

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 4, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE) - will conduct the annual 'online' engineering counseling this year**
 - ✓ Anna University has been conducting counselling for the last 22 years
 - ✓ M K Surappa, vice-chancellor of Anna University resigned as chairman of Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) committee following the differences over reconstitution of 'TNEA committee' in which DOTE commissioner R Vivekanandan was made co-chairman of the committee
 - ✓ The TNEA committee was constituted in November 2017 for a period of three years.
 - ✓ However, it was reconstituted after completing just one year with additional members leading to the confusion and subsequent withdrawal of the University from the counseling process
 - ✓ The university was asked to provide technical help for conducting the 'online' counseling by the state higher education department

NATIONAL

- ◆ **United Arab Emirates (UAE) - honoured PM Narendra Modi with its highest decoration, Zayed Medal on April 4, 2019**
 - ✓ The honour was in recognition of his "pivotal role" in strengthening ties between the two nations.
 - ✓ The Zayed Medal is the highest decoration of the UAE awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states.
 - ✓ The previous recipients of the honour include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Queen of the United Kingdom Elizabeth II
 - ✓ Prime Minister Modi paid a visit to the nation in 2015 and in February 2018



- ✓ Crown Prince of UAE visited India in 2017 as the Chief Guest for Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- ✓ During the visits, both sides set an ambitious target of \$100 billion in bilateral trade by the year 2020 against \$50 billion in 2017
- ✓ The UAE accounts for 8% of India's oil imports and is the fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India.
- ✓ It is also a part of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), which is headquartered in Gurugram

◆ **WhatsApp - launches a new feature which allows users to choose the groups they want to be part of by customising their privacy settings**

- ✓ The new feature enables a user to decide who can add them to a group by choosing one of three options available in his/her account's privacy settings — “nobody”, “my contacts” or “everyone”
- ✓ Earlier, WhatsApp allowed users to be added to groups without their consent and the only way to stop being a part of the said group was to “exit” it
- ✓ If users choose “nobody” in the privacy setting option, anyone inviting them to a group will have to send them an invitation link through private chat asking for their approval
- ✓ The link will expire in 72 hours, and a fresh approval request can be made after that

COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Madras high court - ordered a ban on mobile music app, TikTok on April 3**



- ✓ A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice S S Sundar issued an interim direction to the Union government to prohibit downloading of the app
- ✓ It also prohibited the media from telecasting videos made with the mobile app, used to create and share short videos.
- ✓ Observing that pornography and inappropriate content were made available through TikTok, the judges said addiction to such apps was spoiling the future of the youth and the mindset of children.
- ✓ TikTok, originally known as Musical.ly, is an app created by a Chinese company in 2016
- ✓ It has 500 million users worldwide, of which over 100 million are in India

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Chicago - created history by electing its first black female mayor, Lori Lightfoot**



- ✓ African-American woman, Lori Lightfoot will also be Chicago's first openly gay mayor
- ✓ Lori Lightfoot is a former federal prosecutor and practicing lawyer

◆ **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - announced to soon remove the practice of using cats in research work**

- ✓ The use of cats involved forced "cannibalism" and resulted in killing of over 3000 cats since 1982, as per a report

◆ **The House of Commons of the British Parliament - approved a legislation to seek a delay in BREXIT before the April 12 deadline**

- ✓ It was approved at the final stage by 313 votes to 312.
- ✓ It now has to pass the upper chamber, the House of Lords.

COMMITTEES

- ◆ **Isro - has formed a 12-member special task force headed by Srinivasan R K from UR Rao Satellite Centre - to address the anomaly during the lander drop test and submit a report to the centre's director, Kunhikrishnan P**
 - ✓ The launch of Chandrayaan-2 is delayed atleast until May as Vikram, the lander for India's mission which installs a probe on the Moon, suffered minor damage to two of its four legs during a test late in February
 - ✓ The mission could take off only in the second half of the year after finding a suitable launch window
 - ✓ This mission, unlike Chandrayaan-1, involves a lander unloading a rover to study and take measurements on the Moon

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ◆ **The NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 - will be held during November 27 – 29, 2019 at Manesar, National Capital Region**



- ✓ It will be organised by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in association with SAE NIS, SAE INDIA, SAE International, NATRiP, DIMTS, Department of Heavy Industry under the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)
- ✓ The objective behind the Summit is to bring together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies.
- ✓ More than 2500 participants and over 250 exhibitors are expected to take part in the Summit.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **Isro - to launch five military satellites this year that will enhance surveillance capabilities of the country**

- ✓ Overall, it is scheduled to launch four new series Risat satellites and an advanced Cartosat-3 satellite
- ✓ In May, PSLV-C46 rocket will launch Risat-2B and then Risat-2BR1 will be launched in July, Risat-2BR2 in October and Risat-1A in November.
- ✓ In June-end, PSLVC47 will launch Cartosat-3
- ✓ Cartosat-3 is the advanced version with the capability to zoom up to a resolution of 0.2 metre, which is considered the best in the world.

◆ **Scientists at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology - discovered a new enzyme called 'scissors enzyme'**



- ✓ The new enzyme helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria and hence, offers a potential for a new drug delivery route to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance
- ✓ Dr Manjula Reddy led the team at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology
- ✓ Established on April 1, 1977, the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) is a premier research organization which conducts high quality basic research and trainings in areas of modern biology
- ✓ It is located in Hyderabad and operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ✓ It is designated as "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO

ECONOMY

◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - released its First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2019-20 on April 4, 2019**

- ✓ The short-term lending rate, Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) reduced by 25 basis points to 6% from 6.25% with immediate effect.
- ✓ Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%
- ✓ The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate stand at 6.25%
- ✓ The government has mandated the Reserve Bank to keep inflation at 4% (+/-2%)
- ✓ It stands at 2.57% in February against a 19-month low of 1.97% in January

- ✓ In the six member- Monetary Policy Committee, Dr. Chetan Ghate, Dr. Pami Dua, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr. Viral V. Acharya and Shri Shaktikanta Das voted in favour of the decision to maintain the neutral stance of monetary policy
- ✓ Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia voted to change the stance from neutral to accommodative
- ✓ The committee projected a GDP growth of 7.2% in the financial year 2019-20.

AWARDS

◆ **The shallow water ROV or polar ROV (PROV), developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) – wins the National Meritorious Invention Award by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), an enterprise of department of scientific and industrial research under the ministry**

- ✓ The 10-member team that was involved in the design and development of the ROV was awarded ₹3 lakh cash.
- ✓ It has helped Indian scientists conduct climate change studies in the Indian and polar regions
- ✓ In Antarctica, the vehicle was deployed in Priadarshini Lake on the Schirmacher Oasis, which is a source of water for 'Maitri', India's second base in the icy continent.



**SMALL DIVE,
BIG FEAT**

CLOSE WATCH:
The underwater ROV
studying coral reef in
the Andamans

➤ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has designed, tested and commissioned the ROV, which can operate in polar water and Open Ocean up to a 500-m depth

➤ Equipped with low-cost navigation, high definition imaging devices and communication system

➤ Major sensors— Scanning sonar, CTD-DO (Conductivity Temperature Depth-Dissolved Oxygen)

➤ ROV used for climate change studies in Antarctica, monitor coral reef in the Andamans and monitoring seaweed in Arabian Sea, search support in Open Ocean environment for Indian ports and defence sectors

- ✓ It can also be deployed to conduct underwater inspections of desalination plants' water intake structure for fouling, pipelines of oil and gas companies, videograph ship wrecks and for military applications.
- ✓ NIOT have signed a non-exclusive MoU with L&T and BHEL to transfer the technology and commercially manufacture the ROV
- ✓ The ROV was operationalized in 2015 after it underwent successful trials in North Antarctica.

SPORTS

◆ Divya Deshmukh, 13-year-old chess prodigy - is now world no. 1 in the under-14 girls' category

DIVYA'S METEORIC RISE 			
Jan 2016	1,785	YOUNG BLOOD	2001, at the age of 14 years and three months touched 2400-mark, while Harika crossed the same when she was 16
Jan 2017	1,920		
Jan 2018	2,118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At 13 years and three months, Divya is youngest in India to cross the 2,400 ELO mark 	
Jan 2019	2,168		
Feb 2019	2,127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 31-year-old Humpy, in Oct 	
Mar 2019	2,266		
Apr 2019	2,432		
INDIA'S TOP 3 WOMEN CHESS PLAYERS			
1	Koneru Humpy	2549 ELO	(World No 5)
2	Harika Dronavalli	2492 ELO	(World No 14)
3	Divya Deshmukh	2432 ELO	(World No 43)

- ✓ Within a year Humpy also became World's youngest GM beating Judit Polgar's previous mark by three months, which was broken by Chinese Hou Yifan in 2008.

◆ India- bagged a total of seven gold, five silver and one bronze medal at the Asian Rowing Indoor Championship in Thailand

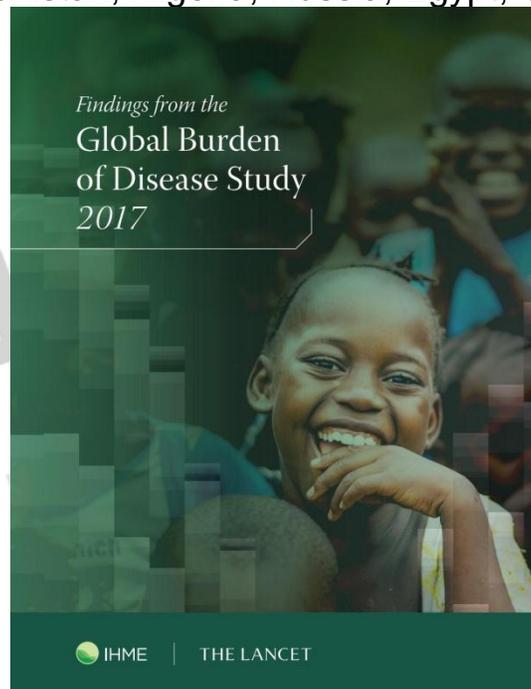


- ✓ India's Parminder Singh bagged gold in the 2000m men's single scull event, with an Asian indoor record as well.
- ✓ Parminder was also part of another indoor record, when he and teammate Balwinder Singh clocked 6.14m to win the gold in the double scull event.
- ✓ Last year, India won one gold, seven silver and four bronze at the Indoor championships
- ✓ The other gold medallists were Shagandeep Singh, Avinash Kaur, Pratik Gupta, and Mrunmayee Nilesh Salgaonkar

REPORT

◆ **The Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 - published by Lancet**

- ✓ The study estimates that one in five deaths globally, equivalent to 11 million deaths, are associated with poor diet
- ✓ High intake of sodium (3 million deaths), low intake of whole grains (3 million deaths) and low intake of fruits (2 million deaths) were the main dietary risk factors leading to half of all diet-related deaths in many countries in 2017
- ✓ The causes of these deaths included 10 million deaths from cardiovascular disease, 913,000 cancer deaths, and almost 339,000 deaths from type-2 diabetes.
- ✓ Low intake of whole grains was the leading dietary risk factor for deaths in the USA, India, Brazil, Pakistan, Nigeria, Russia, Egypt, Germany, Iran, and Turkey



- ✓ High intake of sodium was the leading dietary risk for deaths in China, Japan, and Thailand
- ✓ Low intake of whole grains was the leading risk for deaths among young adults (aged 25–50 years) and sodium ranked first among older adults
- ✓ Sodium ranked first for mortality among men followed by whole grains and fruit.
- ✓ Global Burden of Disease study was prepared with 15 dietary factors collected from 195 countries.

