

27 February, 2022 Current Affairs

1. **Gol launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate nationals from Ukraine**



- **The government of India** has launched an evacuation mission named **Operation Ganga** to evacuate Indian nationals from **Ukraine** due to the **Russia-Ukraine tension**.
- Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations. Due to this many Indian nationals were left stranded in Ukraine.
- To help the Indian citizens come back to the country, the government of India decided to conduct a special evacuation mission named Operation Ganga. The government will bring back Indian nationals via flight.

2. Ministry of Education launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign



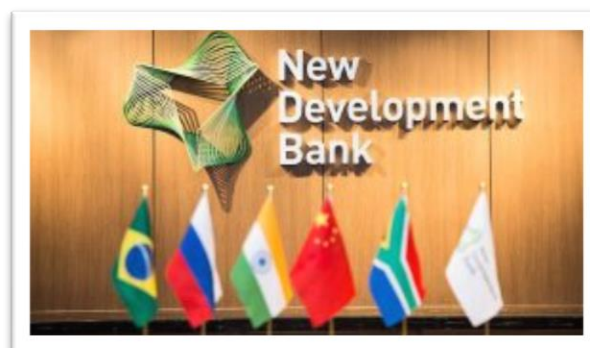
- **The Ministry of Education** has launched a campaign titled '**Bhasha Certificate Selfie**'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the **Bhasha Sangam mobile app**, launched by the Ministry under the aegis of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.
- Bhasha Sangam mobile app was launched on October 31, 2021, by Minister of Education and Skill Development Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, to lay emphasis on the promotion of Indian languages.
- The app has been developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India and allows users to learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages. The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.

3. Cochin Airport to become power-positive with new solar plant



- **The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** is set to commission a **12 MWp solar power plant** on March 6 near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala. With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport.
- In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy. The power plant boasts of **12 megawatt capacity on a 35-acre** land where CIAL introduced a concept of terrain-based installation where the geographical characteristics of the area are retained and no changes are made in the gradient of the land.

4. New Development Bank 1st multilateral agency to open office in Gift City



- **New Development Bank (NDB)** will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the **Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT)**. New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City.
- The Indian office will help identify suitable projects and try to create a pipeline of potential financing for the bank. NDB also expects to partner with the newly launched National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) to support crucial infrastructure projects in India.
- NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS as well as other emerging markets in 2014. It became operational in 2015 and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. All the founding members equally own the bank.
- **New Development Bank Headquarters Location: Shanghai, China**
- **New Development Bank President: Marcos Prado Troyjo**
- **New Development Bank Founder: BRICS**
- **New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.**

5. Canada approved world's 1st plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine



- Canada became the first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine. The two-dose vaccine of Medicago Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris), can be given to adults who are aged between 18 to 64, but little data is available on the shots received by people aged 65 and above.
- The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study conducted on **24,000 adults** that showed the efficacy rate of the vaccine is **71%** at preventing COVID-19 – although the tests were conducted before the omicron variant emerged.
- Covifenz is the name given to this vaccine. Canada agreed to buy 20 million doses of this plant-based vaccine, with an option to purchase 56 million additional doses.
- **Canada Capital: Ottawa**
- **Canada Currency: Canadian dollar**
- **Canada Prime minister: Justin Trudeau.**

6. Madhabi Puri Buch named as first woman chief of SEBI



- Former ICICI Banker, Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman, replacing Ajay

Tyagi. She is the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body.

- She has over three decades of experience in the financial markets and was SEBI whole-time member (WTM) between April 5, 2017, and October 4, 2021. During her tenure at SEBI, she handled portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management.

7. Samiran Gupta to head public policy for Twitter in India



- Samiran Gupta will lead microblogging platform Twitter's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia. Prior to joining Twitter, Gupta was the head of stakeholder engagement in South Asia for ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).
- Gupta was associated with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organisation. He served there for seven years. He was also briefly the firm's head of stakeholder engagement for the South Asia market.
- The news of the appointment comes almost a year after the former Public Policy Director for India and South Asia Mahima Kaul resigned.
- **Twitter CEO: Parag Agrawal**
- **Twitter formed: 21 March 2006**
- **Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.**

8. IAF pulls out of multilateral air Exercise 'Cobra Warrior 22' in UK Amid Ukraine Crisis



- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has decided not to send its aircraft in the multilateral air exercise '**Cobra Warrior-22**' in the **United Kingdom**, due to the deepening crisis in Ukraine, arising out of the Russian military attack in that country.
- The exercise is scheduled to take place from March 6 to 27, 2022, at Waddington in the United Kingdom. The announcement by the IAF comes just three days after it confirmed its participation in the drills.
- The announcement by the IAF came hours after India abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution on the Russian military aggression against Ukraine. India retained the option of reaching out to all relevant sides to find a middle ground and foster dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

9. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the “ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation



- For medical professionals, scientists, and technicians in medical, dental, and paramedical institutes, the Union health ministry has launched the ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- By promoting the Government of India's Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, it would assure multidisciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and establish an innovation-led ecosystem at medical institutes across the country.”
- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, speaking at the policy launch. “This Policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and develop an innovation-led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country by promoting Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. This policy is in line with Prime Minister Harper's motto of “Innovate, Patent, Produce, and Prosper.”