

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 23, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **A sub-inspector of police, Meena – became the first policewoman in the history of the state police force to open fire at a crime accused**



- ✓ On February 22, SI Meena shot at and injured a history sheeter who was trying to attack her with a knife
- ✓ SI Meena, a 2016-batch direct SI, is a native of Madurantakam
- ✓ She completed her training and served as a probationary SI in Chennai and was posted as a regular SI at the Secretariat Colony police station.
- ✓ Meena is now part of the special team that works under the direct supervision of Ayanavaram assistant commissioner Jawahar Peter, who had earlier shot a rowdy named Baba Suresh at the Kasimedu fishing harbour.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chaired the meeting of 41st edition of PRAGATI on February 22.**
- ✓ PRAGATI is the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.
- ✓ In the meeting, the PM has reviewed the progress of nine key infrastructure projects with a cumulative cost of more than Rs 41,500 crore spread across 13 states - Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand,

Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh.



- ✓ Among the nine projects, three projects were from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, two from the Ministry of Railways and one project each was from Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ✓ During the meeting, the PM advised the Ministries and State governments to use the PM GatiShakti portal for planning infrastructure projects.
- ✓ During the interaction, the PM also reviewed 'Mission Amrit Sarovar' and undertook real-time view of Amrit Sarovar (large pond) sites through drones at Kishanganj in Bihar and Botad in Gujarat
 - ✓ He emphasised on block level monitoring for the timely completion of the target of 50,000 Amrit Sarovars under the scheme.
 - ✓ So far 95,595 sites have been identified for such Sarovars and works have commenced at 59,592 sites, while 32,083 Amrit Sarovars have been completed till date.
 - ✓ The unique idea of Mission Amrit Sarovar' is to rejuvenate water bodies all across the country, which will help conserve water for the future.
 - ✓ Once the mission is completed, the expected increase in water holding capacity is going to be around 50 crore cubic metres, the estimated carbon sequestration will be about 32,000 tonnes per year and expected increase in ground water recharge is over 22 million cubic metres.
- ✓ During PRAGATI meetings, 328 projects having total cost Rs 15.82 lakh crore have been reviewed till now
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will address 12 post-budget webinars which will be held between the February 23 and March 11.**
- ✓ These webinars are being organised by various Ministries and Departments to build on the "Saptarishi" priorities outlined in the Union Budget 2023-24

- ✓ The webinars are being held virtually to ensure wide participation and will also be streamed live on the YouTube channel of the department of defence production
- ✓ They will be attended by concerned Union Ministers, key stakeholders from Government departments, Regulators, Academia, and Trade and Industry associations.
- ✓ The idea of Post Budget Webinars was conceptualised by the Prime Minister to bring together experts from the public and private sectors, academia, industry and practitioners on the field on a single platform
- ✓ The schedule of webinar begins with the topic of 'Green Growth', followed by 'Agriculture and Cooperatives, 'Harnessing Youth power Skilling and Education' on subsequent days
 - ✓ These webinars will also include topics on technology, reaching the last mile, urban development, tourism, infrastructure, financial sector, health and medical research, women empowerment and ends with Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM VIKAS).
- ✓ During union budget presentation, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined 'Saptarishi' priorities for the financial year 2023-24
 - ✓ The FM had listed Saptarishi (seven priorities) to guide the country through the Amrit Kaal, the 25-year journey towards its centenary as a modern nation.
 - ✓ The seven priorities are - Inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and the financial sector
- **On February 22, the Centre - directed all states and Union Territories to fix the minimum age for admission to Class I at six years, in alignment with the National Education Policy 2020**
- ✓ At present, the minimum age of admission is not uniform across the country.
 - ✓ For example, in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana the minimum age for admission to Class I is five years, while in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal, it is six years.
- ✓ One of the key components of the National Education Policy 2020 is the restructuring of the 10+2 system with that of the 5+3+3+4 system, bringing in early childhood education into formal education.
- ✓ As per the 5+3+3+4 system, the first stage (foundational) is for students between the age of three to eight (classes preschool/ anganwadi upto II).
- ✓ The second stage (preparatory) is for age group eight to 11, which is for Classes III to V.
- ✓ The third stage (middle school) for ages 11 to 14 covers Classes VI to VIII and last phase (secondary school) is for ages 14 to 18 for Classes IX to XII.
- ✓ In October 2022, the government launched the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for education of children aged 3-8 years, the first of the four NCFs.

- ✓ On February 20, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'Jaadui Pitara' — a learning material for foundational years containing contains playbooks, activity books, worksheets, toys, handbooks for teachers and trainers, flashcards, story cards, posters, puzzles, puppets, and children magazines.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Seattle - has become the first city in the US to bring in a legislation banning discrimination based on caste**
- ✓ The legislation was introduced in the Seattle City Council by Indian American council member Kshama Sawant (District 3 - Central Seattle) and it was passed with a 6-1 vote on February 21
- ✓ It prohibits “businesses from discriminating based on caste with respect to hiring, tenure, promotion, workplace conditions or wages.”
- ✓ The legislation will ban discrimination based on caste in places of public accommodation, such as hotels, public transportation, public restrooms or retail establishments.
- ✓ Rental housing leases, property sales and mortgage loans are also covered by the law.
- ✓ Hours ahead of the vote, Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal lent her support to the move.
- ✓ Over 1,67,000 people from South Asia live in Washington state, largely concentrated in the Greater Seattle area.
- ✓ India banned caste discrimination in 1948 and enshrined that policy in the Constitution in 1950.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On February 22, Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon - defended Israel's decision to hand over the strategic Haifa port to the Adani group**



- ✓ In January, the Adani group had acquired the strategic Israeli port of Haifa for \$1.2 billion.

- ✓ On the occasion of completion of 30 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and India, the Israeli envoy emphasised the importance of Adani's investment as 'strategic' and looked forward to more investments by the company in other sectors of Israel.
- ✓ The Port of Haifa is the second largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers and the biggest in shipping tourist cruise ships.
- ✓ In the last six years, Adani group has struck many critical partnerships with companies such as Elbit Systems, Israel Weapon Systems, and Israel Innovation Authority.
- ✓ In July 2022, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd in partnership with local chemicals and logistics group Gadot won an Israel government's tender to buy the Haifa Port, a major trade hub on Israel's Mediterranean coast, after outbidding Chinese and Turkish companies

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first three-day meeting of the G20 Culture Working Group - began at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh on February 22**



- ✓ The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar also participated in the event.
- ✓ Earlier, an exhibition named Readdress: Return of Treasures and the renovated museum of art and culture was inaugurated by the Union Minister
- ✓ He also inaugurated a specially curated exhibition of 26 repatriated artefacts including the 10th century stone sculpture of the 'Parrot Lady of Khajuraho'
- ✓ On the first day of the meeting, Padam Shri Nek Ram, known as the 'Millet Man' has been invited, to celebrate the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023
- ✓ 'Protection and restitution of cultural heritage' will be the theme for the first G20 culture track

- ✓ The theme of G20 this year is 'Vasudev Kutumbakam' - One Earth. One Family. One Future".
- ✓ Khajuraho is home to an exquisite group of temples -- part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

PERSONALITIES

- **Indian-American multi-millionaire healthcare and bio-tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy - has announced his bid for the 2024 US Presidential election**

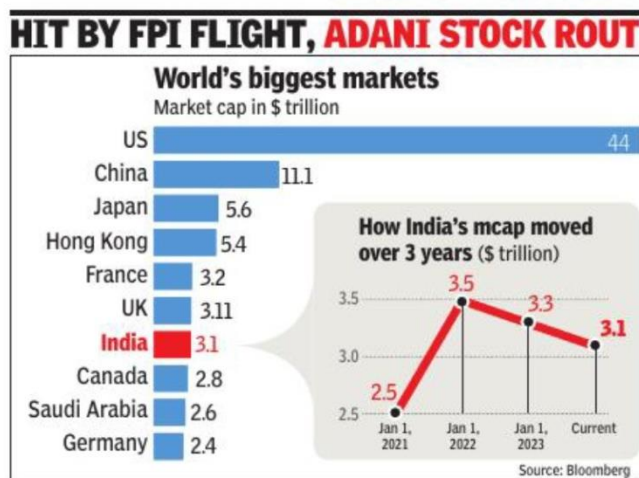


- ✓ Ramaswamy entered the presidential bid seeking the Republican nomination with a promise to “put merit back” and end dependence on China.
- ✓ He filed a statement of candidacy and created a presidential committee with the Federal Election Commission
- ✓ Vivek Ramaswamy joins the Republican field following ex-US President Donald Trump and former South Carolina governor and former ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley's presidential bid announcement
- ✓ Ramaswamy is the second Indian-American after Nikki Haley to enter the Republican presidential primary
- ✓ He is the fourth Indian-American to run for the White House, after Bobby Jindal in 2016 and Vice President Kamala Harris in 2020
- ✓ Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ramaswamy is a first-generation Indian-American whose parents immigrated from Palakkad, Kerala.
- ✓ His father, Ganapathy, an engineer, worked for General Electric, and his mother, Geetha, was a geriatric psychiatrist in Cincinnati.
- ✓ His brother, Shankar, is also a biotechnologist and co-founder and CEO of Kriya Therapeutics, a bio-tech firm.
- ✓ Ramaswamy’s wife, Apoorva Tewari, is an assistant professor and surgeon at the Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center.

- ✓ Ramaswamy finished his undergraduate studies, majoring in Biology from Harvard College in 2007, and later went to Yale Law School to pursue a Doctor of Jurisprudence
- ✓ His personal fortune, said to be in the region of \$500 million, is said to be built largely around Roivant Sciences, a pharmaceutical company that he founded in 2014.
- ✓ The Kerala-origin entrepreneur has developed medicines, including five drugs that became FDA-approved.
- ✓ In 2021, he stepped down as CEO of Roivant to begin a political journey
- ✓ Ramaswamy is the author of "Woke, Inc: Inside Corporate America's Social Justice Scam" and has been dubbed "the CEO of Anti-Woke Inc" by The New Yorker.
 - ✓ "Wokeism" is the promotion of liberal progressive ideology and policy as an expression of sensitivity to systemic injustices and prejudices
- ✓ In 2022, he co-founded Strive Asset Management, an asset management firm, with backing from billionaire investors including Peter Thiel and Bill Ackman.
- ✓ The next US presidential election is scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024.

ECONOMY

- **On February 22, the United Kingdom - has surpassed India as the sixth-largest country by market capitalisation**
- ✓ This is the first time in nine months that the UK took the spot of world's sixth-largest equity-market by value and India is now at the seventh spot
- ✓ Compared to India, a weak pound sterling is helping UK companies boost their exports and that, in turn, is leading to a surge in their stockprices.
- ✓ The Adani Group has accounted for more than 60% of the losses, with the group market capitalisation seeing an erosion of nearly \$145 billion year-to-date, following the Hindenburg report
- ✓ On January 24, a report released by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research alleged large-scale fraud and stock manipulation



- ✓ At close of trading on February 21, the UK had a market cap of \$3.11 trillion, about \$5 billion ahead of India's, as per Bloomberg data.
- ✓ The table is topped by US with a market cap of almost \$44 trillion, with China at the second spot with \$11.1 trillion.
- ✓ In March 2022, India had become the fifth most valued stock market, surpassing United Kingdom, along with Canada and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ This was India's first entry into the top five.
- ✓ On January 31, France occupied the fifth position and above France are the United States, China, Japan and Hong Kong.

SPORTS

- **Ace Indian shooter, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar - claimed the gold medal in the men's individual 50m rifle 3 positions competition at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt on February 22**



- ✓ This was India's sixth medal, which includes four gold and two bronze, as the country stands at the top of the medals tally.
 - ✓ The 22-year-old former World No. 1, Tomar, who had also won gold in the Changwon World Cup last year, won in the gold-medal contest to defeat Austria's Alexander Schmirli.
 - ✓ Among the other gold medal winners, World champion Rudranksh Patil bagged gold in the 10m air rifle event
 - ✓ Earlier, Indian 10m Air Rifle Mixed team of Narmada Nithin Raju and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil and 10m Air Pistol Mixed team of Rhythm Sangwan and Varun Tomar have bagged the gold medals earlier on February 21
 - ✓ India's Tilottama Sen had won a bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Rifle.
 - ✓ Junior World championships gold medallist Varun Tomar bagged the first bronze medal for the country in the 10m Air Pistol event on February 19, beating the compatriot Sarabjot Singh in a bronze medal shoot-off.
- **India's No. 2, GM Vidit Gujrathi - has defeated World Champion Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a competitive game on February 22**



- ✓ With this, Vidit became the fourth Indian to stun Norwegian chess wizard Magnus Carlsen, in a Pro Chess League online match for his maiden victory over the reigning world champion
- ✓ Playing for team Indian Yogis, Gujrathi capitalised on a mistake committed by world number one Carlsen, who missed a checkmate
- ✓ In the Pro Chess League match, the Indian team led by Gujrathi and comprising Vaishali, Raunak and Aronyak won against Carlsen, Aryan Tari, Razvan Preotu and Jennifer Yu to go into the final round
- ✓ The Yogis won on all four boards with Gujrathi leading the pack on the top board.
- ✓ Carlsen was playing for Canada Chessbrahs in the Pro Chess League, an online tournament for teams from all over the world.
- ✓ The event features 16 teams playing rapid games and has a \$150,000 prize fund.
- ✓ The 28-year-old Gujrathi thus joined the likes of fellow Indian GMs R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi to defeat Magnus Carlsen

