



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 10 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Twenty women officers from the Afghan National Army – have received rifle training at Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai**
- ✓ The group is undergoing six weeks of military training at OTA
- ✓ This year marks the fourth year of the academy training women officers from Afghanistan.
- ✓ The training began on January 18 and is set to conclude next week.
- ✓ Most officers belong to the logistics, human resources, radio communications, and medicine branches of the Afghan National Army.
- ✓ Their training curriculum includes physical training, drill, weapon training, tactical training, leadership and human resources management, information technology and English communication.

### STATES

- **Hyderabad - has won a green contest among cities in India and emerged one of the 'Tree Cities of the World'.**
- ✓ The title has been conferred by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ✓ Hyderabad has been selected for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forestry
- ✓ With the recognition, Hyderabad joins 120 others from 23 countries, including the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Australia.
- ✓ The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department applied for consideration with an online submission on January 31 this year
- ✓ The Department has cited the State government's Haritha Haram programme and its Urban Forest Parks plan
- ✓ The city was evaluated on five metrics - 'Establish Responsibility', 'Set the Rules', 'Know What You Have', 'Allocate the Resources', and 'Celebrate the Achievements'.

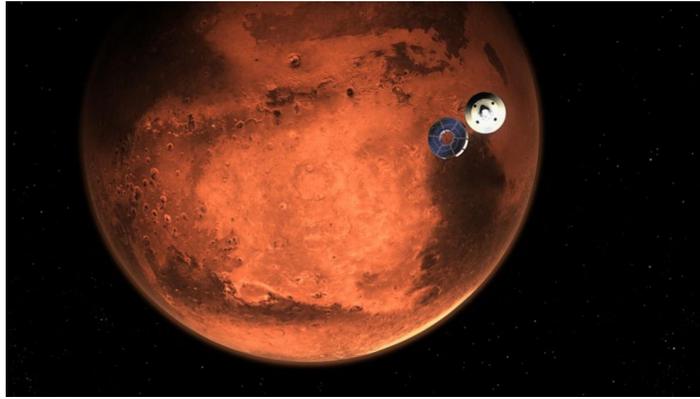
- ✓ Henceforth, city leaders must delegate responsibility for the care of trees to a staff member, a city department, or a group of citizens called a Tree Board.

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi -proposed a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses to facilitate quick and free movement during health emergencies**
- ✓ He also called for setting up a regional air ambulance agreement for medical contingencies
- ✓ On February 18, PM Modi addressed a virtual workshop on Covid-19 comprising health officials from India's South Asian neighbours
- ✓ The workshop also featured officials from Indian Ocean countries in India's extended neighbourhood, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- ✓ Participating countries, including Pakistan, supported PM's proposals.
- ✓ India is hosting a Secretary-level virtual meeting on Covid-19 management with the countries including Pakistan.
- ✓ It is being chaired by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.
- ✓ Health Minister Harsh Vardhan delivered the valedictory address at the meet
- ✓ The countries that participated at the meet includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, the Seychelles and Sri Lanka.
- **On February 18, the Urban Affairs Ministry - announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge under the Smart Cities Mission.**
- ✓ The shortlisted cities would carry out projects for making early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods.
- ✓ The selected cities were Agartala, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Dharamshala, Erode, Hubballi-Dharwad, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Kakinada, Kochi, Kohima, Kota, Nagpur, Rajkot, Ranchi, Rohtak, Rourkela, Salem, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruppur, Ujjain, Vadodara, and Warangal.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The NASA's Perseverance rover - safely landed on Mars on February 18, after its 292.5 million-mile (472 million km) journey from Earth**
- ✓ The rover is the most advanced spacecraft that has been ever sent another planet.
- ✓ It had landed successfully at Jezero crater
- ✓ Jezero crater is the site of an ancient lake that existed 3.9 billion years ago and expected to contain microfossils in the rocks and soil
- ✓ The rover entered the Mars with a speed of 12,000 miles per hour or 19,000 km per hour.
- ✓ The project, worth \$2.7 billion, was launched with the primary aim of searching for the traces of ancient microbial life on the Red Planet



- ✓ The Mars 2020 Mission is a Mars rover, built by Mars Exploration Program of NASA.
- ✓ It comprises of the Perseverance rover and an Ingenuity helicopter drone.
- ✓ The mission was launched on an Atlas V 541 launch vehicle from Earth on July 30, 2020.

## PERSONALITIES

- **12-year old Jiya Rai - created history by swimming from the Bandra-Worli Sea Link (BWSL) to the Gateway of India on February 17**



- ✓ Jiya, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), dedicated her swimming feat to raise awareness about autism.
- ✓ She covered a distance of 36km in 8 hours and 40 minutes and became the first and youngest girl in the world with ASD who swam such a distance
- ✓ Jiya was awarded during a ceremony held at Gateway of India on February 17
- ✓ She was felicitated with a trophy by Greater Mumbai Amateur Aquatic Association (GMAAA) president Zarir Baliwala.
- ✓ The swimming event was conducted under observation of the Swimming Association of Maharashtra, a recognized body of the Swimming Federation of India.
- ✓ This event is also associated with the FIT India Movement by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs.

## DEFENCE

- On February 18, Army Chief Gen Manoj Naravane - flagged off the 100th K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzer built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its 'armoured system complex' at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat.



- ✓ With this, L&T had completed the delivery of all the howitzers under the contract awarded in May 2017 ahead of schedule
- ✓ Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had flagged off the 51st K9 VAJRA in January last year from Hazira.
- ✓ The 'Armoured Systems Complex' at Hazira was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018.
- ✓ L&T Defence produced the K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns under a contract awarded to it through global competitive bidding.
- ✓ L&T was the prime bidder for the programme with South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence, the original equipment maker of the world's top rated howitzer the 'K9 Thunder', as its technology partner.

## SPORTS

- Manika Batra - has won the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship in Panchkula



- ✓ Manika has defeated Reeth Rishya to clinch the title
- ✓ Manika's previous domestic title was also bagged after defeating Reeth in the 2019 Inter-Institutional championship
- ✓ Besides the winner's trophy, Manika received ₹1.65 lakh, while the first time nationals' finalist Reeth collected ₹82,500.
- ✓ Ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> in the world, Manika Batra is the top-ranked female table tennis player
- ✓ In 2020, she received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.
- ✓ In 2015, Manika won three medals at Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

