

### **3. Planetary Alignment**

#### **Why in News?**

- Recently, Five planets – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Uranus will align in the sky which is often called a planetary parade or alignment, and will be visible to the naked eye.

#### **Highlights**

- The best viewing time is on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023, shortly after the sun sets below the horizon.
- Venus will be the most visible planet, followed by Mars with its special orange hue.
- Uranus will be near Venus but difficult to detect without proper equipment, while Mercury and Jupiter will appear at the bottom.
- The last time these five planets aligned was in 2004. The alignment is often referred to as a planetary parade and can be seen in the nighttime sky.
- Experts have pointed out that the visibility of certain planets in the alignment depends on certain conditions, such as light pollution and the location of the viewer.
- A similar alignment occurred in June 2022, where five planets – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn – aligned.
- However, this lineup will not occur again until 2040.
- Light pollution is the excessive use of artificial light that brightens the night sky and disrupts the natural darkness.
- This affects the observability of celestial bodies.