

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 3, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The State election commission - announced polls to rural local bodies in Tamil Nadu in two phases on December 27 and 30.**

THE SCHEDULE

> Date of notification/filing of nominations Dec 6
> Last date of filing nominations Dec 13
> Scrutiny of nominations Dec 16
> Withdrawal of nominations Dec 18
> 1st phase of polling Dec 27
> 2nd phase of polling Dec 30
> Counting of votes Jan 2

- ✓ However, polls to urban local bodies, such as corporations, municipalities and town panchayats, are likely to be held later.
- ✓ The election code of conduct will come into force immediately in all the rural local bodies falling in 388 panchayat unions
- ✓ During the elections, at least 3.31 crore rural voters will have to elect 4 members — panchayat ward member and president on nonparty basis, and district panchayat ward member and panchayat union ward member on party basis.
- ✓ A total of 1,18,974 posts in rural local bodies across Tamil Nadu are to be filled up through this election
- ✓ Indirect polling will be held to pick the heads of these rural local bodies, which is scheduled on January 11
- ✓ Since 1996, four local bodies' elections were held and on all the occasions, the polls were conducted together for the rural and urban local bodies.

◆ **The Union government - has decided to set up a bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in Chennai**

- ✓ The decision was taken according to the judgment of the Supreme Court to set up the bench
- ✓ The State government had earlier written to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs offering two sites for setting up the NCLAT.

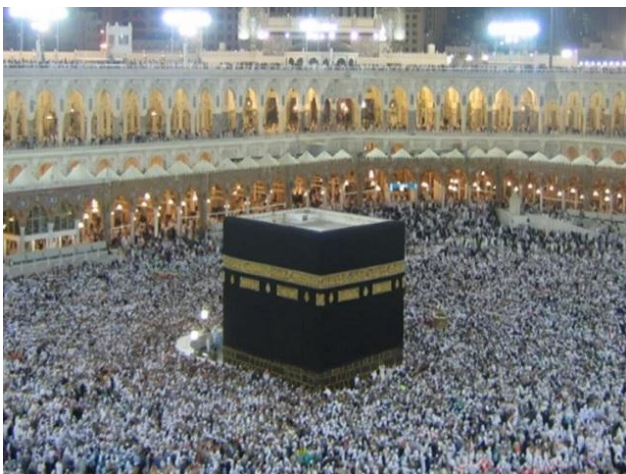
NATIONAL

◆ **The Lok Sabha - cleared the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 2**

- ✓ The Bill amends the Income Tax Act, 1961 to bring in more investment in the manufacturing sector by reducing the corporate tax rate to 22% without incentives and 15% for new manufacturing entities.
- ✓ It seeks to replace the ordinance issued by the President on September 20.
- ✓ Currently, domestic companies with an annual turnover of up to ₹400 crore pay income tax at the rate of 25%, while other domestic companies pay the tax at the rate of 30%.
- ✓ The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on November 25, 2019 to replace the Ordinance.

◆ **The Rajya Sabha - passed the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019 by voice vote on December 2**

- ✓ The Bill will replace an ordinance brought by the government on September 18.
 - ✓ It was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha on November 27
- ◆ **India - has become the first country in the world to completely digitize the Haj process for Haj 2020.**



- ✓ As per the Government, various services have been added to the online application services, which include e-visa, haj mobile app, e-messiah health facility, stay and traffic information in Mecca Medina and Haj pilgrimage information.
- ✓ This is the first time when digital pre-tagging has been provided by the airlines so that Haj pilgrims will get all the required relevant information in India itself
- ✓ The SIM card of the passengers will be linked with the Haj Mobile app so that they will get all the latest information about the pilgrimage.
- ✓ The Centre will also provide health cards to all travelers in India, while in Saudi Arabia they will be given 'e-Messiah health facility'.
- ✓ It is estimated that around 2 lakh Indian Muslims will undertake Haj pilgrimage without any Haj subsidy in 2020.

◆ **The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0 - was launched across India on December 2, 2019.**



- ✓ The mission intends to provide immunization to children of under 2 years of age and pregnant women against 8 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ✓ The drive covers vaccines for tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, Hepatitis B, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and diphtheria
- ✓ The mission will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.
- ✓ It aims to achieve full immunisation coverage in 272 districts spread across 27 states of India.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi had launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) on October 8, 2017 to boost India's immunisation programme.
- ✓ Under IMI, a week-long immunisation drive was conducted every month starting from October 2017 till January 2018 in 173 districts and 17 cities.
- ✓ The IMI was launched to carry forward the work undertaken under Mission Indradhanush, which was launched by the then Union Health Minister JP Nadda on December 25, 2014.
- ✓ The Mission Indradhanush sought to achieve 90% immunisation coverage in India by 2020, which was later revised to December 2018 under IMI

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Centre - asked the Supreme Court to refer to a seven-judge Bench, whether the creamy layer concept should apply to the reservation in promotions of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes**

Case history

Salient points from the past verdicts which dealt with the application of creamy layer concept in reservation

- **Nine-judge Bench in 1992 Indra Sawhney case:**

SCs/STs are the most backward among backward classes. Once part of the Presidential List under Articles 341 & 342, there is no question of showing their backwardness again

- **Five-judge Bench in 2006 M. Nagaraj case:**

Quota benefits should go to the weakest of weak and not be snatched away by members of the class who are in the "top creamy layer"

- **Five-judge Bench in 2018 Jarnail Singh case:**

Creamy layer ensures that only the deserving among the SCs/STs get the benefits of reservation



- ✓ On September 26, 2018, a five-judge Bench in the Jarnail Singh case unanimously agreed with a 2006 judgment of another five-judge Bench in the M. Nagaraj case, which had upheld the application of the creamy layer principle in promotions.
- ✓ The 2018 judgment, authored by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, had refused the government's plea to refer the 2006 Nagaraj case judgment to a seven-judge Bench
- ✓ The 2018 judgment also rejected the Centre's argument that the Nagaraj case ruling had misread the creamy layer concept by applying it to the SCs/STs.
- ✓ A SC Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, agreed to hear the case after two weeks

COMMITTEES

- ◆ **The Union Ministry of Sports - has constituted a 13-member expert committee to review the draft of the National Code for Good Governance in Sports, 2017.**

- ✓ The committee will be chaired by Retired SC Justice, Mukundakam Sharma
- ✓ It will suggest measures for making the Draft National Code for Good Governance in Sports, 2017 acceptable to all concerned stakeholders
- ✓ Some of the notable members of the expert committee include Pullela Gopichand, Anju Bobby George, Gagan Narang and Baichung Bhutia.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The UN climate change conference, COP 25 - commences in Madrid on December 2**



- ✓ During the conference, representatives of nearly 200 countries will be finalising the rules governing the Paris accord.
- ✓ The two main objectives of the Conference (COP25) are - to bring more nations on board to work for 'net zero emissions' by 2050 and finalise rules on how countries can reduce their emissions using global carbon markets.
- ✓ Though 65 countries, including many European Union (EU) nations — France, Germany, Italy and UK — figured in the list of the nations which will work on 'net zero emissions' by 2050, they hardly account for 37% of the global emissions.
- ✓ It was earlier scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, but the government there has expressed its inability to organize COP-25 due to people's protests
- ✓ The conference will be held from 2 December to 13 December

PERSONALITIES

◆ **Sub lieutenant, Shivangi Swaroop of the Indian Navy - became first naval woman pilot on December 2**

- ✓ Shivangi was awarded the coveted 'Golden wings' and joined operational duties in the presence of top naval officials at the Kochi naval base
- ✓ Hailing from Muzzafarpur in Bihar, Shivangi would be flying the Indian Navy fixed-wing Naval Dornier surveillance aircraft.
- ✓ As part of her training, Shivangi has flown Pilatus PC 7 Mk II, basic trainer at AFA and completed Dornier Conversion with the Indian navy in Kochi.
- ✓ She would continue her training at INAS 550, the Dornier squadron at INS Garuda, to become a fully operational pilot on Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) aircraft.



- ✓ She was formally made part of the Navy by Vice Admiral AK Chawla in June last year.
- ✓ Earlier, Bhawna Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force this year.
- ✓ Apart from Bhawna, Mohana Singh and Avni Chaturvedi also became fighter pilots later
- ✓ Dornier (DO-228) lightweight maritime surveillance aircrafts are manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The Indian Army - has successfully test-fired two Spike LR (long-range) anti-tank missiles from an Infantry School at Mhow, in Madhya Pradesh.**



- ✓ Spike LR is a fourth-generation anti-tank guided missile, which has the capability of engaging with any target with a precision up to a range of 4 km
- ✓ This was the first practice firing of the Spike missile by the soldiers from the Indian Army since induction and training
- ✓ The missile was already found to be more than 90% reliable during a field evaluation undertaken by the Indian Army in 2011.
- ✓ With this, India became the 33rd country in the world to have the Spike missile as a part of its inventory.
- ✓ Earlier, the Defence Ministry had completed the negotiation for the missile in 2016.
- ✓ Spike is developed and designed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Soma Roy Burman- appointed as the 24th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure**



- ✓ The 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer succeeds JPS Chawla.
- ✓ Burman is the 7th woman to hold the post
- ✓ She had previously served as the Additional Controller General of Accounts in the CGA office.
- ✓ Burman has also headed the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) as the Chief Controller of Pension.
- ✓ She also served as the Director of the Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF) in New Delhi and in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- ✓ The Controller General of Accounts is the principal advisor to the Union Government on accounting topics.
- ✓ The CGA is also responsible for the preparation and submission of the accounts of the Union Government and exchequer control and internal audits.

SPORTS

◆ **Nepal's Anjali Chanda- created history by producing the best bowling performance in a women's T20 Internationals**

- ✓ Anjali returned with figures of 6/0 in a match against Maldives at the 13th South Asian Games in Pokhara, Nepal on December 2
- ✓ This is the first time ever a bowler has taken 6 wickets for no run in any international match.



- ✓ Earlier, the record was held by Malaysian Mas Elysa, who bagged 6 wickets for 3 runs from her 4 overs against China women in January this year.
- ◆ **The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) committee - has recommended a four-year global sports ban on Russia.**
- ✓ This ban will include hosting and participating in major international sports events.
- ✓ WADA's compliance review committee has proposed sanctions for Russia over alleged tampering with the doping records.

- ✓ As per WADA, several analytical reports were removed from the Database of a Moscow Laboratory.
- ✓ Earlier, IOC banned Russia's participation at the Winter Olympics held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018.
- ✓ The WADA or World Anti Doping Agency was established in 1999 with an objective of monitoring, coordinating and promoting the fight against drugs in sports.
- ✓ WADA releases a list of banned drugs every year
- ✓ It also conducts Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) programme for creating awareness about doping-free sports culture.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

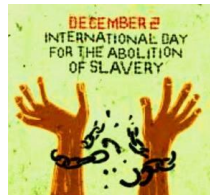
◆ Day of Disabled Persons – December 3

- ✓ This day is observed with the objective of compassion for the disabled, self-esteem and support to improve their lives.
- ✓ The United Nations has been observing the day since 1992 after passing United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.



- ✓ Theme 2019 – “Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda.”
- ✓ Earlier, the United Nations General Assembly declared the United Nations Decade for the Disabled from 1983 to 1992

◆ International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – December 2



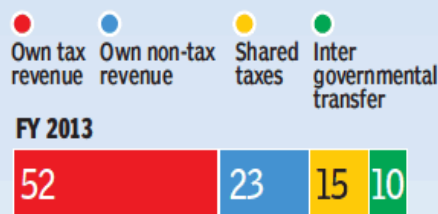
- ✓ This day is observed to create awareness about human trafficking, the exploitation of humans and the means to end it.
- ✓ Forced Labour, Trafficking, Child Labour, Forced Marriages are the various forms of modern day slavery
- ✓ It is basically referred to the situation where a person experiences exploitation, violence and abuse.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly announced the year 2004 as the year of the abolition of international slavery.
- ✓ Earlier, it had approved the convention of struggle against human trade and prostitution on 2 December 1949
- ✓ According to the ILO's data, about 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery, with 1 in 4 victims being Children

STATES FISCAL PERFORMANCE AT A GDP GROWTH OF 4.5% – A REPORT

MANY INDIAN STATES ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Last month, global ratings agency Moody's cut its outlook for India's credit ratings to "negative" from "stable". Pressure on revenues in the face of a sharp slowdown and the corporate tax cut means the Centre will be stretched to meet its spending needs. This in turn, Moody's said, will see the budget deficit climb to 3.7% of GDP in FY 2019, breaching the Centre's 3.3% target. In a recent report, the ratings agency analysed how the state of the states' finances also causes a drag for the Centre's fiscal targets. The states, it said, do not generate sufficient own source revenue for their spending needs and remain dependent on central grants. State-level deficits will continue to "create headwinds" for the Centre and that narrows the Centre's window to roll out stimulus packages in times of slowdown, like now, when the quarterly GDP growth rate has hit 4.5%, falling for the seventh straight quarter

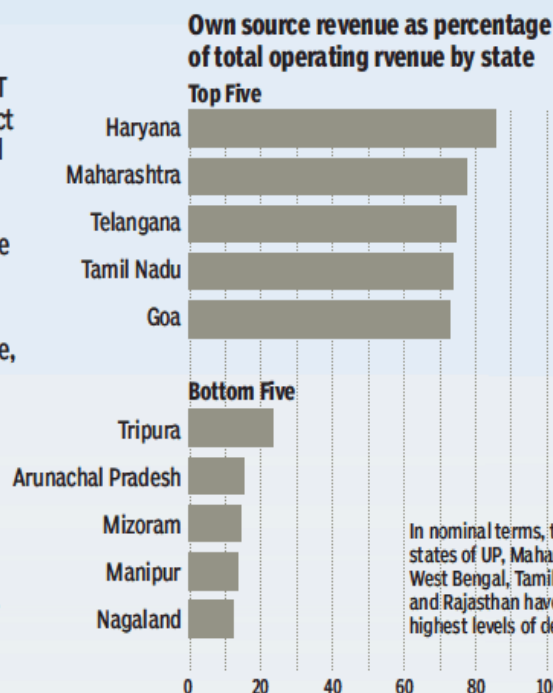
STATE'S OWN-SOURCE REVENUE SHARE HAS DECLINED



6.7% of GDP is estimated to be the general government deficit in FY 2019. The deficit at the central level is expected to be 3.7% with the proportion for the states at around 3%

GST NOT HELPING YET

- Introduction of GST replaced many indirect taxes that were levied by the states. That reduced states' share of own source revenue in their total revenue
- As a result, states now rely on the Centre, or the GST Council, for a majority of their revenue. But below-expectation GST collections are not helping matters with the Centre promising to compensate states for any revenue shortfalls due to the GST for five years

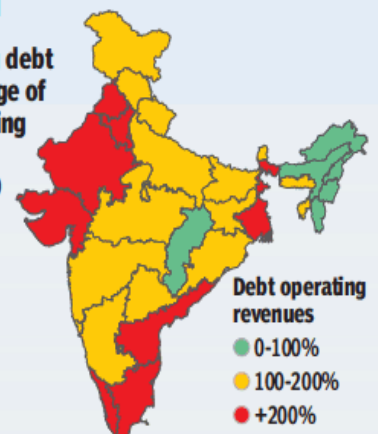


In nominal terms, the states of UP, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan have the highest levels of debt

MOST STATES' OUTSTANDING DEBT 2-3 TIMES OPERATING REVENUE

Slowing revenue growth will also impact states' ability to service their rising debt burdens, especially for those with debt burdens above 200% and debt service over 30% of operating revenue, such as Haryana, Punjab, Kerala and West Bengal

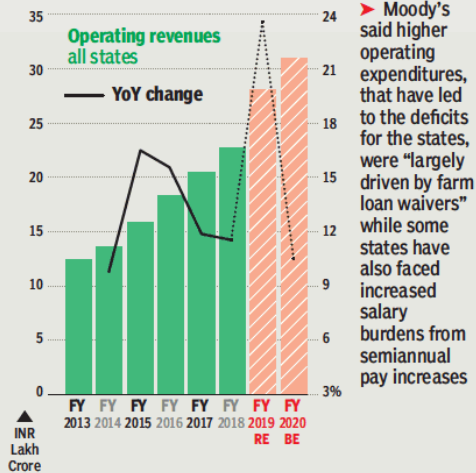
Outstanding debt as percentage of total operating revenue (Fiscal 2018)



STATE REVENUE COLLECTIONS ARE SET TO SLOW DOWN...

- ▶ Estimates for fiscal 2020 suggest that states' aggregate operating revenue growth is projected to slow to 10% year-on-year from 24% (revised estimates, fiscal 2019)
- ▶ The slowdown can be attributed to the mix of weaker growth in tax revenue, non-tax revenue and central transfers amid overall economic slowdown and below-expectation GST revenues

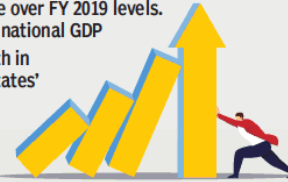
States' revenue growth projected to weaken in fiscal 2020



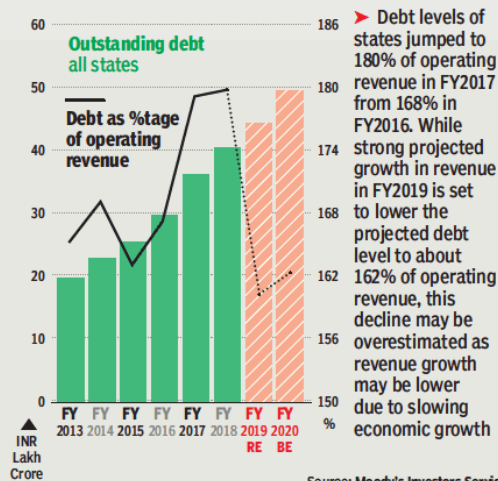
...AND THEIR BORROWINGS SET TO RISE

Rs 7.5L Crore Expected borrowing by Indian states in fiscal 2020, a 28% increase over FY 2019 levels. It also represents 3.4% of national GDP

- ▶ Slowing revenue growth in fiscal 2020 will increase states' needs for borrowing, especially to target infrastructure needs



States' debt continues to increase



Source: Moody's Investors Service

FULL IMMUNISATION IN INDIA – A REPORT

WHAT IS FULL IMMUNISATION?

Full immunisation means that children under five years should receive all eight doses of prescribed vaccines – BCG to prevent tuberculosis, three doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV), three doses of DPT or vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis or whooping cough and measles vaccine

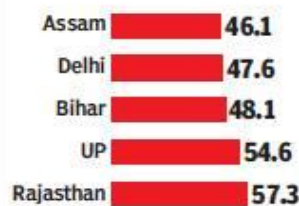


CITIES ONLY SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN VILLAGES

	Institutional child birth (in govt or pvt hospital)	0-5 yr children who received any vaccination	0-5 yr children who were fully immunised*
Rural	90.50%	97%	58.40%
Urban	96.10%	98%	61.70%

Source: NSO

Bihar, UP among laggards, Delhi too Full immunisation, in %



*Received all 8 prescribed vaccinations

Andhra, Kerala better performers, but have ground to cover Full immunisation, in %

