



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 11, 2022

STATES

- **Jammu & Kashmir - became the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS)**
- ✓ On February 7, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced the launch of an integrated J&K Single Window Clearance System at Raj Bhavan



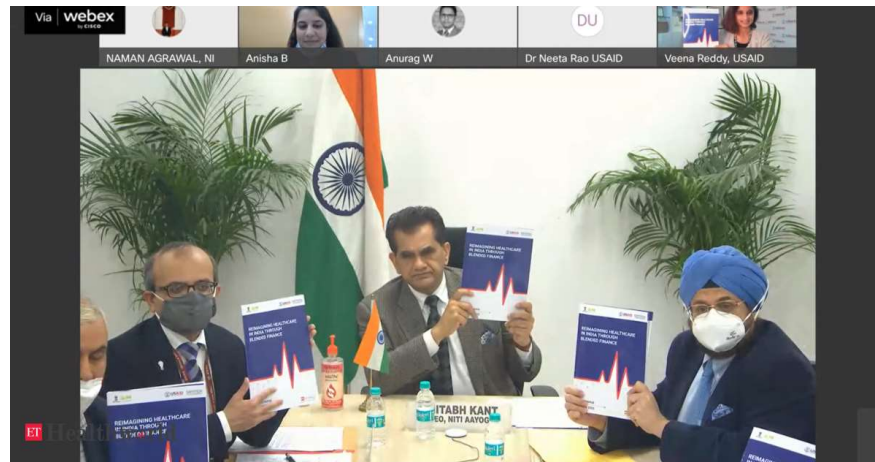
- ✓ Approximately 130 industrial services have been made available on a single-window system, and more than 160 services will be integrated on the portal - www.singlewindow.jk.gov.in - this year.
- ✓ The Department of Industries and Commerce is the current nodal agency in implementing the industrial reforms in the union territory
- ✓ National Single Window System (NSWS), a 2020 budgetary announcement of the Government of India, is a digital platform that provides support to the investors in getting government approvals for projects
- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), along with Invest India, initiated the process of developing the portal
- ✓ The portal provides a single platform to enable investors to identify and obtain approvals and clearances needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India.

- ✓ NSWS will eliminate the need for investors to visit multiple platforms/offices to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders
- ✓ In September 2021, Piyush Goyal, who is the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Textiles and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, soft-launched the platform.
- ✓ NSWS is a partner of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K and helps to find land parcels for investors in J&K
- ✓ According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the NSWS portal can currently be used to apply for 142 central approvals and consists of over 20 ministries and departments
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are among the 14 states/UTs with NSWS.
- ✓ The first approval through the NSWS portal has been granted on January 11, 2022 to CMR-Kataria Recycling Private Limited for the Vehicle Scrappage Facility RVSF, Kheda, Gujarat with a capacity of 67,000 vehicles
- ✓ The approval has been made possible within a timeline of 63 days since the application was submitted online

NATIONAL

- **On February 9, the Centre - formally notified the unification of eight services related to Indian Railways under the Central Civil Services into the newly created Group 'A' Central service called 'Indian Railways Management Service' (IRMS)**
- ✓ The move is aimed at bringing about a uniform appointment system and ease inter-departmental conflicts besides enabling cross functional posting of officials.
- ✓ With the unification, railways is left with just two departments, namely the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Medical Service Department (MSD).
- ✓ On December 24, 2019, the Union Cabinet had decided to merge eight services into one based on the recommendations of the Bibek Debroy committee report of 2015 for restructuring of Railway Board and Railway Ministry
- ✓ The reforms for the Indian Railways was proposed during the tenure of Piyush Goyal as railway minister
- ✓ As a first step towards this, the Railway Board was restructured in September 2020.
- ✓ The eight services that were merged into IRMS are Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE), Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS), Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS), Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) and Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS)

- ✓ The unification of these eight existing services of Indian Railways will be done at all levels that is, from Junior scale to Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) plus
 - ✓ A total of 27 posts of GMs have been upgraded to apex grade and it will be ensured that eligible officers of all the erstwhile services get the apex grade post of GM
 - ✓ In future, only officers of IRMS will be eligible to become Chairman & CEO and Members of the Railway Board in charge of functional areas.
 - ✓ Officers recruited by Union Public Service Commission under Indian Railways Protection Force Service and the Indian Railways Medical Service have not been included under IRMS.
- **The National Medical Commission (NMC), which regulates medical education in India - proposed replacing the Greek-origin Hippocratic Oath with 'Charak Shapath' at the graduation ceremony of doctors**
- ✓ The Hippocratic Oath refers to a code of ethics undertaken by physicians across the world.
 - ✓ It is administered to medical students when they transition from pre-clinical to clinical subjects, during the 'white coat' ceremony.
 - ✓ The Hippocratic Oath is believed to have been written by the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates and is taken during convocation.
 - ✓ In the oath, the physician pledges to prescribe only beneficial treatments, according to his abilities and judgement; to refrain from causing harm or hurt; and to live an exemplary personal and professional life.
 - ✓ Charak Shapath is the oath written in Charak Samhita, one of the two foundational Sanskrit texts of ancient Indian medicine.
 - ✓ Maharishi Charaka is known as one of the primary contributors to the ancient science of Ayurveda and author of 'Charaka Samhita', a medical treatise
 - ✓ Originally written in Sanskrit, the treatise is now translated into Hindi and English
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has announced that it does not recognize or approve medical courses done only in 'online' mode
 - ✓ In another development, the MCI said it has already drafted a declaration for doctors in the country.
 - ✓ It simply describes 11 principles that a doctor practicing in India is expected to follow.
 - ✓ Doctors also have to undertake to abide by this declaration when they register with the Medical Council of India.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative**
- ✓ The tie-up seeks to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.



- ✓ The collaboration would focus on innovations across the healthcare sector combining public and philanthropic funds with commercial capital
- ✓ It will strive to provide an effective response to the ongoing third wave of COVID-19 and build health system preparedness for future infectious disease outbreaks and health emergencies
- ✓ In 2020, USAID, IPE Global, and stakeholders from the Indian government, academia, and the private sector developed the innovative SAMRIDH

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of External Affairs - jointly hosted the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy (RE) from February 7-8, 2022 through video conference**



- ✓ The meeting took place on the theme of “Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market”.
- ✓ It was organized in association with The Energy and Resource Institute, India and the ASEAN Centre for Energy
- ✓ The event consisted of an inaugural ministerial session, five technical sessions, and a closing session

- ✓ More than 1,000 delegates from over 20 countries participated in the conference.
- ✓ During the ministerial session, the ministers acknowledged the threat posed by climate change and reiterated their intention towards renewable transition for a sustainable future.
- ✓ On the occasion, Indian Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh delivered the key note and observed that India and ASEAN can together develop an entire ecosystem for renewable energy (RE).
- ✓ He also applauded ASEAN's efforts for achieving the development of an ASEAN power grid.
- ✓ The Minister congratulated Indonesia for taking over the presidency of G20 in 2022
- ✓ Cambodia is the current chair of ASEAN

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Drugs controller General of India - granted Emergency Use Permission to single dose Sputnik light Covid-19 vaccine**
- ✓ With this, it has become the ninth Covid-19 vaccine to get the approval for usage in the country
- ✓ Earlier, on July 1 last year, India's drug regulator had refused to grant EUA to Sputnik Light.
- ✓ Sputnik and Sputnik Light is based on recombinant human adenovirus vector platform
- ✓ The Russian health officials had authorised the one-shot Sputnik Light version of its coronavirus vaccine for use in May last year.
- ✓ The vaccine was developed by Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and is distributed by Dr Reddy's laboratory in India
- ✓ Sputnik light, which has shown an efficiency of 65.4%, is currently used in more than 30 countries.
- ✓ As per the real time data, Sputnik Light was found to be a safe and effective vaccine when used both on a standalone basis and as a booster.

ECONOMY

- **On February 10, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) - decided to maintain the status quo on the benchmark interest rate or repo rate at its six and final bi-monthly review meeting of FY22**
- ✓ With this, the repo rate remains at 4% and reverse repo rate at 3.35%
- ✓ This is the tenth consecutive time since the rate remains unchanged.
- ✓ The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020
- ✓ The MPC also opted to keep the marginal standing facility (MSF) unchanged at 4.25%

- ✓ The apex bank had projected India's economic growth for the financial year 2023 (FY23) at 7.8%
- ✓ The growth rate for the current financial year ending March 2022 is retained at 9.2%.
- ✓ **In another key decision, the cap under e-RUPI prepaid digital vouchers has been enhanced from ₹10,000 presently, to ₹1 lakh per voucher** and the vouchers can be used more than once for multiple transactions until the amount is fully redeemed
- ✓ The move, aimed at enhancing the delivery of government schemes, will also help companies offer a larger range of benefits to their employees through the vouchers
- ✓ The e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, which runs on the UPI platform, was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and launched in August 2021
- ✓ e-RUPI prepaid digital vouchers are like e-gift cards, which are prepaid in nature, can be used in specified outlets and are delivered electronically to mobile phone
- ✓ The e-RUPI would be shared with the beneficiaries for a specific purpose or activity by organizations via SMS or QR code.
- ✓ It is a person-specific and purpose-specific cashless voucher and can be used by individuals, corporates or governments.
- ✓ The e-vouchers are used by and large to deliver benefits to people in far-flung areas and those who are not too digital-savvy.
- ✓ Since its inception, it has been a single-use cashless payment voucher with a cap of Rs 10,000
- ✓ The RBI has also hiked the limit for inflows under the Voluntary Retention Scheme to Rs 2.5 lakh crore from Rs 1.5 lakh crore
- ✓ The reverse repo rate is the rate at which the RBI borrows money from the banks in the short term, while the repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to the commercial banks

OBITUARY

- **French researcher and virologist Luc Montagnier, who won a noble prize for discovering HIV in 2008 – died on February 8 at the age of 89 years at Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris**



- ✓ His involvement in studying about AIDS started in 1982, when the information about a transmissible agent, possibly a virus, was circulated
- ✓ On May 20 1983, a working group led by Montagnier and his colleague Françoise Barre-Sinoussi at the Pasteur Institute isolated the virus and named it as LAV, for lymphadenopathy associated virus.
- ✓ American scientist Robert Gallo claimed to have found the same virus, which he called HTLV-III, at the same time which led to a disagreement over the credit.
- ✓ The United States and France settled the dispute and Montagnier was later credited as the discoverer of the virus while Gallo was named as the creator of the first test
- ✓ The duo had shared half of the Nobel with German scientist Harald zur Hausen for his discovery of human papilloma viruses that cause cervical cancer.
- ✓ In 1985, the first commercial blood test to detect HIV was available
- ✓ In 1986, the virus that causes AIDS, known by Americans as HTLV-III and the French as LAV, was officially given one name, HIV, for human immunodeficiency virus.
- ✓ In 1993, Montagnier co-founded the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention
- ✓ He has been awarded several medals, including the prestigious Légion d'Honneur, the Lasker Award and the Gairdner Award

