

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 27, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chennai city - to get ₹4,500 crore for development of storm water drains and large underground drains as funding from multilateral funding agencies**
 - ✓ Work on development of storm water drains in the Kovalam basin — in the southern part of Chennai — is set to begin with funding from German development bank KfW
 - ✓ KfW has given in-principle approval for funding — estimated at ₹2,500 crore — of the project covering 600-km in the Kovalam basin
 - ✓ In addition to the 200 million Euro funds likely to be released from the German development bank, the State government will also fund the project.
 - ✓ World Bank is also expected to give funds for the ₹3,000-crore project for flood mitigation in the State with over 70% of the project to be in Chennai and its suburbs.
 - ✓ Flood-prone areas such as Tambaram, Guduvancherry and Urapakkam will get underground macrodrains to reduce flooding

STATES

- ◆ **Kerala - became the second state after Gujarat to invoke action against voters for falsely alleging mismatch in their vote.**
 - ✓ Since the amendment done to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 - Rule 49 MA - recommending action against a voter for false claim on EVM, it has been invoked only thrice, with two of those cases filed in Kerala
 - ✓ On April 23, FIRs were registered against a voter each in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam constituencies under 49MA rule.
 - ✓ In 2017 assembly elections in Gujarat, the rule was used against a voter in Dwarka constituency

- ✓ In case of mismatch, the voter has to sign a form of declaration under rule 49MA by which he expressed his willingness to cast a test vote again to show that the allegation made by him was true and bonafide.
- ✓ As per the penal provisions of IPC section 177, the elector shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment for up to six months or a fine up to ₹1,000 or both if the declaration was found to be incorrect.

NATIONAL

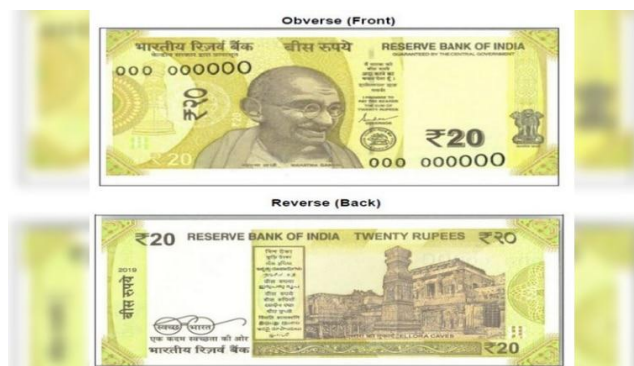
◆ **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India', to eliminate Malaria from India by 2030.**



- ✓ It is a gathering of partners working together to plan and scale up research in order to eliminate the disease completely
- ✓ The alliance was launched on the occasion of the World Malaria Day 2019
- ✓ The prevalence of Malaria in India declined by over 80% from 2.03 million cases in 2000 to 0.39 million in 2018.
- ✓ Deaths by malaria also declined by over 90% from 932 deaths in 2000 to 85 in 2018
- ✓ The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDCP) developed a comprehensive framework to achieve "Malaria free India by 2030"

◆ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - to shortly issue Rs 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series**

- ✓ It will bear the signature of Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.



- ✓ The new Rs 20 banknote has motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage, with the base colour of the note in Greenish Yellow

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Qatar - is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019**
 - ✓ In September 2018, Qatar approved legislation to scrap the “kafala”, or sponsorship, system which required that foreign workers obtain permission from their employers to leave the country
- ◆ **US President Donald Trump - rejects the United Nations' 2013 Arms Trade Treaty, terming it as 'misguided' and an intrusion on US sovereignty**
 - ✓ The 2013 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) came into effect in December 2014 after over 65 countries of the world signed it on June 3, 2013.
 - ✓ The treaty seeks to regulate the flow of weapons into conflicted zones and prohibit cross-border shipments that can be used in human rights violations or attacks on civilians.
 - ✓ The world's largest arms traders including the United States, China and Russia have not joined the treaty.
- ◆ **The United States - imposed sanctions on Pakistan after the nation refused to take back its citizen deportees and visa over-stayers from America**
 - ✓ As a result of such sanctions, the US may withhold visas of Pakistanis beginning with its senior officials
 - ✓ With these sanctions, Pakistan is the latest to join the list of 10 nations imposed with sanctions under the US Immigration and Nationality Act
 - ✓ Ghana and Pakistan have been included in the list this year.
 - ✓ The other countries include Guyana in 2001, Gambia in 2016, Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea, and Sierra Leone in 2017, Burma and Laos in 2018

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- ◆ **The United States - yet again placed India on its 'Priority Watch List', alleging lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its Intellectual Property (IP) framework**
 - ✓ The office of the US Trade Representative identified 11 countries, including India, in its 'Priority Watch List'.
 - ✓ The list is topped by China and includes Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
 - ✓ Besides this, the US Trade body has placed 25 countries, including Pakistan, Turkey and the UAE, on the watchlist.

COMMITTEES

- ◆ **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) - has set up a committee to review the regulatory framework on micro-insurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products**



- ✓ **With IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur as the chairman**, the 13-member panel has been tasked with suggesting product designs with customer-friendly initiatives, including easy premium payment methods and simple claims settlement procedures.
- ✓ Micro-insurance policies are a general or life insurance policy with a sum assured of Rs 50,000 or less to promote insurance coverage among economically vulnerable sections of society
- ✓ Micro- Insurance Business is done by intermediaries such as Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) especially for the protection of low-income groups

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ◆ **5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness - began in Kathmandu**



5TH ABU MEDIA SUMMIT
ON CLIMATE ACTION AND
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Media Solutions for Sustainable Future -
Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities

25-26 April 2019 | Kathmandu, Nepal

- ✓ The theme of the two-day summit is “Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities”.
- ✓ The basic aim of the summit is to fully utilize media’s potential of accelerating climate action and disaster preparedness and connect stakeholders for collaboration and joint practical projects

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ United States - initiated its first move towards extending protection for giraffes under the Endangered Species Act



- ✓ The group, which designates endangered species, added giraffes to its "Red List" in 2016.
- ✓ It determined that the species as a whole is "vulnerable" to extinction and classified two subspecies as "critically endangered."
- ✓ A coalition of environmental and conservation groups petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service in early 2017 to protect giraffes under the Endangered Species Act.
- ✓ There are now only about 68,000 mature giraffes left in the wild, with their number falling each year

DEFENCE

◆ Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard K.R. Nautiyal - formally commissioned Coast Guard vessel 'Priyadarshini' in Kakinada



- ✓ This is the 99th vessel made by the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and the third one deputed to the ICG Station, Kakinada
- ✓ Priyadarshini has an overall length of 50 metres, displacement of 308 tonnes and a maximum speed of 34 knots.

AWARDS

◆ **India's well-known golf administrator, Dilip Thomas - was bestowed the 'Lifetime contribution to Golf' honour at the Golf Industry Association (GIA) Awards night at the Delhi Golf Club**

- ✓ Notably, he was also part of the International Golf Federation's Board of Directors overseeing the return of golf to the 2016 Olympic Games
- ✓ Gaganjeet Bhullar, winner of 10 international titles including one on the European Tour and eight on the Asian Tour, was named for "Outstanding Achievement as a player" award



- ✓ Nonita Lall Qureshi and Vijay Divecha were the worthy awardees for their contribution as coaches.
- ✓ Kavita Singh was chosen for the 'Inspiration to women's golf' award.

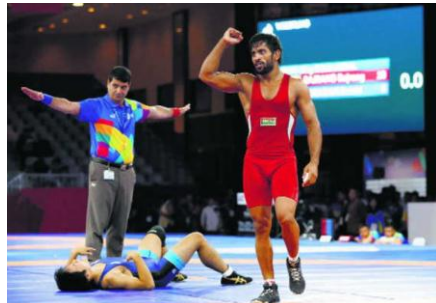
SPORTS

◆ **Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik and Asian Games champion Vinesh Phogat - settled for a bronze in the Asian Wrestling Championships at X'ian, China**



- ✓ With the two bronze won earlier through Manju Kumari (59kg) and Divya Kakran (68kg), the Indian women wrestlers ended their campaign with four bronze medals
- ✓ The Indian team has so far won 12 medals (one gold, three silver, eight bronze) in the championships.

◆ **Indian wrestling sensation, Bajrang Punia – to soon become the first Indian wrestler to fight at iconic famed venue of Madison Square Garden in New York, USA**



- ✓ Bajrang has been invited by USA Wrestling (the national governing body for the sport in United States) to participate in the 'Grapple at the Garden – Beat the Streets' fight night, scheduled to be held on May 6
- ✓ He will take on two-time US national champion Yianni Diakomihalis in the 65kg category, who is on a 47-match unbeaten streak
- ✓ The Indian, who won gold in the Asian championship recently, is No. 1 in his weight category in world rankings.
- ✓ Bajrang has bagged eight gold medals in his last nine international tournaments, including gold medals in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Asiad.
- ✓ 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist Kyle Snyder and 2012 London Olympics gold medallist Jordan Burroughs – both from the United States – will also take part in the showcase event
- ✓ Indian boxer Vikas Krishan recently competed at the Madison Square Garden and won his professional bout against American Noah Kidd
- ✓ Vikas turned professional last year and has stopped representing India at international amateur boxing tournaments.

◆ **Indian boxing star, Amit Panghal – wins Gold in the 52kg category at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok**



- ✓ Besides Amit, Pooja Rani won gold as she stunned reigning world champion Wang Lina of China in the 81kg weight division.
- ✓ The 23-year-old Amit had won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and came into the Asian championship after bagging gold at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in February in Bulgaria
- ✓ India bagged 2 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze medals to finish the championships with 13 medals in total.

- ✓ This was India's best ever performance in the championship
- ✓ It was the first time the championship was held for men and women, simultaneously
- ✓ Indian Medal Winners

- ✓ **Gold**

- Amit Panghal (Men's 52kg)
- Pooja Rani (Women's 81kg)

- ✓ **Silver**

- Kavinder Singh Bisht (Men's 56kg)
- Deepak (Men's 49kg)
- Ashish Kumar (Men's 75kg)
- Simranjit Kaur (Women's 64kg)

- ✓ **Bronze**

- Shiva Thapa (Men's 60kg)
- Ashish (Men's 69kg)
- Satish Kumar (Men's +91kg)
- Sarita Devi (Women's 60kg)
- Nikhat Zareen (Women's 51kg)
- Manisha Moun (Women's 54kg)
- Sonia Chahal (Women's 57kg)

◆ **Chennai Spartans – finished at fourth position in the Asian club volleyball championships at Taiwan**



- ✓ They went down tamely to Qatar club Al Rayyan in the bronze medal playoff clash
- ✓ Spartans have earlier lost to Irani club, Shahrdari Varamin in the semifinals
- ✓ It is the first Indian club to reach semis of Asian Club Championship

◆ **Divyansh Singh Panwar - bagged the individual silver in the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing**



- ✓ He had also won the mixed gold with Anjum Moudgil a day before

- ✓ In the process, the Jaipur boy also bagged one of the two quota places available for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in this edition of the World Cup for his section.
- ✓ At 16, Divyansh became the youngest Indian shooter to win an Olympic quota after Saurabh Chaudhary, 17, secured the 10m air pistol spot in February.
- ✓ The shooter is now supported by not-for-profit organisation, Olympic Gold Quest.
- ✓ Shooters who have secured Olympics berth
 - ✓ Anjum Moudgil (Women's 10m air rifle)
 - ✓ Apurvi Chandela (Women's 10m air rifle)
 - ✓ Divyansh Singh Panwar (Men's 10m air rifle)
 - ✓ Saurabh Choudhary (Men's 10m air pistol)

◆ **India's Abhishek Verma - won the 10m Air Pistol gold at ISSF World Cup in Beijing**



- ✓ While winning the gold medal in only his second World Cup appearance, Verma sealed a quota place for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- ✓ Abhishek who had won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol event during his India debut at the Asian Games
- ✓ He became the fifth Indian shooter to have clinched a quota place for Tokyo Olympics

◆ **Doru Isac (Romania) – to take charge as India's next football technical director on a three year contract**



- ✓ Isac, 56, served as assistant to Arsene Wenger at the start of his career
- ✓ He was the former Romania U-19 coach and manager of MLS team Houston Dynamo
- ✓ He had also worked with teams in Japan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Qatar during his career and worked with former Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz and Bora Milutinovic, the Serbian coach who managed five different teams at the World Cup.
- ✓ He replaces Australian Scott O'Donnell, who stepped aside in 2017
- ✓ Former India midfielder and director of coach education, Savio Medeira, was the interim technical director.

◆ **India's Pardeep Singh - won a bronze in clean and jerk in the 102kg category of the Asian weightlifting championships**



- ✓ Former World champion Mirabai Chanu (49kg) had also picked up a bronze in clean and jerk with a personal best of 113kg though she finished fourth in total lift (199kg)

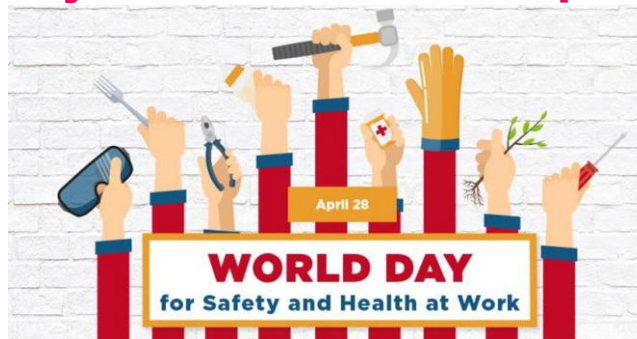
◆ **Indian para swimmer Niranjan Mukundan - achieved the Minimum Entry Time (MET) in the men's 200m IM (SM7 class) for the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships**



- ✓ Competing in the Loterias Caixa Open Championships — part of the Para Swimming World Series — Niranjan emerged on top in the SM7 class
- ✓ The Worlds will take place in London from Sept. 9 to 15.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

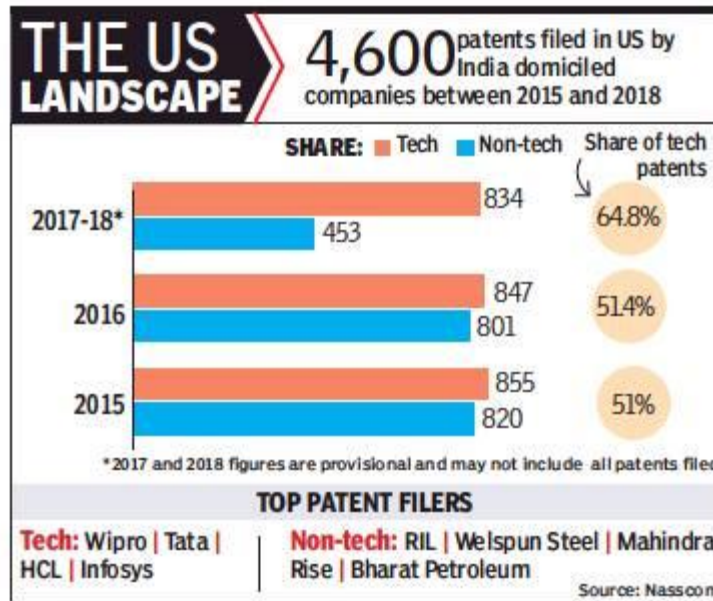
◆ **World Day for Safety and Health at Work - April 28**



- ✓ The day is observed annually to promote safe, healthy and decent work by preventing occupational accidents and diseases globally
- ✓ The day has been observed every year on April 28 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003

REPORT

◆ Questel Orbit Patent Database report – as released by IT association Nasscom on IP creation



- ✓ Wipro, TCS, HCL, Infosys, Reliance Industries (RIL), Welspun Steel, Mahindra Rise and Bharat Petroleum - top the list of India-domiciled companies creating intellectual property (IP) assets in the US.
- ✓ The report finds that the proportion of tech patents is rising
- ✓ In 2017-2018, tech patents accounted for 65% of total patents — up from 51% in 2015
- ✓ Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, internet of things (IoT) and cloud computing accounted for over 50% of the tech patents filed in 2017-2018
- ✓ AI is the frontrunner in the emerging technology space with over 300 patents filed for the 2015-2018 period
- ✓ New applications areas include navigation, digital payments, logistics, text/data mining and cybersecurity.
- ✓ The non-tech patents are most in the areas of chemistry & chemical composition, pharma and mechanical & structural inventions
- ✓ Wipro has filed a patent related to generating a safe navigation path for a driverless vehicle.
- ✓ TCS has filed a patent for pest management, where the method/ system provides pest forecasting using historical pesticide usage information
- ✓ Indian companies and startups filed 60% of the tech patents, while international companies in India accounted for 25% of them.
- ✓ Academics and researchers contributed the balance

CHINA'S BRI – A REPORT

◆ Chinese President Xi Jinping - defended his ambitious 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI), vowing to prevent debt risks at the second edition of the three-day Belt and Road Forum.

- ✓ India skipped the meet for the second time in protest against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key component of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- ✓ The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), an integral part of India, held by Pakistan and claimed by it
- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte were among the prominent dignitaries



- ✓ The Belt and Road Initiative is a development strategy proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping
- ✓ It aims to create 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) by establishing new routes linking three continents - Asia, Europe and Africa by 2049.
- ✓ The initiative is geographically structured along 6 corridors along with the maritime Silk Road. They are –
 - ✓ New Eurasian Land Bridge, running from Western China to Western Russia
 - ✓ China - Mongolia - Russia Corridor, running from Northern China to Eastern Russia
 - ✓ China - Central Asia - West Asia Corridor, running from Western China to Turkey
 - ✓ China - Indochina Peninsula Corridor, running from Southern China to Singapore
 - ✓ China - Pakistan Economic Corridor, running from South-Western China to Pakistan
 - ✓ Bangladesh - China - India - Myanmar Corridor, running from Southern China to India
 - ✓ Maritime Silk Road, running from the Chinese Coast over Singapore and India to the Mediterranean

