TAMIL NADU

D M Kathir Anand (DMK) – wins the Vellore Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 8,141 votes

He defeated the nearest rival, New Justice Party chief A C Shanmugham belonging to the ruling AIADMK alliance.

While Kathir Anand polled 4.85 lakh votes and Shanmugham 4.77 lakh votes, Seeman’s Naam Thamizhar Katchi (NTK) candidate Deepa Lakshmi came third with 26,995 votes.

The DMK led in three assembly segments, Vellore, Vaniyambadi and Ambur, which have sizeable Muslim voters.

The AIADMK alliance scored better in Anaicut, Gudiyatham and K V Kuppam.

In fact, this is the second narrowest victory margin in Tamil Nadu in the Lok Sabha polls this year after Chidambaram (R) constituency, where VCK founder Thol. Thirumavalavan managed to scrape through with 3,219 votes.
For AC Shanmugam, this was his second loss from Vellore.
Five years ago, he lost to the AIADMK’s B. Senguttuvan by a margin of 59,393 votes

The Avalanche region in the Nilgiris - broke the record for receiving the highest amount of rainfall in 24 hours, for the second consecutive day on August 9, receiving 911 mm on a single day

It is also the highest amount of rainfall a station in Tamil Nadu has recorded in a day
The rainfall received in Avalanche in the Nilgiris district was 405 mm, 820 mm and 920 mm on August 6, 7 and 8 respectively
The area had also surpassed the 65-year-old record for highest rainfall in the State held by Cuddalore with 570 mm of rain.
In 48 hours, the station recorded 1,731 mm, which is close to the amount Cherrapunji receives during the entire rainy season.
Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has asked the Coimbatore district administration to allot 29 earthmovers to clear out landslides and fallen trees in the district
491 personnel, including people from state and national disaster rescue teams, and the army were sent to the district for rescue and relief work

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy - gave orders to immediately release Krishna water to Tamil Nadu to meet the drinking water shortage in Chennai.
The decision follows the meeting held with him by a delegation led by Tamil Nadu Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar and Public Works Department Principal Secretary Manivasan
Chennai previously received nearly 1.98 thousand million cubic feet (tmc) of water from the Kandaleru reservoir between September and October 2018, and February and March this year.

According to the inter-State agreement between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Chennai has to be provided with 12 tmc every year, in two spells.

At present, Chennai is supplied an average of 525 million litres of water on alternate days.

**STATES**

- **Madhya Pradesh Government** - announced to provide debit cards with an ‘overdraft limit’ of Rs 10,000 to every tribal, apart from waiving all loans taken by tribals from local money lenders.

  This was announced by the chief minister Kamal Nath at a gathering of tribals in Chhindwara on International Day of the World’s Indigenous People.(August 9)

  He also announced that forest villages will be converted into revenue villages and the name of Scheduled Tribes Department will be changed to Tribal Development Department.

  A museum in the memory of tribal kings Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah will be built at Jabalpur at an investment of Rs 500 crore.

  The state has 21% tribal population and 47 tribal-reserved assembly segments.

**NATIONAL**

- **Union environment ministry** - approved notification of Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) around 13 wildlife sanctuaries, including a tiger reserve, in the country.

  Following the notification, all high polluting activities, including industries, mining and big construction projects, will be prohibited in these areas.
Eleven of these 13 sanctuaries are located in Tamil Nadu while one each is in Maharashtra (Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary) and Chhattisgarh (Achanakmar Tiger Reserve)

So far, 316 out of the 651 protected areas in India have been covered under the final ESZ notification.

In Tamil Nadu, Vaduvoor Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Vettangudi Birds sanctuary, Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary, Ouussudu Lake Bird Sanctuary and Point Calemere Wildlife Sanctuary were notified as ESZ

The ESZ notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

President Ram Nath Kovind - gave his nod to the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Bill, 2019 on August 9, making it into law

The Parliament had earlier passed the Jammu & Kashmir (Reorganization) Bill, 2019 with 370 votes in its favour and 70 against it.

It had also passed the resolution revoking Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

The reorganization bill provides for the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh (comprising of Kargil and Leh districts) without legislature and a separate one for Jammu & Kashmir with the legislature.

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will come into existence as separate Union Territories on October 31

President Ram Nath Kovind - gave his assent to the UAPA bill on August 8, under which individuals can be declared terrorists and their properties seized.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 also provides for putting a travel ban on such individuals once they are declared terrorists.

The Lok Sabha passed the amendment Bill on July 24 and the Rajya Sabha on August 2.

President Ram Nath Kovind - gave his assent to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 on August 9, 2019

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was earlier passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 31, 2019.

The bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988

It was introduced in the Parliament by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari

The bill proposes a stiff increase in penalties for traffic violations and for helmet-less driving, apart from proposing electronic detection of traffic violations

The penalty for motor vehicles is proposed to be increased by 10% every year.
The Bill also includes a provision that mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles and mandatory recall of defective vehicles if it poses any threat to people or environment.

It also provides for the setting up of a nodal authority, National Road Safety Board, by the central government, advising the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management.

In addition, the bill incorporates Good Samaritan guidelines in order to help road accident victims.

The bill seeks maximum compensation for third party insurance in case of a vehicle accident at Rs 10 lakh in case of death and Rs. 5 Lakh in case of grievous injury.

It also seeks the digitalization of some specific services like issuing licenses or permits, address change etc.

Parliament - passed Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 for speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from government residential premises.

It seeks to amend Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

The bill authorises estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting the unauthorised occupants after a three-day notice.

If person fails to comply with order, then estate officer may evict such person from residential accommodation and take possession of it.

It avoids the need of following elaborate proceedings like serving notice, show cause, inquiry etc.,

The Centre - kickstarted the pilot project of inter-state portability of ration cards with two clusters of states — Andhra Pradesh-Telangana and Gujarat-Maharashtra on August 9.

The move is seen as a beginning of centre’s major plan to roll out ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ by June 2020.

Under this mechanism, beneficiary from any state will be able to get subsidized foodgrain from ration shops in any other state.

The intra-state portability of ration cards is already happening in seven states — Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura —where the beneficiaries can get their quota of ration from any PDS located within the state.

In these 7 states, the inter-state portability of ration card will be implemented by January 2020.

Public sector banks (PSBs) - across the country will soon have standard operating hours.
This is part of the government’s reform agenda for PSBs under Enhanced Access and Service Excellence Programme (EASE) 2.0.
A banker’s panel has recommended that every region adopt one of three six-hour time slots — 9am to 3pm, 10am to 4pm or 11am to 5pm.
The proposal for uniform timing pan India was broached in a meeting between the finance ministry and the PSB chiefs in June this year, under the aegis of the IBA.
After the IBA-government meeting on June 10, a sub-committee headed by the IBA chairman was constituted on June 24 to finalise the action points

**INTERNATIONAL**

- **United States** - has designated India among the over 20 major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries
- The countries identified in the list are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela

**INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **Pakistan** - has announced the suspension of the country’s second, the oldest and last surviving train service to India, Thar Express services, running between Jodhpur-Karachi

- Earlier, Pakistan had suspended Samjhauta Express.
- The move follows the decision of Indian Government to scrap special status to Jammu and Kashmir by revoking Article 370 in the state.
- Pakistan has since suspended bilateral trade, banned screening of Indian films in Pakistan and downgraded diplomatic relations
NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission has discovered GJ 357 d, a super-Earth planet located 31 light years away from our own solar system.

- As per the researchers, it could be the first nearby “super-Earth” planet that could possibly support life as it orbit within its star’s “habitable zone or Goldilocks Zone”
- GJ 357 d orbits a star named GJ 357 and is located in GJ 357 planetary system which has diminutive M-type dwarf sun, about one-third the size of our own sun.
- It is 22% larger than Earth and orbits 11 times closer to its star than Mercury does to our sun.
- It has thick atmosphere and is thought to have surface temperatures up to 254 degrees Celsius.
- The term 'exoplanet' refers to a planet that orbits star outside of our own solar system.
- The term 'superearth' refers to a planet with mass higher than Earth’s, but substantially below masses of the Solar System’s ice giants, Uranus and Neptune.
- It only refers to mass of the planet, and does not imply anything about the habitability or surface conditions.

**DEFENCE**

- Iran - has unveiled three precision-guided air-to-air missiles dubbed as Yasin, Balaban and new series of Ghaem.
✓ Yasin is a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres of its target from an aircraft or drone
✓ Balaban is also a similar missile that is guided by sensors and GPS technology
✓ Ghaem is a heat-seeking missile capable of hitting target on an air-to-air mode
✓ It has to be recalled that US had re-imposed sanctions on Iran recently, after unilaterally pulling out of 2015 international nuclear agreement (signed between Iran and world powers) in 2018.

APPOINTMENTS

➢ Girraj Prasad Gupta - took over as Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance with effect from 1 August, 2019
He was the brain behind the development and implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS), a backbone IT infrastructure for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and other financial management modules in Central Government.

CGA is Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India, functioning under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

It is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.

CGA office prepares monthly as well as annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for Union Government.

It prepares Annual Appropriation Accounts (Civil) and Union Finance Accounts which are submitted to Parliament under Article 150 of Constitution.

## AWARDS

- The 66th national film awards - were announced on August 9, 2019 by Rahul Rawaill, head of Jury for feature films
- The mainstream Hindi movies, Andhadhun won the national film award for Best Hindi Film while Padman won the Best Film on Social Issues award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AYUSHMANN, VICKY KAUSHAL SHARE BEST ACTOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Feature Film: Hellaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Director: Aditya Dhar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Uri: The Surgical Strike)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor: Ayushmann Khurrana (Andhadhun) &amp; Vicky Kaushal (Uri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh (Mahanati)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Supporting Actress: Sreekha Sikri (Badhaai Ho)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Supporting Actor: Swanand Kirkire (Chumbak)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Hindi Film: Andhadhun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Badhaai Ho</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Uri Director Aditya Dhar won the national film award for Best Director
- The best feature film was bagged by Gujarati film ‘Hellaro’, a film on women empowerment in a patriarchal society.
- Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal shared the Best Actor award for their performances in Andhadhun and Uri respectively.
- Actress Keerthy Suresh bagged the best actress national award for her role as yesteryear Telugu star Savitri in biopic Mahanati.
- The best Tamil film award went to ‘Baaram’.
- Chalo Jeete Hain, a 32-minute short film inspired by events from the childhood days of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, won the National Award for best non-feature film on family values.
The national film awards are announced every year in April and the awards conferral ceremony is generally held in May.
The year it was announced after a delay of 3 months due to Lok Sabha elections.
This year, 419 films competed in 31 categories for the coveted awards, selected by a 11-member jury.
In all, seven awards were won by Telugu films improving on their record of bagging five at the 64th national film awards in 2017.
In this year’s award, a new category called Award for Most Film Friendly State was instituted which was won by Uttarakhand.

SPORTS

Tamil Nadu youngster M Pranesh - reigned supreme in the juniors’ category of the Abu Dhabi international chess festival.

The 12-year-old from Sivaganga, who registered 7 victories and two draws, won the event with 8 points from 9 rounds.
Kushagra was second while LR Srihari finished third in the tournament.

The Indian cricketing body, BCCI - has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
It means that, hereafter Indian cricketers will now undergo anti-doping tests by the National Anti-Doping Agency and governed by the same rules and processes as other sportspersons.
Earlier, the BCCI had been opposed to signing up with NADA, claiming it as an autonomous body, not a National Sports Federation.
The move comes after cricketer Prithvi Shaw’s recent failed dope test raised questions on the competence of BCCI’s anti-doping procedures.
Till now, Sweden-based International Dope Testing Management (IDTM) hired by BCCI had been collecting the cricketers’ samples and submitting them to the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
Hereafter, NADA will collect the samples and carry out the test whenever and wherever they want, including the domestic tournaments and the IPL.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) clause 5.2 gives the authority to NADA to carry all testing in its territory irrespective of the athletes’ country.

NADA had been formed way back in 2005 and the International Cricket Council (ICC) became a signatory to the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) in 2006.

World Archery - has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI) with effect from August 12 - for violating its guidelines by appointing two parallel bodies.

The AAI has been given time till this month end to decide about the legitimate body of Archery in the country.

With the ban, the Indian archers will now have to compete in International tournaments as independents.

AAI has been plagued by factionalism, with two opposing archery factions have been created, one led by Union Minister Arjun Munda and other by BVP Rao.

The World Archery delisted AAI as a member on July 19 and gave the body time till July 31st to end the confusion or face suspension.

The last event that the Indian archers will be allowed to compete under the Indian flag was the World Archery Youth Championships.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

International Day of the World’s Indigenous People - August 9

The day was promoted by the United Nations to protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population.

Theme 2019 - Indigenous Languages

The year 2019 is marked as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.
The theme urges to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them at both national and international levels.

The day was first pronounced by UN General assembly by adopting resolution 49/214 in December 1994.

On August 9, the 1st meeting of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held in 1982.

There are around 370 million indigenous people in the world, living across 90 countries, constituting less than 5% of the total volume and 15% of the poorest of the world’s population.

➢ World Biofuel Day - August 10

The day is observed to create awareness about importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.

It is being observed by Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

Theme 2019 - ‘Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)’

Biofuels are environment friendly fuels which are derived from renewable biomass resources.

They reduce import dependency on crude oil apart from providing cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation in rural areas.

The various biofuel categories used in the country includes Biodiesel, bioethanol, bio-CNG etc.,
REPORT

Why Chandrayaan-2 is taking 48 days to reach Moon when Apollo-11 took just 4 days?

- USSR’s Luna-2 craft took just 34 hours to reach Moon in 1959.
- Nasa’s Apollo-11 mission carrying humans for the first time landed on Moon in just four days, 6 hours and 45 minutes on July 20, 1969
- Apollo-11 was also the fastest trip of astronauts to the Moon.

In this scenario, why is Chandrayaan-2 taking more than a month?

- The reason is attributed to the build of the rocket, the amount of fuel it’s carrying and the speed of the lunarcraft.
- In space, covering long distances requires high speeds and straight trajectories.
- For Apollo-11, Nasa had used Saturn V, a super heavy-lift launcher, that can travel at more than 39,000km per hour.
- The powerful rocket had a lifting capability of 43 tonnes, including the lunar module, service module and command module housing the crew capsule.
- Saturn V’s third stage put the modules (command with crew capsule, service and lunar modules) into the trans-lunar trajectory soon after orbiting Earth for the second time (see graphic below).
- The launcher and the lunar craft used powerful engines to reach Moon covering 3.8 lakh km in just four days.
- For all these technology, Nasa had to invest $185 million ($1.2 billion in 2016 value) for each Apollo mission between 1969 & 1971.
- Of the $185 million, it spent $110m ($690m in 2016 value) exclusively on every Saturn V.
- But, India does not have a rocket powerful enough to put Chandrayaan-2 on a straight path to Moon.
- Hence, Isro chose a circuitous route to take advantage of Earth’s gravity, which will help to hurl the lunarcraft towards the Moon.
- The role of GSLV-MkIII, with only 4-tonne lifting capability, was only to put Chandrayaan-2 (3.8 tonnes) in the geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- Currently, the lunarcraft's propulsion system is raising its orbit.
- Once the craft reaches its apogee (farthest point from Earth), and with added acceleration, the final orbit will become so stretched out that the farthest part will be very close to Moon’s orbit.
- For all these, Isro invested Rs 978cr in the Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- Rs 375cr ($142m) of the total was spent on building GSLV MkIII, a fraction compared to what Nasa had spent on Saturn V
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSLV MK-III (Chandrayaan-2)</th>
<th>Saturn-V (Apollo-11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height - 43.43 metres</td>
<td>Height - 110.2 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Diameter: 4 metres</td>
<td>Vehicle Diameter: 10.1 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of the heaviest payload: 4 tonnes</td>
<td>Weight of the heaviest payload: 140 tonnes (However, it carried 43-tonne payload)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of the satellite : 641 tonnes</td>
<td>Weight of the satellite : 2,950 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmanned Mission</td>
<td>Manned Mission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JOURNEY TO MOON**

1. **GSLV Mk-II** carrying Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft weighing 3,290kg will be launched from Srinagar sometime in April. The spacecraft will carry an orbiter, a rover and a lander to the Moon.

2. Once GSLV Mk II reaches GTO, it will put spacecraft in 179 km x 20,000 km elliptical orbit.

3. Orbiter will reach moon’s orbit in over a month.

4. After reaching moon’s orbit, lander will get detached from orbiter and do a soft-landing near south pole of moon, which has big rocks that are billions of years old.

5. Six-wheeled rover fixed within lander will get detached and move on the lunar surface.

6. Rover has been designed in such a way that it will have power to spend a lunar day or 14 Earth days on moon’s surface.

7. It will walk up to 150-200 metres and conduct several experiments on-site chemical analysis of lunar surface.

8. Rover will send data & images of moon back to Earth via the orbiter in 15 minutes.
DELHI-NCR REGION TO GROW BIGGER – A REPORT

With a proposal to add four more cities, the National Capital Region – an area spread across 23 districts – is set to get even bigger. Located in Jaipur district, the new cities are along a highway near Alwar district, which is already a part of Delhi-NCR. Officials say the additions could boost investment and development for Rajasthan. Here’s what Delhi-NCR could look like soon.

THE BENEFITS OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

MAGNET FOR DECONGESTION:
- Crowded cities such as Delhi and Mumbai are unable to take any additional burden of migrants drawn by their economic opportunities.
- It was in 1985 — after nearly three decades of dilly-dallying — that the NCR Planning Board Act was passed, identifying 9 counter-magnet areas to decongest Delhi.
- These were Hisar and Ambala in Haryana, Bareilly and Kanpur in UP, Kota and Jaipur in Rajasthan, Patiala in Punjab, Gwaller in MP, and Dehradun in Uttarakhand – the criteria being that these are within a 120 km radius of NCR.

BRAND VALUE
- Getting tagged as part of an urban agglomeration is a boost to the district’s brand value, leading to real estate development, increased investments in the state, especially the district, and soft loans for infra development.
- With real estate costs lower than the main city, populations tend to move to the satellite townships, which in turn leads to ancillary development — case in point, Navi Mumbai and Gurgaon, which are magnets in their own right for both residential and commercial development.
- However, much of it depends on the transportation infrastructure being in place.

MORE MONEY
- A study by Asian Development Bank revealed that India’s annual capital spending per capita in urban areas at $17 was way behind China’s at $116.
- Expansion of urban centres allows several ancillary activities to move to the smaller cities. That in turn allows the bigger cities to move up the value chain in terms of services or products provided, which then has a cascading economic effect on the satellite towns.
- Expansion of urban agglomerations also helps decrease the pressure on realty and realty prices in the bigger cities.

THE CAVEAT: The infrastructure for seamless connectivity needs to be in place or else the satellite towns end up as isolated islands for several years — Faridabad in its early years being a prime example.

Source: Media reports, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, NCR Planning Board, ADB.