

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 26, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

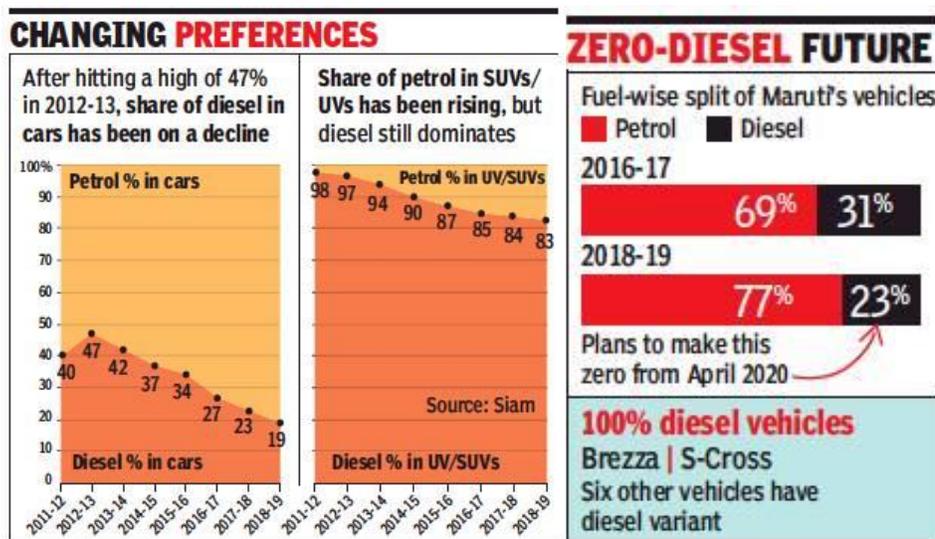
- ◆ **The University of Madras - to set up a gender lab as part of creating workshop modules on gender sensitization, prevention of sexual harassment and other related topics**
  - ✓ The lab would be set up along with Sutherland Global Services Private Limited, with whom the University will sign the MoU on April 26
  - ✓ Sutherland will fund and facilitate the lab through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
  - ✓ They will create the lab in the women's studies department and offer workshops and training to students, faculty members and administrative staff in the university and its affiliated colleges
  - ✓ The gender lab is a beginning towards reducing the growing rates of sexual harassment and gender-based violence in society at large

### **NATIONAL**

- ◆ **India's first laboratory meat project to produce "ahimsa meat" - took off on April 25 with the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and National Research Centre on Meat (NRCM) coming together for the project**
  - ✓ With an initial funding of ₹4.5 crore for two years by the department of biotechnology, scientists will develop mutton and chicken from stem cells, without animal rearing
  - ✓ The clean meat, CCMB scientists said, is nutritionally equivalent to conventional animal meat and it tastes, smells, looks and feels the same
  - ✓ Experts said using the technology and producing meat in the lab would mean there would be no need to raise and slaughter animals for meat

- ✓ During a summit on the future of protein and food technology revolution held in August 2018, Union minister Maneka Gandhi had advised CCMB to make cell-based ahimsa meat on commercial scale in the next five years.
- ✓ The funding has come almost a year after the CCMB, in association with the Humane Society International (HSI) and Good Food Institute (GFI), held the first-ever meet to discuss clean meat last year.
- ✓ The Atal Incubation Centre of the CCMB has been partnering with the HSI to promote clean meat sector
- ✓ Governments in the Netherlands, Japan and Israel have been supporting clean meat companies

◆ **Maruti Suzuki, the country's largest carmaker – to stop making Diesel cars from April 2020**



- ✓ The new, stricter BS6 emissions kick in April 2020
- ✓ The reason, according to Maruti Suzuki, is higher manufacturing cost on account of stricter BS6 emission norms that would make diesel vehicles significantly expensive for customers
- ✓ The company offers diesel on as many as eight models, with two of them — the Brezza and SCross SUVs — carrying it exclusively
- ✓ Other models that come with both diesel and petrol options include Swift and Baleno hatchbacks, Dzire, Ertiga MPV, Ciaz, and Super Carry.
- ✓ It had started the manufacturing of diesel cars in 1999 with the launch of Zen mini car
- ✓ Delhi-NCR has already capped the life of diesel cars at 10 years against 15 years for petrol in view of the growing concern over vehicular pollution

# INTERNATIONAL

## ◆ **Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu - has announced that he would name a new community in the Golan Heights after US President Donald Trump.**

- ✓ President Trump has officially recognised the disputed area as Israeli territory. Israel has also stated that in appreciation of the U.S. president, it intends to name a proposed train station near Jerusalem's Western Wall after him.
- ✓ Israel captured the Golan from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it, in a move not recognized internationally.
- ✓ Golan Heights is located about 60km (40 miles) south-west of the Syrian capital, Damascus, and covers about 1,200 sq km (400 sq miles).
- ✓ Syria has always insisted that it will not agree a peace deal with Israel unless it withdraws from the whole of the Golan.
- ✓ The last US-brokered direct peace talks broke down in 2000, while Turkey mediated in indirect talks in 2008.
- ✓ There are more than 30 Israeli settlements in the Golan, which are home to an estimated 20,000 people. The settlements are considered illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this.
- ✓ The settlers live alongside some 20,000 Syrians, most of them Druze Arabs, who did not flee when the Golan was captured.

## ◆ **Russia - has successfully tested the world's first floating nuclear power plant (NPP), Akademik Lomonosov**



- ✓ Reactors of the floating atomic block were launched in November 2018.
- ✓ The tests confirmed the operational stability of the main and auxiliary equipment for the plant, which will be the world's first fully commercial operational floating nuclear power plant.
- ✓ All automatic process and control systems were tested successfully.
- ✓ Akademik Lomonosov was built at a shipyard in St.Petersburg since 2008
- ✓ It was towed around Scandinavia to Murmansk last year, where the uranium fuel elements were loaded into the two reactors and testing now has been going on for nearly a year.
- ✓ The plant will be towed out of Murmansk towards Pevek along the Northern Sea Route during the sailing season 2019.
- ✓ Providing 70 MW electricity and 300 MW head, the Akademik Lomonosov will replace the existing Bilbino nuclear heat- and electricity plant in Pevek.

- ◆ **The UAE's flag carrier, Etihad Airways - has become the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight EY484 without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day (April 22)**



- ✓ Etihad identified that over 95 single-use plastic products are used across its aircraft cabins.
- ✓ As a result of planning the Earth Day flight EY484, Etihad additionally committed to remove up to 20% of the single-use plastic items on board by June 1.
- ✓ The airline also announced that by the end of this year, Etihad will have removed 100 tonnes of single-use plastics from its inflight service.

## COMMITTEES

- ◆ **Justice Indu Malhotra - appointed as the third member of the in-house inquiry panel set up to examine allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.**



- ✓ Malhotra was appointed to the panel following the recusal of Justice N V Ramana.
- ✓ Senior-most judge S A Bobde, who is heading the panel, appointed Justice Malhotra to the committee. Another woman judge, Justice Indira Banerjee is also a part of the panel
- ✓ The move comes a day after the former junior court assistant, who raised the sexual harassment allegations against the CJI, wrote a letter to the panel expressing reservation over the inclusion of Justice Ramana
- ✓ The complainant had expressed objection to the presence of Justice Ramana in the panel on the ground that he is a close friend of the CJI and a regular visitor to his house.
- ✓ She had also raised a question over the presence of only one woman apex court judge, Indira Banerjee, in the panel, citing previous Vishaka judgment mandate of SC to have majority of women in the sexual harassment hearing panels
- ✓ The panel would be conducting an in-camera proceeding
- ✓ This is the first in-house inquiry on a sexual harassment complaint conducted in the Supreme Court and it is the first-ever time ever such an inquiry is being conducted against the CJI.

◆ **The Supreme Court - constituted a one-man panel comprising former SC judge, Justice A K Patnaik to hold an inquiry into the allegations of a larger conspiracy to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and fixing of benches in the top court**



- ✓ The apex court asked the Directors of CBI and IB and Delhi Police Commissioner to cooperate with Retired Justice Patnaik during the inquiry
- ✓ The order to form the one-man panel was delivered by a special bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra, which also comprised Justices R F Nariman and Deepak Gupta
- ✓ It follows the revelation from a lawyer, Utsav Singh Bains, who claimed that there was a conspiracy to make CJI Gogoi resign by framing him

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

◆ **Turkey, Poland, Spain and Argentina - have decided not to send official delegations to the Belt and Road Forum, held in Beijing**

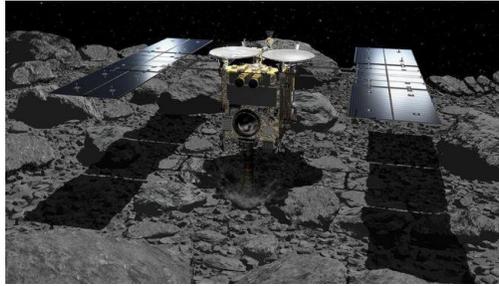
- ✓ The US, France, Germany, Australia and Japan are among the nations that have expressed reservations about the debt-causing aspects of projects under the Belt and Road Initiative
- ✓ The US has announced that it will send a low-level delegation.
- ✓ India has taken a principled stand against attending the forum.
- ✓ Japan is sending the leader of one of its parties in the ruling coalition instead of sending a government representative.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

◆ **ISRO - postpones Chandrayaan-2 launch to July after Israel's Moon mission fails**

- ✓ The launch of India's Moon mission was scheduled in April 2019 but it was postponed after Israel's Beresheet spacecraft crashed during moon landing in early April
- ✓ The next launch window is available in mid-July for 10 days
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 was scheduled to be launched in April last year, but it was postponed to October after ISRO lost contact with GSAT-6A in March 2018.
- ✓ In April last year, K Sivan informed the government about the postponement of the launch to October-November 2018.

◆ **Japanese scientists - successfully created the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid, to find out the origin of solar system**



- ✓ Yuichi Tsuda, the project manager of Hayabusa 2 confirmed the crater from images captured by the probe located 1,700 meters (5,500 feet) from the asteroid's surface.
- ✓ Hayabusa2 space probe shot a projectile at the Ryugu asteroid around 340 million kilometers from Earth, as part of the probe's mission to explore the origin of life and the evolution of the solar system.

## **ECONOMY**

◆ **In a first, India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) - launched 'Green Car Loan' to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles (EVs) in the country.**

- ✓ The interest rates on the loan will be 20 basis points (0.2 per cent) lower than SBI's existing auto loans.
- ✓ The scheme comes with the longest repayment period of up to 8 years.
- ✓ The loan is offered with zero processing fee for the first 6 months of the launch.
- ✓ SBI along with Wipro joined the Climate Group's EV100 initiative for enhancing the launch of electric vehicles worldwide.

◆ **US tech giant, Microsoft - topped \$1 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time after beating its quarterly earnings estimates**



- ✓ Microsoft stock gained about 23% so far this year due to its flagship cloud product Azure, rivalling Amazon.
- ✓ It's the third company to achieve this milestone, following Apple, which hit the mark in August 2018, and Amazon, which earned that valuation in September 2018.

## AWARDS

- ◆ **Benny Antony, Joint Managing Director of the Kochi-based Arjuna Natural Ltd - has been conferred with the National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.**



- ✓ He is the inventor of BCM-95, the world's leading patented turmeric extract formulation, with over 80 international patents to his credit.
  - ✓ Antony was also conferred with the 'WIPO Medal for Inventors' jointly by Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
  - ✓ The Indian Intellectual Property Office bestows National Intellectual Property (IP) awards to outstanding innovators, organisations and companies in the field of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications on the occasion of World IP Day every year.
  - ✓ Both the awards will be given away on April 26 at a function jointly organised by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and the Confederation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CII) in New Delhi.
- ◆ **Dawn editor and Columnist, Cyril Almeida from Pakistan - won the IPI's (International Press Institute) World Press Freedom Hero award in 2019 for his "critical" and "tenacious coverage" of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.**



- ✓ MadaMasr, an Egyptian news site, has won Free Media Pioneer Award 2019 of the IPI and International Media Support (IMS).
- ✓ Both awards will be presented in IPI's annual World Congress and General Assembly function to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 5th June, World Intellectual Property Day 2019.
- ✓ In 2016, Cyril Almeida published an exclusive story regarding a top-level meeting of civil-military leaders in Dawn, following which Pakistan Government had imposed a travel ban on Almeida.
- ✓ International Press Institute World Press Freedom Heroes are the journalists have been recognized by the Vienna-based International Press Institute for the significant contributions to the promotion of press freedom against great personal risk.
- ✓ Rafael Marques from Angola is the 70th recipient.

## SPORTS

- ◆ **India's 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary and 17-year-old Manu Bhaker - won gold in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2019 in Beijing.**



- ✓ Bhaker and Chaudhary outshot Jiang Ranxin and Pang Wei of China 16-6 in the final.
- ✓ This is the second consecutive gold for Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary at the ISSF World Cup as they had clinched gold in the same category in the New Delhi edition of the shooting World Cup in February this year.
- ✓ **Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar also bagged a gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event in the same tournament.**



- ✓ ISSF World Cup 2019 is governed by International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)
- ✓ It is the qualification tournaments for the 2020 Olympic Games.
- ✓ It was first introduced in 1986
- ✓ It is carried out with four competitions per year in each event.
- ✓ 2019 World Cup 1 Venue - New Delhi, India
- ✓ 2019 World Cup 2 Venue - Beijing, China
- ✓ 2019 World Cup 3 Venue - Munich, Germany
- ✓ 2019 World Cup 4 Venue - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- ◆ **India's Shiva Thapa (60kg), Ashish (69kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) along with women boxers' former champion L Sarita Devi (60kg), last edition's silver-medallist Manisha (54kg), former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and world silver-medallist Sonia Chahal (57kg) – finished with Bronze medal in the Asian Boxing Championships at Bangkok**

- ✓ Six Indians, Amit Panghal (52kg), Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg), Deepak Singh (49kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Pooja Rani (81kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg), entered into the finals of their respective events

◆ **India's Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari - bagged bronze medals for the country in the women's competition of the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China**



✓ Kakran defeated Battsetseg Soronzonbold of Mongolia, while Manju had defeated Vietnam's ThiHuong Dao

◆ **India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran - to claim the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title in Bengaluru**

✓ Advani, a 21-time world snooker and billiards champion, had earlier won the second leg of the Tour in China



✓ Advani won \$12,000, while Heydari took home \$6,000

◆ **Three State units - have submitted their compliance reports to the Committee of Administrators (CoA)**

✓ Karnataka, Maharashtra and Baroda have fallen in line with the recommendations of the Lodha Committee.

◆ **The United States Cricket Team - sealed one-day international status for the first time with a third straight victory at the World Cricket League Division 2 event in Namibia.**

✓ There will be 20 ODI nations after the end of the tournament, with the top four sides to join Scotland, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal and the Netherlands in having temporary status.

✓ United States Cricket Team beat Hong Kong by 84 runs in the WCL Division 2 to attain one-day International (ODI) status

✓ Apart from USA, Oman has secured ODI status.

◆ **23rd Asian Athletics championships, Doha**

✓ **Winners**

**India on the podium**

**Gold:** Gomathi Marimuthu (women's 800m), P.U. Chitra (women's 1500m), Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (men's shot put).

**Silver:** Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m), Avinash Sable (men's 3000m steeple chase), Shivpal Singh (men's javelin throw), Annu Rani (women's javelin), women's 4x400m relay, 4x400m

mixed relay, Swapna Barman (heptathlon).

**Bronze:** Dutee Chand (women's 200m), M.R. Poovamma (women's 400m), Parul Chaudhary (women's 5000m), Gavit Murli Kumar (men's 10,000m), Sanjivani Jadhav (women's 10,000m), M.P. Jabir (men's 400m hurdles), Saritaben Gayakwad (women's 400m hurdles).

- ✓ India finished fourth with 17 medals — three gold and seven silvers — behind Bahrain (11 gold), China (9) and Japan (6)
- ✓ India had earlier topped the medals table with 12 golds at the 2017 Asians
- ✓ Incidentally, both Shivpal (No. 2 in 2019 World performance list) and Jabir (No. 5) have achieved the qualification standards for this September's World Championships in Doha.

◆ **Indian swimmer S.P. Likith - achieved the 'B' qualifying standard for the 2019 FINA World Championships in the men's 100m breaststroke at the 62nd Malaysia Open swimming championships in Kuala Lumpur**



- ✓ Likith, who trains at the Nettekallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC), looks set to represent India at the World Championships in South Korea in July
- ✓ There was a second winner from Karnataka on the day, with Srihari Natraj claiming the gold in the men's 50m backstroke.
- ✓ Srihari has already met the 'B' standard in the 100 and 200m backstroke events.

◆ **Chennai Spartans – has lost the semifinal against Shahrdari Varamin (Iran) in the Asian men's club volleyball championship in Taipei City**

- ✓ Spartans is the first Indian club to reach the semifinals in the history of the Asian men's club championship.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **World Intellectual Property Day - April 26**

- ✓ The day intends to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights like patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright play in encouraging innovation and creativity
- ✓ On this day, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) works together with various agencies to hold different events and activities to promote the day



- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Reach for Gold: IP and Sports"
- ✓ In 2000, the WIPO designated 26 April as an annual World Intellectual Property Day
- ✓ It was on April 26 that the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization first entered into force in 1970

- ✓ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is formed on 14 July 1967 with its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ WIPO is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN)
- ✓ It has 191 member States
- ✓ WIPO was created to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world

