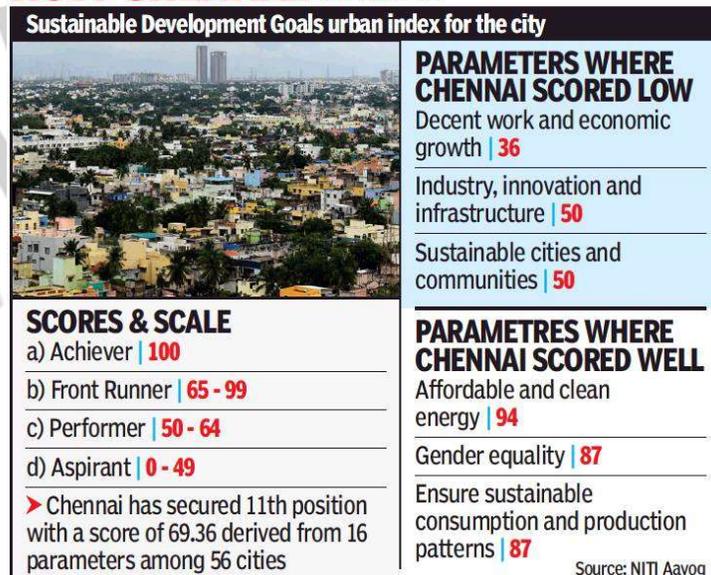


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 25, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai - has been ranked 11th among 56 cities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index.**
- ✓ The state capital has been ranked behind Coimbatore and Trichy in Tamil Nadu and eight other cities including Ahmedabad and Pune

HOW CHENNAI FARED



- ✓ Chennai has performed poorly in decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities and zero hunger categories.
- ✓ The NITI Aayog report considered 16 goals including ‘no poverty’, good health and well-being, quality education, reduced inequalities, climate action, life below water and on land and peace, justice and strong institutions to arrive at a composite score for the index
- ✓ Chennai and Surat secured identical scores of 69.36.

- ✓ Chennai secured the highest score in affordable and clean energy
- ✓ It was followed by gender equality and ensuring sustainable consumption and production, patterns, it did not perform well in four parameters including zero hunger.
- ✓ The top score of Chennai was in affordable and clean energy (94), while lowest is in decent work and economic growth (36).
- ✓ Among other parameters, Chennai secured 65 and 63 for 'no poverty' and 'zero hunger', 80 for quality education and 67 in reduced inequalities.
- ✓ Chennai did not perform well in any of the other goals, while Coimbatore and Trichy did well in three goals including 'no poverty'.

STATES

- **On November 24, the Assam cabinet – announced four official holidays at the start of the New Year for all ministers, bureaucrats and other employees**
- ✓ The holidays - two extra days stretching into a weekend - must be utilised to spend time with either the parents or in-laws of the officials
- ✓ This is a first-of-its-kind initiative taken by any state for geriatric care
- ✓ The additional holidays, January 6-7, cannot be availed for any purpose
- ✓ The extended holidays can be utilised to visit elderly parents or in-laws living elsewhere, take them on a trip, or spend time with them at home.
- ✓ From IAS and IPS officers to Grade IV staff, anyone other than those on field duty can avail this special leave
- ✓ Earlier, State CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had announced on Independence Day that the BJP-led government would grant an extra week's leave to its employees every year to spend time with their elderly parents.
- ✓ As finance minister in the erstwhile Sarbananda Sonowal cabinet, Sarma had announced in 2018 that government employees failing to take care of their dependant parents will have 10% of their pay deducted.
- ✓ The Assam Employees' Parent Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring Act, 2017, mandates taking care of dependant parents as well as disabled siblings.
- ✓ Although ministers weren't entitled to leave, the government had allowed them to take some time off from work on the designated days to spend time with their parents or in-laws.

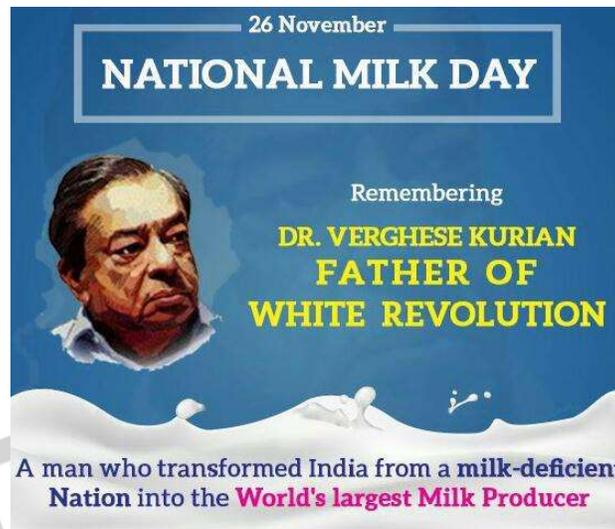
NATIONAL

- **On November 24, the Union Cabinet - approved the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY) till March 2022**
- ✓ This entitles 5 kg free foodgrain per month to nearly 81 crore people in the country.
- ✓ This is the fifth phase of the scheme since April 2020 when it was launched to provide relief to the poor hit by Covid-19 pandemic

- ✓ The Centre had discontinued the scheme for five months from December 2020 to April in 2021.
- ✓ This scheme is in addition to the 5kg foodgrains offered to the poor at subsidised rate under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)
- ✓ The government resumed the scheme in May when the second wave of Covid-19 hit the country.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Milk Day - November 26



- ✓ National Milk Day is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of milk in our day to day life.
- ✓ The Day is observed in memory of Dr Verghese Kurien, fondly known as the Father of White Revolution
- ✓ In 2014, all the dairy majors of the country, along with the Indian Dairy Association, resolved to observe Dr Kurien's birth anniversary on 26th November as National Milk Day.
- ✓ This year, India is celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Kurien.
- ✓ Dr. Kurien was born on 26th November 1921, in Kozhikode (Kerala), and passed away on 9th September 2012
- ✓ Also known as the Milkman of India, Kurien's 'white revolution' or his 'billion-litre idea' transformed the country from an importer of dairy products to the world's largest milk producer
- ✓ All this was achieved not merely by mass production, but by production by the masses through a system of farmer cooperatives
- ✓ In the year 1970, 'Operation Flood' was launched as a National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) project, which is known as the world's largest agricultural program
- ✓ Dr. Kurien also played a key role in the establishment and success of Amul Brand.

- ✓ Because of his efforts only, India became the largest producer of milk in 1998, surpassing the U.S.
- ✓ He was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award (1963), World Food Prize (1989), Padma Shri (1965) and Padma Vibhushan (1999).
- ✓ This year, Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala will inaugurate and launch the IVF Lab at Dhamrod in Gujarat and Hesaraghatta in Karnataka.
- ✓ Rupala will also confer National Gopal Ratna Awards to the winners of the Best Dairy Farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds, Best Artificial Insemination Technician and Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS), Milk Producer Company, Dairy Farmer Producer Organization in the country.
- ✓ Presently, India is the largest producer of milk in the world, as it contributes to about 22% of the total milk production of the world, with over 187.7 million tons (MT) of milk production every year.

NFHS DATA – A REPORT

- **India's total fertility rate (TFR) or the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime - has dropped below replacement level for the first time and stands at 2 now.**
- ✓ This was revealed in the fifth edition of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data for 2019-21
- ✓ It was released by the International Institute of Population Sciences for the phase-2 states along with all-India data on November 24.

SEX RATIO BETTER, CONTRACEPTION UP

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sex ratio (no. of females per 1,000 males at birth) has improved to 1,020, from 991 in 2015-16 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the only states where fertility has gone up, even if marginally, in 2019-21
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 54% to 67% nationally, barring in Punjab 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delhi recorded a drop in total fertility rate, from 1.8 in 2015-16 to 1.6 in 2019-21
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Among larger states, fertility rate is lowest in J&K, at 1.4. Among smaller states, it is lowest in Sikkim (1.1) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Among neighbours, Nepal (1.9) has lowest fertility rate, followed by Bangladesh (2), Sri Lanka (2.2) & Pakistan (3.6)

- ✓ The replacement level TFR, at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, is estimated to be 2.1.
- ✓ Among larger states, there are now only three states — Bihar (3.0), Uttar Pradesh (2.4) and Jharkhand (2.3) — with a TFR above replacement level.
- ✓ India's TFR stood at 2.7 during NFHS-3 in 2005-06 and later dropped to 2.2 by 2015-16.

- ✓ Between NFHS-3 and the latest NFHS-5 in 2019-21, some of the most populous states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar in that order, showed significant decline in TFR
- ✓ Barring Bihar, urban TFR in all states is below replacement level.
- ✓ Even rural TFR is above replacement level only in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand among the larger states and in Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram among the smaller states.
- ✓ The lowest fertility rate among larger states is in Jammu and Kashmir at 1.4.
- ✓ J&K also recorded the highest decline of 0.6 in fertility rate between the last NFHS survey in 2015-16 and the latest one.
- ✓ Among larger states, Kerala and Punjab had the lowest fertility rate of 1.6 in NFHS-4, followed by Tamil Nadu with 1.7.
- ✓ However, while Punjab's fertility rate has remained the same, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the only states in India where fertility rate went up, though marginally, to 1.8 in the 2019-21 survey.
- ✓ Sikkim has the lowest fertility rate of 1.1, which is equivalent to the lowest fertility rate in the world of 1.1 in South Korea.
- ✓ According to UN Population data, the highest fertility rate is in Niger (6.9) and Somalia (6.1).
- ✓ Among the neighbouring countries, Nepal has the lowest fertility of 1.9 followed by India and Bangladesh (2), with Sri Lanka (2.2) and Pakistan (3.6) still above replacement levels.
- ✓ Barring Africa (4.4) and Oceania (2.4), all geographic regions of the globe have achieved replacement level fertility rate of 2.1 or less.
- ✓ Asia's TFR is 2.15, just a touch above replacement level.
- ✓ **The sex ratio at birth in Tamil Nadu has dropped to 878 in 2020-21 from 954 in 2016-17**
- ✓ **India's average has risen to 929 from 919.**

Institutional births

- ✓ Institutional births have increased substantially from 79% to 89% at the all-India level.
- ✓ Many states performed remarkably better with percentage of institutional births more than 90%.
- ✓ But even the low performing states did better compared to the last round.
- ✓ Institutional delivery is 100% in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu and more than 90% in seven states and UTs.
- ✓ In urban areas 93.8% births were in institutional settings, whereas in rural areas it was 86.7%.
- ✓ However, institutional deliveries in public health facilities were more in rural areas as compared to urban areas.
- ✓ Along with an increase in institutional births, there has also been a substantial increase in C-section deliveries in many states and Union territories especially in private health facilities.

- ✓ While most of the C-section deliveries are in urban areas, there is a huge difference in private and public hospitals.
- ✓ Private hospitals accounted for 47.4% of births through C-section, while only 14.3% births were through C-section in public hospitals.
- ✓ Maternal deaths are more common among poor and rural populations.
- ✓ Over last few years, the Centre has initiated various programmes such as Janani Suraksha Yojana particularly in areas with high maternal mortality rate (MMR).
- ✓ The objective of JSY is to reduce MMR and neo-natal mortality rate (NMR) through promotion of institutional deliveries.
- ✓ Availability of institutional services have increased births in hospitals and lowered deaths related to pregnancy and birth.

Women empowerment

- ✓ Nearly 81% women in urban India and 77.4% in the country's rural area own a bank account that they operate themselves
- ✓ Overall, there has been a big jump in numbers, with 78.6% women across India owning bank accounts as compared to 53% recorded in NFHS-4 (2015-16)
- ✓ The percentage of women taking key household decisions is quite high at 91% in urban India and 87.7% in rural parts.
- ✓ The all-India percentage is 88.7% and is an increase over 84% in 2015-16.
- ✓ In terms of property ownership, there an overall increase of women from 38.4% in 2015-16 to 43.3% in NFHS-5.

Underage marriages

- ✓ The underage marriages before the girl turning 18 - declined from 26.8% to 23.3% in the last five years.
- ✓ In rural India this percentage stands at 27% whereas in urban areas underage marriage accounted for 14.7%.
- ✓ The data shows that 6.8% females aged 15-19 years were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey with 3.8% of them in urban areas and 7.9% in rural India.
- ✓ NFHS-5 reflects an overall marginal decline from 7.9% from 2015-16.
- ✓ Men who were married before the legal age of 21 years was 21.1% in rural areas and 11.3% in urban India.
- ✓ Overall such men accounted for 17.7% in 2019-21, compared to 20.3% in 2015-16.

