The Election Commission – has ordered repolling in 10 polling booths in Tiruvallur, Dharmapuri and Cuddalore Lok Sabha constituencies, following complaints of irregularities during the April 18 polls

- The repolling date will be announced soon
- In the Tiruvallur constituency, the repolling will be held in a booth in the panchayat elementary school in Poonamallee for both the parliamentary election and the bypoll
- In the Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency, it will be held in Ayyampatti, Nathamedu and Jallipudur
- In cuddalore constituency, the booth situated in Panruti assembly constituency will witness repolling for both the elections

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) – is planning to set up a pyrolysis plant to manage plastic waste and produce fuel from it

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- Plastic waste, tyres, rubber are heated at high temperatures, above 350-400 °Celsius, in the absence of oxygen
- Organic compounds break, liquid fuel is generated
- Carbon black and gases are also generated
- If the fuel is refined, it can be used as a substitute for diesel

- It will be run under Public-Private partnership model
- Already, a few private companies have set up similar plants in Sriperumpudur, Alandur and other locations
- The GCC produces about 500 tonnes of plastic waste every day and has seized about 200 tonnes of banned plastic products, after the plastic ban was imposed on January 1, 2019
The fuel is sold for Rs 25-35 per litre and 2 kg of plastic waste is required to generate one litre of the fuel.

The fuel is used in cement, steel, glass, brick factories, trucks, generator sets, steam ships and also in boilers.

The technology became popular after the solid and plastic waste management rules were framed by the central government in 2016.

**All two-wheeler dealers and manufacturers in Tamil Nadu – to sell helmets to the buyers from May 1, along with the vehicles**

- Tamil Nadu leads the country in two-wheeler accident rate with every third accident reported in the state involves a two-wheeler and 73% of them are found to be those who did not wear helmets at the time of accident.
- Every year, around 3,000 such fatalities are reported in the stat with nearly 700 among them being children.
- State transport Commissioner, C Samayamoorthy has sent a circular regarding this to all the two-wheeler dealers, reinstating the fact that the helmets supplied should conform to the specifications prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- A rule banning the sale of non-ISI helmets was introduced by the Government in 2007.

**Asia’s first balloon satellite - was launched by a girls’ team from Periyar Maniammai Institute of Technology at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with Chennai-based private organization, Space Kidz India (SKI)**

- Designed and developed entirely by girls at the institute, the satellite — called SKI NSLV 9 (Near Space Launch Vehicle) Maniammaiyar Sat — lifted off at 11.45am from the college campus and reached an altitude of 1,38,000 ft (approx 42 km).
- Space officially begins at an altitude of 100km above Earth’s surface.

**New Delhi – allocates Rs 480 crore to set up a ‘Disaster secretariat’ for the proposed global ‘Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure’ (CDRI)**
CDRI is a new Indian initiative on the lines of Solar alliance ISA with 122 countries

The initiative has the support of the UN and the World Bank, apart from other multilateral development banks

The new organization will be declared at the UN Climate Summit, scheduled at the UN headquarters in September

It has the support of 33 countries including Italy, UK, Australia, South Africa and European Union which have agreed to fund the new organization

The proposed initiative aims to develop standards and regulations to build resilient infrastructure to face various disasters due to climate change

About 91% of all disasters in the past 20 years (1998-2017) were caused by floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and other extreme weather events, as per a study by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), causing disaster losses to the tune of $3 trillion

India suffered $80 billion losses during the corresponding 20 year period

**Bamboo rice - has shown up in Odisha nearly after four decades.**

The state of Odisha had last witnessed Bamboo rice in 1979.

The Forest Authorities of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary in Cuttack district have opened up the sanctuary for the forest dwellers to collect the Bamboo rice.

Whenever the bamboo rice shows up, it would be accompanied by the increase in the rat population which starts running over the bamboo rice.

Hence to avoid the menace the forest authorities have allowed forest dwellers to harvest Bamboo rice.

Further, the authorities are also planning to purchase bamboo rice from the forest dwellers to germinate bamboo trees in other areas of the state.

Bamboo rice is not commonly available as it takes many years for a bamboo tree to flower

Bamboo rice grows out of a dying bamboo shoot.

Bamboo rice looks like paddy rice and tastes more like wheat

Bamboo rice is believed to contain a low glycaemic index compared to other varieties and it is good for diabetics

It is rich in proteins and does not contain any fat

Bamboo rice is also believed to be containing medicinal values
The International Labour Organization (ILO) - has listed the Bhopal gas tragedy among the world’s major industrial accidents in the last century.

- The gas leak in the Union Carbide pesticide plant in the Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal on the night of December 2 and 3, 1984, killed over 3,500 people.
- Union Carbide, which is now owned by Dow Chemicals, and other firms have so far paid $470 million (Rs 3,261 crore) as compensation to the Indian government.
- At least 30 tons of toxic methyl isocyanate was released from the plant.
- ILO’s report titled “Safety and Health at the heart of the Future of Work: Building on 100 years of experience”, listed nine major industrial accidents since 1919.
- Apart from the Bhopal gas tragedy, its list included the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in the erstwhile Soviet Union, the 2011 Fukushima disaster and the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2013, which killed 1,132 people.
- According to recent estimates released by the ILO, each year 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases (of which 2.4 million are disease-related).
- In the Chernobyl disaster in April 1986, one of four nuclear reactors at the Chernobyl power station in Ukraine exploded, releasing at least 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.
- The explosion killed 31 people immediately and thousands of people in the aftermath.

The Civil Services Day 2019 - was not observed on 21st April 2019 due to Lok Sabha elections

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has stated that the Civil Services Day will be celebrated once the new government takes over or may even consider celebrating the day along with next year’s programme.
- The day marks the address of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the first batch of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House where he referred to civil servants as the ‘steel frame of India’.
- On the occasion of the Civil Services Day, ‘Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration’ is conferred to the civil servants recognizing the extraordinary and innovative service rendered by them to the welfare of the people.

The London School of Economics - has announced the establishment of the ‘Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies’
The move intends to honour the Nobel laureate, who has also served as the Professor of Economics at the institution.

Amartya Sen was awarded Nobel Prize in the year 1998 for his works in Welfare Economics.
Election Commission of India (ECI) - launched a new mobile app for the voters across the country to see the real-time availability of voter turnout during the election season in the country.

The beta version of the ECI's ‘Voter Turnout’ app is available for download on the Google Play Store.

The app captures the real-time information gathered by the Returning Officers following which it calculates the estimated totals.

INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena - announced the appointment of a special committee led by retired Supreme Court judge to investigate the Sri Lankan suicide attacks and submit its report within two weeks.

At least 207 people were killed and 500 people injured and hospitalized following the attacks targeting three five-star hotels in capital Colombo and three churches across the country on April 21, 2019.
An Improvised Explosive Device was detected and diffused near the departure area of Bandaranaike International Airport.

- Three Indians among 35 foreigners confirmed dead in the blasts.
- Sri Lankan Government will enforce a nationwide state of emergency from the midnight on April 22, 2019.
The Sri Lankan government has declared April 23 as a national day of mourning, in the memory of all the victims of the horrific blast.

The government has also blocked access to social media and messaging sites, including Facebook and WhatsApp.

A two-day holiday has been decreed in the nation in a bid to reduce public traffic.

**Veteran Getty Images photographer John Moore’s photograph - won the World Press Photo of the Year and the first prize in the Spot News, Singles, category.**

It shows a young girl Yanela Sanchez crying as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials in McAllen, Texas, USA, after crossing into the US from Mexico.

He received €10,000 (£8,600) as prize amount.

Dutch-Swedish photographer Pieter Ten Hoopen won the “World Press Photo Story of the Year Award” for the image of 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border.

For 62 years, the World Press Photo Foundation has recognized the best contributions to visual journalism by professional photographers through its international World Press Photo Contest.

This year’s winners were selected from 78,801 images entered by 4,738 photographers world-wide.

**UAE Cabinet - has adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031**

The decision is aimed at positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031 and to develop an integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the country.

The strategy will focus on the following fields of priorities during the first phase of implementation: resources and energy, logistics and transportation, tourism and hospitality, healthcare and cyber security.
Indonesia’s Mount Agung Volcano – erupts again along with other volcanoes Mount Bromo in East Java and Mount Merapi in Yogyakarta

- Mount Agung stratovolcano is the highest point on Bali
- The most important temple on Bali, Pura Besakih, is located high on the slopes of Mount Agung

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

The 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019 – to take place from April 24-30, 2019 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre

- India will be featured as the official Guest of Honour, with the fair’s programming dedicated to reflecting and showcasing the diversity and richness of the country’s culture.
- It includes books on Freedom Struggle and 100 volume series of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi published by the Publications Division

PERSONALITIES

Britain’s Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle – to take up new international roles in Africa as ‘Commonwealth youth ambassadors’

- The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will work together on behalf of the Commonwealth along with charity initiatives and promote Britain as part of the new ‘bespoke’ plans being finalized by Buckingham Palace officials
Tech giant, Google – has opened an Artificial Intelligence (AI) research lab in Ghana’s capital Accra

- It is the first of its kind research lab set up in Africa
- The lab would develop solutions in areas including agriculture, like helping in diagnosing certain types of crop disease.
- Using Google’s AI machine app ‘TensorFlow’, farmers analyze the issue with their plants and boost their production
- Google had opened such research centers across the globe in Tokyo, Zurich, New York, and Paris, to exhibit itself as AI-first company in the world

ECONOMY

The retail venture of Reliance Industries - reported an income of Rs 1,30,556 crore for 2018-19, 89% more than the previous year’s income of Rs 69,198 crore

- Reliance Retail is the only Indian retailer to be in the top 100 global retailers list and the 6th fastest growing retailer globally as per the Global powers of retailing 2019, Deloitte.
- Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Retail also became the first Indian retailer to cross more than 10,000 stores.
- It operates 10,415 retail stores in more than 6,600 cities and towns, covering an area of over 22 million sq ft, as on March 31.
- Compared to that, Future Group, the second biggest retail enterprise in the country, operates about 2,200 outlets nationwide with about Rs 35,000 crore of annual consolidated revenues.
Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) - honoured with the prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in Financial Inclusion category, for ‘Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses’.

- The award recognizes LAP (Loans against Property) D.Lite, which is a tab-based solution designed and developed in-house by Fincare SFB for instant underwriting of loans against property targeted at micro and small enterprises.
- The Award was announced on its 12th anniversary in 2019 and was organized by Celent in New York.
- LAP D.Lite is one of the 22 initiatives from all over the world to receive this award, which featured 140 nominations from 80 institutions from 30 countries.
- The other banks to receive the award in other categories were Bank of America, CIBC, Fidor Bank, HSBC, Rabobank, and Santander.
- The award is for best practices of technology usage in different areas critical to success in banking.

APPOINTMENTS

Mukesh Kumar, chief of former Judo Federation of India - was re-elected as general secretary of Judo Union, the Asian governing body, at its ordinary congress at Fujairah, UAE.

- He is also the Chairman of the Technical Conduct Committee of the 36th National Games that is allotted to Goa.
- The present President of Judo Federation of India, Partap Singh Bajwa was elected as Vice President of Judo Union of Asia and as president of South Asia Judo Federation.

AWARDS

Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj - won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival.
The cinematography was done by Nikhil S Praveen.
The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.
The film portrays the visits of first World War veteran to a small village in the backwaters of Kerala's Kuttanand as a postman during the World War-II.
He shares with the families the good and bad news of the soldiers who took part in the war.
Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Zero was screened at the end of the festival.
The festival also screened five Indian films, including Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali", "Apur Sansar", "Aparajito", the romantic comedy "Love Per Square Foot", the 2018 Indian romantic comedy and the thriller "Ittefaq"

**SPORTS**

**India – set a national record on the opening day of the 23rd Asian Athletics Championships in Doha apart from bagging five medals**

- Sprinter Dutee Chand set a new national record in women's 100m as she topped her heat to make the semifinals in 11.28 seconds beating her previous record set last year in Guwahati by 0.01 second

- Javelin thrower Annu Rani and Avinash Mukund Sable (Men's 3,000m steeplechase) won silver medals and Parul Choudhary (5000 m) and MR Povamma (400m) bagged bronze medals

- Gavit Murali Kumar won India's final medal of the day with a bronze in men's 10000m race with a personal best time

- With the five medals, India was ranked 5th in the medals tally

- Bahrain leads the table with 7 medals, followed by China with 5 medals, Iran with 2 medals and Philippines with 1 medal.

- The four-day event that commenced on April 21 will see participation from 63 nations across the world.

- The Asian Athletics Championships is an event organised by the Asian Athletics Association.

- The last edition of the event was held in July 2017 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.
Youth Olympics Gold medallist, Jeremy Lalrinnunga – smashed three world records at the Asian Weightlifting championship at Ningbo, China

- The 16-year old Mizoram weightlifter, Jeremy secured second place in group B of the 67kg men's event smashing the Youth World and Asian records in snatch, clean and jerk and total lift with an effort of 297 kg
- The earlier youth world record was also in Jeremy's name when he had lifted 131 kg in the EGAT cup in Thailand in February
- He had lifted more than double his body weight (157kg, 163kg) in two successful attempts in the clean and jerk, overtaking Kazakhstan weightlifter Saikhan Taisuyev’s youth world record of 161kg
- Jeremy, in fact, broke 15 records in total, combining national and international marks.
- He smashed six international records — three youth world and three youth Asian — and nine national records — three youth national, three junior national and three senior national.
- Earlier, Jhili Dalabehera claimed a silver medal in the women’s 45kg category, opening the country’s medal account.

India's Harsheel Dani, a former junior national champion - defeated Mads Christophersen of Denmark, world no 149, to clinch the 20th Victor Dutch International Badminton title in Wateringen

- The 22-year-old won the Ghana international crown in 2018 second Karvy All India junior-ranking badminton tournament in 2012.
- The Victor Dutch International is the Netherlands’ second biggest badminton event Prize money of $ 10,000.
- It is a part of the Badminton Europe Elite Circuit.
- This tournament has been an International Series level, another tournament for Grand Prix level named as Dutch Open.
Chennais Prajesh Gunneswaran – lost in the final of the ATP Challenger 125 event in Anning, China on April 21

- He is the defending champion and seeded second in the event
- He lost the final to the 20-year old Britain Jay Clarke, who is ranked 211 in the world

Services – won their sixth Santhosh trophy title after defeating Punjab by a solitary goal in Ludhiana

- Services had won their last trophy in 2015 after winning against the same opponents at the same venue

#One Day 4 Children, a tournament-wide campaign – announced by International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket for Good in partnership with UNICEF

- It focuses on bringing the world of cricket together as one team to help build a better world for every child, at the 2019 World Cup.
- The campaign was launched by Former England batsman and #OneDay4Children ambassador, Nasser Hussain along with all-rounder Chris Woakes.
- There will be #OneDay4Children (#OD4C) activity throughout all 48 matches of the event.
- England and India will sport special one-off #OD4C branded kit on June 30 at Edgbaston.
- The money raised will support UNICEF's work in cricket playing nations to help children learn to play and be healthy.
- The 12th edition of ICC Men’s cricket World Cup 2019 will take place in England and Wales between 30, May 2019 to 14 July 2019
- Australia is the most victorious team in the history of the World Cup, having won events in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015
RANKINGS

Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) – released by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

- India was ranked at 19th with a score of 64.9
- In Cancer policy and planning, India ranks 17th with a score of 80.8
- India got first place for research and third for tobacco control in the country.
- India ranked 23rd for its national cancer control plan
- India’s healthcare system ranks 25th with a score of 40.3 in the index
- It is above only Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Egypt
- India’s healthcare infrastructure is the second worst among the index countries.
- In its delivery of cancer care, India ranks 20th with a score of 61.3
- India has a high standard of clinical guidelines, a category in which it is ranked first.
- Study based on facts collected from 28 countries revealed the wide range of data about cancer preparation of countries
- The index is based on the collection of four essential parameters - essential investment (appropriate spending and resources), roadmap (effective planning), foundation (functioning health systems) and Intelligence (availability and quality of cancer-related data)

INTERNATIONAL DAY

49th annual Earth Day – April 22

- The day aims to promote education of earth sciences, acknowledging its importance in sustainable use of natural resources as well as for sustainable development.
- The term ‘Mother Earth’ implies the interdependent relationship which exists between all the species of planet earth and to acknowledge earth’s role in
World Earth Day 2019 theme - ‘Protect Our Species’

- The first Earth Day was observed in 1970 on the day of Vernal equinox.
- It will mainly focus on saving species which are on the verge of extinction due to climate change, deforestation, pollution and illegal poaching.
- The founder of the Earth Day was Gaylord Nelson, a US senator from Wisconsin.
- He had been a witness to the devastation caused by an enormous oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969.
- Earth Day Network (EDN), the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, has chosen the theme for 2018 as ‘End Plastic Pollution’.
- In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly declared 2008 as the “International Year of Planet Earth”

REPORT

The voting for the Third Phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2019 - to be held on April 23, 2019 for 116 Lok Sabha Constituencies across 14 States and 2 Union Territories

- It is the biggest phase of 2019 General Elections as it covers 116 Constituencies in single phase.
- The first phase of General Elections 2019 began on April 11, 2019 for 91 Parliamentary constituencies, out of the total 543 constituencies, spread over 18 States and 2 Union Territories.
- The voting for Lok Sabha Elections 2019 Phase II was held across 95 constituencies (after polls to Vellore Parliamentary Constituency and Tripura East Parliamentary Constituency was deferred) across 12 states.