

## 23 February, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. PM Modi inaugurated 'Kisan Drone Yatra' and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Kisan Drone Yatra', an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones' in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of India.
- The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.
- The farmers can use the high capacity Kisan drones to transport their produce such as fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets in a minimal time and boost their income.
- While Inaugurating, PM addressed the farmers in Manesar, Haryana. The Kisan Drone Yatra was flagged off from the Manesar in Gurgaon, Haryana.
- The Kisan Drones will also be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- Garuda Aerospace has set a target of manufacturing two lakh drones in the next two years and this will provide ample employment to youth.
- **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Founder and CEO: Agnishwar Jayaprakash**
- **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Headquarter: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

## 2. Russian President Putin divided Ukraine into 3 countries



- Russian President, Vladimir Putin has recognised the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk.
- Putin’s announcement paved the way for Russia to openly send troops and weapons to the long-running conflict pitting Ukrainian forces against Moscow-backed rebels.
- Russian-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian troops in Donetsk and Luhansk since 2014, with regular violence despite a ceasefire agreement.
- Putin signed decrees recognizing the Donetsk and Luhansk regions’ independence, eight years after fighting erupted between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces, and called on lawmakers to approve measures paving the way for military support.
- **Russia Capital: Moscow**
- **Russia Currency: Ruble**
- **Russia President: Vladimir Putin.**

### 3. Israel successfully tests fire 'C-Dome' new naval air defence system



- Israel successfully tested a new naval air defence system “C-Dome,” to be used on the Israeli Navy’s Sa’ar 6-class corvettes. C-Dome is the naval version of the Iron Dome, an all-weather air defence system of Israel to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and missiles, from the Gaza Strip.
- The successful test further strengthens the missile defence systems of the Israeli Navy to safeguard the maritime assets of the State of Israel.
- The systems that we are developing as part of Israel’s multi-tier missile defence array enable us to operate against Iranian proxies in the region and defend against their weapon systems, which are constantly being upgraded.
- The C-Dome is to become part of Israel’s multilayer missile defence system — which includes weapons capable of intercepting everything from long-range missiles to short-range rockets.
- **Israel Capital: Jerusalem**
- **Israel President: Isaac Herzog**
- **Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett**
- **Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.**

#### 4. Gurugram sisters chosen as 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' brand ambassadors



- International Chess Player woman FIDE Masters, Tanishka Kotia and her sister Riddhika Kotia are appointed as Brand Ambassadors of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme for the Gurugram District of Haryana. Tanishka Kotia won the Limca Book of Records for being the youngest chess player in 2008. They belong to the Haryana state.
- Tanishka Kotia ranks 2nd in the country in the under-16 category, World Chess Federation rankings released in 2019. She won a gold medal at the ASEAN Chess Championship in 2013 and silver at the Commonwealth Chess Championship In 2014 in Scotland. Riddhika Kotia represented India at several prestigious international events, including the World Junior Chess Championship 2020.
- **Chief Minister of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar**
- **Haryana Capital: Chandigarh**
- **Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya.**

## 5. Assam Govt Launches India's First Night Navigation Mobile App In Rivers



- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam. It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.
- The Chief Minister also launched ten Aadhar-based contactless services of the State Transport Department to make public service delivery time-efficient and budget-friendly. The CM also launched an e-ticketing system for Dhubri and Silchar ferry services.
- An MoU was also signed between the Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the State Transport Department to provide online services at the panchayat level.
- **Assam Capital: Dispur**
- **Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- **Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.**

## 6. K.N. Raghavan named as new Chairman of International Rubber Study Group



- Executive Director of the Indian Rubber Board, K.N. Raghavan has been elected the new Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG). He will officiate as Chairman of the group for the next two years. He will preside over the meeting of the heads of delegation scheduled for March 31 at Singapore.
- India, being both a producer and a consumer of rubber, will be in a good position to protect the interests of both producers and consumers in the IRSG -the only international commodity body approved by the Common Fund for Commodities for development financing in the rubber sector.
- **International Rubber Study Group Secretary-General: Salvatore Pinizzotto**
- **International Rubber Study Group Formed: 1944**
- **International Rubber Study Group Headquarters: Singapore.**

## 7. Centre nominates Sanjay Malhotra as a Director of Central Board of RBI



- The Centre government has nominated Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The nomination of Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is effective from February 16, 2022, and until further orders.
- Prior to his appointment as DFS Secretary, Malhotra was the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term on January 31, 2022.

## 8. India and France sign Roadmap on Blue Economy



- India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance. Dr S Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to France, from February 20 to 22, 2022, to attend EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific scheduled for February 22.
- The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.
- The partnership will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law.
- The scope of the roadmap will encompass maritime trade, the naval industry, fisheries, marine technology and scientific research, integrated coastal management, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, and cooperation between competent administrations on civil maritime issues.
- India and France underscored that fisheries are a vital economic sector and play a decisive role in food security and livelihood security, particularly for coastal populations.

## 9. Kerala's startup Mission partnered with Google for Startups to foster global links





- During the 'Huddle Global 2022', the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has entered into a collaboration with technology major Google that will enable start-ups in the State to join a wider global network that provides mentorship and training.
- This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions.
- The partnership was announced by Mr Paul Ravindranath, Head of Google for Startups Accelerator, India, at the Huddle Global' conclave of KSUM that kicked off.
- The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solutions.
- **Google Founded: 4 September 1998**
- **Google Headquarters: California, United States**
- **Google CEO: Sundar Pichai**
- **Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.**

#### 10. **Sebi reconstitutes advisory panel for alternative investment policy**



- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the (Alternative Investment Fund) AIF space. The committee has now 20 members.
- The panel, which was constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF industry.
- The committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy. Apart from Murthy, the committee includes members from Sebi, Ministry of Finance, AIF players and industry associations.

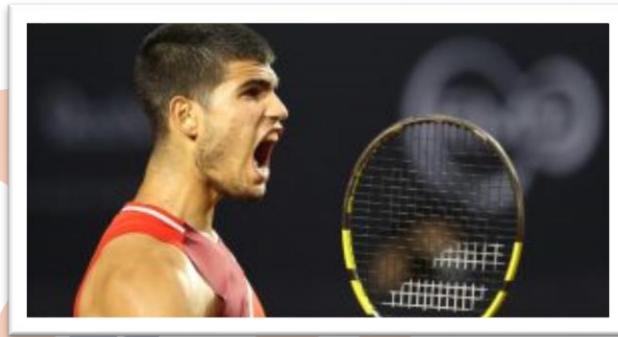
#### 11. **Gol organise week-long 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' Science exhibition**



- The Government of India has organised a week-long science exhibition titled 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' from February 22 to 28, 2022, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemoration. It will be conducted simultaneously at 75 locations across the country through a hybrid model. The inaugural programme was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on the 22nd of February.

- The exhibition will celebrate science and technology (S&T) and display the country's scientific legacy and technology prowess. The exhibition will culminate on February 28, 2022, which coincide with the National Science Day, commemorated in remembrance of Nobel Laureate Sir C.V. Raman's path-breaking discovery of the Raman Effect in 1930.

## 12. Spain's Carlos Alcaraz creates history, becomes youngest ATP 500 winner



- The 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz has clinched the Rio Open tennis title after defeating Diego Schwartzman in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The seventh-seeded Alcaraz defeated third-seeded Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 to become the youngest ATP 500 champion since the category was created in 2009.
- It is the second tour-level title of the teen's career following his breakthrough in Umag last year. Alcaraz converted five of his six break points in the match. Overall, he won 55 per cent of his return points to put constant pressure on his veteran opponent.