



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs Today — April 29, 2026

29 April 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

Current Affairs Today — April 29, 2026

29 April 2026 · 4 min read

1 tag

TODAY'S TOP STORIES

1. West Bengal Phase 2 — 142 Seats Vote Today; Historic Cycle Concludes

West Bengal's **second and final phase** of assembly elections is being held on April 29, 2026, across **142 constituencies** covering **Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly, and Purba Bardhaman** — the political heartland of the state. Live turnout at 3 PM: **78.68%**, indicating another high-participation poll after Phase 1's record **93.19%**. Minor clashes and EVM complaints were reported from Howrah and parts of South 24 Parganas. **Mamata Banerjee** contests from Bhawanipur; **Suwendu Adhikari** from Nandigram. The **campaign period ended at 6 PM on April 28**; ECI deployed 350,000+ security personnel including 2,550 CAPF companies statewide. | *GS2/Polity*

2. Exit Polls Tonight — All Five State Election Predictions at 6:30 PM

After West Bengal Phase 2 voting concludes, the **Election Commission lifts the exit poll ban at 6:30 PM on April 29**. Exit poll predictions for all five 2026 state elections — **West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry** — will be broadcast simultaneously. Phase 1 actual turnovers: West Bengal 93.19% (historic high since Independence), Puducherry 89.83%, Assam 85.38%, Tamil Nadu 85.15%, Kerala 78.03%. Exit polls are predictions, not results — the definitive verdict comes on **May 4, 2026** when all 824 seats are counted. | *GS2*

3. Buddha Purnima Tomorrow (May 1) — Triple National Holiday

Buddha Purnima 2026 falls on **May 1** (Vaishakha Purnima, the full moon in the month of Vaishakha), making tomorrow one of India's most significant combined public holidays — coinciding with **International Workers' Day (Labour Day)** and **Maharashtra and Gujarat State Formation Day** (both states formed on May 1, 1960 from the erstwhile Bombay State). Buddha Purnima commemorates the **birth, enlightenment (Bodhi), and Parinirvana (death)** of Gautama Buddha — all traditionally said to have occurred on the same lunar date. May 1 is a gazetted holiday for central government, banks, and most states. | *GS1/History-Culture*

4. One Year Since Pahalgam — India's Security Posture Has Permanently Shifted

April 22, 2026 marked the **first anniversary of the Pahalgam terrorist attack** (April 22, 2025 — 26 tourists killed in Baisaran meadow). The attack triggered **Operation Sindoor** (May 7-10, 2025) and a fundamental reset of India's counter-terror doctrine: cross-border precision strikes are now an established policy option, not an escalatory last resort. In the year since, India has launched **SBS-3 satellite surveillance fast-tracking**, upgraded border infrastructure across J&K and Ladakh, and maintained a **military posture of "Operation Sindoor continues."** Pakistan's economy and military credibility have faced sustained pressure. | *GS2/GS3/Security*

5. India-NZ FTA — Parliamentary Ratification Process Begins

Following the signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement on April 27, both countries have begun their domestic ratification processes. In India, FTAs do not require Parliamentary approval — the Union Cabinet ratification suffices under the treaty-making powers of the Executive under **Article 253** of the Constitution. However, the FTA will be laid before both Houses of Parliament under **Rule 238** of Lok Sabha Rules as an international agreement. New Zealand requires Parliamentary approval (standard for NZ FTAs). The agreement is expected to enter into force within **6-12 months**. | *GS2/IR*

QUICK BITES

- **Exit poll methodology note** — Exit polls in India are conducted by agencies like Axis-My India, CVoter, and Chanakya at polling booth exit points. The ECI bans publication until all phases finish (6:30 PM April 29). Past accuracy: exit polls correctly called 2021 WB (TMC win) and 2023 state elections. | *GS2*
- **Buddha Purnima — Sarnath and Bodh Gaya** — International pilgrims gather at Bodh Gaya (Bihar) and Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) for Buddha Purnima. PM Modi is expected to deliver a message at the Buddhist circuit. | *GS1*
- **Maharashtra and Gujarat Formation Day (May 1)** — Both states were carved from the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960 on the basis of linguistic reorganisation — Maharashtra for Marathi speakers, Gujarat for Gujarati speakers. This completed India's linguistic state reorganisation that began with the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. | *GS2/History*
- **WB Phase 1 turnout — 93.19%** — West Bengal Phase 1's 93.19% is extraordinary — higher than any Indian state in recent elections, including Tamil Nadu's 85.15%. High turnout in WB is historically associated with TMC's ground mobilisation machinery and competitive dynamics. | *GS2*

FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
WB Phase 2	April 29, 2026; 142 constituencies
WB Phase 2 live turnout (3 PM)	78.68%
WB Phase 1 turnout	93.19% (historic high since Independence)
Exit poll release	6:30 PM, April 29
States covered in exit polls	WB, TN, Kerala, Assam, Puducherry
Phase 1 turnouts	WB 93.19%, Puducherry 89.83%, Assam 85.38%, TN 85.15%, Kerala 78.03%
All results	May 4, 2026
Buddha Purnima	May 1, 2026 (Vaishakha Purnima)
Buddha Purnima commemorates	Birth + Enlightenment (Bodhi) + Parinirvana of Gautama Buddha
May 1 triple holiday	Buddha Purnima + Labour Day + Maharashtra/Gujarat Formation Day
Maharashtra-Gujarat Formation	May 1, 1960 (Bombay Reorganisation Act 1960)
Pahalgam attack	April 22, 2025; 26 killed; triggered Operation Sindoor
India-NZ FTA ratification	India: Cabinet only (Article 253); NZ: Parliamentary approval needed

OLDER ARTICLE →

West Bengal Phase 2 Votes — 142 Seats, Exit Polls at 6:30...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari](#) →<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/04/29/current-affairs-today/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](http://bharatnotes.com) → bharatnotes.com

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujyari.com · bharatnotes.com