

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 6, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Pudukottai district administration - has launched an initiative called 'Aran' to help school children and adolescents open up on issues affecting their studies and mental health.**
- ✓ The initiative seeks to help children and young people access information and support related to their rights, needs, safety and protection, legal assistance, mental and physical health, sexual and reproductive health
- ✓ It also aims to help the children in their academic career through inter-departmental coordination and public participation.
- ✓ Under the initiative, children can report their problems by calling the toll free number 1800 425 2411 and WhatsApp number 94433 14417.
- ✓ While the toll free number will be handled by a team of counsellors, the WhatsApp number will be handled directly by the district collector Kavitha Ramu
- ✓ This initiative will add to the Child Line helpline 1098, which is already in use

STATES

- **On February 5, the Karnataka government - issued an order making it mandatory for students to wear uniforms prescribed by the government and administrations of private schools and pre-university (PU) course colleges**
- ✓ The order seeks to disallow the clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public orders in schools and colleges where uniform code is not fixed
- ✓ The Karnataka education department order said colleges which are under the department of pre-university of the state government will follow the dress code decided by the college development board.
- ✓ The order also cited the rulings of the Supreme Court and various high courts which have held in different cases that asking students not to wear headscarves is not a violation of Article 25 of the Constitution. (freedom of religion)

- For the first time ever, a craft map of Manipur – has been prepared to provide equal, concentrated attention to all art forms in the state



- ✓ It was prepared on the basis of a field survey by an expert team in 2018-19
- ✓ Mission for Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans and Craftsmen (MEETAC), Manipur, and the National Institute of Design mapped the various art forms in the state
- ✓ The map provides the details of Manipur's handloom and handicraft traditions

NATIONAL

- On February 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled the 'Statue of Equality', a 216-foot tall statue of 11th century saint Sri Ramanujacharya at Chinna Jeeyar Swamy ashram in Sri Ramanagaram, Muchintal, Hyderabad



- ✓ Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy were among those present on the occasion.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM talked about the 13th century Kakatiya Rudreshwara Ramappa temple being declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Pochampalli being recognised as India's best tourism village by the World Tourism Organisation.
- ✓ As part of the event, the Prime Minister visited the replicas of 108 Vishnu temples (Divya Desams), including Badrinath, Ayodhya, Tirumala, that surround the Statue of Equality.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM referred to Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar.
 - ✓ Ahead of the civic election of Hyderabad in 2020, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath had proposed to rename Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar, which was used to be the former name of the city.
- ✓ Earlier during his Hyderabad visit, the Prime Minister launched the 50th Anniversary celebrations of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).
- ✓ The statue of Saint Sri Ramanujacharya was dedicated to the nation to commemorate the 11th century Bhakti movement saint, who promoted equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed
- ✓ The project cost of Rs 1,000 crore was funded fully by donations from devotees all over the world.
- ✓ Developed at a budget of Rs. 135 crore, the casting works of the statue were carried out in China and it was brought to Hyderabad in 1,600 pieces
- ✓ The statue, for which the foundation stone was laid in 2014, is located in a 45-acre complex on the outskirts of Hyderabad.
- ✓ China's Aerosun corporation was given the order in August 2015 and the installation took place in 2017-18, taking about 15 months.
- ✓ The 216-feet-tall statue is said to be the second tallest in a sitting position in the world.
- ✓ It is made of panchaloha (an alloy comprising five metals) – copper, silver, gold, zinc, and titanium – while copper comprises 80%
- ✓ The statue is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has floors devoted for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Sri Ramanujacharya
- ✓ The statue has been conceptualised by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram
- ✓ Saint Sriramanujacharya is associated with initiating social reforms and reviving Hinduism a thousand years back and inspiring Bhakti movements in the country
- ✓ The inauguration of the Statue of Equality is part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing 1000th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramanujacharya
- ✓ The saint was born in the year 1017 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu

- **The Centre - has placed a purchase order with Biological E for five crore doses of Covid vaccine Corbevax each costing Rs 145 excluding GST**
- ✓ Earlier, the government had earlier placed an order for 30 crore Corbevax doses on August 21 with the Hyderabad based Pharmaceutical company
- ✓ The government is yet to decide on which segment of beneficiaries this new vaccine would be administered.
- ✓ The vaccine can also be used for children vaccination aged between 12-15 years under the centre's immunization programme once the regulatory approvals are obtained
- ✓ Biological E has completed Corbevax trials in cohorts of 5-12 years and 12-18 years and is yet to submit the trial data to the DCGI.
- ✓ India's Drug Regulator approved India's first indigenously developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against Covid-19, Corbevax, for restricted use in emergency situation.
- ✓ Biological E is also conducting heterologous booster trials of the vaccine currently.
- ✓ At present, adolescents only in the 15-17 age group are covered under the government's vaccination drive with Covaxin
- ✓ The HLL Lifecare Limited, a public sector undertaking, has issued the supply order of Corbevax to Biological E.
- ✓ In June 2021, the government had released an advance of ₹1,500 crore to HLL Lifecare Ltd for procurement of Corbevax from Biological E.
- ✓ Corbevax is administered through an intramuscular route with two doses scheduled 28 days apart and is stored between 2 degrees Celsius to 8 degrees Celsius.
- **The Union government – has announced to develop Puducherry port in three phases at a cost of ₹304. 8 crore under the Sagarmala scheme to utilize it as a feeder port for Chennai port.**
- ✓ This was announced by Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal in a written reply to queries posed by Puducherry MP V Vaithilingam in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ As per the Union Minister, Chennai Port Trust and Puducherry Port Department signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2017 with the approval of the Union shipping ministry to utilize port in Puducherry as a feeder port to Chennai port.
- ✓ He further said a special container vessel did a trial run between Chennai port and Puducherry port in February 2018.
- ✓ The Minister announced capital dredging to a tune of 7. 3 lakh cubic metres would be done at Puducherry port and a container berth would be set up under the first phase at a cost of ₹75 crore.
- ✓ He said an e-tender was floated in July 2020 and work was awarded after obtaining mandatory environment clearance and coastal regulation zone clearances from the Union environment, forest and climate change ministry.

- ✓ The Union government has sanctioned ₹44 crore in March 2018 to take up the dredging work at Puducherry port.
- **The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana - has been declared as India's first “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECM) site.**
- ✓ This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on February 2

BIOPARK HAS 400 NATIVE TREE SPECIES Photos: Indranil Das

What is OECM? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other effective areas-based conservation measure (OECM) is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests ➤ OECMs are recognised rather than designated, ie they are existing management systems that already provide effective biodiversity conservation 			
How Aravali biopark came into being <table border="0"> <tr> <td> 2009 Architect Atal Kapoor identifies land for setting up a city forest 2011 NGO iamgurgaon takes up ecological restoration of the area which is owned by MCG ➤ 68 corporates, 50 schools and large number of people plant 1.5 lakh saplings of over 200 species 2015 IUCN study on </td> <td> the park calls it an 'emerging biodiversity' 2017 A survey by a JNU research student finds over 20 bird species in the park 2018 A researcher from DU finds eight amphibian species 2019 Count of native tree species in the park reaches 400 2021 MCG hands over maintenance of the park to Hero MotoCorp </td> </tr> </table>			2009 Architect Atal Kapoor identifies land for setting up a city forest 2011 NGO iamgurgaon takes up ecological restoration of the area which is owned by MCG ➤ 68 corporates, 50 schools and large number of people plant 1.5 lakh saplings of over 200 species 2015 IUCN study on
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- ✓ The proposal to declare Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site was sent by the National Biodiversity Authority to the IUCN in December 2020
- ✓ The OECM tag is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity
- ✓ The OECM areas were defined at the Convention on Biological Diversity that was held in 2018
- ✓ The Aravallis, one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, are considered the green lungs of Delhi-NCR, a crucial water recharge zone for the region
- ✓ As per a study, the Aravalli Biodiversity Park potentially supplies around 7.07% of the oxygen requirement for the Delhi-NCR.
- ✓ The Aravalli Biodiversity Park is spread across 390 acres and has semi-arid vegetation, with around 300 native plants, 101,000 trees, 43,000 shrubs, and several species of birds
- ✓ The park was transformed into a city forest from a 40-year-old mining site through the community efforts alongwith the help of the urban local body of Gurugram.

- ✓ The work started in the year 2010, when a citizens group called IAmGurgaon, wanted to do save the Aravallis and create a public space.
- ✓ In April last year, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram signed a memorandum of understanding with Hero MotoCorp Limited for the ecological restoration and conservation of the Aravalli Biodiversity Park till 2031, and formally handed over its management in July.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) - has become the first asteroid detection system to scan entire night sky to detect hazardous asteroids moving towards the Earth**



- ✓ The NASA-funded system is operated by the University of Hawaii's (UH) Institute for Astronomy
 - ✓ ATLAS became operational in 2017 and previously included two northern-hemisphere telescopes on Haleakalā and Maunaloa
 - ✓ To prevent the asteroid strikes from all directions, ATLAS has expanded its reach to southern hemisphere by including two new telescopes at South Africa's Sutherland Observing Station and Chile's El Sauce Observatory
 - ✓ With four telescopes, the system is capable to scan the entire night sky every 24 hours.
 - ✓ The UH first built the ATLAS telescopes under NASA's Near-Earth Objects Observations Program, and became operational in 2017
 - ✓ The ATLAS system has discovered 700 near-Earth asteroids and 66 comets so far and is specially designed to detect objects that come as close as 3,84,000 kilometers to the Earth
- **On February 2, India – signed a cooperation agreement to confirm its participation in 'Square Kilometre Array Observatory' (SKAO) project**



- ✓ The agreement signed to set up the world's largest radio telescope will be valid for one year
- ✓ The interim agreement was signed between TIFR – National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) and SKA council through video conferencing in the presence of officials from the Department of Atomic Energy.
- ✓ This move will facilitate India to make its first monetary contribution towards the construction phase of the SKA, which got underway last year.
- ✓ Along with hosting a Regional Data Centre, Indian scientists will be building SKA's Telescope Manager System.
- ✓ SKA will be built in Australia and South Africa and is headquartered in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Along with these countries, Italy, France, China, Switzerland and Canada are among the countries building SKAO, which is expected to be operational by the end of this decade

DEFENCE

- **On February 2, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Indian Army - have signed a three-year contract for the manufacture and supply of anti-tank guided missile Konkurs-M to the Indian Army**



- ✓ Konkurs-M is a second-generation, mechanised infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armoured vehicles
- ✓ The missile can be launched either from BMP-II tank or from ground launcher.
- ✓ It covers a range between 75 and 4,000 metre with a flight time of 19 seconds.
- ✓ Konkurs-M will be manufactured under license agreement with a Russian equipment manufacturer at a budget of Rs 3,131.82 crore
- ✓ BDL is also offering Konkurs-M missiles for export to friendly foreign countries.
- ✓ As a part of its global outreach, BDL is also offering Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, Nag, Milan-2T, and Amogha, in addition to Konkurs M, for export.

SPORTS

- **The International Olympic Committee - has approved a proposal to include surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics scheduled for July 21 to August 6, 2028.**



- ✓ These “three iconic West Coast sports” made their debuts at last year’s Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Boxing, modern pentathlon and weightlifting have not yet been included
- ✓ Breakdancing will debut at the 2024 Olympics at the request of the Paris organisers.
- ✓ The committee has decided to conduct 28 Olympic sports and 24 paralympic sports at the Los Angeles Olympics.
- ✓ This is the first summer Olympics to be held in the US since 1996
- ✓ This is the third time Los Angeles is hosting the Olympics, with London and Paris being the other two cities that have hosted the Games thrice
- ✓ In London, Olympics was held in 1908, 1948 and 2012, while in Paris the Olympics was held in 1900, 1924 and to be held in 2024.
- ✓ It is the ninth Olympics to be held in US and fourth to be held in the state of California.

- **The Union Government - has approved continuation of 'Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations' (NSFs) for the 15th Finance Commission cycle, 2021-22 to 2025-26, with an outlay of Rs. 1,575 crore**
- ✓ It is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and is the main source of funding for the preparation of national teams for all major national and international competitions
- ✓ These include the Olympic Games (2024), Para-Olympics (2024), Asian Games (2022 and 2026), Commonwealth Games (2022 and 2026) and other major international tournaments.
- ✓ The financial support extended by the Ministry through this Scheme will be used by National Sports Federations to conduct national coaching camps, procure sports equipment and provide training of international standards to athletes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Interfaith Harmony Week - February 1 to 7**



- ✓ The World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed annually by the United Nations to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.
- ✓ It was first proposed in 2010 by HM King Abdullah of Jordan.
- ✓ The World Interfaith Harmony Week was started to promote cultural peace and nonviolence, based on pioneering work of Common Word initiative, launched in 2007
- ✓ This initiative called for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in dialogue

