**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 Uchchatar 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
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.

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)

- 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 Bhubaneswar (27.9%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Total passengers</th>
<th>% growth in int'l</th>
<th>% growth in domestic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>6.9 crore</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>4.8 crore</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>3.3 crore</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>2.1 crore</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>2.2 crore</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>2.18 crore</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>1.1 crore</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochin</td>
<td>1.01 crore</td>
<td>-8.6</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>90 lakh</td>
<td>-7.7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>84 lakh</td>
<td>-6.4</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATES THAT VOTED IN PHASE 4 (SEATS)</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bihar (5)</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>▲ 59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand (3)</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>▲ 64.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J&amp;K (Kulgam dist)</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>▼ 9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh (6)</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>▲ 71.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra (17)</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>▲ 55.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha (6)</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>▼ 64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan (13)</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>▲ 67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh (13)</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>▲ 58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal (8)</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>▼ 76.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (72 seats)</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>▲ 63.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Voting was rescinded at Vellore (TN) Source: EC Voter Turnout app