

APP LO

STUDY CENTRE

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - APRIL 1-15,

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TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

- ✓ JICA to provide 4,710 cr. for Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.
- ✓ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to approximately 4,710 crore (Japanese yen 73,000 million) for the construction of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.

➤ **Water Champion**

- ✓ Woman from Anaikatty named 'water champion'.
- ✓ A tribal resident of Anaikatty in Sigur in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) buffer zone is one of 41 women water champions recognised as part of an initiative by the Government of India and the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF).
- ✓ S. Lalitha, a field assistant for the community well-being programme at Keystone Foundation, was recognised by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the UNDP-India and the Stockholm International Water Institute "to underscore the critical role of women in water conservation and management."

➤ **Climate Literacy**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government - has launched a massive project called 'climate literacy' for college and school students besides farmers and women.
- ✓ Under the new initiative, farmers and SHGs will be involved in the climate literacy programme through departments concerned at the district level.
- ✓ The new project aims to simplify the concept of climate change for the local community.

➤ **Corporation Launches 'Country's First' Gender Lab**

- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation has inaugurated a gender lab, said to be the first such initiative by an urban local body in the country.
- ✓ The civic body has appointed three specialists in the first phase to launch the facility.
- ✓ The three specialists, all women, will review every civic infrastructure project to suggest changes for improving the safety of women in public spaces.

➤ **Parandur and Pannur**

- ✓ The ministry of civil aviation - has selected Parandur and Pannur near Chennai for the city's second airport.

- ✓ Parandur is located at around 70km and Pannur 60km from Chennai near Sriperumbudur on the Chennai-Bengaluru route.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government had suggested Tiruporur, Parandur, Pannur and Padalam as the possible sites for the second airport.
- ✓ The ministry studied the proposed sites and selected Parandur and Pannur.

- **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)**
- ✓ TNSDC realigning strategies to help government realise vision.
- ✓ In an effort to bridge the gap between demand and supply of manpower requirements and to help the State government achieve its aim of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) is realigning programmes and strategies, according to latest industry standards and requirements.
- ✓ The primary focus of the TNSDC is to bring more industries into the training ecosystem.

- **Kaaval Uthavi**
- ✓ On April 4, chief minister MK Stalin – inaugurated the new updated mobile application ‘Kaaval Uthavi’ (police assistance) of Tamil Nadu Police at the Secretariat.
- ✓ Using the newly released application, people can now virtually reach the city police control room in a few seconds just by clicking an emergency button on it.
- ✓ Users can also file an online mobile complaint and share their current location using the application.

- **State Education Policy (SEP)**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - constituted a 13-member panel to evolve its own State Education Policy (SEP).
- ✓ The panel is to be headed by former chief justice of Delhi high court Justice D Murugesan.
- ✓ The panel members include former chess world champion Viswanathan Anand, prominent Carnatic musician T M Krishna and former Vice-Chancellor of Saveetha University L Jawaharnesan.

- **Periyar Samathuvapuram**
- ✓ Stalin inaugurates Periyar Samathuvapuram in Villupuram.
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday stressed the need for the country to emerge as a Samathuvapuram (equality village) and said Tamil Nadu and its Dravidian model would show the way to achieve this goal.

➤ **Metrolite**

- ✓ Coimbatore city may be the first city in the State to have a Metrolite system that will cover 45.87 km with 40 stations, making a halt at several important landmarks of the city, including Coimbatore Airport.

➤ **Global Investors' Meet (GIM)**

- ✓ On April 6, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said in the assembly that a global investors' meet (GIM) would be organised in Tamil Nadu by the end of 2023 to attract foreign investments and generate employment in the state.
- ✓ The CM also said that the state officials will be going Switzerland to participate in the World Economic Forum's annual meet 2022 to attract investments into Tamil Nadu.

➤ **People's Movement for Clean Cities**

- ✓ Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru announced a new scheme 'People's Movement for Clean Cities' (PMCC) to ensure cleanliness in urban local bodies by engaging all stakeholders.
- ✓ He also announced that a Smart Governance System (SGS) would be launched for all urban local bodies to ensure proper service delivery, including provision of drinking water and other basic amenities.

➤ **Hong Fu Industrial Group**

- ✓ Leading Taiwanese shoemaker Hong Fu Industrial Group - plans to invest 1,000 crore over the next 3-5 years in Tamil Nadu to make sports shoes for global brands like Nike and Puma.
- ✓ The unit will employ around 20,000 people, a majority of them women.
- ✓ Hong Fu is world's second largest maker of sports shoes and other footwear with a large manufacturing presence, through multiple units in Vietnam.

➤ **Women Entrepreneurs Scripting a Silent Transformation**

- ✓ The 2021 edition of Women & Men in India, published last week by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has an element of surprise for Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ With about 10.87 lakh units, Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number of women entrepreneur-owned establishments, which cover not only micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also nano units, promoted through platforms such as the self-help groups (SHGs).

- ✓ The State's share is around 13.5 % of 80.5 lakh such establishments in the country. "No other State is even close to ours," observes an official in the State government, dealing with development issues.
- **Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal**
- ✓ On April 8, Minister for Cooperation - announced that 34 banks-on-wheels (Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal) will be introduced on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and all district central cooperative banks at a cost of Rs 5.69 crore.
- ✓ The mobile co-operative services will also provide key banking services, including mini-ATM services and tab-enabled banking facilities.
- **Testing TB along the same lines as COVID-19**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu plans to test for TB along the same lines as COVID-19.
- ✓ Tuberculosis (TB) case findings that were hit in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic have improved with targeted interventions in the State.
- ✓ Now, to reduce the TB burden to 44 per one lakh population by 2025, Tamil Nadu is aiming at testing more for TB along the same lines of COVID-19 to detect more cases.
- ✓ Among the key objectives of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is to reduce the estimated TB incidence rate to 44 per one lakh population and reduce estimated mortality due to TB to 3 per one lakh population by 2025.
- **Research Park**
- ✓ Anna University to get 50 crore to establish research park.
- ✓ The Higher Education Department has proposed to invest around 65 crore to develop research facilities in Anna University. The Department's budget is focused on improving infrastructure, including hostel and research facilities, in government colleges.
- ✓ Anna University will receive 50 crore to establish a research park to be used for industry-related research and incubation centres to benefit around 20,000 students of undergraduate, postgraduate and engineering research.
- **Government Focuses on Upgrading Schools**
- ✓ '7,500 smart classrooms will be set up'.
- ✓ Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi has said 7,500 smart classrooms will be set up in elementary schools at a cost of 150 crore in the 2022-23 academic year.

➤ **Saksham 2020**

- ✓ Contribute to the Mission of Fuel Conservation. Governor launches 'Saksham 2020' awareness campaign.
- ✓ Governor R. N. Ravi on Monday launched "Saksham 2020", a month-long mass awareness campaign on oil and gas conservation.

➤ **Indian Air Force signs MoU with IIT Madras**

- ✓ Indian Air Force and IIT Madras signed an MoU on 13 April 2022 for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF.
- ✓ The partnership aims to accelerate IAF's indigenization efforts for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

➤ **TANSIM**

- ✓ A financial assistance of 30 crore has been given to Tamil Nadu Start up and Innovation Mission to encourage entrepreneurs from SC/ST communities.

➤ **Samathuva Naal**

- On April 13, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the government would celebrate Dr B R Ambedkar 's birth anniversary on April 14 as the Day of Equality (Samathuva Naal).
- ✓ On the occasion, Day of Equality pledge would be taken by government workers across the state.
- ✓ Notably, reformist leader Periyar's birth anniversary, on September 17, has already been declared as Social Justice Day by the DMK government.

➤ **Onion Cultivation Mission (OCM)**

- ✓ Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam - made 15 announcements, which would be implemented at a cost Rs 104.97 crore, in the assembly during the discussion on demand for grants to his department.
- ✓ During the discussion, the minister said the State will implement an Onion Cultivation Mission (OCM) at a cost of Rs 40 crore this financial year to ensure an uninterrupted supply of onions

➤ **Resolution against CUET**

- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu has adopted a resolution urging the government of India to drop the CUET (Central Universities Common Entrance Test) proposal.
- ✓ In the resolution passed by the state, the assembly stated that an entrance exam based on the National Council of Education Research and Training syllabus will not be providing equal opportunity to all the students as there are varied state boards across the country.

STATES

➤ **Lowest Unemployment Rate**

- ✓ Chhattisgarh has been ranked 1st among states with the lowest unemployment rate in the country.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Chhattisgarh has registered an unemployment rate of 0.6% this March 2022, which is the lowest so far. Haryana has the highest unemployment rate followed by Rajasthan.
- ✓ The country's unemployment rate stood at 7.6%.

➤ **Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy**

- ✓ Delhi - has now become the first state in the country to incentivize e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy.
- ✓ The incentives will be eligible to both passenger and cargo e-cycles having a speed of less than 25 km/hour.
- ✓ A purchase incentive of 25% of MRP upto Rs 5,500 will be provided to the first 10,000 buyers.

➤ **Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea will soon get a European Commission Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag); this tag helps Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market.
- ✓ Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005.
- ✓ Since 1999, the cultivation and development of tea have improved constantly in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh.

NATIONAL

➤ **The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022**

- ✓ Government introduces 'The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022' in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh introduced 'The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022' in Lok Sabha on 01 April 2022.
- ✓ The Bill aims to provide a regulatory framework for India's research activities in the Antarctic and protect the Antarctic ecosystem.

➤ **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP)**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved \$808 million (6,062.45 crore) for a new World Bank-assisted scheme 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP).
- ✓ The new scheme is expected to commence in the financial year of 2022-23.
- ✓ The programme aims at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State.

➤ **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

- ✓ India - has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Women, the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment, for their core budget.
- ✓ The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded in 1976) and other organisations merged to form UN Women, which began operations in January 2011.
- ✓ The UN Women or also known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is an entity working under the United Nations for women's empowerment and gender equality.

➤ **Broadcast Seva Portal**

- ✓ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur - launched the ministry's 'Broadcast Seva' Portal on April 4.
- ✓ The portal is an online solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, and registrations.

➤ **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill**

- ✓ On April 6, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, which would enable investigating officers to collect biometric details of prisoners, by a voice vote.

- ✓ The Bill provides a legal safeguard for police and investigating agencies to collect and store biological and physical samples of convicts and those accused of a crime.
- **'One Health' Pilot Project**
- ✓ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched 'One Health' pilot project in Uttarakhand. This pilot project has been launched to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.
- ✓ Its main aim is to develop a national One Health roadmap based on the outcomes of the pilot project.
- **District Ganga Committees (DGCs)**
- ✓ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched the 'Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System' (GDPMS) on April 6.
- ✓ The meeting was also attended virtually by the representatives of over 100 District Ganga Committees from across the Ganga Basin
- ✓ As per the Minister, the Digital Dashboard launched will help the DGCs in enhancing people-river connect.
- **Health Benefit Package, 2022**
- ✓ The National Health Authority - has launched a new version of the Health Benefit Package, 2022, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ With Health Benefit Package, 2022, differential pricing is being introduced under the scheme based on the type of city and level of care.
- ✓ In the new pricing formula, the cost of 832 packages have been increased.
- ✓ The new package features 365 new procedures, including bone marrow transplant and cochlear implant surgery, which took the total to 1,949.
- **Distribution of Fortified Rice**
- ✓ The supply of fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), by 2024 has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs that is chaired by PM Modi.
- ✓ As part of the food subsidy, the Central Government will be bearing the entire cost of Rs. 2,700 crore per annum for rice fortification till its full implementation up to June 2024.
- ✓ The government has plans to make the availability of fortified rice at ration shops.
- **2021 Tree City of the World**

- ✓ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation have jointly recognised Mumbai and Hyderabad as the '2021 Tree City of the World.
 - ✓ The two Indian cities have won the recognition for their “commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities”.
- **Deoghar Ropeway Accident**
- ✓ 14 more rescued from ropeway; one dead.
 - ✓ Attempts to rescue cable car passengers stranded for over 46 hours in the Trikut hills in Deoghar district of Jharkhand ended with a tragedy on Tuesday as a 60-year-old woman fell to her death while being winched up to a helicopter, raising the death toll to three.
 - ✓ However, 14 of the last remaining 15 tourists, trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day.
- **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
- ✓ On April 13, the University Grants Commission (UGC) – announced new guidelines that will be applicable from the academic year 2022-23 onwards.
 - ✓ As per the new regulations, students will now be allowed to simultaneously pursue two full-time degree programmes in physical mode.
 - ✓ In May 2020, the UGC had approved a proposal to allow students to pursue two degree programmes at the same time – one in regular mode and the other in open/distance learning/online format.
- **OBC Entrepreneurs Own Nearly 30% of India's MSMEs**
- ✓ Entrepreneurs from Other Backward Classes (OBC) own nearly 30% of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.
 - ✓ As regards the OBC-owned enterprises, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of such units with 3,37,016, of which 3,23,441 units come under micro enterprises; 12,778 under small enterprises; and 797 under medium enterprises.
- **Gram Swaraj Scheme**
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to continue the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a scheme for improving the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, till 2025-26.
 - ✓ The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh rural local bodies.
 - ✓ The statement said the scheme would work towards “poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages; healthy villages, child-friendly villages; water-sufficient villages; clean and green villages; self-sufficient infrastructure in villages; socially-

secure villages; villages with good governance and engendered development in villages.”

➤ **Amrit Samagam**

The Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah - inaugurated the “Amrit Samagam”, a two-day conference of tourism and culture ministers of the country.

- ✓ The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) concluded its first year recently, since its launch on March 12, 2021.
- ✓ In view of this, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has organized “Amrit Samagam” conference on April 12 and 13, 2022, in New Delhi.

➤ **Svanidhi se Samriddhi” Programme**

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - launched the “Svanidhi se Samriddhi” programme in 126 additional cities across 14 states and Union territories on April 12, 2022

- ✓ Under the second phase of the scheme, 28 lakh street vendors and their families will be covered
- ✓ MoHUA has been implementing Prime Minister Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM Svanidhi), a central sector scheme, since June 1, 2020.

➤ **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' on April 14th. It is a museum dedicated to showcase the contributions of all the former Prime Ministers since independence.
- ✓ PM Modi became the first visitor to buy a ticket to the museum, which has been guided by his vision to honour the contribution of all the Prime Ministers of India towards nation-building.

SCHEMES

➤ 'AVSAR' Scheme

- ✓ Under the "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region) scheme, an area of 100-200 square feet will be allocated to self-help groups at each Airports Authority of India (AAI) operated airport.
- ✓ It will give an opportunity for self-help groups for showing their local products at airports, like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, etc.
- ✓ The main aim of this initiative is to support Self Help Group by promoting their local products.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan

- ✓ Pakistan's opposition leader, Shehbaz Sharif has been elected unopposed as the 23rd Prime Minister of the country through voting in the National Assembly.
- ✓ The 70-year old Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Chief will succeed Imran Khan, who has been removed by a no-trust vote recently in the National Assembly.
- ✓ Shehbaz Sharif is the brother of former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

- ✓ Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and his Australian counterpart Dan Tehan - will sign the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) in a virtual ceremony on April 2, 2022.
- ✓ The agreement covering trade in goods and services, is a balanced and equitable pact that aims to further strengthen the strategic relations between the countries.

➤ 4th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- ✓ The fourth India-US 2+ 2 Ministerial Dialogue will be held on 11 April 2022.
- ✓ The Indian delegation is being led by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.
- ✓ The US will be represented by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Llyod Austin.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **India-UK Strategic Futures Forum**

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and visiting British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss - addressed the the first India-UK Strategic Futures Forum on March 31, 2022.
- ✓ During the bilateral meeting, India and Britain called for upholding principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the UN charter and international law, besides favouring more robust economic, strategic and defence ties.

➤ **East Asia Summit Workshop**

- ✓ India and Singapore organised East Asia Summit Workshop.
- ✓ Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Government of Singapore organized a virtual East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on 12 April 2022.
- ✓ Countries including Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea participated.

➤ **Waterways Conclave 2022**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) - has organized “**Waterways Conclave 2022**” on April 11 and 12 in Dibrugarh, Assam.
- ✓ In line with the aspirations of PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan, Waterways Conclave aims for speedy development of multimodal projects in the North-eastern region to boost the economic activities and augment employment generation.

DEFENCE

➤ 'Varuna' Naval Exercise

- ✓ The 20th edition of the bilateral naval exercise that is named 'Varuna' is being conducted by India and France in the Arabian Sea from 30th March till 3rd April 2022.
- ✓ The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001.

➤ Seema Darshan Project

- ✓ Union Home and Cooperative Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the Seema Darshan Project at Nadabet on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat.
- ✓ The project was launched with the aim to provide an opportunity for the citizen to observe the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border.

➤ HELINA (Helicopter-based NAG)

- ✓ On April 12, India - carried out yet another successful test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' (Helicopter-based NAG) in high altitude conditions in Ladakh.
- ✓ The flight test was jointly conducted by teams of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Army, and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

ECONOMY

➤ Gross Tax Receipts

- The country's gross tax receipts - reached a record high of Rs 27.1 lakh crore for 2021-22.
- ✓ This was due to massive revenues from income, corporate taxes, customs and GST following a strong economic recovery and more tax-compliance.
 - ✓ The higher collection also led to the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in 23 years at 11.7%.
 - ✓ Against the Union Budget estimates of Rs 22.2 lakh crore, the revenue receipts according to the pre-actual figures totalled Rs 27.1 lakh crore
 - ✓ This shows a growth of 34% over last year's revenue collection of Rs 20.3 lakh crore.

APPOINTMENT

➤ **UN Chief Names an Indian in Climate Team**

- ✓ Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water, has been appointed a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against global warming.
- ✓ Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group.

➤ **Ketanji Brown Jackson**

- ✓ In a landmark decision in American history, the United States Senate - confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman to sit in the country's Supreme court on April 7.
- ✓ The United States Senate took the historic decision by 53-47 votes after three Republican Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney voted in her favour along with 50 members of the ruling Democratic Party.

➤ **New UPSC Chairman**

- ✓ Eminent scholar-academician Manoj Soni new UPSC chairman.
- ✓ Currently a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr Manoj Soni has been appointed the chairman of the country's premier government recruiting agency.
- ✓ Prior to this assignment, Soni has also served as the vice-chancellor of two universities.

AWARDS

➤ **64th Annual Grammy Awards**

- ✓ Indian-American musician Falguni Shah and US-born, Bengaluru-based Rickey Kej - bagged trophies at the 64th annual Grammy awards on April 3.
- ✓ Falguni, a New York-based musician who goes by her stage name Falu, won a Grammy for Best Children's Music Album for 'A Colorful World'.
- ✓ Kej won the Best New Age Album category for 'Divine Tides' for which he collaborated with Steward Copeland, drummer for The Police.

➤ **Tomb of Sand**

- ✓ On April 7, Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' - became the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.
- ✓ The 'Tomb of Sand' will compete with five other titles from around the world for the £50,000 literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.
- ✓ The book was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

➤ **2022 World Press Photo of the Year**

- ✓ A photo taken next to the former Kamloops Indian Residential School has been chosen as the 2022 World Press Photo of the Year.
- ✓ For the 1st time in the contest's 67-year history, the World Press Photo of the Year is a photograph without any people in it.
- ✓ The photo was taken by Amber Bracken, a photographer from Edmonton, commemorates children who died at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

➤ **1st Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of Lata Mangeskar.
- ✓ PM Modi will receive the award for selfless service to the nation and society.

➤ **International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021**

- ✓ The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 has been presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award was given to Dr. Bhushan Kumar and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust for raising awareness about leprosy and providing care to those afflicted with it.

PERSONALITIES

➤ Oorvasi Gandhi

- ✓ For the first time, the Union ministry of culture - has appointed a transgender person, activist Oorvasi Gandhi, as the non-officio member of the council and executive committee of the National Culture Fund (NCF).
- ✓ She has been working for the rural transgender communities of the state for more than two decades
- ✓ Through her work, Oorvasi has provided the transgender community in the villages with fundamental property rights and essential health and sanitation facilities.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ Queen of Fire

- ✓ Award-winning children's writer and historian, Devika Rangachari have authored a new novel titled "Queen of Fire".
- ✓ It explores the story of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Hottest March**

- ✓ The month of March 2022 - remained as the hottest March in India's recorded history since 1901, as per the data of India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ✓ The month this year surpassed the all-time average maximum temperature record of March 2010.
- ✓ India's average monthly day temperature during the month in 2010 had surged to 33.09°C. March 2022, however, recorded 33.1°C as its average monthly day temperature, surpassing all past heat records for the month.

➤ **Geomagnetic Storm**

- ✓ A geomagnetic storm is expected to hit the Earth today on April 7.
- ✓ The storm was caused by a filament eruption from the Sun on March 3 rd. NOAA has categorized the geomagnetic storm as G1, which means that it is a minor storm.
- ✓ A geomagnetic storm can cause fluctuations in power grids, have a minor impact on the satellites in the Low Earth Orbit and raise auroras to higher altitudes.

➤ **Near-Identical Twin - Jupiter**

- ✓ Astronomers - have discovered a planet that is nearly identical to Jupiter, circling a star 17,000 light-years away from the Earth.
- ✓ The 5th planet in our solar system - the Jupiter - is known for its bright colours and dominated by a massive swirl of storm.
- ✓ In terms of mass, the exoplanet, dubbed K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb, is nearly the same as Jupiter.

➤ **Polycentric Prosthetic Knee**

- ✓ On April 8, the researchers from IIT Madras - launched the country's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee.
- ✓ The newly developed knee can bend more, offers stability while walking and costs just one-fifth of imported devices.
- ✓ Named 'Kadam' (footstep), the four-bar knee joint provides a knee bend of 160 degrees or more so users can sit in cramped places such as buses, autos and cabs.

➤ **Axiom-1 (Ax-1) Mission**

- ✓ In a historic development, the crew members of the Axiom-1 (Ax-1) mission - are all set to enter the International Space Station (ISS).

- ✓ On April 8, the combined mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Axiom Space was successfully launched to the International Space Station in SpaceX's Dragon capsule 'Endeavour' atop a Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ The mission is the first-ever all-private spaceflight to carry astronauts to the International Space Station.

- **Legal Rights to Wild Animals**
- ✓ Ecuador has become the first country to give legal rights to wild animals.
- ✓ Highest court of Ecuador decided to recognize the rights while hearing the case of Estrellita, a woolly monkey.
- ✓ Rights of nature recognize legal rights of the ecosystem to exist and regenerate.
- ✓ Ecuador earlier became the world's first country to recognize nature as a legal entity.

- **First made in India Dornier Aircraft**
- ✓ The Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia flagged off the first flight of Made in India HAL Dornier Do-228 on 12 April 2022.
- ✓ The flight will be operational from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh and finally to Lilabari in Assam.

SPORTS

➤ **FIFA World Cup 2022**

- ✓ The draw for the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup 2022 – concluded at Doha, capital of the host country Qatar on April 1.
- ✓ The tournament will run from November 21 to December 18 in Qatar, the first time ever the soccer world cup hosted in the Middle East.
- ✓ FIFA has unveiled La'eeb as the official mascot for this year's FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.
- ✓ La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning super-skilled player.

➤ **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**

- ✓ Australia won ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.
- ✓ After defeating England by 71 runs in Christchurch, Australia has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ In women's cricket, Australia has won 7 of the 12 World Cups that have been held.

➤ **PSA World Doubles Squash Championships**

- ✓ India - bagged their first-ever gold medals in PSA World Doubles Squash Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on April 9.
- ✓ Dipika Pallikal combined with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa to clinch twin gold medals for the country in mixed and women's doubles respectively.

➤ **International School Sports Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade 2022**

- ✓ Melur girl qualifies for sports event abroad.
- ✓ Ananthi, a beach volleyball player from Melur, has qualified for the International School Sports Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade 2022, to be held at Normandy in France between May 13 and 28.

➤ **Senior National Basketball**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu men - registered a comprehensive win over Punjab to regain the senior National basketball crown at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on April 10.
- ✓ This was Tamil Nadu's 10th National title.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu finished third in the women's event.

➤ **Reykjavik Open Chess Tournament**

- ✓ GM R Praggnanandhaa - won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland on April 12.
- ✓ In the nine round swiss tournament, R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round to win the 5,000-euro first prize (\$5,413).
- ✓ It has to be recalled that R Praggnanandhaa defeated World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the online rapid chess tournament, Airthings Master in February 2022.

➤ **2026 Commonwealth Games**

- ✓ Australian state of Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.
 - ✓ The 2026 Commonwealth Games will be organized in the Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland towns of Victoria State.
 - ✓ The opening ceremony will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
- **Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023**
- ✓ India will host Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.
 - ✓ 22 teams from 16 countries will come to India to participate in Street Child Cricket World Cup next year.
 - ✓ The event will be held in September before the ICC World Cup.
 - ✓ The world cup is organized by Street Child United (a UK-based charity) and Save the Children India.

RANKING

➤ **Hurun Research Institute**

- ✓ Three Indian women - are on the list of the world's richest self-made female billionaires, which was released by the Hurun Research Institute.
- ✓ Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is India's richest self-made female billionaire, followed by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon and Radha Vembu, co-founder of Zoho Corporation.

➤ **Electronics R&D Centres - Chennai**

- ✓ Chennai - has emerged the cheapest location for operating electronics R&D centres among the top 100 electronics FDI locations globally.
- ✓ Penang followed second with an operating cost of \$1.32 million, followed by Gurgaon (\$1.52 million) and Pune (\$1.53 million) at third and fourth place in terms of cost of operating a similar 50-seater R&D centre over 2,000 sq m space.
- ✓ Further, Chennai was rated as the second best place in terms of the world's most competitive location for electronics R&D activities.

➤ **NITI Aayog - Energy and Climate Index List**

- ✓ Gujarat has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 that has ranked States and Union Territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- ✓ Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.
- ✓ In terms of energy efficiency, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well while in terms of Discom's performance, two small UTs – D&D and D&N – have done well.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World Autism Awareness Day: April 02**

- ✓ World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 2 April to raise awareness about autism.
- ✓ The annual event aims to spread awareness of autism and emphasizes the resilience of those affected by the disorder.
- ✓ The 2022 theme for World Autism Awareness Day is “Inclusive Quality Education for All”.

➤ **International Children’s Book Day - April 02**

- ✓ The International Children’s Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on the 2nd of April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- ✓ In 2022, Canada is hosting International Children’s Book Day with this chosen theme: “Stories are wings that help you soar every day.”

➤ **International Day for Mine Awareness: April 4**

- ✓ Every year on April 4, the International Day for Mine Awareness is commemorated. It is observed to raise awareness about the threat posed by landmines and to develop mine-action programs by the government.
The theme of International Mine Awareness Day 2022 is “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home.”

➤ **National Maritime Day - April 5**

- ✓ National Maritime Day in India is observed on 5 April every year. This year is the 59th edition of the National Maritime Day.
- ✓ The theme of the National Maritime Day is “Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19”.

➤ **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace - April 6**

- ✓ The Day is observed every year to recognize the positive role of sport and physical activity in people’s lives.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport”.

➤ **World Health Day - April 7**

- ✓ World Health Day is observed every year to raise awareness of people's general health and well-being around the world.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - ‘Our Planet, Our Health’

- ✓ Apart from this, the Ministry of Ayush will celebrate 'Yoga Amrit Mahotsav' on World Health Day this year.
- **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide 2022**
- ✓ The day of 7th April is observed as International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda every year across the world. This day marks the genocide against members of the Tutsi.
- **World Homeopathy Day: April 10**
- ✓ World Homeopathy Day is celebrated each year on April 10 to pay tribute to homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.
- ✓ The day is observed on the occasion of the birth anniversary of German physician Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy.
- ✓ Homeopathy was introduced in India approximately two centuries ago.
- **World Parkinson's Day: April 11**
- ✓ World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on April 11 to spread awareness about the neurodegenerative disease.
- ✓ The disease has a wide range of symptoms from shaking, stiffness, balance and coordination issues to difficulty in walking.
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of James Parkinson who wrote the article An Essay on the Shaking Palsy in 1817, recognizing the disease for the 1st time.
- **National Safe Motherhood Day 2022 - April 11**
- ✓ In India, the National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on April 11 to raise awareness about adequate access to care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services.
- ✓ The day also marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of the father of the Nation Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi.
- **International Day of Human Space Flight - April 12**
- ✓ The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed every year to mark the beginning of mankind's space era and to highlight the contribution of space science and technology.
- ✓ On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin, a 27-year-old Soviet cosmonaut, became the first human to orbit the Earth in a Vostok 3KA spacecraft, which was launched on a Vostok-K rocket.
- **38th Siachen Day celebrates on 13 April 2022**
- ✓ Indian Army marks Siachen Day on April 13 every year.
- ✓ The day is observed to commemorate the courage of the Indian Army under "Operation Meghdoot".

- ✓ The Day also honours Siachen Warriors serving their motherland successfully from the enemy. The Siachen Glacier is the highest battleground on earth.
- **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 103rd Anniversary: April 13**
- ✓ 103rd anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was observed on 13 April 2022.
- ✓ Hundreds of people protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Acts, which granted the colonial administration repressive powers, were gunned down by British forces without any provocation, in 1919.
- ✓ It was one of the most brutal instances India witnessed under British rule.
- **Ambedkar Jayanti 2022: April 14**
- ✓ Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is celebrated on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar.
- ✓ The Day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015. In 2022, we are marking the 131st birth anniversary of Babasaheb.
- **World Chagas Day - April 14**
- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the fatal disease that can lead to severe cardiac and digestive issues.
- ✓ The World Chagas Disease Day was celebrated for the first time in 2020, following the approval from the World Health Assembly in May 2019.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Finding and reporting every case to defeat Chagas disease"
- **Himachal Pradesh statehood Day 2022: April 15**
- ✓ Himachal Day is observed on the 15th of April in Himachal Pradesh. The state became a full-fledged state on this day.
- ✓ In 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state in India with Shimla as its capital.
- **World Art Day: April 15**
- ✓ World Art Day is observed every year on 15 April globally.
- ✓ This day is being celebrated all over the world to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe.
- **Good Friday: April 15**
- ✓ Good Friday is being observed on 15 April 2022.
The day marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

