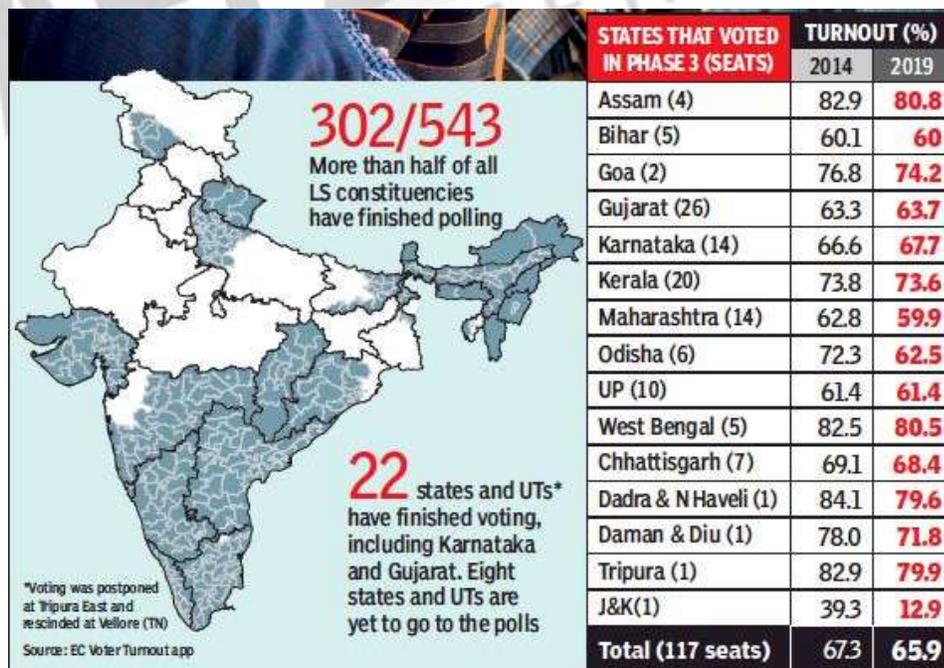


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 24, 2019

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The third phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2019 - registered an overall approximate voter turnout of more than 66%**
 - ✓ The voting for the Lok Sabha Elections 2019 Phase 3 took place on April 23, 2019 for 117 Lok Sabha Constituencies across 13 States and 2 Union Territories.
 - ✓ With this third phase, out of 543 Lok Sabha constituencies, polls concluded in 303 constituencies.



- ✓ The third phase is biggest phase of the 2019 General Elections as it covers 117 Constituencies in single phase
- ✓ In the third phase, single phase polling was held for 26 parliamentary constituencies of Gujarat and 20 constituencies of Kerala

◆ **The Union Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.**

- ✓ Both the organisations will jointly work on utilizing modern scientific concepts like Data mining and analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and development of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU), Database on Medicinal plants, Foods, etc.
- ✓ Earlier, CSIR jointly with AYUSH Ministry developed the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a globally recognised proprietary database on Indian systems of medicine

◆ **The government - notified the second phase of the FAME India scheme with a Rs 10,000-crore outlay - to encourage adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles.**

- ✓ Under the second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) scheme, 10 lakh registered electric two-wheelers with a maximum specified ex-factory price will be eligible to avail incentive of Rs 20,000 each.
- ✓ It will also support 5 lakh e-rickshaws having ex-factory price of up to Rs 5 lakh with an incentive of Rs 50,000 each.
- ✓ FAME-II will offer an incentive of Rs 1.5 lakh each to 35,000 electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price of up to Rs 15 lakh, and incentive of Rs 13,000 each to 20,000 strong hybrid four-wheelers with ex-factory price of up to Rs 15 lakh.
- ✓ It will support 7,090 e-buses with an incentive of up to Rs 50 lakh each having an ex-factory price of up to Rs 2 crore.

◆ **India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has partnered with the Department of Posts (DoP)**



- ✓ The association will transform DoP into a multi-service digital hub, modernise the delivery of mail and packages, enhance customer experience, and launch innovative services that will drive new revenues.
- ✓ In 2013, TCS had announced receiving an over Rs 1,100 crore multi-year contract from the Department of Posts (DoP) for an end-to-end IT modernisation programme.
- ✓ Core System Integration (CSI) program designed and implemented by TCS, involved deploying an integrated ERP (enterprise resource planning) solution that caters to mail operations, finance and accounting, and HR functions, and connects its vast network of more than 150,000 post offices, making this the largest distributed ePostal network in the world.
- ✓ Earlier, TCS had, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, revamped India's passport services through the Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) initiative and 'Student Connect'.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Supreme Court - directed the Gujarat Government to give Rs 50 lakh compensation, a job and accommodation to Bilkis Bano (a Bilkis Yakub Rasool**



- ✓ A bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna, while pronouncing the verdict, were visibly moved by the plight of Bilkis
- ✓ On March 3, 2002, she was gang raped during the 2002 Godhra riots at Randhikpur village near Ahmedabad in Gujarat, in which 14 members of her family were killed, including her three-and-half-year old daughter.
- ✓ The 2002 riots occurred when mobs ran amok in the aftermath of the burning of the Sabarmati Express in Godhra which killed 59 kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya
- ✓ Bilkis Bano had earlier refused to accept the interim compensation of Rs 5 lakh given by the Gujarat Government and had sought exemplary compensation from the state government in a plea before the Supreme Court
- ✓ In 2017, Bombay High court convicted eleven of the accused, including five Gujarat policemen and two doctors for tampering with evidence

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Iran's President Hassan Rouhani - announced that Iran and Pakistan to create a joint 'reaction force' on the border between the two countries**



- ✓ The move follows the recent increase in deadly militant attacks by various groups on their frontier
- ✓ Border rapid reaction force would be helpful in combatting terrorism since increased tensions over attacks on both sides of the frontier is causing heavy casualties
- ✓ The announcement came during a two-day visit to Iran by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, the first of his tenure.
- ✓ Iran and Pakistan share a 959 km land border.
- ✓ Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, is Pakistan's largest and poorest province with the highest prevalence of terrorist activities
- ✓ Iran has been complaining for years about recurring attacks by Pakistani militants on Iranian security forces.
- ✓ Pakistan and Iran are also members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

◆ **The Arab League - has pledged to pay \$100 million a month to the Palestinian National Authority**



- ✓ The move would be helpful for the Palestine as Israel had blocked tax transfers earlier in the year
- ✓ In February 2019, Israel decided to put into effect a law passed by the Israeli Parliament in July 2018 calling to freeze funds transferred to the Palestinian authority
- ✓ Israel had accused Palestine of transferring the money provided by Israel to terrorists who were detained in Israel as well as to their families
- ✓ But Palestine sees the transfer as a kind of welfare system for families
- ✓ At present, the Arab League has 22 members but Syria's participation has been suspended since November 2011

◆ **African Nation, Malawi - will be undertaking large scale pilot tests for the world's most advanced experimental malaria vaccine under the trade name, Mosquirix**

- ✓ The tests will be helpful to prevent the disease that kills hundreds of thousands across Africa and Asia every year
- ✓ The vaccine has been developed by British pharmaceutical giant, GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative
- ✓ The pilot tests aim to immunize around 120,000 children aged 2 and below to assess the effectiveness of the vaccine

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ **Indonesia - has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana on April 23, 2019**



- ✓ The release of the stamp marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of its diplomatic ties with India
- ✓ It was designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor, Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta
- ✓ It features a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita

◆ **The Union Government - extended the ban on import of milk and its products, including chocolates, from China**

- ✓ The ban will continue till laboratories at ports for testing the presence of toxic chemical melamine are upgraded.
- ✓ The ban was imposed after reports surfacing on the presence of melamine in some of the milk consignments from China
- ✓ Melamine is a toxic chemical used for making plastics and fertilisers.

- ✓ The ban was first imposed in September 2008 and extended subsequently from time to time.
- ✓ The latest ban imposed by the government ended on April 23
- ✓ India is the world's largest producer and consumer of milk.
- ✓ It produces around 150 million tonne milk annually.
- ✓ Among the Indian states, Uttar Pradesh leads in milk production followed by Rajasthan and Gujarat.

COMMITTEES

◆ **The Supreme Court -constituted a three-judge panel to inquire into the sexual harassment complaint by a former junior court assistant against CJI Ranjan Gogoi.**

- ✓ The panel will be headed by Justice SA Bobde, the senior-most judge in apex court after the Chief Justice of India (CJI)

UNANIMOUS DECISION BY ALL JUDGES

- This will be the **first time in the 69-year-old history of the Supreme Court** that a sexual harassment complaint against the head of the judiciary will be inquired into by a panel of judges
- Full court meeting of all SC judges **unanimously agreed** it was **necessary**
- **No timeline** is assigned to court panel to complete inquiry

to set up three-judge panel to clear air about controversy

- Justice Bobde-led panel issues notices to the complainant and SC secretary general Sanjeev Kalgaonkar and asks them to remain present before it on Friday



Justice Bobde

- ✓ It comprises of Justice NV Ramana, the next senior most judge, and Justice Indra Banerjee, who was elevated to the Supreme Court on August 7, 2018.
- ✓ The panel would be conducting an in-camera proceeding
- ✓ This is the first in-house inquiry on a sexual harassment complaint conducted in the 69-year old history of the Supreme Court and it is the first-ever time ever such an inquiry is being conducted against the CJI
- ✓ Justice Bobde is next in seniority to the CJI and is scheduled to succeed him on November 18, 2019
- ✓ Justice Ramana will become CJI on April 24, 2021, on Justice Bobde's retirement

PERSONALITIES

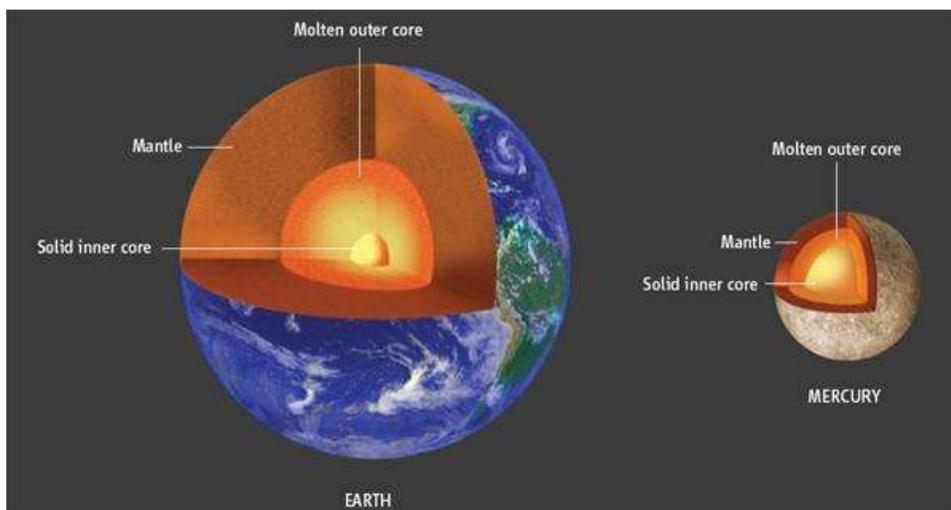
- ◆ **A 41-year-old Indian-origin Japanese, Puranik Yogendra (from Pune) - has been elected to Tokyo's Edogawa Ward assembly, becoming the first Indian to win an election in Japan.**



- ✓ Edogawa Ward has the highest number of Indian residents among Tokyo's 23 wards, with 4,300 Indian nationals registered, accounting for more than 10% of Indians living in Japan
- ✓ Overall, around 34,000 Indians live in Japan

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **NASA – reveals that Mercury, the smallest planet in our solar system, has a massive solid inner core**



- ✓ In its final trip around Mercury before crash-landing in 2015, NASA's MESSENGER mission zoomed in close to the planet and made detailed measurements of its gravity, spin and internal structure
- ✓ Like Earth, Mercury's outer core is composed of liquid metal, and now it is confirmed that its innermost core is solid, which is very nearly the same size as Earth's inner core
- ✓ NASA's MESSENGER mission orbited Mercury for more from 2011 to 2015 on its second mission
- ✓ Currently, BepiColombo to explore the innermost planet from two unique vantage points was launched in 2018
- ✓ It was a joint mission by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- ✓ The first close pass by Mercury of this mission will be in 2021.
- ✓ When it arrives at Mercury in late 2025, it will endure temperatures in excess of 350°C and gather data during its 1 year nominal mission
- ✓ The mission comprises two spacecraft, namely the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO)
- ✓ MESSENGER (March 18, 2011) became the second mission after Mariner 10's 1975 flyby to reach Mercury.
- ✓ Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun

ECONOMY

◆ **SBI General Insurance - launched its new product, cyber defence insurance - to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber attacks**

- ✓ This offers protection against the growing threat of cyber breaches like hacking attacks, identity theft, disclosure of sensitive information and business interruption.
- ✓ It provides IT forensic investigations, legal advice, reputational and PR management.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Indian Overseas Bank - appointed Karnam Sekar as its new MD and CEO**



- ✓ He is the former MD and CEO of Dena bank
- ✓ He takes charge on July 1, 2019
- ✓ Prior to Dena Bank, Sekar was deputy managing director and chief credit officer in State Bank of India.

AWARDS

◆ Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) – has been selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019

- The award comprises of INR 1 lakh, citation and memento.
- ✓ KAU IPR cell had won special citation for GI related activities from Controller of general patents, trademarks and GIs in 2018
- ✓ It had also received recognition from PPV and FR authority for facilitating 21 national awards for Plant Genome saviour awards in 2016.
- ✓ The cell, headed by Dr.C.R.Elsy, has facilitated GI registration of nine crops from Kerala and procedure for four more crops have been initiated
- ✓ World IP Day is observed on April 26.
- ✓ The award is constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the Union Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- ✓ It is conferred on persons and organizations working in the field of patents, trademarks, and Geographical Indications.

SPORTS

◆ World No.1 Bajrang Punia - won India's first gold medal in the 65 kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2019 in Xi'an, China.



- ✓ Bajrang defeated Sayatbek Okassov of Kazakhstan 12-7 in the final to bag the medal, after trailing 2-7 and just 70 seconds to finish the contest
- ✓ Bajrang had also won gold in the 2017 edition of the championship but had to settle for bronze in 2018.
- ✓ He had also won gold in 2018 Commonwealth Games and the 2018 Asian Games
- ✓ This was his eighth gold in last nine international tournaments he has participated in.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Praveen Rana settled for silver in 79 kg category and Satyavrat Kadian won bronze in 97 kg category.

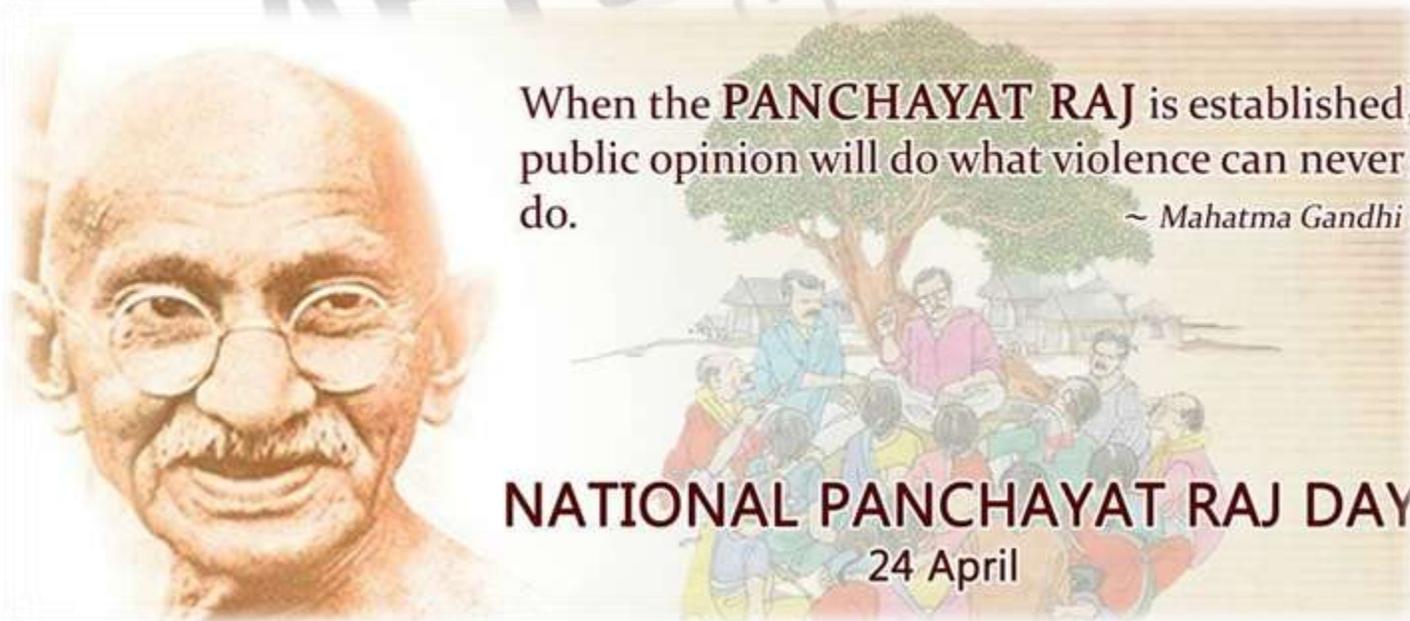
- ◆ **Asian Games champion Swapna Barman – finished with silver medal in women’s heptathlon event in the 23rd Asian Athletics championships in Doha**



- ✓ Swapna, the first Indian to win a heptathlon gold in the Asiad and the Asian leader this season, had personal bests in the 200m and the shot put and topped the high jump but appeared to have lost some crucial points in the javelin throw
- ✓ Another silver came in the 4x400m mixed relay, with the team comprising Muhammed Anas, M.R. Poovamma, V.K. Vismaya and Arokia Rajiv

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **National Panchayat Raj Day - 24th April**



- ✓ The Constitution of India recognizes Panchayats as 'Institutions of self-government'.
- ✓ This day marks the passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.

- ✓ The Amendment Act permits states to take steps to organize village panchayats and provide them with necessary powers and authority necessary to facilitate them to function as units of self-government.
- ✓ In turn, it had led to the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj (PR) through the village, Intermediate and District level Panchayats.
- ✓ The 73rd Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled The Panchayats covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O).
- ✓ A new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats
- ✓ It implemented article 40 of DPSP which says that State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government
- ✓ The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.

