

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu - has recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth in the state in 2019.**

- ✓ The Registrar of births and deaths has recorded 881 girls per 100 boys at birth in Villupuram in 2019 compared to 909 in 2016
- ✓ The sex ratio in the Villupuram dropped to 883 in 2017 but went up to 894 in 2018.
- ✓ In the last three years, the overall sex ratio at birth in TN increased from 932 in 2016 to 933 in 2018 and 936 until October 19, 2019
- ✓ While districts such as Perambalur have seen a sharp rise, others like Ramanathapuram, Tiruvallur and Ariyalur recorded a fall from 35 to 48 points in the last 3 years.
- ✓ Cities like Chennai and nearby districts and Coimbatore also recorded a drop during the same period.

◆ **Police commissioner A K Viswanathan - unveiled the scheme named 'Thozhi', which aims to extend the support to victims of sexual assault in Pocso cases**



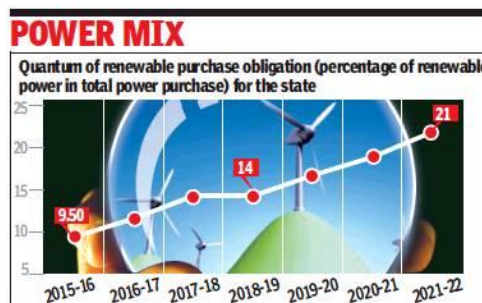
- ✓ This innovative initiative is the brainchild of North Chennai additional commissioner of police (law and order) R Dhinakaran.
- ✓ As per the scheme, the Chennai police have assigned 70 women police personnel to provide counselling to victims of sexual assault in cases of Pocso (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012) so as to monitor them closely.

- ✓ The shortlisted police personnel will be provided a pink sari embedded with the Nirbhaya logo badge as a mark of safety.
- ✓ There are 35 all-women police stations in Chennai city.
- ✓ Each police station shall have two women cops assigned to the 'Thozhi' scheme
- ✓ They will keep a follow-up of the victims of sexual assault, apart from giving psycho-social and psychiatric counselling and other possible assistance to them.
- ✓ The police personnel in each AWPS Police station will visit the house of victims under the Pocso Act periodically to provide counselling and other legal assistance, including providing safety and security arrangements based on the request from the victim.
- ✓ This assistance will be provided right from the registration stage to the conclusion of case trial in the court.

◆ **The Chennai Corporation – to set up 2 recycling units at Perungudi and Kodungaiyur to process construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated in the city.**

- ✓ The city generates more than 400 tonnes of construction and demolition waste everyday, which are either dumped illegally in vacant plots or sent to the landfills
- ✓ Construction debris from zones 1 to 8 will be collected and sent to the Kodungaiyur facility, while the waste from zones 9 to 15 will be sent to Perungudi.
- ✓ The combined capacity of these 2 units will be around 1200 tonnes
- ✓ The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, notified by the Union ministry stipulate that state governments should compulsorily use 10%-20% of construction waste in all infrastructure projects.
- ✓ As of now, less than 1% of construction waste is recycled and after the proposed plants come up, the recycled waste can be used again in construction.
- ✓ The corporation will procure imported machinery to process the construction and demolition (C&D) waste in these new recycling units

◆ **Tangedco's Renewable power obligation (RPO) - has been fixed at 21% for the financial year (2021-22)**



- ✓ Out of this, solar power must be 10.50% of the total power purchase (50% of the total target), which is an increase of 2% compared to last financial year
- ✓ RPO is defined by the ratio between percentage of renewable power to the total power purchase
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is one among the few states and Union territories to fulfil the renewable power obligation (RPO) each year as most of the states don't even cross 60% of their target.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand are the states that have achieved at least 60% RPO compliance
- ✓ On an average, Tamil Nadu consumes around 15 million units of solar power each day even during off-peak period such as November or December.
- ✓ RPO is the most important policy driving renewable energy installations in India towards achieving the ambitious goal of installing 175GW by 2022 with solar energy alone comprising of 100GW out of the total target

◆ **Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) - to build the first Light Rail project for Chennai, that will connect 15km stretch between Velachery and Tambaram.**

- ✓ Unlike the Metro phase I project covering 45 km or the phase I extension project of 9 km, which have both elevated and underground stretches, the light rail is likely to be at-grade (built on ground).
- ✓ The concept of light rail is aimed at running through dense residential areas in the southern parts of the city, including the one touching Pallikaranai, Medavakkam, Gowrivakkam and then subsequently East Tambaram.
- ✓ One of the primary reasons for choosing Light Rail over Metro Rail, is that it would cost much less
- ✓ On an average, building one kilometre of an elevated stretch of Metro will cost ₹200-250 crore and underground ₹500-550 crore.
- ✓ However, building the Light Rail will cost only around ₹100 crore per kilometre

◆ **Governor Banwarilal Purohit - to administer the oath of office to the new Chief Justice of Madras High Court, Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, at the Raj Bhavan on November 11**

- ✓ Chief Justice Sahi had graduated in law in 1985 and began his practice at the Allahabad High Court on civil and constitutional law



- ✓ He had been a counsel for many educational institutions including the Allahabad Agricultural Institute and MRI Institute of Mehta Research Institute of Mathematical Physics
- ✓ Justice Sahi was appointed as an Additional Judge of Allahabad High Court on September 24, 2004, and became a permanent judge in the same court on August 18, 2005.
- ✓ He was sworn in as Chief Justice of Patna High Court on November 17, 2018,
- ✓ Justice Sahi was due to retire from service on December 31, 2020.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Centre - has decided to withdraw the SPG cover of the Gandhi family comprising of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as on November 8**

SPG is dedicated to the protection of current and former PMs and their families
WITHOUT ITS COVER...
 ▶ Lesser number of security personnel armed with relatively less sophisticated weapons will guard Gandhis
 ▶ The security team will have higher dependence on state police during the Gandhis' visits outside Delhi
 ▶ The family will no longer be exempt from frisking at airports & high-security areas

- ✓ It had decided to replace the SPG cover with Z-plus protection provided by CRPF commandos.
- ✓ The Gandhis were provided with SPG cover for more than three decades, except for a brief period between 1989 and 1991.
- ✓ The Special Protection Group was set up on April 8, 1985 with the purpose of protecting the Prime Minister, following Indira Gandhi's assassination in October 1984
- ✓ The SPG Act was amended in 1991 to provide security cover to former Prime Ministers and also their immediate families after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi
- ✓ In August this year, former PM Manmohan Singh's SPG cover was discontinued and Z plus protection was extended to him by CRPF personnel.
- ✓ The Z plus security cover includes protection by National Security Guard commandos, CRPF personnel, ITBP and the Delhi police
- ✓ The only VVIP now protected by the SPG is the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The Z-plus security will be similar to that provided to other VIPs like home minister Amit Shah

- ✓ SPG is a highly trained force that is self-sufficient with its own high-tech equipment and aids, including cars like BMWs and sophisticated arms, and also with statutory backing to make the state police conform to its requirements
- ✓ Former Prime Minister A.B Vajpayee continued to have SPG cover from 2004 when he demitted office till his death in 2018.
- ✓ During his tenure that began in 1999, Vajpayee decided to withdraw SPG protection to former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda, and I.K. Gujral.
- ✓ The President of India is protected by the Indian Army's PBG (President's Bodyguard) regiment.

◆ **The first tropical cyclone in Bay of Bengal, Bulbul - is expected to make a landfall near the West Bengal-Bangladesh coast on November 9**

- ✓ Bulbul might make landfall after weakening into a severe cyclonic storm from very severe cyclonic storm

ECONOMY

◆ **Global ratings agency, Moody's Investors Service - lowered India's sovereign credit rating outlook to 'Negative' from 'Stable'**

- ✓ The agency has cited rising risks to economic growth and increased probability of a slowdown due to prolonged financial stress among rural households, weak job creation and credit crunch among nonbanking financial companies (NBFCs) as the reason for the downgrading.
- ✓ However, the agency did not change the Baa2 foreign-currency and local currency long-term issuer ratings
- ✓ Moody's had upgraded India's sovereign ratings in November 2017 to Baa2 from Baa3
- ✓ A change in outlook to 'negative' will be perceived negatively by both investors, global and domestic.

◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has mandated banks to offer free account-to-account transfers using the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) platform from January 2020.**

- ✓ Earlier, from July this year, the RBI had waived NEFT processing charges that it imposes on banks
- ✓ SBI became the first bank to announce a waiver of charges for NEFT, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions done using digital channels.
- ✓ RBI will soon permit all authorised payment systems, including e-wallets, cards and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to be linked with the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTags.

AWARDS

- ◆ **Wildlife biologist K. Ullas Karanth, Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru - was awarded the George Schaller Lifetime Award in 'Wildlife Conservation Science' for his contribution to the field of conservation.**



- ✓ He is the first recipient of the award instituted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), New York.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Chinki Yadav - shot her career-best to clinch India's 11th quota in Shooting for the 2020 Tokyo Games**



- ✓ Bhopal-based girl Chinki, 21, secured the berth in women's 25m pistol category, even though she couldn't win any medal in the Asian Shooting Championships in Doha.
- ✓ With Rahi Sarnobat having already qualified, India has now won maximum two quotas in the event
- ✓ Chinki's quota has come in an event in which India already has two strong contenders in Manu Bhaker and Rahi.
- ✓ While Asian champion Rahi shoots only in 25m pistol event, Manu had clinched a quota in 10m air pistol event.
- ◆ **India - to host the Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time in 2023**
- ✓ According to the FIH, the Men's Hockey World Cup will be held in India from January 13 to 29
- ✓ India outscored Belgium and Malaysia, who had also expressed interest in hosting the men's World Cup, and was the only candidate opting for the 2023 window.

- ✓ Spain and The Netherlands were named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women's World Cup, which will be held from July 1-17, 2022
- ✓ This is the first time the Hockey World Cup will be held across multiple countries
- ✓ Spain last hosted the women's World Cup in 2006, while the Netherlands staged the tournament in 2014 with the Dutch winning the title both times.
- ✓ India will, thus, becomes the first country to stage four men's Hockey World Cups after having hosted it in 1982 (Mumbai), 2010 (New Delhi) and 2018 (Bhubaneswar).
- ✓ The Netherlands' had hosted three men's tournaments.
- ✓ India will be completing 75 years of independence in 2023 and so Hockey India was aiming to host the World Cup in the same year, to showcase the growth of the game in the country on the occasion

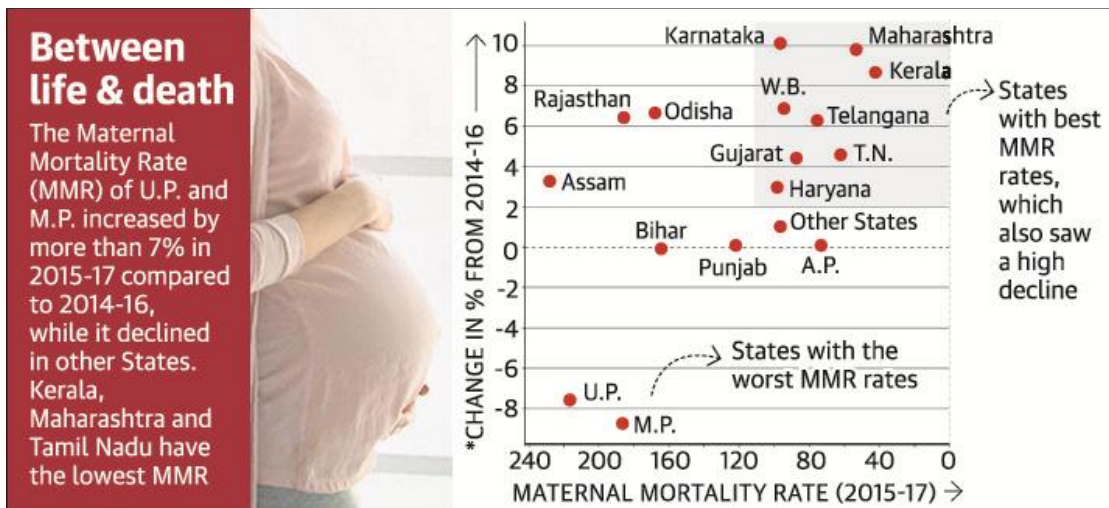
◆ **Sandeep Chaudhary and Sumit - bettered their World to win gold and silver medals respectively in F64 javelin event of the World Para Athletics Championships on November 8**



- ✓ Sandeep threw the javelin to 66.18m to better his mark of 65.80m in F44 category,
- ✓ Sumit's 62.88m improved his own F64 world record distance of 60.45m.

REPORT

◆ **India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) - has seen a decline from 130 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to 122 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-2017.**



- ✓ This was revealed by the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) 2015-2017 bulletin for MMR released on November 8

- ✓ The figure has reduced from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016 and to 122 in 2015-17, registering a 6.15% decline since the last survey figures of 2014-2016.
- ✓ To map the changes in MMR, especially at the regional level, the government has categorised States into three groups - empowered action group (EAG), southern States and other States
 - ✓ Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand and Assam fall under the category of EAG
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are in the southern States group.
 - ✓ “Others” comprise the remaining States and Union Territories.
- ✓ The decline has been most significant in EAG States from 188 to 175.
- ✓ The ratio has reduced considerably from 77 to 72 per 1,00,000 live births among southern States while in the other States it dropped from 93 to 90.
- ✓ While Karnataka has shown the highest percentage decline in MMR, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have shown an increase by 15 points each in MMR.
- ✓ While Rajasthan’s MMR has shown the highest decrease by 13 points, followed by Odisha (12 points) and Karnataka (11 points), the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab have shown ‘nil’ change in the ratio
- ✓ Retaining its first position, Kerala has reduced its MMR from 46 in 2014-2016 to 42 in 2015-2017.
- ✓ Likewise, Maharashtra retained its second position with 55 (down from 61) and Tamil Nadu also retained its third position with 63 (down from 66).
- ✓ As per the Government, focus on quality and coverage of health services through public health initiatives under the National Health Mission such as LaQshya, Poshan Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, Janani Suraksha Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and recently launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative (SUMAN) have contributed to this decline
- ✓ As per the WHO estimates, the country is on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of an MMR below 70 by 2030.

