



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –APRIL 7,

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu - recorded 71.79% voter turnout at the end of 12-hour polling in 234 constituencies on April 6, as per the preliminary estimates from the Election Commission
- ✓ Kallakurichi district topped the list with a voter turnout of 78%, followed by Namakkal (77.91%), Ariyalur (77.88%), Karur 77.6%, Dharmapuri 77.23% and Perambalur 77.08%.

	Kallakurichi recorded the highest polling of 78		Namakkal recorded the second highest voter turnout of 77.91		Followed by Ariyalur 77.88		Karur 77.6	Dharmapuri 77.23
							Perambalur 77.08	
LOWEST	Chennai 59.4	Chengalpattu 62.77	Tirunelveli 65.16	Coimbatore 66.98	Ramanathapuram 67.16	Tiruppur 67.48		

- ✓ Chennai district trailed at the bottom with 59.4% turnout.
- ✓ Chengelpet district recorded the second lowest turnout of 62.77%, followed by Tirunelveli 65.16%, Coimbatore 66.98%, Ramanathapuram 67.16% and Tirupur 67.48%.
- ✓ Even Madurai 68.14%, Kanyakumari 68.41%, Sivaganga 68.49%, Tiruvallur 68.73% and the Nilgiris 69.24% failed to cross the 70% mark.
- ✓ The state recorded 74.24% polling in 2016 assembly election and saw the ruling AIADMK recording a consecutive victory
- ✓ In all, there were 88,937 polling stations set up for 6.28 crore voters.
- ✓ As many as 510 Covid-19 patients cast their votes wearing PPEs between 6pm and 7pm.
- ✓ Polling in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam was also completed peacefully by and large.
- ✓ The territory reported 81.64% polling on the day, which is less than the 84.08% polled in 2016 and 86.19% polling in 2011.

- **Anna University - has established a national facility for limited manufacturing to provide last-mile connectivity to entrepreneurs and innovators.**
 - ✓ This is expected to help startups and researchers build a limited number of prototypes of medical devices for wider testing at hospitals to make them commercially viable.
 - ✓ The facility was established under the University Grants Commission's University with Potential for Excellence scheme under Bio Medical Engineering and Instrumentation at a budget of Rs 25 crore.
 - ✓ The new facility will provide support in mechanical, electronics and communication, medical optics and medical technology, bio-sciences and technology areas.
 - ✓ Anyone from academic institutions including IITs, state universities and central universities and MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) can walk in with ideas or prototypes and walk out with commercial products.
 - ✓ The facility can also help conduct electromagnetic compatibility tests for all healthcare devices.
 - ✓ The device to detect antibiotic resistance, an antibiogramoscope, was the first to be produced in the limited manufacturing facility
 - ✓ It also produced smart thermometers and basic ventilators to help hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ The facility will have some of the latest equipment such as six-axis robot, 3D printer, ultrasonic drilling and welding machines, electromagnetic compatibility testing device, automated CNC machine and a clean room, thermal imaging system among others.
- **The State Department of Labour - will soon conduct a survey to estimate the number of domestic workers across Tamil Nadu.**
 - ✓ The survey aims to help disburse all social security schemes and welfare measures for the workers who are struggling to benefit from the schemes or have not received any.
 - ✓ The survey will also check if they are being paid the minimum wages prescribed by the department.
 - ✓ In 2019, the department had fixed the minimum wages of domestic workers involved in sweeping, mopping, and washing utensils at ₹37 per hour.
 - ✓ It was done based on recommendations of a panel headed by Coimbatore's deputy commissioner of labour.
 - ✓ The survey will start next month and will also include social workers to provide an accurate picture and help link workers with the required assistance.

STATES


- **The Union Territory of Ladakh – signs deal for land to build a first-of-its-kind battery storage-based solar project near Leh**

- ✓ On April 6, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council signed land agreement with SECI, the central agency implementing the National Solar Mission, for the solar project of 50-megawatt capacity
- ✓ The project, aiming to provide carbon-neutral status to the Union Territory, will supply power at ₹2 per unit, among the cheapest in the country.
- ✓ The project is being built on 289 acres of land at Taru near Leh at an investment of ₹239 crore and a viability gap funding of ₹241 crore from the Centre.
- ✓ Four companies, including Vikram Solar and Sterling and Wilson, are in the race for the project, which is likely to be awarded by the month-end.
- ✓ It is expected to be completed by October-November 2022.
- ✓ The project will end supply disruption in Leh region and replace 40 MW imported from the national grid through a single transmission line.

NATIONAL

- **On April 6, Bengal - completed its third round of polling out of the total eight phases, with a voter turnout of 77.6% across 31 seats**
- ✓ This was much lower than the statewide figure of 85.2% in the 2016 polls.
- ✓ Neighbouring Assam finished its third and final phase with 82% polling in the last 40 of its 126 seats

LOW TURNOUT IN BENGAL			
State (Seats)	2016	2019	2021
West Bengal (31)	85.2	82.6	77.6
Assam (40)	86.9	84.9	82
Tamil Nadu (234)	74.8	72.5	71.7
Kerala (140)	77.1	77.8	74
Puducherry (30)	84	81.3	81.5



Poll officers in PPE kits wait for Covid patients at a booth in Chennai

The data(%) for TN pertains to 232 seats in 2016 and 228 seats in 2019 since there were no polls in the rest

- ✓ This was also lower than the overall turnout of 86.9% reported five years ago.
- ✓ Kerala recorded 74% polling as against 77% in the last assembly elections
- **India – administered 43 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccinations on April 5, which was the highest so far on a single day**
- ✓ A total of 8.4 crore doses were given to eligible beneficiaries across the country till April 6
- ✓ India stands second in terms of daily rate of vaccine doses administered with an average of 26.53 lakh daily doses given to recipients.
- ✓ The US has the highest rate of daily doses given at 30.53 lakh.
- ✓ However, other countries like Brazil, UK and Germany are far less at 6.23 lakh, 4.13 lakh and 3 lakh, respectively.

- ✓ But, the number of people fully vaccinated in India still stands at just about 1 crore.
- ✓ Around 2 crore people in the age group of 45-60 years and more than 3.44 crore people above 60 years of age have received their first dose of the vaccines.
- ✓ As many as 12.58 lakh people above 45 years of age have also received their second dose.
- **Telecom giant, Reliance Jio - signed an agreement with Airtel to acquire some of the latter's spectrum in the 800 MHz band in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Mumbai circles**
- ✓ The spectrum trading deal was signed at an aggregate deal value of about Rs1,497 crore.
- ✓ As part of the agreement, Airtel would receive Rs 1,038 crore from Jio for the proposed transfer.
- ✓ In addition, Jio will also assume the future liabilities of Rs 459 crore relating to the spectrum.
- ✓ As per the deal, Jio gets a "right to use" on Airtel's 800 MHz spectrum in Andhra Pradesh (3.75 MHz), Delhi (1.25 MHz) and Mumbai (2.50 MHz).
- ✓ The companies said that the transaction is subject to requisite regulatory and statutory approvals.

SUPREME COURT

- **On April 6, President Ram Nath Kovind - appointed Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, the senior-most Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of India.**



- ✓ Justice Ramana will take oath as the 48th CJI on April 24 and will have a tenure of one year and four months.
- ✓ Justice Ramana was a first generation lawyer born in an agriculturist family in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ He had briefly worked as a journalist in a leading Telugu newspaper before choosing to become an advocate.

- ✓ He was appointed as a Judge of Andhra Pradesh HC in 2001, as Chief Justice of Delhi HC in September 2013 and an SC judge in February 2014.
- ✓ A soft-spoken person, Justice Ramana has given many important and hard-hitting judgments, including the ruling on providing 4G internet services in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ Justice Ramana was a part of a five-judge constitution bench that declined to refer to a seven bench, a batch of pleas that challenged the constitutional validity of the government's decision to abrogate Article 370.
- ✓ In November 2019, he was a part of a five judge Constitution bench that held that the office of Chief Justice is a public authority under Right to Information Act.
- ✓ In January 2020, the Justice Ramana-led bench ruled that "access to internet" is a fundamental right of citizens and held that freedom of speech and conducting business on internet are protected under the Constitution.

ECONOMY

- **On April 6, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - raised India's growth projections for 2021-22 to 12.5% from its January estimate of 11.5%, making it the fastest growing major economy in the world.**
- ✓ Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has predicted 10.5% GDP growth projection for 2021-22.
- ✓ The World Bank had recently forecast the Indian economy to grow in the 7.5% to 12.5% range in 2021-22



- ✓ It had also said that it expects India's economy to grow more than 10.1% in the 2021-22 — a sharp upward revision of 4.7 percentage points from its January 2021 forecast.
- ✓ The IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) showed that China is projected to grow 8.4% in 2021 and 5.6% next year.
- ✓ India, at 6.9%, is also expected to grow faster than China in 2022-23 and also retain its title as the fastest growing major economy for the second consecutive year.

- ✓ For 2021-22 if the IMF's projection is realised, India would be the only major economy to post double digit growth

APPOINTMENTS

- **On April 6, the government – announced Tarun Bajaj as the new revenue secretary**



- ✓ He was shifted from the Department of Economic Affairs, where Karnataka cadre IAS officer Ajai Seth was announced as his replacement.
- ✓ Bajaj had been holding the revenue portfolio as an additional charge following the retirement of Ajay Bhushan Pandey at the end of February.
- ✓ The Haryana cadre IAS officer is a finance ministry veteran having earlier worked in the departments of financial services, handling banking and insurance, and economic affairs.
- ✓ Bajaj also worked in the prime minister's office, dealing with economic ministries.
- ✓ Seth, who currently heads Bangalore Metro, had worked in the departments of economic affairs and expenditure between 2000 and 2004 before being posted in the Asian Development Bank.
- ✓ In other appointments, Ali Raza Rizvi has been appointed as the new public enterprises secretary, while Gyanesh Kumar will be the new secretary for parliamentary affairs.

OBITUARY

- **V Anaimuthu (Periyar scholar – 96 years)**



- ✓ Periyarist V Anaimuthu passed away in Chennai on April 6 due to age-related complications
- ✓ Anaimuthu was an authoritative researcher on E V R Periyar and a voice on social justice
- ✓ His book series 'Periyar E. Ve. Ra. Sinthanaigal (Thoughts of Periyar EVR), containing Periyar's speeches on various issues including social welfare and social justice, remained a treasure for those who are researching Periyar
- ✓ He has published 20 volumes of collected works of Dravidar Kazhagam founder E V R Periyar
- ✓ Anaimuthu had helped in including the Tamil Nadu perspective on reservations in the Mandal Commission, headed by B P Mandal.
- ✓ He was instrumental in convincing MPs belonging to the Backward Classes to support the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.
- ✓ In his later years, he believed that the combination of Periyarism and Marxism could deliver much better value for the people and founded the Marxiya Periyariya Podhuvudamai Katchi (Marxist Periyarist Communist Party)
- ✓ Anaimuthu had spread Periyar's ideas of social reforms through his magazine 'Sinthanaiyalan'.

SPORTS

- **On April 6, North Korea – announced that it will not be joining the upcoming Tokyo Olympics this year due to Covid-19 pandemic concerns**
- ✓ It will be the first time North Korea has missed a Summer Olympics since it boycotted Seoul in 1988 amid the Cold War.
- ✓ North Korea had previously boycotted the 1964 Summer Games in Tokyo
- ✓ When South Korea hosted the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in 2018, North Korea sent 22 athletes and the North and South Korean athletes jointly marched under a blue map symbolizing a unified Korean Peninsula
- ✓ During the event, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister headed the country's delegation and both sides fielded a combined women's ice hockey team
- ✓ Earlier, North Korea and South Korea agreed to put up a joint bid to host the 2032 Olympics, as agreed at a 2018 summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un
- ✓ Both the countries are still technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce without a peace treaty

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Health Day – April 7, 2021**



- ✓ The day is celebrated every year by the World Health Organization on April 7.
- ✓ Theme 2021 – ‘Building a fairer, healthier World for everyone’
- ✓ On April 7, the World Health Organisation (WHO) held its first World Health Assembly in the year 1948.
- ✓ The first World Health Day was observed in 1950.
- ✓ The World Health Day is one of the eleven official global health campaigns of WHO.
- ✓ The other health campaigns includes World Tuberculosis Day, World Malaria Day, World Immunization Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Blood Donor Day, World AIDS Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Hepatitis Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World Patient Safety Day
- ✓ The World Health Organization is governed through the World Health Assembly.
- ✓ The current chairperson of World Health Assembly is Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare in India.
- ✓ The World Health Assembly, the highest health policy setting body in the world, is governed by 194 member states.
- ✓ The health agency is composed of health ministers from the member states

