

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 23, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The State Government – has decided to make mandatory for all businesses to name their shops and establishments in Tamil very soon.**
- ✓ This was announced by K Pandiarajan, Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil culture on February 21
- ✓ He added that the fine for not following rules as per the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishment Rules, 1948, will be increased in the coming days
- ✓ As of now, a fine of ₹50 is imposed for not complying with the rules
- ✓ According to section 15 (1),(2) and (3) of the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishment Rules, 1948, the name board of every establishment should be in Tamil and wherever other languages are also used, the version in English shall be in the second place, followed by the versions in other languages, if any.
  
- **The state government - cancelled its notification issued in 2017 declaring 45 villages of Nagappatinam and Cuddalore districts as local planning area for constitution of “Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR).”**
- ✓ The state had notified 22,939 hectares for the development of the region.
- ✓ The new notification was issued a day after the assembly passed TN Protected Agricultural Zone Development bill
- ✓ On February 21, Governor Banwarilal Purohit gave his assent to the Bill.
- ✓ The bill, passed this week, declared the entire Nagapattinam district and blocks of Cuddalore as protected zone
- ✓ The villages come under five taluks of Cuddalore, Bhuvanagiri, Chidambaram, Sirkali and Tarangampadi.
- ✓ The decision was prompted by objections received from the public, vehemently opposing exploration and extraction of hydrocarbon and further demanding to declare the delta region as an Ecologically Sensitive Agricultural Zone.

- ✓ Way back in 2012, the Centre approved the proposal of the TN government to establish PCPIR in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts.
  - ✓ It was visualised in a cluster approach to promote the sector in an integrated and environment friendly manner on a large scale.
  - ✓ In December 2018, the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers announced that PCPIR, when established, was expected to attract investment of ₹92,500 crore.
  - ✓ The state had also reported that an investment of ₹8,100 crore was made on manufacturing and infrastructure development.
  - ✓ Cauvery basin, comprising Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts and blocks of Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, Trichy, Karur and Ariyalur, is the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu.
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated a ₹1.34 crore mani mandapam for late media baron, B Sivanthi Aditanar in Tiruchendur in Tuticorin district.**
- ✓ The chief minister lavished praises on Aditanar and said that his memorial would be another identity to the district.
  - ✓ During the occasion, the CM announced that the fourth phase of the Tamirabarani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar linking project would be completed by the end of this year.
  - ✓ The project was designed to benefit the drier regions by diverting the surplus water from Tamirabarani river
  - ✓ The comprehensive water scheme, which would benefit the town panchayats of Kadambur Vilathikulam, Pudur and 180 villages, would be initiated at a cost of 10.85 crore.
  - ✓ He also made several announcements for Tuticorin district, which included a ₹52.46 crore bait curve in Alandhalai in Tiruchendur block.

## NATIONAL

- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has announced there has been no discovery of gold deposits of around 3,000 tonne in Sonbhadra district of UP, as claimed by a district mining official a day before.**
- ✓ As per GSI Director General, the exploration for gold had not been encouraging and it had been communicated to the DGM in UP
  - ✓ The exploration was carried out in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
  - ✓ On February 21, Sonbhadra district mining officer had created a sensation when he announced that huge gold deposits had been found in Son Pahadi and Hardi.
  - ✓ According to the him, the deposits in Son Pahadi were estimated to be around 2,943.26 tonne, while that at Hardi block was 646.16 kg.
  - ✓ Rejecting the claim, as per the GSI DG, the GSI has estimated the total gold that can be extracted from the mineralised zone of Sonbhadra could be only around 160 kg in Son Pahadi of Sonbhadra of UP
  - ✓ The GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

➤ **Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM) - completed its four years on February 21, 2020**

**SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION**  
SPMRM launched by Prime Minister on 21st February, 2016

**Mission's Vision**  
The National Rurban Mission follows the vision of "Development of a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating a cluster of "Rurban Villages".

**Mission's Objective**  
The objective of the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.

**Mission's Outcomes**  
*The larger outcomes envisaged under this Mission are:*

- Bridging the rural-urban divide-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.
- Stimulating local economic development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
- Spreading development in the region.
- Attracting investment in rural areas.

- ✓ It was launched by the Prime Minister on February 21, 2016 with a mission to bring about comprehensive transformation in rural clusters that have already achieved significant development.
- ✓ It identifies rural areas across the country where increasing signs of urbanization are found
- ✓ It aims to improve basic services in these clusters and create well-organized rural clusters.
- ✓ This will lead to the overall development of the region and will promote integrated and inclusive rural development.
- ✓ The mission envisages the development of 300 such rural clusters in a timely and holistic manner.
- ✓ The Niti Aayog has proposed that these clusters are to be extended to 1000 in 3 years.
- ✓ The mission aims to preserve the essence of rural community life.
- ✓ It was announced in the Union Budget 2014-15 with an allocation of Rs 5,142 crores of rupees for the scheme.
- ✓ It is a joint venture with the state governments where the state governments had to identify the clusters, which is also one of the reasons for its poor performance.
- ✓ The 'Rurban Cluster' is a cluster of villages geographically adjacent to each other with a population of about 25,000 to 50,000 in the plains and coastal areas and 5,000 to 15,000 in the desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- ✓ The Mission was launched by the Union Ministry of Rural Development

- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad – has proposed to set up a research centre in data science at its Kanjikode campus**
- ✓ The proposed centre aims at providing a platform of research for artificial intelligence and Data Science
- ✓ The centre has been named as the Centre for Research and Education in Data Science.
- ✓ The centre will collaborate with the Government, industries and other academic institutes
  
- **The Agricultural Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - announced that Government of India is to launch “TILHAN MISSION” to boost the oil seeds production**
- ✓ The announcement was made at an occasion of Soil Health Card Day on November 19, 2020
- ✓ The National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
- ✓ India is the fourth largest vegetable oil economy in the world after USA, China and Brazil.
- ✓ Today, the oil seeds occupy around 13% of cropped area in the country.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Scientists - have recently discovered a new species of snail and named it after the environmental activist Greta Thunberg as ‘Craspedotropis gretathunbergae’**



- ✓ The temperature-sensitive species lives on the land and can be affected by drought, extreme temperature fluctuations and deforestation
- ✓ It was found close to the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre in Brunei.
- ✓ As per the scientists, the purpose behind naming the snail after Greta was to highlight the impact and importance of Greta Thunberg’s efforts in climate activism.
- ✓ Earlier, in a similar move in 2018, the scientists have decided to name a beetle’s species after famous Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio because of his climate activism.

## AWARDS

- **Professional model, Adline Castelino - was crowned LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020**



- ✓ She will represent India at Miss Universe this year.
- ✓ Castelino, who hails from Mangalore, was crowned by Vartika Singh, the winner of the previous edition
- ✓ Jabalpur's Aavriti Choudhary was crowned LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020
- ✓ She will represent India at Miss Supranational this year.
- ✓ Pune's Neha Jaiswal was declared LIVA Miss Diva 2020-Runner-up
- ✓ The 8th edition of Miss Diva contest was held on 22 February 2020 in Mumbai
- ✓ The nationwide auditions for the competition began in November and were held in 10 cities like Lucknow, Kolkata, Indore, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai and Delhi.
- ✓ The jury for the pageant included actor and former Miss Universe Lara Dutta among other celebrities

## SPORTS

- **Defending champion Bajrang Punia – settled for a silver in his 65kg category, while fast-rising Ravi Dahiya bagged the Gold at the K D Jadhav wrestling arena at the IGI stadium in New Delhi**



- ✓ Ravi Dahiya, who won bronze at the 2019 World Championships in the 57kg to qualify for Tokyo Olympics, began in dominating fashion

- ✓ Ravi, the World under-23 silver medallist, secured a one-sided 10-0 victory on 'technical superiority' over Tajikistan's Vohidov Hikmatullo to win gold in the 57kg category.
  - ✓ Ravi's gold ended Indian wrestlers' streak of silver medals on the fifth day of competitions at the ongoing Asian Wrestling championship
  - ✓ Satyawart Kadian (97kg) and Gourav Baliyan (79kg) had settled for silver apart from Bajrang Punia.
  - ✓ Ravi had won a bronze in the previous edition of the Asian meet in Nur-Sultan.
  - ✓ Bajrang's suffered a 2-10 loss in the 65kg final to much-superior and technically sound, Japan's Takuto Otoguro to finish with the Silver medal.
- **The All India Football Federation (AIFF) - has confirmed the continental spot allocations for next three seasons with the Indian Super League (ISL) final winner getting an AFC Cup playoff spot.**
- ✓ The prized AFC Champions League group stage spot has been won by FC Goa as ISL league winners, while I-League champions will now get a confirmed place in the AFC Cup group stage.
  - ✓ India has three spots and the AFC has already announced its plan to allot them.
  - ✓ There are two spots for ISL league stage winners and I-League champions.
  - ✓ The third (AFC Cup playoff) spot is for the ISL final winner.
  - ✓ If the ISL final winner and League stage winner is the same (FC Goa, in this case), the third spot will go to the ISL league stage runnerup
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the first Khelo India University Games through a video conference facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on Saturday.**



- ✓ As many as 3,400 athletes from 159 universities across the country will compete for top honours across 17 disciplines
- ✓ This is the first edition of the Khelo India University Games
- ✓ Khelo India School games were launched in 2018 and have been conducted annually in the month of January-February since then.
- ✓ Khelo India is a National Programme for Development of Sports at the grass root level
- ✓ The sports extravaganza is organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- **Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi - lost his play-off game to finish second in the Prague Chess Festival in Prague.**



- ✓ After an exciting final round, five players finished in tied top place with five points from nine rounds.
- ✓ The two players with best tie-break scores faced off in a blitz format.
- ✓ Alireza Firouzja of Iran won both games against Gujrathi to capture the title.
- ✓ India's P. Harikrishna with 4.5 points finished seventh in the event.

## **RANKINGS**

- **The Economic Intelligence Unit - recently published the 'Worldwide Education for the Future' Index for the year 2019.**
- ✓ India has been ranked at 35<sup>th</sup> place with an overall score of 53.
- ✓ The scores were provided based on the performance of the countries in three different parameters namely teaching, policy environment and teaching environment
- ✓ In 2018, India ranked at 40<sup>th</sup> position with an overall score of 41.2.
- ✓ The rankings are chosen based on the ability of a country to equip their students in skill-based education.
  
- **The CSIR of Delhi - topped the National Ranking Index 2020, which ranks the scientific research institutes in the country.**
- ✓ CSIR was followed by IISc Bangalore in the second place.
- ✓ The third rank was won by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
- ✓ The other top institutes included Homi Bhabha National Institute, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, Indian Association of Cultivation of Science, IIT Guwahati.
- ✓ The Rankings were provided based on the numbers of research output, which is indicated by total citations in numbers.

# US PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA – A PICTORIAL REPORT

## TRUMP WILL BE 7TH US PREZ TO COME CALLING

For the first 53 years since India's Independence, only three US presidents made official visits to India. But since 2000, every American president has visited the country at least once during his term. A look at past presidential visits and the significance they held

**DWIGHT D EISENHOWER | 1959**



▲ The visit, in the thick of the Cold War, helped break some of the frost caused by India's neutrality as head of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). It softened views in US that India was pro-USSR, though the distrust was to linger for many more years

**RICHARD NIXON | 1969**



▲ He hoped to ease tensions with Indira Gandhi, again over India's leading role in NAM. Ties nosedived in 1971 when Nixon supported Pakistan for its role in secret diplomacy with China. India's friendship treaty with USSR was also an issue

**JIMMY CARTER | 1978**



▲ There was no chemistry between Carter and Morarji Desai. Leak of Carter telling an aide that Desai should be given a "cold and blunt" message over N-issues did not help. Desai refused to consider signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty

### Since 2000

**BILL CLINTON | 2000**



The visit was significant, breaking a 22-year gap, and came after his crucial intervention in the Kargil war when he asked Nawaz Sharif to withdraw Pakistani troops. It was the beginning of a correction of US's pro-Pakistan tilt. He was feted in Parliament and danced with village women

**GEORGE W BUSH | 2006**



He was the best US President India ever had, said Forbes magazine. Bush's single-minded and uncluttered approach saw him set aside the powerful anti-proliferation lobby in India and sign the deal that ended India's nuclear isolation. It legitimised India's nuclear deterrent and allowed civil nuclear cooperation

**BARACK OBAMA | 2010 & 2015**



On his first visit in 2010, he backed India's quest for a seat on the UN Security Council, and trade and defence were highlights. He shared a good equation with Manmohan Singh. He was equally, if not more, at ease with Narendra Modi, and in 2015 came for R-Day



## TEAM TRUMP

With President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, there will be a 12-member official delegation. That will include:

- US envoy to India **Kenneth Juster**
- Commerce secretary **Wilbur Ross**
- Energy secretary **Dan Brouillette**
- Acting chief of staff **Mick Mulvaney**
- National security adviser **Robert O'Brien**
- Adviser **Ivanka Trump**
- Senior adviser **Jared Kushner**
- Senior adviser for policy **Stephen Miller**
- Senior adviser for digital strategy **Dan Scavino**
- Chief of staff to the First Lady **Lindsay Reynolds**
- Special representative for international telecommunication policy **Robert Blair**
- Press secretary and director of communications **Stephanie Grisham**

### Additional participants for bilateral meetings

- **Adam Bohler**, CEO of US International Development Finance Corporation
- **Ajit Pai**, chairman of Federal Communications Commission
- **Lisa Curtis**, deputy assistant to the President
- for south and central Asian affairs
- **Kash Patel**, senior director for counterterrorism
- **Mike Passey**, director for India, National Security Council

## Modi, Trump Have Met Seven Times Before



Ahmedabad extends its welcome to US president

- June 2017** | Modi travelled to Washington DC for bilateral
- November 2017** | At Asean and East Asia Summit in Manila
- November 2018** | On sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires
- June 2019** | On sidelines of G20 summit in Osaka
- August 2019** | On sidelines of G7 meet in France
- Sept 2019** | In Houston and also in New York

## IMPORTS RISING FASTER THAN EXPORTS

