



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 9, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On April 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched and laid the foundation stone for nearly Rs. 5,000 crore worth new projects in Tamil Nadu in the transport sector



- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of Chennai International Airport, flagged off the Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express and took part in the 125th anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Mutt at Vivekananda House.
- ✓ During the day, PM Modi inaugurated the Rs 1,260 crore New Integrated Terminal Building (Phase-1) of the Chennai International Airport.
 - ✓ The addition of this facility will increase the passenger serving capacity of the airport from 23 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) to 30 MPPA.
 - ✓ It has 100 check-in counters, 108 immigration counters, 17 escalators, and 17 elevators.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, State CM M.K. Stalin, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia were present among others during the inauguration of new integrated terminal building of Chennai Airport

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi also flagged off India's 13th Vande Bharat train on the Chennai-Coimbatore route.
 - ✓ With this launch, Chennai has two semi-high-speed trains, along with the Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat train.

Photo: C Suresh Kumar

SEVERAL PROJECTS LAUNCHED

<p>PM INAUGURATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Phase 1 of new terminal constructed at cost of ₹1,264 crore at Chennai airport <hr/> <p>> 37km of gauge converted line on Tiruthuraiipoondi-Agasthiyampalli section</p> <hr/> <p>> Four-lane elevated corridor from Madurai to Chettikulam on NH 785</p> <hr/> <p>> 4-lane from Natham to Thuvrankurichi on NH 785</p>	 <p>ALL SMILES: PM Narendra Modi and CM M K Stalin in Chennai on Saturday</p> <p>PM FLAGS OFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat; Tambaram-Sengottai express <hr/> <p>> Diesel electric multiple unit train from Tiruthuraiipoondi to Agasthiyampalli</p> <p>LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Four-laning of Tirumangalam-Vadugapatti section of NH-744
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- ✓ This new train on this route will reduce travel time between Chennai and Coimbatore and will cover the distance in 5 hours and 50 minutes, reducing the travel time by around 1 hour and 20 minutes.
- ✓ Further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 125th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Math at Vivekananda House in Chennai
 - ✓ Started in Chennai in 1897 by Swami Ramakrishnananda, the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are spiritual organizations engaged in various forms of humanitarian and social service activities
- ✓ During the PM's visit, CM M K Stalin urged the Prime Minister to drop a new broad-gauge line between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi as the region has a fragile ecosystem.
- ✓ He also sought the Centre's approval for 50:50 equity sharing basis between the Centre and the state to implement phase II of the Chennai metro rail estimated to cost Rs.63,246 crore.
- ✓ Further, the CM asked the PM to choose Tamil Nadu as the destination for hosting of Asian Beach Games, upcoming national games, Khelo India Youth Games and national youth festival, besides setting up Sports Authority of India's regional centre at Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University.
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various projects worth over Rs. 11,300 crore related to railways, road connectivity and health infrastructure development in Telangana

- ✓ The projects include laying the foundation stone of AIIMS Bibinagar, Hyderabad; five National Highway projects and the redevelopment of Secunderabad Railway Station.
- ✓ During his visit, PM Modi also flagged off India's 12th Vande Bharat Express on the Secunderabad-Tirupati route
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also laid the foundation stone of National Highway projects worth more than Rs. 7,850 crore which will strengthen the road connectivity of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- **On April 9, Union coal minister Pralhad Joshi - announced that all three blocks in Tamil Nadu, proposed to be auctioned for coal mining in the 7th tranche, would be exempted.**
- ✓ According to the Minister, the decision to exempt Tamil Nadu was taken for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Earlier, the Union government announced the auction for mining coal in 111 blocks across the country, including three blocks in Tamil Nadu, on March 29 this year
- ✓ It has to be recalled that all the three blocks fell in the agriculture-protected zone in the Cauvery delta region, the state's rice bowl.
- ✓ The three blocks were in Sethiathope in Cuddalore district, Michaelpatti in Ariyalur district and Vadachery in Thanjavur district.
- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin wrote a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to withdraw the announcement.
- ✓ A special calling attention motion was moved in the assembly, during which both the CM and industries minister Thangam Thennarasu assured that the project would not be implemented.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation councillor from North Chennai V Kavi Ganesan - held Chennai's first area sabha in his ward in Thiruvottiyur on April 8.**



- ✓ Ganesan represents Ward 12, which covers Kaladipet, Rajakadai and Theradi areas

- ✓ Ganesan held the meeting with the presence of officials from GCC, metro water, Tangedco, and other line departments.
 - ✓ More than 200 residents attended the meeting.
 - ✓ An area sabha is an urban version of grama sabha and the meeting is chaired by councillors.
 - ✓ The residents can voice their issues while the officials respond, seek budget details, project status and inspect the projects.
- **Bank of Baroda - recently announced the launch of a special co-branded RuPay platinum debit card in tie-up with the Tamil Nadu Government**



- ✓ The card has been launched especially for the account holders under the Pudhumai Penn scheme.
- ✓ Principal Secretary T. Udhayachandran, launched the card in the presence of A. Saravanakumar, general manager and zonal head Chennai, Bank of Baroda, and other officials of the bank.
- ✓ Bank of Baroda has specially customised the debit card that has been approved by the Tamil Nadu Government and will be offered to all eligible bank account holders in the state under the Pudhumai Penn scheme.
- ✓ The RuPay platinum debit card offers personal accident insurance coverage up to Rs.2 lakh per annum.
- ✓ Further, the joining fees and the annual fees for the first year have been waived off.

NATIONAL

- **On April 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) and release the latest tiger population at the Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru.**
- ✓ The IBCA focuses on protection and conservation of seven major big cats of the world — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah — by curbing poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

- ✓ The launch of the alliance and release of tiger numbers will take place on the first day of the three-day Indian Conservation Conference (ICC)
 - ✓ The conference marks the celebration of 50 years of Project Tiger which was launched by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on April 1, 1973.
 - ✓ Before attending the commemorative function in Mysuru, the Prime Minister will visit Bandipur Tiger Reserve.
 - ✓ The PM will also visit the Theppakadu elephant camp in Mudumalai tiger reserve and interact with mahouts and kavadis.
 - ✓ With a population of 2,967, as per 2018 census, India is home to more than 70% of the global wild tiger population.
 - ✓ Tiger population in the country is increasing at an annual rate of 6%.
 - ✓ India doubled its wild tiger population between 2006 and 2018.
- **On April 10, Union home minister Amit Shah - will launch the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP) from Kibithoo, a border village in Anjaw of eastern Arunachal Pradesh**
- ✓ The VVP is a Rs.4,800-crore centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at integrated development of villages adjoining the Indo-China border
 - ✓ Kibithoo was also one of the theaters of the 1962 India-China war.
 - ✓ Shah will be on a two-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh to unveil VVP
 - ✓ Recently, China had renamed 11 places in the state in Mandarin and Tibetan languages.
 - ✓ All these places fall in an area that China claims as south Tibet or Zangnan.
 - ✓ India dismissed China's move saying that assigning "invented names" would not alter the fact that the state has been and shall always remain an integral part of India.
 - ✓ Kibithoo in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district is about 15km south of the LAC and 40km west of the India-China-Myanmar tri-junction.
 - ✓ Located at an elevation of 13. 5 metres, Kibithoo is one of the remotest circle headquarters in Arunachal and also the only circle headquarters facing the India-China border.
 - ✓ VVP aims to develop 2,967 villages across 19 border districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh over the period 2022-23 to 2025-26.
 - ✓ The scheme will have a Rs.2,500-crore road connectivity component and will cover 662 villages, including 455 in Arunachal Pradesh in the first phase
 - ✓ The development-cum-connectivity initiative is aimed at improving the quality of life of the border residents and encourages them to stay in their native locations, thereby reversing outmigration and strengthening border security.
 - ✓ Shah will also inaugurate nine micro-hydel projects of the state government under the 'golden jubilee illumination programme'.
 - ✓ His other engagements in Kibithoo include inauguration of ITBP infrastructure projects in Likabili (Arunachal), Chapra (Bihar), Nooranad (Kerala) and

Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh); an interaction with ITBP personnel; and visit to an exhibition of products made by women's self-help groups in the border districts.

- ✓ On April 11, Shah will visit Namti field and pay homage at the Walong war memorial.
 - ✓ Under VVP, the district administration shall, with the help of appropriate mechanisms at block and panchayat level, prepare action-plans for the identified village to ensure 100% saturation of central and state schemes.
 - ✓ The focus areas of interventions include road connectivity, drinking water, electricity including solar and wind energy, mobile and internet connectivity and healthcare infrastructure.
- **The government - has sanctioned loans of Rs.23. 2 lakh crore under the PM Mudra Yojana scheme, with close to 41 lakh loans sanctioned over the past eight years.**
- ✓ Among the beneficiaries, about 68% of accounts belong to women entrepreneurs and 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs of SC/ST and OBC categories.
 - ✓ This was announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in a statement on April 8.
 - ✓ The scheme was launched eight years ago and was aimed at providing collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs.10 lakh.
 - ✓ Mudra loans are split into three categories – Shishu (up to Rs.50,000), Kishore (loans above Rs.50,000 and up to Rs.5 lakh), and Tarun (over Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh)
 - ✓ According to the finance ministry, 83% of the loan accounts were Shishu, accounting for 40% of the sanctioned amount.
 - ✓ Similarly, 15% of the loans were to the Kishore segment and had a 36% share of the sanctions.
- **President Droupadi Murmu - flew for the first time in a fighter aircraft from Tezpur airbase in Assam on April 8**



- ✓ Group Captain Naveen Kumar Tiwari, Commanding Officer of 106th Squadron, flew her in a Sukhoi-30 MKI that took off from the IAF base.
- ✓ Murmu is the third president after APJ Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil to fly in a fighter aircraft.
- ✓ Her predecessors had flown from Pune airbase.
- ✓ Murmu is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces
- ✓ Her flight from the Tezpur base assumes significance as it is bordering Arunachal Pradesh which China claims to be a part of its territory.
- ✓ It is part of her efforts to engage with the armed forces.
- ✓ In March, the President had visited INS Vikrant and interacted with officers and sailors on board the aircraft carrier.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ **World Health Day - April 7**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the health-related issues across the world.
- ✓ It also marks the anniversary of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which was founded in 1948.
- ✓ The first proposal for the formation of an independent health organisation was made in 1945 by China and Brazil at the United Nations Conference.
- ✓ Later, the WHO was formally established after 61 countries signed the agreement for its inception on April 7, 1948.
- ✓ This year the world health body is observing its 75th anniversary.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Health For All."
- ✓ The first World Health Day was observed on July 22 and the date was later changed to April 7 to mark the WHO's formation.

➤ **National Maritime Day - April 5**



- ✓ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of maritime sector and its crucial links to economy and growth of the nation.
- ✓ Observed on the last day of the National Maritime Week which begins on March 30, the National Maritime Day takes place in India on April 5
- ✓ It commemorates the maiden voyage of the first Indian Steamship “S.S. Loyalty” of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., in 1919, from Mumbai to London.
- ✓ It was the second oldest shipping company in India and was owned by the Scindia dynasty of Gwalior.
- ✓ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways observed this day for the first time in 1964
- ✓ The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 was announced as ‘Amrit Kaal in Shipping’, which roughly translates to English as ‘Golden Era in Shipping,’ a 25-year period from 75 years to 100 years of Indian independence.
- ✓ Last year, the theme was ‘Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19.’
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the ‘Maritime India Vision 2030’ in November 2020 at the Maritime India Summit.
- ✓ It is a 10-year blueprint for the development of the Indian maritime sector.
- ✓ The Sagarmala project, which was introduced in 2015, will be replaced by the Maritime India Vision 2030.

