and managerial purpose.

### REMARKS:

- To achieve the objective of providing **“Housing to All” by the year 2024, the GoI rolled out the rural housing scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016.**
- The program envisages **the completion of 2.95 crore PMAY-G houses with all basic amenities by the year 2024. As on 21st February 2022, a total of 1.73 crores PMAY-G houses have been completed against the allocated cumulative target of 2.62 crore houses.**
- The Scheme is being implemented and monitored through end to end e-governance solutions, **AwaasSoft and AwaasApp.**
  - ✓ **AwaasSoft** provides functionalities for data entry and monitoring of multiple statistics related to implementation aspects of the scheme.
- Since the launch of the scheme in **2016.**

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