

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 19, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **71.62% polling - was recorded in the 18 assembly segments and 70.9% was recorded in polling for the 38 Lok Sabha seats from Tamil Nadu**

Bypolls		LS polls	
Constituency	Turnout (%)	Constituency	Turnout (%)
Poonamallee	79.14	Tiruvallur	72.02
Perambur	61.06	Chennai North	61.76
Tiruporur	81.05	Chennai South	57.43
Sholinghur	79.63	Chennai Central	57.86
Gudiyatham	81.79	Sriperumbudur	60.61
Ambur	76.35	Kancheepuram	71.94
Hosur	71.29	Arakkonam	75.45
Pappireddipatti	83.31	Krishnagiri	73.89
Harur	86.96	Dharmapuri	75.92
Nilakkottai	85.5	Tiruvannamalai	71.27
Thiruvarur	77.38	Arni	76.44
Thanjavur	66.1	Villupuram	74.96
Manamadurai	71.22	Kallakurichi	76.36
Andipatti	75.19	Salem	74.94
Periyakulam	64.89	Namakkal	79.75
Sattur	60.87	Erode	71.15
Paramakudi	71.69	Tiruppur	64.56
Vilathikulam	78.06	Nilgiris	70.79
Average	71.62	Coimbatore	63.67
Thattanchavady	77.66	Pollachi	69.98
		Dindigul	71.13
		Karur	78.96
		Tiruchi	71.89
		Perambalur	76.55
		Cuddalore	74.42
		Chidambaram	78.43
		Mayiladuthurai	71.13
		Nagapattinam	77.28
		Thanjavur	70.68
		Sivaganga	71.55
		Madurai	62.01
		Theni	75.28
		Virudhunagar	70.27
		Ramanathapuram	68.26
		Thoothukudi	69.41
		Tenkasi	71.6
		Tirunelveli	68.09
		Kanniyakumari	62.32
		Average	70.9
		Puducherry	81.42

As of 7 p.m.

As of 9 p.m.

- ✓ Tamil Nadu had recorded 73.74% polling in 2014 and 73.05% polling in 2009 Lok Sabha elections

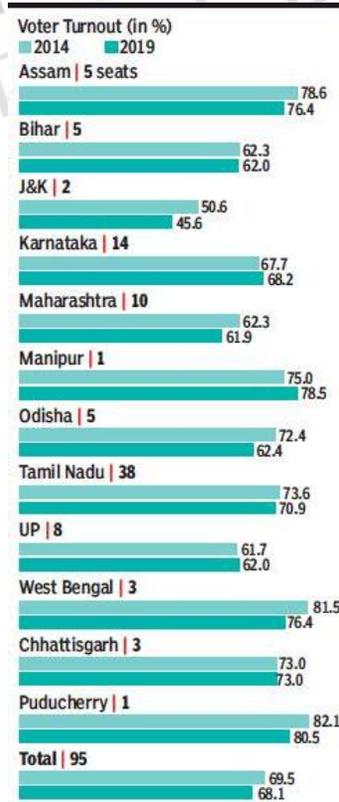
- ✓ Harur assembly segment, with 86.96%, recorded the maximum turnout.
- ✓ With 59.87% voting, Chennai registered the lowest turnout in the state.
- ✓ In 2009, Chennai South recorded 62.66%; Chennai Central 61.03% and Chennai North 64.91.
- ✓ In 2014, Chennai South polled 60.4%; Chennai Central is 61.4% and Chennai North is 64%.
- ✓ Puducherry registered 80.5% polling for the lone Lok Sabha seat.
- ✓ It had registered 82.10% polling in 2014 and 79.81% in 2009.

◆ **Southern Railway - to introduce the first circular route linking north-western and south-western suburban sections of Chennai within the next 10 days**

- ✓ The country's first and longest circular train covering 190 km will be introduced from Chennai Central to Chennai Beach via Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, Thakkolam, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu
- ✓ The Chennai zone has recently become the first fully electrified zone in the Southern Railways

NATIONAL

◆ **The second phase of polling covering 95 Lok Sabha constituencies across 12 states - saw an overall 67.7% turnout, compared with 69.5% in the same seats in 2014.**



- ✓ On April 16, the LS poll in Vellore was cancelled in view of excessive abuse of money power and seizure of over ₹11 crore cash meant to bribe voters.
- ✓ Similarly, the poll in Tripura (East) was deferred to April 23 in the wake of law and order concerns.

◆ **Tashigang, in the cold desert of Spiti in Himachal Pradesh - has been declared as the highest polling station in the world at 15,256 ft**



- ✓ The polling station will serve 48 voters from Tashigang and its neighbouring hamlet Gete, when Himachal goes to polls on May 19 in the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ Before Tashigang, Hikkim in Spiti had the distinction of being the highest polling station in the world at 14,567ft.

◆ **Air India - hired 150 cabin crew staff of Jet Airways for its international routes on Boeing 777 and Boeing 787 aircraft**

- ✓ It also plans to lease 5 Jet Boeing 777 aircraft that have been grounded by Jet Airways, as a goodwill gesture for debt-ridden Jet Airways
- ✓ Even budget carrier SpiceJet announced that it will lease six Boeing 737 planes and roll out additional daily new flights connecting Mumbai and Delhi to encash void left by the temporary grounding of Jet Airways.
- ✓ The move came after cash-strapped Jet Airways on April 17, 2019 suspended all its domestic and international flights indefinitely with immediate effect

PERSONALITIES

◆ **US Astronaut Christina Koch - is due to set a record for the longest spaceflight by a woman**



- ✓ She reached International Space Station on March 14, 2019 and will remain in space until February 2020
- ✓ Part of Nasa's study of the effects of long spaceflights on the human body, Koch will spend 328 days in space

- ✓ The 40-year-old astronaut has been in orbit since last month after completing the space walk with a man instead of a female colleague
- ✓ She should have been in the first all-female spacewalk along with astronaut Anne McClain in late March, but it was scrapped over lack of a right-sized spacesuit for McClain
- ✓ The walk would have occurred during the final week of Women's History Month.
- ✓ The typical stay for astronauts is six months, during which they work on a range of experiments in biology, biotechnology, health, earth, space and other sciences
- ✓ Astronaut Peggy Whitson holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, staying in orbit 288 days in 2016 and 2017
- ✓ The overall Nasa record of 340 days, set in 2016, is held by astronaut Scott Kelly in an experiment to compare his physical and mental health to his twin Mark Kelly, who remained on earth

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Scientists from The Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in Germany - have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever

- ✓ Helium hydride ion (HeH^+) was the first molecule that formed almost 14 billion years ago, due to falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang
- ✓ Operating the GREAT far-infrared spectrometer onboard the flying observatory SOFIA, an international team reported the detection of the molecule towards the planetary nebula NGC 7027
- ✓ Helium combined first with free electrons to form the first ever neutral atom, according to the study published in the journal 'Nature'

◆ Nepal - successfully launched its first satellite, NepaliSat-1, into space from the US - to gather detailed geographical information about the country



- ✓ Developed by two Nepalese scientists, it was launched from Virginia in US
- ✓ Weighing only 1.3 kilograms, it is a low orbit satellite at the 400-km distance from the Earth's surface.

- ✓ Two Nepali scientists, Aabhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha who are currently studying at Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology, developed the satellite under the BIRDS project
- ✓ The Nepal Academy of Science and Technology invested nearly Rs 20 million for the satellite

ECONOMY

◆ **Amazon.com Inc - said it will shut its China online store by July 18, 2019**

- ✓ The move underscores how well-set home-grown e-commerce rivals have made it difficult for Amazon's marketplace to gain space in China
- ✓ As per Consumer research firm iResearch Global, Alibaba Group Holding's Tmall marketplace and JD.com controlled 82% of the Chinese e-commerce market last year.
- ✓ Amazon entered China in 2004, when it acquired a local online book seller for \$75 million
- ✓ It launched its Prime membership programme in China in 2016 with aim to lure customers with high-quality Western goods

AWARDS

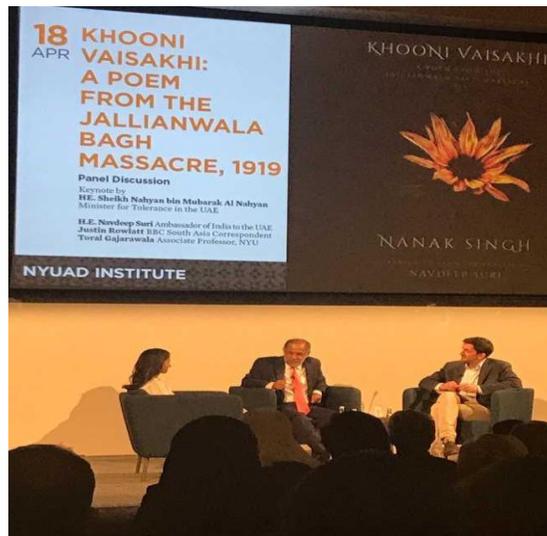
◆ **Gagandeep Kang, executive director of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad - has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society, London**



- ✓ **She is the first Indian woman scientist to have been selected as FRS** in the 359-year history of the prestigious scientific academy
- ✓ Known for her inter-disciplinary research and work in prevention of enteric infections and their sequelae in children in India, Kang has built national rotavirus and typhoid surveillance networks, established laboratories to support vaccine trials and conducted phase 1-3 clinical trials of vaccines.
- ✓ This year, 51 distinguished scientists were chosen as fellows of the oldest scientific academy of the world
- ✓ Among the 2019 announcements apart from Dr Gagandeep Kang, Mumbai-born Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Yusuf Hamied has also elected as Honorary Fellow.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

◆ 'Khooni Vaisakhi' – Released in UAE and India



- ✓ The book contains English translation of the 100-year-old Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- ✓ It was translated by India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri whose grandfather, revolutionary poet and novelist Nanak Singh wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of massacre on April 13, 1919

SPORTS

◆ In a first such instance, leading Indian biker Vijay Singh - was tested positive for an anabolic steroid by the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada)

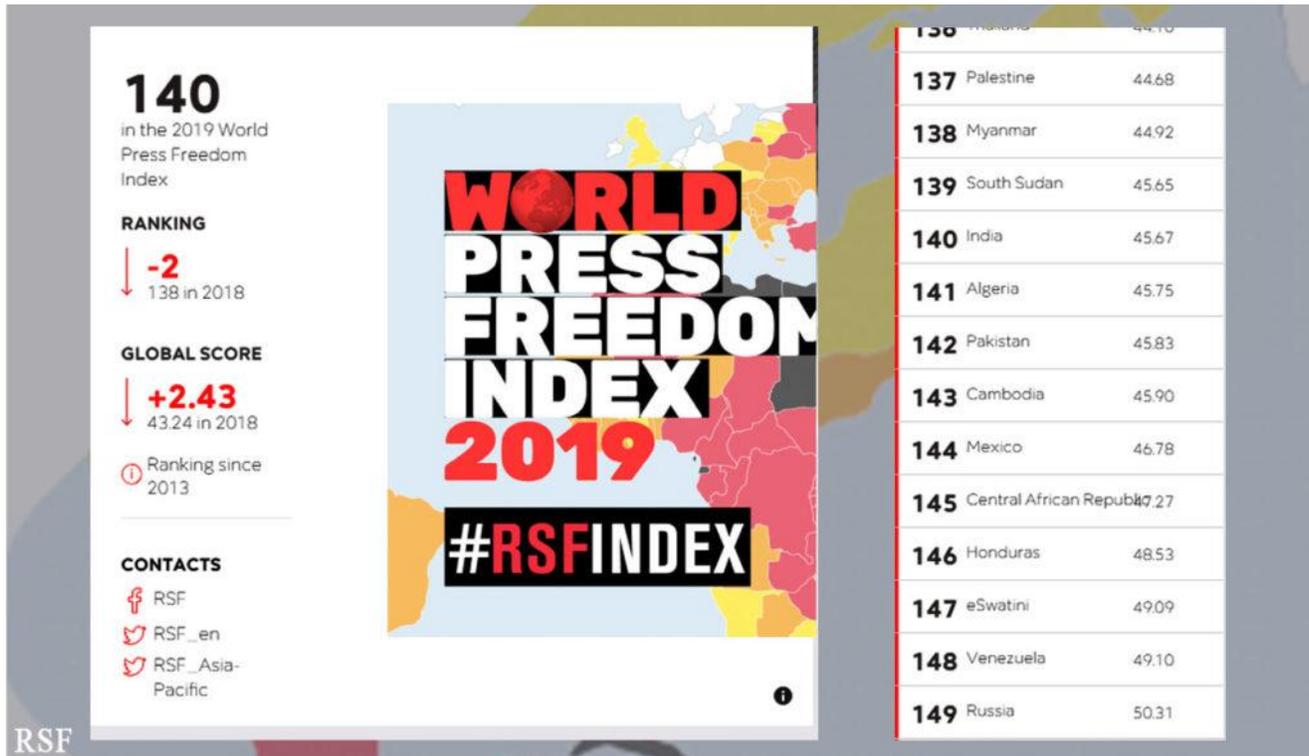


- ✓ The Jaipur-born racer is provisionally suspended effective January 25, 2019
- ✓ Singh's sample was collected by Nada during the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championships – Round 4, which was held at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) in Greater Noida from November 15-18
- ✓ It had traces of banned substance Stanozolol, which is a rarity in a sport like motorsport which isn't necessarily a power sports like wrestling or weightlifting
- ✓ Singh won the 600cc category at the Grand Finale of JK Tyre Racing Championship in 2015.

RANKINGS

◆ World Press Freedom Index 2019 – Released by ‘Reporters Without Borders’

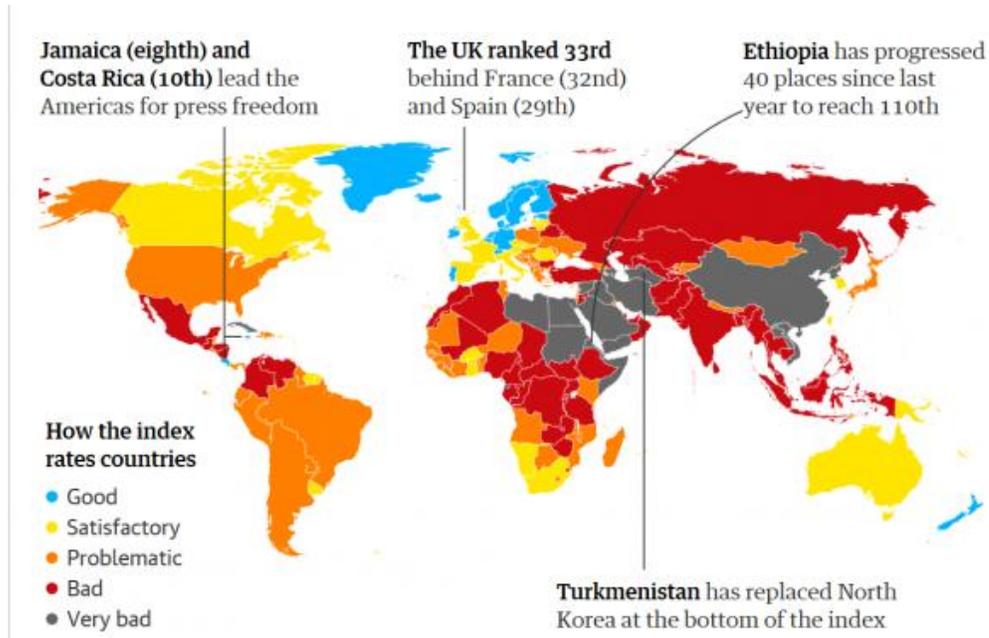
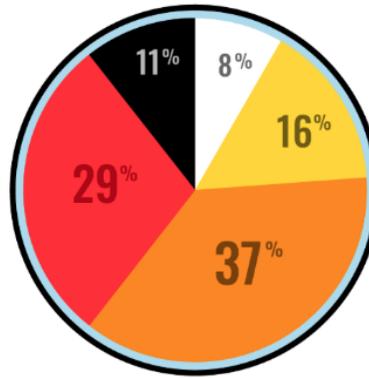
✓ The index is topped by Norway



✓ Top 10 countries in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index

Rank	Country	Global Score
1	Norway	7.82
2	Finland	7.90
3	Sweden	8.31
4	Netherlands	8.63
5	Denmark	9.87
6	Switzerland	10.52
7	New Zealand	10.75
8	Jamaica	11.13
9	Belgium	12.07
10	Costa Rica	12.24

- ✓ India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries (India was ranked 138th in 2018)
- ✓ There have been violent attacks in India leading to at least six Indian journalists being killed in the line of their work in 2018



✓ At the bottom of the Index, Vietnam (176th), China (177th), Eritrea at 178th, North Korea at 179th position and Turkmenistan down to 180th rank were present

