



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 3,

2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – forms an organization to provide exclusive experiences for tourists/wildlife enthusiasts**
- ✓ The state forest department has created 'The Tamil Nadu Wilderness Experiences Corporation' to promote eco-tourism in the state
- ✓ The newly created Corporation will create quality experiences in a non-intrusive and sustainable manner, with minimal impact on the environment
- ✓ It will promote the identified destinations on a commercial basis and enhance the livelihood opportunities for local communities.
- ✓ The forest department already holds eco-tourism events in the four tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ✓ The Corporation will have officials to look into ecotourism related booking, cancellation and maintenance of the guest houses for visitors
- ✓ At present, range officers in tiger reserves are managing both the tiger reserves and the protection and conservation activities within their jurisdiction.

### NATIONAL

- **The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) – to introduce new curriculum on ancient Indian knowledge and heritage at 100 madrassas as part of the National Education Policy (NEP)**
- ✓ The NIOS, an autonomous institute under the education ministry, will start a basic course for Classes III, V, and VIII.
- ✓ NIOS has prepared 15 courses on the 'Bharatiya Jnana Parampara' (Indian knowledge tradition) that includes veda, yoga, science, vocational skills, Sanskrit language, Ramayan epic narratives, Bhagvad Gita teachings and the Panini-propounded Maheshwara Sutras, among others.
- ✓ These are equivalent to Classes III, V, and VIII of elementary education.
- ✓ Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal released the study material at the NIOS headquarters in Noida on March 2

- ✓ The course material on yoga has sections of patanjali kritasutra, yogasutra exercises, surya namaskar, asanas, pranayam, relaxation exercises, anger management exercises and concentration and memory enhancement exercises.
  - ✓ The vocational skills curriculum covers watering plants, cow-rearing, cleaning of cowsheds and hygiene, garden care, sewing and harvesting, vegetable service, organic farming, etc.
  - ✓ In addition, various skills related to daily life such as making beds, constructing biometrics for farms, using Ayurveda in daily life, methods of cooking have also been included.
  - ✓ Science includes topics like water, air, vegetation and land conservation in the vedas, origin of creation, panchamahbut, earth and natural resources.
  - ✓ The curriculum of Bharatiya Jnana Parampara will be available for all and figure among other subjects.
  - ✓ Students are free to choose what they want to choose and it is not a compulsory component
- **The Government - has generated sales of Rs 77,815 crore in the just concluded telecom spectrum auctions after six rounds and under two days**
- ✓ During the auctions, airwaves of about Rs 4 lakh crore were put up for sale
  - ✓ The biggest buyer was Reliance Jio, which spent Rs 57,123 crore to cover a large part of its spectrum that was coming up for renewal
  - ✓ Further, Airtel bid Rs 18,699 crore, while Vodafone Idea spent Rs 1,993 crore for the airwaves
  - ✓ The telecommunication companies stayed away from coveted 700MHz band, which found no takers for the second time in running, similar like in 2016 auctions
  - ✓ Spectrum in the 2,500MHz band was also left out.
  - ✓ The just-ended auctions were the second biggest grosser for the government in terms of spectrum sales
  - ✓ The first auctions have generated Rs 1.1-lakhcrore sale in February 2015
  - ✓ The telecom department hopes to collect around Rs 20,000 crore as part of mandated upfront payment.

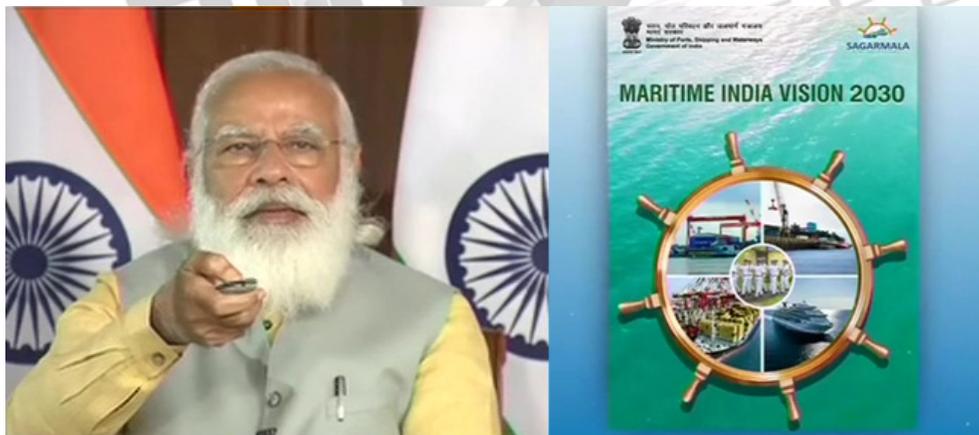
## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On March 2, Sri Lanka - announced a proposal to develop the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal (WCT) under a joint venture with India and Japan for a period of 35 years**
- ✓ Earlier, it had scrapped a trilateral deal with India and Japan to develop another terminal at the same port.
  - ✓ The Sri Lankan Cabinet has granted approval recently to develop the West Container Terminal of Colombo South Port as a private public limited company in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and parties nominated by Indian and Japanese government

- ✓ The Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) proposal of the Terminal was approved by a negotiating committee.
- ✓ The proposal presented by Adani Ports and special economic zone limited (APSEZ Consortium) has been approved by the Indian high commission.
- ✓ In terms of the agreement, the WCT is to be operated over a period of 35 years as a public private partnership with Adani Ports and APSEZ.
- ✓ The WCT proposal came after Sri Lanka decided to retract on the previous memorandum of understanding signed in 2019 with India and Japan on the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT).
- ✓ The state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) signed a memorandum of cooperation in May 2019 with India and Japan to develop the ECT during the previous Sirisena government.
- ✓ The Colombo port trade unions opposed the proposal of investors from India and Japan buying 49% stake in the ETC.
- ✓ They demanded the ECT to remain 100% owned by the SLPA as opposed to the 51%.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurates the 'Maritime India Summit 2021' through video conferencing on March 2**

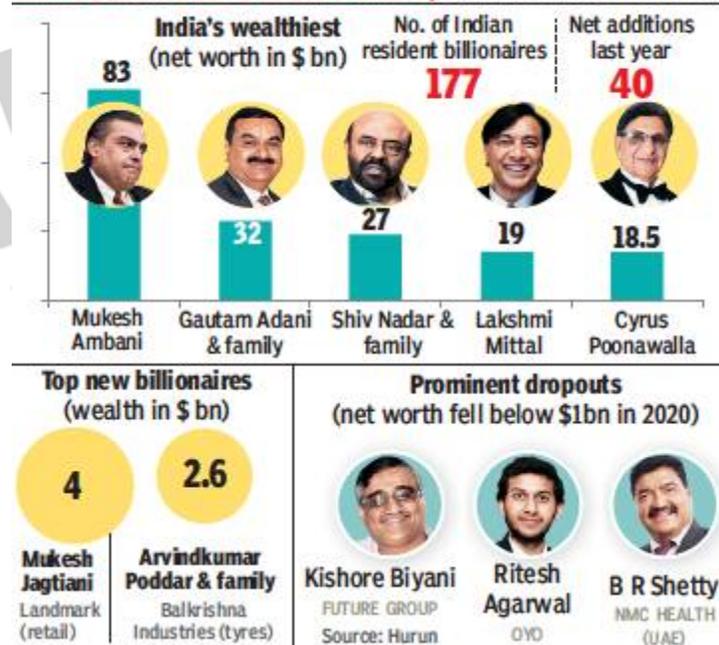


- ✓ During the event, the PM launched a new facility that will enable the Directorate of Shipping to locate any Indian ship across the globe and all foreign ships within 1,000 nautical miles of the Indian coast line.
- ✓ The PM launched the 'Sagar Manthan', the Mercantile Maritime Domain Awareness Centre (MM-DAC) during the inauguration of the Maritime Summit.
- ✓ The PM also said India will invest \$82 billion in the port, shipping and waterways sector by 2030 to make India a major player in the maritime sector.
- ✓ Sagar Manthan is an information system for enhancing maritime safety, search and rescue capabilities, security and marine environment protection," the PM said.

## RANKINGS

- **India - added 40 new billionaires last year to the global list, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2021 published on March 2, 2021**
- ✓ India consists of 177 billionaires, making it the third highest in the world
- ✓ India has added one billionaire every 10 days in 2020 amid the pandemic.
- ✓ Globally, the number of worldwide billionaires increased by 412 to 3,228.
- ✓ There are now 209 Indian-origin billionaires.
- ✓ The total list continues to be topped by Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, with additions and dropouts
- ✓ The additions include Arvindkumar Poddar of Balkrishna Industries, Bawri family of Macleods Pharmaceuticals, B Parthasaradhi Reddy of Hetero Drugs, Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha, Pankaj Munjal of Hero Cycles and T S Kalyanaraman of Kalyan Jewellers.
- ✓ The prominent dropouts are B R Shetty from UAE, Ritesh Agarwal of Oyo Rooms and Kishore Biyani of Future Group.
- ✓ The wealth of 63-year old Ambani grew by 24% to reach \$83 billion and Ambani remains the eighth richest person in the world
- ✓ Reliance, India's largest exporter, accounts for 8% of the country's exports and 5% of India's total revenues from customs and excise duty.

### AMBANI WORLD'S 8TH RICHEST, ADANI NET DOUBLES



- ✓ Adani saw his wealth almost double to \$32 billion on the back of Adani Green Energy growing to a \$20-billion valuation.
- ✓ L.N. Mittal of ArcelorMittal in London led the list among the 32 India-origin billionaires.
- ✓ Financial capital Mumbai has 61 billionaires, followed by New Delhi with 40.
- ✓ According to the list, there are a total of 37, 26, and 19 billionaires respectively in the healthcare, consumer goods, and chemicals sector in India.

- ✓ The Nasdaq was up 42% last year followed by China's Shenzhen (40%), sensex (23.4%) and Japan's Nikkei (22.9%).
- ✓ China added 256 new billionaires to become the first country in the world to top 1,000 'known' dollar billionaires with 1,056, more than the combined total of the next three countries of the US, India and Germany.
- ✓ In five years, China has added 490 billionaires, compared with 160 in the US.
- ✓ World's richest person is Elon Musk who, with a wealth of \$197 billion, is also new to the top-10 list.
- ✓ Jeff Bezos with \$189 billion has moved to the second spot, while luxury giant Bernard Arnault of LVMH with \$114 billion is at third place ahead of Bill Gates (\$110 billion) and Mark Zuckerberg (\$101 billion).
- ✓ This year, 'Bottled Water King' Zhong Shanshan became the first Chinese to break into the Hurun Global Rich List Top 10 with \$85-billion fortune.
- ✓ The list is published by the Hurun Report Inc, a research platform based in Shanghai and Mumbai.
- ✓ It was established in 1999 by British accountant Rupert Hoogewerf.

