



CURRENT AFFAIRS 21st Feb 2024

National News

1. PM Modi Launches ₹43,875 Cr Educational And Infra Projects Including 3 IIMs, IITs, 20 KVs, 13 NVs, And AIIMS In Jammu



On February 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of ambitious educational and infrastructure projects across India, totaling an investment of ₹13,375 crore.

In addition to the educational projects, PM Modi launched a comprehensive ₹30,500 crore worth of projects in the fields of education, railway, aviation, and road sectors.

International News

2. Japan Commits To Long-Term Engagement In Ukraine's Reconstruction



As the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine approaches, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida has affirmed Japan's commitment to Ukraine's long-term reconstruction, labelling it as a strategic investment for the future.

Japan, in collaboration with the Ukrainian government and various business organizations, co-organized a conference where Kishida outlined a vision for a comprehensive partnership between the two nations.

The conference highlighted the critical role of investment across various industries for Ukraine's development, with more than 50 cooperation deals signed between Japanese and Ukrainian entities.

3.Malta Becomes 119th Country to Join International Solar Alliance



Malta, a small yet significant player in the global arena, recently took a remarkable step towards sustainable energy by joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

This move underscores the country's commitment to reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and embracing environmentally friendly alternatives.

With this development, Malta becomes the 119th nation to join the alliance, reinforcing the collective effort to combat climate change through solar energy deployment.

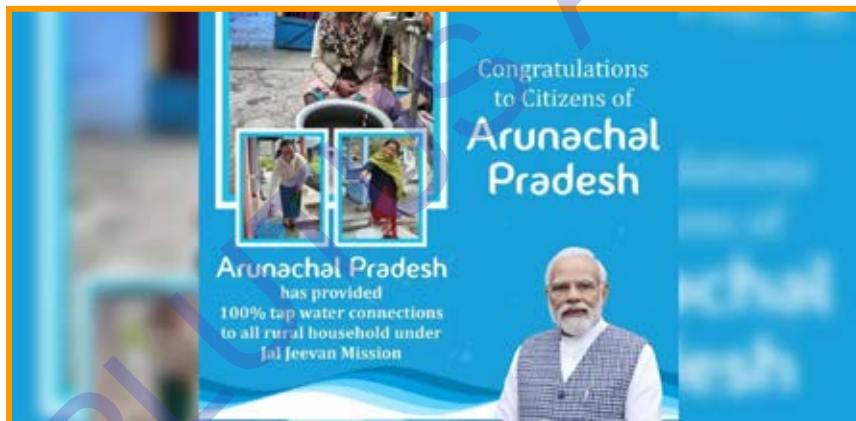
State News

4.Maharashtra Government Extends 10% Reservation To Marathas



The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a draft bill to extend a 10 percent reservation to the Maratha community in both educational institutions and government employment. This move follows a report submitted by the Maharashtra Backward Class Commission (MBCC) justifying the extension beyond the 50 percent cap. The government has scheduled a special session of the state assembly to introduce the bill in response to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike.

5.Arunachal Pradesh Achieves Full Har Ghar Jal Saturation, First In Northeast



Arunachal Pradesh has made a significant achievement by reaching 100 percent saturation in the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), announced by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

This milestone sets Arunachal Pradesh apart as the first state in the northeast and the tenth in India to fully embrace the central government's initiative, aimed at ensuring clean and safe piped water for every household.

Launched in 2019, the JJM aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections across rural India by 2024.

6.Chandigarh Unveils North India's First 'Pizza ATM'



CITCO (Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation) introduces a pizza maker near Sukhna Lake, producing hot pizzas in three minutes, a first in North India.

The pizza vending machine is the only one operational in India, marking a significant breakthrough. Dr. Rohit Shekhar Sharma, Founder & CEO at iMatrix Group of Companies leads the project inspired by France.

The machine is crafted at their Mohali factory, outperforming similar ventures, dispensing 100 pizzas daily. Operational since early 2024, the Pizza ATM swiftly becomes a local favorite, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options.

Defence News

7.Multinational Military Exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' Commences In Kathmandu



Kathmandu became the focal point of global peacekeeping efforts as it hosted the commencement of the multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV'. This event, which draws army representatives from 19 countries actively involved in United Nations Peacekeeping missions, underscores the collaborative spirit and dedication towards maintaining global peace and security.

The Shanti Prayas Exercise is co-hosted by the Nepali Army and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, reflecting the strong military cooperation between Nepal and the United States

8. India Hosts Milan Naval Exercise With Participation Of Nearly 50 Countries



India is hosting the 12th edition of the 'Milan' naval exercise in Visakhapatnam, aimed at bolstering maritime cooperation among like-minded nations. Navies from almost 50 countries including the US, Japan, Australia, France, Bangladesh, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia are participating.

Milan is a biennial multinational naval exercise initiated in 1995 with the participation of Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, aligned with India's 'Look East' policy. The exercise evolved under the Andaman and Nicobar Command until its 10th edition.

9.HAL, DRDO To Begin Rs 60,000 Crore Sukhoi Fighter Jet Fleet Upgrade



Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) embarks on a comprehensive upgrade project worth Rs 60,000 crore for the Su-30MKI fighter jet fleet.

The initiative aims to bolster the aircraft's capabilities through the integration of advanced technologies and indigenous systems.

Over 50% indigenous content to be incorporated into the manufacturing process, reflecting India's commitment to self-sufficiency in defence production.

Banking News

10.HDFC Bank Leads Profitability Rankings From April To December



HDFC Bank emerges as the most profitable company in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, with a net profit of Rs 44,300 crore.

HDFC Bank's strategic merger with mortgage lender HDFC, effective from July 1 last year, contributes to its financial strength and competitive edge.

State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) follow closely, reporting profits of Rs 40,378 crore and Rs 34,781 crore, respectively.

Business News

11.Fintech Startup 'Paymart' Partners With Five Indian Banks For Virtual ATM Service



Paymart, a fintech startup, announced its partnership with five Indian banks to introduce a groundbreaking virtual, cardless, and hardware-less cash withdrawal service.

The partnered banks include IDBI Bank, Indian Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, and Karur Vyasa Bank, with discussions underway with four additional banks for further collaboration.

Paymart boasts future-ready technology and direct connectivity to banks' Core Banking Systems, positioning itself as a versatile Cardless Switch.

12.Reliance Industries, Tata Power, Adani Power, And Vedanta Ltd: Private Investment In India's Nuclear Energy Sector



The Indian government is set to invite private investment worth \$26 billion into its nuclear energy sector. This initiative aims to bolster non-carbon-emitting energy sources, aligning with India's goal of increasing non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation to 50% by 2030.

Private firms, including Reliance Industries, Tata Power, Adani Power, and Vedanta Ltd, are being approached for investments totaling around 440 billion rupees each (\$5.30 billion).

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) will retain rights for building, operating, and managing the nuclear stations, including fuel management...