

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 1 & 2, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - signed 9 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various companies on December 1 for investment commitments worth ₹5,027 crore apart from creating more than 20,000 jobs.

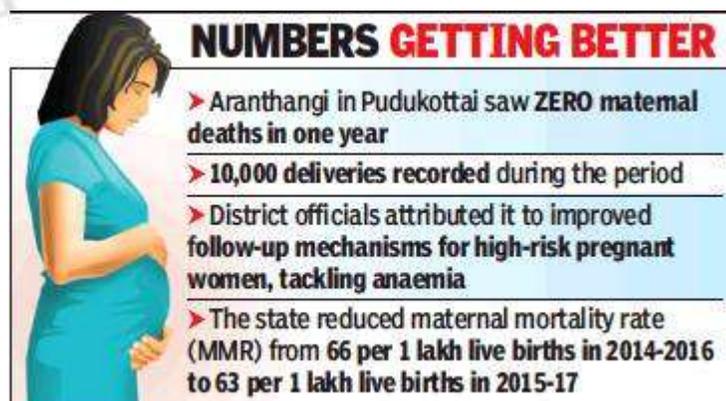


TIDCO CMD Kakarla Usha exchanging MoU with DRDO director Mayank Dwivedi as TN industries minister M C Sampath and CM Edappadi K Palaniswami look on

Company	Nature of MoU
BYD India	Manufacturing facility for phone and electronic components worth ₹2,800 crore, creating 11,000 jobs
Ather Energy	Manufacturing facility for e-vehicles and lithium-ion battery in Hosur for ₹635 crore, creating 4,321 jobs
ITC Paperboards & Specialty Papers Division	Set up a paperboard manufacturing unit for ₹515 crore, creating 50 jobs
Mitsuba Sical India	Expanding product range of four-wheeler and two-wheeler components for ₹504 crore, creating 330 jobs

- ✓ The MoUs were signed at the state’s Investment and Skill Development Conclave presided over by the State chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami

- ✓ The Companies include Chinese auto major BYD Group's ₹2,800 crore mobile and electronic components unit, Ather Energy's e-vehicles manufacturing unit at Hosur, and a ₹515 crore paper board manufacturing unit planned by ITC Paper Board in Coimbatore, among others.
 - ✓ After the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 in January, as per the Government, 53 GIM projects began commercial production and 219 are under various stages of implementation
 - ✓ Regarding the defence corridor, the government signed knowledge partnerships with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and IIT-Madras
 - ✓ During the occasion, the skill gap assessment report, was released
 - ✓ The report identifies skills needed to power the next phase of growth and which stresses the need for a strong focus on soft skills and skills in areas of electric vehicles, paramedical care, automation, robotics, and others
 - ✓ 'Biz Buddy', a grievance redressal portal for businesses, was also released.
- **The Tamil Nadu health department - has received the best performer award in organ donation for the fifth consecutive time**
 - ✓ State health minister C Vijayabaskar received the award for the department at the 10th annual National Organ Day held in New Delhi.
 - ✓ Since 2008, the state has retrieved more than 1,000 organs from brain dead patients in various government and private hospitals.
 - ✓ Besides topping the country's list for maximum number of heart and lung transplants, the state has also performed pancreas, bowel and double hand transplants successfully.
- **Aranthangi, a small town in Pudukottai district – records no maternal deaths in the past year, where 10,000 deliveries were recorded during the period.**



NUMBERS GETTING BETTER

- Aranthangi in Pudukottai saw **ZERO** maternal deaths in one year
- **10,000** deliveries recorded during the period
- District officials attributed it to improved follow-up mechanisms for high-risk pregnant women, tackling anaemia
- The state reduced maternal mortality rate (MMR) from **66** per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to **63** per 1 lakh live births in 2015-17

- ✓ The state reduced maternal mortality rate (MMR) from 66 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to 63 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-17
- ✓ All pregnant women in the state will be registered under the state's special website and all women who visit government hospitals, including primary health

centres and government hospitals, will be followed up with by the village and urban health nurses

- ✓ This year, the state health department put out a protocol in which all women visiting government hospitals will be tagged.
- ✓ Pregnant women visiting state-run antenatal clinics will now be categorised as red (high risk), yellow (moderate risk) and green (safe)
- **Scientists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University - have bred and planted a specific species, 'Beema Bamboo', which is believed to be one of the fastest growing plants on earth**



- ✓ It grows at the rate of one-and-half feet a day under the tropical conditions and has a capacity to produce 300kg of oxygen and absorb 400kg of carbon per year once it grows to its full height.
- ✓ The students and scientists of the university, along with members of Dalhousie University in Canada, created 'oxygen park' by planting around 590 seedlings of the species across 1.45 acre in TNAU's eastern farm block.
- ✓ Beema Bamboo is known to be an effective carbon sink for the CO₂ emissions in the district
- **The state government - transferred principal secretary to Highways and minor ports, S K Prabakar and posted him as secretary to the high-profile, Home, prohibition and excise department.**



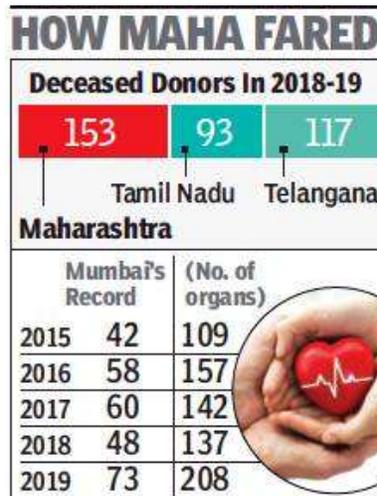
- ✓ He replaced Niranjan Mardi, who retired on December 1
- ✓ Prabakar, the 1989-batch officer, hails from Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He served in public works department before moving to highways in September last year, the portfolios held by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami.

- ✓ He also served in commercial taxes and registration, information technology departments during the Late CM Jayalithaa's regime.
- ✓ Prabakar was collector of Tiruvallur district during the DMK government and was secretary to former chief minister M Karunanidhi in his last tenure
- **City-based BCG Laboratory - has restarted mass production of the anti-tuberculosis vaccine, nearly eleven years after the lab was shut down by the union health ministry**
 - ✓ The first stage of production has started with preparation medium
 - ✓ The lab, which has a capacity to produce 600 lakh doses, will roll out at least 300 lakh doses of its first batch for the country's universal immunization programme before July 2020
 - ✓ In October, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) lab permitted the 71-year-old lab to restart production in the new building.
 - ✓ On January 16, 2008, the Union government suspended production in at least 3 central laboratories, including BCG Laboratory
 - ✓ In 2010, the suspension of licence was revoked on the condition that the laboratories put in place good manufacturing practices and infrastructure.
- **Chennai district collector R Seethalakshmi - launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) 2020-21 prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the city on December 1**
 - ✓ The total credit potential under priority sector for the 2020-21 financial year with respect to Chennai district is ₹5,683.98 crore, which includes ₹187.50 crore for food and agro-processing, ₹814.22 crore for MSME and ₹603.00 crore for microcredit sector.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - has asked its contractors across the city to employ a new technology to harvest rainwater, where water go through a filtration process.**
 - ✓ The new structure has a volume of 2,500 litres which is 500 litres more than the cement ring wells that the corporation now uses.
 - ✓ Known as 'ecobloc infiltration wells', the structure can be installed at various locations, sizes, shapes and depths to meet specific project requirements.
 - ✓ These structures are being funded by German agency KfW and are likely to be installed in the Kovalam river basin

STATES

- **Maharashtra - bagged the top spot for recording the maximum number of deceased order donations in a year.**

- ✓ Maharashtra state officials received the award as part of a National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization's (NOTTO) event, held to mark the 10th Indian Organ Donation Day in New Delhi on December 1



- ✓ Between November 2018 and October 2019, Maharashtra managed 153 deceased donations that provided a new lease of life to 449 patients suffering from life-threatening organ failure
- ✓ This year, Maharashtra beat Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which usually lead the list.
- ✓ Last year, the state managed to bag an award for doing the most for spreading awareness about cadaveric organ donations
- ✓ Only brain dead patients can donate solid organs such as kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, intestine and pancreas

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The work on the country's second spaceport - has started in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ Recently, Union minister for department of space Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha in the current session that "the government has a proposal to set up a rocket launching pad near Kulasekarapattinam at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu"
- ✓ The proposed spaceport will mainly cater to launches of newly developed Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV or mini-PSLV)
- ✓ The main advantage of Tamil Nadu is straight launch towards southward will be possible as the launch centre in Tamil Nadu is on the seashore.
- ✓ Because of the straight path, it is possible to carry more payloads.
- ✓ Currently, Isro can't launch straight towards southwards from Sriharikota (SHAR) and all rockets fly around Sri Lanka and hence more payloads can't be carried from Sriharikota
- ✓ Another advantage of the proposed TN launch centre is that it will be closer to Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in TN's Tirunelveli district, which assembles the second and fourth stage engines of PSLV.

- ✓ The TN spaceport will be ideal for putting satellites in the polar orbit through a PSLV and not for GSLV launches to the geostationary orbit.
- ✓ According to an estimate, the land requirement for the TN spaceport will be around 2,300 acres whereas Sriharikota is actually an island covering 145 sq km area with a coastal length of 27km.
- ✓ If the country's first Thumba equatorial rocket launching station in Kerala is also taken into account, the proposed TN spaceport will ideally be India's third launch centre.
- ✓ Currently, no big rocket is launched from Thumba.

SPORTS

- **Karnataka - edged past Tamil Nadu by 1 run to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 final at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat**



- ✓ Karnataka had earlier beaten Tamil Nadu in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final in October.
- **India's Sourabh Verma – lost to Tzu Wei Wang of Taipei in the men's final of the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships at Lucknow**



- ✓ The women's title went to Carolina Marin of Spain, who literally toyed her way past Phittyaporn Chaiwan of Thailand
- ✓ This is her first title here, having finished runners-up to PV Sindhu in 2015.

LOCAL BODY POLLS IN T.N. - REPORT



The long-delayed elections to rural and urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu are likely to be announced anytime now

BALLOT BREAK-UP

Number	Rural local bodies	Total wards
● 12,524	Village panchayat	99,324
● 388	Panchayat union	6,471
● 31	District panchayat	655
Number	Urban local bodies	Total wards
● 15	Corporation	1,064
● 121	Municipality	3,468
● 528	Town panchayat	8,288

COLOUR OF BALLOT PAPERS

- > Village panchayat | ward member | white/blue
- > Village panchayat | president | pink
- > Panchayat Union | member | green
- > District panchayat | member | yellow

VOTERS AND VOTING

- > Election will be held for ten hours between 7am and 5pm
- > Election of panchayat ward member and president will be on non-party basis, the rest on party basis
- > Citizens who have completed 21 years of age and whose names are in the electoral roll of the local body concerned can contest

DIRECT ELECTIONS

URBAN LOCAL BODIES

- > Corporation | councillors
- > Municipality | councillors
- > Town panchayat | councillors

RURAL LOCAL BODIES

- > Village panchayat | President, ward member
- > Panchayat union | ward member
- > District panchayat | ward member



- > Half the posts reserved for women by the Jayalalithaa government in 2016

- > Electronic voting machines will be used in urban local bodies. Ballot papers in village panchayats as voters have to cast four votes – panchayat ward member, president, panchayat union ward member and district panchayat ward member

INDIRECT ELECTIONS

URBAN LOCAL BODIES

- > Corporation | mayor, deputy mayor
- > Municipality | chairman, vice-chairman
- > Town panchayat | chairman, vice-chairman
- > Standing committees

RURAL LOCAL BODIES

- > District panchayat chairman, vice-chairman
- > Panchayat union chairman, vice-chairman
- > Village panchayat vice-president

- > As delimitation for the local body polls has been completed and notified, the state government has announced that any modification will be taken up only after the polls – irrespective of bifurcation and trifurcation of certain districts

