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March
2022**Important News: India****1. 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.
- 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

2. 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 Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Start Up India Scheme

Source: Indian Express



3. PM-DAKSH Scheme

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.



PM DAKSH

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.

Initiatives Related to Skill Development:

- National Career Service Project
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)
- Kaushalacharya Awards
- Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)

Source: PIB



Daily Current Affairs

4. 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**5. Country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park launched in IISc Bengaluru****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**6. Nitin Gadkari launches world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai****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

7. 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



8. 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

9. India wins the bid to host 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

