



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 24, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Government of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW) at IIT Madras - have launched a pilot project to map the groundwater quality in Chennai.**
- ✓ The project aims to check the quality of groundwater by just entering the latitude and longitude of the area on a Google map
- ✓ It will give the information such as the nearest point of data collection and time of the data collection and details of water quality and whether the water is contaminated or not.
- ✓ Postgraduate students at Stella Maris College will be involved in gathering the samples.
- ✓ In the beginning, the researchers are planning to collect the data around 90 locations three or four times a year.
- ✓ It will be further enhanced to monitor quality of ground water in real time.
- ✓ Students can take the image of the water or use the agents to analyse the contaminants.
- ✓ The information will be uploaded on cloud in real time.
- ✓ The ICCW is also developing miniature device to test the quality of the tap water and treated sewage water.
- ✓ The Centre will give early warning in case of any water borne diseases.

NATIONAL

- **On April 23, the Centre - announced 5kg of free wheat or rice per month to around 80 crore people till June 2021.**
- ✓ This will be extended to the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)
- ✓ Under the scheme, around 8 million tonnes of foodgrain will be distributed.
- ✓ It involves an additional expenditure of nearly ₹26,000 crore to the government

- ✓ The free allocation of foodgrain will be in addition to the regular entitlement of 5kg highly subsidised foodgrains to each beneficiary at ₹3, ₹2 and ₹1 per kg of rice, wheat and coarse grains.
 - ✓ The beneficiaries are covered under both Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Householders.
 - ✓ The scheme will function on the lines of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) which was launched during March 2020.
 - ✓ The PMGKAY is operated by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
 - ✓ The scheme was initially launched for the period till June 2020 and later extended upto November 2020
 - ✓ Currently, the wheat and rice stock in the central pool is around 6.9 crore tonnes, which is nearly three times more than the buffer requirement.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the distribution of e-property cards under the 'SVAMITVA scheme' on April 24, 2021 on the eve of National Panchayati Raj Day**

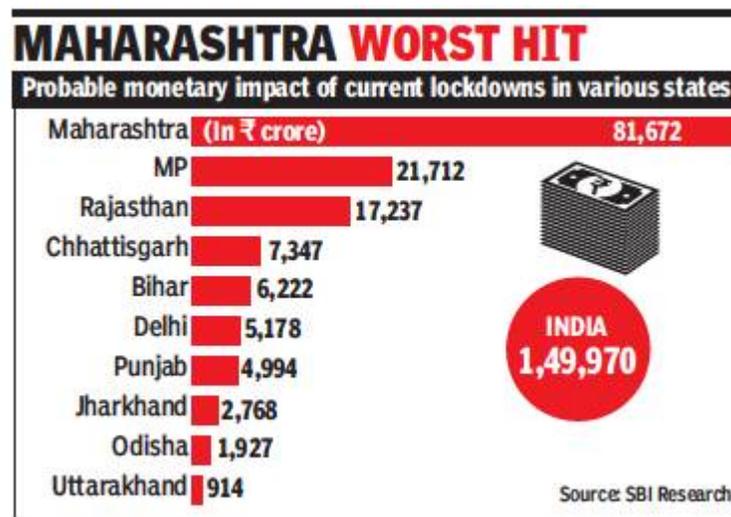


- ✓ The Prime Minister will launch the distribution of e-property cards to 4.09 lakh property owners through video conferencing
- ✓ Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar will also attend the event
- ✓ The day also marks the rolling out of the SVAMITVA scheme for implementation across the country.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme on National Panchayati Raj Day, 2020
- ✓ The pilot phase of the scheme was implemented during 2020-2021 in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and select villages of Punjab and Rajasthan

- ✓ The scheme will cover around 6.62 lakh villages of the entire country during 2021-2025,
- ✓ The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like using the drones to create a non-disputable record
- ✓ Under the scheme, property records will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.
- ✓ These accurate property documents will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property as collateral.

ECONOMY

- **State Bank of India (SBI) - has revised downwards the country's GDP growth projections for the current fiscal year to 10.4% from 11%**



- ✓ The bank had cited the partial lockdowns announced in various states as part of tackling the ongoing second wave of Covid-19 in the country.
- ✓ The total loss due to the partial lockdowns and night curfews has been estimated at Rs 1.5 lakh crore
- ✓ Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan account for 80% of the total loss, while Maharashtra alone accounts for 54% of the total losses.
- ✓ The current losses in Maharashtra are estimated at nearly Rs 82,000 crore
- ✓ As per the bank's report, the cost of vaccinating half the population in thirteen major states will be 0.1% of GDP of the country or 15% to 20% of the health budget of the states.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the estimated cost to vaccinate all the Indians of age 18 years will be Rs 67,193 crore or 0.36% of the GDP of the country, according to the India Ratings and Research

APPOINTMENTS

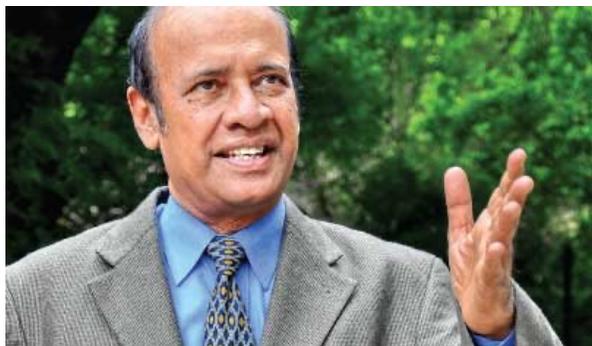
- **G C Murmu - has been appointed as the External Auditor of Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the period of three years**



- ✓ G C Murmu is currently serving as the CAG of India.
- ✓ Murmu was elected at the Hague-based Conference of State Parties of the OPCW, which was held on April 21
- ✓ Also, India was elected as the member state of the Executive Council of OPCW in the Asia region for another two years.
- ✓ G C Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat Cadre, was appointed as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in 2020.
- ✓ He had served as the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.
- ✓ He also served as the Principal Secretary of Narendra Modi during his reign as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ✓ Further, he has served as the External Auditor of World Food Programme, International Atomic Energy Agency, World Intellectual Property Organisation, UN World Tourism Organisation and International Maritime Organisation.

OBITUARY

- **Arun Nigavekar, former chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and eminent physicist (79 years) – passed away in Pune on April 23 after prolonged illness**



- ✓ Nigavekar was vice-chancellor of Savitribai Phule Pune University from 1998 to 2000
- ✓ He also served as the vice-chairperson and chairperson of University Grants Commission (UGC) from 2000 to 2005.

- ✓ Nigavekar helped establish the National Assessment and Accreditation Council as the founder director.
- ✓ Former President APJ Kalam called him the 'Father of Quality Education in India'.
- ✓ Nigavekar served as a scientific advisor to former President, APJ Abdul Kalam
- ✓ He also headed the committee of experts appointed by the Union Public Service Commission to review the structure of civil services (Main) examination and suggested changes.
- ✓ He was a visiting professor in University of York in the UK and University of Western Ontario in Canada in the 80s.
- ✓ Nigavekar had visited 35 countries as a guest lecturer and had received the Life Time Achievement Award and was awarded the Honorary Doctorate Degree by nine universities.
- ✓ His contributions in science education, as a founder editor of Physics Educational Journal, a journal of international repute, are recognised globally.
- ✓ He was a permanent member and was vice-chairman of the Asian Physics Education Network, a UNESCO organisation.

SPORTS

- **Sachin Siwach – won the eighth gold medal to the country at the Youth Men’s and Women’s World Boxing Championships in Kielce, Poland, on April 23**



- ✓ A day earlier, India’s women boxers bagged seven gold medals
- ✓ In 56kg final, Sachin defeated Kazakhstan’s Yerbolat Sabyr in the final round to secure the gold medal

NATIONAL DAY

- **National Panchayati Raj Day - April 24**
- ✓ The day aims to recognise and felicitate our Panchayats and to appreciate their leaders for their work towards building an AatmaNirbhar Bharat
- ✓ The first National Panchayati Raj day was declared by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on April 24, 2010.



National Panchayati Raj Day

24th April

- ✓ It is celebrated on April 24 as the Panchayati Raj System in the country came into effect on April 24, 1993.
- ✓ It was introduced through the 73rd Constitutional amendment or the Panchayati Raj Act.
- ✓ As per the Act, states were allowed to take steps to organize village panchayats and give them necessary powers to function as units of self-government
- ✓ There are more than 2.6 lakh Panchayats in the country.
- ✓ On this day, gram panchayats are awarded by the Union government on the basis of their performance on several parameters in the preceding year.
- ✓ The prime minister will confer the National Panchayat Awards 2021 on the occasion.
- ✓ This year, more than 74,000 Panchayats are to participate in National Panchayati Raj Awards, 2021.
- ✓ The National Panchayat Awards 2021 are being conferred under the following categories –
 - ✓ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 panchayats,
 - ✓ Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30 gram panchayats,
 - ✓ Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29 gram panchayats,
 - ✓ Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats and
 - ✓ e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 states.
- ✓ The establishment of Panchayati Raj System in the country was recommended by Balwant Rai Committee.
- ✓ The Panchayati Raj system works on three tiers – the Village Panchayat, the Panchayat Samiti and the Zilla Parishad.

