



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 23, 2019

TAMIL NADU

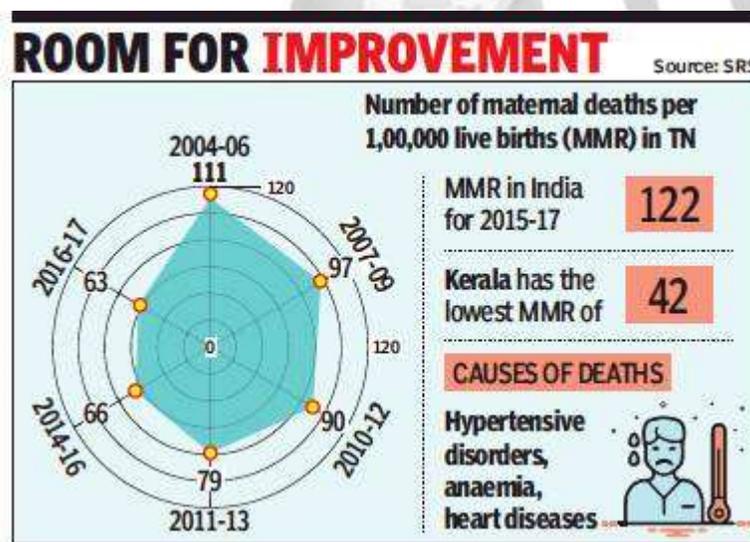
- **The new Tertiary treatment reverse osmosis (TTRO) plant at Koyambedu – to become operational from November 29**



- ✓ It was earlier commissioned by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami
- ✓ It is the second such facility to come up in Chennai after the one at Kodungaiyur, which was commissioned in the first week of last month
- ✓ The plant will limit the total dissolved solids (TDS) level in water to lesser than 70 milligram/litre during the process.
- ✓ Water is deemed potable if the TDS levels are between 250 mg/ litre and 500 mg/litre.
- ✓ When the new plant becomes operational, it will supply an additional 20 million litres of water a day to the residents of Chennai
- ✓ The water from the plant will also be distributed to Sipcot industrial units in Irungattukkottai, Sriperumbudur and Oragadam in Kancheepuram
- ✓ Of the 45MLD distributed, Irungattukkottai, Sriperumbudur and Oragadam used to get 13MLD, 10MLD and 20MLD respectively

- **Six cities in Tamil Nadu - are set to get 525 electric buses in the first phase of the roll-out of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.**
 - ✓ The city-wise breakup of the 525 e-buses allotted is - Coimbatore 100, Tiruchi 100, Madurai 100, Erode 50, Tiruppur 50, Salem 50, Vellore 50 and Thanjavur 25
 - ✓ Apart from this, the State government has also requested the Centre to allot 500 electric buses under the FAME 2 scheme for Chennai
 - ✓ At present, one electric bus manufactured by Ashok Leyland plies on the city roads, from Central station to Thiruvanmiyur (route no. A1), on a trial basis
 - ✓ Also, the State government will be purchasing 500 electric and 2,213 Bharat Stage VI buses, at a cost of ₹1,580 crore, through funding from KfW of Germany.
 - ✓ The agreement between the State government and KfW, signed on September 26, will facilitate the funding for the purchase of a total of 10,000 new buses, with BS VI engines, and 2,000 electric buses in the long run.

- **The Tamil Nadu Health department – to categorise pregnant women visiting the government antenatal clinics as red (high risk), yellow (moderate risk) and green (safe)**



- ✓ The move to tag pregnant women is aimed to reduce maternal mortality rates (MMR) in the state
- ✓ Pregnant women in the state are registered under the 'pregnancy and infant cohort monitoring and evaluation'.
- ✓ A woman can continue to remain in green or move to yellow and red any time during the pregnancy.
- ✓ Only women with green tag will be allowed to deliver at primary health centres, where staff will be mentored by gynaecologists.
- ✓ Until 2009, Tamil Nadu was second only to Kerala in low MMR
- ✓ In the 2010-2012 report, Maharashtra secured the second place with 87 deaths (per 100,000 births) compared to 90 in Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ Last year, the gap between both the states reduced to five points.
 - ✓ This year, Maharashtra, at 55, has been placed eight points lower than Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu reduced MMR from 66 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to 63 per 1lakh live births in 2015-17
 - ✓ About 30% of maternal deaths occur among women who have more than two children, and their percentage in TN had remained at 7.5% for the past three years.
- **The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre (ERC) at M R Palayam in Trichy – is all set to get funding from ‘Project Elephant’, a Central scheme**

PROJECT ELEPHANT



- ✓ ERC is a first of its kind facility in the state developed for rehabilitation of privately owned captive elephants.
 - ✓ It started operating from September and the number of privately owned captive elephants went up to 5 now, leading to the increasing operational costs to run the camp
 - ✓ While ERC is owned and managed by the forest department, the operational costs of the elephants are supposed to borne by their owners, which did not happen till now
 - ✓ The ‘Project Elephant’ was launched by the Centre in 1992
 - ✓ It was initiated to take care of the welfare of the elephant, apart from addressing issues related to man-animal conflict and protection of elephant habitat
 - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, a huge chunk of funds from ‘Project Elephant’ is used for maintenance of elephants in Mudumalai Elephant Camp in Nilgiris, while a portion of it is currently being directed towards the ERC
- **The Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations (TNDGE) – has made arrangements to accept application forms of Class X students with**

long names or two initials in the portal Educational Management Information System (EMIS)

- ✓ TNDGE had earlier set a limit of 34 characters (in English) for students' full names while uploading their details in this portal.
- ✓ Tamil versions of the names can have maximum 54 characters
- ✓ Aadhaar was also made mandatory for linking students' details with EMIS portal.

SCHEMES

- **The Assam government – launches 'Arundhati Swarna Yojana' scheme in the state**



- ✓ As per the scheme, the Assam government will offer 10 grams of gold as a gift to every adult bride who has finished at least 10th standard and has registered her marriage.
- ✓ The scheme will cost about Rs 800 crore annually on the government exchequer.
- ✓ The scheme will start on January 1, 2020
- ✓ The annual income of the bride's family must be less than Rs. 5,00,000 to avail the scheme.
- ✓ As per the scheme, the minimum education should be 10th standard, which will be relaxed for the tribes and workers of tea gardens.
- ✓ Assam has about 3,00,000 marriages every year but only 50,000-60,000 are registered.

STATES

- **The Andhra Pradesh government - cancelled licences of all existing bars in the state**

- ✓ The move is seen as a first step towards total prohibition, which would be implemented in the state in a phased manner
 - ✓ All existing bars have been served a notice to wind up their operations by December 31
 - ✓ New bar licences will be issued from January 1, but their total number will be reduced by nearly 50%.
 - ✓ However, all star hotels and micro-breweries are exempted from the new policy and they would continue to operate on existing licences
- **Kerala – to become the country’s first fully ‘digital state’ by December 2020**
- ✓ To achieve the task, the state cabinet approved the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project in October this year
 - ✓ The project aims to provide high-speed internet to one crore households, 30 lakh commercial and industrial establishments, 30,000 government offices and schools
 - ✓ It also intends to bring high speed internet to every household, including 20 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families who would get the service for free.
 - ✓ A 28,000km-long “internet highway” — a network of fibre optic cables —is being laid ‘aerially’ through the poles in the state, as part of the project
 - ✓ The Rs 1,548 crore-project is being funded by Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) which powers large infrastructure projects.
 - ✓ Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL) have also been roped in as part of the project.
 - ✓ A consortium led by Bharat Electronics Ltd has won the tender to develop the fibre cable network.
 - ✓ Cables are being imported from the US while their quality testing is done in Chennai.
 - ✓ Currently, Kerala’s internet penetration rate stands at 54%, which is second only to Delhi (69%)
 - ✓ In 2017, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government of the state declared internet as a basic human right
 - ✓ Earlier, in 2016, the United Nations declared internet as a basic human right.
 - ✓ Countries like Spain, France, Greece and Costa Rica have also recognised internet as a fundamental right.
 - ✓ Recently, Sudan’s interim constitution also held the right to access internet as a fundamental right

NATIONAL

- **The Union Government – plans to merge two Union Territories — Daman and Diu, & Dadra and Nagar Haveli —into one**
- ✓ The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill 2019 is part of the proposed government bills in parliament for the next week

- ✓ Till Now, both the UTs have separate budgets and different secretariats even though they are just 35 km apart.
- ✓ Dadra and Nagar Haveli has just 1 district while Daman and Diu has 2 districts
- ✓ The merger of the two UTs, located along the western coast near Gujarat, will facilitate better administration and check duplications of various work
- ✓ The merged UT is likely to be named as Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu while its headquarters could be Daman and Diu
- ✓ The move comes three months after Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs —Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5

INTERNATIONAL

- **Oxford Dictionaries - has named “climate emergency” as its 2019 Word of the Year**
- ✓ It was chosen among the other all-environmental shortlisted words, which included “climate action,” “climate denial,” “eco-anxiety,” “extinction” and “flight shame.”
- ✓ Recent winners have included “toxic,” “youthquake,” “post-truth” and “vape.”
- ✓ The use of the term “climate emergency” has increased by a hundred-fold since 2018
- ✓ In fact, it was the most common compound involving “emergency,” occurring three times as often as the next most-common, “health emergency.”

PERSONALITIES

- **Jaipur-based Mayank Pratap Singh – becomes the youngest judge in the country**



- ✓ At the age of just 21 years, Mayank made history by cracking the Rajasthan judicial services 2018 exam
- ✓ He took admission in 2014 in the five-year LLB course from the Rajasthan University, which ended this year

- ✓ The original age requirement for appearing in the judicial services exam was 23 years, which had been reduced to 21 years by the Rajasthan high court in 2019.

DEFENCE

- **Lieutenant Shivangi will join Indian Navy as its first female pilot on December 2, 2019.**
- ✓ Shivangi will fly fixed-wing Dornier surveillance aircraft.



- ✓ Lieutenant Shivangi, hailing from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, will be involved in Operation Duty in Kochi
- ✓ Bhawna Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force this year after undergoing all the required tests.
- ✓ Apart from Bhawna, Mohana Singh and Avni Chaturvedi also became fighter pilots later.
- ✓ Dornier (DO-228) aircraft, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), is India's lightweight maritime surveillance aircraft
- ✓ These surveillance aircraft are sent on short-range maritime missions

SPORTS

- **Double Asian Games medallist Equestrian Fouaad Mirza - secured an Olympic quota after finishing as the top-ranked rider in his group in the qualifiers**



- ✓ The 27-year-old Mirza was the highest ranked rider in Group G for the South East Asia, Oceania in the individual eventing category after the end of the Europe stage earlier this month
- ✓ However, the official confirmation will be announced by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) on February 20
- ✓ Imtiaz Anees (2000 Sydney) and Late Wing Commander IJ Lamba (1996 Atlanta) are the only Indians to have represented the country in the Equestrian event at the Olympics.
- ✓ Earlier, Mirza was honoured with the Arjuna Award in August 2019

