



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 12, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has set up the Tamil Nadu Linguistic Minorities Social and Economic Development Corporation (TALMEDCO) under the Companies Act, 2013**
- ✓ The new entity will cater to the requirements of notified linguistic minorities who are not included or covered by the religious minorities.
- ✓ The government's decision is aimed at benefiting linguistic minorities in the state
- ✓ The linguistic minorities include groups of people whose mother tongue is different from the principal language of the State, i.e., Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Urdu and Saurashtra speakers, among others.
- ✓ As per the 2011 Census, the population of linguistic minorities in Tamil Nadu is 83.84 lakh, which is 11.63% of the State's population.
- ✓ Linguistic minorities face many problems, including the inability to access education in a language of their choice, under-representation in employment, business and inadequate access to economic opportunities
- ✓ The setting up of a separate corporation for the socio-economic development of linguistic minorities aims to provide them better access to various schemes and to promote their interests

STATES

- **Madhya Pradesh - has launched a Police Museum at the police headquarters in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh.**
- ✓ It is a unique museum built on the theme of the dacoits to portray their crimes and stories.
- ✓ The museum contains several unique items that were used by dacoits namely Phoolan Devi and Nirbhay Gujjar.
- ✓ Several other items related to the Chambal dacoits will come up at the police museum.

- ✓ The museum will also highlight the sacrifices made by police to prevent crimes of the Chambal Dacoits.
- ✓ It will display around 2,000 digitised police records and materials that have been compiled in past five decades recording the crimes of murder, loot and kidnapping by these bandits.
- ✓ It will have images of 28 policemen who were martyred while fighting with the dacoits alongwith the image of 30 policemen who won the gallantry awards.

NATIONAL

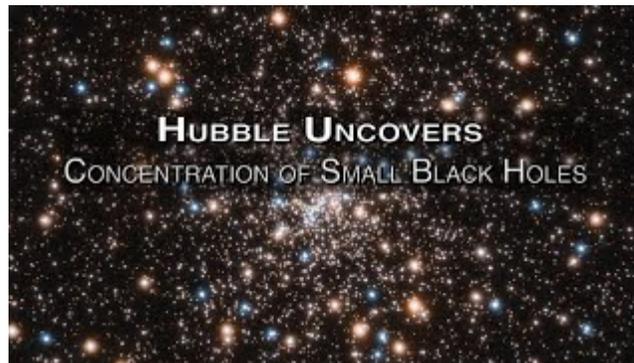
- **On February 11, the Government – had informed in the Lok Sabha that India has suffered a huge crop loss on 18.176 million hectares of land.**
 - ✓ This crop loss, which occurred due to floods between the year 2017 to 2019, is equivalent to roughly 8.5% of the total gross cropped area.
 - ✓ Out of the total losses, around 10.68 million hectares of land was affected in 2019 alone.
 - ✓ In 2018, 2.515 million hectares of land were affected while in the year 2017, 4.973 million hectares of cropped area were lost.
 - ✓ As per the data, flood-prone states of Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh observed the extreme floods.
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh was the hardest-hit among all the states in terms of crop loss
 - ✓ The state had zero crop loss in 2017 and 2018 but, in 2019 it suffered the highest loss of 6.047 million hectares of land.
 - ✓ The state had made the second highest claims in 2019 after Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for crop insurance by the farmers.
 - ✓ The Centre had implemented the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) scheme for integrated flood management.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, the government has released the central assistance of Rs 6,409.96 crore till March, 2020.
 - ✓ This scheme was launched during Eleventh five year Plan period to provide central assistance to the state governments
 - ✓ The financial grant will be used to take up works related to river management, flood control, drainage development, anti-erosion, anti-sea erosion works and restoration of the damaged flood management works.
 - ✓ The programme continued till Twelfth five year Plan.
- **The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and a United Kingdom based space agency - have announced to work together on a collaborative project on the impact-based flood forecasting.**
 - ✓ The project is supported by the National Space Innovation Programme (NSIP).
 - ✓ It is undertaken by HR Wallingford in association with the Oxford University, D-orbit and Sayers & Partners (SPL).

- ✓ The project will help in predicting the flood risks alongwith the expected loss to life, infrastructure disruption, injuries that occurs to the people, building collapse, and other economic damages.
- ✓ The impact-based flood forecasting system will help in identifying the relationships between predicted floods and the impact of the flood on people, their houses and crops & livestock.
- ✓ This system uses the earth observation (EO) based information.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Isro – tests satellites developed by private sector for the first time in the last 50 years since the launch of space programme**
- ✓ Isro has opened up its facilities to the private sector with two satellites commissioned by corporates and one by academia being tested in the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)
- ✓ Satellites developed by Corporates from Tamil Nadu-based Space Kidz India and Bengaluru-based Syzygy Space Technologies (Pixxel) have undergone testing.
- ✓ Another satellite tested by the URSC is UNITYsat
- ✓ UNITYsat is a combination of three satellites designed and built by Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Sriperumbudur, GH Raison College of Engineering, Nagpur and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore.
- ✓ Further, Chennai-based IIT-M incubated Agnikul Cosmos will be allowed to test its engine at Thiruvananthapuram rocket centre while Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace's engine will be tested at Sriharikota spaceport
- ✓ Also, MapmyIndia, which builds digital maps and offers GIS services, has approached Isro for high-resolution images.
- ✓ ISRO is ready to launch commercial satellites in a PSLV mission scheduled for later this month.
- ✓ It will be the first mission wherein satellites by the Indian industry will be commercially launched by ISRO.
- ✓ The PSLV C-51 mission will carry a Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 under a commercial arrangement made by the NewSpace India limited, the commercial arm of Isro.
- ✓ In addition, the launch vehicle will carry 20 passenger satellites—including one nanosatellite by Isro, the two satellites made by corporates under testing, and UnitySat
- ✓ A satellite designed by students from SpaceKidz India had been launched by ISRO as an experiment in January 2019 using the fourth stage of the PSLV, which usually goes to waste, as the platform for the KalamSat.
- ✓ These developments are in line with opening up of the space sector to private firms in June last year
- ✓ An independent body, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), was set up to oversee the space activity of the private sector and to share facilities of ISRO

- ✓ At least 26 proposals, including those from US-based Amazon Web Services and Bharti Group backed UK-based OneWeb, are being reviewed by the IN-SPACe
- ✓ The proposals range from permissions for ground stations, establishing satellite constellations to making and launching satellites, launch vehicles and providing applications.
- **The astronomers - have discovered a concentration of smaller black holes in the cluster NGC 6397.**



- ✓ These small black holes are different from the usual discoveries of one massive black hole at the heart of the cluster
- ✓ The globular clusters are dense stellar system that hosts the closely packed stars.
- ✓ Such dense stellar systems are usually very old with NGC 6397 being as old as the universe
- ✓ NGC 6397 cluster is located at around 7,800 light-years away and is one of the closest globular clusters to the Earth.
- ✓ This cluster is also known as Core-Collapsed Cluster because of its very dense nucleus.
- ✓ Core collapse means the core has contracted to a dense stellar agglomeration.
- ✓ The precise measurement of the stars in the cluster's core was made with the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ✓ NGC 6397 cluster is also known as Caldwell 86.
- ✓ It is a globular cluster, comprising of around 4,00,000 stars, lying in the constellation Ara.
- ✓ The cluster can be observed with naked eye under favourable observing conditions.
- ✓ It is one among the at least 20 globular clusters in the Milky Way Galaxy which has gone through the core collapse.
- ✓ Milky Way is the galaxy comprising of our Solar System.