

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tangedco**– has proposed its first ever hydroelectric power project in Trichy region
 - ✓ The project will utilize water from Puliyancholai stream originating from Kolli hills
 - ✓ A 20-megawatt hydroelectric power project at a cost of Rs. 338 crore has been commissioned near Puliyancholi, located at about 77km from Trichy
 - ✓ Totally, five weirs – small barriers-- will be built across water stream to generate hydro power by channelising the water
 - ✓ The project is expected to improve the economy of nearby villages by boosting tourism
 - ✓ It will be completed within the next two years

- **On September 27, Tamil Nadu** – reported **5,791 fresh Covid-19 cases and 80 deaths.**
 - ✓ This has taken the state’s cumulative caseload to 5,80,808 and the casualties to 9,313.

Keeping count | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has affected the State so far

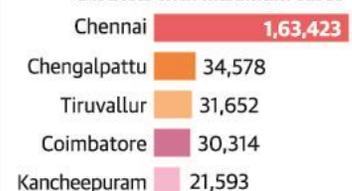
	Until Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Total
Cases reported	5,41,993	5,344	5,337	5,325	5,692	5,679	5,647	5,791	5,80,808
Recovered/ discharged	4,86,479	5,492	5,406	5,363	5,470	5,626	5,612	5,706	5,25,154
Deaths	8,811	60	76	63	66	72	85	80	9,313

Persons tested



*CHANGES IN 24 HOURS As on Sept. 26, 6 p.m. As on Sept. 27, 6 p.m.

Districts with maximum cases



- ✓ A total of 5,706 people were discharged from hospitals on the day, taking the cumulative recoveries to 5,25,154.
- ✓ A total of 46,341 persons are currently undergoing treatment as active cases.
- ✓ For the fourth consecutive day, Chennai recorded more than 1,000 fresh cases with 1,280 cases and 19 deaths.
- ✓ Neighbouring Tiruvallur (202), Chengalpet (296), and Kancheepuram (196) together reported 694 cases and six deaths.
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore reported 596 new cases, while Salem had 378 and Tiruppur 282.
- ✓ The state tested 96,102 samples on the day, taking the cumulative tested so far over 71-lakh samples

NATIONAL

- **President Ram Nath Kovind – gave his assent to the three controversial agriculture-related bills which have led to nationwide protests by farmers and opposition parties**
 - ✓ The legislations, which were published in the government gazette on September 27, will come into force immediately.
 - ✓ The three bills are - The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
 - ✓ The farmers’ organisations have argued that the laws will reduce their bargaining capacity and put an end to the minimum support price regime
 - ✓ The government has clarified that the MSP regime will stay and lifting restrictions on selling produce within agriculture mandis will give farmers greater freedom to sell anywhere in the country.
 - ✓ PM Narendra Modi had, in fact, referred to passage of the bills as a “watershed moment” in the history of Indian agriculture that will empower crores of farmers.
 - ✓ The opposition, however, criticised the government both for the manner in which the legislations were passed by Parliament and for failing to protect farmers’ interests.
 - ✓ NDA’s oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has parted ways on the issue of these farm bills recently
- **On September 27, India - became the second country after the US to register six million Covid-19 cases**
 - ✓ It took 12 days for India’s case count to go from 5 million to 6 million, a day more than the previous 1-million rise.
 - ✓ In another positive sign, recoveries from the virus crossed 5 million, accounting for more than 82% of all cases.

- ✓ A total of 84,185 fresh infections were recorded on the day, taking the country's covid-19 case count to 60,72,757
- ✓ Further, the country witnessed 1,030 deaths on the day, taking the death toll over 95,000.



- ✓ Two states witnessed their highest single-day spike in cases on the day — Kerala, which recorded 7,445 cases, and Rajasthan (2,084).
- ✓ Maharashtra accounted for 18,056 fresh cases and 380 deaths, while Karnataka reported 9,543 new cases

INTERNATIONAL

- **On September 27, Swiss voters - agreed to adopt a law mandating paternity leave, against a strong conservative opposition to the proposal**
- ✓ This makes it the last nation in Western Europe to do so
- ✓ Men had been allowed one day off for the birth of a child — the same time given for moving homes — but the new ruling will increase that to 10 days of paid leave.
- ✓ The paternity leave law was approved by parliament last year
- ✓ However, it was opposed by a group of conservative politicians
- ✓ Then, a referendum was announced before the law comes into effect.
- ✓ Despite being one of the world's wealthiest nations in terms of per capita income, Switzerland has not done enough on ensuring gender equality.
- ✓ Women in the country gained the right to vote only in 1971.
- ✓ About 60% of voters backed the government's move
- ✓ Under the law, biological fathers will be able to take the 10 days of leave within six months of the birth of a child
- ✓ The new law is expected to apply starting from January 1

DEFENCE

- **INS Viraat, the world's longest serving warship - will finally conclude the last leg of its journey on September 28, as it beaches at the Alang shipbreaking yard for dismantling**
- ✓ The ship was originally a British ship commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1959 and was later procured by India in 1986.

GOODBYE "ROMEO TWO TWO"



**AIRCRAFT CARRIER 'INS VIRAAT' TO BE DISMANTLED
AND SOLD AS SCRAP.**

**Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat, India's
Longest Serving Warship, To Be
Dismantled In Gujarat**

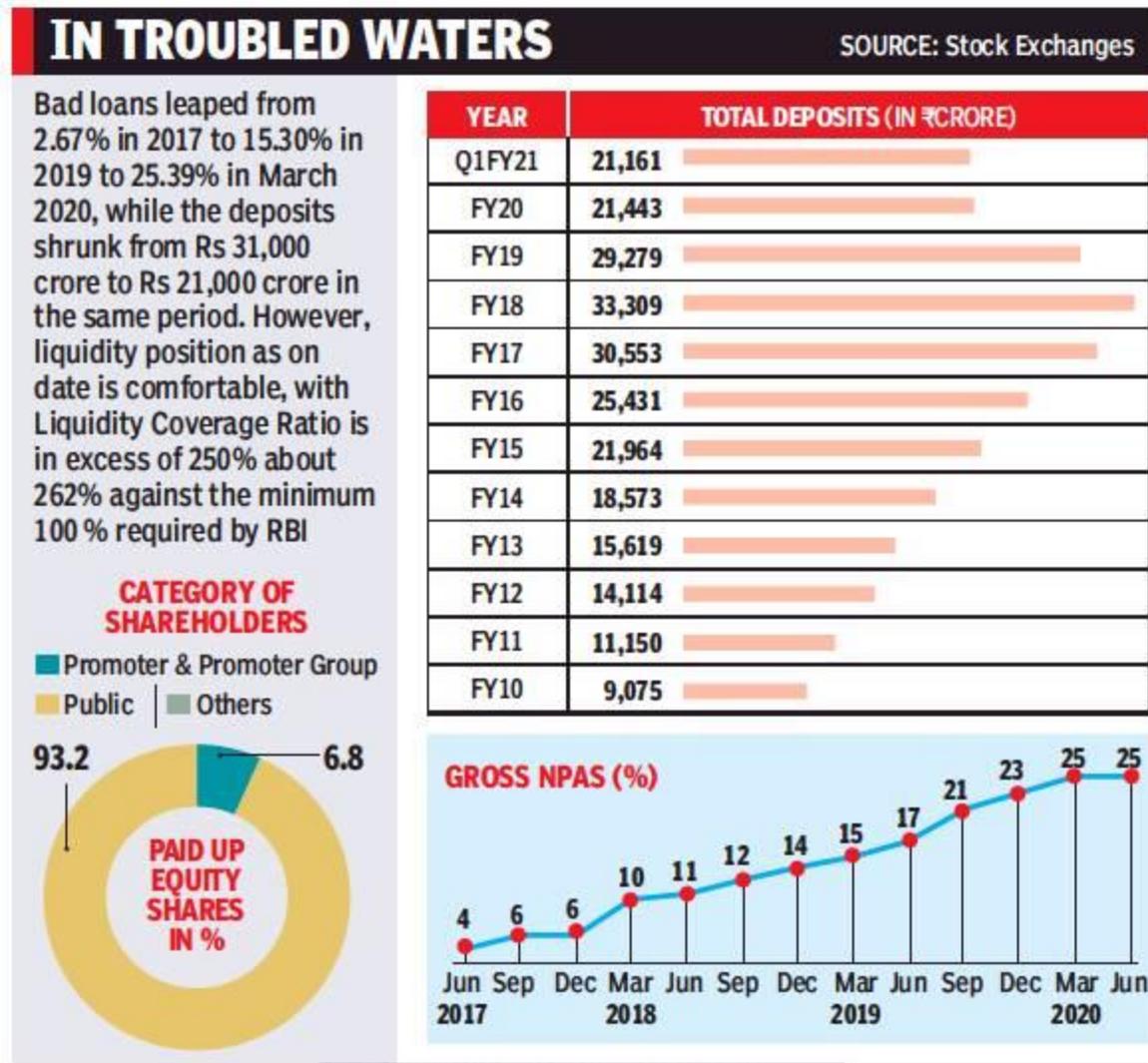
WWW.THEHUMANPING.COM

- ✓ It was kept at the Mumbai dockyard since March 2017 when it was decommissioned.
- ✓ The warship began its final journey from Mumbai's dockyard some 10 days ago.
- ✓ The navy ship, which is an aircraft carrier, housed the fighters, Sea Harriers of INAS 300, popularly called "White Tigers", anti-submarine aircraft Sea King Mk 42B, also known as "Harpoons", Sea King Mk 42 C and the SAR helicopter Chetak as an integral flight.

ECONOMY

- **On September 27, the RBI - approved constitution of a committee of three independent directors — Meera Makhan, Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra — to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).**
- ✓ A recent amendment to the Banking Regulation Act gives the RBI sweeping powers to push a merger.
- ✓ AION-backed Clix Capital, which is founded by Pramod Bhasin, former head of GE Capital in India, had initiated talks of a merger.
- ✓ Earlier, the RBI rejected a proposal of the bank to merge with India-bulls Housing Finance in last October
- ✓ The bank is facing lending restrictions for over a year from the RBI under its prompt corrective action (PCA)
- ✓ It urgently needs an investor, while several of its executives were under probe for fraud in respect of fixed deposits of Religare Finvest.
- ✓ On September 25, LVB shareholders ousted seven directors, including its RBI-appointed MD & CEO, and the auditors at the AGM.
- ✓ On September 27, the truncated board said that the bank's liquidity position as on date is comfortable and assured the depositors that their money is safe.
- ✓ The bank has a liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) of over 250% against the minimum 100% required by the RBI, as on date.
- ✓ In the meantime, the bank said it will go ahead with the proposed amalgamation with Clix Capital.

- ✓ LVB's troubles started after it shifted its focus to lend to large businesses from small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLLED

Jan 2019 | LVB's proposal to raise Rs 2000 cr equity from Blackstone, Bain and TPG takes a hit after a KPMG report says the bank will need to hike provisions

April 2019 | Indiabulls LVB propose merger seek RBI approval in May 2019

August 2019 | Parthasarathi Mukherjee, CEO, LVB who was given two-year extension in Jan 2019 resigns

September 2019 | Delhi Economic Offences Wing registers complaint against LVB, Singh Brothers for misappropriation of Religare Finvest FDs

September 2019 | LVB placed under RBI's prompt corrective action

October 9, 2019 | RBI rejects Indiabulls proposal to merge with Lakshmi Vilas Bank

October 2019 | Care downgrades LVB bonds to junk citing surge in loans without

a rise in deposits

June 2020 | LVB enters discussions with Aion-backed Clix Capital to sell stake

September 2020 | LVB shareholders reject reappointment of seven directors including MD & CEO G Sundar and bank auditors

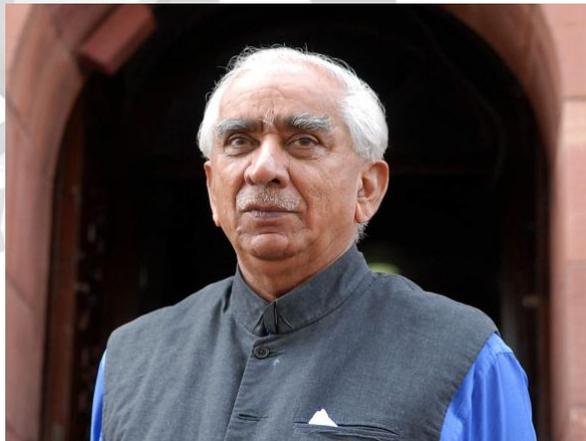
- ✓ The bad loans, or gross nonperforming assets (NPAs), jumped from 2.7% in 2017 to 15.3% in 2019 to 25.4% in March 2020, whereas deposits shrunk from ₹31,000 crore to ₹21,000 crore in the same period.

- ✓ The bank was put under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) of the RBI in September 2019.
- ✓ Lakshmi Vilas Bank was started by a group of seven businessmen of Karur under the leadership of V S N Ramalinga Chettiar in 1926
- ✓ Later, the bank has expanded with 566 branches, and 918 ATMs in 19 states and 1 Union territory so far.

OBITUARY

- **Former Union minister and BJP veteran Jaswant Singh, who held key portfolios in the Vajpayee government - passed away after a long illness at the Army Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi due to multiple organ failure on September 27**
- ✓ Rajasthan's longest-serving parliamentarian, 82-year old Singh was ailing since a fall in 2014.
- ✓ He had been admitted on June 25 and was being treated for sepsis and multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and effects of a severe head injury sustained earlier.
- ✓ The veteran leader held the positions of Finance, Defence and External Affairs Minister in the Union governments headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee

SOLDIER & STATESMAN	
1957:	Joined Indian Army
1965:	Joined Jan Sangh
1980:	Nominated to RS by BJP (Renominated in '86, '98, '99 & '04)
'89:	Won LS polls (& in 91, '96, '09)
'96:	FM; '98: Fgn min; 2000: Def min
'09:	Expelled from BJP
2010:	Back in BJP
2014:	Fought LS polls as an independent



- ✓ Starting his political career at the age of 27 after leaving the Army in 1966
- ✓ He remained a Member of Parliament from 1980 to 2014, being elected to the Rajya Sabha five times — in 1980, 1986, 1998, 1999, 2004 — and four times to the Lok Sabha — in 1990, 1991, 1996, 2009.
- ✓ He was also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha between 2004 and 2009.
- ✓ For a brief spell, he also served as deputy chairperson of the Planning Commission
- ✓ He was expelled from the party in 2009 over a book on Pakistan's founder 'Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence', which he wrote that was seen to be "pro-Jinnah"
- ✓ This was followed by reconciliation but he was again expelled for defying the party and filing a Lok Sabha nomination from Barmer in 2014, an election he lost.

- ✓ He was fully supportive of India testing its nuclear devices and spoke with clarity about the threat China posed to India's security, a theme he elaborated in speeches in Parliament.
- ✓ His tenure as finance minister was also marked by clarity of thought, as he pushed for reforms and supported a wider role for the market and a reduced government control over the economy.
- ✓ During the 1999 Kandahar hijacking, Singh had escorted three terrorists — Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar — to Kandahar in exchange for the 175 passengers of the hijacked flight IC 814 who were being held hostage by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

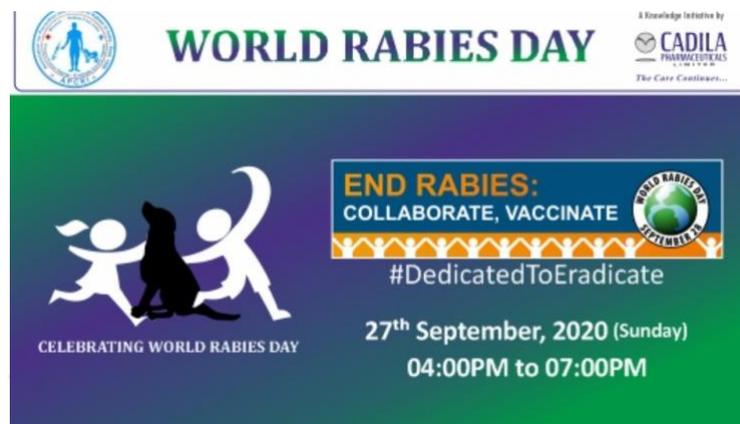
➤ **World Tourism Day - September 27**



- ✓ The day is observed to create awareness on the role played by tourism sector to connect the international community.
- ✓ The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has designated year 2020 as the “Year of Tourism and Rural Development”
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Tourism and Rural Development
- ✓ The theme deals with the celebration of the role played by tourism in job creation at rural areas
- ✓ For the first time, World Tourism Day was hosted by the Mercosur Bloc nations this year.
- ✓ Usually, the day is hosted by a single member country of the United Nations since 1997
- ✓ Blue is the colour of World Tourism Day.
- ✓ In India, the day is celebrated by the Ministry of Tourism
- ✓ On the occasion, the Ministry has launched Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institutes (SAATHI) Application in association with Quality Council of India
- ✓ It will assist the hospitality industry to instill confidence among staff, employees and guests about the safety of the hotels and units.

- ✓ The minister of tourism Dharmendra Pradhan also announced to adopt 100% clean fuel for prime tourist cities in order to help protect the monuments and ensure cleaner environment in the cities.
- ✓ The Mercosur Bloc was established in 1991 under Treaty of Asuncion to promote free trade and free movement of goods, current and people.
- ✓ It is an economic and political bloc including countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- ✓ Other associate members of the bloc include Chile, Bolivia, Guyana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Suriname.

➤ **World Rabies Day - 28th September**



- ✓ It is observed globally every year to create awareness regarding the impact of rabies on humans and animals and to recommend preventive measures that are needed to cure the disease.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate'
- ✓ The theme for the 14th World Rabies Day celebrated this year focuses on vaccination and collaboration.
- ✓ The day commemorates the death anniversary of the French chemist and microbiologist, Louis Pasteur'.
- ✓ He was the first person to develop the first rabies vaccine.
- ✓ The day was endorsed by Pan American Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, WHO and the USA Centers for disease control and prevention.
- ✓ The first ever World Rabies Day was observed in the year 2007
- ✓ In India, more than 20,000 people die of Rabies every year, accounting for 36% of rabies death globally
- ✓ India has around 30 million stray dogs that contribute to 96% of rabies in human.
- ✓ The government has launched a 'National Rabies Control Programme' to reduce the incidence of rabies-related deaths, which occur mostly due to lack of awareness and insufficient dog vaccines
- ✓ The programme has two components - the animal component and the human component.

- ✓ The Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) aims at preventing human deaths due to rabies.
- ✓ It was founded in 2007 and has been headquartered at Manhattan, Kansas, United States.
- ✓ It has an objective of eliminating deaths from rabies by 2030, completely.

➤ **International Day for Universal Access to Information – September 28**



- ✓ The day was proclaimed by the 74th United Nations General Assembly on 15th October 2019
- ✓ This year, the day focuses on the right to information in the times of crisis
- ✓ It is celebrated to showcase the advantages of statutory and constitutional policies in order to provide public access to information.
- ✓ The day is commonly called as the Access to Information Day.
- ✓ It was first observed on 28 September 2016
- ✓ The day was designated by the UNESCO General Conference, initially.
- ✓ Since 2002, the day had been recognized as International Right to Know Day.
- ✓ In India, the Right to Information (RTI) is governed by the Right to Information Act, 2005
- ✓ It replaced the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- ✓ The Act ensures the right to access information held by public authority, which includes inspection of work, documents, records, taking extracts, notes or copies of documents or records and obtaining information from electronic devices.
- ✓ Under the RTI Act, any citizen of India can request information from a “public authority” which is required to reply within 30 days.
- ✓ The act was enacted to consolidate the fundamental right of ‘freedom of speech’ under Article 19.

REPORT

- **India’s overall life expectancy at birth - has gone up from 49.7 in 1970-75 to 69.4 by 2014-18**
- ✓ This was revealed in the latest Sample Registration System report released by the Census and Registrar General’s office.

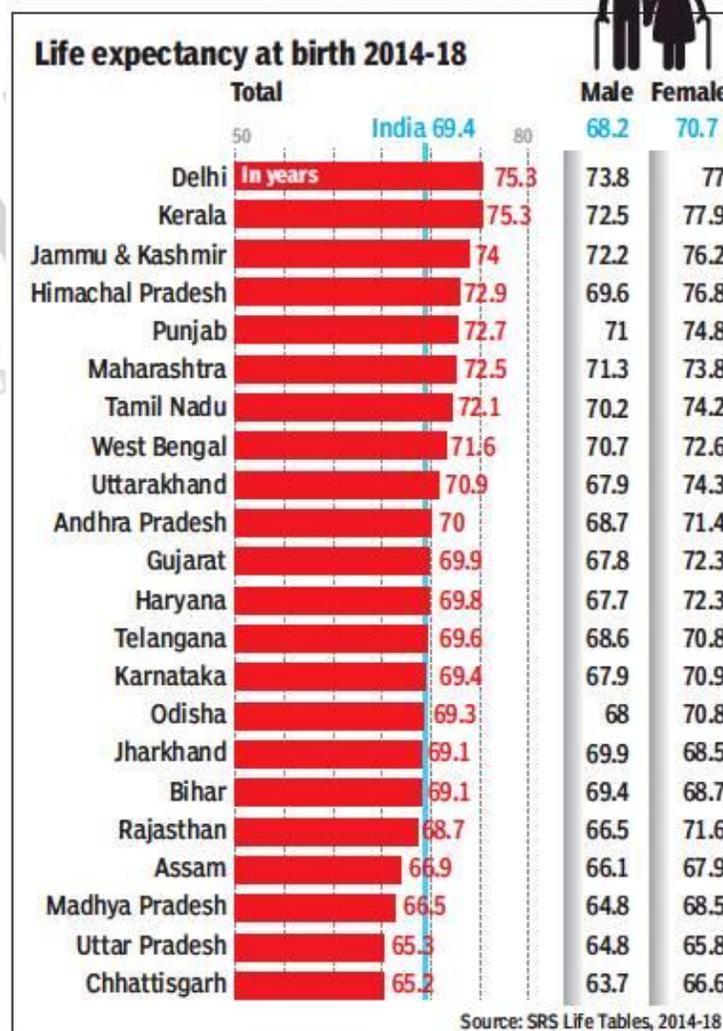
- ✓ The improvement in life expectancy in the last decade has been a mere 0.4 years annually, while the annual increase in life expectancy was 2-3 years between 1970 and 1990

FEMALES LIVE LONGER THAN MALES

- India's life expectancy at birth has inched up annually by 0.4 yrs over the last decade to reach 69.4 for 2014-18
- Between 1970 & 1990, annual increase was 2 to 3 yrs
- Females live longer than males in all states except Bihar & Jharkhand

- ✓ The report highlights the importance of infant mortality in affecting the country's life expectancy, as a person's life expectancy jumps by almost three years if he/she survives the first year of life

8 STATES BELOW NAT'L AVG



- ✓ Most Indians are expected to live more than 70 years if they survive the first year of life, except those in Chhattisgarh, Assam and Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The states where life expectancy goes up by more than three years if you survive the first year are also those with the highest infant mortality.
- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, with the second highest infant mortality rate of 43, life expectancy increases by the maximum of 4.4 years, on completion of the first year.
- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh with the highest infant mortality rate of 48, a person surviving the first year after birth lives more by 3.7 years.
- ✓ Further, in almost all states those who survive up to 70 years are likely to live beyond 80 years.
- ✓ Urban women have the highest life expectancy in every state in India, barring Kerala and Uttarakhand, where rural women live longer than the urban women by a slender margin.
- ✓ The 70-year-old women who are likely to live the longest are urban women in Jammu and Kashmir (86.2) followed by Punjab (85.4) and Himachal Pradesh (85.2).
- ✓ In general, both globally and in India, women have higher life expectancy than men, except in the rural and urban areas of Bihar and Jharkhand

