

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 9, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On February 8, the Tamil Nadu Assembly - passes the bill for the second time against the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to admit students to undergraduate programmes in medicine

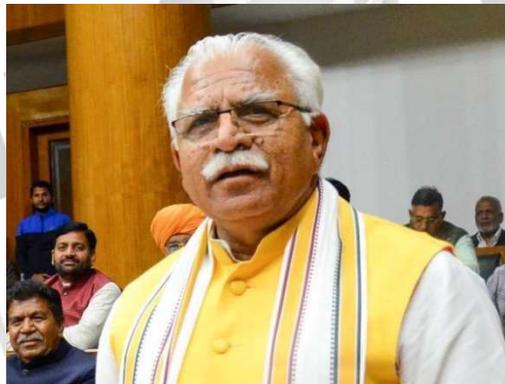


- ✓ A special assembly session was convened for the purpose during which the bill was adopted by voice vote, after discussing all the objections raised by the governor
- ✓ After the discussion, Speaker M Appavu announced that it has been adopted unanimously
- ✓ All the political parties, except the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supported the bill.
- ✓ The bill spoke about the need for the removal of NEET as the main criterion for admission into MBBS courses in medical seats in colleges in the State
- ✓ It is for the first time in its 70-year history that the Tamil Nadu Assembly is unanimously re-adopting the same draft of a bill without amendments.
- ✓ The bill was previously passed on September 13 last year to scrap the entrance exam and enable admissions to MBBS and BDS based on Class 12 marks.

- ✓ It was passed after a committee under Justice AK Rajan submitted a 193-page report on the entrance examination and its impact on rural, poor and marginalized students in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The bill will now be sent to the Governor RN Ravi for the second time.
- ✓ He had returned it on February 1, asking the state legislature to reconsider it.
- ✓ The resolution for the passage of the bill was piloted by chief minister MK Stalin.
- ✓ With the Assembly once again re-adopting the same bill, the Governor is now required to give assent to the document and forward it to the President under Article 200 of the Constitution
- ✓ The Bill now requires the President's assent before it can become a law.
- ✓ Under Article 201, the President can either give his assent or return it to the Assembly

STATES

- **On February 8, the Haryana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar - approved the draft of The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022**



- ✓ The Bill is aimed at prohibiting religious conversions which are effected through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, or by any fraudulent means or by marriage or for marriage by making it an offence
- ✓ It provides for greater punishment for illegal conversions especially with respect to minors, women, Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes
- ✓ As per the Bill, the burden of proof lies on the accused carrying out the conversion
- ✓ The provisions in the Bill provide for declaring marriages, which were solemnised by concealment of religion, null and void.
- ✓ Also, individuals converting from one religion to another have to submit to the prescribed authority a declaration.
- ✓ The draft Bill will be tabled in the state assembly during the upcoming Budget Session beginning March 2.
- ✓ The Haryana government had constituted a three-member team to draft the law soon after the Uttar Pradesh government had cleared a draft ordinance against conversion through force or fraudulent means two years ago.

- ✓ Several BJP-ruled states including Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have enacted such legislation against illegal conversion
- **The ancient Kanchoth festival – was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir recently during the first week of February**



- ✓ The age-old festival is celebrated by Hindus, mainly Nag followers, who believe that on the day of Gauri tritiya, Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati got married and the latter insisted on a throne made of snow as her wedding gift.
- ✓ Thus, snow during the festival is considered a good omen
- ✓ Kanchoth or Gauri-Tritya is a local festival of women celebrated every year during the Shukla Paksha of Magh month in January and February.
- ✓ The festival is celebrated in hilly areas of Bhandarwah, Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda districts of Jammu Province
- ✓ The three-day long festival was celebrated by married women to pray for the long life of their husbands

ECONOMY

- **Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani - has become the richest person in India and Asia, surpassing Reliance Industries Ltd's Mukesh Ambani.**



- ✓ Adani's net worth stood at \$88.5 billion on February 8 as against Ambani's \$87.9 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ✓ Adani's personal wealth has surged almost \$12 billion this year, making him the world's biggest wealth-gainer of 2022
- ✓ With this massive spike, Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani, to become the world's 10th richest person.
- ✓ Last year in November, Mukesh Ambani was the richest person in India and Asia with Gautam Adani trailing him by about \$2.2 billion.
- ✓ However, according to Forbes Real Time Billionaire Index, Ambani is still Asia's richest with \$90.3 billion as against Adani's \$89.3 billion
- ✓ The 59-year-old founder of Adani Group controls companies ranging from ports and aerospace to thermal energy and coal
- ✓ Adani Group controls the port of Mundra, India's largest, in Adani's home state of Gujarat and Adani also owns 74% of Mumbai international airport
- ✓ The group is in the process of investing \$70 billion into green energy projects by 2030 with the aim of becoming the world's largest renewable-energy producer.

AWARDS

- **Indian documentary 'Writing With Fire' - has been nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th edition of the Academy Awards**



- ✓ It is also the only Indian film to earn the nomination this year
- ✓ The nominations were announced on February 8 in the Twitter page of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
- ✓ Directed by Delhi-based filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, both debutants, 'Writing With Fire' portrays the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit women of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Khabar Lahariya is a newspaper that is the first of its kind in the country, which is run entirely by women.
- ✓ The newspaper was started in 2002 by Delhi based NGO Nirantar from Chitrakoot in Bundelkhand region

- ✓ It is a community newspaper published in multiple dialects -- Bundeli, Avadhi, and Bajjika - which is run by women from the Dalit community in Bihar's Sitamarhi district and UP's Banda district.
- ✓ The documentary shares the journey of the newspaper from print to digital medium
- ✓ This makes the filmmaker duo, who are also husband and wife, the first wholesome Indian production to be ever nominated to the final five list in this category.
- ✓ Two documentaries set in India have previously won Oscars for Best Documentary Short – ‘Smile Pinki’ and ‘Period. End Of Sentence’, but they were both international production and co-productions, respectively
- ✓ Writing with Fire had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 2021, where it won two awards – The Audience Award and a Special Jury Award.
- ✓ It has bagged 28 international awards since
- ✓ In December, the documentary had made it to the Oscars shortlist — among 15 films from a pool of 138.
- ✓ Now, it will compete against four other films in the category: Ascension, Attica, Flee, and Summer of Soul (Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised).
- ✓ Tamil movie, Jai Bhim failed to get nominated for Oscar 2022
- ✓ Meanwhile, ‘The Power of the Dog’ led nominations to the 94th Academy Awards with 12 nods, including best picture, best director and recognition for all of its top actors - Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee.
- ✓ Denis Villeneuve’s sci-fi epic ‘Dune’ followed closely behind with 10 nominations mostly in the technical categories
- ✓ Steven Spielberg, whose ‘West Side Story’ received seven nominations, became the first filmmaker nominated for Best Director in six different decades, with his 11 best picture nominations are the most ever.
- ✓ The 94th Academy Awards will be presented on March 27 at Los Angeles’ Dolby Theatre

SPORTS

- **Ireen Wust - became the first athlete to win individual gold at five different Olympic Games.**
- ✓ Ireen Wust is already one of the best speed skaters in the history of the sport
- ✓ Dutchwoman Wust won the 1,500 meters at this edition in Beijing, thereby becoming the first athlete ever to win individual gold medals in five different Olympic Games.
- ✓ She also set an Olympic record in the process beating the mark her country-woman Jorien ter Mors established in Sochi eight years ago
- ✓ Wust is among the most decorated athletes competing in Beijing.

- ✓ She has 12 total Olympic medals, including six gold medals from her first appearance in 2006.



- ✓ Those 12 medals are the most of any Dutch Olympian in any sport at either the Summer or Winter Games.
- ✓ She also has the most hardware of any athlete, male or female, to compete in speed skating of any discipline.
- ✓ Wust won her first gold in Turin in 2006 when she was just 19, becoming the youngest Dutch Olympian to take home gold.
- ✓ With her 2022 win, she became the oldest speed skater to win gold as well at the age of 35.
- ✓ Her 12 Olympic medals are tied for third most for any Winter Olympian, behind three Norwegians - cross-country skier Marit Bjorgen (15 total, eight gold), biathlete Ole Einar Bjorndalen (13 total, eight gold) and cross-country skier Bjorn Daehlie (12 total, eight gold).

