

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 7, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu government - renamed Chennai railway station as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Railway Station on April 5**



- ✓ After obtaining the clearances from the Centre, the order was issued by the State chief secretary Girija Vaidyanathan on the conditional approval of the Election Commission with riders — no propaganda shall be undertaken by any political party to derive political mileage from it and no function shall be organised for the event
- ✓ The Union Home ministry cleared the name change on March 6
- ✓ The Railway Board received the election commission's clearance on March 20 and it had conveyed its clearance to the TN government on March 26
- ✓ The state cabinet had passed a resolution in September last year, recommending the Centre to rename the station on the sidelines of the former chief minister's centenary celebrations.
- ✓ Prime Minister, Modi, while participating in the election rally at Kilambakkam on March 6, announced the decision to rename the station.

◆ **Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre in Chennai - has got the approval of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board - to use high-dose isotope therapy to test treatments for thyroid and neuro-endocrine cancers**

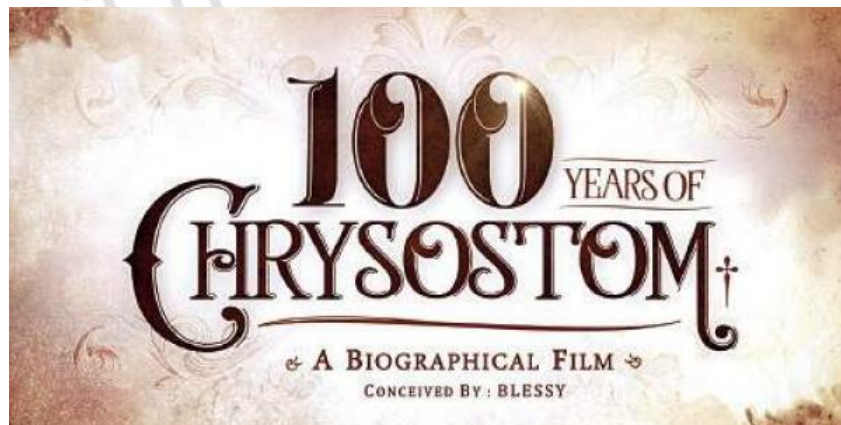
- ✓ The centre has been providing nuclear scans and low-dose isotope therapies since 1995
- ✓ Isotopes are radioactive material that can kill the cancer cells, but AERB regulates the safe usage of these

◆ **The Directorate of Medical Education - has formed a committee to inspect blood banks in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, following reports of deaths due to “haemolytic reactions”, that is, related to blood transfusion**

- ✓ The panel will inspect at the Government Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital and government hospitals in Krishnagiri and Hosur
- ✓ It would comprise an Additional Director of Medical and Rural Health Services and two transfusion specialists
- ✓ The committee will submit its report this month itself.

## NATIONAL

◆ **The screening of the World’s longest ever biographical documentary film - began in Thiruvalla, Kerala**



- ✓ Titled ‘100 years of Chrysostom’, made by the award-winning filmmaker Blessy, is soon to find a place in the Guinness World Records
- ✓ For the first time in its history, the Censor Board has given certification to a 48.08-hour biographical documentary and it took seven days for the board to watch the movie in its full length

# INTERNATIONAL

## ◆ U.S. - to designate Iran's elite 'Revolutionary Guards Corps' a foreign terrorist organization

- ✓ This is the first time US has formally labelled another country's military a terrorist group.
- ✓ The U.S. has already blacklisted dozens of entities and people for affiliations with the IRGC, but the organisation as a whole has not been blacklisted
- ✓ In 2007, the U.S. Treasury designated the IRGC's Quds Force, its unit in charge of operations abroad, "for its support of terrorism"

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## ◆ The Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave - to be held during May 15-16, 2019 in Kathmandu



- ✓ It will be organised by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) in association with Embassy of India and Franchise India.
- ✓ It is expected to introduce new investment opportunities for Nepalese investors in Indian market along with technology transfers and business knowledge

# PERSONALITIES

## ◆ 73-year-old Israeli IsaaK Hayik - set a new world record as the oldest person to play in a professional soccer match



- ✓ Mr. Hayik, who celebrates his 74th birthday next week, broke the record after playing as a goalkeeper in an afternoon game with Israel's Ironi Or Yehuda soccer club.
- ✓ The previous record was held by Robert Carmona of Uruguay, who in 2015 played a professional match with Uruguay's Pan de Azucar at the age of 53

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Amazon - is planning to set up a network of 3,236 satellites - to provide a high-speed broadband internet service from space**



- ✓ The project is titled 'Project Kuiper', announced in September 2018
  - ✓ It is a new initiative to launch a constellation of low Earth orbit satellites that will provide low latency, high-speed broadband connectivity to unserved and underserved communities around the world
  - ✓ The constellation is planned as a network of 784 satellites at the lowest altitude (590 kilometres), 1,296 satellites at the next-highest altitude (610 kilometres) and the remaining 1,156 floating at the highest (630 kilometres) orbit above the Earth
  - ✓ Project Kuiper gets its name from the Edgeworth–Kuiper belt, or simply Kuiper belt, which is a region of the solar system that exists beyond the eight major planets, containing many comets, asteroids, and other small bodies
  - ✓ It was discovered by the late Dutch American astronomer, Gerard Kuiper
- ◆ **Scientists - are expected to unveil the first-ever photograph of a black hole on April 10**



- ✓ As a breakthrough in astrophysics, it will provide insight into celestial monsters with gravitational fields so intense that no matter or light can escape
- ✓ The U.S. National Science Foundation has scheduled a news conference in Washington to announce a “groundbreaking result from the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) project,” an international partnership formed in 2012, to try to directly observe the immediate environment of a black hole.
- ✓ A black hole’s event horizon, one of the most violent places in the universe, is the point of no return beyond which anything — stars, planets, gas, dust, all forms of electromagnetic radiation including light — gets sucked-in irretrievably

- ✓ The research will put to the test a scientific pillar — physicist Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity postulated in 1915, which intended to explain the laws of gravity and their relation to other natural forces.
- ✓ The researchers targeted two super massive black holes.
- ✓ The first — called Sagittarius A\* — is situated at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy, possessing 4 million times the mass of our sun and located 26,000 light years from the earth.
- ✓ The second — called M87 - resides at the centre of the neighbouring Virgo A galaxy, boasting a mass 3.5 billion times that of the sun and located 54 million light-years away from the earth.
- ✓ A light year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km.
- ✓ Black holes are extraordinarily dense entities formed when very massive stars collapse at the end of their life cycle.
- ✓ Supermassive black holes are the largest kind, destroying matter and radiation and perhaps merging with other black holes.

## ECONOMY

- ◆ **The Indian Navy - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy**



- ✓ Under the agreement, joint research and development activities will be undertaken in the diverse fields of Mechanical, Electronics, Communication, Computer Science, Propulsion systems, Metallurgy and Nanotechnology.
- ✓ Some of the immediate projects to be progressed under this MoU include development of alternative desalination technologies, installation of wireless MEMS based sensors for remote operation and residual life assessment studies of gas turbine generator blades to improve reliability

# APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Vikram Kirloskar - took charge as the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**



- ✓ Kirloskar is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Systems Ltd and Vice Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
- ✓ He succeeds Rakesh Bharti Mittal, who is the Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises.
- ✓ Uday Kotak, founder and MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank will be the President-Designate, while TV Narendran, the CEO and MD of Tata Steel will be the Vice President for the period 2019-20

# AWARDS

- ◆ **2<sup>nd</sup> edition of ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards – Winners**



- ✓ Sportsperson of the Year (Male) – Neeraj Chopra (Athletics)
- ✓ Sportsperson of the Year (Female) – P V Sindhu (Badminton)

- ✓ Comeback of the Year – Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
- ✓ Coach of the Year – Jaspal Rana (Shooting)
- ✓ Emerging Sportsperson of the Year – Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting)
- ✓ Team of the Year – Women’s team (Table tennis)
- ✓ Match of the Year – Amit Panghal vs Hasanboy Dusmatov (Boxing)
- ✓ Differently-abled athlete of the Year – Ekta Bhanu (Para-athletics)
- ✓ Moment of the Year – Women’s 4x400m relay
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award – Pradip Kumar Banerjee (Football)
- ✓ The ESPN Multi-Sport Awards recognised achievements across 11 categories, of which winners across 10 categories were selected by an independent 14-member jury

## OBITUARY

### ◆ **Silamboli S Chellappan, Tamil scholar and Orator (91 years)**



- ✓ He was born on September 24, 1928 at Siviampalayam village near Namakkal
- ✓ The late Tamil scholar Ra Pi Sethupillai hailed him as ‘Silamboli Chellappan’ after listening to his speech in 1953, as his discourses on Tamil epic Silappathikaram were well known
- ✓ Souvenirs for World Tamil Conferences at Chennai and Madurai and the souvenir for ‘World Semmozhi Conference’ at Coimbatore were prepared under his supervision.
- ✓ He also served as Director of Tamil Nadu government’s Tamil development department and Director of publications, department of Tamil University in Thanjavur.
- ✓ He was also the founder-director of World Tamil Research Centre

- ✓ Silapathikara Sinthanaigal, Sanga Ilakiya Thaen, Manimegalai Thelivurai, Silamboli, Perunkadhai Araichi and Semmozhi Thamizh Agapporul Kalanjiam were among the notable books authored by the tamil scholar
- ✓ A recipient of the Pavendar Bharathidasan award of the Tamilnadu government, his book 'Silamboliyarin Anindhuraigal' won the best research book award for 2006 from the Tamil Development Department
- ✓ He was well-versed in several tamil classics including Pathupattu, Ettuthogai, Manimekalai, Perunkadhai, Seerapuram, Ravana Kavium and lectured regularly on these topics
- ✓ Mr. Chellappan helped former Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi pen the script for the film Ponnar Sankar

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Former civil aviation minister, Praful Patel – becomes the first Indian to win one of the five seats on Fifa's ruling council on April 6 – for a four year term**



- ✓ Patel is the current president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and senior vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)
- ✓ He polled joint highest votes of 38 out of 46, along with Japan Football Association president, Kozo Tashima, during the elections at the AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ Besides Patel and Tashima, Saoud Al Mohannadi (Qatar), Du Zhaocai (China) and Mariano V Areneta (Philippines) secured the simple majority after one round of voting
- ✓ The Fifa Council is a 37-member- nonexecutive, supervisory and strategic decision making body that sets the vision for Fifa and global football.
- ✓ Apart from the president, there are eight vice presidents and 28 members elected by the member associations in the Fifa council
- ✓ Patel took over as full-time AIFF president in October 2009 before being re-elected for the top job in December 2012 and 2016.
- ✓ Former AIFF president Priyaranjan Dasmunsi was once elected to the technical committee of FIFA.



# RANKINGS

## ◆ FIFA world football rankings – released on April, 04 2019

✓ Top 20 countries

Rank	Country	Change
1	Belgium	-
2	France	-
3	Brazil	-
4	England	up 1
5	Croatia	down 1
6	Uruguay	up 1
7	Portugal	down 1
8	Switzerland	-
9	Spain	-
10	Denmark	-
11	Argentina	-
12	Colombia	-
13	Germany	up 3
14	Sweden	-
15	Chile	down 2
16	Netherlands	down 2
17	Italy	up 1
18	Mexico	down 1
19	Wales	-
20	Poland	-

- ✓ India stands at 101<sup>st</sup> rank while Belgium tops the list.
- ✓ India rose two points to remain at 101th spot and stands at 18<sup>th</sup> in Asia
- ✓ Iran (21st) remained at the top of Asian ranking while Japan (26), South Korea (37), Australia (41) and Qatar (55) are other achievers
- ✓ San Marino remain the lowest ranked team in the world in 211th place

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ◆ World Health Day 2019 – April 7



- ✓ The observance of the day is an initiative by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to make people more aware of health issues
- ✓ The World Health Assembly took place for the first time on April 7 in 1948 at Geneva
- ✓ World Health Day is commemorated every year on this date because this was when WHO was founded to address vital health care issues and provide equal health care facilities all over the world
- ✓ Theme 2019 – ‘Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere’
- ✓ WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

## ◆ National maritime day – April 5



- ✓ Theme 2019 - “Indian Ocean – An Ocean of opportunity”
- ✓ The day was first observed on April 5, 1964 to create awareness about maritime commerce between the continents across the world
- ✓ The World Maritime Day is celebrated on September 26 every year to highlight the importance of shipping, maritime security and environment

# REPORT

## ◆ Asian Development Bank's 'Asian Development Outlook 2019' report



- ✓ ADB has cut India's growth forecast to 7.2% for 2019-20 and 7.3% for 2020-21 because of a slower-than-expected pickup in investment demand
- ✓ On inflation, the report said that consumer price inflation is expected to rise to 4.3% in the financial year 2019, and 4.6% in the following one, as food costs increase slightly and domestic demand strengthens
- ✓ Growth in developing Asia is projected to drop down to 5.7% in 2019 and 5.6% in 2020.
- ✓ Excluding Asia's high-income newly industrialized economies, growth is expected to slip from 6.4% in 2018 to 6.2% in 2019 and 6.1% in 2020.

