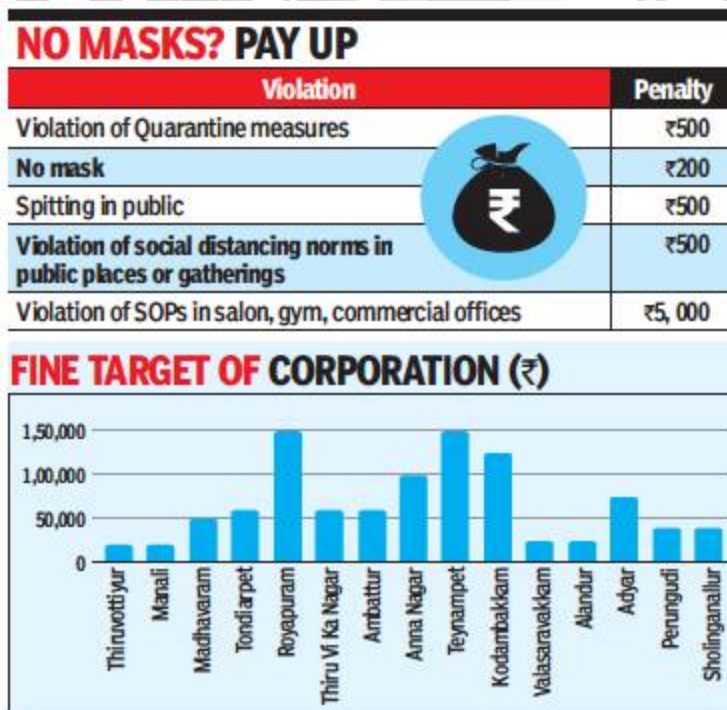




## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 10, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Greater Chennai Corporation - has set a daily target of Rs 10 lakh in fines for not wearing masks and spitting in public among and other violations.**
- ✓ The State and the capital city are battling a surge in Covid-19 cases during the ongoing second wave of the pandemic
- ✓ Each of the 15 corporation zones in Chennai has been set a specific target by the civic body



- ✓ According to the corporation, anyone violating quarantine measures will be fined ₹500, while those not wearing a mask covering mouth and nose will have to pay ₹200.

- ✓ Spitting in public places, violating social distancing norms in public places or gatherings and non-adherence of guidelines in containment zones will attract a fine of ₹500.
- ✓ The maximum fine of Rs 5,000 will be levied for violation of the Standard Operating Procedures in salons and spa, gyms, commercial establishments or other public places.
- ✓ The maximum target of ₹1.5 lakh/day is set for Zone 5 (Royapuram) and Zone 9 (Teynampet), followed by Zone 10 (Kodambakkam) with ₹1.25 lakh.
- **On April 9, Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed N S Santhosh Kumar vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University.**



- ✓ Kumar, who was director of legal studies for seven years, will hold the post for three years from the date of assumption of office.
- ✓ Kumar also serves as the principal of Madras Law College and Government Law College at Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli.
- ✓ He has authored two books and guided seven research scholars pursuing PhD.
- **The Madras High Court – stayed the appointment of former Tamil Nadu chief secretary Girija Vaidyanathan as an expert member of the National Green Tribunal**

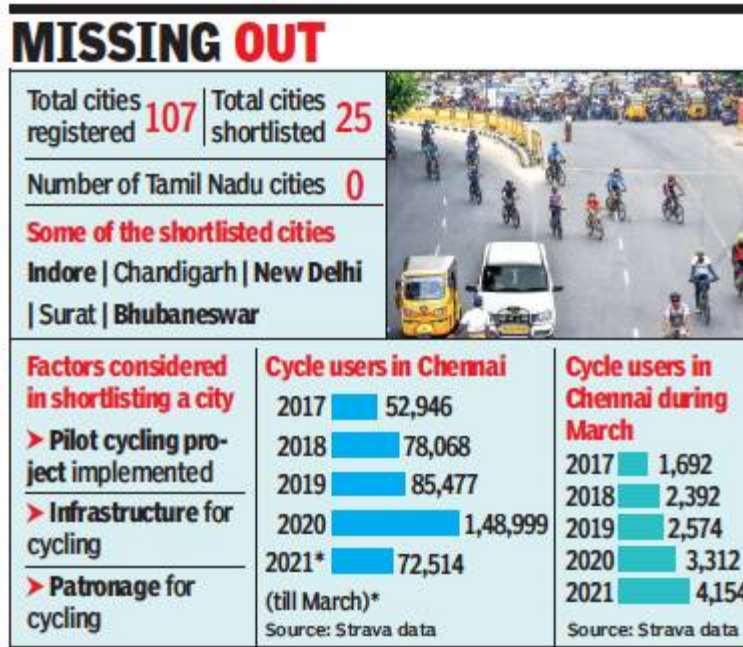


- ✓ The first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy expressed unhappiness over the qualifications of former Chief Secretary who has been appointed as an expert member of the tribunal
  - ✓ Girija Vaidyanathan was due to assume charge on April 19, 2021
  - ✓ The bench was passing orders on a public interest writ petition filed by environment conservation NGO Poovulagin Nanbargal, challenging Girija Vaidyanathan's appointment.
  - ✓ According to the petitioner-organisation, the NGT Act prescribes a minimum of administrative experience of 15 years, including five years in dealing with environmental matters in the central or a state government.
  - ✓ But, the NGO alleged that Girija Vaidyanathan who does not possess five-year experience in handling environmental matters has been appointed to the post in violation of the provision
- **Professor Madhavan Mukund – appointed as the Director of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), a deemed-to-be-university for mathematics, computing and physics studies effective from May 1**



- ✓ Mukund currently serves as the Dean and Deputy Director of the institute
  - ✓ He succeeds Rajeeva Karandikar who will retire after serving as a Director for a decade
  - ✓ Mukund, with a BTech from IIT Bombay and a PhD from Aarhus University (both in computer science), has been associated with CMI since its founding in 1989.
  - ✓ He was Dean of studies from 2011 and Deputy Director from 2019.
  - ✓ Among other positions, he is the Director of the International Research Laboratory in Computer Science set up at CMI by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences.
  - ✓ Mukund has been the National Coordinator of the Indian Computing Olympiad since 2002
  - ✓ He had served as Executive Director of the International Olympiad in Informatics from 2011 to 2014.
- **None of the cities in Tamil Nadu including Chennai - figures among the 25 cities shortlisted nationwide for the “Cycle for Change Challenge”**
- ✓ The challenge was conducted by the Union ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- ✓ As many as 107 cities, including 11 from Tamil Nadu, had registered for the contest
- ✓ Bengaluru, Indore, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Kochi figure among the 25 cities chosen for the next level, under the challenge.
- ✓ They were selected based on their pilot proposals, existing infrastructure and proactive measures taken up during the lockdowns.
- ✓ In stage II, some of these cities will get funding to develop their proposals.



- ✓ Incidentally, Chennai was the first corporation in India to adopt non-motorized transport policy in 2014.
- ✓ While Bengaluru, Ranchi, Kohima and Kolkata promoted bicycling during lockdown, such measures were missing in Chennai and other TN cities.
- ✓ MoHUA had proposed the challenge in July 2020 among smart cities across the country and cities with more than 5 lakh population
- ✓ The challenge was launched based on a survey conducted by Institute of Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) which suggested increased usage of personalised transport.

## NATIONAL

- In a highly unusual move, the US navy's Seventh Fleet - declared that it had conducted "Freedom of Navigation Operations" (FONOPs) in India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) near Lakshadweep earlier this week
- ✓ On 7 April, USS John Paul Jones, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer of the US Navy passed through India's exclusive economic zone, 130 nautical miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands, located in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ This Freedom of Navigation (FoN) patrol was carried out without requesting India's prior consent

- ✓ According to US Navy, the exercise was aimed at asserting navigational rights and freedoms as per international laws
- ✓ The statement challenges India's domestic maritime laws, as India requires prior consent from any country for conducting military exercises or manoeuvres in its EEZ or continental shelf
- ✓ The USS John Paul Jones (US guided missile destroyer) was continuously monitored transiting from the Persian Gulf towards the Malacca Straits.
- ✓ This is the first time that such an operation has been conducted near the Lakshadweep Islands.
- ✓ Earlier, the US Navy carried out similar freedom of navigation patrols close to the Andaman and Nicobar islands in 2015



- ✓ India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
  - ✓ The convention does not authorise other states to carry out in the EEZ and on the continental shelf, military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives, without the consent of the coastal state.
  - ✓ The US regularly conducts FONOPs in the contentious South China Sea to challenge China's aggressive territorial claims as well as in other areas including the Indian Ocean Region.
  - ✓ India ratified the UNCLOS in 1995 but the US has not done it till now.
  - ✓ The Freedom of Navigation is an international law according to which ships flying with the flag of a sovereign state shall not be intercepted by other states, unless otherwise provided in the international laws
- **Italy – to pay compensation of Rs. 10 crore to kin of fishermen shot dead by its marines aboard the ship 'Enrica Lexie' in February 2012 off the coast of Kerala**
- ✓ This was informed by the Centre to the Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian on April 9

- ✓ The apex Court asked the Centre to deposit in its account the compensation amount given by the Italian government to decide on closing the criminal cases against two Italian marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone
  - ✓ While the family members of the two killed fishermen will be given Rs 4 crore each, the injured owner of the boat will be paid Rs 2 crore in damages
  - ✓ In July 2020, the government had told the SC that it had decided to accept the compensation award of the International Arbitral Tribunal under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on May 21, 2020 in the marines case
  - ✓ The tribunal also ruled that the Italian marines could not be tried in India in view of the immunity enjoyed by them
  - ✓ Earlier, Kerala Police had instituted a case against the marines charging them with shooting and killing two Indian fishermen on board their fishing vessel St Antony
  - ✓ The marines had apparently mistaken the fishermen for pirates.
- **Johnson & Johnson - is in talks with the Centre to start a bridging clinical study of Janssen Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India soon.**
- ✓ The drug major had announced a tie-up with Hyderabad-based Biological E in August last year.
  - ✓ In this regard, the company is yet to submit a formal application to the government.
  - ✓ According to US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the J&J vaccine was 66.3% effective in clinical trials (efficacy) at preventing Covid-19 in people who had no evidence of prior infection two weeks after receiving the vaccine.
  - ✓ People had the most protection two weeks after getting vaccinated.
  - ✓ J&J's SARSCoV-2 vaccine program leverages AdVac technology, the platform used for the Ebola vaccine, and to construct its HIV and Zika vaccine candidates.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India – hosted the 30th BASIC ministerial meeting, chaired by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, on April 8-9, 2021**



- ✓ During the meeting, the BASIC nations - Brazil, South Africa, India and China - have jointly opposed the European Union's move to introduce 'carbon border tax' as part of its green push
- ✓ The four nation bloc held that such trade barrier would be discriminatory and against the principles of equity under the Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted in 2015.
- ✓ The BASIC nations expressed concerns over the issue while discussing climate actions during the two-day ministerial meeting
- ✓ The European Union is planning to impose a 'carbon border tax' (carbon border adjustment) on imports in order to force emerging economies to adopt cleaner (non-fossil fuel-based) practices to manufacture goods.
- ✓ The Union, representing 27 nations, would come out with its formal proposal in June with a clear roadmap to discuss the issue ahead of the 26th session of the UN climate conference (COP26) to be held in Glasgow (UK) in November.
- ✓ The Group's clear joint stand against the proposed carbon trade tax assumes significance ahead of the upcoming leaders' summit on climate on April 22-23 where 40 world leaders may express their views on such trade barriers.

## OBITUARY

- **On April 9, Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip – has died aged 99, as announced by the Buckingham Palace**



- ✓ The Duke of Edinburgh had been by his wife's side throughout her 69-year reign, the longest in British history.
- ✓ Prince Philip helped modernise the monarchy and steered the British royal family through repeated crises during seven decades of service
- ✓ World leaders, including India's Narendra Modi, US' Joe Biden, Australia's Scott Morrison, and Canada's Justin Trudeau also expressed their condolence.
- ✓ A Greek prince, Philip lived in the shadow of Queen Elizabeth II, whom he married at Westminster Abbey in 1947, five years before she became Queen.
- ✓ He always walked a step behind the queen at the thousands of ceremonial events they attended.

- ✓ Though he had no official role, he went on to play a key role helping the monarchy to adapt to a changing world in the post-World War II period
- ✓ Philip spent four weeks in hospital in February for treatment for an infection and to have a heart procedure, but returned to Windsor in March 2021
- ✓ He died just two months before his 100th birthday
- ✓ A consort to the monarch, Prince Philip accompanied Queen Elizabeth II on several royal visits, including to India.
- ✓ The nephew of the last British viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten, Philip visited the country four times in 1959, 1961, 1983 and 1997.
- ✓ During his 1961 visit, he was pictured with the Queen and the Maharaja and Maharani of Jaipur with a dead eight-foot tiger that he had shot while on a hunt.
- ✓ In the same year, Prince Phillip became president of the World Wildlife Fund UK.
- ✓ During his 1997 trip to India to mark the 50th anniversary of independence, he sparked controversy by questioning the number of deaths in the Jallianwala Bagh, where civilians were trapped by British forces on April 13, 1919.
- ✓ An official British toll said 379 were killed, while Indian estimates were over 1,000 dead.
- ✓ Prince Philip and the Queen had four children, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

