

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 10, 2022

TAMIL NADU

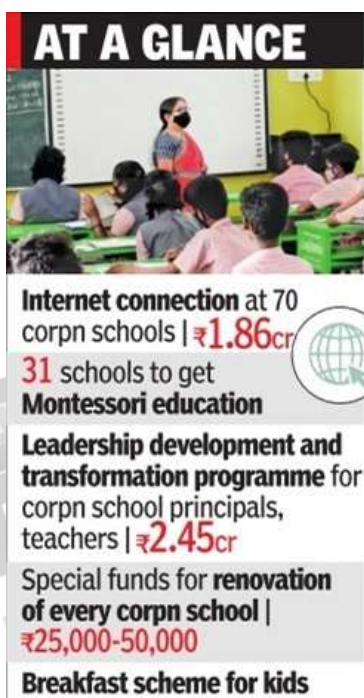
- Greater Chennai Corporation's mayor, R. Priya presented her first budget of the Greater Chennai Corporation for the year 2022-2023 at the Council Hall in Ripon Buildings on April 9



- ✓ With the budget presentation, Mayor R. Priya also became the first women Dalit Mayor to present the budget for the civic body.
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation budget, passed by an elected council after six years, focused more on strengthening and funding existing projects rather than announcing new projects.
- ✓ Fundamental areas like health, education, storm water drains and solid waste management received priority treatment in the budget
- ✓ The estimated revenue receipts for the year 2022-23 is Rs 2,824.77 crore and revenue expenditure was at Rs 3,613.35 crore, leading to the deficit of Rs 789 crore in the budget
- ✓ Some of the important announcements made by the Mayor during the budget presentation are highlighted below:-

Education

- ✓ School leadership development transformation programme for corporation school principals and seniors teachers to be carried out at a cost of Rs 2.45 crore.
- ✓ Youth parliament sessions will be held in Chennai corporation schools to spread awareness about the proceedings that happen in the Parliament
- ✓ All Chennai corporation schools will have spoken English classes from now on. At present, students are being trained in spoken English in 20 schools.
- ✓ City corporation schools will have gender-equality group activities to inculcate the spirit of equality among students.



- ✓ The city corporation has been offering breakfast to corporation school students in 23 schools on a trial basis through NGOs.
- ✓ CCTV cameras will be set up in schools at the cost of Rs 5.47 crore
- ✓ Girl students will be given sanitary napkins under Nirbhaya Funds at the cost of Rs 23.66 crore
- ✓ Training in martial arts will be provided in schools, focusing on girl students and further Rs 6.9 crore is allotted for upskilling of the students
- ✓ Montessori method of teaching will be introduced in 31 Chennai corporation schools
- ✓ The corporation, which runs 119 primary schools, 92 middle schools, 38 high schools and 32 higher secondary schools, has allocated Rs 1. 86 crore for internet connections in 70 high and higher secondary schools
- ✓ Each school principal will be granted an imprest amount for carrying out minor repairs in schools, to ensure the infrastructure is on a par with private institutions
- ✓ Further, Rs 16. 3 crore was allocated for building renovation and maintenance, Rs 25 crore under CITIIS project to improve corporation schools and an additional

Rs 50 crore to be used from Singara Chennai 2.0 funds for providing better classrooms and hi-tech labs in 23 schools.

Health

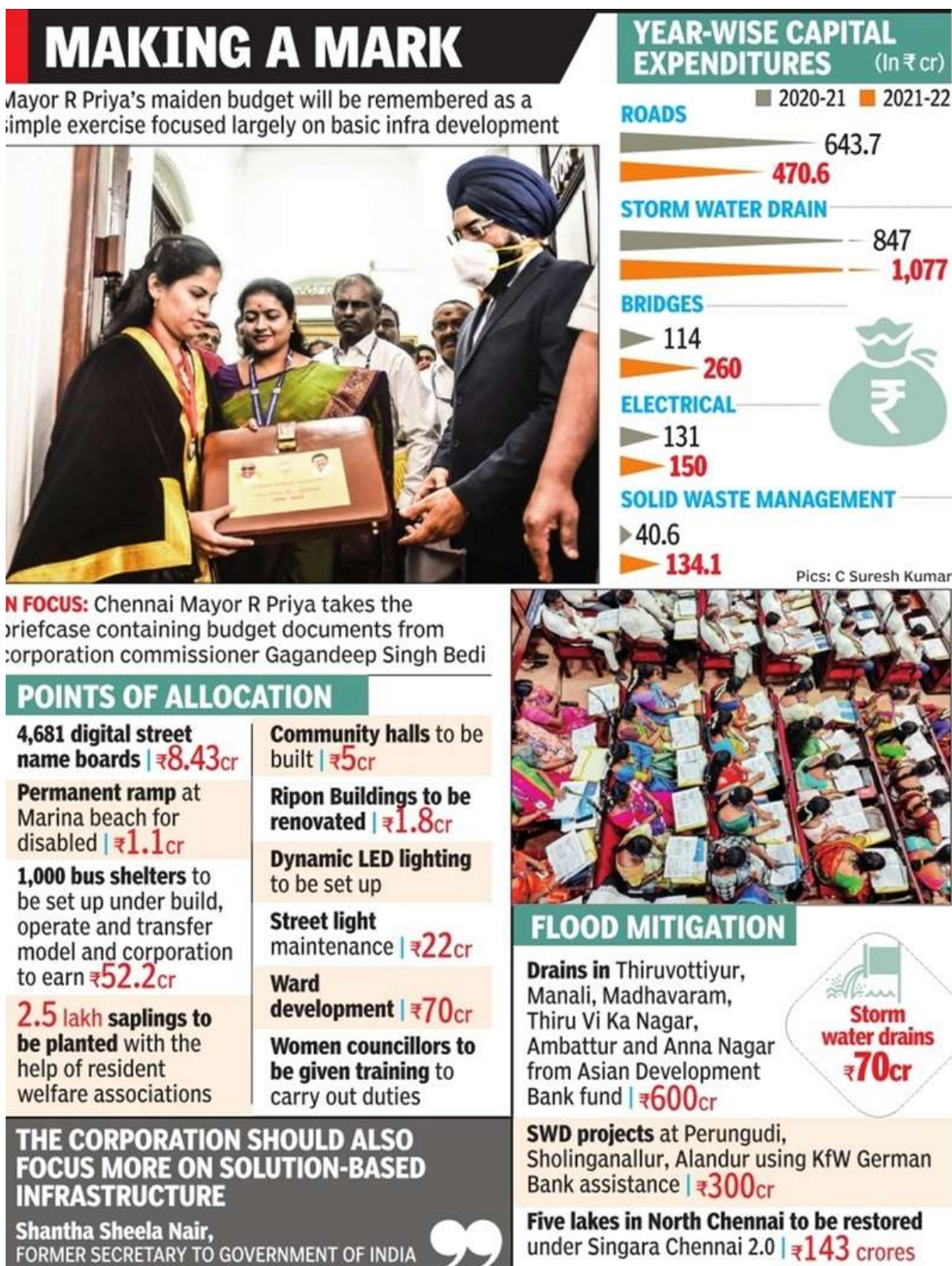
- ✓ Chennai Corporation to open three dialysis centres at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore and this will be expanded to all other zones at a later stage.
- ✓ Special medical camps will be held once in every three months for all Chennai corporation sanitary staff to diagnose and treat health issues in the early stage
- ✓ The city corporation has also planned to increase outpatients to its hospitals and health centres by 10%.



Civic facilities

- ✓ The budget has allotted Rs 70 crore towards the councillors' development fund for the 200 wards across Chennai.
- ✓ In addition to this, Rs 2 crore for the mayor's development fund has also been earmarked.
- ✓ Councillors ward development fund has been increased to Rs. 35 lakh from Rs. 30 lakh to carry out basic development work in their respective ward.
- ✓ Women councillors to be given training to carry out duties
- ✓ To make payment of property tax easier, QR codes, kiosks and provisions to pay online through 'Namma Chennai' app will be created
- ✓ Chennai residents can soon pay industrial tax, get building approval through Namma Chennai app
- ✓ WhatsApp business account for the GCC will be created
- ✓ The corporation will establish three new shelters for homeless this year at an estimated cost of Rs 2.4 crore
- ✓ An amount of Rs 32 crore has been allocated for refurbishing hundreds of public toilets across the city
- ✓ A funding of Rs 4.62 crore allotted to procure drones to spray mosquito larvicide on waterbodies

- ✓ An allocation of Rs 80 lakh was announced to set up dog control centres to reduce the stray dog menace in Chennai.



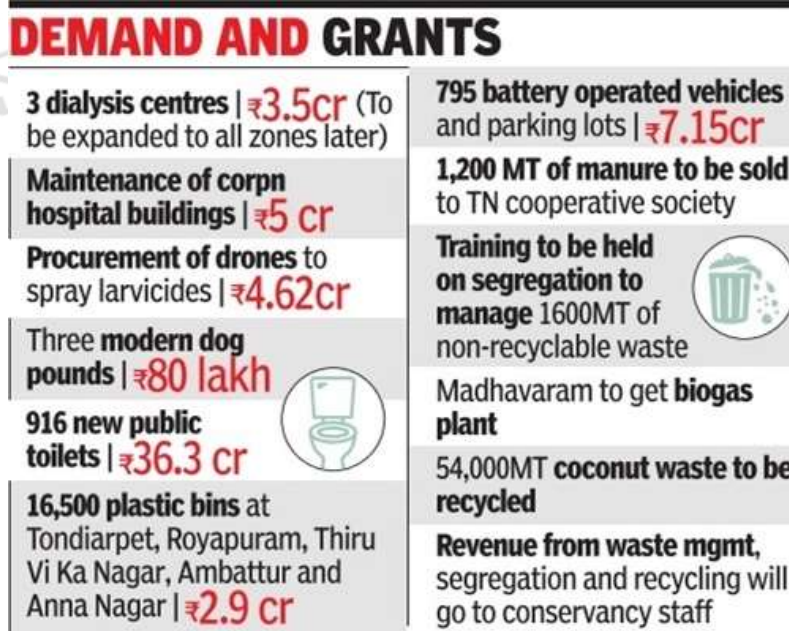
- ✓ A total of 16,500 plastic bins to be procured at a cost of Rs 2.90 crore for the five zones maintained by Chennai corporation (Tondiarpet, Royapuram, Thiruvika Nagar, Ambattur and Anna Nagar).

- ✓ Chennai Corporation to procure 795 battery-operated vehicles for garbage conservancy.
- ✓ Under AMRUT scheme, tanks and lakes including Manali lake, Sathangadu lake, Sadaiyankuppam lake are to be maintained at a cost of Rs 143 crore
- ✓ In case of storm water drain projects, the budget for this year allocated Rs 1,235 crore, as against Rs 847 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1,000 crore in 2021-22



Waste management, Green environment and Recycling efforts

- ✓ The corporation has planned to sell around 1,200 metric tonnes of manure to the Tamil Nadu cooperative society during the year.
- ✓ Biogas plant in Madhavaram will be opened soon.
- ✓ Around 54,000 metric tonnes of coconut waste to be recycled and sold to Tamil Nadu cooperative society



- ✓ Training to be held on reusing 2,600 metric tonnes of non-recyclable waste by processing and sending them to cement plants

- ✓ All the revenue from solid waste management and recycling will be distributed to the sanitary workers as allowances
- ✓ The city will also get 50 Metric Ton capacity incinerators to handle 16,500 tonnes of non-recyclable waste to reduce the quantum of garbage ending up in landfills.

Singara Chennai 2.0

- ✓ Under Singara Chennai 2.0, 4,681 street signboards will be converted into digital boards at a cost of Rs 8.43 crore.
 - ✓ In Chennai, 26 water fountains will be set up in various zones, including one on GST Road, Koyambedu 100 feet road, and Haddows Road at Rs 1.29 crore.
 - ✓ To bring in advertisement revenue of Rs 52.26 crore, 1,000 bus shelters will be constructed or renovated under the Built, Operate and Transfer model.
 - ✓ The ramp erected at Marina Beach to help people with disabilities reach the sea will be turned into a permanent structure
 - ✓ Around 2,50,000 saplings will be planted in OSR lands and riverside areas of Adyar and Cooum
 - ✓ Of the Rs 23 crore allocated to the Corporation headquarters, Rs 1.81 crore will go to set up dynamic lighting for Ripon Buildings.
 - ✓ The allocation for the parks and playgrounds department which usually stood between Rs 80 to Rs 100 crore in earlier budgets has now been reduced to Rs 16 crore and that too for maintenance
- **The 164-year-old University of Madras - will start its first-ever undergraduate degree programme Blended Bachelor of Science (B.BSc) from the 2022-23 academic year.**
- ✓ The curriculum for the degree will be given by the University of Melbourne in Australia, which is ranked 33 among the world universities.
 - ✓ On April 11, officials of both universities, including S. Gowri, Vice-Chancellor of University of Madras will sign a letter of intent for the new course
 - ✓ Students will study physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology and practical courses during the first four semesters and any one of the three major disciplines, physics, chemistry or mathematics, during the last two semesters.
 - ✓ On request, professors of the University of Melbourne will offer some courses online.
 - ✓ The evaluation and academic audit would be done by the University of Melbourne
 - ✓ Irrespective of the major disciplines chosen by the students in the final two- semesters, they will get equivalence to BSc degree such as BSc physics, chemistry and maths by Melbourne University.
 - ✓ With the equivalent degree from a top ranked university, the students will also be eligible to directly join research programmes like MS or PhD in foreign universities.
 - ✓ The course will be offered at Guindy campus of the University of Madras.

- **The school education department - has allowed the disabled candidates to use assistive devices such as video magnifier, talking calculator, braille map, tailor frame, abacus, and computers to write exams from May 2022.**
- ✓ The directorate of government examinations (DGE) will permit the candidates to use these devices as per the doctor's recommendation.
- ✓ The move seeks to provide relief to more than 16,000 disabled candidates set to appear for Class X, XI and XII state board exams this year
- ✓ As per the order issued by school education secretary Kakarla Usha, the DGE will extend the facilities given by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to differently-abled candidates as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Union ministry of social justice's guidelines.

WHAT'S NEW

➤ Disabled students allowed to use following assistive devices for upcoming exams based on medical advice: Video magnifier, portable video magnifier, talking calculator, braille map, and computer devices



➤ Candidates are allowed to use lab assistants for practical exams. Students with locomotor disability, visual and hearing impairment can opt for multiple choice questions instead of practical exams

- ✓ Further, differently-abled candidates including blind, deaf and mute appearing for Class X, XI and XII exams can seek a lab assistant for practical exams.
- ✓ The candidates will be given the option to write multiple-choice questions in place of practical exams in science subjects.
- ✓ Students can submit a copy of their unique disability identity card to get the facilities and extra time.
- ✓ As per the order, differently-abled students will get 20 minutes more for one hour tests, 50 minutes more for a two-and-a-half hour tests and 60 minutes more for three-hour tests as compensatory time.

STATES


- **The Uttar Pradesh government - has ordered to include pensioner's daughter, whose divorce proceedings started during his lifetime, among eligible nominees for the family pension.**
- ✓ In such cases, she would start getting pension from date of divorce.
- ✓ Earlier, only those daughters who had been divorced or widowed during the lifetime of a pensioner or their spouses would meet the eligibility criteria.
- ✓ The Central government had already included divorced daughters in the list of candidates eligible for family pension.
- ✓ Now, the Uttar Pradesh government has also issued a GO in this regard on April 7, 2022.

- **The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – have agreed to provide a loan of Rs 7,500 crore (\$1 billion) for the Gujarat government’s ambitious “Mission School of Excellence” project**
- ✓ Under the project, the state government will spend Rs 10,000 crore in the next five years and cover all 35,133 government and 5,847 grant-in-aid schools in the state.
- ✓ The funds will be spent on building 50,000 new classrooms, creating 1.5 lakh smart classrooms, 20,000 new computer labs and 5,000 tinkering labs in 41,000-odd government and grant-in-aid schools across the state.
- ✓ It is estimated that nearly one crore school students will benefit directly from this ambitious project that aims to improve the quality of education in Gujarat
- ✓ A delegation from the World Bank visited Gandhinagar recently to study the School of Excellence project to check if it can be declared as “global best practice”

NATIONAL

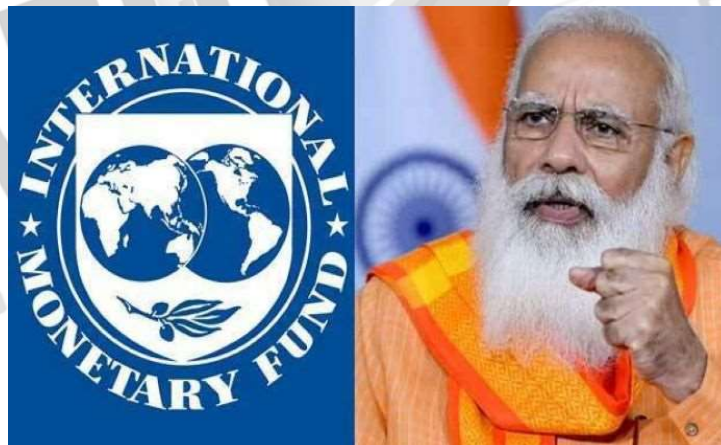
- **On April 9, the Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech - reduced prices of Covishield and Covaxin supplied for private hospitals to ₹225 a dose**
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Centre capped service charge for administration of the jabs at these hospitals at ₹150 a dose, over and above the cost of the vaccines.
- ✓ In guidelines issued to states and UTs for administration of booster shots in private hospitals and clinics, the Centre said they will have to mandatorily declare the price per dose chargeable by them on CoWin portal

BB TO MAKE UP PRICE DIFFERENCE

<p>➤ With SII and Bharat Biotech both slashing prices, a booster dose should cost ₹375 at pvt centres – ₹225 for the vaccine and ₹150 service charge</p> <p>➤ Many private hospitals say they have already procured the vaccines at higher prices – ₹600 for Covishield and ₹1,200 for Covaxin – and will raise the matter with the govt</p> <p>➤ Bharat Biotech has agreed to compensate hospitals for price difference on existing stock</p>	 <p>➤ Eligible individuals can make online appointments or walk in to receive doses. CoWin will issue alerts, and vaccinations will be recorded on the website</p>
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- ✓ At present, each dose of Covishield is priced at Rs 600 and Covaxin at Rs 1,200, excluding GST, at private centres.
- ✓ India has administered a total of 185.60 crore doses of Covid vaccines so far.
- ✓ Out of this, Covishield accounted for 83.3%, whereas Covaxin’s share was about 16%.

- ✓ According to health ministry guidelines, eligible individuals of 18 to 59 age group can book online appointments as well as walk-in to receive the third booster dose.
- ✓ CoWin system shall send SMS to all citizens eligible for precaution dose based on the details of earlier vaccinations recorded in the system.
- ✓ Vaccination centres are also required to record vaccinations on CoWin, which will generate certificates.
- **A 67-year-old man, who was on a social visit to Vadodara - tested positive for XE sub-variant of Covid's Omicron strain, known for fast transmission**
- ✓ Earlier, a woman from Mumbai was claimed to be India's first case of XE sub-variant but the Union health ministry had said that the same does not correlate with the genomic picture of XE variant.
- ✓ The Mumbai man had reached Vadodara with three others by air on a personal visit on March 11.
- ✓ The West Bengal-based National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) has also confirmed the XE report.
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - has praised the government's ambitious scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' for averting a rise in extreme poverty levels during the pandemic**



- ✓ The latest IMF paper, published on April 5, 2020, found that extreme poverty (less than PPP USD 1.9 per person per day) in India is less than 1% in 2019 and it remained at that level even during the Covid-19 pandemic year 2020.
- ✓ The new IMF paper is titled 'Pandemic, Poverty, and Inequality: Evidence from India'
- ✓ The study presented estimates of poverty (extreme poverty PPP USD 1.9 and PPP USD3.2) and consumption inequality in India for each of the years 2004-5 through the pandemic year 2020-21.
- ✓ Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till September 2022.
- ✓ The scheme entails providing 5 kg foodgrains per person per month

- ✓ The benefit is being provided to those covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) [Antodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Households] including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ✓ The scheme was launched in March 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic in the country and it was extended till March 2022 in November last year for four months (December 2021-March 2022).
- **As part of the National Digital Livestock Mission, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) - has launched a pilot project in the state of Uttarakhand to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit**



- ✓ The project seeks to develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learning of the pilot project implementation.
- ✓ The pilot project was launched in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as implementation partner.
- ✓ The “One Health India” programme will work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance
- ✓ An inter-ministerial One Health committee under the chairmanship of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has been established to lead the implementation of the One Health Support Unit.

COMMITTEES

- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology - announced the formation of a 17 member advisory committee to steer and guide the government’s semiconductor mission**
- ✓ The Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the chairperson of the committee, while Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be the vice-chairperson

- ✓ Niti Aayog member V K Saraswat, Principal scientific advisor to the government of India, and secretaries from the ministry of external affairs, departments of expenditure, economic affairs, and promotion of industry and internal trade, respectively will be members of the committee.
- ✓ The deputy national security advisor of the National Security Council Secretariat will also be a member of the committee while the secretary of ministry of electronics and information technology will be the convenor of the committee.
- ✓ Industry experts in the committee are Vinod Dham, founder & ex-managing partner at Indo-US Venture Partners; Ajit Manocha, president, SEMI, USA; Neelkanth Mishra, Credit Suisse; Prof A Paulraj, Emeritus Professor at Stanford University, USA; Prof Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor, University of California San Diego, USA; Prof V Kamakoti, director, IIT Madras and Ajai Chowdhry, Founder of HCL.
- ✓ The committee is mandated to provide inputs to enable the building of a resilient supply chain, promote investments and ways of financing the semiconductor sector, research and innovation as well as intellectual property generation.
- ✓ Further, the committee shall work on various ways to enable and develop an ecosystem for semiconductor and display fabrication as well as for startups and micro, small and medium scale industries.
- ✓ On December 15, 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Semicon India Programme with a financial outlay of Rs. 76,000 crore for the development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystems over the next six years.
- ✓ A specialised and dedicated “India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)” has been set up within Digital India Corporation to boost India’s strategies for developing semiconductors and display ecosystem.
- ✓ As part of the scheme, the government has announced several incentives and support for companies engaged in silicon semiconductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors, silicon photonics, sensors fabs, semiconductor packaging and semiconductor design.
- ✓ Under the scheme for setting up of silicon complementary metal oxide semiconductor, fabrication units that manufacture technology node of 28 nm or lower will get up to 50% of the project cost as incentive, while for above 28 nm but up to 45 nm, the Centre will provide 40% of the unit cost

APPOINTMENTS

- **Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla - will be appointed as coordinator of G20 summit**
- ✓ India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- ✓ Shringla, who retires on April 30, will take charge of his new role as G20 coordinator on May 1

- ✓ This is a newly created role for organising the summit, which will include both substantive aspects as well as logistics.
- ✓ Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will remain the G20 sherpa.



- ✓ The G20 summit in 2023 will be the biggest-ever multilateral event to be hosted in India in recent years
- ✓ G20 members represent more than 80% of the world's GDP, 75% of international trade and 60% of the world's population
- ✓ Shringla has been serving as foreign secretary since January, 2020.
- ✓ An IFS officer of 1984 batch, he has also served as ambassador in the US, Thailand and Bangladesh.
- ✓ Upon his retirement, Shringla will hand over charge to foreign secretary-designate V M Kwatra, who is currently India's ambassador to Nepal

SPORTS

- **India - bagged their first-ever gold medals in PSA World Doubles Squash Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on April 9**



- ✓ Dipika Pallikal combined with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa to clinch twin gold medals for the country in mixed and women's doubles respectively.
- ✓ Dipika Pallikal, who is married to Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik, made her comeback to international squash at the Glasgow meet after three years away from the sport
- ✓ Dipika first teamed up with Saurav Ghosal to win the mixed doubles gold beating England's Adrian Waller and Alison Waters

- ✓ Dipika then joined hands with Joshna Chinappa, former Commonwealth champion, in the women's doubles final to beat English pair Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters

