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Current Affairs: 18-20.02.2022

FAITH releases India tourism vision document envisaging goals and benchmarks for tourism till 2035

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has released the **FAITH 2035 vision document** containing goals and an execution path for **making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035**. The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence. **FAITH is the policy federation of all the national associations** representing the complete tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India. **Nakul Anand is the chairman of FAITH.**

Government approves 'New India Literacy Programme' for Education of adults; Outlay-Rs.1037.90 crore

Ministry of Education has approved a new scheme named "New India Literacy Programme (□□ □□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□)" for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education. The scheme aims to align Adult Education with all aspects of National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.

Outlay: The total outlay of "New India Literacy Programme" is **Rs.1037.90 crore for the FYs 2022-27**. (which includes Central share of Rs.700 crore and State share of Rs.337.90 crore respectively)

Who will be covered: The scheme will cover **non-literates of the age of 15 years and above** in all state/UTs in the country.

Government has now replaced the term "Adult Education (□□□□□□ □□□□□□)" as 'Education for All' in the country.

Census data: As per Census 2011, the absolute number of non-literates of the country in 15 years and above age group is 25.76 crore (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore).

PM Narendra Modi delivers inaugural address at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit 2022

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at **World Sustainable Development Summit** via video conferencing on February 16, 2022.

The World Sustainable Development Summit is the annual flagship event of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.

The three day Summit will culminate on February 18, 2022.

The theme for World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 is '**Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**'.

Some key issues to be discussed at the Summit includes climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

US-Bangladesh to conduct joint air exercise 'Cope South 22'

The **air forces of Bangladesh and the United States** will conduct a joint tactical airlift exercise '**Cope South 22**' from February 20, 2022.

The six days exercise has been sponsored by **Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)**.

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The bilateral exercise will be held at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh. The goal of the exercise is bolstering bilateral ties between the two countries through tactical airlift sorties and subject-matter expert exchanges.

NPCI International partners with Gateway Payment Service and Manam Infotech to deploy UPI solution in Nepal

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with **Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd** and **Manam Infotech Private Limited** to deploy **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in Nepal. Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd is an authorized Payment System Operators in Nepal. The partnership aims to support interoperable real-time Person to person (P2P) and Merchant payment transactions (P2M) in Nepal. Nepal shall be the first country outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform driving the digitalization of cash transactions.

Twitter partners with Paytm to boost its 'Tips' feature in India

Twitter Inc has partnered with **Paytm's payment gateway** to improve the support for its **'Tips' feature in India**. What is **Tips feature of Twitter?**: using the **Tips** feature, users can send payments to their favourite content creators on twitter. **Tips** is available since November to **all Twitter users above 18 years** of age in India. It is available in Indian languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi and Tamil. With this partnership, **Twitter users will be able to use the payments facility of Paytm**, including its Paytm digital wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later service), debit and credit cards, and net banking.

Edelweiss Asset Management launches mobile app eInvest for investors

The **Edelweiss Asset Management** has launched a **mutual fund mobile app** named **eInvest**. **eInvest** is an easy-to-use app for investors to give them a smooth investing experience where they can perform all financial transactions and access their investment from anywhere at any time with speed and ease.

Haryana Men's Team & Kerala Women's Team wins Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22

Haryana defeated the Indian Railway 3-0, to win **Men's** title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22. Similarly, in **women's** category, **Kerala defeated the Indian Railway 3-1**, to lift the trophy. The **70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22** was held at the **Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar** from February 07 to 13, 2022.

Chelsea beat Palmeiras to win 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Champions

English club Chelsea defeated **Brazilian club Palmeiras**, 2-1, to win the **2021 FIFA Club World Cup** final, held on February 12, 2022. Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time. The decisive goal was scored by Kai Havertz with 3 minute of extra time to go. The final was held at **Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi**.

Noted Kannada writer and poet Chennaveera Kanavi passes away

Channaveera Kanavi, an iconic poet and writer in the **Kannada language**, has passed away. He was 93.

He was often referred to as ‘Samanvaya Kavi’ (Poet of Reconciliation).

Kanavi received the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981** for his work *Jeeva Dhvani* (Poetry).

Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Policy

Government had launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India’s 75th Independence Day (i.e. 15th August, 2021). Now the Ministry of Power has notified the Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Policy.

Target of Government: This is in line with Government’s target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030.

India’s first water taxi service inaugurated to connect South Mumbai with Navi Mumbai

The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off **India’s first water taxi service in Maharashtra** on February 17, 2022, from the newly constructed Belapur Jetty. The **Belapur Jetty was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** same day. Both the inaugurations were held virtually. The Water Taxi service will **connect the twin cities of Navi Mumbai to mainland Mumbai**. This will be for the first time that South Mumbai to Navi Mumbai will be connected by fast and reliable transport services which will help in reducing the travelling time.

Home Minister Amit Shah launches ‘Smart Card Arms License’ and ‘Shastra App’ of Delhi Police

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched ‘**Smart Card Arms License**’ and ‘**Shastra App**’ of the **Delhi Police** on February 16, 2022, on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police Licensing Unit has introduced ‘Smart Card Arms License’, to replace the existing bulky arms license booklet. With this Delhi Police has become the **first police force in the country to introduce such smart card service**. The Smart Card Arms License is easy to carry with inherent security features. It will be printed in house after verification of data of arms license holders. The card is also integrated with the ‘e-Beat book’ of Delhi Police through ‘Shastra mobile app’ for effective policing. The Shastra app will help beat officers in identifying the credentials of arms license holders anytime during day-to-day random checking.

Career Counselling Workshop ‘Pramarsh 2022’ launched in Bikaner

The **Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal** launched ‘**Pramarsh 2022**’, a mega career counselling workshop on February 15, 2022, for the students of the **Bikaner District region in Rajasthan**. More than one lakh students from thousands of private & government schools of Bikaner district and mainly from rural areas, participated in this workshop. *It is first such incidence in India that more than 1 lakh Students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.*

India’s GDP projected at 8.8% in FY22: SBI Ecowrap report

The State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, **Ecowrap**, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for **FY22 (2021-22) to 8.8 percent**. Earlier this was estimated at 9.3 percent. The report projects the GDP to grow at 5.8 percent in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2021-2022 (October-December).

Global trade rises 25% in 2021 to hit record high of \$28.5 trillion : UNCTAD

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The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released its annual **Global Trade Update 2022** on 17 February 2022, which shows that the

value of **global trade, both in goods and services**, reached a record level of **\$28.5 trillion in 2021**.

This is an **increase of 25% compared to 2020** and 13% higher compared to 2019.

The main factors behind the positive trend for trade in 2021 was increase in commodity prices, subsiding pandemic restrictions and a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages. However, the UNCTAD report indicates that trade growth will slow during the first quarter of 2022. The factors responsible for slowdown may include slower than expected economic growth, continued supply chain disruptions, rising concerns about debt sustainability, transition towards a greener global economy, trade agreements and trade regionalisation.

G Ashok Kumar appointed as India's first national maritime security coordinator (NMSC)

Former Vice Chief of Navy, **Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as **India's first national maritime security coordinator (NMSC)** on February 16, 2022. NMSC will be part of the National Security Council Secretariat, and will report directly to **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**. NMSC will have no forces under him.

As an NMSC, Kumar will be the nodal point for all issues and aspects related to maritime security; coordinate between all the agencies involved in maritime security and maritime civil issues; work to improve the country's blue economy needs among other things.

World Pangolin Day 2022: 19 February

The **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated on the "**Third Saturday of February**" every year.

In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **19 February 2022**. It marks the **11th edition** of the event. The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts. Pangolins are one of the most heavily trafficked mammals in the illegal wildlife trade. Their numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.

Football legend Surajit Sengupta passes away at 71

The former India **footballer Surajit Sengupta**, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. He was 71. At club level, Sengupta had been associated with Kolkata's three big clubs, **Mohun Bagan (1972-1973, 1981-1983), East Bengal (1974-1979) and Mohammedan Sporting (1980)**. He was part of the Indian national team that won a bronze medal in the **1970 Asian Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand**.

Government sets up National Dam Safety Authority

The Parliament of India had passed the **Dam Safety Act 2021** on December 8, 2021, which seeks to provide an **institutional architecture for dam safety** in the country. Following this, the Central Government has established an Authority, which shall be known as the **National Dam Safety Authority**, to discharge the powers and functions of the National Authority under the Dam Safety Act. The Authority came into force with effect from **February 18, 2022**. The headquarter of the Authority will be located in the national capital region, and have four regional offices.

PM Modi inaugurates 550-tonne capacity Gobardhan (Bio-CNG) Plant in Indore

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a **550-tonne capacity “Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant”** in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on February 19, 2022, through video conferencing. This is the **biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia**. It has been set up at a cost of **Rs 150 crore**. The gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation.

It is proposed that such Gobar Dhan Bio CNG plants will be established in 75 big Municipal bodies in coming two years.

Mumbai to host International Olympic Committee session in 2023

Mumbai, India will host the International Olympic Committee session in 2023. The IOC Session for 2023 will be held at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**. The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi. In 2022, the IOC session was held in Beijing, China. **What is IOC Session:** it is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC i.e 101 voting members and 45 honorary members. **Nita Ambani is the representative of India on this committee.**

Dollar-millionaire households in India increased by 11% in 2021: Hurun India Wealth Report

According to the latest **Hurun India Wealth Report 2021**, the number of **dollar-millionaire households in India increased by 11 percent to 4,58,000 households in 2021**, as compared to 2020, Household having a **net worth of at least INR 7 crore (\$1 million)**, is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household. The report has estimated that the number of dollar-millionaire households in the country shall increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households in 2026. Meanwhile, in the **list of cities with most millionaires, Mumbai has topped with 20,300 millionaires households**. Mumbai is followed by Delhi with 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500 millionaire households, respectively. The report is based on survey on 350 Indian ‘millionaires’ (individuals with a personal wealth of \$1 million).

India-UAE inks free trade agreement (FTA) to raise bilateral trade to \$100 billion in 5 years

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit on February 18, 2022, with the aim to further strengthen the bilateral relations in all sectors. A **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** was signed between Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister of Economy of UAE, H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri. The CEPA, is a **free trade agreement (FTA)** between the two countries to **increase the bilateral trade from the current USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion in the next 5 years**. This CEPA is India’s first bilateral trade agreement in the **MENA (Middle East and North Africa)** region.

SBI, BoB, PNB, UBI, Canara Bank and BoM acquires stake in IDRCL

State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) have announced their subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).

The stakes acquired by these banks is given in the table below. The Banks will further reduce their stake in IDRCL that is also given in the table below:

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Name of Bank	Stake acquired	Reduces stake by March 31, 2022
State Bank of India (SBI)	12.30%	5%
Bank of Baroda (BoB)	12.30%	9.90%
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	11.18%	5%
Union Bank of India (UBI)	12.30%	10%
Canara Bank	14.90%	5%
Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)	6.21%	4%

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public FIs will hold a maximum of 49% in stake of IDRCL while the remaining stake will be with private sector lenders.

JPMorgan becomes the First Bank Into the Metaverse

JPMorgan (largest bank in the U.S.) announced that it has become the **first bank to enter in the metaverse**. It has opened a lounge in Decentraland i.e. a virtual world based on blockchain technology. The lounge has been named as Onyx lounge and has an image of CEO of JPMorgan, **Jamie Dimon**.

India Observed 7th Soil Health Card Day on 19 February 2022

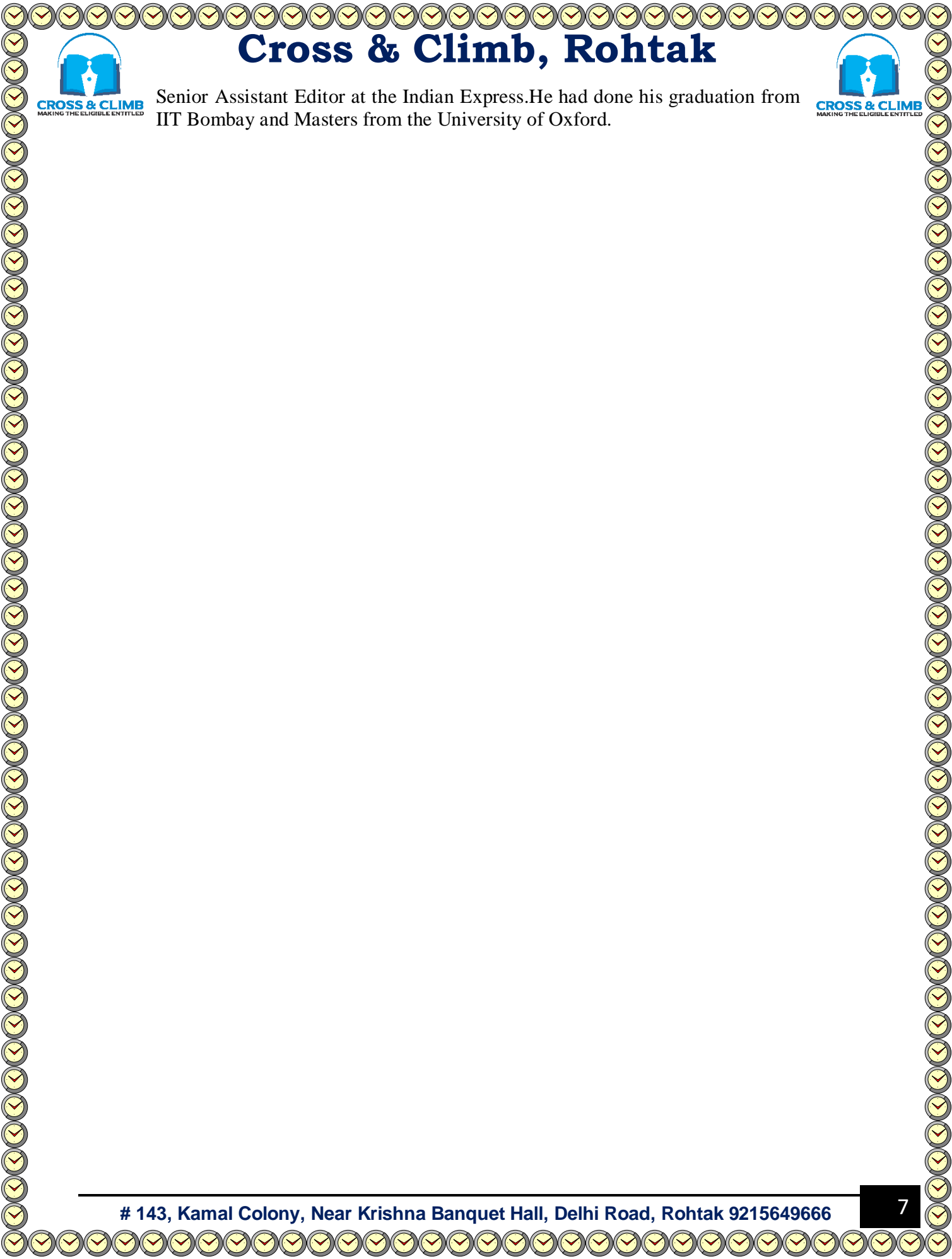
In India, 19 February is marked as the **Soil Health Card Day** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on **19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan**. 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme. Purpose of the scheme is to issue soil health cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in soil. The scheme ensures additional income to farmers by an increase in yields and it also promotes sustainable farming.

World Day of Social Justice: 20 February

The **World Day of Social Justice** is observed on **February 20** every year since 2009. The day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2007 under the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic. **2022 Theme:** "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".

Senior journalist Ravish Tiwari passes away

Senior journalist Ravish Tiwari has passed away. He was the **national bureau chief of Indian Express**. He was popular for his Political news reporting. Before this, he had also served as Senior Assistant Editor at Economic Times, Associate Editor at India Today and



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Senior Assistant Editor at the Indian Express. He had done his graduation from IIT Bombay and Masters from the University of Oxford.