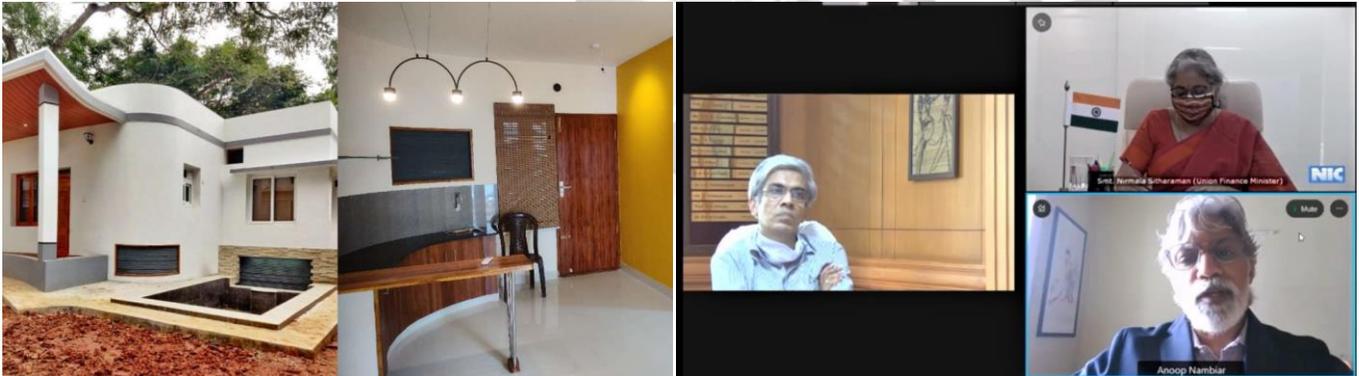


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 28, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- The country's first 3D printed house built by IIT Madras startup 'Tvasta' - was inaugurated on the IIT-M campus virtually by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on April 27.



- ✓ The house, which has a built-up area of 600 square feet, consists of a bedroom, a hall and a kitchen.
- ✓ It has been designed using specialized software and printed using concrete 3D printing technology.
- ✓ The machine for constructing this house can be rented, like borewells rented by farmers.
- ✓ Using this technology, a new house can be built in five days against four or five months in conventional mode.
- ✓ Further, the cost of the house can be reduced by around 30% and life of the building can exceed 50 years.
- ✓ This technology digitizes the construction by using automated manufacturing methods to build real-life structures.
- ✓ In this method, the green strength of concrete is achieved in a few minutes against 21 days or more in the traditional method.

- ✓ The technique uses a concrete 3D printer which accepts a computerized three-dimensional design file from the user and fabricates a 3D structure by extruding a specialized type of concrete specifically designed for the purpose.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has decided not to engage people with comorbidities and those aged above 55 years under MGNREGA scheme.**
- ✓ The government had issued a direction to collectors asking them not to engage persons with symptoms of Covid-19 for the work.
- ✓ In case any workers test positive, it should be taken to the notice of the collector and the health department immediately.
- ✓ Further, the workers have to be engaged in small group of 5 to 10 as per physical distancing norms and provided with masks
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, MGNREGA extend livelihood opportunities for the rural population
- ✓ The scheme disbursed around ₹180 crore per week to keep the rural economy stable during the pandemic last year.
- ✓ According to official estimates, more than 1.23 crore workers registered under the scheme.
- ✓ Of them, 83 lakh were active workers.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On April 27, the Supreme Court - permitted Vedanta to operate its oxygen production plant at its Sterlite copper smelting unit in Tuticorin**
- ✓ The plant was lying closed for three years after violent protests triggered by serious health hazards from its discharges
- ✓ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud, L N Rao and S R Bhat granted the permission on a standalone basis to balance the scarcity of oxygen for Covid-19 patients across the country.
- ✓ The SC set up a committee headed by the Tuticorin collector to monitor the operation.
  - ✓ It will include two environmentalists chosen by local organisations representing victims of noxious discharge by the copper smelting plant
  - ✓ The SC-appointed monitoring committee will also include the superintendent of police of Tuticorin, the sub-collector and district environment engineer.
- ✓ The unit would be operational within 10 days and start producing around 200 tonnes of oxygen.
- ✓ The plant would buy electricity from the state government to operate the oxygen producing unit
- ✓ It will give the gas free of cost to the Union government for distribution among states.
- ✓ In due course, the plant would aim to produce 1,000 tonnes of oxygen and give it also free of cost.

- ✓ Earlier, the state government called an all-party meeting and consulted the local population before agreeing to open the oxygen production unit
- ✓ The entire production of oxygen at the Tuticorin plant would be handed over to the central pool to help meet the current demand in the country.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On April 27, Sri Lanka's cabinet - approved a proposed ban on wearing full-face veils, including Muslim burqas in public, citing national security grounds**



- ✓ The proposal will now be sent to the attorney general and must be approved by parliament to become law.
- ✓ The government holds a majority in parliament and the proposal could easily be passed.
- ✓ Burqas, a garment that covers the body and face worn by some Muslim women, was seen as a sign of religious extremism in Sri Lanka and a ban was meant to improve national security.
- ✓ Wearing of burqas was temporarily banned in 2019 after Easter Sunday bomb attacks killed more than 260 people.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, tweeted that a ban would be incompatible with international law and the right to free religious expression.
- ✓ Muslims make up about 9% of Sri Lanka's 22 million people, with Buddhists accounting for over 70%.

## OBITUARY

- **Writer and Padma Bhushan awardee, Manoj Das (87 years) of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram - passed away after prolonged illness on April 27**
- ✓ Das taught English literature and philosophy at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education.
- ✓ He was bestowed the country's third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contribution in the field of English literature and philosophy.



- ✓ He had been awarded the Padma Shri in 2001.
- ✓ Born in Odisha's Balasore district of Orissa, Das wrote both in English and Odia.
- ✓ His literary works include short stories, novelettes, travelogues, recounting of myths and legends, essays and columns and articles discussing current events.
- ✓ The writer embraced a spiritual life when he was a professor of English literature in Odisha in his mid-twenties.
- ✓ It was then Das was introduced to writings of Sri Aurobindo.
- ✓ He and his wife Pratijna Devi joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry in 1963.
- ✓ Pratijna Devi passed away in 2018.

