

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 21, 2022

### NATIONAL

- **Indian Railways – has launched several customer-friendly initiatives during the month of January 2022**
- ✓ The initiatives launched by the national carrier during the month includes Operation Nanhe Farishte, Operation Mahila Suraksha, Meri Saheli squads, Operation Matrishakti, Mission Jeewan Raksha and Operation Yatri Surakhsha



- ✓ Under “Operation Nanhe Farishte”, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have rescued 1,045 kids from various railway stations across the country
  - ✓ These children were found either alone or were abandoned at the railway stations.
- ✓ “Operation Mahila Suraksha” was launched to provide enhanced security for female travellers.
- ✓ Under the initiative, RPF deployed “Meri Saheli” squads at key railway stations to provide security to woman passengers, specifically those travelling alone.
  - ✓ The initiative covered about 13,000 trains in the country.
- ✓ Under “Operation Matrishakti,” ladies RPF personnel were deployed to help pregnant women who were in labour while travelling in the train.

- ✓ Under “Mission Jeewan Raksha,” RPF personnel saved 42 persons including 22 ladies on duty.
- ✓ Under “Operation Yatri Surakhsha”, RPF supported the state police in the fight against passenger crime.
- ✓ RPF arrested more than 300 criminals, who were involved in 254 passenger-related offences, under the initiative

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **The Supreme Court – scraps the ‘gender cap’ on performers in orchestra bars in Maharashtra**
- ✓ Earlier, the Government of Maharashtra has limited the number of female and male performers in orchestra bars to four each
- ✓ The apex court order was pronounced by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat and Justice K.M. Joseph.
- ✓ Even though the order limits the performers in any given performance to eight, it held that the composition (i.e., all-female, majority female or male, or vice versa) can be of any combination
- ✓ The top court further said that the cap directly violates the fundamental rights of the performers as well as the license owners under Article 15 (1) and Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution.
- ✓ The licenses for the orchestra performances comes under the Premises and Performance licenses of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951
- ✓ There are over 250 establishments which have taken licence for holding orchestral shows in the State

## **AWARDS**

- **Seven Indian airports - have been chosen for ‘Voice of Customer Recognition’ under Airports Council International (ACI) World’s Voice of the Customer initiative**
- ✓ The seven AAI airports that were chosen after participating in ACI-ASQ survey in 2021 includes Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Patna, Bhubaneswar & Chandigarh
- ✓ Airports Council International has initiated the ‘Voice of the Customer’ initiative
- ✓ The initiative acknowledges and recognizes airports that continued to prioritize their customers and are committed to ensuring their voice was heard, even during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey is the world-renowned and internationally established global benchmarking programme
- ✓ It measures passenger’s satisfaction, whilst they travel through an airport
- ✓ The survey is conducted by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- ✓ ASQ Awards recognize those airports around the world that deliver the best customer experience based on the opinion of their own passengers.

## SPORTS

- **India U-19 WC winning captain Yash Dhull - becomes third player to score centuries in both innings of his Ranji Trophy debut**



- ✓ Yash made his Ranji Trophy debut in the Elite Group H match for Delhi in the match against Tamil Nadu in Guwahati
  - ✓ In the first innings, Dhull, who opened the innings for Delhi scored 113 runs off 150 balls, including 18 fours.
  - ✓ Incidentally, he remained unbeaten on the same score in the second innings as the match ended in a draw on October 20
  - ✓ Yash is only the third Indian — after Nari Contractor for Gujarat in 1952/53 and Virag Awate for Maharashtra in 2012/13 — to score a hundred in each innings on his Ranji Trophy debut.
  - ✓ It can be recollected that Yash Dhull led India U-19 team to a World Cup triumph in West Indies recently
- 
- **After 19 days of action, the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics - officially ended on February 20 with a spectacular closing ceremony attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping**
  - ✓ The ceremony was held at Beijing's National Stadium, also known as the "Bird's Nest", in the presence of International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, Thomas Bach.
  - ✓ The IOC president and the mayor of Beijing handed over the Olympic flag to the mayors of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy, which will host the 2026 Winter Games
  - ✓ A total of 2,871 athletes participated in the Games and, over 2,000 attended the closing ceremony
  - ✓ The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics started on February 4, 2022





- ✓ Earlier, Indian alpine skier Mohammad Arif Khan ended his campaign at the ongoing Winter Olympics with a DNF (Did Not Finish) in the men's slalom event on February 16
- ✓ With the 45th place finish at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre, Arif now holds the record for the best finish by an Indian in men's giant slalom at the Winter Olympics.
- ✓ Arif was India's sole representative at the Beijing 2022
- ✓ A total of 109 events in 15 disciplines of seven sports were held during the two weeks of the competition.
- ✓ Norway emerged as the best team with 16 gold medals out of 37 of its medals, followed by Germany with 12 golds of its total 27.
- ✓ China won nine golds among 15 medals, ranking third, while the US followed with eight golds out of 25 medals.
- ✓ Beside the host city of Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou also hosted some of the events.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ International Mother Language Day – February 21



- ✓ The Day is observed annually to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism
- ✓ The genesis of the day is attributed to February 21, 1952, when Pakistani forces fired on Bangla-speaking people, which led to many deaths and finally the birth of Bangladesh.
- ✓ Bangladesh had first come up with the idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day.
- ✓ The initiative of Bangladesh to celebrate the International Mother Language Day was approved by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999 at its 30<sup>th</sup> General Conference
- ✓ The day is observed as a national holiday in Bangladesh
- ✓ International Mother Language Day was celebrated for the first time on February 21, 2000
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities"
- ✓ The United Nations has announced to celebrate the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Language
- ✓ According to the United Nations, an estimated 6000 languages are spoken in the world and around 43% of them are endangered.
- ✓ According to the census data, more than 19,500 languages and dialects are spoken in India as their mother tongue.
- ✓ There are 121 languages which are spoken by 10,000 or more people in India
- ✓ The 121 languages are classified into two parts - languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, comprising 22 languages and languages not included in the Eighth Schedule, comprising of 99 languages
- ✓ The scheduled languages, as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, are: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- ✓ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- ✓ Later, Sindhi language was added in 1967, Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992 and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.
- ✓ As per census 2011, the most popular language of India is Hindi which is the mother language of more than 52 crore, while Sanskrit is the language of 24,821 people only.
- ✓ Some of the non-scheduled mother tongues include Arabic, Khariya, Gujar, Sherpa, Kinnauri, Afghani, English and Tulu

