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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS(1): Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of **Traditional Industries**

NEWS 2: Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and **Partnership Agreement**

NEWS 3: Carbon Watch App launched by Chandigarh

NEWS 4: Flower processing centre set up by Karnataka Govt.

NEWS 5: First undersea tunnel of India wil start in 2023

NEWS 6: Israel has launched "Green Pass" system

NEWS 7: Bangladesh banned Vulture-Toxic Drugs

NEWS 8: India - Maldives signed Defence agreement worth USD 50 million

NEWS 9: India's top trading partner – China in 2020

NEWS @: LIC launched a new Individual Savings Plan, 'Bima Jyoti' Plan

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 23.02.2021

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries

- The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises inaugurated 50 artisan-based SFURTI clusters, to provide a boost to the MSME sector.
- MSME is implementing a Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) with a view to organize traditional industries.

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement

- India and Mauritius have signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement. This was first ever trade agreement with any African country.
- As per the agreement, India will be given preferential access to the markets in Mauritius and vice versa.

STATE AFFAIRS

Carbon Watch App

- Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual.
- The app focuses on individuals' actions and calculates carbon footprint.

Flower processing centre

- The Karnataka government will set up a flower processing centre in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore.
- It will process the flowers and convert them into value-added products like floral arts, natural dyes, incense sticks, floral papers etc.

First undersea tunnel of India

- Mumbai will start the first undersea tunnel of India in 2023. The tunnel will have the length of 2.07 km out of which 1 kilometre portion will be under the sea.
- The tunnel will start from the **Priyadarshani Park** and will terminate at the Netaji Subhash Road in Marine Drive.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Green pass system

- Israel has launched a "green pass" system, which allows people who have been vaccinated to access public facilities that would otherwise be off-limits.
- Those who have recovered from the virus get a "Green Pass" certificate in the form of a QR code or printout for people without smart phones.

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Page | 1

Vulture-Toxic Drugs

- Bangladesh has banned the painkiller ketoprofen. This painkiller is used widely to treat the cattle. But this painkiller is toxic to vultures.
- The Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction report states that ketoprofen is now widely used as a main anti-inflammatory drug by vets in Bangladesh.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

India - Maldives

- India and the Maldives have signed a defence Line of Credit agreement worth USD 50 million.
- It is seen as key to India's and Maldives' strategic interests, particularly given China's increasing footprint in the Indian Ocean Region.

India's top trading partner - China

- In the year 2020, China has again become India's top trading partner. The trade between both the countries in the year 2020 stood at \$77.7 billion.
- India's main import are heavy machines, telecom equipment and home appliances from China.

'Bima Jyoti' Plan

- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched a new Individual Savings Plan, 'Bima Jyoti' Plan.
- It is a Non-linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Limited Premium Payment, Life Insurance Savings Plan.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First audio from Mars

- NASA, released the first audio from Mars. It was a faint crackling recording of the wind that was captured by **Perseverance rover**.
- The rover is on a mission to search if there is any sign of past life on the MARS (RED Planet).

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation has successfully launched the two indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile.
- Missiles have been launched for the Indian Navv.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

National Technology Awards 2020

- A total of 12 companies have been selected for the Technology National Awards 2020 commercialization of innovative indigenous technologies.
- The awards are conferred by the **Technology Development Board** for commercialization of technologies under three categories - Indigenous technologies, MSME, and Startups.

29th Global HRD Congress awards

- Union Bank of India was awarded "Best Service **Provider"** in **Human Resources**. It also got the award for best institution in "Excellence in Learning & Development".
- These Awards are given to institutions annually for the best HR practices.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

"Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards"

- Srikanth Ram has authored a new book titled "Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards".
- The foreword of the book is written by Dilip Vengsarkar. The published book was Becomeshakespeare.com.

'Agriculture Acts 2020'

- K. Veeramani, president of Dravida Kazhagam released a book "Agriculture Acts 2020" written by Justice A.K. Rajan, former judge of the Madras High
- It has shown how the laws hit at the federal structure of India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Thinking Day

- 22nd February of every year is observed as World Thinking Day. The day aims to bring together the young people across the world to celebrate in international fun and friendship.
- It's theme is "Peacebuilding".