

## Daily Current Affairs- 16/02/2021

### 1. Bihar signs MoU with UNEP for climate resilience and low carbon development



- The Bihar government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for climate resilience and low carbon development strategy formulation.
- UNEP will provide technical assistance to Bihar to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments.
- It will also suggest revisions to the State Action Plans on Climate Change.

#### • **Facts about State symbols of Bihar:**

**State Bird:** House Sparrow

**State Animal:** Gaur

**State Flower:** Kachnar

**State Fruit:** Mango

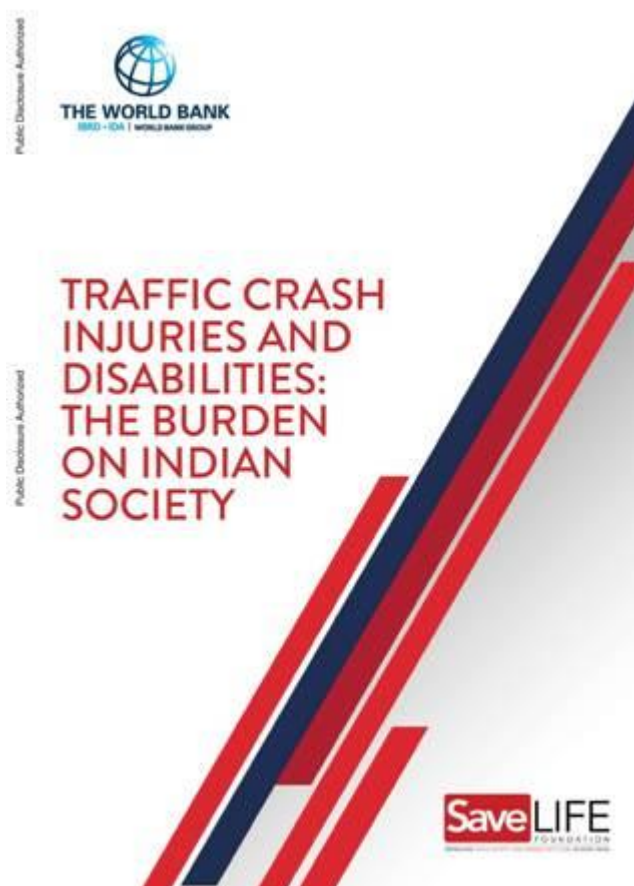
**State Tree:** Peepal tree

### 2. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches MGNF with nine IIMs as academic partners



- The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey chaired a function ‘Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships under SANKALP’ and rolling out of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)**.

- The fellows under MGNF will acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem along with being attached to DSCs (District Skill Committees) and help them manage the skill development planning at district level through the mechanism of formulating District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs).
  - **SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion)** is a World Bank loan assisted programme to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees.
- 3. World Bank report, “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society”**



- The report titled “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society”, was released by Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari.
- The report highlights the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households that pushes them into a vicious cycle of poverty and debt.
- It sheds light on the links between road crashes, poverty and inequality in India.
- Post-crash impact among Low Income Households is more severe compared to High Income Households with incidence of fatality among poor households as high as 44% in rural areas compared to 11.6% in urban areas, the report by the World

Bank and Save Life Foundation.

- **Note:** India is also a signatory to the United Nation’s Brasilia Declaration with the target of reducing road fatalities by 50% by 2020. Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari also said the government aims to bring down road accidents and its related deaths down by 50 percent before 2025.
- 4. ISRO tests satellites developed by private sector for the first time**
- Two satellites by Indian startups—SpaceKidz India and Pixxel (incorporated as Sygyzy)—were tested at the UR Rao Satellite Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru.
  - Earlier ISRO had only provided launch facilities to private firms at a cost.



- **Note:** In June 2020, ISRO chairman K Sivan had announced that the agency will open its labs, testing facilities and quality facilities to private companies so they don't have to invest in infrastructure.
- An independent body, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**), was set up to not only to oversee the space activity of the private sector, but also to share ISRO facilities.

## 5. Jammu and Kashmir to get 1st impact-based flood forecasting system



### Jammu and Kashmir to get 1st impact-based flood forecasting



- Jammu and Kashmir is likely to get the country's first impact-based flood forecasting system in collaboration with the UK space agency, enabling the prediction of the impact impending floods may have on people's lives including, houses, crops, livestock, and transport routes, thereby helping in mitigating several of these challenges.
- **Note:** A recent report has put India among the 10 most disaster prone countries in the world and ranked floods as one of the greatest climate-related hazards.
- J&K falls in seismic zone IV and V, making it prone to quakes as well.
- **Facts about Jammu and Kashmir:**
  - Union territory established:** 31 October 2019
  - Capital:** Srinagar (May–October), Jammu (Nov–April)
  - Lieutenant Governor:** Manoj Sinha

## 6. Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 passed by Rajya Sabha

- A bill that seeks to provide greater autonomy in decision-making to 12 major ports in the country and professionalise their governance by setting up boards was introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

- The Bill 2020 will replace the Major Port Trusts Act of 1963.



- **Note: India has 12 major ports** -- Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), V O Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia).
- Lok Sabha gives nod to **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021**.
- Government introduces **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021** in Lok Sabha.

#### 7. Mandu Festival



- In Madhya Pradesh, the three-day (13-15 February) Mandu Festival was celebrated at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district.
- Handicrafts related to handmade art have been displayed in the Mandu Utsav.
- **Mandu** is an ancient fort city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's also known for its Afghan architectural heritage.
- **Note: Dino Adventure Park & Fossils Museum** was also inaugurated by the state culture and tourism minister.
- The State Minister informed that the Dinosaur Park is the country's first modern fossil park which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display. The park also provides information related to the life of the dinosaurs.

## 8. Odisha government to construct 'COVID Warrior Memorial'



- Odisha is set to inaugurate the Covid warrior memorial in Bhubaneswar on Independence Day this year. The memorial will be established at the Biju Patnaik Park in the Capital city.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had on January 1 announced the decision to construct the memorial to honour and recognise the sacrifice and selfless service of the frontline workers, who lost their lives fighting the pandemic.
- **Note:** The Odisha government also had announced Rs. 50 lakh ex-gratia to all the health personnel (public and private) as well as members of all the support services who died of the pandemic.

## 9. Mandarin duck sighted after 118 years in Assam



- A colourful duck from eastern Asia spotted in Assam after 118 years has raised hopes for a wetland that was affected by a blowout and inferno at a natural gas well in May-June, 2020.
- The duck, whose primary habitat is in eastern China and southern Japan, had landed in Assam by accident too.
- Its scientific name is *Aix galericulata*.
- The **mandarin duck** is a perching duck species native to the East Palearctic. It is medium-sized, at 41–49 cm long with a 65–75 cm wingspan. It is closely related to the North American wood duck.

## 10. Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar appointed chief justice of Manipur High Court



- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

- Kumar is presently the Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

- **Facts about Manipur:**

**Capital:** Imphal

**Governor:** Najma Heptulla

**Chief Minister:** N. Biren Singh

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