

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 30, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

◆ **The Human Resource Development Ministry - has released ₹ 58.92 crore as part of grant to improve higher education institutions in Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ The allocation is under Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan scheme of the Centre, which contributes 60% of the total budget
- ✓ The funds are meant for the improvement of infrastructure, faculty development, research and innovation and upgrade of degree colleges to model institutions
- ✓ Institutions that have benefitted under the scheme include Tamil University of Thanjavur and the Physical Education and Sports University, which will receive ₹6 crore each for infrastructure improvement.
- ✓ Madurai Kamaraj University has been allocated ₹1.05 crore for faculty improvement
- ✓ Bharathiar University, Annamalai University, Anna University, MKU, Bharathidasan University and University of Madras each have been sanctioned ₹4.50 crore towards entrepreneurship and career hub development.
- ✓ The Government Arts College, Salem, Alagappa College, Karaikudi and Presidency College, Chennai, have each been given ₹60 lakh for infrastructure and colleges, including Quaid E Millath, Nandanam, Presidency, Dr. Ambedkar, Queen Mary's and Bharathi Women's College, Chennai, have been allocated funds to develop vocational education.
- ✓ Nineteen colleges, including Presidency College, have been allocated ₹10.50 lakh for vocationalisation of higher education

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations - released the TN SSLC result 2019 on April 29**

- ✓ This year the TN Class 10th examination 2019 was conducted from 14 March - 29 March, 2019.
- ✓ **Key stats of the results**

- ✓ No. of Students appeared - 9.76 lakh
  - ✓ Overall Pass Percentage: 95.2%
  - ✓ Pass percentage among girls: 97%
  - ✓ Pass percentage among boys: 93.3%
- ✓ **Top 3 districts:**
  - ✓ Tirupur - 98.53%
  - ✓ Ramanathapuram - 98.48%
  - ✓ Namakal - 98.45%

## NATIONAL

- ◆ **The Centre - asked the state transport departments to ensure that all battery operated vehicles have the green number plate immediately**



- ✓ The road transport ministry had introduced the new number plate for all battery operated or electric vehicles (EVs) in August, 2018
- ✓ The government has already cancelled the permits for vehicles running on battery and other alternative source of fuel such as methanol and bio-fuel
- ✓ As per ministry's notification, the registration mark - alphabets and numerical numbers - shall be exhibited in yellow colour on green colour background for commercial vehicles and for private vehicles the registration mark will be in white on green background.

- ◆ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - attended the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan on April 29**

- ✓ During the conclave, key bilateral defence issues, including defence co-operation, were discussed with Chinese and Russian Defence ministers and Chief of General Staff of Kyrgyz Armed Forces



- ✓ India became a full member of the SCO in 2017

## INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Lebanon's capital, Beirut - has set a Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours**



- ✓ The Alive Association raised a total of 26,852 Lebanese flags on April 28, breaking New York's Waterloo record of 25,599 flags

## COMMITTEES

- ◆ **The Union Environment Ministry - has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**

- ✓ NCAP aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024
- ✓ The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry
- ✓ Other members of the committee includes the Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power; Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), the Delhi-based think-tank; and Professor Sachidananda Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K)
- ✓ The NCAP was launched in January as a scheme to provide the States and the Centre with a framework to combat air pollution
- ✓ For achieving the NCAP targets, the cities would be expected to calculate the reduction in pollution, keeping 2017's average annual PM levels as the base year.
- ✓ The NCAP is envisioned as a five-year action plan with 2019 as the first year.
- ✓ There would be a review every five years
- ✓ In 2018, 14 of the world's 15 most polluted cities were in India.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ◆ **The Government of India - has decided to set up a second rocket testing station and a satellite launching base at Sriharikota Island, near Pulicat Lake, in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh**

- ✓ The second station is required for flight testing and evaluating the performance of the rockets which are being designed and developed at the Space, Science and Technology Centre at Thumba
- ✓ The first rocket launching station established in Thumba in Kerala State has been in operation since 1963.

## DEFENCE

## ◆ **The defence ministry – has signed a ₹ 6,311 crore contract with defence shipyard Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) to build eight anti-submarine warfare (ASW) shallow water craft for the Navy**

- ✓ The entire project will be completed in 84 months, with the first ship to be delivered within 42 months and other two to be delivered every year thereafter
- ✓ They will have the capability to destroy sub-surface targets in coastal waters.
- ✓ They can be deployed for search and rescue operations round-the-clock in coastal areas. They will also be capable of capturing intruding aircraft, and lay mines in the sea bed
- ✓ Weighing 750-tonne, the craft can reach a maximum speed of 25 knots with a crew of 57 personnel

## ◆ **Indian Army – to purchase Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel and Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia invoking the latest emergency financial powers sanctioned by the Defence Ministry earlier this month**

- ✓ According to the new provisions, armed forces have been given a free hand to procure equipment worth up to ₹ 300 crore on a priority basis
- ✓ Under the emergency route, the Army is also looking to procure about 12 launchers and around 250 missiles for each system.
- ✓ The deliveries for these missiles will be completed within three months, which is extendable to another six months

# SPORTS

## ◆ India's G Sathiyan (Chennai) - becomes the first Indian Table Tennis player to break into the top-25 of world rankings

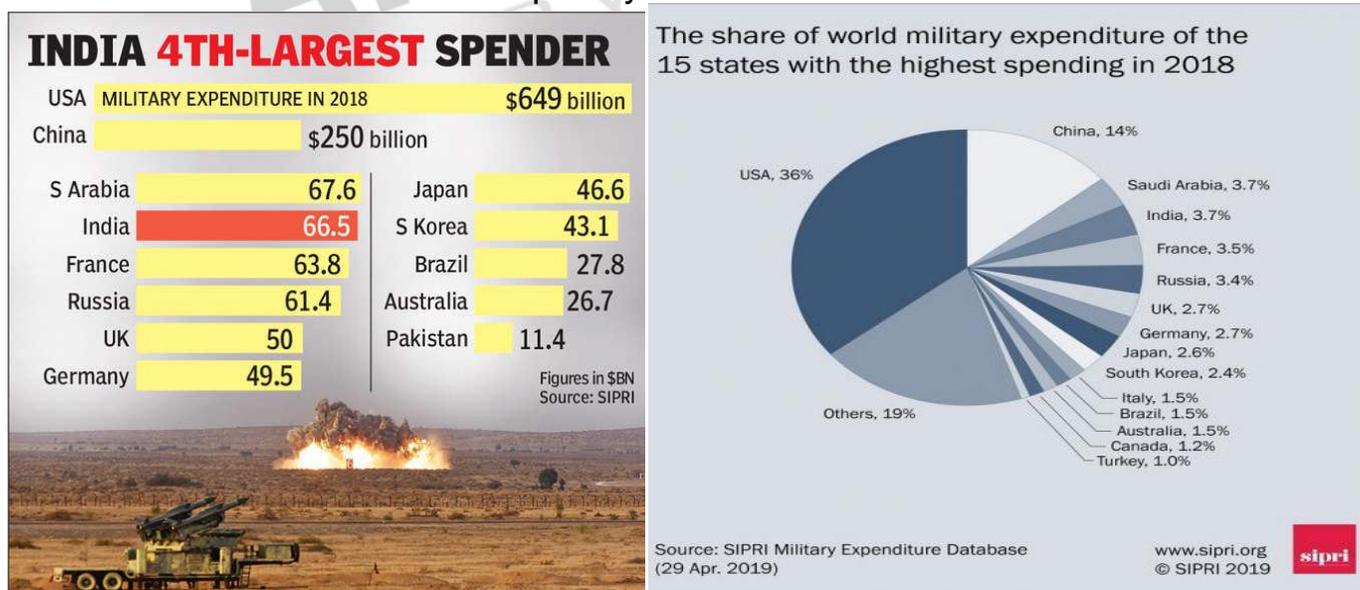


- ✓ Sathiyan rose four spots to be 24th in the latest ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in Yokohama earlier this month

# RANKINGS

## ◆ World military expenditure report - data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)

- ✓ The US is the world's largest spender on defence, with a military expenditure almost equal to the next eight countries combined.
- ✓ The total world military expenditure rose by 2.6% to \$1,822 billion in 2018
- ✓ The \$66.5 billion (₹4.6 lakh crore) military expenditure figure for India includes defence pensions, which amount to one-fourth of the total.
- ✓ Of the remaining, two-thirds go in for the day-to-day running costs and salaries
- ✓ Overall, this leaves just about one-fourth of the \$66.5 billion figure for military modernization and new weapon systems



- ✓ The capital allocation for defence stands at 32-33% of the total central government capital expenditure

◆ **Passenger Airports Growth in India – data released by the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**

Among major airports, Mumbai's terminal saw contraction in passenger traffic

Table	Total passengers	% growth in intl	% growth in domestic
Delhi	6.9 crore	7.6	4.6
Mumbai	4.8 crore	5.7	-1.3
Bengaluru	3.3 crore	17.5	24.8
Hyderabad	2.1 crore	8.1	20.4
Chennai	2.2 crore	7.6	11.9
Kolkata	2.18 crore	7.7	10.3
Ahmedabad	1.1 crore	15.9	23.3
Cochin	1.01 crore	-8.6	8.5
Pune	90 lakh	-7.7	11.7
Goa	84 lakh	-6.4	23.3

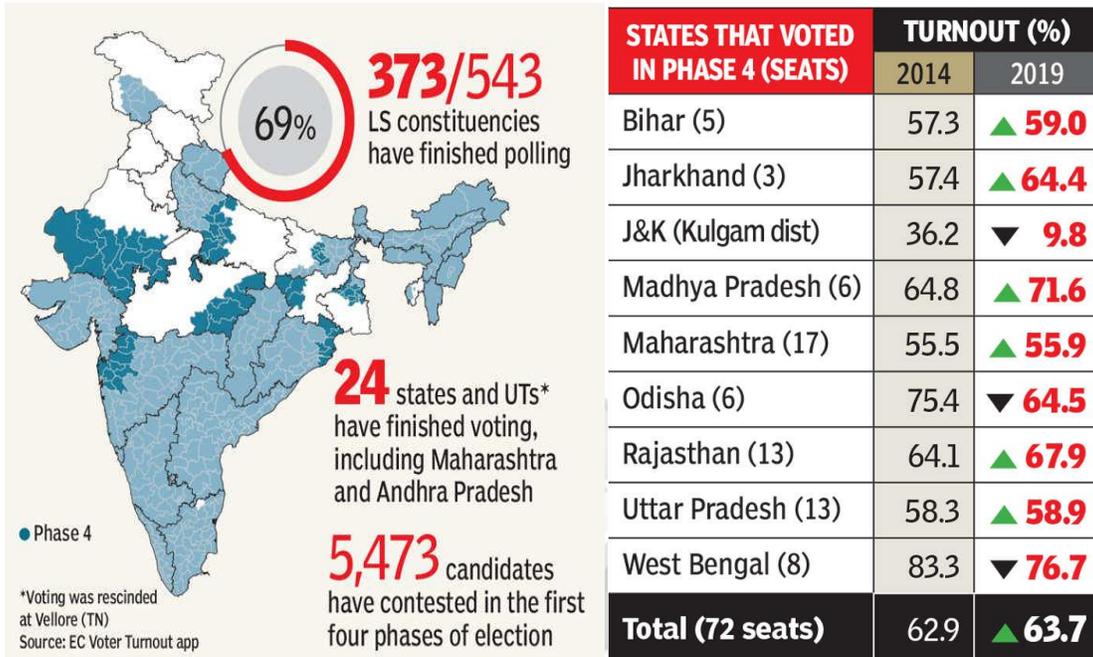
SOURCE: AAI

- ✓ Airports in the country witnessed a total 34.4 crore passengers during financial year 2018-2019, registering a growth of 11.6% as compared to the previous fiscal
- ✓ Domestic passengers stood at 27.5 crore, recording a growth of 13.1% (counted once at departure and once at arrival) and the international passengers at 6.9 crore, with an increase of 6.1% (counted only once at departure) from the previous FY 2018
- ✓ The overall growth rate of 11.6%, however, is the slowest in the last three years.
- ✓ Indian airports saw a growth of 16.5% in financial year 2017-18 and 18.3% in financial year 2016-2017
- ✓ Among the six joint-venture airports that together account for 40% of the total traffic, Nagpur airport saw the fastest growth (28.2%)
- ✓ This was followed by Bengaluru (23.8%), Hyderabad (17.9%), Delhi (5.4%) and Mumbai (0.7%).
- ✓ Cochin airport saw a negative growth of -0.5%
- ✓ Among the AAI-owned top 20 international airports, the fastest growth was seen at smaller airports such as Vijaywada (58.7%), Tirupati (42.7%), Varanasi(33.4%), Imphal(29.3%) and Bhubaneshwar (27.9%).

# REPORT

◆ **Around 64% polling - reported across nine states casting their ballots in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha polls on April 29**

✓ With this phase, polling for 373 (69%) of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies across 24 states and Union territories has been concluded.



- ✓ West Bengal secured the highest turnout at 77%
- ✓ The voter turnout was the lowest at 9.8% in J&K's Anantnag constituency, where polling was held only in Kulgam.

