

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 26,2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On April 25, the Supreme Court - stayed a Madras high court order, which quashed a May 2018 notification issued by the food safety commissioner prohibiting the sale, manufacture and transport of gutka and other tobacco-based products in Tamil Nadu.**
 - ✓ As a consequence, the state will once again ban the manufacture and sale of gutka and pan masala and initiate action against violators
 - ✓ A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna stayed the high court verdict dated January 20.
 - ✓ This was announced by health minister Ma Subramanian, minutes after the Supreme Court verdict.
 - ✓ Tobacco traders and manufacturers had moved the Madras high court against the ban and on January 20 the court quashed the government order.
 - ✓ On March 4, the apex court sought a response to a plea challenging an order of the Madras High Court quashing the May 2018 notification.

- **On April 25, Chief minister M K Stalin - handed over a subsidy of Rs.3. 25 crore to B K Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, head of the committee appointed by the state government to celebrate the 200th birth anniversary of saint Vallalar.**
 - ✓ The CM handed over the cheque to Krishnaraj to implement 'annadhanam' (free food) scheme which is provided as part of the bicentenary anniversary, being observed from October last year to October this year.
 - ✓ After the chief minister announced the bicentenary celebration in the assembly in October last year, a 14-member committee was appointed to oversee the celebrations.
 - ✓ As part of the celebration, 'annadhanam' is served to 150 persons for 52 weeks in all the major cities and towns.
 - ✓ To facilitate it, the state government has provided Rs.3.25 crore as subsidy.

- **The government – has notified Urban Local Body Rules, the uniform rules for all urban local bodies in the state**
- ✓ The new rules has set monetary limits for authorities to sanction capital works under central government/ state government funds, central finance commission/ state finance commission funds, and external aided funds with or without contribution from corporations.
 - ✓ The commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation is the competent authority to accord sanction if the estimated value for capital and development works is up to Rs.5 crore, and government is the competent authority if the funds exceed Rs.5 crore.
 - ✓ Similarly, the commissioners of other corporations are vested with powers to sanction up to Rs.1 crore and director between Rs.1 crore and Rs.10 crore and government more than Rs.10 crore.
 - ✓ In municipalities, the regional director of municipal administration shall sanction up to Rs.1 crore while the government more than Rs.10 crore.
 - ✓ The rules also designated authorities for inviting tenders and accepting the same.
 - ✓ Regional deputy commissioner (up to Rs.1 crore) of Greater Chennai Corporation and commissioner (Rs.1 crore and above) have been designated as tender accepting authorities for works delegated to the zones by the commissioner from time to time.
 - ✓ The respective headquarters deputy commissioner will be the tender accepting authority for work being implemented by headquarters up to Rs.1 crore, and commissioner for work above Rs.1 crore.
 - ✓ The government also has classified urban local bodies into various grades for the purpose of effective administration based on the population in the case of a municipal corporation – special (exceeding Rs.10 lakh), selection grade (exceeding Rs.5 lakh but not exceeding Rs.10 lakh), first grade (exceeding Rs.3 lakh but not exceeding Rs.5 lakh) and second grade (not exceeding Rs.3 lakh).
 - ✓ The municipalities will be classified based on the annual income for the last three consecutive years.
 - ✓ Special grade (exceeding Rs.15 crore), selection (exceeding Rs.9 crore but not exceeding Rs.15 crore), first (exceeding Rs.6 crore but not exceeding Rs.9 crore) and second grade (not exceeding Rs.6 crore).
 - ✓ Similarly, town panchayats will be classified into special grade (exceeding Rs.2 crore), selection (exceeding rupees Rs.1 crore but not exceeding Rs.2 crore), first (exceeding Rs.50 lakh but not exceeding Rs.1 crore) and second grade (not exceeding Rs.50 lakh).
 - ✓ The classification of the urban local bodies will be reviewed every three years.
 - ✓ The number of councillors for each municipal corporation, municipalities and town panchayats will be fixed based on the recommendation of the Delimitation Commission and accepted by the government.

➤ **Chennai's third desalination plant at Nemmeli – to become operational by July**

Main pipeline constructed from the desalination plant
49km

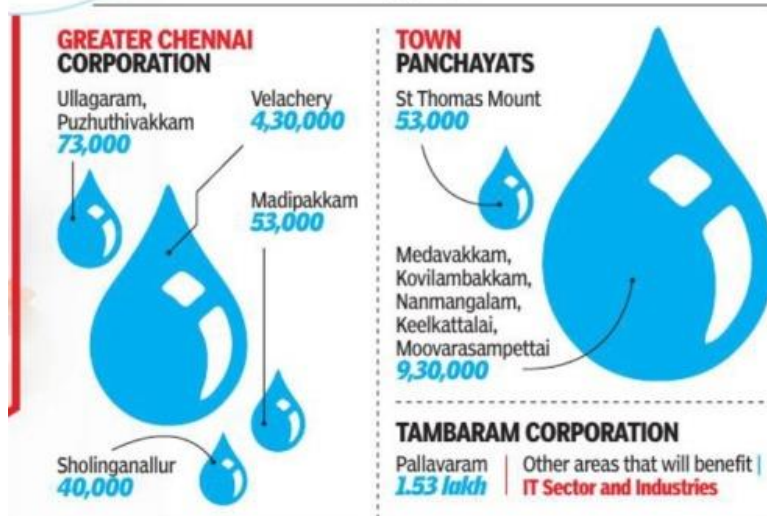
Capacity **150 MLD**

Cost **1,516.82Cr**

To be completed **July, 2023**

No new over-head Tanks. Only existing overhead tanks for distribution system

NEMMELI'S SECOND DESALINATION PLANT



- The new desalination plant with a capacity to treat 150 million litres of sea water into potable water is coming up adjacent to the existing desal plant in Nemmeli
- This the largest desalination plant in the country for which pipelines have been laid under the sea bed for a distance of 1,035 metre
- Potable water from this plant can be supplied to 9 lakh residents covering a dozen residential localities in the southern suburbs of the city, which has been added to the Chennai Corporation limits
- The Metrowater is buying 46.17 million litres of treated water daily (mld) from the Minjur desalination plant and 79 million litres of water from Nemmeli plant
- Last year during the corresponding period it was buying 68.13 mld from Minjur and 75.33 mld from Nemmeli
- With the water levels adequate in the reservoirs, the Metrowater reduced the buying of treated water from the existing desalination plants

✓ The plant has a capacity to supply about 150 million litres a day (MLD).

- ✓ Currently, Chennai has desalination plants functioning at Minjur in North Chennai and Nemmeli on East Coast Road both with a capacity of 120 MLD.
- ✓ More than 90% of the 49km network for the new facility comprising two pipelines, made of high density polyethylene, under the Rs.1,516. 8 crore project has been completed.
- ✓ A 1,035-metre-long line laid on the sea bed will bring in seawater while a 636-metre-long line takes the rejected water back into the ocean for the new project.
- ✓ The work is expected to be completed by May after which the trial operations will go on for nearly a month and half before the plant is up and running.
- ✓ The new plant, located next to the existing 120MLD capacity facility that was commissioned in 2013, will include a sea water intake system, pre-and post-treatment units, a reverse osmosis plant and an energy recovery system.
- ✓ It will also have a reject disposal system, a product water tank and a connected pump house for transferring potable water.
- ✓ Areas from Thoraipakkam in zones such as Sholinganallur and Perungudi till Velachery to the Medavakkam-Pallavaram region will be covered and include those under many small town panchayats.

NATIONAL

- **India's 16th Vande Bharat Express - will begin its commercial service from Kerala's Kasaragod railway station on April 26.**



- ✓ This will be the first and third new age train for Kerala and the Southern Railway (SR) zone respectively.
- ✓ The regular service of this blue and white colour train will commence on April 28 from Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station.
- ✓ The train was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 25.
- ✓ The Thiruvananthapuram Central-Kasaragod Vande Bharat Express will cover a distance of 588 km in 08:05 hrs, thereby reducing the average travel time by three hours.

- ✓ It will also boost religious tourism to Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple, Chottanikkara Bhagavathy temple, etc.
- ✓ It will also enhance tourism to scenic and historical sites like Kovalam Beach, Poovar Island, Ernakulam's backwaters, Ashtamudi Lake, Bekal Fort, etc.
- **India - evacuated 278 citizens from Port Sudan by INS Sumedha and brought them to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia**
- ✓ The evacuation took place on the first day of 'Operation Kaveri' launched by the union government
- ✓ The government said it had deployed another naval ship, INS Teg, to bring more Indians who have arrived at the port from different parts of Sudan to Jeddah
- ✓ The stranded Indians will be flown back to India in military aircraft from Jeddah

INTERNATIONAL

- **On April 25, incumbent US President, Joe Biden, 80 - formally launched his bid for a second term in the 2024 US Presidential election**



- ✓ Vice-President Kamala Harris, 58, will again be his running mate.
- ✓ On the Republican side, Trump, 76, remains the frontrunner for the nomination.
- ✓ The combined age of the presidential candidates (156 years; 158 by Election Day) will be the highest of any two contestants in US Presidential history, and arguably in world electoral history

OBITUARY

- **Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch and former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal - passed away at the age of 95 in Mohali on April 25**
- ✓ The five-time Punjab CM had the distinction of being the youngest chief minister in Punjab at the age of 43, and also the oldest as he was 89 when he relinquished charge in 2017.
- ✓ The oldest candidate in the country to contest Vidhan Sabha elections in 2022, Badal lost from Lambi constituency to first-time candidate from the Aam Aadmi Party, Gurmeet Singh Khudian.



- ✓ Badal was born on December 8, 1927 in Abul Khurana village, near Malout in southwest Punjab
- ✓ Badal was conferred the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2015, but he returned the award in December 2020 for the "betrayal of farmers" by the central government while farmers were protesting against the contentious farm laws.

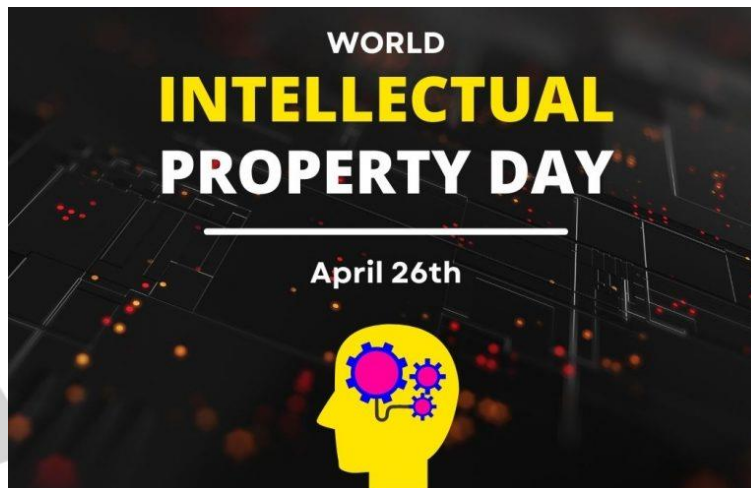
RANKINGS

- **Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad in Maharashtra - topped the list of 40 prominent cities in terms of ease of movement and ease of reaching destination in 2022**
- ✓ The second edition of "Ease of Moving Index" carried out by the not-for-profit entity Ola Mobility Institute (OMI) Foundation was released on April 25
 - ✓ The Index was based on the survey of more than 50,000 citizens, focus group discussions and government data.
- ✓ In the list, Mumbai ranked second and Coimbatore came third, followed by Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Indore.
- ✓ As per the report, Aizawl in Mizoram emerged as a top performer in clean mobility, while almost everyone in Nagaland's capital Kohima had a bicycle.
- ✓ Among the cities, mobility spend was the lowest in Jabalpur and Kanpur emerged as the safest city to travel on public transport.
- ✓ The study also found that Pune had the most inclusive mobility ecosystem and the public transport usage among women and the trans or non-binary was the highest in Ludhiana.
- ✓ Among these cities, almost everyone in Raipur-Nava Raipur used public transport on a daily basis.
- ✓ The first edition of "Ease of Moving Index" published in 2018 had covered only 20 cities.
- ✓ A comparative analysis of the same set of 20 common cities in the two reports show that the share of people using personal vehicles for movement has increased a cross all the cities, except Bhubaneswar and Jammu, in the past four years.

- ✓ In the case of the share of people using public transport in these cities, Mumbai witnessed the biggest jump of 28%, followed by Kochi (25%) between 2018 and 2022.
- ✓ Barring Surat and Kolkata, all other mega cities covered in the study saw an increase in the share of people using public transport.
- ✓ Among the mega cities, the reliability of public transport also increased during this period, except for Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad.
- ✓ The study shows that the maximum decline in reliability was in Delhi at 10%, followed by Kolkata (13%).
- ✓ Ahmedabad and Surat registered a big jump of 11% each on this parameter.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Intellectual Property Day – April 26**



- ✓ The Day is observed annually to raise public awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights, including patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs
- ✓ Theme 2023 - “Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity”
- ✓ Every year, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) collaborates with a variety of stakeholders to promote World Intellectual Property Day.
- ✓ The WIPO Convention came into effect in 1970 and in the year 2000, WIPO's member states declared April 26 as World Intellectual Property.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT – AN OVERVIEW

- **The World Development Report - has estimated a 120% income gain for Indians going to work overseas, compared to a 40% rise in case of internal migration.**
- ✓ The report, released on April 25, focused especially on migration

- ✓ It has estimated that low-skilled Indians migrating to the US stand to gain the most as they would see a jump in income of nearly 500%, followed by UAE at almost 300%.
- ✓ Those migrating to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations comprising Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and UAE stand to gain less.
- ✓ Apart from the skills, the gain also depends on the age, destination and language ability.
- ✓ The report estimated the number of migrants globally at 184 million, which is 2.3% of the population, including 37 million refugees.
- ✓ It said there are four types of migrants which includes economic migrants with strong skill match (Indian IT professionals in the US or construction workers in GCC nations) and refugees with skills in demand at destination (Syrian entrepreneur refugees in Türkiye).

