

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 15, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Project Kannamma - an initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras North to provide sanitary napkins to the students is carried out successfully in the state**

Rotary Club of Madras North



- ✓ It was started in August 2018 by providing free, biodegradable sanitary napkins to 82 students at the Government High School in Uthandi of Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Now it covers over 300 students across Government schools in and around Chennai
- ✓ The sanitary napkins are provided by the Irula Tribal Women's Welfare Society, using Arunachalam Muruganatham machines
- ✓ The sanitary napkin, under the brand Aavaram, is prepared with natural raw materials such as cotton and wood pulp, and a pack of six costs just Rs 22
- ✓ If the group sells 15,000 pads per month, it can sustain the families of 12 tribal women, leading to their welfare also

NATIONAL

- ◆ **India - sets up an exclusive Indo-Pacific wing in Ministry of External affairs**
- ✓ The brain child of foreign secretary, Vijay Gokhale, it aims to propagate the policy proclaimed by the Prime Minister at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018

- ✓ For the time being, it will be headed by joint secretary, Vikram Doraiswami, for whom it will be an additional charge apart from Myanmar and Bangladesh



- ✓ The division will integrate the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) Association, Asean region and the Quad to the Indo-Pacific table
- ✓ It has to be recollected that United States has recently renamed its Pacific command as 'Indo-Pacific' command

◆ **The birth centenary of Marshal of Indian Air Force, Arjan Singh - to be celebrated on April 15 across the country**

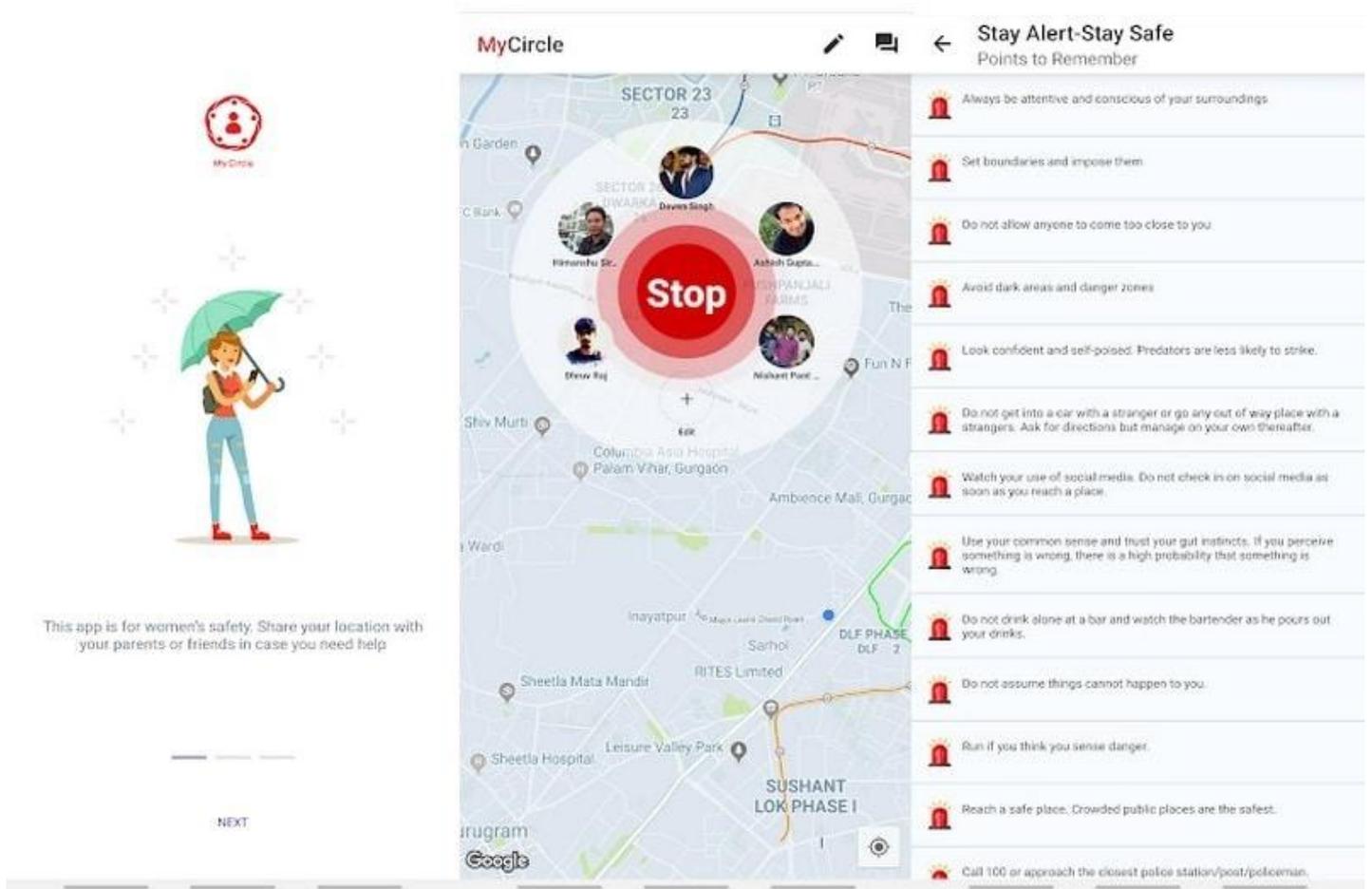


- ✓ The 'iconic' air warrior served as the Chief of IAF from 1964 to 1969
- ✓ He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross during the Burma campaign of World War II
- ✓ He successfully marshalled his force during the 1965 Indo-Pak war, after initial setbacks
- ✓ He has also served as India's envoy to Switzerland and Kenya in 1970s apart from serving as the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi during 1989-90
- ✓ Being a Philanthropist, he has donated Rs 2 crore for the welfare of retired IAF personnel and their families
- ✓ In 2002, he became only the third Service chief to be conferred with the Field Marshal rank, the highest honorary rank in the armed forces, after former Army chief's Sam Manekshaw and KM Cariappa
- ✓ Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was the architect of the swift military operation to liberate Bangladesh in 1971
- ✓ The then President KR Narayanan had conferred the five-star rank on Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh in January 2002.
- ✓ Marshal Arjan Singh passed away as the country's last surviving five-star general, in 2017

◆ **Union Cabinet - approved the continuation of the GSLV Phase - 4 programmes, consisting of five GSLV flights during the period from 2021 to 2024**

- ✓ Phase 4 will enable the launch of two ton class of satellites for Geo-imaging, Navigation, Data Relay Communication and Space Sciences.
- ✓ The PSLV programme will meet the launch requirement of satellites for providing critical Satellite Navigation Services, Data Relay Communication for supporting the Indian Human spaceflight programme and the next interplanetary mission to Mars.

◆ **Bharti Airtel - in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) had launched a new App 'My Circle App'**



- ✓ My Circle app aims to help women in case they face any problem or a panic situation
- ✓ A woman in distress can send an SOS alert to any five of their family or friends in 13 languages by pressing the SOS prompt on the app

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **World's biggest single day elections - to be held in Indonesia on April 17**

- ✓ It will cover 192 million voters and 245,000 candidates in the national and regional legislative elections of the World's largest Muslim majority country
- ✓ President Joko Widodo is standing for re-election in the contest with ex-general Prabowo Subianto, whom he had narrowly defeated in 2014

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **United Arab Emirates (UAE) - to host the world's leading Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit -AIE from April 30 to May 1, 2019**



- ✓ The 2-day inaugural 'AI Everything', AIE will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre.
- ✓ It will be hosted by the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of International Telecommunication Union, ITU, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, WIPO, and in strategic partnership with Smart Dubai.
- ✓ The summit will witness the debut of Google's Kaggle days, which the largest online community of the world's data scientists and machine learners
- ✓ Summit will feature the Supernova Challenge for the best AI-driven product, with cash prizes worth \$100,000
- ✓ The Summit will showcase new AI software, which will enable the blind to safely navigate regular streets and avoid obstacles independent of physical assistance
- ✓ The show will host more than 100 global AI tech companies and start-ups from more than 30 countries in line with the 'UAE AI Strategy 2031'

DEFENCE

- ◆ **Indian Naval Ship Kozhikode - was decommissioned in a ceremony held at Naval Jetty, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 13th April – after three decades of service**



- ✓ INS Kozhikode was commissioned on December 19, 1988, at Riga (erstwhile USSR)
- ✓ Named after the historic port of Calicut, the ship was an integral part of the 21 Mine Counter Measures Squadron, based in ENC at Visakhapatnam
- ✓ INS Kozhikode (M71) was a minesweeper of the Karwar class, of similar design to the Pondicherry-class ships that were in service with the Indian Navy till 2012
- ✓ It was built by the Sredne-Neviskiy Shipyard at Saint Petersburg, Russia
- ✓ The ship took part in the International Fleet Review 2016 that was held off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- ✓ Kozhikode was the sixth and the last of the modified 'Natya' class of minesweepers

ECONOMY

- ◆ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has granted Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) with 12 years to cut its stake in the bank by 10%**

- ✓ LIC is the major shareholder of IDBI Bank with 51% stake in the Bank
- ✓ The government is the other major investor in IDBI Bank owning 46.46% while the rest is with the public
- ✓ RBI has stipulated that after 12 years LIC has to reduce stake in IDBI Bank by 10% to 40%
- ✓ RBI has classified IDBI as a private sector bank last month
- ✓ As per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI), LIC can hold up to 15% stake in any bank which can go up to 30% as per the board approval.
- ✓ But the insurance regulator has allowed LIC to invest up to 51% in IDBI Bank last year.

◆ **HDFC Bank - was ranked at the top of the 'Forbes Best Indian Banks 2019' list**



- ✓ Another private lender ICICI Bank took the second spot, while DBS was at the third rank in Forbes list of Indian banks.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank and IDFC Bank had managed to gain the fourth and fifth spot respectively.
- ✓ Syndicate Bank, PNB, Allahabad Bank, Vijaya Bank and Axis Bank were ranked from sixth to tenth respectively
- ✓ Forbes has compiled a first-ever list of the World's Best Bank 2019 in terms of customer services and technological advancements.
- ✓ The banks were rated on the basis of 5 key attributes - trust, digital services, financial advice and fees.
- ✓ Forbes had partnered with Statista, a market research company, to measure the best banks in 23 countries.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas - sworn in a new government in Palestine on April 13**

- ✓ His ally in Fateh party, Mohammad Shtayyeh was administered the oath as the new Prime Minister in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank
- ✓ The new government was formed after former Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah resigned in January 2019



- ✓ It comprises solely of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) factions, primarily the Fatah party and excludes Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group
- ✓ Abbas, 83, has served as president of Palestine since 2005
- ✓ It is the 18th Palestinian government since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1995

AWARDS

- ◆ **Dr. A K Singh, director at Life Sciences, DRDO - has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.**



- ✓ He has made notable contributions in Internal Decorporation of Fission Produced Radionuclides and Infection Imaging.
 - ✓ He also discovered a Diagnobact Kit to detect the infectious lesion.
 - ✓ He also introduced Pharmacosyntigraphy, i.e. application of nuclear medicine imaging in drug research
 - ✓ For Best Innovative Project Awards 2019, 965 innovative projects competed against each other.
 - ✓ Pankaj Sharma bagged the first position and Best Innovation of the Year Award 2019, for Smart Trolley Bag project.
 - ✓ Pratul and Abhishek shared second place.
 - ✓ Pratul acquired award for Automatic Toilet Cleaner project.
 - ✓ Abhishek won for prototype model for Accident Management System respectively. Third prize was jointly won by Vaibhav and Daniyal for treatment of textile affluent and plastic with bio-mass to help in controlling water and air pollution
- ◆ **The 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize - has been awarded to Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo**



- ✓ Both Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had worked hard in reporting on alleged human rights violations in the Myanmar's state of Rakhine
- ✓ Their documentary on the various crimes committed against Rohingyas landed them behind the bars
- ✓ The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize is funded by the Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation (Colombia), the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland), and The Namibia Media Trust

◆ **Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar - was honoured with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council at Mumbai**



- ✓ Among the awardee, Digital Sukoon was the Best Digital Agency of the Year 2019 to receive the award
- ✓ Yogesh Lakhani of Bright Outdoor Media, Actor Johnny Lever, Jasleen Matharu also received awards in various other categories.

SPORTS

◆ **Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain - Mercedes) - wins the Formula one's 1000th race, Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai**



- ✓ Five-time world champion, Hamilton already entered into record books as only one of the three drivers to have won five or more championship titles
- ✓ The victory brings his 75th career title, just 16 short of the all-time record held by Michael Schumacher

Fast Facts

- 1-2 hat-trick for Mercedes this season, the first time a team has achieved it since 1992 (Williams - Nigel Mansell and Riccardo Patrese)
- 75th career victory for the 34-year old Hamilton. Michael Schumacher was 35 when he won his 75th (overall wins: 91).
- The Brit becomes the second driver after the German to lead in 4000 laps in F1 history
- Sixth title for Hamilton in China, powers him to the top of the drivers' standings

- ✓ Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes finished second and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished third in the race
- ✓ Incidentally, Hamilton also won the 900th race in Bahrain in 2014
- ✓ The first Formula 1 race was held in the year 1950

◆ **Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq and South African Mark Boucher - were inducted as the Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**



- ✓ Former Pakistan skipper and batsman Inzamam made his international debut in 1991, featuring in Pakistan's successful 1992 World Cup campaign.
- ✓ In 2016, he became Pakistan's chief selector.
- ✓ Inzamam is now the fifth Honorary Life Member of the MCC from Pakistan, after Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shahid Afridi
- ✓ Mark Boucher was the first wicketkeeper to claim 500 catches in Tests.
- ✓ He holds the record for the most wicket keeping dismissals across formats - 998 in total. Boucher is also the fifth Honorary Life Member of the MCC from South Africa, after Allan Donald, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock and Daryll Cullinan.

WORLD'S LARGEST PLANE TAKES FLIGHT – A REPORT

◆ **World's largest airplane called 'Roc' - was test-flighted for the very first time on April 13, 2019 at Mojave Desert, California**

- ✓ It was built by Stratolaunch in 8 years time period, to launch rockets into orbit from the air
- ✓ Its first flight duration was 2.5 hours at up to 17,000 ft or 5,200 meter above the sea level
- ✓ The plane weighs about 227,000 kg and has the biggest wingspan ever built, measuring 118 meter from one end to the other.
- ✓ It is powered by six Pratt & Whitney engines, which were originally designed for Boeing 747s
- ✓ Stratolaunch was founded in 2011 by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen

VITAL STATISTICS

LENGTH **238 feet**

WEIGHT **Half a million pounds**

COCKPITS **2**

FUSELAGES **2**

(but only one is used to fly the plane)

POWERED BY

6 Boeing 747 engines

WORLD'S LARGEST PLANE TAKES FLIGHT

The gigantic, six-engined mega jet with the wingspan of an American football field made its first test flight over the Mojave desert in California on Saturday. Built by Stratolaunch, the company set up by late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in 2011, it is designed to act as a flying launch pad for satellites. The test flight lasted for **2-and-a-half hours** and touched top speed of **304kmph**. It reached altitude of **17,000ft**



HOW WILL IT WORK

1 Jet – carrying a rocket loaded with a satellite – will take off to 35,000 feet

2 Launch rocket from the plane on a trajectory toward space

3 Plane will land safely back at Mojave

4 Rocket deploys satellite before eventually falling back to Earth, burning up like a meteor



WINGSPAN **385 feet**
about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380

LANDING GEAR HAS **28 wheels**



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

- ▶ Designed to carry into space a rocket that would in turn deploy satellites
- ▶ Aims to offer military and even Nasa an economical way to get into space

WHY IS IT ECONOMICAL

- ▶ Made of carbon fiber, not aluminum, to make it light
- ▶ Only requires a runway for takeoff and no pricey equipment needed for traditional rocket launch
- ▶ Burns less fuel
- ▶ Can take off and fly in bad weather too
- ▶ Launches can be done more frequently

British billionaire **Richard Branson's** company **Virgin Galactic** has also developed aircraft that launch rockets into orbit from great height

REPORT

◆ State of World Population Report-2019 - Released by 'The United Nations Population Fund'



- ✓ As per the report, India's population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion
- ✓ In comparison, China's population grew at an average annual rate of 0.5% between 2010 and 2019
- ✓ In India, total fertility rate per woman was 5.6 in 1969, dropping to 3.7 in 1994 and 2.3 in 2019.
- ✓ The life expectancy at birth in 1969 was 47 years, growing to 60 years in 1994 and 69 years in 2019

- ✓ As per the report, 27% of the country's population was in the age bracket of 0-14 years and 10-24 years each, 67% of the country's population in the 15-64 age bracket and 6% of the country's population is of the age 65 and above.
- ✓ The world's population in 1969 was growing at about 2% a year, meaning it would almost double within the next 25 years at that rate
- ✓ As per the report, globally, in 1969, the average number of births per woman was 4.8, compared with 2.9 in 1994, and 2.5 today.

