

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru – announced several new state projects in the Assembly while replying to the demand for grants of his department on April 7**
- ✓ The Minister announced a new scheme 'People's Movement for Clean Cities' (PMCC) to ensure cleanliness in urban local bodies by engaging all stakeholders.
- ✓ He also announced that a Smart Governance System (SGS) would be launched for all urban local bodies to ensure proper service delivery, including provision of drinking water and other basic amenities.
  - ✓ This scheme will be implemented as a pilot scheme in select urban local bodies to assess its services on real-time basis and allow public to use QR code to respond to the administration.
  - ✓ Based on feedback of people, a star rating for towns will be given
- ✓ A new scheme for the empowerment of sanitary workers and a new scheme for street vendors would also be implemented

#### KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ ₹25,000 crore loan to self-help groups
▶ New roads and bridges, upgradation of road infrastructure in rural areas at ₹2,220cr
▶ Upgradation of roads in urban areas at ₹700cr
▶ Water supply schemes in urban local bodies at ₹1,857cr
▶ New sandhais (markets) in 5 corporations, 31 municipalities and 10 town panchayats at ₹285cr
▶ New and upgradation of bus terminals at ₹360cr
▶ Restoration of 212 water bodies in urban local bodies at ₹139cr
▶ Repair of roads in municipalities damaged by rains and utility works at ₹275cr

#### MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ ₹305 crore to be allotted for building and maintaining toilets	Poonamallee High Road above Coom
▶ ₹400 crore for maintaining SWDs, drainages	▶ Railway overbridge in Manali for ₹105 crore
▶ ₹30 crore for setting up LPG crematoriums	▶ ₹98 crore flyover in Valluvar Kottam
▶ Broadway bus terminus to be renovated and made modern	▶ ₹291 crore for storm water drain projects
▶ ₹120 crore for bridges connecting Union Road-	▶ ₹1,958 crore for 24/7 drinking water supply in Chennai

- ✓ In another major announcement, all the urban local bodies, which are presently governed by separate Acts, will be brought under the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act that will be passed in the future.
    - ✓ The Chennai Corporation is presently governed by Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act and other city corporations also have exclusive Acts
  - ✓ To ease the process of administration, the State government has announced that the number of zones in Greater Chennai Corporation will be increased to 22 from the present 15, sharing boundaries of 22 assembly constituencies
  - ✓ Apart from this, the Minister also announced that the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department will build stormwater drains in flood-prone areas in Chennai at a cost of Rs 82.15 crore.
  - ✓ One of the major projects announced by the minister was the implementation of a 24/7 water supply scheme in the zones of Adyar and Kodambakkam.
    - ✓ The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) will implement this scheme at a cost of Rs 1,958.25 crore.
  - ✓ The government will also provide drinking water tap connections to 12.5 lakh households in 21,728 small villages at an estimated cost of Rs 1,261 crore under Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission using the 15th Finance Commission Grants.
  - ✓ Further, ward committees and area sabhas will be set up in urban local bodies, similar to gram sabhas in rural areas, to ensure people's participation in civic governance under the Tamil Nadu Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2010
  - ✓ A cleanliness drive will be taken up on the second and fourth Saturdays with the support of volunteers.
  - ✓ Skill training would be given to sanitary workers in mechanized cleaning and they would be encouraged to start alternative business and loans would be provided through banks.
  - ✓ A new survey would be conducted to ensure social security and livelihood of eligible roadside vendors and identity cards would be issued to create an environment conducive for them to do business without any hassle
- **Leading Taiwanese shoemaker Hong Fu Industrial Group - plans to invest ₹1,000 crore over the next 3-5 years in Tamil Nadu to make sports shoes for global brands like Nike and Puma.**



- ✓ The unit will employ around 20,000 people, a majority of them women.
- ✓ In this regard, Hong Fu industrial Group chairman T Y Chang signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government on April 7
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, state industries minister Thangam Thennarasu and senior state government officials were present during the occasion.
- ✓ Hong Fu is world's second largest maker of sports shoes and other footwear with a large manufacturing presence, through multiple units in Vietnam.
- ✓ It is now coming to India and setting up a manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The investment proposal has been facilitated by Aqeel Panaruna, chairman, Florence Shoe Company, a leading player in leather footwear exports from India
- ✓ Started in 2003, Hong Fu has been making sports shoes for leading global brands including Nike, Puma, Converse, Vans, Cole Haan and Hoka.

## NATIONAL

- **The budget session of Parliament - concluded a day ahead of schedule on April 7 with 27 sittings spread over two months**
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha recorded a productivity of 129% and Rajya Sabha 99%, with each house clearing 11 bills
  - ✓ The overall productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha remained at 106%.
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha worked for 177 hours 50 minutes while the Rajya Sabha worked for 127 hours 54 minutes.
  - ✓ The Budget Session had begun on January 31 with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to the joint sitting of both the Houses.
  - ✓ It was followed by the presentation of the Union Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.
  - ✓ The first part of the Budget Session concluded on February 11 when Parliament went into recess to examine the budget papers
  - ✓ The second session resumed on March 14 and concluded now after completion of the budgetary process and passage of key bills such as the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill.
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha passed 12 bills, including the Finance Bill, Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill.
  - ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed 11 bills including six appropriation bills and Finance Bills that were returned
- **The Lok Sabha - has passed the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 by voice vote on April 6**
  - ✓ The Bill moved by External affairs minister S. Jaishankar amends the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005





- ✓ The 2005 Act prohibits unlawful activities (such as manufacturing, transport, or transfer) related to weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery.
  - ✓ The present Bill bars persons from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems
  - ✓ To prevent persons from financing such activities, the central government may freeze, seize or attach their funds, financial assets, or economic resources (whether owned, held, or controlled directly or indirectly).
  - ✓ Weapons of mass destruction are biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons that have the capacity to inflict death and destruction on a massive scale.
- **Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched the 'Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System' (GDPMS) on April 6**



- ✓ The meeting was also attended virtually by the representatives of over 100 District Ganga Committees from across the Ganga Basin
- ✓ As per the Minister, the Digital Dashboard launched will help the DGCs in enhancing people-river connect
- ✓ The Ministers urged the District Magistrates to make sure that Ganga cleaning becomes a priority and under the chairmanship of District Magistrates cleanliness in River Ganga is ensured.

- ✓ District Ganga Committees were constituted in the districts of the Ganga River basin to create a mechanism at the district level to ensure people's participation in management and pollution abatement in river Ganga and its tributaries.
- ✓ The DGCs are mandated to ensure proper utilization of assets created under Namami Gange, monitor drains/sewage falling in River Ganga and its tributaries and create a strong connection of people with Ganga rejuvenation.

## HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On April 7, Madras High Court - upholds 7.5% reservation to students from government schools in admission for medical courses in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy pronounced the verdict while directing the state government to review the quota in five years.
- ✓ The previous AIADMK regime had introduced the horizontal 7.5% reservation in 2020 after their efforts to scrap the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) had failed.
- ✓ The state had then enacted the Tamil Nadu Admission Act to undergraduate courses for students of the government schools.
- ✓ In October 2020, the state government issued an executive order assuring 7.5% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical admissions
- ✓ The government had chosen the executive route as there was no immediate assent from the Governor for more than a month after the Assembly had passed the bill unanimously.
- ✓ Later, in August 2021, the Tamil Nadu government moved a bill reserving 7.5% of seats for government school students for admission to undergraduate professional courses in engineering, law, agriculture and others in all private and government colleges and universities
- ✓ Those who studied from classes 6 to 12 in the government schools and cleared NEET are eligible for the quota
- ✓ However, the classification of 'government school' is not applicable for government-aided schools but all other government-run schools such as panchayat union schools, Adi-Dravidar welfare schools, municipal, corporation and tribal welfare schools.
- ✓ After the reservation was implemented, out of 5,567 (MBBS and BDS) seats, 435 government students benefited for admissions in the academic year 2020-2021.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa - constituted an expert panel to bail his country out of an unprecedented economic crisis characterised by shortage of essential commodities and widespread protests.**
- ✓ The panel has been mandated to address the \$8.6 billion of debt and the soaring inflation by engaging with IMF and other probable lenders.

- ✓ The Presidential Advisory Group on Multilateral Engagement and Debt Sustainability would include Indrajit Coomaraswamy, former governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and former director of the economic affairs division of the commonwealth secretariat
- ✓ The other members include Shanta Devarajan, a former senior director of development economics at the World Bank, and Sharmini Coorey, a former director of IMF's Institute of Capacity Development.
- ✓ To mop up quick revenue, the Sri Lanka parliament passed, without voting, a retrospective surcharge tax bill with amendments on April 7
- ✓ This would enable the government to impose a 25% windfall tax on groups of companies, individual companies, partnerships and individuals who earned more than 2 billion Sri Lankan rupees in the financial year 2020-21.
- ✓ The government estimates revenue collection of 100 billion rupees through this tax.
- ✓ Former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa had proposed the bill to increase government revenue.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - abstained from voting at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a resolution that sought to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.**
- ✓ The 193-member General Assembly voted on the draft resolution titled 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council'.

**BEIJING VOTES IN MOSCOW'S SUPPORT**

In Favour: **93** | Against: **24** | Abstention: **58**

<p>➤ Only <b>one other country</b> has been suspended from HRC: <b>Libya</b>, in March 2011</p> <p>➤ China votes against resolution. <b>Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri</b></p>	<p><b>Lanka</b> and UAE abstain</p> <p>➤ Russia had warned that abstention would be seen as an unfriendly gesture and hurt bilateral ties</p> <p>➤ <b>Resolution needed support of two-thirds of countries</b> present and voting. Abstentions didn't count</p>
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**“ If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence... When innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail —T S Tirumurti**

- ✓ The General Assembly resumed its Emergency Special Session after a request from Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, on behalf of 27 members of the European Union.

- ✓ The resolution was introduced over allegations that Russian soldiers killed civilians while retreating from towns near the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.
- ✓ The resolution was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions
- ✓ With this, Russia became the second country to have its membership rights stripped at the rights council, which was established in 2006
- ✓ The only time a Member State was suspended from the Human Rights Council was Libya in 2011 when in an unprecedented move a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly following Muammar Al-Gaddafi's violent crackdown on anti-Government protestors.
- ✓ Russia's current membership on the Geneva-based Human Rights Council ends in December 2023.
- ✓ Since January this year, India has abstained on eight occasions on procedural votes and draft resolutions in the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council that focused on Russian attack against Ukraine.
- ✓ The Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

## DEFENCE

- **On April 7, India - announced its third negative arms import list of 101 more products as part of ongoing drive to support domestic defence production**
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh released the third "positive indigenisation list" and warned that import of weapon systems with foreign software can lead to security breaches.
- ✓ The new list includes some big-ticket products like lightweight tanks, mounted artillery gun systems, naval utility helicopters, some kinds of drones, medium-range anti-ship and anti-radiation missiles
- ✓ The imports of these defence systems will be progressively banned from December 2022 to December 2027.
- ✓ The first such list in August 2020 had progressively banned acquisition of 101 products from abroad in the 2020-2025 timeframe, while the second one in May 2021 similarly identified 108 items to be embargoed in the 2021-2025 timeframe.
- ✓ The first and second lists, however, included only a few fully-formed weapon systems, platforms and sensors.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **In a landmark decision in American history, the United States Senate - confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman to sit in the country's Supreme court on April 7**



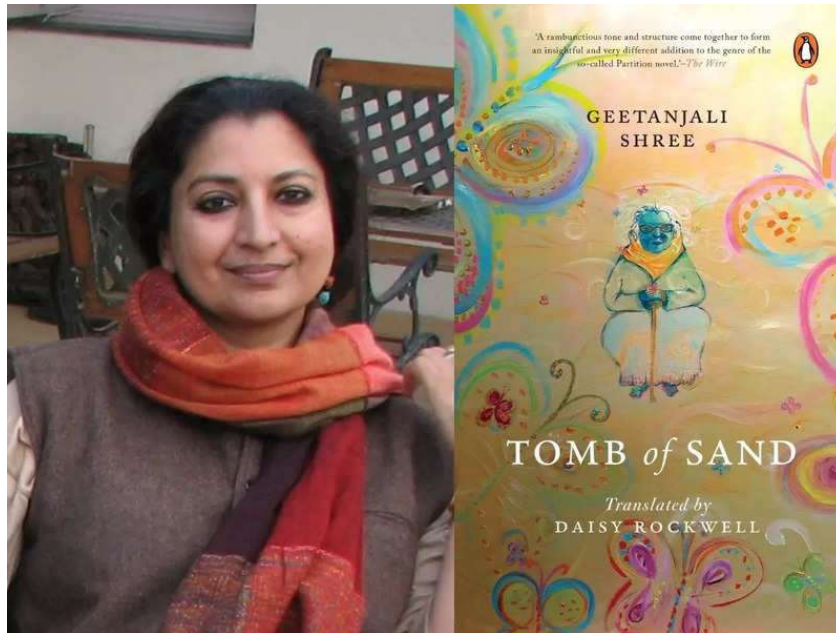


- ✓ The United States Senate took the historic decision by 53-47 votes after three Republican Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney voted in her favour along with 50 members of the ruling Democratic Party.
- ✓ The 100 member Senate is equally split between Democratic and Republican, with Vice President Kamala Harris casting her votes in the case of a tie.
- ✓ Currently a judge on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, Jackson will replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer in June
- ✓ Jackson attended Harvard as an undergraduate and for law school and served on the US Sentencing Commission, the agency that develops federal sentencing policy, before becoming a federal judge in 2013.
- ✓ Jackson comes with a wealth of experience in varied capacities- as a federal appellate judge, a federal district court judge, a member of the US Sentencing Commission, an attorney in private practice, and a federal public defender.
- ✓ Jackson is not only the first Black female judge, but she is also the first former public defender to claim this position in the apex court.
- ✓ She will be the court's 116th justice, its sixth woman and the eighth justice who isn't a white male.

## AWARDS

- **On April 7, Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' - became the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.**
- ✓ The 'Tomb of Sand' will compete with five other titles from around the world for the £50,000 literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.
- ✓ The book was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh-born Shree is an author of three novels and several story collections, with her work translated into English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean.





- ✓ "Tomb of Sand" is one of her first books to be published in the UK.
- ✓ Her translator, Daisy Rockwell, is a painter, writer and translator living in Vermont, US, who has translated a number of classic works of Hindi and Urdu literature.
- ✓ The international Booker prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- ✓ The winner for 2022 will be announced at a ceremony in London on May 26.

## RANKINGS

- **Chennai - has emerged the cheapest location for operating electronics R&D centres among the top 100 electronics FDI locations globally.**
- ✓ This was revealed in an assessment conducted using fDi benchmark, an investment location comparison tool
- ✓ As per the assessment, an investor could run a 50-seater R&D centre for electronics with an estimated annual operating cost of \$1.24 million in Chennai.
- ✓ Penang followed second with an operating cost of \$1.32 million, followed by Gurgaon (\$1.52 million) and Pune (\$1.53 million) at third and fourth place in terms of cost of operating a similar 50-seater R&D centre over 2,000 sq m space.
- ✓ Further, Chennai was rated as the second best place in terms of the world's most competitive location for electronics R&D activities.
- ✓ Globally, Seoul, the South Korean capital having large research campuses of local consumer electronics majors like Samsung and LG Electronics, is ranked as the world's most competitive location for electronics R&D activities.
- ✓ Two Chinese megacities — Guangzhou and Shenzhen were placed at third and fourth.
- ✓ The fDi study, which benchmarked the world's top 100 FDI destinations in the electronic components industry, assessed each location's cost and quality competitiveness for R&D activities.

- ✓ Despite being cheaper than other locations, India remains at the lower end of electronics value chains, the fDi study observed.
- ✓ East Asian locations occupied the top five positions in terms of quality, with Seoul coming out on top, followed by Tokyo and three Chinese cities, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

