

Daily Current Affairs- 18/02/2021

1. Prime Minister addresses NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum



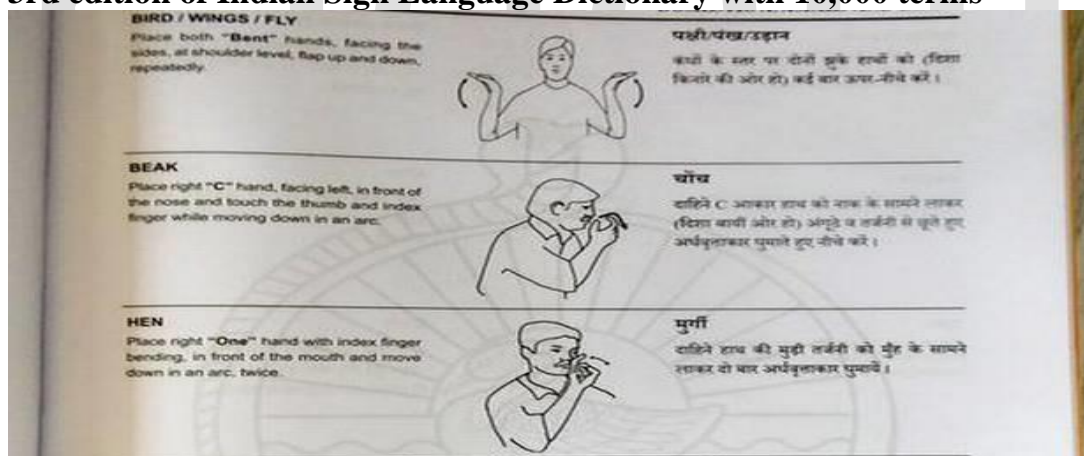
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF) via video conferencing.
- It is the flagship event of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- The theme of this year's event is 'Shaping the future towards a better normal'.
- **Note:** The Prime Minister listed the steps taken in recent times such as National Communication Policy, policy to make India Global Software Product Hub and Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines which were issued during Corona period.
- **Facts about NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies): It is a non-profit organisation.**
Chairperson: U. B. Pravin Rao
Founded: 1 March 1988
Headquarters: New Delhi

2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan



- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban (JJM-U).
- It will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water.
- As a first step, the Ministry has decided to launch the Survekshan in 10 cities- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.
- **Note: Jal Jeevan Mission Urban** is designed to provide water supply to all households through taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal - 6.
- The total outlay proposed for JJM-U is 2 lakh 87 thousand crore rupees which includes 10 thousand crore rupees for continuing financial support to AMRUT Mission.
- **Facts about AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation):**
Launch year: 2015
Sector: Urban planning
Launched by (Prime Minister): Narendra Modi
Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

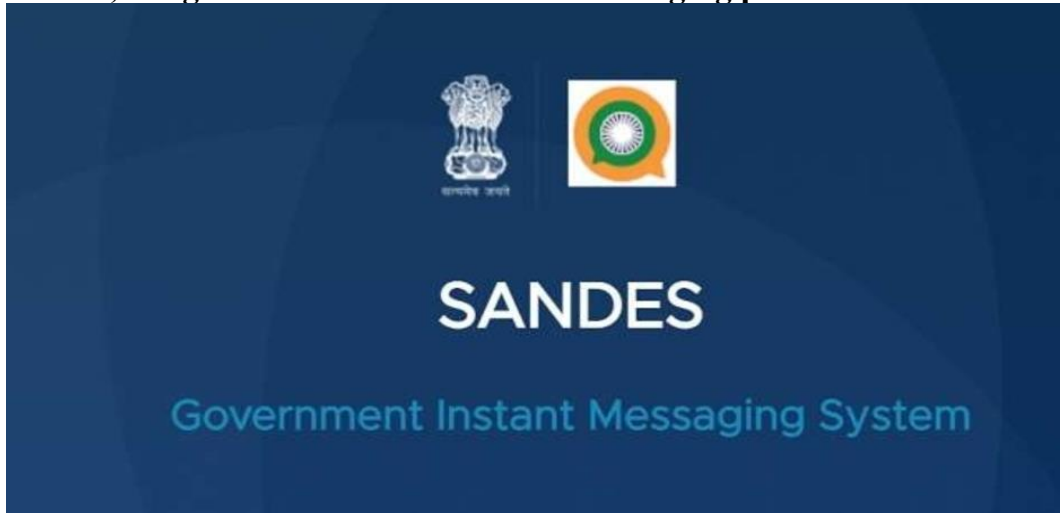
3. 3rd edition of Indian Sign Language Dictionary with 10,000 terms



- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary with 10,000 terms (including 6,000 earlier terms).
- The 3rd Edition contains a total of 10,000 terms of everyday use, academic terms, legal & administrative terms, medical terms, technical terms and agricultural terms.
- **Note:** The Dictionary has been brought out by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous Institute under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

- The 1st Edition of the ISL Dictionary was launched on 23rd March, 2018 with 3000 terms and the 2nd Edition with 6000 terms (including earlier 3000 terms) was launched on 27th February, 2019.

4. Sandes, the government's new Instant Messaging platform



- The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp.
- Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id.
- Although there is no option to transfer the chat history between two platforms, the chats on Government Instant Messaging Systems (GIMS) can be backed up to a users' email.
- **Note:** In August 2020, the NIC released the first version of the app, which said that the app could be used by both central and state government officials for intra and inter-organisation communication.

5. India joins "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021"



- India has joined Iran and Russia in a two-day navy exercise dubbed "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021" in the northern part of the Indian Ocean.
- Forces and vessels from the navy divisions of both the Iranian army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) participated in the drill alongside several vessels from the Russian navy.

- **Note:** This is the second such joint Russia-Iran exercise since 2019, when the two nations plus China held a four-day exercise.

6. RBI sets up panel to suggest steps for strengthening urban co-operative banks



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an expert committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to strengthen and examine the issues within the sector.
- **Former RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan will be the chairman of the eight-member committee.**
- The committee has been directed to submit its report within three months from the date of its first meeting.
- The committee will also "review the current regulatory/supervisory approach and recommend suitable measures/changes to strengthen the sector, taking into account recent amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949."

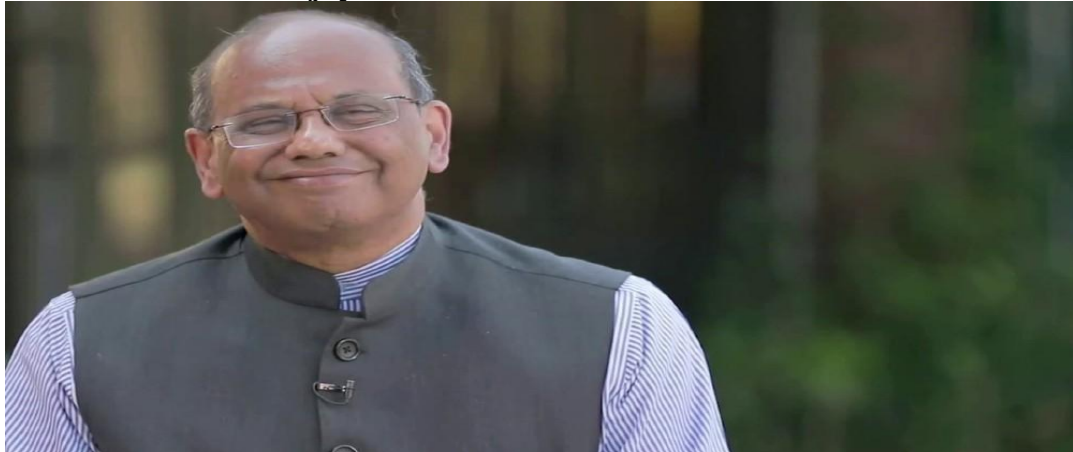
7. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) awards dedicated for Animal Welfare and Protection-2021



- Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India distributed the awards on the auspicious day of Vasant Panchami.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the

apex body in the country for the welfare and protection of animals, established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 conferred 14 Prani Mitra awards and JeevDaya awards 2021 to the individuals, organizations and corporates for their outstanding performance in the field of animal welfare.

8. ISA announces Dr Ajay Mathur as its new Director-General



- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced Dr. Ajay Mathur as its new Director General following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members.
- Dr Mathur replaces Mr Upendra Tripathy, who has served as Director General since the inception of the ISA.
- **Note: International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an association of 121 countries initiated by India. It aims to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

Founded: 30 November 2015

9. Naman Ojha announces retirement from all forms of Cricket



- India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on February 15, 2021.
- He made his first-class debut for Madhya Pradesh in 2000-01.
- He holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy, featured in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals.