

## 4 February, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. Sanctuaries in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh listed as Ramsar sites



- The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention.
- With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49. Khijadiya has become the fourth wetland of Gujarat to get the Ramsar tag.
- Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana wetland are the other Ramsar sites in the state. The last two were included in April last year.

## Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran.
- **Signed:** 2 February 1971
- **Location:** Ramsar, Iran
- **Effective:** 21 December 1975
- **Languages:** English, French, Spanish, and Persian

## 2. International Day of Human Fraternity observed on 04 February



- The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on 4th February.
- The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and the promotion of tolerance

and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.

- The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare 4 February as International Day of Human Fraternity on 21 December 2020.

### 3. Vedanta tied up with Union Bank of India to take over syndicated facility



- Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of Rs 8,000 crores with Union Bank of India at 7.75% to take over the majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders.
- During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10K crores with the State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5 per cent.

- Vedanta Limited, in its normal course of business, conducts proactive liability management exercise to achieve optimal capital structure.
- **Union Bank of India Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Union Bank of India CEO:** Rajkiran Rai G
- **Union Bank of India was founded on 11 November 1919, in Mumbai**

#### 4. **Khelo India 2022 Scheme Allocation Increases by 48% in Budget**



- The Government has decided to continue the scheme of 'Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports' over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle — 2021-22 to 2025-26 — at an outlay of Rs 3165.50 crore.
- Khelo India Scheme Allocation increases by 48 per cent in Budget 2022 and includes it in the Prime Minister's Award Scheme.”
- The current Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports is Anurag Singh Thakur.

- Khelo India programme has been divided into 12 verticals.
- Khelo India School Games, which are a part of the Khelo India programme, are being held from 31st January to 8th February, 2018 in New Delhi.
- Under-17 athletes have been invited to participate across 16 disciplines, which are as follows: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Wrestling.

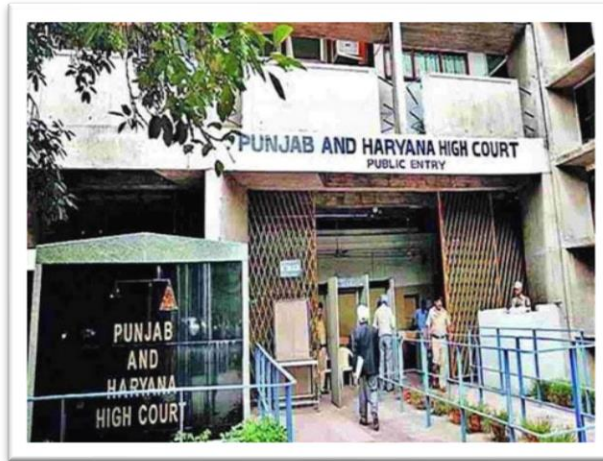
## 5. Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra nominated for Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award



- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards.

- India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, Neeraj has been selected as one of the six nominees for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.
- The other five sportspersons who have been nominated for the award are Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, British tennis star Emma Raducanu, Barcelona and Spain footballer Pedri, Venezuelan athlete Yulimar Rojas and Australian swimmer Ariarne Titmus.
- 24-year-old javelin thrower is only the third Indian to be nominated for the award after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket star Sachin Tendulkar, who won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020.
- A panel of over 1,300 sports journalists and broadcasters globally selected the nominees in seven categories.
- The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.
- Neeraj Chopra is delighted to be nominated for this Laureus Award. It's a great honour for him to be recognized in the wider sporting world for what he achieved in Tokyo.

## 6. Haryana private sector quota law stayed



The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed a law that reserves 75 per cent of jobs for Haryanvis in private establishments across the state.

Haryana government has ordered that the law (the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill) providing for 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs came into force from January 15, 2022.

- ON • The petitioners contended that Haryana wanted to create reservation in private sector by introducing a **policy of “sons of the soil”**, which was an infringement of the constitutional rights of employers.
- It was also argued that private sector jobs were purely based on skills and analytical bent of mind, and employees had a **fundamental right to work in any part of India**.



- **Forcing the employers to employ local candidates in private sector** vide this bill impugned Act is the violation of the federal structure framed by the Constitution of India, whereby the government cannot act contrary to public interest and cannot benefit one class.
- The law provides for 75% reservation in private sector jobs to those having a resident certificate (domicile).
- The law will be applicable for a period of 10 years.
- Jobs with a gross monthly salary of not more than ₹30,000 will be up for hiring from among local candidates.

To create a harmonious environment for industry as well as the youth along with creating the right balance between the progress of industries and the economy.

- It could lead to multinational firms moving out of the state.
- Reservation affects productivity and industry competitiveness.



## 7. Chandrayaan-3



The Government has informed the Lok Sabha that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch Chandrayaan-3 in August 2022.

Chandrayaan-3 is the successor to the Chandrayaan-2 mission and it will likely attempt another soft-landing on the lunar surface.

- It will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 but will only include a lander and rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2. It will not have an orbiter.
- As per ISRO, the total cost of Chandrayaan-3 mission will be over Rs 600 crores. In comparison, the total cost of the Chandrayaan-2 mission was Rs 960 crores.
- The Mission brought together an Orbiter, Lander and Rover with the goal of exploring the south pole of the Moon.

- It aimed at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission.

## 8. RBI Likely To Leave Rates Unchanged For This Fiscal



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) likely to leave rates unchanged next week, recognising growth-focused and capex-driven fiscal expansion, according to US brokerage Bank of America Securities.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI will begin its deliberations and announce the policy moves February 9 in the backdrop of a massive spike in bond yields after the Budget. Almost all major central banks in the world are in the process of increasing rates to tame inflation.

- The key repo rate has been at 4 per cent since May 2020, an all-time low, even though bond yields have been heading north for many months now.
- According to the brokerage firm, the RBI will only adopt a gradual policy normalisation path for now, despite bigger fiscal support and faster rate hikes expected from the US Federal Reserve.