

## 10 February, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. India's first biomass-based hydrogen plant to come up at Madhya Pradesh



- India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs 24 crore.
- The company owns the technology for a 'thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor' that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass. Biezel Green will own 50 per cent in the yet-to-be-named joint venture the other 50 per cent will come from interested farmers.

## 2. Instagram encourages people to 'Take a Break' from social media



- Instagram has announced the launch of 'Take a Break' in all countries, including India, to empower people to make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time.
- This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with 'We The Young', called 'Break Zaroori Hai'. 'Take a Break' was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.
- 'Take a Break' is a feature that will show up for people, as they have been scrolling for a certain amount of time. They will be asked to take a break from Instagram and suggest that they set reminders to take more breaks in the future.
- They will also be shown expert-backed tips to help them reflect and reset. To make sure that young people are aware of this feature, they will be shown notifications suggesting they turn these reminders on.
- The 'Take a Break' reminders build on Instagram's existing time management tools including Daily Limit, which lets people know when they've reached the total amount of time they want to spend on Instagram each day, and offers the ability to mute notifications from Instagram.

- **Instagram launched: 6 October 2010**
- **Instagram Owner: Meta**
- **Instagram Founder Kevin Systrom.**

### 3. **Gujarat unveils new IT/ITeS policy to generate 1 lakh direct jobs**



- Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel has announced a new IT/ITeS policy for the next five years. This policy will provide financial incentives up to Rs 200 crore to the entities willing to incur capital expenditures.
- It will also generate employment of about 1 lakh youths. It also seeks to increase IT-ITeS exports from the current Rs 3000 crores annually to 25,000 crores over the next five years. Its operative period will start from the day of notification to 31st March 2027.
- The policy launched at a formal event at a club in GIFT City in Gandhinagar replaces the 2016-2021 policy that had set an ambitious target to increase exports up to USD two billion (Rs 13,000 crore), IT turnover to USD 15 billion (Rs 75,000 crore) and create 10 lakh direct jobs.
- The policy provides support for both capital (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) expenditures. “This is a unique model that gives flexibility to industries to plan their expenditures and addresses the viability concerns.

- **Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar**
- **Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat**
- **Gujarat Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel.**

#### 4. **Senior bureaucrat S. Kishore appointed as new SSC Chairman**



- Senior bureaucrat S. Kishore has been appointed as Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Kishore to the post in the rank and pay of Secretary to Government of India by temporarily upgrading the post and keeping the Recruitment Rules of the post in abeyance.
- Presently, he is serving as Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Staff Selection Commission Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Staff Selection Commission Formation: 4 November 1975.**

## 5. Sanjay Malhotra named DFS Secretary in Finance Ministry



- Sanjay Malhotra has been named as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance. He is a 1990 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Before this, Sanjay Malhotra was Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He has succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on January 31, 2022.
- Malhotra has an exhaustive power sector experience. The reforms-based result-linked power distribution sector scheme to be applicable till 2025-26 aims to reduce India's AT&C loss to 12-15% and gradually narrow the deficit between the cost of electricity and the price at which it is supplied to 'zero' by 2024-25.

## 6. UNEP tie-up with Maharashtra to support 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign



- The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign. It is an initiative towards sustainable use of energy and environmental development.
- The literal meaning of 'Majhi Vasundhara' is 'My Earth'. It is an initiative of the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra.
- 'Majhi Vasundhara' is an initiative of the Government of Maharashtra's Environment and Climate Change Department to empower citizens with knowledge on the impacts of climate change and environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards improvement of the environment.
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- **United Nation Environment Programme Headquarters location: Nairobi, Kenya**
- **United Nation Environment Programme Founded: 5 June 1972**
- **United Nation Environment Programme Head: Inger Andersen.**

## 7. RBI 2nd largest buyer of gold in 2021



- The largest buyer, the Central Bank of Thailand, bought 90 metric tonnes of gold while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021.
  - When it comes to gold buying, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second-largest buyer of yellow metal among the world's Central Banks in 2021. As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is the ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of the World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metals.
  - At the end of December 2021, RBI gold reserves stood at 754.1 tonnes, which amounts to 6.22 per cent of India's forex reserves. As per RBI data, India's total reserves at the end of December 31, 2021, stood at \$633.61 billion, including gold reserves worth \$39.405 billion.
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- **World Gold Council CEO: David Tait**
  - **World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom**
  - **World Gold Council Founded: 1987**
  - **World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky.**

## 8. Razorpay buys majority stake in Malaysian startup “Curlec”



- Razorpay has expanded into South-East Asia with the acquisition of a majority stake in a Malaysian fintech firm Curlec, valuing the company between \$19-20 million. Razorpay expects to complete the full acquisition in the next one-and-a-half years.
- The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses. This marks Razorpay’s fourth acquisition overall and its first in the international markets.
- This acquisition will allow us to quickly ramp up and start scaling in Southeast Asia as a market. Curlec has been powering recurring payments for multiple companies in the Malaysian market. With them as part of this team, we will have a local team that understands the nuances of the market in Malaysia and Southeast Asia at large.
- **Razorpay CEO: Harshil Mathur**
- **Razorpay Founded: 2013**
- **Curlec was founded by Zac Liew and Steve Kucia in 2018**



## 9. Power Minister R K Singh launched Powerthon-2022



- Union Minister of Power, R K Singh has launched Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply.
- The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks. He also encouraged technologists to come forward not only with solutions to existing problems but also with other problem statements and ideas for reliable power supply.
- Technology Solution Providers (TSPs), start-ups, educational institutions, research institutes, equipment manufacturers, state power utilities and other state and central power sector entities, shall be briefed on the current challenges/ problem statements faced across the power distribution sector and invited to showcase their technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems.

## 10. Reimagining Museums Global Summit 2022: Culture Ministry to organise



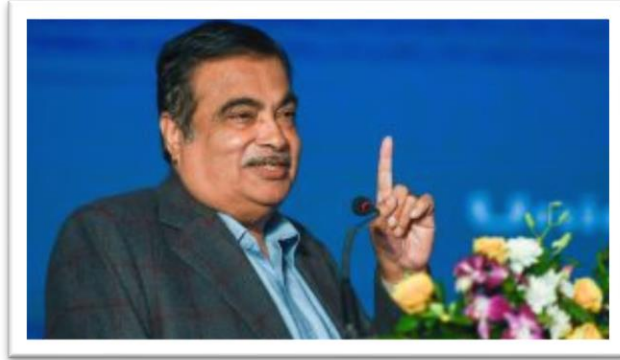
- The Union Ministry of Culture will organize a first-of-its-kind Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India' on February 15-16, 2022. The summit will be inaugurated by Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy.
- The Global Summit is being organised in partnership with Bloomberg. It will be held online for two days and is open for public participation. The summit will see participation from 25 museologists and museum professionals who will speak on reimagined priorities and practices for Museums.
- The virtual summit will be conducted with four broad themes: Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections Curation & Conservation practices) and Education and Audience Engagement.
- The Reimagining Museums Global Summit 2022 will focus on best practices and strategies to develop India's museums. It will be organised as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a flagship program to mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

## 11. ISRO decommissioned INSAT-4B through 11 Re-orbiting manoeuvres



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decommissioned the INSAT-4B, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the Indian National Satellite System.
  - The INSAT-4B underwent Post Mission Disposal (PMD) at the end of its service, followed by decommissioning on January 24.
  - INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.
  - The development is in compliance with the UN and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommended space debris mitigation guidelines. The IADC guidelines provide guidance for limiting the generation of orbital debris both during and after space operations.
  - The guidelines also define accepted disposal orbits and other conditions, such as the timeline for abandoning commonly used orbits and controlling the risk to people and property on the Earth.
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- **Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr S Somanath**
  - **ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka**
  - **ISRO established: 15 August 1969.**

## 12. Nitin Gadkari received 18th Late Madhavrao Limaye Award



- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.
- This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanik Vachanalay. Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.
- The Sarvajanik Vachanalay annually selects one of the members of Vidhan Parishad (Lok Sabha), Vidhan Sabha (Rajya Sabha) for the Efficient MLA or Member of Parliament (MP) Award. The award has been instituted in the memory of Limaye by his daughter Dr. Shobha Nerlikar. The award consists of Rs 50,000 in cash and a memento.

### 13. Bloomberg Billionaires Index: Gautam Adani overtook Mukesh Ambani



- In accordance with the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani net worth reached \$88.5 billion overtaking Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion becoming Asia's richest person as on 8th February 2022.
- With a nearly \$12 billion jump in his personal wealth, he has become the 10th richest person in the world.
- Globally Elon Musk was named as the world's richest person with a total net worth of \$235 Billion. He was followed by Jeff Bezos with a total net worth of \$183 Billion & Bernard Arnault with a total net worth of \$168 Billion.

ONLINE LEARNING WITH EXPERTS

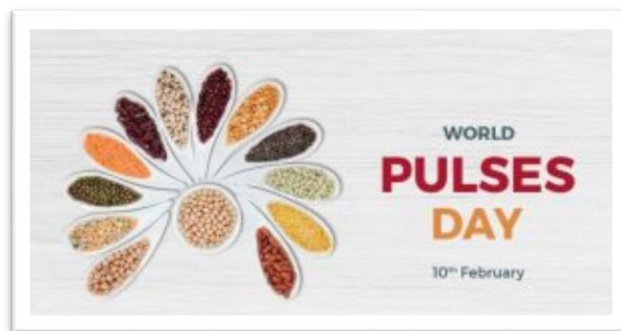
### 14. Gujarat Titans unveiled as name for new Ahmedabad IPL franchise



- Gujarat Titans is the official name of the new Ahmedabad franchise owned by CVC Capital as Hardik Pandya is all set to lead the franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022.
- The naming of the Ahmedabad franchise comes days after Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, announced its official name as Lucknow Super Giants. The Lucknow team will be led by KL Rahul.
- Debuting in the 15th season of the IPL, the Gujarat Titans will pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy, which has seen it produce countless Indian international cricket legends over the years.
- The franchise is inspired by the opportunity to represent and build on this deep cricketing heritage, as well as build on its future success on the pitch.
- Gujarat Titans drafted in Hardik Pandya as their captain for Rs 15 crore and Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan for Rs 15 crore. They also got young India opener, Shubman Gill, for Rs 8 crore.
- The Titans will head into the mega auction with a budget of Rs 52 crore. The Gujarat Titans brought on board former England cricketer Vikram Solanki as the Director of Cricket.
- Ashish Nehra will be the head coach of the franchise while former World Cup-winning coach and South Africa opener Gary Kirsten will be the Head of Cricket Operations and the batting coach for IPL 2022.

## ONLINE LEARNING WITH EXPERTS

### 15. World Pulses Day 2022: Observed On 10 February



- The United Nations designated World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February. The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- This year World Pulses Day's theme: "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems".
- In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day. The first WPD was held on February 10, 2019. On 20 December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/231) proclaiming 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).
- The celebration of the year, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), increased the public awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.