

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ❖ **Radha, a transgender – is the only transsexual to contest the Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ The 50-year old is contesting from south Chennai constituency as an independent candidate
- ✓ As per Election Commission, 5472 voters in the state have registered under the third gender category.
- ✓ In the entire country, as per 2011 census, there are 4.9 lakh transsexuals present

STATES

- ❖ **Nagaland – observes the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima**



- ✓ The Battle of Kohima was fought in three stages from 3 April to 22 June, 1944 around the town of Kohima in Nagaland in northeast India
- ✓ It is considered as the turning point of the Japanese 'U Go offensive' or 'Operation C mission' launched in India in 1944 during the Second World War
- ✓ The battle is often referred to as the "Stalingrad of the East"
- ✓ It started when the Japanese attempted to capture Kohima ridge, a road which supplied British and Indian troops and ended after a stiff fight forced the Japanese to retreat, leading to the opening of the road

❖ **The Jammu and Kashmir Government – had enforced an order that allows only security forces convoys to move between Baramulla and Jammu on Sundays and Wednesdays till May 31**



- ✓ The order on the restrictions to the civilian traffic was notified four days ago following the Pulwama terror strike and the abortive attack on a CRPF convoy at Banihal on March 30
- ✓ The ban on civilian traffic is effective along the 271-km Baramulla to Udampur national highway, which goes through Srinagar, Qazigund, Jawahar tunnel, Banihal and Ramban
- ✓ The state Government had also announced several relaxations on the ban like allowing patients, students and tourists to ply their vehicles along with the convoys

❖ **The Government of Goa – extends the retirement age for doctors working in its institutions from 60 to 62**

- ✓ Doctors working in ESI hospitals, Goa Medical College and Hospital besides various other government institutions would benefit from the order

NATIONAL

❖ **‘Café Scientifique’ – to be launched in Kerala by a group of science experts from the ‘Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology’**



- ✓ The new initiative intends to promote science among the public in an interesting way
- ✓ It is basically a grassroots public science initiative based on the French Café Philosophique model
- ✓ Under Café Scientifique model, meetings of science enthusiasts would be organised every month at a café or a convenient place, where one or more scientists are invited to talk to the public about new developmental areas in science
- ✓ Various topics such as the universe, climate change, evolution, genetics and human-animal relations will be discussed in every monthly gathering

❖ **India - has evacuated its entire contingent of peacekeeping forces from Libya - following the worsening of war-hit country's political situation**

- ✓ The battalion of 15 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel from Tripoli will be evacuated immediately
- ✓ The Libyan National Army headed by Khalifa Haftar advancing on the nation's capital, Tripoli leading to the military conflict
- ✓ Libya has been torn by violence and political instability since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was toppled and killed by rebels in 2011

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

❖ **Supreme Court - directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to increase the random checking of VVPAT slips from 1 EVM to 5 EVMs in each assembly of a parliamentary constituency in Lok Sabha Elections 2019**

- ✓ The bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna said that the objective behind the move is to ensure a higher degree of accuracy and conduct free and fair elections
- ✓ The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT) is a paper slip generated by the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) every time a voter casts his vote, recording the party to whom the vote was made.

INTERNATIONAL

❖ **Former Maldives president, Mohamed Nasheed – makes comeback with a landslide win**



- ✓ Preliminary results from April 6 elections showed the Maldivian Democratic Party of President Ibrahim Solih winning nearly 60 seats, and securing a two-thirds majority in the 87-member assembly.
- ✓ Nasheed's arch-rival and autocratic former president Abdulla Yameen did not run, but his party -- the Progressive Party of Maldives -- ended with a poor showing and is projected to only secure four seats in the People's Majlis, or parliament.
- ✓ An executive presidential system was adopted under political reforms in 2008, when the dictator Maumoon Abdul Gayoom stood down after 30 years in power.

- ✓ Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years prison in 2015 but left Maldives a year later, after being granted prison leave for medical treatment in the UK.
- ✓ Mr. Nasheed returned to the Maldives only after his party colleague Mr. Solih became President last year.
- ✓ The charges against Nasheed were dropped by the Supreme Court after Solih toppled Yameen, with judges saying there was no basis for the charges.

❖ **US House of Representatives - has voted to end US involvement in Yemen's civil war**

- ✓ The resolution directs the US President to remove US Armed Forces from the Republic of Yemen within 30 days
- ✓ The resolution rejects the US President's support for the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

❖ **India - has turned down an official invite from China to attend the second Belt and Road Forum meet, scheduled to take place later this month**

- ✓ India had also boycotted the first meet held in Beijing in 2017 as China's BRI undermines India's sovereignty in the form of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which passes through the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region

COMMITTEES

❖ **The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) - constitutes a three-member sub-committee to study the issues behind the Kattupalli port expansion project in Tiruvallur district**

- ✓ The EAC, constituted by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, has deferred the proposal until the recommendations of the committee is received, following representations from various groups regarding the site selection, economic feasibility and ecological impact of the project
- ✓ The three-member committee comprises of H C Sharatchandra, V S Naidu and M V Ramana Murthy
- ✓ The EAC had also asked to get a fresh 'environmental and coastal regulation zone' clearance certificate for the establishment of a captive jetty for ultra mega power project in Panayur village in Kanchipuram district
- ✓ The Union ministry had issued the earlier environmental clearance for this project on November 30, 2012

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

❖ **The biannual Army Commanders' Conference 2019 – commences in New Delhi between April 8 to April 14, 2019**



- ✓ The opening address of the Conference was delivered by the Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ It will be chaired by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff.
- ✓ The conference is an important event in formulating planning and execution policy decisions of the Indian Army through collegiate deliberations.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

❖ **Scientists from the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology - have discovered a new enzyme 'Murein EndopeptidaseK' that helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria**



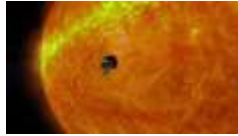
- ✓ This discovery offers the potential for a new drug delivery system to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance through existing antibiotic drugs
- ✓ CCMB, a designated "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO, operates in Hyderabad under the purview of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

❖ **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi - to collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment for a period of five years**



- ✓ BIS and IIT-Delhi will be setting up a Centre of Excellence in the field of Standardisation, Testing and Conformity Assessment with the BIS branding at IIT-Delhi campus
- ✓ IIT-Delhi will also introduce topics on standardisation in its academic courses for which BIS will provide inputs
- ✓ Around 50 faculty members of IIT-Delhi are also part of the technical committees of BIS
- ✓ IIT-Delhi will also explore the possibility of using its laboratory facilities for catering to the requirements of various conformity assessment schemes of BIS

❖ **NASA's Parker solar probe – successfully completes its second close approach called 'perihelion' to the Sun at about 24 million kms above the surface of the Sun**



- ✓ The probe was travelling at 2,13,200 miles per hour during this perihelion and is now entering the outbound phase of its second solar orbit
- ✓ The probe was launched on August 12, 2018
- ✓ It will journey steadily closer to the sun until it makes its closest approach at 3.8 million miles

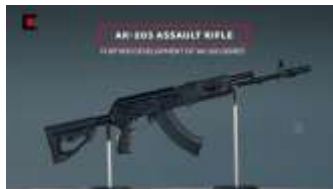
DEFENCE

❖ **The Indian Army - received its first batch of Dhanush artillery guns on April 8, 2019 at a formal function organised at GCF, Jabalpur**



- ✓ The 155x45mm gun is the first ever indigenous artillery gun of this caliber
- ✓ It has been designed and developed by the Ordnance Factory Board at the Gun Carriage Factory at Jabalpur based on the Bofor's drawings
- ✓ The OFB had received the bulk production clearance of manufacturing of 114 guns on February 18, among which six have been handed over for issuance to the Indian Army.

❖ **Indian Army - is planning to use a modified version of the AK-203 assault rifle in carbine role - for its troops deployed during counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.**



- ✓ The AK-203 assault rifle would be manufactured at Uttar Pradesh's Amethi facility in a joint venture between the Ordnance Factory Board and Russia.
- ✓ The carbines are useful in close quarter combat and can be highly effective during operations like room interventions.

AWARDS

❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu - conferred President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi



- ✓ The President's Certificate of Honour was introduced in the year 1958 to honour the eminent scholars above 60 years of age in Sanskrit, Arabic, Pali/Prakrit, Persian, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Tamil and Classical Malayalam Languages
- ✓ Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on persons in the age group of 30 to 45 for their notable contribution in the languages of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam, since 2002
- ✓ Both the awards are conferred by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India

APPLO
STUDY CENTRE

