

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 20th Feb 2024

### National News

#### 1. PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone Of Shri Kalki Dham Temple In Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.

PM Modi hailed India's transition into a nation that sets global examples rather than following them, particularly in digital technology and innovation.

He emphasized continuous support for local handicrafts and crafts, promoting economic growth and cultural preservation.

#### 2. Prime Minister Modi's Ambitious Inaugurations And Initiatives In Jammu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Jammu is set to mark a significant milestone in the region's developmental journey.

With a suite of projects worth over Rs 45,375 crore (\$5.5 billion approximately) set to be inaugurated or initiated, this visit underscores the Central Government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and healthcare in J&K.

A highlight of the Prime Minister's visit is the inauguration of the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River. The foundation stone for a new terminal at Jammu Airport will also be laid by the Prime Minister.

### **3. Government Launches 'Sagar Aankalan' Guidelines To Boost Port Efficiency**



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal spearheaded the launch of the 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines for Indian port performance index, signaling a concerted effort towards port efficiency enhancement.

The 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines aim to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of Indian ports. Enforced nationwide, these guidelines for National Benchmarking of Indian Ports Performance are set to revitalize the country's maritime infrastructure.

## International News

### **4.PM Modi Launches 100,000sqm Bharat Mart In Dubai For Exports**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE Vice President Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum laid the foundation stone of Bharat Mart, integrating retail, warehousing, and logistics at Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai.

The Bharat Mart facility, reminiscent of China's Dragon Mart, is a collaborative effort between DP World, a leading logistics conglomerate based in Dubai, and India's commerce ministry.

The facility, spanning over 100,000 square meters, aims to reduce shipping costs and time from India to Africa and Europe.

## State News

### **5.Northern Railways To Launch MEMU, DMU Between Baramulla, Sangaldan**



The Northern Railway Firozpur division is set to revolutionize connectivity in the region with the introduction of a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) train service between Baramulla and Sangaldan stations, Jammu and Kashmir.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in the ongoing Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, enhancing transportation infrastructure and facilitating easier access for commuters.

In the communication, it was revealed that a new railway section was slated to open between Banihal and Sangaldan station, paving the way for expanded connectivity in the region.

## **6.The 11th International Puppet Festival In Chandigarh**



The vibrant city of Chandigarh became a melting pot of cultural heritage and artistic innovation as it hosted the 11th International Puppet Festival at Tagore Theatre.

The festival commenced with a spellbinding performance by the Novosibirsk Regional Puppet Theatre from Russia, captivating the audience with the renowned puppet show "Petrushka."



The festival also featured a Puppet Exhibition at Tagore Theatre, which ran from the opening day until February 21st.

## **Defence News**

### **7.Indian Air Force (IAF) Conducted 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-24'**



Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-24' at the Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, presenting a formidable display of its aerial firepower. The event, attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, marked a significant demonstration of the IAF's offensive capabilities through a series of meticulously planned aerial manoeuvres and precision strikes.

Adhering to this year's theme, 'Lightning Strike from the Sky', the exercise involved over 120 aircraft showcasing the IAF's day and night offensive prowess.

### **8.Indian Army's Rs 57,000 Crore Project To Replace Aging T-72 Tank Fleet**



The Indian Army is embarking on a significant endeavor to modernize its armored forces by replacing its aging Russian T-72 tank fleet with cutting-edge Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs).

These FRCVs, totaling 1,770 units, will be produced indigenously in India with advanced technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), drone integration, active protection systems, and enhanced situational awareness.

The induction will occur in three phases, each incorporating newer technologies for maximum survivability and lethality.

## **Economy News**

### **9. Government Raises Authorized Capital Of FCI From ₹10,000 Crore To ₹21,000 Crore**



The government has increased the authorized capital of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from ₹10,000 crore to ₹21,000 crore, demonstrating a significant commitment to enhancing its operational capacities.

This initiative, announced by the Food Ministry, underscores the government's dedication to strengthening FCI's role in ensuring food security and safeguarding farmers' interests.

The augmentation of authorized capital aims to bolster FCI's operational efficiency, reduce interest burdens, and positively impact government subsidies.

## **Banking News**

### **10. Kotak Mahindra Bank Announces Major Senior Management Reshuffle**



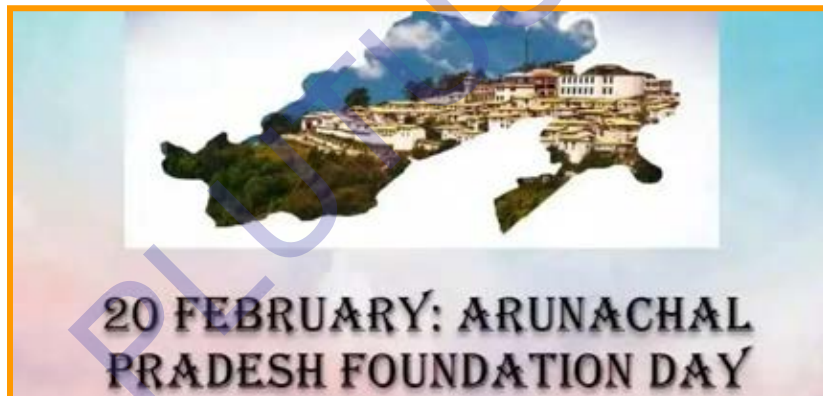
Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) unveiled a comprehensive reshuffle of its senior management, signalling a new phase of leadership and strategic focus for the leading private sector bank.

Effective March 1, 2024, this reorganization introduces KVS Manian and Shanti Ekambaram in enhanced roles as joint managing director and deputy managing director, respectively.

Shanti Ekambaram's role is set to expand significantly. Already a pivotal figure in the bank's operations, Ekambaram will continue to spearhead the growth of key segments such as 811, treasury, and global markets

## Important Days News

### **11.Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2024**



Arunachal Pradesh, nestled in the northeastern corner of India, celebrates its Foundation Day annually on February 20th, marking the day it attained full statehood in 1987.

This occasion commemorates the region's transition from the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) to a distinct state within the Indian union.

Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2024 falls on February 20th. This significant day commemorates the state's official declaration as a distinct entity within India in 1987.

## 12.Mizoram Foundation Day 2024



Mizoram Foundation Day, celebrated annually on February 20th, holds profound significance for the people of Mizoram, marking the establishment of the state as the 23rd state of India in 1987.

This day commemorates the hard-fought struggle for political rights and self-determination by the Mizo people, culminating in the realization of their aspirations. The day celebrates the Mizo people's struggle for self-determination and political rights, culminating in the historic peace accord between the government of India and the Mizo National Front in 1986.