

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 14, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Rock paintings belonging to 2nd Century AD - have been discovered near Ayyanarkulam in Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli district.



- ✓ Some of the paintings have similarities with those found near Kongar Puliankulam in Madurai.
- ✓ The drawings were made using white clay or limestone.
- ✓ The figurines in the line art differentiate the male and female seen in standing position.
- ✓ One of the drawings which look like a kolam resembles the rock art form pertaining to the megalithic period, found at Kongar Puliankulam.

NATIONAL

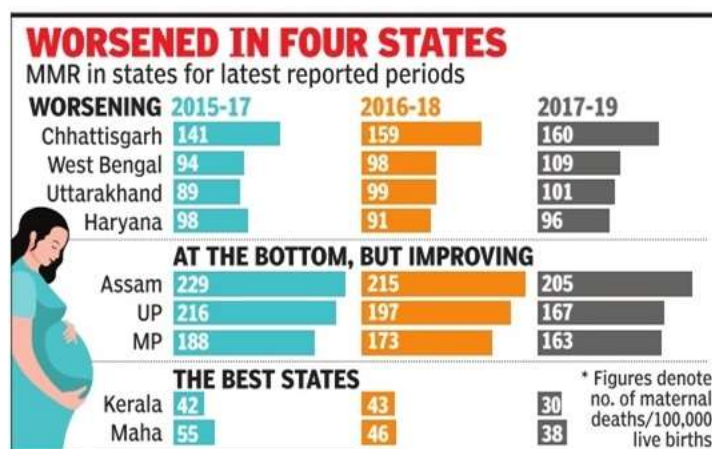
- **The second part of the Budget Session – to resume on March 14, 2022 and will last until April 8, 2022**
- ✓ The second part of the Budget session is resuming after a 30-day break and during this the 'Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees

(DRSCs)' examined the Demands for Grants of various Ministries and Departments.

- ✓ The House will sit from 11 am till 6 pm during the scheduled 19 sittings, as against the duration from 10 am to 3 pm in the first part of the Budget session due to Covid-19 protocols
- ✓ Accordingly, the Rajya Sabha is likely to get over 64 hours, an addition of 19 hours from the first session, to transact the legislative business during this session
- ✓ In view of the third wave of the pandemic, the two Houses were working in shifts in the first phase of the Budget Session.
- ✓ The Upper House will have four days for Private Member's Business and the hour long 'Zero Hour' and 'Question Hour' to continue as usual.
- ✓ During the last session, the 'Question Hour' was reduced to half an hour because of the reduced timing of the sitting.
- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the Jammu and Kashmir budget for the financial year 2022-23 in Parliament on March 14, 2022
- ✓ The government has also listed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The first part of the Budget session had begun on January 29 with President Ram Nath Kovind's address to a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall of Parliament, which was followed by the presentation of the Economic Survey.
- ✓ The Finance Minister presented the Union Budget on February 1, which was followed by discussions on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address and the Union Budget.
- ✓ The first part of this budget session was concluded on February 11, 2022 with 10 sittings and the productivity of the House was 101.40%
- ✓ However, no legislative business was proposed by the Government during the first part of this session, with both the Houses taking up discussions on the Motion of Thanks to the President and the Union Budget.

➤ **The Registrar General of India – released a special bulletin on Maternal mortality ratio on March 13**

- ✓ As per the report, India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) dropped to 103 for the period 2017-19 from 113 in 2016-18, indicating 8.8% decline.
- ✓ The country has been witnessing a progressive reduction in MMR from 130 in 2014-2016, 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, and to 103 in 2017-19, as per the report
- ✓ According to the Union health ministry, with the decline in MMR, India is all set to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of 70 maternal deaths per one lakh live births by 2030
- ✓ The number of states which have achieved the SDG target has now risen from 5 to 7 and includes Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).



- ✓ There are now nine states that have achieved the target of MMR set by the National Health Policy, which was 100/lakh live births by 2020.

MMR OVER THE YEARS

State	2017-19	2016-18	2015-17
Assam	205	215	229
Uttar Pradesh	167	197	216
Madhya Pradesh	163	173	188
Chhattisgarh	160	159	141
Rajasthan	141	164	186
Odisha	136	150	168
Bihar	130	149	165
Punjab	114	129	122
West Bengal	109	98	94
Uttarakhand	101	99	89
Haryana	96	91	98
Karnataka	83	92	97
Gujarat	70	75	87
Jharkhand	61	71	76
Andhra Pradesh	58	65	74
Tamil Nadu	58	60	63
Telangana	56	63	76
Maharashtra	38	46	55
Kerala	30	43	42
INDIA	103	113	122

Source: Sample Registration System-Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India, various editions

- ✓ Apart from these seven states, the other two states are Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).
- ✓ Five states - Uttarakhand (101), West Bengal (109), Punjab (114), Bihar (130), Odisha (136) and Rajasthan (141) have MMR in between 100-150, while for four states, Chhattisgarh (160), Madhya Pradesh (163), Uttar Pradesh (167) and Assam (205) have MMR above 150.
- ✓ Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have shown more than 15% decline in MMR, while six states namely, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have shown a decline between 10-15%.

- ✓ Four states — Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha and Karnataka — witnessed a decline between 5-10%.
- ✓ Four states – West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh – have shown an increase in MMR.
- ✓ Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya), POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB), Surakshit Matratva Ashwasan (SUMAN), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Comprehensive Abortion Care services have helped the country achieve MMR targets, the government noted
- ✓ The maternal mortality ratio is the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,00,000 live births during the same time period.
- ✓ Many developed countries have successfully brought down MMR to single digits.
- ✓ Italy, Norway, Poland and Belarus have the lowest MMR of 2, while it is 7 in both Germany and the UK, 10 in Canada and 19 in the US.
- ✓ Most of India's neighbours — Nepal (186), Bangladesh (173) and Pakistan (140) — have a higher MMR.
- ✓ However, China and Sri Lanka are way ahead with MMRs of 18.3 and 36 respectively.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On March 13, the Government – announced that it is temporarily shifting the Indian embassy in Ukraine to Poland due to the deteriorating security situation in Kyiv**
- ✓ The announcement followed a meeting of the cabinet committee on security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to discuss the Ukraine conflict and its impact on India
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were among those who attended the meeting.
- ✓ The officials who were part of the meeting included National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, PM's Principal Secretary P K Mishra, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- ✓ After the commencement of war on February 24, majority of the Indian diplomats had moved from the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv to Lviv, a city near the Ukraine-Poland border.
- ✓ Poland is a key location for routing Western military aid to Ukraine.

DEFENCE

- **For the first time in its 100-year history, Dehradun's Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) – has announced its decision to admit girls**

- ✓ The RIMC takes students from Class VIII onwards and is regarded as a premier preparing ground for those aspiring to join the armed forces
- ✓ The announcement was made by RIMC commandant Col Ajay Kumar at a function held in Dehradun on March 13 to mark the institution's 100th Founders' Day
- ✓ The celebration was attended by over 500 alumni, including veterans, serving officers of armed forces and their family members.
- ✓ The RIMC commandant also released a commemorative stamp on the occasion besides launching a book titled 'Bal Vivek' authored by cadets.
- ✓ The RIMC is an inter-services establishment, administered through the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) under the Ministry of Defence
- ✓ It was established on March 13, 1922, by the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII
- ✓ RIMC was meant to impart military training to the Indian youth, who could later be inducted as military officers in the then British-Indian Army.
- ✓ Since its inception, RIMC has trained only boys and acts as a feeder institute for NDA and the Naval Academy.
- ✓ The institution has given the country six service chiefs, 41 Army commanders and 163 in the rank of Lt General.
- ✓ Earlier, RIMC did admit a girl, Swarnima Thapliyal, as a "test case" in 1992.
- ✓ The institute will be admitting five girls in the forthcoming academic session
- ✓ Among RIMC's prominent alumni were Gen K SThimayya, the first and only Indian officer to command a brigade in World War-2, Major Somnath Sharma, the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military decoration and Lt Gen J S Dhillon, who was a gold medalist of IMA.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The sisters of Missionaries of Charity - have elected Sister Joseph Michael as the fourth superior general of the Catholic order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950.**



- ✓ Sister Joseph takes over from Sister Mary Prema, a German who was heading the order since 2009 when Sister Nirmala Joshi stepped down citing poor health.

- ✓ Originally from Thissur in Kerala, she joined the Missionaries of Charity at the age of 20
- ✓ Educated at Loreto Convent in Kolkata, Sister Joseph had been Mother Teresa's secretary for years.
- ✓ Sister Joseph is currently the superior of the congregation's Kerala region and living in Ernakulam, Kerala
- ✓ She also ministered in the Philippines, Poland and Papua New Guinea.
- ✓ The congregation's members from 110 countries had assembled in Kolkata on March 12 and gone into a retreat to pray and elect the new head.
- ✓ Four others have been elected councillors—sisters Christie, Cecil, Marie Juan, and Patrick .
- ✓ Saint Mother Teresa's immediate successor was Sister Nirmala Joshi of Nepalese origin, who led the congregation during 1997-2009.
- ✓ Sister Joshi had started the contemplative branch of the Missionaries of Charity and remained at its head until she was elected to succeed Mother Teresa as the superior general.

SPORTS

- **World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen – bags silver medal after losing the final of the German Open Super 300 tournament in Muelheim an der Ruhr on March 13**



- ✓ India's Lakshya Sen lost to Thailand's three-time world junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the BWF German Open men's singles final in straight sets
- ✓ Earlier, the 20-year-old Sen had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January 2022
- ✓ World number 12, Sen had a 3-3 head-to-head record against Vitidsarn, ranked 20th, and beaten the Thai in their last meeting at Hylo Open last year.
- ✓ In the semi finals on March 12, Sen had stunned Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark

- ✓ Sen had won two Super 100 titles -- Dutch Open and SaarLorLux Open -- besides three international challenge at Belgium, Scotland and Bangladesh in 2019
- **Jharkhand's Kumar Kushagra – became the youngest to score a 250-plus score in Ranji Trophy and the first-class cricket around the world**
- ✓ On March 13, wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Kushagra smashed 266 from 269 balls against Nagaland on Day II of the pre-quarterfinal match of the Ranji Trophy at Eden Gardens
- ✓ In his third first class appearance, Kushagra scored his maiden first class hundred.
- ✓ Kushagra, aged 17 years and 141 days, surpassed Javed Miandad's record at 17 years and 311 days of hitting a 250-plus score (311 runs eventually) for Karachi Whites in 1975 against National Bank of Pakistan



- ✓ During his innings, Kushagra also went past Ishan Kishan's record against Delhi, in 2016, at the age of 18 years and 111 days.
- ✓ Kushagra also became the third-youngest Ranji Trophy double centurion after Reetinder Singh Sodhi and Ambati Rayudu
- ✓ Notably, Kushagra was part of India's Under-19 World Cup 2020 squad and played one match against Japan in the marquee tournament
- ✓ Jharkhand also broke Mumbai's record to record the fourth-highest Ranji Trophy innings total with 880 runs
- ✓ Mumbai had notched up 855/6 against Hyderabad back in 1990-91.
- ✓ Jharkhand's gigantic total was just the seventh instance of 800-plus total in India's premier first-class tournament and the highest at the iconic Eden Gardens.
- **Tamil Nadu's S Dhanalakshmi - won the women's 200m final at the Indian Grand Prix 1 in Thiruvananthapuram on March 13.**
- ✓ Dhanalakshmi topped the charts with a timing of 23.21 seconds while Assam's Hima Das clocked 23.45 to win the silver medal
- ✓ However, the timings weren't good enough to make the cut for this year's Commonwealth Games or Asian Games.



- ✓ The AFI has set the qualification mark at 23.17 seconds for Asiad and a timing of 22.70 seconds for CWG.
- ✓ Dhanalakshmi received national attention during last year's Federation Cup where she beat both Hima and Dutee Chand.
- ✓ In the men's long jump, Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin (8.20 metres) and Praveen Chithravel (7.58 metres) finished first and third respectively, while Kerala's Muhammed Anees (7.70m) secured the silver medal