

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 1, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - has emerged as the top performer among States with regard to 'equity and access' outcome in Niti Aayog's first-ever 'School Education Quality Index' (SEQI).**
  - ✓ The State stood at top among 20 big States with regard to infrastructural facilities such as libraries and computer labs.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu retained its second place in the SEQI and the State's overall performance has improved from 63.2% in the base year of 2015-16 to 73.4% in the reference year 2016-17.
  - ✓ The State also emerged on top at 57.8% with regard to secondary schools having teachers for all core subjects.
  - ✓ The State has scored 100% with regard to transfer of teachers through a transparent system in place.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu was also the best performer in the category on access outcomes that measured enrolment, the rate of transition to higher classes and the percentage of out-of-school children mainstreamed into schools.
  - ✓ The index consists of 30 critical indicators that assess the delivery of quality education under two broad categories — outcomes and governance process aiding outcomes.
  - ✓ The learning outcomes in the State have shown a decline in classes 5 and 8
  - ✓ The governance process aiding outcomes has an overall score of 63.2% in comparison to 48.7% recorded in 2015-16.

### INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **The governments of Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia - to launch an English television channel to highlight the issues of Muslims globally**

- ✓ It will be on the lines of BBC, to be launched with the aim of fighting Islamophobia in the Western countries
- ✓ Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad, Turkish President Recep Erdogan and Pakistan PM Imran Khan discussed about the proposal on the sidelines of the UNGA summit in New York last week.

## DEFENCE

- ◆ **India - successfully test-fired the land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a base at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore district on September 30**



- ✓ The state-of-the-art missile features indigenous components such as propulsion system and airframe
- ✓ It was jointly launched by defence research and development organization (DRDO) and BrahMos aerospace from Balasore's integrated test range (ITR)
- ✓ The missile has a strike range of 290km

- ◆ **Indian Navy - hosted defence minister Rajnath Singh on board its solitary aircraft carrier, the 44,400-tonne INS Vikramaditya in the Arabian Sea**

- ✓ The aircraft carrier, which can move around 500 nautical miles (900km) in a single day, operates the supersonic MiG-29K fighters from its deck
- ✓ The 40,000-tonne indigenous aircraft carrier (IACI), or INS Vikrant, being built at Cochin Shipyard for ₹19,590 crore, is expected to become fully operational by 2022-2023 after several delays



- ✓ The defence ministry is yet to give even the initial approval for construction of the third aircraft carrier, 65,000-tonne IAC-II, which was first sought in May 2015.
- ✓ Even if it's approved, it can enter service only by 2031 after a decade of manufacturing.

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia – appointed as the new chief of the Government's publicity wing, the Press information bureau (PIB)**



- ✓ Dhatwalia succeeds outgoing PIB chief Sitanshu Kar, who retired after a 35-year stint in the information services, of which his longest tenure was as spokesperson of the ministry of defence.
- ✓ Dhatwalia has been serving as Director general, Training and research in the ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- ✓ He also holds additional charge of DG of the Indian Institute Mass Communication (IIMC)

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal - clinched the ATP Challenger Tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina**



- ✓ Nagal defeated local favourite Facundo Bagnis at the \$54,000 event, to win his second career Challenger title on September 29
- ✓ Earlier, Nagal had won Bengaluru Challenger event in 2017 for his first Challenger title
- ✓ With the win, Nagal has become the first Indian to win on clay in the South America.
- ✓ Only Leander Paes has won a Challenger in that continent earlier, in Brazil in 1995, but it was on hard courts.
- ✓ Last week, Sumit had achieved his career-best ATP ranking of 159 after finishing runner-up in the Banja Luka ATP Challenger
- ✓ Now, Nagal will enter the top 135 of the ATP rankings when the new list is released
- ✓ Nagal is supported by the Virat Kohli Foundation

- ◆ **Javelin thrower Annu Rani – qualified for the final of the Doha IAAF World championships with a 62.43m effort, breaking her National record of 62.34m**

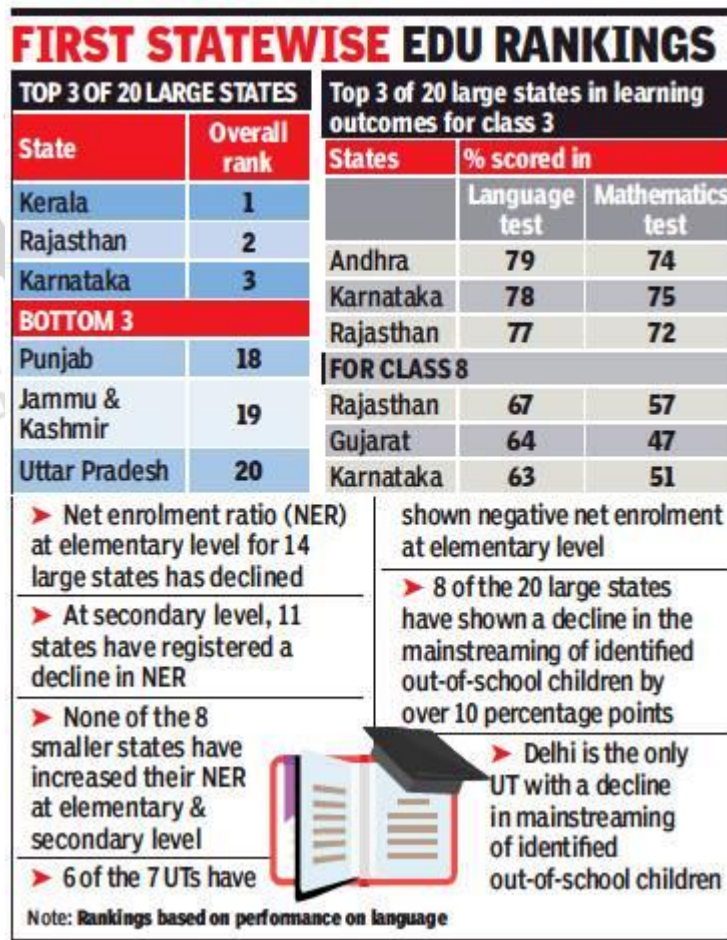


- ✓ That made her the first Indian woman javelin thrower to enter the final at the Worlds.
- ✓ Annu, who also had throws of 57.05 and 60.50, stood at fifth overall.

## RANKINGS

- ◆ **Niti Aayog – has released the country’s first ever school education quality index on September 30**

- ✓ It highlights that the net enrolment ratio (NER) at the elementary level in most states and Union Territories is declining



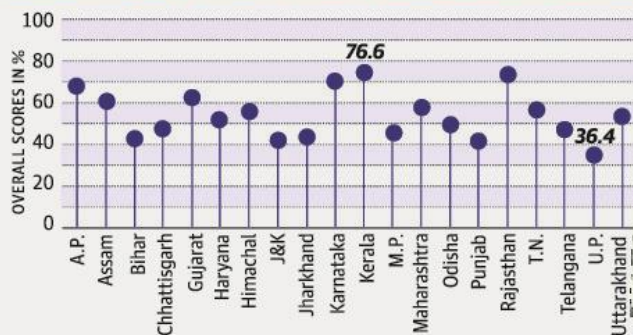
- ✓ Of the 20 large states, 11 recorded a decrease in NER at elementary level.
- ✓ The biggest drop in NER of 10.3 % points between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was achieved by Jharkhand



- ✓ Barring Delhi, which maintained its 100% NER, all the other six Union Territories too had negative growth
- ✓ At secondary level, NER in states like Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir have dropped below 50%
- ✓ In 2015-16 all the 20 large states, seven UTs and six of the eight smaller states had registered over 50% NER at secondary level.

## Top scorers

Among big States, Kerala topped the charts in NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index for 2016-17, while U.P. scored the least



- ✓ Kerala (76.6%), Rajasthan (72.9%) and Karnataka are the top three states respectively in the large states category providing the best quality of education
- ✓ But the Union Territory of Chandigarh outscored them overall with a score of over 80%.
- ✓ Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh (36.4%) are ranked as the bottom three states at 18, 19 and 20 respectively
- ✓ The smaller States of Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep had even lower scores
- ✓ In case of smaller states, the best performing are Manipur, Tripura and Goa, while Daman and Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry performed well in the UT category.
- ✓ West Bengal refused to participate in the evaluation process and hence, it has not been included in the rankings.
- ✓ Karnataka was the topper in the learning outcomes category, which had the highest weightage in the index, accounting for a third of the total.
- ✓ Haryana took the first rank in the infrastructure and facilities category, which had the lowest weightage in the overall index
- ✓ The School Education Quality Index (SEQI) is part of the NITI Aayog's initiative to rank the performance of States across various indicators, including water, health and the ease of doing business
- ✓ The Index is primarily based on data from the National Achievement Survey (NAS) of 2017-18 and the Unified District Information on School Education data of 2016-17.

