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History of 21 February

- ◆ **1896** : The great poet and writer **Suryakant Tripathi Nirala** was born.
- ◆ **1959** : Press Club of India was established in **New Delhi**.
- ◆ **1981** : **NASA** launched the satellite **Comestar-4**.
- ◆ **1829** : **Rani Lakshmibai** of Jhansi, Karnataka's heroine and freedom fighter **Rani Chennamma** passed away.
- ◆ **1992** : **China** allowed foreigners to operate in the **Shanghai Stock Exchange**.

Current affairs related to 21 February

- ◆ **The International Monetary Fund** has revised its **GDP growth forecast** for India for the current fiscal year to 6.7%, an increase of 40 basis points from its earlier forecast of 6.3%. This optimistic adjustment is attributed to strong public investment and favorable labor market outcomes, according to the latest World Economic Outlook report. The report of International Monetary Fund states that the growth rate in India is estimated to be 6.5% in both 2024 and 2025.
- ◆ **India's largest green hydrogen pilot project** has been inaugurated by **THDC India Limited**. The project will produce 50 kg of green hydrogen per day using the 1D roof and input energy from the plant. The green hydrogen produced will be stored in two storage tanks. It will be used to light the THDC office premises during night time through 70 kW PEM fuel cell.
- ◆ **A recent study in the United Kingdom** suggests that **Alzheimer's disease** can spread from human to human. According to researchers, this occurred after a rare medical accident and the disease cannot be spread through everyday activities. This only happens when people have been accidentally vaccinated with human tissue extracts, which is a very rare and unusual situation.
- ◆ **The Finance Ministry** has reduced the import duty on various components of mobile handsets from 15% to 10%. According to experts, the price of mobile phones will reduce by about 3.5 percent. Import duty has been reduced on components like battery cover, front cover, middle cover, main lens, back cover, GSM antenna/antenna of any technology etc. The government has not notified any date for implementing the lower charges.
- ◆ **Four members of the Sixteenth Finance Commission** were appointed by the government, including three whole-time members. Former Expenditure Secretary and member of the 15th Finance Commission **A N Jha**, former Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure **Annie George Mathew** and **Niranjan Rajadhyaksha**, executive director of Earth Global, have been appointed as whole-time members of the SFC. He will decide the formula to share a major part of the Centre's tax revenue with the states for five years from financial year 2027.
- ◆ **As the political scenario is getting ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in India**, discussions related to the country's financial planning have come to the center stage. At the heart of this discussion is the difference between the interim budget and the full Union Budget, two important financial documents that guide the economic trajectory of the country.
- ◆ **The government has proposed to set up a new corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to promote private** investment in research and new initiatives in new emerging areas. This fund will be set up with a fifty-year interest-free loan. It will offer low or no interest long-term financing or long-term refinancing. According to the Finance Minister, this will give a great boost to research and innovation in new emerging areas by the private sector. The Finance Minister also suggested launching a new program to advance deep technical capabilities for defence.
- ◆ **The 74-page document titled The Indian Economy: A Review**, written by Chief Economic Advisor **V Ananth Nageswaran** and his team, presents a comprehensive analysis of India's economic journey over the last ten years. This report is separate from the official Economic Survey prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs and aims to assess the state of the Indian economy and provide information about its future outlook.

National and International Current Affairs

1. Who recently launched the centralized GIS data center for Ayodhya development?

- (A) Piyush Goyal (B) Yogi Adityanath
(C) Amit Shah (D) Narendra Modi

(B) Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath launched a centralized GIS data center in Ayodhya through ADA, streamlining 141 projects. The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government is set to set up a state-of-the-art centralized GIS data center in Ayodhya under the Ayodhya Development Authority.



2. Which state has recently won the Nagesh Trophy by defeating Andhra Pradesh?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Madhya Pradesh

(A) Recently, Karnataka won the Nagesh Trophy, which is a significant achievement in the men's national visionary T20 cricket tournament 2023-2024. In a thrilling final held in Nagpur, Karnataka defeated Andhra Pradesh by nine wickets and ended a 20-year wait for the national title.



3. Recently the Central Government has increased the target of Lakhpati Didi Scheme to how much?

- (A) 1 crores (B) 2 crores
(C) 3 crores (D) 4 crores

(C) Recently, Sitharaman had mentioned the Lakhpati Didi scheme in her budget speech. This is an ambitious scheme of the Central Government to promote women empowerment. In the interim budget, Modi government has decided to increase the target of Lakhpati Didi Scheme from 2 crore to 3 crore.



4. Which state government has recently launched the digital detox initiative?

- (A) Kerala (B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Karnataka (D) Telangana

(C) Karnataka government has announced to start a campaign of digital detox. Through this, people will be warned about the dangers of spending too much time in the digital world. Besides, efforts will also be made to create a healthy environment regarding gaming. In this campaign of digital detox, maximum emphasis will be given to the mental health of the youth.



5. According to the recent announcement by RBI, how many percent of Rs 2000 notes have successfully come back into circulation?

- (A) 96.50% (B) 97.50%
(C) 98.50% (D) 99.50%

(B) Recently the Reserve Bank of India announced the successful withdrawal of 97.50% of Rs 2000 notes from circulation. The Reserve Bank of India revealed that 97.50% of the Rs 2,000 notes in circulation by May 19, 2023 have been successfully reintegrated into the banking system.



6. Recently, where will North India's first human DNA bank be created?

- (A) Agra (B) Meerut
(C) Lucknow (D) Varanasi

(D) Recently, North India's first DNA bank is being created in Kashi Hindu University. An automated DNA extractor machine has been installed here. With this machine, DNA can be extracted from blood, saliva, hair or tissue. This will make it easier to understand the effects of future epidemics. Besides, considering various diseases, genetic study can also be done.



7. Recently, at how many rupees per kg will the government sell India's rice in the retail market?

- (A) Rs 15 per kg (B) Rs 22 per kg
(C) Rs 29 per kg (D) Rs 35 per kg.

(C) The Government of India has introduced Bharat Rice to stabilize markets and ensure affordability. Sold at 29/kg in packs of 5 and 10 kg through cooperative societies like NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. In response to rising prices of rice, the Government of India has introduced Bharat brand rice with the aim of addressing market volatility and ensuring affordability for consumers.



8. Recently, in which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone of Talabira Thermal Power Project of NLC India Limited?

- (A) Odisha (B) Kerala
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Telangana

(A) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Talabira Thermal Power Project worth more than Rs 27000 crore will be set up in Sambalpur, Odisha. The Government has approved setting up of 3,800 MW Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plant at Talabira through NLCIL. He also dedicated to the nation the 50 km long second track of Jharsuguda Barpali Sardega Rail Line Phase 1 constructed by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.



9. In which city is the 67th All India Police Duty Meet being organized recently?

- (A) Lucknow (B) Jaipur
(C) Kolkata (D) None of these

(A) Railway Protection Force is hosting the 67th All India Police Duty Meet in Lucknow. The responsibility of this program has been handed over to AIPDF. Central Coordination Committee has handed over to RPF. Well-known in law enforcement circles, the program aims to promote excellence and collaboration among police officers towards scientific research and investigation of crimes to enhance internal security.



10. Which country's army will start textile business recently?

- (A) Bangladesh (B) Maldives
(C) Nepal (D) Bhutan

(C) Recently, Nepal's Army will start textile business. Nepal Army is moving on the path of Pakistani Army and after selling water bottles, now wants to run a textile factory. Nepali Army Chief has given a proposal to PM Prachanda. Nepali Army wants to restart Hetauda textile industry by spending billions of rupees.

