

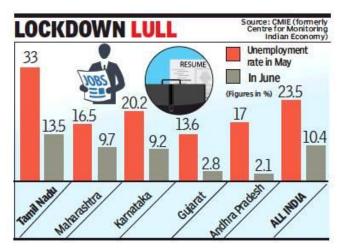
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 3, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- ➤ The Tamil Nadu government announced a monthly stipend of □3,000 to newly enrolled lawyers in the state during their first two years in practice
- ✓ The assistance has been sanctioned by the government following a long-pending demand of the legal fraternity
- ✓ According to State Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, the scheme would benefit young lawyers who, otherwise, find it hard to meet their basic needs during their initial years of practice.
- ✓ The scheme will benefit about 1,500 to 2,000 young advocates every year, especially those from the economically weaker sections and rural backgrounds.
- ✓ Every young lawyer, after enrolment with the state bar council, has to undergo training under a senior advocate for at least two to three years.
- ✓ The state government has also been implementing an Advocates Welfare Scheme for more than three decades.
- ✓ Former Chief Minister Dr M.G. Ramachandran had launched the scheme to assist children of deceased advocates in 1987.
- ✓ In 2012, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa had increased the assistance from □2 lakh to □5.25 lakh.
- Chennal will receive faster trains operated by Private firms with world class amenities using 16-coach modern rakes by April 2023
- ✓ The private trains will be operated to Chennai from cities like Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Kanyakumari, Howrah, Mangalore, Delhi
- ✓ The plan to run private trains was commenced in October 2019
- ✓ Now, the Indian Railways has issued a Request For Qualification (RFQ) on July 1 to choose private firms who can bid to fund and operate trains using modern rakes under public private partnership (PPP)



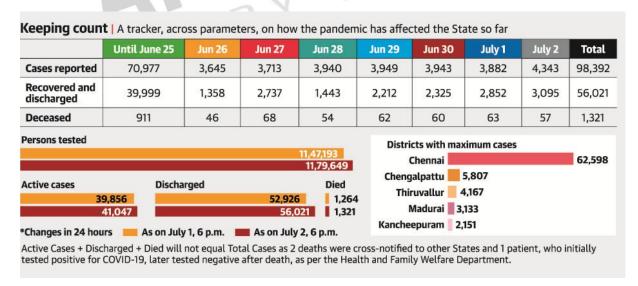
- ✓ As per the RFQ, twelve pairs of trains will be operated by private players for 35 years using 16 rakes in the area covered by Southern Railway
- ✓ Most trains within the state will have travel time ranging from 6 hours to nearly 12 hours.
 - ✓ Chennai-Trichy route will be covered in four hours and 15 minutes against the current travel time of five and a half hours
 - ✓ Also, Chennai-Kanyakumari trip will be covered in 11 hours and 45 minutes as against the current 13 hours.
 - ✓ Chennai-Delhi route will be covered in 27 hours and Chennai-Mumbai in 22 hours
- ✓ The trains will operate at a maximum speed of 160kmph, which will be the fastest one run by railways on these routes.
- ✓ These services are planned to reduce travel time and improve comfort.
- ➤ The Unemployment rate in Tamil Nadu has dropped to 13.5% in June, as against 33% in May.
- ✓ The lowering unemployment rate in the state has been attributed to the migration of guest workers to their native states like Bihar and Jharkhand, which have now recorded higher unemployment rates, 19% and 21% respectively for June.



- ✓ As per the data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on unemployment for June, the national unemployment rate remains at 10.4%, with 11.9% in urban areas and 9.8% in rural areas.
- ✓ In April, the first full month of lockdown, the state's unemployment rate touched a record 49.8% due to intense lockdown across the state and guest workers were struck here.
- ✓ In May, it further dropped to 33%
- ✓ The state has been witnessing an unemployment rate of 6.4% in the pre-lockdown period
- ✓ For the month of June, Assam with 0.6% unemployment had the lowest unemployment rate in the country
- ✓ Haryana with 33.6% had the highest unemployment rate for the same month among all the states in the country.
- ✓ The unemployment rate reached an all-time high of 23.52% in the country in the month of April due to the nationwide lockdown.

➤ For the first time, Tamil Nadu - recorded over 4,000 Covid-19 positive cases on July 2.

- ✓ The state moved closer to the 1 lakh case milestone on the day, with the registering of highest ever daily spike of 4,343 fresh Covid-19 cases.
- ✓ With this, the state's overall tally has now reached 98,392.
- ✓ The state reported 57 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 1,321.
- ✓ A total of 41,047 people were still under treatment in various hospitals and Covid care centres as 'active' cases



- ✓ On July 2, state's hotspot, Chennai, recorded 2,027 new cases, and its neighbouring districts -- Tiruvallur (164), Kancheepuram (112) and Chengalpet (171) -- together accounted for 447 cases
- ✓ In south, Madurai recorded 273 cases, while Ramanathapuram logged 117 cases.

- ✓ Further, in North, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore recorded 170 and 138 fresh cases respectively
 - ✓ With these cases, Chennai's cumulative tally rose to 62,598, while Madurai has taken its tally to 3,133
- ✓ In the last 24 hours, 33,488 samples were tested in the State, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 12,35,692.
 - ✓ Till now, a total of 11,79,649 individuals have been tested in the State.
- ✓ On the day, 3,095 persons were discharged, taking the total recovered to 56,021 at a recovery rate of 57%
- ✓ State Health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar announced that a new 750-bed hospital at the King Institute for Preventive Medicine will be inaugurated by chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami soon.
 - ✓ The centre inside the Institute of Ageing will serve as a tertiary care centre
 with senior specialists, ventilators, beds with oxygen and highly trained
 nurses
 - ✓ The facility is likely to be used to isolate and treat the elderly
- ✓ Simultaneously, a 500-bed facility for people who test positive for the viral disease is getting ready at the Government Hospital for Thoracic Medicine (GHTM), Tambaram.

SCHEMES

- On July 1, Department of Science and Technology's (DST's) Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) - has launched a new scheme named 'Accelerate Vigyan'
- ✓ The new scheme provides a single platform to encourage high-end scientific research in the country
- ✓ It offers a common forum for conducting workshops, internships and capacity building programs for research scholars and students.
- ✓ The web portal of the Accelerate Vigyan Scheme, www.acceleratevigyan.gov.in, was also launched during the occasion
- ✓ The Accelerate Vigyan scheme begins with the mission SAMOOHAN (bring together)
- ✓ This mission aims to consolidate all scientific interactions in the country under one common roof
- ✓ This mission has two components (i) SANGOSHTHI (Seminar & Symposia) and (ii) SAYONJIA (Chronicle)
- ✓ For the winter season, under the Accelerate Vigyan scheme, applications have been launched for the Mission ABHYAAS. (Skill development)
 - ✓ This mission has been designed to support students looking for career development in the field of research.
 - ✓ The ABHYAAS Mission has been launched with two components (i) High-End Workshops -KARYASHALA and (ii) VRITIKA- Research Internship

- ✓ For both the components, applications for the winter season-December 2020 to January 2021 have started.
- ✓ The Mission will be implemented over the period of next five years
- ✓ Through the Mission, 1000 high-end workshops will be targeted to be organized to assist around 25,000 postgraduate and doctoral students.

STATES

- On July 1, the Kerala State Government Cabinet approved the roll out of a new project titled 'Dream Kerala'
- ✓ The new project aims to rehabilitate Non-Resident Indian's (NRI's) returning to the state following the loss of employment due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ Around 52% of the total NRI's from Kerala are expected to return to the state following the global financial crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ For Kerala, the importance of NRI remittances is much more than any other state
 in the country
- ✓ In 2018, NRI remittances were Rs 85,000 crore in the state.
- ✓ Through the Dream Kerala Project, the expertise, skills, and knowledge of the returning Keralites who are trained in international job scenario and have an experience of the global market will be utilized by the state
- ✓ The project will be coordinated through various departments of the Kerala Government.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan has set a target for the successful implementation of the project within 100 days from 1st July 2020.
- ✓ Within this time period, the State Government will accept proposals and suggestions from the NRIs returning to Kerala.
- ✓ In the State Assembly, on 14th August 2020, the selected proposals will be presented
- South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and two Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking's (PSUs) Indian Oil and NTPC Limited – have signed a MoU for setting up of a 'Waste to Energy' Plant at Delhi's Okhla locality.
- ✓ The Waste to Energy Plant will help in addressing the issue of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management and also will assist in leading towards a more energy-efficient and greener future.
- ✓ The new plant will have the capacity to process 17500 tons of RDF-Refuse Derived Fuel per annum
- ✓ It will use the Gasification Technology to produce RDF from combustible components of Municipal Waste
- ✓ The RDF thus produced will be used for the production of Syngas.
- ✓ Syngas will be further used to generate electricity after passing it through reciprocating engines or turbines.

NATIONAL

- ➤ In a major gender reform, the Ministry of Home affairs is set to allow induction of transgenders as 'third gender' into the central armed police forces.
- ✓ In this regard, the ministry is at the concluding stage of consultations with central paramilitary forces like BSF, CRPF, ITBP, CISF and SSB
- ✓ Once the suggestions were received from all the stakeholders, the government will incorporate transgender, along with male and female, in the rules for the recruitment exam for assistant commandants in central forces, from this year onwards.
- ✓ The move follows enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights)
 Act, 2019, in December last year.
- ✓ The Act prohibits discrimination of a transgender person in fields like education, employment, healthcare services, accommodation, right to acquire property and other public services and facilities.
- ✓ As per Clause 9 of the Act, no establishment shall discriminate against any transgender person in any matter relating to employment, including but not limited to, recruitment, promotion and other related issues
- ✓ In a circular on April 20, the Department of Personnel and Training had requested all central ministries and departments to modify rules and provide for inclusion of 'transgender' as a separate category of gender.
- ✓ Last year, Chhattisgarh had announced that transgenders would be eligible for police jobs.
- ✓ Incidentally, the first transgender officer to be inducted in the police forces was sub-inspector K Prithika Yashini in Tamil Nadu in 2017.
- ✓ The central paramilitary forces have a combined strength of over 10 lakh personnel.
- ➤ The Centre will start operating Private trains with modern facilities by April, 2023 in 109 pairs of 'chosen' routes
- ✓ These trains were planned to connect all important cities and major tourist and pilgrimage destinations.
- ✓ As per the Request For Qualification (RFQ) bid document released by the Railways on July 1, a maximum of 18 pairs of such trains will be operated under Mumbai clusters (regions), followed by 13 pairs each under Delhi and Prayagraj regions.
- ✓ Further, 12 pairs of such trains will be operated under Chennai region, 10 each under Howrah, Patna and Secunderabad clusters and nine each under Jaipur and Chandigarh regions.
- ✓ Only five pairs of trains will be operated under Bengaluru region.

✓ The bidder offering maximum share of revenue will get the contract to run such trains for 35 years.

CONTRACT NORMS	Private train operation on routes		
➤ Concession Period: 35 years		New Rishikesh	
➤ Concessionaire to pay fixed	Indore	Delhi	
haulage charges for path, stations,	New Delhi	Varanasi	
access to railway infrastructure	Anand Vihar	Darbhanga	
and charges for electricity	Anand Vihar	Badgam	
Concessionaire to share revenue with Railways	Lucknow	Delhi	
(competitive bidding)	Delhi	Sabarmati	
➤ To ensure 95% punctuality;	Delhi	Udaipur	
not more than 1 failure per lakh	Delhi	Guwahati	
km of travel	Anand Vihar	Barauni	
➤ High level of cleanliness	Delhi	Pune	
➤ Majority to be manufactured	Delhi	Kathgodam	
in India	Delhi	Jodhpur	

- ✓ Simultaneously, the Railways is improving the infrastructure for these private trains to run at high speed of 160kmph.
- ✓ This year, the maximum speed limit for Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata routes was increased from 110kmph to 130kmph and in the next four years, trains can run at 160kmph on these sections
- ✓ The Railways are expected to open financial bids for the project by February-March 2021 and finalise them by April 2021
- ✓ The overall passenger traffic in the country is expected to increase to 13 billion by 2030 as compared to 8.4 billion in 2019.
- On July 2, the Ministry of Culture has announced that all centrallyprotected monuments will be open to visitors again from July 6
- ✓ The order comes exactly a month after the government's previous order to open up centrally-protected archaeological sites that have religious installations on their premises
- ✓ While the order applies to all 3,691 centrally-protected monuments, the government clarified that no monument in containment zones will be opened to visitors yet.
- ✓ The monuments will be opened subject to certain conditions, which includes restrictions on the number of tourists to be allowed entry per day
- ✓ Further, the ASI has also disallowed consumption of all food and beverages except bottled water inside the monuments and allowed only digital payments for all services including purchase of entry tickets.
- ✓ All tourists entering the monuments will also have to share their phone numbers with the designated ASI authority for contact-tracing, if need be.
- ✓ The wearing of masks by all the visitors has been made 'mandatory'

- ✓ Moreover, group photography and access to the interiors of some monuments may also be restricted by the local administration.
- ➤ On July 2, India added a record 22,045 Covid-19 cases, taking the country's total caseload to 6,27,023, just a day after the count had crossed the 6 lakh mark, according to the data collated from the state governments
- ✓ India's Covid-19 death toll crossed the 18,000 mark on the day after reporting 379 more fatalities.
- ✓ The previous single-day peak of 20,060 reported on June 27 was overtaken on the day, after a huge rush of cases in Maharashtra (6,330), Tamil Nadu (4,343), Karnataka (1,502) and Telangana (1,213).
- ✓ Apart from these four states, Andhra Pradesh (845 new cases), Uttar Pradesh (817), Gujarat (681), Bengal (649) and Bihar (478) registered their highest jump in infections, while Assam added 408 cases to its tally.
- ✓ Maharashtra's stands as the most affected state in the entire country after having a total of 1,86,626 cases, with 77,260 being 'active' cases still under treatment.
- ✓ Delhi ranks at the third place after Tamil Nadu with a total cumulative cases of over 92,000
- ✓ Till July 1, India tested 90.56 lakh samples, of which 2.29 lakh samples were tested on the same day across 1,065 testing labs in the country.
- ✓ To expand testing, ICMR has also removed the condition to have a prescription from a government doctor to get Covid-I9 test done
- ✓ ICMR has advised States/ UTs to facilitate testing at the earliest by enabling all qualified medical practitioners, including private practitioners, to prescribe Covid tests to any individual fulfilling the criteria as per ICMR guidelines

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- On July 2, the Madras high court directed the government to continue the Police Wellbeing Programme in Tamil Nadu for the next five years by allocating necessary funds.
- ✓ A division bench of Justices P N Prakash and B Pugalendhi observed that public security can be ensured only if the police force remains physically, mentally and morally strong
- ✓ The programme was initiated in 2018 in collaboration with the National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru and its three-year duration was about to end.
- ✓ As on date, 462 master trainers, including 254 police personnel and 208 councillors, attended a five-day training session at Nimhans.
- ✓ The trainers conduct the programme for police on Fridays and Saturdays, while
 the family members of the police personnel were also trained on Sundays.

- ✓ A total of 90,000 personnel of the total 1.2 lakh police force in the state have undergone training and the government is also planning to further continue the programme.
- ✓ Renowned psychiatrist Dr C Ramasubramanian is the state nodal officer for the programme

INTERNATIONAL

- ➤ The US parliament has passed a new bill 'unanimously' that would impose sanctions on all entities/firms that help violate Hong Kong's autonomy and financial institutions that do business with them.
- ✓ The bill was passed by the Senate with unanimous consent on July 2, a day after the House of Representatives also cleared it without opposition, a rare example of bipartisan support.
- ✓ It will now be sent to President Trump to sign into law or veto.
- ✓ On the day, China warned of strong countersteps if the US, Australia and the UK continued taking actions in response to Beijing's tough national security law in Hong Kong
- ✓ The UK has offered to upgrade the status of British National (Overseas) passport holders in Hong Kong to offer a path to citizenship.
- ✓ Some 350,000 residents hold BNO passports and with the new announcement, another 2.5 million of the city's 7.5 million people are eligible for them
- ✓ Hong Kong was under U.K. jurisdiction until it was handed over to China in 1997 with a guarantee that Beijing would preserve the city's judicial and legislative autonomy for 50 years.
- ➤ On July 1, fresh daily coronavirus cases in the US soared past 50,000 for the first time, as the WHO delivered a grave warning that the pandemic is accelerating.
- ✓ Restaurants, bars and beaches in the world's worst-hit nation were closed from California to Florida on the day.
- ✓ Global infections have hit their highest level in the past week, as per WHO, with chief Tedros Ghebreyesus saying new cases reaching around 1,60,000 on every single day

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

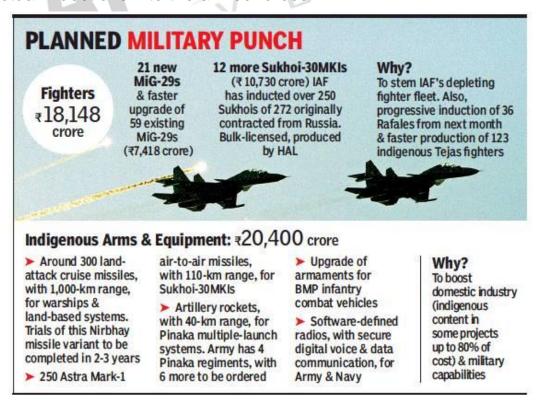
- The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) UNCLOS tribunal concluded that India doesn't have any jurisdiction over the eight-year old case involving two Italian marines
- ✓ It had ruled that the Italian marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, accused of killing two fishermen in the waters off the Kerala coast on February 15, 2012, would face a trial in Italy, not India.

9 | Page

- ✓ Further, it agreed India's counter-claim that the marines on board the ship "Enrica Lexie" should pay compensation to the victims' families, the boat owner and crew members.
 - ✓ It is because they had violated the freedom of navigation rights under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) by shooting at fishing boat "St. Antony" carrying Indian fishermen.
- ✓ In their defence, the marines claimed they mistook the fishermen for "pirates" and that the shooting occurred in international waters.
- ✓ The tribunal also dismissed Italy's claim that the marines were entitled to any compensation.
 - ✓ It is because the marines had been kept mostly at the Italian Embassy in New Delhi before being repatriated by the government in September 2014 and 28 May 2016
- ✓ In its submissions, India had called on the tribunal to "adjudge and declare that PCA has no jurisdiction with respect to the case submitted to it by Italy".

DEFENCE

- ➤ On July 2, the Ministry of Defence has approved several capital defence procurement projects worth □38,900 crore.
- ✓ They include 33 new fighter jets, 300 long-range land-attack cruise missiles and 250 air-to-air missiles
- ✓ However, the projects are expected to take at least two to three years to translate into actual inductions into the armed forces



- ✓ The defence acquisitions council (DAC), chaired by defence minister Rajnath
 Singh, approved procurement of 21 more MiG-29s for the IAF and 12 Sukhoi-30
 MKIs from Russia.
- ✓ The 21 MiG-29s, along with a further upgrade of 59 MiG-29s already with the IAF
 to "ensure similar standards across the fleet", will cost □7,418 crore
 - ✓ Indian Air Force has already three Squadrons of MiG 29 fighter aircraft in service.
 - ✓ Russian company Mikoyan is the manufacturer of MiG 29 aircraft.
- ✓ The 12 additional Sukhois will be licensed produced by defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics, along with upgraded electronic warfare suites and additional supplies and spares for the fleet, at a cost of □10,730 crore.
 - ✓ They will be manufactured at the Nasik, Maharashtra facility of the HAL.
 - ✓ At present, the Indian Air Force has a total of 260 Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft in service
 - ✓ Of these, over 250 Sukhois were part of the 272 originally contracted from Russia for well over \$12 billion
 - ✓ Most of these Sukhois were being manufactured at HAL facilities in the country
- ✓ Both MiG-29s and Sukhois are currently deployed at forward airbases along the Line of Actual Control due to the ongoing military face-off with China
- ✓ Among the other projects approved by the DAC, induction of the 'Astra' beyond visual range air-to-air missiles for the Navy and IAF will probably be the fastest.
 - ✓ With all its development trials over, the IAF can begin to induct the 250 Astra missiles to arm its Sukhoi fighters from next year onwards.
 - ✓ The DRDO is also working to increase Astra's strike range from the existing 110km to over 160km.
- ✓ Another big approval given by the DAC was to induct over 300 Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile Systems with a strike range of over 1,000km.
 - ✓ But it will take two to three years for development trials of this advanced version of the Nirbhay (fearless) missile to be completed
 - ✓ This new sub-sonic long-range land attack cruise missile will be the longest range conventional missile in the armed forces' arsenal.
 - ✓ It was designed to fly at low altitudes to evade enemy radars and missile defence systems
 - ✓ It had been under development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
 - ✓ Nirbhay missile was first successfully tested in 2017
- ✓ The existing precision-strike BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles have a range of 300km, which is now being extended to around 500km.
- ✓ The other deals include Pinaka ammunition, armoured vehicle BMP armament upgrades and Software Defined Radio for the Army

AWARDS

- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan has been conferred the P.C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award
- ✓ The award has been conferred in recognition of his contribution to official statistics.
- ✓ Dr. Rangarajan was given the award on June 29, Statistics Day, at a function held in virtual mode

INDIA'S YOUNG POPULATION – A REPORT

- > For the first time, more than half of India's population, irrespective of gender or whether it's in urban or rural areas is now 25 years or older.
- ✓ This was revealed in the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2018 report released recently by the registrar general and census commissioner of India
- ✓ As India's fertility rate goes down steadily along with a rise in life expectancy, the proportion of its young population is shrinking.
- ✓ Overall, the under-25s in 2018 constituted 46.9% of the population
- ✓ Bihar, with the highest fertility rate of 3.2, had the highest proportion of its population below 25 years, 57.2%
- ✓ It was followed by UP with the second highest fertility rate of 2.9, where the under-25 year population was 52.7%.

State	Total		Male	Female
States With Lowest U	Inder-25 Populatio)11 (as	% of tota	1)
Kerala		37.4	39.6	35.5
Tamil Nadu		37.8	38.1	37.4
Andhra Pradesh		38.8	38.9	38.9
States With Highest	Under-25 Populati	on	9	
Jharkhand		51.9	52.6	51.1
Uttar Pradesh		52.7	53.1	52
Bihar		57.2	57.4	56.9

- ✓ The longer a state has had low fertility rates and relatively high life expectancy, the smaller the proportion of its population below 25 years.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have a lower fertility of 1.6 compared to Kerala's 1.7
 - ✓ However, the fertility rates of these states were more than 3 in 1991, barring Tamil Nadu with 2.2.

YOUNG POPULATION SHRINKING

State	Total	Male	Female
India	46.9	47.4	46.3
Kerala	37.4	39.6	35.5
Tamil Nadu	37.8	38.1	37.4
Andhra	38.8	38.9	38.9
Himachal	39.8	40.6	39.1
Punjab	40.7	42.0	39.2
J&K	42.1	42.7	41.6
Telangana	42.2	43.0	41.4
Karnataka	43.2	43.6	43.0
West Bengal	43.2	43.0	43.4
Odisha	43.4	43.1	43.8
Maharashtra	43.7	44.5	42.9
Delhi	44.5	44.3	44.7
Gujarat	45.0	45.9	44.2
Haryana	47.7	48.8	46.6
Assam	48.4	47.9	48.8
Chhattisgarh	49.0	49.3	48.8
Uttarakhand	51.0	52.8	49.2
Rajasthan	51.2	52.2	50.1
MP	51.4	51.8	50.8
Jharkhand	51.9	52.6	51.1
UP	52.7	53.1	52.0
Bihar	57.2	57.4	56.9

✓ As a result, they have a higher proportion of under-25s than Kerala.

