

Daily Current Affairs- 17/02/2021

1. Prime Minister lays the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake



- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake at Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh via video conference.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the medical College building named after Maharaja Suheldev.
- **About Maharaja Suheldev:** He was an Indian king from Shravasti, popularly known to have defeated and killed the Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud at Bahraich in 11th century.
- He is mentioned in the 17th century Persian-language historical romance Mirat-i-Masudi. Since the 20th century, various Hindu nationalist groups have characterized him as a Hindu King who defeated a Muslim invader.

2. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches E-Chhawani portal & mobile app

E-CHHAWANI
Ease of living for residents of Cantonment areas

Unified Portal provides online civic services in 62 Cantonments Boards

- Online application for renewal of leases
- Online registration of Births and Deaths
- Online application for water and sewerage connection

- The portal has been created to provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards across the country.
- Through the portal, the residents of cantonment areas will be able to avail basic services like renewal of leases, application for birth & death certificates, water & sewerage connections, trade licences, mobile toilet locators and payment of different types of taxes and fees, with just a click of a button.
- The portal, jointly developed by **eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, provides a platform to the residents to avail these services from the comfort of their home.

3. First highway with wildlife protection corridor



- According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, The Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Economic corridor will be India's first highway where there will be a 12-kilometer long elevated corridor for protection of wildlife.
- The highway project is being developed between Delhi's Akshardham and Dehradun in four sections.
- The ministry has decided to execute the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project under Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode.
- This highway project, once completed, will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 km to 210 km, and travel time from the current 6.5 hours to just 2.5 hours.

4. MapmyIndia ties up with ISRO to build an alternative to Google Maps



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into an agreement with MapmyIndia to develop mapping and other location-based services in India, which MapmyIndia suggested could become an alternative to widely-used Google maps and similar products.

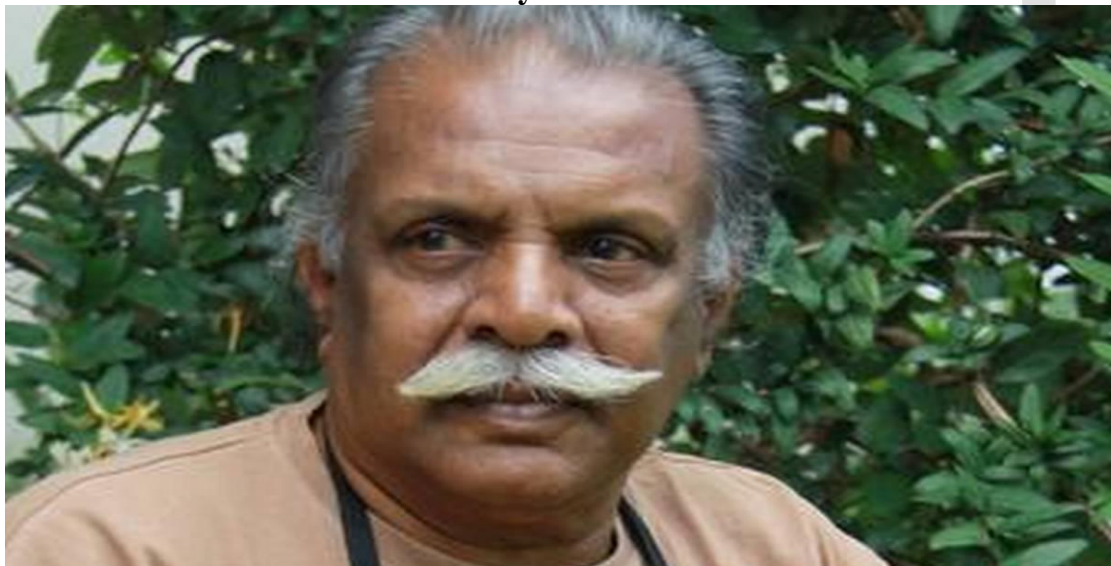
- **About MapmyIndia:** It is an Indian technology company that builds digital map data, telematics services, location-based SaaS and GIS AI services. The company was founded in 1992 and is headquartered at New Delhi.

5. Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh invited as Chief Guest at Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan



- The tribal painter Bhuri Bai of Madhya Pradesh was invited as the Chief Guest at the Foundation Day celebrations of Bharat Bhavan.
- When the construction of this building started, she used to work here as a labourer on a daily wage of Rs six.
- **Bhuri Bai's award:** Shikhar Samman-Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1986, Ahalya Samman in 1998, Rani Durgavati Award in 2009, **Padma Shri Award in 2021**

6. Theodore Baskaran wins Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020



- Sanctuary Nature Foundation honours conservation hero S Theodore Baskaran with Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020 for his role in wildlife conservation and his continuing legacy of writings in Tamil and English to the conservation discourse.

- **Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award** was instituted by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation's Sanctuary Wildlife Service Awards in the year 2000 to recognise and draw national attention to the contribution of individuals working for the protection of wildlife and natural habitats in India.

7. Indian astronomers detect huge optical flare from super massive black hole



- According to the Department of Science and Technology, Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding super massive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- The analysis can help to trace the mass of the black hole and the source of this emission and can provide a lead to probe mysteries and trace events at different stages of evolution of the Universe.
- **BL Lacertae blazar** is 10 million light-years away and is among the 50 most prominent blazars that can be observed with the help of a relatively small telescope.
- It was among the 3 to 4 blazars that was predicted to be experiencing flares by the Whole Earth Blazar Telescope (WEBT), an international consortium of astronomers.

8. Indian-origin Preeti Sinha to lead United Nations Capital Development Fund

- The United Nations Capital Development Fund has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary.



- Sinha succeeds Judith Karl, who retired in February.

- **About The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF):** It makes public and private finance work for the poor

in the world's 47 least developed countries.

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 1966

Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

9. Tata Motors appoints Marc Llistosella as CEO & MD



- Tata Motors Limited has announced Marc Llistosella as the new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and MD (Managing Director) of the company effective July 1, 2021. He will take over from the current incumbent Guenter Butschek.

- **Facts about Tata Motors Limited:**

Formerly Known: Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Ltd. (TELCO)

Founded: 1945

Founder: J. R. D. TATA

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

10. Former Governor and High Court Chief Justice (Retd.) M Rama Jois



passes away

- M Rama Jois was the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- He had also served as the Governor of Jharkhand and Bihar and as a member of the Rajya Sabha.