

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 27,2022

TAMIL NADU

- On April 26, The Tamil Nadu government - unveiled its ambitious initiative **TNEB 2.0** to augment the power infrastructure to meet the state's growing demand.
- ✓ Tangedco has set a deadline to add 6,220 MW to the grid in the next five years by commissioning seven projects at a cost of ₹41,623 crore.
- ✓ They include North Chennai TPP Stage III, Ennore SEZ TPP and Udangudi TPP Stage I, Uppur TPP, ETPS Expansion power project, Kundah Hydro Electric Project, and Kollimalai Hydro-Electric Project.
- ✓ Electric vehicle charging stations would be set up at substations located on state and national highways, said the Minister.



- ✓ Replying to the demand for grants for the energy department, electricity minister V Senthil Balaji said the government has planned to increase installed capacity from 32,592MW to 65,184MW in the next decade.
- ✓ In the next 10 years, there is a forecast of 24,000MW power demand in the state
- ✓ To achieve this, the focus of the Government is on renewable energy and solar power parks of 2000MW would be installed across the state.

- ✓ Following the successful extension of 1 lakh agriculture power connections in six months, the electricity minister announced that Tangedco would provide 50,000 more agriculture power connections in this fiscal year.
- ✓ The power utility will also extend free agriculture power connections on a priority basis to differently-abled, widow, tribals, inter-caste couple, former and serving defence personnel, whose applications had been pending between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2022
- ✓ Further, the electricity minister said the outstanding debt of Tangedco stood at ₹1,66,704 crore, an addition of ₹6,571.62 crore from the previous fiscal year.
- ✓ The revenue loss of the agency has been reduced to ₹12,991 crore during last fiscal from ₹15,157 crore of the previous year.
- ✓ According to the Minister, the debt burden was increasing in the last few years from ₹1. 24 lakh crore in 2018-19 to ₹1. 39 lakh crore in the following year.
- ✓ The annual outstanding loan amount has been limited to ₹1. 39 lakh crore as the state government supported Tangedco with financial assistance.
- ✓ A strategic study of the finances and governance of Tangedco and Tantransco has been undertaken with ADB funding.

NATIONAL

- **On April 26, the national drugs regulator - approved two vaccines — Biological E's Corbevax and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin — for emergency use in children aged 5-12 and 6-12 respectively**
- ✓ The regulator also approved Zydus Cadila's two-dose ZyCov-D vaccine for those above 12 years.
- ✓ Currently, only those aged 12 and above are eligible for Covid vaccination.
- ✓ However, the final decision to roll out vaccine for those between 5-11 years will be taken by the government based on recommendation from its scientific expert body – National Technical Advisory Board on Immunisation (NTAGI) for Covid-19
- ✓ At present, the government is using Corbevax for immunisation of children in 12-14 years age group, while Covaxin is being administered to those in the 15-17 age bracket.
- ✓ India has achieved 86% full immunisation against Covid-19 among adults.
- ✓ Meanwhile, eight trial sites have been selected in India to test Covovax as a booster dose in adults who received two doses of Covishield or Covaxin at least six months ago.
- ✓ The eight trial sites include four hospitals in Pune and one hospital each in New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, and Gorakhpur
- ✓ Covovax, developed by US-based Novavax and manufactured by the SII, has been approved for restricted emergency use in adults.
- ✓ A total of 372 people, aged 18 or above will be enrolled for the trial.

- **The government – has decided to withdraw the ‘quota’ system and introduced admission for children orphaned due to Covid-19 in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)**



- ✓ This is aimed at freeing 40,000 seats in these centrally funded senior secondary schools.
 - ✓ Under the PM Cares for Children scheme, the children orphaned due to Covid-19 will be exempted from payment of fees.
 - ✓ The discretionary quotas enjoyed by MPs, government officials and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), among others were put on hold early last month and reviewed by the ministry of education
 - ✓ As per the revised guidelines for the 2022-23 academic year, reservations in admission will be extended only to children belonging to the SC/ST/OBC communities and those with disabilities.
 - ✓ The admissions for the 2022-23 academic session is under way till June 2022.
 - ✓ Under the special provisions, MPs had discretionary power to recommend the admission of 10 children to a KV and a district magistrate could recommend 17 students under the sponsoring authority quota in KVs.
 - ✓ These apart, the KVS has also removed other quotas including for 100 children of education ministry employees, children and dependent grandchildren of MPs, and retired KV employees, and the discretionary quota of the school management committee chairman, among others.
 - ✓ The central government had last year scrapped the Union education minister's discretionary quota for admissions from 2021-22 academic session.
 - ✓ However, it was decided that MPs of both Houses of Parliament may continue to recommend admissions into KVs.
 - ✓ The MPs — 543 in Lok Sabha and 245 in Rajya Sabha — could collectively recommend up to 7,880 admissions per year.
- **India's power plants - met maximum demand of over 201GW (gigawatts) at 2. 51 pm on April 26**
- ✓ This surpasses the previous record of over 200GW clocked on July 7 last year
 - ✓ The power ministry expects peak demand to touch 210GW this month and is working towards ensuring all coal-fired power plants have fuel inventories to supply about 160GW during peak hours.

- ✓ In terms of energy, the power ministry has pegged the requirement at more than 1650 billion units (BU) in 2022-23 against 1375 BU in 2021-22 BU and 1275 BU in 202-21.
- ✓ Peak demand denotes the highest demand for electricity that occurs over a specified time period, usually in 15-minute slabs.
- **The ministry of information and broadcasting and OTT major Netflix - will collaborate to develop a creative ecosystem by organising training programmes for post-production work, visual effects (VFX), animation and music production**
- ✓ This was announced by I&B minister Anurag Thakur on April 26 on the sidelines of a programme to release seven short documentaries on women achievers under the 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniyaan' series.



- ✓ The series will tell the stories of Basanti Devi, an environmentalist who saved the Kosi river, Anshu Jansenpa, who conquered Mount Everest twice in five days, Harshini Kanhekar, India's first woman fire fighter and Tanvi Jagadish, the country's first competitive stand-up paddle boarder from Mangaluru, who are among the seven empowered women who broke the glass ceiling.
- ✓ The two-minute documentaries will be followed by short videos on sustainable development
- ✓ The thematic stories use the five natural elements of air, water, fire, sky and earth, as well as life, to inspire people
- ✓ It also tell the stories of Arohi Pandit, world's youngest and first woman pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean solo in a light sport aircraft, DRDO scientist Tessy Thomas, known as the Missile Woman of India, and health worker Poonam Nautiyal, who ensure 100% vaccination in Bageshwar district.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The UN General Assembly - adopted by consensus a resolution seeking justification for the use of veto power by any P-5 country if the resolution was adopted by consensus.**

- ✓ The resolution was seen as an attempt to discourage Russia's use of its veto power
- ✓ Russia has exercised more veto power than any other permanent member of the UN Security Council (more than 20 times since 2010) in the recent past.
- ✓ The provocation for the resolution was Russia vetoing a resolution in the Council that deplored its actions in Ukraine.
- ✓ India, along with other countries, would have abstained if the resolution had been put to vote.

SPORTS

- **Jain University, Bengaluru – secured the top position at the top of the medals tally on the third day of 2nd Khelo India University Games at Bengaluru**

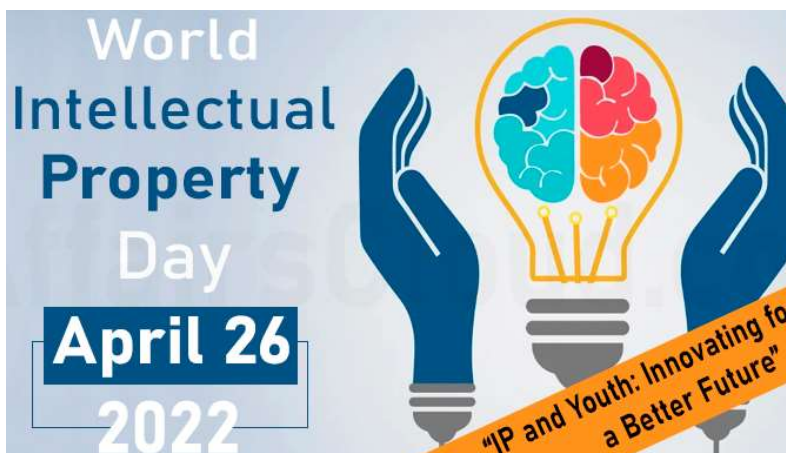


- ✓ On April 26, Jain won four of the ten gold medals on offer in the swimming event which also saw eight new national records being set at the Jain Global campus.
- ✓ Meanwhile, defending champions Panjab moved up to fourth in the table with two more gold medals from the shooting range.
- ✓ Away from the pool, the biggest upset came in boxing when pre-Games favourite Kurukshetra's Vinka, world youth championship winner, lost the battle to Muskan of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Shekhawati university in the semifinals of the 57-60kg category.
- ✓ In volleyball, SRM bagged a grand double
- ✓ Their women, All India University champs, beat Bharathiar University in the final, while the men's team toppled inter-varsity champions Calicut in the final.
- ✓ Mumbai completed a sweep in Mallakhamb, winning the women's team event.
- ✓ Khelo India University Games will be held in Bengaluru from 24th April to 3rd May 2022.
- ✓ This edition will be the second edition of the games.
- ✓ The first edition of the Khelo India University Games was held in Odisha in 2020.

- ✓ An app named Khelo India App was also launched by Karnataka for providing live updates on the Games.
- ✓ The official mascot of the Games is 'Veera', an elephant.
- ✓ The event is an initiative of the Centre with the aim of identifying young talents at the university level and then helping them to turn into professional athletes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Intellectual Property Day – April 26



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to create public awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights, including patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future"
- ✓ Every year, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) collaborates with a variety of government agencies, NGOs, community organizations and individuals to promote World Intellectual Property Day.
- ✓ The WIPO Convention came into effect in 1970 and in the year 2000, WIPO's member states declared April 26 as World Intellectual Property.

