



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 25, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **AIADMK candidate M R Muthamizhselvan - defeated his DMK rival N Pugalenti by a margin of 44,924 votes in the Vikravandi bypoll**
- ✓ In Nanguneri bypoll, AIADMK's V Narayanan defeated his Congress rival 'Ruby' R Manoharan by 33,445 votes.



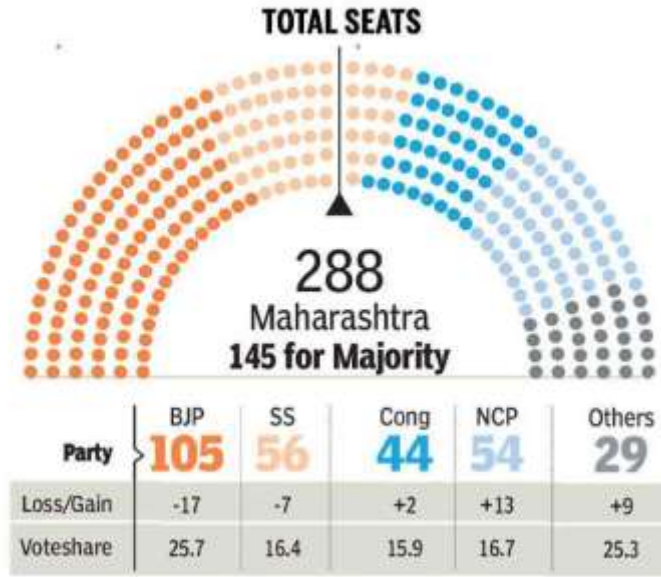
- ✓ The bypoll to Vikravandi was necessitated following the death of DMK MLA K Rathamani in June this year
- ✓ Nanguneri was declared vacant after sitting Congress MLA H Vasantha Kumar resigned his seat following the winning of the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat
- ✓ With the win, the AIADMK's tally in the Assembly has gone up to 124, excluding the Speaker
- **The Centre's archaeology advisory committee - has granted permission to the state archaeological department to continue excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district (sixth excavation), Adhichanallur in Tuticorin, Sivakalai in Tirunelveli district and Kodumanal in Erode district by January end next year.**
- ✓ Till now, the state government has been allocating ₹2 crore for excavations in the state every year.

- ✓ Earlier, the excavation at Alagankulam in Ramanathapuram carried out for the first time in 2014-2015, at a cost of ₹55 lakh, was able to establish trade connections between Rome and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Fund allocations of ₹55 lakh in 2017-2018 and ₹47 lakh in 2018-2019 to carry out excavations in Keeladi were able to establish the age of the historic site as 2,600 years and that it was a flourishing urban civilization on the banks of river Vaigai
 - ✓ Adhichanallur gained prominence when Dr Jagor, a German official, found out many burial urns in 1876.
 - ✓ This was followed by excavations done by Alexander Rea, a former superintendent of Southern Archaeological Survey of India between 1899 and 1905.
 - ✓ The excavations at the site between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 were able to establish that it belongs to the early Iron Age.
- **The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) - has awarded a ₹43.14-crore contract to 3 firms under the World Bank-funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**
- ✓ Switzerland-based Carpi Tech.B.V. has been awarded work worth ₹34.69 crore on the Upper Bhavani dam.
 - ✓ Some of the awarded works under the 18-month contract include dewatering and removing silt deposited upstream of the dam.
 - ✓ Tangedco also handed over a ₹6.41-crore contract to JK Constructions in Upper Bhavani Dam (Package-I) for 18 months.
 - ✓ Vakma USA Infra has been given a ₹2.05-crore contract for dam rehabilitation and improvement work in Porthimund Dam
 - ✓ The 12-month contract for the firm includes electrification works at the dam
 - ✓ DRIP aims to improve safety and operational performance of 198 dams across the entire country.

NATIONAL

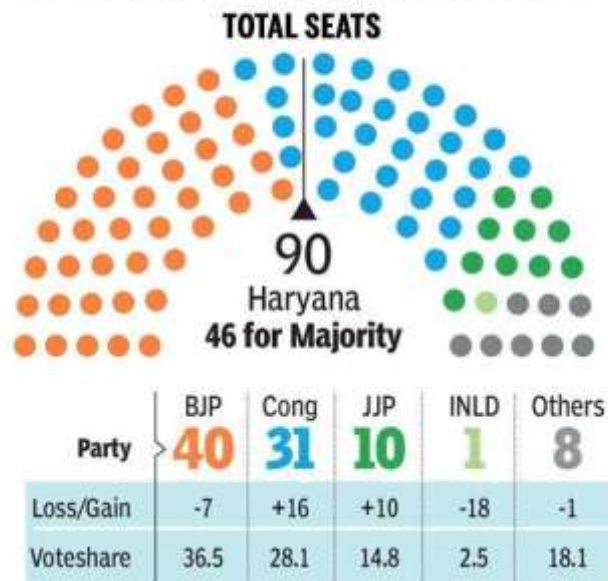
- **The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance – won 161 seats together in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly.**
- ✓ In the final tally, the BJP finished with 105 MLAs and the Shiv Sena 56
 - ✓ This is the first back-to-back election victory for BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in Maharashtra
 - ✓ This would mark the first time that a non-Congress government has come back for a second term in Maharashtra.
 - ✓ The Congress-NCP alliance won 98 seats, with 44 seats to Congress and 54 seats to NCP
 - ✓ In the 2014 polls, the BJP had won 122 seats, the Sena 63, the Congress 42 and the NCP 41.

MAHARASHTRA ELECTION RESULT



- ✓ The Sena joined the BJP-led government over a month after it was formed.
- ✓ The polling held on October 21 saw a voter turnout of 61.13 per cent, a dip from the 63.20 per cent recorded in 2014
- **In Haryana, BJP - has secured victory in 40 seats in 90-member Assembly**
- ✓ Congress won 31 seats, while Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) won 10 seats with others winning balance 9 seats

HARYANA ELECTION RESULT



- ✓ A party needed a minimum of 46 seats to form government in the state

- ✓ Bhartiya Janata Party leader and CM, Manohar Lal Khattar will soon announce his claim to form government in the state with the support of all the 7 Independent candidates who have extended their support to the BJP.
- **The central government – has notified October 24, 2019, as the date on which the provisions of The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 shall come into force**
 - ✓ The government had introduced a bill to amend the transparency law to further streamline and institutionalize the RTI Act of 2005 in July
 - ✓ The bill was passed in both houses of Parliament in July and later it got assent from the president in August.
 - ✓ The government’s move to amend the RTI Act aims to take away statutory parity of information commissioners with election commissioners in terms of tenure and service conditions
 - ✓ According to the amended law, the government can prescribe the tenure of office, salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of chief information commissioner (CIC) and information commissioners (ICs) henceforth.
 - ✓ The RTI Act of 2005 allowed CIC and ICs a fixed tenure of five years or up to the age of 65 years.
 - ✓ Besides this, their salary and allowances were already at par with the election commissioners
- **The second phase of programme GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) for tribal women – was announced by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda**



- ✓ The programme aims at encouraging, inspiring and guiding tribal women to become ‘digitally’ literate.
- ✓ For running the programme, the Ministry had partnered with Niti Aayog and Facebook

- ✓ The objective of this program is to digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal-dominated districts.
- ✓ The enrolled tribal women will undergo several one-to-one monitoring sessions focusing on entrepreneurship, online safety and digital literacy

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India and Pakistan - signed the historic agreement on the Kartarpur corridor on October 24**



- ✓ The agreement paves way for the pilgrims to undertake visa-free visits to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the holy shrine of Guru Nanak Dev at Kartarpur in Pakistan's Narowal district.
- ✓ India also launched parkashpurb550.mha.gov.in for the online registration of pilgrims
- ✓ The agreement, valid for five years, was signed at the 'Zero Line' at Dera Baba Nanak
- ✓ Pakistan will allow 5,000 pilgrims, from a list to be provided by India 10 days in advance, to use the corridor every day
- ✓ The corridor will be operational throughout the year, except on notified days, which will be informed in advance
- ✓ The corridor is being built to connect Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak, to commemorate his 550th birth anniversary celebrations on November 12.
- ✓ The first Sikh Guru, Gurunanak Dev spent the last 18 years of his life here in Kartarpur
- ✓ This corridor will be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi (on Indian side) and Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan (on Pakistan side) on 09 November 2019.

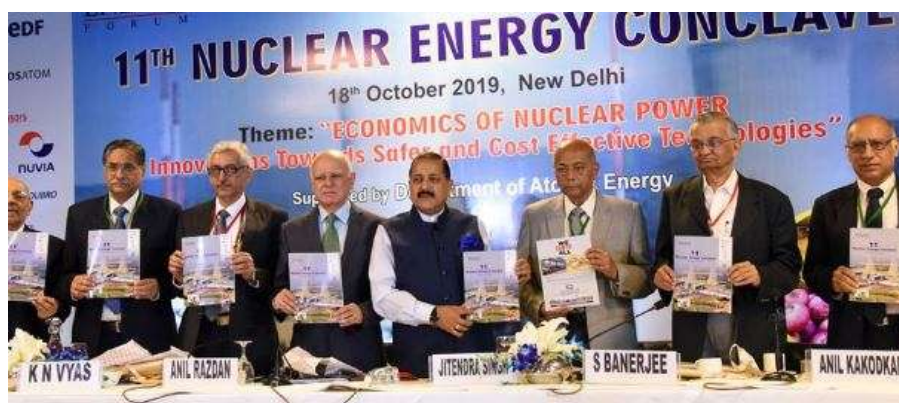
- ✓ Pakistan has decided to charge a service fee of USD 20 (Rs 1420) from every devotee coming to Kartarpur Gurdwara from India
- **India and Philippines - signed four bilateral agreements with each other in Manila**



- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind was on an official tour to Phillipines and Japan from October 21
- ✓ During the visit, the President met his Philippines counterpart Rodrigo Duterte and held discussions
- ✓ The agreements were signed for mutual cooperation in the areas of Science and Technology, Maritime, Tourism and Culture
- ✓ The MoU also covers the exchange of white shipping data, which provides mutual information about the movement of commercial and non-military vessels

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **11th Nuclear Energy Conclave (NEC) – was held in New Delhi recently**



- ✓ It was organized by India Energy Forum
 - ✓ Theme - Economics of Nuclear Power- Innovation towards Safer & Cost-Effective Technologies
 - ✓ Focus – To highlight the economic importance of Nuclear Energy
 - ✓ Indian Energy Forum was established in 2001 to represent India's total energy sector
 - ✓ Several public and private nuclear organizations, oil and gas organizations, Renewable energy organizations are members of India Energy Forum
 - ✓ India is following a three-stage strategy of nuclear power generation which is Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) and Thorium based Reactor.
 - ✓ There are two basic types of reactors – Boiling water reactor and pressurised water reactor
 - ✓ A hall of nuclear energy was recently opened in New Delhi to create awareness about the application of nuclear energy.
- **91st Interpol General Assembly – to be held in India in 2022**
- ✓ Earlier, in 1997, Interpol had hosted its general assembly in India where all member states participated
 - ✓ The International Criminal Police Organisation has 194 member states.
 - ✓ It was established in 1923

DEFENCE

- **India and the US - are set to collaborate on futuristic military technologies to develop drone swarms and other counter-measures to resist any air attacks launched by an enemy country**

7 PROJECTS ON FUTURISTIC WARFARE

<p>➤ Statement of Intent inked on short, medium and long-term deliverables at Defence Technology and Trade Initiative meeting</p> <p>➤ 3 short-term projects – air launch small unmanned aerial systems, lightweight small arms technology and intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and</p>	<p>reconnaissance (ISTAR) – to be finalised within 6 months</p> <p>➤ 2 medium-term projects are maritime domain awareness solution and virtual augmented mixed reality for aircraft maintenance</p> <p>➤ Long-term ones are terrain-shaping obstacles (lethal munitions) and anti-drone technology</p>
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- ✓ This was decided at the 9th meeting of the bilateral Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), which was established in 2012
- ✓ The DTTI aims to jointly develop hi-tech military technologies like infantry combat vehicles, advanced helicopters and jet engines.

- ✓ The two countries had agreed on seven projects at the DTTI meeting

AWARDS

- **The European Parliament - awarded the Sakharov Prize for human rights to Uighur intellectual, Ilham Tohti**



- ✓ The former Professor of economics at a Beijing university, Ilham Tohti, was sentenced to life imprisonment in China for “separatism” in 2014.

SPORTS

- **Para athlete Anandan Gunasekaran - won his third gold medal at the ongoing Military World Games in Wuhan, China**



- ✓ The 32-year-old Blade Runner from Kumbakonam won the 200m IT1 event with a timing of 24.31 seconds

- ✓ Anandan had earlier won two gold medals in the men's disabled 100m and 400m IT1 events
- ✓ Anandan, who is a subedar at the Madras Engineering Group & Centre, trains at the Army Sports Institute in Pune
- **Para athlete Vivek Chikara won gold in the men's recurve open event at the Asian Para Archery Championships in Bangkok**



- ✓ This was the his first international medal in two years of his archery career

RANKINGS

- **India - moved from 77th to 63rd position, out of 190 countries, in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings this year**
- ✓ With this, the country earned a place among the world's top 10 improvers for the third consecutive year.



- ✓ In fact, this is the highest improvement in rank by any large country since 2011.
- ✓ New Zealand has topped the Ease of Doing Business rankings this year, followed by Singapore and Hong Kong
- ✓ Denmark and Korea completed the Top 5 countries in the index
- ✓ In Doing Business 2020, India along with other top improvers implemented a total of 59 regulatory reforms in 2018/ 19—accounting for one-fifth of all the reforms recorded worldwide
- ✓ Among the top 10 reforming countries in the Ease of Doing Business ranking are - Saudi Arabia (62), Jordan (75), Togo (97), Bahrain (43), Tajikistan (106), Pakistan (108), Kuwait (83), Including China (31) and Nigeria (131).
- ✓ The country's score improved from 67.3 last year to 71.0 this year, as per The Doing Business 2020 study
- ✓ The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had set a target of India being among the top 50 countries in the ease of doing business rankings by 2020
- ✓ The country has consistently improved its position over the past four years, jumping by 79 places
- ✓ In 2014, India's ranking was 142 out of 190 countries
- ✓ The indicator measures the performance of countries across 10 different dimensions in the 12-month period ending May 1, 2019
- ✓ The 10 parameters of study are - starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency
- ✓ For 11 countries, 2 cities were selected to construct the indicator – Delhi and Mumbai in the case of India.
- ✓ This list includes the countries - Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Togo, Bahrain, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, China, India and Nigeria.
- ✓ India has implemented 48 reforms for Ease of Doing Business since the year 2003-04.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ **World Polio Day - October 24**

- ✓ The day highlights the importance of polio vaccination and measures to eradicate it.
- ✓ This year, World Health Organisation (WHO) events will be organised at the city of Cairo, the capital of Egypt to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).
- ✓ The day marks the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis
- ✓ On the eve of the day this year, World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) has been eradicated worldwide.



ROTARY'S
WORLD POLIO DAY

ONLINE GLOBAL UPDATE
24 OCTOBER 2019

Visit the Rotary International
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#endpolio | endpolio.org



- ✓ This follows the eradication of smallpox and wild poliovirus type 2.
- ✓ There are three individual and immunologically distinct wild poliovirus strains - wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), wild poliovirus type 2 (WPV2) and wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3).
- ✓ Currently, the WPV1 is in circulation in just two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ✓ There are two types of Polio vaccines - inactivated vaccine of poliovirus administered through injections and the oral poliovirus drops
- ✓ The OPV drops vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin, which led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988
- ✓ Polio is a contagious disease which can lead to paralysis, breathing problem or even death
- ✓ It is caused by poliovirus

