Weekly Current Affairs PDF February 17 to February 22, 2020

Current Affairs PDF- February 22, 2020

NATIONAL NEWS

Department of Telecommunications launches '5G Hackathon':
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the ‘5G Hackathon’ in association with the government of India, academia and industry takeholders.
- The aim of 5G Hackathon is shortlisting India's focused cutting edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G products and solutions.
- The 5G technology provides quantum leap over 4G in terms of speed, peak data rate, latency, spectrum efficiency, and connection density. The Hackathon will convert innovating ideas into products and solutions in different verticals and develop India specific use cases around 5G.
- The 5G Hackathon is open to developers, students, start-ups, SMEs, academic institutions and registered companies in India and Non-resident Indians (NRIs). All Stakeholders can participate as individuals or as a team to present use cases for the 5G network in the Indian context.

Swachh Bharat Mission II phase to cost Rs 52,000 crore, gets cabinet nod:
- The Centre has approved the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), which will be implemented on a mission mode between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- An estimated budget of Rs 52,497 crore has been allocated for the project, to be shared between the centre and the state.
- The Phase II will focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM).
- Fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States will be respectively as given below:
  - 90:10 for North-Eastern States and Himalayan States and UT of J&K
  - 60:40 for other States
  - 100:0 for other Union Territories

Union Cabinet Approves Constitution of 22nd Law Commission of India:
- The Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three years, from its date of official constitution.
- Role and Responsibility of the Law Commission: Undertake research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations.
BANKING AND ECONOMICS

RBI Approves Appointment of Sunil Gurbaxani as MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank:
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sunil Gurbaxani as Managing Director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.
- Sunil Gurbaxani will be appointed for a period of three years from the date of taking charge. Currently Gurbaxani is working with Axis Bank.

SUMMITS AND MOU

HDFC Bank, Mastercard & SAP concur associate for T&E Tech:
- HDFC Bank, Mastercard and SAP Concur have joined hands for spending management services for the corporate sector.
- HDFC Bank will offer a corporate credit card for business travellers, providing a one-stop solution for payment and expense management during business trips.
- The card is supported by Mastercard. SAP Concur is a travel, expense, and invoice management solutions provider.
- The corporate credit card will enable the seamless integration of all business-related to spend into SAP Concur offerings, enhancing the employee experience, increasing visibility, saving money, and improving corporate efficiency.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019:
- Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director, Biocon, has been named as the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2019 on 19 February 2020, at the 21st edition of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year India awards.
- Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 4–6 June 2020.

SPORTS

Ross Taylor becomes first player to play 100 matches in all three formats:
- Veteran New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor today became the first player in the world to play 100 matches in all three formats of cricket.
- The landmark achievement came as he took the field against India in the opening Test at Basin Reserve in Wellington. The ongoing match is also his 100th Test.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS
Former IAS officers Bhaskar Khulbe, Amarjeet Sinha appointed advisors to PM:
- Retired IAS officers Bhaskar Khulbe and Amarjeet Sinha have been appointed as Advisors to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the rank and scale of Secretary.

RANKING

India ranks 35th in 2019 WEFFI list:
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) published Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019. India jumped five ranks and secured 35th rank in the list.
- Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019:
  - WEFFI ranked countries that are based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education.
  - It analyzed the education system from the perspective of skill-based education in areas like problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, creativity and entrepreneurship, and digital and technical skills.

Current Affairs PDF- February 21, 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pakistan will remain on the FATF Grey list till June 2020:
- The decision was taken by the anti-money laundering watchdog after the conclusion of the February 16-21 group meetings and plenary in Paris.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in October decided to keep Pakistan on its Grey List for failure to curb funnelling of funds to terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and others.

What is the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- The FATF is, therefore, a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- The headquarters of FATF is in Paris, France.
FATF was founded in July 1989.
NATIONAL NEWS

Centre releases Rs 19,950 cr as GST compensation to states, UTs:
- The Central Government has released 19,950 crore rupees as GST compensation to states. The amount was released to states.
- With this release of GST compensation, the Central Government has released a total of over 1.20 lakh crore rupees towards GST compensation to the states during current fiscal.

Fourth Anniversary of ShyamaPrasad MukherjiRurban Mission to be observed on 21st feb:
- On 21st February 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Mission with the vision to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.
- The Mission aims at transforming these Rurban clusters by stimulating local economic development, enhancing basic services and creating well planned Rurban clusters. This will lead to the holistic development of the region and encourage integrated and inclusive rural development.
- Under the mission, 300 Rurban clusters are envisaged to be developed in a time-bound manner.

IMPORTANT:
Development: Narendra Singh Tomar Union Minister of Rural. Manipur: India’s tallest pier bridge build by Northeast Frontier Railway.
The Northeast Frontier Railway Construction Organisation has built India’s tallest railway pier bridge 100 m tall equivalent to a 33-storey building, across Makruriver in the Tamenglong district of Manipur. The Rs 283.5-crore bridge with a span of 555 m is part of the 111-km Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge line. It has 47 tunnels, the longest being 10.28 km. A bridge pier is a type of structure that extends to the ground below or into the water. It is used to support bridge superstructure and transfer the loads to the foundation. The bridge piers can be constructed to be substantially attractive and strong in order to withstand both vertical and horizontal loads.

IMPORTANT:
Capital of Manipur: Imphal; Governor of Manipur: NajmaHeptulla. Chief Minister of Manipur: N. Biren Singh.

Lithium reserve found near Bengaluru:
- The Researchers of India’s Atomic Energy Commission have found lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in Mandya, Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lithium is a rare metal used for manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.
- India currently imports all its lithium needs and lithium batteries worth $1.2 billion for the year 2019 from $384 million in 2017.
- These reserves will be useful to promote clean-energy vehicles in India and the Government has a plan to implement $1.4 billion to make India a manufacturing hub for
electric vehicles.
- India has set up KhanijBidesh India Limited to source and acquire mines in Argentina (Buenos Aires), Bolivia (Sucre) and Chile (Santiago).

About Karnataka
Capital: Bengaluru
Chief Minister: Yediyurappa
Governor: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

BANKING AND ECONOMICS

India needs to invest USD 109 billion to halve its road accident fatalities in next decade: World Bank:
- India needs to invest an estimated extra USD 109 billion in road safety over the next decade to halve its crash fatalities, the World Bank stated in a report released on a day when at least 35 people were killed in four separate accidents in the country.
- The bank stated such an investment will bring economic benefits equivalent annually to 7 per cent of the GDP.
- The report titled “Delivering Road Safety in India” was released at the ‘Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Mumbai.

RANKING

IISc ranks 16th among top 100 universities of emerging economies:
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has ranked 16th among the top 100 universities of emerging economies.
- Indian universities had a good performance year within the emerging economies of the world as a record 11 made it to the top 100 Times Higher Education’s (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2020.

SPORTS

3th IPL 2020:
- BCCI has announced the schedule for the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League 2020. The tournament is set to commence on March 29 with a game between the four-time and defending champions Mumbai and Chennai at the Wankhede Stadium.
- The final is set to be played on May 24 as the cash-rich league will span for a duration of 57 days this year.

Teams for IPL 2020
Chennai Super Kings
Delhi Capitals
Kings XI Punjab

https://www.toprankers.com/subscription-plans
Kolkata Knight Riders
Mumbai Indians
Rajasthan Royals
Royal Challengers Bangalore
Sunrisers Hyderabad

IMPORTANT:
BCCI President: Sourav Ganguly;
Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Sanjay Kothari: appointed as new Central Vigilance Commissioner:
- Sanjay Kothari has been selected as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner by a high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He is presently serving as the Secretary to the President.
- The Central Vigilance Commission is an anti-corruption watchdog with autonomous status.
- The panel also decided by majority the appointment of Suresh Patel as Vigilance Commissioner and Anita Pandove as Information Commissioner.

IMPORTANT:
Central Vigilance Commission formed: February 1964.
Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GRSE delivers the 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, INS Kavaratti:
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., (GRSE), a leading Warship builder and Miniratna Category 1 Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence delivered Yard 3020 INS Kavaratti, to the Indian Navy.
- The ship is the 104th Warship built and delivered by GRSE since its inception in 1960 and is the Last in the Series of 04 Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes (ASWC) under the Project 28.
- The first three ships of the series, INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt & INS Kiltan were delivered earlier and now form an integral part of Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy. The P28 Class of ships strengthens the Indian Defence System and is the shining Armor in the “Make in India” programme.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

‘Bharat 2020’, ‘India 2020’ Reference annuals released:
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released the reference Annual Bharat 2020 & India 2020 in New Delhi. E-version of the yearbooks were
also released on this occasion.

- The books carry exhaustive and comprehensive information about the country and the activities, progress and achievements of various Central Government Ministries, Departments and Organisations during the year. Publications Division of the Information and Broadcasting ministry compiles the Reference Annual every year.

OBITUARY

Former FICCI president V L Dutt passes away:
- Former Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) president V L Dutt passed away. He headed FICCI in 1991-92. He was the chairman of the India Vietnam Joint Business Council of FICCI.
- He graduated from the Business Institute of Management, London. He served as the chairman of The KCP Group of companies.

Computer scientist, Larry Tesler passes away:
- Larry Tesler, the computer scientist who introduced the cut, copy and paste commands passed away. The scientist was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1945, and worked in the genesis stage of computers in the 1960s, aiming to make them more accessible and intuitive.
- In 1973, Tesler joined Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) and this is where he developed to cut, copy and paste. These concepts were instrumental in the development of text editors and early computer operating systems.
- Tesler worked for blue-chip firms including Apple, Amazon and Yahoo. He appropriately began his Silicon Valley career at photocopying company Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center (Parc) before being recruited by Apple’s founder, Steve Jobs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

21 February - International Mother Language Day:
- International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21 February worldwide to aware of the diversity of the language and its variety.
- This day promotes the awareness of language and cultural diversity across the world. On 17 November, 1999, it was first announced by UNESCO.

Current Affairs PDF - February 20, 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

“Bezos Earth Fund” : to combat climate change launched by Jeff Bezos:
- Through this fund, Jeff Bezos has committed to contribute $10 billion to help preserve and
protect the natural world against the climate change.

- The Bezos Earth Fund will fund the scientists, activists, NGOs to save Earth to tackle the issue of climate change.

Key points:
- CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos.
- Amazon was established on 5th July 1994.
- Headquarters: Washington, USA.

**Nepal’s 70th National Democracy Day:**

- Nepal celebrates the National Democracy Day every year on Falgun 7 to commemorate the attainment of democracy after the abolition of the 104-year long autocratic Rana Regime.
- In 2007 BikramSambat, on this day, democracy was established in the Himalayan nation ending over a century old autocratic Rana regime.
- President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.
- Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu; Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Delhi’s IGI Airport becomes single-use plastic free airport:**

- The Delhi International Airport Ltd has declared “Indira Gandhi International Airport” of Delhi as India’s first single-use plastic-free airport.
- The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development has certified Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) as single-use plastic-free airport.

**Kala Kumbh exhibition, New Delhi : Organized by Ministry of Textiles:**

- The Ministry of Textiles organized “Kala Kumbh” exhibition in New Delhi. It is an exhibition to promote Geographical Indication (GI) craft and heritage of India.
- The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai. The exhibitions are sponsored by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
- The GI tag is used on handicrafts which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country). As of August 2019, 178 GI handicraft products were registered from all over India.
- Union Minister of Textiles: SmritiZubinIrani.

**Cabinet approves formation of non-statutory body for a term of three years:**

- The government constitutes a 22nd law commission as per the requirement.
- It was originally formed in 1955. The commission is reorganized for three years. The term of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31, 2018. The Law Commission is a non-statutory body.
Responsibilities of 22nd Law Commission:
It will identify laws that are no longer needed or are irrelevant and can be repealed immediately.
The 22nd Law Commission will examine the existing laws and suggest ways for reforms. It will also suggest the necessary laws to implement the Directive Principles mentioned in the Preamble of the Constitution.
It will take all necessary measures to use law and legal processes in the service of poor people.
The law commission will revise the laws of general importance to simplify them and remove anomalies, ambiguities, and inequities.

Central Consumer Protection Authority to be set up by Govt by first week of April:
• Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has stated the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be set up by the first week of April this year.
• The CCPA to be set up under Consumer Protection Act 2019, will address issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and impose penalties for selling spurious and adulterated products.

Phase two of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen approved:
• Union Cabinet has approved the 2nd Phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen till 2024-25.
• The program will work towards ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet.
• The 2nd phase of the mission will be implemented in a mission mode with a total estimated budgeted financial implication of 52 thousand 497 crore rupees.
• The 2nd phase of the mission will focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts:
• Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts was held in New Delhi.
• The symposium was chaired by Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani.
• Senior officers of the Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Textiles, representatives of Export Promotion Council (EPCs), buying offices and buying agents participated in the symposium.
• They participated in the symposium to discuss the business opportunities emerging in view of the present scenario of ‘VIRUS’ in China.
• The symposium was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

BS-VI Fuel: India To Switch To World’s Cleanest Petrol, Diesel From April 1:
India will switch to the world’s cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1 as it leapfrogs straight to Euro-VI emission compliant fuels from Euro-IV grades now.

This has been achieved in just three years and not seen in any of the large economies around the globe.

India will join the select league of nations using petrol and diesel containing just 10 parts per million of sulphur as it looks to cut vehicular emissions that are said to be one of the reasons for the choking pollution in major cities.

State-owned oil refineries spent about 35,000 crore rupees to upgrade plants that could produce ultra-low sulphur BS-VI has a sulphur content of just 10 ppm and emission standards are as good as CNG.

**BANKING, ECONOMICS AND MOU’S**

**SEZs continue to take lead in expanding exports:**
- The Special Economic Zones, SEZ continue to take the lead in expanding the exports for the country.
- Even in the midst of a volatile global economy, SEZs in India have shown resilience and have achieved 100 billion dollar worth of exports so far.
- Sectors that saw healthy growth in this financial year include gems and jewelry, trading and Logistics, leather and footwear, non-conventional energy, textiles and garments.
- Petrochemicals constitute a major segment of SEZ exports, however, growth was muted in this segment this year which may be attributed to the softening of global crude prices.
- There are 241 SEZs operational in the country.

**MSME loan: Gujarat govt partners with SBI to facilitate MSME:**
- The Gujarat government signed an MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) to facilitate approval of loans to entrepreneurs in the MSME sector with ease and within a short time-frame.
- As per the MoU, the top public sector lender will provide working capital to entrepreneurs seeking to start new micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) within a short time-frame after providing theoretical approval within 15 days of making an application.
- The MoU was signed between principal secretary M K Das and SBI Ahmedabad circle general manager Ramesh Kumar Agarwal.
- The SBI decided to help MSME entrepreneurs in Gujarat looking at their high recovery rate.

About State Bank of India (SBI):
- Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar.
- Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Former name – Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian; With you all the way; Purely Banking Nothing Else;

[https://www.toprankers.com/subscription-plans](https://www.toprankers.com/subscription-plans)
The Nation Banks on Us.

SPORTS

India will host AFC Women’s Asian Cup in 2022:
- India has been selected to host the 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup.
- This was announced by the Women’s Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 19 February 2020.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

NrityaGopal Das elected as the president of Ram Mandir Trust:
- MahantNrityaGopal Das was elected as the president of the Ram JanmabhoomiTeerthaKshetra Trust.
- ChampatRai would be the general secretary of the trust.
- The first meeting of the Ram Mandir Trust to oversee the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya was held in New Delhi.
- The meeting also decided that Nripendra Mishra, former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister NarendraModi, will head a committee to make decisions regarding the actual construction of the temple.

RANKING

India Ranks 77th on Sustainability Index and 131st in Child Flourishing Index rankings: UN report:
- India has been ranked at 77th position in the Sustainability Index 2020 and 131st on the Flourishing Index 2020, according to a UN-backed report.
- The report released on 19 February 2020 commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal.
- The Sustainability Index 2020 takes into account per capita carbon emissions and ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives. It ranks countries on excess carbon emissions compared with the 2030 target.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day of Social Justice observed:
- The World Social Justice Day is celebrated on February 20 every year. It aims to face the problem of poverty, unemployment, and abandonment. This year’s theme is - Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice.
- This day highlights that gender equality, social security and the rights of migrants are essential for social justice.
United Nation believes that social justice can be ensured only when people do not face problems due to gender, age, race, religion or culture.

Current Affairs PDF- February 19, 2020

NATIONAL NEWS

Indian pharma& biotech industry expected to grow to 100 billion dollars by 2025:
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industries Piyush Goyal has stated that the Indian pharma and biotech industry is expected to grow to 100 billion dollars by 2025 from the current size of about 40 billion dollars.
- He predicted an annual growth rate of 10 per cent despite the global slow down and the recent virus.

Govt to achieve 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education by 2030, says HRD Minister:
- Union Government has set an ambitious target to achieve 50 per cent Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education by 2030 to equip its working population with employable skills.
- Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank stated this at the 33rd Convocation Ceremony of Indira Gandhi National Open University, IGNOU in New Delhi.

Govt to facilitate doubling of milk processing capacity by 2025:
- Union Government will facilitate doubling of milk processing capacity from over 53 million tonne to 108 million tonne by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying stated, the government is continuously working towards increasing milk productivity through genetic improvement and reduction of input cost.
- In India, milk production is growing by 4 per cent during the last five years and has increased from over 146 million tonne in 2014-15 to over 187 million Tonne in 2018-19.

UP becomes first state to enforce Performance Regulation Act for power department:
- Uttar Pradesh has enforced Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department. It is to provide timely and hassle-free service to the consumers.
- The consumers would now get financial compensation for delay in solving their complaints by the department. Around 2 crore 87 lakh people are likely to be benefitted from the new law.

State of India’s Birds 2020 Report released:

https://www.toprankers.com/subscription-plans
The recently released “State of India’s Birds 2020” Report categorises 101 species of birds for High Conservation Concern. The report assessed over 850 birds and revealed that almost all the bird species are on a decline.
The report was released during the 13th COP Convention on the ‘Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals’ that was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

CDS Gen Bipin Rawat announces plan to create Peninsula Command:
- Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat stated there are plans to create a Peninsula Command with Navy’s Eastern and Western Command under it.
- General Rawat stated India is looking at setting up two to five theatre commands. Air Defence command will be rolled out by beginning of next year and peninsula command will be rolled out soon.

BANKING AND ECONOMICS

SEBI decides to permit the use of regulatory sandbox:
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to permit the use of regulatory sandbox, a system that will allow live testing of new products, services and business models by market players on select customers. The decision was taken at SEBI’s board meeting held in
- The proposed ‘regulatory sandbox’ is intended to serve as a testing ground for new business models and technologies that benefit investors, Indian markets and the economy at large.

IOC to invest Rs 500 crore for Karnataka unit:
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government under which the firm will invest `500 crore to set up petroleum products receiving, storage and distribution terminal at Chitradurga in Karnataka.
- It will be set up in an area of 120 acres in the district. The MoU was signed during ‘Invest Karnataka’, conference at Hubballi.

SUMMIT AND MOU

Odisha MSME Dept inked MoU with HDFC Bank to boost startups:
- The Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department of government of Odisha has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Bank Limited.
- Objective: to provide smart banking solutions to Startups recognised by the Startup Odisha and will also extend incubation and acceleration support to all Startups, banking with them.
HDFC:
Establishment– 1994
Digital Assistant– Eva
Managing Director– Aditya Puri
Head Office– Mumbai, Maharashtra

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Australia appoints Barry O’Farrell as the new high commissioner to India:
- Australia has appointed former New South Wales premier Barry O’Farrell as the next high commissioner to India.
- O’Farrell will succeed Harinder Sidhu who has been in the office since 2016.

Afghanistan: Ashraf Ghani secures 2nd term as President:
- In Afghanistan, independent Election Commission announced that Ashraf Ghani has won a second term as President of the country. However, his closest opponent Abdullah Abdullah has refused to recognize the results and declared himself winner potentially endangering peace negotiations with the Taliban.

RANKING

Hindi is third most spoken language in the world:
- According to the 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue, Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world with 615 million speakers. The Ethnologue stated that English has the most number of speakers (1132 million) while Chinese Mandarin secured second place with 1117 million speakers.
- The report highlights that Bangla is the seventh most spoken language of the world as it has 228 million speakers in the world. Ethnologue provides an annual database of living languages of the world.
- It covers 7111 living languages across the globe. Apart from that, it also collects data on languages that have gone out of use in the recent past.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Soil Health Card Day being observed on 19th Feb:
- The Soil Health Card Day is being observed on 19th of February. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- The scheme aims at issuing 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 increase in yields and it also promotes sustainable farming.

https://www.toprankers.com/subscription-plans
NATIONAL NEWS

Centre renames IDSA as ‘ManoharParrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses:
- Union Government has decided to rename the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, IDSA as ManoharParrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- The decision has been taken to honour the commitment and legacy of late ManoharParrikar.
- It will align the vision and aspiration of the premier defence institute with the contribution of the former Defence Minister and Padma Bhushan awardee.

Mobile App “Yodhavu” Launched in Kerala to Combat Drug Menace:
- Kerala Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan launched “Yodhav” (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala.
- Through this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- The application was introduced by the Kochi city police and the informer’s identity could be kept secret.

Permanent Commission to Women Officers In Army:
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are now eligible to get permanent commission in the Indian Army.
- The ruling came on a plea filed by the Central Government against the decision of Delhi High Court 10 years ago.

Jammu and Kashmir soon to be covered by CAT:
- The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will soon be covered by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).
- The announcement was made by Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The CAT will handle all the cases and issues related to the J&K and Ladakh.

BANKING AND ECONOMICS

NESFB began its service and operation:
- North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) which is the first small bank of North India has started its services on 16 February.
- On 31 March 2017, RashtriyaGraminVikasNidhi (RVGN) (North East) Microfinance Limited received the Small Finance Bank License from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB):
- Assam’s finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and TATA Trust chairman Ratan Tata launched the first 28 branches of NESFB.
- Tata has invested Rs.40 crore through his investment arm RNT Associates in the bank. North East Small Finance Bank Ltd has a net worth of Rs.300 crore.
- The bank is supported by the infusion of funds from domestic and overseas investors.
- The bank will carry out banking services in remote and unbanked areas of India’s eight

India becomes 5th largest economy: World Population Review report:
- As per a report by a US-based think tank World Population Review, India’s economy is the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP of $2.94 trillion, overtaking the UK and France in 2019 to take the fifth spot.
- The size of the UK economy is $2.83 trillion and that of France is $2.71 trillion.

SUMMITS AND MOU

India, World Bank sign $ 450 mn loan agreement to support AtalBhujalYojana (ABHY) to improve groundwater management:
- The World Bank has signed a USD 450 million loan agreement with India on February 17, 2020 to support the AtalBhujalYojana (ABHY) – National Groundwater Management Improvement Programme.
- The AtalBhujalYojana (ABHY) will be implemented in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh and cover 78 districts.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Sachin Tendulkar wins the Laureus Sporting Moment Award for ICC World Cup 2011 victory lap:
- 2020 Laureus World Sports Awards has been announced. The winners of the award are:
  - Laureus World Sportsman Of The Year 2020: Lewis Hamilton (F1 racer) and Lionel Messi (Football)
  - Laureus World Sportswoman Of The Year: Simone Biles (Gymnastics- US)
  - Laureus Sporting Moment Of The Year- Sachin Tendulkar (Cricketer- India)
  - Laureus World Team Of The Year: South Africa Rugby Union Team
  - Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award 2020: Dirk Nowitzki (Basketball- Germany)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Plans to Launch 10 Earth Observation (EO) Satellites in 2020-21:
As per the annual data released by the Department of Space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has planned to launch an unprecedented 10 earth observation (EO) satellites with space surveillance feature during 2020-21.

Apart from this, three communication satellites and two navigation satellites are also scheduled to be launched in the next fiscal. The annual plan includes total 36 missions, comprising of both satellites and their launchers.

**OBITUARY**

Bengali actor and former MP Tapas Pal passes away:
- Former Politician and Bengali actor, Tapas Pal has passed away at the age of 61 years.
- He was former Trinamool Congress MP. He started his acting career with the film ‘DadarKirti’ in 1980. He was awarded the Filmfare Award for his role in a movie ‘Saheb’ (1981).

**SPORTS**

“UNITED BY EMOTION” Chosen as Motto of Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games:
- ‘United by Emotion’ is the official motto for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Games.
- The Motto encapsulates the Games vision, capturing the essence of the ideas and concepts that the host city wishes to share with the world.
- About 10,000 athletes from over 200 countries will participate in Tokyo Olympics which will run from July 24 to August 9.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

VinayDube Takes Charge as CEO of GoAir:
- The Board of Directors of GoAir has appointed VinayDube as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Mr. Dube was the former CEO of Jet Airways.
- He joined GoAir in an advisory role in October 2019.

Current Affairs PDF- February 17, 2020

**NATIONAL NEWS**

CDS Gen BipinRawat announces to create Peninsula Command:
- Chief of Defence Staff, General BipinRawat said on February 17, 2020, that the Navy is
General Bipin Rawat was talking to the media. He said that India wants to establish two to five theater commands in the country. He clarified that IAF’s Air Defence Command will be released by the beginning of 2021 while peninsula command will be established soon.

General Bipin Rawat said that a study has been ordered to start the Air Defence Command under the chairmanship of the Vice Chief of Air Force. It will be helpful in situations like aerial attacks.

**Indian Railways zone becomes 1st in India to have energy-neutral stations**
- Indian Railways takes a huge leap towards environmental sustainability. The Indian Railways South Central Railways (SCR) zone has become the first zonal railway in the country to have functional “energy neutral” railway stations on the network.
- The anticipated energy generation from these energy neutral stations is coming to be around 3 lakh units annually. The SCR zone expects that solar power generated at these stations will lead to savings of Rs 13 lakh per year.
- The total capacity of all the solar panels installed at the 13 energy neutral stations is 99 kWp

**All India Conference of Central Administrative Tribunal 2020 held in New Delhi:**
- The annual All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was held in New Delhi.
- The one day conference was attended by Judicial and Administrative Members from all 17 Benches of CAT from across the country, members of the CAT Bar Association and eminent Jurists, who deliberated on key issues related to the functioning of the Tribunal and priorities for 2020.
- The Conference was presided over by Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

**Maharashtra starts first intercity electric bus service**
- The first intercity electric bus service between Mumbai and Pune was started on February 14, 2020. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated this electric bus service.
- This bus has a seating capacity of 43 people. This bus can cover a distance of 300 km on a single charge.
- The Government of India will also start this type of bus service in other parts of Maharashtra. This bus will be run under the public-private partnership model.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**India, Norway to strengthen bilateral cooperation to contain marine pollution:**
- Union Minister for Environment Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar stated, the year 2020 will be a Super Year for Environment.
He stated, India has initiated Ocean dialogue with Norway to address the problem of Marine Plastic litter. Both countries decided to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in the field of environment and climate change particularly in the field of marine pollution. Both countries discussed ways to ensure that the coming decade will be of rapid global action on the Environment. India and Norway have formed joint working groups on Blue economy with sustainable development.

BANKING AND ECONOMICS

DMart’s Radhakishan Damani is second richest man in India: Forbes
- Riding on the ongoing stock rally of Avenue Supermarts, founder Radhakishan Damani has become the second most richest in India, behind Reliance Industries’s Mukesh Ambani ($57.4 billion).
- According to Forbes’ Real-Time Billionaires Index, the total net worth of Damani is at $17.8 billion.

Moody’s lowers GDP growth rate for 2020 to 5.4 per cent
- Amidst indications of the deadly hitting global growth,
- International rating agency Moody’s Investors Service lowered the estimate for India’s economic growth rate for 2020 by 120 basis points (100 basis points make up one percentage point).

SPORTS

Koneru Humpy wins Cairns Cup chess tournament:
- Grandmaster Koneru Humpy recorded another win in the Cairns Chess tournament. Humpy and Grand Master Drona Valli Harika drew in the ninth and final round in St. Louis, USA.
- Humpy scored six points and won the title. World champion Zu Wezun finished second with five and a half points. Drona Valli Harika secured fifth place with four and a half points.
- She will get five ELO rating points that will take her to the second position in the world rankings. She became World Rapid Champion in December 2019.