

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 30, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- A total of 845 candidates - are contesting in the election for the 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu



தொகுதி	எண்ணிக்கை	தொகுதி	எண்ணிக்கை
1 திருவள்ளூர் (தனி)	20	21 பொள்ளாச்சி	14
2 வட சென்னை	23	22 திண்டுக்கல்	21
3 தென் சென்னை	40	23 கரூர்	42
4 மத்திய சென்னை	31	24 திருச்சி	24
5 பூநேபேரும்புதூர்	19	25 பெரம்பலூர்	19
6 காஞ்சிபுரம் (தனி)	11	26 கடலூர்	21
7 அரக்கோணம்	19	27 சிதம்பரம் (தனி)	13
8 வேலூர்	23	28 மயிலாடுதுறை	27
9 கிருஷ்ணகிரி	15	29 நாகப்பட்டினம் (தனி)	15
10 தருமபுரி	15	30 தஞ்சாவூர்	12
11 திருவண்ணாமலை	25	31 சிவகங்கை	26
12 ஆரணி	15	32 மதுரை	27
13 விழுப்புரம் (தனி)	13	33 தேனி	30
14 கள்ளக்குறிச்சி	24	34 விருதுநகர்	28
15 சேலம்	22	35 ராமநாதபுரம்	23
16 நாமக்கல்	29	36 தூத்துக்குடி	37
17 ஈரோடு	20	37 தென்காசி (தனி)	25
18 திருப்பூர்	12	38 திருநெல்வேலி	26
19 நீலகிரி (தனி)	10	39 கன்னியாகுமரி	15
20 கோவை	14	<b>மொத்தம்</b>	<b>845</b>

- ✓ Of the 845, a whopping 559 candidates are independents, 57 are from recognised national parties and 55 from recognised State parties apart from 174 from other registered parties
- ✓ Of them, 779 are men and 65 are women and one is a transgender who is contesting from South Chennai constituency
- ✓ Significantly, during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections too, exactly 845 candidates were in the fray

## READY TO CONTEST

**845**

final candidates for Lok Sabha

■ **Maximum number of withdrawals from Thoothukudi** with more than 14 opting out of contention

■ **Maximum nominations from Karur Lok Sabha seat** with 42 candidates in the fray

**269**

final candidates for Assembly bypolls

■ **Least number of registrations from The Nilgiris, Kancheepuram, Thanjavur and Tiruppur**

■ **South Chennai will have 40 candidates in fray followed by Central Chennai and north Chennai with 31 and 23 candidates respectively**

தொகுதி	எண்ணிக்கை	தொகுதி	எண்ணிக்கை		
1	பூந்தமல்லி (தனி)	13	10	நிலக்கோட்டை (தனி)	20
2	பெரம்பூர்	40	11	திருவாரூர்	15
3	திருப்போரூர்	11	12	தஞ்சாவூர்	13
4	சோளிங்கர்	12	13	மானாமதுரை (தனி)	13
5	குடியாத்தம் (தனி)	7	14	ஆண்டிப்பட்டி	16
6	ஆம்பூர்	10	15	பெரியகுளம் (தனி)	13
7	ஒசூர்	9	16	சாத்தூர்	30
8	பாப்பிரெட்டிப்பட்டி	11	17	பரமகுடி (தனி)	13
9	அரூர் (தனி)	9	18	விளாத்திகுளம்	14
				மொத்தம்	269

- ✓ 269 candidates will be in the contest in the by-polls for the 18 Assembly constituencies in the state

## NATIONAL

- The Election Commission - told the Supreme Court that counting VVPAT slips of 50% of EVMs would delay declaration of results of the general elections by five days

### 'RESULTS MAY BE OUT ONLY BY 28TH'

➤ Average time taken for VVPAT slip counting for one polling station is one hour and 50% would take an average of 5.2 days, the EC said

➤ A committee of experts from Indian Statistical Institute, Chennai Mathematical Institute and NSSO's social statistics division said verification of 479 voting machines and VVPATs from total 10.35 lakh is sufficient



to achieve a confidence level of 99.99%

➤ VVPAT slip verification for LS polls will be undertaken for 4,125 EVMs, 8.6 times the sample size recommended by the expert committee

➤ Any further increase in sample size of verification of voter slips will lead to very negligible gain in the confidence level, currently at 99.99%

- ✓ The commission also said that several assembly constituencies had more than 400 polling stations, which would require about 8-9 days to complete the VVPAT slip count.
- ✓ At present, the EC counts VVPAT slips of one randomly selected EVM per assembly segment and matches it with the vote count in the machine.
- ✓ There are 10.35 lakh polling stations in the country with an average of 250 polling stations per assembly constituency.

- **The Election Commission – said that PM Modi’s address to the nation on the successful test-firing of an anti-satellite missile did not violate the model code of conduct**
  - ✓ The panel took the decision based on the report of a panel of senior officers which concluded that the speech did not violate the provisions in the code
  - ✓ India shot down one of its satellites in space with an anti-satellite missile to demonstrate this complex capability on March 27, becoming fourth country to have used such a weapon
  - ✓ The PM declared India has now established itself as a global space power after the success of ‘Mission Shakti’
  - ✓ The missile hit a live satellite flying in a Low Earth Orbit after it traversed a distance of almost 300 km from earth within three minutes of its launch.
  
- **In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) -launched ‘Mobile methadone’ vans to provide treatment to opioid addicts in inner-city neighbourhoods in New Delhi.**
  - ✓ As a pilot project, the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of AIIMS has initiated the new service of delivering methadone through a mobile van in East Delhi
  - ✓ Opioids are a class of drugs that act in the nervous system to produce feelings of pleasure and pain relief.
  - ✓ Some opioids are legally prescribed by healthcare providers to manage severe and chronic pain
  - ✓ Some other opioids, such as heroin, are illegal drugs of abuse
  
- **The Union Government - constituted a ‘Multi-Disciplinary Terror Monitoring Group’ (MDTMG) on March 29, 2019**
  - ✓ It will focus on concerted action against terror financing and other terror related activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)
  - ✓ The Additional Director General of Police (CID) of J&K Police will head the MDTMG
  - ✓ The group will meet on a weekly basis and submit its action report regularly
  - ✓ IT Major, Wipro and IIT Kharagpur – ties up to undertake industry-focused applied research in the areas of 5G and artificial intelligence (AI)
  - ✓ The research will focus on the application of AI in the healthcare, education and retail sectors as well as in domains such as climate change and cybersecurity
  - ✓ It will also concentrate on the industry challenges related to the design, planning and operations of 5G networks
  
- **Facebook - has banned praise, support and representation of ‘white nationalism, white supremacy and white separatism’ on its platforms**
  - ✓ White Supremacy and white nationalism are belief systems with tenets like “whites should have dominance over people of other backgrounds”



- ✓ White Separatism is a form of white supremacy which emphasizes that white people should exist separately from all inferior, non-white races
- **“Bhonga”, a hyper-local connectivity app – launched in Mumbai**
- ✓ It was developed by a Mumbai-based Company, Linkus Infratech
- ✓ It will enable connecting users to their neighborhood people in the city even without an Internet connection
- ✓ “Bhonga” is a Marathi word which means megaphone or loudspeaker
- ✓ This app automatically provides the lists of the user living within the radius of one kilometer
- ✓ Anyone can open their phone and send a message that is delivered to other users in the neighborhood, wherever they are
- ✓ It also supports photos and voice messages

## INTERNATIONAL

- **XPRIZE - announces that it will offer a \$1 million Moonshot Award**
- ✓ The award will be given in recognition of an XPRIZE team demonstrating the achievement of a “moonshot” technological feat
- ✓ The first edition of the award will be given to Israel’s, Spacell, whose mission to become the first private, non-government entity to land on the surface of the Moon is underway, with an anticipated landing of spacecraft Beresheet on April 11, 2019



- ✓ Spacell is a former Google Lunar XPRIZE team
- ✓ It was founded in 2011 by Yariv Bash, Kfir Damari and Yonatan Winetraub, in order to compete in the Google Lunar XPRIZE
- ✓ In 2015, Spacell became the first team to announce a launch contract, and they launched for the Moon on a SpaceX Falcon 9 on February 21, 2019
- ✓ XPrize is a global leader in designing and operating incentive competition

- **UK lawmakers - rejected the Theresa May government's exit agreement with the European Union for a third time on March 29**

<b>3 WAYS BREXIT COULD HEAD FROM HERE</b>		
<p><b>1 NO DEAL</b> EU has given Britain till April 12 to seek another delay. Without one, Britain will leave EU on April 12 without a deal. Parliament has voted repeatedly to rule out a no-deal Brexit – but it still remains the default position</p>	<p><b>2 SNAP POLL</b> None's slated till 2022, but the gridlock makes a snap vote likely. The oppn could try to bring down the govt in a no-trust vote. Or the govt could pull the trigger itself if it thinks it has nothing to lose</p>	<p><b>3 NEW REFERENDUM</b> The idea has significant support from oppn parties, plus some members of the ruling Conservatives. The govt has ruled it out till now, but could change its mind if there appears no other way to pass a Brexit deal</p>

- ✓ The House of Commons voted 286-344 against the withdrawal agreement struck between PM May and the EU
- ✓ Last week, EU granted an extension to May 22 had the divorce deal been approved by Friday — or to April 12 if rejected
- ✓ Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, and two years after it set its departure date as March 29, 2019
- ✓ The 58-vote margin of defeat for the deal Friday was narrower than in previous votes in January and March
- **Indonesian President Joko Widodo - inaugurated the country's first mass rapid transit (MRT) system on 24th March**



- ✓ The aim is to ease the traffic congestion in the capital Jakarta
- ✓ Passengers can ride for free until the end of the month
- ✓ Jakarta is one of the top three traffic-congested cities in the world, according to a traffic index developed by the navigation systems company, TomTom

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and the United States - signed the first amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on triangular cooperation for global development on March 29, 2019**



- ✓ The SGP agreement was initially signed in November 2014
  - ✓ It underscores the contribution of India-US partnership to meet the developmental aspirations of partner countries, particularly in Asia and Africa
  - ✓ The first amendment to the SGP agreement extends its validity up to 2021
- **India and Bolivia - signed eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on March 29, 2019**



- ✓ The agreements were made in the fields of culture, Visa waiver arrangement for diplomats, the exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and Bi-Oceanic Railway project
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind is on a three-day visit to the country
- ✓ During his visit, President Kovind was conferred with the highest State honour of Bolivia, “Condor de Los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar” by the President of Bolivia, Evo Morales in Santa Cruz.
- ✓ India offered \$100 million Line of Credit to Bolivia for financing development projects
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind is on a three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile from March 25 to April 4, 2019



# PERSONALITIES

- **Leading London-based NRI industrial tycoons, the Hinduja family has topped the 'Asian Rich List 2019' for the sixth successive year with £25.2 billion (over Rs 2.3 lakh crore) wealth**



- ✓ Steel magnates, Lakshmi Mittal and his son Aditya Mittal were ranked second with £11.2 billion (over Rs 1 lakh crore) wealth
  - ✓ Petrochemicals billionaire, SP Lohia was ranked third with £5.8 billion (over Rs 53,000 crore) wealth.
  - ✓ The List ranks 101 wealthiest Asians living in UK
- **Former US president Jimmy Carter – becomes the longest living chief executive and President in American history at 94 years and 172 days on March 22**



- ✓ He was elected as the 39th President of the United States
- ✓ He overtakes the lifespan of former President George H.W. Bush, who died last November at the age of 94 years, 171 days.
- ✓ Mr. Carter has enjoyed the longest post-presidency in American history after leaving the White House in 1981.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA's Anne McClain and Nick Hague - took a spacewalk on 22nd March to replace ageing batteries on the International Space Station (ISS)**



- ✓ Two American astronauts worked for several hours to swap three nickel-hydrogen batteries with more powerful lithium-ion ones
- ✓ Later, NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch connected a set of three lithium-ion batteries on a pair of the station's solar arrays, replacing a set of six older, less powerful nickel-hydrogen batteries
- ✓ This followed after one of the earlier newly installed batteries hasn't been charging properly
- ✓ The space station uses solar panels to generate power but the batteries are used when it is in the dark and not getting power from the sun.

## DEFENCE

- **“Operation Sunrise”, a Military operation jointly coordinated by India and Myanmar armies - destroyed at least 10 camps belonging to an insurgent group in Myanmar**



- ✓ These groups have become a threat to India's mega 'Kaladan Project' in the neighbouring country.
- ✓ The Kaladan project connects Sittwe Port in Myanmar to the India-Myanmar border
- ✓ It creates a multi-modal platform for cargo shipments from the eastern ports to Myanmar and to the North-eastern parts of the country through Myanmar.



## ECONOMY

- **State Bank of India - has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities**
  - ✓ Through this pact, both SBI and BoC will be able to use the vast combined network to expand their businesses abroad.
  - ✓ Both SBI and BoC will also gain direct access to their respective markets of operation
- **Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India) - signed a loan agreement of \$83.11 million to Congo for financing three solar power projects at Congo**



- ✓ It will support and finance three solar photovoltaic power projects with a total capacity of 35 megawatts in the three provinces — Karawa, Mbandaka, and Lusambo.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das - called for 'permanent status' to Finance Commission**
  - ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das is also the member of the fifteenth finance commission
  - ✓ The permanent status will also provide for continuity between the successive finance commissions

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu, chairman and managing director, Lakshmi Machine Works, Coimbatore - has been elected chairman of CII Southern Region for the year 2019-20**



- ✓ He was the deputy chairman of CII Southern Region in 2018-19.

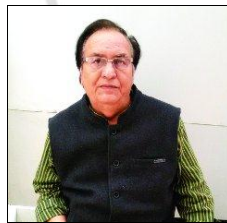
- ✓ He was also the chairman of CII Tamil Nadu State Council during the year 2006-07
- ✓ Satish Reddy, chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Hyderabad, has been elected deputy chairman for the year 2019-20
- ✓ He is a Member of CII National Council from 2014-19
- **Kenichi Ayukawa – reappointed as MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki for a third three-year term**



- ✓ He first took over as MD and CEO of the company in March 2013 as Shinzo Nakanishi had attained the age of retirement
- ✓ He played a major role in expanding the company's market share beyond 50%

## AWARDS

- **Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi - honoured with Vyas Samman 2018 for his collection of poems 'Jitne Log Utne Prem', published in 2013**



- ✓ He was awarded Padma Shri in 2004 apart from other awards, including Sahitya Akademi Award, Akashvani National Award and Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman.
- ✓ The award recognises outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years
- ✓ It was instituted in 1991 and given by the KK Birla Foundation, carrying a cash prize of Rs 4 lakhs
- ✓ Jagudi was picked for the 28th Vyas Samman 2018 by a jury headed by eminent littérateur Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari
- ✓ Apart from the Vyas Samman, the KK Birla Foundation every year presents the Saraswati Samman, which carries a prize of Rs 15 lakh
- ✓ Saraswati Samman is given to an outstanding literary work by an Indian citizen in any of the languages mentioned in Schedule VIII of the Constitution.

## SPORTS

- **India's Muskan Kirar - claimed a hat-trick of medals in the opening leg of the Asia Cup archery meet in Bangkok – for the second year in a row**



- ✓ The 18-year-old Madhya Pradesh archer, who was recently named to India's world championship team – along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Raj Kaur – shot 147 out of a possible 150 points in the 15-arrow 50-metre gold medal match
  - ✓ More than 200 archers from 23 countries are competing in Bangkok, which is one of the first world ranking events on the annual calendar
  - ✓ The first stage of the 2019 Asia Cup took place on 25-30 March in Bangkok, Thailand
- **Chennai Super Kings' player, Suresh Raina - has become the first ever cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in Indian Premier League (IPL)**

MOST RUNS IN IPL		
	MATS	RUNS
S Raina	177	5004
V Kohli	164	4954
R Sharma	173	4493
G Gambhir	154	4217
R Uthappa	165	4129

- ✓ He reached the landmark in the opening match of the 12th edition of the IPL against RCB (Royal Challengers Bangalore)
- ✓ RCB captain Virat Kohli is the second highest run-scorer in IPL, with 4,954 runs in 156 IPL innings



- **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) - was awarded the 'Best Sports Federation' award in the country by the Association Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM)**
- ✓ NRAI secretary-general D.V.S. Rao and secretary Rajeev Bhatia received the trophy from Director General of SAI Neelam Kapoor and cricketer Madan Lal
- ✓ Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra - was named to lead a 39-member Indian athletics team for next month's Asian Championships in Doha



- ✓ National record holders, Mohd Anas (400m), Jinson Johnson (800m and 1500m), Dharun Ayyasamy (400m hurdles), Avinash Sable (3000m steeplechase), Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (shot put), Hima Das (400m), Annu Rani (javelin throw) and Dutte Chand (200m) were also among those named in the team

**REPORT**

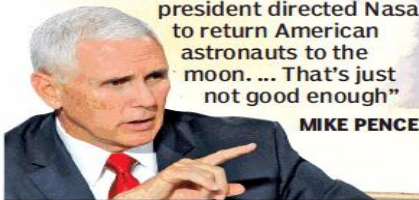
# WHY US IS RUSHING TO RETURN TO THE MOON

A return to the moon has been on the cards for the United States for some time now, but on Tuesday, vice president Mike Pence told Nasa to pick up the pace. But he has set an ambitious and possibly unrealistic target for the space agency — to return to the moon by 2024. A look at what triggered Pence's urgent directive and if Nasa is up to the task

## MOON IS THE FIRST STOP BEFORE MARS

- Setting up a base on the moon has become a necessary first step before a manned mission to Mars becomes viable
- A lunar base would act as a testing ground and stopover for Mars exploration missions
- Speaking at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Alabama, Pence pressured Nasa to return to the moon in by 2024 instead of the initial 2028 target

“We're actually being told the earliest we can get back to the moon is 2028. Now that would be 11 years after the US president directed Nasa to return American astronauts to the moon. ... That's just not good enough”



MIKE PENCE

Apollo 11 Saturn V vehicle that carried three astronauts to the moon in 1969



Source: Nasa, media reports

## A NEW SPACE RACE HAS BEGUN

- The US has been a long-standing leader in the field but China is hot on its heels and India is catching up too
- And the space race is no longer dominated by national space agencies with private players making considerable advancements
- Among the leaders from the private sector is **Elon Musk's SpaceX**, which has revolutionised rocket launchers, making them reusable and cost-effective
- Billionaires **Jeff Bezos** and **Richard Branson** have also set up spaceflight companies **Blue Origin** and **Virgin Galactic**, respectively
- The stakes have never been higher for the US. After decades of unchallenged dominance, able competitors are finally rising up and the US risks losing its edge in space
- Already China has made history by landing a rover on the far side of the moon earlier this year, with the 2030s as their target to land astronauts on the moon, and India has joined an elite club of nations with its recent anti-satellite weapon test



## CAN NASA MAKE IT HAPPEN?

- The US still has the edge in the human spaceflight sector
- It's one of three nations, alongside Russia and China, with operational human space programmes and the only one to have landed a man on the moon
- But Nasa has hit some snags, making its new five-year target unrealistic
- Its Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, the heavy launch vehicle at the centre of Nasa's deep space exploration missions, is behind schedule and over budget
- Pence suggested alternatives to SLS might be necessary and NASA chief Jim Bridenstine recently said using a commercial rocket, like SpaceX's launchers, might be a possibility

- 2020** | Unmanned mission to test Nasa's capability to send a crew to the moon
- 2022** | Manned flight to take astronauts around the moon
- 2022** | Begin setting up a spaceship to orbit the moon
- 2023** | Land a lunar rover to prepare for human exploration
- 2024** | Land astronauts on the lunar surface
- 2030s** | Land astronauts on Mars

## THE LAST TIME HUMANS WERE ON THE MOON



Nasa's Apollo 11 mission in 1969 landed the first of 12 Americans on the moon. It marked the height of the Cold War-era space race with the Soviet Union

