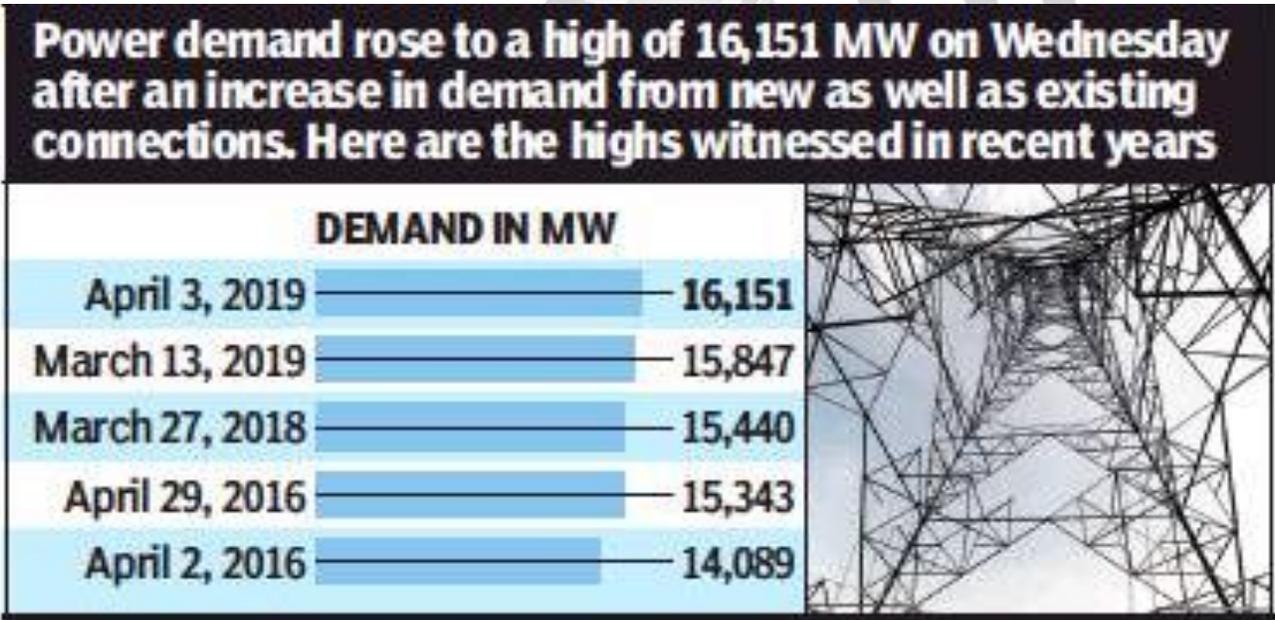


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 5, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **Power demand in the state - has crossed 16,000MW for the first time**



- ✓ It touched 16,151MW on the evening of April 3, surpassing the previous high of 15,847MW registered on March 13
- ✓ As per Tangedco, the increased demand was mainly from domestic users, due to the increasing temperature
- ✓ In cities like Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy, many multi-storey buildings have come up and the power load in these areas was rather high
- ✓ The other states which normally witness such high demand include Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

◆ **The Archaeological Survey of India – informed the Madurai bench of Madras high court that the sample artifacts from Adichanallur in Tuticorin district were about 2,900 years old**

- ✓ A division bench of Justices N Kirubakaran and S S Sundar noted the results to prove Adichanallur was the earliest ancient site in the state
- ✓ As per the Carbon dating results, samples from one of the urns was aged between 696BC and 540 BC (2,645-2,489 years), 791BC and 701 BC (2,740-2,650 years) and a sample from another urn was aged between 905BC and 806 BC (2,854-2,755 years)
- ✓ After recording the submissions, the court directed ASI to have a police outpost at the site to prevent any damage.
- ✓ The court had directed the ASI to send two sets of samples taken in 2003 at Adichanallur for to Beta Analytic Testing laboratory in Miami in the US and to Kalina Campus, University of Mumbai to ascertain their exact period

◆ **Kodaikanal Hill garlic – gets the Geographical Indication (GI) tag**



- ✓ It is known for its medicinal and storage properties
- ✓ It has an extended storage life period of 8 to 11 months unlike other garlic varieties, because the cloves of the garlic do not get separated for months.
- ✓ The uniqueness of the product also lies in the specialty of the soil.
- ✓ The Application has been filed in June, 2018 by Department of Biotechnology, Mother Teresa Women's University and Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology

◆ **State Election Commissioner, Malik Feroze Khan – retired recently after completing two years in office**



- ✓ He assumed charge as the State Election commissioner on April 8, 2017, when he was 63 years old
- ✓ Khan superannuated from IAS service on March 31, 2004 after attaining 60 years of age
- ✓ The new Election commissioner for the state is expected to be announced after the completion of Lok Sabha elections in April 2019

NATIONAL

◆ **The Union Government - issues latest FAME2 notifications with clarifications on March 28**

- ✓ As per the new guidelines, the Government subsidy will be available for electric/hybrid cars only if they are less than ₹15 lakh in price and used as taxis
- ✓ The specifications also stipulates a battery power (15 kilowatt hour/100 km), a range cut off (140 km) and a top speed specification of 70km/hour to avail the subsidies
- ✓ This effectively keeps out not only mass market electric cars but even luxury/premium vehicles being planned for the Indian market

◆ **India's first earth museum, TIME (The Indian Museum of Earth) – will be set up in the National Capital Region (NCR) soon**

➤ The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME) to be a 'world-class' museum showcasing India's geological & natural history going back 4bn years

➤ Will be experience-based, designed to fire curiosity & imagination



➤ Exhibits to include pre-human skulls, dinosaur skeletons, fossilised rocks

➤ Consultations held with experts from US, UK & South Korea

➤ It'll be distinct from upcoming natural history museum

- ✓ The project is being envisaged as a public-private partnership venture with significant philanthropic and CSR (Corporate social responsibility) contributions
- ✓ The project is expected to be launched before the 36th International Geological Congress which will be hosted by India in March next year.
- ✓ Regarding the modalities, Indian scientists are holding discussions with international experts from the USA, United Kingdom and South Korea at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in New Delhi
- ✓ The proposal to build TIMES was first discussed and endorsed by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council in its meeting in January.

◆ **The Union government - sold over ₹ 1,100 crore worth of Wipro's 'enemy shares' on April 4**

- ✓ This is the first sale, which became possible following an amendment to the 'Enemy Property Act in 2017' to ensure that successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition would have no claim over the properties left behind in India
- ✓ A majority of shares valued at Rs 3.9 crore was bought by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- ✓ The shares, belonging to two Pakistani nationals, were seized by India under the Enemy Property Act passed in 1968, following the conflicts with Pakistan and China in the 1960s.
- ✓ They were lying with the home ministry's Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI).
- ✓ Totally, around 6.5 crore shares in 996 companies of 20,323 shareholders are under the custody of CEPI.
- ✓ Of these 996 companies, 588 are functional/active companies, and 139 of these are listed.

◆ **Indian expat, Ravindra Boloor - is announced as the winner in the latest draw of Big Ticket Abu Dhabi, for a mammoth Dh10 million prize in cash (Rs 18.64 crores)**



- ✓ The Big Ticket draw was held at the Abu Dhabi Airport arrivals hall.
- ✓ Ravindra is currently travelling in his home country and he will be back at Abu Dhabi later this month to claim the prize
- ✓ Last month's winner is also an Indian national, Rogy George, who hit the Dh12 million jackpot

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The 7th Foreign Office consultations between India and Italy - were held in New Delhi on April 4, 2019**



- ✓ The Indian side was led by A. Gitesh Sarma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ The consultations provided an opportunity to review the follow-up actions taken after the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in October 2018

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Bollywood Actor, Shah Rukh Khan - received honorary doctorate in Philanthropy from The University of Law, London on April 4**



- ✓ He has earlier been honoured with honorary doctorates from The University of Bedfordshire and The University of Edinburgh
- ✓ Shah Rukh Khan owns Red Chillies Entertainment, and Redchillies VFX and Colour
- ✓ He is also the co-owner of a global sports franchise titled 'Knight Riders' with cricket teams across India, South Africa, and the Caribbean.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **The world's first largely private lunar mission, spacecraft Beresheet – enters into lunar orbit on April 4, ahead of scheduled landing on April 11**



- ✓ It was launched by Israel's Space IL agency
- ✓ Beresheet fired its engine for six minutes which reduced its velocity from 8,500 kmph to 7,500 kmph, slowing down enough to be captured by the moon's gravity.
- ✓ The spacecraft is now positioned on an elliptical orbit around the moon with the closest point being 400 kms from the lunar surface, and the farthest being 10,000 kms.
- ✓ The manoeuvre has been accomplished successfully by only five nations so far— the US, the former Soviet Union, China, Japan and India.
- ✓ A joint venture of nonprofit Space IL and Israeli Aerospace Industries, Beresheet —Genesis in Hebrew — is also the smallest spacecraft in history to have entered the moon's orbit.

ECONOMY

◆ **The RBI - has shelved indefinitely its 'External benchmark plan'- to get banks to link their lending rates to an external benchmark like the repo rate or the government treasury bill rate.**

- ✓ Banks are understood to have opposed an external benchmark proposal as often the repo rate or the treasury bill rate were not indicative of their cost of funds
- ✓ SBI is the only lender to have made a move towards linking its deposits to an external benchmark.
- ✓ From May 1, SBI's savings bank deposits above Rs1 lakh and short-term loans are linked to the repo rate.
- ✓ This means that every time the RBI cuts the repo rate, the deposit rate will come down.
- ✓ The decision to move pricing to an external benchmark was taken by former RBI governor Urjit Patel based on the recommendations of the central bank's internal committee headed by Janak Raj, principal adviser in the monetary policy department

