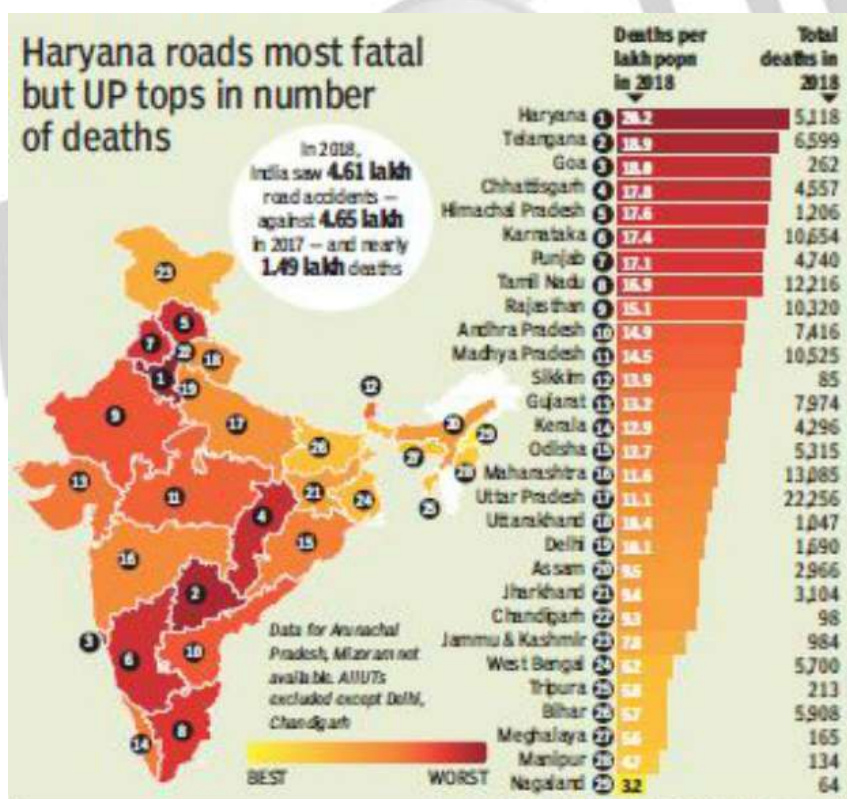


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 13, 2019

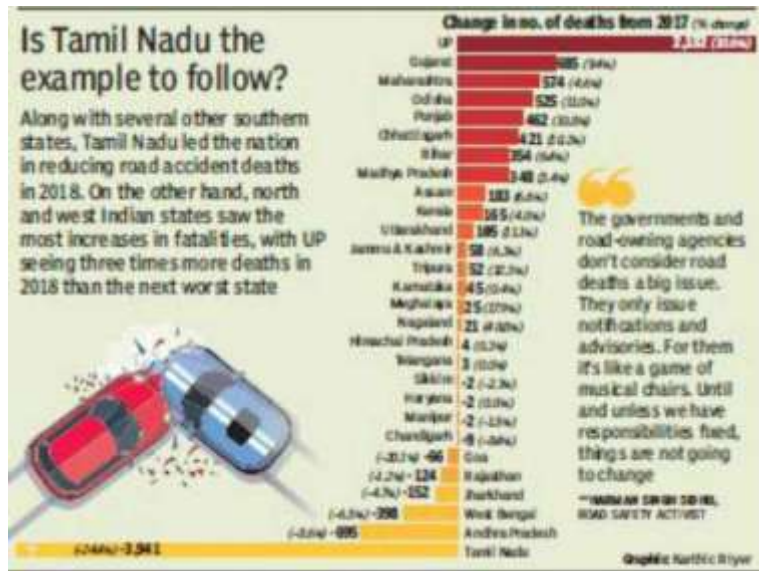
TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – recorded the maximum decline in road deaths in 2018



- ✓ The state had 3,941 fatalities lesser in 2018 than 2017, recording about 25% decline
- ✓ It had recorded 15,563 deaths in 2013, which dropped to 12,216 last year
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the state police chief took the lead, designating an additional SP in each district and commissionerate as the nodal officer for road safety.
- ✓ Performance of all field officers and SPs in making roads safe was also included in the Performance Appraisal Report

- ✓ It had also revamped the highway patrolling system and set up dedicated road safety control room at police headquarters



- ✓ Also, the reporting and review patterns were revamped and a monthly meeting held to address any issues
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh had topped the entire country with maximum deaths, with 22,256 deaths in 2018 than 16,004 in 2013
- ✓ Gujarat registered the second-highest deaths in 2018 followed by Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ In 2018, there was an overall increase in road deaths in India by about 1.49 lakhs than last year

➤ **Chola-era 'Thirubuvanam Silk' sarees – granted GI tag**



- ✓ The speciality of Thirubuvanam silk saris, handwoven in Thirubuvanam town near Kumbakonam, is that filature silk is used for both warp and weft resulting in uniform and high lustre
 - ✓ With the recognition granted by the Chennai-based Geographical Indications Registry, the weavers of the famed sari using pure zari yarn can only use the brand name and logo
 - ✓ Thirubuvanam Silk Handloom weavers cooperative production and sale society limited had applied for the GI tag on April 15, 2014 for textile and textile goods falling in class 24 and 25
- **Tamil Nadu – is ranked at 5th place among various states in attracting FDI (foreign direct investment) inflows into the country, as per the data released by DIPP (Department for promotion of industry and internal trade)**

KARNATAKA NO. 3		FDI equity inflows (₹cr)	
2018-19 (Apr-Dec)		2017-18	
Delhi, parts of UP & Haryana	57,333	M'rashttra	86,244
M'rashttra, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu	56,436	Karnataka	55,334
Karnataka	33,014	Delhi region	49,366
Andhra Pradesh	19,671	TN & P'cherry	22,354
Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	14,166	Gujarat	13,457
Gujarat	11,754	Andhra	8,037

- ✓ The New Delhi region, comprising of the national capital and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, is ranked at 1st position during the first 9 months of FY 2018-19 (April to December)
- ✓ Maharashtra along with Diu & Daman, Haveli is ranked at 2nd position followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ Gujarat is ranked at 6th position
- ✓ Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat accounted for nearly 75% of the total FDI inflow into the country
- ✓ The top 5 sectors, which includes Services, computer hardware and software, Chemicals, telecommunication and trading, accounted for nearly 65% of total FDI inflow

➤ Valparai – to get a botanical garden and a boathouse soon



- ✓ Municipal administration minister S P Velumani recently laid the foundation stone for the two projects at an event in Valparai on March 3
- ✓ The botanical garden would come up at a cost of Rs 5 crore on a 4.25 acre site and the boathouse at a cost of Rs 2 crore in the Chinnakkallar Nirar Dam

NATIONAL

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi – launched ‘One Nation One Card’ for all modes of travel in Ahmedabad on March 4



- ✓ 'National Common Mobility Card' feature has been incorporated in all new credit and debit cards issued by banks - to enable people use them either in PoS machines deployed at ticket counters or just use them like Metro Rail smart cards to enter the platform
- ✓ Delhi Metro has started a pilot run of an indigenously designed automatic fare collection counters that can read these cards for seamless entry and exit at stations
- **State Bank of India (SBI) – has launched priced 'doorstep banking' for senior citizens over 70 years of age – within 5 km radius of select bank branches**



- ✓ The facility is also extended to differently-abled and infirm customers, including those who are visually impaired
- ✓ The services are available against payment of a fee of Rs 100 for financial transactions and Rs 60 for non-financial transactions.
- ✓ The customers will have to register at their home branch for the service
- **Indian Watch Company, Titan – to help US-based 'FTS' in making Quartz watches**



- ✓ It will supply kits and train FTS engineers, among other support systems, as part of its alliance with the company

- ✓ FTS is setting up a quartz movement assembly unit in Fountain Hills, Phoenix to make classic watches and movements
 - ✓ Currently, US watch market is mainly dominated by countries like Switzerland, China, Japan, Philippines and India
 - ✓ Titan is a joint venture between Tata group and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation
- **Arecanut, known as supari or betel nut – gets its first GI tag for ‘Sirsi Supari’**



- ✓ The Chennai-based Registrar of ‘Geographical Indications’ has decided to grant the GI tag to 'Sirsi Supari' areca nuts grown in Sirsi, Yellapur and Siddapura taluks of the Uttara Kannada district
 - ✓ An agriculture cooperative, Totagars’ Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Ltd, based in Sirsi is the registered proprietor of the 'Sirsi Supari'
 - ✓ 'Sirsi Supari' is only around 5% of the areca nuts grown in Karnataka
 - ✓ The Sirsi areca nut has a unique taste and is produced in white variety and red variety
 - ✓ The process of obtaining the tag began in 2013
 - ✓ The GI tag will help find a better price for farmers growing the crop
 - ✓ A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a name or sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation of that origin
- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) - ordered to ground the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft fleet in India with immediate effect on March 12, 2019 midnight, following the Ethiopian Airlines crash**



- ✓ India-based operator, Spice Jet has around 12 Boeing 737 Max 8' planes in its fleet, while Jet Airways has five in the country
- ✓ Boeing 737 MAX 8 of Ethiopian Airlines crashed on March 10, 2019 in Addis Ababa killing all 157 people on board including 4 Indians.
- ✓ Earlier in October 2018, Indonesia 'Lion Air' flight crashed after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board
- ✓ A day after the Ethiopian Airlines crash, China became the first nation to suspend the commercial operation of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 followed by 40 other countries subsequently
- ✓ Meanwhile, the US Federal Aviation Administration has ordered Boeing to make urgent improvements to its 737 Max 8 fleet, including an anti-stalling software and manoeuvring system.
- ✓ The US regulator, however, has ruled out grounding the fleet

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **Supreme Court on March 13 - ruled that only officers who have a minimum of 6 months tenure left in police service should be considered for the post of Director General of Police (DGP)**
- ✓ A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said the recommendation for post of DGP by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and preparation of the panel should be purely on the basis of merit.

INTERNATIONAL

- **UK Parliament – had yet again rejected Prime Minister Theresa May’s Brexit deal on March 12, 2019**



- ✓ With just 17 days to go before the planned withdrawal of Britain from the European Union on March 29, the British lawmakers rejected the deal 391-242
- ✓ Earlier in January 2019, the Parliament had rejected the deal with a historic 230-vote margin of defeat
- ✓ British Prime Minister Theresa May has been frantically working to save the Brexit deal before the deadline day
- ✓ Now, the British lawmakers will vote to decide on whether to leave the EU without an agreement or to ask the EU to delay Brexit beyond the scheduled March 29 date

- **United Nations - has again requested Sri Lanka to establish a hybrid court to probe war crime allegations during three-decade long LTTE war.**
- ✓ The hybrid court will consist of international judges, lawyers and investigators to investigate allegations of human rights violations during the civil war
- ✓ The demand had been rejected by Sri Lankan government earlier saying it has its own strong justice system

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **AstroSat, Indian multi-wavelength space observatory – observes a new population of ultraviolet stars in the globular cluster NGC 2808**



- ✓ Astronomers from Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai have identified the ultraviolet stars using AstroSat, launched in September 2015
- ✓ AstroSat observes the universe in the optical, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum
- ✓ Globular clusters are collections of thousands to millions of stars, moving as one unit, tightly held together by the gravity of the cluster itself
- ✓ NGC 2808 is one of the most massive globular clusters that is located at a distance of 47,000 light years from Earth

DEFENCE

- **Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) -successfully test fired the Guided PINAKA from Pokhran ranges on March 11, 2019**



- ✓ The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system
- ✓ The indigenously developed Guided Pinaka is expected to significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits

SPORTS

- **India's star wrestler, Bajrang Punia - won a gold medal in 65 kilogram freestyle at the International wrestling tournament, “Dan Kolov – Nikola Petrov” in Ruse, Bulgaria**



- ✓ Punia dedicated the victory to Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, from whom Punia said he got inspiration
 - ✓ This was Punia's 10th medal in as many international tournaments since the 2017 World Championships in Paris.
 - ✓ Earlier, Pooja Dhanda claimed gold in women's 59 kg while Sarita Mor won a silver in the same weight category.
 - ✓ Rio Olympics bronze medalist Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat won silver in 65 kg and 53 kg women's freestyle events
 - ✓ In the men's freestyle events, Sandeep Tomar claimed silver in 61kg
- **Australia – to compete in the 2022 Asian Games, scheduled to take place in China’s Hangzhou**



- ✓ Oceania nations-Australia, New Zealand and several Pacific islands, have been invited to compete in Olympic team events such as Football, volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball and fencing in the 2022 Asiad
- ✓ The decision to this effect was made at the Olympic council of Asia meeting in Bangkok last week
- ✓ Australia has been a member of the Asian Football Confederation since 2006 and took part earlier in the East Asian Games in Osaka in 2001 and in 2017 Asian Winter games in Sapporo

- Website hosting company, GoDaddy - became the official sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup 2019



- ✓ GoDaddy has cricketer MS Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ The 2019 World Cup will be held in the United Kingdom from May 30 to July 14, 2019.

RANKINGS

- India, world's largest consumer of gold - has the 11th largest gold reserve in the world

Gold cache		
Rank	Possessor	Tonnes
1	U.S.	8,133.5
2	Germany	3,369.7
3	IMF	2,814.0
4	Italy	2,451.8
5	France	2,436.0
6	Russia	2,119.2
7	Mainland China	1,864.3
8	Switzerland	1,040.0
9	Japan	765.2
10	Netherlands	612.5
11	India	607.0
12	ECB	504.8
13	Taiwan	423.6
14	Portugal	382.5
15	Kazakhstan	353.3

SOURCE: WGC

- ✓ As per the latest report of the World Gold Council, current gold holding in India is pegged at 607 tonnes.

