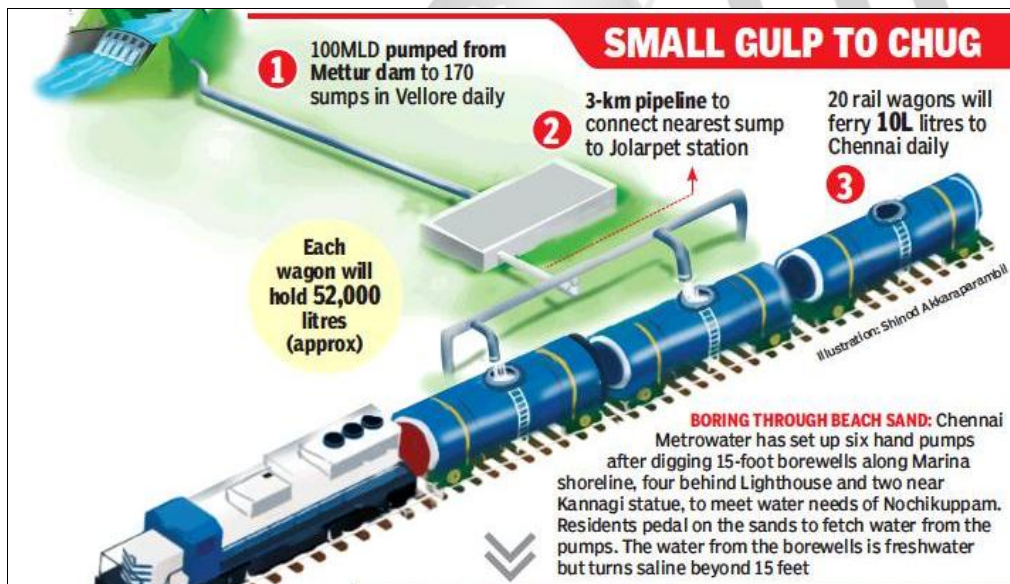


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 21, 22 & 23, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chennai - to start getting water from Jolarpet within the next 15 to 20 days for about 6 months**




- ✓ Railway wagons will transport 10 lakh litres of Cauvery water a day by train from Jolarpet to Chennai
- ✓ The government also sanctioned ₹65 crore for rail wagon supply from Vellore to Chennai.
- ✓ The plan is to lay a three-km pipeline to Jolarpet railway station from Mettu Sakarakuppam village
- ✓ In the Mettu Sakarakuppam village, a huge storage sump had been built under the ₹1,295-crore combined water supply scheme (CWSS) that supplies water to Vellore corporation and several other municipalities and local bodies since April 2015

- ✓ The CWSS can supply 215 million liters a day, sourcing the water from the Cauvery upstream of the Cheakkanur barrage and downstream of the Mettur reservoir
- ✓ However, it supplies only around 100 to 102 MLD to Vellore
- ✓ The CWSS was designed to cater to the need of the people of Vellore for the next 30 years
- ✓ The CWSS serves Vellore Corporation, 11 municipalities, five town panchayats and 944 rural habitations, pumping water up from the Cauvery

◆ **The Greater Chennai Corporation - will carry out a mass immunization drive for more than 57,300 stray dogs identified within the city limits from July at a cost of ₹ 77 lakh.**

- ✓ The drive will have seven teams of veterinary surgeon assistants, dog catchers, helpers, and dog van drivers.


<b>SHOT FOR SAFETY</b>	
<b>HOW WILL THE DRIVE BE HELD</b>	<b>STRAY DOGS IN CHENNAI</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It will begin from one zone</li> <li>➤ Seven teams to attend to dogs in a zone</li> <li>➤ A team of five people to visit each street, catch dogs, and vaccinate them</li> <li>➤ Mark vaccinated dogs with vegetable dye</li> </ul>	2018 census   57,366 2014 census   82,458 Zone with the largest number of dogs: Ambattur (7,383) Zone with the least number of dogs: Manali (2,044) <small>(Corporation data)</small>



- ✓ They will go to different divisions in a zone and catch dogs for immunization.
- ✓ Rabies can infect humans if they are scratched or bitten by an infected dog. All dogs should be vaccinated against rabies every year
- ✓ As per the schedule prepared, estimated time for completion of the drive is 80 days.

◆ **Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam - urged the Centre to provide special package assistance of ₹ 1,000 crore to the state under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana' (PMKSY)**

<b>AWAITING FUNDS</b>	
<b>TN has sought funds from the Union government for several projects</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ₹1,000cr special package under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana</li> <li>➤ Budget allocation of ₹17,600cr for Grand Anicut project</li> <li>➤ Budget allocation for Godavari-Cauvery river interlinkage project</li> <li>➤ ₹6,000cr for building houses for victims of cyclone Gaja</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ₹7,077cr special budgetary allocation for multi-hazard resistant power transmission infrastructure in natural calamities prone areas</li> <li>➤ ₹2,000cr special ad-hoc grant per annum to TN, worst affected by 14th Finance Commission recommendations</li> <li>➤ ₹4,458cr pending IGST arrears for 2017-18</li> </ul>



- ✓ The request is intended to support irrigation structures in drought prone areas to address farm crisis, similar to the allocation made to Maharashtra
- ✓ He also requested the Centre to consider allocating funds, in the forthcoming Union budget, for the ₹17,600 crore scheme to modernize the Grand Anicut canal system for augmentation of irrigation systems in the Cauvery Basin

- ✓ The state deputy CM made various request to the Centre in the prebudget meeting of state finance ministers, chaired by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on June 21

◆ **The Nilgiris administration - has moved to ban the sale of plastic water bottles, beverages packed in PET bottles and food items packed in plastic covers.**

- ✓ The order will come into force from August 15
- ✓ The administration has decided to adhere with the recent interim order of the high court that banned the entry of these plastic items into the district.
- ✓ The release requests tourists coming to the Nilgiris not to carry the banned items. Instead they could carry recyclable bottles to carry water.

◆ **Researchers at Anna University - have developed an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable device used to restore heart rhythm, which can be operated using Tamil and Hindi, besides English**



- ✓ This will allow even a layperson without medical training to aid a heart attack victim as the AED operates on voice commands
- ✓ Being GPS-enabled, the machine can automatically select the language based on the location
- ✓ As soon as it's switched on, the machine will ask you to select the language.
- ✓ Then it will ask you to fix the adhesive pads on the chest of the collapsed person to study the heart rhythm.
- ✓ If the rhythm is abnormal, it will ask you to step away and administer electric shock to the heart as needed
- ✓ Thus, this device will restore a normal heartbeat and useful to prevent or correct arrhythmia — uneven heartbeat
- ✓ The cost of an imported AED is around ₹1.5 lakh while the prototype developed by Anna University researchers costs just ₹50,000
- ✓ Its commercial production is expected to be launched within a year
- ✓ Airports and some shopping malls have the imported AEDs for use in emergencies

◆ **A Centre for Excellence in Jasmine - will come up in Madurai soon**

- ✓ The centre would also include traditional flowers like tube rose, marigold, fox comb, chrysanthemum.
- ✓ More such centres of excellence are to be set up including one for honeybees in Kanyakumari, and for hill vegetables in Ooty



- ✓ This was announced by Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Commissioner for agriculture production and principal secretary, Tamil Nadu government at the inauguration of a conference at the Centre of Excellence under India – Israel Cooperation at Reddiarchathiram in Dindigul
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was also the biggest producer of tapioca and turmeric, and leading among states in the production of “loose flowers” such as jasmine.
- ✓ It also stood among the top three states in production of guava, grapes, beans and amla
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was also the top performing state in drip irrigation for 2018 – 2019 with 1.70 lakh hectares having been covered last year
- ✓ The India-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP) was helpful in assisting the country in developing smart solutions for better agriculture, safer food and water storages

## NATIONAL

### ◆ 35<sup>th</sup> GST Council Meeting – June 21

- ✓ Chaired by - Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- ✓ Key decisions
- ✓ The government - made it mandatory for multiplexes to shift to an electronic ticketing system to check possible goods and services tax (GST) evasion
- ✓ Registered multiplexes shall be required to issue a tax invoice electronically and for this purpose the electronic ticket issued by them shall be deemed to be a tax invoice
- ✓ With the GST council decision, multiplexes are also seen to have become the test case for electronic invoices for B2C (business-to-consumer) businesses, something that was required only for business-to-business (B2B) transactions so far.
- ✓ The GST council also decided to implement e-invoices for B2B transactions in the coming months to make it easier to file returns and help generate e-way bills for transporting goods of over ₹50,000 in a motorised vehicle

### LAST SHOW

- Electronic ticket issued by registered multiplexes shall be deemed to be a tax invoice
- This will probably be extended to single-screen theatres, say tax consultants
- B2C transactions are viewed as a leakage point since cash is often paid and transactions not fully recorded, resulting in tax evasion
- Deadline for filing annual GST returns extended by two months to August 2019



- ✓ But the council deferred the deadline for filing annual GST returns by two months to August 2019.
- ✓ Further, it opted to move to a new single-return monthly filing system for all businesses from January in a phased manner.
- ✓ The government decided to extend the tenure of the National Anti-Profitteering Authority by another two years apart from tightening rules to mandate a penalty of 10% on the profiteered amount if the money is not deposited within 30 days of the order being issued
- ✓ The proposal to reduce the levy on electric vehicles, batteries and leasing of EVs was referred to the fitment committee comprising officers
- ✓ The council opted to seek the attorney general's view on the GST rate for staterun lotteries and state-backed ones.
- ✓ Currently, a state-organised lottery faces 12% GST while a state-authorized lottery attracts a 28% levy.

◆ **The government – has introduced the fresh “triple talaq” bill in Lok Sabha seeking to ban and punish instant divorce among Muslims**

- ✓ The bill is intended to replace an ordinance passed after a Supreme Court order holding triple talaq as unconstitutional
- ✓ The government proposal won by 186-74 votes
- ✓ The Centre promulgated ordinances in September 2018 and February 2019 as the bill remained pending in Rajya Sabha after being passed by the lower House, and thus finally lapsed
- ✓ It was the first bill passed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

◆ **The government - to invest ₹ 25 lakh crore to improve productivity of farm sector**

- ✓ This was announced by President Ram Nath Kovind in his address to the joint sitting of Parliament on June 20 as part of the government's effort to double farmers' income by 2022
- ✓ The inter-ministerial committee's report on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) has suggested 13 specific action points for reforms in the farm and allied sectors
- ✓ These 13 points include developing agricultural logistics system for post-production operations such as produce aggregation, transportation and warehousing; agri-market intelligence system to help farmers take demand driven decision; farmer-centric marketing infrastructure in rural areas and development of irrigation and micro-irrigation networks across the country

◆ **Retired employees of the central government - can now lodge their pension-related grievances by calling the toll-free number 1800-11-1960**

- ✓ It can be used in addition to using existing modes such as post, online, mobile app and email.

- ✓ An integrated grievance cell and call centre for pensioners, set up by the department of pension and pensioners' welfare (DoPWW), was inaugurated by Union minister of state for personnel Jitendra Singh in New Delhi
- ✓ The Centralized Pension Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS) is currently being used to register the grievances of pensioners

## INTERNATIONAL

### ◆ Pakistan – was asked to complete its action plans to curb terror financing and money laundering by October, failing which it has a real chance of being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- ✓ Pakistan will stay on the grey list for now.
- ✓ This was observed in a statement of FATF after its plenary meeting in Orlando, Florida
- ✓ The country missed the earlier deadlines of January and May 2019 to complete its action plans
- ✓ The FATF gave Pakistan a list of 10 demands to fulfil.
- ✓ These are part of the 27-point action plan Pakistan has to complete by October
- ✓ The voting will be part of the October plenary when Pakistan's fate is decided

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

### ◆ India - asked its airlines to avoid flying in the over-water area of Iran airspace with the Strait of Hormuz that connects Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman at its heart.



- ✓ Iran's territorial boundary extends up to 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from its coastline to overwater
- ✓ Earlier, Pakistan had closed its airspace since February 27

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ◆ **NASA's Curiosity rover - discovered high amounts of methane in the planet of Mars**



- ✓ In a measurement taken on June 19, the latest discovery of methane indicates a sign of microbes living on the planet as of today
- ✓ On Earth, the presence of methane indicates the presence of living things
- ✓ Methane, if it is there in Martian air, is significant, because sunlight and chemical reactions would break up the molecules within a few centuries.
- ✓ Thus any methane detected now must have been released recently.
- ✓ On Earth, microbes known as 'methanogens' live in places lacking oxygen, such as rocks deep underground and the digestive tracts of animals, and they release methane as a waste product.
- ✓ However, geothermal reactions - without any biology - can also generate methane
- ✓ Curiosity, when arrived in Mars in 2012, found nothing, or at least less than 1 part per billion in the Martian atmosphere
- ✓ Then, in 2013 it detected a sudden spike, up to 7 parts per billion that lasted at least a couple of months.
- ✓ The measurement this week found 21 parts per billion of methane, or three times than that of 2013

## DEFENCE

## ◆ **“Operation Bandar (monkey)” – was the code name given by Indian Air Force (IAF) for Balakot strike**

- ✓ The pre-dawn strikes were conducted by IAF's Mirage-2000 fighters against the major Jaish-e-Mohammed training facility at Balakot in Pakistan on February 26
- ✓ The Navy, however, did not give any name to the deployment of its warships and submarines in the north Arabian Sea because they were already there as part of Tropex-2019 (theatre-level operational readiness exercise) at that time

## ◆ **The defence ministry - to short-list potential Indian shipyards for the long-pending project to construct six new-generation conventional stealth submarines with foreign collaboration under the “strategic partnership (SP)” model as part of the overall “Make in India” policy**



- ✓ The submarine project called “Project-75 India (P-75I), dubbed the “mother of all underwater deals” because it will cost at least ₹50,000 crore
- ✓ Four foreign ship-builders, Naval Group-DCNS (France), ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Rosoboronexport Rubin Design Bureau (Russia) and Saab Kockums (Sweden), had earlier responded to the request for information (RFI) issued for P-75I in July 2017
- ✓ The project was first approved in November 2007
- ✓ Once the contract is actually inked, it will take another seven to eight years for the first vessel to actually roll out.

## SPORTS

### ◆ **Pankaj Advani - won the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship to complete a career Grand Slam in Snooker**

- ✓ Advani has now won the Asian Snooker events — 6-red (short format) and 15-red (long format) — along with IBSF World Championships in both formats too.



- ✓ Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon 6-3 in the final to become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats.
- ✓ Having already accomplished it in billiards, Advani had this elusive 15-red Asian Snooker title missing in the collection in his illustrious career

### ◆ **Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak - clinched a bronze medal in vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



- ✓ The 23-year-old from West Bengal, who had qualified for vault finals with a sixth place, came up with a score of 13.384 to claim the bronze medal

### ◆ **Zimbabwe Cricket - has been suspended with immediate effect by the Sports and Recreation Commission of the country**

- ✓ The move follows after alleged complaints about nomination process for ZC's elections & violation of ZC's constitution.

### ◆ **Indian women's hockey team - secured their place in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers 2019**

- ✓ The berth was secured after defeating Chile 4-2 in the semifinals of the FIH Women's Series Finals at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium on June 22
- ✓ Indian women's hockey team is ranked at World No. 9, while their Chinese counterparts are ranked at World number 16



◆ **The organizers of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games - announced women's T20 cricket as one of three new sports that could be added to the programme of events.**

- ✓ Also recommended were beach volleyball and Para table tennis
- ✓ Archery and shooting, in which India won many medals in the previous Games, were removed from the list of games
- ✓ India had won 16 medals, including 7 gold in shooting, at the 2018 edition in Gold Coast

◆ **The International Olympic Committee (IOC) - lifted its ban on India with immediate effect on June 20**

- ✓ It paves the way for the country to host international sports events in future
- ✓ The IOC took the decision during its ongoing Executive Board (EB) meeting in Lausanne.
- ✓ The move follows the written undertaking given by the Indian Government to the Olympic body that it will allow athletes and officials from visiting nations – including Pakistan and Kosovo – to participate in India
- ✓ The IOC had suspended India's hosting rights after the government had denied visas to Pakistan team for the Delhi shooting World Cup in February this year
- ✓ With the move, India can now start bidding for hosting of the 2026 Youth Olympics, 2030 Asian Games and 2032 Olympics.

◆ **World Archery (WA) - has appointed India's lone individual Olympics gold medallist shooter, Abhinav Bindra, as an "independent person" to sort out the ongoing mess in the de-recognised Archery Association of India (AAI)**



- ✓ Bindra will be part of the selection panel, also consisting of IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta and a representative of the sport ministry to pick the national teams till a new AAI body takes charge.

◆ **22-year old Karan Patel – became the first Person of Indian Origin (PIO) to be drafted in Major League Baseball (MLB)**

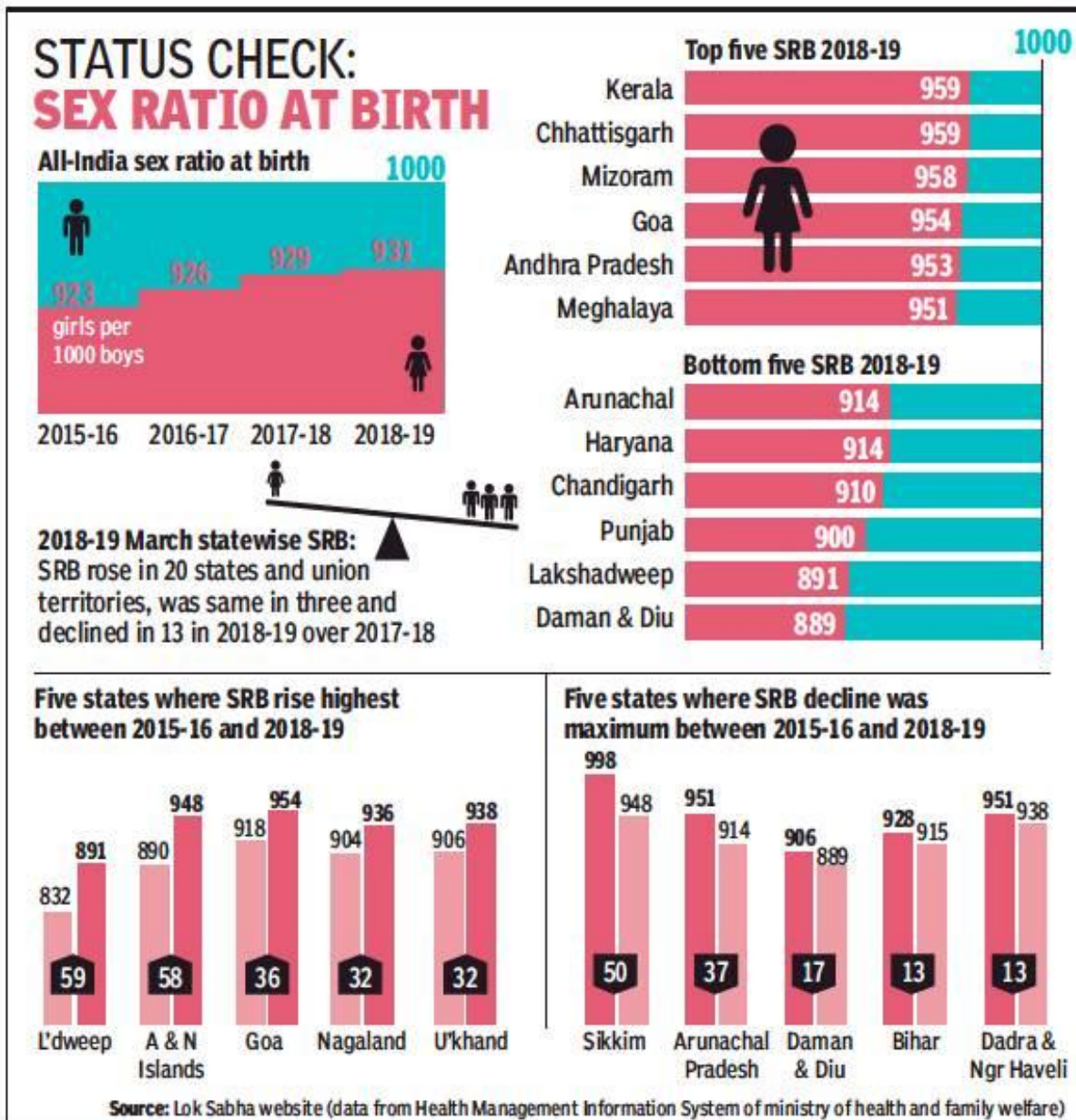


- ✓ He was signed by Chicago White Sox two weeks ago
- ✓ Karan also represented USA in U-19 cricket in 2015 as a fast-bowling allrounder before deciding to pursue baseball as his career.

# RANKINGS

◆ **The All-India sex ratio at birth (SRB) – was announced in Parliament based on the data presented by the ministry of women and child development**

✓ It was discussed in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on the government's flagship "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme



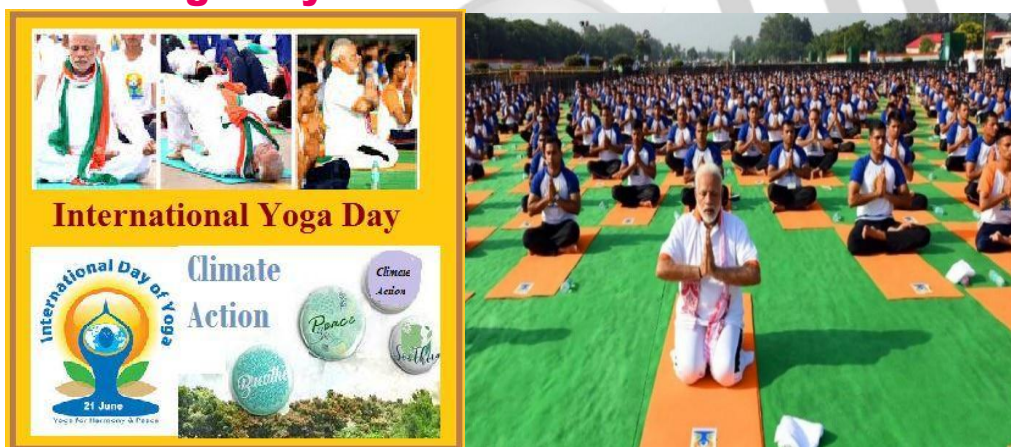
✓ The all-India sex ratio at birth (SRB) went up by eight points since 2015-16 to 931 girls per 1,000 boys till March 2019

✓ The all-India SRB was 923 in 2015-16, 926 girls in 2016-17 and 929 girls in 2017-18

- ✓ Of the 21 states and UTs where SRB increased from 2017-18, the highest increase of 51 points was in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from 897 girls to 948 girls, followed by Sikkim (from 928 to 948) and Telangana (925 to 943)
- ✓ As many as 12 states registered a decline, compared to 2017-18.
- ✓ The steepest fall, of 42 points, was seen in Arunachal Pradesh (from 956 girls to 914). Arunachal was followed by Jammu & Kashmir (958 girls to 943 girls), Tamil Nadu (from 947 girls to 936 girls) and Maharashtra (from 940 girls to 930).
- ✓ A comparison between SRB for 2015-16 and 2018-19 shows 25 states showing a rise and 11 registering a decline
- ✓ Haryana, where the BJP government's BBBP scheme was launched in January 2015, showed an improvement from 887 girls per 1,000 boys in 2016 to 914 in 2017-18 and 2018-19
- ✓ Sex ratio is expressed as the number of girls per 1,000 boys

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ◆ International Yoga Day 2019 – June 21



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed Yoga asana at Prabhat Tara Ground in Ranchi along with 40,000 participants including Chief Minister Raghubar Das, Ministers and senior officials of the state
- ✓ Yoga was performed on-board INS Viraat (decommissioned) at western Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- ✓ This year's theme was focused on 'Climate Action'
- ✓ History of the International Yoga Day or World Yoga Day
- ✓ The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on September 27, 2014. Thereafter, a draft resolution on 'International Day of Yoga' was introduced by India's Ambassador to UN, Asoke Kumar Mukerji.
- ✓ The draft received support from 177 nations, the highest number of co-sponsors for any UNGA resolution.
- ✓ Thereafter, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga on December 11, 2014
- ✓ International Yoga Day: Theme of every year



- ✓ 2015: Yoga for Harmony and Peace
- ✓ 2016: Connect the youth
- ✓ 2017: Yoga for Health
- ✓ 2018: Yoga for Peace
- ✓ 2019: Yoga for Heart
- ✓ Venues of Main Event
  - ✓ 2015: New Delhi
  - ✓ 2016: Chandigarh
  - ✓ 2017: Lucknow
  - ✓ 2018: Dehradun
  - ✓ 2019: Ranchi
- ✓ Reason for June 21 being observed as the International Yoga Day
- ✓ June 21 is the day of the Summer Solstice when the tilt of a planet's axis in the northern hemisphere is most inclined toward the star that it orbits - in our case, the earth and the sun.
- ✓ June 21 is considered the longest day of the year with the sun rising early and setting late for the northern hemisphere.
- ✓ The summer solstice is also considered as an important day in Indian mythology as it marks an event that could be considered the start of Yogic science.
- ✓ Titbits regarding the Day
- ✓ According to the Guinness World Records, the title of world's oldest yoga teacher was given to Ida Herbert in 2012, who remained an active yoga teacher till the age of 96 years.
- ✓ There is a yoga for dogs, known as 'Doga'.
- ✓ The Doga was started by Suzi Teitelman in New York in 2002.
- ✓ While doing Doga, dogs are used as props.



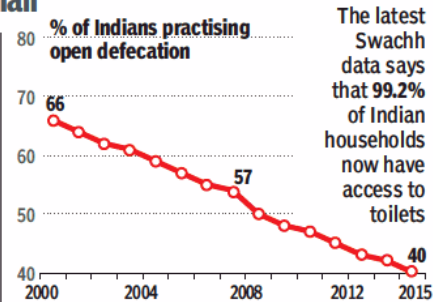
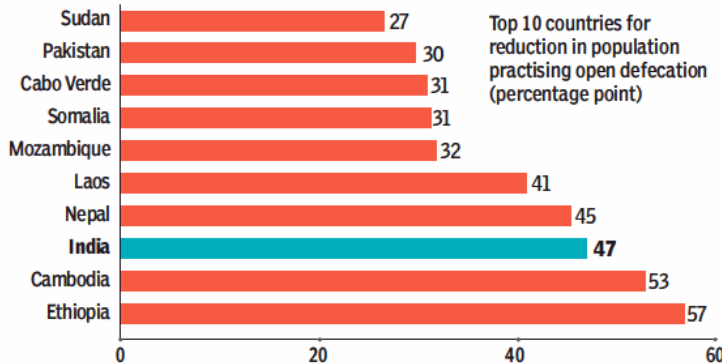


# SWACHH BHARAT MISSION – A REPORT

Given its population, India is crucial to achieving the massive improvements needed to meet UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Open defecation is one area where the country has made strides in the last two decades with the Swachh Bharat programme providing added impetus in recent years, as UN notes in a new report



## Between 2000 and 2017, India reduced open defecation by half



The latest Swachh data says that **99.2%** of Indian households now have access to toilets

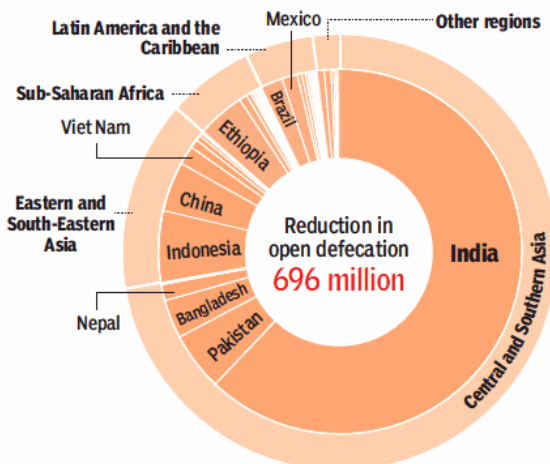
According to World Bank and WHO data, the proportion of Indians practising open defecation was a high 66% in 2000. But that rate has kept coming down over the last two decades to less than 40% in 2015. Even so, the latest UN report warns that **in 2016, over 60% of child faeces in India was buried, thrown into garbage or not disposed of properly**

India is near the top of the list of 16 countries worldwide that have reduced open defecation by more than 20 percentage points since 2000 with only Cambodia and Ethiopia doing better

The global population practising open defecation halved from 1.3 billion to 673 million. A total of 23 countries reduced open defecation rates below 1% and were classed as reaching 'near elimination'

## India accounted for biggest reduction

Change in number of people practising open defecation, by country and region, 2000 and 2017 (millions)



Between 2000 and 2017, 91 countries reduced open defecation by a combined total of 696 million people with Central and Southern Asia accounting for three quarters of this reduction

However, in the same period, 39 countries recorded increases, totalling 49 million people. Most of these countries were in Sub-Saharan Africa, which has seen rapid population growth since 2000

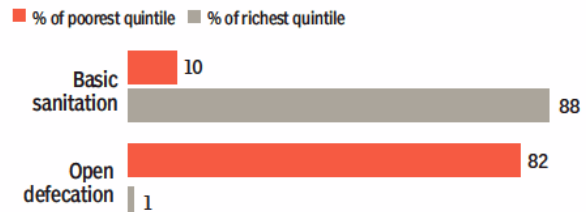
## The Swachh Bharat impact

Launched in 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission, the report notes, has led to rapid reduction in open defecation in rural areas

Between 2000 and 2014, open defecation decreased by almost three percentage points per year, while from 2015-2019 it came down by over 12 percentage points per year

## But great inequality still persists in access to basic sanitation in the country

### India (2017, wealth quintile)



While Swachh Bharat has greatly expanded sanitation cover, the **poorest fifth of the population** still lacks access to the basics. For instance, compared to the richest fifth, only 10% of the poorest quintile has access to basic sanitation

The picture is starker when it comes to open defecation with a staggering 82% of the poorest fifth still practising it against only 1% of the richest fifth

Source: Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017. Special focus on inequalities. Unicef and WHO, 2019; Graphic: Deepti Singh