

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 4, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu government – has constituted a Special Task Force (STF) to cut down on the number of road accidents**
- ✓ The newly-formed STF will analyse the cause of road accidents and come up with scientific short-term and long-term solutions
- ✓ It will devise and implement plans by coordinating with all state departments and academic institutions.
- ✓ The five-member team will be headed by additional DGP Vinit Dev Wankede
- ✓ It has representatives from the health, highways, transport and finance departments as well.
- ✓ The team has been directed to include experts from not only institutions like IIT Madras and Anna University but also civil society.

### STATUS REPORT

#### TAMIL NADU ROAD ACCIDENTS

	2021 (Jan-Mar)	2022 (Jan-Mar)
Total accidents	8,781	10,361
People killed	1,603	2,653

#### ROLE OF STF

- Coordinate with all state departments
- Work on improving road engineering
- Avoid overspeeding
- Scientific enforcement
- Directed to rope experts from IIT, Anna University and civil society

#### INNUIYIR KAAPOM SCHEME

Number of road accident patients admitted | 33,331 | Amount raised | ₹29.5 crore

(Dec 2021 to March 15, 2022)

- ✓ The STF will primarily work on three components – road engineering, vehicle design and speed, road user - to improve road safety.

- ✓ The idea behind establishing a STF is to later convert into a Road Safety Authority on the lines of other Indian states like Karnataka.
- ✓ This initiative has been taken under the state government's Innuyir Kaapom scheme.
- ✓ For several years, Tamil Nadu has had the dubious distinction of topping the road accident charts of the country, reporting more than 3,000 road crashes every month

## STATES

- **On April 1, Arunachal Pradesh – signed an agreement with WWF India to develop the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP).**



- ✓ The SBSAP will align with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Pakke Declaration.
- ✓ In this regard, Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) and WWF India have signed the pact in New Delhi
- ✓ The SBSAP will be developed through multi-stakeholder consultations and a participatory approach.
- ✓ On November 17, the state cabinet adopted the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh', which aims to promote 'climate-resilient development' in the state.
- ✓ The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country.
- ✓ The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes or Panch Dharas.

## NATIONAL

- **Serum Institute of India's Covovax – was recommended by Covid-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) for vaccination of those aged 12 years and above.**
- ✓ The government panel made the recommendation for including the anti-covid vaccine Covovax in the country's vaccination drive after prior review

- ✓ Based on the working group's recommendation, the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) may submit its final recommendation to the health ministry soon.
  - ✓ India's drug regulator had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28 and in the 12-17 age group, subject to certain conditions, on March 9
  - ✓ India began vaccinating children aged 12-14 against Covid-19 from March 16 using Biological E's Corbevax
  - ✓ In another development, Dr. N.K. Arora, covid-19 working group's head in the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NTAGI) represented India in a 'Global Collaboration Advanced Vaccinology Training' meeting at Geneva
  - ✓ In this meeting, discussions were held regarding the need for a basic vaccinology training module for all the healthcare personnel around the globe to address the present and upcoming healthcare crisis
- **The environment ministry - has constituted a task force to study the proposed amendments to the National Forest Policy 1988, Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, and regulatory regime for agro-forestry or trees outside forest**
- ✓ The task force will make recommendations to develop synergies between all aspects of forest management in the country.
  - ✓ The 19-member task force, headed by director general of forest and special secretary in the ministry, will submit its report by May 31.
  - ✓ The suggestions will help in bringing out a new forest policy of India
  - ✓ It will also bring clarity on the definition of 'forest' in the country by adopting uniform standards for protection and management of green cover in sync with India's global commitments.
- **The government - has decided to wind up Tariff Commission, one of the remnants of the licence permit raj.**
- ✓ While the Centre has been discussing the plan for several years, the Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal.
  - ✓ In recent months, government departments have been undertaking an analysis of several entities under their administrative control and reassessing their relevance.
  - ✓ In fact, Sanjeev Sanyal, who is now a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM, has undertaken an exercise covering certain ministries, some of which is being implemented now.
  - ✓ The entity dates to pre-Independence era, when it was called the Tariff Board, and was advising on measures to protect "domestic industry".
  - ✓ In 1951, a statute Tariff Commission was set up to deal with the additional mandate of recommending duty changes and dumping, before it made way for the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP).

- ✓ In 1997, Tariff Commission made a comeback and BICP was subsequently merged with it.
  - ✓ According to data on its website, the agency conducted 475 studies between 2000-01 and 2019-20.
  - ✓ Some of its recommendations, such as those on inverted duty structure, are also incorporated in the Budget.
- **India - has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Women, the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment, for their core budget.**



- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti, handed over the contribution
- ✓ UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous thanked India for its contribution
- ✓ The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded in 1976) and other organisations merged to form UN Women, which began operations in January 2011.
- ✓ The UN Women or also known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is an entity working under the United Nations for women's empowerment and gender equality.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan's President Dr Arif Alvi - dissolved the National Assembly on the recommendation of PM Imran Khan on April 3**





- ✓ Earlier, the deputy speaker of parliament's lower House rejected the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan and declared it unconstitutional
  - ✓ Khan lost his majority in the National Assembly after allies quit his coalition government for failing to revive the economy and crack down on corruption.
  - ✓ The Opposition parties need 172 members of the 342-member National Assembly to ensure the defeat of Khan and already they have claimed the support of 177 members, more than the needed strength to oust the prime minister.
  - ✓ Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that all orders and actions initiated by the prime minister and the president regarding the dissolution of the National Assembly will be subject to the court's order
  - ✓ Meanwhile, Section 144 has been imposed in Islamabad in view of possible violence
- **Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers - resigned en masse with immediate effect after a late night meeting on April 3**
- ✓ However, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will continue to remain in their respective roles
  - ✓ All 26 ministers submitted their letters of resignation to allow the president constitute a new cabinet



- ✓ The youngest Rajapaksa brother, finance Minister Basil, and their eldest, Chamal, who held the agricultural portfolio, and the family's scion Namal, the sports minister, all resigned.
- ✓ Sri Lanka's central bank governor was the latest official to step down
- ✓ The move came after thousands of people defied a weekend curfew to protest demanding the ouster of the Rajapaksa family, which returned to power in November 2019
- ✓ The protesters held the President responsible for the island nation's worst economic crisis and shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

## SPORTS

- **Australia – defeated England by 71 runs to claim their seventh Women's World Cup in Christchurch on April 3**



- ✓ Australian Opener Alyssa Healy smashed a record 170 off 138 balls, which is the highest total ever in a World Cup final
  - ✓ Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Healy was named player-of-the-match as well as the tournament.
  - ✓ Meg Lanning's Australia finished unbeaten in nine matches, erasing their 2017 World Cup disappointment when they were stunned in the semifinals by India in England.
  - ✓ The peerless Australians have now won three of the last five 50-over World Cups and own both the major global trophies, having claimed the T20 World Cup on home soil in 2020.
  - ✓ India's GS Lakshmi, the first woman ever in the ICC international panel of match referees, officiated as the match referee for the Women's World Cup final
  - ✓ The final at the Hagley Oval was officiated by four women match officials — the first such instance in cricket history.
- **Kerala's Sreeshankar – set a national record in men's long jump with a jump of 8.36m, bettering his previous record of 8.26m, at the 25th Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships in Calicut**



**MAKING IT COUNT:** Sreeshankar (left) and Jeswin Aldrin in Calicut on Sunday

- ✓ However, the 23-year-old Kerala athlete still finished second-best as Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin produced a jump of 8.37m
- ✓ Jeswin's jump could not be ratified as a National record due to a wind reading of 4.1 m/s.
- ✓ However, the jump was enough to win the gold medal by Jeswin

## RANKINGS

- **Three Indian women - are on the list of the world's richest self-made female billionaires, which was released by the Hurun Research Institute.**
- ✓ Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is India's richest self-made female billionaire, followed by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon and Radha Vembu, co-founder of Zoho Corporation.
- ✓ Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO of the beauty and lifestyle retail company Nykaa, is in the top 10 richest list at 10<sup>th</sup> place with a wealth of \$7.6 billion



- ✓ After the IPO of Nykaa, Nayar overtook long-time India's number one woman billionaire Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw to become the richest self-made woman in India.
- ✓ She is also first in Hurun's list of Top 10 New Faces.
- ✓ Nykaa, the woman-led unicorn offers beauty and fashion brands through its website, app, and several brick-and-mortar stores.
- ✓ Radha Vembu is top in the country, and second across the world, in the list of Biggest Risers with an asset of US\$3.9 billion.
- ✓ Vembu, who is at 25<sup>th</sup> place in the list, is product manager of Zoho, a company she founded with her brother.
- ✓ Apart from Zoho, Radha is also the director of Janaki Hi-Tech Agro Pvt Ltd, an agricultural NGO and Highland Valley Corporation Pvt Ltd, a real estate company.
- ✓ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics, is 26<sup>th</sup> on the list, down two places from last year with a wealth of \$3.8 billion
- ✓ Hurun's list says there are 124 self-made women billionaires in the world now, down 6 from last year, from just 16 countries
- ✓ China has two-thirds of the world's self-made women billionaires with 78.

- ✓ Japan, Germany, France, Canada and South Korea are the world's largest economies without a single self-made woman billionaire.
- ✓ Beijing-based property developer Wu Yajun, 58, of Longfor is the world's richest self-made woman billionaire with \$17 billion.
- ✓ Whitney Wolfe Herd, 32, of dating app Bumble is the world's youngest self-made woman billionaire with \$1 billion
- ✓ The Hurun Institute report is a comprehensive evaluation of the wealthiest people in the world and the largest compiler of the rich list globally.

