

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 20,2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On April 19, Chief Minister M K Stalin and school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi - launched a drive for reconstituting School Management Committees (SMC) in all government schools



- ✓ The drive was launched at Lady Willingdon Higher Secondary School in Triplicane, Chennai
- ✓ In this regard, the school education department has issued new guidelines to reconstitute SMCs in all 37,558 government schools.
- ✓ As per the new rules, the 20-member SMC will be headed by a female parent, while the parent of differently-abled children will be the vice-president.
- ✓ The committee will have the representation of parents, teachers, local body representatives and patrons or education volunteers and members of self-help groups.
- ✓ According to the CM, SMC members should constructively work to improve the learning outcomes, maintaining the resources of the school, keeping the surroundings clean, preventing dropouts, bringing the dropouts back to schools and creating infrastructure for government schools

- ✓ The SMCs in government middle schools will be reconstituted on April 23 while SMCs for government primary schools will be reconstituted in two phases on April 30 and May 7.
- ✓ For government high and higher secondary schools, the committees will be reconstituted in June.
- **The Tamil Nadu Industries Department - will be renamed as 'Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department'**
  - ✓ This was announced by Industries minister Thangam Thennarasu in the Legislative assembly after tabling the Policy note of his department on April 19
  - ✓ Managing director and CEO of Guidance Tamil Nadu would serve as its ex-officio commissioner.
  - ✓ Replying to the demand for grants for his department, the Minister said that a new SIPCOT industrial park, an industrial housing township and airport has been proposed in Krishnagiri district



- ✓ Krishnagiri will get its third SIPCOT industrial estate spread over an area of 3,000 acres in Denkanikottai taluk and Ayanampalli in Shoolagiri taluk at a project cost of around ₹1,800 crore.
  - ✓ The estate is expected to fetch Rs 21,000 crore investment and generate 16,800 direct and indirect jobs.
- ✓ An industrial housing township will be established at an estimated cost of ₹1,000 crore in Nagamangalam in Krishnagiri district
  - ✓ The housing facility built in an area of 100 acres will benefit the employees of a mobile phone accessories manufacturing unit by Tata Electronics, which is coming up near Hosur with a potential to generate jobs for 18,000 people
- ✓ Among other announcements made by the minister, a multi-purpose industrial park worth ₹500 crore will be set up with private contribution in Kancheepuram district.
- ✓ In the Coimbatore region, a multifaceted Transport Cargo Park will be set up at an estimated cost of ₹300 crore.

- ✓ The Industries department policy note also had a mention about the proposed Neyveli airport.
- ✓ The government would unveil a Hydrogen Policy to encourage investment in production of hydrogen energy (green and blue hydrogen).
- ✓ Similarly, a new Ethanol Policy 2022 would be unveiled to reduce demand for oil-based energy and improve environmental standards and ensure mixture of ethanol with fuel.
- ✓ The government has directed TIDCO to undertake the study on air traffic and its growth in the surrounding region, market demand and potential sites for developing an airport in Hosur.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will conduct a feasibility study for a high-speed rail network that would link different parts of the state
  - ✓ The state government will collaborate with the Indian Railways to identify the locations that would be brought under the proposed high-speed rail network.
  - ✓ The TIDCO will conduct a feasibility study at a financial outlay of Rs 3 crore.
  - ✓ The move is aimed at decongesting the infrastructure, improve connectivity and boost the overall economic growth
- ✓ In a bid to ease the movement of goods, a dedicated freight corridor has been proposed in the state.
  - ✓ The state owned TIDCO will collaborate with the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited for the purpose.
  - ✓ A feasibility study for the corridor will be carried out at a cost of Rs 3 crore.
- **The Tamil Nadu highways department – has proposed to convert seven arterial roads in Chennai into ‘smart roads’**

### **ON THE WAY**

- **Traffic calming measures:**  
Speed breakers, rumble strips, and ramps
- **Foot Over Bridges,** parking bays, and new bus stops
- **Underground utilities**
- **CCTV cameras,** Wi-Fi poles, information kiosks

- ✓ The proposed smart roads of a total 103.5 km will have features to limit vehicle speed to 50kmph, besides having walkways, cycle lanes and parking bays.
- ✓ The roads will also have WiFi poles, CCTV cameras, info kiosks, and other amenities required to manage traffic better.
- ✓ The chosen seven are Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road, Grand Western Trunk (GWT) Road, Grand Northern Trunk (GNT) Road, Inner Ring Road, Velachery Bypass Road, Marmalong Bridge-Irumbuliyur Road, and Mount Poonamallee-Avadi Road.

- ✓ In this regard, a ₹9 crore tender was floated on April 18 for a consultant to prepare a detailed project report (DPR)
  - ✓ The consultant (highest bidder in the tender) will suggest 'traffic calming' measures such as road humps, rumble strips, and speed tables at appropriate places so that average speed of vehicles doesn't exceed 50kmph.
  - ✓ The consultant will also suggest ways to ensure electric and telecom cables are laid underground properly and drains are properly aligned.
  - ✓ The highways department is responsible for managing about 270 km of roads in GCC limits.
  - ✓ To reduce accidents and congestion, and make them non-motorised transport friendly, the government issued orders to redesign these stretches in the year 2021.
- **The state organ transplant authority, Transtan – is planning to use a new app to ensure transparency, limit human interventions and increase efficiency in organ transplantation process**
- ✓ The new app, that is both mobile and web-friendly, is named 'Vidiyal'
  - ✓ It was developed by a start-up and is being tested at government hospitals.
  - ✓ The application will allow hospitals to register patients along with their medical, personal & Aadhaar card and they will be put on the waiting list for the respective organ.
  - ✓ When hospitals update the app about a possible donor, the organ allocation will be automatically done by the Artificial Intelligence-based system.
  - ✓ All hospitals with eligible recipients will receive automated calls and messages
  - ✓ Going forward, the app will add another feature – "be ready list" – to alert patients on top of the waiting list about a donation
- **Tamil Nadu – has recently launched the trials of online single window system 'Go Live' that aims to facilitate building plan approvals within 60 days**
- ✓ In this regard, Tamil Nadu housing and urban development department has ordered Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) to make the 'Go Live' website fully functional in a few weeks
  - ✓ At present, the requirement for no-objection certificates (NOCs) from various departments, delay in-site inspections by officials and follow-up makes the approval process time-consuming and tedious
  - ✓ The 'online' approval process began in February 2022 when the chief secretary had ordered the departments to set up the online portal and issue guidelines for getting NOCs.
  - ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin also approved this process the same month
  - ✓ Later, the CMDA began the trial process for their website and began uploading the documents.

- ✓ Till now, developers had to follow up with officials of various departments such as fire and rescue, police, Airport authority of India, Indian Airforce, CMRL, public works department, Indian railways, national monumental authority, Archaeological survey of India, CRZ clearance, department of environment and so on.

## STATES

- **On April 19, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami - issued instructions to conduct a statewide verification drive to check the credentials of people who have settled in Uttarakhand but belong to other states.**



- ✓ The drive will check for 'unauthorised people staying in the Himalayan state.
- ✓ Under this drive, the State will find out people whose backgrounds are suspicious and verify them.
- ✓ Notably, the Char Dham Yatra to the four Himalayan shrines of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath is set to start on May 3.
- ✓ The state government has also decided to conduct a verification drive of people coming to the state for the yatra.
- ✓ The move is being initiated to "prevent any untoward incident" during the annual pilgrimage

## NATIONAL

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) - has finalised 'Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to offer Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Programmes Regulations, 2021'**
- ✓ As per the regulations, Indian students will be able to earn a dual degree conferred by Indian and foreign HEIs, separately and simultaneously.
- ✓ This means, Indian universities can collaborate with their foreign counterparts to offer joint, twinning or dual degrees.
- ✓ Students will also get the benefit of credit transfer and joint degrees offered under the collaborations.



- ✓ For the dual degree, students must earn at least 30% of total credits from the Indian institution.
- ✓ For a joint degree programme, the degree will be awarded by the Indian HEI and the foreign HEI will award a certificate.
- ✓ As per the proposed regulations, the degrees shall be equivalent to any corresponding degree by Indian HEIs, and there shall be no further requirement of seeking equivalence from any authority.
- ✓ These regulations will apply to only conventional degrees offered in physical mode.
- ✓ The tie-ups have been restricted among HEIs that are in the Top-1,000 of Times Higher Education or QS World University ranking.
- ✓ Indian institutions that have a minimum score of 3.01 on a 4-point scale of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading or in the Top-100 in the university category of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are also eligible for the partnership.
- ✓ The UGC is likely to notify the new regulations in the coming week

## INTERNATIONAL

- **A 37-member federal cabinet - took the oath of office in Pakistan on April 19**
- ✓ Last week, the then leader of the opposition Shehbaz Sharif replaced Imran Khan as the country's PM through a no-trust vote in parliament.



- ✓ PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, tipped to get the foreign and petroleum ministries respectively, were not included in the cabinet formation.
- ✓ It was expected that Bilawal would take charge as finance minister within the next few days.
- ✓ PPP's Hina Rabbani Khar, who served as foreign minister from February 2011 till March 2013, was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs in the new government.

- ✓ President Dr Arif Alvi, who had excused himself from administering oath to Shehbaz, skipped the event again, leaving the duties to Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani.
- ✓ Shehbaz's cabinet comprises 31 federal ministers, three ministers of state and three advisers to the PM.
- ✓ Of the 31 federal ministers, 13 portfolios were retained by PML-N, nine were given to PPP and the remaining 11 distributed among the other coalition partners.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A team from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Isro - has developed a new technique to make “space bricks” using Martian Simulant Soil (MSS).**



- ✓ The team has demonstrated that Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) — where, under right conditions, certain bacteria precipitate calcium carbonate — can create bricks using MSS
- ✓ The discovery has the potential of aiding construction of future settlements on Mars
- ✓ This team, along with other researchers, developed “space bricks” using lunar simulant soil (LSS) in February 2018.
- ✓ In their latest findings, the team has reported creation of bricks using both LSS and MSS.
- ✓ The team has used a “bacterial growth induced bio-cementation process” for manufacturing the bricks in an organic manner with minimal intervention.
- ✓ Bacteria are very versatile organisms and certain species are capable of bio-mineralisation, which was exploited to make these bricks.
- ✓ Bio-mineralisation is a process by which living organisms produce minerals to harden or stiffen existing tissues
- ✓ The team used one specific bacterium (*Sporosarcina pasteurii*), which was introduced into simulant soil, which then hardened.
- ✓ Under ideal conditions, the MSS, which is in powder form, slowly turns into a brick in 15-20 days of introducing the bacteria.
- ✓ Similar to the process done with LSS bricks, the team used guar gum, a naturally occurring polymer, as an additive to add strength to the bricks from MSS.

## ECONOMY

- **India's economy - is estimated to grow by 8. 2% in the current fiscal year (2022-23), as per the latest forecast of International Monetary Fund (IMF)**
- ✓ Earlier, the agency has predicted a growth of 9% and the sharp drop in growth is attributed to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

### Feeling War Impact

IMF GROWTH ESTIMATE (%)		
	2022	2023
World	3.6	3.6
US	3.7	2.3
UK	3.7	1.2
Germany	2.1	2.7
BRICS		
Brazil	0.8	1.4
Russia	-8.5	-2.3
India	8.2*	6.9^
China	4.4	5.1
South Africa	1.9	1.4

- ✓ In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the IMF forecast India's economy to grow by 6. 9% in 2023-24.
- ✓ The latest GDP growth forecast for India is still higher than the RBI's estimate of 7. 2% for 2022-23.
- ✓ The central bank had earlier lowered its growth estimate from 7.8%, citing the impact of the war in Ukraine and breakdown of supply chains.
- ✓ The finance ministry had earlier estimated the economy to grow in the 8%-8. 5% range in 2022-23.
- ✓ India, however, will retain its tag as the fastest growing major global economy.
- ✓ China is estimated to grow 4.4% in 2022-23 and 5.1% in 2023-24, a downgrade of 0. 4 percentage point.

## SPORTS

- **India's Greco Roman wrestlers – clinched three bronze medals on the opening day of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar on April 19**
- ✓ The 23-year-old two-time medallist Sunil Kumar from Haryana's Dabarpur village secured a bronze medal in the 87kg category.
- ✓ Sunil won by 'technical superiority' against Mongolian wrestler Batbayar Lutbayar
- ✓ Sunil had ended the country's 27-year-long wait for a gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling when he defeated Kyrgyzstan's Azat Salidinov in the 87kg final of the Asian Championships in India in February 2020.





- ✓ In the 55kg category, India's Arjun Halakurki defeated Mongolian Davaabandi Munkh Erdene in the bronze play-off to add to the country's medal tally.
- ✓ This was Arjun's second bronze at the Asian meet after having finished third on the podium in the 2020 edition.
- ✓ In the 63kg section, Neeraj defeated Uzbekistan's Islomjon Bakhramov in the repechage for the bronze.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that India failed to clinch any medals at the previous edition of the continental meet in Kazakhstan's Almaty