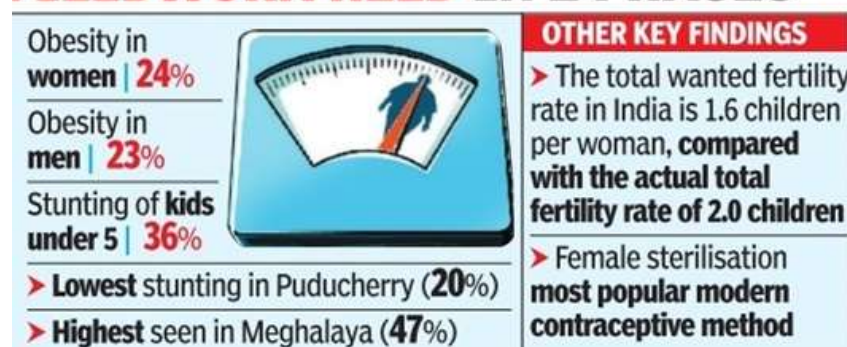


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 7, 2022

NATIONAL

- **The fifth edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) national report - was released by health minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Gujarat on May 6.**
- ✓ The NFHS-5 fieldwork for India was conducted in two phases – I and II
- ✓ The Phase-I took place from 17 June 2019 to 30 January 2020, covering 17 states and five Union Territories, and Phase-II from 2 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, covering 11 states and three Union Territories.
- ✓ The survey was carried out by 17 field agencies and gathered information from 6,36,699 households, 7,24,115 women, and 1,01,839 men covering 707 districts of the country across 28 states and 8 UTs
- ✓ At national level, obesity has increased from 21% to 24% among women and 19% to 23% among men between the fourth (2015-16) and the fifth (2019-21) round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

FIELDWORK HELD IN 2 PHASES



- ✓ The total wanted fertility rate in India is 1.6 children per woman, compared with the actual total fertility rate of 2.0 children, the report says.
 - ✓ The total fertility rate refers to the average number of children per woman
- ✓ The level of stunting among children under 5 years has marginally declined from 38% to 36% in India during the last four years.

- ✓ Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (30%) in 2019-21.
- ✓ Variation in stunting ranges from the lowest in Puducherry (20%) and highest in Meghalaya (47%).
- ✓ A notable decrease in stunting was observed in Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim (7 percentage points each), Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur (6 percentage points each), and Chandigarh and Bihar (5 percentage points each).
- ✓ The use of clean cooking fuel has improved to 59% of households in the latest family health survey of NFHS-5, as against 44% during the previous survey.
- ✓ The survey also showed improved sanitation facilities (49% to 70%), including handwashing with soap and water (60% to 78%).
- ✓ As per the survey, 25% women aged 18-29 and 15% of men aged 21-29 had married before reaching the legal minimum age of marriage, which is 18 years for women and 21 years for men.
 - ✓ The data from states highlights that maximum women were married before reaching the legal minimum age at marriage in West Bengal (42%), Bihar (40%), Tripura (39%), Jharkhand (35%) and Andhra Pradesh (33%).
 - ✓ The percentage of women marrying before reaching the legal age of marriage is lowest in Lakshadweep (4%) followed by Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh (6% each); Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Nagaland (7% each), and Kerala and Puducherry (8% each).
- **On May 6, the government – clarified that due process had been followed in the sale of loss-making helicopter service provider Pawan Hans and the successful player had put the highest bid**



- ✓ Earlier, the government approved the sale of its 51% stake in Pawan Hans Ltd to Star9 Mobility Pvt. Ltd for Rs.211.14 crore
- ✓ As per procedure, the reserve price for the sale was fixed at Rs 199.92 crore, based on a valuation carried out by SBI Market Capital and RBSA Advisors.
- ✓ Star9 Mobility is a consortium of Big Charter Pvt. Ltd, Maharaja Aviation Pvt. Ltd and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC

- ✓ These three entities own 26%, 25%, and 49% stake in Star9 Mobility respectively.
 - ✓ Mumbai-based Big Charter Pvt Ltd runs the 'flybig' airline, which operates on UDAN routes, while Delhi-based Maharaja Aviation Pvt Ltd is a helicopter charter company.
 - ✓ Almas Global Opportunity Fund is a Cayman Islands-based fund managed by Dubai-based Almas Capital.
 - ✓ The disinvestment process of Pawan Hans was approved by the alternative mechanism, empowered by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, comprising Union roads and highways minister Nitin Gadkari, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia
 - ✓ Pawan Hans has been incurring losses in the last three years (FY-19, FY-20 and FY-21)
 - ✓ The company has a fleet of 42 helicopters with 41 of them owned by it, including Dauphin N and N3, MI 172, AS350 and Bell helicopters.
 - ✓ The owned helicopters have an average age of over 20 years and three-fourths of them are presently not being manufactured by the original equipment manufacturer.
 - ✓ Pawan Hans operates flights for state governments and pilgrimages, besides ONGC.
 - ✓ It also offers services for search and rescue operations, VIP transportation, corporate and special charter services, and a few flights under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme.
 - ✓ State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd owns the remaining 49% stake in the helicopter operator.
 - ✓ The Pawan Hans stake sale is part of the government's efforts to raise Rs.65,000 crore from asset sales in the year till March 31, 2023
 - ✓ Handover of Pawan Hans (PHL) to Star9 Mobility is likely to get over by June.
 - ✓ Once done, Pawan Hans will be the second Central PSE to be privatised in 2022 after Air India.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay - has signed an agreement with India Meteorological Department (IMD) to launch smart climate solutions including the development of a weather forecasting app**



- ✓ This collaboration is likely to concentrate on the development of Sensors and Drone-based Smart Monitoring systems, Climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, Intelligent and automated early warning systems, Smart power grid management and heat wave forecasts
- ✓ Further, to achieve the country's ambitious target of reaching net zero by 2070, IIT Bombay is planning to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Climate Services and Solutions within the Interdisciplinary Program in Climate Studies (IDPCS)
- ✓ IIT Bombay has also set up the first-ever chair professorship in climate studies in March 2022

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 6, the Supreme Court – referred the Delhi government-Centre dispute over control of administrative services in the national capital to a five-judge constitution bench**
- ✓ The bench will resolve the disputes between the Centre and Delhi government over who should exercise legislative and executive control over ‘services’, including selection and posting of bureaucrats.
- ✓ According to a bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, all other issues, except the services, had been “elaborately dealt with” by the previous Constitution bench in 2018 and they will not be revisited.
- ✓ In the 2018 judgement, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the “aid and advice” of the elected government, and both needed to work harmoniously with each other.
- ✓ The earlier five-judge bench holistically interpreted scope and spread of Article 239AA, which created legislative assembly for National Capital Territory of Delhi, in its July 4, 2018 judgment.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first ever international research conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy – concluded recently on May 1, 2020**



- ✓ The conference was organized by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), in association with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA).
- ✓ The two-day research conference was held under the aegis of the Misra Centre of Financial Markets at IIM Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The conference was inaugurated by Rao Inderjit Singh, the minister of state for statistics and programme implementation with independent charge of corporate affairs
- ✓ National Stock Exchange, State Bank of India, BSE Investors' Protection Fund, and the National Institute of Securities Markets were associate partners for the conference.
- ✓ The conference, involving panel discussions on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, saw participation of about 200 stakeholders in-person, while another about 1000 joined online.
- ✓ IBC 2016 is India's bankruptcy law, under which the winding-up procedure is formulated by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to rescue corporate debtors from distress

DEFENCE

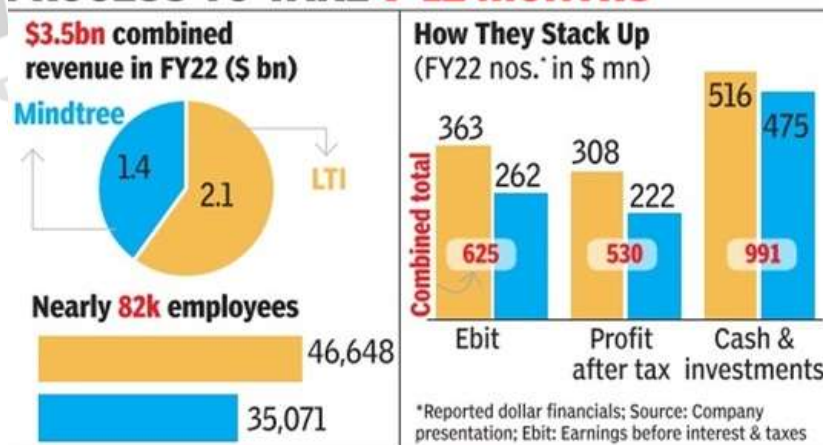
- **On May 3, French defense contractor Naval Group - announced that it is pulling out of the multimillion-dollar P-75I submarine project for the Indian Navy.**
- ✓ The company revealed that it could not participate in developing six conventional submarines for the P-75 India (P-75I) project due to air independent propulsion (AIP) system issues.
- ✓ AIP allows a non-nuclear submarine to stay submerged longer, reducing the need to surface to charge its batteries.
- ✓ India seeks to integrate the AIP system on future submarines, as none of its current vessels have the technology, but the French Navy does not operate such a propulsion system.
- ✓ India's neighbouring countries – China and Pakistan – both have AIP-equipped submarines
- ✓ In 1999, the Indian government approved a plan for the navy to build and induct state-of-the-art indigenous submarines by 2030.
- ✓ As part of the initial program phase, India signed a \$3.75 billion contract with France's Naval Group to build six Scorpene-class (Kalvari class) submarines in partnership with the Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilding Limited (MDL) in India
- ✓ The P-75 project was signed in 2005 (Naval Group was called DCNS then) and of the six, four submarines have already been commissioned into the Navy.
- ✓ The project is the largest under the new strategic partnership model which will see an international Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) partner with an Indian company to manufacture submarines in India, and share the technology
- ✓ The P-75I would have been the Naval Group's second submarine project in India.

- ✓ The next phase of the P-75 program (P-75I) is for construction of six conventional submarines with improved sensors and weapons, containing an AIP system for better performance
- ✓ In June last year, the Defence Ministry had cleared the P-75I project and subsequently, requests for proposal (RFPs) were issued to two shortlisted Indian companies — private company Larsen and Toubro and state-run Mazagaon Docks Limited.
- ✓ The two Indian companies (called strategic partners) have to tie up with one of the five shortlisted foreign companies — ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Navantia (Spain) and Naval Group (France), Daewoo (South Korea) and Rosoboronexport (Russia) — and then respond to the RFP
- ✓ The Rs 43,000 crore-contract will be awarded by the Defence Ministry following a detailed evaluation of the responses sent by the two strategic partners.
- ✓ The P-75I project is part of the PM Modi government's ongoing efforts to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and boost the domestic defence manufacturing sector

ECONOMY

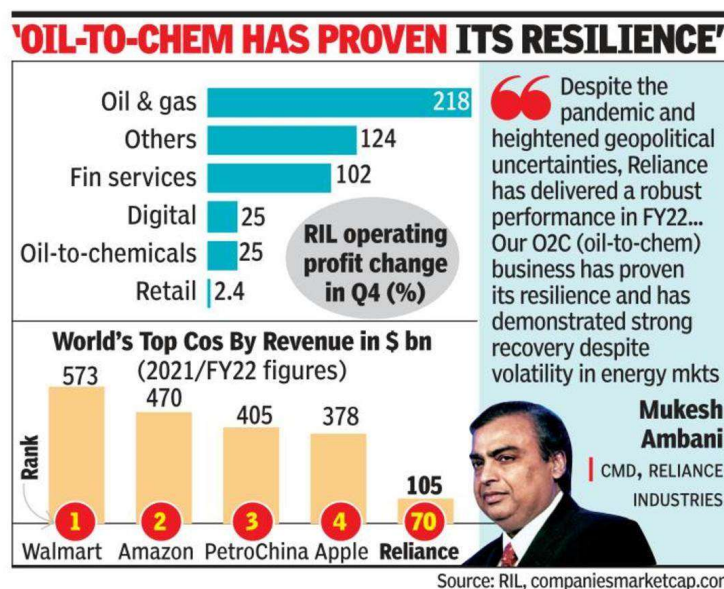
- **On May 6, the boards of Mindtree and L&T Infotech (LTI) - approved the merger of the two independently listed IT services companies under the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Group.**
- ✓ The move will create a \$3.5-billion powerhouse and the sixth-largest IT services firm in India by revenue.

PROCESS TO TAKE 9-12 MONTHS



- ✓ The combined entity, called LTIMindtree, is expected to leverage complementary strengths, unlocking synergies through scale, cross-vertical expertise and talent pool.
- ✓ The integration is expected to be completed in 9-12 months subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.
- ✓ A steering committee will be constituted to oversee the transition till the merger process is complete.

- ✓ The combined entity will be led by Mindtree CEO Debashis Chatterjee, while L&T Infotech CEO & MD Sanjay Jalona has resigned due to personal reasons.
 - ✓ Once the scheme of amalgamation becomes effective, Mindtree shareholders will be issued shares in the ratio of 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree.
 - ✓ L&T will own 68.7% in the combined entity.
 - ✓ LTI, which clocked \$2.1 billion in revenue in the 2021-22 financial year, has domain expertise across banking financial services and insurance (BFSI), manufacturing, energy & utilities, employing 46,000 persons.
 - ✓ L&T acquired 61% stake in Mindtree in 2019.
 - ✓ The Bengaluru-based IT firm has a strong presence in communications, media & technology, CPG, retail and manufacturing verticals.
 - ✓ It generated \$1.4 billion in revenue employing 35,000 people in the 2021-22 financial year
- **Reliance Industries's revenue - has crossed \$100 billion in fiscal 2022, becoming the first Indian company to reach the milestone.**



- ✓ The Tata Group, a collection of over 30 companies across 10 verticals, had a revenue of \$103 billion in fiscal 2021.
- ✓ On May 6, Reliance said its FY22 revenue increased by 47% to Rs 7.9 lakh crore (\$105 billion).
- ✓ It's profit grew 26% to Rs 67,845 crore (\$9 billion), retaining the top position as India's most profitable private company.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - approved the nomination of Rajiv Ranjan, executive director as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**

- ✓ The 595th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held under the Chairmanship of Shaktikanta Das, Governor, through video conferencing on May 2
- ✓ Deputy Governors M.K. Jain, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, and other directors of the Central Board, Satish Marathe, S. Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, and Sachin Chaturvedi attended the meeting
- ✓ Ranjan replaces Mridul Sagar, who retired by the end of April.
- ✓ Ranjan has been with the central bank for over 33 years and was recently the head of the department of economic and policy research, a department aligned with the monetary policy and research function of RBI.
- ✓ Ranjan has a master's degree from Delhi School of Economics and a PhD from Mumbai University.
- ✓ The Monetary Policy Committee, which meets once in every quarter, fixes the interest rate that is applicable in the country.
- ✓ The MPC has six members, three from the RBI and remaining three external members nominated by the Centre
- ✓ Shaktikanta Das is the chairperson of MPC, while Michael Debabrata Patra, Rajiv Ranjan, Ashima Goyal, Shashank Bhide and Jayanth Varma are the members of it.
- ✓ The MPC was first proposed by the Urjit Patel Committee and it came into existence on 27th June 2016

SPORTS

- **The Asian Games - scheduled to take place in the Chinese city of Hangzhou in September have been postponed until 2023 because of the surge in Covid-19 cases**



- ✓ This was announced by the governing Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on May 6
- ✓ The 19th edition of the Asian Games was scheduled to take place from September 10 to 25 in the capital of Zhejiang province, about 175 km southwest of China's financial centre Shanghai.

COVID DEATHS – A REPORT

Despite WHO claim, India is not Covid's worst affected country

India disputes the World Health Organisation's claim that it lost 47 lakh lives to Covid in 2020 and 2021 – more than any other country in the world. Leaving that controversy aside, **Atul Thakur's** analysis shows India actually fared better than many other countries in terms of Covid deaths per lakh of population

> WHO's report on excess mortality during the pandemic says **India lost 47.4 lakh** more lives in 2020 and 2021 than it would have in normal years.

> It's the highest excess mortality estimate for a country, far ahead of second-placed Russia's 10.7 lakh excess deaths. Indonesia and the US are in third and fourth places, respectively.

TIMES Special

Excess mortality is the number of deaths that are estimated to have occurred in a period, over and above the usual or expected death toll for that period.

For 2020 and 2021, it includes deaths caused by Covid and also those that occurred due to lack of treatment at a time when the healthcare system was overwhelmed.



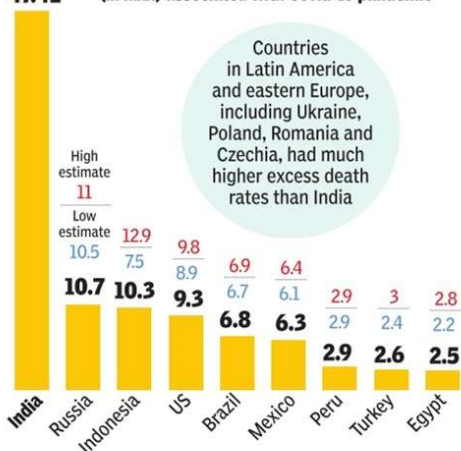
High toll but lower death rate

High estimate
64.8L
Low estimate
33.1L
Mean
47.4L

> Even if the WHO estimate for India turns out to be correct – it's a big if – India's Covid death toll is not so high relative to its large population.

> Among countries with over 100 lakh population, Peru fared the worst with 437 excess deaths per lakh of population. India, however, lost 171 lives per lakh people, according to the WHO's disputed estimate. It's a little more than Brazil's 160 per lakh, but far better than Russia's 367 per lakh rate. India also did better than South Africa and Indonesia.

Countries with highest cumulative excess deaths (in lakh) associated with Covid-19 pandemic



Countries with rate of excess deaths higher than India (100 lakh+ population)

Country	Population (lakh)	Average excess deaths (deaths per lakh)
Peru	332	437
Bolivia	118	375
Russia	1,459	367
Azerbaijan	102	280
Romania	192	279
Mexico	1,296	242
Ecuador	178	228
Ukraine	436	227
Poland	378	208
Kazakhstan	189	202
South Africa	597	200
Indonesia	2,749	187
Czechia	107	173
India	13,867	171

Richer countries fared better

Russia is the only large economy with a Covid death rate higher than India's. The US had 140 deaths per lakh people, followed by Italy, Germany, France and the UK. In Japan, the excess death rate turned negative during the pandemic – there were fewer deaths than normal – presumably due to lockdowns and reduced traffic.

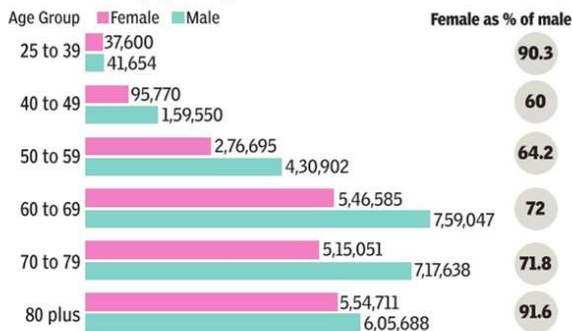
Rate of excess deaths in other large economies

Country	Population (lakh)	Average excess deaths (deaths per lakh)
Brazil	2,133	160
US	3,320	140
Italy	604	133
Germany	838	116
Spain	467	111
UK	680	109
France	653	63
Japan	1,263	-8

Deadlier for men than women

In most countries, Covid killed more men than women, possibly because more men go out to work, and have riskier habits, such as smoking and drinking. In India, the Covid mortality gap between men and women was especially high in the 40-80 age group.

Excess deaths by age and gender in India



Note: According to WHO data, India recorded no deaths in the 0 to 24 age group; Source: WHO