



17.02.2021

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## NEWS IN SHORT

**NEWS ①:** PM laid foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev memorial

**NEWS ②:** Third edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary

**NEWS ③:** Defence Minister launched online portal 'e-Chhawani'

**NEWS ④:** Mastercard and Razorpay have joined hands to empower Indian MSMEs

**NEWS ⑤:** China - Largest trading partner of the EU

**NEWS ⑥:** ACC introduced its low carbon range of concrete - ECOPact

**NEWS ⑦:** NIC launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes

**NEWS ⑧:** Electric two-wheeler - 'PiMO' launched

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 17.02.2021

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### Maharaja Suheldev

- The Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev memorial and the development work of Chittaura lake in Uttar Pradesh.
- He was the erstwhile ruler of Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh's (UP) Bahraich district, who ruled in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Indian Sign Language

- The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will release the third edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary.
- It will include the academic, legal, medical technical, administrative and agricultural terms in it.

#### 'e-Chhawani'

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an online portal 'e-Chhawani' and mobile app, to facilitate 'ease of living' and 'ease of doing' for the residents of the Cantonment Boards across the country.

### STATE AFFAIRS

#### 'Maa' Scheme

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched 'Maa' Scheme under which the Government will provide subsidised cooked meals for the poor & destitute at a cost of INR 5.

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### China - Largest trading partner of the EU

- Republic of China has overtaken the United States as the biggest trading partner of the European Union (EU) in 2020.
- Britain, which left the European Union in 2020, was the third-largest trading partner for the bloc, behind China and the United States.

### BUSINESS & ECONOMY

#### Mastercard and Razorpay have joined hands to empower Indian MSMEs

- Mastercard and Razorpay have joined hands to empower Indian micro, small and medium enterprises and startups in digitising their operations, maintaining business continuity in the challenging environment, and preparing them for cashless future.

### GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

#### Pollution from Coal Burning

- A study by the International Energy Agency's Clean Coal Centre has stated that coal burning is responsible for heavy air pollution in India.
- Coal-based thermal power stations contribute over half sulphur dioxide, 30% oxides of nitrogen, about 20% particulate matter (PM), etc.

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### Coelacanth

- A group of **palaeontologists** have discovered **fossils of coelacanth**, a **giant fish** regarded as an iconic example of a **“living fossil”**.
- **Coelacanths** are elusive, deep-sea creatures, living in depths up to **2,300 feet below the surface**.

### ECOPact

- **ACC Ready Mix Concrete** has recently introduced its new **low carbon range of concrete** called **ECOPact**.
- The ECOPact range will help the developers to obtain the **Green Points** from **Indian Green Building Council**.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Sandes

- The **National Informatics Centre** has launched an instant **messaging platform** called **Sandes** on the lines of WhatsApp.
- It is a **Government Instant Messaging System** that can be used for official or casual use by public user having a valid **Mobile No./Email ID**.

### Electric two-wheeler - ‘PiMO’

- The **Pi Beam**, which is an **IIT Madras-incubated start-up**, recently launched the **electric two-wheeler** called **‘PiMO’**.
- The electric two-wheeler can charge faster than a smartphone. It has been priced at **Rs. 30,000**.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

- **Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** was appointed as **Director-General of the World Trade Organisation**, the leading international trade body.
- She is the **first African** official and the **first woman** to hold the position.

### Preeti Sinha

- The **UN Capital Development Fund** has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker **Preeti Sinha** as its **Executive Secretary**.
- She succeeds **Judith Karl**.

### Rana Daggubati

- **CEAT Limited**, a tyre company has signed in Actor **Rana Daggubati** as its **brand ambassador** to promote the new **‘Puncture Safe’** range of **bike tyres**.

### Jean-Michel Sama

- **Felix Tshisekedi**, **President of Democratic Republic of the Congo** named **Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge** as the **Prime Minister** of the country.
- He belongs to the **Future of Congo** political party.

## SPORTS

### Naman Ojha has announced his retirement

- **Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha** has announced his **retirement**, from all formats of cricket.
- The **37-year-old** from **Madhya Pradesh** holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the **Ranji Trophy**.

## OBITUARY

### Justice Rama Jois

- **Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand, Justice (Retd.) M. Rama Jois** has passed away.
- He was also a senior advocate in the **Supreme Court of India**.