



**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 11 & 12, 2019**


**TAMIL NADU**

➤ The Tamil Nadu Public Works Department (PWD) – is planning to clean up Vaigai dam, which has not been desilted since its commissioning in 1959

<p><b>DECADE-LONG INITIATIVE</b></p> 		<p><b>PWD's plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allowing public to remove silt from the dam, which would bring the government a revenue of ₹212cr</li> <li>➤ For this purpose, the government has to lay roads to the dam site</li> <li>➤ Cost of laying roads from Andipatti, Theni and Periyakulam districts is ₹9 crore</li> <li>➤ 33mcm of sand can be removed from the water spread</li> <li>➤ The quality of the sand would be known only after the removal of silt</li> <li>➤ The soil that is removed can be used in agriculture, as it will be rich in minerals and humus</li> <li>➤ The silt can be sold to farmers at the rate of ₹221 per cubic meter</li> </ul>
<p><b>Details of the Vaigai dam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Constructed across Vaigai river in 1958</li> <li>➤ First water release   1959</li> <li>➤ Original capacity   6,878mcft</li> <li>➤ Present capacity   6,091mcft</li> <li>➤ Excess silt that can be removed   33mcm (million cubic meter)</li> <li>➤ Estimated time   9 years</li> <li>➤ Components   70% gravel, 30% silt</li> </ul>		

- ✓ The move is expected to bring in revenue of Rs 212 crore to the Government
- ✓ The construction of the dam across the Vaigai, which originates from Varasanadu in the Western Ghats, was completed in 1958.
- ✓ Water was released from it for the first time on January 29, 1959
- ✓ The 111-foot dam can store water up to 72 feet.
- ✓ The capacity of the dam, which was 6,878 mcft at the time of the commissioning, has shrunk by 800 mcft.
- ✓ Now the reservoir can store only 6,091 mcft of water due to the silt deposit.
- ✓ Vaigai dam is the lifeline of the farmers of Madurai and the major drinking water source of the city

- **Tamil Nadu government - has sought Rs 5,398 crore financial assistance from the Centre**

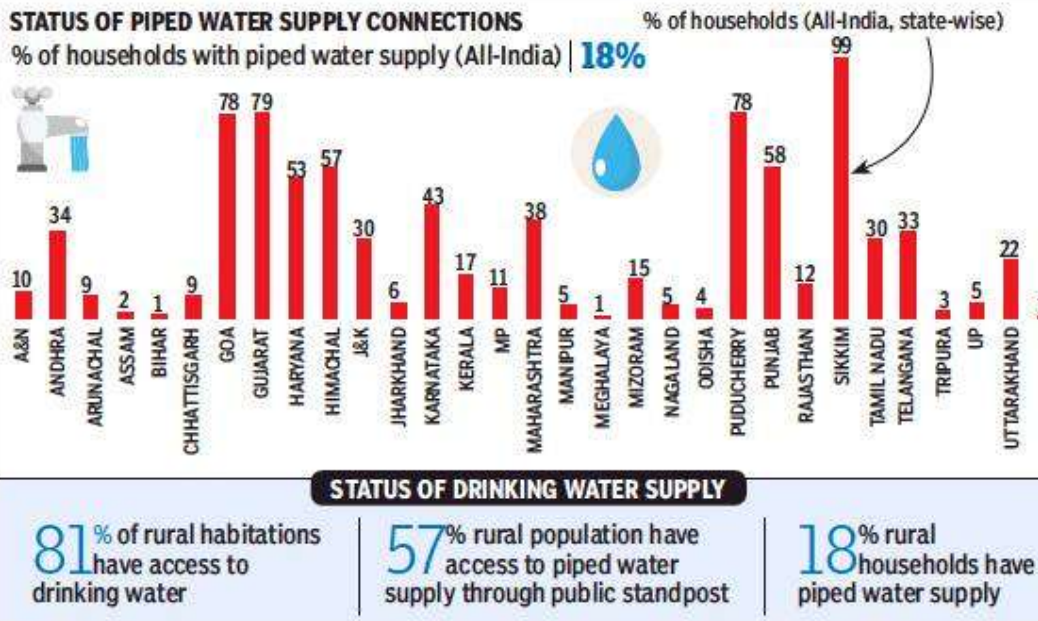
<p><b>INFRA FUNDING</b></p> <p>What Tamil Nadu government seeks from the Centre</p> 	<p><b>₹2,000cr</b>   for the construction of a desalination plant of 100 MLD capacity to benefit 16.78 lakh people in Villupuram district</p>
	<p><b>₹1,800cr</b>   for Combined Water Supply Scheme (CWSS) with Cauvery river as source to benefit 10.77 lakh people in Sivaganga district</p>
	<p><b>₹1,000cr</b>   for revamping and rejuvenation of 155 CWSS</p>
	<p><b>₹560.15cr &amp; ₹1608cr</b>   as performance grants for 2017-18 and 2018-19</p>
	<p><b>2 lakh houses under PMAY (G)</b> special project for the Gaja affected districts</p>

- ✓ It is sought to execute various drinking water projects, revamping combined water supply schemes (CWSS) and drought mitigation works to find a permanent solution to the drinking water problem.
- ✓ Minister for municipal administration and rural development S P Velumani had submitted a memorandum to newly appointed Union Jal Shakthi minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for the same
- **Tamil Nadu – is planning to implement 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in medical education**
- ✓ The move has come in response to the Medical Council of India (MCI) offering 25% increase in number of medical seats for states adopting EWS quota.
- ✓ If it gets through, 10% of the 25% additional seats should go to economically weaker sections within forward castes and the remaining should be made available for allotment under the 69% quota.
- ✓ The state, however, is not keen on implementing the quota in other streams of education and employment
- ✓ The MCI had in April this year said medical colleges could increase their intake by 25% and offer 10% of these additional seats to EWS candidates.
- ✓ In January, the Union cabinet had cleared 10% quota in education and employment to people from the economically weaker section among forward castes

## NATIONAL

- **The Centre - announced to roll out a new mission to ensure “Nal se Jal” (water from tap) for each house in villages in the next five years**
- ✓ As per Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Jal Jeevan Mission will be launched to cover 14 crore households

## A LONG WAY TO GO



- ✓ Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, both ground and surface water will be used to meet the requirement
- ✓ With more than 80% rural households yet to get piped water supply, there will be a deficit of 43% between water availability and requirement in the coming years
- ✓ The focus of the scheme will be to recharge groundwater through point recharge sources, basic treatment and re-use of greywater for agriculture, de-silting minor irrigation tanks and rejuvenation of water bodies
- **The Centre - has announced scholarships for five crore students from minority communities in the next five years.**
  - ✓ The government is targeting to provide scholarships to one crore students from the minority communities annually
  - ✓ Madrasa teachers from across the country will be given training from various institutions in mainstream subjects such as Hindi, English, Maths, Science, Computer etc. from next month
  - ✓ The move will ensure that they impart mainstream education to the students in madrasas too
  - ✓ The Centre is also planning to identify 10 lakh recipients for the Begum Hazrat Mahal Girls Scholarship from the economically weaker sections among minorities over the next five years.
  - ✓ According to the key indicators set out in the Niti Aayog strategy paper on the government's vision for India at 75 years in 2022, the ministry has set its focus on socio-economic-educational empowerment of minorities especially girls.

- **The Centre - has agreed to allow flexibility in the mix of sources for achieving the target of 175 GW (giga watt) renewable energy capacity by 2022**
  - ✓ The 100 GW capacity envisaged for solar power need not be a fixed one and it could be 110 GW or 90 GW, depending upon the potential.
  - ✓ If wind energy appears to have higher potential, more of that capacity will be built instead of being limited by the envisaged target of 60 GW
  - ✓ The government had in 2015 announced that India will build 175 GW renewable energy capacity as part of its climate commitment.
  - ✓ This envisaged 100 GW solar power and 60 GW wind energy, with small hydropower and other clean sources making up the rest.
  - ✓ Since then, the country has built up renewable energy capacity of 79 GW.
  - ✓ SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) is the state-run nodal entity for building green energy capacity
  
- **Indian Air Force (IAF) - will screen and select 10 potential crew members for India's first manned space mission in two months**
  - ✓ Isro will choose the final three astronauts from the ten people whom the IAF would train at its Human Space Flight Centre
  - ✓ Isro has also tested the CE-20 cryogenic engine meant for the upper stage of GSLV MK-III that will carry the astronauts
  - ✓ DRDO has developed the life support system for the crew, while the Navy will help recover the human capsule that will re-enter the atmosphere and splash down in sea
  - ✓ The country's first manned space mission is slated for early 2021
  
- **The wreckage of the Antonov-32 (AN-32) aircraft – was found in a remote mountainous area in Arunachal Pradesh by Mi-17 helicopters on June 11**



- ✓ Six officers and seven other personnel were on board the ill-fated medium transport aircraft, when it crashed
- ✓ The wreckage was located in a dense forest close to a hilltop at an elevation of around 12,000-feet at around 16-km north of Lipo, northeast of Tato in the West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ AN-32 went missing on way to Mechuka (Arunachal) from Jorhat (Assam) on June 3
- ✓ Before the AN-32 crash, IAF had already lost six fighters, two Hawk advanced jet trainers and a Mi-17 helicopter this year, with 10 personnel being killed in them.
- ✓ Only 54 of the 99 AN-32s in the IAF fleet have been upgraded with “technical life extension from the original 25 years to 40 years, overhaul and re-equipment” till now under an initial \$400 million contract with Ukraine in 2009.
- ✓ AN-32s were inducted in the IAF fleet from the erstwhile Soviet Union between 1984 and 1991
- ✓ Bilateral problems between Russia and Ukraine over the Crimean Peninsula have hit the supply of spares, components and kits for the AN-32 upgrade project, which was originally slated for completion by 2013
- ✓ The upgrade project, incidentally, was finalised after another AN-32 on an “air maintenance sortie” had crashed in the same Jorhat-Mechuka-Mohanbari sector on June 9, 2009

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan – may remain in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list for another year**
- ✓ In the run-up to the FATF plenary in Orlando, Florida from June 16-21, the second review meeting of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group took place in Guangzhou, China
- ✓ It has given Pakistan an “all-clear” on only two out of the 27 action plans it has to complete to get out of the grey list
- ✓ A third review of Pakistan’s compliance will be in September, just before the October plenary
- ✓ FATF has to decide whether to keep Pakistan on the grey list or blacklist it before the October session
- ✓ India is pushing for Pakistan to be blacklisted.
- ✓ The grey list is the warning given to a country when it fails to curb terror funding and money laundering

## PERSONALITIES

- **Zonel Sougaijam, a 22-year-old civil engineer from Manipur - was honoured by Facebook by including in the ‘Facebook Hall of Fame 2019’ for discovering a bug that violated the privacy of a user.**
- ✓ Sougaijam’s name is currently at the 16th position in a list of 94 people, in the ‘Facebook Hall of Fame’ for this year.



- ✓ During a voice call through WhatsApp, the bug used to allow the caller to upgrade it to a video call without the authorization and knowledge of the receiver.
- ✓ The caller was then able to see what the other person was doing, violating the privacy of the receiver
- ✓ After discovering the bug, Sougajam had reported the matter to the Bug Bounty Program of the Facebook, which deals with violation of privacy matters, in March
- ✓ Facebook, owned by Mark Zuckerberg, purchased the messaging service WhatsApp for a staggering US\$ 19 billion in February 2014.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Doctors in China - have successfully directed surgeons 200km away to perform a gall bladder surgery using 5G network in a remote area**



- ✓ There was almost no network delay and the patient's vital signs remained stable after the surgery
- ✓ The laparoscopic cholecystectomy was conducted last week in north China's Hubei Province which lasted about an hour

## ECONOMY

- **The finance ministry – will roll out the new monthly GST return filing system from October**
- ✓ The rollout is three months behind schedule.
- ✓ The ministry was originally targeting a July rollout of the new return system, as mandated by the GST Council last year.
- ✓ The existing monthly summary returns GSTR-3B shall be completely phased out from January 2020 when the new form 'GST RET-01' is set to replace it
- ✓ Businesses will be able to use the new return filing system (ANX-1 and ANX-2) on a trial basis for three months from July to September 2019 which will help them get familiarised with the system

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Seven term BJP MP Virendra Kumar - was appointed the pro-tem Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha on June 11**



- ✓ A seven-term MP from Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh, Kumar was a Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development (under Maneka Gandhi) and also an MoS in the minority affairs ministry in the first Narendra Modi government.
- ✓ The name of the pro tem speaker — who will be administered oath by President Ram Nath Kovind — was finalised by the parliamentary affairs ministry

- ✓ The main duty of the pro tem speaker is to administer the oath of office to new members of the Lok Sabha
  - ✓ A temporary post, the pro tem Speaker presides over the first meeting of the Lower House of Parliament after the general election
  - ✓ He will also preside over the sitting in which the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected, in case of a newly constituted House.
  - ✓ Kumar has been a member of the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha as well.
  - ✓ Kumar was formerly the convenor of ABVP in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh from 1977-79
  - ✓ He was associated with RSS since childhood and served a prison sentence of 16 months under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in protest against the imposition of Emergency
  - ✓ Kumar is was also a Chairperson of Standing Committee on Labour and Member of General Purpose Committee
  - ✓ The first session of the new Lok Sabha is scheduled to begin on 17 June
- **BJP leader Thawar Chand Gehlot - will be the leader of the House in Rajya Sabha**



- ✓ The leader, who is minister of social justice and empowerment, will replace former finance minister Arun Jaitley
- ✓ The decision had been awaited since Jaitley opted out of the cabinet on grounds of health
- ✓ Gehlot is a party veteran and a member of BJP's parliamentary board.
- ✓ He held the same portfolio in the previous Modi government.
- ✓ Earlier, Gehlot steered the 10% quota for the economically weaker sections through Parliament

## SPORTS

- **Hosts Portugal - beats Netherlands 1-0 to win the inaugural Nations League**





- ✓ They will now be among the favourites for next year's European Championship to retain the trophy they already hold
- ✓ 22-year-old Goncalo Guedes scored the winning goal for the hosts
- **Five-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton – won the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal**



- ✓ It was a record seventh victory in Canada for Hamilton and the 78th of his career.
- ✓ It extended Mercedes' season opening run to seven successive wins
- ✓ German, Sebastian Vettel was classified second ahead of his Ferrari team-mate Leclerc
- ✓ Vettel, who won the race, was handed a five second penalty by a disputed stewards' decision that cost his victory

# REPORT

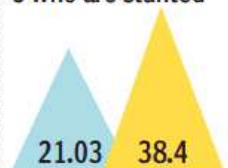
The UN has set 2030 as the deadline to end global hunger and India, with its massive population, has a big role to play. But nationally, India has performed poorly in its efforts to eliminate hunger with most states not on track to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. A look at where Indian states stand

## TARGETS FOR 2030

Ratio of rural households covered under public distribution to rural households in which the highest earner makes Rs 5,000

Target	1.29
Current	1.01

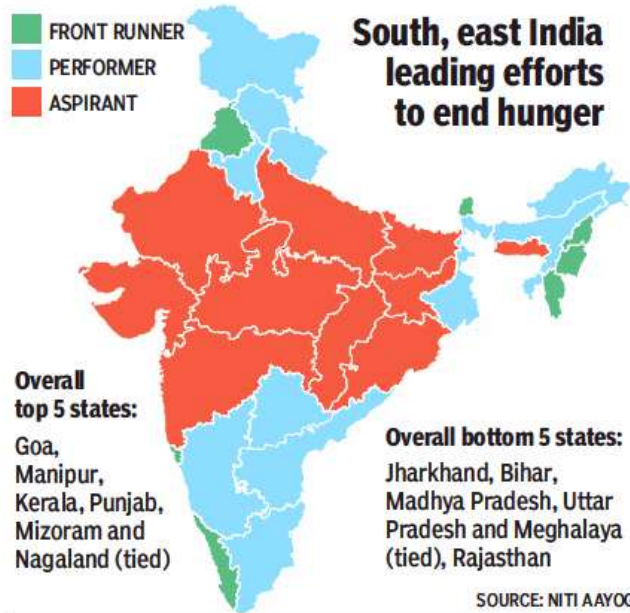
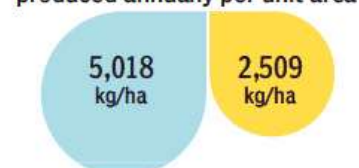
% of children under 5 who are stunted



% of pregnant women aged 15-49 who are anaemic



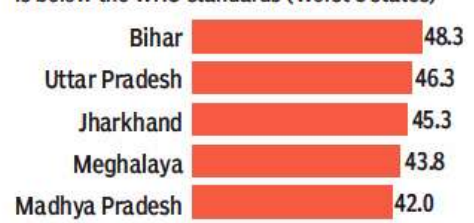
Rice, wheat and coarse cereals produced annually per unit area



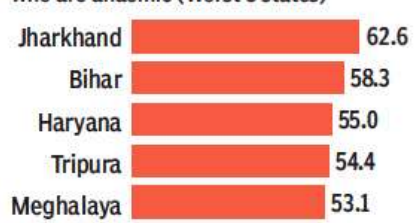
**PDS EFFECTIVENESS** Ratio of rural households covered under public distribution system to rural households where the highest earner makes less than Rs 5,000 (Worst 5 states)



**STUNTING IN CHILDREN** % of children under 5 who are stunted i.e. their height-for-age is below the WHO standards (Worst 5 states)



**ANAEMIC EXPECTING MOTHERS** % of pregnant women aged 15-49 who are anaemic (Worst 5 states)



**FOOD PRODUCTION** Kg of rice, wheat, coarse cereals produced annually per hectare (Worst 5 states)

