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## History of February 17

- ◆ **1670** : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj won Sinhagad Fort from the Mughals.
- ◆ **1698** : Aurangzeb captured the fort of Gingee.
- ◆ **1867** : The first ship passed through the Suez Canal.
- ◆ **1931** : Lord Irwin welcomed Gandhiji at the Viceroy's residence
- ◆ **1915** : Mahatma Gandhi visited Shantiniketan for the first time.
- ◆ **1883** : Indian revolutionary Vasudev Balwant Phadke died.

## Current Affairs Related to 17 February

- ◆ In a major leap forward for India's space efforts, female robot astronaut Vyommitra developed by the Indian Space Research Organization will embark on an unmanned mission in the third quarter of this year. The mission, named after the Sanskrit words Vyom and Mitra, marks a significant progress towards the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, the country's first manned space flight, scheduled for 2025.
- ◆ Gautam Adani-led Adani Group is building the world's largest single-site copper manufacturing plant in Mundra, Gujarat. The \$1.2 billion facility will begin operating its first phase by the end of March, with the aim of reaching a full-scale production capacity of 1 million tonnes by 2029. This strategic move is in line with India's efforts to reduce dependence on copper imports and support the global transition to sustainable energy sources.
- ◆ The government has made some major changes in who is in charge of different departments. This means that some people who previously worked in one area are now going to work in another area to help make things better. Apoorva Chandra was earlier in-charge of the Information and Broadcasting Department, but now he will be the Health Secretary. He has been working for the government since 1988, so he has a lot of experience. Sanjay Jaju is going to take over Apoorva Chandra's old job as Information and Broadcasting Secretary.
- ◆ Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar released a book titled '9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government, Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana' at Surajkund Faridabad. This book highlights the achievements of the state government in the last nine years and has been published in Hindi and English languages. On this occasion, many dignitaries including Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal were present with dignity.
- ◆ ESAF Small Finance Bank has formed a strategic bancassurance alliance with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance with an aim to diversify offerings and provide financial protection to the unbanked. This collaboration aligns both organizations in the commitment to prioritize client needs, foster a culture of growth and drive innovation in the financial sector.
- ◆ The Union Home Minister Efficiency Medal has been created by merging four existing medals - the Union Home Minister's Special Operations Medal, the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, the Union Home Minister's Medal for Exceptional Intelligence Efficiency Medal and the Union Home Minister's Medal for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science. Union Home Minister Efficiency Medal will be awarded to members of police forces, security organizations and intelligence wings/branches/special branches of States/Union Territories etc. The Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation was instituted in 2018 for excellence in investigation.
- ◆ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led the inauguration of the state-of-the-art healthcare facilities at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, marking an important moment for healthcare in Odisha. Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas expressed his gratitude to Minister Mandaviya for his unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare in the region.
- ◆ Justice Ritu Bahri took oath of office as the first woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court. She was previously a senior judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Uttarakhand High Court was established on 9 November 2000.
- ◆ The Northern Ireland Parliament made history by appointing an Irish nationalist as First Minister for the first time, challenging centuries of British pro-unionist dominance.
- ◆ The 66th Grammy Awards were held in Los Angeles. Singers Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Rey won many Grammy Awards this year.



## National & International Current Affairs

**1. Which player has recently been selected as the torch bearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics?**

- (A) Abhinav Bindra (B) Neeraj Chopra  
(C) Bhaunish Mendiratta (D) Akshdeep Singh

**(A)** Abhinav Bindra will be a part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26. The Olympic torch relay will begin on April 16 and then travel from the Peloponnese to Athens. The torch relay will cover 65 areas including five overseas territories. 10,000 people will participate in the Olympic torch relay and 1,000 people will participate in the Paralympic torch relay.



**2. Which state government has recently decided to launch the Mukhyamantri Vayoshri Yojana?**

- (A) Telangana (B) Jharkhand  
(C) Maharashtra (D) Uttar Pradesh

**(C)** Mukhyamantri Vayoshri Yojana is likely to benefit 15 lakh senior citizens who are suffering from any physical or mental disability. These citizens above 65 years of age will be screened and those found eligible will be paid Rs 3,000. This scheme will be implemented in all the districts at a cost of approximately Rs 480 crore.



**3. Which government has recently announced visa free travel policy for Indian citizens?**

- (A) Japan (B) Iran  
(C) Germany (D) France

**(B)** Visa free policy for Indian citizens has been approved by the Iranian Government. This visa free policy will be valid for tourism purposes only. This policy allows Indian citizens holding ordinary passports to enter Iran without a visa. This entry can be made only once in every six months for a maximum stay of 15 days.



**4. Recently, how many crores of rupees fine was imposed on Coromandel International Limited fertilizer plant for ammonia leakage?**

- (A) 6 crores (B) 7 crores  
(C) 9 crores (D) 10 crores

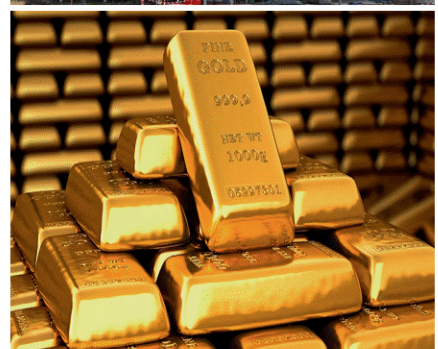
**(A)** Following the ammonia gas leak from Coromandel International Limited fertilizer plant in Ennore, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests has imposed a fine of Rs 5.92 crore on the company. Forty days after the ammonia gas leak from a fertilizer plant owned by Coromandel International Limited in Ennore, Tamil Nadu, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests has taken decisive action against the company.



**5. Recently, the amount for issuing sovereign gold bonds for the financial year 2024.2025 has been increased to how much?**

- (A) 2000 crores (B) 2500 crores  
(C) 3000 crores (D) 3500 crores

**(D)** India recently doubled the amount of sovereign gold bond issuance for the next financial year to Rs 3500 crore, underscoring the success of SGBs in shifting investor interest away from physical gold. Sovereign gold bonds have emerged as a preferred investment vehicle under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India.





6. Where was the first naturopathy hospital of the North-East inaugurated recently?

- (A) Odisha (B) Assam  
(C) Kerala (D) Telangana

(B) Union Minister for AYUSH and Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal along with the Chief Minister of Assam laid the foundation stone of Central Yoga and Naturopathy Research Institute and 100 bedded Naturopathy Hospital at Dihing Khamatighat in Dibrugarh. The organization is a leading force in AYUSH, aiming to blend the traditional knowledge of Yoga and Naturopathy with modern technology.



7. Recently, PM Modi has inaugurated development projects worth how many crores of rupees in Assam?

- (A) Rs 11,600 crore (B) Rs 12,500 crore  
(C) Rs 14,700 crore (D) Rs 15,600 crore

(A) Several infrastructure initiatives jointly funded by the state and central governments were unveiled at a function held at the playground of the Veterinary College in Khanapara, Guwahati. Notable projects include a six-lane road connecting the Kamakhya temple corridor to the new airport terminal in Guwahati.



8. Recently a committee was constituted by which government to ensure effective implementation of the Sickle Cell Disease Control Programme?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Mizoram  
(C) Maharashtra (D) Chhattisgarh

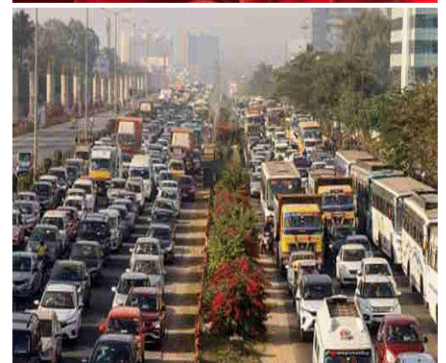
(C) Instructions were issued by the Maharashtra State Government to form committees at the state, district and taluka levels and entrust them with the important task of screening, treatment and prevention of sickle cell disease. This initiative is being seen for the first time in history. It has been specifically designed to meet the health care needs of rural, remote and tribal areas.



9. According to a recent report by Amsterdam-based location technology expert TomTom, who will become the world's most congested city in 2023?

- (A) London (B) Mumbai  
(C) New Delhi (D) Chennai

(A) According to a report by Amsterdam-based location technology specialist TomTom, London is the most congested city in the world. 148 hours are wasted annually in London during rush hour. Commuters have to spend an average of 37 minutes and 20 seconds in traffic to cover a distance of 10 km. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, is the second most crowded city.



10. How many Predator drones has America approved to sell to India recently?

- (A) 18 (B) 22  
(C) 27 (D) 31

(D) Recently the US has approved the sale of 31 MQ-9B armed drones to India, which is estimated to cost US \$ 3.99 billion. The proposed mega drone deal was announced during the historic state visit of PM Narendra Modi in June 2023. Of this, the Navy will get 15 SeaGuardian drones, while the Army and Indian Air Force will get eight ground versions SkyGuardians each.

