



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 25, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On April 24, the Tamil Nadu government - issued a fresh set of restrictions as part of measures in tackling the ongoing second wave of Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ The new curbs include shutting down cinema theatres, gyms, recreation clubs, bars, auditoriums, meeting halls, large format retail stores, shopping complexes and malls from 4am on April 26.

 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ IT & ITES cos must mandatorily make 50% staff work from home	<p>marriages; 25 for funerals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Only take-away service allowed in restaurants/hotels/ mess tea shops 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Beauty parlours, spas, salons, barber shops shut across TN➤ Not more than 50 can take part in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sports academies to remain shut. Training allowed only for international and national events

- ✓ Grocery, vegetable and other outlets, outside the malls, are allowed following standard operating procedure with 50% of customers at a time
- ✓ Beauty parlours, spas, saloons, barber shops will not allowed across all corporations and municipalities.
- ✓ Only takeaway services would be permitted in restaurants/hotels/ mess and tea shops.
- ✓ Door-delivery of food in hotels and lodges would be permitted.
- ✓ E-commerce services shall continue within the restricted time.
- ✓ Public worship would not be allowed in religious places, while daily rituals/prayers shall go on with staff alone
- ✓ Temple events and congregations have already been prohibited from April 10.
- ✓ Not more than 50 members are allowed to participate in marriage events, and 25 members for funerals.

- ✓ IT&ITES companies are mandated to allow 50% of employees to work from home.
- ✓ Sports training academies are not allowed.
- ✓ Except Puducherry, all the people coming from states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala should register at <http://eregister.tnega.org>.
- ✓ Standees would not be allowed in public and private buses in the state.

NATIONAL

- **On April 24, the finance ministry - extended the deadline for making payment under the direct tax dispute settlement scheme 'Vivad Se Vishwas' from April 30 to June 30 due to the Covid-19 pandemic**
 - ✓ The extension has been done due to the representations received from various stakeholders and consultants
 - ✓ The time limit for passing of any order for assessment or reassessment under the Income-tax Act, 1961 has also been extended.
 - ✓ Tax amnesty scheme 'Vivad se Vishwas' is one of the most successful direct tax dispute resolution schemes
 - ✓ It has settled more than 148,000 pending cases and recovered 54% of about ₹1 lakh crore amount under litigation.
 - ✓ The scheme that was enacted on March 17, 2020, closed on March 31 this year.
 - ✓ However, taxpayers who had already made declarations within the stipulated deadline of March 31, can make payment without paying any additional amount or penalty up to June 30.
 - ✓ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the scheme in the Union budget presented on February 1, 2020.
 - ✓ The scheme aimed to resolve legacy disputes involving direct taxes.
 - ✓ It also grants immunity to taxpayers from institution of any proceeding for prosecution for any offence under the Income-Tax Act in respect of matters covered in the declaration.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, penalty and interest would be waived if the disputed amount is paid before the stipulated date.
 - ✓ As on January 31, 2020, there were over 5.10 lakh litigations pending in various forums involving over ₹19.5 lakh crore.
- **On April 24, Indian Railways – said that nearly 150 tonnes of medical oxygen has been delivered by operating Oxygen Express in different parts of the country.**
 - ✓ As per the Railways, the Oxygen Expresses with liquid medical oxygen (LMO) tankers have arrived at Nashik and Lucknow.
 - ✓ Also, the third Oxygen Express started its journey from Lucknow on April 24
 - ✓ These Oxygen Express trains are operated to help the country handle the issue of shortage of oxygen.

- ✓ To tackle the crisis, the government is to set up 162 Oxygen plants in thirty-two states using the PM-CARES funding



- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs recently announced that India is to import 50,000 tonnes of oxygen.
- ✓ Further, the Railways also said 3,816 Covid Care Coaches are also ready for deployment across the country to supplement the healthcare facilities for 'moderate' cases.
- **Vaccine maker Biological E Ltd - has received approval from the subject expert committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to start phase III clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate.**
- ✓ The company is developing the vaccine with Texas-based Baylor College of Medicine (BCM).
- ✓ The phase III trials of the recombinant protein vaccine will be conducted on 1,268 healthy volunteers in the 18 to 80 age bracket across 15 sites in India to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of the vaccine.
- ✓ This is part of a larger global phase III study.
- ✓ The phase I and II trials were conducted on 360 healthy volunteers in the 18-65 years age group.
- **The Government - plans to bring around 9 million hectares of land under mustard cultivation and raise the production to around 17 million tonnes (mt) by 2025-26**
- ✓ The average normal area for five years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 was 5.9 million hectares and the production was around 7.7 mt.
- ✓ For 2021-22, the government is targeting an area of 7.58 million hectares with a production of 12.24 mt.
- ✓ The Government targeted 368 districts in 13 States in 2020 under Mustard Mission 2025 at a budget of around ₹160 crore
- ✓ Currently, Rajasthan produces the highest proportion of 40.82% of total mustards in India.

- ✓ In order to increase the productivity, the government is planning to provide mustard seeds of high quality, which will increase the yield from 20% to 100%.
 - ✓ In 1986, the then PM Rajiv Gandhi launched the 'Yellow Revolution' to boost the production of oil seeds in the country
 - ✓ By 1993, India became self-sufficient in edible oil production.
 - ✓ Sam Pitroda is called the "Father of Yellow Revolution".
 - ✓ The mission focused on nine oilseeds - mustard, groundnut, soybean, sesame, safflower, niger, sunflower, Castor and linseed.
- **The IIT Kharagpur - has successfully commercialised the diagnostic technology called 'COVIRAP' to detect Covid-19 virus**



- ✓ The technology is also capable of testing influenza, dengue, malaria, tuberculosis and Japanese Encephalitis alongwith other vector borne diseases.
 - ✓ Costing only Rs. 500, the device will minimise the need for real time PCR machines and also for thermal cyclers
 - ✓ COVIRAP is a cuboid shaped portable testing device that can deliver the results within an hours
 - ✓ It can conduct the Covid-19 test using a swab sample and does not require a separate facility for RNA extraction.
 - ✓ The device is now being launched for commercialisation after getting validated by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
 - ✓ COVIRAP has a special detection unit for genomic analysis, pre-programmable temperature control unit and a customised smartphone app for results.
- **The crude oil production of India – fell by 5% in 2020-21 to 30.5 million tonnes, as against 32.17 million tonnes in 2019-20**
- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently released its data for the fiscal year 2020-21.
 - ✓ The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation produced 2% (20.2 million tonnes) less oil in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.
 - ✓ The Oil India Limited produced 5.4% less oil.

- ✓ The Natural Gas production in the year 2020-21 was at 28.67 billion cubic metres, lesser by 8% than 2019-20
 - ✓ In 2020-21, India imported 198.2 million tonnes of crude oil by spending \$61.9 billion to cater around 85% of its requirement
 - ✓ In 2019-20, India spent \$101.4 billion for importing 227 million tonnes of crude oil.
 - ✓ The demand for petroleum products in the country fell by 9% in 2020-21.
 - ✓ In 2020-21, India consumed 194.6 million tonnes of petroleum products, as against 214.1 million tonnes in 2019-20
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs - recently approved subsidy for Urea that are to be produced by state-run Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha.**
- ✓ It will be the only plant in India to produce nitrogenous soil nutrient through coal gasification process.
 - ✓ The Government of India is to provide subsidy to establish the plant, which is expected to be completed by 2023.
 - ✓ Talcher Fertilizers is a joint venture of Fertilizer Corporation of India, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, GAIL and Coal India.
 - ✓ Talcher Fertilizer will establish the plant at an estimated investment of Rs 13,277 crore.
 - ✓ The annual capacity of the plant is 1.27 million tonnes per year.
 - ✓ The tender to construct the TFL project has been provided to China-based Wuhan Engineering.
 - ✓ In 2020-21, India consumed 61 million tonnes of fertilizers, out of which 55% was urea.
 - ✓ Currently, India produces urea using natural gas.
 - ✓ As it is an expensive process, India is adopting alternative routes such as coal gasification to produce urea with indigenous raw materials.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Israel – has announced the launch of ‘Nimbus’ Project at an estimated cost of \$1 billion**
- ✓ The project to establish cloud sites will be implemented in four phases
 - ✓ These sites will keep the data within the borders of Israel under strict security guidelines
 - ✓ The Government of Israel has chosen Google and Amazon Web Services to provide cloud services for its military and Public Sector Units.
 - ✓ Amazon and Google beat out Oracle, Microsoft and IBM in winning the tender.
 - ✓ The Cloud Services refer to wide range of services delivered over the internet.
 - ✓ The data storage in cloud sites assumes significance considering the fact that the defence industry of Israel is one of the largest in the world.
 - ✓ Israel is one of the major exporters of military equipment in the world, accounting for 10% of Global Defence Exports.

- ✓ There are more than 150 active defence companies in the country with collective revenue of more than 3.5 billion USD.
- ✓ Israel and the US are considered as allies and have strong ties through defence industry.
- **On April 21, the New Zealand government - announced that it is to consolidate the fragmented health system in the country into a national service.**
- ✓ At present, 20 district health boards with their own budget constitute the health system in New Zealand
- ✓ These district health boards will be replaced by a single new body called 'Health New Zealand'.
- ✓ The health system of New Zealand is Government subsidized, with an option for private payment to avail several health services
- ✓ The consolidated system is to look more like the ones implemented in Britain.
- ✓ Among the 14 developed countries in the world, New Zealand has the lowest level of medication use and also spends the lowest amount on healthcare.
- ✓ Most of the emergency ambulance transportation in the country is carried out by charitable organizations
- **A new global partnership 'Blue Nature Alliance' – has been launched on April 20, to restore 5% or 18 million square kilometers of World Ocean in five years**
- ✓ The Alliance is a collaboration led by Conservation International, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation.
- ✓ It has been created to target seven ocean locations – Antarctica, Seychelles, Canada, Palau, Western Indian Ocean, Fiji and Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean
- ✓ The Blue Nature Alliance will contribute towards a global conservation initiative to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030
- ✓ This was the goal expected to be ratified at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference later this year
- **Australia - recently launched the 'Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership' that aims to support free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.**
- ✓ The Government of Australia has provided a grant of 1.4 million Australian dollars (Rs 8.12 crore) to support the initiative
- ✓ The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative was launched by PM Narendra Modi at the East India Summit on 2019.
- ✓ The Initiative aims to strengthen maritime resources and boundaries.

- ✓ It has been launched to support maritime security, ecology, transport apart from capacity building and disaster risk reduction.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) - recommended four countries including India to be placed under “Countries of Particular Concern” (CPC) category.**
 - ✓ The other three countries were Russia, Vietnam and Syria.
 - ✓ Further, the USCIRF recommended to redesignate ten countries as “Countries of Particular Concern”.
 - ✓ They were China, Iran, North Korea, Burma, Eritrea, Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria.
 - ✓ According to the report, the Citizenship Amendment Act that was passed in 2020 led to nationwide protests.
 - ✓ The report also noted that the Government of India has amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.
 - ✓ The amendments led to forced closure of human rights organisation and religious organizations, including the Amnesty International India.
- **India - was recently elected to the three bodies of the United Nations by ‘acclamation’.**
 - ✓ They were the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and the Executive Board of World Food Programme.
 - ✓ All these three bodies operate under United Nations Economic and Social Council.
 - ✓ When a member with no history of evidence of any problems or broken rules is presented for an election in the United Nations, the vote takes place through acclamation.
 - ✓ Electing a member country through acclamation does not use a ballot.
 - ✓ However, election by acclamation is completely excluded in some of the UN bodies such as the Human Rights Council
 - ✓ India’s term to these bodies begins on January 1, 2022.
 - ✓ The other countries that were elected through secret ballot were Cuba, Chile, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Brazil.
 - ✓ Countries such as Bahrain, Austria, Bulgaria, Belarus, France, Canada, Libya, Ghana, Qatar, Pakistan, Togo and Thailand were elected by acclamation.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On April 23, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) - approved Indian pharma company Zydus Cadila's anti-viral drug, Virafin, for emergency use to treat ‘moderate Covid-19 cases’**

- ✓ Virafin is the trade name used by Zydus Cadila for Pegylated Interferon alpha-2b.
 - ✓ This drug is already being used for the treatment of hepatitis C, which is another virus condition
 - ✓ It was also effective in the treatment of SARS during its outbreak in the year 2004
 - ✓ Since it has received an emergency authorisation, this medicine will be available for restricted use and can be given only when prescribed by a doctor and administered under supervised conditions.
 - ✓ According to Zydus, 91.15% of adult patients treated with Virafin tested negative using RT-PCR in seven days.
 - ✓ Zydus is also working on anti-covid vaccine, ZyCoV-D.
 - ✓ In January 2021, the DGCI provided permission to conduct the Phase III trials of the vaccine.
 - ✓ The trials are expected to be completed by May 2021.
- **NASA - recently launched the SHIELDS Mission from the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico to study light from interstellar particles in the heliosphere**
 - ✓ SHIELDS is Spatial Heterodyne Interferometric Emission Line Dynamics Spectrometer.
 - ✓ Flying at a height of 300 kilo metres, SHIELDS can see light from particles beyond the solar system.
 - ✓ The magnetic bubble created by the sun is called Heliosphere.
 - ✓ SHIELDS will study the hydrogen atoms that originate in interstellar space. These atoms have equal balances of fundamental particles called electrons and protons.
 - ✓ These interstellar hydrogen atoms cross the magnetic lines as their positive and negative charges balance each other.
 - ✓ The mission will study the trajectories of the hydrogen atoms as they pass by the heliosphere.
 - **NASA's Perseverance Mission – has successfully produced oxygen in Mars using an instrument, MOXIE**



- ✓ This is the first time that carbon dioxide is converted into oxygen in another planet, apart from the Earth

- ✓ MOXIE is Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilisation Experiment.
 - ✓ It is a gold-coated box built with nickel alloy and placed in the front side of the rover.
 - ✓ The alloy is heat-resistant and is designated to tolerate temperatures of 1,470 degrees Fahrenheit
 - ✓ The gold coating was provided to prevent the rover from getting affected due to the heat radiation
 - ✓ MOXIE produced five grams of oxygen in its first run.
 - ✓ It is equal to ten minutes of breathable oxygen for an astronaut performing a normal activity.
 - ✓ MOXIE is capable of generating ten grams of oxygen in one hour.
 - ✓ It was designed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
 - ✓ According to the scientists at MIT, one ton version of MOXIE is capable of producing twenty-five tonnes of oxygen.
 - ✓ Perseverance landed on Mars on February 18, 2021.
 - ✓ It carried the Ingenuity helicopter, which recently made its successful flight
- **Russia – to pull out of the International Space Station and launch its own space station in 2025**
- ✓ The agreement between Roscosmos and its international partners on ISS is to expire in 2024.
 - ✓ According to Russia, the structure of the International Space Station is getting older and can lead to irreversible consequences.
 - ✓ Most of the technical modules in the station have reached the end of their service life.
 - ✓ The International Space Station was launched by the US space agencies and Russian Space agencies in 1998.
 - ✓ The other countries that were involved in the launch of the International Space Station were Canada, European Space Agency and Japan.
 - ✓ The ISS revolves around the earth in 93 minutes and makes 15.5 orbits per day at an orbital velocity of 7.7 kilometres per second.
 - ✓ The Roscosmos also announced that the first core module of the new Russian orbital station is ready for launch by 2025.
 - ✓ This new space model is being assembled at a cost of \$5 billion.
- **A new species of insect discovered in Kosovo – named ‘Potamophylax coronavirus’**
- ✓ Kosovar biologist Halil Ibrahim named a caddisfly species found in Kosovo’s western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) national park after the coronavirus
 - ✓ The species, which turned out to be endemic to the national park, was quite different from the other species in the Balkans.



- ✓ It is considerably smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) above sea level.
- ✓ The new Caddisfly species is found along the Decanit river ecosystem.
- ✓ The construction of the hydropower plant across the river has a similar effect as the coronavirus creates on humans.
- ✓ Thus, the new species has been named after coronavirus.

- **The United Nations - recently released the Second World Ocean Assessment report.**
- ✓ The report has been prepared with the contribution of hundreds of scientists appointed by the members of United Nations from all over the world.
- ✓ As per the report, the heat content in the oceans has more than doubled since 1990, seriously affecting marine lives.
- ✓ Even though only 10% of the ocean has been explored and studied, it was noticed that they have degraded at huge level
- ✓ Around 30% of seabird species and 90% of the mangrove seagrass and marsh plant species are facing the threat of extinction
- ✓ Further, the number of dead zones with reduced oxygen levels in the oceans has doubled from 400 in 2008 to 700 in 2019.
- ✓ The largest dead zone is located in the Arabian sea covering almost 63,700 square miles in Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ Also, around 15% of the Sandy beaches are seeing retreating shorelines at a rate of 1 metre per year.
- ✓ The first World Ocean Assessment report was released in 2015.
- ✓ The report noted that Oceans have been degrading seriously due to failure to deal with pressures caused by human activities, aquaculture, fishing, oil and gas, shipping, pollution.
- ✓ According to the World Assessment Report II, these conditions have not changed and are continuing.

DEFENCE

- **Japan - is to hold its first military drill with French and US troops in May 2021.**

- ✓ The exercise, running from May 11 to 17, will be the first large-scale exercise in Japan involving ground troops from all three countries
- ✓ The joint drills will be held at the JGSDF's Kirishima training ground and Camp Ainoara in the Kyushu region and include amphibious operation exercises
- ✓ The exercise is planned as Japan intends to counter China's assertiveness in the South and East China Sea with the assistance of the US
- ✓ The French Government also shares the vision of free and open Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ France has territories in the Indian Ocean namely French Polynesia in South Pacific and French Island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ The US President Joe Biden and the Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga recently met at the White House recently.

ECONOMY

- **The International Financial Service Centre - recently granted permission for the Non-Banking Finance Companies to operate in Gujarat GIFT City.**
- ✓ The NBFCs will be allowed to offer whole range of services such as loans, investment banking and third-party product sales.
- ✓ The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) was the first International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of India.
- ✓ It was established under Special Economic Act, 2005.
- ✓ The IFSC conducts business in foreign currencies and deal with financial products and services across borders.
- ✓ In December 2019, the centre passed the International Financial Service Centre Authority Act to bring insurance sectors and capital markets under a single authority called the IFSC Authority.
- ✓ The GIFT city provides services such as offshore banking, fund raising services for individuals, offshore asset management, etc.
- ✓ The idea of GIFT city was conceived at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor Summit, 2007.
- ✓ The city is equipped with piped supply of cooking gas and city-level District Cooling System.
- ✓ The Gujarat Maritime Cluster, consisting of institutions and business in the maritime sector, is proposed to be established in GIFT City.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On April 24, Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana - took charge as the 48th Chief Justice of India**
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind administered oath of office to him at a brief ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan
- ✓ The event was attended by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, PM Narendra Modi, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, SC judges and a small number of dignitaries.



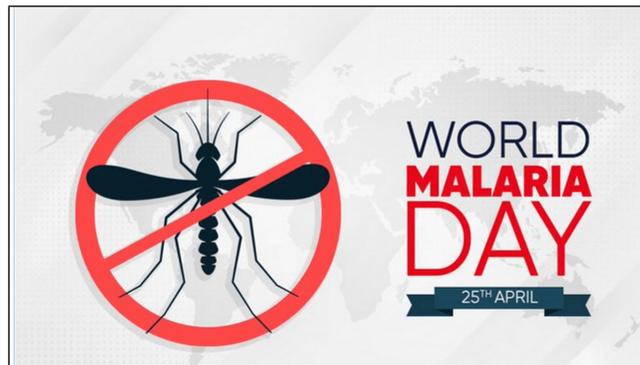
- ✓ Justice Ramana took the oath in the name of God to discharge his duties as CJI without fear or favour.
- ✓ Before taking oath, he sought blessings of archakas from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and Srisailam Devasthanam.
- ✓ Since the Covid pandemic took hold in India in March last year, SC has been hearing the cases through video-conferencing mode.
- ✓ Justice Ramana was a first generation lawyer born in an agricultural family in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ He was appointed as judge of Andhra Pradesh HC in 2001, as chief justice of Delhi HC in September 2013 and a judge of SC in February 2014.

RANKINGS

- **India - has been ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries in the Energy Transition Index (ETI), prepared by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture**
- ✓ The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- ✓ The other countries completing the Top 10 rankings include Switzerland, Austria, Finland, UK, New Zealand, France and Iceland
- ✓ The index tracks 115 countries on the current performance of their energy systems across three dimensions -- economic development and growth, environmental sustainability, and energy security and access indicators
- ✓ It also tracks the readiness of these countries to transition to secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy systems.
- ✓ China was ranked 68th in the index.
- ✓ Both India and China together account to one-third of the global energy demand.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Malaria Day – April 25**



- ✓ The World Malaria Day is celebrated to increase awareness about the disease, promote anti-malaria campaigns and ways to control and prevent this disease.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Reaching the Zero Malaria target"
- ✓ The idea of World Malaria Day was developed from Africa Malaria Day, which has been observed by African governments since 2001
- ✓ In 2007, at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly, a meeting sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) proposed that Africa Malaria Day be changed to World Malaria Day.
- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its 'E-2025 Initiative', ahead of World Malaria Day 2021
- ✓ The report, titled 'Zeroing in on malaria elimination', was released by WHO on April 21, 2021 ahead of World Malaria Day April 25.
- ✓ Malaria is a life-threatening disease that is caused by the bites of infected mosquitoes
- ✓ Female Anopheles mosquitoes spread the Plasmodium parasite through their saliva, which causes malaria.
- ✓ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said recently that 116 districts in India reported zero malaria cases in 2020
- ✓ The Minister also said that the country has achieved remarkable success in reducing the disease burden in terms of cases by 84.5% and deaths by 83.6%
- ✓ He made the announcement while chairing the 'Reaching Zero' forum on malaria elimination through video conferencing on April 23
- ✓ India is one among 18 countries that has endorsed the Malaria Elimination Roadmap of Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance at the East Asia Summit held in Malaysia in 2015.
- ✓ The goal of the East Asian region becoming free of malaria by 2030 was set in the summit.
- ✓ Under this, India launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016-2030).
- ✓ The framework aims to
 - ✓ eliminate malaria from all Category 1 and Category 2 states by 2022
 - ✓ reduce the incidence of malaria to less than one per thousand population by 2024

- ✓ interrupt indigenous transmission of malaria in Category 3 states and Union Territories by 2027.
- ✓ prevent re-establishment of local malaria and maintain national malaria free status by 2030
- ✓ The 'Malaria Mukh Abhiyan' in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh was successfully carried out wherein 3.78 million people were screened for malaria.

REPORT

- **The International Energy Agency - recently released the Global Energy Review report on April 20**
- ✓ As per the report, the climate-changing CO₂ emissions are set to increase by 5% (1.5 billion tonnes) this year at the second-highest levels in history to 33 billion tons
- ✓ There will be an estimated 4.5% jump in coal demand, which will be an all-time highest since 2014
- ✓ Global energy demand is set to increase by 4.6% in 2021, more than offsetting the 4% contraction in 2020 and pushing demand 0.5% above 2019 levels
- ✓ Demands for fossil fuel such as coal are expected to increase by 60% more than all renewables combined
- ✓ Almost 70% of the projected increase in global energy demand has been found to be in emerging markets of the developing economies
- ✓ According to the report, the CO₂ emissions in India is to be 1.4% higher than the levels recorded in 2019.
- ✓ The coal demand is expected to increase by 9% in the country
- ✓ Currently, the carbon dioxide emissions in the country is 60% below the global average and is on par with emissions in the European Union, which is 2.35 gigatonnes.
- ✓ India has pledged to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% under Paris Agreement.
- ✓ China is set to lead the global coal demand by more than 80% in 2021.
- ✓ On the other hand, China will also lead the market for electricity generation from renewables.
- ✓ The renewables are set to provide 30% of electricity, as per the report
- ✓ The electricity generation from wind is set to increase by 275 tetra watts at the rate of 17% increase compared to last year.
- ✓ The solar PV is to grow by 145 tetra watt which is an 18% increase as compared to 2020.
- **The Amnesty International - recently released the global Review of Death Penalty.**
- ✓ As per the report, 483 executions were recorded across 18 countries in 2020 as against 657 in the year 2019

- ✓ The maximum number of executions happened in China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in that order.
- ✓ Around 16 women have been executed last year, who were from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Oman.
- ✓ The countries such as India, Qatar, Oman and Taiwan have resumed executions last year.
- ✓ There was a decline in executions by 85% in Saudi Arabia and 55% in Iraq
- ✓ The Asia-Pacific countries that carried out executions in 2020 were India, China, Bangladesh, North Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan.
- ✓ Pakistan, Singapore and Japan did not report any executions.
- ✓ China was the leading executioner in the world.
- ✓ However, the exact number of executions being carried out in China is a classified secret and hence the exact number is unknown.
- ✓ Chad has abolished death penalty for all crimes last year.
- ✓ Further, Colorado has become the twenty second state in the United States to abolish death penalty.

