

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 28, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Union ministry for renewable power (MNRE) - has announced the cancellation of the proposal for a new solar park at Kadaladi in Ramanathapuram district**
- ✓ The decision was made at a meeting convened by the MNRE secretary recently to assess the performance of solar parks.
- ✓ The reason cited for cancellation was the slow progress in the implementation of the project.
- ✓ Earlier, the government had announced in 2017 that a 500 MW solar photovoltaic park would come up at Kadaladi.
- ✓ Former CM J Jayalalithaa had in 2016 announced a 4,000MW thermal power plant at the same site.
- ✓ Later, the state government had shifted the project into a solar park due to problems in obtaining environmental clearance for the thermal power plant
- ✓ During the announcement of the setting up of the Kadaladi solar park, the Government had claimed that the park would be the first ever to be set up by any discom, in this case by Tangedco.

#### POWERING TN

**18,747 MW**

Tangedco's installed capacity which includes state projects, share from central generating stations and private power purchase

**10,480 MW**

Tamil Nadu's installations in renewable energy sources like windmill, solar, biomass and cogeneration



- ✓ But even after three years, there was no progress on the project as the land acquisition is yet to be completed
  - ✓ Earlier, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had come up with an offer to invest and develop the solar project on the land to be provided by Tangedco on build-own-operate (BOO) basis.
  - ✓ Tangedco would have got 100% of power generated by the park
  - ✓ This is the second setback for Tangedco in recent times.
  - ✓ In December 2019, Union power minister R K Singh had written to chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami stating that it will be difficult for PFC and REC to provide loans based on the present financial situation of Tangedco.
  - ✓ Around 5,000MW of thermal and solar power projects in the state will be affected if the central funding is discontinued.
- **The Highways department – replaces the seal of ‘Government of Madras’ with ‘Tamil Nadu Government’ over the pylon on Maraimalai Adigal bridge in Saidapet**



- ✓ It was the last emblem of the state government featuring the word ‘Madras’ anywhere in Chennai
- ✓ The highways department began a renovation project on the bridge about four months ago
- ✓ The word ‘Madras’ was replaced on emblems one after other, ever since the state was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1968.
- ✓ The Maraimalai Adigal bridge has historical value, as the original Marmalong bridge was built in 1726 by Armenian merchant Coja Petrus Usca.
- ✓ It was believed to have been named after the village of Marmalong or Marmalan identified with the locality of Mambalam in Chennai
- ✓ The bridge still has a commemorative plaque in multiple languages including Arabic and Armenian regarding the construction of the original structure.
- ✓ Later, the bridge was rebuilt in 1966 when all government structures had ‘Government of Madras’ tag.
- ✓ During that time, the bridge was also renamed after renowned Tamil scholar Maraimalai Adigal.

## STATES

- **The Bihar assembly - unanimously passed a resolution on February 27, demanding a caste-based census in 2021.**
- ✓ The move comes just two days after the 243-member house unanimously passed a resolution stating that National Register of Citizens (NRC) is “not needed in Bihar”

- ✓ The state had also decided to stick with the 2010 proforma for National Population Register (NPR) and add only a new column for transgenders.
- ✓ Bihar is the second assembly in the country seeking a caste-based census in 2021.
- ✓ On January 8, the Maharashtra assembly had passed a similar resolution
- ✓ The last time the country had a caste-based census was in 1931.

## NATIONAL

- **The Union Government - has launched a new Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) portal for 'real-time monitoring' of the prices of TOP crops – Tomato, Onion and Potato**



- ✓ The system was launched by Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal in Delhi on February 26
- ✓ The portal can be accessed at this link- <http://miews.nafed-india.com>.
- ✓ The MIEWS system will provide early alerts for price intervention, under the terms of Operation Greens (OG) scheme, in case there is going to be a major change in the prices of these crops.
- ✓ This will help in planning and timely intervention for the stabilization of price.
- ✓ The portal will reveal the price forecast three months prior, thereby providing inputs for import/export decision making
- ✓ It would also publish regular and special reports on the market situation with interactive charts and comparisons with previous seasons.
- ✓ The new Operation Greens scheme was announced during the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores.
- ✓ The scheme was announced to promote agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management and farmer producer organizations.
- ✓ Under the OG Scheme, during a crisis situation, the supply of surplus production from producing areas to consumption centres will be done in 3 cases -
  - ✓ If the prices of the vegetables are less than the average market prices of preceding 3 years
  - ✓ If the prices are more than 50% of the previous year market price
  - ✓ If the prices are less than the bench mark fixed by the State or Central Government

# INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

## ➤ India and Myanmar - exchanged 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields on February 26, 2020

- ✓ The agreements were signed in the areas which include solar power and electrical energy, infrastructure, health, hospital sector, social welfare, transport and communication, Repatriation and Re-integration of Victims of trafficking, Development of Rakhine State , Indian Grant Assistance for Quick Impact Projects (QIP) and conservation of Tigers and other Wildlife.



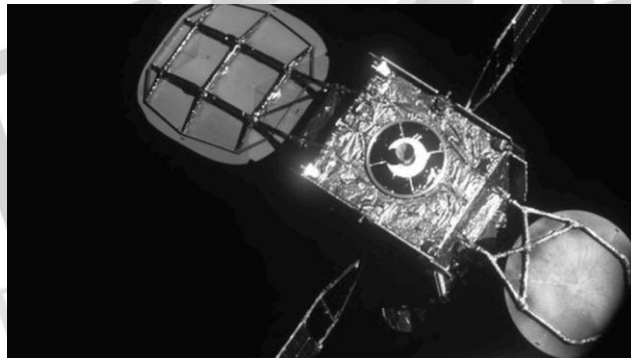
- ✓ The MoUs were exchanged following the extensive talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Myanmar President U Win Myint in New Delhi.
- ✓ The agreements aim to help Myanmar develop the state of Rakhine.
- ✓ As part of India's plans for Rakhine province, both sides agreed to expedite a set of 12 projects in Rakhine under the second phase of the Rakhine State Development Programme as part of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation mechanism.
- ✓ The Myanmar President arrived in New Delhi for a four-day visit along with First Lady Daw Cho Cho on February 26, 2020.
- ✓ India is Myanmar's fifth-largest trading partner
- ✓ The current bilateral trade between both the countries stands at \$1.7 billion, witnessing a jump of 8% during 2018-19
- ✓ India has collaborated with the Myanmar Government in building Sitwe port, located in Rakhine State
- ✓ The port is also a part of the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Project.
- ✓ The Rakhine State of Myanmar is the region of ongoing conflict between Buddhist community and Rohingya community.
- ✓ Rakhine has been in the news because of Myanmar military's campaign against the Rohingya who were forced to live in refugee camps in the Chittagong hills of Bangladesh.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ➤ Earth - has acquired a second "minimoon" about the size of a car



- ✓ This was announced by astronomers who spotted the new object circling our planet.
  - ✓ The object — roughly 1.9-3.5m in diameter — was observed by researchers at the Nasa-funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona on the night of February 15
  - ✓ The temporarily captured object/Possible mini-moon is named '2020 CD3', which is likely to be a C-type asteroid
  - ✓ This is just the second asteroid which is known to orbit Earth
  - ✓ Earlier in 2016, the Catalina Sky Survey has spotted RH120, which was the first asteroid to orbit Earth
  - ✓ The route of 2020 CD3 suggests it entered Earth's orbit three years ago
  - ✓ It was likely an asteroid captured by Earth's gravity
  - ✓ The asteroid is not in a stable orbit and is also unlikely to be around for very long and likely to escape in April.
  - ✓ Tech entrepreneur Elon Musk clarified the car-sized object was not the Telsa Roadster, launched into space in 2018, which is now orbiting the Sun
- **For the first time, scientists - have connected one commercial satellite, MEV-1, with another satellite, Intelsat 901, in orbit around Earth on February 25**



- ✓ The technology is expected to help reducing the proliferation of space debris around our planet by repairing and refueling of dying spacecrafts.
- ✓ SpaceLogistics built the robotic Mission Extension Vehicle-1, or MEV-1, which was launched in October on top of a Russian Proton rocket.
- ✓ It is currently placed at more than 22,000 miles above Earth's surface.
- ✓ Its target was Intelsat 901, an 18-year-old communications satellite that is running with low fuel but in working condition.
- ✓ For the demonstration of the technology, Intelsat removed the communications satellite from service in December and raised it to the same altitude as MEV-1
- ✓ MEV-1 will remain connected with Intelsat 901, providing propulsion for the Intelsat with its electric thrusters.
- ✓ After completing the system tests, MEV-1 will place the Intelsat satellite to a new operational orbit in late March or early April.
- ✓ Without the coupling with MEV-1, Intelsat 901 would have to be retired in the next few months



## DEFENCE

- **The sixth coast guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV-6), VAJRA - was launched in Chennai at Kattupalli on February 27, 2020.**



- ✓ The Minister of State for Shipping(I/C), Mansukh Mandaviya was the Chief Guest during the official launch ceremony.
- ✓ The OPV will be primarily used to enhance coastal security through day and night patrolling in the sea.
- ✓ The vessel is sixth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessel projects being designed and developed by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding under the centre's 'Make in India' policy.
- ✓ The vessel is expected to strengthen the Indian Coast Guard's efforts to safeguard the 7500 km-Indian coastline and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) measuring over 20 lakh sq km
- ✓ It will be manned by 121 personnel.
- ✓ The vessel is equipped with two Navigation Radars with ultra-modern technology and advance navigational and communication systems.
- ✓ It will also be fitted with CRN-91 and 12.7 mm guns and have an integral twin-engine helicopter to enhance the operational, surveillance, search and rescue capability
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is an armed force of India, operating under the Ministry of Defence
- ✓ There are 5 Indian Coast Guard Regions in India, namely Western Region (Mumbai), Eastern Region (Chennai), North-East Region (Kolkata), Andaman and Nicobar Region (Port Blair) and North-West Regions (Gandhi Nagar)
- ✓ The ICG protects the maritime interests of the country and also enforces maritime law in the territorial waters of India
- ✓ The Centre is planning to develop a National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat to secure and showcase the rich maritime heritage of the country.

- **US Arms major, Lockheed Martin – has announced to deliver six MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) to the Navy in 2021 and to complete the entire order by 2025**



- ✓ The deal, worth around \$2.2 billion, was signed early this week during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump.
- ✓ These helicopters will replace the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s.
- ✓ These choppers will be operated from frontline ships and aircraft carriers providing them flexibility of operation, enhanced surveillance and attacking capability.

## **RANKINGS**

- **The state of Madhya Pradesh - topped the list of the first ever 'Index on land records'**
- ✓ The index was compiled by a top economic think- tank, National Council of Applied Economic Research
- ✓ Odisha took the second spot and Maharashtra was ranked third in the 2019-20 rankings.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were the other states in the top 10 list.
- ✓ The Union territory of Ladakh was at the bottom of the table.
- ✓ The other UTs and states which achieved low scores in the index included Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Chandigarh, Kerala and Assam.
- ✓ The national capital territory of Delhi was in the 26th place with a score of 22.1.
- ✓ The NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) index is based on data collected over 2019-20 on two aspects of the supply of land records—the extent of digitisation and quality of these records.
- ✓ These components aim to assess whether a state has made all its land records digitally available to citizens
- ✓ The indicators have examined three dimensions—text of the land records, official map associated with a land record, and the property registration process – to come up with the ranking.

- **Jeff Bezos** - is the richest man in the world with a net worth of \$140 billion, as per the ninth edition of 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020'

TOP 10 RICHEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD			
RANK	NAME	WEALTH(US\$bn)	COMPANY
1	JEFF BEZOS	140	AMAZON
2	BERNARD ARNAULT	107	LVMH
3	BILL GATES	106	MICROSOFT
4	WARREN BUFFETT	102	BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
5	MARK ZUCKERBERG	84	FACEBOOK
6	ARMANCIO ORTEGA	81	ZARA
7	CARLOS SLIM HELU AND FAMILY	72	AMERICA MOVIL
8	SERGEY BRIN	68	GOOGLE
9	LARRY PAGE	67	GOOGLE
10	MUKESH AMBANI	67	RELIANCE

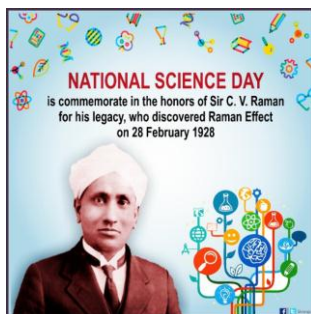


- ✓ Mukesh Ambani is the ninth richest person in the world with a net worth of \$67 billion.
- ✓ He is also the richest person in India
- ✓ Bernard Arnault of LVMH was ranked second in the list with a net worth of \$107 billion
- ✓ Microsoft founder Bill Gates secured third place in the list with a net worth of \$106 billion.
- ✓ In India, the highest numbers of 50 billionaires are located in Mumbai, 30 billionaires in Delhi, 17 billionaires in Bengaluru and 12 billionaires are living in Ahmedabad
- ✓ Among the Indian billionaires, SP Hinduja family with a net worth of \$27 billion is in second place while Gautam Adani with a net worth of \$17 billion is in third place.
- ✓ Uday Kotak of Kotak Bank has a net worth of \$15 billion and ranked at sixth, while staying as the richest banker in the world.
- ✓ The 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020' included 2,817 people with assets of one billion dollars or more in the world



# NATIONAL DAY

## ➤ National Science Day - February 28



- ✓ The observance of the day marks the discovery of Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman in the year 1928.
- ✓ He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for this important discovery
- ✓ Theme for National Science Day 2020 - "Women in Science"
- ✓ In concurrence with the theme, President Ram Nath Kovind will give prizes to women scientists who have made exemplary contributions in the field of science on February 28, 2020.
- ✓ The first National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 1987.
- ✓ The celebration of the day was announced after the Government accepted the proposal of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC)
- ✓ The Council operates under Department of Science and Technology and is the nodal agency in implementing the celebrations of the day.
- ✓ The Raman Effect states that when a wave of light comes out of a liquid, some part of this light wave is scattered in a direction that is different from the direction of the incoming light wave.
- ✓ His research explained the concept of the blue color of seawater
- ✓ The great physicist Sir Dr Chandrashekhara Venkat Raman was born on November 07, 1888 in the then Madras Presidency (Tamil Nadu) in British India.
- ✓ He had performed researches in the areas of spectrum nature of steel, fundamental issues of steel dynamics, the structure, and properties of diamonds and the optical behavior of many pigmented materials.
- ✓ He was the first to discover the harmonic nature of the tabla and mridangam
- ✓ Dr C V Raman was conferred the Knighthood in the year 1929.
- ✓ The Indian Government honoured him with the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in the year 1954.
- ✓ He also received Lenin peace prize in the year 1957.

