

13 February, 2022 Current Affairs

1. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates new Durbar Hall at Raj Bhavan



- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the Durbar Hall at Raj Bhavan, situated at Malabar Hill, Mumbai. While retaining the heritage features of the old court hall, the new hall has been given additional features such as a balcony and a sea view gallery.
- Durbar Hall has political importance as it has been associated with oath-taking ceremonies of the Governors, chief ministers of the state.

2. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba named as interim President of Burkina Faso



- In Burkina Faso, the military junta has appointed lieutenant colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba as the interim President of the country following the military coup. The 2022 Burkina Faso military coup took place on January 24, 2022, which was led by Damiba.
- President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and Prime Minister Lassina Zerbo were disposed from their position and the parliament, government and constitution were declared dissolved.

3. Central Jail in Madhya Pradesh gets own FM radio channel



- In Madhya Pradesh, the Central Jail of Indore has started its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77'. Through this radio channel, the jail inmates will get to know about the happening in the world. The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health and social issues.
- The radio station will act as a medium for prisoners to tell their own stories and also to share their experiences. The aim is to inform jail inmates about what is happening across the world. Jails with such innovative measures adopted for the reform of prisoners will certainly act as correctional institutions.

4. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates long Rail-cum-Road Bridge over River Ganga in Bihar



- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometre long 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' in Bihar.
- The much-awaited bridge is constructed over the River Ganga on NH 333B in Bihar's Munger region. The cost of the 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' project is Rs 696 crore. The new bridge will reduce travel time, give a boost to tourism, agriculture as well as generate employment opportunities.

5. Maharashtra's Health Minister announces "Hope Express" to prevent cancer



- Maharashtra's Health Minister, Rajesh Tope has announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer.
- This is the first such machine in India. He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur.

6. **Krishi Network app named Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador**



- Cultino Agrotech Pvt Ltd, which runs agritech app Krishi Network has roped in film actor Pankaj Tripathi as a brand ambassador, with a view to reaching out to farmers to its app. Tripathi's background as a farmer resonates with the platform's aim to aid farmers to grow their profits by offering them solutions to critical decisions.
- The app is currently available in Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, and English, and is planned to be launched in other languages soon. The startup plans to use the fresh funds to boost their artificial intelligence-based technology platform across India.

7. Chairman of Supreme Court panel on Char Dham project Ravi Chopra resigns



- Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project. His belief that the HPC could protect this fragile (Himalayan) ecology has been shattered.
- The Supreme Court on December 14 allowed double-lane widening of roads for the project in view of "security concerns."

8. Debashis Mitra takes over as President of ICAI



- Debashis Mitra has been elected as the President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23. Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years.
- Apart from being a Chartered Accountant, he is also a Cost Accountant and a Company Secretary. He holds a master's degree in commerce and is also a law graduate as well as a qualified Information Systems Auditor.

9. Singapore Air Show 2022: IAF to display Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas



- The 44-member contingents of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached the Changi International Airport in Singapore on February 12, 2022, to participate in the 'Singapore Air Show-2022', which is scheduled to be held from February 15 to 18, 2022.
- Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.

10. GoI approves continuation of Modernization of State Police Forces Scheme



- The Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Total Central financial outlay for five years is Rs. 26,275 crores. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70.
- The objective of the scheme is to gradually reduce the dependence of the State Governments on the Army and the Central Armed Police Forces to control internal security and law and order situations by equipping the State Police Forces adequately and strengthening their training infrastructure.