

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 13, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Senior IAS officer R Palanisamy – appointed as the new State Election Commissioner replacing Malik Feroz Khan on April 10**
 - ✓ The 2000 batch IAS officer, a native of Coimbatore, was earlier the Registrar of Cooperative Societies
 - ✓ He will oversee the local body polls, which are likely to be held after the Lok Sabha elections.
 - ✓ Malik Feroz Khan has been heading the SEC since April 7, 2017
- ◆ **The office of the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta - to start functioning from the premises of a Chennai Corporation school in Chintadripet**
 - ✓ The Corporation school on Arunachalam Street, opposite Jain temple in Chintadripet, was closed following a dip in the number of students' way back in 2009
 - ✓ A new building for the Lokayukta office will also be constructed after demolishing the existing school building
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu's first solar-powered boat - will soon operate at the Manimuthar Dam in Tirunelveli district within 10 days**



- ✓ Called Mahindra Odyssey, the 26-seater (including two crew members) boat is 11.8 m long and 4 m wide with a unique German motor (20 KW)
- ✓ It has a solar roof on top which can generate 3.8 KW of power, which will help the boat get partially charged while moving

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The Government - selected nine professionals, mostly from the Private sector, for the appointment as 'Joint Secretary' under 'lateral entry' process in various departments**

THE APPOINTMENTS

- **Amber Dubey**, head of aerospace and defence at KPMG, to join civil aviation ministry
- **Sujit Kumar Bajpayee**, working with state-run NHPC, will join environment ministry
- **Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale**, CEO of Panama Renewable Energy Group, appointed to new and renewable energy ministry
- Others include **Kakoli Ghosh** (agriculture), **Saurabh Mishra** (financial services), **Rajeev Saksena** (economic affairs), **Arun Goel** (commerce), **Suman Prasad Singh** (road transport), and **Bhushan Kumar** (shipping)

- ✓ Till now, the position of 'Joint secretary' was filled up by the people who clear the civil services examinations, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- ✓ To ensure the same standards, the entire selection process for these experts was conducted by the UPSC
- ✓ The selected experts will join on 'contract basis' in various departments such as agriculture, civil aviation, finance, transport and shipping
- ✓ NITI Aayog, in its report Strategy for India @75, had recommended encouraging lateral entry at the highest levels of the Government to provide 'expertise'

- ◆ **Indian Railways - lifted restrictions and unveils new quota for the Foreigners and NRIs to book tickets in all classes**

- ✓ The foreign tourists who travel in Indian trains are allowed to book tickets in the first AC, second AC and executive classes through IRCTC website up to 365 days in advance.
- ✓ Under the FTQ category, the Railways has allocated four berths per coach in a sleeper and 3rd AC classes while seats have been parked per coach in chair car classes

◆ **A Pink polling booth for the Lok Sabha elections - was inaugurated at Jamui parliamentary constituency in Bihar**



- ✓ All polling party including security personnel are women, discharging their election duty, in this polling booth
- ✓ The decision was taken to make women feel special and come in large number in order to cast their vote
- ✓ The 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, had already voted in the first of the seven-phase polls.

COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Madras High Court - has ruled that the employees of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and any other similar institutions cannot claim themselves as 'Government servants'**

- ✓ A division bench of Justice KK Sasidharan and Justice PD Audikesavalu made the observation despite the fact that RBI is a state within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Malaysia - rejoins China's ambitious OBOR project, after price cut for a China rail line**

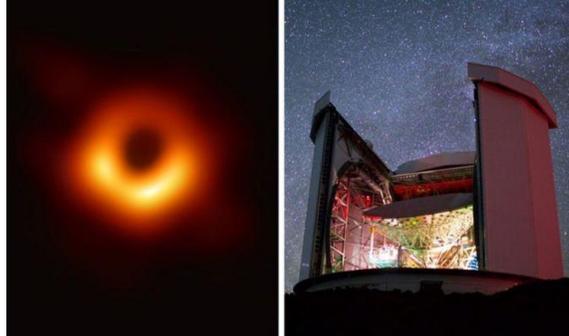
- ✓ It has reopened a closed Chinese rail construction project after slashing 30% from the original cut
- ✓ Under the revised deal, the 648-km rail link will be costing \$10.6 billion now
- ✓ China has agreed to it as it wants to present a strong global infrastructure project at the Belt and Road Forum, scheduled between April 25 and 27
- ✓ India has already indicated that it will not be attending the event
- ✓ Malaysian President, Mahathir Mohamad had shelved the project last July soon after returning power citing the project as a major financial burden for the country

◆ **Nepal - sends a four-member team of experts to remeasure the height of Mount Everest for the first time**

- ✓ Chief Survey Officer Khim Lal Gautam and Survey Officer Rabin Karki will climb Mount Everest
- ✓ After reaching its top, they will use a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) that will send readings about its height to their two colleagues who will remain at base camp
- ✓ The Survey Department will be conducting four sets of surveys - Precise levelling, Trigonometric levelling, Gravity survey and GNSS survey

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ A Hawaiian name, Powehi – was given to the world's first Black hole photographed on April 10



- ✓ Hawaiian language Professor Larry Kimura named the cosmic object in Hawaiian language
- ✓ The word 'Powehi' means "the adorned fathomless dark creation" or "embellished dark source of unending creation", coming from the Kumulipo, an 18th Century Hawaiian creation chant
- ✓ 'Po' is a profound dark source of unending creation, while 'wehi', honoured with embellishments, is one of the chant's descriptions of 'po'
- ✓ The world's first image of a black hole in a galaxy 53 million light-years from Earth was created using data from eight radio telescopes around the world
- ✓ Astronomers say giving it a Hawaiian name was justified because the project included two telescopes in Hawaii.

DEFENCE

◆ INS Shakti and INS Kolkata - to take part in Chinese Navy's 70th anniversary celebrations on April 23



- ✓ The ships are scheduled to visit Chinese port of Qingdao from 21 to 26 April to participate in an International Fleet Review to celebrate the 70th anniversary of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy
- ✓ INS Kolkata is the lead ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ INS Shakti is tanker and supply ship

ECONOMY

- ◆ **Russia's Moscow Exchange (MOEX) - has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and India International Exchange (India INX)**



BSE, INDIA INX
BECOMES THE FIRST
INDIAN EXCHANGES
TO SIGN AN MOU WITH
MOSCOW EXCHANGE

- ✓ This will be the very first time that Indian exchanges will enter into the MoU with Moscow exchange
- ✓ The move aims to ease the access of Indian capital to the Russian market.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Mayoori Kango, former bollywood actress - appointed as the Industry Head of Google India**



- ✓ She will lead Google engagement with Publicis (Parent Company of Performics) and DAN.
- ✓ Before joining Google India, Mayoori has worked as a Managing Director in Performics, which is part of Publicis Groupe
- ✓ She has been instrumental in engaging and retaining accounts of firms like Uber, Airtel and Nestle

AWARDS

- ◆ **Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**



- ✓ Mr. Patel has led research on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low and middle-income countries
- ✓ He will be formally presented with the award on October 24, 2019, at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto
- ✓ The John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award recognizes the world's top scientists who have made outstanding achievements in Global Health Research.

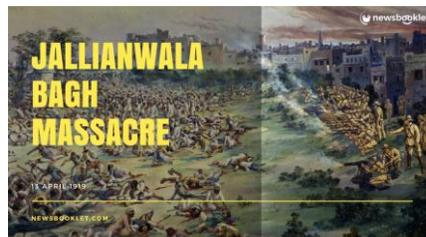
SPORTS

- ◆ **The All India Tennis Association (AITA) - has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Serbian Tennis Federation (STF) to train Indian junior players under world-renowned Serbian coaches at New Delhi.**

- ✓ Trainers and coaches from Serbia will come to India for a week/ two-week camp in the under-12, 14, 16 and 18 categories
- ✓ All India Tennis Association (AITA) is the premier governing body of tennis in India
- ✓ It was established in March 1920 with its headquarters at New Delhi

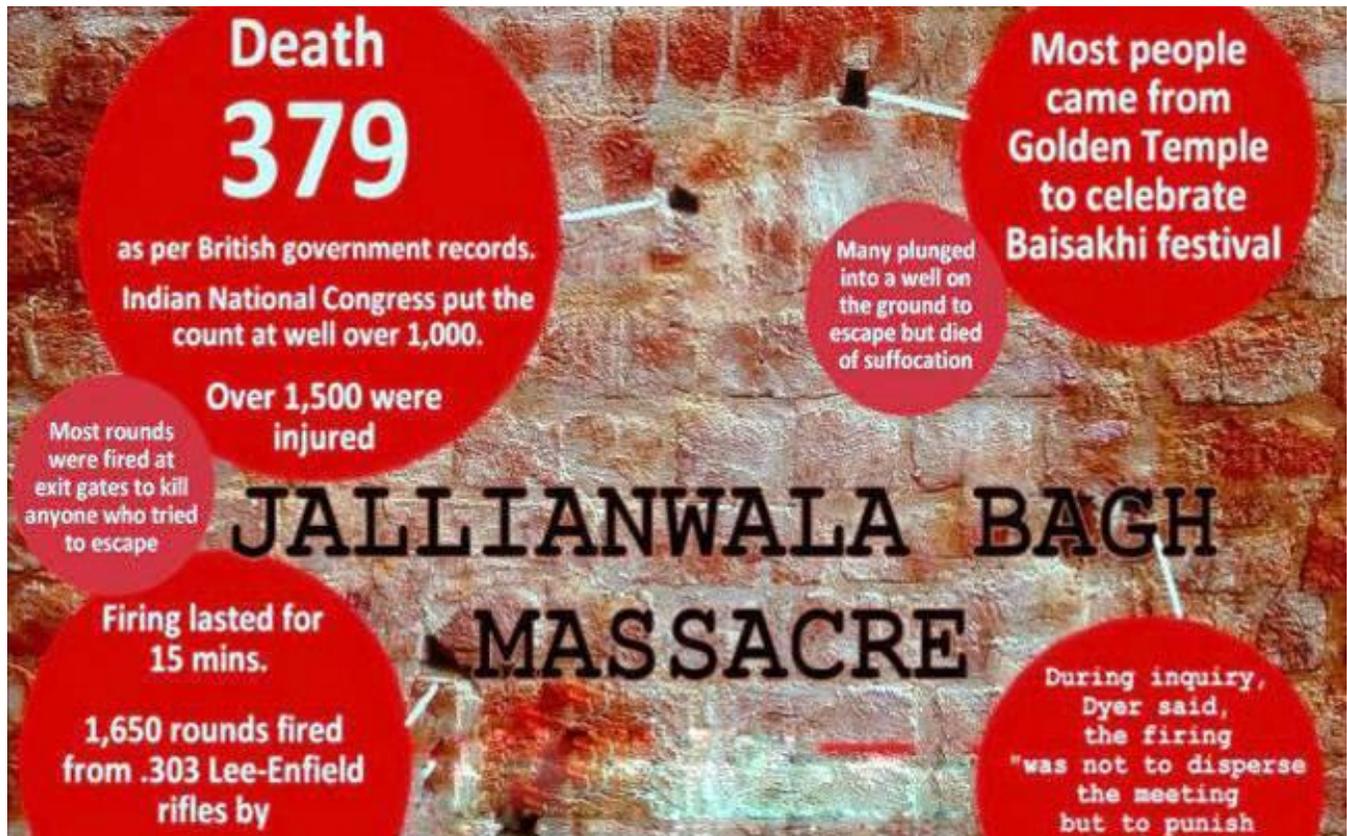
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (April 13, 1919 to April 13, 2019)**



- ✓ On the fateful afternoon of Sikh festival Baisakhi, the troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired ruthlessly into a crowd of Indian civilians gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab on April 13, 2019

- ✓ The civilians assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- ✓ The massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, is remembered as one of the deadliest attacks in Indian history.
- ✓ As per the records of the British Government, the massacre killed 379 and caused 1200 injuries
- ✓ The bullet marks can be still seen on the walls of the Jallianwala Bagh which is now a national memorial.

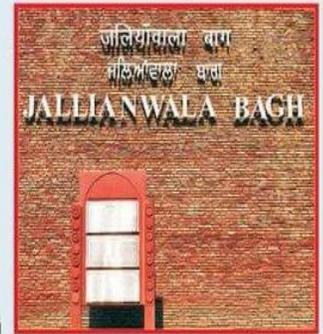


- ✓ It was the result of the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, famously known as the Rowlatt Act
- ✓ The Act, which came into force a month before the massacre, allowed political cases to be tried without jury, and imprisonment of suspects without trial.
- ✓ Gandhi started a campaign against Rowlatt Act and there were violent protests throughout the country, leading to several disruptions
- ✓ Following the massacre, the Hunter Commission was appointed to investigate into the matter, which concluded Dyer 'guilty' and relieved of his command
- ✓ Udham Singh, a Punjabi revolutionary, killed Michael O' Dwyer, former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, on March 13, 1940 in London in revenge for the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- ✓ He was subsequently convicted and hanged in July 1940
- ✓ Bengali poet and Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood he had received in 1915

Turning Point in Indian Freedom Struggle

JALLIANWALA MASSACRE

April 13, 1919



1919: ■ Resentment was high in Punjab after the ruthless British drive to recruit soldiers for World War-I and forced contribution for the war fund

MARCH 30 AND APRIL 6: ■ Gandhiji's call for a country-wide 'hartal' to protest against the Rowlatt Act of 1919 received a tremendous response from Punjab

APRIL 9: ■ Ram Navami day, the Hindu-Muslim solidarity in the celebrations and the unity during the 'hartal' days made Punjab Lt Governor Michael O'Dwyer's administration panicky

■ Gandhiji's entry into Punjab was banned

■ Two popular leaders of Amritsar, Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satya Pal arrested

APRIL 11: ■ Continuing provocations by Britishers led to mass demonstrations in Lahore, Kasur and Gujranwala. Police action in Amritsar led to violence and the city's law & order was handed over to Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer

APRIL 13: ■ Baisakhi day, a meeting was called in Jallianwala Bagh. Suddenly Dyer appeared there with troops, blocked the exits and without any warning to the people, ordered firing on the completely peaceful and defenceless crowd. The fusillade continued till Dyer's ammunition ran out. Over a thousand people were reported killed and many more injured

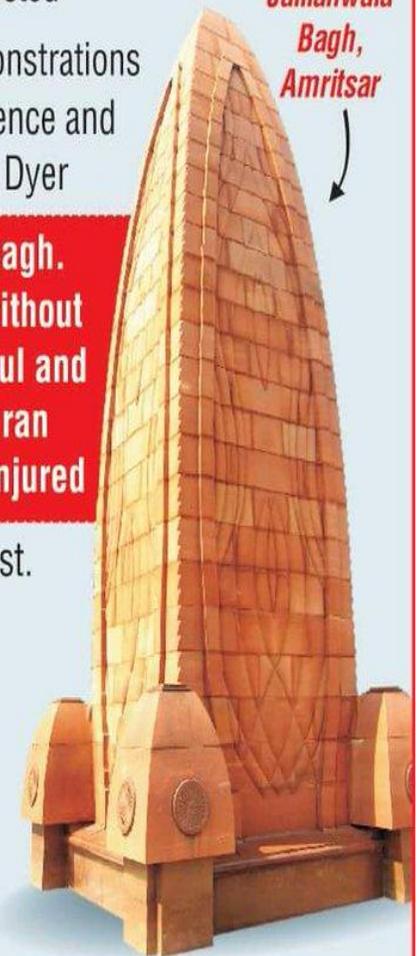
MAY 31: ■ Rabindranath Tagore renounced his Knighthood in protest. The country was now getting charged up to fight British rule

OCT 14: ■ British government forms a committee of inquiry into the events in Punjab

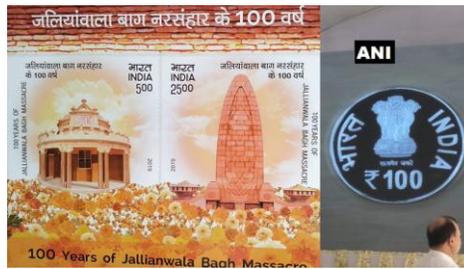
NOV 19: ■ Appearing before the Hunter Committee set up to investigate the ghastly act, Dyer admitted that he acted so to strike terror not only in the city of Amritsar, but throughout Punjab

Source: Excerpts from *Recollections and Reflections* by Chimanlal H. Setalvad

Memorial at
Jallianwala
Bagh,
Amritsar



KBK Infographics



- ✓ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp and a coin commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 2019

◆ **National Safe Motherhood Day - April 11**

- ✓ The day intends to raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women apart from striving to prevent child marriages, an indirect cause of maternal deaths



- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Midwives for Mothers"
- ✓ This day is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) to provide women with various healthcare programs during pregnancy, childbirth and post-natal services.
- ✓ The day was first observed in 2003
- ✓ 11 April marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi

◆ **National Handloom week - April 7 to April 14**



- ✓ It is a celebration of the country's 5,000-year old tradition of hand weaving cloths
- ✓ On this occasion, a book named 'The Indian textile Sourcebook' authored by Avalon Fotheringham and published by Thames and Hudson was launched on 9th April.
- ✓ In 2018, the National Handloom Week was observed during December month.
- ✓ The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year across India.
- ✓ It was on this day that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905.
- ✓ The First National handloom day was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on August 7, 2015 in Chennai.

◆ **Prevention of Blindness week - April 1 to April 7**



- ✓ It is observed to alert and awaken the society towards various factors which causes blindness.
- ✓ It is organised by National Society for the Prevention of Blindness-India (NSPB-I) along with the support of state and local branches
- ✓ Initiated in 1960, Prevention of Blindness Week was launched by Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, under Societies Registration Act of 1860
- ✓ Indian Government has also launched another campaign 'Vision 2020: The Right to Sight' in collaboration with WHO to prevent blindness

PM's INTERNATIONAL AWARDS – A REPORT

- ◆ **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi - was decorated with the Order of St.Andrew the Apostle, the highest state decoration of Russia - for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples**

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AWARDS CONFERRED ON PM NARENDRA MODI

Zayed Medal of UAE

UAE announced its highest decoration for PM Modi on April 4, 2019, in recognition of his **'pivotal role'** in strengthening ties between the two nations



Grand Collar of the State of Palestine

On February 10, 2018, Modi was conferred with the award by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, recognising his contributions in promoting relations between India and Palestine

Seoul Peace Prize 2018

Conferred on PM Modi for his contributions to the growth of the Indian and global economies, crediting **'Modinomics'** for reducing social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor



UN Champions of the Earth Award 2018

The **highest environmental honour** of the UN. Modi received the award on October 3, 2018 from UN secretary general Antonio Guterres. He was selected in the leadership category for his pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and also as acknowledgement for his unprecedented pledge to eliminate single-use plastic in India by 2022

Amir Abdulla Khan Award of Afghanistan

PM Modi, during his visit to Afghanistan, was on June 4, 2016 conferred with the Amir Amanullah Khan Award, the highest civilian honour of the country by its president, Ashraf Ghani

King Abdullaziz Sash Award of Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on April 3, 2016 conferred with Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour **'King Abdulaziz Sash'** by King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Court of Saudi Arabia. Among other notable recipients of this honour are former US President Barack Obama and British ex-PM David Cameron