

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 20,2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On April 19, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced enhancement of pension to former MLAs and MLCs from the existing Rs.25,000 to Rs.30,000.**
  - ✓ The move will come into effect on the occasion of the centenary year celebrations of late chief minister M Karunanidhi in June.
  - ✓ Further, the CM announced that monthly family pensioners would get an enhanced sum of Rs.15,000 from the existing Rs.12,500.
  - ✓ The annual medical allowance will also be increased to Rs.75,000 from the existing Rs.50,000.
  
- **The state government - has reduced the discretionary grant sanctioned to governor to Rs.3 crore from the previous annual allocation of Rs.5 crore**
  - ✓ The grant has been reduced to Rs. 3 crore as the governor had incurred expenses to the tune of only Rs.2. 67 crore until the end of last fiscal
  - ✓ Intervening in the debate for the demand for grants for the finance department, finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said that state government funds given to the governor's discretionary fund would be audited to ensure accountability
  - ✓ The minister further said that the government will amend the provisions that no department should claim unspent amount in the next budget since it reflected the normal budgeting rule of spending power.
  - ✓ Further, the Minister announced that a committee led by the finance secretary will offer training to the government staff on the implementation of the Finance Code.
  - ✓ According to the Minister, the discretionary grant sanctioned by Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka governments was far less than Tamil Nadu.
  
- **For the first time in the state assembly, the number of announcements made by a minister during the demand for grants - crossed the 200-mark**

- ✓ On April 19, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P K Sekar Babu made 249 announcements of projects and schemes to be implemented in his department.
- ✓ Usually, announcements of other departments were given in the form of a booklet, while HR and CE Minister gave a diary containing announcements.
- ✓ According to the Minister, the Tamil Nadu government would create a separate wing to disseminate information on temples, major festivals, pujas and relevant particulars to devotees, using the latest technology
- ✓ Information on the temple properties, eviction of encroachments, amenities, etc., would be disseminated through the social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, said the Minister
- ✓ The Minister further announced an increase in the government's grant from this year from Rs 40, 000 to Rs 50,000 for the devotees taking up pilgrimage for the first time to Kailash Mansarovar, and Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 for devotees undertaking pilgrimage for the first time to Muktinath.
- ✓ A corpus fund will be established to provide financial support every year for the higher studies of 400 children of archakas working in temples under Oru kala puja (one puja a day) scheme.
- ✓ The monthly pension of Rs 3,000 for retired persons under the departmental pension scheme is enhanced to Rs 4,000, monthly family pension of Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 and an ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 during Pongal festival to retired employees were also announced
- ✓ Among other departments, Tourism Minister K Ramachandran announced that an annual state level Medical Value Travel Summit will be conducted in Chennai in association with various stakeholders to promote medical and wellness tourism.
  - ✓ A state-of-the-art convention centre will be constructed at the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) Beach Resort Complex, Mamallapuram, at a cost of Rs 20 crore
  - ✓ Further, TTDC's 30-acre island area at Muttukadu would be developed as a coastal tourism destination with various entertainment activities like adventure sports, bird watching decks and other amenities at a cost of Rs 5 crore
  - ✓ A detailed project report will be prepared to develop Kanyakumari as an eco-tourism destination at a cost of Rs 1 crore, said the Tourism Minister
- ✓ Art and Culture Minister Thangam Thennarasu said new degree courses in the disciplines of Nadhaswaram and Thavil would be introduced at the Tamil Nadu Government Music Colleges in Chennai and Thiruvaiyaru at a cost of Rs 18 lakh
- **NLC India Limited's mine I and II - secured the highest 5-star ratings among the lignite and coal-based open-cast mines in the nation during 2020-21 and 2021-22.**
- ✓ The Union coal ministry does the survey on around 200 open case mines and 150 underground mines and assesses them based on seven modules

- ✓ The modules include mining operation-related parameters, environment, adoption of technology and best mining practices, economic performances, rehabilitation and resettlement, employees/ workers compliance and safety and security.
- ✓ It awarded a 5-star rating only to 15 mines in 2020-21 and 18 in 2021-22.

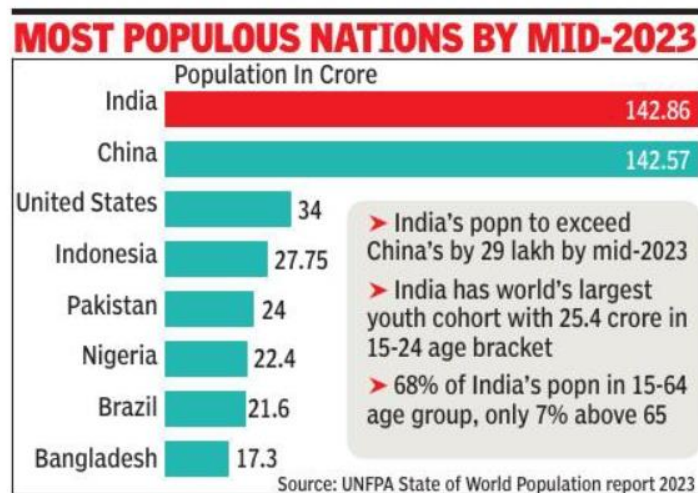
## **NATIONAL**

- **The National Testing Agency (NTA) - is scheduled to conduct the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) UG 2023 on May 7, 2023.**
- ✓ NTA has closed the registration process for over 1.4 lakh MBBS/BDS seats, including in private colleges
- ✓ A total of 20.8 lakh candidates applied for the NEET UG 2023, which includes 11.8 lakh female and 9 lakh male candidates
- ✓ Compared with last year, there is an increase of 2.57 lakh candidates or 11.5% in overall registered.
- ✓ As per the state wise data, the maximum number of registrations are from Maharashtra (2.77 lakh) and Uttar Pradesh (2.73 lakh).
- ✓ Apart from these states, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have crossed one lakh registrations.
- ✓ The category-wise break-up shows that the number of OBC candidates (8.9 lakh) is the highest among the reserved categories, followed by SC (over 3 lakh).
- ✓ There are 1.5 lakh candidates from the EWS category and 1.3 lakh ST candidates, while over 6 lakh candidates are in the 'General' category.
- ✓ NEET-UG is the qualifying entrance exam for admission to Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Ayurveda, Medicine, and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS), Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS), Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) and BSc (H) Nursing courses.
- **On April 19, the Union Cabinet - cleared the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 providing for harsher punishments for film piracy and introducing new age-group categories for classifying films**
- ✓ The Bill is expected to be introduced in the monsoon session of Parliament
- ✓ The Bill, aimed at curbing film piracy, is expected to impose stricter penalties for the offence.
- ✓ It will also curb the release of pirated versions which cause losses to the film industry.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to comprehensively address the issues relating to film certification and improve the procedure for certification of films for public exhibition by the Central Board of Film Certification

- ✓ It also introduces new age-based categorisations of certifications of films, dividing the existing UA category into three age-based categories of seven years (UA 7+), 13 years (UA 13+), and 16 years (UA 16+), in place of the previous 12 years.

## STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT

- **India - is expected to be the most populous country by the middle of this year and overtake China, according to the latest data from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).**
- ✓ The UNFPA has released 'The State of World Population Report, 2023', titled '8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: The Case for Rights and Choices' on April 19



- ✓ The demographic data from the report estimates India's population at 1,428.6 million or 1.4286 billion against 1.4257 billion for China by June-end this year.
  - ✓ The United States is a distant third, with an estimated population of 340 million, the data showed
- ✓ It will be the first time that India's population will overtake China's since 1950 when the UN began to collect and release population data.
- ✓ Last year, China remained the most populous country with an estimated 144.8 crore people while India's population was estimated at 140.6 crore.
  - ✓ Last year, China's population fell by 850,000 people for the first time in six decades, the first such decline since 1961.
  - ✓ In 1950, India was at 86.1 crore, while China was at 114.4 crore.
- ✓ The UNFPA report said 25% of India's population is in the age group of 0-14, 18% in 10-19, 26% in 10-24, 68% in 15-64, and 7% above 65.
- ✓ Alternatively, 17% of China's population falls within the age group of 0-14, 12% in the age group of 10-19, 18% in the age group of 10-24, 69% in the age group of 15-64, and 14% above the age of 65.
- ✓ According to the report, the average life expectancy at birth for males in India is 71 years while for females it is 74 years
- ✓ China has fared better than India in the context of life expectancy, which remains at 82 in the case of women and 76 that of men.

- ✓ India's total fertility rate (births per woman in the reproductive age) is estimated at 2.0.
- ✓ New Delhi is the most populated city in India with 30 million inhabitants in and around NCR
- ✓ Delhi is followed by Mumbai (20 million), Kolkata (15 million) and Bengaluru (12 million).
- ✓ As per the report, eight countries —Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania —will account for half the projected growth in population by 2050

