

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 20, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **An average turnout of 77.62% - was recorded in byelections to the four assembly constituencies — Sular, Aravakurichi, Tiruparankundram and Ottapidaram on May 19**
  - ✓ The Aravakurichi segment in Karur district had the highest turnout among the four seats with 84.28% casting their votes, followed by Sular in Coimbatore district with 79.41%, Tiruparankundram in Madurai district 74.17% and Ottapidaram in Tuticorin, 72.61 %

### NATIONAL

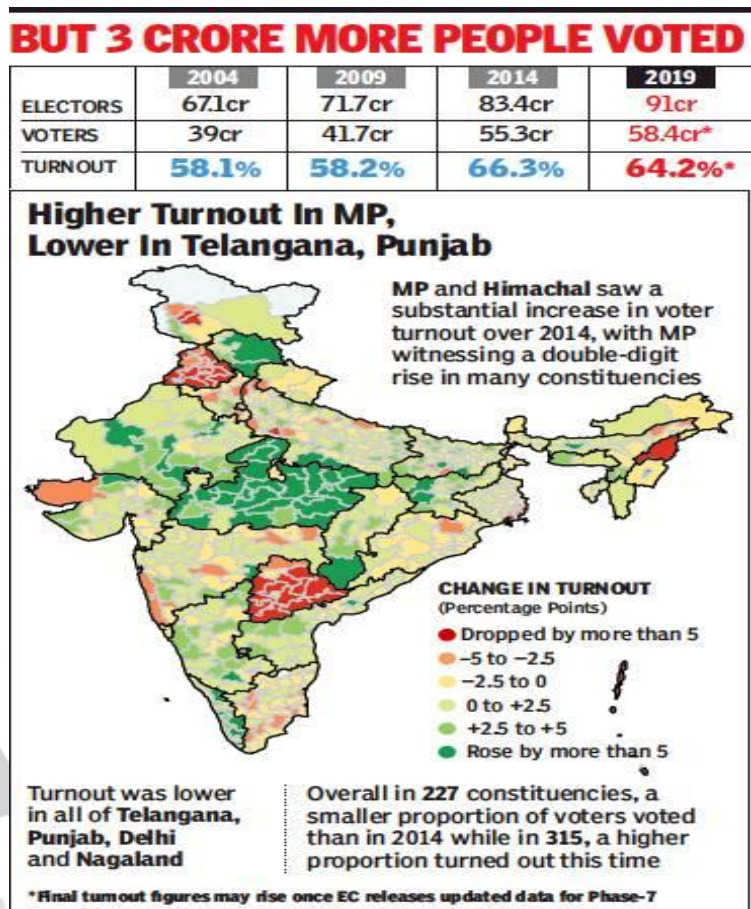
- ◆ **The Union Corporate Affairs Ministry - plans to introduce artificial intelligence system in the MCA 21 portal after the rollout of its version 3 within a year**



- ✓ The move would make the compliance process easier as well as to ensure routine enforcement activities are done regularly on autopilot basis.
- ✓ The MCA 21 portal is the electronic backbone for distribution of information to all the concerned stakeholders, including the regulator, corporates and investors.
- ✓ MCA 21 allows electronic filings of various documents under the Companies Act, 2013
- ✓ The MCA 21 system was started in 2006.

- ✓ The first phase of the e-governance initiative of the ministry was implemented by Tata Consultancy Services and the second phase is being implemented by Infosys for the period from January 2013-July 2021.

◆ **The overall voter turnout – was 64.2% in the polling for the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections**



- ✓ The gap between turnout of male and female voters has narrowed down significantly from 9% in 2009 to only 0.4% in this election.
- ✓ It was 1.4% in 2014
- ✓ Polling was held in 13 parliamentary seats each from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, nine in West Bengal, eight seats each in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, all four constituencies of Himachal Pradesh, three in Jharkhand and the one seat of Chandigarh on May 19
- ✓ The seventh and final phase witnessed 64.3% overall voter turnout, as per the Election Commission
- ✓ In the 2014 elections, 64.6% voters had voted across the 59 seats spread over seven states and one Union Territory covered in the polling.

PHASES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TURNOUT							
2019	69.5%	68.1%	66.8%	64.0%	63.4%	64.0%	64.3%*
2014	70.6%	69.5%	67.3%	62.9%	61.7%	63.7%	64.4%

\*Provisional

- ✓ With this, polling for all 542 parliamentary seats is over.
- ✓ The first voter of independent India, Shyam Saran Negi, 102, cast his vote at a Kalpa polling booth, located at 9,711ft altitude, in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district on May 19
- ✓ It was the 32nd time that Negi exercised his franchise including at central, state, and local body level — and the 17th time in parliamentary elections
- ✓ Twins Saba and Farah, joined at the head, exercised their franchise separately for the first time on May 19 in Pataliputra LS seat
- ✓ The twins, born in 1997, had voted for the first time in 2015 assembly polls.
- ✓ But the EC had then counted them as a 'single voter'
- ✓ Tashigang, the world's highest polling station at 15,256 feet in Himachal Pradesh, recorded 142.85% voter turnout on May 19
- ✓ All the votes were duly declared valid.
- ✓ Out of the 49 registered voters of Tashigang, a total of 36 villagers cast their votes.
- ✓ The unbelievable increase in the poll percentage was attributed to the desire of many poll officials, deployed at Tashiganag and other neighbouring polling booths, to cast their votes at Tashigang
- ✓ Tripura recorded a voter turnout of 83.2%, the highest for a state in 2019 elections

◆ **The agriculture ministry - to use specialised agencies to carry out pilot studies to estimate crop yield at village/ gram panchayat level using innovative technology**

- ✓ The technological tools to be used in estimating crop yield include high spatio-temporal remote sensing data, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, machine learning, advanced intelligent crop simulation models and artificial intelligence
- ✓ The move will help in quickly arriving at an "accurate" yield estimation figure in order to speed up claim settlement of farmers under the existing crop insurance scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' (PMFBY)
- ✓ Currently, the PMFBY uses time-consuming 'crop cutting experiments' (CCEs) to determine the yield loss suffered by farmers due to natural calamities and adverse weather conditions.
- ✓ The studies will be conducted during the upcoming 'Kharif' (summer sown crop) season and its findings will be submitted by mid-February 2020.
- ✓ The ministry has initially identified eight crops — paddy, soybean, cotton, bajra, maize, sorghum, groundnut and guar for the pilot studies
- ✓ The implementation of pilot project would be overseen by the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)
- ✓ MNCFC is currently carrying the yield estimation exercise at district level covering more than 80% of the agriculture area in the country

# COMMITTEES

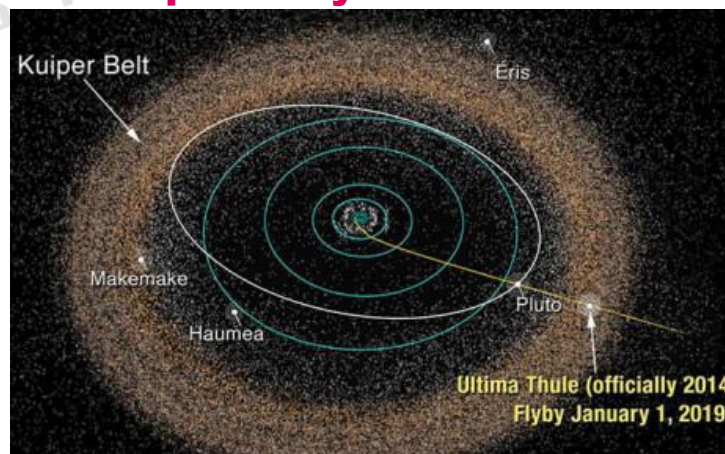
- ◆ **Nandan Nilekani-headed 'High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments' - submitted its report to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**



- ✓ The Reserve Bank will now examine the recommendations of the Committee.
- ✓ If necessary, the bank will merge the recommendations with the recently released 'Payment Systems Vision 2021', published on May 15, 2019
- ✓ The RBI constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments on January 8, 2018 to encourage digitisation of payments under the Chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani, former Chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- ✓ It was asked to submit its report within a period of 90 days from the date of its first meeting

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Nasa - has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on Ultima Thule's surface — the farthest world ever explored by mankind**



- ✓ The first sets of data were gathered during the New Horizons spacecraft's New Year's 2019 flyby of the Kuiper Belt object 2014 MU69 — nicknamed Ultima Thule — which unveils much about the object's development, geology and composition.



◆ **RISAT-2B, the satellite – is due to be launched on May 22 from Sriharikota**

**All-season satellite**  
RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite developed by ISRO

**Key features**  
Lift-off weight | 615 kg  
Altitude | 557 km  
Payload | X-Band radar  
Inclination | 37 degrees  
Mission life | 5 years

**Applications**

Disaster management support    Forestry    Agriculture

**PSLV-C46**  
Height: 44.4 m

First stage (PS1)    Second stage (PS2)    Third stage (HPS3)    Fourth stage (PS4)    Payload fairing

Source: ISRO

- ✓ It will be the first in a new array of Indian all-seeing radar imaging satellites to be deployed after seven years.
- ✓ Isro is planning many RISATs in the near future
- ✓ RISAT-2B is to be followed by RISAT-2BR1, 2BR2, RISAT-1A, 1B, 2A and so on.
- ✓ ISRO orbited its first two radar satellites in 2009 and 2012
- ✓ Now it plans to deploy four or five of them in 2019 alone.
- ✓ Satellites that are equipped with an active sensor, the synthetic aperture radar (SAR), can sense or 'observe' Earth in a special way from space day and night, rain or cloud.
- ✓ Radar imaging is used in our country for crop estimation because our main crop growing season of kharif is in May-September when it rains and gets cloudy.

## DEFENCE

- ◆ **Indian Naval ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti - to participate in annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore – SIMBEX-2019, scheduled from May 16 to May 22, 2019.**



- ✓ They will participate in the exercise after the completion of naval exercise, IMDEX-19
- ✓ Along with INS Kolkata and INS Shakti, Indian long range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I (P8I) will also participate in SIMBEX-19
- ✓ The Sea exercise of SIMBEX will be conducted in the South China Sea from May 19 to May 22, 2019
- ✓ SIMBEX was started from the year 1993

