

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 3, 2020

NATIONAL

- **The Government - has announced a Production linked incentive (PLI) package of about ₹42,000 crore for 'Made-in-India' mobile phones**
- ✓ The package plans to offer a benefit of 4%-6%, on incremental sales of phones manufactured locally, to the manufacturers for a period of five years
- ✓ It is one of the biggest incentive schemes designed by the Centre to boost domestic manufacturing of mobile phones and their components

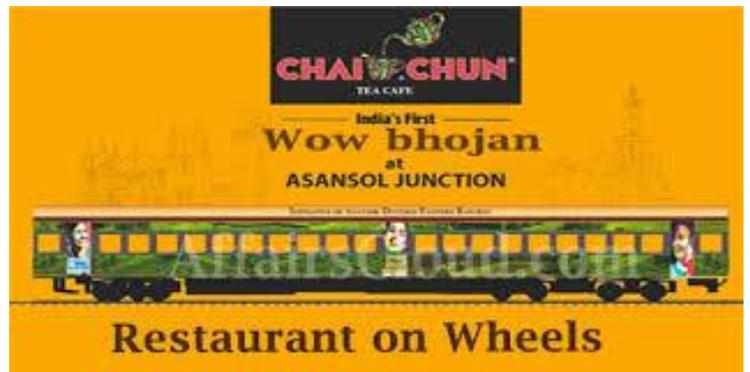
TARGETS CREATION OF 2 LAKH JOBS

- Total outlay of ₹42,000cr to be disbursed over 5 years
- Scheme likely to begin from Aug 1. Expected to help generate 2L jobs, incremental sales of ₹8.2L cr, exports of ₹5.8L cr, and direct tax revenue of ₹4,782cr
- Bid to make India a global manufacturing hub like China and Vietnam

- ✓ The move would benefit companies making and selling high-end devices such as iPhone from Apple and the Galaxy S and Note series by Samsung to a maximum extent.
- ✓ It would also be beneficial to homegrown players like Lava, Karbonn, Micromax and Intex.
- ✓ The scheme has been prepared in consultation with the Ministries of finance and commerce along with Niti Aayog
- ✓ It will be rolled out by the Ministry of Information Technology.
- ✓ The scheme is aimed at making India a hub for manufacturing electronics and components, to compete with other manufacturing giants such as China and Vietnam on an even scale.

- ✓ The government plans to offer incentives under the scheme to large contract manufacturers on sale of phones above the invoice or ex-factory price value of \$200 (a little over ₹14,000)
 - ✓ This would benefit global contract manufacturers such as Foxconn, Flex and Wistron, all of whom are making products in India.
 - ✓ However, the scheme will not benefit much to manufacturers such as Oppo, Vivo and even Samsung as the majority of phones sold by them are below the ex-factory price value of \$200.
- **A Delhi court - deferred the execution of the death sentence of the four Nirbhaya gang-rape case convicts indefinitely on March 2.**
- ✓ The four condemned men were supposed to be hanged to death on March 3 at 6 a.m.
 - ✓ Additional sessions judge, Dharmender Rana stopped their execution after one of the four convicts, Pawan Gupta, had moved a clemency petition before the President on March 2.
 - ✓ The mercy plea was filed shortly after a five-judge Supreme Court Bench, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, dismissed Pawan's curative petition for lack of credentials.
 - ✓ Even if the President rejects the mercy plea of Pawan before 6 a.m. on March 3, as per the law laid down by the Supreme Court in its Shatrughan Chauhan judgment of 2014, the convict needs to be given 14 days to "prepare" himself for the execution.
 - ✓ The fate of the other three convicts would also depend on how long Pawan's petition gets dragged.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the government has appealed to the Supreme Court for permission to separately execute the other convicts who have exhausted their legal and administrative remedies.
- **The passengers travelling on domestic flights - will now be able to use In-flight Wi-Fi, following the permission from the pilot-in-command**
- ✓ In-Flight WiFi refers to offering internet services to passengers during their flight with an airline.
 - ✓ Through Wi-Fi on board, laptop, smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, e-reader or a point of sale device can be used in flight mode or airplane mode
 - ✓ However, the Director-General's certification to the aircraft for usage of Internet service in flight through Wi-Fi on board must be obtained beforehand, subject to the procedures as specified in this behalf
 - ✓ Vistara was one of the first airlines to obtain the necessary approvals from the Department of Telecom during last year end.
 - ✓ India and North Korea were the only two countries that haven't offered in-flight WiFi services to its air passengers till now.

- **The Registrar-General of India - has asked all States to “give highest importance, attention and time” to the Census and National Population Register (NPR) work**
- ✓ The decennial census exercise will be conducted in two phases — house listing and housing census from April to September 2020, and population enumeration from February 9 to 28, 2021.
- ✓ The Centre has proposed that the next phase of the NPR be conducted with the first phase of the census.
- ✓ On March 1, the Uttar Pradesh government kick-started the process — the Census-NPR exercise, that will be conducted in the State from May 16 to June 30.
- ✓ According to Citizenship Rules 2003, the NPR is the first step towards compilation of the NRC
- ✓ However, the government informed Parliament on February 4 that “till now, the government has not taken any decision to prepare National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).
- ✓ There are 34 questions in the census proforma and 14 questions in the NPR.
- ✓ The NPR is only updated now and no new register is being created.
- ✓ The Government has also clarified that providing Aadhaar details for the NPR is voluntary.
- ✓ In 2010 and 2015, NPR collected details on 14 parameters.
- **Indian Railways - started its first railway restaurant "Restaurant on Wheels" at Asansol railway station for the usage of its passengers and common people.**



- ✓ This restaurant has been developed by renovating two old railway coaches
- ✓ This restaurant on wheels is expected to increase Indian Railway's non-fare revenue up to Rs 50 lakh in the next five years.
- ✓ Out of the two compartments, the first compartment will provide tea and snacks while the second compartment will give breakfast and lunch.
- ✓ The restaurant will also offer a variety of dishes including both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

DEFENCE

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and IISc Bangalore - recently unveiled a new explosive detection device, RaiDer-X



- ✓ It was recently showcased during the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020 on March 01, 2020)
- ✓ RaiDer-X can detect an explosive or bulk explosives, either in a pure form or contaminated with other objects, from a specific stand-off distance.
- ✓ It is a portable device that can be taken to any place along with the military contingent
- ✓ IISc's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory played a vital role in developing the device in association with DRDO

OBITUARY

- **Jack Welch, the former CEO of General Electric – has passed away due to renal failure in United States.**
- ✓ Welch led General Electric through two decades of extraordinary corporate prosperity in 1980s and 1990s and became the most influential business managers of his generation.

SUPERSTAR CEO

- Known as "Neutron Jack" for cutting thousands of jobs
- A chemical engineer by training, he became GE's youngest CEO at 45 in April 1981. Headed it till Sept 2001
- During his tenure, GE's revenue jumped fivefold, from about \$26bn to \$130bn
- GE's market value soared from \$12bn to \$410bn and it became the world's largest company by market cap
- In 1999, Fortune magazine named Welch "Manager of the Century"



- ✓ In December 1980, Welch succeeded CEO Reginald Jones and in April 1981, he took over as the company's eighth chairman and CEO.
- ✓ He served in that position until he retired in September 2001.

- ✓ The company's revenue jumped nearly fivefold, to \$130 billion, during Welch's tenure, while the value of its shares on the stock market rose from \$14 billion to more than \$410 billion.
- ✓ He led the globalisation of GE's business, both expanding sales and manufacturing overseas.
- ✓ Welch, known as 'Neutron Jack' for cutting thousands of jobs, bought and sold several businesses during his tenure.
- ✓ But his efforts to build out the GE Capital financing business resulted in the failure of the entire enterprise during the global financial crisis more than a decade ago
- ✓ In 1999, Fortune magazine named him the "manager of the century"
- ✓ In 2000, the Financial Times named GE "the world's most respected company" for the third straight year.
- ✓ In a 2000 auction for the rights to his autobiography, Time Warner's book unit won a bid of \$7.1 million, a record at the time
- ✓ In 1960, Welch joined GE as a chemical engineer for its plastics division in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
- ✓ He was elected the youngest vice-president of the company in 1972 and became its vice-chairman in 1979.

SPORTS

- **The Asian Team championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, from March 25-29 and the Asian Junior Individual Championship scheduled in Qingdao, China from June 29 to July 3 - have been postponed following the high impact and risk factor of the Coronavirus disease at the global level**
- ✓ The decision was taken at the Annual General Meeting of the ASF
- ✓ The fresh dates for both the events will be announced later
- ✓ Saurav Ghosal and Joshana Chinappa were announced to lead the charge at the Asian Championship
- ✓ Keeping in mind the Asian Games Commonwealth Games, Squash Racquet Federation of India (SRFI) had also appointed David Palmer to be an event-based coach for the Asian Team Championship.
- ✓ The Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament also became the latest sporting event to be affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak
- ✓ It is being pushed from April to September in the wake of the deadly disease which is spreading across the world
- ✓ The tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Ipoh from April 11 to 18, will now be held from September 24 to October 3
- ✓ The season-opening Qatar MotoGP, scheduled to take place on March 8, was cancelled because of the spread of the coronavirus
- ✓ This was announced by the international motorcycling federation (FIM) on March 1.
- ✓ However, the Moto2 and Moto3 world championship races were not affected.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Hearing Day – March 3



- ✓ The World Hearing Day aims to raise awareness about the prevention efforts of deafness and hearing loss and to promote hearing care across the world.
- ✓ On the occasion, the World Health Organization (WHO) aims to highlight that timely and effective care can enable people with hearing loss to achieve their full potential.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - **“Hearing for life, don’t let hearing loss limit you”**
- ✓ Around 466 million people across the world are estimated to be suffering from hearing loss, which amounts to almost 6.1% of the world’s population.

➤ World Wildlife Day – March 3



- ✓ The day is observed globally to celebrate the varied forms of wild fauna and flora on the planet
- ✓ It also intends to raise awareness regarding the multiple benefits that the conservation of fauna and flora provides to the mankind.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - **‘Sustaining all life on Earth’**
- ✓ The theme is in line with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals- 1(No Poverty), 12 (Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) to stop biodiversity loss by the sustainable use of natural resources
- ✓ The year 2020 is also known as 'biodiversity super year'

- ✓ This year will witness several major global events aimed at conserving the biodiversity of Earth.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared March 3 as UN World Wildlife Day at its 69th session on December 20, 2013.
- ✓ The day-March 3 was chosen, as it is the day when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in 1973.
- ✓ The World Wildlife Day was proposed by Thailand.
- ✓ The CITES is an international agreement signed between the governments to ensure that the international trade of wild flora and fauna does not threaten their existence.
- ✓ Currently, the CITES has 183 member states

