

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 14, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government – announced the proposal to set up an exclusive industrial park for manufacture and assembly of e-vehicles in the state**
- ✓ The state has received investment from French automobile maker PSA to set up a 4,000 acre e-vehicle park
- ✓ The location of the park is expected to be set up in Manalur in Tiruvallur district, 50km north of Chennai
- ✓ The state-run SIPCOT has engaged a consultant to prepare a detailed project report for the park
- ✓ It will have common facilities for auto parts suppliers for prototyping, testing and training.
- ✓ The incentives under various schemes applicable to small and large industries will also be extended to these units, subject to their eligibility.
- ✓ Taiwan-based Delta Electronics has invested ₹4,000 crore for setting up a manufacturing plant between Krishnagiri and Hosur for electric vehicle charging solutions.
- ✓ The first stage of the plant will become operational shortly and nearly 2,000 jobs would be created by December.
- ✓ IIT-Madras incubated Ather Energy has proposed setting up an electric vehicle and lithium ion battery manufacturing unit in Hosur with an investment of ₹635 crore.
- ✓ The company will employ more than 4,000 persons and will be operational by March 2021
- ✓ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed by the company after the state cabinet approves the incentive package.
- ✓ Apart from these companies, automobile major Hyundai will roll out electric vehicles from its Chennai plant, 50,000 units by March end and will increase to 2,00,000 units by next year.

- ✓ The state has released its e-vehicle policy in September 2019
 - ✓ The policy intended to create new EV parks with an established vendor ecosystem to promote EV manufacturing in the state
 - ✓ As per the e-vehicle policy, the state government proposes to offer an additional capital subsidy of 20% over and above the eligibility limit for capital subsidy
 - ✓ This additional subsidy is provided under the existing capital subsidy scheme to MSME units, which are engaged in e-vehicle component or charging infrastructure manufacturer.
 - ✓ Also, 6% interest subvention will be provided, as against the existing 3%, for the firms falling under the medium industries category which avail loans from TN Industrial Investment Corporation
 - ✓ The incentives could be availed by units that are set up until December 31, 2025
- **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - announced in the State Assembly on March 13 that ₹210 crore would be allocated to 6 State-run universities to boost research in different disciplines**
- ✓ According to the announcement made by the Chief Minister, ₹35 crore each would be allocated to Anna University (for research on e-vehicles), Annamalai University (health and environment), Bharathidasan University (health), Bharathiar University (cancer research) and Madurai Kamaraj University (bio medicine) and University of Madras (applications of bio medicine).
 - ✓ The CM also announced that six academies for excellence for athletics, volleyball, football and basketball would be set up at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
 - ✓ In case of Swimming, such academies would be set up in Velachery Aquatic Complex
 - ✓ The Chief Minister also announced that the heritage building on Presidency College campus in Chennai, established in 1840, would be renovated at a cost of ₹10 crore.
 - ✓ Also, the historic Institute of Advanced Study in Education at Saidapet in Chennai — the premier teacher training institution and the first-of-its-kind in Asia would be renovated at a cost of ₹10 crore.
- **Tamil Nadu - now has three testing facilities for SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind COVID-19.**
- ✓ The third facility recently added is the Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at Tiruvarur
 - ✓ The King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, has tested a majority of samples till date.
 - ✓ The facility at Government Medical College, Theni, is the second.
 - ✓ According to a bulletin issued by the Directorate of Public and Preventive Medicine, 6 persons are under hospital quarantine and 1,406 persons under home quarantine for 28 days in the state

- ✓ Till now, 76 samples have tested negative for COVID-19 in the State
- ✓ The sole patient from Kancheepuram district who had tested positive last week was confirmed negative after the results of two consecutive samples that were taken 24 hours apart

STATES

- **The Delhi assembly - passed a resolution on March 13 against the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).**
- ✓ Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal requested the Centre to withdraw them at the one-day special session, which was held to discuss the NPR and the NRC

NATIONAL

- **India - is in stage II of the Covid-19 outbreak, announced by Indian Council of Medical Research Director-general, Balram Bhargava**
- ✓ In the stage II of the Covid-19 outbreak, disease transmission is mostly limited to those with travel history to the affected countries and others in contact with the infected persons
- ✓ As of now, the government's efforts are more focused towards halting or at least delaying the progression of the outbreak to the next stage III
- ✓ The progression to the next stage may eventually happen, but by delaying it India is making itself better prepared to localise and contain the situation
- ✓ India has around a 30-day window to halt the beginning of community transmission of Covid-19 cases, which is the next stage in the outbreak
- ✓ In stage III, the virus starts spreading through the community.
- ✓ This is followed by stage IV, when the disease takes the shape of an epidemic, when the ongoing transmission has no clear endpoint.
- ✓ China and Italy are in stage VI of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ As on Friday, 2 deaths have been reported due to the novel coronavirus in India
- ✓ A total of 82 positive cases have been confirmed by the health ministry, as on date.
- ✓ Of these, most cases have been reported from persons with travel history to China, Italy, Iran and other countries affected by Covid-19.
- **The standing committee on external affairs - approved the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019, with inclusions of recommendations made by its members**
- ✓ The bill seeks compulsory registration of marriage of Non-Resident Indians within 30 days of marriage in India or abroad respectively.
- ✓ The bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in February 2019 by the Ministry of External Affairs
- ✓ It was later referred to the standing committee.

- ✓ The standing committee has recommended a review of the proposed clause to impound and revoke the passport of the erring NRI spouse on failure of registration within 30 days of marriage
- ✓ The bill proposes to amend the Passport Act, 1967, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- ✓ The committee has also noted that 5,298 complaints have been received related to NRI marital grievances from Indian women being abandoned by NRI husbands, between January 1, 2016, and October 31, 2019.
- ✓ The bill assumes significance following the harassments meted out to Indian women by the NRI husbands.

➤ **The Parliament - approved the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020 on March 13**

- ✓ The bill gives taxpayers one last chance to settle tax disputes by paying their dues without any interest or penalty till March 31.
- ✓ The Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on March 4, was approved by the Rajya Sabha on March 13 by a voice vote.
- ✓ The bill was tabled in the Parliament on March 2.
- ✓ It was announced during the Union Budget 2020 presentation and received the approval of the Union Cabinet on February 12
- ✓ The Vivad Se Vishwas scheme waives off interest and penalty on pending tax if paid by March 31.
- ✓ For payments made after March 31 and till June 30, a 10% penalty would be charged.
- ✓ The scheme will remain open till June 30, 2020.
- ✓ The bill seeks to resolve around 4.83 lakh direct tax cases that are currently pending in the various appellate forums of the country including the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

➤ **India - reported its second Covid-19 death on March 13**

- ✓ **A 68-year-old woman from Delhi, who had tested positive for novel coronavirus, succumbed to the infection at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi.**
- ✓ The woman's son, who had recently returned from Europe, had earlier tested positive for the virus.
- ✓ She had contact with her son, a positive case, who had travelled to Switzerland and Italy between February 5 and February 22
- ✓ Earlier, on March 10, a 76-year-old man from Kalaburagi in Karnataka, with Covid-19 symptoms, had died
- ✓ The test results announced on March 12 confirmed he was positive for the novel coronavirus
- ✓ The septuagenarian man, with a travel history to Saudi Arabia, became the country's first Covid-19 fatality.

MANIPUR TO MAHA, STATES CLAMP DOWN

➤ Schools, colleges, movie halls shut in **Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, MP, Bihar**. Schools closed in **Manipur**

➤ **Karnataka** closes malls, pubs, theatres, night clubs for a week. Social gatherings, including weddings and fairs, banned

➤ **Maharashtra** shuts movie halls, swimming pools, gyms in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Nagpur till March 30

➤ In **Uttar Pradesh**, primary and upper primary schools, colleges shut till March 22



91 Number of cases so far (as per reports from states). Health ministry confirms **82**

10 Infected patients cured

Thousands Under Watch

➤ 42,000 in community surveillance, 4k in 'rigorous observation'

➤ Bus and rail services to Bangladesh suspended for a month. International traffic restricted in 19 of 37 border checkpoints

- ✓ Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha announced the closure of schools, colleges, malls and theatres and cancellation of public events till March 31, while Haryana ordered a ban on religious gatherings and festivals.
- **India - has become the fifth country to successfully isolate a strain of the novel coronavirus.**
- ✓ China, Japan, Thailand and the US are the other countries which were successful in the isolation of the n-CoV strain.
- ✓ The isolation is the first step towards expediting the development of drugs, vaccines and rapid diagnostic kits in the country.
- ✓ This was announced by the Director general of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Dr Balram Bhargava
- ✓ The 'isolation' refers to the process by which the scientists have been able to obtain a pure sample of the virus that has been contained outside the human body.
- ✓ The strain that the country has isolated is 99.99% similar to the Wuhan strain
- ✓ Till date, ICMR has tested more than 6,500 samples of 5,900 individuals, of which 81 cases have been tested positive for the virus

INTERNATIONAL

- **The World Health Organisation – announced on March 13 that Europe is the new “epicentre” for the global coronavirus ‘pandemic’**
- ✓ The announcement was made after Italy reported 250 deaths in the last 24 hours, the largest increase in absolute terms since the start of the outbreak.
- ✓ With this, the toll in Italy has jumped to 1,266, a rise of staggering 25% in a single day.
- ✓ The total number of cases in the European country hardest hit by the virus rose to 17,660 from a previous 15,113, an increase of some 17%.
- ✓ Currently, Europe is reporting more cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China.

- ✓ The virus, which first surfaced in China in December, has now killed more than 5,000 people, with cases around the world topping 138,000
- **US President Donald Trump - declared a national emergency over the fast-spreading coronavirus, on March 13**
- ✓ The declaration paves the way to release the earlier announced federal aid of \$50 billion to fight the disease
- ✓ Trump declared an infectious disease emergency under the 1988 law that would allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide disaster funds to state and local governments and to deploy support teams.
- ✓ The power is rarely used.
- ✓ Former President Bill Clinton in 2000 declared such an emergency for West Nile virus
- ✓ Trump's move comes after expert warning that up to 150 million people could be affected without adequate checks to arrest the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

ECONOMY

- **The Union Cabinet - approved a reconstruction scheme for Yes Bank on March 13**
- ✓ The scheme was proposed by the Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ As per the scheme, the State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire 49% stake in the ailing bank.



- ✓ The board of State Bank of India's (SBI) had cleared an investment of ₹7,250 crore, which is much more than its initial plan to invest Rs 2,450 crore in Yes Bank.
- ✓ The new board would have at least two directors from SBI as its members.
- ✓ The authorised capital has been raised from ₹1,100 crore to ₹6,200 crore,
- ✓ There would be a three-year lock-in period for SBI and other potential investors
- ✓ For SBI, the lock-in period will cover 26% of its investments, while for others, it will be for 75% of their investments

- ✓ This means, SBI will not be able to reduce its stake to less than 26 percent for three years
- ✓ ICICI Bank and HDFC announcement an investment of ₹1,000 crore each in Yes Bank for about 5% stake each, while Axis Bank capped its investment at ₹600 crore and Kotak Mahindra Bank at ₹500 crore.
- ✓ Yes Bank has been put under moratorium with deposit withdrawal capped at ₹50,000.
- ✓ This restructuring plan has been approved keeping in mind the interests of the account holders.
- ✓ This will provide stability to Yes Bank as well as the entire financial system

SPORTS

- **Saurashtra - claimed their maiden Ranji trophy title, on first-innings lead against Bengal after the final at SCA Stadium ended in a draw at Rajkot on March 13.**



- ✓ Saurashtra had finished runner-up thrice in the Ranji final in the last eight seasons
 - ✓ Bengal had lifted the trophy last in 1989-90 season
 - ✓ Saurashtra scored 425 runs in the first innings, while Bengal lost all its wickets for 381 runs.
 - ✓ Arpit Vasavada of Saurashtra was named the Man of the match
- **Chennaiyin FC - will qualify for the AFC Cup playoffs, thereby becoming the third team after FC Goa and Mohun Bagan to take the AFC spots.**
 - ✓ The Chennai-based club will battle against ATK in their final Indian Super League (ISL) at the Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on March 14, 2020
 - ✓ Irrespective of the result of the final game, Chennaiyin FC will play in the AFC Cup playoffs
 - ✓ Both Chennaiyin FC and ATK have already won two finals in the ISL and this would be the first time a club will win their third title
 - ✓ Much earlier in 2015, Chennaiyin FC stunned hosts FC Goa for their maiden Indian Super League (ISL) crown.

- ✓ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that the third continental spot – AFC Cup playoff – will be handed over to the winner of the ISL final.
- ✓ Mohun Bagan, as I-League champions, has already bagged the second spot which guarantees them a place in the AFC Cup group stage.
- ✓ With Mohun Bagan and ATK joining hands next season, the race for the third spot has ended with Chennaiyin now guaranteed of a place in the AFC Cup playoffs.
- ✓ There are three spots for three different competitions.
- ✓ If a spot is vacated by any club for whatever reason, the next best will be accommodated
- ✓ **AFC SPOTS:**
 - ✓ AFC Champions League group stage: ISL league winners (FC Goa)
 - ✓ AFC Cup group stage: I-League champions (Mohun Bagan or ATK Mohun Bagan, when they tie-up)
 - ✓ AFC Cup playoffs: ISL final winner (ATK or Chennaiyin FC)

