

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 26, 2021

NATIONAL

- On April 25, the Centre – announced the setting up of 551 dedicated medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities across district headquarters
- ✓ The funds from PM-CARES will be used for setting up of these plants
- ✓ The fresh set of measures are aimed at immediately increasing medical oxygen supply by over 20%

MULTI-FRONT BATTLE

➤ 551 PSA medical oxygen generation in public hospitals across district headquarters

Impact: Will help increase supply at district level

➤ Ban on liquid oxygen for industrial use

Impact: Will increase daily oxygen supply by over 20%

➤ Berthing priority to ships carrying oxygen, no charges

Impact: Will speed up supply of oxy tanks, bottles, portable generators, concentrators etc

THE ACTION PLAN

1 Set up 551 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation in public hospitals across district headquarters

IMPACT: Will provide oxygen in the coming months

2 Ban on liquid oxygen for industrial use

IMPACT: Will increase daily

medical oxygen supply by over 20%



3 Major ports told to give priority to berthing of ships carrying oxygen, waive off charges

IMPACT: Will speed up supply of medical grade oxygen, oxygen tanks, bottles, portable generators, concentrators and certain types of pipes

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has ordered that the facilities be made operational at the earliest.
- ✓ The 551 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) units are in addition to the 162 announced earlier, for which over ₹200 crore was sanctioned.
- ✓ Of these 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption plants, 33 have been installed.
- ✓ Fifty-nine of these plants are to be installed by April end and eighty are to be installed in May.
- ✓ Further, industries, steel units and oil refineries have been asked to restrict the use of liquid oxygen, including existing stock, and divert it for medical purposes.

- ✓ This move is expected to add around 1,500 tonnes to the daily supply, which was estimated around 6,600 tonnes
 - ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs recently announced that India is to import 50,000 million tonnes of medical oxygen
 - ✓ Liquid oxygen is a highly pure product compared to industrial oxygen.
 - ✓ PM-CARES is Prime Minister Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations
- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - recently notified eight items to be regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.**
- ✓ They are Bone Marrow Cell Separator, X-Ray machine, Dialysis machine, PET Equipment, Defibrillators, MRI Equipment, CT Scan Equipment and All Implantable Medical Devices
 - ✓ The decision comes into effect on April 1, 2021 under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, the manufacturers and importers are required to take manufacturing license from Central Licensing Authority or State Licensing Authority.
 - ✓ In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the medical equipment will be qualified as “Drugs” under Section 3 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Gambia - recently became the second African country to eliminate Trachoma, one of the leading causes of blindness.**
- ✓ Ghana was the first African country to eliminate Trachoma in 2018.
 - ✓ Trachoma is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases caused by bacterium, Chlamydia trachomatis.
 - ✓ It is an eye infection that damages the eye lids and leads to irreversible vision loss and blindness if not corrected with surgery.
 - ✓ Trachoma is caused due to poor environmental and personal hygiene.
 - ✓ More than 40 African countries are still affected by this infection, even though globally a reduction of 90% of this disease is reported since 2000
 - ✓ Trachoma is caused by bacterium, Chlamydia trachomatis.
 - ✓ The World Health Organisation launched a roadmap of global targets to eradicate 20 Neglected Tropical Diseases including Trachoma by 2030.
 - ✓ India became free from Trachoma in 2017.
 - ✓ According to the National Trachoma Survey Report, the overall prevalence of Trachoma was 0.7% in the country.
 - ✓ This is much below the elimination criteria defined by the World Health Organisation.

- **Turkey – recently banned the use of crypto currencies and crypto assets like ‘bitcoin’ for purchases of goods and services.**
- ✓ The ban also prohibits companies from handling electronic fund transfers that involve crypto currency platforms.
- ✓ The Turkish central bank has stated that using cryptocurrencies may cause non-recoverable losses for the parties to the transactions.
- ✓ According to the Turkish Government, it was finding it difficult to monitor and control the market volatility and illegal activities in the crypto currency market.
- ✓ Turkey’s decision comes after Royal Motors, which distributes Rolls-Royce and Lotus cars in the country became the first to announce that it would accept payments in cryptocurrencies.
- ✓ Globally, giants such as Apple, Amazon and Expedia also accept such payments.
- ✓ In India, no company has officially announced that it will accept cryptocurrencies as payment.
- ✓ However, over 7 million investors are believed to have put more than \$1 billion in cryptocurrencies in India.
- ✓ Earlier, Morocco has also announced ban of the crypto currencies before Turkey

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The Union Cabinet - recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Director General of Trade Remedies of India and Trade and Tariff Commission of Bangladesh.**
- ✓ The agreement was signed on March 27 to increase the cooperation in the area of trade remedies.
- ✓ It aims to promote exchange of information, trade remedies and other activities in accordance with the provisions of World Trade Organisation.
- ✓ The pact focuses mainly on countervailing, anti-dumping and safeguard measures in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The countervailing duties, also called CVDs or anti-subsidy duties are import tariffs.
- ✓ They are imposed to nullify the adverse effects of subsidies.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- On April 25, the NASA’s Ingenuity helicopter - flew for the third time in Mars successfully, making records in terms of speed and distance



- ✓ Further, the mini helicopter clicked first aerial colour picture of the Red planet
 - ✓ The Perseverance rover, which carried the 1.8 kilograms-rotorcraft to Mars, filmed the 80-second third flight
 - ✓ On this flight, the helicopter covered 50 meters of distance, reaching the speed of two meters per second in this latest flight.
 - ✓ The helicopter rose to five metres, which is the same altitude as that of its second flight.
 - ✓ NASA announced it is now preparing for a fourth flight in the Martian atmosphere, which is filled with CO₂, posing the biggest challenge for the helicopter
 - ✓ The Ingenuity experiment will end in one month in order to let Perseverance return to its main task of searching for signs of past microbial life on Mars.
 - ✓ The Mission includes Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter.
- **China's first Mars rover – has been named as 'Zhurong' after a traditional god of fire in ancient Chinese mythology**
- ✓ The 240 kilogram solar-powered Zhurong rover is part of the Tianwen-1 mission
 - ✓ Tianwen-1 was launched in Long March 5 heavy lift launch vehicle.
 - ✓ It was launched in July 2020 and arrived in orbit around Mars in February 2021.
 - ✓ The rover carries panoramic and multispectral cameras and instruments to analyze the composition of rocks
 - ✓ Zhurong is expected to land in mid-May 2021 at Utopia Planitia, a rock-strewn plain where the U.S. lander Viking 2 touched down in 1976.
 - ✓ The Tianwen-1 mission aims at analysing and mapping the Martian surface and geology, looking for water ice and studying the climate and surface environment.
 - ✓ China would become the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars
 - ✓ The Mission was the second of the three space missions sent to Mars in 2020.
 - ✓ The other missions being the "Hope Orbiter" by United Arab Emirates and Perseverance Rover and Ingenuity helicopter by US
 - ✓ In 2019, China became the first country to land a space probe on the little explored far side of the moon.
 - ✓ The probe returned to the earth in December with lunar rocks for the first time since 1970s.
- **The Astronomers – have recently discovered the smallest black holes called 'Unicorn' at a distance of 1,500 light years away from the earth.**
- ✓ It is the closest of all the black holes found so far.
 - ✓ The Unicorn is three times the mass of the sun and is tiny, considering the standards of black holes
 - ✓ Even though the black holes are generally not visible, the Unicorn was located by tracking the changes in the red giant star
 - ✓ The black hole was discovered through an effect called Tidal Distortion.

- ✓ A Black Hole is a region in space where the gravity pull is so high and represents the final stages of a star

DEFENCE

- **On April 25, India and France - kicked off their major 'Varuna' naval exercise in the Arabian Sea**
 - ✓ The three-day Varuna exercise will serve as a step towards promoting maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - ✓ The exercise involves high tempo-naval operations at sea, including advanced air defence and antisubmarine exercises, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations, tactical manoeuvres, surface and anti-air weapon firings, among other maritime security operations
 - ✓ India has deployed guided missile stealth destroyer INS Kolkata, stealth frigates INS Tarkash and INS Talwar, fleet support ship INS Deepak, with Seaking-42B and Chetak integral helicopters, as well as a Kalvari-class diesel-electric submarine and P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft for the exercise.
 - ✓ Earlier this month, India and France joined the US, Japan and Australia in the 'France plus Quad' La Perouse wargames in the Bay of Bengal
 - ✓ France has deployed its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle with its Rafale-M naval jets for the exercise
 - ✓ Apart from the aircraft carrier, France has fielded air defence destroyer Chevalier Paul, multi-mission frigate FNS Provence and command and supply ship Var, apart from E2C Hawkeye aircraft and helicopters.
- **On April 25, the Navy - kicked off an 'Oxygen Express' ferry to the country's island territories in the southern part of the country**



- ✓ As part of the initiative, a warship was despatched from Kochi to Lakshadweep with oxygen cylinders and medical supplies
- ✓ Patrol vessel INS Sharda transported 35 oxygen cylinders, rapid antigen detection test kits, personal protective equipment, masks and other equipment to Kavaratti.
- ✓ Later, INS Sharda then went to Minicoy to deliver the supplies

- ✓ Moreover, 41 empty oxygen cylinders from the islands have been embarked onboard Indian Navy-hired vessel Meghna.
- ✓ The vessel is now headed to Kochi for refilling of the empty cylinders and will then return to Lakshadweep.
- ✓ The Navy has also placed its air station INS Garuda on alert to transport patients on helicopters from the islands if required.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the nine defence PSUs and the 41 factories under the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) are extending all possible medical help to civil administrations in their respective areas

ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India - recently set up a committee to study about the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) in the country.**
- ✓ The committee will evaluate the role of ARCs in debt resolution and will review their business model.
- ✓ The Committee is headed by former RBI Executive director Sudarshan Sen.
- ✓ It will review the legal and regulatory framework of ARCs and recommend measures to improve their efficacy.
- ✓ The Committee will also review the role of ARC in stressed asset resolution under the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code).
- ✓ The regulatory guidelines for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) were issued under the SARFAESI Act in 2003.
- ✓ The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act was enacted in 2002.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India had recently announced under its Monetary Policy Committee decisions that it will review the working of ARCs in the country.

OBITUARY

- **Classical singer Rajan Mishra (70 years)**



- ✓ Ranjan Mishra of the Banaras gharana died of heart complications along with Covid-19 in Delhi on April 25.
- ✓ A recipient of Padma Bhushan, he was part of the famed vocalist brother duo of 'Pandit Rajan Sajan Mishra'.

- ✓ Trained in the khayal style of Indian classical music, Rajan and his younger brother Sajan performed extensively in India and abroad.
 - ✓ Their first performance abroad was at a concert in Sri Lanka in 1978, before they toured countries across the world, including Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, the US, the UK, The Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Qatar and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The brother duo was conferred with Padma Bhushan in 2007, Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1998, Gandharwa National Award in 1994-1995 and the National Tansen Samman in 2011-12.
- **Sitting Supreme Court judge Mohan M Shantanagoudar (63 years) - passed away after a prolonged battle against cancer on April 24.**



- ✓ Justice Shantanagoudar had enrolled as an advocate in 1980 and quickly built a good practice in civil and criminal cases.
- ✓ He was appointed as a judge of Karnataka HC on May 12, 2003.
- ✓ He was appointed chief justice of Kerala HC on September 22, 2016, and was appointed to the SC on February 17, 2017.
- ✓ Justice Shantanagoudar is the 13th SC judge, including two CJIs, to die in office.
- ✓ The first one was the first CJI, Harilal Jekisundas Kania, on November 6, 1951.
- ✓ The other CJI who died in office was Sabyasachi Mukherjee on September 25, 1990.
- ✓ With Justice Shantanagoudar's death, the SC now has 27 judges against a sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.

SPORTS

- **Indian women - won the gold medal in the recurve team event in the World Cup Stage I at Sport Complex Los Arcos in Guatemala City on April 25.**



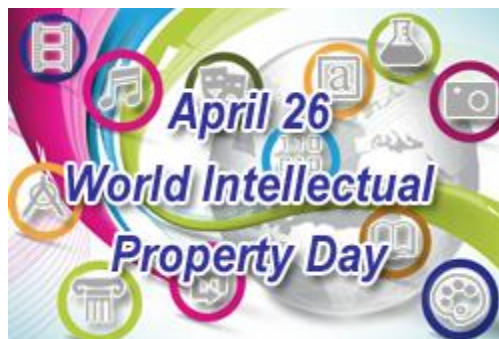
- ✓ The women's trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari defeated the Mexican trio of Ana Vazquez, Alejandra Valentina and Aida Roman in the summit clash, winning narrowly 5-4.

RANKINGS

- **The Department of Science and Technology - recently launched the National Climate Vulnerability Report.**
- ✓ According to the report, eight Eastern States in the country are highly vulnerable to climate change.
- ✓ Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar have more than 60% of districts in the category of "highly vulnerable districts".
- ✓ Jharkhand received the highest vulnerable index of 0.67 while Maharashtra received the lowest vulnerability index of 0.42.
- ✓ Jharkhand was followed by Mizoram, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal in the category of "Relatively highly vulnerable states".
- ✓ Apart from Maharashtra, the other comparatively least vulnerable states - Goa, Nagaland, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana - were named as the "Relatively Low Vulnerable states"
- ✓ Further, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Punjab and Uttarakhand were categorized under "Relatively Moderately vulnerable states"

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Intellectual Property Day - April 26**



- ✓ The day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property and the impact of copyright, patents, designs and trademarks in our routine life.
- ✓ Theme 2021- 'IP and SMEs: Taking your ideas to market'
- ✓ The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organisation in 2000.
- ✓ The day April 26 was chosen to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day as the "Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation" entered into force on this day.

- ✓ The proposal to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day was first initiated by China.
- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Organisation is one of the fifteen specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- ✓ It was established in 1967 and entered into force in 1970.
- ✓ India is a member of WIPO.

➤ **Anzac Day – April 25**



- ✓ The day is celebrated in Australia and New Zealand as a national day of remembrance
- ✓ The day commemorates all the New Zealanders and Australians who died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations
- ✓ ANZAC refers to 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps'.
- ✓ The day was originally observed to honour the members of New Zealand and Australian armies who served in the Gallipoli Campaign.
- ✓ It was the first military campaign of First World War that took place in Gallipoli peninsula between 1915 and 1916.
- ✓ The Gallipoli campaign was launched to capture Constantinople and knock the Ottoman Empire out of war.
- ✓ The Armies of New Zealand and Australia landed on April 25, 1915 and met fierce resistance from the Ottoman Empire
- ✓ The Gallipoli Campaign dragged for eight months without much success

