

Daily Current Affairs- 15/02/2021

- 1. Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several developmental projects worth over 8000 crore rupees in Tamil Nadu**
 - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, state-of-the-art Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A which has been indigenously designed and manufactured by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation.
 - Among the projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Tamil Nadu include, the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension. The Central Government has accepted their long-standing demand of DevendrakulaVelalar community to be known as DevendrakulaVelalar. They will now be known by their heritage name and not the six to seven names listed in the Schedule to the Constitution.
 - **Facts about Tamil Nadu:**
Capital: Chennai
Governor: Banwarilal Purohit
Chief Minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- 2. Prime Minister unveils several development projects worth Rs 6100 crore in Kerala**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled several key development projects worth 6,100 crore rupees at INS Garuda Naval Air Station at Kochi in Kerala.
 - The Prime Minister also inaugurated country's first full-fledged international cruise terminal, Sagarika at Cochin Port and Marine Engineering Training Institute of Cochin Shipyard Ltd., the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, the Ro-Ro Vessels at Willingdon Islands in Kochi.
- 3. TIFAC unveils two new initiatives of Technology —SAKSHAM and a Seaweed Mission**
 - Two new initiatives of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC):
 - **(i) SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch)**- a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs to directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs and facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs and **(ii) Seaweed Mission** for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy were launched on the occasion of the 34th Foundation Day celebrations.
 - **About Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC):** It is an autonomous technology think tank under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.
Executive Director: Pradeep Srivastava
Headquarters: New Delhi
Founded: 1988



4. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates more than 57,000 water structures in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign

- The 'Jalabhishekam' Campaign is fulfilling the intention of 'water for every farm and work for every hand'.
- These water structures were created during COVID era by linking the work with the MNREGA scheme.
- **Facts about State symbols of Madhya Pradesh:**
State animal: Barasingha
State bird: Paradise flycatcher
State tree: Banyan tree
State Flower: Madonna lily

5. Indian Navy undertaking mega Exercise 'TROPEX 21' in the Indian Ocean Region

- Indian Navy's largest war game, the biennial "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise" (TROPEX) 21, which commenced in early January is currently underway with participation of all operational units of Indian Navy including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.
- The exercise will culminate by the third week of February.
- TROPEX is being progressed over distinct phases:
- **3 Phases of the Exercise:**
Phase I: India's largest coastal defence drill "Sea Vigil" exercise from January 12-13
Phase II: Tri-Service Joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21" from January 21-25.
Phase III: "The weapon workup phase, which concluded recently.

6. 11th 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' inaugurated at Cooch Behar, West Bengal

- The Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar in the presence of Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the 11th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav on 14th February, 2021 at Cooch Behar Palace at Cooch Behar in West Bengal.
- The eleventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being held between 14th to 28th February, 2021 in West Bengal.
- **Note:** Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, the flagship festival of this Ministry organized since 2015 with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture Centres has been playing a pivotal role to take the vibrant culture of India out to the masses instead of confining to auditoria and galleries.

7. SERB announces Women Excellence Award 2021



- Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021.
- The SERB Women Excellence Award that has been conferred on them provides a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs for a period of three years to the awardees to pursue their research ideas.
- The four women scientists selected for the awards include **Dr. Shobhna Kapoor, Dr. Antara Banerjee, Dr. Sonu Gandhi and Dr. Ritu Gupta.**
- **About Women Excellence Award 2021:** The award given by the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) supporting basic research in the frontier areas of science and engineering, was launched in the year 2013. It is a one-time award given to women scientists below 40 years of age.

8. Ministry of Tribal Affairs bags Award of Appreciation in the 18th CSI SIG e-Governance Awards 2020

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs bags the prestigious Award of Appreciation in the Project Category-Central Government Entity – in the 18th CSI SIG eGov Awards 2020 for their Performance Dashboard Empowering Tribals Transforming India through various ICT initiatives.
- **About the award:** The Computer Society of India (CSI) has instituted a series of awards for recognizing the contributions made in the field of e-Governance in the country. These awards have been conducted by CSI-SIGegov.
- **Note:** The Ministry also recently received the prestigious 5 SKOCH awards for different project, including the prestigious SKOCH Challenger Award for its “Best Performance in eGovernance”.

9. Tamil film Koozhangal wins Tiger award at Rotterdam film festival 2021

- Koozhangal (Pebbles) became the first Tamil film to win the coveted Tiger Award at the 50th Rotterdam Film Festival 2021.
- Directed by debutant P S Vinodraj, the film has been produced by actor Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan.
- **Note:** Koozhangal has become the second Indian film ever to have won the award.
- The first Indian film to have won the honour was Malayalam filmmaker Sanal Kumar Sasidharan's Durga in 2017.

10. Priyanka Chopra releases her memoir ‘Unfinished’

- The former Miss World, Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas officially turned author with the release of her first book, "Unfinished: A Memoir".
- The end result is a book, published by the Michael Joseph imprint, which covers her dual-continent 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador.

11. Mario Draghi sworn in as Italy's new prime minister



- The ex-head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, has been sworn-in as Italy's next prime minister.
- He will lead a new national unity government to replace Giuseppe Conte's centre-left coalition that collapsed one month ago.
- **Facts about Italy:**
President: Sergio Mattarella
Capital: Rome
Currency: Euro

12. February 13, National Women's Day

- India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birthday as National Women's Day every year on February 13.
- **About Sarojini Naidu:** Sarojini Naidu was not only a freedom fighter, but she also became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh.
- She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems.

13. February 13, World Radio Day

- The Day was decided by UNESCO on 3 November 2011 during its 36th conference and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2021 was "New World, New Radio".
- **Note:** Radio has remained the most resilient and effective mode of communication, which is, till date, used by the majority for receiving information. Even after 110 years, Radio still reaches difficult terrains to connect people.

14. February 12, National Productivity Day

- The formation of the National Productivity Council is being celebrated every year all over the country by commemorating 12th February as Productivity Day.
- About National Productivity Council (NPC): It, established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- The NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based APO (**Asian Productivity Organization**), an intergovernmental body, of which the Government of India is a founding member.

