

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 4, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi - has returned to the state government an Assembly bill seeking exemption to students of the state from the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET)**
- ✓ According to a statement from Raj Bhavan, the governor held that the Bill was “against interests of the students, specially the rural and economically poor students of the state” and returned it to the Speaker of the House, M Appavu, for “reconsideration”
- ✓ The statement also referred to the Supreme Court judgement in the Christian Medical College, Vellore Association Vs Union of India case, 2020 which upheld NEET as “it prevents economic exploitation of poor students and is in furtherance of social justice.”
- ✓ The state assembly had passed the bill on September 13 last year for the same reason - that NEET was against the poor and favours urban classes who can afford private coaching - among others
 - ✓ Almost all parties in the state had supported it, including main opposition AIADMK, with BJP being the only party to stage a walkout during its introduction in the House
 - ✓ The Bill stated that medical courses were related to entry 25 of List III, Schedule VII of the Constitution, thereby making the state government a competent authority to regulate admissions for the underprivileged social groups.
 - ✓ It was passed based on the recommendations of a committee led by retired judge Justice A K Rajan to study the impact of NEET
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, however, said the governor’s remarks were unacceptable to the people of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He announced a meeting of all legislature parties on February 5 to decide the next course of action.

- ✓ The CM also said the government was prepared to bring the Bill again in the Assembly.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act, 2021, seeks to abolish NEET and revert to admitting students in medical colleges based on their plus-two marks
- ✓ The Governor, during his recent Republic Day address, commented that the enrollment of government school students in state-run medical colleges has increased following the introduction of NEET.

STATES

- **The Madhya Pradesh government - is planning to introduce 'happiness' as a subject in the syllabus of its high school and higher secondary school classes from the next academic session**
- ✓ Once introduced, the State would be possibly the first state in the country where this subject will be introduced in schools.
- ✓ In 2016, Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to set up happiness department.
- ✓ The subject will be mandatory for the students of all streams from Classes 9 to 12

PERSONALITIES

- **The leader of the Islamic State terrorist group, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi - was killed in an overnight raid carried out by US special operation forces in northwestern Syria on February 2.**



- ✓ Al-Qurayshi, who succeeded Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on October 31, 2019 after his death in a US delta force raid, detonated a bomb killing himself and his family.
- ✓ US special forces attacked a house in the town of Atmeh near the Turkish border clashing for two hours with gunmen in a counter-terrorism mission
- ✓ There were no American casualties in the raid, but 13 people including women and children are reported to have died in the raid
- ✓ As IS chief, al-Qurayshi kept an extremely low profile, and rarely released any audio recordings.

- ✓ After he became the head of IS, US put a bounty of up to \$10 million on his head and placed him on its "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" list.
- ✓ Qurayshi had been responsible for the prison strike, as well as genocide against the Yazidi people in Iraq in 2014, which resulted in the deaths of thousands of males and the captivity of women and girls
- ✓ Earlier, al-Qurayshi had served briefly in the Iraqi military before the fall of Saddam Hussein and completed a Master's degree in Islamic Studies.
- ✓ Qurayshi joined the ranks of Al-Qaeda after Hussein was captured by US troops in 2003
- ✓ Captured in late 2007, Qurayshi spent months in an American detention camp at the infamous Camp Bucca prison in southern Iraq and offered U.S. forces information that helped them fight the terror groups
- ✓ The more-than-a-decade-long conflict in Syria started after a crackdown on protests against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad
- ✓ An estimated 900 U.S. troops are stationed in different part of Syria
- ✓ Northeastern Syria is under the control of Syrian Kurdish fighters, who battle the Islamic State with U.S. help since 2014

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India - is set to launch the Chandrayan-3 in August this year**
- ✓ This was announced by space minister Jitendra Singh in a reply to a question around the delay of the Moon mission in Lok Sabha on February 3
- ✓ The Minister also informed the House that 19 missions, including eight launch vehicle missions, seven spacecraft missions and four technology demonstrator missions, have been planned for this year.
- ✓ This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline
- ✓ According to the Minister, the launch date of Chandrayaan-3 will be scientifically determined as it is fixed based on planetary movements and lunar time.
- ✓ Isro will fix the date of launch in August in the course of time as they are based on Moon's position in relation to Earth.
- ✓ The first Chandrayaan mission was launched in October 2008 that made major discoveries, including finding evidence of water on the lunar surface
- ✓ It has to be recalled that a technical glitch caused the crash-landing of Chandrayaan-2's lander 'Vikram' on the far side of Moon in 2019
- ✓ While the lander and the rover crashed, the orbiter is still hovering above the lunar surface and Isro plans to use it with Chandrayaan-3
- ✓ As per former ISRO chief K Sivan, the configuration of Chandrayaan-3 will be almost similar to Chandrayaan-2 but instead of the orbiter, lander and rover configuration, the new mission will have a lander and rover with a propulsion module

- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3's lander and craft costs approximately Rs 250 crore, whereas the launch cost will be around Rs 350 crore.
- ✓ A soft-landing would have made India the fourth country to do so and the first country to do near the lunar South Pole
- ✓ India had crashed the probe at what is now called the Jawahar point on the moon.

SPORTS

- **On February 3, India - announced a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics in China, scheduled from February 4-20**



- ✓ The Indian mission in Beijing will not participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games
- ✓ This followed the decision of China that Qi Fabao, a PLA regiment commander involved in the June 2020 Galwan clash was named as one of the torchbearer during the 'Torch Relay' at the Olympics.
- ✓ Twenty Indian soldiers had died in the Galwan clash that took place in June 2020 in which the Chinese side also suffered considerable casualties.
- ✓ **Indian alpine skier Arif Khan will be the country's only athlete to participate in Beijing 2022**



- ✓ He is accompanied by Chef De Mission Harjinder Singh and support staff.
- ✓ Arif is the first Indian athlete to directly qualify for two different events of a Winter Olympics

- ✓ The 31-year-old from Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir will represent India in the men's giant slalom and slalom events at the Beijing Winter Games
- ✓ He earned the Olympics quota spot in giant slalom at an International Ski Federation (FIS) event in Kolasin, Montenegro on December 29
- ✓ Arif, who hails from the Hajibal Tangmarg area, has represented the country four times in the World Championships and has represented India in 127 international events, competing mainly in Europe
- ✓ It was in 2011 that he won two gold medals - in the slalom and giant slalom - at the South Asian Winter Games, the only edition held thus far.
- ✓ Alpine skiing which is also called downhill skiing is when an athlete slides down snow-covered slopes on skis with fixed heel bindings
- ✓ Alpine skiers represented India at 1964, 1968, 1988, 1992, 2006, 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympics.
- ✓ The government hasn't sent any high-level delegation to attend any Olympics ceremony.
- ✓ The charge d'affaires, the top Indian diplomat in Beijing who was expected to represent the country, will also now skip the opening and closing ceremonies.
- ✓ Doordarshan will not air the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics opening and closing ceremony
- ✓ In a show of solidarity with India, the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee also condemned China's decision describing it as shameful.
- ✓ The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Lithuania, Kosovo, Belgium, Denmark and Estonia are among countries staging a diplomatic boycott of the games over human rights violations, with the fate of China's Muslim Uyghur minority of particular concern
- ✓ Pakistan PM Imran Khan, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are scheduled to attend the opening ceremony.
- ✓ Diplomatic boycotts mean that governments will not send delegations, but athletes continue to compete in the Games.
- ✓ BING DWEN DWEN, designed by Cao Xue, has been chosen as the official mascot of the games
- ✓ The Games were hosted for the first time ever in China as Beijing becomes the first-ever city to host both the Summer Olympics (2008) and the Winter Olympics.(2022)
- ✓ The Opening and Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Winter Games will be held at the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium which is officially known as the Beijing National Stadium.
 - ✓ The iconic Bird's Nest Stadium also hosted the opening ceremony of the Summer Games in 2008.
- ✓ The event is scheduled to include a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in seven sports with the participation of more than 2,600 athletes this year

- ✓ The Tokyo Olympics six months ago attracted 11,000 athletes from just over 200 national bodies.
- ✓ The list of sports and disciplines included in the Winter Olympics are Biathlon, Bobsledding, Curling, Ice hockey, Luge, Skating, Skiing
- ✓ The event is held every four years in countries that have considerably low temperatures and have abundant levels of natural ice and snow
- ✓ From 1924 through 1992, the Winter and Summer Olympics were the same year.
- ✓ Since 1994, an Olympics has been held every two years.
- ✓ The '94 Winter Olympics took place in Lillehammer, Norway, followed by the Summer Games in 1996 in Atlanta.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ **World Cancer Day - February 4**



- ✓ The World Cancer Day is observed every year to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection and treatment.
- ✓ World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008
- ✓ The World Cancer Day 2022-24 theme is "Close the Care Gap"
- ✓ Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of a group of cells in the body and is the second leading cause of death globally
- ✓ It can occur at any age and if not detected at the right time and is not treated, it can increase the risk of death.
- ✓ The top cancers that affect the Indian population are lung, breast, cervical, head and neck and colorectal cancer (CRC)
- ✓ Recent studies estimate about one out of six people worldwide die from cancer, which's more than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined
- ✓ The day came into existence on February 4, 2000, during the World Cancer Conference for the New Millennium in Paris, France

