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1. JP Nadda launches book 'Modi: Shaping a Global order in flux' (Feb. 23, 2023)

BJP national president **J P Nadda** on 22 February launched a book "**Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux**" in Chanakypuri, Delhi.

An overview of the news

- In this book, an attempt has been made to tell how PM Modi has taken such decisions which have changed the image of India around the world.
- It is important to understand what was the image of India before Modi came to power.
- The book has been forwarded by Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**.
- The editors are **Sujan Chinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwala and Uttam Kumar Sinha**.

2. MEA's annual flagship event Asia Economic Dialogue begins in Pune (Feb. 23, 2023)

External Affairs Ministry's annual flagship event on Geoeconomics, **Asia Economic Dialogue** began on 23 February in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

An overview of the news

- It is being hosted in association with the **Pune International Center** from February 23-25.
- The main theme of the dialogue is '**Asia and the Emerging World Order**'.
- The dialogue will also discuss topics such as **Global Growth Prospects, How the Global South Will Shape the G20 Agenda and the Metaverse**.
- The inaugural session began with talks between External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, **H.E. Leonpo Namgye Tshering**, Minister of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan and **H.E. Ibrahim Ameer**, Minister of Finance of Maldives.
- More than 44 speakers from different countries including **Brazil, USA, UK, South Africa, Bhutan, Maldives, Switzerland, Singapore and Mexico** are participating in this dialogue.

Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)

- The **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)** is the External Affairs ministry's annual event and is hosted in collaboration with the Pune International Centre.
- It is the flagship **geo-economics conference**.

- The dialogue focuses on the dynamics of trade and finance in Asia and its neighbouring countries.

3. 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.

4. 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\$)

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. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. President of India inaugurates International Engineering and Technology Fair 2023 (Feb. 17, 2023)

President **Droupadi Murmu** on 16 February inaugurated the **International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF) 2023** in **New Delhi**.

An overview of the news

- This event is being organised from 16 to 18 February at **Pragati Maidan**.
- The International Engineering and Technology Fair is organised by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- The event is not only a celebration of India's growth story in engineering and manufacturing sectors, but also a testimony to collaboration with other countries in the best advanced technologies in the world.
- IETF-2023 covers **11 areas of emerging technologies** that will have a profound impact on the economy and society.
- IETF-2023 is a determined effort to showcase engineering and technologies that promote harmony between nature and science.

10. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants at Aonla and Phulpur in UP (Feb. 16, 2023)

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants** at **Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh** on 14 February.

An overview of the news

- Nano Urea will ensure the progress of the farmers in times to come, increasing their income.
- In this way it will change the future of Indian farmers.
- Nano Urea is the best green technology and provides a solution to pollution.
- It protects the soil and also increases the production and hence best for the farmers.
- **Nano DAP** has been approved by the expert committee of the government and it will soon replace DAP.

• Nano-DAP will greatly benefit farmers and will be available at half the cost of DAP.

What is Liquid Nano Urea (LNU)?

- Nano urea is a **liquid form of nitrogen** providing plant nutrient as a conventional alternative to urea.
- It has been developed in place of **conventional urea** and has the potential to reduce the requirement of conventional urea by at least **50 percent**.
- One **500 ml bottle contains 40,000 mg/l nitrogen**, which can provide nitrogen nutrients equivalent to one bag/sack of normal urea.
- The effectiveness of Nano Urea Liquid is more than **80%**.
- Its use has been found to increase the yield by about **8%**.
- Its aim is to reduce **farmers' dependence** on packaged urea.