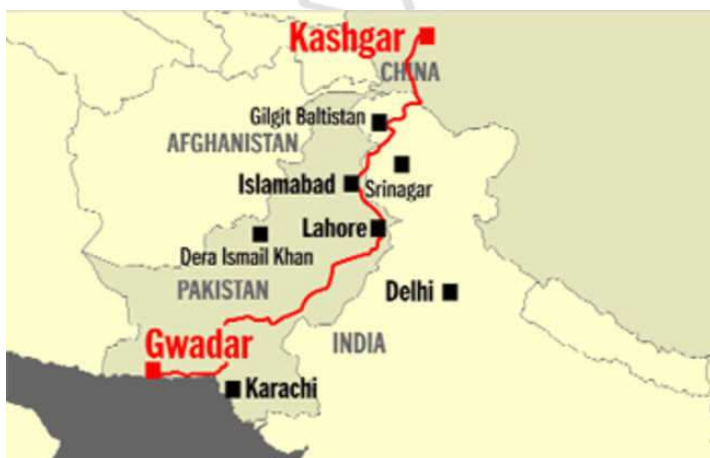


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 5, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

- **On February 4, Pakistan - signed a new agreement with China to begin the second phase of the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**
- ✓ According to Pakistan PM Imran Khan, the controversial project has strategic significance for both the countries and delivers tangible benefits to the people.
- ✓ Earlier, on February 3, Khan arrived in China on a four-day visit to attend the opening ceremony of the 2020 Beijing Winter Olympics and meet the top Chinese leadership.
- ✓ On the next day, he held a virtual meeting with He Lifeng, the chairman of China's apex planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), to discuss the expansion of Chinese investments in Pakistan.
- ✓ During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing CPEC projects and discussed the preparations for future initiatives



- ✓ The ambitious CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan.

- ✓ CPEC became partly operational on November 13, 2016, when Chinese cargo was transported to Gwadar Port and move maritime shipment onwards to Africa and West Asia
- ✓ India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK).
- ✓ The second phase of CPEC primarily revolves around Special Economic Zones development and industrialisation
- ✓ Pakistan received about half of all Chinese development finance in the form of “export buyer’s credit”, i.e. money lent by Chinese institutions to Pakistan in order to facilitate the purchase of equipment and goods to be bought by Chinese implementation partners.
- ✓ Recently, cash-strapped Pakistan, which has had to take loans from the IMF and Saudi Arabia, has decided to lend Sri Lanka a \$200 million loan for the purchase of rice and cement

APPOINTMENTS

- **JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar - was appointed as the chairperson of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on February 4**



- ✓ According to the ministry of education, Kumar has been appointed as the head of the higher education regulator for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest
- ✓ The post of the UGC chairperson fell vacant on December 7, 2021 after professor D P Singh, who had taken charge in 2018, resigned upon turning 65.
- ✓ Prof Kumar is currently holding charge as acting VC of JNU after his five-year term expired in January last year.
- ✓ Prof Kumar, an alumnus of IIT Madras’s electrical engineering department, was appointed as JNU V-C by then President Pranab Mukherjee in Jan 2016
- ✓ He did his post-doctoral research at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.
- ✓ Kumar was then serving as professor in IIT-Delhi’s Department of Electrical Engineering.

- ✓ He is on the editorial boards of several international journals including Scientific Reports from the publishers of Nature and an Editor of IEEE Journal of the Electron Devices Society and Editor-in-Chief of IETE Technical Review.
 - ✓ Prof Kumar is known for his works in areas of Nano-electronic Devices, Nanoscale Device modelling and simulation, Innovative Device Design and Power semiconductor devices.
 - ✓ He has published three books, four book chapters and more than 250 publications in these areas.
 - ✓ Prof Kumar is also the chairperson of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.
 - ✓ He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, India, and The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, India
- **Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani - has been appointed the new director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on February 4**



- ✓ He succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term over a year ago.
- ✓ Saklani is a professor with the department of history, ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology at HNB Garhwal University, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The new director has been appointed for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till he attains the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier
- ✓ Professor Saklani has been awarded with Distinguished Academy Award by Punjab Kala and Sahitya Academy, Jalandhar for Historical writing in 2005
- ✓ The new director is a member of Academic Council Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani
- ✓ He has authored three books, including one on the ancient communities of the central Himalaya region and one titled 'Ramayana Tradition in Historical Perspective'.
- ✓ Professor Saklani is also a life member in the Indian History Congress; Uttarakhand History and Culture Association and of Book Club IAS Shimla

- ✓ Currently, Professor Saklani is working on a major project of NCERT, New Delhi to develop a Historical Atlas for CBSE Board
- ✓ As the Council's new head, Saklani will oversee the drafting of four National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF) and designing of new school textbooks
- ✓ The last NCF was prepared in 2005 under the UPA government, and before that, it was revised in 1975, 1988 and 2000
- ✓ The framework, for school education, early childhood care and education, teacher education and adult education, will be revised based on the recommendations made by a Centre-appointed 12-member National Steering Committee headed by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan.
- ✓ NCERT is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education that is tasked with advising the Union government on school curriculum and drafting school textbooks.
- ✓ NCERT textbooks are taught in all schools affiliated to CBSE and also adopted by over 20 states.

AWARDS

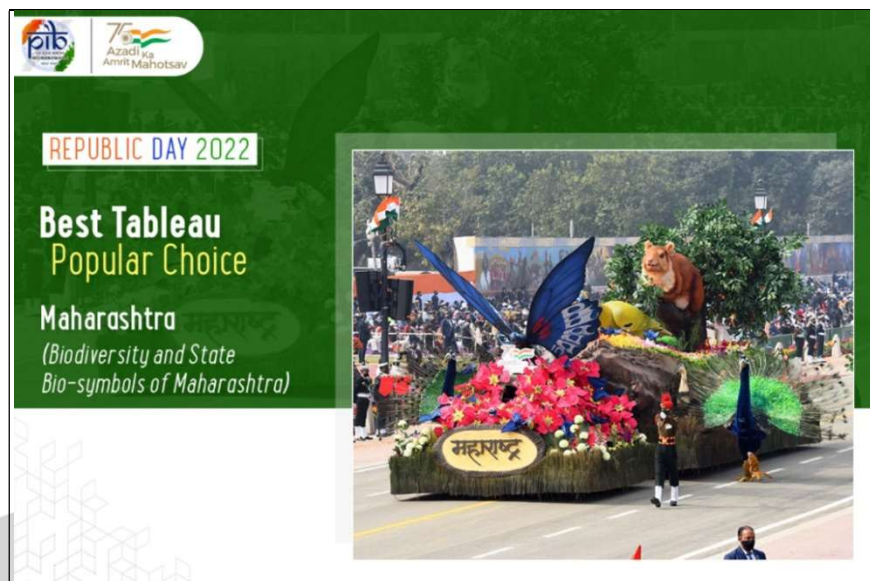
- **The tableau of Uttar Pradesh - has been selected as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade**



- ✓ Maharashtra has been voted as the best Tableau among the States/UTs in the popular choice category
- ✓ This was announced by the ministry of defence on February 4
- ✓ As per the ministry, the tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'.
- ✓ The tableau of Maharashtra was based on the theme 'Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra'.
- ✓ Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of marching contingents from the three Services, Central Armed Police Forces

(CAPF)/other Auxiliary forces and tableaux from various States/ Union Territories (UTs) and Central Ministries/Departments, said the ministry.

- ✓ On the basis of the assessment of the panels, the Indian Navy marching contingent has been adjudged as the best marching contingent among the three Services.
- ✓ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been named the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.
- ✓ The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts'.



- ✓ The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies and SHGs'.
- ✓ The tableaux of the ministry of education and ministry of civil aviation have been declared as joint winners in the category of central ministries/departments.
- ✓ The theme of the tableau of Ministry of Education & Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was 'National Education Policy', while the tableau of the Ministry of Civil Aviation was based on the theme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'.
- ✓ Nine tableaux of Central Ministries/Departments had participated in the parade.
- ✓ The tableaux of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (CPWD), based on the theme 'Subhash @125' and the 'Vande Bharatam' dance group have been selected for the special prize category.
- ✓ In addition, for the first time, the general public was invited to vote for the best marching contingents and best tableaux in the popular choice category through the MyGov platform
- ✓ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) received maximum votes on MyGov as the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.
- ✓ The second place went to Uttar Pradesh (a popular choice), while the tableau of Jammu and Kashmir, on the theme 'Changing face of Jammu and Kashmir', finished third on the voting.

- ✓ As per popular choice, the marching contingent of the Indian Air Force has been picked as the best marching contingent among the three Services.
- ✓ The tableau of the Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts was adjudged as the best tableau among Central Ministries/Departments based on people's selection.

