

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 19, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **India's first 'Customs Checking Centre' – has been inaugurated at Thiruvotriyur**
 - ★ The centre will check all the relevant documents of the consignments and then upon clearance, the container trucks can directly reach the Port
 - ★ This eliminates the massive backlog in front of the port and eases the traffic congestion
- ◆ **Chennai – to have Electric bus soon and to explore the possibility of it, Transport Minister M.R. Vijayabhaskar and Transport Secretary P.W.C. Davidar visited London recently**



- ★ The meet was arranged by Anelise Rosa and Anna Peiris of the London-based C-40, a global networking group, specialized at electrifying buses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ★ In March, Chennai became the first Indian city to sign an agreement with C-40 to obtain all the necessary technology for the Electric bus
- ★ Last month, the team from C-40 visited Adyar bus depot to study the possibility of operating these buses in Chennai

◆ **Dr Naveenkumar Chandrasekaran of Central Electrochemical Research Insitutute, Karaikudi – to be conferred with ‘Young scientist 2018’ award of CSIR in ‘Chemical sciences’ category on Sep 26th, 2018 during the CSIR Day**



- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Public works department – to undertake Rs 100.1 crore Flood mitigation scheme in Araniyar, Kosathalaiyar, Cooum, Adyar and Kovalam basins**
- ◆ **10 Chinese students join ‘Beijing Foreign studies university’ – to become Tamil scholars over the next 4 years of study**



- ★ The students, nine girls and a boy, are set to study Tamil language and literature
- ★ The university is introducing Tamil as 3rd Indian language this year, after Hindi and Bengali

SCHEMES

- ◆ **LOTUS^{HR} Project – ‘Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse’ was launched at Sun Dial Park in New Delhi by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Min of Science & Technology**



- ★ It is a joint initiative of Indian and Dutch scientists, to re-convert waste water to clean water and generate bio-fuel, during the process
- ★ Apart from the project, he also inaugurated 2 bio toilets supported by DBT-BIRAC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

STATES

- ◆ **Maharashtra – to set up a new ‘Cyber university’ to reduce the cyber threats**
- ★ The university will train professionals to counter online space cyber-attacks, internet crimes and conduct cyber forensics
- ★ The university will conduct courses in data analytics, cloud computing, blockchain, AI, cyber forensics and cyber investigations
- ★ Maharashtra Government is also in process of setting up its version of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to ward off external cyber threats

◆ **Uttar Pradesh police – have launched the country’s 1st ever ‘dial-FIR’ or ‘e-FIR’ scheme**

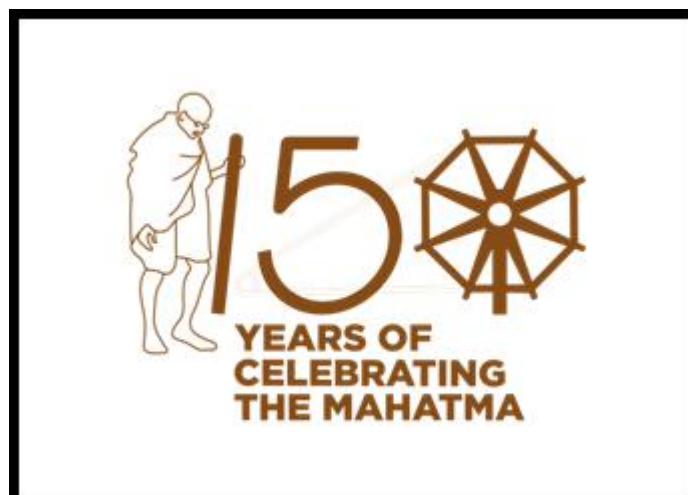


- ★ This enables the citizens to lodge a report and FIR, ‘online’
- ★ It has around 22 types of complaints in-built into the system
- ★ A pilot project of the e-FIR has been successfully conducted in Ghaziabad region

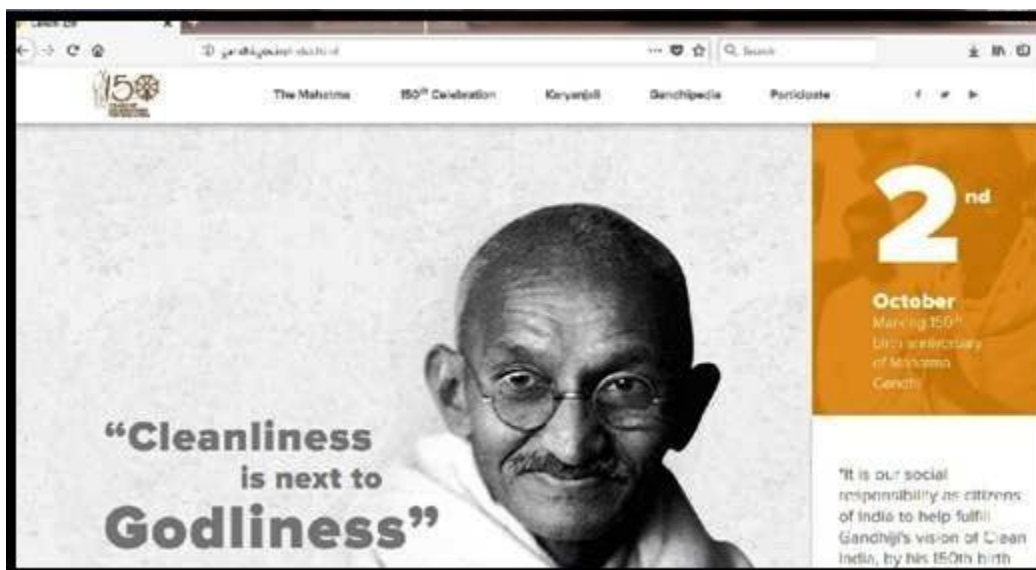
NATIONAL

◆ **Government – launches the Logo and the Web portal for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi**

- ★ They were launched by the Hon’ble President in the presence of Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Dr Mahesh Sharma and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Arun Goel
- ★ **Logo**



- ★ The logo was obtained through ‘crowd sourcing’ and will be displayed in all the Government organizations and entities
- ★ **Web portal**



- ★ The web portal is ‘<http://gandhi.gov.in>’
- ★ It is participatory in nature and has a unique feature ‘Gandhipedia’ which will be a repository of Gandhian knowledge
- ★ Information related to Gandhian literature, philosophy, audios and videos, rare photos are available in the portal
- ★ The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be observed in the form of two year long celebrations from October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2020 across the country

◆ **Government – launches ‘e-Sahaj’ portal to facilitate faster security clearances for setting up businesses by individuals or private companies**

- ★ The online portal will make the entire process standard, faster, transparent and easy to monitor

◆ **Government & United Nation’s ‘Food and Agriculture organization (FAO)’ – launches a new Agriculture project in 5 states, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**

- ★ The project aims to bring transformation in farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes
- ★ The project is being funded with US \$33.5 million grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- ★ United Nation's 'Food and Agriculture organization – Established on Oct 16th, 1945 with its headquarters in Rome
- ★ Global Environment Facility – Established on the eve of 1992 Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems, with its headquarters in Washington DC, United States

◆ **India & Germany – Signs MoU on 'Skill development'**



- ★ It was signed by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Indo-German Chamber of Commerce
- ★ The agreement aims to provide dual vocational education and training to Indian youth
- ★ To monitor the agreement, a joint body called 'German Indian Institute of Vocational Education and Training' has been set up
- ★ The idea of the agreement was first mooted during interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2015

◆ **Government – signs \$74 million loan agreement with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project**

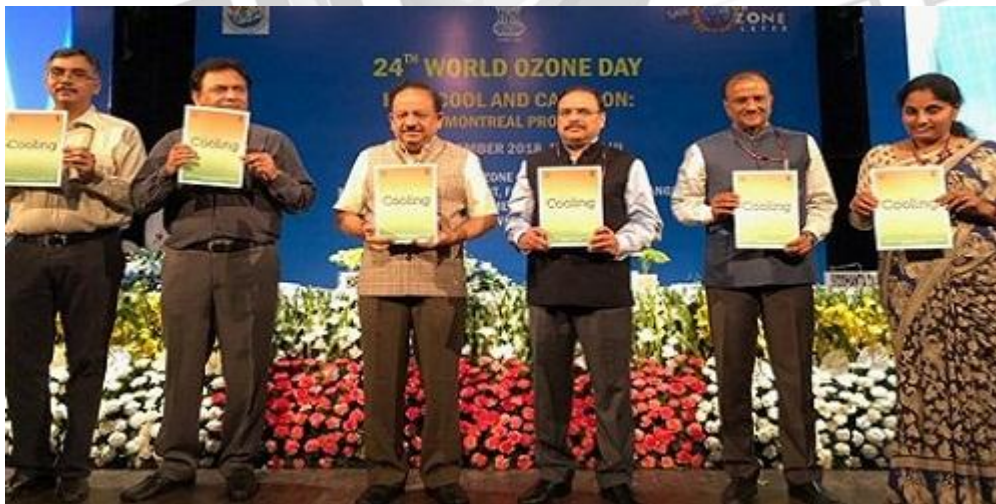
- ★ The project aims to improve the quality of training at selected 'Industrial Training Institutes' (ITIs) and increase the workforce through short term training in the State
- ★ For the project, 25 ITIs are selected and it will be completed in June, 2023
- ★ World Bank – comprises of 2 institutions - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA)

◆ **Union Cabinet – approves ‘Triple Talaq ordinance’ making Triple Talaq an offence on Sep 19th, 2018**

- ★ Now the bill becomes closer to becoming a law and will be placed in parliament
- ★ It still needs to be passed by Rajya sabha, after the approval of various amendments
- ★ Earlier, the Supreme court held that the Islamic practice of 'instant' triple talaq as unconstitutional on Aug 22, 2017
- ★ The verdict was delivered by a 5-judge bench led by the then Chief Justice J S Kehar, holding that it was violative of Article 14 and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

◆ **India – becomes the 1st country in the World to develop a draft ‘India Cooling Action Plan’ (ICAP)**

- ★ Prepared by - The Ozone Cell of Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- ★ Released by - Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change



- ★ It provides a 20-year projection for 2037-38 to provide sustainable cooling with the need of protecting the ozone layer
- ★ The Action plan suggests the reduction of refrigerant demand by 25% to 30%, reduction of cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25 and the reduction of cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by year 2037-38
- ★ The minister also released a booklet on ‘Montreal Protocol – India’s Success Story’

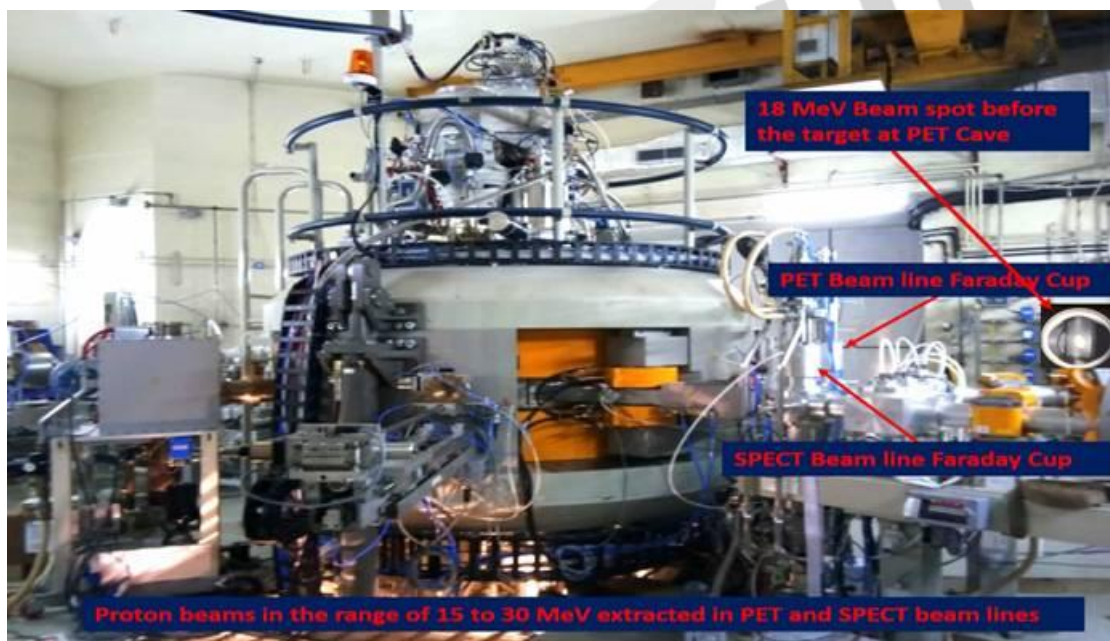
★ He also released two handbooks for trainers and technicians on “Good Service Practices and installation of room air-conditioners with HCFC-22 and flammable refrigerants”

◆ **PM – to lay the foundation stone for ‘India International Convention and Expo Centre’ at Dwarka, New Delhi on Sep 20th, 2018**

★ It would be a world-class, Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, with facilities like financial, hospitality and retail services

★ It was constructed at a budget of Rs 25700 crores by ‘India International Convention & Exhibition Centre Limited’ under Min of Commerce and Industry

◆ **Cyclone-30 – India’s biggest Cyclotron for Medical application – becomes operational in Sep 2018 at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata**



★ It produced a 30 MeV beam that reached the Faraday cup for the first time

★ It is under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and will be commissioned in 2019

★ The beam from this facility will be used to produce ¹⁸F (Fluorine-18 isotope) for the preparation of FIFluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radio-pharmaceutical used by Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology

★ Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care

INTERNATIONAL

◆ UAE – to offer ‘Expatriate’ Residency after Retirement of employees



- ★ The expats make up more than 80% of the total population of UAE
- ★ Under the present law, the expats can stay in the country only as long as they work
- ★ The new law, which comes into effect in 2019, will allow foreign retirees over the age of 55 to apply for longer residency visas which can be renewed after five years
- ★ To qualify, the retiree must either have a property investment worth at least 2 million dirhams (\$544,500), savings of no less than 1 million dirhams or a monthly income of no less than 20,000 dirhams

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ India – Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project construction – inaugurated by PM, Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM, Sheikh Hasina



- ★ It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied from India to Bangladesh
- ★ It is a 130 km long pipeline connecting Siliguri in West Bengal to Parbatipur in Bangladesh
- ★ It has 6 km within the Indian territory and the rest falls on the Bangladesh territory.

- ★ Indian leg of the pipeline project will be implemented by Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited and Bangladeshi leg will be implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
- ★ The estimated budget of the project is Rs 346 crore and will be completed within 30 months time frame
- ★ The pipeline can supply 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel every year and will replace the existing practice of sending diesel by rail

◆ **Bangladesh – allows India to use its ‘Chittagong’ and ‘Mongla’ ports**

– **to** transport the cargo from and to the north eastern states

- ★ The agreement for the same was earlier signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Dhaka in June, 2015
- ★ Under it, India will have to follow General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and Bangladeshi regulations apart from paying relevant customs duties
- ★ The agreement will be effective for five years, with automatic extension of another five years on mutual consent

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism - was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea from Sep 16th to 19th, 2018**



- ★ Theme - ‘A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism’
- ★ Organised by - World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Seoul Metropolitan Government, supported by the Government of South Korea
- ★ The summit discuss key issues regarding the future of urban tourism in the context of the 2030 Urban Agenda
- ★ World Tourism organization – has its headquarters in Madrid, Spain

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Yusaku Maezawa, Japanese billionaire and founder of online fashion giant Zozo – becomes the world's first private passenger to fly around the Moon - aboard SpaceX's 'Big Falcon Rocket' launch vehicle**



- ★ Maezawa wants to take six to eight artists from around the world on the nearly week-long trip to the Moon
- ★ The last time a human visited the moon was during the final Apollo Mission of 1972
- ★ The mission is expected to launch in 2023, with the testing on this massive rocket expected to begin in 2019
- ★ Maezawa is also a contemporary art collector and curator with a large collection at his Contemporary Art Foundation in Tokyo
- ★ He was also in Florida at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in February 2018 to watch the maiden launch of SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket

◆ **Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua, Mountaineers - created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand in Iran**



- ★ The peak has an altitude of 5,609 metres and sulphur discharge at the peak could be lethal for prolonged exposure
- ★ The expedition team consisted of 3 members, Satyarup Siddhanta, Mousumi Khatua Siddhanta and Bhaswati Chatterjee
- ★ Bhaswati Chatterjee stayed back after reaching 4,600 metres
- ★ They have scaled the peak in a very short duration to avoid sulphur exposure
- ★ This is Satyarup Siddhanta's 4th volcanic summit and is in the last lap of climbing the highest volcanoes of all the continents named as 'climbing the 7 volcanic summits'

◆ **S Jaishankar, former Foreign secretary – joined the board of 'US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)'**



- ★ He was the foreign secretary from Jan 2015 to Jan 2018 and is currently the president of Global Corporate Affairs for the Tata Group
- ★ Earlier, he also served as High Commissioner to Singapore, Ambassador to China, and Ambassador to the US
- ★ USISPF is a forum to promote strategic relationship in business between the US and India

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, renowned Scientist – Appointed as Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of Department of Atomic Energy**



- ★ His tenure will last upto May 2021, when he completes the age of 64 years
 - ★ He succeeds Shekhar Basu, who was appointed in Oct 2015 and whose tenure ends in Sep 2018, after two one-year extensions
 - ★ Vyas is the current Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), with significant contributions to the area of nuclear reactor fuels
 - ★ He was conferred several awards including Indian Nuclear Society Outstanding Service Award 2011, Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award 2006, DAE Awards in years 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013
 - ★ He is also the Fellow of 'Indian National Academy of Engineers'
 - ★ Atomic Energy commission was set up in the year 1948 and comes directly under the PM
- ◆ **Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma, Bollywood actors – appointed as 'Ambassadors' of Skill India Campaign - to promote and endorse the 'Skill India Mission', chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



- ★ The duo, through their film 'Sui Dhaaga - Made in India', are saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce by highlighting their challenges and issues

AWARDS

- ◆ **Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., - has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico**



- ★ The award was presented to him by Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico to India on the eve of 128th National Day of Mexico

OBITUARY

- ◆ **Anna Rajam Malhotra, India's 1st Woman IAS Officer Post-Independence (91 years)**



- ★ She was born as Anna Rajam George in Ernakulum, Kerala, in July 1927
- ★ Anna joined the civil services in 1951 and opted for the Madras cadre
- ★ She had worked under 7 chief ministers of Tamil Nadu.
- ★ She married R N Malhotra, who served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1985 to 1990
- ★ She was involved in setting up of the country's modern port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) near Mumbai.
- ★ She was the chairperson of the JNPT during the execution
- ★ She had also served in the personnel section of the Union Home Ministry
- ★ After retirement, she served as a director of Hotel Leela Venture Ltd.
- ★ She was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in the year 1989

◆ **Ganpatrao Andalka, Former Asian Games champion wrestler (83 years)**



- ★ He participated in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and had bagged the coveted “Hind Kesari” title in 1960
- ★ He also won Gold and Silver medals in two different weight categories in the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games
- ★ He was a recipient of the Arjuna award (1964) and the Maharashtra government’s ‘Shiv Chhatrapati Award’ in 1982 for his contribution to wrestling

SPORTS

◆ **Medved International Wrestling Tournament, Minsk, Belarus**

- ★ **Sakshi Malik – won Silver medal** in 62 kg category



- ★ Pooja Dhanda – won Bronze medal in 57 kg category

◆ **Hangzhou (China) – to host 4th Asian Para Games in the year 2022**

- ★ Earlier it was announced that Hangzhou will host the Asian Games 2022
- ★ Nearly 5.5 % of the total population of 9.5 million people in Hangzhou city are said to have an impairment

◆ **Allianz, German Insurance company – signed with ‘International Olympic committee’ as ‘Global sponsor’ for Olympics between 2021 and 2028**

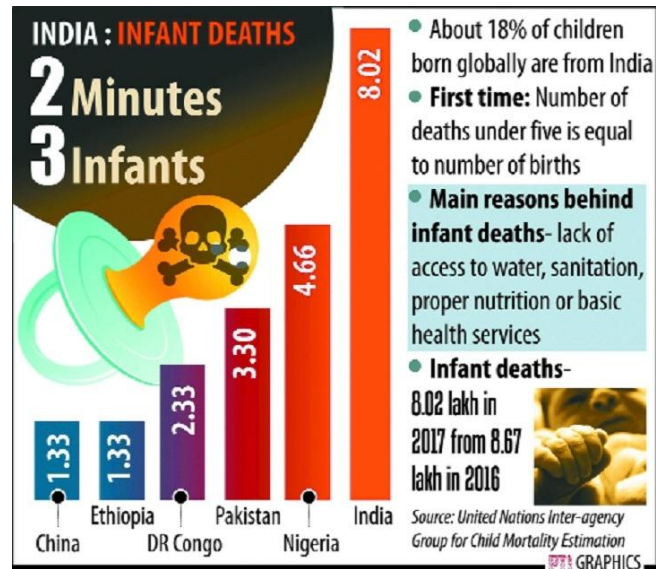
- ★ They becomes the IOC’s 14th Top sponsor, with the signing
- ★ Allianz will give approx US\$50 million (S\$68.5 million) per year to IOC
- ★ It will sponsor
 - Summer Olympics in Paris in 2024
 - Summer Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028
 - Winter Games in 2022 in Beijing and in 2026
- ★ Other major sponsors are Coca-Cola, Intel, Panasonic and Visa

REPORT

◆ **Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2018 – Released by ‘UNICEF’ and ‘UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation’**



◆ Highlights of the Report



- ★ In India, the death of children below the age of five years has reduced from nearly 22% in 2012 to 18% in 2017, and is below one million mark, for the first time (9,89,000)
- ★ About 8,02,000 infant deaths were reported in India in 2017, the lowest in five years
- ★ But, India still leads the world in Infant deaths, followed by Nigeria at 4,66,000, Pakistan at 3,30,000 and Democratic Republic of Congo at 2,33,000
- ★ Globally, an estimated 6.3 million children aged younger than 15 years died in 2017, or the equivalent of one child every 5 seconds
- ★ The report notes that more than 80% of all the deaths, or 5.4 million, occur in children in their first 5 years of life
- ★ According to the report, the Sub-Saharan Africa region had the highest under-five mortality rate in the world. In 2017, the region had an average under-five mortality rate of 76 deaths per 1,000 live births.