

Daily the Hindu News Paper Headlines 18-2-2022

1. **SC lifts stay on Haryana quota for private jobs** **Front Page, GS 2**
 - The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court order staying a controversial State law which provides 75% reservation for local youth in private sector jobs paying less than ₹30,000 a month
 - A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and P.S. Narasimha set aside the February 3 stay order of the High Court on the ground that it did not give “sufficient reasons”. The Bench observed that every law passed by the legislature was presumed to be legal. An order of stay on its implementation by a court of law should be reasoned. The High Court had not given sufficient reasons for stopping the Haryana law in its tracks on February 3
2. **Singapore PM’s speech uncalled for, says India** **Front Page, GS 3**
 - Taking a stern view of a speech by **Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong** in the island nation’s Parliament, criticising the decline of “**Nehru’s India**” to a state where almost half the Indian MPs face “criminal charges”, the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned Singapore’s High Commissioner to India** Simon Wong on Thursday. Officials told Mr. Wong that Mr. Lee’s comments were “**uncalled for**” and “**unacceptable**”, according to government sources
3. **IT probe into NSE ex-MD may reveal yogi’s identity** **FrontPage, GS 2,3,4**
 - The investigation launched by the Income Tax (I-T) Department, which on Thursday searched the premises of former NSE Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Chitra Ramkrishna in Mumbai and Chennai, may throw up some leads on the identity of the unknown yogi with whom she had been sharing internal information.
 - SEBI, as first reported by Business Line, found that Ms. Ramkrishna shared internal information of the NSE **with the yogi**, with whom **she had been in touch for about 20 years**. It was alleged that **she consulted the person via email for the appraisal of employee performance and this way**, Mr. Subramanian got substantial increments in quick succession. In January 2013, Mr. Subramanian was offered ₹1.68 crore for the post of Chief Strategic Adviser in the NSE, when his last drawn salary was ₹15 lakh in a government corporation
4. **India has still to get a good grip on road safety** **Page 6, Editorial Page**
 - Where do we stand vis-à-vis last decade’s target? In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, after considering the alarming situation of road accidents fatalities, adopted the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 aimed at reducing fatalities in road accidents by 50% by the year 2020, and was accepted by much of the world including India.
5. **Etching a trade line to bond beyond oil** **Page 6, Editorial Page**
 - An IndiaUAE free trade agreement will enable twoway investment flows and help achieve ambitious export targets GETTY IMAGES.
 - India has embarked on a new journey — a new free trade agreement (FTA) journey to be precise — with renewed zeal and vigour. India’s approach towards FTAs is now focusing more on gaining meaningful market access and facilitating Indian industry’s integration into global value chains. As Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has repeatedly emphasised, India would no longer be signing trade agreements just to join a group, but the new approach of FTA negotiations would respond to the need of new emerging dynamics in international trade and the Indian economy.
6. **India again backs diplomacy at UNSC** **Page 8, GS 3**
 - At a meeting at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) called by Russia to discuss the Ukraine crisis, on the seventh anniversary of the Minsk II ceasefire agreement, India called for a diplomatic solution to the tensions.
7. **India, UAE to sign trade pact today** **Page10, GS3**
 - India and the United Arab Emirates will sign the first ever bilateral Free Trade Agreement between the two countries on Friday.
 - The FTA — **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** — is expected to be in focus during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan. A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said the summit will provide both the leaders an opportunity to discuss “bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest”
8. **China asks India to ensure fair treatment of Chinese firms** **Page 12, Business, GS 3**
 - China’s Ministry of Commerce on Thursday asked India “to improve its business environment” and to ensure “non-discriminatory” treatment of its firms, in the wake of a new ban on Chinese apps and recent tax probes on Chinese firms.
9. **A miracle cure against HIV** **Page Text & Context**
 - This week at a Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Colorado, United States, researchers described the case of a 60-year-old African American woman who was diagnosed with an HIV infection in 2013 and has reportedly been cured of the infection. She has been off ART treatment for almost 14 months now.
 - A combination of embryonic stem cells, from a donor with a rare mutation that naturally blocks the HIV virus from infecting cells, along with adult stem cells seems to have been the ‘miracle’ cure. The adult stem cells boosted the patient’s immunity and possibly helped the cord blood cells fully integrate with the lady’s immune system.
 - While this approach is certainly a welcome addition, stem cell therapy is a cumbersome exercise and barely accessible to most HIV patients in the world. A vaccine for HIV or a drug that eliminates the virus is still elusive and would be the long sought ‘cure’ for HIV/AIDS

