

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26th to 28th Feb 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **World NGO Day**

- World NGO Day is celebrated on February 27 to honour the welfare based activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the globe.
- NGOs are non-profit entities that help tackle various humanitarian issues affecting people, animals and communities.
- NGOs provide welfare in sectors such as health, education, and employment.
- The World NGO Day is celebrated in more than 89 countries and over six continents.
- World NGO Day was first proposed in 2010 by the Baltic Sea NGO Forum. The event was accepted by the forum in 2012.
- First time marked officially by the UN, EU leaders and international organizations in 2014.
- The Global Inaugural event of World NGO day was hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on 27th of February 2014 in Helsinki, Finland.

❖ **Government of India celebrated Banjara Dharmaguru Sant Sewalal Maharaj Jayanti for the first time**

- For the first time ever, the yearlong commemoration of birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj, the Spiritual & Religious Leader of Banjara Community is being celebrated by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- A Two-day event as a part of 284th Jayanti celebrations being held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 26-27 February 2023.
- Santh Sevalal Maharaj was born on 15 February 1739 at Surgondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka.

- He is considered a social reformer and spiritual teacher of the Banjara community.
- It is believed that there is a population of around 10 to 12 crore Banjara community across the country.
- In states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Sant Sevalal Maharaj is a revered symbol of every Banjara family and in all these states the birth anniversary of Sant Sevalal Maharaj ji is celebrated with great fanfare in the month of February.
- The Samadhi Sthal of Saint Sewalal Ji is situated in Manora Taluka of Washim District of Maharashtra at Pohradevi which is also known as Banjara Kashi.

❖ **Lakshmi Narayanan appointed as Additional Judge of Chennai High Court**

- President Drarubathi Murmu has ordered the appointment of Advocate Venkatachari Lakshmi Narayanan as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court as per the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium held on 17th February 2023.
- And he will soon be administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of Madras High Court D. Raja. With this, the number of judges of Chennai High Court has increased to 58 and the number of vacancies has decreased to 18.
- He completed law degree from the National Law School of India, Bangalore and enrolled as an advocate on June 28, 1995.
- He served as standing counsel for the TN Wakf Board from 2008 and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (Government of India undertaking) from 2007 among other.

❖ **Aramane Giridhar gets extension as Defence Secretary**

- Defence Secretary Aramane Giridhar has been given extension in service till October 2024.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his extension in service as Secretary, Department of Defence, beyond the age of superannuation for a period upto 31st of October, 2024.
- He was due to retire in June after completing 60 years of superannuation.

➤ As per the notification, Giridhar will remain in his post until October 31, 2024 or till further order whichever is earlier.

➤ He took over as the defence secretary on November 1 last year.

❖ **Prem Kumar Mallick honoured with Sangeet natak Akademi Award 2019**

➤ Noted classical singer, Pt Prem Kumar Mallick has been honoured with the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2019.

➤ He received the award from President Droupadi Murmu for his contributions in the field of music (Hindustani Vocal) at a ceremony to be held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

➤ He is a professor in the department of music and performing arts at Allahabad University.

➤ Prof Mallick is a twelfth-generation exponent of Dhrupad vocal music from the Darbhanga tradition.

❖ **J&K wins best adventure tourism destination award**

➤ The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award.

➤ The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

➤ The award has been given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as an adventure destination of international order.

❖ **MIT professor Hari Balakrishnan wins 2023 Marconi Prize**

➤ Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize.

➤ Dr. Balakrishnan is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

➤ The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S. based Marconi Foundation.

➤ The award is recommended by an independent selection committee of Marconi Prize recipients and approved by the Marconi Society Board.

➤ It is given to those “who have made a significant contribution to increasing digital inclusivity through advanced information and communications technology.”

➤ Hari Balakrishnan is also the Founder, Chief Technology Officer, and Chairman of Cambridge Mobile Telematics (CMT).

❖ **‘EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2022’**

➤ Sajjan Jindal, the chairman and managing director of JSW Group, was on February 23 awarded as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022.

➤ Jindal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) to be held at Monte Carlo in June 2023.

➤ The seven-member jury, headed by KV Kamath, former chairman of ICICI Bank, awarded the EOY to Jindal for his extraordinary entrepreneurial journey in building a US\$ 22 billion revenue conglomerate, a global conglomerate with presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy and paints.

➤ Earning the sobriquet of ‘Man of Steel’, Sajjan Jindal was the first representative from India to serve as the chairman of the World Steel Association.

❖ **'World Book Fair'-2023**

➤ The 'World Book Fair' in New Delhi is being organized from 25th of this month to 5th of next month at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

➤ Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the fair on 25 February.

➤ France has been designated as the Guest of Honor country at the World Book Fair.

➤ The theme of the 'International Book Fair' to be held in New Delhi for 2023 is "Elixir of Freedom", to celebrate and remember 75 years of India and its glorious past in honor of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

➤ The fair is organized by National Book Trust, India, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India in collaboration with India Trade Promotion Organisation.

❖ Centre approves renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as “Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar” and the Osmanabad city as “Dharashiv”.
- Aurangabad derives its name from Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, while Osmanabad was named for a 20th century ruler of the princely state of Hyderabad.
- Chhatrapati Sambhaji, the eldest son of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was the second ruler of the Maratha state founded by his father.
- Sambhaji Maharaj was executed on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689. Dharashiv, the name of a cave complex near Osmanabad, dates back to the 8th century as per some scholars.
- Approval has been given to name this city Dharashiv in his name.
- The demand to rename the two cities was first raised in 1988 by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

❖ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, popularly known as PM-KISAN on Friday (February 24) completed four successful years.
- The scheme was launched on February 24, 2019 with the aim to provide income support to farmers across the country and help them meet daily expenses related to agriculture.
- Under PM Kisan Scheme, an amount of Rs. 6000 per year is provided to eligible farmers in three equal installments of Rs. 2000 each.
- The amount is sent directly into the bank accounts of the farmers.
- Initially, the scheme provided income support to only small and marginal farmers’ families having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, but later it was extended to cover all farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- So far eligible farmer families have received benefits of more than Rs 2 lakh crore in 12 instalments under PM-Kisan.

❖ **Russia suspended from Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

- Global anti-money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force has suspended Russia's membership over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.
- It is the first time a country has been removed in FATF's 34-year history for its "illegal, unprovoked and unjustified" full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.
- The FATF sets standards for more than 200 countries and jurisdictions and seeks to help authorities tackle serious crime including drug smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism.
- Russia has already been expelled from the Council of Europe and suspended from the UN Human Rights Council, but it is still a member of several international organizations.

❖ **India & Sri Lanka hold 7th annual defence dialogue**

- The 7th Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Sri Lanka was held in New Delhi.
- The meeting was chaired by Defence Secretary, Giridhar Armane and his Sri Lankan counterpart General Kamal Gunaratne.
- This Annual Defence Dialogue is the highest institutionalised interactive mechanism between both the countries. Its significance in chartering the future course of the relations between the Armed Forces of *India and Sri Lanka was highlighted by the importance given to the talks by both sides.
- The ongoing defence cooperation activities between the two countries were reviewed during the meeting.

❖ 'Exercise Desert Flag VIII'

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprising 110 Air Warriors arrived at United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Al Dahfra air base to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VIII.
- The IAF would be participating with five Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas will participate in an international flying exercise outside India.
- It is an annual multinational large-force employment warfare exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.
- Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the USA would also be participating.
- The exercise is scheduled from the 27th of February to the 17th of March.
- The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.

❖ 'International IP Index'

- India has been ranked 42 out of 55 countries in the latest International IP Index report by the US Chamber of Commerce.
- The United States ranks first in the 2023 index, followed by the UK and France.
- India is poised to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economies through IP-driven innovation.
- India has taken steps to improve enforcement against copyright-infringement and provides a best-in-class framework to promote better understanding and use of IP assets.
- International Intellectual Property Index is an annual report compiled by the US Chambers of Commerce.

➤ It evaluates the protection of IP rights in the world's 55 major economies, which represent approximately 90% of global GDP.

❖ **Scientists discover fifth inner core layer of the earth**

- The recent frequent earthquakes have helped scientists discover a new core.
- This fifth inner core is a solid ball of nickel and iron and is the innermost layer.
- It has a different crystal structure that causes shock waves from earthquakes to reverberate through the layer at different speeds than the surrounding core
- Earlier there were only four layers of Earth: the crust, mantle, liquid outer core and solid inner core.
- Scientists believed that it may be 650 km in diameter and the inner core of the earth is 2,440 km in diameter. It is about 70% of the moon's size.
- Also, it is believed that it is the hottest and densest of all layers. However, this new layer is denser than the other two cores.

❖ **Spain's Football player Sergio Ramos announces retirement**

- Paris Saint-Germain's and former Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos has announced that he is retiring from international football after a record 180 appearances for Spain.
- The centre-back player Sergio made his debut for Spain in 2005 and earned 180 caps for La Furia Roja.
- Ramos scored 23 goals in his long international career, which began as an 18-year-old in March 2005 in a friendly win against China and had Spain's triumph in the 2010 World Cup as its high point.
- Ramos was dropped from the national team set up by former coach Luis Enrique and hasn't featured in the squad since March 2021.

❖ **Australia won 2023 Women T20 World Cup**

- Australia defeated South Africa by 19 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 final, at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town.
- The Australian woman's team is winning the T20 world cup for the sixth time.
- India quit losing to the Australian team during the semi-finals.
- India was the runner-up in the previous women's T20 world cup.
- The name of the Australia's women's T20 cricket team is Southern stars. The team captain is Meg Lanning.
- The name of the South Africa Women's team is Proteas.
- The name of the Indian Women's Cricket Team is Women in Blue or sometimes also called Team India; the captain is Harman Preet Kaur. It was founded in 1976. The team is governed by the BCCI, that is, the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- The first edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup was held in 2009.

❖ **Qatar Open 2023**

- Daniil Medvedev won the Qatar Open in his professional tennis debut by defeating Andy Murray 6-4, 6-4, in the final game between two former No. one ranking Players.
- Medvedev also triumphed in Rotterdam, extending his winning streak to nine games.
- Medvedev has now won 18 Tour-level championships after winning in Rotterdam last week as well.

❖ **Ankit Gulia bags Bronze medal in Ibrahim Moustafa ranking series in Egypt**

- Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Ankit Gulia has won a bronze medal in the Ibrahim Moustafa ranking-series in Alexandria, Egypt.
- The 19-year-old Ankit, who lost 9-0 to Georgian Otar Abuladze, got the better of Nurzhigit Keneshbek Uulu of Kyrgyzstan 9-0 in the repechage round.

➤ India won their first medal in the current competition with Ankit Gulia's bronze. Gulia, who took home the gold at the U15 Asian Championships in 2019, was defeated by Otar Abuladze of Georgia in the first round due to technical superiority (9-0).

➤ Young Indian wrestler Reetika also won a bronze medal in the women's 72kg category at the Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 wrestling ranking series in Alexandria, Egypt.

❖ **Noted classical dancer Kanak Rele passes away**

➤ Renowned Mohiniattam dancer and Padma Bhushan award winner Dr Kanak Rele breathed her last at age 85.

➤ The consummate artiste had an illustrious career spanning 60 years and was founder-director of The Nalanda Dance Research Centre in Juhu.

➤ She was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala.

➤ She obtained law degrees however she chose dance as her career field.

➤ Throughout her lifetime, this Indian Dancer was honoured with various prizes and awards including Padma Shri (1989), and Padma Bhushan (2013), among others.