

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Indian-American Neal Mohan appointed new CEO of YouTube

- Neal Mohan, an Indian-American, is all set to become the next chief executive officer (CEO) of YouTube, replacing Susan Wojcicki who has announced that she is stepping down from her role.
- Wojcicki spent nine years as the head of the global online video-sharing and social media platform.
- He will join a growing list of Indian-origin CEOs at the helm of US-based global giants, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai.
- Mohan was appointed chief product officer at YouTube in 2015. He focused on building YouTube Shorts, Music and subscription offerings in the role.
- Mohan has also worked with Microsoft and sits on the board of Stitch Fix and genomics and Biotechnology Company “23andMe”.

## ❖ Chief Justices Appointed To 4 High Courts

- Four judges, including two who will retire later this month, were on Sunday appointed as chief justices of high courts.
- Justice Sonia Giridhar Gokani, senior-most judge of the Gujarat High Court, was appointed its chief justice.
- Once she takes oath, she will be the only woman chief justice of a high court.
- India has 25 high courts.
- At the same time, a notification has been issued to appoint Justice Sandeep Mehta of Rajasthan High Court as Chief Justice in Gauhati High Court, Justice Jaswant Singh of Odisha

High Court as Tripura High Court and Judge Justice N Kotishwar Singh of Gauhati High Court as Chief Justice of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

➤ Justice Jaswant Singh is due to retire on February 22.

### ❖ **CA Aniket Sunil Talati elected as ICAI President**

➤ The Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) elected its new president and vice-president for the term 2023-24.

➤ Aniket Sunil Talati has been elected as the president of ICAI and Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as vice president.

➤ Aniket Sunil Talati will serve in this role until the end of the term in 2024.

➤ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), founded by an Act of Parliament in 1949, has established itself as a world-class institution dedicated to upholding the values of transparency, accountability, and integrity.

➤ ICAI is the world's second largest accounting body, with over 3.60 lakh members and over 7.80 lakh students.

➤ The ICAI is advancing its agenda of inclusive growth and adding glory to the CA profession through its 5 Regional Councils, 167 Branches, 44 Overseas Chapters, and 34 Representative Offices.

### ❖ **Angela Merkel receives UNESCO peace prize for welcoming refugees in Germany**

➤ Angela Merkel, former chancellor of Germany, has received the UNESCO peace prize award for welcoming more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers to Germany in 2015 and 2016.

➤ All jury members, including jury chair and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege, chose Merkel for the honor after being impressed by her courageous decision to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea in 2015.

➤ In the 2005 national elections, Merkel became the first female Chancellor of Germany, and is one of the leading figures of the European Union.

- On 14 March 2014, she became Chancellor of Germany for the fourth and last time.
- The UNESCO Peace Prize is named after the former President of Ivory Coast.
- Officially it is called the Felix Houphouet-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize.
- The award was established by a resolution supported by 120 countries.

### ❖ **Union Home Minister Amit Shah presents President's Colour to Haryana Police**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to Haryana Police in recognition of its exceptional service, at the Haryana Police Academy at Madhuban.
- The President's Colour is the highest honour given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation.
- The President had approved the award for Haryana Police.
- A replica of the flag presented to the unit can be worn as an insignia by all officers and ranks of the force on their uniform.
- At first, Uttar Pradesh Police received the award in 1952 from then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Later in 1954, the Delhi Police received the award from former president Rajendra Prasad. Maharashtra Police received the award in 1961 while Jammu and Kashmir Police received it in 2003.
- Himachal Pradesh Police received the award in 2021 while Assam Police in 2022.

### ❖ **102 artists felicitated with 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar'**

- The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy presented the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKYP) 2019, 2020 and 2021 in New Delhi to 102 artists of India who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of performing arts.
- The award is given to outstanding young artists below the age of 40 years.
- Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Dr. Sandhya Purecha presided over the event.

- Last year, then vice president M Venkaiah Naidu handed over the awards for the year 2018.
- The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952.

### ❖ Egyptian President bestows Global Best M-GOV Awards on IIT Indore students

- Students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, India, won AED 1 million by winning the gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, were awarded the prestigious medal by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.
- These students were the creators of the 'Blockbill' app. Blockbill is a blockchain-based receipt generation app that generates digital receipts for all of its users' transactions.
- The "M-Gov Award" and the "GovTech Award" are annual awards organized by the UAE government as part of the World Government Summit.
- World Government Summit 2023 was held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments" at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 13 -15 February 2023.

### ❖ Subhash Chandran's Samudrashila gets Akbar Kakkattil Award

- Writer Subhash Chandran's novel Samudrashila has been chosen for the Akbar Kakkattil Award instituted by a trust in the memory of the short story writer and novelist from Kozhikode.
- The novel was selected by a three-member jury from among the literary works published in the last five years.
- The award consisting of a purse of Rs 50,000 and a sculpture will be presented to Mr. Subhash Chandran by writer M. Mukundan.
- This novel also won the M. Sukumaran Memorial Literary Award for the year 2021.
- Akbar Kakkattil was an Indian short-story writer and novelist from Kerala state and has received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award twice.
- Some Recent Awards list:

- a) FIH President's Award 2023 – V Karthikeyan Pandian (Odisha)
- b) First Asian to bag Oscar nomination for Best Actress – Michelle Yeoh (Film – Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- c) Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2023 – Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) & Lunglei Fire Station (LFS)
- d) Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. Prabha Atre
- e) Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2022 – Harish Damodaran

❖ **PM Modi to inaugurate national Aadi Mahotsav on Feb 16 in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the national Aadi Mahotsav on 16th February, 2023 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- This 15-day festival is being organised at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- The Theme of the event “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture, Cuisine and Commerce”.
- The theme represents the basic ethos of tribal life.
- One thousand tribal artisans and artists from 28 states and union territories will participate in the festival.
- Aadi Mahotsav is a national tribal festival and a joint initiative of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- It was started in the year 2017.
- The main objective of this festival is to acquaint people with the rich and diverse crafts and culture of tribal communities at one place.

## ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's biggest air show Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated Asia's largest aero show, Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru.
- The 14th edition of the event will display indigenous equipment and technologies to forge partnerships with foreign companies.
- The theme of the five-day event is 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities'.
- 98 countries are participating in the event and MoUs worth Rs 75,000 crore are expected to be signed during the event.
- The five-day event will conclude on 17th February.
- The February 13th to 15th will be business days, while 16th & 17th have been set as public days to allow people to witness the show.
- Organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in a total area of around 35,000 sqm, the event, the biggest-ever till date, is likely to witness the participation of 98 countries.
- The Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 countries and 73 CEOs of global and Indian OEMs are expected to attend the event.
- Eight hundred and nine (809) defence companies, including MSMEs and start-ups, will showcase the advancement in niche technologies and the growth in aerospace and defence sector.

## ❖ Union Cabinet approves 'Vibrant Villages Programme' for northern borders

- The Union Cabinet has approved the centrally-sponsored "Vibrant Villages Programme" for financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 4,800 crore.
- Out of financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore 2500 crore rupees will be used for roads.
- This decision also aims to encourage people to stay in their native locations in border areas, reversing outmigration from these regions and contributing to improved border security.

- 663 villages will be included in the initiative in the first phase.
- Gram Panchayats will assist the district administration in developing vibrant village action plans and 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.

#### ❖ **Four pilgrim centres in Karnataka selected under PRASHAD Scheme**

- The Union government has identified four pilgrim centers for development under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme in Karnataka.
- Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru, Sri Madhwa Vana in Udupi district, Pappanash temple in Bidar district, and Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple in Saundatti in Belagavi district have been selected under the scheme.
- The heritage sites of Hampi and Mysuru have already been selected under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- The PRASAD scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2014-2015 under the Ministry of Tourism. The full form of the PRASAD scheme is the 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive'.
- The PRASAD scheme aims to develop pilgrimage sites in a prioritized, planned, and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- The Swadesh Darshan scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.

#### ❖ **Financial Literacy Week (FLW) started by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from February 13**

- Financial Literacy Week (FLW) is being organized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from February 13 to February 17, 2023.
- This year, the theme of FLW is "Good Financial Behaviour - Your Saviour."

- The theme is aligned with the overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025, which aims to create awareness and sustain the interest of the general public by creating financial resilience.
- In this, the focus will be on creating awareness about savings, planning and budgeting and judicious use of digital financial services.
- A centralized mass media campaign will be launched by the Reserve Bank of India during the month of February 2023 to disseminate financial awareness messages.
- Banks have also been advised to disseminate information and create awareness among their customers.

### ❖ **Mohammad Shahabuddin elected President of Bangladesh**

- Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter, was elected unopposed as Bangladesh's 22nd President.
- According to the country's Chief Election Commission, 74-year-old Chuppu will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
- The tenure of incumbent Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh, will end on April 23, and according to the Constitution, he cannot hold a third term.
- Senior Awami League leader and seven-time lawmaker Hamid was elected Bangladesh president in the last two elections.
- He was sworn in for his second term on April 24, 2018.
- Although the president is the head of state in Bangladesh, he/she does not have any executive powers. It is rather a ceremonial post.

### ❖ **Saudi Arabia to send its First Female Astronaut into Space**

- Saudi Arabia will send its first ever woman astronaut on a space mission later this year.
- Rayyana Barnawi will join Ali Al-Qarni on a 10-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS).



- Another fellow Emirati, Sultan Al-Neyadi will also visit the space station at the end of February 2023.
- The crew will be launched to the ISS by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- With this, Saudi Arabia is following the footsteps of UAE which became the the first Arab country to send one of its citizens into space in 2019.
- For Saudi Arabia, this is not the first foray into space. In 1985, Saudi royal Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz took part in a US-organized space mission, becoming the first Arab Muslim to travel into space.
- Saudi Arabia also set up its space program in 2018.

#### ❖ **Nikos Christodoulides elected as next President of Cyprus**

- Former Cyprus Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides has been elected as the eighth President.
- He was appointed Government Spokesperson in 2014 and Foreign Minister in 2018.

#### ❖ **Indian Army Gets 'World's First' Fully Operational SWARM Drone System**

- New Space Research, a Bengaluru-based start-up has delivered SWARM drones to Indian Army, which makes the Army the first major armed force in the world to operationalise these high-density SWARM drones.
- SWARM Drones are a group of autonomous UAVs which engage with each other using radio signals, to plan and complete various mission objectives using advanced AI algorithms.
- The IAF will also induct operational swarming UAS in the near future.

#### ❖ **India's First Waste-To-Hydrogen Plant to be set up in Pune**

- The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at more than Rs 430 crore.

- The plant will be built by sustainable solutions provider The Green Billions Ltd (TGBL), which has signed a 30-year agreement with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).
- Variate Pune Waste to Energy Private Ltd will be managing and utilising the municipal waste of 350 tonnes per day (TPD) for generating hydrogen for 30 years.
- This waste will comprise biodegradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous waste.
- The first 10 tonne reactor will be installed by November 2023 and the target to complete the entire plant is November 2024.

### ❖ **India-Japan joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian'**

- The fourth edition of the India-Japan joint training exercise Dharma Guardian conducted at Camp Imazu in the Shiga province of Japan from February 17 to March 2.
- This will be the 4th edition of the Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between India and Japan.
- Exercise Dharma Guardian will strengthen bilateral ties and the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force.
- The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.
- Exercise Dharma Guardian is an annual training event that has been conducted in India since 2018. The 3rd edition of Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' was held at Foreign Training Node, Belgaum from February 27, 2022 to March 10, 2022.

### ❖ **Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar appointed new Army Vice Chief**

- The Indian Army has appointed Lt General MV Suchindra Kumar as the new Army Vice Chief as the present officer holding the charge has been shifted to South Western Army Command as Army Commander.
- Lt Gen BS Raju, who was so far holding the Army Vice Chief's post, has been shifted to South Western Army Command where he would be succeeding Lt Gen AS Bhinder who is superannuating on February 28.

➤ Before being appointed as the Army Vice Chief, Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar served as the deputy chief of Army Staff (strategy).

➤ He has been a part of various important assignments including the White Knight Corps in Jammu and Kashmir.

### ❖ **Velocity launches India's first ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot**

➤ Homegrown financial technology firm Velocity has launched India's first AI chatbot integrated with OpenAI's ChatGPT, called "Lexi".

➤ This chatbot is designed to provide assistance to e-Commerce founders with business insights in a simplified manner.

➤ The integration of ChatGPT with Velocity Insights empowers eCommerce founders by providing them with AI-powered business insights in a conversational manner, freeing up time for critical business functions.

➤ Velocity describes Insights as the country's largest e-commerce analytics platform.

➤ Chat GPT has human-like answers and this feature unlocks tremendous growth which encouraged Google to create its own AI chatbot, Bard.

➤ Microsoft recently partners with ChatGPT's parent company OpenAI to introduce a new version of Bing that has a chat option.

### ❖ **First bird festival in Sundarbans celebrated**

➤ The first-ever festival was organised by the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) division of West Bengal Forest Department, where six teams visited different areas inside the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.

➤ Birders, wildlife enthusiasts and forest officials have sighted 145 different bird species during the first Sundarban Bird Festival.

➤ The Sundarbans is located on the delta of the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers in the Bay of Bengal.

➤ This Biosphere Reserve includes Sundarban Tiger Reserve, Sundarban National Park (core area), Halliday Island and Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuaries with Sajnakhali Wildlife Sanctuary forming its buffer area.

➤ It is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

#### ❖ **Asian Water Bird Census conducted in the 'Saman Bird sanctuary'**

➤ Asian Water Bird Census conducted in the "Saman Bird sanctuary" revealed that there has been a decline in the number of migratory bird species from North Asia and Central Asia.

➤ The Saman Bird Sanctuary in the Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain.

➤ It is designated as Ramasar wetland in 2019.

➤ The Sanctuary regularly provides refuge to over 50,000 waterbirds.

➤ Spread in an area of 500 hectare, the Saman Bird Sanctuary is a unique sanctuary located in the Mainpuri district includes several smaller wetlands - ideal habitat for water birds.

#### ❖ **India star Shubman Gill named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January**

➤ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the ICC Player of the Month awards for January 2023.

➤ India opener Shubman Gill has won the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month' for January.

➤ He has been voted ahead of New Zealand's Devon Conway and compatriot Mohammed Siraj.

➤ This is the first time that Gill has won the ICC Player of the Moth award following another fine series of performances in ODI cricket.

➤ While in women's category England's Grace Scrivens became the youngest recipient of the ICC Women's Player of the Month award after starring in the first-ever ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

### ❖ Ladakh to host India's first frozen-lake marathon at Pangong Tso

- The world-famous Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh, will host the first-ever frozen lake marathon on February 20 at an altitude of roughly 13,862 feet.
- The 21-kilometre marathon is India's first of its kind. The marathon, which will occur at a height of 13,862 feet, will be the first of its kind to ever take place in the globe at this altitude.
- The marathon is the brainchild of the Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh (ASFL), who have nicknamed it "The Last Run".
- Spread along the border of India and China, the 700-square metre Pangong Lake records a temperature of minus 30 degrees Celsius during the winters, freezing the saltwater lake.
- The 21-kilometre marathon, with Lukung as its starting point, will end at Maan village.
- The event is being undertaken jointly by the Indian army, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to implement a "proper action plan" for the event.

### ❖ Real Madrid beat Al Hilal to win record fifth Club World Cup

- Real Madrid has won the Club World Cup for a record-extending fifth time after beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3 in the final in Rabat, Morocco.
- Vinicius Junior scored twice and helped Karim Benzema with a third, while Federico Valverde added two more for the European champions
- Madrid last won the tournament in 2018. It also lifted the trophy in 2014, 2016 and 2017.
- Madrid also won three Intercontinental Cups in 1960, 1998 and 2002.
- The FIFA Club World Cup is an international men's association football competition organised by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the sport's global governing body.
- The competition was first contested in 2000 as the FIFA Club World Championship.

## ❖ Astana Hosts 10th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships

- The 10th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships took place in the Kazakh capital on Feb. 10-12. The tournament brought together approximately 300 athletes from 30 countries who competed in 26 disciplines.
- The Asian Indoor Track and Field Championship was held for the first time in the CIS countries. Sixty-nine athletes represented Kazakhstan at the games.
- Following the results of three days of competition, the first place in the unofficial standings was taken by the Japanese team. Athletes from Japan won six gold, five silver and four bronze medals.
- Kazakh athletes lost quite a bit to Japanese athletes and won six gold and three silver and one bronze medals each.
- The athletes from Qatar took third place with two gold, four silver and four bronze medals.
- Fourth, fifth and sixth places were distributed between the athletes from China (2-2-6), Uzbekistan (2-1-1) and India (1-6-1).

## ❖ Eoin Morgan announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Former England captain Eoin Morgan has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Dublin-born Morgan made his ODI debut aged 16 with Ireland before he was called up by England in 2009.
- Morgan played 16 Tests, 248 ODIs and 115 T20Is between 2006 and 2022. He scored 7701 ODI runs and 2458 T20I runs. He also has 700 runs in 16 Tests.
- Morgan had retired from international cricket in July last year
- Morgan captained England in 126 ODIs and 72 T20s, registering 118 wins as skipper across the two formats.
- Morgan's last appearance came for the Paarl Royals in the semi-final of the recently concluded SA20 League.

## ❖ USA, Mexico and Canada qualified for FIFA World Cup 2026

- For the first time three countries will host the FIFA World Cup 2026 together.
- The three nations are set to host the 2026 edition of the tournament with an expanded field of 48 teams.
- The tournament is set to expand from 32 teams to 48 in 2026.
- The FIFA World Cup 2022, which was the most recent edition of the tournament, saw a total of 32 teams.
- The three nations will be dividing their games amongst themselves, with eleven stadiums in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada.

## ❖ Deepti Sharma becomes first Indian to complete 100 T20I wickets

- Deepti Sharma has made history by becoming the first Indian bowler to reach the milestone of 100 wickets in T20Is.
- She has taken 100 wickets in 89 T20Is, surpassing Poonam Yadav's 98 wickets in 72 games.
- Among the Indian men's team, Yuzvendra Chahal is on top of the tree with 91 wickets from 75 matches. Bhuvneshwar Kumar is second in the list with 90 wickets from 87 matches.

## ❖ Asian Games gold medallist and Olympian Tulsidas Balaram passes away

- India's football legend Tulsidas Balaram passed away at the age of 85 after a prolonged illness.
- Balaram is known for being a part of one of India's most glorious striking trios along with Chuni Goswami and PK Banerjee in the 1950s and '60s.
- He was one of the key architects of India's historic 1962 Asian Games gold medal triumph and was also a member of the Indian team that participated in the 1960 Rome Olympics and 1956 Melbourne Olympics.
- He was a recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1962.