

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 26,2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On April 25, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed two bills to amend the laws to transfer the power to appoint the vice-chancellors from the governor to the state government.**
- ✓ At present, the Governor appoints vice-chancellors to 13 state universities on the recommendation of expert committees.
- ✓ The governor was the chancellor of universities in the state, with the higher education minister being the pro-chancellor.
- ✓ Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy tabled the bill, which seeks to bring amendments to Chennai University Act 1923 and Tamil Nadu Universities Laws.



- ✓ The PMK and the DMK's allies Congress, VCK, the left parties, MDMK, MMK, KNMDK and TVK supported the bills, while the AIADMK and the BJP opposed the two bills, with the latter walking out.
- ✓ The Bill has to be forwarded by the Governor to the President for his assent to become a law.
- ✓ During the occasion, the CM pointed to the report of a commission headed by former Chief Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi on centre-state relations, which had

recommended removal of the Governor from the post of chancellor of universities in the year 2010

- ✓ Nineteen states offered their remarks endorsing the commission's report.
 - ✓ The Bills passed in Tamil Nadu stress that "every appointment of the Vice-Chancellor shall be made by the Government from out of a panel of three names" recommended by a search-cum-selection committee.
 - ✓ Under Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated that as per Gujarat University act 1949 and Telangana Universities Act 1991, the respective state governments have the power to appoint the vice-chancellors and as per Karnataka State Universities Act 2000, vice-chancellor shall be appointed by the chancellor with the concurrence of the state government
 - ✓ In December, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a similar Bill amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.
 - ✓ In 2019, the West Bengal government, led by the Trinamool Congress, took over the Governor's power in appointing VCs to state universities
 - ✓ The move by the government to amend two laws came on the day when governor R N Ravi inaugurated a two-day conference of Vice-Chancellors of state, Central and private universities of the state in the Nilgiris district
 - ✓ The state government can appoint the VCs for the following 13 state universities - Madurai-Kamaraj University, Anna University, Bharathiar University, Bharathidasan University, Mother Teresa Women's University, Alagappa University, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Periyar University, Tamil Nadu Open University, Thiruvalluvar University, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Annamalai University and the University of Madras
- **On April 25, forest minister K Ramachandran – told in the assembly that three new sanctuaries would be created in Tamil Nadu this year**



- ✓ Three new sanctuaries include - one for birds at Nanjanrayan tank in Tirupur, another for elephants at Krishnagiri and a third for slender loris in Dindigul

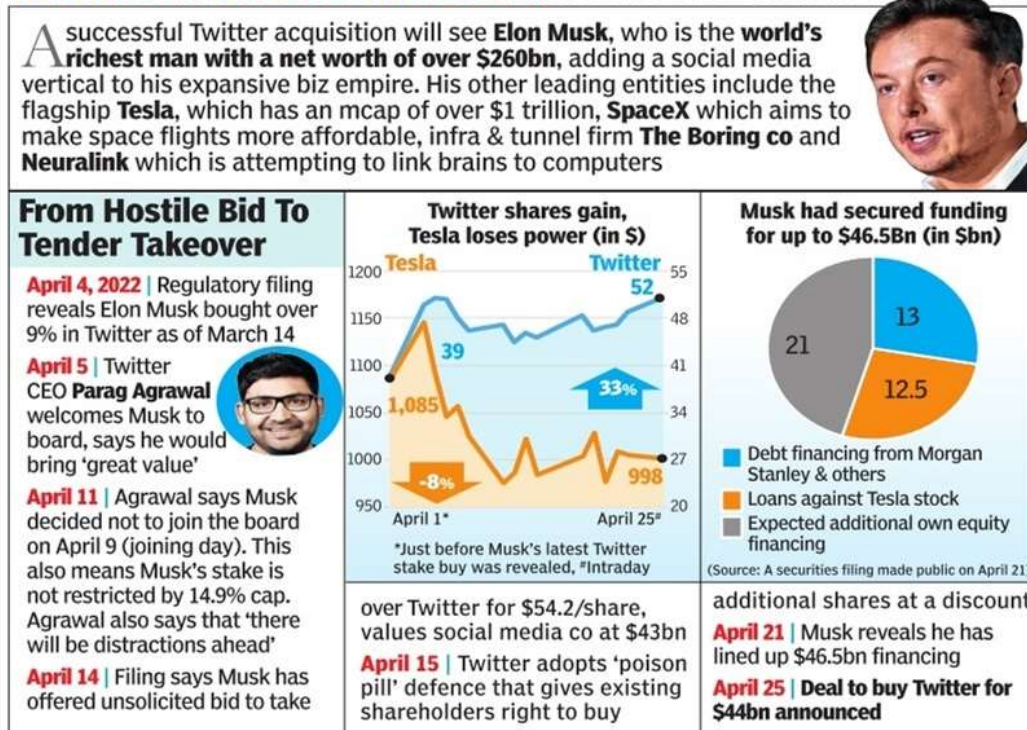
- ✓ A sanctuary for slender loris, an endangered species endemic to South India and Sri Lanka would be set up in Dindigul and Karur to improve its habitat and increase the tree cover for its existence.
- ✓ The species has been named as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ✓ The bird sanctuary has been allocated ₹7. 5 crore, while the two other sanctuaries got ₹5 crore each.
- ✓ The Nanjarayan tank in Tirupur will become the 17th bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu and it extends across 125.86 hectares in the outskirts of Tiruppur city.
- ✓ Based on several studies, the lake is found to be an important breeding place for migratory birds and is home to 130 bird species apart from reptiles, fishes, amphibians, and plant species
- ✓ A conservation centre would also be set up near the lake for research and training activities.
- ✓ Migratory birds from various parts of the world visit Nanjarayan Tank from the first week of October and depart by end of March the next year.
- ✓ The government has also proposed to set up a wildlife sanctuary in Cauvery South, spread over 478 sq km, abutting the sanctuary in Cauvery North
- ✓ It would cover the reserve forests of Anchetty, Urigam and Jawalagiri ranges of Hosur division and has become an important habitat for the elephants.
- ✓ A Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared at a cost of Rs. 5 crore, said the Minister.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will set up an international olive ridley turtle protection and rehabilitation centre in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 6.3 crore, said the Minister
- ✓ The centre will undertake research on olive ridley turtles, collect data and create awareness
- ✓ The facility will be set up with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Tamil Nadu government
- ✓ Five new eco-tourism sites will be established in the Nilgiris, Dindigul, Namakkal and other districts, said the Minister
- ✓ **During the day, Minister for Environment and Climate Change Siva V. Meyyanathan said in the assembly that the government would create 1,000 mini-forests to increase green cover in the State.**
- ✓ According to the Minister, the government will tie-up with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for a 'Meendum Manjappai' express exhibition
- ✓ The exhibition seeks to create awareness on the use of environmentally friendly materials instead of single-use plastics.
- ✓ The government has set aside Rs. 7 crore to build a sailing academy and a primary level sailing and paddling centre in Chennai alongwith a boxing academy at a cost of Rs. 2 crore

- ✓ Further, the Minister said that steps would be taken to make the Koyambedu market a carbon free complex.

INTERNATIONAL

- On April 25, Billionaire Elon Musk - has reached an agreement to acquire Twitter for approximately \$44 billion (around Rs. 3,365 crore) in an all-cash transaction with shares valued at \$54.20.

RICHEST MAN'S PLAYGROUND: SPACE TO SOCIAL MEDIA



- ✓ Earlier, the Tesla CEO has said he wants to buy Twitter because he thinks it's not living up to its potential as a platform for "free speech".
- ✓ Twitter said it will become a privately held company after the sale is closed.
- ✓ Musk bought a 9.2% stake in Twitter on April 4 and then announced his takeover bid on April 14, calling it his 'best and final offer'
- ✓ Musk is the world's wealthiest person, with a fortune of \$257 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Emmanuel Macron** - was re-elected as **President of France** on **April 24**, beating rival **Marine Le Pen** for another five years in office
- ✓ With the win, Macron became the first president to win a second term since Jacques Chirac in 2002
- ✓ Macron got 58.5% of the runoff vote, against 41.5% for the right-wing challenger, Marine Le Pen, according to final results from the interior ministry.



- ✓ But Macron's victory was also narrower than in 2017, when he first faced off against the anti-Nato, pro-Russia Le Pen.
- ✓ Macron won his first term as President of France in 2017 at age 39.
- ✓ He became the youngest president in French history and the youngest French head of state since Napoleon.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi congratulated French President Emmanuel Macron on his re-election, saying he's hoping to work together further to deepen the India-France strategic partnership.
- ✓ The Prime Minister is also expected to travel to Paris for a bilateral meeting next week during his visit to Europe.
- ✓ French ambassador for the Indo-Pacific, Christophe Penot, is currently visiting India for the Raisina Dialogue.
- ✓ Based out of Paris, Penot is responsible for inter-agency coordination of France's Indo-Pacific strategy.
- ✓ The PM's visit is also likely to see the two countries further discussing ways to ramp up defence and security cooperation in the region.
- ✓ PM Modi is also travelling to Berlin for the India-Germany inter-governmental consultations and to Denmark for the India-Nordic summit.

SPORTS

- **Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal – secured his 10th national title in the men's singles category at the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships that concluded at the SAI Indoor Stadium in Shillong on April 25**
- ✓ Telangana's 23-year old Sreeja Akula defeated five-time champion Mouma Das in the women's singles final, to win her maiden national crown
- ✓ With the win, No. 1 ranked Sreeja became the first woman from Telangana to achieve the feat
- ✓ Sreeja won her first national ranking title in 2019 during the North Zone championships at Sonipat and followed it up with another crown at Thane
- ✓ Last year, Sreeja lost out on the national title to eventual winner Manika Batra at Panchkula.



- ✓ In the men's singles category, Sharath defeated G Sathiyan in the summit clash.
 - ✓ Haryana, RBI and the Railways shared the gold medals on offer in men's, women's and mixed doubles events respectively
 - ✓ The national championships are the final tournament before the Commonwealth Games team is announced.
 - ✓ The games are set to take place in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.
- **Reigning Formula One world champion Max Verstappen and Jamaican Olympic sprint queen Elaine Thompson-Herah - won the top honours at the 2022 Laureus World Sports Awards announced on April 25 at a digital ceremony from Seville, Spain**
- ✓ Verstappen and Thompson-Herah were named World Sportsman of the Year and World Sportswoman of the Year
 - ✓ The Awards conferred by the Laureus World Sports Academy recognised the sporting achievements of 2021
 - ✓ Italian men's football team won its second Laureus Team of the Year Award after winning the European Championships 2020 title
 - ✓ Emma Raducanu received the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year Award following her US Open win at the age of 18.
 - ✓ She is the first qualifier in tennis history to win a Grand Slam
 - ✓ India's reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra was also nominated in the category.
 - ✓ Further, the Laureus World Sports Academy made special presentations to three giants of sport - Tom Brady, Robert Lewandowski and Valentino Rossi
 - ✓ Brady is seven-time winner of the Super Bowl, while footballer Lewandowski broke Gerd Muller's long-standing 40 goals record in the Bundesliga and Rossi is a record breaking motorcycle racer
 - ✓ Verstappen secured his first World Championship at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in December

LIST OF WINNERS

- World Sportsman of the Year: Max Verstappen
- World Sportswoman of the Year: Elaine Thompson
- World Team of the Year: Italy Men's Football Team
- World Breakthrough of the Year: Emma Raducanu
- World Comeback of the Year: Sky Brown
- World Sportsperson of the Year with Disability: Marcel Hug
- World Action Sports: Bethany Shriever
- Lifetime Achievement: Tom Brady
- Academy Exceptional Achievement: Robert Lewandowski
- Sporting Icon: Valentino Rossi
- Sport for Good Society: Real Madrid Foundation
- Athlete Advocate of the Year: Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles.



- ✓ Elaine Thompson-Herah defended her 100 and 200 metres Olympic titles in Tokyo, and also won a third gold in the 4 x 100m relay

RANKINGS

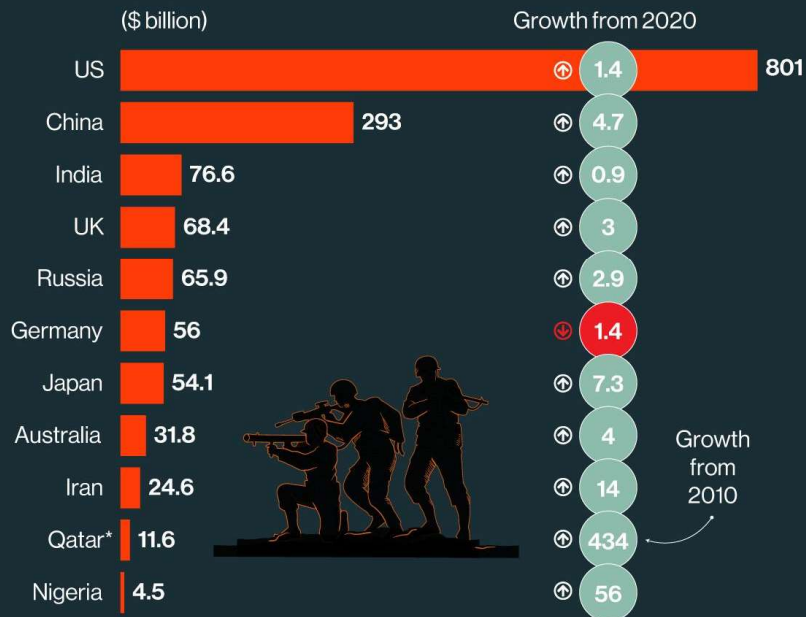
- **India – is ranked as the third largest military spender in the world behind UK and Russia**
- ✓ This is based on the latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on April 25.
- ✓ However, India remains far behind China that spends four times and the US which spends 10 times its defence budget.

GLOBAL SPENDING TOPS \$2 TRN FOR 1ST TIME



HOW NATIONS SPEND ON MILITARY

Global military expenditure increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021 to reach \$2,113 trillion. India ranked third with \$76.6 billion



*Qatar's last spending data was released in 2010
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

- ✓ The total global military expenditure rose to \$2,113 billion in 2021, surpassing the two trillion US dollar mark for the first time
- ✓ The five largest spenders were the US (\$801 billion), which accounted for 38% of the world military spending, China (estimated \$293 billion), India (\$77 billion), UK (\$68 billion) and Russia (\$66 billion).
- ✓ The top 5 countries account for 62% of the world's global military expenditure.
- ✓ According to the report, China's military spending has increased for the 27th year in a row
- ✓ Pakistan was placed at the 23rd spot with \$11 billion.