

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 26, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Greater Chennai Corporation and Akshaya Patra Foundation - rolled out 'Kalai Unavu Thittam' in Chennai



- ✓ It is a breakfast scheme under which students in corporation schools will be served free breakfast daily ahead of classes
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit and state minister for fisheries and personnel and administrative reforms, D Jayakumar on February 25
- ✓ Currently, it covers around 1,000 students studying at Chennai primary school and Chennai higher secondary school in Thiruvanmiyur and Chennai primary school in Thiruvanmiyur Kuppam.
- ✓ It has been planned to initially cover 5,000 students from across 23 corporation-run schools by March 2019

- ✓ Within the next academic year, the scheme will be rolled out to 20,000 students studying in several corporation-run schools
 - ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation will cook and deliver the food at these schools at their own cost
 - ✓ Either upma, idli or pongal will be served to the students every day
 - ✓ There are 281 corporation run schools in Chennai
- **Foundation stone - laid for Rs 32.5 crore Check dam across Palar river in Vayalur on February 25**

QUENCHING THIRST

Project cost ₹32.50 cr	Fully funded by the DAE's GEO
Dam to conserve 1,000mcft of surface water and store 500mcft of subsurface water	
Length 1,200m	Dyke depth 24ft
Height with subsurface 5ft	— Proposed Vayalur Check dam
First check dam across the Palar since construction of Anaicut in 1858 at Thirumalaichery village	




- ✓ Minister for Rural Industries, P. Benjamin and Minister for Law, C.Ve. Shanmugam participated in the “bhoomi puja” at a function on the banks of the Palar near Thirukazhukundram taluk
- ✓ The long-pending check dam aims to tackle twin problems of seawater intrusion and rainwater harvesting
- ✓ The check dam, designed by the engineers of IIT Madras, will benefit the villages of Kadalur and Vayalur apart from the residents of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) township
- ✓ The project is funded by Department of Atomic Energy and executed through its General Services Organisation (GSO), Kalpakkam and will be implemented by the state government's Water Resources Department (WRD)
- ✓ The check dam will be constructed at Vayalur, about 1.5km from the seashore at the last mile of Palar, running a length of 1.20 km across Palar at a height of 1.50 metre
- ✓ It will be the first check dam to be constructed across the Palar in 161 years since the Anaicut was built across the river in Thirumalaichery village, Vellore district
- ✓ It is expected to be completed by March 2020
- ✓ To reduce TN's dependence on neighbouring states for water, the government has already implemented schemes such as Kudimaramathu programmes to rejuvenate water bodies

- ✓ The government has planned to construct six more check dams across the Palar at Venkatapuram, Vengudi, Ullavur, Pazhaveli and Esur-Vallipuram in Kancheepuram district
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami had announced 7 check dams during the Dr. MGR Centenary function in Kancheepuram district on August 30, 2017
- ✓ Of the 7 check dams, the State government had started work on the one at Esur-Vallipuram at a cost of Rs 30.95 crore and work on the second check dam is set to begin shortly at the Kadalur-Vayalur

➤ **National Water Awards 2018 – Tamil Nadu Awards**

➤ **Madurai, Tirunelveli and Sivaganga districts wins Awards in Tamil Nadu**

✓ **Madurai**

- ✓ Madurai district - received the first prize in the National Water Awards 2018 for rejuvenating and creating new water bodies



மத்திய நீர்வள மேம்பாட்டு அமைச்சகத்தின் சார்பில் தில்லியில் திங்கள்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற தேசிய தண்ணீர் விருது வழங்கும் நிகழ்ச்சியில் மத்திய நீர்வளத் துறை அமைச்சர் நிதின் கட்கரியிடமிருந்து (வலமிருந்து) விருது பெறும் மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் எஸ்.நடராஜன், சிவகங்கை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் ஜே.ஜெயகாந்தன், திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் வில்பா பிரபாகர் சதீஷ், முன்னாள் ஆட்சியர் சந்தீப் நந்தூரி.

- ✓ District collector S Natarajan received the award from Union minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on February 25
- ✓ The district collector had organized a massive cleaning programme last year to clean Vaigai river with over 25,000 people and about 50,000 students
- ✓ The district also received the third prize for enriching the ground water level
- ✓ **Tirunelveli**
 - ✓ Tirunelveli district received the third prize among the districts in south India for rejuvenating Thamirabarani river

- ✓ Former collector of the district Sandeep Nanduri carried out cleaning camps in Thamirabarani river in three phases
- ✓ Sandeep Nanduri, the present collector of Tuticorin district, received the award from Nitin Gadkari along with the present collector of Tirunelveli district Shilpa Prabhakar
- ✓ Sivaganga
 - ✓ Sivaganga won third prize in 'rejuvenation/creation of water bodies' category in southern region comprising Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and the Union Territory of Puducherry
 - ✓ Sivaganga Collector J. Jayakanthan received the award, which was given as an appreciation for his efforts in rejuvenating three major ooranies — Mayana Oorani, Chetti Oorani and Sivaganga Teppakulam — after evicting 25 encroachments
- ✓ The awards were instituted by the ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation to emphasise on the importance of water resource management in India.

STATES

- **Kerala Governor P Sathasivam – to inaugurate the M G Ramachandran (MGR) memorial in Palakkad on February 25**

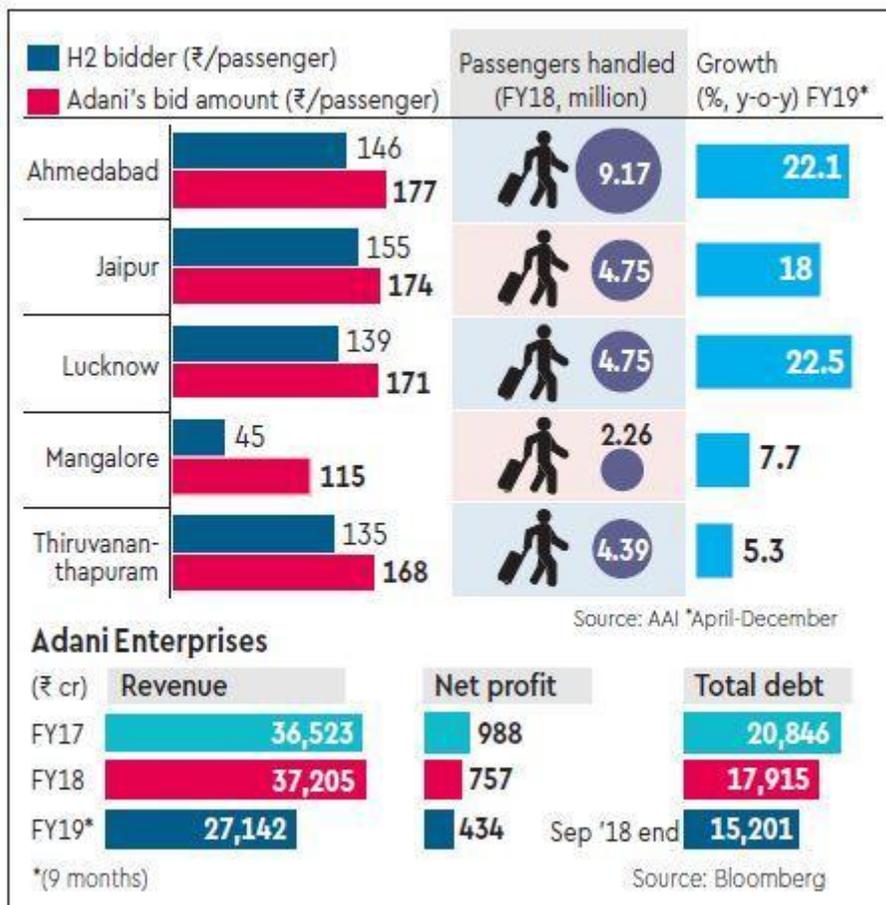


- ✓ The memorial was constructed converting his ancestral home 'Sathya Vilasam' at Vadavannur grama panchayat in Chittur taluk of the Palakkad district
- ✓ A photo gallery of the charismatic leader along with the audio tapes of 136 films in which he acted and almost all the books that were written on him are arranged at the memorial complex
- ✓ MGR was the second son of Melakkath Gopala Menon and Maruthur Sathyabhama of Vadavannur, remote village 5km from Palakkad
- ✓ The Memorial was built by Saidai Duraiswamy, who is the chairman of Manithaneyam Trust and a former Tamil Nadu MLA and ex mayor of Chennai corporation, at a cost of Rs 1 crore after obtaining the permission from the family of MGR's elder brother M.G. Chakrapani

- ✓ The Trust has also built an Anganwadi at the memorial complex in MGR's name.
- ✓ Though MGR was born in Sri Lanka, his father, who was from the nearby Nalleppilly village, returned to Vadavannur after his retirement as the magistrate of Kandy in Sri Lanka, and stayed for some time at 'Sathya Vilasam'

NATIONAL

- **Gautam Adani's infra group – wins bids to operate 5 out of 6 airports under PPP model**
- ✓ Adani Enterprises was the highest bidder to operate Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangalore, Thiruvananthapuram and Lucknow airports for the next 50 years



- ✓ The financial bids for the sixth airport, Guwahati, will be opened on February 26, and the Group may get it too
- ✓ The AAI had received 32 technical bids from total 10 companies for the above six airports
- ✓ The Adani group, which has a large presence in the infrastructure space, has entering into the airport segment for the first time now, given the boom in civil aviation

The clincher

Figures in ₹per passenger payable to AAI

S No.	Name of bidder	Names of airports				
		Ahmedabad	Jalpur	Lucknow	Thiruvananthapuram	Mangaluru
1	GMR Airports	85	69	63	63	18
2	Adani Enterprises	177	174	171	168	115
3	Autostrade	60	48	55	—	—
4	PNC Infratech	66	36	27	—	—
5	NIIF & Zurich Airport	146	155	—	—	—
6	AMP Capital*	127	139	139	—	—
7	I-Investment	93	72	39	—	—
8	KSIDC	—	—	—	135	—
9	Cochin International Airport	—	—	—	—	45

* AMP Capital (GIF II Lux Holdco) SLP — Indicates no bids were placed Source: AAI

- ✓ This is the second big round of privatizing airports after Delhi and Mumbai were handed out to private players, GMR and GVK, over a decade ago

INTERNATIONAL

- The World Court – had ordered Britain to return the ‘Chagos archipelago’ in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius, to which it belonged originally



- ✓ Britain split the archipelago off from its colonial island territory of Mauritius in 1965, three years before granting independence to Mauritius — minus the Chagos islands
- ✓ In the year 1966, Britain had evicted almost 2,000 residents to Mauritius and the Seychelles to hand over the archipelagos' largest island, Diego Garcia to US for setting up its military base
- ✓ Britain, calling it as British Indian Ocean Territory, was controlling the islands since 1814
- ✓ In 2016, Britain extended the US' lease of Diego Garcia until 2036

PERSONALITIES

- **Britain's World War II spy, Noor Inayat Khan - becomes the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a 'Blue Plaque' at her former London home**



- ✓ The Blue Plaque scheme, run by English Heritage, honours notable people who lived or worked in particular buildings across London
- ✓ Khan's plaque is set to go up at 4 Taviton Street in Bloomsbury, where she lived as a secret agent during the war.
- ✓ The Blue Plaque at her home is expected to be installed following building approval within the next few years
- ✓ Khan, the daughter of Indian Sufi saint Hazrat Inayat Khan, was an agent for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II
- ✓ She was captured and killed by the Nazis in 1944 at just 30 years of age

APPOINTMENTS

- **K Radhakrishnan, the former chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) - has been nominated as the Chairperson of the board of governors of IIT Kanpur**



- ✓ He was nominated by the President and will be in the board for a period of 3 years from February 19
- ✓ The space scientist was instrumental in the Mangalyaan (Mars) mission in 2014 and also played a key role in Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- ✓ Radhakrishnan had retired as ISRO Chairman (2009-14) in December 2014
- ✓ The 69-year-old space scientist is an Honorary Advisor to the Department of Space at present and is based in Bengaluru
- ✓ In 2018, the Indian Government nominated him to provide consultancy and advise the UAE Space Agency
- ✓ His career in the ISRO spanned 40 years, during which he served as Director of the National Remote Sensing Centre, founder director of the INCOIS, both in Hyderabad.
- ✓ A Padma Bhushan awardee, Radhakrishnan has penned his life story in 'My Odyssey'

AWARDS

➤ **National Water Awards 2018**

- ✓ The awards were presented by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in New Delhi on February 25
- ✓ The Minister had distributed 82 National Water Awards in 14 categories jointly with MoS Ram Meghwal and Secretary U P Singh



- ✓ **Maharashtra State was given the ‘Best State Award’ under National Water Awards for the Year -2018, while Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were second and third best States in this category respectively for their efforts in Water conservation**
- ✓ Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA), Pune, was adjudged the best water regulatory body in the entire country
- ✓ Mahud Budruk in Sangola taluka of Solapur district was adjudged the best village panchayat in water conservation
- **2018 FMSCI (Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India) Annual awards, Mumbai (February 25)**



- ✓ **Chennai racer, Raghul Rangasamy won the prestigious 'Upcoming Motorsports Person Of The Year Award'**
- ✓ The 25-year-old racer had a spectacular 2018 year, completing a fine double by claiming the LGB Formula 4 title in the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship and the FF 1600 category in the MRF National Racing Championship to win the prestigious Raymond Gautam Singhania Trophy



- ✓ **GR Karthikeyan, Narain Karthikeyan's father and the former president of FMSCI (1981-82 & 1985-87), was handed the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Indian motorsport in its formative years**
- ✓ TVS Racing, the racing arm of TVS Motor Company, bagged top honours in 12 out of 13 categories participated
- ✓ TVS Racing won the prestigious “Best Team” and “Manufacturer of the Year” awards in the Super Sport Indian category (upto 165cc) in the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship for the 4th successive year
- ✓ The president of FIA (Le Federation Internationale de l’Automobile), Jean Todt (formerly with Ferrari) gave away the top prize and other trophies to 61 winners
- ✓ J Prithviraj is the current FMSCI president

RANKINGS

- **Bloomberg Healthiest Country Index 2019 – released by Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation**
- ✓ It ranks 169 economies according to factors that contribute to overall health
- ✓ The index grades nations based on variables including life expectancy while imposing penalties on risks such as tobacco use and obesity.
- ✓ It also takes into consideration environmental factors including access to clean water and sanitation

Bloomberg 2019 Healthiest Country Index

2019 Rank	2017 Rank	Change	Economy	Health Grade	Health Score	Health Risk Penalties
1	6	+5	Spain	92.75	96.56	-3.81
2	1	-1	Italy	91.59	95.83	-4.24
3	2	-1	Iceland	91.44	96.11	-4.67
4	7	+3	Japan	91.38	95.59	-4.21
5	3	-2	Switzerland	90.93	94.71	-3.78
6	8	+2	Sweden	90.24	94.13	-3.89
7	5	-2	Australia	89.75	93.96	-4.21
8	4	-4	Singapore	89.29	93.19	-3.90
9	11	+2	Norway	89.09	93.25	-4.16
10	9	-1	Israel	88.15	92.01	-3.86
11	10	-1	Luxembourg	87.39	92.03	-4.64
12	14	+2	France	86.94	91.70	-4.76
13	12	-1	Austria	86.30	90.81	-4.51
14	15	+1	Finland	85.89	90.18	-4.29
15	13	-2	Netherlands	85.86	90.07	-4.21
16	17	+1	Canada	85.70	90.31	-4.61
17	24	+7	S. Korea	85.41	89.48	-4.07
18	19	+1	New Zealand	85.06	89.68	-4.62
19	23	+4	U.K.	84.28	88.74	-4.46
20	22	+2	Ireland	84.06	89.57	-5.51

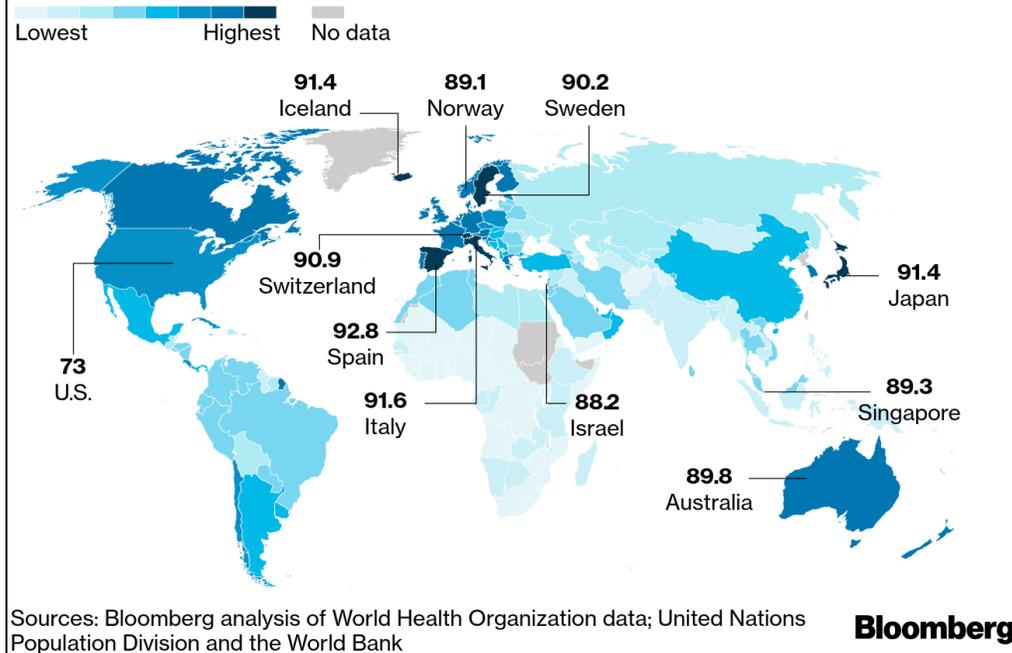
✓ India slipped from 119 in the 2017 ranking to 120 now



- ✓ At the bottom of the pile are mostly Sub-Saharan African countries, accounting for 27 of the 30 unhealthiest, apart from other 3 being Haiti, Afghanistan and Yemen
- ✓ Life expectancy in China is on track to surpass the US by 2040

Healthiest Countries in the World

Bloomberg Global Health Index scores for 169 countries, with the top 10 plus U.S. highlighted

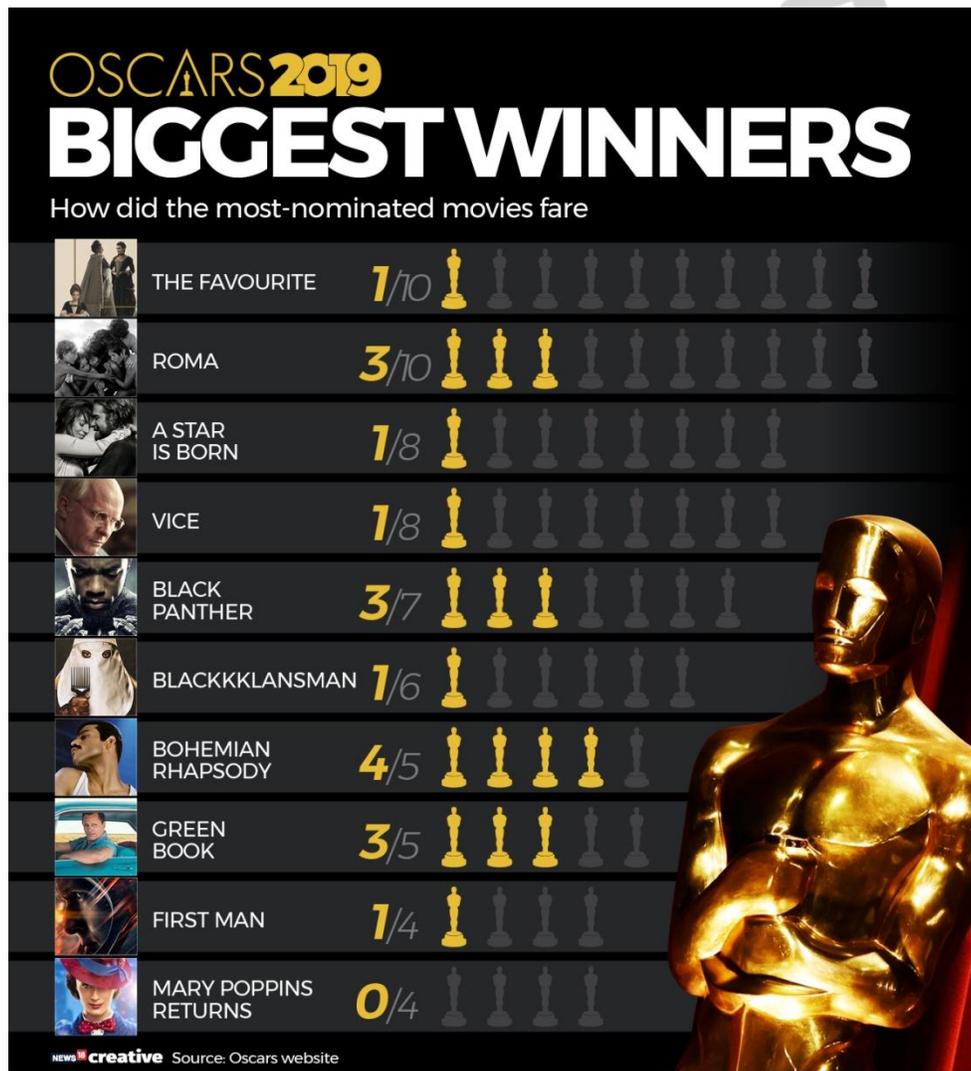


- ✓ US which spends the highest per person on health, \$11,000, slipped by one rank to 35 and its life expectancy had been dipping the last three years
- ✓ UK which spends \$4,000 per person climbed from 23rd rank in 2017 to 19th this time
- ✓ Spain and Italy spend much less on healthcare (roughly \$3500 per person) than many of the European countries and yet managed to top the list
- ✓ Cuba too improved it ranking from 31 to 30, well above the US and the only country not classified as “high income” by the World Bank to be ranked that high
- ✓ India is estimated to spend barely \$240 per person and most of it is spend by people from their own resources with little support from the government.
- ✓ The countries that have performed the best, are those with universal healthcare where over 70% of healthcare spending is done by the government, which includes Iceland, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Singapore and Norway in that order in the top ten

OSCAR AWARDS 2019 – A REPORT

- **The glittering 91st Academy Awards ceremony, which went hostless for only the second time since 1989, kicked off at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on February 24**
- ✓ The show, instead, started with concert-like performance by Adam Lambert and the band Queen and continued with a monologue featuring Hollywood’s favourite funny women, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph

- ✓ Instead of a host, the academy opted to have over 50 presenters for the night, which included stars like Jennifer Lopez, Melissa McCarthy, Frances McDormand, and others
- ✓ The announcements were made by Randy Thomas, who has been the announcer for the program for the last 10 years
- ✓ The 'Most Popular Film' category award was also not given in the event this year
- ✓ **Maximum Awards by Movies**
 - ✓ 4 - "Bohemian Rhapsody" – Best actor, film editing, sound mixing, and sound editing
 - ✓ 3- "Green Book" - Best picture, original screenplay and supporting actor
 - ✓ 3 - "Roma" – Best Foreign film, home directing and cinematography
 - ✓ 3 - "Black Panther" - production design, costume design, and original score



LIST OF OSCAR WINNERS 2019

Best Actor, Actress, Supporting Actress, Supporting Actor and Director with the Awards



- ✓ **BEST PICTURE** - Green Book
 - ✓ **BEST ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE** - Olivia Colman, The Favourite
 - ✓ **BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE** - Rami Malek, Bohemian Rhapsody
 - ✓ **BEST DIRECTOR** - Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
 - ✓ **ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE** - Regina King, If Beale Street Could Talk
 - ✓ **ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE** - Mahershala Ali, Green Book
 - ✓ **BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM** - Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse
 - ✓ **BEST ORIGINAL SONG** - Shallow, A Star Is Born
 - ✓ **BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY** - Green Book
 - ✓ **BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY** – BlackKkKlansman
 - ✓ **BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM** - Roma (Mexico)
 - ✓ **BEST DOCUMENTARY** - Free Solo
 - ✓ **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY** - Roma, Alfonso Cuarón
 - ✓ **BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN** - Black Panther
- **Indian co-production, “Period. End of Sentence” - won the Oscar’s 91st Academy Award in the Best Documentary (Short Subject) category on February 24, 2019**
- ✓ The Netflix documentary explores the lives of the women of Hapur (Uttar Pradesh) fighting stigma around menstruation and also focusses on India’s Pad Man, Arunachalam Muruganantham's work.
 - ✓ In the documentary, a group of rural women learn to use a machine that produces low-cost biodegradable sanitary pads, which they sell to other women under the brand name FLY
 - ✓ It was co-produced by Guneet Monga’s Sikhya Entertainment, directed by Iranian-American filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi and created by The Pad Project.



- ✓ The film was produced as a part of The Pad Project, started by students at the Oakwood School in Los Angeles and their teacher, Melissa Berton in a rural village outside of Delhi, India
- ✓ Period. End of Sentence features the real Pad Man Arunachalam Murgunantham, on whom, Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna made 'PadMan' in 2018
- ✓ Indian film producer Guneet Monga is also the producer of acclaimed movies like Masaan and Lunchbox
- ✓ India's moment at the Oscars comes exactly a decade after A R Rahman and sound engineer Resul Pookutty won the Academy awards for "Slumdog Millionaire" in 2009.

