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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**APRIL 8 , 2022**



## INTERNATIONAL

### Russia suspends UN Human Rights Council

#### Synopsis:

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly voted Thursday to suspend Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council, the first time a country has been bounced from the U.N.'s premier rights body since 2011, when the government of former Libyan strongman, Muammar al-Qaddafi, was pushed out.
- ❖ The 193-member assembly adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution suspending Russia's membership in the rights council for the commission of "gross and systematic violations of human rights." The resolution was adopted by a vote of 93 to 24, with 58 abstentions.



#### Key Highlights:

- ❖ The measure constituted a stunning rebuke of Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council that wields enormous diplomatic influence at the United Nations.
- ❖ It came days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a chilling account to the U.N. Security Council of what he characterized as war crimes in the town of Bucha, Ukraine, following the withdrawal of Russian forces there.
- ❖ Ukrainian delegation broadcast a brief video before the council documenting grisly scenes of civilian killings in cities across Ukraine.
- ❖ The vote fell short of the overwhelming majority of U.N. members who ruled in March—by a vote of 141 to 5, with 35 abstentions—to condemn Russia's military aggression in Ukraine and demand the withdrawal of its troops.
- ❖ represented a significant outcome, contributing to Russia's growing diplomatic isolation and denying it an opportunity to defend its activities in Ukraine as a member of the rights council.
- ❖ U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield told journalist Andrea Mitchell on MSNBC that the vote was "historic" and "unprecedented" in that it was the first time a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council had been suspended from the rights council.



## Resolution against PM Imran Khan

### Synopsis:

- ❖ Pakistan's Parliament is all set to vote on the crucial no-confidence resolution on Saturday against defiant Prime Minister Imran Khan who faces the possibility of being the first premier in the country's history to be voted out in a no-trust motion
- ❖ In line with a landmark Supreme Court order, the National Assembly's session for voting on the no-confidence motion against Khan will take place



### Key Highlights:

- ❖ The Opposition parties need 172 members in the 342-member house to orchestrate the downfall of Prime Minister Khan. They have garnered the support of more than the needed strength with the help of some allies of the ruling coalition and rebels from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of the 69-year-old cricketer-turned politician.
- ❖ According to the Orders of the Day' issued by the National Assembly Secretariat on 8 April, 2022, voting on the no-confidence motion is at the fourth position in the six-point agenda of the National Assembly (NA), the lower house of Parliament.
- ❖ The ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party led by 69-year-old Khan has vowed to make things as difficult for the Opposition as they can, be it creating hurdles in the voting procedure or preventing the election of Opposition nominee Shehbaz Sharif as the new leader of the house, the Dawn newspaper reported.
- ❖ According to Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, the government will present the threatening' cable or its contents in the assembly and will ask the Speaker for a debate on the issue.
- ❖ Speaking to ARY News on Friday night, he was of the opinion that even though the vote of no-confidence was on the NA agenda, voting would likely not take place on Saturday.
- ❖ Chaudhry said that while the Supreme Court had instructed voting to be held in the session called on Saturday, that does not mean it will have to be on the same date, the report said.
- ❖ Khan in recent weeks has talked about a 'threat letter' and claimed that it was part of a foreign conspiracy to remove him as he was not acceptable for following an independent foreign policy.



## Economic crisis for Russia

### Synopsis:

- ❖ The invasion of Ukraine has placed Russia on the verge of bankruptcy. Interest rates have doubled, the stock market has closed, and the rouble has fallen to its lowest level ever.
- ❖ The military costs of war have been exacerbated by an unprecedented level of international sanctions, sustained by a large coalition of countries.
- ❖ Russian citizens, now unable to spend at IKEA, McDonald's or Starbucks, are not allowed to convert any of the money they do have into foreign currency.



### Key Highlights:

- ❖ Generous estimates suggest the Russian economy could shrink by 7% next year, instead of the 2% growth that was forecast before the invasion. Others say the drop could be as much as 15%. Long-term perspectives are dire.
- ❖ If sanctions are maintained, Russia will be cut off from its main trading partners apart from China and Belarus. Rating agencies now predict Russia will soon be unable to pay back its creditors, again with colossal long-term impacts on the economy.
- ❖ Its reputation as a disreputable borrower will make it hard to attract foreign investments without massive guarantees, potentially making it entirely dependent on China.
- ❖ To get a sense of what that would involve, we can look at what has happened before. After two wars and the destruction of Grozny, Chechnya, in 1999-2000, Russia spends as much as US\$3.8 billion (£2.9 billion) a year sustaining its regime in the country.
- ❖ Any decrease in monetary transfers would put Russia at risk of further insurgency, and Crimea costs Russia a comparable amount.
- ❖ Ukraine's population of around 40 million is around 40 times larger than Chechnya's and 20 times that of the Crimean peninsula.
- ❖ The second largest country in Europe by area (after Russia), it will be a very expensive place in which to sustain an occupation.



## NATIONAL

### Kanchi Kamkodi Children's Hospital is the best hospital

#### Synopsis:

- ❖ Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital has been adjudged the best paediatric facility in the country, according to a survey by News Week magazine.
- ❖ The survey was done in partnership with Statista Inc., a global data research firm. The survey included hospitals from 25 countries, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and India



#### Key Highlights:

- ❖ KKCTH is the leading tertiary care hospital in Chennai, exclusively catering to children's health needs in South India.
- ❖ The hospital prides itself on having multiple specialties and facilities, 24/7 lab and emergency services at affordable cost.
- ❖ We focus on providing a healing touch to every sick child on our premises, extending aid in every possible way.
- ❖ Due to COVID restrictions, please enquire from the hospital reception about various services provided by the hospital

### 7.5% quota for government school students

#### Synopsis:

- ❖ Madras High Court pholds a 7.5 per cent reservation by Tamil Nadu Government to students from government schools in admission for medical courses. Madras High Court upholds a 7.5 per cent reservation by Tamil Nadu Government to students from government schools in admission for medical courses.



- ❖ A bench of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy gave the verdict while directing the state government to review the quota in five years.

#### Key Highlights:



- ❖ "We direct the state government to review the same in a period of five years as recommended by the commission and during the intervening period, steps may be taken to improve the standard of education in government schools so that the reservation may not be further extended beyond five years," the court
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin termed the judgment historic and a form of social justice.
- ❖ he judgement is a huge victory as the quota will provide a level playing field for medical aspirants from the economically weaker sections,' Stalin
- ❖ "Following medical education, when we came to power, we gave reservations to public school students in vocational courses
- ❖ We charge tuition and accommodation fees! The High Court judgment Social Justice has shown that our every step in the journey is solid!"
- ❖ In August 2021, the Tamil Nadu government moved a bill reserving 7.5% of seats for government school students for admission to undergraduate professional courses in engineering, law, agriculture and others in all private and government colleges and universities.
- ❖ Stalin introduced the bill in the legislative assembly and said that the government has taken action to bring equality between the students of public and private schools.

## **NLCIL record in power generation at 29.20 bn units**

### **Synopsis:**

- ❖ The company and its subsidiaries have also exported 25.89 billion units of power to the distribution companies (discoms) during the year under reference, which is 19.75% higher than the previous year, thus creating a new export record.
- ❖ NLC India Ltd it has registered an 18.64 per cent rise in power generation at 2,920 crore units in FY22.



### **Key Highlights:**

- ❖ Navratna public sector undertaking, the Neyveli-based NLC India (NLCIL), that the power stations of NLCIL and its subsidiaries together have generated 29.20 billion units of electricity during the financial year 2021-22, creating a new record in power generation.
- ❖ This is the highest ever generation in a financial year since inception of the company and is 18.64% higher than the generation made during the previous year of 24.61 billion units.
- ❖ The company and its subsidiaries have also exported 25.89 billion units of power to the distribution companies (discoms) during the year under reference, which is 19.75% higher than the previous year, thus creating a new export record.
- ❖ NLCIL commenced its coal production in April 2020 and during FY22, the Talabira coal mine in Odisha produced 63.58 lakh tonne of coal, which is 527% higher than the coal



production made during the year 2020-21, surpassing the target of 40 lakh tonne set for it by the coal ministry, an NLCIL release.

- ❖ Continuing its emphasis on green energy and creating a new record, the solar power plants and the wind power plants have generated 2.18 billion units of electricity — the highest since inception, which is also 5.93% higher than the previous year's (2020-21) of 2.06 billion units.
- ❖ Lignite production during the year also marked a 30% increase over the previous year. In FY 2021-22, around 25.1 million tonne of lignite was produced and the company has created a new record in lignite sales amounting to `419 crore.
- ❖ NLCIL group has spent Rs 2,417 crore towards capital expenditure against the target of Rs 2,061 crore, which is 17% higher than the target.
- ❖ During FY22, the company has collected Rs 15,486 crore from the DISCOMS. This is also a new record in revenue collection, since inception. The collection efficiency of the company during the year was remarkable at 146%, it added.

## Taiwanese footwear company invests in Tamil Nadu

### Synopsis:

- ❖ Hong Fu Group, based in Taiwan, has agreed to spend Rs 1,000 crore in a footwear plant in Tamil Nadu and has signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government in this regard.
- ❖ The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Secretariat here by top firm executives and Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state investment promotion agency, in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin, Minister for Industries Thangam Thennarasu, and senior government officials.



### Key Highlights:

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Taiwan-based sports footwear major Hong Fu for setting up a manufacturing unit at an investment of around Rs 1,000 crore over a period of around five years.
- ❖ The current MoU will create around 20,000 jobs, in addition to giving a boost to the footwear manufacturing industry in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Hong Fu is reportedly a leading manufacturer of brands like Nike and Puma and has been manufacturing and selling sportswear since 2003. The state has signed around 130 MoUs for investments to the tune of Rs 68,375 crore and generating 2,05,802 jobs since the DMK came to power 10 months ago.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw an increase in foreign direct investment by 41.5 per cent during April to December period and is taking steps to attract more investors by organizing a global investors meet in 2023.
- ❖ Giving a huge boost to the Tamil Nadu government's push for new investments, Chennai was ranked as the world's cheapest foreign direct investment (FDI) location for electronics



research and development recently using FDI Benchmark, an investment location comparison tool.

- ❖ According to an official release, the facility, for which land identification is in the works, will create 20,000 employment once fully operational, with the majority of the workforce being women.
- ❖ The expenditures would be phased in over the following three to five years, and the unit would also help enhance the state's footwear exports.

## ICF5 Star Certification under the Clean Food Complex Project

### Synopsis:

- ❖ Chennai Link Box Factory (ICF) has been awarded the 5 Star Certificate for 'Clean Food Complex' by the Food Safety and Quality Control Institute of India.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Agency of India (ONAI) operates under the control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.



### Key Highlights:

- ❖ The company has been taking various measures across the country to ensure public health care.
- ❖ Under the Clean Food Complex program, certification is provided to a variety of organizations, including schools, universities, quarries, hospitals, and workplaces, on behalf of the company.
- ❖ Avoiding food wastage prior to certification, biodegradation of leftover food, quality inspection of food and distilled water, periodic health check-ups of staff working on food items, proper dressing of restaurant staff, use of preserved food items to ensure that quality is not compromised. The certificate is issued only after conducting various studies, including
- ❖ In that regard, the ICF management has been awarded a five star rating. The certificate was issued after inspecting all four restaurants set up for ICF staff under the Clean Food Complex program.
- ❖ The certificate was handed over by ICF General Manager AK Agarwal to the Food Safety and Quality Control Agency of India by Southern Regional Director Muthumaran Via.
- ❖ ICF Chief Executive Officer P.U. Thaykumar Reddy and ICF officials spearheaded the Hindi epic. It is noteworthy that we are the first ICF to be certified in the manufacturing sector of Indian Railways.



## Surveillance at X-type infected airports

### Synopsis:

- ❖ Omicron: UP Government put ‘surveillance committees’ on alert, intensifies screening at airports The Uttar Pradesh Government, as per the guidelines of the Centre, has intensified screening and has strengthened surveillance across the state to keep a check on the new Covid 19 variant, Omicron.
- ❖ Upgrading its guard against the new variant of SARS CoV2 — B.1.1.529, which has been classified as a ‘Variant of Concern’ by the WHO, the state government has taken prompt action by putting the health teams in all the 75 districts on alert.



### Key Highlights:

- ❖ symptoms to remove any chance of increased transmission of the virus or any water-borne, vector-borne diseases.
- ❖ The Chief Minister has already asked officials to make special efforts to improve surveillance with a focus on airports, railway stations and bus stands to ensure that normalcy prevails in the state.
- ❖ In another proactive move in view of rising cases of omicron variant in other countries, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also instructed to make arrangements for genome sequencing of Covid samples.
- ❖ In pursuance of the directives issued by the CM, arrangements for genome sequencing will be made at the earliest at Lucknow’s KGMU, PGI, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Meerut.
- ❖ The authorities have also been asked to continue the extensive cleanliness, sanitization and fogging drives to prevent the spread of other diseases.
- ❖ With dedicated efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government towards making the state ‘self-reliant’ in oxygen generation, nearly 530 oxygen-producing plants in the state have been operationalized.
- ❖ Ensuring adequate availability of medical oxygen, the state government on Tuesday announced that 524 oxygen plants have already been set up in Uttar Pradesh while work to get the other plants functional is going on a war-footing
- ❖ In a proactive move to equip the state with presence of medical oxygen, a total of 554 oxygen plants were sanctioned during the second Covid-19 wave, which was at its peak in April and May throughout India.
- ❖ Real-time monitoring of the installation work has been planned, with the district administrations being asked to continuously monitor the progress of installation work of these plants and ensure the availability of raw material so that it can be completed on time.



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## APPOINTMENT

### America's first Black female Supreme Court judge

#### Synopsis:

- ❖ The Biden administration recorded a major victory in the appointment of America's first Black female Supreme Court justice - Ketanji Brown Jackson - with Vice President Kamala Harris, the USA's first female, Black vice president, confirming the appointment by the Senate



#### Key Highlights:

- ❖ Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black woman of 116 justices appointed over America's 23year history.
- ❖ Of those 108 have been white men and only six have been women. As far as race goes, only two Black men have been on the Supreme Court and only one Latinx woman has been appointed in that time.
- ❖ The road to the Supreme Court has not been easy though, ever since President Joe Biden announced Jackson as his pick, there have been multiple hurdles, with Republican lawmakers - who voted overwhelmingly against her - calling her an activist judge.
- ❖ Her appointment has been met with cheer by the Biden administration, with the President and Jackson embracing after the confirmation in a rare sign of jubilation.
- ❖ VicePresident Harris was also visibly overjoyed while confirming the news.
- ❖ despite all the roadblocks, Ketanji Brown Jackson's appointment was one of the quickest in Supreme Court history, taking only 39 days from February 25 - the day President Biden announced her nomination - to April 7 - when the Senate confirmed her appointment 53-47.