



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 23, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

#### ◆ **The first circular suburban train service in Chennai division – to commence from April 23**

- ✓ One train will be a Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and other a regular Electric Multiple Unit (EMU)
- ✓ This has become possible after Southern Railway constructed a detour line between Takkolam and Arakkonam with the mainline
- ✓ The Defence ministry gave ₹60 crore for construction of the detour line
- ✓ This electrified 5km line was necessitated as the regular line between Takkolam and Arakkonam was not electrified due to objection from Defence ministry over the presence of INS Rajali nearby
- ✓ The MEMU rake will leave Chennai Beach, reach Arakkonam, then Tirumalpur followed by Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Tambaram and back to Chennai Beach
- ✓ The second circular train will start from Chennai Beach, reach Tambaram, Chengalpet, then proceed to Kancheepuram, Tirumalpur and then Arakkonam to reach Chennai Beach finally

#### ◆ **Chennai – could get another ‘Sister city’ soon, this time in South Africa**

- ✓ It has signed six such agreements with foreign cities, in order to exchange knowledge in culture, education, trade and technology

#### FACT CHECK

##### CHENAI HAS SISTER CITY AGREEMENT WITH 6 FOREIGN CITIES

- Volgograd, Russia, 1966
- Denver, US, 1984
- San Antonio, US, 2008
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2010
- Chongqing, China, 2015
- Ulsan, S Korea, 2016

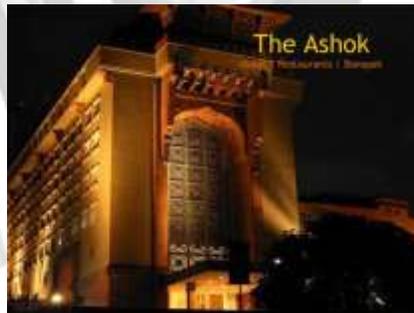
##### WHAT IS IT?

A sister city (American) and twin city (European), as they may be called is an agreement between two cities that decide to share technical expertise in various fields, collaborate in education, improve cultural and trade ties

- ✓ Partnering with a city usually means forming a committee to coordinate and communicate about programmes, projects and activities.
- ✓ Information, experiences and knowledge exchange take place through training, seminars and visits.
- ✓ Projects to improve the current infrastructure and facilities by getting expertise, consultancy and equipment are undertaken
- ✓ The city has signed the agreement with Kuala Lumpur in 2010 as there is a huge Tamil community there
- ✓ Similarly, it had signed the agreement with San Antonio in Texas, as they had cleaned the river that flows through the city, in order to improve river Cooum
- ✓ It also has a huge Tamil population there
- ✓ In 2015, Chennai signed agreements with Chongqing in China to understand its public transport system and tied up with Ulsan, a port city in South Korea, in 2016 to improve trade relations.

## NATIONAL

- ◆ **The country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, will work from a five-star luxury hotel, 'The Ashok' in Chanakyapuri, Delhi**



- ✓ The Lokpal chairperson, all of its eight members and support staff are being allocated space in the hotel premises
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind had on March 23 administered the oath of office to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the chairperson of Lokpal.
- ✓ The Lokpal's eight members were administered the oath by Justice Ghose on March 27
- ✓ Former chief justices of different high courts, Justices Dilip B Bhosale, Pradip Kumar Mohanty, Abhilasha Kumari and Ajay Kumar Tripathi, took oath as judicial members of the Lokpal.
- ✓ Former first woman chief of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Archana Ramasundaram, ex-Maharashtra chief secretary Dinesh Kumar Jain, former IRS officer Mahender Singh and Gujarat cadre ex-IAS officer Indrajeet Prasad Gautam were sworn-in as the Lokpal's non-judicial members

## INTERNATIONAL

### ◆ Sri Lankan authorities - named a little-known local Islamist radical group, the National Thowheed Jamaath, as responsible for the ghastly Easter Sunday serial blasts

- ✓ The blasts claimed nearly 300 lives and injured over 500 across the island nation
- ✓ In a separate move, Islamic State claimed the responsibility for coordinated bombings, even though the group did not give evidence for its claim

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

### ◆ US - to end waivers for all importers of Iranian oil

- ✓ Now, these importers of Iranian oil will have to end their imports shortly or be subject to US sanctions
- ✓ The waivers had been given to 8 countries including China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Italy and Greece
- ✓ Since then, three of the eight nations-Italy, Greece and Taiwan- stopped importing oil from Iran
- ✓ The exemptions were granted last November for a 180-day-period, which is going to expire on May 2 and the US is no longer going to renew them
- ✓ The United States had re-imposed sanctions on exports of Iranian oil in November 2018, after Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of the landmark 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers

## APPOINTMENTS

### ◆ Twitter - has appointed Manish Maheshwari as the Managing Director of its India operations

- ✓ He replaces Balaji Krish, who was given charge of leading the country's operations last year after Taranjeet Singh had stepped down as the India Country Director
- ✓ Krish will return to Twitter global headquarters in San Francisco to resume his role as Global Head of Revenue Strategy and Operations



- ✓ Maheshwari, who previously served as the CEO of Network18 Digital, takes over the new role from April 29

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Trichy girl Gomathi Marimuthu - gave India their first gold by winning the women's 800m event at the Asian athletics championships in Doha**



- ✓ Gomathi won the race with her personal best timing of 2:02.70
- ✓ It was the 30-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete's first major gold.
- ✓ Gomathi's maiden international competition was back in 2013 where she ended up seventh in the 800m final of the Asian championships at Pune
- ✓ Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, the favourite, took the men's shot put gold with an opening-round throw of 20.22m, his best this season.
- ✓ Javelin thrower Shivpal Singh produced a huge 86.23m effort that fetched him the men's silver.
- ✓ And then, M.P. Jabir and Saritaben Gayakwad, in the men's and women's 400m hurdles, returned with bronze.

## RANKINGS

- ◆ **India moved up to 17th position in 2018 from 37th spot last year - in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019, released by StartupBlink**

- ✓ The top three spots remained unchanged with the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.



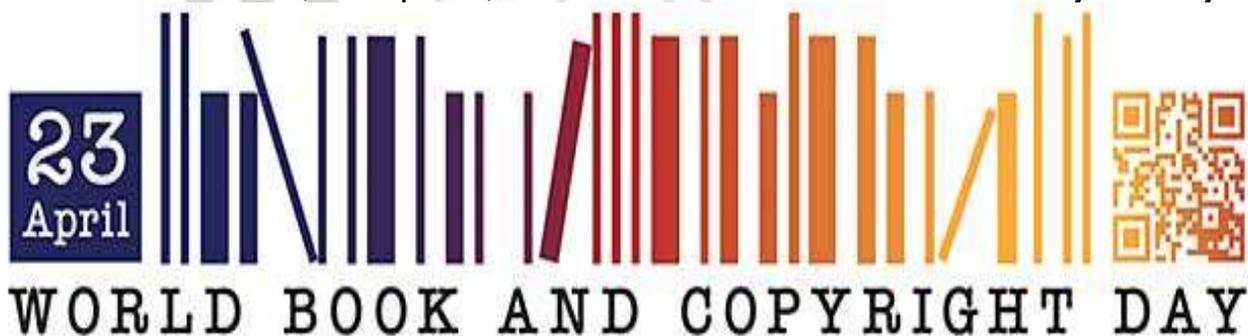
In StartupBlink's cities ranking, six Indian entries made it to top 100. Bengaluru was as the top startup city in India at 11<sup>th</sup>.

- ✓ In StartupBlink's cities ranking, six Indian entries made it to top 100.
- ✓ Bengaluru was as the top startup city in India at 11th, while New Delhi followed in the 18th spot. Mumbai stood at 29th rank, while Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune also made it to top 100
- ✓ India ranked at 17 globally among 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem, according to StartupBlink, which tracks startup ecosystems on a number of parameters.
- ✓ It used data from startups, accelerators and co-working spaces registered on its platforms as well as data received from global partners such as Crunchbase and SimilarWeb
- ✓ The report has taken the startup ecosystems of 1,000 cities and 100 countries into consideration

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ◆ 'World Book Day' or 'World Book and Copyright Day' – April 23

- ✓ World Book Day' is celebrated by UNESCO every year on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the importance of literature and reading
- ✓ The date, April 23<sup>rd</sup> was finalized in the year 1995 in the UNESCO General Conference, held in Paris, to honor authors and book worldwide.
- ✓ April 23<sup>rd</sup> marks the death anniversary of many prominent literary figures like William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, while the date also marks the birth anniversary of many other prominent authors including Maurice Druon, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla, Haldor K. Lazness and Manuel Mejia Vallejo



“A day to celebrate books as the embodiment of **human creativity** and the desire to **share ideas** and **knowledge**, to inspire **understanding** and **tolerance**”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

- ✓ This year, the city of Sharjah has been selected as the World Book Capital for a period of one year.
- ✓ The theme for this year is centred around celebrating literature and reading with a particular focus on enhancing and protecting indigenous languages

### ◆ Zero Shadow Day – April 24

## JUMP AND SEE

### WHAT IS ZERO SHADOW DAY?

➤ In tropical region, shadow of an object appears exactly under it twice a year as the sun is right at zenith

### SHADOW

➤ Shadow helps us know the angular position and the motion of the sun at any time of the day

Representative image



This will happen in Chennai on April 24, around 12.07pm

### WHAT IS ZENITH?

➤ Imagine the sky as an arc. The highest point in the sky (arc) is the zenith

### CONCEPT

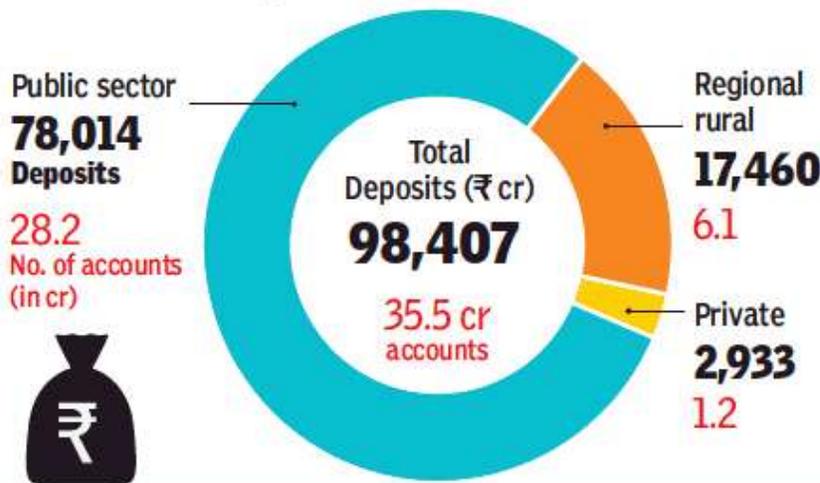
➤ When the sun has its declination equal to the latitude of the place, then the sun is at zenith because of the tilt of the earth's axis

- ✓ It is the day in which the shadow cast under a person around noon will be almost zero, when the Sun crosses the local meridian, an imaginary line connecting north, south and overhead
- ✓ On this day, the Sun's declination will be at 13 degrees and cities such as Chennai, Bengaluru and Mangaluru are at 13 degree latitude. So, these cities can see zero shadow
- ✓ Every location on earth between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn will witness this phenomenon twice a year.
- ✓ In India, this happens between April and September
- ✓ For one degree rotation, the earth takes four minutes. Hence, after Chennai sees shortest shadow, it will be followed by Bengaluru, which may take around 10 minutes and then Mangaluru

# JAN DHAN DEPOSITS TOP RS 1 LAKH CRORE – A REPORT

**Four-and-a-half years after its launch, deposits in Jan Dhan accounts are about to touch ₹1 lakh crore, which are just 0.8% of all the bank deposits. But, data on zero balance accounts has gone missing**

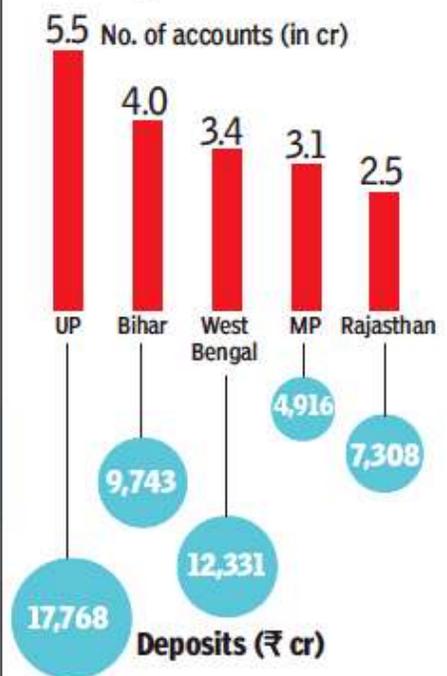
State-run banks account for nearly 80% of the accounts and deposits under the scheme



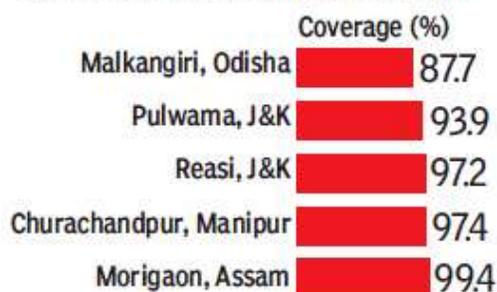
**Top three private sector banks have opened 80 lakh accounts for the unbanked, just 4 lakh more than UCO – among the smallest public sector players. SBI has opened 32% of accounts**

Bank	No. of accounts (in cr)	Deposits (₹ cr)
Axis Bank	0.09	221
HDFC Bank	0.24	1,074
ICICI Bank	0.47	284

Bimaru states and West Bengal make up over 52% of the accounts and deposits



Districts which still have some unbanked households



Data as on April 10, 2019;  
Source: PM Jan Dhan Yojana website

There is an increased flow into these accounts by way of direct benefit transfer and PM-Kisan. There is also growing awareness



**Pallav Mohapatra**, MD & CEO, Central Bank of India

Through PMJDY, SBI along with its employees ensure access to financial services including savings bank accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, overdraft, pension and so on, to many unbanked adults in the remotest areas of the country



**P K Gupta**, SBI MD

