

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 19, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On April 18, the Tamil Nadu government - announced fresh restrictions, including night curfew and Sunday lockdowns, across the state from April 20.**
- ✓ The state has also postponed the Class 12 board exams indefinitely, while announcing that the practical exams will be held as per schedule.
- ✓ Colleges and universities will continue to hold online classes and examinations.
- ✓ Summer education camps are banned.
- ✓ The new set of restrictions would be in force until further orders.
- ✓ They were announced after a review meeting with senior officials by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami in Chennai.
- ✓ The CM directed the state industries department to issue temporary licences to TN firms planning to produce oxygen.
- ✓ The new norms will be in addition to the general Covid-19 restrictions already in force in the state till the end of the month.
- ✓ The Sunday lockdown will not cover May 2 which is the date fixed by the Election Commission of India for counting of votes for the assembly election held on April 6.
- ✓ During night curfew, which will be in force from 10pm to 4am, public and private transport services, autos and cabs and movement of private vehicles will not be permitted.
- ✓ Inter-state and intra-state movement of public and private vehicles will not be allowed.
- ✓ Movement of vehicles for medical emergencies, plying of autos and cabs destined to reach airports and railway stations as well as private transport will be permitted during night curfew.
- ✓ Movement of essential services including milk distribution and newspaper vendors, hospitals, labs, pharmacies, ambulances, commercial goods carriers as well as petroleum and LPG tankers will be allowed.

- ✓ Fuel outlets can remain open throughout the night.
- ✓ Continuous process industries and those manufacturing essential goods will be allowed to function during night curfew.
- ✓ During the Sunday curfew, meat shops, fish markets, vegetable shops, cinema theatres, malls and all commercial shops will remain closed.
- ✓ However, all essential services will be available.
- ✓ On Sundays, restaurants will be permitted to offer only takeaways and food delivery platforms can function between 6am – 10am, 12-3pm and 6-9pm. Movement of other online platforms deliveries will not be permitted on Sundays.

NIGHT CURFEW FROM 10PM TO 4AM



➤ Curfew to cover public, private transport, autos, cabs, pvt vehicles. Inter-state and intra-state movement of vehicles, too, will not be permitted

➤ Exemption for ambulance, emergency vehicles and autos, cabs and private vehicles heading to railways stations and airports, milk, newspapers and petroleum vehicles and LPG tankers.

Exemption also for media services and petrol pumps. Continuous process industries permitted to operate through night curfew, employees reporting to duty and security guards on night duty can travel, but must carry ID cards

➤ Public, pvt vehicles must ensure wearing of masks, do temperature checks and must avoid crowding

- ✓ Weddings, funerals are allowed on Sundays as long as they have a maximum 100 attendees and 50 attendees.
- ✓ All tourist spots will be out-of-bounds to the public from April 20.
- ✓ Software and IT companies should ask at least 50% of employees to work from home.
- ✓ All retail outlets, restaurants can work at 50% capacity up to 9pm.
- ✓ Temples already permitted to conduct festivals and consecrations can go ahead with maximum of 50 people.
- **A stone inscription dating back to the Thanjavur Nayak era - was recovered in Thanjavur city recently.**

- ✓ The inscription scripted in Tamil mentions the donations made towards a temple and warns people not to misuse the properties.



- ✓ The stone, measuring 3.5ft in height and 1.25ft in width, was inscribed in 15 lines.
- ✓ The inscription dates back to the 16th century Thanjavur Nayak dynasty who had ruled for 140 years.
- ✓ The inscription speaks about a Singaperumal temple that was once situated in the present day's Srinivasapuram of Thanjavur city.
- ✓ However, during Sevvappa Nayakkar regime, the temple was relocated to present day's Vennaru banks in Palliyaagraharam, in the outskirts of Thanjavur.
- ✓ The inscription also has conch and chakra insignia.
- ✓ The scripts described properties such as horticultural land and garden donated to the Singaperumal temple.
- ✓ It also warns that misusing the donated properties by anyone shall amount to a sin committed as equal to the killing of a cow at the banks of river Ganga
- ✓ The stone inscription retrieved was believed to be misplaced during the temple's relocation during Thanjavur Nayak kingdom and might have been buried over a period of time.

NATIONAL

- **State run Insurance giant, Life Insurance Corporation - has appointed Paytm to manage its digital payments.**
- ✓ There are 17 payment platforms that had bid aggressively for LIC's contract
- ✓ This is the first time Paytm will be handling the digital payments of the insurance major.
- ✓ LIC has witnessed an upsurge in e-payments following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The PSU insurer collects premiums worth Rs 60,000 crore via digital mode and performs around 8 crore digital transactions

- ✓ The new contract requires a smoother payment process, wider variety of payment options and adding more players (banks, wallets, etc) in payment channels.
- ✓ LIC had sought an end-to-end solution not just for premium payments but for all type of collections including remittance of collections by insurance agents.
- ✓ The mandate also involves automation of some processes.

- **The President of India recently promulgated “The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and conditions of Service)” Ordinance, 2021.**
- ✓ The new Ordinance dissolved appellate authorities under nine acts and transferred their functions to high courts.
- ✓ The ordinance dissolved appellate tribunals under the following nine acts:
 - ✓ Cinematograph Act, 1952
 - ✓ Copyrights Act, 1957
 - ✓ Trade Marks Act, 1999
 - ✓ Customs Act, 1962
 - ✓ Airports Authority of India Act, 1994
 - ✓ Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
 - ✓ Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002
 - ✓ Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001
 - ✓ Patents Act, 1970
- ✓ Further, the chairperson and members of tribunals will be appointed by the Central Government based on the recommendations made by a Search-cum Select Committee.
- ✓ The committee will consist of Chief Justice of India, secretaries nominated by the central governments, secretary of the ministry under which the tribunal is constituted and the outgoing chairperson or a retired CJI or a retired Supreme Court judge.
- ✓ Apart from these nine acts, the Tribunal Reforms Ordinance, 2021 also amended Section 184 of the Finance Act, 2017.
- ✓ It has added the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission within the purview of Finance Act, 2017.
- ✓ Moreover, it has removed the following bodies from the purview of Finance Act, 2017:
 - ✓ Airport Appellate Tribunal established under the Airports Authority of India act, 1994
 - ✓ the Film Certification Appellate Authority established under the Cinematograph Act, 1952
 - ✓ the Authority of Advanced Ruling established under the Income Tax Act, 1961
 - ✓ the Appellate Board established under the Trade Marks Act, 1999,

- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - recently launched three new initiatives - NIXI Academy, IP Guru and NIXI-IP-INDEX**

- ✓ National Internet Exchange of India has launched these initiatives to educate technical and non-technical people about the next-generation Internet Protocol standard, IPv6
- ✓ IP Guru is a group that will extend support to all Indian entities, which are finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt IPv6.
- ✓ This expert panel will guide all such Indian entities and help in increasing IPv6 adoption
- ✓ The group comprised of members from government and private organisations
- ✓ NIXI Academy has been created to educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies like IPv6 for better management of internet resources in the country.
- ✓ It comprises an IPv6 training portal developed with the help of technical experts to provide mass training to the community.
- ✓ NIXI-IP-INDEX portal has been launched to showcase the IPv6 adoption rate in India and to compare it across the world
- ✓ The portal is aimed at motivating organisations to adopt IPv6
- ✓ Regarding IPv6, IP stands for Internet Protocol, which sets rules on data delivery over the public network.
- ✓ Version 6 is the most recent version of IP.
- ✓ The NIXI is a Non-Profit Organisation that was established in 2003 under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013.
- ✓ It promotes Internet technologies and enables exchange of internet traffic within India, among other activities.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Israel – has announced to lift the ‘outdoor mask’ rule, following its recent success in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic**
- ✓ The country has allowed the full reopening of schools for the first time since
- ✓ Israel has been taking rapid steps back to normalcy following its world-leading vaccination campaign and reducing infection rates.
- ✓ About 56% of the Israeli population has been fully vaccinated
- ✓ The people are urged to continue carrying masks with them for entry into indoor public spaces, where they are still required.
- ✓ As part of the transition, Israel has introduced a “green pass” system allowing people who are vaccinated or recovered to dine indoors in restaurants, stay in hotels and attend large cultural, sports and religious gatherings.
- ✓ However, last week, Israel identified a new virus variant with a double mutation, B.1.617, which was first detected in India
- ✓ Israel is working to prevent any further entry of the variant
- ✓ The daily new coronavirus infections in Israel have fallen from a peak of 10,000 in January to around 100 in recent days

COMMITTEES

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) - has directed the Centre to constitute an eight-member national task force to monitor remedial steps to improve the status of air quality in 124 nonattainment cities (NACs) across the country.**
- ✓ The national task force (NTF) will also monitor enforcement of air quality standards in other identified air polluted areas, beyond NACs, where air quality is poor.
- ✓ The 124 NACs are those which did not meet the national ambient air quality standards during 2014-19.
- ✓ The tribunal also asked the NTF to see whether a 'National Air Quality Atlas' may be created by classifying cities or districts in terms of air quality in different categories such as 'red', 'orange' and 'green' for taking prioritised pollution abatement measures.
- ✓ This verdict was proclaimed by a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel in its order on April 8.
- ✓ Recently, the Centre has proposed a commission on air quality management (CAQM) through an ordinance in tackling the pollution problem in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Russia – plans to send three missions to the Moon in the next four years**
- ✓ As per Russian authorities, it will launch Luna-25 this year, Luna-26 in 2024 and Luna-27 in 2025
- ✓ The Russian space agency, The Roscosmos is to launch Luna 25 by October 2021 to reach Moon's south pole
- ✓ The Luna 25 mission may be the first Russian moon landing since Luna 24, the country's third lunar sample return mission, launched in 1976
- ✓ The Luna 25 Mission, which aims to prove the landing technology, will carry a lander.
- ✓ Lunar-A was the proposed orbiter of Luna 25 mission.
- ✓ It will carry 30 kg of scientific instruments including a robotic arm and drilling hardware to collect soil samples.
- ✓ It will study the exosphere around the south pole of the moon, where no spacecraft has reached till date.
- ✓ The project is financed by Roscosmos.
- ✓ The European Space Agency has been developing a package called PROSPECT for Luna 25.
- ✓ It is to be used for lunar drilling and sample analysis.
- ✓ PROSPECT refers 'Package for Resource Observation and in-Situ Prospecting for Exploration'.
- ✓ The first Luna mission was launched in 1970.

SPORTS

- **Deepak Punia and Sanjeet – settled for silver medal and bronze medal on the concluding day of the Asian Championship in Almaty on April 18**



- ✓ Deepak lost his 86kg final to Iranian legend Hassan Yazdanicharati by technical superiority inside the first period
- ✓ It was the second time that Deepak was up against 2016 Olympic champion and two-time World champion
- ✓ Earlier, Deepak had withdrawn from the 2019 World Championship final against the Iranian due to a leg injury.
- ✓ Sanjeet defeated Uzbekistan's Rustam Shodiev in the 92 kg category to win the bronze medal
- ✓ Overall, India won seven medals from the men's free style event with only Ravi Dahiya (57kg) managing to win a gold.

