



CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ | 05 FEBRUARY, 2022 | ≡

1. DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT

India announced a diplomatic boycott of the games just ahead of the opening ceremony.

About:-

- It simply means these countries will not send official government delegations to Beijing during the Games.
- *The decision came after Chinese media reports identified Qi Fabao, a PLA regiment commander who received military honours for the Galwan clashes, where he was injured, as one of about 1,200 runners bearing the torch at a relay in Beijing.*
- In December, the United States had announced a diplomatic boycott of the event.
- The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the Netherlands, among others, followed the US's lead and made a similar decision.
- So far, no athlete has withdrawn from the Beijing Games, and India will continue to be represented by just one athlete, alpine skier Arif Khan.

2. CANCER MOONSHOT PROJECT

Biden-Harris Administration Sets Goal of Reducing Cancer Death Rate by at least 50 Percent Over the Next 25 Years, and Improving the Experience of Living with and Surviving Cancer.

About:

- The announcement has re-initiated the 'cancer moonshot' programme, launched first in 2016 by Biden, when he was the Vice President, during the final year of the Barack Obama administration.

- The programme includes various cancer-related projects such as improving immunotherapy, mapping tumours, engaging with patients, addressing drug resistance, early detection and expanding cancer research.
- “Moonshot” evokes the space race first triggered by president John F Kennedy in 1962 during the Cold War, when he took up the challenge of sending a man on the Moon before the Russians could.
- His declaration led to the Apollo 11 mission, resulting in the first footsteps taken on the Moon in 1969.

GHOST ARMY

US President Joe Biden on February 2, 2022 signed into law a bill titled, “Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act”, essentially providing recognition to the 'Ghost Army', a tactical deception unit deployed by the US during World War II.

About:

- In 1944, this unit was tasked with a mission to put on a show for the German troops in an attempt to deceive them and manipulate their decisions.
- Their deception tactics involved using inflatable dummy tanks, trucks and sound effects. The heaviest weapon in their possession was a 0.50 caliber machine gun.
- Seventy-seven years since this mission was undertaken, there are just nine surviving veterans of the Ghost Army scattered across the US.
- The existence of the 'Ghost Army' was unknown for about 50 years after it was formed in January 1944. The unit had a “strange mission”, to keep enemy troops in the dark about the number and location of American troops.
- Its existence was declassified in 1996.

4. WETLANDS

On the eve of the World Wetlands Day, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands designated Khijadia Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira

Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as wetlands of international importance.

About:-

- In India, according to the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), wetlands are spread over 1,52,600 square kilometres (sq km) which is 4.63 per cent of the total geographical area of the country.
- Of the 1,52,600 sq km, inland-natural wetlands account for 43.4% and coastal-natural wetlands 24.3%. Rivers/streams occupy 52,600 sq km, reservoirs/barrages 24,800 sq km, inter-tidal mudflats 24,100 sq km, tanks/ponds 13,100 sq km and lake/ponds 7300 sq km.
- India has 19 types of wetlands. In state-wise distribution of wetlands, Gujarat is at the top with 34,700 sq km (17.56 percent of total geographical area of the state), or 22.7 percent of total wetlands areas of the country thanks to a long coastline.
- It is followed by Andhra Pradesh (14,500 sq km), Uttar Pradesh (12,400 sq km) and West Bengal (11,100 sq km).

5. COPPER-BASED NANOPARTICLE-COATED ANTIVIRAL FACE MASK

A team of Indian Scientists in collaboration with an industry partner have developed a self-disinfecting 'Copper-based Nanoparticle-coated Antiviral Face Mask to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

About:

- The mask exhibits high performance against the COVID 19 virus as well as several other viral and bacterial infections, is biodegradable, highly breathable and washable.
- It has been developed by Scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-

CCMB) and Resil Chemicals, a Bengaluru based company.

- It has been developed under the DST sponsored Nano-Mission project, to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. CHAURI CHAURA INCIDENT

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has remembered the heroes of our freedom struggle on completion of hundred years of Chauri Chaura incident.

About:

- The Chauri Chaura incident took place on 4 February 1922 at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Provinces (modern-day Uttar Pradesh) in British India, when a large group of protesters participating in the non-cooperation movement, were fired upon by the police.
- In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants.
- Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-cooperation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

7. NROL-87 Mission

About:-

- It is the first NRO mission that involved rocket landing. Rocket landing is also called vertical landing. It was launched from the Vandenberg Space Force base located in California. The NROL-87 is a US reconnaissance satellite.
- NROL-87 was launched by SpaceX. Under the mission, the company recently launched a spy satellite for the US military. The satellite was carried by Falcon rocket.
- This is the second of the three planned launches under the mission.
- Much information of the NRO fleet is never leaked out.
- This is because these satellites are used for military purposes.

