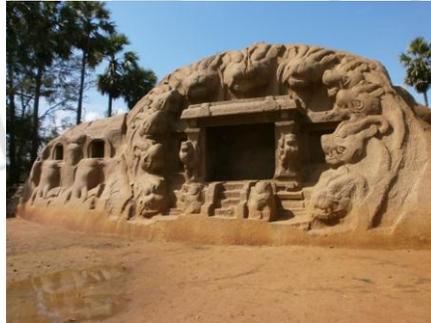


**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 21, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Union culture ministry - has released the categorization of Archaeological Survey of India-maintained monuments, based on their history and architectural importance.**

- ✓ Pallava-era monuments at Unesco-notified world heritage site Mamallapuram, including the Shore Temple and the Five Rathas, are among 20 category 'A' monuments across the country including Taj Mahal at Agra, Sun Temple of Konark, besides Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra



- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the Tigerheaded rock-cut temple at Mamallapuram, Rock-cut Jain Temple and natural caves monument in Sittanavasal of Pudukottai, Tirumalai Nayakar Palace in Virudhunagar, Fort St George, from where Madras (now Chennai) began and Fort Vattakottai in Kanyakumari district have been declared 'B' category monuments.
- ✓ Besides, entry to several monuments in the state, currently free, may soon be charged
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is home to more than 410 ASI-maintained monuments.
- ✓ The ASI's Chennai Circle is the largest in the country with the highest number of monuments
- ✓ The purpose of categorising such structures was to ensure they were accorded priority in funding for better preservation and conservation

◆ **A new underground aquarium – to be inaugurated on East Coast Road on April 21**



- ✓ The 70-metre-long tunnel built at a depth of 6.5 foot housing several deep sea marine species is set to give visitors a near-underwater experience
- ✓ The aquarium has been built at a cost of ₹115crore and is called the VGP Marine Kingdom.
- ✓ The facility, built on a 75,000sqft space, will have as many as 150 species that live in freshwater, brackish water and seawater in tropical regions
- ✓ The species that would be on exhibit include groupers, butterfly fishes, stingrays, batfish, Trevally and lemon shark — sourced from Rameswaram to countries such as Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ✓ The highlight of the aquarium would be the ‘underwater tunnel’ where visitors can either stand and watch the marine species as divers feed them or can pass by on a walkalator set up on the centre of the facility
- ✓ Visitors can opt to walk by the 35 exhibits, sit and enjoy a panoramic view of deep sea species, crawl under tanks filled with colourful ornamental fishes, feed a few of them or even dive into the largest tank — 30m tall and 40m wide — designed with artificial shipwrecks and ancient ruins to resemble the dark depths of the sea.

## STATES

◆ **Rongali or Bohag Bihu festival – celebrated in Assam**



- ✓ It is the Assamese new year and spring festival, which is celebrated from April 15 to April 21.

- ✓ The Rongali Bihu coincides with Punjabi New Year Baisakhi.
- ✓ The seven-day festival is celebrated in seven phases - Chot, Kutum, Mela, Raati, Goru, Manuh and Chera.
- ✓ It begins with goru bihu or cow bihu on April 15, where the cows are washed and worshipped.
- ✓ This is followed by manuh (human) bihu on 16 April, the New Year Day when people are seen in new dresses
- ✓ It is celebrated three times a year, Rongali or Bohag Bihu is observed in April, Kongali or Kati Bihu observed in October and Bhogali or Magh Bihu observed in January.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- ◆ **The foundation stone laying ceremony of the first Hindu temple in UAE's capital Abu Dhabi – has been completed on April 20**



- ✓ Mahant Swami Maharaj, spiritual head of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), which is constructing the temple, presided over the ceremony
- ✓ Indian Ambassador to UAE Navdeep Suri read out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the occasion
- ◆ **India - to build a cancer hospital in Kenya in collaboration with Japan.**
  - ✓ Also, India will partner with the UAE to set up an ICT centre (Information and Communications Technology center) in Ethiopia
  - ✓ Through this partnership, India has undertaken many projects like the ambitious Pan African e-network project on tele-education and tele-medicine
  - ✓ The project provides "integrated" satellite, fiber optics and wireless network between educational and medical institutes in Africa and India.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### ◆ **Saudi Arabia - to host the annual G20 leaders' summit on November 21-22, 2020, in its capital Riyadh**

- ✓ This will be the first G20 Summit to be hosted in the Arab world
- ✓ Japan will host this year's G20 summit in Osaka, which will be held June 28-29, 2019
- ✓ Group of Twenty (G20) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union
- ✓ G20 economies account for around 90% of the gross world product (GWP), two-thirds of the world population
- ✓ G20 world leaders met for the first time in 2008 with focus on rescuing the global economy from the worst financial crisis in more than 70 years.
- ✓ G20 Member countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ **NASA - announced that SpaceX will fly its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defence mission in June 2021**

- ✓ The total launch cost for NASA is estimated to be about \$69 million.
- ✓ The mission will be launched by the Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California
- ✓ The spacecraft will slam into "Didymoon," the 540-foot-wide (165 meters) satellite of the near- Earth asteroid Didymos which is located at about 4 million miles from Earth in October 2022
- ✓ Scientists will observe the impact with telescopes and measure the change in the Didymoon's orbit around the asteroid
- ✓ The test is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defense purposes
- ✓ The mission is intended to test whether a spacecraft impact could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth
- ✓ Earlier this month, Japan's Hayabusa2 probe smashed a copper explosive into the space rock Ryugu, to collect subsurface material for study.

### ◆ **World Health Organization (WHO) - raised alarm over a 300% increase in the case of measles globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared with last year**

- ✓ Around 170 countries have reported 112,163 measles cases to WHO

- ✓ Africa has witnessed the most dramatic rise - up 700% which has weaker vaccination coverage than other regions

## DEFENCE

### ◆ **The Indian Navy - launched guided missile destroyer 'Imphal' at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.**



- ✓ Imphal is the third ship to be launched under Project 15B
- ✓ The first ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer christened 'Visakhapatnam', was launched on April 20, 2015.
- ✓ The Project 15B class comprises four ships - Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar all of which are being built by the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in India, and will be the largest destroyers to be operated by the Indian Navy
- ✓ The destroyers are an improved version of the Kolkata-class (Project 15A) and will feature enhanced stealth characteristics

### ◆ **General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff – commissioned Indian Coast Guard vessel Veera, in a ceremony organised at Eastern Naval Command in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**



- ✓ Veera, the third in the series of the new generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) is under the administrative and operational command of the coast guard regional headquarters
- ✓ The 98 meters long, 15-metre wide patrol vessel has a 3.6-metre draft and a range of 5,000 nautical miles
- ✓ The ship displaces approx 2200 tons (GRT) and is propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.

- ✓ It is also equipped with an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Automated Power Management System (APMS) and High Power External Fire Fighting System (HPEFS).
- ✓ This is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupali in Chennai, marking its 50<sup>th</sup> warship
- ✓ The first two vessels ICGS Vikram and ICGS Vijaya were delivered ahead of contractual schedule to ICG last April and August respectively
- ✓ The company has been building vessels under Warship License since receiving first Ministry of Defence (MoD) contract in March 2010

◆ **Navies of India and Vietnam - held a four-day maritime exercise (IN – VPN BILAT EX) off Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam from April 13**



- ✓ The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries
- ✓ Indian Navy's war ships Kolkata and Shakti participated in the annual exercise, comprising a harbour and a sea phase
- ✓ Enhancing military ties was also a key element of talks during the visit of Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang to India in March last year
- ✓ In 2016, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vietnam, the relations between the two countries were elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

◆ **China - developed the world's first armed amphibious drone attack boat named 'Marine Lizard'**

**China Builds World's First Armed Amphibious**



**Drone Boat That Can Lead Land Assault**

- ✓ It was built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation
- ✓ It can possibly form an unmanned sea-land-air integrated combat system with aerial armed reconnaissance drones and other drone ships.
- ✓ It has a maximum operation range of 1,200 kms and can be remotely controlled via satellites

## ECONOMY

- ◆ **Canara Bank – becomes the first Public sector bank in the country to successfully roll out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authenticated PIN for transactions**
  - ✓ EMV stands for Europay, MasterCard, Visa, the three organisations that developed and established EMV as the global standard for chip-based credit and debit transactions
  - ✓ The EMV standard helps to maximise security and global interoperability so that Visa cards can continue to be accepted around the world
- ◆ **IDBI Bank - has launched the first ever ‘paperless’ account opening facility for NRIs in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.**
  - ✓ The person will not be required to furnish physical documents and KYC proofs for opening an account with the IDBI bank.
  - ✓ FATF is an inter-governmental body which devises policy and sets standards to promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system
  - ✓ The body has 38 member countries, including the US, UK, India, Japan, China and France, among others

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri - appointed as Dubai-based Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive ‘Corporate Ambassador’ to the Indian Business Community**
  - ✓ This first-of-its-kind approach is one of the many other initiatives that RAKEZ will be launching in the future to attract more investors from all over the world and boost the economic growth of Ras Al Khaimah.



- ✓ Brand Ambassador may attract more Indian business leaders to set up or expand their operations in UAE through RAKEZ

◆ **Bus ticketing platform redBus - has appointed cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.**



- ✓ The cricketer will appear in a hockey player avatar in his first cameo for the brand, slated to be launched soon
- ✓ At present, Dhoni is the brand ambassador of sports firm Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, BharatMatrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and health supplement brand Revital H.
- ✓ Dhoni's brand endorsement deals can be in the range of ₹ 3-10 crore.
- ✓ redBus, which started in 2006, works with over 2500 bus operators' and claims to have sold more than 180 million bus tickets till date
- ✓ It is a part of the MakeMyTrip group and the platform claims to have a customer base of around 20 million users.

## SPORTS

◆ **Prajesh Gunneswaran (Chennai) – is assured himself of a maiden main draw entry into the Wimbledon this year.**



- ✓ Prajesh, World No. 80, reached the final of the ATP Challenger 125 event in Anning, China in order to be assured of his entry into the Wimbledon
- ✓ Prajesh, the defending champion in Anning, by reaching the final he will go up to at least No. 74 — the same as Anand Amritraj's career-best — in world rankings
- ✓ Successfully retaining the crown will reach No. 64, just two spots below Somdev Devvarman's career-high 62 and better than Leander Paes' 74
- ✓ Only Vijay Amritraj (18) and Ramesh Krishnan (63) have had a better ranking in the all-time Indian chart.

