

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 5, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Chennai – ranked 4th in the Ease of Living index 2020 and 18th in the Municipal Performance Index among cities with more than a million population

BROWNIE POINTS

Chennai has performed better than the national average in the Municipal Performance Index. A look at where the Tamil Nadu capital scored and where it faltered:



File photo

MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

Verticals analysed

Services | Infrastructure, finance, technology, planning, governance

Finance | Fiscal decentralisation, fiscal responsibility, expenditure management, revenue management

Tech | Digital literacy, digital access, digital governance

Planning | Plan enforcement, implementation, preparation

Governance | Effectiveness, public participation, human resource, transparency and accountability

➤ Chennai's score | 48.74

➤ Ranking | 18

➤ Best performer | Indore (66.08)

➤ Best in TN | Coimbatore (50.52, rank 12)

SPICK & SPAN: The Pondy Bazaar plaza is among the few spots where Chennai residents can hang out. The city doesn't have enough recreational spaces

Chennai vs National average

| Vertical | Chennai | National Average |
|------------|---------|------------------|
| Services | 59.39 | 52.13 |
| Finance | 66 | 51.11 |
| Tech | 29.97 | 24.02 |
| Planning | 26.01 | 34.03 |
| Governance | 46.63 | 42.83 |

EASE OF LIVING INDEX

Verticals analysed

➤ **Quality of Life** | Education, health, housing and shelter, solid waste management, mobility, safety and security, recreation

➤ **Economic ability** | Level of economic development, economic opportunities

➤ **Sustainability** | Environment, green space and buildings, energy consumption, city resilience

➤ **Perception Survey** | Citizen perception

➤ Chennai's score | 62.61

➤ Ranking | 4

➤ Best performer | Bengaluru (66.7)

➤ Next best in TN | Coimbatore (59.72, rank 7)

Chennai vs National average

| Vertical | Chennai | National Average |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|
| Quality of life | 60.84 | 51.38 |
| Economic ability | 34.16 | 13.17 |
| Sustainability | 57.05 | 53.63 |
| Perception survey | 82.6 | 76.08 |

Where Chennai scored very well | Education, mobility, safety and security, city resilience and citizen perception

Where city scored above average | Health, housing and shelter, sustainability, environment, energy consumption

Where it scored poorly | Solid Waste management, recreation (near zero), level of economic development, green building

- ✓ According to the municipal index, Chennai performed better in government work in registration and permits, in fiscal decentralisation and in digital governance.
 - ✓ However, the survey found huge gaps in the planning infrastructure saying Chennai is among 27 urban local bodies that do not have an updated master plan.
 - ✓ Also, enforcement of plans is poor, indicating a high number of buildings with deviated structures, encroachment and poor collection of penalties.
 - ✓ However, health, education, safety and security and mobility have helped Chennai get a better score in the Ease of Living index.
 - ✓ Chennai is one of the 34 cities that has professionally trained teachers and has high quality, accredited public health infrastructure.
 - ✓ It had the best marks on metric for availability of public transport.
 - ✓ Economic opportunities in Chennai were lower than in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, but the city had a healthier environment, as per the survey
 - ✓ The survey has also found Greater Chennai Corporation lagging on the digital front, suggesting the need for more digital literacy drives.
- **Three courses of IIT Madras— petroleum engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering—featured among top 100 in the QS World University Rankings (by subject) 2021.**
- ✓ These courses were ranked at 30, 82 and 92 in global rankings respectively.
 - ✓ The petroleum engineering course offered by Anna University also featured in the top 51 to 100 bracket while SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST)'s course featured among in the 101 to 150 bracket.
 - ✓ IIT Madras is ranked 114 in computer science and information systems while Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) featured in the 351 to 400 rank bracket.
 - ✓ Further, Mechanical engineering course offered by VIT and NIT, Trichy featured within top 400 and top 500.
 - ✓ The computer science course offered by Anna University and Amrita Vishwa Vidhyapeetham featured among 551 to 600.
 - ✓ Civil engineering, business and management studies and maths also featured within top 200 at global level this year.
 - ✓ IIT Madras got 94th rank at global level in engineering and technology category and third at country level after IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi.
 - ✓ Last year, IIT Madras ranked 88 in engineering and technology category.
 - ✓ Among the top eight institutions in the country, seven are IITs apart from Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru.
 - ✓ Anna University got 388th rank globally and 9th ranking at all-India level.
 - ✓ Though the university did well in indicators like research output including H-index citations (72.7) and citations per paper (78.1), the scores in other indicators like academic reputation (53.9) and employer reputation have dropped 1 and 4 points respectively.
 - ✓ The rank of the university has dropped by 15 places compared to last year.

- **A total of 23,921 birds belonging to 137 species - were spotted in the fifth annual Kudankulam Bird Count (KKBC) done on February 28**
- ✓ The survey was organised by The Pelican Nature Club of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP).
- ✓ Totally, 49 bird lovers participated in the one-day count covering 25 birding spots within a 50-kilometre radius of Kudankulam.
- ✓ Brown Flycatcher, Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Magpie Robin, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Orange-headed Thrush, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Loten Sunbird were the eight species that were newly sighted this year.
- ✓ This takes the total number of species sighted over the years to 159, according to the results released on March 4.
- ✓ In all, 29,561 birds were spotted in 2020, but it dropped by 5,640 primarily because of the heavy rains in January which diluted the population.
- ✓ However, the 137 species spotted is the highest, whereas a total of 123 species were spotted last year and 136 in 2019.



- ✓ Painted Stork (4,051), Spot-Billed Pelican (4,044), Bar-Headed Goose (3147), Little Cormorant (1,496), Cattle Egret (1,344), Garganey (1,146), Barn Swallow (927), Lesser Whistling-Duck (756), Glossy Ibis (643) and Blue-Tailed Bee-eater (584) were the top 10 species spotted in terms of number.
- ✓ Some of the rare birds seen were Oriental Darter, Woollynecked Stork, Darter, Alpine Swift and Baya Weaver.
- ✓ The birding event as a part of NPCIL’s nature conservation initiatives was conducted under the guidance of Dr S Balachandran, deputy director of Bombay Natural History Society.

STATES

- **Odisha government - to start the first state-wide survey of “social and educational conditions” of people belonging to the backward classes from May 1 to May 20, 2021**

- ✓ The state has 209 communities which are identified as the socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), accounting for 54% of the population.
- ✓ The proposal to carry out the survey was approved by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) on February 26, 2021.
- ✓ The Survey will cover the details like occupation, education standard etc., of the people from backward classes.
- ✓ Earlier, the state government had demanded the Centre to conduct a socio-economic caste survey along with the general census in 2021.
- ✓ However, this proposal was turned down by the central government.
- ✓ A commission headed by former Delhi Chief Justice G Rohini is working towards the sub-categorisation of the OBCs.
- ✓ The Supreme Court of India recently agreed to examine a plea that seeks for directions to the central government to conduct “caste-based” census in the year 2021 in order to collect data on the other backward classes.

NATIONAL

- **Bengaluru - being adjudged the most liveable large city with over a million population in the Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020**
- ✓ Shimla is ranked as the most liveable city on the Ease of Living Index of cities with less than 1 million population.
- ✓ The ranking was released by the housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri on March 4
- ✓ The previous topper Pune, was pushed to number two among 49 large cities, while Bhubaneswar was ranked as the second most ‘livable’ city among the small cities
- ✓ Among the mega cities, Chennai, Coimbatore and Navi Mumbai rank first, second and third in “quality of life”, while Bengaluru, Delhi and Pune are the top rankers on the “economic ability” list.
- ✓ Among the corresponding lists of smaller cities, Panaji, Tumakuru, Vellore and textile city Tirupur, Gurugram and Kochi are ranked as toppers in terms of “quality of life” and “economic ability” respectively
- ✓ While Delhi ranks 13th on the cumulative index, NCR cities Ghaziabad, Meerut and Faridabad are at 30, 36 and 40th places.
- ✓ **Chennai stood overall fourth in the ease of living index among cities in India with more than a million population**
- ✓ The city ranks at the top in terms of quality of life, is highly resilient with best mobility options, and is safe and secure.
- ✓ However, it ranks poorly in economic abilities, places of recreation and number of green structures.
- ✓ Coimbatore stood seventh on the list.
- ✓ The ease of living ranking for cities with ‘population less than a million’ ranked Salem, Vellore, and Trichy in Tamil Nadu at fifth, sixth and 10th positions.

- ✓ Among the bigger and smaller cities, Srinagar and Muzaffarpur lie last respectively.
- ✓ Unlike the first Ease of Living Index (EoLI) report of 2018, the latest ranking in 2020 has put 111 cities, in two categories — million-plus and those less than a million population.
- ✓ The assessment exercise was carried out last year just before the lockdown.
- ✓ No city has been included from West Bengal because of “data challenge”, the report said.
- ✓ Indian cities have achieved an average score of 53.5 on a scale of 0 to 100.
- ✓ The cities have fared poorly with respect to economic ability to reach the lowest national average of 13.2.
- ✓ This means there is huge untapped potential in urban centres to turn them into hubs of economic growth and prosperity.

| BIG CITIES | | SMALL CITIES | |
|---|-----------|--|-------------|
| RANK | CITY | RANK | CITY |
| 1 | Bengaluru | 1 | Shimla |
| 2 | Pune | 2 | Bhubaneswar |
| 3 | Ahmedabad | 3 | Silvassa |
| 4 | Chennai | 4 | Kakinada |
| 5 | Surat | 5 | Salem |
| 13 | Delhi | 8 | Gurgaon |
| 30 | Ghaziabad | | |
| 40 | Faridabad | | |
| BEST PERFORMING MUNICIPALITIES (Popn Above 1mn) | | BEST PERFORMING MUNICIPALITIES (Below 1mn) | |
| 1 | Indore | 1 | NDMC |
| 2 | Surat | 2 | Tirupati |
| 3 | Bhopal | 3 | Gandhinagar |
| 4 | Pimpri | 4 | Karnal |

Ministry of housing & urban affairs figures

- ✓ The EoLI is an assessment tool that evaluates quality of life and impact of various initiatives for urban development.
 - ✓ It evaluates participating cities based on quality of life, economic ability of a city, its sustainability and resilience.
 - ✓ The assessment also incorporates residents' views on services through a perception survey.
 - ✓ The 'Quality of Life' covers aspects such as affordable housing, access to clean water, basic education, healthcare facilities, safety & security, and recreation avenues.
- **The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings by subject – was released on March 4**

- ✓ As per the rankings, twelve Indian universities and higher education institutions have achieved top-100 positions in their subject



- ✓ In total, 25 Indian programmes achieved top-100 positions, one fewer than in 2020
 - ✓ IIT-Madras achieved the topmost ranking of 30th place petroleum engineering among the government-run Institutes of Eminence (IoE)
 - ✓ Two other Institutes of Eminence (IoE) achieved top-50 ranks for mineral and mining engineering – IIT Bombay (41st, no change) and IIT Kharagpur (44th, up two places).
 - ✓ University of Delhi was ranked 50th for the Development Studies
 - ✓ IISc Bangalore retains top-100 ranks for materials science (78th) and chemistry (93rd).
 - ✓ IIT-Delhi is ranked in 13 subject tables and achieved top-100 ranks in electrical and electronic engineering (54th, down from 49th in 2020), computer science (70th), and mechanical engineering (79th).
 - ✓ The 2021 QS's global university performance comparison offers independent data on the performance of 253 programmes at 52 Indian higher education institutions, across 51 academic disciplines.
 - ✓ As per the rankings, two Indian universities achieved top-100 ranks for business and management – IIM-Bangalore (76th) and IIM-Ahmedabad (80th).
 - ✓ Of the ten private universities selected as IoE, six institutions have made it to the subject rankings
 - ✓ P Jindal Global University has entered the global top-100 for law (76th).
 - ✓ Further, India ranks 5th in terms of its research footprint behind only Germany, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - ✓ Reflecting these contributions, six Indian universities are featured in QS's environmental sciences ranking, with IIT-Bombay and IIT-Kharagpur (151-200) attaining top-200 positions, and IIT-Guwahati newly-ranked this year (401-250 band).
 - ✓ The report, compiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), compares the performance of 14,435 individual university programmes
- **Indore - has topped the 'Municipal Performance Index (MPI)' in the million-plus population category in the rankings released by the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs on March 4.**
- ✓ Bhopal came third, losing to Surat by just 1.8 points.

- ✓ After announcing the rankings, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri made special mention of Indore's unbeaten run of four wins in the Swachh Survekshan Awards.
- ✓ Indore bagged a score of 66.08/100 in MPI, a good 5.2 points ahead of Surat.
- ✓ It may have done well in civic amenities, but Indore slipped from eight to ninth position, scoring 58.58 in 'ease of living index'
- ✓ Bhopal, which had managed to bag the 10th slot, dropped to 19th position this year.

| Municipal Performance Index | |
|---|---|
| Ranking of municipality with million-plus population | Ranking of municipality with less than million-plus population |
| RANK TOP 10 | RANK TOP 10 |
| 1 Indore | 1 New Delhi MC |
| 2 Surat | 2 Tirupati |
| 3 Bhopal | 3 Gandhinagar |
| 4 Pimpri Chinchwad | 4 Karnal |
| 5 Pune | 5 Salem |
| 6 Ahmedabad | 6 Tiruppur |
| 7 Raipur | 7 Bilaspur |
| 8 Greater Mumbai | 8 Udaipur |
| 9 Visakhapatnam | 9 Jhansi |
| 10 Vadodara | 10 Tirunelveli |

- ✓ Indore could not perform well in mobility, recreation, level of economic development and opportunities, environment, green spaces and building and energy consumption — scoring less than 50 in each of them.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Zimbabwe – has become the first African nation to authorize the use of India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin**
- ✓ Earlier, Brazil sealed a deal to secure 20 million doses of Covaxin for the local use in the country
- ✓ The two-dose, whole virion, inactivated virus vaccine has been developed in India by Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council for Medical Research-National Institute of Virology, Pune (ICMR-NIV).
- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Harare conveyed Zimbabwe's decision to the Indian Ambassador to Zimbabwe through its vice president General Constantino Chiwenga during a meeting.
- ✓ Amb Vijay Khanduja called on vice-president Gen (R) Dr Constantino Chiwenga, and discussed bilateral matters.

- **WhatsApp - will now allow users to make one-to-one voice and video calls from their desktop application.**
 - ✓ Earlier, the feature was available only on mobile apps.
 - ✓ The Facebook-owned platform added that calls over desktop would also be end-to-end encrypted.
 - ✓ Users will be able to use the features after downloading and setting up the application on their computers.

- **World Health Organization (WHO) - has published the first world report on hearing on March 3, the World Hearing Day**
 - ✓ As per the report, one in every four individuals across the world - nearly 2.5 billion people - will be experiencing mild-to-profound hearing loss by 2050
 - ✓ Out of this, atleast 700 million people will be suffering from disabling hearing loss and they would require ear & hearing care.
 - ✓ The report highlights that one billion young people in the age group 12–35 years are at risk of hearing loss because of noise pollution
 - ✓ It also states that, more than 5% of the global population have disabling hearing loss which accounts for 432 million adults and 34 million children till date.
 - ✓ The World Health Organisation defines the disabling hearing loss as there is a loss greater than the 40 decibels (dB) among the adults and loss more than 30 dB among the children.

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) - has declared the year 2023 as “International Year of Millets”.**



- ✓ The resolution to declare the year was sponsored by India and was adopted by consensus with the support of over 70 nations out of 193.
- ✓ This news was shared by the India’s Permanent Representative to US Ambassador, TS Tirumurti.

- ✓ India sponsored the resolution considering the need of advocating a diversified, balanced, diversified and healthy diet by increasing the consumption and sustainable production of the millets.
- ✓ The UN General Assembly has proclaimed the “UN Decade of action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025” in the month of April 2016.
- ✓ This proclamation recognizes the need of eradicating hunger and preventing all the forms of malnutrition from the world.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India – begins the export of Assam-grown ‘red rice’ to United States on March 4**
- ✓ The ceremony of the flagging-off of the export consignments was carried out by APEDA Chairman Dr. M. Angamuthu in Haryana



- ✓ Red rice is rich in iron and the variety is grown in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam without using any form of chemical fertilizer.
 - ✓ The rice was sourced by leading rice exporter called ‘LT Foods’.
 - ✓ According to commerce ministry, the non-basmati rice exports of India have increased to Rs 26,058 crore for the months of April-January 2020-21 as compared to the exports of Rs 11,543 crore for the same period in the fiscal year 2019-2020.
 - ✓ APEDA is the Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government body under the “Ministry of Commerce and Industry”.
- **India – has sent a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 100,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to the drought-hit Madagascar on March 3**
 - ✓ The humanitarian assistance will be delivered by the Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa
 - ✓ It will reach the Port of Ehoala, Madagascar in between March 21 and March 24
 - ✓ INS Jalashwa will also carry an Indian Naval training team which will be deployed in Madagascar for the purpose of capacity building and training of Malagasy Special Forces for two weeks
 - ✓ The assistance has been provided in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of SAGAR

- ✓ This consignment is being sent after the government of Madagascar appealed for the international solidarity and assistance to tackle the humanitarian crisis in South of Madagascar
- ✓ The southern part of Madagascar is undergoing the challenge of drought for the three consecutive years.
- ✓ Earlier, India had sent a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice in September 2018 which was delivered through the Indian Naval vessel to Madagascar.
- ✓ Further, Indian Navy was the first who respond when Cyclone Diane had made its fall in Madagascar.
- ✓ The army's carried its assistance programme under the "Operation Vanilla" by INS Airavat in January 2020.
- ✓ Later, INS Shardul reached the port of Antsiranana and delivered 600 tonnes of rice as HADR assistance to Madagascar to tackle the heavy floods in the Northern Madagascar in March 2020.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan - inaugurated the second edition of Global-Bio India-2021 on March 1, 2021.**



- ✓ Theme– 'Transforming Lives' along with the tagline 'Biosciences to Bio-economy'
- ✓ The three-day virtual event was organised on a digital platform by the Department of Biotechnology under the ministry of Science & Technology.
- ✓ The public sector undertaking, Invest India, Association of Biotechnology led Enterprises, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) also participated in the event.
- ✓ The event had representatives from more than 50 countries with Switzerland as the key partner and Karnataka as the state partner.
- ✓ The Global-Bio India event was marked by the participation of more than 5000 delegates, 1000 start-ups and 200 exhibitors involving 24 knowledge sessions
- ✓ It witnessed the participation of the academia, researchers, entrepreneurs, start-ups, policy leaders, investors, enablers, regulators, medium & large-scale industry and other organizations to facilitate acceleration of innovation ecosystem in the country.

ECONOMY

- **Metal tycoon Lakshmi Mittal and Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik - signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on March 4 to build a steel plant in the iron ore-rich Odisha state**
- ✓ Mittal, through his India joint venture company ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel, plans to set up a 12-million-ton capacity plant in Odisha's Kendrapara district with an investment of ₹50,000 crore.
- ✓ In 2006, Mittal had planned to set up a similar capacity sized plant in Odisha, but later dropped the proposal because of problems in acquiring land and securing iron ore linkages.
- ✓ Iron ore is a key raw material in steel production.
- ✓ Mittal subsequently acquired Essar Steel through the bankruptcy route, gaining control of the largest metal maker in western India.
- ✓ The India JV combines the financial might of Mittal's global steel company ArcelorMittal and the technological prowess of Japanese giant Nippon Steel.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Indian Boxer, Mary Kom - was appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) champions and veterans committee on March 3**

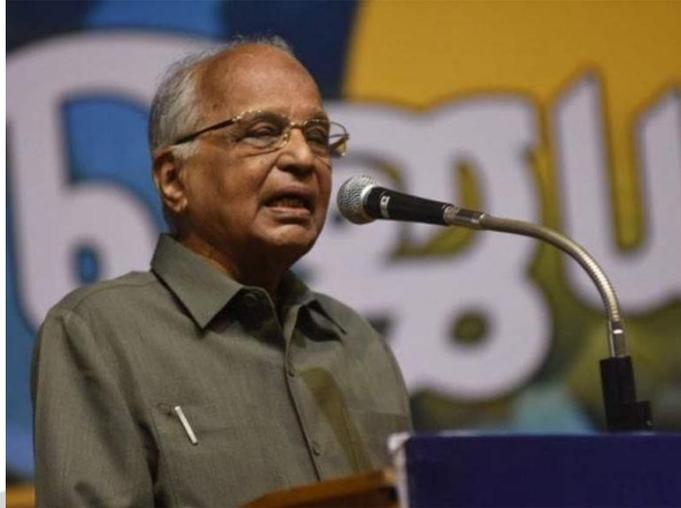


- ✓ Established in December 2020, the committee comprises of the most respected boxing veterans and champions from across the world
- ✓ Mary Kom is a current Member of the Indian Parliament.
- ✓ She was nominated as the member of upper house of the Parliament on April 25, 2016 by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ Mary Kom is the only female boxer to become World Amateur Boxing champion for a record six times
- ✓ She is also the only female boxer to have won a medal in each one of the first seven World Championships and the only boxer ever to win eight World Championship medals
- ✓ She had also been ranked as the world's No. 1 female light-flyweight by the International Boxing Association (amateur) (AIBA).

- ✓ Nicknamed 'Magnificent Mary', Mary Kom was honoured with the second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in the year 2020.
- ✓ In 2006, she was awarded with the Padma Shri which is fourth-highest civilian award in India and with the Padma Bhushan in 2013 which is the third-highest civilian award.

OBITUARY

➤ R Krishnamurthy, Veteran editor and eminent epigraphist (88 years)



- ✓ R Krishnamurthy, a former editor of Tamil daily Dinamalar and a renowned epigraphist died in Chennai on March 4 following a heart attack.
- ✓ Krishnamurthy was instrumental in making Dinamalar, which his father founded, one of the popular dailies in the state.
- ✓ He was behind simplifying the Tamil script and introduced the Periyar script with fewer alphabets.
- ✓ The government introduced the Periyar script in textbooks in 1979.
- ✓ He also had an interest in numismatics and had private collections of coins relating to ancient rulers of south India.
- ✓ Krishnamurthy studied inscriptions in Vatteluttu in different parts of the state and also discovered a coin with the name Peruvaluthi, a Sangam-age Pandya king, engraved in Tamil-Brahmi script in Madurai
- ✓ This helped in changing the perception that Pandya kings were chieftains who did not mint coins and used Mauryan coins and confirmed the barter system prevalent in those days
- ✓ Krishnamurthy published many papers and books on Tamil script, epigraphy and numismatics and has won many accolades for his research.
- ✓ The government of India gave him the Tolkappiar award.
- ✓ The Royal Numismatic Society elected him as a fellow and the Numismatic Society of India presented him the C H Biddulup Medal and T Desikachari Medal, named after two renowned numismatists of India.
- ✓ Madurai Kamaraj University conferred doctorate on him.

- ✓ He was the general secretary of All India Newspaper Editors Conference from 1991 to 1996.
- ✓ Krishnamurthy was born at Vadiveeswaram near Nagercoil on January 13, 1933
- ✓ He joined Dinamalar in 1956, became its editor in 1977 and went on to serve as its editor for almost 40 years.

SPORTS

- **West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard – smashed six sixes off consecutive balls and ensured West Indies beat Sri Lanka by four wickets in their first T20 international at Antigua on March 3**
- ✓ He achieved the record feat off Sri Lankan off-spinner Akila Dananjaya, who also claimed a hat-trick in the fourth over of the match

| 6 SIXES IN AN OVER IN INT'L CRICKET | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------|-------------|----------|------|--------|
| Batsman | Bowler | For | Against | Venue | Year | Format |
| H Gibbs | D van Bunge | S Africa | Netherlands | St.Kitts | 2007 | ODI |
| Yuvraj Singh | Stuart Broad | India | England | Durban | 2007 | T20I |
| Kieron Pollard | A Dananjaya | W Indies | Sri Lanka | Coolidge | 2021 | T20I |

Stat: Rajesh Kumar

- ✓ Pollard became only the third man to hit six sixes in an international match, emulating Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh
- ✓ Dananjaya also became the first bowler in any form of cricket to take a hat-trick and concede six sixes in an over in the same game.

RANKINGS

- **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – released the Food Waste Index Report 2021 on March 4**
- ✓ As per the report, an estimated 931 million tonnes of food, or 17% of total food available to consumers in 2019 globally, went into the waste bins of households, retailers, restaurants and other food services
- ✓ The weight of the global food waste roughly equals India's total production of foodgrain, oilseeds, sugarcane and horticultural produce in 2019-20.
- ✓ As per the report, most of this waste globally comes from households, followed by food services and retail outlets.
- ✓ On a global per capita level, 121kg of food is wasted each year, with 74kg of this happening in households.
- ✓ In South Asia, estimates at household level show a waste of 50kg of food per person per year in India compared to 82kg in Afghanistan, 79kg in Nepal, 76kg in Sri Lanka, 74kg in Pakistan and 65kg in Bangladesh.

HOUSEHOLDS WASTE THE MOST

Food available for consumption:

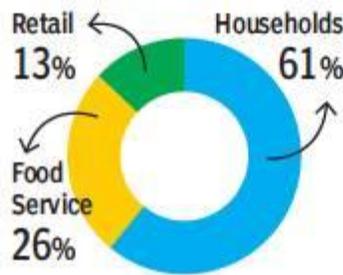
5.3 billion tonnes

Food waste:

931 million tonnes
(17% of available food)

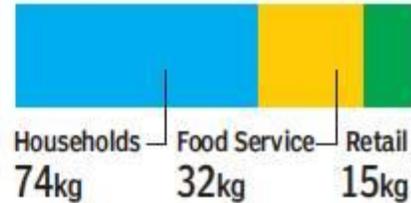
(weight roughly equals that of 23 million fully loaded 40-tonne trucks – bumper-to-bumper, enough to circle the Earth 7 times)

SOURCE OF GENERATED WASTE AND % OF TOTAL WASTE



ANNUAL PER CAPITA FOOD WASTAGE (GLOBALLY): 121kg

Annual per capita food wastage at:



COUNTRY-WISE ANNUAL PER CAPITA FOOD WASTAGE AT HOUSEHOLDS

(Country and kg/capita/year)

GLOBAL (worst five)

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Nigeria | 189 |
| Rwanda | 164 |
| Greece | 142 |
| Bahrain | 132 |
| Malta | 129 |

Other Countries

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Israel | 100 |
| UAE | 95 |
| South Korea | 71 |
| China | 64 |
| Russia | 33 |

G-7 Countries

| | |
|---------|----|
| France | 85 |
| Canada | 79 |
| UK | 77 |
| Germany | 75 |
| Italy | 67 |
| Japan | 64 |
| USA | 59 |

SOUTH ASIA

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Afghanistan | 82 |
| Bhutan | 79 |
| Nepal | 79 |
| Sri Lanka | 76 |
| Pakistan | 74 |
| Maldives | 71 |
| Bangladesh | 65 |
| India | 50 |

- ✓ Per capita food wastage is, in fact, much higher in west Asian and sub-Saharan African countries compared to South Asian and most of the European and North American countries.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Safety Day – March 4

National **Safety Week**

4th to 10th March

Some one is waiting for you
"BACK AT HOME"

National Safety Day

March 04

- ✓ The Day aims to create awareness about the safety measures to be followed by the general public
- ✓ It includes all the guidelines including the workplace safety, road safety, safety of human health and the safety of environmental health.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Sadak Suraksha" (Road Safety)
- ✓ The celebrations of the day will be observed over a week.
- ✓ In this regard, the National Safety Week will be observed from March 4 to March 10, 2021.
- ✓ The campaign for the National safety day was started on March 4, 1972.

- ✓ The need for observing such day was highlighted by the Union ministry of labour and employment during the first ever conference on “Industrial Safety” from December 11 to 13, 1965.
 - ✓ The day, March 4, marks the formation of the National Safety Council.
 - ✓ The National Safety Council is a non-profit, self-financing and tripartite apex body set up by the government to generate, develop and sustain the voluntary movement on health, environment and safety at national level.
 - ✓ As per the data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), total number of accidental human deaths accounted for 421,104 in the year 2019.
 - ✓ Out of it, traffic accidents stood at 467,171.
- **The 3rd Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrations - started on March 1 and conclude on March 7, 2021**
- ✓ To mark the celebrations, the Jan Aushadhi Kendras will conduct the health check-up camps and highlight the price, benefits and quality of the medicines which are sold at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
 - ✓ The health check-up activities include Sugar level check-up, blood Pressure check-up, free doctor consultation and free medicine distribution.
 - ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) campaign was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide the quality medicines at lesser prices through the “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra”
 - ✓ These generic drugs are procured by Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) which has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
 - ✓ The BPPI markets the generic drugs through these Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
 - ✓ The PMBJP scheme was launched by the UPA government in 2008 for the sale of generic medicines through “Jan Aushadhi Medical Stores” across the country.
 - ✓ The ‘Jan Aushadhi Scheme’ was renamed as the ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana’ (PMJAY) in September 2015.
 - ✓ This was further renamed as “Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” in November 2016.

