



News Analysis (20 Nov, 2019)

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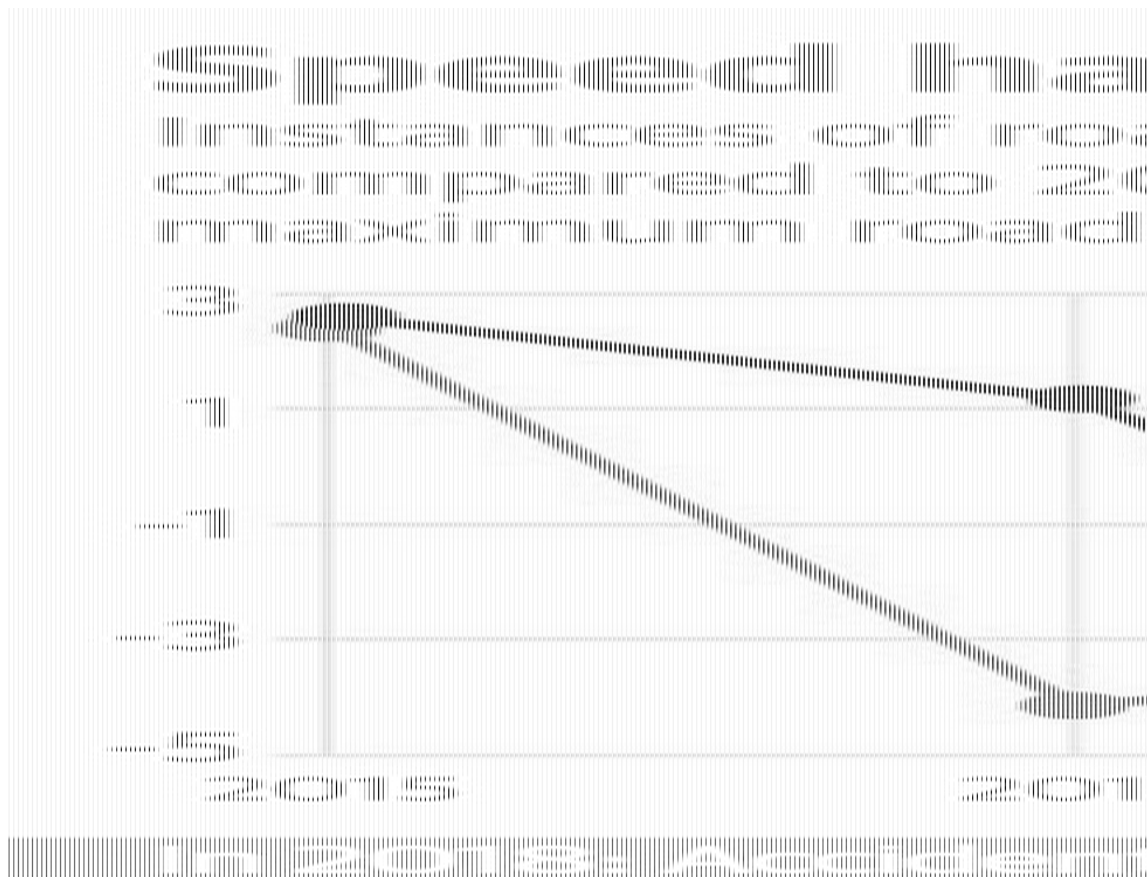
Road Accidents in India - 2018

Why in News

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released the **annual report** on **Road Accidents in India**.

- The report shows **53 crashes and the loss of 17 lives every hour**.
- The road traffic injuries were the eighth leading cause of death in India in 2018.

Key Points



- **Global Analysis:**

- According to **World Road Statistics (2018)**, **India** reports the **highest** number of road accident deaths **followed by the US and China**.

World Road Statistics is released by the **World Road Federation**.

- As per the **WHO Global Report on Road Safety 2018**, India accounts for almost **11%** of the accident-related deaths in the world.

- **National Analysis:**

- **The road accidents numerics:**

- It kills almost **1.5 lakh** people **annually in India**.

- The accidents, as well as accident-related deaths in the **period 2010-2018**, **dropped drastically** compared with the previous decades, **despite the very high rate of growth of automobiles**.

- The **road accident severity** (the number of persons killed per 100 accidents) has **increased by 0.6%** in 2018 compared to 2017.

- **Major Cause:**

- **Over-speeding** is a major cause, accounting for **64.4%** of the persons killed. As the **maximum number of road accidents** occurred on **straight roads**.
- **Two-wheelers** accounted for the **highest share (35.2%)** in total accidents in 2018.

- **Age:**
 - The **young adults (18-45 years)** accounted for nearly **69.6%** of road accident victims.
 - **Minors** involved in road crash deaths were at **6.6% of the total deaths.**
 - **Gender:**

The share of **males** in the number of total accident deaths was **86%** while the share of **females** was around **14%** in 2018
- **State-wise Analysis:**
 - As in 2017, the State of **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest number of road accidents** in 2018.
 - Similarly, as in 2017, the **number of persons killed in a road accident** was the **highest in Uttar Pradesh** in 2018.
 - **Delhi** has been ranked **first** in the **total number of road fatalities** compared to other **Indian cities.**

Significance of Road Safety

- Road transport is the **dominant mode of transport in India**, in terms of traffic share and in terms of contribution to the national economy.
- A **negative externality of expansion in the road network**, motorization, and urbanization in the country is the increase in road accidents and road crash fatalities.
- Road traffic injuries are one of the leading causes of death, disabilities and hospitalization in the country imposing huge socio-economic costs.

Steps taken at Global Level

- **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015):**
 - The declaration was signed at the **second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety held in Brazil**. The first conference was held in Russia (2009).
 - Through the Brasilia Declaration countries plan to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal 3.6** i.e. to half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030.
 - **United Nations** has also declared **2010-2020 as the decade of action for Road Safety.**
- **UN Global Road Safety Week:**

It is celebrated **every two years**, the fifth edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2019) highlighted the need for strong leadership for road safety.
- **The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) :**

It is a registered charity dedicated to saving lives through safer roads.

Steps taken Indian Government

- **India has signed the Brasilia declaration** and committed to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- **Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019**
 - It hikes the penalties for traffic violations, defective vehicles, juvenile driving, etc.
 - It provides for a **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.
 - It also provides for a **National Road Safety Board**, to be created by the Central Government through a notification.
 - The act also provides for the **protection of good samaritans**.
- **Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan Committee**

Supreme Court had set up the three-member KS Radhakrishnan panel on **road safety** in 2014. The SC had termed the roads in India as “giant killers”

Source: TH

National Skills Study

Why in News

According to a study conducted by the **National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC)**, 7 crore additional individuals in the working-age (15-59 years) are expected to enter the labour force by 2023. Of this 84.3% will be in the age group 15-30 years.

The NSDC has projected trends in the country's labour market potential during 2019-23 based on:

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for 2017-18,
- **Crude Death Rates (CDR)** at gender and region (rural/urban) level, and
- **Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS)**, 2011-12 (68th round).

Key Findings

- **Gender:** According to the study, **one out of five** persons (15-30 years age) entering the labour force is expected to be a **female** by 2023.
 - Female labour force participation rate for 15 years and above is estimated at 23.3%.
 - According to **World Bank data**, India's female labour force participation rate ranks much lower than other Asian economies in 2019, including Vietnam (73 %), China (61 %), Singapore (60 %), Bangladesh (36 %). It is closer to the estimates in countries such as Lebanon (24 %), Pakistan (24 %), Libya (26 %), Tunisia (24 %) and Sudan (24 %).

- **Education:** According to NSDC, many female candidates in the age group of 15-19 years may not be actively present in the labour force. They would instead opt for **higher education**.
- **Age:** Of the total **youth entrants** (aged 15-30 years) during these four years (2019-23), half are expected to come from the 15-20 years age group.
- **State-wise:**
 - Only **six states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka** are expected to account for **50%** of the new youth entrants (15-30 years) during 2019-23.
 - Among female youth (15-30 years), the highest numbers of new entrants are expected in the years 2021 and 2023 each, while among male youth, the highest number of new entrants are expected in 2023.

National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC)

- It is a **public-private-partnership** working under the aegis of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**.
- NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing the creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. It acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies, and organizations that provide skill training.
- NSDC is the **implementation agency** for skills training in the country.

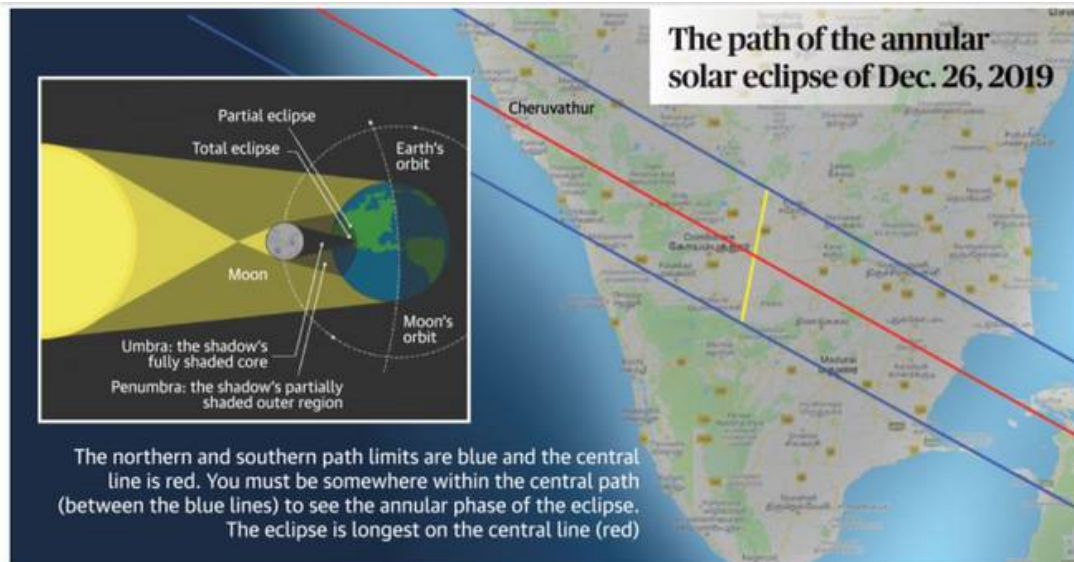
Source: IE

Solar Eclipse

Why in News

Cheruvathur in Kasaragod district, Kerala is one of the three places in the world where the solar eclipse will be most clearly seen on December 26, 2019.

It will be an **annular solar eclipse** in which the '**ring of fire**'- a characteristic of this kind of solar eclipse could be clearly observed.



Solar Eclipse

- A **solar eclipse** is a phenomenon that happens when the moon comes in the way of the sun's light. The moon's shadow casts itself on Earth, blocking out the sun's light (as seen from Earth).
- The moon's shadow has **two parts**: a central region (**umbra**) and an outer region (**penumbra**). Depending upon which part of the shadow passes over the Earth, one of

three types of solar eclipses could be observed:



- **Total Solar Eclipse**- The entire central portion of the sun is blocked out by the moon.
- **Partial Solar Eclipse**- Only part of the sun's surface is blocked out.
- **Annular Solar Eclipse**- The sun is covered in such a way that only a small ring-like sliver of light is seen from the sun's disc. This ring is known as the ring of fire.

An annular eclipse happens when the moon **is farthest from Earth**. As the moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller, and is **unable to block the entire view of the sun**, because of which the ring like structure could be observed.

- The **total eclipse** happens about every year and a half somewhere on Earth, while the **partial eclipse** happens at least twice a year somewhere on Earth.

Source: TH

Maha Bodhi Temple Complex

Bhutan's Foreign Minister recently visited Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.



- The Maha Bodhi Temple Complex is **one of the four holy sites** related to the life of the **Lord Buddha**, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment (Bodhi).
The other three are: Lumbini (Birth) in Nepal, Sarnath (Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana - 1st Sermon) and Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana- death) in Uttar Pradesh.
 - The original structure was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. However, it was reconstructed entirely in brick in late Gupta period. The present temple dates from the 5th or 6th centuries.
 - The site of the Mahabodhi Temple provides exceptional records of the events associated with the life of Buddha and subsequent worship.
 - A descendant of the **Bodhi tree** under which the Buddha is said to have sat until he attained enlightenment stands adjacent to the temple.
Ashoka's stone slab purporting to mark the exact position where the Buddha sat is traditionally called the **Buddha's vajrasana** (literally "diamond throne" or "thunder seat").
 - It was recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 2002.
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Rani Lakshmibai

The Prime Minister paid tributes to Rani Laxmibai on her 191st birth anniversary. She was one of the leading figures of the **1857 war of independence**.

- She was born on 19th November 1828 in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Rani Lakshmibai was one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence. In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, the East India Company took advantage of the situation and applied the **Doctrine of Lapse** to annex Jhansi.
- Lakshmibai fought bravely against the British and gave a tough fight to **Sir Hugh Rose** so as to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on June 17, 1858.
- When the **Indian National Army** started its first female unit (in 1943), it was named after the valiant queen of Jhansi.

Doctrine of Lapse

- It was an **annexation policy** followed widely by **Lord Dalhousie** when he was India's Governor-General from **1848 to 1856**.
- According to this, any princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a **legal male heir** would be annexed by the company.

As per this, **any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed** as heir to the kingdom.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
 - Satara (1848 A.D.),
 - Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.),
 - Baghat (1850 A.D.),
 - Udaipur (1852 A.D.),
 - **Jhansi (1853 A.D.)**, and
 - Nagpur (1854 A.D.)

Source: TOI
