

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 6, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Government - signed MoUs with 19 more US firms on September 4, attracting Rs 2,300 crore more in investment.**



- ✓ The agreements were signed at a meeting held by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami in San Jose in the Silicon Valley.
- ✓ This follows the earlier signing of MoU's with 16 US companies on September 3, for investments worth Rs 2,780 crore, leading to more than 20,000 jobs in the state
- ✓ The companies that signed the MoUs include incoln Electric, Wearable Mems, Caldon Biotech, ZL Technologies, Kapisoft, Kloud Learn, Sierra Health Alerts, Acts Global Tech Solutions, Ripe.io, Latent.ao, Achireum, Nature Mills, SAi, ACS Global Tech Solutions, Dotsolved Systems, TIE Global, USISPF, Google X and DCF Ventures, among others
- ✓ These agreements would lead to a creation of more than 6,500 jobs in the state
- ✓ The chief minister also launched 'Digital Accelerator' scheme along with the assistance from the American Tamil Entrepreneur Association to fund new ventures by state-based entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The state government will allocate Rs 50 crore for the scheme, from which 10% of the total investment will be provided as assistance to entrepreneurs for starting the business
- ✓ The CM unveiled 'Yaadhum Oorey', an investment facilitation portal for the assistance of entrepreneurs from Information technology (IT) and health sectors in San Francisco.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government – is planning to give free laptops to more than 2.5 lakh teachers in government and government-aided schools in the state.**

- ✓ School education minister K A Sengottaiyan announced this, after presenting Dr Radhakrishnan award for the best teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day
- ✓ A total of 377 teachers, including 330 teachers from government and aided schools, 32 from matriculation schools, 2 from Anglo-Indian schools, 3 from schools catering to physically-challenged children, and 10 involved in education research and training, were presented the award for their best teaching efforts in the academic year 2018-19.



- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a silver medal and a certificate
- ✓ The school education department is currently distributing free laptops to postgraduate teachers to enable them to teach Class XI and Class XII students using online resources
- ✓ The government is also planning a complete revamp of the vocational education system in the state, similar to the system being followed in the country of Finland
- ✓ Schools in Finland teach exercise and sports in schools to attract students

◆ **Two teachers from the State and one from Puducherry – conferred with the National award for best teachers on the occasion of Teachers' day by the President**

- ✓ Headmaster R Selvakannan from Karur district and social science teacher M Mansoor Ali from Gopichettipalayam bagged the awards from the state
- ✓ S Sasikumar, headmaster-in-charge from Puducherry also received the award



குடியரசுத் தலைவர் ராம்நாத் கோவிந்திடமிருந்து நல்லாசிரியர் விருது பெறும் (இடமிருந்து) தமிழக ஆசிரியர்கள் செல்வக்கண்ணன், மன்கூர் அலி, புதுச்சேரி ஆசிரியர் சசிக்குமார்.

- ✓ President Ram Nath Govind gave away the awards to 46 Teachers, selected by the Ministry of HRD, on the occasion of Teachers Day

◆ **Tamil Nadu - has been ranked tenth in the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL)**

- ✓ Karnataka has been given the first rank in the index, followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was given an overall score of 50.9, with a grade of A+.
- ✓ The state aims to have an installed solar capacity of 9000 MW by 2023, with 40% coming from rooftop solar systems
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019 is expected to improve the State's ranking in the upcoming year
- ✓ Karnataka had an overall score of 78.8, followed by Telangana with 72.2.
- ✓ SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY)
- ✓ It encourages each State to assess the initiatives taken so far to improve their solar rooftop ecosystem
- ✓ The index ranks the states based on five key aspects — robustness of policy framework, implementation environment, investment climate, consumer experience and business ecosystem.
- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, RK Singh launched the SARAL index on 21 August 2019
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, out of which 100 GW solar power is to be operational by March 2022, in which 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops

NATIONAL

◆ **The Ministry of Human resource development (MHRD) - declares five higher education institutes as Institutions of Eminence (IoE)**

- ✓ The five public universities which have received the orders are IIT Madras, Banaras Hindu University, IIT Kharagpur, University of Delhi and Hyderabad
- ✓ The decision was taken following a recommendation made by the University Grants Commission on August 2, 2019 based on the advice of an Empowered Expert Committee
- ✓ Earlier, in the first round in 2018, 6 institutions were granted the status of IoE, which includes central government-run Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay, private universities Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE and Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS), Pilani and in the greenfield category (yet to be set up) Jio Institute run of Reliance Foundation

- ✓ The Ministry also issued letter of intent to Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Vellore Institute of Tech (both from Tamil Nadu), Jamia Hamdard (Delhi), Kalinga Institute Of Industrial Tech (Odisha) and Bharti Institute Satya Bharti Foundation (Mohali) for sending their preparedness for being declared as IoEs
- ✓ The selection panel had also recommended names of Shiv Nadar University in Noida and OP Jindal University in Sonipat.
- ✓ For these two universities, respective state governments are asked to pass legislation in the state assembly to end the status of these universities as 'private universities' so as to enable them to be considered as IoE Deemed Universities
- ✓ To get the IoE tag, the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal governments were asked to provide their commitments to contribute half of the funds required for Anna University and Jadavpur University, which were also selected by the EEC
- ✓ According to the scheme, Rs. 1000 crore grant will be given to public institutions and no funds will be given to private institutions under Institute of Eminence tag
- ✓ The IoEs will also not be subjected to inspection by the UGC and will have complete academic, administrative and financial autonomy
- ✓ They will be free to set their own courses and curriculum, fee structure and merit-based admission systems

◆ **Health Minister Harsh Vardhan – kickstarted 'POSHAN Maah 2019' with a year-long social and mass media campaign on the 'Eat Right India' movement.**

- ✓ The Minister also launched the new Eat Right India logo that represents a healthy plate, an online eat right quiz and online course for frontline health workers.
- ✓ The Eat Right India movement is a preventive healthcare measure to initiate a social and behavioural change in the people and food businesses



- ✓ It provides a holistic approach to food habits that promote health and sustainability
- ✓ This movement is in line with the government's flagship public health programmes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukh Bharat, Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has also established regulatory measures under three major pillars - Eat Safe, Eat Health and Eat Sustainably for the programme
- ✓ It has also prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ India - announced a 'staggering' \$1 billion line of credit for Russia's resource rich Far East region

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the same while addressing the plenary session of the 5th Eastern Economic Forum, mentioning the region as India's 'launching pad'



- ✓ In the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the PM unveiled the 'Act Far East' policy to boost India's engagement with the Russian region.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that India was the first country to open a consulate in Vladivostok
- ✓ India concluded around 50 agreements worth \$5 billion at EEF-2019
- ✓ The far eastern Russian region, which is spread across an area of 6,952,555 sq km, has a population of just 8.1 million.
- ✓ The climate in the Far East is extremely harsh with the winter lasting nearly nine months and snow covering the ground almost all year round.
- ✓ Modi, who arrived in Russia on a two-day visit on September 4, is the first Indian PM to visit to its Far East region.
- ✓ Modi and Putin chaired the 20th India-Russia annual summit on September 4
- ✓ During the meeting, the two sides signed 15 agreements and MoUs to improve bilateral ties in areas like defence, space, trade, oil and gas, nuclear energy and maritime connectivity.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also emphasised India's commitment to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

◆ The first 2+2 meeting between India and Japan – to take place soon

- ✓ It will be held as a run-up to the annual Modi-Abe summit scheduled to be held in India in December.
- ✓ The meeting involves high-level discussions between foreign and defence ministers on strategic and defence issues
- ✓ India has 2+2 talks with all quad members—US, Australia and now Japan
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in Vladivostok on the margins of the eastern economic forum and held discussions on a wide range of subjects, including trade and cultural relations
- ✓ The two Prime Ministers met for the third time this year after the G-20 meeting in Osaka and G-7 summit in Biarritz, France

