

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 28, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) - will begin the excavation of a site located at Vadakkuppattu village near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district from April 2022**
 - ✓ Earlier, archaeologists have discovered potsherds and stone tools at this site, which is located at about 75 km south of Chennai
 - ✓ ASI's headquarters has given approval for the excavation, which seeks to unravel the site's archaeological significance.
 - ✓ The site has a mound, which could date back to more than 3,000 years
 - ✓ The excavation of the mound will ascertain whether there was cultural continuity from the megalithic to medieval period
 - ✓ Mud bricks, potsherds, stone artefacts and tools starting from the megalithic period till the 14th century were discovered till now from the village
 - ✓ The stone tools identified from the site are those used in the kitchen and for hunting.
 - ✓ With this, the ASI is conducting an excavation around Chennai after a long time.
- **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) - has launched the third edition of TANSEED (Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund) to support early-stage startups based in the state with seed money.**
 - ✓ Under the TANSEED scheme, eligible startups will be identified by an eminent jury and be given a grant funding support of Rs. 10 lakhs.
 - ✓ The grant will primarily help the operational needs of startups during their early stages and help ease their financial pressures.
 - ✓ Mentorship by experts and incubation support is also offered.
 - ✓ TANSIM is the nodal agency for startups and innovation action in the state

NATIONAL

- **On February 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'**

- ✓ This was the 86th episode of the monthly radio programme, which was aired on the last Sunday of every month.
- ✓ The programme will be broadcast on the entire network of AIR and Doordarshan and also on AIR News and mobile app.
- ✓ On February 13, Prime Minister Modi had sought ideas and suggestions for this month's broadcast of 'Mann ki Baat'.



- ✓ During his speech, PM urged young Indians to speak their mother tongue with pride, as India has 121 forms of mother tongues, and celebrate India's rich diversity of languages
- ✓ He referred to Tanzanian social media star siblings Kili and Neema Paul who lip-sync Indian songs, including the country's national anthem on Republic Day and urged Indian youth to follow them to showcase the country's diversity
- ✓ In this context, the PM also referred to 84-year old Surjan Parohi, who is doing similar work in Suriname to save the heritage of his language
- ✓ The PM referred to India's proud legacy of being home to Tamil, the world's oldest language, and Sanskrit, in which many ancient texts are written
- ✓ He also said that the government is making efforts to ensure that professional courses should also be taught in regional Indian languages.
- ✓ On the subject of retrieving stolen idols, PM said that India has successfully brought back more than 200 precious idols in the last seven years from various countries such as America, Britain, Holland, France, Canada, Germany and Singapore
- ✓ Further, the PM mentioned about the mass movement named "Mission Jal Thal", which is underway in Srinagar, Kashmir, to clean the lakes and ponds of Srinagar and restore their old glory, apart from launching a campaign to remove plastic waste
- ✓ He also talked about the 'Clean India Campaign' in Visakhapatnam, wherein cloth bags are being promoted instead of polythene and 'Mission Beat Plastic' in

Ranthambore, in which plastic and polythene have been removed from the forests of Ranthambore

- ✓ The first episode of the programme was broadcast on October 3, 2014.
- **The government - has announced an increase in the compensation offered to victims of hit-and-run accident cases.**
- ✓ The revised compensation, applicable from April 1, 2022, was notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- ✓ The revised scheme is called the 'Compensation to Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme 2022', whose draft was notified by the ministry on August 2, 2021
- ✓ In case of death of the victim involved in the hit-and-run case, the victim's family will now receive ₹2 lakh in compensation as against the existing ₹25,000 solatium offered to the bereaved families.
- ✓ As per the new guidelines, the solatium offered to a person sustaining grievous injuries in a hit-and-run case will increase to Rs 50,000 from the current Rs 12,500.
- ✓ The new compensations will be applicable for all such accidents that occur across all roads and highways in the country.
- ✓ This scheme will supersede the Solatium Scheme, 1989
- ✓ Besides, the ministry also announced plans to set up a 'Motor Vehicle Accident Fund' which will be used to offer appropriate compensation to the victims of hit-and-run accident cases.
- ✓ According to the latest government data, a total of 3,66,138 road accidents occurred in India during 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths.
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) - has installed a 1.7 MW solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways**



- ✓ This is the first such Solar Power Plant commissioned on the Indian Railways network to directly feed power to traction systems.
- ✓ It can produce approximately 25 lakh units of energy annually and will save around Rs. 1.37 crore for Railway every year.

- ✓ Indian Railways present demand would be fulfilled by the solar projects being deployed, making it the first transport organisation to be energy self-sufficient.
- ✓ To become 'Net Zero Carbon Emission' Rail Network, the Indian Railways had developed plans to set up 20 GW capacity solar power plants by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On February 27, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine - agreed to hold talks with Russia in Belarus "without preconditions"**
 - ✓ The proposed talks at the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, near the Pripjat River, are the result of a phone call between President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko
 - ✓ Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian nuclear forces to remain on high alert in response to what he called "aggressive statements" by leading NATO powers
 - ✓ The Russian delegation, led by a former Russian culture minister, Vladimir Medinsky, is already in Belarus, an ally of Russia
 - ✓ On the fourth day of invasion, Russian troops drew closer to the centre of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city
 - ✓ Adding to the sanctions, FedEx and UPS said they were suspending shipments to Russia, as well as Ukraine, and the British oil giant BP said it was abandoning its 20% stake in the Russian state-controlled oil company Rosneft.
 - ✓ Further sanctions include blocking certain Russian banks from accessing SWIFT, a service that facilitates global transactions among thousands of financial institutions
 - ✓ The invasion of Ukraine from three sides, ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is the biggest attack on a European state since World War II.
- **Canada - has become the first country to authorize the use of a plant-based Covid-19 vaccine.**
 - ✓ On February 24, Canada approved the use of Covifenz, the world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine jointly developed by Medicago Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc
 - ✓ The vaccine has been cleared for people aged 18 to 64
 - ✓ The decision was based on a study of 24,000 adults that found the vaccine was 71% effective at preventing Covid-19
 - ✓ It was 75% effective against the highly-infectious delta variant and nearly 89% effective against the gamma variant first identified in Brazil.
 - ✓ Medicago uses living plants to grow virus-like particles, which imitates the spike protein that coats the coronavirus.
 - ✓ The virus-like particles are developed through a process of synthesis, infiltration, incubation, harvest, and purification.

- ✓ Another ingredient, an immune-boosting chemical called an adjuvant that is made by British partner GlaxoSmithKline, is added to the vaccine shots
- ✓ The immunization was granted fast-track designation by the US Food and Drug Administration in February 2021.

DEFENCE

- **The 3rd edition of the joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army & Japan Ground Self-Defense Force will be conducted at Indian Army's Foreign Training Node in Belagavi, Karnataka from February 27 to March 10, 2022.**



- ✓ The military exercise aims at enhancing inter-operability and fostering mutual understanding between the two Armies
 - ✓ The scope of Dharma Guardian exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban and urban terrain
 - ✓ The 15th battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry regiment will participate for India, and for Japan, the 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) will participate in the 12-day long exercise
 - ✓ The first-ever joint military exercise involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force was held from 1st November to 14th November 2018 at Counter Insurgency Warfare School, Vairengte, India.
 - ✓ The second edition of the joint military drill was conducted at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte from 19th October 2019 to 2nd November 2019.
 - ✓ India and Japan are two of the four members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad), the other two being the United States and Australia.
 - ✓ All four nations also participate in the naval wargaming exercise named Malabar.
- **The harbour phase of the biennial multilateral naval exercise MILAN 2022 – to conclude on February 28**
 - ✓ The exercise MILAN 2022 was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt at Visakhapatnam on February 25



- ✓ It focuses on enhancing professional interaction between navies, boosting operational skills, and learning best practices and procedures
- ✓ Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Hari Kumar met with Admiral Ramson Godwin Mwaisaka, Commander of Tanzania Navy on the sidelines of MILAN 2022 on February 27
- ✓ MILAN 2022 is being held in two phases, with the harbor phase scheduled from 25 February to 28 February and the sea phase from 1 March to 4 March.
- ✓ The 11th edition of MILAN began with a city parade of more than 40 participating countries and 13 warships.
- ✓ It is being hosted by the Eastern Naval Command at Vishakhapatnam for the first time.
- ✓ This year's theme is Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration
- ✓ This is the first time that the US Navy is participating in the MILAN exercise
- ✓ Since its inception, the event has been held biennially except for 2001, 2005, 2016 and 2020.
- ✓ While the 2001 and 2016 editions were not held due to International Fleet Reviews, the 2005 editions was rescheduled to 2006 due to the 2004 Tsunami and 2020 edition was postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19.
- ✓ US Navy's Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft (MPRA) from Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, are participating in this year's multinational exercise.
- ✓ MILAN was started by the Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command with the participation of four countries viz Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand

OBITUARY

➤ **Pranab Dastidar, acclaimed Scientist**

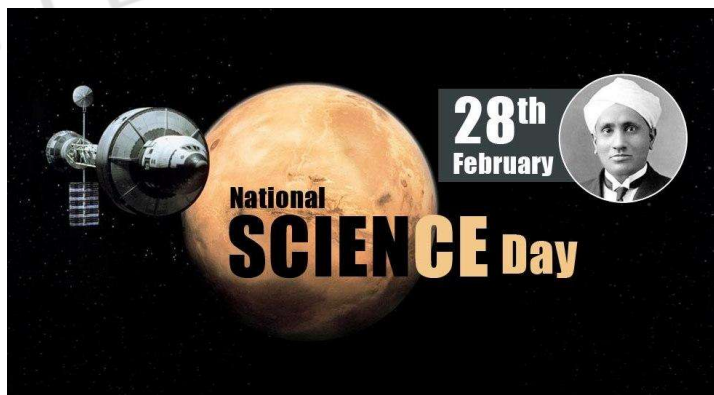
- ✓ Pranab Dastidar, who pushed the button on India's first nuclear weapon test at Pokhran on May 18, 1974, passed away recently in California on February 11
- ✓ A reputed scientist, Pranab played a key role in the development and design of the reactor of India's indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant.



- ✓ During his lifetime, Pranab Dastidar served as the Director of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency and the Group Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.
- ✓ A Padma Shri recipient, Pranab even went on to earn two US patents after his retirement.
- ✓ The first nuclear test in Pokhran was known by the codename 'Smiling Buddha' because it was conducted on Buddha Purnima that year
- ✓ This made India the first country outside the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to conduct a nuclear test.
- ✓ It was the joint effort of a team of 75 scientists and engineers, who worked on it between 1967 and 1974.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Science Day – February 28



- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated every year to recognise the contributions of scientists towards the development of the country and to raise awareness about the importance of science
- ✓ The main event of the National Science Day 2022 will be held at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi in the presence of President of India, Ram Nath Kovind

- ✓ On this day, in 1928, Indian Physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman made an important discovery in the field of spectroscopy, which was later named after him – the Raman Effect
- ✓ For his work, CV Raman was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
- ✓ He became the first Asian to receive a Nobel Prize in any branch of Science.
- ✓ Raman was the first person who was appointed as the Palit Professor of Physics at the Rajabazar Science College in 1917.
- ✓ In 1926, CV Raman founded the Indian Journal of Physics.
- ✓ In 1933, he moved to Bangalore to become the first Indian Director of the Indian Institute of Science and also founded the Indian Academy of Science in the same year
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future'.
- ✓ The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), in 1986, asked the Government of India to announce February 28 as National Science Day.
- ✓ The first National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 1987.
- ✓ Raman Effect or Raman Scattering defines the inelastic scattering of photons by the matter which means there is an exchange of energy and change in light's direction.
- ✓ Sir C V Raman died in 1970 at the age of 82.

➤ **World NGO Day – February 27**



- ✓ The Day seeks to recognise, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations that work in the upliftment of society
- ✓ The official announcement of World NGO Day was made on April 27, 2010 by the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum's representative in the Baltic Sea States.
- ✓ The Baltic Sea NGO Forum have member countries including Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden.
- ✓ It was in 2014 that World NGO Day was officially celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ✓ The main man behind this day was Marcis Liors Skadmanis, an UK-based social entrepreneur, who inaugurated 2014 World NGO Day.

- ✓ It was hosted in Helsinki, Finland by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
- ✓ The term "non-governmental organization" came into existence in 1945 under Article 71 of the United Nations Charter.
- ✓ The theme for 2022 is yet to be announced while the theme of World NGO Day 2021 was 'Celebrate, Commemorate, Collaborate, Donate'

