

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 22, 2023

STATES

- **On February 21, the Bengal assembly - passed a bill providing for compensation to the “aggrieved” owner of a property damaged in any act of vandalism.**
 - ✓ The bill has provision for realisation of funds by selling in public auction the attached property under the said Act to pay compensation to the victim by framing a scheme under it.
 - ✓ It proposes to amend the West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order Act 1972.
 - ✓ The West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is similar to laws in force in the BJP-governed Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka.
 - ✓ In Chhattisgarh, the provision of a similar Act is limited to compensation for damage caused to medical infrastructure during public unrest.
 - ✓ Under the proposed bill, anyone seeking compensation needs to move the designated court within 60 days of the damage being caused.
 - ✓ The acts of vandalism covered under the proposed legislation include burning, looting and any discernible damage to property.
 - ✓ The bill was introduced in the backdrop of several incidents of arson, loot, and damage of properties in the state by some anti-social elements “during agitations”.
 - ✓ The bill now requires the governor’s assent to become a law
 - ✓ The state assembly also tabled the Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill 2023 amending the Lokayukta Act, 2003, vesting in the Governor the power to extend the term of office of the Lokayukta.
 - ✓ The bill also proposed that the Lokayukta will retire after the age of 70 and the person cannot hold any government position post-retirement.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On February 21, the Supreme Court - introduced live transcription of court proceedings for the first time in the country**

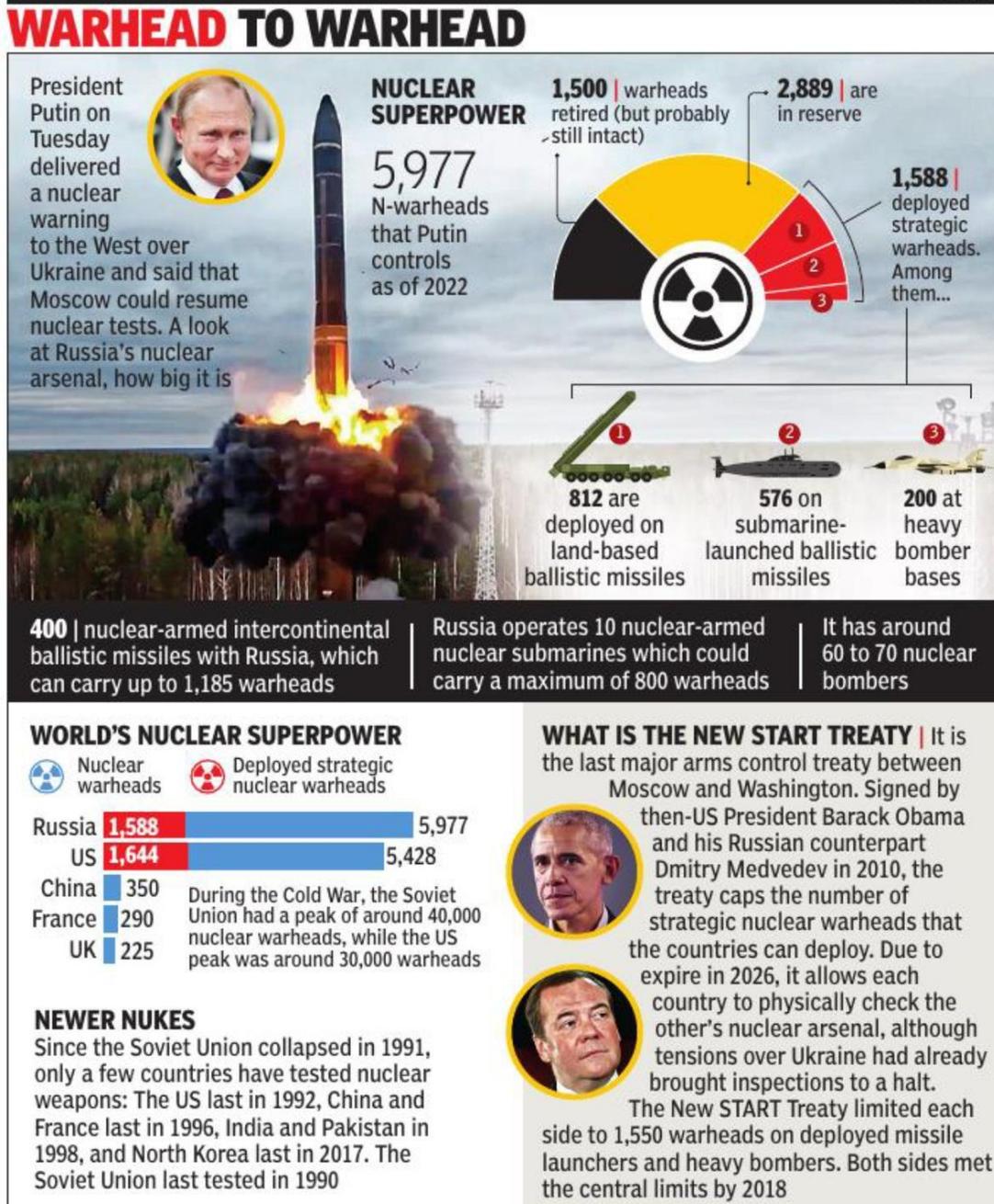
- ✓ Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud announced that the live transcription will commence on an experimental basis with the constitution bench hearing on the vertical split last year in Shiv Sena
- ✓ The live transcription is the latest addition to a long list of technological reforms, which include live-streaming, digitisation of court records, online RTI portal, digital courts desktop application, e-filing and online appearance slip for lawyer
- ✓ These reforms were introduced by justice Chandrachud, who is also chairman of the e-Committee.
- ✓ The US Supreme Court provides audio and text transcripts of the proceedings, while in UK, a litigant can ask for a transcript of the court proceedings for a fee if the hearing is recorded.
- ✓ Earlier this month, senior advocate Indira Jaising had requested the CJI to consider preparing audio transcripts of the important court cases.
- ✓ In the last week of August 2022, the Supreme Court live-streamed its first proceedings, more than three years after a top court ruling recommended live-streaming its hearings.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On February 21, Russian President Vladimir Putin - announced that Russia was suspending its participation in a major arms control agreement with the United States.**
- ✓ The New START treaty is the last remaining nuclear arms deal between the US and Russia, after it was extended for five years in 2021 after U.S. President Joe Biden assumed office
- ✓ The treaty was signed by then-U.S. President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Prague in 2010 and came into force the following year.
- ✓ The name START comes from the original “Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty”, known as START-I, which was signed between the US and the erstwhile USSR in 1991, and came into force in 1994.
 - ✓ START-I restricted the numbers of nuclear warheads and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that each side could deploy at 6,000 and 1,600 respectively
 - ✓ It lapsed in 2009, and was replaced first by the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT, also known as the Treaty of Moscow), and then by the New START treaty.
- ✓ Under the New START treaty, Russia and the US are committed to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and a maximum of 700 long-range missiles and bombers.
- ✓ Each side can conduct up to 18 inspections of strategic nuclear weapons sites every year to ensure the other has not breached the treaty’s limits.

- ✓ However, inspections under the agreement were put on hold in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Reuters



- ✓ Putin was addressing the Nation, as the first anniversary of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine approaches on February 24
- ✓ Together, Russia and the United States account for about 90% of the world's nuclear warheads

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- On February 21, India's real-time retail payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI) - has been linked with its equivalent network in Singapore called 'PayNow'



- ✓ The linkage of these two payment systems of both countries would enable residents of both countries to the faster and more cost-efficient transfer of cross-border remittances
- ✓ With this, people in both countries can send money in real time via a QR code or by simply entering the mobile number linked to their bank accounts.
- ✓ The virtual launch function was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong.
- ✓ Shaktikanta Das, governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and Ravi Menon, managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the country's apex financial authority, also presided over the launch event.

HOW S'PORE-INDIA UPI WORKS

Indian residents can transfer to and from Singapore residents using UPI with the platform's integration with PayNow. Similarly, users of PayNow in Singapore can transfer funds from India. Such partnerships are likely to be extended to other countries as well. Here's how these global UPI payments will work...

1 For what purposes can the remittances be sent or received?

Currently, only person-to-person (P2P) remittances for "maintenance of relatives abroad" & "gift" are allowed

2 Who can send and receive transactions?

Accountholders of ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and SBI can send and receive funds. Axis and DBS customers can receive funds

3 Which platforms or apps can be used?

Customers can use Axis Pay, Digibank, ICICI iMobile, IndOasis, BHIM IOB Pay and BHIM SBI Pay apps. One can also send money through

net banking in ICICI Bank and IOB, while Indian Bank and SBI have integrated UPI remittances on their apps too

4 Which are the participating entities in Singapore?

DBS Bank and Liquid group customers can receive funds using their mobile number



5 Will third-party UPI apps work for remittances?

Just the UPI ID registered with the bank where the account is held can be used. Participating banks will be rolling out an update in their respective UPI apps in a phased manner, and customers will have to update their UPI app to enable the global remittances feature

6 What is the current transaction limit?

There is a daily transaction limit of Rs 60,000 (around 1,000 Singapore dollars) currently for undertaking cross-border remittance transactions through the UPI-PayNow linkage

- ✓ The link will enable Indians to transfer up to 60,000 a day (SGD 1,000) with similar mechanism in the pipeline for transactions with other countries.

- ✓ At present, the transfers happen through banks, but attract a certain cost and take time because India is a country with capital controls.
- ✓ With the link in place, money in bank accounts or e-wallets can be transferred using UPI-ID, mobile number, or Virtual Payment Address (VPA)
- ✓ UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ✓ PayNow is a near-instant real-time payment system developed by Association of Banks in Singapore.
- ✓ Singapore is one of the top four inward remittance markets, accounting for approximately 5.7% of total remittances to India, or about \$5.08 billion of the \$100 billion total inward remittance market.

SPORTS

- **On February 21, Indian tennis player, Sania Mirza - bid farewell to the 20 year professional international career at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships**



- ✓ The 36-year-old Indian tennis star ended her illustrious career with a first-round defeat losing the contest in straight sets
- ✓ Sania and her American partner, Madison Keys lost to the Russian pairing of Veronika Kudermetova and Liudmila Samsonova in a first round women's doubles match.
- ✓ Sania's retirement marks the end of a glorious chapter in Indian sport, having single-handedly represented the country at the elite level of the sport.
- ✓ Sania has the distinction of winning six Grand Slam titles, including three women's doubles with Swiss legend Martina Hingis.
- ✓ She also held the top spot in the doubles rankings for a total of 91 weeks
- ✓ She won two out of three mixed doubles titles with her compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi at the 2009 Australian Open and the 2012 French Open, while also securing the US Open trophy alongside Bruno Soares.

- ✓ Sania's achievement of becoming the first Indian woman to reach the second week of a singles major and reaching a career-high ranking of World No. 27 in singles is a significant milestone in Indian tennis.
- **Tata Group - has bagged the title rights for the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) for the next five years**
 - ✓ This was announced by BCCI secretary Jay Shah on February 21.
 - ✓ The Indian multinational conglomerate had last year replaced Vivo as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League
 - ✓ The first edition of the WPL will begin on March 4 in Mumbai at two venues - DY Patil Stadium and Brabourne Stadium.
 - ✓ The sale of media rights had fetched BCCI Rs 951 crore and the five teams were sold for Rs 4670 crore.
 - ✓ In its inaugural edition, five teams – Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and UP Warriorz – will participate
 - ✓ At Rs 3.40 crore, Indian opener Smriti Mandhana was the most expensive buy at the auction held earlier this month.
 - ✓ In its first season, the WPL will stage a total of 20 league matches and two Playoff games that will be played in a duration of 23 days.
 - ✓ The final of Women's Premier League 2023 will be played at the Brabourne Stadium on 26th March.
- **Renowned veteran coach Dmitry Dmitruk – was appointed as the chief foreign coach of the country's elite men and women's boxing teams for a period of two years**



- ✓ Dmitruk served as the high-performance coach of the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) as well as the Irish National Junior and Youth Teams for the last 12 years
- ✓ The 47-year-old has played a key role in elevating Ireland's boxing team's performances and nurturing young talent over the course of his 12-year stint in Ireland.

- ✓ He has coached notable boxers such as Joe Ward to multiple World Championships silver medals in 2015 and 2017 and Grainne Walsh to a bronze at the 2019 European Games
- ✓ Dmitruk's appointment has come four months after former Irish professional boxer, Bernard Dunne, was named the high-performance director (HPD) for Indian boxing in October 2022.
- ✓ The two veterans had were instrumental in the rise of Kellie Harrington who won gold at the Tokyo Olympics in the women's lightweight division (57-60kg) – the only gold won by Ireland at the 2020 Summer Games.
- ✓ They were involved in securing nine of Ireland's 17 Olympic medals in the boxing ring.
- ✓ Boxing has been Ireland's most successful sport at the Olympics, accounting for more than 50% of their medals won.
- ✓ Dmitruk will work closely with both men's chief coach C A Kuttappa and women's head coach Bhaskar Bhatt.
- ✓ Dmitruk, the former Russian boxing professional who holds an Irish passport joined at NIS Patiala after completing his contractual formalities with the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- ✓ The 47-year-old Dmitruk's first big assignment as coach will be the upcoming women's World boxing championships, scheduled to be held here from March 15-26.

