



February – 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Piyush Pandey, The Hindu's Corporate Editor, has received the IFFCO Indian Institute of Mass Communication Alumni Association (IIMCAA) Special Mention award in the Economic and Business Reporting category.

NATIONAL

DRIP – Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has sought Rs 1,064 crore funding under the dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP) of the World Bank.
- ❖ The scheme is to improve safety and operational performance of existing dams and ensure that dam safety institutional mechanisms in the state are strengthened to handle the infrastructure.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu public works department (PWD) and TANGEDCO submitted proposals for 59 dams under phase II and phase III of DRIP.



Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project mission identified Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu in 2008 for work

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| ➤ The phase I of DRIP, which commenced in 2012, is being executed at ₹745.49cr covering 69 PWD dams and 20 Tangedco dams. Deadline is March 2020 | 37 PWD dams and 22 Tangedco dams. Duration set is 10 years |
| ➤ The phase II & III of the project estimated at ₹1,064cr, covering | ➤ Dam failures are caused by age, deficiency in construction, inadequate maintenance, extreme weather or seismic event, wrong operation |

Sterlite issue

- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed NGT's directions allowing the operation of the Vedanta Group's Sterlite copper smelting plant.
- ❖ The Supreme Court said that the NGT has no jurisdiction to pass such an order.
- ❖ The NGT had on December 15 directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to pass a fresh order for allowing the operation of the plant within three weeks.
- ❖ Sterlite Copper smelting plant has been shut down since May 28, 2018.

Loan Waiver – CRPF Jawans

- ❖ State Bank of India announced that it would waive all outstanding loans taken by 23 CRPF personnel who were killed in the Pulwama terror attack.
- ❖ The state-owned lender would also expedite payment of insurance amount of Rs 30 lakh each to the families of CRPF personnel killed.



SBI

SBI initiatives to honour our martyred CRPF soldiers:

- Insurance of ₹30 lakh for all CRPF personnel under the SBI Defence Salary Package and expedited release of funds to the next of kin
- Waiver of the soldiers' outstanding loans with immediate effect
- Creation of a UPI for the Bharat Ke Veer initiative
- Setting up of an alternative mode of contribution by logging into onlinesbi.com and then following the path <Payment/Transfer -> Donations -> Bharat Ke Veer>
- Voluntary contributions from SBI employees, through the official GoI portal <https://bharatkeveer.gov.in>

#SBIStandsByOurSoldiers

ENVIRONMENT

Bramble Cay melomys

- ❖ Australia officially declared a Great Barrier Reef rodent extinct, making it the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change.
- ❖ The rat-like Bramble Cay melomys has not been spotted in a decade.



- ❖ The rodent lived solely on a tiny sand island in the Torres Strait, near the coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG).



- ❖ The species has not been seen since 2009.

STATES

Goa's heritage musical instrument

- ❖ Goa Art and Culture Minister announced that the government will declare Ghumot as state's heritage instrument soon.
- ❖ Ghumot is an indigenous earthen drum.
- ❖ Ghumot is a percussion instrument widely played during Ganesh Chaturthi festival.
- ❖ Forest Department had banned the instrument due to use of skin of a monitor lizard which is a highly endangered wildlife species listed in schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.



- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, this drum is known as gummeta, and it is played in the storytelling folk tradition.



K-SWIFT software application

- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister launched an online mechanism to ensure clearance to investment proposals within 30 days of the application.
- ❖ K-SWIFT (Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast, Transparent Clearances) was unveiled at the ASCEND Kerala 2019.
- ❖ It is a software application to simplify and speed up approval of government clearances for those looking to launch enterprises in the state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

CBDT chairman

- ❖ IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody took over as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- ❖ CBDT is the policy making body of the Income Tax Department.



- ❖ Mody is a 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer.



- ❖ He has been appointed in place of Sushil Chandra, who was appointed as Election Commissioner ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.
- ❖ The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of six members.

Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea

- ❖ The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy has been ranked 33rd in the 'Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea' category by the 2018 Global go To Think Tank Index Report.
- ❖ The report has been published by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania.



Countries with the Largest Number of Think Tanks

RANK	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF THINK TANKS
1	United States	1871
2	India	509
3	China	507
4	United Kingdom	321
5	Argentina	227
6	Germany	218
7	Russia	215
8	France	203
9	Japan	128
10	Italy	114

- ❖ According to the report, the largest number of think tanks are in the United States (1,871), followed by India (509) and China (507), Japan (128) and South Korea (60).
- ❖ The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, a part of The Hindu Group, was inaugurated by then President Pranab Mukherjee on January 31, 2013.

High Court judge – Senthil Kumar Ramamoorthy

- ❖ The President on February 18 notified the appointment of Senthil kumar Ramamoorthy as an additional judge of the Madras High Court for a period of two years.
- ❖ The proposal for elevation of Advocate Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy was forwarded by the Supreme Court collegium on December 19, 2016.
- ❖ The Collegium approved it on December 4, 2017. However, his name was remitted back by the Centre.

SPORTS

FIH Player of the Year Awards

- ❖ International Hockey Federation (FIH) Player of the Year Awards are the annual awards for the best men's and women's player in international hockey.



- ❖ FIH Player of the Year Awards were established in 1998 and have been awarded annually ever since.
- ❖ In 2001 the FIH Young Player of the Year award was instituted to award the best young field hockey player of the year.
- ❖ Since 1998, no Indian hockey player has won the award.
- ❖ Winners of the year:
 - Male Player of the Year - Van Doren (Belgium) 2nd consecutive time.
 - Female Player of the Year - Eva De Goede (Netherlands)
 - Goalkeeper of the Year:
 - Men- Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
 - Women- Maddie Hinch (Great Britain)
 - Rising Star of the Year:
 - Men- Arthur de Sloover (Belgium)
 - Women- Lucina von der Heyde (Argentina)

83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019

- ❖ Sourabh Verma has won the Men's Singles event at the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior National Badminton Championships 2019 in Guwahati.
- ❖ In the final, he defeated Lakshya Sen and This is Verma's 3rd nationals title.
- ❖ Earlier, the pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty clinched the men's doubles title after beating Arjun M R and Shlok Ramchandran.

MISCELLANEOUS

Early Ed Asia 2019

- ❖ Early Ed Asia 2019, the two-day event was held at the City Palace in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The event will focus on relevant research and education and policies for the betterment of Early Childhood Education.
- ❖ The motto of the event was 'Our Children: Our Future'.
- ❖ It was presented by Princess Diya Kumari, the Royal Family of Jaipur.
