

20 February, 2022 Current Affairs

1. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 550-tonne capacity Gobar-Dhan Plant in Indore



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity “Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant” in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, through video conferencing. This is the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia. It has been set up at a cost of Rs 150 crore.
- The gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. Wet urban household waste and waste from cattle and farm is Gobar Dhan.
- Lakhs of tonnes of garbage have occupied thousands of acres of land for decades across the country causing air and water pollution, the major reason behind the spread of diseases. The plant is based on zero-landfill models, which means no rejects would be generated.

2. Govt plans 'Heal by India' for positioning India as global source for health sector



- The government of India will be promoting the 'Heal by India' initiative to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector. The Union Health Ministry recently organized a Chintan Shivir — 'Heal by India' for two days.
- 'Heal by India' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.
- The government of India is working on assets like well-qualified faculty, no language barrier, availability of advanced technology, positive government policies etc. Especially for those that have high demand outside India.
- It includes almost 50-60 streams like dieticians, nurses, lab technicians, paramedics, OT (operation theatre) attendants, physiotherapists, OT technicians, medical attendants for old age patients care etc. They will be trained under the Skill India programme.

3. **Gov, World Bank sign loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of REWARD Project**



- The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) Programme.
- This programme will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
- Terms of Loan: The loan has been provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) arm of World Bank and has a maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.

The bifurcation of the loan amount of \$115 million is given below:

- Government of Karnataka- \$60 million (INR 453.5 crore)
- Government of Odisha- \$49 million (INR 370 crore)
- Central Government- \$6 million (INR 45.5 crore)

- **World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.**
- **World Bank Formation: July 1944.**
- **President: David Malpass.**

4. **France announces military withdrawal from Mali after nine years**



- French president, Emmanuel Macron has announced that France and its European partners will start the military withdrawal from Mali after more than nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.
- France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 under the Socialist president François Hollande. The decision has been taken due to a breakdown in France's relations with the ruling junta government in the country. The heart of this military operation will be shifted from Mali to Niger.
- In recent years, jihadists have taken over swaths of territory in the former French colony, exploiting political turmoil, poverty and the weakness of local authorities. Critics of French strategy in Mali have long accused policymakers in Paris of focusing on the military force at the expense of politics.

- The withdrawal applies to 2,400 French troops in Mali and a smaller European force of several hundred, which was created in 2020 to reduce the burden on French forces.
- **Mali Capital: Bamako Currency: CFA Franc**
- **Niger Capital: Niamey Currency: West African CFA franc.**

5. Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day: 20 February



- Northern States Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh celebrate their Foundation Day on February 20, since 1987. Arunachal Pradesh is the extreme northern part of the country, which is also known as the 'land of the rising sun'. The state at the edge of the Himalayas is proud to be called the land of dawn and lit mountains. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India.
- Mizoram was declared as a separate UT in 1972 under the Northeast Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. It became the 23rd state of India after the 53rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution, 1986. Mizoram, as well as the state of Arunachal Pradesh, came into existence on 20 February 1987.

- **Chief Minister of Mizoram: Pu Zoramthanga**
- **Governor of Mizoram: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.**
- **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Kha**
- **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B.D. Mishra.**

6. Table Tennis player Manika Batra joins Adidas as brand ambassador



- Table Tennis player, Manika Batra was named as the brand ambassador of Adidas. The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports.
- With this association, the duo aims to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports, further fanning the aspirations of upcoming women sportspersons across the country.
- Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis at the Commonwealth Games 2018. She is the first Indian player to reach the top 10 of the (International Table Tennis Federation) ITTF World rankings in women's doubles and top 15 in mixed doubles, and the first Indian woman to reach the top 50 of the ITTF Rankings.

7. TransUnion tieup Ficci for MSME consumer education programme



- TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME.
- This program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.
- The program objective is to empower MSMEs with knowledge on how to build a good credit history and CIBIL Rank to avail easier and faster access to finance. TransUnion CIBIL is committed to supporting banks and credit institutions in the sustainable growth of their MSME portfolios while improving reach and driving access to finance for MSMEs.
- In addition to offering MSME lenders solutions like CIBIL Rank and commercial credit reports for astute lending, TransUnion CIBIL also publishes insights reports like the MSME Pulse in association with SIDBI and the recent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) analysis report to support policymakers and the industry with market insights on the MSME sector.

- **FICCI Founded: 1927**
- **FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta**
- **FICCI Secretary General: Arun Chawla.**
- **TransUnion CIBIL Founded: 2000**
- **TransUnion CIBIL Managing Director: Rajesh Kumar**
- **TransUnion CIBIL Chairman: M.V.Nair (Chairman).**

8. Hurun India Wealth Report: India's millionaire households rose 11% in 2021



HURUN REPORT
INDIA

- According to the latest Hurun India Wealth Report 2021, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India increased by 11 per cent to 4,58,000 households in 2021, as compared to 2020.
- A household having a net worth of at least INR 7 crore (\$1 million), is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household. The report has estimated that the number of dollar-millionaire households in the country shall increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households in 2026.

- Meanwhile, in the list of cities with the most millionaires, Mumbai has topped with 20,300 millionaires households. Mumbai is followed by Delhi with 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500 millionaire households, respectively.
- The report is based on the survey on 350 Indian 'millionaires' (individuals with a personal wealth of \$1 million).

9. Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change



ONLINE LEARNING WITH EXPERTS

- As per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect between Ambition and Impact', Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change.
- According to the report, 80 per cent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change compared with just 53 per cent eight months ago.
- The report was released by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL). DTTL is also known as Deloitte Global.

- The Deloitte survey, done across 21 countries during September-October 2021, has found a higher number of top-level executives in India responding to the issue of climate change compared to the survey conducted in January-February 2021.

10. GoI to launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' to deliver crop insurance policies



- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare will launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.
- A flagship scheme of the Government of India, PMFBY aims to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities. Over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under PMFBY, with over INR 1,07,059 crores of claims have already being paid under the scheme as of 4th February 2022.