

## Daily Current Affairs 17.03.2022

### Important News: India

#### Project Dolphin



##### Why in News

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of the approval process for Project Dolphin at a meeting of the **Empowered Task Force (ETF)** on Ganga.

##### Key Points

- The ETF on Ganga is the second highest decision-making body on Ganga, after the **National Ganga Council (NGC)** headed by the Prime Minister.

##### Project Dolphin:

- Project Dolphin is one of the activities planned under Arth Ganga, an ambitious inter-ministerial initiative of the government, which was approved at the first meeting of the NGC under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on December 14, 2019.
- Project Dolphin is being “handled” by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

**Gangetic Dolphin Scientific Name:** Platanista gangetica

**Source:** Indian Express

#### Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)



##### Why in News

- According to the latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, India's urban unemployment rate jumped to 12.6 percent in the April-June quarter of 2021, compared to 9.3 percent in the January-March quarter.
- The unemployment rate had shot up sharply during the nationwide lockdown in 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic.

#### Key Points

- Data shows that in the 15-29 age group, 25.5 percent of urban youth remained unemployed in April-June 2021 as against 34.7 percent in April-June 2020 and 22.9 percent in January-March 2021.
- The **unemployment rate** is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- **Labour force**, according to current weekly status (CWS), is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week preceding the date of the survey.

#### National Statistical Office (NSO):

- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government-mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Source: Indian Express

## PM-DAKSH Scheme



# PM DAKSH

#### Why in News

- The amount of funds earmarked under PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana during 2020-21 and 2021-22 are Rs.44.79 crores and Rs.79.48 crores respectively.
- Recently, this information was given by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in the Lok Sabha.

#### Key Points

- Earlier, PM-DAKSH Portal and PM-DAKSH Mobile App were launched by the Ministry.
- PM-DAKSH portal offers on-line registration for free of cost Skill Development Training Programmes.
- The main purpose of the scheme is to increase the skill levels of the target youth by providing for long term and short term skills, followed by settlement in employment/self-employment.
- The scheme is to be implemented through three Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), of the Ministry, i.e. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- The Ministry aspires to reach out to 2.71 lakh people between calendar year 2021-22 and 2025-26.

Source: PIB

## EatSmart Cities Challenge





### Why in News

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced 11 winning cities for the **EatSmart Cities Challenge**.
- Top 11 Awardees of the pilot stage of the EatSmart Cities Challenge are Chandigarh, Indore, Jammu, Jabalpur, Panaji, Rajkot, Rourkela, Sagar, Surat, Tumakuru and Ujjain.

### Key Points

- The EatSmart Cities Challenge was launched by MoHUA in collaboration with **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** on 15th April, 2021, to scale up the **Eat Right India** approach to city level.
- The EatSmart Cities Challenge has the objective of motivating Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment supported by institutional, physical, social, and economic infrastructure along with application of ‘smart’ solutions to combat food related issues.
- These winning cities will be awarded Rs. Fifty lakh each from MoHUA

- **Source: PIB**

## Important News: State

### Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park



### Why in News

- The country's first **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)** with seed money of Rs 230 crore was launched at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

### Key Points

- Of the Rs 230 crore, Rs 170 crore would be borne by the Centre and the rest by the Karnataka government.

- The ARTPARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Important News: Science

#### Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)



##### Why in News

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai in New Delhi.
- This is a first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country by creating awareness about the unique utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.

**Source: ET**

### Important News: Appointment

#### Bhagwant Mann takes oath as Punjab Chief Minister



##### Why in News

- Aam Aadmi Party leader, Bhagwant Mann took oath as the 18th Punjab Chief Minister in Punjab's Khatkar Kalan, Bhagat Singh's ancestral village.

##### Key Points

- Mr Mann was administered the oath by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Aam Aadmi Party won 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly.

**Source: Indian Express**



## Tata Sons' chief N Chandrasekaran appointed Air India chairman



### Why in News

- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has been appointed the Chairman of Air India.
- The development came days after Ilker Ayci, former chairman of Turkish Airlines, turned down the Tata Group's offer to be the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India.

### Key Points

- The Tata Group took over the airline on January 27, 2022.
- Chandrasekaran also serves as the non-executive chairman of several other Tata Group companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Tata Consumer Products.
- He was reappointed Tata Sons' executive chairman last month for another five years.

Source: Indian Express

## Important News: Sports

## FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022



### Why in News

- The Government of Tamil Nadu along with the All India Chess Federation has announced that India has won the bid to host **FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022** in Chennai.

### Key Points

- It was originally scheduled to be held in Russia.
- This is the first time India hosts the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- The tentative dates for the FIDE Chess Olympiad are fixed to be from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.

Source: HT