

pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

19 FEB – 25 FEB



MRP ₹ 50.00

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

1. World Day of Social Justice.
2. The 11th International Puppet Festival In Chandigarh.
3. India approves 100% FDI in space sector
4. EU launches Red Sea mission
5. Govt. unveils 4 web portals for news publishers.
6. India completely stops Ravi river water flow to Pakistan



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1. The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Rajasthan.

✚ The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced today at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.



- ✚ The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25th February to 9th March 2024. Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- ✚ The contingent of both sides comprises 40 personnel each. The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment and the Indian Army contingent is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.
- ✚ Aim of the Exercise is to foster Military Cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.

2. The Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And waterways partners with IIM Shillong for India's first Gati Shakti Research Chair.

- ✚ The country's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.
- ✚ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has collaborated with IIM-Shillong to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.



- + This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) with wider national and international regions to fortify the local economy.
- + The country's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

Objectives of the Chair:-

- + Research Focus:- Conduct high-quality academic research; Capacity Building:- Facilitate knowledge and innovation to bolster logistical capacity in the region and,
- + Global Collaboration:- Foster partnerships with global experts to develop expertise and knowledge exchange.

3. India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's 'Dosti-16' kicks off in Maldives

- + Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS Abhinav along with Sri Lanka Naval Ship Samudura are participating in the exercise 'DOSTI-16' while Bangladesh is participating as an observer.



- + Sri Lanka has described 'Dosti' as a trilateral exercise that aims to enhance cooperation, strengthen friendship, improve mutual operational capability, and develop interoperability among the Coast Guard personnel of India.
- + The exercise provides participating forces with opportunities to engage in various maritime activities, including interdiction operations, search and rescue missions, surveillance, and communication drills," the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) said in a statement.
- + Exercise 'Dosti' focuses on regional cooperation in areas such as search and rescue, medical evacuations, countering piracy, pollution response, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

4. **‘Sagar Aankalan’ guidelines for Indian Port Performance Index**

- ✚ Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches ‘Sagar Aankalan’ guidelines for Indian Port Performance Index.
- ✚ Ministry draws action plan for swift implementation of MoUs at GMIS worth ₹1 Lakh Crore Stakeholders meet aimed to accelerate the conversion of MoUs signed during GMIS 2023 into actionable plans Sagar Aankalan guidelines to transform the performance assessment of Indian ports “Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is a continuation of the country's strategic initiatives for sustainable growth”:
- ✚ Shri Sonowal urges the stakeholders to work together to turn these agreements into reality and propel the Indian maritime sector to new heights GMIS 2023 Report and Launch of M. Tech in Dredging Technology at IIT Chennai.



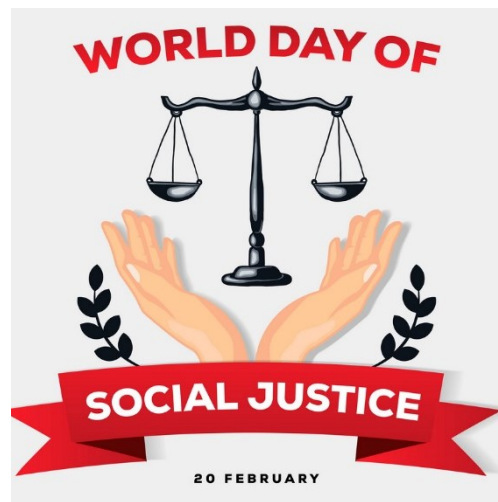
5. **The 11th International Puppet Festival In Chandigarh:-**

- ✚ 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.



6. World Day of Social Justice.

- ✚ Every year, on the 20th of February, the global community comes together to observe the World Day of Social Justice.
- ✚ It serves as a reminder of the pressing need to address inequality, injustice, and social exclusion around the world. At the core of the World Day of Social Justice is the advocacy for decent work and fair globalization.
- ✚ The theme chosen for the World Day of Social Justice 2024, "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances," highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership in tackling global challenges.



7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024:-

- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events held in India, at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.
- ✚ Speaking at the inauguration Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that the Kasturi Cotton launched by the government would create India's own identity.
- ✚ Bharat Tex 2024 serves as a platform to showcase the iconic handloom and handicraft traditions of various states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✚ The event marks a significant milestone in promoting India's rich textile heritage and collaboration within the industry.



8. India's first cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu

- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, which will connect Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka, in Gujarat today.
- ✚ The bridge, which cost roughly Rs 980 crore, is the longest cable-stayed bridge in the country, measuring around 2.32 km.



- ✚ The bridge holds immense significance for the devotees who visit the Dwarkadhish Temple. Sudarshan Setu, which was earlier named as 'Signature Bridge', is India's longest cable-stayed bridge, with solar panels installed on the upper portions of the footpath, generating one megawatt of electricity.
- ✚ The four-lane bridge has 2.50-metre-wide footpaths on each side. The bridge would make it easier for devotees to travel between Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka.
- ✚ Sudarshan Setu has a distinctive design, with a pathway decorated with verses from the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Bhagwan Krishna on both sides.

9. International Mother Language Day 2024:- 21st February:-

- ✚ International Mother Language Day is observed every year to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ✚ Every year to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by



the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999.

- ✚ The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.
- ✚ The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution of 2002.
- ✚ The theme for this year is “Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning”, which highlights that multilingual education policies are crucial for inclusive education and the preservation of indigenous languages.

10. India approves 100% FDI in space sector:-

- ✚ On February 22nd 2024, the Indian government amended foreign direct investment (FDI) guidelines for the strategic space sector, allowing greater overseas capital inflows across satellite manufacturing, launch vehicles building and ground infrastructure creation.



Changes in FDI Caps:-

- ✚ The policy cleared by the Union Cabinet ensures 100 per cent FDI in the manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.
- ✚ 74 per cent FDI has been permitted for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products, and ground segments and user segments. Beyond 74 per cent, these activities fall under the government route.
- ✚ For the development of launch vehicles and associated systems, and the creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft, FDI under the automatic route has been fixed at 49 per cent.

11. Surrogacy rules changed, couples with medical condition can use donor gametes

- ✚ The Centre has amended the surrogacy rules 2022 allowing married couples to use an egg or sperm of a donor in case one of the partners is suffering from a medical condition.
- ✚ The District Medical Board has to certify that either the husband or wife is suffering from a medical condition necessitating the use of donor gamete.
- ✚ “In case when the District Medical Board certifies that either husband or wife constituting the intending couple suffers from a medical condition necessitating use of donor gamete, then surrogacy using donor gamete is allowed.”
- ✚ The surrogacy using donor gamete is allowed subject to the condition that the child to be born through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending couple, it stated.
- ✚ This means if both the partners have medical problems or are unable to have their own gametes they cannot opt for surrogacy.



12. Govt. unveils 4 web portals for news publishers

- ✚ Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur on February 22, 2024 launched four online portals of the Central Bureau of Communication, the Registrar of Newspapers for India, the New Media Wing, and the Digital Addressable System of the Ministry.
- ✚ The Minister said the initiative was aimed at ensuring ease of doing business by fostering a more conducive business environment for newspaper publishers and TV channels, enhance transparency and efficiency in government communication, provide easy access to authentic government videos, and



create a comprehensive database of local cable operators for streamline regulatory processes in the sector in future.

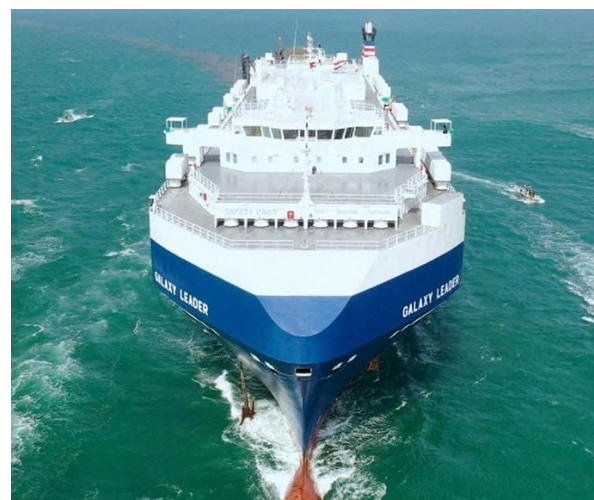
13. India completely stops Ravi river water flow to Pakistan

- ✚ The completion of the Shahpur Kandi barrage project has ceased the flow of water from the Ravi River into Pakistan.
- ✚ Located on the Punjab-Jammu and Kashmir border, this development signifies a significant shift in water allocation, with the Jammu and Kashmir region now set to benefit from the 1150 cusecs of water previously destined for Pakistan.
- ✚ The diverted water will serve irrigation purposes in Kathua and Samba districts of J&K. Under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan, India possesses exclusive rights over the waters of the Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers, while Pakistan controls the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers.
- ✚ The treaty's provisions enable India to establish storage facilities on the western rivers. Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao laid the foundation stone for the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project in 1995.



14. EU launches Red Sea mission

- ✚ The European Union launched a naval mission on February 19, 2024 to protect Red Sea shipping from Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- ✚ The Iran-backed Houthis, who control much of war-torn Yemen, have been harassing the vital shipping lane since November in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war.



- ✚ The EU aims to have the mission — called Aspides, Greek for “shield” — up and running in a “few weeks” with at least four vessels.
- ✚ The U.S. is already spearheading its own naval coalition in the area.

15. Privately built lunar lander makes history with successful moon touchdown

- ✚ A robotic spacecraft made history February 22, 2024 becoming the first privately built craft to touch down on the lunar surface, as well as the first American vehicle to accomplish the feat in more than 50 years.



- ✚ The lander, built by Intuitive Machines, touched down on the lunar surface. The Nova-C lander, nicknamed Odysseus, is now the first American spacecraft on the moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
- ✚ Odysseus launched into space on Feb. 15 atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The 14-foot-tall lander then spent six days cruising more than 620,000 miles to reach the moon. As it descended to the lunar surface, Odysseus targeted a landing site near a crater called Malapert A, close to the moon’s South Pole.
- ✚ The moon’s South Polar Region has long been tantalizing for scientists because water ice is thought to be relatively abundant in the region’s permanently shadowed craters.

16. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024

The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 were presented to the winners in Mumbai on February 20, 2024.

List of winners:

- Best Film: Jawan
- Best Film (Critics): 12th Fail
- Best Actor: Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan)

- Best Actress (Critics): Kareena Kapoor (Jaane Jaan)
- Best Actress: Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)
- Best Director (Critics): Atlee (Jawan)
- Best Director: Sandeep Reddy Vanga (Animal)
- Best Actor (Critics): Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur)
- Best Music Director: Anirudh Ravichander (Jawan)



17. Paytm has partnered with Axis Bank for the settlement of merchant payments.

Key Highlights:

- ✚ The company issued a release stating that One97 Communications has shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank via an escrow account that it has opened with it.
- ✚ The shift of nodal accounts to Axis Bank will ensure seamless merchant settlements as before.
- ✚ According to One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, Paytm QR, Soundbox and card machines will continue to operate seamlessly for all their merchant partners.
- ✚ Additionally, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has confirmed the continued seamless functionality of Paytm QR, Soundbox, and card machines beyond March 15.
- ✚ According to Paytm, merchants with fund transactions connected to any bank account other than Paytm Payments Bank need not worry about disruptions.



18. Madhya Pradesh Launches 'Bagless School' Initiative to Alleviate Student Stress

✚ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government has announced 'bag less school' day once a week for students in classes 1 to 12, starting from the upcoming academic session in 2024-25.



✚ This decision applies to all government and private schools operating in the state.

✚ The state government, aiming to alleviate the burden on students, has issued a notice outlining the maximum permissible weight of school bags for different classes.

Key Highlights:

- ✚ According to the notice, students in classes 1 and 2 should carry bags weighing between 1.6-2.2 kg, while those in classes 3 to 5 should limit their bags to 1.7-2.5 kg.
- ✚ For classes 6 and 7, the recommended weight is 2-3 kg, and for classes 8, 2.5-4 kg. Students in classes 9 and 10 are advised to carry bags weighing between 2.5-4.5 kg.
- ✚ Additionally, the weight of school bags for students in classes 11 and 12 will be determined by the school management committee based on the students' respective streams.

19. SELF STUDY POINTERS

- ❑ The Philippines became the first Asian country to ratify ILO Convention 190.
- ❑ In 2023, India ranked as the 80th most targeted country for cybercrime globally.
- ❑ Government has approved the continuation of Women's safety scheme till 2025-26

- ❑ Reliance Industries in collaboration with various IIT is set to launch 'Hanooman', an indigenous AI service platform similar to ChatGPT.
- ❑ The Maharashtra government-led by CM Eknath Shinde approved the draft of the bill for 10% Maratha reservation in education and government jobs.
- ❑ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is set to launch India's first virtual shopping and recharge app for the metro.
- ❑ Trilateral coast guard Exercise amongst India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives set to begin in Sri Lanka.

20. WEEK THROUGH MCQs

1. Bandhan Bank was awarded official permission to collect state revenues on behalf of which government?
 a) Odisha b) West Bengal c) Haryana d) Jharkhand

2. NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed an agreement with which Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to construct an "Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub"
 a) Uttar Pradesh b) Madhya Pradesh
 c) Arunachal Pradesh d) Andhra Pradesh

3. Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
 a) Gujarat b) Maharashtra c) Karnataka d) Kerala

4. Which state has become the first north-eastern state in India to achieve 100% saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission?
 a) Assam b) Manipur c) Arunachal Pradesh d) Sikkim

5. Which department is responsible for forming the Committee to develop rules for dealing with unsolicited commercial calls?
 a) Home affairs b) Consumer affairs
 c) Civil aviation d) Information & Broadcasting

6. Which government launched the 'Swayam' scheme, which provides interest-free loans to youth?
a) West Bengal b) Odisha c) Karnataka d) Haryana
7. When was OpenAI established?
a) 2014 b) 2020 c) 2015 d) 2012
8. 'Sammakka Saralamma Jatara' tribal festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state?
a) Telangana b) Karnataka c) Kerala d) Tamil Nadu
9. Which edition of Raisina Dialogue will Prime Minister Narendra Modi launch in Delhi?
a) 7th b) 5th c) 9th d) 6th
10. Chhिल्chhila Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?
a) Gujarat b) Delhi c) Assam d) Haryana

ANSWER KEY

1. (b)	2. (d)	3. (b)	4. (c)	5. (b)	6. (b)	7. (c)	8. (a)	9. (c)	10. (d)
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