

# 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 Empowered Task Force 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 National Ganga Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on December 14, 2019.
- Special conservation programme needs to be taken up for Gangetic Dolphin which is the national aquatic animal and also indicator species for the river Ganga spread over several states.
- Project Dolphin is being “handled” by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

#### Gangetic Dolphin:

- Scientific Name:** Platanista gangetica
- Discovery:** It was officially discovered in 1801.
- Habitat:** They live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

#### Conservation Status:

- Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I (most endangered)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered

**Note:** The National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates 5th October as National Ganga River Dolphin Day.

**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.

### Recent Initiatives by the Government to fight Unemployment:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)
- PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur KushaltaSampannHitgrahi)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Start Up India Scheme

**Source: Indian Express**

## Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announces winners of 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.
- All cities under the Smart Cities Mission, capitals of States/UTs and cities with a population of more than 500,000 were invited to participate in the challenge.
- These winning cities will be awarded Rs. Fifty lakh each from MoHUA and be involved for deep engagement over a period of next 12 months to scale up their plan including implementation of the Eat Right India initiatives.

**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.

### Key Points

- Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- It is an important initiative which will promote clean energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby make India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047,
- Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), powered by Hydrogen is one of the best Zero Emission solutions. It is completely environment friendly with no tailpipe emissions other than water.

**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 IlkerAyci, 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**