

22 February, 2022 Current Affairs

1. India's first Biosafety Level-3 mobile laboratory inaugurated in Maharashtra



- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar has inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR. The newly launched lab will be able to access remote and forested areas of the country, to investigate outbreaks using samples from humans and animal sources.
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated the laboratory and said that the Biosafety Level-3 mobile laboratory is a significant value addition to the government's efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure through the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

2. Himachal Pradesh gets 1st Biodiversity Park at Mandi



- Himachal Pradesh gets the first biodiversity park to make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered Himalayan herbs. This park is set to come up at Mandi's Bhulah valley.
- With the cost of Rs 1 crore, the biodiversity park is set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP's forest department.
- The aim of the park is to link tourism activities along with extending new opportunities for researchers to conduct in-depth exploration of various medicinal herbs found in the Himalayas that are on the verge of extinction.

3. Madhya Pradesh: 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival begins



- Madhya Pradesh Governor, Mangu Bhai Patel has inaugurated the 48th 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022' at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The event will be organized till 26 February. This year a 5-km 'Dil Khel Ke Ghoomo' marathon was also organized under the banner of 'Safe Tourism Project for Women' at the event. It aims to create a sense of security among women in tourist destinations with the slogan 'Hindustan Ke Dil Mein Aap Safe Hain'.
- The Khajuraho dance festival was started in 1975 from the temple premises itself. It was not allowed to be performed in the temple premises only after two-three years, as a result, this ceremony was performed outside the temple premises.

Along with this, State Rupankar Kala Puraskars were also given for the year 2022:

Award	Winner
Devkrishna Jata Shankar Joshi Award	Priya Sisodia (Badnawar)
Mukund Sakharam Bhand Award	Swapan Tarafdar (Indore)
Syed Haider Raza Award	Durgesh Birthare (Jabalpur)
Dattatreya Damodar Devlalikar Award	Narendra Jatav (Ashoknagar)
Jagdish Swaminathan Award	Sanjay Dhawale (Ashoknagar)
Vishnu Chinchalkar Award	Muni Sharma (Gwalior)
Narayan Shridhar Bendre Award	Agnesh Kerketta (Bhopal)
Raghunath Krishna Rao Phadke Award	Rituraj Srivastava (Jabalpur)
Ram Manohar Sinha Award	Jyoti Singh (Sagar)
Laxmi Shankar Rajput Award	Dr. Sonali Pithawe Chouhan (Dewas)

4. IOC Athletes' Commission re-elected Emma Terho as Chair



- International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission re-elected ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland as its Chair and table tennis player Seung Min Ryu of the Republic of Korea as its First Vice-Chair.
- The commission also elected cyclist Sarah Walker of New Zealand as the second VC of the Commission.
- Emma Terho is a five-time Olympian and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team. She will be the head of the Commission until the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- **International Olympic Committee Founded: 1894**
- **International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland**
- **International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach.**

5. Takuya Tsumura appointed as new President & CEO of Honda Cars India



- Japanese auto major Honda Motor Co. Ltd. has announced the appointment of Takuya Tsumura as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from 1 April 2022.
- The appointment comes as part of the management changes announced annually by the company. Tsumura will take over from Gaku Nakanishi, who moves from India to regional headquarters in Asia and Oceania region – Asian Honda as General Manager, Automobile Business for the region.
- Tsumura has been associated with Honda Motor for more than 30 years. He has worked in several international markets including Thailand, Australia, China, Japan, Turkey, Europe and Asia & Oceania regions. Tsumura was in-charge of South Asian countries, including India from 1997 to 2000.

6. Tata Power collaborated with RWE to develop offshore wind projects



- Tata Power has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore the potential for joint development of offshore wind projects in India.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, and RWE, one of the world's leaders in offshore wind.
- This is in line with Government of India's announcement of achieving 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind installations by 2030.
- India is an unexplored and highly attractive market to develop opportunities for offshore wind as it has a large coastline of about 7,600 kilometres. RWE and Tata Power Renewable Energy possess complementary strengths and will enable the establishment of a competitive offshore wind market in India.
- **Tata Power CEO: Praveer Sinha**
- **Tata Power Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

7. Bharti Airtel joins SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium



- Telecom operator, Bharti Airtel Ltd has announced that it has joined South East Asia–Middle East–Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE-6) undersea cable consortium, in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity and serve India’s fast-growing digital economy.
- It shall be anchoring 20 per cent of the overall investment in the cable system. Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will be able to add 100 TBps capacity to its global network. The telco will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai. Apart from Airtel, there are 12 other global members in the consortium.
- SEA-ME-WE 6 is a proposed optical fibre submarine communications cable system to carry telecommunications between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe.
- **Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal**
- **Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal**
- **Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.**

8. Government approved continuation of RUSA scheme till 2026



- The Ministry of Education has approved the continuation of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme till 31st March 2026 with an expenditure of 12,929.16 crores. The new phase of the scheme would support around 1,600 projects. Out of Rs 12,929.16 crores of expenditure, the centre will share Rs 8,120.97 crores, and the state will share Rs 4,808.19 crores.
- The new phase of the scheme has been designed to implement some of the recommendations of the New Education Policy (NEP). Under the new phase of the scheme, State Governments will support Gender inclusion, Equity Initiatives, Enhance employability through vocationalisation and skill degradation.
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in 2013. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide funding to state government universities and colleges. Its main objective is to improve the quality of state institutions and ensure reform in affiliation, academic, and examination systems.

9. India and Oman begins Eastern Bridge-VI Air Exercise



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organised a bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.
- Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise. The exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- Participation of IAF and RAFO in this exercise will promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. Various senior dignitaries are planning to visit Air Force Station Jodhpur during this exercise.
- **Oman Capital: Muscat**
- **Oman Currency: Omani Rial.**

10. Corbevax gets emergency approval for 12-18 age group by DGCI



- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the Corona Vaccine Biologicals E Ltd's Corbevax for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years.
- Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E Ltd said its coronavirus vaccine Corbevax, is also India's third homegrown vaccine. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being given to children aged 15 to 18 years from January 3.
- Corbevax is called a protein subunit and currently, we have an example of the hepatitis B vaccine which is also similarly a protein subunit vaccine. Corbevax and the other vaccine in India, we have Covovax from Serum Institute.

11. Winter Olympics Games 2022 in Beijing concludes



- The closing ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games was held on February 20, 2022, at National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) in Beijing.
- The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, was held from 4 to 20 February 2022. The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 sports.
- The venues of the Games were distributed across three zones- Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou. The Presidency of the Games was formally handed over to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy, to host the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The top country in Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing:

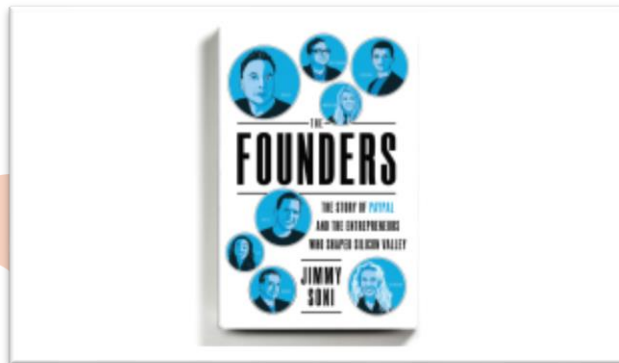
- Norway has topped the medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of 37 medals, including 16 golds. This is a new record for the most amount of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.
- Germany finished second with 27 medals overall, while the host nation China finished third with 15 medals.

India at the 2022 Winter Olympics:

- The Indian team at the game was represented by one male alpine skier, Arif Khan.

- He was the country's flagbearer during the opening ceremony, meanwhile, a volunteer was the flagbearer during the closing ceremony. India could not win any medal at the games.

12. Jimmy Soni authored a book titled 'The Founders: The Story of PayPal'



- A new book titled “The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley ”, authored by author Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster released soon.
- It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today. It also offers colourful anecdotes about famous people like Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and Reid Hoffman.