

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 4, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ The Tamil Nadu Government – announces the reserved seats for Local body polls

- ✓ The delimitation of all the 200 wards of Chennai Corporation has been completed and the reservation of these wards has also been published in the gazette last week.
- ✓ For 89 wards in Chennai, the boundaries remain the same, while for 119 wards, they have been redrawn based on population, area of governance and administration purpose.
- ✓ The civic body has allocated 79 wards for general category, 89 wards for women belonging to the general category, 16 wards for SC and 16 wards for women belonging to SC.
- ✓ No ward was reserved for STs in the Greater Chennai Corporation
- ✓ The state election commission has asked the local bodies to fix the polling booths for each ward and upload the streetwise electoral data into the software by June 7

◆ The birth and death certificates issued by Greater Chennai corporation – to have e-signatures of the respective sanitary inspectors of the zones

- ✓ They used to have the signature of the city health officer till now
- ✓ This change will be in effect for births and deaths registered and corrections made after June 1.
- ✓ The corporation has stated that since 1930, they have been registering birth and death registry which was made available online in 2007

◆ **Metrowater – issues work orders to the 150 million litres a day (MLD) facility at Nemmeli on ECR, the city’s third desalination plant**

ADDING TO CAPACITY	
> Capacity of plant 150MLD	> Operation and maintenance 20 years
> Project cost ₹1689crore	> Population to be benefitted 9 lakh
> Cost of water ₹42/kilo litre	> Areas to get water Velachery, OMR, Sholinganallur, Kottivakkam, Palavakkam and other areas in south Chennai
> Contract awarded to Cobra Instalaciones Y Servicios of Spain, Tecton Engineering and Construction, UAE	
> Construction period 24 months	

- ✓ Once the plant is commissioned in about two years, the supply to the city’s residents will increase from 830MLD to 980MLD, provided the reservoirs have enough water.
- ✓ On May 25, Metrowater issued the work order to Cobra Instalaciones Y Servicios of Spain and Tecton Engineering and Construction of the UAE for setting up the plant that had been announced about five years ago
- ✓ The setting up was delayed due to the cases filed in court by a private contractor
- ✓ Construction will begin once the project is inaugurated by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami
- ✓ The additional supply will benefit around nine lakh residents in areas such as Velachery, Sholinganallur, Perungudi, Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, OMR and other areas
- ✓ While there are two desalination plants at Nemmeli and Minjur, each of 100 MLD capacity, the fourth, a 400 MLD plant at Perur, is to be commissioned in three years

◆ **For the first time in Tamil Nadu, transgender people - will have access to an exclusive clinic at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital**



- ✓ The clinic, which will bring specialists such as a plastic surgeon, endocrinologist and venereologist under a single roof, will provide sex reassignment surgeries for transgender people.
- ✓ The clinic, established at a cost of ₹15 lakh, will function every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar inaugurated the clinic on June 3
- ✓ The clinic has been set up following an announcement in the Assembly that transgender clinics would be set up at RGGGH and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai.

◆ **Four start-ups in Tamil Nadu - have tied up with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to manufacture its unique low-cost 'membrane-based' water purifiers**



- ✓ These membrane-based water purifiers do not require electricity and have the potential to replace traditional reverse osmosis (RO) plants which waste up to three times the converted water
- ✓ The start-ups are based in Madurai, Theni, Tiruppur and Chennai, with the Madurai start-up set to commence its operations soon
- ✓ The start-ups will manufacture a superior Ultra Filtration membrane, in candle format, developed by BARC and make online and table-top or combo water treatment devices
- ✓ The initial investment to get the purifier would range between ₹750 and ₹2,000 depending on the size of the purifier that varies between 20 and 40 litres.
- ✓ The BARC has also designed a table top model that doesn't require it to be connected to a water source, but water needs to be filled manually.

STATES

◆ **The Punjab government - has banned the food supplied by the online delivery platforms without 'hygiene rating' as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.**

- ✓ It had mandated that only those food business operators' (FBO) who are at higher level of hygiene rating (bearing 3 or more smilies), should be allowed to supply food under the online food orders
- ✓ The Government had asked the FBO's like Zomato, Swiggy, Uber Eats and Food Panda to get the hygiene rating certified from Punjab's Food and Drug Administration

◆ **The Rajasthan government - bans the production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarette in the state**

'YOUTH BEING MISLED BY ADS'

➤ The ban extends to the production, storage, distribution and advertisements of e-cigarettes in the state

➤ The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by CM Ashok Gehlot, who said Congress had promised to take steps to curb smoking and addiction among youth in its election manifesto

➤ Health minister Raghu Sharma said though the health department in its report had



termed e-cigarette 'injurious to health', the youths are being misled by advertisements

➤ In Rajasthan, e-cigarettes can not only be ordered online but also be bought from some selected shops

- ✓ The decision was announced on occasion of the World No Tobacco Day which is observed on 31 May 2019
- ✓ The ban will be an important step to curb e-cigarette addiction among youth, which urges them to shift to tobacco cigarettes later

◆ **The Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal – announced on June 3 that the AAP government will make commuting on Metro as well as DTC and cluster buses free for women in the capital**



- ✓ He said this will lead to more women using public transport, which will ensure their safety
- ✓ Kejriwal said his government would set aside an annual subsidy of around ₹1,400 crore to pay Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Delhi Transport Corporation and the transport department for the revenue loss
- ✓ The Chief Minister wanted to implement the system in two to three months and asked DMRC and DTC to submit a detailed plan on how the proposal can be implemented.
- ✓ He asked people to send in their views and suggestions on the move through email at delhiwomensafety@gmail.com, or by post to the chairman of Dialogue and Development Commission
- ✓ The Delhi CM also claimed that the move doesn't need the approval of the Centre
- ✓ The scheme would cost around ₹700 to ₹800 crore for the remainder of the financial year to the Centre as per current government estimates.
- ✓ The Centre is an equal partner with the Delhi government in relation to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

NATIONAL

◆ **The clause recommending mandatory teaching of Hindi in all schools - was dropped from the draft National Education Policy on June 3**

Three-language formula

Following protests from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Karnataka, the Human Resource Development Ministry released a new version of its Draft National Educational Policy:

■ In keeping with the principle of flexibility, students who wish to change one of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6, so long as the study of three languages by students in the Hindi-speaking states would continue to include Hindi and English and one of the modern Indian languages from other parts of India, while the study of languages by students in the non-Hindi-speaking states would include the regional language, Hindi and English
— **Original draft released on Friday last**

■ In keeping with the principle of flexibility, students who wish to change one or more of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6 or Grade 7, so long as they are able to still demonstrate proficiency in three languages (one language at the literature level) in their modular Board Examinations some time during secondary school"
— **Revised draft released on Monday**



- ✓ However, the revised draft — uploaded by the Human Resource Development Ministry in the morning — retains the recommendation to introduce a three-language formula from Class 1
- ✓ It had removed the clause stipulating the specific languages that students must choose.
- ✓ The revision effected by the committee drafting the policy, headed by former ISRO Chairman K. Kasturirangan

◆ **A Russian-origin AN-32 transport aircraft - went missing on June 3 after it took off from Jorhat airbase in Assam for Mechuka Advance Landing Ground in Arunachal Pradesh near the border with China**



- ✓ The AN-32 from the 43 Squadron had a wing commander, a squadron leader, four flight lieutenants and seven other personnel on board.
- ✓ A C-130 Super Hercules aircraft, an AN-32, two Mi-17 copters of IAF and a Dhruv helicopter were pressed into service to trace the aircraft
- ✓ It brought back memories of July 22, 2016 when another AN-32, on way to Port Blair from Chennai, crashed with 29 personnel on board into the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ Earlier in 2009, an AN-32 carrying 13 defence personnel (seven from IAF and six from Army) had crashed during a routine sortie in Arunachal's West Siang district.
- ✓ In 2000, another AN-32 aircraft crashed at the advanced landing ground in Arunachal Pradesh's Vijaynagar area.

◆ **Food tech aggregator Zomato - announced it would give its employees paid paternity leave for 26 weeks - on par with the national legal provision for maternity leave**

- ✓ Thus, it becomes one among the first movers in corporate India to have such a policy for male staff members.
- ✓ The Gurgaon-based startup, now a unicorn, also said it would give an endowment of \$1,000 (around ₹69,000 at current exchange rates) per child to employees on its rolls who become parents
- ✓ The policy would be applicable to employees in all (24) countries where Zomato has a presence, irrespective of the regulations in that particular country.
- ✓ Zomato has a total of 5,000 employees across different verticals
- ✓ Global furniture giant Ikea is another company that offers a six-month paid parental leave to its employees
- ✓ Several of India's most well known companies, however, offer only two weeks' paid paternity leave to staffers.

◆ **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - recommended 'complete' ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes, based on available scientific evidence**

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) contain nicotine solution, which is highly addictive
- ENDS contain flavouring agents and vapourizers, which are also harmful for health
- Use of e-cigarettes has documented adverse effects on humans like DNA damage; carcinogenesis; cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity;



respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disorders

- E-cigarettes also have adverse impact on foetal development and pregnancy
- E-cigarettes are banned in 30 countries

- ✓ In 2018, the Centre had issued an advisory recommending a ban on sale of e-cigarettes in India
- ✓ Later a committee headed by K Srinath Reddy of Public Health Foundation of India (PHAI) was constituted
- ✓ It included experts from ICMR, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh.

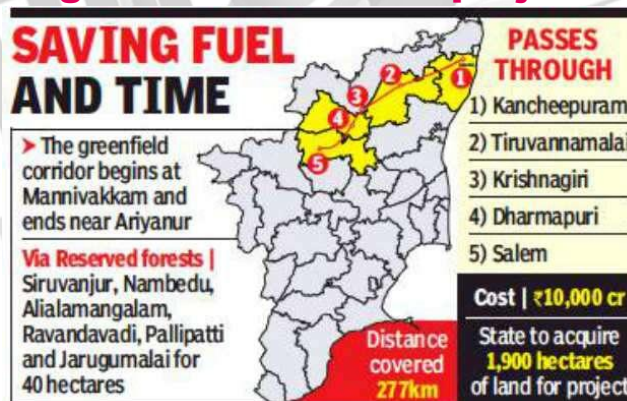
◆ **India's only orangutan named Binny - died at the age of 41 in Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**



- ✓ The lone female orangutan Binny, was brought to Nandankanan Zoo from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on 20 November 2003, when she was 25 years old
- ✓ According to NZP, 'Binny' died due to age-related complications
- ✓ Orangutans are native to Indonesia and Malaysia and are currently found only in rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra
- ✓ They are one of the world's three extant species of great apes
- ✓ An orangutan can live up to 45 years in the wild and even more in zoos

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Supreme Court - refused to stay the Madras High Court order quashing the land acquisition process for the ₹ 10,000-crore Salem-Chennai eight-lane greenfield corridor project on June 3**



- ✓ A vacation bench comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and M.R. Shah, however, issued notices to the parties, including the Tamil Nadu government, on the appeal of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which had challenged the High Court order.
- ✓ The NHAI had moved the top court on May 31 and the Bench had then agreed to hear the appeal.
- ✓ The High Court had held that environmental clearance was mandatory for the sensitive project.
- ✓ The ambitious 277.3-km-long eight-lane greenfield project connecting Salem and Chennai under the Centre's Bharatmala Pariyojana aims to cut travel time between the two cities by half to about 2 hours and 15 minutes.
- ✓ The project runs through reserve forests and waterbodies, causing irreversible damage to the environment

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Puerto Williams in Chile - has become world's southernmost city after its status upgraded from hamlet to city**



- ✓ Earlier, Ushuaia in Argentina was considered as the world's southernmost city
- ✓ Puerto Williams is the main settlement, port and naval base on Navarino Island in Chile

◆ **United States - has removed India and Switzerland from the currency monitoring lists**

- ✓ However, it has retained other countries like Italy, Japan, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Ireland, Vietnam, Germany and Korea in the list
- ✓ India was first placed in the currency monitoring lists in 2018 due to its potentially questionable foreign exchange policies apart from having a bilateral trade surplus exceeding \$20 billion
- ✓ Other five other countries along with India included Japan, China, Switzerland, Germany and South Korea.

◆ **United Nation Security Council (UNSC) - has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on South Sudan for a year**

- ✓ A US-drafted resolution was adopted by UNSC with 10 votes, in spite of opposition from countries like Russia, China and some African countries
- ✓ As per the rule, in the 15-member council, a resolution presented for vote requires a minimum of nine votes for adoption
- ✓ The UNSC places sanctions under Chapter VII of United Nations (UN) Charter to constrain terrorism, support peaceful transitions, deter non-constitutional changes, protect human rights and promote non-proliferation

COMMITTEES

◆ **Nandan Nilekani committee - has submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das regarding steps to be taken to boost digital payments in the country**

- ✓ The committee has predicted a tenfold increase in per capita digital transactions to 220 in three years
- ✓ It has suggested that RTGS and NEFT facility should be available 24x7.
- ✓ It has called for the removal of 18% import duty on point-of-sale (PoS) devices for three years and to reduce the goods and services tax (GST) on digital transactions to improve acceptance of digital payments among customers.

- ✓ The panel has suggested that there should be no convenience fee on payments made to government agencies by customers.
- ✓ It has also recommended that payment systems should use machine-driven, online dispute resolution systems to handle complaints
- ✓ The committee has recommended a cut of 15 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) on the interchange rate on card payments (borne by merchants).
- ✓ Additionally, it has called for 5bps from the fees to go into an acceptance development fund by the issuer
- ✓ The panel has recommended that the RBI and the government put in an appropriate mechanism to monitor digital payment systems
- ✓ To reduce the overall cost to the consumer, the committee suggested placing 'know your customer' (KYC) process at multiple stages of the transaction
- ✓ To manage fraud, the committee recommended that shared fraud registries are created that could be used to grade each payment transaction for risk
- ✓ RTGS (real time gross settlement) and NEFT (national electronic funds transfer) are electronic payment methods that allow individuals to transfer funds between banks
- ✓ Both these systems are maintained by the Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ RTGS is a real-time money transfer method whereas NEFT is a deferred settlement method
- ✓ Nilekani, the architect of Aadhaar, was appointed by the RBI in January to encourage digitisation of payments and to enhance financial inclusion

◆ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - constituted a committee to review existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to develop market further**

- ✓ The six member committee will be headed by Harsh Vardhan, a Senior Advisor in Bain & Company (a Management consulting company)
- ✓ The committee is mandated to submit its report by August 2019

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The ninth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit - is all set to roll out on June 4**



- ✓ Twenty seven Indian firms are taking part in GES 2019 across the subject areas of agriculture (3), water (8), energy (6), healthcare (3), and connectivity (7).
- ✓ The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2019 is being hosted by the governments of the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and is the first edition of the event to be held in the European Union.
- ✓ Overall, the summit will feature about 1,200 entrepreneurs from across 140 countries
- ✓ The key focus areas of the summit include the five global challenges surrounding water, agriculture, healthcare, connectivity, and energy.
- ✓ The GES 2017 event in India in November of that year in Hyderabad hosted more than 1,500 entrepreneurs from around the world, and focused on the issue of 'Women First, Prosperity for All'.
- ✓ It was the first edition of the GES to take place in South Asia, and more than 50% of the delegates at the event were women.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) - has for the first time recognised “burn-out” in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD)



- ✓ The decision was taken during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva.
- ✓ WHO had defined Burn-out as a syndrome resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed
- ✓ As per the classification, Burn-out refers predominantly to phenomena in occupational context and not experienced in other areas of life
- ✓ ICD is revised periodically and this year is currently its 10th revision
- ✓ The updated ICD list, dubbed as ICD-11, was drafted in 2018 following recommendations from health experts
- ✓ It was approved on 25 May 2019 and will take effect in January 2022
- ✓ For the first time ICD 11 recognises Video Gaming as an addiction and listed it alongside gambling and drugs like cocaine
- ✓ It also removes transgenderism from its list of mental disorders and listed it under chapter on “conditions related to sexual health”

◆ **On May 9, the Ministry of Health in Singapore - confirmed that a Nigerian who had arrived in the city on April 28 had the rare disease, monkeypox**

- ✓ The monkeypox virus is similar to human smallpox and belongs to the virus family Poxviridae.
- ✓ It is transmitted primarily through infected animals (rodents and primates).
- ✓ The man is suspected to have eaten bushmeat before arriving in Singapore, which could be the source of the virus.
- ✓ Human-to-human transmission of monkeypox is possible but limited.
- ✓ The virus is transmitted to those in close contact through secretions of the respiratory tract and skin lesions.
- ✓ During monkeypox outbreaks, fatality varies from 1-10%, with most deaths seen in younger people
- ✓ Monkeypox occurs sporadically in Central and West Africa; cases have been reported from 10 African countries.
- ✓ It was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the disease has now become endemic.
- ✓ There were three confirmed cases in 2016 from the Central African Republic.
- ✓ In late 2017, 61 laboratory-confirmed cases were reported from Nigeria.
- ✓ One confirmed case and 15 suspected cases were reported in 2018 from Cameroon. Outside Africa, the first case was reported from the U.S. in 2003.
- ✓ In 2018, monkeypox was documented in three people in the U.K. and in one person in Israel.
- ✓ The WHO advocates “restricting or banning the movement” of small mammals and monkeys from countries where the virus is prevalent to limit the spread of the virus

ECONOMY

◆ **The benchmark Sensex - closed above the 40,000-mark for the first time ever on June 3, as investors bought shares anticipating a rate cut on June 6 on the back of weak growth data**

- ✓ The 30-share Sensex gained 553.42 points or 1.39% to close at a record 40,267.62
- ✓ Last week, government data showed that the gross domestic product grew at 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full-year growth to a five-year low of 6.8%.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Rajiv Mehrishi - has been elected as external auditor of World Health Organization for a period of four years from year 2020 to 2023**



- ✓ He was elected at 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, Switzerland on May 2019
- ✓ He will take over the charge from the Supreme Audit Institution of Philippines which is the incumbent External Auditor of WHO
- ✓ In March 2019, the CAG was chosen for the post of External Auditor of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy
- ✓ Currently, CAG Mehrishi is also on the Board of Auditors of United Nations (UN) and Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of External Auditors (UNPEA)

AWARDS

- ◆ **Rajasthan government's Medical & Health Department - wins the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Tobacco Control Award for the year 2019**



- ✓ The award was conferred on the eve of World No Tobacco Day (celebrated on 31 May 2019) at a function in New Delhi
- ✓ The award recognises several campaigns launched by the department against tobacco consumption at places like schools, colleges, police stations and government offices
- ✓ It has developed tobacco-free premises near anganwadi centres, educational institutions and health facilities to ensure that no tobacco product is sold within 100 yards of these places
- ✓ For this year's prestigious award, WHO selected total 33 institutions and individuals across world including 5 organisations from the South-East Asian (SEA) region viz. India, Thailand and Indonesia
- ✓ Apart from Rajasthan's Health Department, the other institute selected from India (in SEA region) includes Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (in New Delhi)

SPORTS

◆ The International Cricket Council (ICC) - launched the criio campaign on the eve of Men's World Cup.



- ✓ The ICC has asked cricket fans globally to share their pictures and videos about where and how they play cricket by using the newly launched hashtag #criio and visiting the site- criio.com.
- ✓ This is the first of a series of programs that will be launched by the ICC over the period of next year

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ International Everest Day - May 29



- ✓ The day is celebrated with processions, memorial events, and special events in Kathmandu, Nepal and the Everest region
- ✓ The day is observed every year in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest on 29 May 1953
- ✓ It was jointly undertaken by Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa from Nepal, who became first humans to achieve the feat.
- ✓ In 2008, the Nepal government decided to observe day as International Everest Day when legendary climber Hillary passed away
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain above sea level with Elevation of 8,848 m
- ✓ It was named as 'Everest' as a tribute to Sir George Everest, the Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843
- ✓ It is known as Sagarmatha in Nepali and as Chomolungma in Tibetan

