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1. Cabinet approves the extension of the term of the Twenty-second Law Commission of India (Feb. 22, 2023)

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the extension of the tenure of the **22nd Law Commission of India** which has been **extended till August 31, 2024**.

22nd Law Commission

- The Union ministry of Law and Justice constituted the **22nd Law Commission** on 7 November 2022 and appointed former Karnataka High court chief justice **Rituraj Awasthi** as the **chairperson** of the Law Commission.
- The **five member** 22nd Law Commission will have a term of **three years**.
- Justice **BS Chauhan** was the chairman of the **21st Law Commission** whose term expired in August 2018.

Other members

- Former Kerala High Court judge Justice **KT Sankaran, Prof. Anand Paliwal, Prof. DP Verma, Prof.(Dr) Raka Arya and M Karunanithi** have been appointed members of the Law Commission.

Law Commission of India

- Law commission is a **non-statutory body** which is set up by the **Union Ministry of Law and Justice** for suggesting reform in laws in India.
- Its recommendations are **not binding on the government**.
- The provision for the Law commission was made in the **Charter act 1833** and the first Law commission was set up in **1834** under the chairmanship of **Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay**.
- The **Indian Penal Code 1860** is based on the recommendation of the **Macaulay commission**.
- The First Law commission in Independent India was **set up in 1955** and **M.C Setalvad** who was also the first Attorney General of India was the chairman of the Law Commission.

2. Cabinet approves Air Services Agreement between India and Guyana (Feb. 22, 2023)

Union Cabinet on 22 February approved the signing of the **Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and Guyana**.

An overview of the news

- The Air Services Agreement will come into force after the **exchange of Diplomacy Notes**.
- The Diplomacy Notes shall confirm that both sides have completed the necessary internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement.
- The signing of the Air Services Agreement with Guyana will create a framework for the provision of air services between the two countries.
- The agreement will give a boost to the aviation market and aviation sector in India.
- To strengthen international air connectivity, India has so far signed air service agreements with many countries.
- India and Guyana are signatories to the Convention on **International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**.
- There is a significant Indian presence in Guyana and according to the 2012 census **Indians constitute about 40% of the population**.

What is an Air Services Agreement?

- Air Services Agreement (ASA) provides the **legal framework** for air operations between two countries.
- It is based on the sovereignty of the nations, the nationality of the carriers and the commercial opportunity for each side's designated airlines.
- Prior to this there was no Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Guyana.

About Guyana

- Prime Minister: **Mark Phillips**
- President: **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**
- Capital: **Georgetown**
- Currency : Guyanese dollar (G\$)

3. Nitin Gadkari lays Foundation Stone of the world's largest and unique Divyang Park (Feb. 22, 2023)

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** on 20 February laid the Foundation Stone of the **world's largest and unique Divyang Park - Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur**, Maharashtra.

An overview of the news

- This park is being developed keeping in mind the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi **to build an inclusive society.**
- Instead of sympathy, this park will show empathy, hence this park has been named **Anubhuti Divyang Park.**
- **In 2016**, the central government passed the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act** for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- This law gives the disabled the **right to live with dignity.**

About Anubhuti Inclusive Park

- This park is being built for disabled children and common citizens in **Pardi campus of Nagpur.**
- Its purpose is to give the message of **inclusion in the country and the whole world.**
- It is the **world's first inclusive disabled park.**
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- The park will have adapted facilities for all **21 types of disabilities**, including touch and smell gardens, hydrotherapy units, water therapy, independent rooms for mentally challenged children, etc.

4. BAFTA Awards for 2023 announced (Feb. 20, 2023)

The **76th British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA** (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Awards, were announced at an event held in **London's Royal Festival Hall** on 19 February.

An overview of the news

- A German anti-war drama **'All Quiet on the Western Front'**, a screen adaptation of the 1928 novel by **Erich Maria Remarque**, won the most, including Best Picture and Best Director, **with seven.**
- 'The Banshees of **Inisherin**' and **'Elvis'** both movies won four BAFTA awards.

BAFTA 2023 Winners List

Best film

- **"All Quiet on the Western Front" -WINNER**
- "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- "Everything Everywhere All At Once"

- “Elvis”
- “TÁR”

Outstanding British film

- “Aftersun”
- **“The Banshees of Inisherin” -WINNER**
- “Brian and Charles”
- “Empire of Light”
- “Good Luck to You, Leo Grande”
- “Living”
- “Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical”
- “See How They Run”
- “The Swimmers”
- “The Wonder”

Best documentary

- “All That Breathes”
- “All the Beauty and the Bloodshed”
- “Fire of Love”
- “Moonage Daydream”
- **“Navalny” *WINNER**

Best animated film

- **“Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio” *WINNER**
- “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On”
- “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish”
- “Turning Red”

Best lead actress

- Ana de Armas, “Blonde”
- **Cate Blanchett, “TÁR” *WINNER**
- Viola Davis, “The Woman King”

- Danielle Deadwyler, "Till"
- Emma Thompson, "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"
- Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All At Once"

Best lead actor

- **Austin Butler, "Elvis" *WINNER**
- Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Daryl McCormack, "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"
- Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"
- Bill Nighy, "Living"

5. Khajuraho Dance Festival begin in Madhya Pradesh (Feb. 20, 2023)

The **49th Khajuraho Dance Festival** began on February 20 in **Khajuraho**.

An overview of the news

- Madhya Pradesh Governor **Mangubhai Patel** inaugurated '**Khajuraho Dance Festival-2023**'. The festival will end on February 26.
- Madhya Pradesh State **Rupankar Art Award** will be given at the function and an exhibition of artefacts has also been organised at the venue.
- Under the Department of Culture, this festival is being organised with the joint efforts of **Ustad Alladin Khan Academy of Music and Arts, Department of Tourism, Archaeological Survey of India, World Dance Alliance and Chhatarpur District Administration.**
- The first meeting of the Culture Working Group under the chairmanship of India in G-20 is also being held in Khajuraho from 23 to 25 February.

Other festivals of Madhya Pradesh

- Lokrang Festival, Bhopal
- Akhil Bhartiya Kalidas Samaroh, Ujjain
- Bhagoria Haat Festival, West Nimar (Khargon) and Jhabua
- Ujjain Kumbh Mela, Ujjain
- Malwa Utsav, Indore & Ujjain

- Chethiyagiri Vihara Festival, Sanchi
- Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, Gwalior

6. Saurashtra beat Bengal by 9 wickets to bag second Ranji Trophy title (Feb. 19, 2023)

Saurashtra won the **Ranji Trophy 2022-23 title** by defeating **Bengal by 9 wickets** in the final match played on February 19, thanks to the superb bowling of team captain and left arm pacer **Jaydev Unadkat**.

An overview of the news

- Saurashtra won their **second Ranji Trophy** title at the **Eden Gardens in Kolkata**. Saurashtra won the Ranji Trophy title for the first time in **2019-20**.
- Saurashtra needed 14 runs to win, which they achieved at the loss of 1 wicket in 2.4 overs.
- This is the second title win of the Saurashtra team in the last three seasons.
- **Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya**, who were the heroes of Saurashtra's victory, together broke the back of Bengal's batting, and the team could only manage 241 runs in the second innings.
- Unadkat took 9 wickets, while Chetan Sakaria took 6 wickets.
- Saurashtra won the toss in the match and decided to bowl first.
- Bengal could score only 174 runs in the first innings while batting.
- Unadkat took three wickets while Chetan Sakaria also took three wickets. Chirag Jani and DA Jadeja got two wickets each.
- Saurashtra then took a huge lead over Bengal by scoring 404 runs in the first innings.
- The second innings was also poor for Bengal and the team could only manage 241 runs. In such a situation, he could get a slight lead of 11 runs over Saurashtra.
- Saurashtra captain **Unadkat** was adjudged **man of the match** for his nine-wicket haul in the match, while teammate **Arpit Vasavada** was adjudged **player of the Ranji season**.

Brief Scores

- **Bengal** - 174 and 241 in 70.4 overs (Manoj Tiwary 68, Anustup Majumdar 61; Jaydev Unadkat 6/85, Chetan Sakariya 3/76).
- **Saurashtra** - 404 and 14/1 in 2.4 overs.

Ranji Trophy Tournament

- The Ranji Trophy tournament has been played **since 1934**.
- The first match was played between **Madras and Mysore** at the Chepauk Ground from 4 November 1934.
- **Mumbai** has won this tournament 41 times.
- For the first time in 86 years, the 2020/21 season Ranji Trophy had to be cancelled due to Corona.
- Ranji Trophy is named after **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**.
- Number of teams- **37**
- Most runs - **Wasim Jaffer (10665)**
- Most wickets - **Rajinder Goyal (640)**

7. Ben Stokes breaks world record for smashing most sixes in Test cricket history (Feb. 19, 2023)

England Test captain **Ben Stokes** on 18 February became the player to hit the **most number of sixes in the history of Test cricket**, surpassing England coach and former New Zealand cricketer **Brendon McCullum** in the match against **New Zealand**.

An overview of the news

- Stokes holds the world record for hitting **two sixes** in the second innings of the first Test between **England and New Zealand at Mount Maunganui (New Zealand)**.
- Stokes played an innings of **31 runs in 33 balls**, which included three fours and two sixes.
- Wicket-keeper Tom Blundell stumped him off the bowling of all-rounder Michael Bracewell.
- In **90 Test matches**, Stokes scored a total of **5,652 runs** at an average of 36.00 with 109 sixes and 12 centuries and 28 fifties.
- His individual best score in Tests is **258**.
- McCullum has **107 sixes** in **101 Tests**. He scored **6,453 runs** at an average of 38.64. He has 12 centuries and 31 fifties in Tests with a best score of 302.

Batsman who hit most sixes in test cricket

- Australia's **Adam Gilchrist** is third after **Stokes (109)** and **McCullum (107)** to hit **100 sixes** in Test cricket.
- **Chris Gayle** of West Indies is **fourth** in the list with **98 sixes** and **Jacques Kallis** of South Africa is **fifth with 97 sixes**.

- India's **Virender Sehwag** is in **sixth place**, he has hit **91 sixes**. Sehwag is the Indian to hit the most sixes in Tests.

8. Qatar lifts ban on frozen seafood from India (Feb. 18, 2023)

Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) has said that **Qatar** partially lifted a ban imposed last year on the import of **frozen seafood** from India on 18 February.

An overview of the news

- The ban will continue on exports of **chilled seafood**, which accounts for about a third of the West Asian country's total seafood exports in 2021-22 with the worth of **Rs 143 crore**.
- Frozen seafood is stored at **minus 20 degrees**, while chilled seafood is stored at **3-4 degrees Celsius**.
- In the current financial year, India's seafood exports to the West Asian country stood at around **Rs 90 crore**, with prawns taking the number one spot.
- China** has also lifted the suspension of shipments from 99 Indian seafood processing and export units.
- Now seafood exports are expected to cross **USD 8 billion** in the current fiscal.

Why was the ban imposed?

- This ban was imposed in **November 2022**.
- Vibrio cholerae*, the bacteria that causes cholera infection, was reportedly detected in consignments exported from India to Qatar ahead of the FIFA World Cup. After this these food products were banned.

9. Khalistan Tiger Force and Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force declared as terrorist organisations (Feb. 18, 2023)

The central government on 17 February declared **Khalistan Tiger Force, and Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force** as **terrorist organisations** under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**.

An overview of the news

- Apart from this, Punjab resident **Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda**, the mastermind of the 2021 attack on the intelligence headquarters of Punjab Police, has been declared a **terrorist**.

- The government has so far designated **54 individuals** as terrorists and **44 organisations** as terrorist organisations.

Khalistan Tiger Force

- It came into existence in **2011** as an offshoot of terrorist organization **Babbar Khalsa International**.
- It is a banned organisation under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).
- It is a militant organization whose aim is to **revive militancy in Punjab**.
- This organisation is promoting various acts of terrorism including **targeted killings in Punjab**.
- Its agenda is the formation of a **separate state of Khalistan**.

Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF)

- It has been formed with cadres of terrorist organisations like **Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed**.
- It has been found involved in infiltration attempts, smuggling of narcotics and arms and carrying out terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It draws its cadres from **Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami** and various banned terrorist organisations.

Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda

- He hails from **Lahore** and is associated with the banned **Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)**, a terrorist-designated group.
- He is accused of masterminding the **attack on the intelligence headquarters of the Punjab Police in 2021**.
- He has direct links with Pakistan-based terrorist groups and is also involved in large-scale smuggling of drugs, arms, ammunition and militant hardware.
- He has been involved in various crimes like **murder, attempt to murder, contract killing, dacoity and extortion** in Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- He is the **54th person** to be declared a terrorist by the government.

10. AICTE and BPRD Jointly Launch KAVACH-2023 (Feb. 17, 2023)

A national level **hackathon KAVACH-2023** was launched on 16 February to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions to address India's 21st century **cyber security and cybercrime challenges**.

An overview of the news

- KAVACH-2023 is a one-of-a-kind national hackathon jointly developed by **AICTE, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.**
- It identifies innovative ideas and technological solutions to address **21st century cyber security and cybercrime challenges** faced by law enforcement agencies and common citizens.
- KAVACH-2023 will be organised in two phases.
- In the first phase, topics related to Fake News/Social Media, Dark Web, Women Safety, Phishing Detection, Video Analytics/CCTV, Obscene Content Detection, Spam Alerts, and Malware Analysis/Digital Forensics will be covered.