

February - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UN Capital Development Fund has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary.
- ❖ Tata Group firm Tata Electronics signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government to set up a facility for manufacturing mobile components.

TAMIL NADU

New industrial and MSME policies

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government on February 16 announced a new industrial policy.
- ❖ It aims to achieve four key objectives
 - Attract investments worth over ₹10-lakh crore (\$135 billion) by 2025,
 - Achieve annual growth rate of 15 per cent in the manufacturing sector during the policy period,
 - Increase contribution of manufacturing sector to 30 per cent of the state's economy by 2030 from 25 per cent now and
 - Create over 20 lakh jobs by 2025.

MSME Policy

- ❖ The Chief Minister also unveiled a new MSME Policy to offer a vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs/Start-ups.
- ❖ It set a target to
 - Attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh crore by 2025 and
 - Create additional employment opportunities for 20 lakh people.
- ❖ New MSMEs and start-ups will be exempted from approvals for establishment and operation for a period of three years based on self-certification.
- ❖ These unit shall have mandatory approval within a period of one year from the expiry of the 3-year period.
- ❖ The new policy has also enhanced ceiling for various subsidies provided to MSMEs.
- ❖ Also plug & play facilities, plots and sheds will be developed and made available to them on short term lease.



NATIONAL

Amendments for Privatization

- ❖ The Amendments will be made in the following two acts in order to facilitate the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs).
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act 1970 and,
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.
- ❖ These two acts had facilitated for the nationalisation of banks in two phases.
- ❖ Now, in order to privatise the PSU Banks, provisions of these Acts have to be changed.

Pey Jal Survekshan

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan.
- ❖ This was launched under the Jal Jeevan Mission - Urban (JJM-U).
- ❖ It will be conducted in cities to ensure the equitable distribution of water and reusing the wastewater.
- ❖ It will also help in mapping the water bodies.
- ❖ This sarvekshan will be launched across 10 cities including Badlapur, Agra, Churu, Bhubaneswar, Madurai, Kochi, Patiala, Surat, Rohtak, and Tumkur.

INTERNATIONAL

Comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.
- ❖ It is a kind of a free trade agreement between India and Mauritius.
- ❖ It aims to liberalising the norms to boost a two-way commerce.

New Low-Carbon range of Concrete

- ❖ ACC Ready Mix Concrete has introduced its new low carbon range of concrete named ECOPact.
- ❖ It is a Green Concrete for high-performing, sustainable and circular construction.
- ❖ It was launched in Mumbai and Hyderabad in the first phase.

ECONOMY

India contribution to pulses

- ❖ India is contributing nearly 24 per cent of pulses to the global output.
- ❖ Also, India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world.
- ❖ The country's pulses production has grown to 24 million tonnes (240 lakh tonne) from 14 million tonne (140 lakh tonne) in the last five-six years.

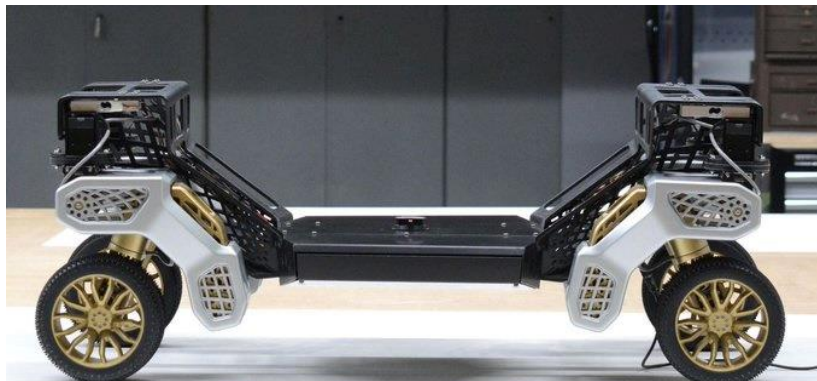
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's new instant messaging platform

- ❖ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched an app called Sandes.
- ❖ This instant messaging platform is similar to WhatsApp.
- ❖ It can be used for any type of communications by anyone.
- ❖ It requires a mobile number or an email id to get registered with the app.

TIGER X-1

- ❖ The Hyundai Motor Group have designed a walking car concept robot.
- ❖ It is being called as TIGER which stands for transforming intelligent ground excursion robot.
- ❖ The robot comprises of the wheels having capability to adapt to navigate in the challenging terrain.



- ❖ The ultimate mobility vehicle (UMV) uses its ability to walk when it gets stuck or when required to travel in the difficult terrain.
- ❖ It can connect with the drones.

- ❖ It can be used to carry goods for the delivery or aid packages in emergency situations.
- ❖ It can be used not only on Earth but on other planets as well.

ENVIRONMENT

1st Elevated Wildlife Corridor

- ❖ The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway will have the country's first Elevated Wildlife Corridor.
- ❖ The project will have a six-lane elevated wildlife corridor spanning 12 kilometres.
- ❖ It is focused on preservation of the wildlife as the expressway alignment crosses wildlife areas.



Nesting of Olive Ridley

- ❖ The mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtles has begun in Puducherry coastline.
- ❖ Puducherry coastline is among the migratory route to Odisha which are used by these turtles.
- ❖ The coastline is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ These turtles commonly known as Pacific ridley sea turtle.
- ❖ Its IUCN status is vulnerable.
- ❖ It is also listed in Appendix I of CITES.



STATES

'Maa' canteens

- ❖ The West Bengal government launched a new scheme to provide a cheap cooked meal to the poor across the state.
- ❖ It is called "Maa" canteens.
- ❖ It provides state-subsidised daily meals at lunchtime to the poor.

