



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2 , 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Veteran actor ‘Superstar’ Rajinikanth - was conferred Indian cinema's top honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019**
- ✓ This was informed by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on April 1 through a twitter message



- ✓ The versatile actor will receive the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke award on May 3 during the National Film Awards ceremony.
- ✓ The jury this year for the prestigious award included playback icon Asha Bhosle, director-producer Subhash Ghai, Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, music composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan and Biswajeet Chatterjee.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first to congratulate the actor, followed by Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu.
- ✓ In his illustrious career, Rajinikanth has won four Tamil Nadu State Film awards.

- ✓ He has been honoured with the Padma Bhushan (2000) and Padma Vibhushan (2016) in the past.
 - ✓ Besides this, Rajinikanth was given the Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year at the 45th edition of International Film Festival held in Goa.
 - ✓ Rajinikanth, born Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, in a Maratha family in Karnataka on December 12, 1950
 - ✓ He began his film career with Tamil movie Apoorva Raagangal (1975) directed by K Balachander
 - ✓ The Dadasaheb Phalke Award recognises “outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema”
 - ✓ The award is presented annually by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 - ✓ It was first presented in 1969 to actress Devika Rani and its recipients include Lata Mangeshkar, Shashi Kapoor, Yash Chopra and Dev Anand, among several others.
 - ✓ It was last awarded to Amitabh Bachchan in 2019.
 - ✓ In 1996, legendary actor Sivaji Ganesan was the first from the Tamil film industry to be conferred with the award, followed by Rajinikanth’s mentor K Balachandar in 2010
 - ✓ Rajinikanth has now become the 12th South Indian to win the coveted award.
 - ✓ Previously, South Indian legends like Dr. Rajkumar, Akkineni Nageshwar Rao, D Ramanaidu, B Nagi Reddy and K Vishwanath have been honoured with the prestigious award.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar - was appointed as the governor’s nominee and convener of Anna University’s vice-chancellor search committee.**



- ✓ Incumbent vice-chancellor M K Surappa completes his tenure on April 11.
- ✓ The committee is mandated to shortlist three names to submit to Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- ✓ Professor Kumar also headed the VC search committee of Madras University last year.

- ✓ The Anna University search panel will also comprise Madras university former VC S P Thyagarajan and former IAS officer Sheela Rani Chungath.
 - ✓ Professor Thyagarajan was the nominee of the Syndicate while Sheela Rani Sungath was nominated by the state government.
 - ✓ The search panel may meet once through video conferencing before inviting the applications for the VC post.
 - ✓ Due to the model code of conduct for assembly elections, the formation of a search committee was delayed.
 - ✓ The government issued an order only after the Election Commission's consent.
 - ✓ As per the amendment to Tamil Nadu University Laws, the search panel will have to submit the three names to the governor within four months.
 - ✓ The government formed an inquiry committee, headed by a retired high court judge P Kalaiyarasan, to probe the allegations of financial irregularities against VC Surappa.
 - ✓ Professor Surappa has filed a case challenging the government order constituting the commission of inquiry against him and it is pending before the court.
- **Prominent businesswoman Mallika Srinivasan, chairman and managing director of tractor major TAFE - has been appointed as chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**



- ✓ This was announced by an order issued by the personnel ministry on April 1
- ✓ This is for the first time that a private sector representative has been appointed as the head of the PESB as against the conventional practice of appointing senior bureaucrats to the post
- ✓ The PESB is responsible for selection and placement of top personnel including chairman-cum-managing director (CMD), chairman, managing director, and functional directors in central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Srinivasan as the chairperson of PESB for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge, or until the attainment of the age of 65 years
- ✓ Mallika Srinivasan is CMD of Chennai-based Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE), the country's second largest tractor manufacturer.
- ✓ She has won laurels for exemplary entrepreneurship and her contribution to the agriculture sector.

- ✓ Mallika is credited for developing TAFE as the third largest tractor manufacturer in the world and No 2 in India by volumes with an annual sales of over 150,000 units.
- ✓ Mallika is on the Board of AGCO Corporation – USA, Tata Steel and Tata Global Beverages Limited.
- ✓ She is also a member of the Governing and Executive Boards of the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.
- ✓ Sailesh, a 1985-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as member, PESB, according to the personnel ministry order.
- ✓ At present, he is serving as the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises.
- ✓ Sailesh, who was due to superannuate in September this year, has been appointed PESB member for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge, or until the attainment of the age of 65 years
- ✓ The PESB shall consist of one chairperson and three full-time members.
- ✓ M K Gupta and Rear Admiral Shekhar Mital (retd) are the two serving members of the PESB
- ✓ The top PESB post was lying vacant since former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar, who held the post from May 1 to August 31, 2020, was appointed as Election Commissioner.
- ✓ Prior to Rajiv Kumar, Kapil Dev Tripathi (IAS 1980) was the chairman of the board and he held the post for just a month, before moving as Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind on May 1, 2020.

STATES

- **On April 1, the J&K administration - approved a proposal to allot nearly 25 hectares of land to Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams (TTD) to build a temple in Jammu.**
- ✓ TTD is an independent trust, which manages the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The land will be leased for a period of 40 years
- ✓ The temple complex will also have a pilgrim amenities complex, a 'vedapatasala', a spiritual/meditation centre, an office, residential quarters and a parking area.
- ✓ The proposal was approved by the Administrative Council (AC), which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- ✓ The arrival of TTD in J&K will promote pilgrim tourism in Jammu, which is known as the city of temples, and also enhance economic activities in the area
- ✓ Once developed, the TTD infrastructure will be an attraction for pilgrims and tourists in addition to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and Amarnathji shrine.

NATIONAL

- **On April 1, the Finance Ministry – has withdrawn its earlier order on interest rate cut on PPF and other small savings scheme**

- ✓ This is the first time that the Centre has cancelled the notified interest rates on small savings schemes after moving to a quarterly interest rate setting system in April 2016.
- ✓ The last round of rate reductions was in the April to June quarter of 2020, when small savings rates had been cut between 0.5% and 1.4%.
- ✓ Earlier, on March 31, the Government announced the reduction of 40-110 basis points in interest rates of small savings schemes including Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC).
- ✓ As per the order, PPF would have fetched an interest rate of 6.4% from 7.1% and NSC 5.9% from 6.8%.
- ✓ The rate of return on the Senior Citizen Savings' Scheme was cut from 7.4% to 6.5%, while the Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme's return was reduced from 7.6% to 6.9%.
- ✓ The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra was reduced from 6.9% to 6.2%, leading to an increase in the period of maturity by 14 more months.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On April 1, Pfizer Inc and BioNTech - said that their Covid-19 vaccine is 91.3% effective at preventing the disease**
- ✓ The companies have cited the updated trial data that included participants inoculated for up to six months.
- ✓ The shot was also 100% effective in preventing illness among trial participants in South Africa, where a new variant called B1351 is dominant
- ✓ The new overall efficacy rate of 91.3% is lower than the 95% originally reported in November for its 44,000-person trial
- ✓ The updated result of the Pfizer vaccine includes data on more than 12,000 people fully inoculated for at least six months
- ✓ The Pfizer vaccine is currently authorised on an emergency basis.
- ✓ The shot was 100% effective in preventing severe disease as defined by the US CDC and 95.3% effective in preventing severe disease as defined by the FDA

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On April 1, the Imran Khan government in Pakistan – rolled back its decision to resume trade with India**
- ✓ It had deferred announcements made just 24 hours ago until the restoration of pre-August 5, 2019, status of Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of Article 370 in J&K
- ✓ A day before, Pakistan's finance minister Hammad Azhar had announced lifting of a nearly two-year ban on the import of sugar from India
- ✓ He said the country would allow the import of 500,000 tonnes of white sugar to combat the increasing domestic prices.

- ✓ Azhar had also said that ban on the import of raw cotton from India would also be lifted by the end of June.

DEFENCE

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) – has developed a new lightweight bullet-proof jacket (BPJ), which weighs 9kg, to meet the qualitative requirements of the 13-lakh strong Army.**



- ✓ The new jacket was developed by the Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment, a DRDO laboratory
- ✓ The “front hard armour panel jacket’ met relevant BIS standards during tests at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory in Chandigarh.
- ✓ The lightweight BPJ has been developed using new technologies by reducing the weight from 10.4kg to 9kg for a medium-sized BPJ
- ✓ The modern BPJs can provide 360-degree protection to soldiers in combat and counter-insurgency operations, including from latest hard steel core bullets.
- ✓ India exports bulletproof jackets to 18 countries
- **India - to take part in a joint military exercise along with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan from April 4 to 12, 2021**
- ✓ This will be the first such multi-nation exercise with neighbouring countries.
- ✓ The exercise called ‘Shantir Ogroshena (front runner of peace)’ will be held in Bangladesh to commemorate the birth centenary of ‘Bangabandhu’ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent of 30 personnel including officers, junior commissioned officers and jawans from the Dogra Regiment will participate in the exercise
- ✓ The contingents from the Royal Bhutan Army, Sri Lankan Army and Bangladesh Army will also take part in the exercise
- ✓ Earlier, PM Narendra Modi visited Dhaka on March 26-27.

ECONOMY

- On April 1, the Finance Ministry - reported an all-time high collection of Goods & Services Tax (GST) at over ₹1.23 lakh crores in March 2021, since the GST regime was introduced in July 2017

Month	2019-20	2020-21
April	113865	32172
May	100289	62151
June	99939	90917
July	102083	87422
August	98202	86449
September	91916	95480
October	95379	105155
November	103491	104963
December	103184	115174
January	110818	119875
February	105361	113143
March	97590	123902

- ✓ GST revenues crossed above Rs 1 lakh crore mark at a stretch for the last six months since October 2020
- ✓ The revenues for March are 27% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year
- ✓ During the month, the revenue from import of goods was 70% higher and that from domestic transactions, including services imports, 17% more than the same month last year.
- ✓ GST revenues improved steadily through 2020-21 rising from a negative 41% in the first quarter to (-) 8% in the second and to 8% and 14% in the third and fourth quarters compared to the same period of the previous year
- ✓ The CGST collections in the month stood at ₹22,973 crore, SGST ₹29,329 crore, IGST ₹62,842 crore and Cess at ₹8,757 crore
- ✓ A key highlight is that barring two Union Territories (Daman & Diu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands), all 28 States and 8 UTs have reported a growth in the collection
- ✓ Big contributor such as Maharashtra registered a growth of 14%, while Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Delhi saw an increase of 20%, 11%, 23%, 17% and 20% respectively

APPOINTMENTS

- Subhash Kumar - assumed additional charge as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) following retirement of incumbent Shashi Shanker on April 1



- ✓ Kumar is serving as the Director (finance) of flagship explorer, ONGC
- ✓ Kumar has over 36 years of experience across the exploration and production value chain.
- ✓ He first joined ONGC as a Finance and Accounts Officer in 1985 and has had stints in ONGC Videsh, the overseas acquisition arm
- ✓ Kumar also served as the Chief Financial Officer of Mansarovar Energy Colombia Limited, a 50:50 joint venture of ONGC Videsh and Sinopec of China, from September 2006 to March 2010.
- ✓ He joined back ONGC as the Chief Commercial and Head Treasury in July 2016.
- ✓ During 2017, Kumar served a brief stint with Petronet LNG Limited as its Director (Finance)
- ✓ Kumar is a fellow-member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Associate Member of ICSI
- ✓ He was a gold medalist of Panjab University, Chandigarh from where he did his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in commerce.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ Utkal Divas (Odisha Day) – April 1



- ✓ The State of Odisha celebrated its 85th foundation day on April 1.
- ✓ Utkal Divas or Utkala Dibasa or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 1 every year.

- ✓ The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once part of the Kalinga empire ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.
- ✓ Odisha became India's first independent state on a language basis on April 1, 1936
- ✓ The state was carved out of the combined Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.
- ✓ Odisha is the 8th largest state of the country by area and 11th largest by population

