

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 25, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Puducherry Lok Sabha seat winner, V. Vaithilingam (Congress) - registered the best ever performance in the history of Parliamentary elections in the Union Territory.**



- ✓ The two-time Chief Minister won the seat by a record margin of 1,96,802 votes against his rival K. Narayanasamy of the All India N. R. Congress.
- ✓ While Mr. Vaithilingam got 4,44,646 votes, Mr. Narayanasamy polled 2,47,844 votes.
- ✓ The previous best performance was by P. Shanmugham when he won the seat by a margin of 98,564 votes.
- ✓ In a complete sweep, Mr. Vaithilingam dominated in 29 of the 30 Assembly constituencies as his vote share was way ahead of the AINRC candidate

**NATIONAL**

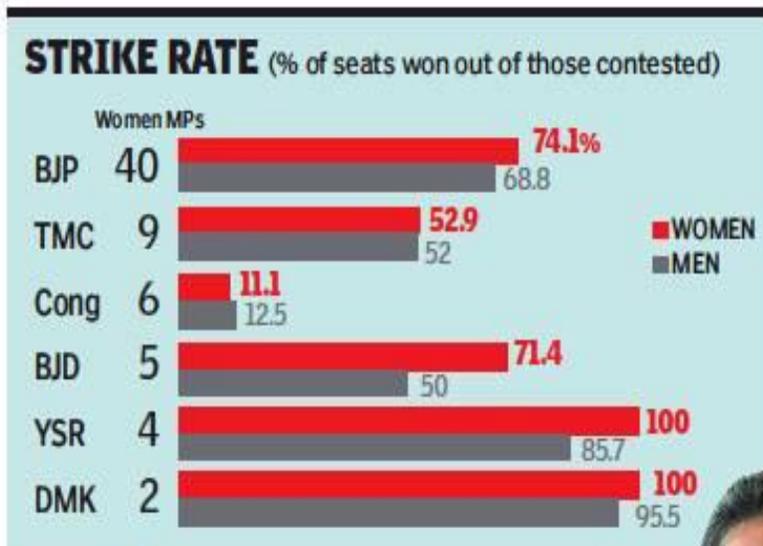
- ◆ **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi - administered oath of office to Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant, Aniruddha Bose and A S Bopanna as judges of the Supreme Court**



- ✓ With these appointments, Supreme Court has now reached its full strength of 31 judges for the first time since 2009.
- ✓ Among the SC judges who took oath, Justice Gavai will become CJI for a little over six months in 2025.
- ✓ He will be the second Chief Justice of India from the Scheduled Caste community after Justice (Retd.) K.G. Balakrishnan.
- ✓ Justice Kant will succeed Justice Gavai as CJI on November 23, 2025, and remain in office till February 9, 2027.

◆ **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – to send highest ever share of Women MPs (40) to Lok Sabha**

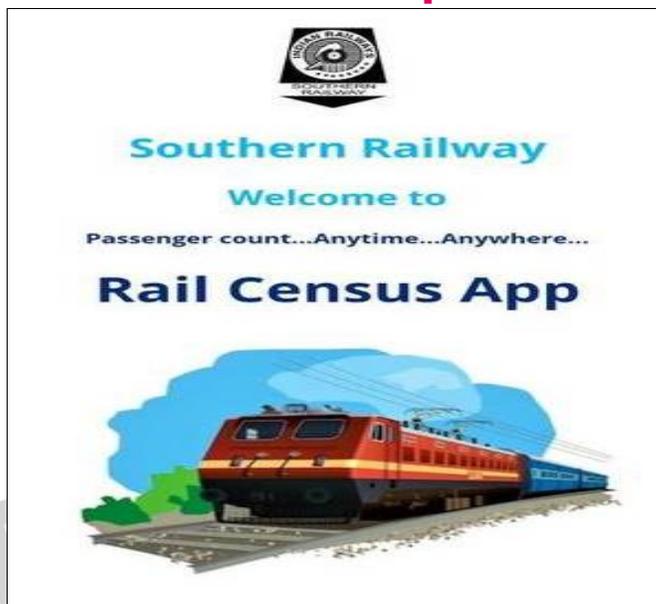
- ✓ The 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha will have a record 78 women MPs elected to the Parliament -- a slight increase from the 2014 polls where 62 women parliamentarians were elected
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have elected the highest number of women MPs with 11 candidates each
- ✓ UP and Bengal are followed by eight women MPs in Maharashtra, seven in Odisha and six in Gujarat.
- ✓ Out of the total 29 states, women MPs were elected from 22, leaving seven states with no female representation in the Parliament.
- ✓ The seven states are Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim



- ✓ Of the 54 women who contested on BJP tickets, 40 won, a strike rate of 74.1% compared with 68.8% for male candidates from the same party
- ✓ Among the women MPs, Maneka Gandhi won in Sultanpur by the smallest margin, just over 14,500, while Ranjanben Bhatt in Vadodara had the highest margin of 5,89,177
- ✓ Hema Malini was the richest among women MPs with assets worth over Rs 250 crore and YSRCP's Goddeti Madhavi from Aruku had the least with declared assets of about Rs 1 lakh.

- ✓ The youngest woman MP was 25-year old Chandrani Murmu, the BJD candidate from Keonjhar and the oldest was 74-year-old Congress candidate Preneet Kaur of Patiala.
- ✓ Until now, the record was held by Dushyant Chautala, who, at 26, represented the Hisar seat in the 16th Lok Sabha

◆ **The Rail Census App – to help Railways carry out physical headcount of passengers in unreserved coaches of passenger, mail and express trains and the compilation of the census data**



- ✓ The headcount is done twice a year in May and November
- ✓ Thanks to Information technology, the seven-day physical headcount will be a paperless and eco-friendly affair.
- ✓ The App is currently rolled out in six divisions

◆ **The Centre – bans Bangladesh-based terror outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) under the anti-terror law UAPA.**

- ✓ The JMB, allegedly involved in the 2016 terror attack at a cafe in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka, was declared as an “unlawful association” by the Ministry of Home Affairs
- ✓ As per the ministry, the outfit was planning to set up permanent bases within 10 km along the Bangladesh border in several districts of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.
- ✓ The group is also planning to spread its network in South India with an ambitious motive to establish a Caliphate in the Indian subcontinent.

## COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **Allahabad high court – has held that there shall be no tax levied in case of purchases made at duty free stores at the arrival or departure terminals.**
  - ✓ It clarified that tax will not be levied as the goods never cross customs border and passengers carry the items as their personal effect.
  - ✓ The order came in response to a PIL which alleged that the exchequer is losing revenue through such sale

## INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **The United States - filed new charges against WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange**



- ✓ It had accused him of violating the Espionage Act by publishing secret documents containing the names of confidential military and diplomatic sources.
- ✓ It says the WikiLeaks founder, currently in custody in London, damaged national security by publishing documents that harmed the US and its allies and aided its adversaries.
- ✓ It was the first time in history a publisher was charged for disclosing truthful information.

## PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **British Prime Minister, Theresa May - said she would quit as UK Conservative Party leader after failing to take Britain out of the EU and deliver Brexit**

# 'I HAVE DONE MY BEST...'



**MAY AT THE TOP**

- > 3 Years since 2016 as prime minister
- > 6 years before that as home secretary
- > In 2017, failed to win general election outright, but stayed prime minister
- > Was a Remain voter in the 2016 EU referendum
- > Brexit dominated her time at 10 Downing Street



**“ I have done my best... I will shortly leave the job that it has been the honour of my life to hold... The second female PM, but certainly not the last... ”**

**Theresa May's resignation sets stage for a leadership battle in her Conservative Party that will determine who becomes Britain's next prime minister. A guide to how the process works:**

- > May to remain in office until successor chosen
  - > Nominations for replacement close in the week beginning June 10
  - > Contest should conclude by the time parliament leaves for its summer break — July 20
  - > In first stage, 313 Conservative members of parliament whittle the nominees down to two
  - > In second stage, about 124,000 party members will pick next PM in a secret ballot
- In last contest in 2016, members never got to vote because all the candidates dropped out but one: May**

## WHO COULD BE BRITAIN'S NEXT PM?

### BORIS JOHNSON, 54

Face of 'Vote Leave' campaign, Johnson resigned as foreign minister in July, 2018, in protest of May's handling of Brexit. Johnson, who is often dubbed **Britain's Donald Trump**, has made no secret of his desire to take the top job. 'Of course I'm going to go for it,' he recently said. **He is bookmakers' favourite to succeed May**



### JEREMY HUNT, 52

Hunt stepped into the role of foreign secretary when Boris Johnson resigned. He has tried to raise his profile by making provocative statements to establish his credentials as a staunch Brexiteer, despite having backed the 'Remain' side. **He made headlines at a recent party conference by comparing the EU to the Soviet Union.** Asked by journalists if he planned to run for PM, he said: 'Wait and see'



### SAJID JAVID, 49

Britain's home secretary is a former banker and a champion of free markets. He has served a number of cabinet roles and scores consistently well in polls of party members. **A second-generation immigrant of Pakistani heritage, he has a portrait of late Conservative PM Margaret Thatcher on his office wall**



Other Conservatives widely expected to run for the leadership are former Brexit secretary **Dominic Raab**, former leader of the House of Commons **Andrea Leadsom**, former interior minister **Amber Rudd** and environment secretary **Michael Gove**



- ✓ Former foreign minister Boris Johnson and Current foreign minister Jeremy Hunt are the favorites to replace May
- ✓ Cabinet minister Rory Stewart and former minister Esther McVey, have already announced that they intend to run for the leadership of the Conservative party once May steps down
- ✓ The latest deadline for UK's departure is October 31.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **China - unveiled a prototype magnetic levitation (maglev) train with a designed maximum speed of 600 kilometers per hour on May 23 in the eastern city of Qingdao**



- ✓ The country's latest high-speed maglev train, designed by State-owned China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC), is scheduled to go into commercial production in 2021
- ✓ The train boasts twice the speed of the Eurostar fleet and could cover the distance between London and Paris in 49 minutes
- ✓ It could also slash the journey time between Shanghai and Beijing - two of the most important cities in China - from 5.5 hours to 3.5 hours
- ✓ Rather using wheels and a track, a maglev train floats on a magnetically powered cushion of air.
- ✓ This reduces friction and allows the craft to reach incredibly fast speeds, for instance, 430 kilometers per hour top speed of a maglev already in operation in Shanghai.
- ✓ The prototype is the result of a three-year-long project initiated by Beijing as part of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) of the Communist Party.
- ✓ CRRC's new prototype will not be the first train to hit these kinds of speeds.
- ✓ Around 4 years ago, a Japan Railway maglev train achieved a top spot of 603 km/hour on an experimental track in Yamanashi and set a new world record.
- ✓ Now Japan is building a new Chuo Shinkansen maglev line between Tokyo and Nagoya, with trains set to hit top speeds of about 500 kmph, is scheduled to be completed in 2027
- ✓ China has the world's first commercial maglev system.
- ✓ The 30-kilometer (18.6-mile) stretch, opened in 2002 in Shanghai, connects Shanghai Pudong Airport and the city center.
- ✓ Japan's proposed bullet train Alfa X, future shinkansen trains, offering an (operating) speed of up to 360 km/h (224mph) - nominal max speed is 400 kilometers (249 miles) per hour

## DEFENCE

- ◆ **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully test fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.**



- ✓ The Defence Ministry said the guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.

## ECONOMY

- ◆ **Facebook - to launch its own cryptocurrency “GlobalCoin” in 2020**
  - ✓ “GlobalCoin” would work with a new digital payments system in about a dozen countries, starting in the first quarter of 2020
  - ✓ Facebook is taking a serious look at blockchain technology under its “Project Libra”, in part to tackle doubts about privacy among its many users following a series of scandals.
  - ✓ It is in contact with US and British financial regulators to launch the cryptocurrency
  - ✓ Facebook’s currency would be “stablecoin”, a digital unit pegged to the dollar in contrast to more anarchic means of virtual payment such as bitcoin

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Indian boxers, MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, Laishram Sarita Devi and Amit Panghal -won their final bouts in the India Open to clinch titles at Guwahati**



- ✓ Mary Kom won the 51 kg category bout against former national champion, Vanlal Duati, to retain her title
- ✓ Shiva Thapa, the four-time Asian championship medalist got the better of compatriot Manish Kaushik to claim her maiden 60kg title.
- ✓ Amit Panghal won the bout against Sachin Siwach, one of the tallest boxers in the category, in the 52kg final
- ✓ Sarita Devi got the better of Simranjit Kaur in a 3-2 decision in the 60kg category.
- ✓ Apart from the above four, Jumna Boro, the 2015 Youth Championship bronze winner overcame the resistance from Y Sandhyarani to take the gold in the 54kg category

