

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 9, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On April 8, Minister for Cooperation I Periasamy - announced that 34 banks-on-wheels (Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal) will be introduced on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and all district central cooperative banks at a cost of Rs 5.69 crore
- ✓ The Minister announced this in the assembly while replying to the debate on demand for grants for his department
- ✓ Under the scheme, 34 vehicles will be purchased at a cost of ₹16.74 lakh each for the purpose.
- ✓ The mobile co-operative services will also provide key banking services, including mini-ATM services and tab-enabled banking facilities



KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ 'Bank on Wheels' by the state apex cooperative bank and all district central cooperative banks to offer ATM services
- ▶ Maximum ceiling of loan to self-help groups hiked to ₹20 lakh from ₹12 lakh
- ▶ Computerisation of civil supplies department at ₹50 crore
- ▶ New PDS smart cards via India post
- ▶ PDS rice will come in packets
- ▶ 2kg of finger millet to PDS rice cardholders in Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts
- ▶ Mobile application to market the produce of cooperative societies

- ✓ The government will take steps to establish an investigative body to probe scams and irregularities committed in cooperative bodies similar to the special courts for elected representatives.
- ✓ To enhance the services offered in banks, the officers, staff and administrative council members will receive special training under an integrated training policy.
- ✓ Besides, ceiling of loans given to Self Help Groups will be increased to Rs 20 lakh from the existing Rs 12 lakh.

- ✓ To ensure availability of fertilisers for organic farming, a neem cake and neem seed powder manufacturing unit will be established at the Pamani fertiliser mixing unit of the TN Cooperative Marketing Federation at a cost of Rs 25 lakh
- ✓ Another bio-fertiliser and bio-pesticide unit and a 1,000-metric tonne (MT) capacity micronutrient mixer unit will be established in Dindigul district at a cost of Rs 1.75 crore.
- ✓ Besides, to provide quality paddy seeds to Delta farmers, the 1,000-MT capacity certified seed manufacturing unit at Mannargudi will be renovated at Rs 40 lakh.
- ✓ To market products of cooperative societies and increase sales, a common app will be developed
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. is planning to procure 800 tonnes of vermi-compost from cooperative sugar mills and has tied up with the Greater Chennai Corporation for the disbursement of 250 tonnes of city compost for selling it at a reasonable price to farmers in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Further, the State Food and Consumer Protection Minister R Sakkarapani informed the Assembly that new smart ration cards would be delivered at their doorstep to applicants through the postal department and avoid people-official interface.
- ✓ While replying to the debate on demand for grants for his department, the Minister announced that the government would supply millets (ragi) through PDS (public distribution scheme).
- ✓ Two kg of millet, instead of rice, would be distributed to each family under PDS.
- ✓ The scheme would be launched in Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts where malnourished and anemic children are found
- ✓ Supplementing millet with rice would ensure the supply of nutritious food and protection of tribal food culture, said the Minister

STATES

- **Delhi - has now become the first state in the country to incentivize e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy**
- ✓ The incentives will be eligible to both passenger and cargo e-cycles having a speed of less than 25 km/hour.
- ✓ A purchase incentive of 25% of MRP upto Rs 5,500 will be provided to the first 10,000 buyers.
- ✓ An additional incentive of Rs 2,000 to the first 1,000 individual e-cycles owners will be provided to create the demand for e-cycles.
- ✓ Similarly, the Delhi Government will provide a purchase incentive of 33% of MRP upto Rs 15,000 per vehicle to the first 5,000 e-cargo cycles buyers to support the food delivery and e-commerce drivers in the city.
- ✓ In addition to the purchase incentives, all the purchasers of e-cycles and cargo e-cycles will also be eligible for a Scrapping Incentive of up to Rs 3,000 per vehicle for scrapping and deregistering old ICE two-wheelers registered in Delhi.

Delhi gets all charged up

597 TOTAL CHARGING STATIONS

825 TOTAL CHARGING POINTS

165 TOTAL BATTERY STATIONS

500 Additional charging points to be set up at 100 stations in Delhi by June-end

South Delhi leads the charging pack

Region	Charging stations	Charging points	Battery stations
South Delhi	159	220	7
East Delhi	121	144	45
South-west Delhi	101	213	16
West Delhi	78	101	49
Central Delhi	49	52	6
North-west Delhi	47	53	29
North Delhi	27	27	9
North-east Delhi	15	15	4

Vehicle sales in Delhi this year

■ Total vehicle sales ● Percentage of EVs

8.00% 10.70% 12.60%

42,429 42,677 47,675

962

EVs sold in Delhi in the first six days of April this year, making 8.50% of all vehicles sold

Jan Feb Mar

Class-wise sales

(from August 7, 2020 to April 6 this year)


E-rickshaw (p)	18,314
M-cycle/scooter	16,567
E-rickshaw with cart	5,579
Motor car	2,432
Three-wheeler (goods)	2,108
Motor cab	700
Bus	109
Others	92

- ✓ Delhi added nearly 500 charging points to its arsenal since December last year, taking the count to 825, among the country's highest.
- ✓ The Delhi government is now contemplating a partnership with Convergence Energy Services Limited to provide electric two-wheelers to its employees
- ✓ The employees will be encouraged to buy electric two-wheelers through their department, and they will have the option to pay upfront or opt for EMI, which will be deducted from their salary.
- ✓ CESL will also be responsible for developing and maintaining the public charging infrastructure in the capital, including on highways and expressways
- ✓ The company has already entered a pact with the governments of Kerala, Goa and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ CESL is a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited, which is a joint venture of public sector companies under the Union Ministry of Power,
- ✓ Till now, the Delhi government has given a total of Rs 59.44 crore subsidy for the purchase of EVs in the national capital.
- ✓ In August 2020, it had introduced the Delhi Electric Vehicles policy to push the share of electric vehicles to 25% of the total sales by 2024.

- ✓ Delhi is the first Indian state to introduce such a policy and carve out a separate category for electric cycles, delinked from two, three and four-wheelers
- ✓ In February, the government had notified a draft policy mandating all aggregators and delivery service providers to induct electric vehicles in their new fleet.
- ✓ Two-wheelers are the second-largest contributors to air pollution after trucks and tractors

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has allowed booster shots or 'precaution dose' of Covid vaccines for all adults aged above 18 years at private vaccination centres for a price from April 10.**
- ✓ Only adults who have completed nine months since the administration of the second dose of Covid vaccine will be eligible for the precaution dose.
- ✓ The definition of 'precaution dose' will continue to be the same, which means mixing of doses of different jabs will not be allowed.
- ✓ More than 2.4 crore people have received the precaution dose across the country under the government programme.

COVISHIELD 3RD DOSE TO COST ₹600	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only adults who have completed 9 months since second dose will be eligible ➤ Definition of 'precaution dose' to be the same, which means mixing of doses of different jabs will not be allowed ➤ Serum Institute said Covishield precaution dose will be priced at ₹600 per shot for eligible individuals. Covaxin-maker Bharat Biotech is yet to indicate a price ➤ Move seen as an extra step to ensure protection in view of the 	 <p>new recombinant XE variant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expansion of drive will liquidate inventory lying with vaccine makers. SII and Bharat Biotech had stopped vaccine production recently because of low demand and product pile-up

- ✓ The ongoing free vaccination programme through government vaccination centres for the first, second and the precaution dose to healthcare workers, frontline workers and people aged 60 years and above will continue
- ✓ India has administered a total of 185 crore doses of Covid vaccines so far, according to the CoWin dashboard.
- ✓ Covishield accounted for 83.3% of all doses administered in India, while Covaxin accounted for about 16%.
- ✓ In June last year, the Centre had capped the administration charges for private vaccination centres at ₹150 per dose.
- ✓ The Centre instructed private vaccination centres to not charge more than ₹780 for Covishield, ₹1,410 for Covaxin and ₹1,145 for Sputnik V, including taxes and administration charges.

- ✓ To private centres, Covishield costs ₹600 per dose, while Covaxin costs ₹1,200 and Sputnik V ₹948 per dose (excluding GST).
 - ✓ Biological E has said that it would price Corbevax at ₹800 per dose (excluding all taxes).
 - ✓ After the announcement, vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) said the precaution dose of its Covishield vaccine will be priced at ₹600 per shot for eligible individuals.
 - ✓ Bharat Biotech, the maker of Covaxin, is yet to indicate a price for booster dose in the private market.
 - ✓ At present, about 96% of the population of 15 years and above in the country have received at least one Covid vaccine dose, while about 83% of the same age group have received both the doses.
- **The National Health Authority - has launched a new version of the Health Benefit Package, 2022, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**
- ✓ With Health Benefit Package, 2022, differential pricing is being introduced under the scheme based on the type of city and level of care
 - ✓ In the new pricing formula, the cost of 832 packages have been increased
 - ✓ The new package features 365 new procedures, including bone marrow transplant and cochlear implant surgery, which took the total to 1,949

CHARGES OF 832 PACKAGES HIKED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 365 new procedures introduced taking total packages to 1,949 ➤ New procedures include bone marrow transplant and cochlear implant surgery ➤ High-end drugs and diagnostics like MRI and CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scan have been unbundled from the packages ➤ Cost of 832 packages have been increased ➤ Major metro cities where cost of treatment is high will have packages priced at a higher level as compared to tier 2 and 3 cities
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- ✓ The package was launched on April 7 at a two-day meeting held at Tamil Nadu's Mahabalipuram to review Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in the southern states and UTs.
- ✓ The National Health Authority also announced the rollout of the new initiative of patient classification systems through ICD-11 (International classification of disease) and International Classification of Health Intervention for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- ✓ Another highlight was the pilot launch of Diagnosis Related Grouping (DRG) in Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Meghalaya.

- ✓ Besides, high-end drugs and diagnostics like MRI and CT scans have been removed from the packages to ensure that their cost is not included in the primary treatment package and instead be created as a separate head.
- ✓ AB PM-JAY will be the first insurance scheme in India to provide a payment mechanism through DRG
- ✓ The two-day Southern Region Review meeting — ‘Ayushman Sangam’ — was organised by the National Health Authority on April 7 and 8
- ✓ It was the third edition of the event covering the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- ✓ The National Health Authority had earlier organised similar regional review meetings covering north and west zones

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court - extended the concept of vulnerable witnesses beyond the criminal cases to all judicial jurisdictions on April 8**
- ✓ A bench of justices D Y Chandrachud and Aniruddha Bose extended the concept to all types of cases — civil, family, juvenile justice board and children’s courts — for the fearless deposition in secure environments.
- ✓ This decision was based on a report filed by the SC-appointed committee headed by former J&K Chief Justice Gita Mittal
- ✓ The committee held that even children and senior citizens should be allowed to use vulnerable witness deposition centres (VWDCs) for deposing before court in any kind of cases as they find the court atmosphere intimidating.
- ✓ Justice Mittal submitted draft national model guidelines for creation of VWDC in each district court complex.
- ✓ Prior to this, the concept of vulnerable witness was applicable only in criminal cases where the witness is a rape or sexual assault survivor, suffered mental illness, or faced threat from the accused or any other quarter to deter him/her from deposing before a court of law.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) consortium - has emerged as the lowest price bidder for making five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL variant rockets**
- ✓ With this, the transfer of PSLV-XL production outside of premier agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) moves a step forward.
- ✓ This is expected to pave the way for the commercialisation of other rockets such as SSLV and GSLV.
- ✓ This is the first time in the ISRO's history that an entire rocket, including the heatshield, is to be made outside of the space agency.

ISRO WORKHORSE

➤ Height: 44m;
Diameter: 2.8m

➤ First Flight:
Sept 20, 1993

➤ Number of
launches: **50+**

➤ Key Missions:
**Chandrayaan-1,
MOM, Astrosat**

➤ Record: **PSLV has put into
space 104 satellites in one
launch in 2017**

➤ Commercial: **Has launched
all foreign sats launched by Isro**



- ✓ Space PSU NewSpace India (NSIL) opened the commercial bids of the three shortlisted entities — HALL&T, BHEL (single firm) and the BEL-Adani Alpha DesignBEML consortium — on April 6.
- ✓ The winning bid quoted ₹824 crore, BHEL ₹1,129 crore and the third group ₹1,218 crore, all excluding taxes
- ✓ The first rocket is expected to be delivered during the second half of 2024 and the balance four rockets will be delivered during 2025 and 2026 at two rockets per year
- ✓ The Hindustan Aeronautics-L&T combine will deliver all the stages, including the heat shield, at ISRO's rocket port in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The expression of interest for commercialising PSLV by ISRO was floated in August 2019.
- ✓ NSIL had floated the request for proposal in December 2020, shortlisted three entities in early 2021 and they submitted bids in July 2021.
- ✓ The PSLV-XL rocket, weighing about 320 ton, is a four stage rocket with each stage powered by solid and liquid fuel, alternatively.
- **Astronomers - have discovered a planet that is nearly identical to Jupiter, circling a star 17,000 light-years away from the Earth**
- ✓ The 5th planet in our solar system - the Jupiter – is known for its bright colours and dominated by a massive swirl of storm
- ✓ Its' near-identical twin is located at a similar distance from its star as Jupiter is from our Sun.
- ✓ In terms of mass, the exoplanet, dubbed K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb, is nearly the same as Jupiter.
- ✓ K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb is 420 million miles away from its star, while Jupiter is 462 million miles away from Sun

- ✓ The planet and its star are located in the constellation Sagittarius
 - ✓ The astrophysicists used Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity and a technique known as gravitational micro-lensing to discover the system using data obtained in 2016 by NASA's Kepler space telescope
 - ✓ The telescope has so far detected nearly 2700 planets in the Milky Way galaxy
 - ✓ However, this is the first time that Kepler, or any space-based telescope for that matter, managed to spot an extra-solar planet through a micro-lensing event.
- **On April 8, the researchers from IIT Madras - launched the country's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee**
- ✓ The newly developed knee can bend more, offers stability while walking and costs just one-fifth of imported devices
 - ✓ The prosthetic knee was developed by a team at TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development at IIT Madras in association with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India, a nongovernmental organisation from Bengaluru.



- ✓ Named 'Kadam' (footstep), the four-bar knee joint provides a knee bend of 160 degrees or more so users can sit in cramped places such as buses, autos and cabs.

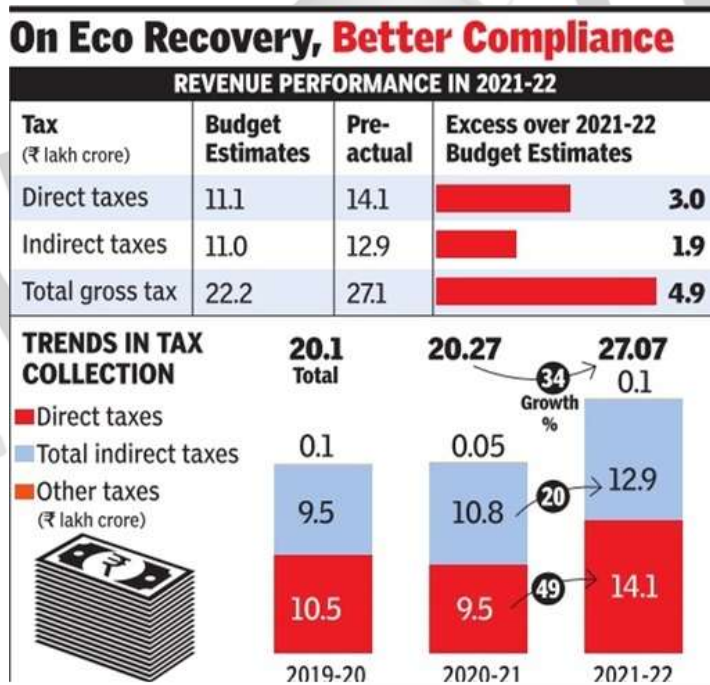
DEFENCE

- **The ministry of defence (MoD) - has now decided that 25% of the domestic capital procurement budget, amounting to ₹21,149 crore, will be earmarked for the private sector during the 2022-2023 financial year.**
- ✓ At present, the bulk of the domestic defence procurements is done through defence PSUs, shipyards and ordnance factories.

- ✓ Further, it has also been decided that an amount of ₹1,500 crore will be set aside for procurement from startups, including iDEX (innovations for defence excellence) startups from within the allocation for domestic capital procurements
- ✓ The move aims to promote innovation and encourage technology development in defence
- ✓ The defence ministry had earlier decided to earmark 68% of the capital procurement budget, which amounts to ₹84,598 crore, for the domestic public and private industry during the 2022-2023 fiscal.
- ✓ India is the world's largest weapon importer, accounting for 11% of the global arms imports.

ECONOMY

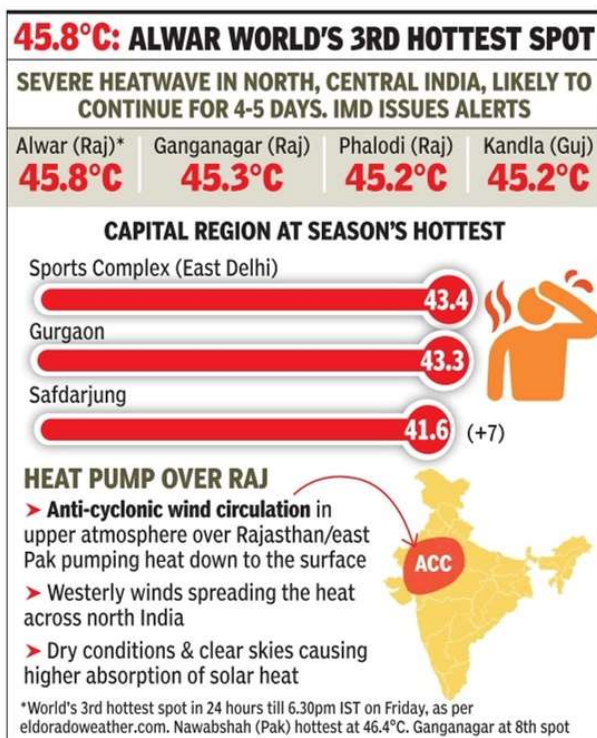
- **The country's gross tax receipts - reached a record high of Rs 27.1 lakh crore for 2021-22.**
- ✓ This was due to massive revenues from income, corporate taxes, customs and GST following a strong economic recovery and more tax-compliance.









- ✓ The higher collection also led to the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in 23 years at 11.7%.
- ✓ Against the Union Budget estimates of Rs 22.2 lakh crore, the revenue receipts according to the pre-actual figures totalled Rs 27.1 lakh crore
- ✓ This shows a growth of 34% over last year's revenue collection of Rs 20.3 lakh crore, led by 49% surge in direct taxes and supported by 20% growth in indirect taxes.
- ✓ The year 2021-22 marks the highest tax-to-GDP ratio of 11.7%, with direct tax-to-GDP ratio at 6.1% and indirect tax-to-GDP ratio at 5.6%.

- ✓ Direct taxes, which include personal income tax and corporate tax, total-led Rs 14.1 lakh crore, showing a growth of 49%, which is the highest growth rate recorded in a long time.
- ✓ Corporate taxes rose 56.1% to Rs 8.6 lakh crore, while personal income tax receipts shot up 43% to nearly Rs 7.5 lakh crore.
- **On April 8, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - raised its inflation forecast to 5.7% from the earlier 4.5%**
- ✓ The regulator has also lowered its GDP estimate to 7.2% from 7.8% for 2022-23, citing the impact of escalating geopolitical tension triggered by the war in Ukraine.
- ✓ The 5.7% forecast is closer to the upper band of the central bank's tolerance level.
- ✓ The finance ministry had estimated growth to be in the 8-8.5% range in FY23
- **International Holding Company (IHC) of Abu Dhabi - will invest \$2 billion (Rs 15,400 crore) in three companies owned by billionaire Gautam Adani.**
- ✓ IHC will hold about 4% in Adani Enterprises, which has a market cap of nearly Rs 2.4 lakh crore, while it will own 1.4% in Adani Transmission and 1.3% in Adani Green.
- ✓ IHC was set up by Abu Dhabi to diversify into non-oil sectors
- ✓ Adani Transmission has a market cap of almost Rs 2.8 lakh crore, while Adani Green has a market valuation of Rs 3.6 lakh crore.
- ✓ The three Mumbai-listed companies will issue preferential shares to IHC and the investment is subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

WORLD'S 3RD HOTTEST PLACE - REPORT



KOYAMBEDU MARKET MODERNISATION PLAN - REPORT

KOYAMBEDU MARKET MODERNISATION PLAN			
<p>COST ₹20 crore</p> <p>Market Area 65 acres</p> <p>January, 2022 Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure and Financial Services Limited calls for tender to appoint a consultant to modernise the market</p> <p>FOCUS Technology, sanitation, revenue generation, traffic management</p>	<p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design a website for Koyambedu market complex ➤ Separate user ID for every shop owner ➤ License fees, maintenance cost payments to be made online 	<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC REGULATION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Installation of boom barriers with control access system ➤ Identify vacant area for parking ➤ Regulate unauthorised parking and hand over the existing parking area to a consultant 	
<p>TOILET COMPLEXES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presently 96 toilet complexes are functional, 10 more to be added ➤ Improve existing urinals 	<p>INCREASE GREEN SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trees planted in 3.5 acres ➤ Another 3 acres to be added 	<p>OVERVIEW OF THE MARKET</p> <p>Total number of shops 3941</p> <p>Vegetables 1985, Fruits 992, Flowers 472</p> <p>Food Grain 492</p> <p>Area of the shops in square feet 30 - 2400</p> <p>Godowns 13</p> <p>Area of the godown 2,000 and 4,000sqfeet</p> <p>Number of incoming vehicles per day :</p> <p>Vegetables 550</p> <p>Fruits 180-200</p> <p>Flowers 30-50</p>	
<p>INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To achieve 100 percent waste processing ➤ Resume operations of 30 tonne bio methanisation plant ➤ Achieve zero carbon emission ➤ Tender for a bio-composting plant 	<p>REVENUE GENERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use facilities to improve revenue ➤ Reduce cost in solid waste management ➤ Add parking revenue ➤ Improve maintenance costs ➤ To open a night shelter for drivers, workers, staff ➤ To set up more RO plants 	<p>Maintenance charges since 1996, ₹1 per sq feet per month</p>	