

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The first ever short-haul coastal container feeder service between Chennai and Puducherry ports - will be flagged off on February 27 under the Centre's Sagarmala Programme.**
- ✓ The vessel, named 'Hope Seven', will be operated by the Chennai-based Global Logistics twice a week and it will take 12 hours for the cargo ship to reach Puducherry from Chennai.
- ✓ The new feeder service could greatly reduce traffic congestion and pollution faced in Chennai due to the movement of container lorries.
- ✓ Since Puducherry port is computerised and fully automated, the human presence for the export can be completely eliminated.
- ✓ The Chennai Port Authority and Puducherry port signed a memorandum of understanding in 2017 for the diversion of cargo to Puducherry and sharing of revenue.
- ✓ The Pondicherry Port is Customs portal 'ICEGATE'- (Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway) enabled with quick import and export clearance facility with efficient in-port warehouse containing stuffing and de-stuffing facility.
- ✓ ICEGATE is a national portal of Indian Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) that provides e-filing services to the Trade, Cargo Carriers and other trading partners electronically.
- ✓ The Indian government, under its Sagarmala programme, has been promoting the economic and environmental benefits of coastal shipping as compared to transport by the road mode

### **STATES**

- **On February 26, the Kerala government and UN Women - entered into an agreement aiming at women empowerment in the State's tourism**



- ✓ As per the pact signed at the first-ever Global Responsible Tourism Summit in Kumarakom near Kottayam, both parties will promote women-friendly tourism in Kerala.
- ✓ The conclave featured 280 delegates and 70 speakers.
- ✓ The MoU was in continuation of the State government's renewed efforts towards women-friendly tourism since October last year.
- ✓ The agreement will ensure women participation in tourism initiatives and allied services besides RT (Responsible Tourism) projects

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the nation on 98th episode of the radio show, Mann Ki Baat on February 26.**



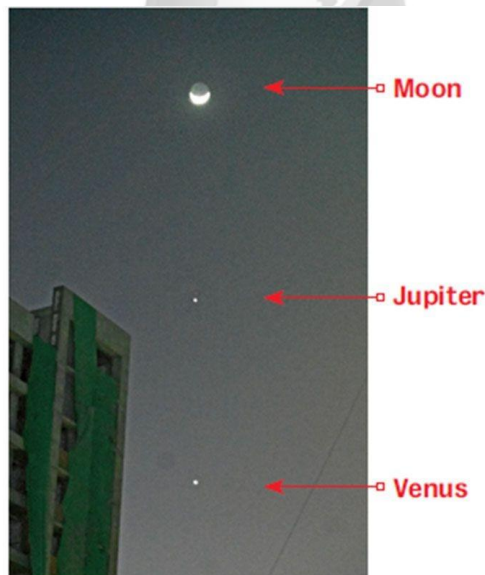
- ✓ During the programme, PM Modi remarked that the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system and e-Sanjeevani App are shining example of the power of Digital India.
- ✓ According to the PM, over 10 crore consultations have been done using the e-Sanjeevani App, a free telemedicine service run by the Centre
- ✓ He also added that the app has been a useful tool for people living in Himalayan areas and middle-class people

- ✓ E-Sanjeevani consists of two verticals – e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC (Ayushman Bharat — Health and Wellness Centre) and e-Sanjeevani OPD - that cater to patients across all states and UTs
- ✓ The first vertical e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC provides assisted tele-consultations, and ensures that the beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Scheme are able to avail of the benefits they are entitled to.
- ✓ The second vertical, e-Sanjeevani OPD enables doctor consultations to be accessible from the patient's residence regardless of location using technology via smartphones, tablets and laptops.
- ✓ The PM further spoke about the recent, UPI-Pay Link which was launched between India and Singapore.
- ✓ PM Modi also spoke about the revival of Triveni Kumbha Mahotsav of Hooghly in West Bengal after 700 years.
- ✓ Speaking about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, PM Modi said waste to wealth is also an important dimension of the abhiyan.
- ✓ The PM also spoke about 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Youth Award', which was conferred recently.
  - ✓ On February 15, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G. Kishan Reddy presented the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 to 102 artists (including three joint awards)
  - ✓ The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, given to artists up to the age of 40 years, was introduced in the year 2006 with the objective of identifying and encouraging outstanding young talents in diverse fields of the performing arts
  - ✓ The award carries a purse money of Rs 25,000, a shawl and a plaque
- **On February 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will release the 13th instalment amount of more than Rs.16,800 crore to over eight crore beneficiary farmers under the income support scheme — PM-Kisan — at Belagavi, Karnataka.**
  - ✓ Under the scheme, Rs.6,000 is annually released directly into each of the eligible landholder farmers' bank accounts in three equal instalments of Rs.2,000.
  - ✓ Till now, over Rs.2.25 lakh crore has been disbursed to more than 11 crore landholder farmer families across the country since the launch of PM-Kisan on February 24, 2019.
  - ✓ The 11th and 12th instalment of funds during the current financial year were released in May and October last year.
  - ✓ All landholding farmer families in the country are eligible under the scheme, subject to certain exclusion criteria.
  - ✓ The scheme has also benefited over three crore women beneficiaries who have collectively received over Rs. 53,600 crore in funds in the past four years.

- **The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant - will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore**
- ✓ The plant will be set up by sustainability solutions provider, The Green Billions Ltd, who has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with Pune Municipal Corporation
- ✓ It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day by next year, producing 10 tonnes of hydrogen daily
- ✓ PSU firm Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) will provide the project management consulting and Variate Pune Waste to Energy Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Green Billions, will implement the project.
- ✓ Bhabha Atomic Research Institute and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru have provided the technical support for the project
- ✓ The plant will use "Plasma Gasification Technology" to convert waste organic material into hydrogen fuel.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **In a rare event, the two brightest planets in the sky, Jupiter and Venus - will come at a conjunction after sunset on March 1**



- ✓ Both the planets will appear the closest on March 1 when Venus and Jupiter would be 0.52 degrees apart.
- ✓ Jupiter will shine at magnitude -2.1 and Venus will be blazing at magnitude -4.0, almost six times as bright as Jupiter.
- ✓ At the beginning of the month, the two planets were separated by 29 degrees, while on February 20, the distance between the two have shrunk to little over nine degrees
- ✓ On February 21 and 22, the moon has added to the conjunction, when Jupiter and Venus looked approximately equally distant from each other.

- ✓ During this, the biggest planet of the solar system, Jupiter, was at the top at about 8 degrees above and to the left of Venus with the Moon being about 7 degrees below Venus.
- ✓ A conjunction happens when two planets appear to be really close to each other in the night sky.
- ✓ Despite being millions of kilometers apart, the planets seem to occupy the same space in the night sky because of their alignment.
- **A team of researchers from the Australian National University – have discovered the fifth layer of Earth inside its inner core**
- ✓ The researchers analysed data from about 200 earthquakes with magnitude 6.0 and above, from the last decade
- ✓ Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core.
- ✓ The latest findings suggest that the 'innermost inner core' may be an iron ball with a radius of about 650 kilometers inside the inner core.
- ✓ Though Earth's solid inner core makes up less than 1% of Earth's total volume, it has played a significant part in our planet's evolution- particularly in the generation of Earth's magnetic field
- ✓ So far, four layers - the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core - of Earth's structure had been identified.
- **A team of researchers from Italy – have finally revealed the details of an extremely distant and dark galaxy that's been nearly impossible to see, inspite of the most advanced telescopes**
- ✓ The team of researchers used the Atacama Large Millimetre/Submillimeter Array (ALMA), a set of 66 radio telescopes in Chile
- ✓ According to the researchers, the black or invisible galaxy is "compact, containing large quantities of interstellar dust and a young galaxy, forming stars at about 1000 times the rate of the Milky Way."
- ✓ Because of the vast amount of interstellar dust in the way, however, this particular galaxy was hard to see, even with gravitational lensing technique, which is generally used to detect dark matter.
- ✓ Studying galaxies like these helps scientists understand the early universe and how galaxies like our own evolve.
- ✓ The Big Bang, which is thought to have happened around 13.8 billion years ago, actually happened only 2 billion years before the galaxy.

## **DEFENCE**

- **On February 26, India - dispatched an airforce contingent for the multi nation 'Cobra Warrior' air combat exercise in the United Kingdom.**



- ✓ Five Mirage-2000 jets, two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic airlift planes and one IL-78 mid-air refuelling aircraft, along with 145 IAF personnel, flew from the Jamnagar airbase for the exercise at Waddington in the UK.
  - ✓ The Cobra Warrior, scheduled from March 6 to 24, is a multilateral exercise in which air forces from the US, Finland, Sweden, South Africa and Singapore will be participating, alongside the Royal British Air Force and IAF.
  - ✓ The aim is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various air forces
  - ✓ The IAF has already sent five indigenous Tejas fighters, two C-17s and 110 personnel to the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE for the multination 'Desert Flag-VIII' exercise from February 27 to March 17
  - ✓ The Indian armed forces take part in a wide array of combat exercises every year to bolster military interoperability and defence diplomacy with friendly countries.
- **The 4th edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'Dustlik 2023' – is currently underway at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.**



- ✓ The 14 days joint training, to be held till March 5, will focus on sharing best practices in Sub Conventional Operations under UN mandate
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from an Infantry Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment from the Western Command
- ✓ The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops of the North Western Military District

- ✓ The biennial exercise will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and culminate with a validation exercise.
- ✓ With more than 65,000 soldiers, the Army of Uzbekistan is one of the largest in Central Asia.

## SPORTS

- **On February 26, the Australian women's cricket team – won an unprecedented sixth T20 World Cup trophy at Newlands in Cape Town, South Africa**



- ✓ In the final game, the Australian team, led by Meg Lanning, defeated maiden finalists South Africa by 19 runs to lift the trophy for a sixth time in the past seven tournaments.
- ✓ Batting first, Australia posted a competitive 156 for 6 and then restricted the home team to 137 for 6.
- ✓ Australian batswoman Beth Mooney's unbeaten 74 off 53 balls was the highlight of the Australian innings
- ✓ Australia won all their six matches in the tournament highlighting their supremacy in the format
- ✓ Off-spinning all-rounder Ash Gardner was named player of the tournament after a series of consistent performances.
- ✓ Australia were already reigning 50-over ICC Women's World Cup champions and they won the inaugural Commonwealth Games gold medal last year
- ✓ India, runner-up in the previous women's T20 world cup, ended the tournament losing to the Australian team in the semi-finals