



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 14, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station in Tamil Nadu, with 57 letters – gets the honour of having the longest railway station name in India**



- ✓ Earlier, the honour for the longest station name in India belonged to Venkatanarasimharajuvaripeta in Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ The Chennai Central railway station was renamed on April 5, 2019, after the legendary actor and politician of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ About two decades earlier, it was known as Madras Central
- ✓ The second longest station name in the country now is perhaps Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Bengaluru City, which was renamed in 2015 to honour the soldier of a princely State who fought against the British.
- ✓ The third longest name of an Indian railway station is Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, which has 33 letters, being renamed in 2017 by adding the word Maharaj
- ✓ Both Chennai and Mumbai railway stations have undergone three rounds of renaming so far.

STATES

◆ **The election fought in Nizamabad Parliamentary constituency with 185 candidates in the fray - is likely to make it to the Guinness World Records.**

- ✓ For the first time in the country since electronic voting machines (EVMs) were introduced in 1998, as many as 12 ballot units at each polling station were used.
- ✓ So far, the record was for the conduct of polling with four ballot units, which were the M2 models with a maximum of 64 names.
- ✓ Besides, over 7,000 EVMs — which is also a record — were pressed into service in the constituency comprising seven Assembly segments
- ✓ The election was successfully conducted using M3 machines that can accommodate 384 names

NATIONAL

◆ **Tata Trusts and Microsoft India - have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly rejuvenate the handloom clusters in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country.**



- ✓ Microsoft's Project ReWeave will help preserve traditional weaving forms by upskilling workers, designing and marketing merchandise, and creating sustainable livelihood options
- ✓ Microsoft will also enable digital training through Project Sangam, a Microsoft Azure-based Learning Management System, to the weaving communities
- ✓ Tata Trusts' initiative, Antaran, aims at rejuvenating ailing handloom clusters through an end-to-end programme in Odisha, Assam and Nagaland

◆ **The Guwahati Railway Station - has become the first ever railway station in the Indian Railways to get an ISO certification from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for 'providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment'**



- ✓ ISO certification received by Guwahati Railway Station is ISO-14001, which is for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in 2015
- ✓ Thus, the station's certificate reads ISO 14001: 2015
- ✓ ISO, International Organisation for Standardization, is responsible for establishing the standard in the different area of activities
- ✓ It was founded on 23 February 1947 at London, UK
- ✓ It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

◆ **Amazon India - launches a new seller-funding programme named 'Amazon Wings'**

- ✓ It aims to help the small businesses and entrepreneurs to raise funds through the crowd funding platform
- ✓ Amazon India sellers can use the Ketto's platform for a subsidized fee which is around 50% to initiate fundraisers

◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - has signed an MoU with The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) - to protect and restore small wetlands in the coastal regions**



- ✓ Smaller wetlands (which were smaller than 2.25 hectares) cover an area of more than 5 lakh hectares across the country, with Kerala alone having around 2,592 such wetlands
- ✓ As per the MoU, a mobile app and a centralised web portal with a complete database of wetlands in the country will be developed
- ✓ It will aid in developing a comprehensive wetland information system which could facilitate the village-level wetland advisories to the stakeholders
- ✓ The collaboration is part of the national framework for fisheries and wetlands recently developed under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

◆ **Essel World – launches India’s first interactive bird park in Gorai, Mumbai, Maharashtra**



- ✓ The first-of-its-kind rainforest-themed park spread across 1.4 acres is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species
- ✓ The park is carefully designed to ensure appropriate living conditions for the birds
- ✓ The park is equipped with small ponds for aquatic birds, dense cover of trees for birds to incubate their eggs and a water stream that offers drinking water to birds.

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **London - becomes the first city in the world to launch 24x7 'pollution charge zone'**



- ✓ It has started implementing a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards.
- ✓ This move aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health.

◆ **Saudi Arabia - has reopened a consulate in Baghdad for the first time in nearly 30 years**



- ✓ It has also announced a one billion dollars aid package for Iraq.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iraq when the latter invaded Kuwait in 1990

◆ **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - voted unanimously to completely end its peacekeeping operations in Haiti on October 15**

- ✓ U.N. Peace Keeping Mission in Haiti was known as MINUSTAH, a French acronym which stood for “The United Nations is not leaving”
- ✓ MINUSTAH began operations in Haiti in 2004, when a violent rebellion swept the country and forced then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide out of power into exile

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ India - signs pact with Sweden to address challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others

- ✓ The programme titled, The India-Sweden Collaborative Industrial Research and Development Programme, was co-funded by Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova
- ✓ It is technically and administratively managed by the Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)

◆ India - announced as the Guest of honour at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held at the end of April 2019

- ✓ The Book Fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.

PERSONALITIES

◆ Rahul Sharma, the co-founder of Micromax - unveils India's first Artificial Intelligence-enabled e-motorcycle brand



- ✓ For the purpose, he has started a new enterprise called Revolt Intellicorp Pvt. Ltd, at an investment between Rs 400 crore to Rs 500 crore
- ✓ The proposed AI-enabled motorcycle will have a range of 156.8 km and a top speed of 85km/hr.
- ✓ The commercial launch of the motorcycle is scheduled in June this year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **NASA's Curiosity rover in Mars – drills into a 'clay-bearing' unit and takes clay sample for the first time**



- ✓ Curiosity collected a sample of bedrock called “Aberlady” on April 6, which the rover returned to its mineralogy lab on April 10
- ✓ Scientists are particularly keen to look for traces of clay minerals, as the presence of these minerals can indicate whether there used to be water present in the region
- ✓ The clay-bearing unit is near to a rocky landmark named “Knockfarril Hill” and the Vera Rubin Ridge, where the rover was previously situated

◆ **Google - has introduced a new open platform called 'Anthos' to run and manage apps from anywhere**



- ✓ It is based on the Cloud services platform, launched by Google in 2018
- ✓ It lets users run applications on existing hardware investments or in the Public Cloud
- ✓ Anthos will also let users manage workloads running on third-party clouds like Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure

◆ **Phayeng village of Manipur - becomes India's first Carbon-positive village**



- ✓ As part of the carbon-positive village project, Phayeng will receive a grant of Rs10 crore in phases to facilitate afforestation in the catchment of river Maklang that flows along the village.
- ✓ Its conservation efforts are mainly linked to the belief that the forest is a sacred grove
- ✓ It is surrounded by three densely forested hillocks with fruit trees at centre and a stream flowing through it.
- ✓ A village is given the Carbon-Positive Tag if it isolates more carbon than it emits, thereby slowing the accumulation of greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change

DEFENCE

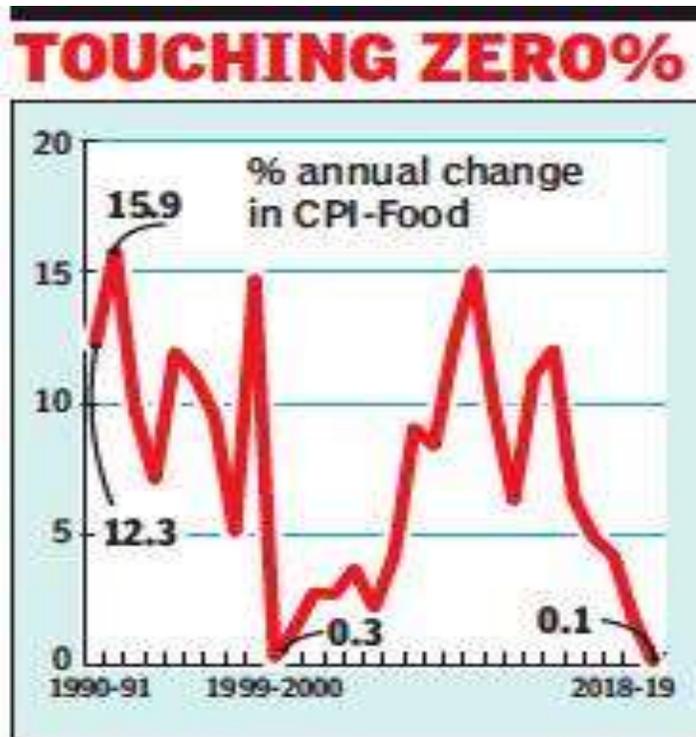
◆ **Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba - inaugurated state-of-the-art Virtual Reality Centre (VRC) in New Delhi - to develop indigenous warship designs for the Navy**



- ✓ It is housed at the Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Group), which is a premier organisation for the design of submarines and submersibles

ECONOMY

- ◆ **Food Inflation in the country – falls to its lowest level in 27 years at 0.1% increase from last year**



- ✓ It means that average food prices in 2018-19 were almost the same as they were in 2017-18—a phenomenon not seen for at least 27 years
 - ✓ As per an analysis by credit rating agency Crisil, food inflation measured by the consumer price index rose only 0.1% in 2018-19.
 - ✓ The last time annual food inflation had fallen below 1% was in 1999-2000.
 - ✓ Economists attribute low food prices to a string of factors including bumper crop, low demand, low global prices, and muted impact of increased minimum support prices (MSP).
 - ✓ Food inflation has been falling consistently since 2013-14, which was the last year prices had risen by more than 10% annually.
- ◆ **Dubai-based Emirates Islamic - becomes the world's first Islamic bank to launch banking services via WhatsApp**
 - ✓ The bank had recently launched 'Chat Banking' services, that allows customers to use features such as checking account balances and temporarily blocking or unblocking of an existing card

AWARDS

◆ Indian Astrologer Dr Sohini Sastri - has been honoured with 'D. Litt in Astrology' by National American University, USA



- ✓ She is also a receipt of 'Champions of Change Award' which was given to her by Honourable Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi recently
- ✓ Other prominent personalities who were also awarded Doctorates at the same event include Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan and choreographer Terence Lewis.

SPORTS

◆ Viswanathan Anand - secured 5th place in the Shamkir Chess 2019 tournament, Shamkir, Azerbaijan.



- ✓ Anand finished the event with 4.5 points, the same as Alexander Grischuk and Teimour Radjabov.
- ✓ However, he was placed fifth in the rankings behind Magnus Carlsen(7) , Ding Liren (5), Sergey Karjakin (5), and Grischuk (4.5)

◆ Meena Kumari Maisnam - wins gold medal in the 54 kg at the Boxing World Cup in Cologne on April 13



- ✓ Sakshi (57kg) and Pwilao Basumatary (64kg) lost their final bouts and had to settle for the silver while Pinki Rani (51kg) and Parveen (60kg) won bronze as India finished with five medals.

◆ **Bibhu Kalyan Nayak - became the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body**



- ✓ A native of Bhubaneswar, Nayak has extensively trained in Sports Traumatology and Sports and Exercise Physiology from National Institute of Sports Medicine at Havana, Cuba & National Sports Centre at Madrid.
- ✓ Nayak also served as a medical officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup

◆ **Former Indian cricketer Murali Kartik - named as the brand ambassador of Fantasy 11, a fantasy sports platform**



- ✓ Fantasy Gaming Space is rapidly growing and is expected to reach 100 million users by 2020.
- ✓ Karthik was the 'Official Fan Management Partner' for the recently conducted Premier Badminton league
- ✓ Other famous sports personalities who were appointed brand ambassadors include
 - ✓ Dream 11 - MS Dhoni
 - ✓ CricPlay - Gautam Gambhir
 - ✓ HalaPlay - Hardik Pandya and his brother Krunal
 - ✓ Fantain - Suresh Raina
 - ✓ Fanmojo - Prithvi Shaw

