

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 25, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **TANGEDCO - has begun measuring wind power generation in real time using the global positioning system (GPS)**



**ADVANTAGES OF NEW SYSTEM**

- Billing is easy and discom will know how much wind power has been purchased by the first of every month
- Nine wind schedule data centres in Tamil Nadu can now see the live wind power generation
- Better transparency; new scheme prevents corruption and wrong calculation of wind power generation
- Tangedco is the first discom to install GPS in all windmills in the state

- ✓ The system has been installed in all windmills across TN and the discom has been able to measure the power generated by a windmill without going to the spot,
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is the first state to use GPS in windmills
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has a total wind power capacity of 8,322MW
- ✓ In the coming months, the GPS system will be installed in solar, biomass and in thermal plants there by ruling out malpractices in billing apart from reducing discom's expenditure

**NATIONAL**

- ◆ **Government's Think tank Niti Aayog - has agreed to the proposal of the Dental Council of India to allow dentists to practice as general physicians after doing a 'bridge course'**

- ✓ The proposal sought to introduce a bridge course of 3 years after BDS
- ✓ The admission would be either through a common entrance exam or through cumulative marks secured in the BDS course, or even a combination
- ✓ Indian Medical Association has vehemently opposed the proposal.

◆ **The Union Ministry of Home Affairs - has distributed over 3,100 special kits SAECKs for collecting blood and semen samples, besides other evidence, to carry out immediate investigations into sexual assault cases among various states/UTs**

- ✓ Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (SAECKs) or 'rape investigation kits' are specially designed kits to carry out the immediate medico-legal investigation
- ✓ SAECKs also aid in furnishing evidence in sexual assault and rape cases
- ✓ The SAECKs are being procured with financial support under the Central government's Nirbhaya Fund

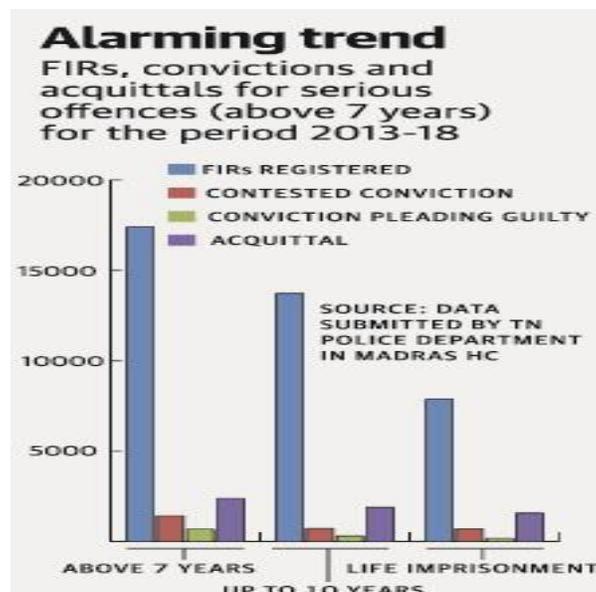
## COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Madras high court - directed the central government to come out with a time frame by which the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, could be amended to extend the legal abortion window period from 20 weeks to 24 weeks**

- ✓ A proposal in this regard has been pending since 2014.
- ✓ A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice SS Sundar observed that by extending the legal period for abortion, families could have been saved of the emotional and physical trauma

◆ **The Madras high court - has formed a five-member committee to bring in radical police reforms in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Former DGP and sitting AIADMK MLA representing Mylapore constituency R Nataraj, former superintendent of police V Sithanan, senior advocate NR Elango, director of Banyan Dr K V Kishore Kumar, and deputy commissioner of police, Adyar range M Sudhakar were chosen as members of the heterogenous committee



- ✓ Justice N Anand Venkatesh, while passing interim orders, gave the committee eight weeks to give its recommendations on reforms to usher in best practices for improving the quality of investigation, and to ensure reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts/accused into society.

◆ **The Madurai bench of the Madras high court - vacated its interim order prohibiting downloading of Chinese-origin video sharing app, TikTok**

- ✓ The Chinese company submitted that it has moderating mechanisms in place to regulate obscene content and it is only an intermediary platform, which does not upload content.
- ✓ A division bench of justices N Kirubakaran and S S Sundar expressed concern that there was no statutory protection for children
- ✓ It had asked whether the Union of India would enact a statute like the Children Online Privacy Protection Act, enacted by the United States, to prevent children from becoming cyber victims.
- ✓ The Bench directed ByteDance, the developer of TikTok, to monitor the content on the app
- ✓ The Union government had blocked 14,220 websites between 2010 and 2018 and that this was the first case in the country on an intermediary website.
- ✓ On April 3, the court had issued an interim direction to the Centre to prohibit downloading of TikTok mobile app from Google and Apple app stores.
- ✓ TikTok, a platform for short-form mobile videos, allows users to create and share short videos with special effects
- ✓ The app is already banned in Bangladesh and has been fined in the US for illegally collecting information on children.
- ✓ Over 30 million users in India installed the app in January 2019

## INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Sri Lanka - banned the use of drones and unmanned aircraft following the massive Easter bombings**

- ✓ The measure was taken in view of the existing security situation in the country.
- ✓ The ban will be in effect until further notice

◆ **African country Malawi - became the first to immunise children against Malaria through the vaccine 'RTS,S' (Mosquirix) under the WHO-coordinated Malaria vaccine pilot programme.**

- ✓ Malawi is also the first of three countries in Africa (apart from Ghana and Kenya) in which the vaccine RTS,S will be made available to children up to 2 years of age
- ✓ The Malaria vaccine pilot programme is a collaborative effort with ministries of health in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi and international partners like PATH and the vaccine developer Glaxo Smithkline

### ◆ **Ghana - launched medical drone service in the country**

- ✓ It had started a fleet of drones to carry medical supplies to remote areas
- ✓ The move is part of an ambitious plan to solve problems of medical access in a country with poor roads.
- ✓ The drones have been flying test runs with blood and vaccines, but the project was officially inaugurated on April 24 at the main drone base in Omenako
- ✓ Omenako is the first of four distribution centres which, when fully operational, will each have 30 drones serving 500 clinics within an 80-kilometre radius
- ✓ Operator Zipline, a U.S.-based company, said the three other sites should be ready by the end of 2019
- ✓ The drones are planned to ferry 150 different medicines, blood, and vaccines to more than 2,000 clinics serving over 12 million people — roughly 40% of the population
- ✓ Zipline first began delivering blood and medicine in East Africa in 2016, deploying drones in Rwanda

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

### ◆ **UAE's Mars mission project 'Hope Probe' – is completed 85% and scheduled to be launched in July 2020**

- ✓ The UAE Space Agency and Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) have announced in a joint statement that currently the project is on intensive testing phase for the launch
- ✓ With its successful launch, UAE may become the first Arabic and Islamic country to send a mission to Mars
- ✓ The project will take a global picture of the Martian atmosphere over a period of time, using various scientific devices like The Emirates exploration imager (EXI), Emirates Mars Ultraviolet Spectrometer (EMUS) and Emirates Mars Infrared Spectrometer (EMIRS)
- ✓ The probe is expected to reach Mars by 2021 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UAE

### ◆ **China – plans to send a manned mission to the moon and to build a research station on the moon's South Pole within the next 10 years.**

- ✓ Recently, it became the first nation to land a rover on the far side of the moon in January 2019.
- ✓ Tiangong programme, also known as 'Heavenly Palace' is the space station program of the People's Republic of China
- ✓ China launched its first space laboratory, Tiangong-1, on September 29, 2011 followed by the launch of more advanced space laboratory with a cargo ship, Tiangong-2 on September 15, 2016
- ✓ It plans to create a modular space station similar to Soviet Union's Mir
- ✓ The space station is scheduled to go into orbit by 2022.

- ✓ It is set to replace the International Space Station, a collaboration between the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan, which is due to be retired in 2024
- ✓ China has also confirmed that its fourth lunar probe, the Chang'e-5, will be launched by the end of 2019.
- ✓ The nation also plans to launch a Mars probe by 2020

◆ **NASA's Mars Lander InSight - has recorded its first 'Marsquake'**



- ✓ It has recorded a quake of 2 or 2.5 magnitude which is hard to predict on Earth's surface
- ✓ The faint seismic signal, detected by the lander's Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) instrument, was recorded on April 6, the lander's 128th Martian day.
- ✓ InSight's seismometer was placed by the lander on the planet's surface on December 19, 2018
- ✓ InSight's French-built seismometer is an instrument sensitive enough to measure a seismic wave just one-half the radius of a hydrogen atom
- ✓ Earthquake is a result of shifting of tectonic plates, but Mars doesn't have tectonic plates
- ✓ Hence the quakes appear in Mars due to the impact of meteors and also due to the movement of magma deep underground

## DEFENCE

◆ **The Indian Coast Guard Vessel C-441 - was commissioned on April 24, 2019 at Vizhinjam harbour, Thiruvananthapuram**



- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) C-441 is capable to undertake diverse tasks such as close coast surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea
- ✓ The ship is commanded by Assistant Commandant Amit K Choudhary

◆ **In a first, the Indian Army - began online registration of women for recruitment as soldiers into the military police on April 25, 2019**

- ✓ The recruitment for 'Soldier General Duty (Women Military Police)' was mooted by the Army Chief General Bipin Rawat
- ✓ The move comes three months after the Government announced that women would be inducted into the force in the "Personnel Below Officer Rank" (PBOR) category in a phased manner to eventually comprise 20% of total Corps of Military Police.
- ✓ Through this recruitment drive, 100 vacancies will be filled Earlier in March 2019, the Defence Ministry announced that women officers recruited into the armed forces under the Short Service Commission will now have the option of taking up Permanent Commission in the Indian Armed Forces

## ECONOMY

◆ **Reserve Bank of India - has sold its entire stake in the National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (Nabard) to the Union Government for Rs 1,450 crore and Rs 20 crore, respectively**

- ✓ The move would now make these organisations fully government-owned with 100% stake
- ✓ It follows the recommendation of the second Narasimham committee report of October 2001, to end the cross-holding in regulatory institutions
- ✓ The National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development was established on July 12, 1982 with an initial capital of Rs 100 crore
- ✓ The National Housing Bank was announced in the 1987-88 budget, following which, the NHB Bill, providing a legislative framework for the NHB, was passed by parliament in the Winter session of 1987 and it became an Act on December 23, 1987.

## AWARDS

◆ **The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 - was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel "Solo"**

- ✓ It is the second edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize
- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for social achievement was awarded to Yohei Sasakawa, the World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy
- ✓ Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen was awarded as a beacon of democracy



- ✓ Tagore Prize is founded and launched with a strong vision to be a platform and a vehicle for improving and inspiring World Peace, Literature, Art and Education

◆ **Popular scriptwriter Salim Khan, national award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and one of the finest dancer actress of yesteryears, Helen - were honoured with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award at a ceremony in Mumbai**

- ✓ The awards were instituted by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, a charitable trust in Pune, established and run by the Mangeshkar family for the last 30 years



- ✓ Deenanath Mangeshkar is the father of the legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar

## SPORTS

◆ **P U Chitra - defended her 1500 m title to give India its third gold on the fourth and final day of the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of Asian Athletics Championships in Doha**



- ✓ Ajay Kumar Saroj and Dutee Chand won a silver and a bronze in men's 1500 m and women's 200 m respectively
- ✓ Earlier Gomathi Marimuthu (women's 800m) and Tejinder Pal Singh Toor (men's shot put) won the Gold medal each on the second day of the championships
- ✓ The 23-year-old Chitra had clinched a bronze in the Jakarta Asian Games.
- ✓ Earlier, Chitra had won gold in the 2017 edition in Bhubaneswar
- ✓ Dutee clocked 23.24 seconds to win the bronze in the women's 200 m
- ✓ The 23-year-old Dutee had won a 200m silver in the Jakarta Asian Games
- ✓ The women's 4x400 m relay quartet of Prachi, Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and VK Vismaya finished second
- ✓ In the 4x4000 m mixed relay event which was introduced for the first time in this championship, the Indian quartet of Mohammed Anas, M R Poovamma, V K Vismaya and Arokia Rajiv clocked 3:16.47 to finish with a silver

- ✓ India with 17 medals (3 Gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze) finished fourth in the tournament.
- ✓ Bahrain topped the tally with 11 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze, followed by China with 10 gold, 13 silver, 7 bronze and then Japan with 5 gold, 4 silver, 9 bronze.

◆ **Indian men - finished their freestyle campaign with a record-breaking haul of eight medals (1 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze) at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China**



- ✓ Amit Dhankar (74kg) and Vicky Chahar (92kg) won silver medals while Commonwealth Games gold medallist Rahul Aware (61kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg) won their bronze-medal
- ✓ On Day 1 of the championship, Bajrang Punia (65kg) had won gold, while Parveen Rana (79kg) got a silver and Satyawart Kadian (97kg) clinched bronze
- ✓ India finished third behind Iran (10 medals including 7 gold) and Kazakhstan (5 medals included 2 gold) in team championships in men's freestyle.

◆ **Legendary Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj, former India leg-spinner VV Kumar and Asian Games gold medallist R Gnanasekaran – to receive the India Cements-TNSJA Lifetime Achievement awards**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists Association (TNSJA) has joined hands with India Cements to present its annual awards, which recognise recent performances and bright potential across all sports
- ✓ Sportsperson of the Year, Young Achievers, Coach of the Year and Team of the Year are other categories of awards that will be presented on the occasion
- ✓ Ten promising sportspersons will also be honoured with scholarships of Rs 30,000 each

◆ **The winners of the inaugural edition of the Pro Volleyball League — Chennai Spartans —become the first club from India to make the semifinals of the ongoing Asian club volleyball championships in Taiwan**

- ✓ With 17 points to his name, Naveen Raja Jacob was the standout performer for the Spartans

# RANKINGS

## ◆ The Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2019 - released by INSEAD, Adecco Group and Tata Communications



- ✓ India ranks 80 while Singapore takes the lead in Asia region
- ✓ In this sixth edition, Switzerland continues to lead the 2019 Global Talent Competitiveness index, while Singapore and the United States come in second and third respectively.
- ✓ The top three is followed by Scandinavian countries, Norway (4th), Denmark (5th), Finland (6th), and Sweden (7th)
- ✓ Yemen has finished at the bottom of this year's index at 125th, just below Congo (124th) and Burundi (123rd).
- ✓ The report measures levels of Global Talent Competitiveness by looking at 68 variables. The 2019 index covers 125 national economies and 114 cities (respectively 119 and 90 in 2018) across all groups of income and levels of development

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ◆ World Malaria Day - April 25



- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment towards malaria prevention and control
- ✓ According to WHO's latest World Malaria Report, no significant efforts were made in reducing malaria cases during 2015 – 2017 with the estimated number of malaria deaths in 2017 standing at 435000 with no change from previous year

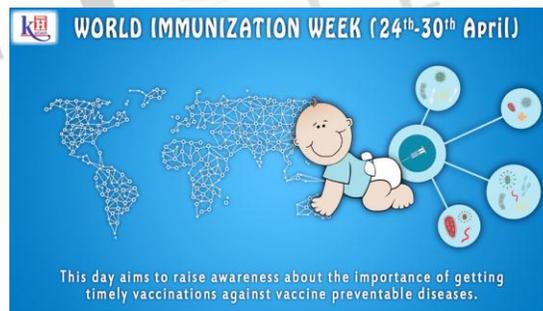
- ✓ Theme 2019 – ‘Zero malaria starts with me’
- ✓ In the recent years, the WHO had certified 7 countries as Malaria-free countries after 3 consecutive years of zero locally-acquired cases of malaria. These are - United Arab Emirates (2007), Morocco (2010), Turkmenistan (2010), Armenia (2011), Maldives (2015), Sri Lanka (2016) and Kyrgyzstan (2016).
- ✓ The day was established in May 2007 by the 60th session of the World Health Assembly to provide education and understanding of malaria

◆ **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace – April 24**



- ✓ The first ever official ‘International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace’ was observed by the United Nations (UN) on April 24, 2019
- ✓ The observance of the day every year on April 24 was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on December 12, 2018

◆ **World Immunization Week 2019 is being observed from 24-30 April, 2019**



- ✓ **Theme - Protected Together: Vaccines Work**
- ✓ Every year last week of April is observed as World Immunisation Week to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease
- ✓ Immunization Week was observed uniformly for the first time in 2012, with the participation of more than 180 countries and territories worldwide

