

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 14, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- Auto majors Renault and Nissan - have announced a Rs.5,300 crore (\$600 million) investment in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The announcement was made in the presence of chief minister MK Stalin in Chennai on February 13.



- ✓ CM Stalin witnessed an exchange of MoU between Nissan Motor COO Ashwani Gupta (R) and Guidance Tamil Nadu MD & CEO Vishnu Venugopalan
- ✓ The funds will be spent on developing six new products in India and sold both in domestic and export markets.
- ✓ The new products are four brand new 'C-segment SUV models' and two 'A-segment' electric vehicles.
- ✓ The six new models will comprise of three for each company, engineered and built in Chennai
- ✓ Currently, both automakers produce four models at the Chennai plant located at Oragadam

- ✓ The first of the new models will debut in 2025.
- ✓ The new product line-up will lead to 80% capacity utilisation at the Oragadam plant, up from 47% currently, producing 400,000 units annually.
- ✓ The announcement is part of Nissan and Renault's new long-term vision for India and the ramp up of production and R&D, launch of new products and uplift the Renault-Nissan centre into an international export hub
- ✓ The investments would see creation of 2,000 new jobs at the Renault Nissan Research and Development and Business Centre located at Mahindra Research City in Singaperumalkoil.
- ✓ At the same time, the Renault Nissan Alliance factory in Oragadam will become carbon-neutral with a significant increase in renewable energy generation.
- ✓ Under the new framework of agreement, Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd would move to an ownership of 51% Nissan and 49% Renault, while Renault Nissan Technology Business Centre would move to an ownership of 51% Renault and 49% Nissan

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated Asia's largest aero show, Aero India 2023, at the Yalahanka Air Force station complex in Bengaluru on February 13**



- ✓ Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari led the Gurukul formation during the flypast at the inaugural ceremony of the mega air show.
- ✓ The 14th edition of the event will display indigenous equipment and technologies to forge partnerships with foreign companies.
- ✓ The five-day event, on the theme 'The runway to a billion opportunities', will showcase India's growth in aerospace and defence capabilities.
- ✓ Delegations from 32 countries, multiple defence CEOs and 809 defence companies, which includes 110 foreign companies from 98 countries, will participate in Aero India 2023

- ✓ The show will see a variety of aircraft perform for the audiences, besides a host of new technologies and products on display at exhibition halls.
- ✓ On the sidelines of the event this year, defence minister Rajnath Singh will hold a defence ministers' meet on the theme "Shared Prosperity through Enhanced Engagements in Defence (SPEED)", apart from hosting CEOs of big defence companies separately.
- ✓ The previous edition had the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) defence ministers' conclave as the highlight to expand its role in the region
- ✓ Besides big meetings, several one-on-one meets, discussions at seminars, and industry-organised roundtables will be part of the event.
- ✓ Enhancing India's defence exports and joint production of advanced technologies will be a key strategic focus at the show.



- ✓ Said to be the largest-ever Aero India, this edition will see 32 defence ministers, 29 air chiefs and 73 CEOs of global and Indian companies participate.
- ✓ A total of 251 agreements with expected investments of Rs.75,000 crore are likely to be signed between various Indian and foreign defence companies.
- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation-developed Medium Altitude Long Endurance class unmanned aerial vehicle TAPAS-BH (Tactical Aerial Platform for Advanced Surveillance - Beyond Horizon), made its first public debut flight at Aero India
  - ✓ TAPAS is DRDO's solution to the tri-services ISTAR (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance) requirements
  - ✓ The UAV, that can carry a variety of payloads up to a maximum of 350 kgs, is capable of operating at altitudes up to 28,000 feet, with an endurance of 18 plus hours
- ✓ United States Charge d'Affaires Ambassador to India Elizabeth Jones is leading the largest-ever US delegation to the biennial air show.
  - ✓ During the show, US will unveil its newest fifth-generation fighters, the stealthy and supersonic multi-role F-35A Lightning II and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter.

- ✓ The F-35A Joint Strike Fighter came from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and F-35A Lightning II from Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.
- ✓ During the event, Air India is expected to announce a potentially record deal to buy nearly 500 jets from Airbus SE and Boeing Co, worth more than \$100 billion at list prices
- ✓ Major exhibitors in Aero India 2023 include Airbus, Boeing, Dassault Aviation, Lockheed Martin, Israel Aerospace Industry, BrahMos Aerospace, Army Aviation, HC Robotics, SAAB, Safran, Rolls Royce, Larsen and Toubro, Bharat Forge Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and BEML Limited.
- ✓ Aero India 2023 is an air show hosted by the Department of Defence Production operating under the Defence Ministry
- ✓ A premier exhibition in the global aviation industry, Aero India is held biennially in a total area of around 35,000 sqm

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The government - has launched a mobile app namely 'Khanan Prahari' and a web app “Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System” (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities**
- ✓ This will facilitate the monitoring and action taking by concerned Law and Order enforcing authority.



- ✓ Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said this in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on February 13.
- ✓ According to the Minister, CMSMS has been developed to curb illegal mining and take transparent action as an e-Governance initiative of the government on the use of Space Technology
- **The government - proposes to set up a Bima Sugam portal to address the existing protection gap across life, health and general insurance businesses in the country.**
- ✓ This was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on February 13

- ✓ The portal will be an insurance market infrastructure, where insurers, distribution networks and the policy holders would virtually meet across a seamless digital platform.



- ✓ It will also serve as a readymade digital platform for insurers and distribution networks

## DEFENCE

- **The National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) - are currently conducting an exercise named Operation TARKASH in Chennai.**
- ✓ This marks the sixth edition of the exercise, which started on January 16 and will conclude on February 14.
- ✓ This is the first joint military exercise between India and USA in 2023
- ✓ During the course of joint exercise, both forces also conducted joint mock counter-terrorism drills at multiple locations in Chennai to enhance interoperability and coordination between the two special forces
- ✓ The Joint Exercise, for the first time, simulated a validation exercise for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terror response mission



- ✓ The most recent use of CBRN in the form of a sarin gas attack was witnessed in Syria in 2017 when more than 100 people died.

# US v/s CHINA -SPY BALLOON CONTROVERSY - REPORT

## HOW THEY ALL CAME DOWN

**4TH FEB** First was a Chinese 'spy' balloon is shot down with a missile fired by an F-22 off-South Carolina

**What We Know** | 200ft tall, had a gondola the size of three buses, was equipped with multiple antennas, had solar panels large enough to power several intelligence-gathering sensors; was able to steer itself, using winds and possibly propulsion mechanism; was hovering at 60,000ft, not a danger to aircraft



(From top) The 'spy' balloon was shot down and its debris were found floating off South Carolina



**10TH FEB** Second object, 'about the size of a small car', shot down near Alaska

**What We Know** | Found hovering at 40,000ft, a greater danger to civilian aircraft; not similar in size or shape to the spy balloon; lacked any system of propulsion or control

**11TH FEB** Third object, 'small' and 'cylindrical', shot by F-22 jets over Canada's Yukon territory

**What We Know** | Found flying at 40,000ft, posing danger to civilian aircraft; Canada described it as cylindrical and about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle

**NOT THE FIRST TIME BALLOONS WERE FOUND** | A review of old data shows at least three spy balloons entered US airspace during the Trump administration. There was at least one additional visit during the Biden administration. But all 'visits' were short

**SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME** | China's spy balloon programme complements its fleet of reconnaissance satellites, US officials say. Balloons are better as they can linger longer over a site. Satellites focus on imagery, but the balloons appear to be collecting communications. Some officials say the programme is focused in Pacific region, collecting info on US bases, allied military operations



**12TH FEB** Fourth unidentified object shot down by F-16 fighter jet over Lake Huron on the US-Canada border near Michigan

**What We Know** | Flying at 20,000ft, was a potential danger to civil aviation. It had an octagonal structure with strings hanging off

**WHY DETECTIONS ARE MORE** | US officials say Norad has been adjusting the filters and algorithms it uses to examine radar data, making them sensitive enough to objects that stay aloft, and move with the wind. A key change was to let filters detect objects moving slowly & at different altitudes, without specifying which ones