

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 30,2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Government – has proposed to set up a 100-bed tertiary hospital for trauma care in Sholinganallur to cater to the IT corridor on Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) and other southern suburbs of Chennai city.**
- ✓ This was announced in the state assembly by Health minister Ma Subramanian on April 29 while replying on demand for grants to his department
- ✓ The proposed trauma care hospital will be established under the state government's Innuyir Kaapom – 48 scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crore.
- ✓ At present, patients requiring trauma care from OMR or East Coast Road (ECR) are taken to Chengalpattu Government Medical College Hospital or Royapettah Government Hospital and the new hospital will cut down the travel time of ambulances.



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ 50 new primary health centres
- ▶ 24 government and district hospitals to be upgraded
- ▶ Two new Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care centres at ₹36cr
- ▶ Registries for stem cells, congenital heart diseases, and trauma
- ▶ Wi-fi connectivity for 17,077 health centres

- ✓ The hospital will be set up under Tamil Nadu Emergency and Accident Initiative, which aims at constructing state-of-the-art hospitals to reduce morbidity and mortality.

- ✓ During the debate, the Minister said that Tamil Nadu, which stood first in organ donation in the country for six consecutive years, had dropped to second position behind Maharashtra
  - ✓ During his speech, the health minister announced several reforms to boost health infrastructure in Chennai.
  - ✓ This includes establishment of a neuro block and spinal surgery ward at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, a super-specialty tower block at Kilpauk Medical College Hospital and a new obstetrics centre at Tondiarpet Hospital.
  - ✓ He also said that additional buildings have been planned at other key health centres like RSRM, and Kasturba Gandhi Women's Hospital in Triplicane.
  - ✓ Further, the state health department has proposed to create infertility clinics – for men and women – at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Egmore and Government Rajaji Medical College Hospital in Madurai at a total cost of ₹5 crore.
  - ✓ These clinics will provide treatment to include hormone therapy and IVF
  - ✓ Further, the state health department, for the first time ever, will start administering human papillomavirus vaccines (HPV) for schoolgirls in Chennai.
- **The brochure and social media handles of the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) - were launched by the state environment department on April 29.**
- ✓ TNGCC is an initiative that aims to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
  - ✓ Chief secretary Irai Anbu released the brochure and handles at the national level workshop organized by the CapaCITIES project along with the Swiss Agency for development and cooperation.
  - ✓ TNGCC was formed last year under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 with initial equity of Rs. 5 crore from the state government
  - ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind company to be guided by a board headed by Supriya Sahu, environment secretary and other officials.
  - ✓ The company is mandated to implement Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission and Wetlands Mission.
  - ✓ The company is unique as all district forest officers were made the climate officers and the district collectors as the mission heads in all districts

## STATES

- **Kerala and the Netherlands - have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a project named 'Cosmos Malabaricus' that seeks to highlight the history of Kerala in the 18th century**
- ✓ Further, the state will collaborate with Netherlands for the establishment of paint academies in Kollam and Malappuram.

- ✓ The paint academy on the IIICC Campus at Chavara, Kollam, will impart training in painting buildings while the academy at ASAP Skill Sky Park at Thavanur in Malappuram will train in painting vehicles



- ✓ The agreements were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and The Netherlands' Ambassador to India, Marten van den Berg.
  - ✓ The Cosmos Malabaricus project is being implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) under the Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden.
  - ✓ As part of the Cosmos Malabaricus project, students from Kerala will get an opportunity to do an MA at Leiden University and the students from the Netherlands will get an opportunity for doing an internship at KCHR.
  - ✓ The project deals with the 18th century Dutch documents on Malabar which are considered the most extensive source of information about the period in Kerala between 1643 and 1852
  - ✓ The project aims to develop digitised version of these Dutch archival material and will be completed in six years.
- **The National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and the Himachal Pradesh Government - signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for seven ropeway projects construction in the State under the Parvatmala Yojana scheme**





- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari along with Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur, Minister of State V. K. Singh were present during the signing event
  - ✓ Under the agreement signed, the ropeway projects of total length 57.1 kilometres will be constructed in the state of Himachal Pradesh at a total cost of Rs 3,232 crore
  - ✓ Parvatmala is a National Ropeways Development Programme proposed to create a modern system of transportation and connectivity on the mountains
  - ✓ In February 2021, the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 were amended that enabled the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to look after the development of ropeway and Alternate Mobility Solutions.
  - ✓ Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting Union Budget for 2022-23 announced Parvatmala project that will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode.
  - ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) is the nodal ministry that is implementing this scheme.
- **On April 28, Technology giant Google - signed a MoU with the Telangana government to bring benefits of digital economy to youth and women entrepreneurs in the state**



- ✓ As part of the partnership, Google will collaborate with the State to strengthen the government's school modernization efforts with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions.
- ✓ Further, Google will support the Telangana government's efforts to improve public transportation and use of digital technologies in agriculture.
- ✓ Under the MoU, Google will collaborate with Telangana Academy for Skills and Knowledge (TASK), to provide Google Career Certificate Scholarships to youth in fields like IT support, IT automation, UX design, data analytics and project management.
- ✓ With WE-Hub, Google will roll-out its Women- Will programme to deliver digital, business and financial skills to nano, micro and small women-led businesses and entrepreneurs across Telangana.

- ✓ During the event, Google also unveiled the design of its ground-up development at the 7.3-acre site it acquired in Gachibowli in 2019.
  - ✓ The campus will house a massive 3.3 million square feet building, which will be its largest campus outside its Mountain View headquarters in the US.
  - ✓ The new campus is expected to focus more on R&D and innovation and prioritises sustainability and energy-efficiency throughout its design
  - ✓ Upon commissioning, the three million square foot building will offer a highly skilled tech workforce a healthy, collaborative workplace that is both resilient and adaptable.
  - ✓ Though Google set base in India in 2004, and has its operational centres in Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Hyderabad, they are all running on leased premises
- **The Centre - has approved Rs 4,526.12 crore for the 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab river in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- ✓ The decision was taken at a recent meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - ✓ This was announced by Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Anurag Thakur on April 27
  - ✓ The proposed project is part of the Indus basin and would be one of the at least four projects coming up in the district, which include the 1,000 MWs Pakal Dul hydroelectric project and 624 MWs run-of-the-river Kiru hydroelectric project.
  - ✓ The project will generate 1,975.54 million units of electricity with 90% dependability in a year.
  - ✓ It will be jointly commissioned by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) in the next 54 months
  - ✓ The project would provide direct and indirect employment to about 2,700 people and would be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPPPL).
  - ✓ CVPPPL is a joint venture between the NHPC (51%) and JKSPDC (49%) incorporated on June 13, 2011
  - ✓ It was created on the directions of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Centre to utilise the vast hydro potential of the Chenab River.
  - ✓ The company has been entrusted with the construction of hydropower projects on a build, own, operate and maintain (BOOM) basis with an aggregate installed capacity of 3,094 MW
  - ✓ With the proposed project, the Union Territory will get free electricity worth around Rs 4,548.59 crore during its 40-year life cycle.
  - ✓ As of April 16, India had a total installed hydro power capacity of 46,723 MW, which forms 11.7% of the total installed power capacity in the country.

- ✓ On 24 April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, inaugurated and laid foundation stones of multiple development projects worth more than Rs. 20,000 crore.
- ✓ PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of Rattle and Kwar hydroelectric projects with a total capacity of 850 MW to be constructed on Chenab river in Kishtwar at a cost of Rs. 5,300 crore.
- ✓ Under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan, the two countries share the waters of six rivers in the Indus basin that flow through India towards Pakistan.
- ✓ Of these, India has complete rights over three eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers - Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus.

## NATIONAL

- **The Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the NTAGI - has recommended inclusion of the Serum Institute's Covid jab Covovax in the national anti-coronavirus vaccination programme for children aged 12 to 17 years**
- ✓ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's Subject Expert Committee had approved the Serum Institute of India's Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28.
- ✓ On March 9, it recommended granting the Emergency Use Authorisation for Covovax for the 12-17 age group
- ✓ Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax
- ✓ Novavax has earlier said its vaccine was 80% effective against Covid-19 in a late-stage trial testing the shot in 2,247 teens aged 12 to 17 years
- ✓ The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16 using Biological E's Corbevax vaccine
- **The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare - is organizing the 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign in association with various other Ministries & Departments of the Government of India.**



- ✓ The campaign was held from 25th April to 30th April 2022 under the centre's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative with the participation of over one crore stakeholders and farmers
- ✓ It was conducted to popularize agro-ecological practices, sustainable agriculture, and making farming stress-free for small farmers and laborers
- ✓ The main objective of the programme is to introduce the rural farmers with modern agriculture technologies and natural farming systems
- ✓ During the week-long campaign, a webinar on 'One District One Product (ODOP)' was held by the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ Also, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying organized ODOP-based awareness programmes and workshops.
- ✓ A National Atmanirbhar Bharat Conclave of 75 specified farmers and entrepreneurs was also held under the campaign.
- ✓ Milestones of agriculture development in 75 years of Indian Independence including Green Revolution, were highlighted in the ongoing campaign
  - ✓ Some of the milestones include self-sufficiency in food grain production, application of biotechnology in agriculture, use of ICT in agriculture, application of remote sensing/GIS/Drones, advancement in farm mechanization, etc.
- ✓ The campaign also highlighted the achievements and activities under various flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
- ✓ Further, the agriculture ministry created mass awareness and talks about achievements in schemes such as National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Kisan Credit Card, e- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agriculture credit, Soil Health Card, Organic and Natural Farming.
- ✓ Krishi Mela at each Krishi Vigyan Kendra was organised at 'The Department of Agriculture Research and Education' followed by a field exhibition on natural farming.
- ✓ On April 30, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a country-wide workshop on Fasal Bima crop insurance, which was organised by common service centre (CSC) from one lakh locations across the country.
- ✓ During the campaign, all Implementing Insurance Companies organized Fasal Bima Pathshala at Block, Gram Panchayat and village with the participation of at least one hundred farmers.
- ✓ The Campaign aims to make the farmers aware about key scheme aspects of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana like basic scheme provisions, importance of insuring the crops and how to avail scheme benefits
- **The government – is planning to expand the Ayushman Bharat health cover to over 40 crore more people who are currently not covered under any government or private health insurance scheme.**

- ✓ Over 50 crore people (10.74 crore families) are already covered under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)
  - ✓ The scheme provides free annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh to every family
  - ✓ The government now plans to extend this coverage for a small premium to those who cannot afford a health insurance at retail price
  - ✓ The plan is to bring down the insurance premium by more than one-third of the retail price and make it affordable for those who don't have any health insurance policy
  - ✓ The governing board of National Health Authority (NHA) — the implementing agency for AB-PMJAY — has recently approved the proposal in a meeting earlier this month.
  - ✓ The NHA is now planning to start pilot projects in select states over the next few months, after which the coverage will be expanded pan India.
  - ✓ Currently, the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme and state government extension schemes provide comprehensive hospitalisation cover to the bottom 51% of the population – around 69 crore individuals.
  - ✓ Besides, around 19% of the population – 25 crore individuals – is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance.
  - ✓ The remaining 30% of the population does not have any health insurance.
- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0) - has completed four years of implementation on April 25, 2022.**
- ✓ The scheme was launched on April 25, 2018 to provide transformational changes in rural developmental processes
  - ✓ Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Education Ministry
  - ✓ It was launched to link the Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast five villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base
  - ✓ Its objective is also to engage the faculty and students of Higher Educational Institutions in understanding rural realities and provide developmental solutions
  - ✓ The National Coordinating Institute of the programme is the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi).
  - ✓ Currently 748 Institutions are participating under the scheme.
  - ✓ In the phase -2 of the scheme 605 institutions have been selected, of which 313 are Technical Institutions and 292 are Non-Technical Institutions.
  - ✓ In UBA 1.0, the participating Institutions were invited to be a part of this scheme whereas in UBA 2.0, the Higher Educational Institutions are required to adopt a minimum of 5 villages willingly.
- **Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar - has launched Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program on April 27**





- ✓ Its overall aim is to enable the creation of next generation microprocessors in India, for the world and achieve industry-grade commercial silicon and Design wins by December 2023.
  - ✓ The Minister also unveiled the Blueprint of the roadmap of design & implementation of the DIR-V Program with – SHAKTI Processor by IIT Madras and VEGA Processor by C-DAC
  - ✓ Further, the Minister also launched the strategic Roadmap for India's Semiconductor Design & Innovation to catalyze the semiconductor ecosystem in the country.
  - ✓ RISC-V is a free and open Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) enabling a new era of processor innovation through open standard collaboration.
  - ✓ ARM and x-86 are the two processor ISAs available earlier- one of which is licensed and other is sold
  - ✓ However, RISC-V has emerged as a strong alternative to them in last decade
  - ✓ It has no licensing issues, enabling its adoption by one and all in semiconductor industry, at different complexity levels for various design purposes,
  - ✓ Professor V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras will be the Chief Architect and S. Krishnakumar Rao as Program Manager of DIR-V Program
- **The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - has launched a revamped Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme.**



- ✓ The first phase of this overhauled programme will focus on manufacturing MSMEs while the second phase would be for those MSMEs in the services sector.
- ✓ Narayan Rane, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the ZED Certification Scheme on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- ✓ The ZED certification can help MSMEs get easier access to capital, reduce wastage substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc
- ✓ Moreover, micro-enterprises will get an 80% subsidy, followed by small enterprises at 60% and medium enterprises at 50%
- ✓ Further, the ministry will award a limited purpose joining reward of Rs 10,000 to each MSME once they take the ZED Pledge.
- ✓ Moreover, MSMEs can also avail several incentives offered for ZED certification by states and UTs, financial institutions, etc.,
- ✓ They can also apply for free certification under the MSME Kawach (COVID-19 support) initiative.
- ✓ The ministry will also provide up to Rs 5 lakh per MSME for handholding and consultancy support for MSMEs under the certification to move towards ZED solutions.
- ✓ The MSME ministry has also reworked the eligibility criteria for certification under the scheme.
- ✓ The number of parameters required for a Gold category ZED certificate has been cut short from 50 to 20
- ✓ Under the scheme, Bronze – Silver – Gold – Diamond – Platinum certificates will be given based on assessment of MSMEs
- ✓ Quality Council of India will be carrying out the surveillance audit and the rating provided will be valid for a 4 years period.
- ✓ As of November last year, 23,948 MSMEs had registered with an intent to adopt the principle of the ZED Scheme

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **India and European Union – have agreed to set up a joint Trade and Technology Council to deepen their strategic relationship.**



- ✓ The agreement on the launch of the council was reached at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen recently on April 25
  - ✓ The agreement assumes importance as the United States is the only other country that has a technical agreement with the EU similar to the one signed with India.
  - ✓ As far as India is concerned, the decision to set up such a council will be the first with any of its partners.
  - ✓ This strategic coordination mechanism will allow the partners to address challenges in trade, trusted technology and security, deepening cooperation in these fields.
  - ✓ This trade mechanism will allow both sides to work on fields such as 5G, artificial intelligence, climate modelling and health-related technology
  - ✓ The council will comprise working groups led or co-led by relevant departments, services or agencies
  - ✓ Further, India and the EU have restarted negotiations to strike a comprehensive free trade deal and an investment agreement.
  - ✓ The next round of trade talks between India and the EU are expected to take place in June, after the World Trade Organization's 12th ministerial meeting
  - ✓ The 27 member EU is India's third-largest trading partner, accounting for €62.8 billion worth of trade in goods in 2020 or 11.1% of total Indian trade, after China at 12% and the US at 11.7%.
  - ✓ The EU is the second-largest destination for Indian exports (14% of the total) after the US.
- **A US Congress-constituted quasi-judicial body - recommended to the Biden administration to designate India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and 11 other nations as “country of particular concern” in the context of status of religious freedom.**
- ✓ However, the recommendations of the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are not binding on the US government.
  - ✓ Other countries recommended for this designation by the USCIRF in its annual report are Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.
  - ✓ The USCIRF had made a similar recommendation to the US government last year which was not accepted by the Biden administration.
  - ✓ India has previously rejected the reports by USCIRF.
  - ✓ Among its recommendations last year, five countries — Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Syria, and Vietnam — are not designated as Country of Particular Concern by the US government.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 36<sup>th</sup> edition of Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair, AAHAR-2022 – was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi between April 26 and 30, 2022**
- ✓ The fair was organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)



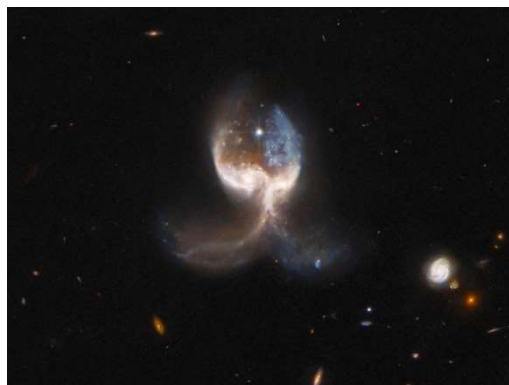
- ✓ More than 80 exporters from different segments of agricultural products which include geographical indication products, processed food, organic, and frozen food products participated in the fair.
- ✓ APEDA has created dedicated stalls for exporters from North East Region and Himalayan states like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, women entrepreneurs, Farmer Producers Organizations, Start-Ups, and exporters of millets.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **IIT-Madras researchers - have developed a structured model to help in production of bio-cement by a process called microbially induced calcite precipitation (MICP)**
- ✓ Bio-cement production is considered as an alternative process for manufacturing cement by cutting down on carbon dioxide emissions.
- ✓ In this process, calcium carbonate precipitates are formed by microorganisms like bacteria (s pasteurii) and they are used to produce bio-cement.
- ✓ Bio-cement production can be faster and eco-friendly with negligible carbon emissions, economical as industrial waste can be used for bacteria.
- ✓ Research has shown that bio-cement has comparable shear strength, durability and reduced water absorption capacity.
- ✓ Scaling up production of bio-cement is crucial because conventional cement manufacturing is among the largest carbon dioxide producing industries.



- **The Hubble Space Telescope - has captured a wing-shaped image of two merging galaxies, known as the VV-689 system and nicknamed 'angel wing'**



- ✓ The two galaxies are currently in the middle of a collision and are almost symmetrical, appearing like wings
  - ✓ The image was recorded from Hubble observations inspecting “Zoo Gems” -- interesting galaxies under the Galaxy Zoo citizen science project
  - ✓ The project is a crowd-sourced program involving hundreds of thousands of volunteers who search through Hubble's data to locate and classify galaxies.
  - ✓ Another similar project, called the Radio Galaxy Zoo, uses the same crowd-sourcing approach to identify supermassive black holes in distant galaxies
  - ✓ The Hubble Space Telescope was launched by NASA in 1990 and is named in honour of Edwin Hubble, a revered American astronomer of the early 20th century
  - ✓ The telescope is a space-based observatory and has made significant observations related to interstellar objects, including moons around Pluto and a comet crashing into Jupiter.
- **Fourteen researchers from three apex institutions – the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), IIT-H and IIT Bhilai — are in the process of developing a next-generation digital identity platform**

### **KYC SYSTEM THAT'S 24/7**

➤ IDRBT, IIT-H & IIT Bhilai working on blockchain, machine learning powered unified video KYC framework

➤ It could lead to an auto-powered 24/7 system to just finish KYC requirements at any given point in time

➤ It may allow multiple modes such as phone or ATM kiosk, where you show all documents on video to store in the system

➤ The new platform is expected to be ready for transfer to financial institutions in around two years



- ✓ Supported by the RBI Innovation Hub, the new system will enable innovation in India's financial space.

- ✓ These institutions have received funding of Rs. 23 crore from the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) for the project
- ✓ Hailed as Aadhaar 2.0, the auto-powered 24x7 system seeks to complete KYC requirements faster at any given point in time
- ✓ In this system, all the data will be stored on a blockchain-based platform and data to be shared with any entity to avail its financial services can be picked and chosen based on necessity.
- ✓ Once the system becomes reality, the know-your-customer (KYC) form need not have to be filled before opening any bank or demat account or even for receiving money directly from the government in your digital wallet.

## DEFENCE

- **On April 25, the government - amended the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 in order to promote 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbharta' in military procurement.**
- ✓ The DAP was amended based on the approvals accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on March 22, 2022
- ✓ As per the latest amendments, the armed forces will now have to source all their modernisation requirements indigenously
- ✓ The import of weapons and platforms is accepted only as an exception with the 'specific approval' of the defence minister and the Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC).
- ✓ Other amendments include measures to "reduce the financial burden" on the Indian defence industry, while maintaining financial safeguards.
- ✓ The requirement of IPBGs (integrity pact bank guarantees) has been removed and EMD (earnest money deposit) will be taken as a bid security for all acquisition cases costing over Rs.100 crore.
- ✓ Further, to encourage wider participation in indigenous defence manufacturing sector, the total order quantity will be split between shortlisted vendors, wherever viable
- ✓ The other technically qualified bidders who have not been awarded the contract will be issued a certificate by the Services indicating that the product has been successfully trial evaluated to facilitate vendors to explore other markets
- ✓ The Make-II procedure of DAP-2020 that involves indigenisation of defence equipment through industry funded projects at prototype development stage has also been simplified
- ✓ Post simplification, the timelines in the Make-II procedure will be reduced to 101-109 weeks from an existing total time period of 122-180 weeks,
- ✓ The defence ministry also decided to cut waiting time for projects under the iDEX framework

- ✓ The iDEX programme was launched in 2018 as an ecosystem to boost innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sectors by engaging innovators and entrepreneurs
- ✓ The defence ministry has set a goal of a turnover of \$25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next five years which includes an export target of \$5 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) worth of military hardware.
- ✓ The first Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was announced in the year 2002 and has since been revised periodically

## ECONOMY

- **Tata Sons-owned Air India - has proposed to buy low cost carrier AirAsia India and filed an application with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in this regard**



- ✓ Tata Sons already has an 83.67% stake in AirAsia India and now seeks to buy the remaining 16.33% stake of JV partner Malaysia's AirAsia for Rs 139 crore.
- ✓ The move will see Malaysia's AirAsia exiting the airline venture nine years after it entered India with high hopes.
- ✓ The CCI application is the first step by Tata Sons to integrate its aviation business.
- ✓ Tata Sons had acquired Air India through its 100% arm Talace Private Limited in a Rs 18,000-crore equity and debt deal on January 27 this year.
- ✓ The Tata Sons's airline brands including Air India, Air India Express, AirAsia India and Vistara have a domestic market share of 25%, while IndiGo remains the market leader with a share of almost 54%.
- ✓ AirAsia India, which operates under the brand name 'AirAsia', provides domestic scheduled passenger services, air cargo services and charter flight services in India.
- ✓ AirAsia India, which started flying in June 2014, does not provide scheduled passenger services on international routes.

- ✓ Air India, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary Air India Express, operates domestic and international passenger services, air cargo and charter services in India.
- ✓ The Tata group is also believed to have started the process of consolidating its airline businesses — Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia India and AI SATS (ground-handling firm) — under one roof in Gurgaon
- ✓ The Tatas hold a 51% stake in Vistara and the remaining 49% is held by joint venture partner Singapore Airlines
- **Hindustan Unilever, one of India's leading FMCG - has announced that it achieved an unbelievable Rs 50,000 crore turnover in the last fiscal year.**
- ✓ With this, HUL has become the first pure FMCG entity to achieve this milestone.
- ✓ Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has reported a 9% increase in standalone net profit to Rs 2,327 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022, while turnover grew 10% to Rs 13,910 crore.
- ✓ Category wise, home care grew at 24%, beauty & personal care at 4% and food & refreshments at 5% during the quarter.
- ✓ The company now has 16 brands with a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore each.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju - will take over as the next vice chief of the Army Staff on May 1**



- ✓ He will succeed incumbent Lt Gen Manoj Pande who will take over as the next Army Chief after Gen MM Naravane completes his term on April 30
- ✓ An alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Academy, Lt Gen Raju was commissioned into the Jat Regiment on December 15, 1984
- ✓ He is a qualified helicopter pilot having carried out operational flying in Somalia, as part of UNOSOM II (UN peacekeeping and humanitarian missions II)
- ✓ He is currently serving as the Director General of Military Operations and oversaw the Army's overall operational readiness along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control with China in eastern Ladakh



- ✓ In his illustrious career spanning 38 years, he had commanded his battalion during 'Operation Parakram' in the Western theatre and in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Lt Gen Raju holds the distinction of commanding the Uri brigade along the Line of Control, a counter-insurgency force and at the Srinagar-based 15 Chinार Corps in the Kashmir Valley
- ✓ The officer also served as the commandant of the Indian military training team in Bhutan.
- ✓ He had the privilege of doing his NDC at Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom and also holds a distinguished Master's programme degree in counter terrorism at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey in the US
- ✓ For his illustrious contribution to the service, he has been awarded Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Yudh Seva Medal.

