

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 5, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- 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.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu DGP C Sylendra Babu, who was among the dignitaries present, said there are about 60 features included to seek police assistance in the newly launched mobile app.
- ✓ The technical services team of the state police developed and redesigned the existing ‘Kaavalan SOS’ mobile application by adding more user-friendly features.
- ✓ The app is used to send ‘emergency’ alert to the police control room, so as to obtain immediate assistance during any distress or emergency by the members of the public.

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind application will have an emergency button to help people dial 100/101/112 in just a click.
 - ✓ Once a mobile user registers her/his details, the call will be responded to immediately in a few seconds, unlike the earlier version of screening the calls for BOT functions.
 - ✓ The app also has a dedicated feature for mobile-based complaints, where registered users can file complaints by uploading photographs or videos along with a small description.
 - ✓ The app user can also share their current location using the 'location sharing' facility and send it to their family WhatsApp.
 - ✓ Apart from this, the application also has features for police station locator, control room directory, cyber financial related complaints, emergency helplines, vehicle verification, e-payment for penalties, police verification services, lost document report and social media connect.
 - ✓ Chief secretary V Irai Anbu, home department additional chief secretary SK Prabhakar, DGP C Sylendra Babu, DGP, cybercrime Amaraesh Pujari, state crime record bureau director Vineet Dev Wankhade and other officers were present.
 - ✓ The App can be downloaded from Google Play Store by the general public
- **Tamil Nadu – is planning to wipe out 'Seemai Karuvelam' (prosopis juliflora) within the next 10 years**

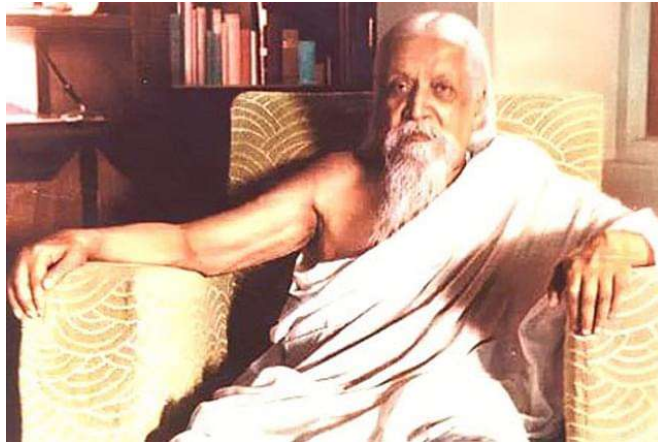


- ✓ For another five years, maintenance activities will be carried out to ensure that the invasive species does not regrow
 - ✓ This was announced by the State government to the Madras high court on April 4
 - ✓ Earlier, the government had finalised a draft policy and uploaded it to the official website for public opinion.
 - ✓ The time for submitting opinions has also expired and the state would notify the final policy in two months.
- **On April 4, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the distribution of free e-patta to 57,978 members of Narikurava and Irular communities, 2. 35 lakh**

members of SC/ST and 41,573 members of Backward Classes by the revenue department.



- ✓ In the past, the state government had extended free house site patta to thousands of people on lands taken over by the government
 - ✓ This includes the land taken over by the revenue, Adi Dravida and Tribal Welfare, BC and MBC and minorities welfare departments from individuals and unobjectionable government poramboke lands.
 - ✓ Since these details were not properly registered in the revenue documents, the beneficiaries could not get the certificates of ownership.
 - ✓ A special initiative has been taken to provide e-patta in all the districts by uploading the details in Tamil Nilam, the revenue department web portal.
 - ✓ As part of the initiative, about 11,873 hectares of AD&TW department, and 2,668 hectares of the BC, MBC and minorities welfare department have been identified by the district collectors.
- **The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development department – have tied up to create more greener space in Chennai**
- ✓ Under the agreement, the CMDA will provide up to 80% funds for various projects that have been stalled due to various reasons
 - ✓ As part of this initiative, several roads and places in Chennai will now have greener spaces and walking and cycling pathways.
 - ✓ The redevelopment of these projects was stuck due to a fund shortage.
 - ✓ Several other projects planned by the corporation including greening of spaces under flyovers, creating parks and playfields were similarly affected due to a lack of funds.
- **World Peace Trust, Puducherry, and Bangavani Trust of Nabadwip Dham, West Bengal - observed the 112th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's arrival in Puducherry on April 4.**



- ✓ The event was held in collaboration with the followers of revolutionary freedom fighter turned philosopher Sri Aurobindo
- ✓ It was on this day in 1910 Sri Aurobindo arrived in Puducherry after the then British government issued an arrest warrant against him.
- ✓ The observation commenced with meditation with recorded music of Sri Aurobindo's spiritual collaborator Mirra Alfassa, fondly revered as the mother.

NATIONAL

- **On April 4, Lok Sabha - passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, by voice vote.**



- ✓ The bill seeks to provide legal sanction for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records.
- ✓ It was introduced in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni.
- ✓ The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha on March 28 of this year.
- ✓ It seeks to define "measurements" to include finger impressions, palm-print and foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, and biological samples and their analysis.

- ✓ The legislation also empowers the National Crime Records Bureau of India to collect, store and preserve the record of measurements and for sharing, dissemination, destruction, and disposal of records.
 - ✓ The bill empowers police or prison officer to take measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give measurements.
 - ✓ The bill also seeks to empower a Magistrate to direct any person to give measurements
 - ✓ As per the legislation, if there is any resistance from the convicts to taking the measurements, it will be termed as an offence under Section 186 of the IPC (obstructing public servant) - leading to a jail term of three months, or a fine of ₹500 or both
 - ✓ As per the bill, people who are not convicted or arrested for crimes against women or children, or those people who are in custody for an offence that is punishable for less than seven years, can refuse to give their biological samples
 - ✓ The record of measurements will be retained for a period of 75 years from the date of collection
 - ✓ The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 seeks to replace the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920
 - ✓ During the debate on the bill, home minister Amit Shah said that the Bill seeks to meet the "T" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for SMART (Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Techno savvy and Trained) policing in 2014.
- **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.
- ✓ It has been designed to provide services under Digital India initiative to all stakeholders including private satellite TV channels, teleport operators, MSOs, community and private radio channels etc.

- ✓ It is expected to provide a 360-degree solution to over 900 Satellite TV channels, over 70 teleport operators, over 1,750 multi-service operators, over 350 community radio stations (CRS) and over 380 private FM channels.
- ✓ The portal has been developed in cooperation with Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd, a Mini-Ratna PSU, and Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
- **Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Biological E Limited (BE) – was selected by WHO’s advisory committee on vaccine product development (ACPDV) as a recipient of mRNA technology**
- ✓ Accordingly, BE will soon get mRNA technology from the World Health Organisation (WHO)’s technology transfer hub to develop a Covid-19 vaccine.
- ✓ The company has developed a recombinant sub-unit protein vaccine — Corbevax — for Covid-19.
- ✓ With this, WHO and its partners will work with the Indian government and BE to develop a roadmap and provide necessary training and support for the Hyderabad-based company to start producing mRNA.

PERSONALITIES

- **On April 4, IIT-Kanpur – signed an agreement with Rakesh Gangwal, co-founder of IndiGo Airline on establishing the School of Medical Sciences in its campus**



- ✓ Under the agreement, Gangwal, an alumni of IIT-Kanpur will contribute ₹100 crore to the institutions for setting up the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology
- ✓ The endowment will be made to the institute over two years.
- ✓ The proposed School will also include a 500-bed super specialty hospital on the campus.
- ✓ The proposed project will cost around ₹600 crore, of which the institute so far has managed to raise ₹350 crore from different sources.

- ✓ The institute is looking at research in a range of areas including artificial intelligence in medicine, telemedicine, robotics in surgery, pulmonary research, virology.
- ✓ In phase I, the institute has allotted around 30 acres land on the campus and intends to expand it to 100 acres in the future.
- ✓ This could be one of the largest donations contributed by an individual to the IITs
- ✓ Among large contributions in the past, Binny Bansal from Flipkart committed ₹100 crore to IIT-Delhi over a period of five years.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The United Nations' climate science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the third instalment of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on April 4, 2022.**
- ✓ The report prepared by the IPCC Working Group III (WG-III) titled 'Mitigation of climate change' focuses on the solutions necessary to halt global warming and reduce net emissions by 2030.
- ✓ As per the AR6, the green house gas emissions (GHG) in 2019 were 54% higher than in 1990 and they mostly originate from human-driven activities like the burning of coal for energy or cutting of forests.
- ✓ However, the average annual rate of growth slowed to 1.3% per year in the period 2010-19, compared to 2.1% per year in the period 2000-09
- ✓ Further, the report noted that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) emit only 3.3% of global emissions in 2019.
- ✓ As per the report, the emissions must fall by 43% by 2030 in comparison to 2019, as the pledges to the Paris agreement were insufficient
- ✓ Current pledges made by countries who have signed the Paris Agreement are known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ✓ The report noted that 34% of human emissions came from the energy sector, 24% from industry, 22% from agriculture, forestry and land use, 14% from transport and 6% from buildings
- ✓ The sixth assessment report of the IPCC includes contributions by three working groups
- ✓ The reports of the first and second groups were released in April 2021 and February 2022, while the third was released on 4 April.
- ✓ The previous two reports had warned that global temperatures had already risen 1.1 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and that if drastic changes weren't made now, temperatures would cross the limit set by the Paris Agreement — 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels — within the next two decades.
- ✓ The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- ✓ It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

- ✓ Its main activity is to prepare Assessment Reports, special reports, and methodology reports assessing the state of knowledge of climate change.

ECONOMY

- On April 4, HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender – has announced its merger with the country's largest housing finance company, Housing Development Finance Corporation or HDFC Ltd

BIGGEST BANKING DEAL GLOBALLY SINCE '17

- Merger comes 18 months after founder CEO Aditya Puri, a strong personality who built the bank from scratch, retired
- RBI has been nudging large NBFCs to turn into banks for more regulatory oversight and for subjecting them to the same norms as banks
- Parent's mortgage business gets access to cheaper funds and can provide overdraft loans that only banks can provide
- HDFC Bank can get a large set of new customers for deposits and cross-selling

| | (Rs crore) | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | HDFC | HDFC Bank |
| Mkt cap | 4.8L | 9.2L |
| Asset size | 8.8L | 18.4L |
| NET PROFIT | | |
| (9 mths) | 10,041 | 26,906 |

'A HOME AFTER 45 YRS'

- HDFC was incorporated in 1977, promoted by institutions led by ICICI, and was the brainchild of H T Parekh (uncle of Deepak Parekh)
- HDFC Bank was promoted by HDFC in 1994—among the first to receive a private bank licence post-1991 reforms. UK's Natwest Bank had subscribed to 20% in the bank

“After 45 years in public finance, providing nine million homes for Indians, we have to find a home for ourselves. And we have found a home in our own family company
HDFC Bank

—Deepak Parekh
Chairman, HDFC



- ✓ The amalgamation of HDFC into HDFC Bank is likely to create the second largest entity in India in terms of market capitalization after Reliance Industries Ltd (Rs 18.01 lakh crore).
- ✓ The merger will create a new conglomerate with a combined balance sheet of Rs 17.87 lakh crore and a net worth of Rs 3.3 lakh crore
- ✓ According to the merger terms, shareholders of HDFC Ltd will receive 42 equity shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they hold.
- ✓ HDFC's current stake of 21% in the bank will be extinguished, and HDFC Bank will be fully owned by public shareholders.
- ✓ Existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will own 41% of the bank after the merger.
- ✓ The merger is expected to be achieved within less than 18 months, subject to completion of regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions
- ✓ The management of HDFC Bank will continue to run the combined entity and Sashidhar Jagdishan will remain the chief executive.

- ✓ Keki Mistry, who is currently vice chairman of HDFC, will stay in his role until the merger is complete.
- ✓ HDFC Limited is a significant provider of home loans to the Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) segments under the affordable housing initiatives of the Government of India
- ✓ HDFC Bank has a presence in more than 3,000 cities or towns through its 6,342 branches, with about 50% of these branches in semi-urban or rural areas in the country
- ✓ HDFC was among the first to receive an in-principle approval from the RBI to set up a bank in the private sector as part of the RBI opening up the Indian banking industry in 1994.
- ✓ H T Parekh was the founder chairman of HDFC, the first retail housing finance company in the country set up in 1977

APPOINTMENTS

- **India's ambassador to Nepal and an IFS officer of 1988 batch, Vinay Mohan Kwatra - will take over as the new foreign secretary**



- ✓ He replaces incumbent Harsh Vardhan Shringla, whose retirement is due on April 30, 2022
- ✓ Kwatra is a senior-most IFS officer and has a vast experience after serving in key positions over 34 years.
- ✓ Shringla is likely to be appointed a special coordinator for G20 after his retirement.
- ✓ Kwatra has served in Washington, Beijing and also the Indian consulate in Karachi in 1993 before it was shut down.
- ✓ He has served as ambassador to France (2017-2020) and also Nepal, a key neighbour.
- ✓ In 2020, Kwatra was appointed ambassador in Kathmandu in the middle of a flare-up of the border dispute that saw Nepal controversially redrawing its political map.
- ✓ Kwatra has also headed the Americas division of MEA, worked as joint secretary in PMO (2015-2017) and also served in the Saarc Secretariat in Nepal as the head of the Trade, Finance Bureau, and Economy.
- ✓ Before becoming joint secretary in PMO he also worked as a translator for PM.

- ✓ After joining the service in 1988, Kwatra served as Third Secretary and then Second Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva until 1993
- ✓ He also obtained a diploma in International Relations from the Graduate School of International Studies located in Geneva.
- ✓ Further, Kwatra handled work relating to the UN specialised agencies and the Human Rights Commission.
- ✓ He also headed the Ministry of External Affairs' Policy Planning & Research Division.
- ✓ Kwatra has also served in the foreign ministry's Americas Division and dealt with the country's relations with Canada and the United States.

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.
- ✓ Kej won his first Grammy in 2015.

SPORTS

- **On April 4, the government - decided to spend Rs 190 crore on athletes' training, foreign exposure, equipment and support staff needs for the Birmingham CWG and Hangzhou Asian Games, scheduled later this year.**
- ✓ The sports ministry has finalised the annual calendar for training and competition (ACTC) in 33 disciplines
- ✓ It has set aside a sum of Rs 259 crore for the financial year 2022-23 as assistance to various national sports federations (NSFs) preparing for international and multisport events.

- ✓ Funding to NSFs under the ACTC has been done based on revised norms made effective from March 1, 2022.
- ✓ The budget has been decided based on detailed discussions with 33 NSFs on their planned ACTC, with special emphasis on the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Para Asian Games.
- ✓ The government has also sanctioned assistance to the tune of Rs 3.65 crore for international exposure trips of Indian athletics and yachting teams this month.

