

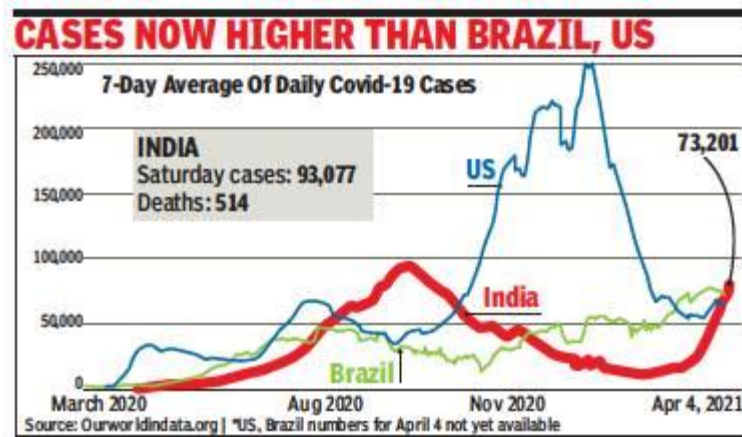
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 4, 2021

STATES

- **The Government of Haryana – has recently amended the ‘Rules of Procedure and conduct of business’ in the State Legislative Assembly**
- ✓ The state government has added several new provisions to maintain the decorum of the State Assembly
- ✓ The amendments have been carried out based on the recommendations made by the committee constituted by the Speaker of the Haryana State Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ According to the new rules, at least two ministers should be present at every sitting of the house.
- ✓ The members shall not tear off the documents in the House in protest.
- ✓ Further, the question asked by the members during the sitting of the house shall not contain more than 150 words for better clarity
- ✓ The new rules have also modified the definition of the Leader of Opposition in the state assembly
- ✓ According to the new definition, the Leader of Opposition is the leader of the legislative party with largest number of members other than the party that has formed the government.

NATIONAL

- **India – records the world’s highest number of daily Covid-19 infections and moves towards touching the all-time peak in the country**
- ✓ On April 2, India’s daily cases at close to 89,000 were the highest in the world, ahead of the US (70,024) and Brazil (69,662).
- ✓ This was the first day since October last year when India’s cases were the highest in the world.
- ✓ The daily infections touched a new peak on April 3 after recording 93,077 fresh cases, with deaths crossing 500 for the first time in four months
- ✓ This was the highest single-day tally of cases since September 19



- ✓ The highest daily count ever recorded in the country was 98,795, which was reported on September 17 last year.
- ✓ The worst rise of the pandemic continued in Maharashtra, which reported 49,447 fresh cases, its third new all-time peak in just three days.
- **The Centre – has notified the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 (NPRD) on March 31.**
 - ✓ The policy provides financial support of up to ₹20 lakh under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for the treatment of rare diseases (RD) listed under group 1
 - ✓ The financial assistance would be provided to all BPL families for their treatment in government tertiary hospitals.
 - ✓ Further, the beneficiaries would also include those falling under the eligibility norms of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, thereby covering about 40% of the population
 - ✓ However, the NPRD does not provide any financial support for patients of Group 3 diseases, which have a definite treatment but is life-long and expensive.
 - ✓ Further, the government is planning to set up a crowd-funding platform where volunteers, both corporate and individuals, can donate money for the treatment of lifelong diseases
 - ✓ For such patients, the drug dose and cost increase with age and weight.
 - ✓ As per WHO, diseases that affect less than 5 people per 10,000 are referred to as rare, and globally, there are about 7,000-8,000 such diseases
 - ✓ Rare diseases impact about 7 crore Indians.
- **The Indian Railways - has achieved the highest ever electrification of sections during 2020-21.**
 - ✓ It has covered 6,015 kilometres of electrification in a single year, which is 37% higher than the electrification achieved in 2019-20.
 - ✓ The electrification of Broad gauge network is around 71% of the total 63,949 kilometres
 - ✓ In the last seven years, the electrification of Indian Railways has increased by seven times.

- ✓ A total of 45,881 kilometres has been electrified in the last seven years, out of which around 34% was electrified in the last 3 years
 - ✓ Some of the major routes electrified in 2020-21 are Delhi-Darbhanga-Jaynagar, Mumbai-Howrah, Gorakhpur-Varanasi, Chennai-Trichy and Jabalpur-Nainpur-Gondia-Ballarshah.
 - ✓ India uses 25 KV 50 Hz AC traction on its electrified tracks, while DC traction is used for metros.
 - ✓ The first railway electrification in India began between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Kurla in 1925.
 - ✓ In 2017, Indian Railways announced that the entire rail network in the country is to be electrified by 2022, which was later extended to 2024.
 - ✓ The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) is the centralised agency for railway electrification of Indian Railways.
 - ✓ It was founded in 1961 with its headquarters located in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ Electric Locomotives are mainly manufactured in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works located in West Bengal.
 - ✓ Founded in 1950, it is the largest locomotive manufacturer in the world.
 - ✓ In 2019-20, it produced 431 locomotives.
- **The Ministry of Road Transport – has created the National Register for Driving Licenses to eradicate duplication of driving licenses in the country.**
- ✓ The states which are already on the SARATHI portal of National Informatics Centre have been instructed to migrate to the newly created national register.
 - ✓ The register will include separate section to show the names of the people whose driving licenses were revoked.
 - ✓ In India, around 1.5 lakh deaths occur every year due to road crashes
 - ✓ The register will also red-flag the driving licenses of the accident causing drivers
 - ✓ This will help to minimise rash driving in the country.
 - ✓ The eligibilities and rules to obtain a driving license have been provided under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- **The TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Government of India - have launched two contests for the tribal people.**
- ✓ They are “Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” and “Be a Friend of TRIBES INDIA” contest.
 - ✓ The contests were launched in association with MyGov.in.
 - ✓ These contests aim to promote tribal crafts, lifestyle and culture.
 - ✓ The ‘Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India’ contest invites stories featuring a tribal product, highlighting the experience of the customer in using it.
 - ✓ The ‘Be a “Friend” of TRIBES INDIA’ is a quiz contest on Indian culture.
 - ✓ Tribes constitute about 8% of Indian population.

- ✓ The TRIFED has launched the Van Dhan Yojana in 2018 to promote the minor forest produce by establishing Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.
- ✓ These kendras provide training facilities, infrastructure support, skill building support, working capital to the tribal population.
- ✓ In August 2020, TRIFED launched TRIFOOD project along with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ In March 2020, the Tech for Tribals scheme was launched to provide training to the forest produce gatherers.
- ✓ This scheme empowers the tribal entrepreneurs to run their business with marketable products.
- ✓ The Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyan was launched in association with UNICEF to educate the tribal population in Covid-19 related safety measures.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On March 31, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu - informed that the Indian Government has provided Nepali Rs. 800 crores of grant assistance for strengthening road infrastructure in the Terai region in Nepal.**
- ✓ The grant has been provided under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between both the countries
- ✓ Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, and Nepal Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Basant Kumar Nembang dedicated the Terai Roads built with the grant assistance of India to Nepalese.
- ✓ The Nepalese government has identified 10 priority roads to be built under the Indian Government funding of NR 800 crore.
- ✓ The road project in Nepal is executed under the 'Indian Government Funding and Government of Nepal implementation' modality.
- ✓ These roads are also called Hulaki Rajmarg and they connect major towns located on the East-West highway with the border of India and Nepal.
- ✓ The newly built roads have footpaths with railings, inhabitation areas, drainage network, road markings, road signage boards, road markings and culverts.

PERSONALITIES

- **Dubai-based British artist with Indian origins, Sacha Jafri – has donated the \$62 million he got for the 70 pieces of his painting to Dubai Cares, Unesco, Unicef and the Global Gift Foundation.**
- ✓ Jafri has spent twenty hours a day for seven months for painting 'The Journey of Humanity', the world's largest painting on canvas and the second most expensive by a living artist.
- ✓ The painting of the size of two football fields was created with hundreds of layers upon layers and 6,300 litres of paint



- ✓ Jafri became the Guinness World Record holder for the world's largest art canvas.
- ✓ The painting will be housed in a museum 'Abdoune' in Dubai, where he plans to fly in underprivileged children.
- ✓ Jafri's father was an ambassador, his last posting in the UK, where Jafri was born in 1977.
- ✓ Jafri also serves as the artist for the charity, The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, of Prince William

ECONOMY

- **The Ministry of Finance – recently announced that the businesses with annual turnover of more than Rs 5 crore will have to furnish six-digit HSN code on their tax invoices from April 1**
- ✓ The businesses with an annual turnover of less than five crore of rupees have to furnish four-digit HSN code
- ✓ Previously, the requirement was four digits and two digits respectively
- ✓ HSN code, standing for Harmonised System of Nomenclature, is a six-digit code that classifies various products under GST regime
- ✓ India adopted the HSN coding system in 1986 mainly to classify commodities for Customs and Central Excise
- ✓ World Customs Organization adopted the code in 1988
- ✓ The HSN code consists of 21 sections.
- ✓ India uses eight-digit HSN code.
 - ✓ The first two digits of the HSN code denote the chapter of the goods, while the next two digits denote headings in the chapter.
 - ✓ The rest of the code denotes the subheading.
- ✓ Indian dealers with an annual turnover of less than Rs 1.5 crore need not adopt HSN codes for their commodities.

- ✓ SAC Code is Services Accounting Code, which are used in invoices generated for the services delivered.
- ✓ These codes are issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ✓ In December 2020, the CBIC had made it mandatory to mention the eight digit HSN code in tax invoices for 49 chemical based products.

SPORTS

- **India - finished with two medals in the Asian Under-14 Online Team Chess Championship in the 'Open' category**



- ✓ The Indian 'A' team of International Masters Bharath Subramaniam of Tamil Nadu and Mumbai-based Raahil Mullick along with Candidates Masters Shahil Dey, Dev Shah and Souhardo Basak claimed the gold medal with 15 points, ahead of Iran
- ✓ The Indian 'B' team of CM Prraneeth Vuppala, Rohit S, Sreyas Payyappat, CM Tanmay Jain and Om Manish Kadam secured the Bronze medal
- ✓ Further, the Indians also won four individual medals with Prraneeth of India 'B' winning gold on the top board and 13-year-old Bharath of India 'A' bagging the silver in the second board.
- ✓ The teams are coached by Praful Zaveri, a chess trainer and founder of Indian Chess School Academy

