

Current Affairs:04.02.2022

Two new Indian sites added to Ramsar list as ‘wetlands of International importance’

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2022 on 2nd February, Government of India added two new Ramsar sites. These are: Khijadiya wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. With this, the total network of Ramsar sites in India has increased to 49, covering an area of 10,93,636 hectares, the highest in South Asia. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance as per UNESCO’s 1971 Convention on Wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran.

IUCN designates Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram as India’s first OECM site

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 02, 2022. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity. The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

IISc. commissions one of India’s most powerful supercomputers ‘Param Pravega’

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India. It is also the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution. Param Pravega has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion, or 10¹⁵ operations per second). The supercomputer has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). It has been developed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and implemented by C-DAC and IISc.

Three-day annual Torgya Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

In Arunachal Pradesh, the celebration of the annual Torgya Festival started on January 30, 2022. The three-day traditional festival is exclusively held in Tawang Monastery of Arunachal Pradesh by the Monpa community. The objective of the festival is to welcome a healthy and prosperous new year and ward off any kind of external aggression and protect people from natural disasters.

RBI cancels the licence of Independence Co-operative Bank Limited, Nashik, Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nashik, Maharashtra w.e.f February 03, 2022 evening. Reason for license cancellation: The major reason for the cancellation of the license by RBI is that bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. This means that it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Exim Bank extends USD 500 mn Line of Credit to Sri Lanka

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The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a line of credit (LoC) of USD 500 million to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Government of India

on February 03, 2022. The fund will be used by the Island nation for the purchase of petroleum products. With the signing of this new LOC agreement, the total LOC extended by Exim Bank to Sri Lanka till date has reached 10, taking the total value of LOCs extended to USD 2.18 billion.

SBI inks MoU with Ministry of Culture for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at Red Fort

The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi. The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India. The ABCD project will be implemented by IGNCA, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture through ministry's NCF fund. SBI will sponsor the project under CSR with a contribution of Rs. 10 crore for the implementation of ABCD Project.

US regains top spot as India's trade partner in 2021

The US was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion. The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second. India's list of top ten trading partners also includes the UAE, Saudi Arab, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iraq, Indonesia and South Korea.

Centre appoints Ravi Mittal as new Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Ravi Mittal, the former secretary, Department of Sports, has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the notification issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs on February 02, 2022. Ravi Mittal is a 1986 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre. He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.

Former RBI Guv Urjit Patel steps down as Independent Director of Britannia Industries Limited

The former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has tendered his resignation from the post of non-executive and independent director of Britannia Industries Limited with effect from January 31, 2022. The reason behind stepping down is attendant time constraint, due to his full-time work assignment at AIIB, starting from February 01, 2022. It must be noted that Mr Patel has been appointed as vice president at the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), for investment operations in South Asia, effective from February 01, 2022.

- He was appointed on Britannia board in March 2021 for a period of five years.

World Cancer Day 2022: 04 February

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The World Cancer Day is observed every year globally on 4th February by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The day aims to raise awareness and education about cancer, and encourage governments and individuals across the world to take action against the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease. World Cancer Day 2022 theme: 'Close the Care Gap'

International Day of Human Fraternity: 04 February

The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on 4th February. The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare 4 February as International Day of Human Fraternity on 21 December 2020. The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance; and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.