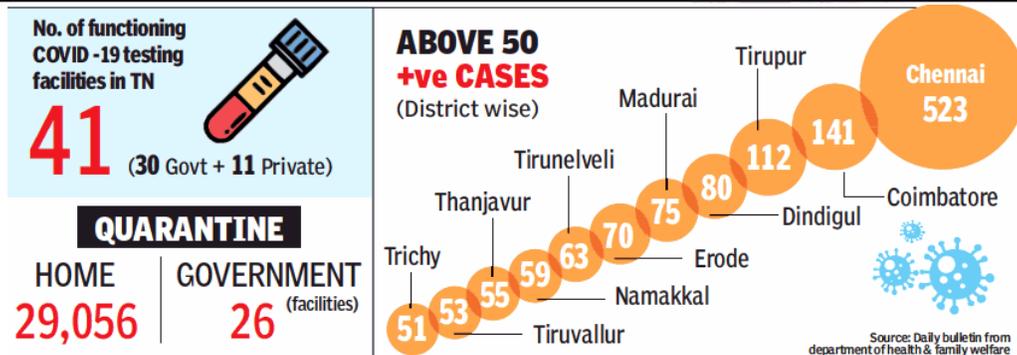
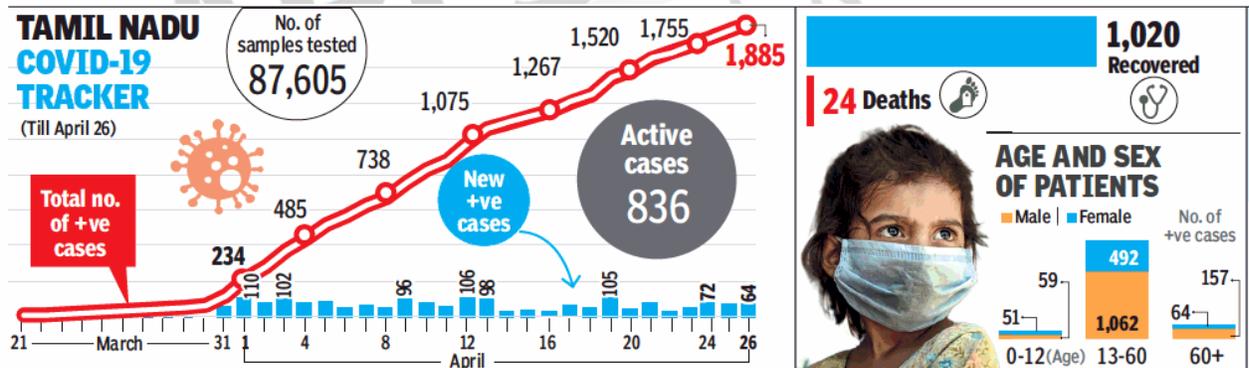


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APR 27, 2020

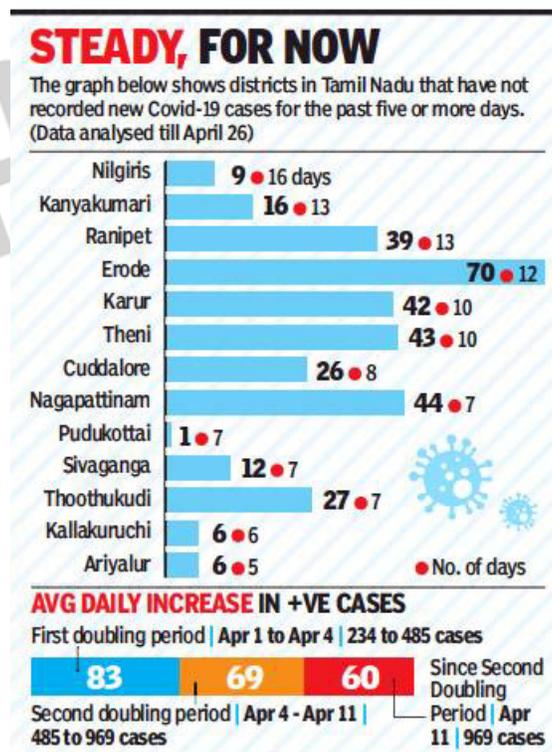
TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – reported 64 more positive cases on April 26, taking the total Covid-19 infections tally to 1,885 in the state
- ✓ On the day, the state registered a welcome milestone in the fight against Covid-19, when the number of people discharged from hospital crossed 1,000, leaving 865 under treatment.
- ✓ A 42-year-old man, who died in an Otteri hospital on April 25 became the 24th casualty in the state, as his test results were shown positive the next day



- ✓ With 60 patients discharged from various hospitals on the day, 1,020 people have been cured in the state, till now.

- ✓ Chennai continued to report the most positive cases in the state with 28 more on April 26, taking its tally to 523
- ✓ Coimbatore is ranked next with 141 cases followed by Tirupur with 112.
- ✓ On April 26, apart from Chennai's 28 cases, Madurai reported 15 positive cases, taking its total to 75.
- ✓ Other districts that reported new cases include Virudhunagar (7), Namakkal and Villupuram, 4 each and Tiruppur, two cases.
- ✓ On an average, the state tests at least 6,500 people every day, which includes atleast 1,500 people tested in Chennai alone.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the five-member team from the national disaster management authority (NDMA) continued interactions to assess the state government's preparedness to handle the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ On a brighter note, the Government has announced that 13 districts have not recorded a fresh case for at least five days now.
- ✓ Krishnagiri retained its Covid-free record as the sample of a 43-year-old man was tested negative as per the report from King's institute.
- ✓ The Niligiris has not had anyone test positive for 15 days
- ✓ Kanyakumari and Ranipet haven't reported a new case for the last 13 days.



- ✓ Among the high prevalence district, in Erode, which has 70 cases, no new case has been reported in the past 12 days.
- ✓ In Theni (43) and Karur (42), the cumulative coronavirus positive numbers have remained the same for the past 10 days.
- ✓ Pudukottai and Dharampuri have only one case each, while cases in Perambalur and Ariyalur have not exceeded single digits

- ✓ Tuticorin, which has managed to contain the Covid spread to some extent, has not reported a positive case in the past six days.
- **On April 26, the State chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced that the government would supply zinc and multivitamin tablets to frontline workers to boost their immunity against Covid-19.**
- ✓ The tablets will be distributed to the frontline workers, which includes revenue, police, health and other government officials engaged in Covid-19 field duty, from April 27 on a war footing scale.
- ✓ These tablets will be issued for the next 10 days
- ✓ The CM also said that the government had issued personal protective equipment and facemasks to healthcare workers and other frontline workers to ensure their safety
- **The State Government - has allowed deferment of payment of taxes and dues, including property tax, in all urban local bodies, including Greater Chennai Corporation, and renewal of trade licences till June 30 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ✓ It had also announced that no penalty will be levied for failure to pay dues within the said period
- ✓ The last date for the payment of tax and to renew the trade license was March 31.
- ✓ As per municipal laws, corporations, municipalities and town panchayats are empowered to take coercive action such as issue of notice, seizure of property and legal action, if tax payers fail to remit the taxes within a financial year.
- **On April 26, the Tamil Nadu government - issued an ordinance that imposes up to three years prison sentence for disrupting or preventing burial of patients, who die due to notified diseases.**
- ✓ The move comes in the wake of increasing incidents of local people preventing burial of bodies of coronavirus victims in the state.
- ✓ The Government has invoked Section 74 of the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939 to slap a jail sentence between one to three years, along with a fine, for those who attempt or prevent the burial of the bodies of patients succumbed to notified diseases
- **On April 26, the state government - extended the fee waiver for using agriculture marketing's cold storage facilities till the end of May.**
- ✓ The government has also waived off the trader fee to facilitate the sales of agricultural products in the regulatory markets.
- ✓ Earlier, the government had waived off the cold storage user fees till April 30 to help the farmers store their products and sell them at an appropriate time to make a good profit.

- ✓ Similarly, the government waived off the trader fee in the regulatory markets for the same period.
- ✓ The move was aimed to encourage the traders to procure the produce of farmers more from the regulatory markets and help the farmers earn more.
- ✓ The trader fee is usually around 1 % of the value of the produce collected as market fee from the traders

STATES

- **The Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (Norka) Department - has launched a special website to enable the return of Keralites stranded abroad**
- ✓ Through the website, those stuck abroad in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic can register online and avail the opportunity of returning home in special flights on a priority basis.
- ✓ The website 'www.registernorkaroots.org' was launched on April 26.
- ✓ It carries a message from Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on its home page christened 'Welcome to Homeland'
- ✓ However, the move is still awaiting the approval of the Central Government, even though the state has made all safety arrangements at all four airports in the state for the return of the expats

NATIONAL

- **On April 26, India's total Covid-19 count - reached 27,862, after reporting 1,592 cases on the day**
- ✓ The national death on Sunday was 53, the second highest so far after 54 the previous day.
- ✓ With this, the toll in the country due to the infection rises to 879.
- ✓ On the brighter side, the number of people who have recovered from the disease in the country has now touched 6,105, contributing to nearly 22% of discharges
- ✓ The Covid-19 infections in Delhi showed a major surge on the day, when the national capital reported 293 fresh cases after more than 10 days of relatively low figures
 - ✓ This was Delhi's second highest count of fresh cases in a single day (after 356 on April 13) and nearly three times higher than the average number of daily cases in the past week, which stands at 105.
- ✓ The worst-hit state, Maharashtra, registered a nearly 50% fall in new cases from a record high numbers reported a day before
 - ✓ Maharashtra recorded 440 new cases, a major decline from 811 on April 25.
 - ✓ On the day, Maharashtra reported the highest deaths at 19
 - ✓ In Maharashtra, Mumbai continues to be the worst affected, as it recorded 358 new cases, 81% of new cases reported in the state, and 12 deaths.

MAHA COUNT CROSSES 8,000

Name of State/UT	Cases on Sunday	Total Cases	Recovered	Deaths
Maharashtra	440	8,068	1,076	342
Gujarat	230	3,301	313	151
Delhi	293	2,918	869	54
Rajasthan	102	2,185	629	41
Madhya Pradesh	145	2,090	302	103
Tamil Nadu	64	1,885	1,020	24
Rest of India	318	7,415	1,888	164
Total	1,592	27,862	6,097	879

- ✓ On the day, Gujarat continues to report a high number of daily cases, with 230 and the second highest death count with 18 people succumbing to the virus.
 - ✓ Gujarat's total death toll stands at 151, second to only Maharashtra, which has seen 342 deaths so far.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, which is another infection hotspot, crossed two grim Covid-19 milestones on the day – the 2,000th case and 100th death.
 - ✓ With 145 new cases registered on the day, the state's corona count reached 2,090, with Indore (1,176) accounting for 56% of it.
 - ✓ The state has recorded a jump of 1,152 cases since April 15 – an average of over 100 a day.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh recorded 81 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, pushing its overall tally to 1,877.
 - ✓ The state also recorded three deaths taking the total to 30 in the state.
- ✓ On April 26, Jharkhand announced 15 new Covid-19 cases, the biggest single-day spike in cases since the state recorded its first coronavirus case on March 31.
 - ✓ The total state tally now stands at 82, while two people died during treatment.
- ✓ In Bihar, the rise in the number of Covid-19 patients continued with 23 more people testing positive for the virus.
 - ✓ The state has reported a total of 274 positive cases and 2 deaths so far.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh recorded 81 new Covid-19 cases, taking the overall tally to 1,097, as on date
- ✓ Telangana became the ninth state in India to breach the 1,000-mark for Covid-19 cases, 57 days after it announced the first Covid-19 patient
- ✓ On the day, Odisha reported 3 new positive cases, taking the state's Covid-19 tally to 103.
- ✓ **Meanwhile, the Government announced that the doubling rate stands now at 10.5 days over a period of last 3 days, 9.3 days over a period of 7 days and 8.1 days over a period of 14 days**
- ✓ As on date, 283 districts have not reported any COVID cases till date
- ✓ 64 districts have not reported a fresh case since the last 7 days, while 48 districts have not reported a fresh case since the last 14 days, 33 districts have not

reported a fresh case since the last 21 days and 18 districts have not reported a fresh case since the last 28 days

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – is scheduled to interact with state chief ministers via video conference on April 27**
 - ✓ The discussion will focus on the way ahead in the fight against the novel coronavirus, amid indications that the discussions could also focus on a graded exit from the ongoing lockdown, which is in place till May 3
 - ✓ This will be the third video conference of the prime minister with the chief ministers after the outbreak of the Covid-19 in the country.
 - ✓ Already, the Centre and the state governments have been granting gradual exemption in various fields and sectors to boost economic activities and also to provide relief to people.
 - ✓ In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio address on April 26, the prime minister said the country is in the middle of a 'yudh' (war) and asserted that people have to continue being careful and take precautions continuously as per the needs of the situation.

- **On April 26, Serum Institute of India (SII) - announced its plan for the production of the COVID-19 vaccine, that was developed by Oxford University**
 - ✓ The Pune-based SII has partnered with Oxford University for the production of the vaccine, which is expected to start in May
 - ✓ The vaccine developed by the institute will be in the market by October after the successful human trials over a few hundred patients
 - ✓ The institute plans to price the proposed Covid vaccine at around ₹1,000 per dose in India.
 - ✓ The SII has been credited with affordable and innovative therapies like pneumonia and dengue monoclonal vaccines
 - ✓ Serum Institute is one of the seven global manufacturers which is in association with an Oxford University led consortium
 - ✓ The development of vaccine for Covid-19 by the University is one of the first such projects to get underway globally.
 - ✓ The SII plans to manufacture four to five million doses per month for the first six months, following which, up to 10 million doses per month will be manufactured, based on the success of trials.
 - ✓ The final production target is up to 20-40 million doses by September-October, after which the vaccine might be exported also.
 - ✓ The vaccine will be made at Serum's existing facility in Pune.
 - ✓ Earlier, Vaccine maker Serum Institute has also collaborated with Codagenix, an American biotech company for the development of a 'live attenuated' vaccine.
 - ✓ Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker based on the number of doses produced and sold globally.

- ✓ The 53 year old company makes 1.5 billion doses every year.
- ✓ The production is done mainly from its two facilities established in Pune.
- ✓ Apart from this, the company also has two other small plants in the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.
- ✓ In the past, the Serum Institute had also collaborated with the scientists at Oxford University for the malaria vaccine project.
- ✓ The Oxford University team is trying to develop the anti-viral vector Covid-19 vaccine — ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 — which went to human clinical trials last April 23
- ✓ **The project also has an important connection to India, apart from its tie-up.**
 - ✓ **India's Chandra Datta, 34, who lives in Oxford, is working as a quality assurance manager at the university facility**



- ✓ Chandra, who hails from Kolkata, moved to the UK in 2009 to complete the MSc-Bioscience (Biotechnology) course at Leeds University
 - ✓ After that, she worked in a variety of roles at GSK, a startup called Senzer and pharmacy company Aptuit, before joining Oxford University's clinical bio-manufacturing facility
 - ✓ The Oxford facility specializes in the production of viral vector vaccines for early phase clinical trials all over the world.
 - ✓ Chandra heads the quality assurance side of the vaccine manufacturing in the facility, ensuring the compliance of procedures and good manufacturing methods
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – has decided to recruit 452 people for the plasma therapy trials across 25 centres in India.**
- ✓ The Institute has recently received approval to conduct clinical trials for plasma therapy from the Government
 - ✓ The objective of the experiment is to determine whether plasma therapy helps in limiting Covid-19-associated complications.
 - ✓ The trials are expected to be conducted over a period of six months
 - ✓ On April 14, the Drug Controller General of India cleared the protocols proposed by ICMR for the trials, and laid down conditions for the therapy.
 - ✓ The trials will see blood drawn from a Covid-19-recovered patient, from which the plasma will be separated, and a specific dose will be inserted into patients

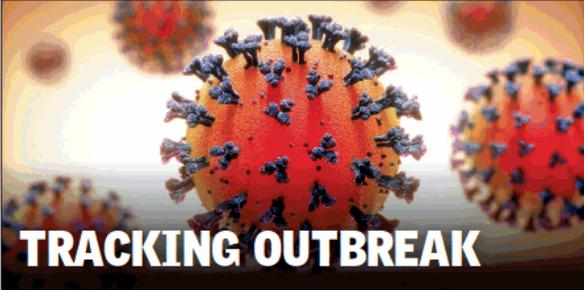
- ✓ The recovered patient should have passed at least 14 days after discharge, before offering his blood for the trial
- **The Northern Railway - has transported nearly 5.3 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in 100 Annapurna trains in the past 17 days, ever since they were introduced.**



- ✓ Northern Railway has formed these trains by joining coaches from two goods train, so that at least 5,000 tonnes of foodgrains can be transported in each.
- ✓ As per Northern Railways estimates, at least 24 such trains were sent to Assam, 22 each to Karnataka and Bihar and more than 13 to Maharashtra.
- ✓ Northern Railway plays a major role in transport of grains, as the major wheat growing states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh fall under its jurisdictional area.
 - ✓ As on April 24, nearly 27.1 lakh tonnes of foodgrain was transported by the zonal railways, which is 145% more than last year.
 - ✓ Last year nearly 11.1 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was transported between April 1 and April 24.
- ✓ **Like Northern Railways, the South Central Zone has launched 'Jai Kisan' special freight trains to ensure the delivery of foodgrains to different parts of India.**
 - ✓ As per this arrangement, two goods trains loaded from two different originating railway stations are attached at the nearest junction point and operated as a single train up to the common junction point of the destination.
- ✓ **Meanwhile, the South Central Railways came up with another major transportation by carrying milk from Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh to Delhi.**
 - ✓ The first of the proposed two 'Doodh Duronto Special' trains (milk tankers), was scheduled to run between Renigunta and Hazrat Nizamuddin to meet the requirements of Delhi
 - ✓ This is in tune with the approval given to the Railways to operate both freight and parcel trains on a continuous basis to ensure transportation of essential items.
- ✓ On April 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio address mentioned the services rendered by railways to ensure essential supplies reach people during this troubled times.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global coronavirus pandemic began - now announced that it has no remaining cases in its hospitals**
- ✓ The novel coronavirus is believed to have emerged first in a wet market in Wuhan in December before spreading quickly worldwide.
- ✓ The city was the first to impose a total lockdown following the outbreak.
- ✓ As per the Chinese estimates, 46,452 total infections and 3,869 deaths from Wuhan were reported.
- ✓ Meanwhile, on April 26, China reported 11 new cases in the mainland.
- ✓ Singapore has the most virus cases in Southeast Asia at 13,624, which included 931 fresh infections on April 26.
- ✓ On April 26, Saudi Arabia eased curfews across the country but kept 24-hour lockdowns in place in the city of Mecca
 - ✓ The Kingdom has so far recorded 17,522 cases of infection and 139 deaths.
 - ✓ It has also signed a deal with China to conduct nine million tests.



Countries	Infected	Death	
United States	954,182	54,573	185 countries/ regions hit
Spain	226,629	23,190	
Italy	197,675	26,644	2,947,616+ infected globally
France	161,665	22,890	
Germany	157,114	5,884	205,607+ have died
United Kingdom	154,032	20,794	
Turkey	110,130	2,805	860,023+ have recovered
Iran	90,481	5,710	
China	83,909	4,636	
Russia	80,949	747	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

- ✓ In a related move, Beijing has banned “uncivilised” behaviours of the public, such as not covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, in order to prevent the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ The violators of the rule will be slapped with fines for offences including not wearing a mask in public when ill
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, public places have to set up one metre distance markers and should also provide communal chopsticks and serving spoons for shared meals.

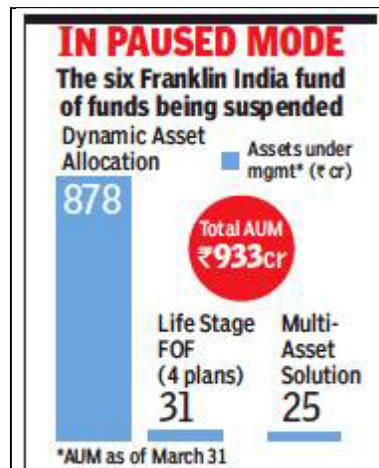
- ✓ Citizens were also advised to “dress neatly” in public and not go shirtless
- **Saudi Arabia’s King Salman - has ordered an end to death penalty for crimes committed by minors in the kingdom**
- ✓ The decision is announced following another recent order to end the practice of flogging, replacing it with jail time, fines or community service.
- ✓ King Salman’s son and heir, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is seen as the kingdom’s face behind the recent loosening of restrictions.
- ✓ The latest royal decree by King Salman will spare the death penalty for at least six men from the country’s minority Shia community

DEFENCE

- **Australia - has informed India that its premier multilateral air combat training exercise — Pitch Black 2020—has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation**
- ✓ The exercise is scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 14, 2020
- ✓ This was conveyed by Air Marshal Meg Hupfeld, Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria recently.
- ✓ The next edition of Pitch Black is scheduled for 2022.
- ✓ In the last edition of Pitch Black in 2018, the IAF deployed its fighter aircraft for the very first time
- ✓ The bilateral naval exercise AUSINDEX was carried out from April 2-14 last year off the coast of Vishakhapatnam between both the countries
- ✓ The exercise witnessed the participation of largest Australian contingent with over 1,000 personnel off Indian coast

ECONOMY

- **Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund - has suspended another six fund of funds (FoF) schemes managed by it, having a total assets of about Rs 933 crore**
- ✓ These FoFs had investments in two of the six schemes that were closed on April 24
- ✓ Hence, they have been discontinued as it was difficult to generate any income in the current situation.
- ✓ However, all the remaining schemes of the MF house, including all its equity funds, will continue as usual.
- ✓ The troubled fund house was recently forced to close six of its debt funds due to extreme liquidity in the market
- ✓ With the closing of these FoFs, the total assets under suspension for the 12 schemes together is now at nearly Rs 27,000 crore
- ✓ This is the first time such an incident has happened in India.



- ✓ An FoF is a mutual fund that invests in one or more MF schemes, which can be from the same fund house, another house or both.
 - ✓ Franklin Templeton MF was running seven domestic FoFs and two international FoFs. It's Multi-Asset Solution and Dynamic Asset Allocation FoFs had invested in Short Term Income Fund, one of the six cancelled MFs.
 - ✓ The fund house's four Life Stage FoFs had invested in Dynamic Accrual Fund, which was also suspended on April 24.
- ✓ On April 24, while announcing the closure of the six debt schemes, the fund house said that after the coronavirus pandemic-induced volatility in the financial market, inflows into these schemes reduced substantially.
 - ✓ Additionally, outflows also increased significantly as investors who needed money in an uncertain market condition redeemed their units.
 - ✓ Unable to meet the heightened redemptions even after borrowing from banks, the fund house finally decided to close down the schemes.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The Government - has given a three-month extension to health secretary, Preeti Sudan in order to continue the efforts in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic.**



- ✓ On April 26, in a major top-level change, the government appointed or reshuffled 23 Secretary-level officials, including those for economic affairs, petroleum, environment and school education

- ✓ Among the prominent appointments, Tarun Bajaj, currently additional secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, has been named as secretary for economic affairs.
 - ✓ He will replace Atanu Chakraborty, who retires at the end of the month.
 - ✓ Bajaj served earlier in finance ministry, having handled banking and insurance as director and joint secretary, before moving to the PMO over five years ago.
- ✓ Arvind Kumar Sharma, another key officer in the PMO, has been appointed secretary for micro, small and medium enterprises, indicating a renewed thrust for the sector.
 - ✓ Sharma was one of the most powerful officials in the PMO, as he has been with the Prime Minister Modi since October 2001, when he took over as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ✓ Ravi Mittal was appointed Sports Secretary, replacing Radheshyam Jhulaniya
 - ✓ Mittal, the 1986-batch officer, is currently serving as the secretary in the I&B Ministry

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Intellectual Property Day – April 26



- ✓ The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the year 2000.
- ✓ It is observed every year to encourage creativity and innovation in the society.
- ✓ Theme 2020 – 'Innovate for Green Future'
- ✓ The day was first proposed by the Chinese Delegation of WIPO and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999
- ✓ The WIPO is one of the 15 UN specialized agencies.
- ✓ It was created to protect and promote intellectual property.
- ✓ Totally, around 26 intellectual treaties are administered by WIPO, which has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

➤ International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day – April 26



- ✓ The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day was observed by the United Nations since 2016.
- ✓ It was initially marked on the 30th anniversary of 1986 nuclear disaster.
- ✓ The day intends to raise awareness about the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- ✓ On April 26, 1986, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in today's Ukraine faced a huge explosion and started to emit radioactive materials.
- ✓ Though, the casualties are minimal, the radioactive materials are still present in the atmosphere, posing challenges to human survival in the region
- ✓ Due to the explosion, several affected children are facing health issues like thyroid, cancer in the regions of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, even today.
- ✓ Overall, more than 8.4 million people were exposed to radioactive waves.
- ✓ In 1991, the United Nations created a Chernobyl Trust Fund, to start helping the affected people in the region.

