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News: Kerala tops in maternal, child health

- According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017–19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, **Kerala's MMR has dropped by 12 points.**
- The **latest MMR in Kerala is 30 points, from the last 42 points.**
- The **national MMR is 103**, making the state far from national average.
- The state which made significant progress is Maharashtra, reducing from 55 to 38.
- The state with highest MMR is Assam, with 215 out of 1, 00,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)

- Maternal death is the **death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is defined as **the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1, 00,000 live births during the same time period.**

- The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations aims at reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1, 00,000 live births.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
- At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership
- 17 Goals are: No poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent work & Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities & Communities, Responsible Consumption & Production, Climate Action, Life Below water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions and Partnership for the Goals.



Government measures to reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)

National Health Mission & Janani Suraksha Yojana

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a **safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM)**. The Yojana was launched on 12th April 2005. It is being implemented in all states and UTs with special focus on low performing states.
- JSY is a **100 % centrally sponsored scheme** and it integrates **cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care**.
- Under the JSY, eligible pregnant women are entitled to cash assistance irrespective of the age of mother and number of children for giving birth in a government or accredited private health facility.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) is a **fixed day strategy, every month across the country** during which a range of **quality material health services are provided**.
- The beneficiaries are **provided with services on 9th of every month through Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Clinic**.
- If the 9th day is a Sunday or Holiday, then the Clinic should be organized the very next working day.
- It is implemented by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a **centrally sponsored maternal benefit scheme** implemented by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

Beneficiaries

- All pregnant women and lactating mothers **excluding those who are in regular employment in Central / State Government**.

- All eligible pregnant women and LM who have their pregnancy on or after 1st January 2017 for the first child of the family.
- Recently, the Government has clarified that Aadhaar of Husbands is not mandatory under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, to facilitate the inclusion of single mothers and abandoned mothers.

Beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of 5000 in 3 installments on fulfilling the conditions;

- Early registration of pregnancy.
- Ante-natal checkup.
- Registration of birth and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The scheme is combined with another scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, under which nearly ₹1,000 is given for an institutional birth, so that a woman gets a total of ₹6,000.
- The funds are distributed under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.
- The implementation of this scheme is closely monitored using web software PMMVY – Common Application Software.

- A beneficiary is eligible to receive benefits under the scheme only once. That is, in case of **infant mortality, she will not be eligible for claiming benefits** under the scheme, if she has already received all the installments of the maternity benefit under PMMVY earlier.
- Recently, this provision has been amended that the **cash benefit would be transferred to second child also, provided that the second child is a girl one.**

News: Jim Corbett to be renamed

- Recently, the Jim Corbett National park was decided to be renamed as Ramganga national park after the name of a river which flows through it.

Jim Corbett National Park / Ramganga National Park

- Jim Corbett National Park, which is a part of the larger Corbett Tiger Reserve, a **Project Tiger Reserve lies in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.**
- It was established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park and has the glory of being **India's oldest and most prestigious National Park.**
- It is also being honoured as the place where **Project Tiger was first launched in 1973.**
- This unique tiger territory is best known as the father who gave birth of the Project Tiger in India to protect the most endangered species and the Royal of India called Tigers.

- It Spans over an extent of 520 square kilometres and comprises hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands and a large lake.
- It is sheltering a healthy population of tigers and rare species like Otters and the endemic fish-eating crocodile; the national park is one of the most sought-after destinations.
- The Ramganga River (West) along with its significant tributaries Sonanadi, Palain and Mandal forms the prominent hydrological resource for the Corbett.
- The Delhi High Court recently asked the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to consider as representation a petition to stop the alleged illegal construction of bridges and walls within tiger breeding habitat of the Corbett Tiger Reserve.