

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is likely to inaugurate the Chennai-Madurai Tejas Express on March 1**



- ✓ The most-awaited launch has been postponed twice due to the non-availability of the appointment of the Prime Minister
- ✓ The Prime Minister is likely to inaugurate it when he visits Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The premier daytime linking service, Tejas will also be the fastest train between the two destinations
- ✓ Tickets may cost around Rs 1,000 for a chair car seat, taking into account dynamic pricing

## STATES

- **Jammu and Kashmir - bagged 'Saubhagya Excellence Award' for being the first state in the country to achieve 100% household electrification under 'Saubhagya' scheme**



- ✓ The 100-crore award for achieving 100% household electrification was presented by Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh during the 'Power Ministers' Conference' held in Gurugram



- **Madhya Pradesh's Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal and West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore - have been awarded the Saubhagya award**
- ✓ The Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country that has illuminated more than 7 lakh 85 thousand houses while around 4 lakh houses have been electrified by the West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore under the Saubhagya scheme
- ✓ The Pradhanmantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana- Saubhagya, which was implemented by the union government from September 25, 2017, aims to provide electricity to all BPL houses of rural and urban areas

- **Assam – launches ‘PRANAM’ commission – to hear cases of neglect of parents by state government employees**



- ✓ PRANAM - The Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring
- ✓ Pranam is the first-of-its-kind bill in the country aiming to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need
- ✓ It ensures that no state government employee ignore their elderly parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings.
- ✓ According to the bill, in cases of neglect of parents by the government employees, 10% to 15% of the employee's salary will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or differently-abled siblings.

## NATIONAL

- **The Centre – asked the states to ensure 24x7 power for all, starting from April 1, 2019**
- ✓ It also said that the discoms (distribution companies) will be held accountable for wilful blackouts and fined, except for the agriculture consumers where 8-10 hours of power supply is sufficient
- ✓ According to the Centre’s ambitious ‘Power for all’ scheme, 100% household electrification scheme is nearly complete. Only 22,691 of the 2.52 unelectrified households remain to be electrified by March 31

➤ **Union Government – launches the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary with 6000 words**



- ✓ It was launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment on February 27, 2019
  - ✓ It was prepared by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
  - ✓ The first edition of the dictionary was launched on March 23, 2018 with 3000 words
  - ✓ According to Census 2011, there are 50.71 lakh hearing impaired persons in India, with most of them using the sign language to communicate
- **The recently inaugurated National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar, Haryana – to remain as part of AIIMS, New Delhi**
- ✓ It recently dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 12
  - ✓ It was built at a record period of 3 years with an investment of Rs 2035 crore
  - ✓ The NCI has 710 patient care beds dedicated for cancer prevention, treatment, research and education.
  - ✓ The institute also has the first public sector proton facility in the country, a new prototype in the treatment of cancer patients.
  - ✓ India's first public sector 'Robotic Core Clinical Laboratory' has been established at NCI at a cost of Rs. 15 crores.
- **AIIMS, Rewari – to come up as the country's 22<sup>nd</sup> AIIMS and the first in Haryana**
- ✓ It was announced in the Interim Budget 2019, to be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
  - ✓ This will be a greenfield project to be built at the cost of Rs. 1299 crores on 223 acres of land
- **The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) - signed a MoU - for jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, natural gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of national waterways**



- ✓ The agreement is expected to lead to development of business activities along the national waterways.
  - ✓ According to National Waterways Act 2016, 106 new national waterways have been declared in addition to the existing 5 national waterways
  - ✓ The Centre had also launched 'Jal Marg Vikas' project for capacity augmentation of NW apart from developing multimodal terminals
- **India's 4<sup>th</sup> White cement factory – to come up at Himachal Pradesh**
- ✓ It will be established by The FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited near village Nohra Dhar in Sirmour district, Himachal Pradesh
  - ✓ The plant, to be set up at a cost of Rs 605 crores, is expected to be commenced by the year 2022
  - ✓ The installed capacity of the plant would be 0.3 million tonnes per annum and it will generate the direct employment of approximately 150 persons.



- ✓ Aravali operates 15 gypsum mines in Rajasthan
- ✓ J.K. White Cement, a unit of J.K. Cement Limited is the leading producer of White Cements in India and the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of white cement followed by Birla White (UltraTech)

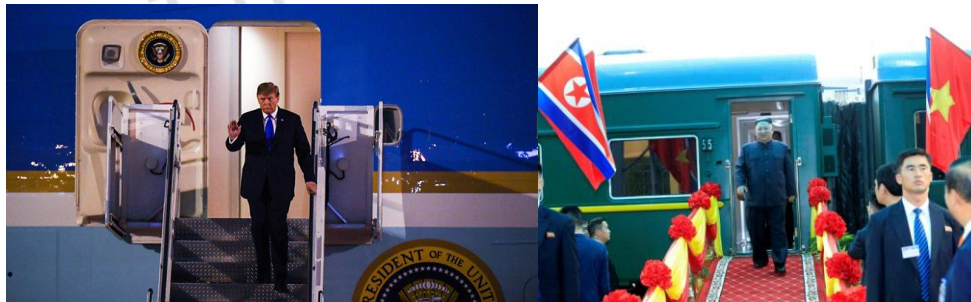
➤ **Two new National Institutes of Design – inaugurated at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam**



- ✓ They were inaugurated by Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation through video conferencing from New Delhi
- ✓ Both institutes are autonomous institutions under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ They were set up to promote design programs as per the National Design Policy 2007, which had recommended setting up more design institutes on the lines of NID, Ahmedabad
- ✓ Four new NIDs have been announced to be set up in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) with a total outlay of Rs. 434 crore.

## INTERNATIONAL

➤ **US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un - arrived in Vietnam for their second summit in Hanoi on February 27 and 28 – as part of the efforts to denuclearize North Korea**



- ✓ Vietnam has diplomatic ties with both Washington and Pyongyang.
- ✓ During the meeting, it is expected that North Korea will likely be exchanging the destruction of its main Yongbyon nuclear complex with a formal declaration of the end of 1950-53 Korean War by the US.
- ✓ The two leaders have met earlier at their first summit in Singapore on June 12, 2018 and signed a historic agreement
- ✓ South Korean President, Moon Jae-in was the one who had helped set up the first Trump-Kim meeting

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The National Disaster Management Authority – to conduct a two-day ‘National workshop on heat wave risk reduction’ in Nagpur from February 27-28, 2019**
- ✓ The workshop, to be organized in association with the Government of Maharashtra, aims to advise the states to the need of preparing and implementing specific heat action plans.
- ✓ The workshop will also provide an opportunity to the most vulnerable states in sharing their experiences and best practices to mitigate the heat wave impact in summer

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **ISRO – to launch an electronic intelligence satellite ‘Emisat’ for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - in March 2019**
- ✓ Weighing about 420 kg, it will be launched at an altitude of 763 km using a PSLV rocket with four strap-on motors
- ✓ For the first time, it will be trying to orbit the rocket at three different altitudes.
- ✓ After launching Emisat, the PSLV rocket will be brought down at an altitude of 504 km to put the 28 third-party satellites into orbit
- ✓ These 28 satellites would cumulatively weigh about 250 kg
- ✓ Following that the rocket will be brought down further to 485 km where the fourth stage will turn into a payload platform carrying 3 experimental payloads
- ✓ The experimental payloads include one developed by the students of Thiruvananthapuram’s Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, ISRO's own technology demonstrator and a Hamsat
- ✓ In January 2019, the space agency launched a defence imaging satellite Microsat R for the DRDO

## DEFENCE

- **‘Exercise Sampriti 2019’, a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh – to be held at Tangail, Bangladesh from March 2 to March 15, 2019.**
- ✓ This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- ✓ It was first held in Assam in 2011

## SPORTS

- **Indian archers - bagged four gold, three silver and three bronze medals and emerged Champions - at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship in Dhaka**
- ✓ Hosts Bangladesh finished runners-up with two gold, three silver and four bronze medals
- ✓ In the compound individual girls' event, Pragati won the gold while Isha Pawar settled for a bronze
- ✓ India got a second gold when the recurve boys' team of Paras Hooda, Bishal Changmai and Karni Singh Chouhan secured the top spot



- ✓ Recurve mixed pair of Paras Hooda and Komalika Bari earned India a third gold by beating Iran in a one-sided final
- ✓ Compound boys team consisting of Ritik Chahal, Prathamesh Smadhan Jawkar and Chirag Vidyarthi earned the fourth gold for the country by defeating Bangladesh in the final
- **Tamil Nadu's T N Anuradha – wins Gold in 87 kg category in the senior National weightlifting championships at Vishakapatnam**
- ✓ Purnima Pandey of Uttar Pradesh won the women's plus 87kg category gold medal
- ✓ K Ravikumar of Odisha won the men's 89kg gold while 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist RV Rahul, clinched bronze in the same event



➤ **Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta - lifted the Cannes International Open trophy in Chess**



- ✓ Having been tied for the top spot in the previous edition, Abhijeet won the tournament with 7.5 points
  - ✓ It was a clear point lead over nearest rivals Nikita Maiorov of Belarus, Nasuta Grzegorz of Poland and Yuri Solodovnichecko of Ukraine.
- **Legendary Sri Lanka batsman Sanath Jayasuriya - banned for two years starting backdated from October 16, 2018**



- ✓ The move follows after his admission in obstructing an anti-corruption probe by “destroying” the phones which were sought as evidence by the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- ✓ However, he wasn’t given the maximum punishment of 5 years for his breach after ICC took his “previous good conduct” into account
- ✓ The cricketer was charged in October 2018 for failing to co-operate with an investigation and concealing, tampering with or destroying evidence.
- ✓ Former Sri Lanka Captain, Jayasuriya was a key member of the 1996 World Cup-winning team before going on to serve two terms as the chairman of selectors

