

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 24, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - has announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to V. Abhinaya, a student who has been selected to visit the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the U.S.



- ✓ V. Abhinaya was a Class IX student from Nallipalayam village in Namakkal district
- ✓ She was selected as the candidate in a country-wide competition held by private organizations during last September
- ✓ She has been shortlisted to participate in a space conference at Nasa, scheduled for May this year.

NATIONAL

- The 62nd edition of PM Narendra Modi's monthly Radio Programme 'Mann Ki Baat' - was telecasted on February 23
- ✓ During the program, the PM mentioned about ISRO's 'Yuvika Programme', an initiative started recently by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), that allows children to watch rocket launches from the Sriharikota launch centre.
- ✓ Earlier, only space scientists were allowed to go to the spaceport situated on an island in Andhra Pradesh.



- ✓ The Prime Minister also praised the space agency about its commendable job in connecting the youth of the country with space science through the programme
 - ✓ The programme was launched for school children in 2019.
 - ✓ Yuvika is the short form of 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister announced that this initiative is in accordance with our slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Science and Jai Research'
 - ✓ Through this programme, students during holidays after their exams can go to different centres of ISRO and learn about space technology, space science and space applications.
 - ✓ Under the programme, a group of selected students from across the country is taken to different ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Sriharikota to show them various space activities.
 - ✓ During his speech, the PM also made reference to his recent visit to Hunar Haat at India Gate to 'know India and to experience India' and contribute in the progress and prosperity of hardworking crafts persons, especially women.
 - ✓ The PM also took the name of 105-year-old Bhageerathi Amma, the centenarian who became the oldest equivalency course student, and urged the nation to take inspiration from her
- **The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' - completed one year of its implementation on February 24, 2020**
- ✓ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Modi on February 24, 2019 at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ It aims to help farmers by providing them income support of Rs 6,000 per year.
 - ✓ The Scheme initially provided income support to small and marginal farmers that hold land up to 2 hectares.
 - ✓ Later, it was extended to all farmers, covering around 14 crore farmers
 - ✓ Till now, the Central Government has released Rs 50,850 crores and has benefited 8.46 crores of families.



- ✓ On the occasion of one year completion, PM Kisan Mobile app was launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ✓ The application helps farmers to learn about their payment status, their eligibility towards a scheme and other related information to the farmers.
- ✓ The scheme will help the Government achieve its goal of “Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022” easily.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The International Judicial Conference - was held in New Delhi between February 21-23.**

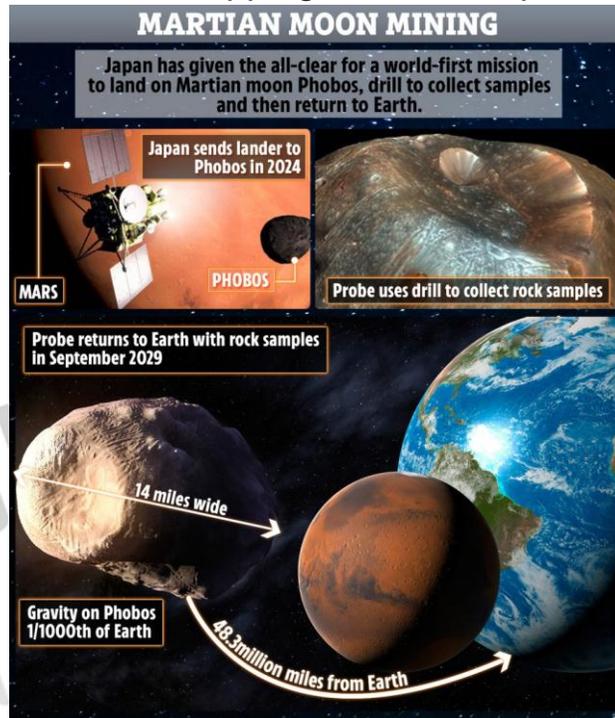


- ✓ The Conference was addressed by PM Modi.
- ✓ Theme - Gender Just World
- ✓ The conference highlighted about various steps taken by the Government to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women in military services, selection process of fighter pilots etc.,
- ✓ It also discussed on freedom of women to work in mines at night.
- ✓ The initiative “E-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project” of the Government, to integrate every court of India with the E-Court system was also highlighted in the conference.

- ✓ The Conference introduced the “Just World” concept in the Judicial System of India
- ✓ The concept aims to take the judicial system of the country to every citizen irrespective of their gender.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The world’s first mission to a Martian moon, Phobos - will be launched by Japan in 2024**
- ✓ The mission is expected to be a stepping stone for a possible human mission to the Red Planet, Mars.



- ✓ The project was given the approval by the Japanese government on February 19.
- ✓ Called the ‘Martian Moon Exploration’ (MMX) spacecraft, the mission consists of the spacecraft flying to two Martian moons — Phobos and Deimos — with Phobos selected for the landing
- ✓ MMX is expected to reach the two moons in 2025, spend the next three years doing detailed terrain mapping of the two, land on Phobos in this period, and then return to the Earth in 2029.
- ✓ The spacecraft is being jointly designed and developed by the Japanese aerospace agency, JAXA, the German space agency, DLR, and the French space agency, CNES.
- ✓ The mission is also expected to provide an idea about the origin of Phobos and Deimos — whether they are asteroids captured by the Martian gravity, or, whether they were created after a meteorite impact on the red planet.
- ✓ After landing on Phobos, the spacecraft will operate on the surface for several hours to collect a sample of at least 10 gm by boring 2cm into the surface.

AWARDS

- **Dr. Niti Kumar, Senior Scientist of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology Division, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow – to be conferred the SERB Women's Excellence Award-2020.**



- ✓ She will be awarded by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind during the National Science Day celebration at Vigyan Bhawan on February 28, 2020.
- ✓ The award is given to women scientists under the age of 40, who have received awards and accolades from various national academies
- ✓ Dr. Niti Kumar has received several awards and honors like Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (DBT-IYBA 2015), INSA Medal for Young Scientist (2010) by Indian National Academy of Sciences and Marie Curie Early Stage Research Fellowship by European Union under 6th Framework Programme (2005-2006).
- ✓ Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a constitutional body, established in 2009, working under the Department of Science and Technology (DoST), Government of India.
- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28 every year.
- ✓ The day marks the discovery of the Raman Effect, which was announced by Indian Scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (Sir CV Raman) on this day.

SPORTS

- **Upcoming table tennis wizard, Mathan Rajan Hansini from Chennai - won the bronze medal in the Mini-Cadet girls' singles category at the Swedish Junior and Cadet Open in Orebro, Sweden**



- ✓ The 10-year-old class V student lost to Russia's Iuliia Pugovkina in the semi-final.
 - ✓ This is her maiden appearance at an international junior circuit event
 - ✓ Under the guidance of Muralidhara Rao, who has coached Sharath and K Shamini, the 2028 Olympic medal prospect is getting trained at the Ultimate Table Tennis-backed SDAT AKG Table Tennis Development Centre in Chennai.
 - ✓ She has recently won bronze medal in cadet girls' singles at the 2019 UTT 81st National TT C'ships.
- **Indian men's doubles pair of Achanta Sharath Kamal and Gnanasekaran Sathiyar - settled for a silver medal at the ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open**



- ✓ They have lost the final to Germany's Benedikt Duda and Patrick Franziska
 - ✓ The Indian pair defeated top seeds Ho Kwan Kit and Wong Chun Ting of Hong Kong in the semifinals but eventually to the 16th seeds German pair in the final
- **Jitender Kumar - sealed his place in the Indian team for the Olympic Qualifiers at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with a silver medal at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi**



- ✓ The result could shut the door on veteran Sushil Kumar for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil had skipped the continental event citing an injury.

- ✓ In the men's freestyle competition, World championships silver medallist, Deepak Punia (86kg) and World and Asian championships bronze medallist, Rahul Aware (61kg) finished with bronze medals.
- ✓ Jitender lost to the defending champion, Kazakhstan's Daniyar Kaisanov in the final
- **India's 13-year-old Grandmaster D. Gukesh - emerged champion in the 34th Cannes Open chess on February 22**
- ✓ He defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of France in the final round to end with 7.5 points.



- ✓ Gukesh (Elo rating 2542) had become the world's second youngest Grandmaster ever last year.
- ✓ Chongsheng Zeng, the top seed, took the second place.
- ✓ Gukesh was ranked as the fourth seed in the tournament.

