



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Norovirus

Recently, the Norovirus infection was confirmed in two schoolchildren in Kerala.

Norovirus is a **group of viruses that leads to gastrointestinal illness. It causes inflammation** of the lining of the stomach and intestines, in addition to severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

According to Health officials, **Norovirus outbreaks are rarely serious**, but the virus **can spread fast** if proper precautions are not taken. **Contaminated water or food is the usual infective agent.** The virus spreads through the **faecal-oral route.**

Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and **can heat up to 60°C.** Therefore, merely steaming food or chlorinating water does not kill the virus. It can also survive many common hand sanitisers.

While there is **no specific treatment available** to cure the virus, generic medications for diarrhoea and vomiting can help cure the disease.

Read More - [Norovirus](#)

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021

Recently, **Bombay HC allowed a married woman to get her 33-week pregnancy medically terminated** citing that the length of the pregnancy does not matter in cases of **severe foetal abnormalities.**

Under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021**, the maximum gestational **age** at which a woman may obtain a medical abortion in India was **raised from 20 weeks to 24 weeks** (with the recommendation of two registered medical practitioners). And for **beyond 24 weeks of gestational stage, medical termination of pregnancy is allowed** if serious foetal abnormalities are found.

Read More - [Medical Termination of Pregnancy \(Amendment\) Act, 2021](#)

Changes in Global Gender Gap Report Criteria

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has agreed to make changes in criteria for Global Gender Gap Reports **by taking into account the participation of women at panchayat level** to rank countries in its future reports. It will **better India's position** at the global level.

The decision comes after India's Union Women and Child Development Minister led an Indian delegation to **Davos Summit** held recently and **reiterated the "flaws" in the ranking system.**

So far, the WEF has **4 major verticals** to assess gender gap in a country — **(a) economic participation, (b) political participation, (c) health and (d) education levels.**

There are **1.4-million women in the Indian panchayat system** whose political contribution will now be

enumerated in the future reports.

Read More - [World Economic Forum \(WEF\), Global Gender Gap Index 2022](#)

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2023

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (SCBAPP) 2023 was announced on 23 January 2023.

For 2023, **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** and **Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram**, both in the **Institutional category**, have been selected for their excellent work in Disaster Management.

SCBAPP is **conferred annually** to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service in the field of disaster management. The award carries a **cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate** in case of an **institution** and **Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate** in the case of an **individual**.

Read More - [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Disaster Management](#)

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