

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Survey**

A nationwide survey involving more than 2.7 lakh people revealed that for 41.34% respondents, distribution of liquor, cash and freebies was an important factor behind voting for a particular candidate in an election, according to the ADR.

**ADR survey of India**

- This is the third all-India survey commissioned by the ADR.
- 86% interviewees felt that candidates with criminal background should not be in Parliament or State Assembly.
- 89% were willing to vote for a candidate with criminal records if the candidate had done good work in the past.
- Evaluating Govt. Performance
- The respondents rated the government's performance on 31 listed issues as below average.
- On a scale of one to five, the respondents gave an average of 2.58 for better public transport, followed by 2.53 on the issue of electricity for domestic use and 2.52 for drinking water.
- The government's performance on initiatives against river and lake water pollution was rated as 2.51; 2.48 for empowerment of women and security; just 1.37 on eradication of corruption; and 1.15 on the issue of terrorism.

**Priorities of Voters**

- As per the survey, better employment opportunities (46.80%), better healthcare (34.60%) and drinking water (30.50%) were the top three priorities, followed by better roads (28.34%) and better public transport (27.35%).
- Statewise, better healthcare was the highest priority in Assam (45.78%), Kerala (45.24%) and Rajasthan (43.13%) and drinking water was the most important factor for the respondents in Karnataka (50.42%), Andhra Pradesh (45.25%) and Kerala (44.77%).

**About Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**

- The ADR is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization which works in the area of electoral and political reforms.
- ADR aims at bringing transparency and accountability in Indian politics and reducing the influence of money and muscle power in elections.
- National Election Watch (NEW) is a conglomeration of over 1200 organizations across the country.
- ADR has become the single data point for information/analysis of background details (criminal, financial and others) of politicians and of financial information of political parties.
- ADR has chosen to concentrate its efforts in the following areas pertaining to the political system of the country:
  - Corruption and Criminalization in the Political Process
  - Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice
  - Need for greater accountability of Indian Political Parties
  - Need for inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning

**ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT****Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**

The Jammu and Kashmir government has released Rs 524.25 lakhs under border area development programme (BADP) for utilization during the current financial year 2018-19.

**About Border Area Development Programme (BADP):**

- The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) has been implemented through 17 States (viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) which constitute the International Land Borders.
- The main objective of the BADP is to meet the special developmental needs and wellbeing of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the entire essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/ State/ BADP/ Local schemes and participatory approach.

**Funding and schemes covered:**

- The funds under BADP are provided to the States as a 100% non-lapsable Special Central Assistance. The programme is supplemental in nature and the budget allocation for the financial year 2015-16 is Rs.990 crore.
- The BADP schemes include construction of primary health centres, schools, supply of drinking water, community centres, connectivity, drainage to enable sustainable living in border areas.

- It also covers schemes or activities relating to SwachhtaAbhiyan, skill development programmes, promotion of sports activities in border areas, promotion of rural tourism, border tourism, protection of heritage sites, construction of helipads in remote and inaccessible hilly areas, which do not have road connectivity.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC****Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)**

ISRO has launched a special programme for School Children called “Young Scientist Programme” “YUvaVIgyaniKaryakram from this year.

- The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- The residential training programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and it is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ UTs to participate in this programme covering state, CBSE, and ICSE syllabus.
- Those who have just finished 9th standard (in the academic year 2018-19) and waiting to join 10th standard (or those who have started 10th Std just now) will be eligible for the programme.
- The selection will be based on the 8th Std marks.
- Students belonging to the rural area have been given special weightage in the selection criteria.

**Kyasanur Forest Disease**

Kyasanur Forest disease has claimed a life in Wayanad.

**KFD:**

- KFD is caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV). The virus was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest. Since then, between 400-500 humans cases per year have been reported.
- Hard ticks (*Hemaphysalis spinigera*) are the reservoir of the KFD virus and once infected, remain so for life.
- Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.

**Transmission:**

- Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described.
- The disease as of now is stated to be transmitted through monkeys. Large animals such as goats, cows, and sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in the transmission of the disease.
- These animals provide the blood meals for ticks and it is possible for infected animals with viremia to infect other ticks, but transmission of KFDV to humans from these larger animals is extremely rare. Furthermore, there is no evidence of disease transmission via the unpasteurised milk of any of these animals.

**Symptoms:**

- After an incubation period of 3-8 days, the symptoms of KFD begin suddenly with chills, fever, and headache. Severe muscle pain with vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms and bleeding problems may occur 3-4 days after initial symptom onset. Patients may experience abnormally low blood pressure, and low platelet, red blood cell, and white blood cell counts.
- After 1-2 weeks of symptoms, some patients recover without complication. However, the illness is biphasic for a subset of patients (10-20 %) who experience a second wave of symptoms at the beginning of the third week. These symptoms include fever and signs of neurological manifestations, such as severe headache, mental disturbances, tremors, and vision deficits.

**Vulnerable Group:**

- People with recreational or occupational exposure to rural or outdoor settings (e.g., hunters, herders, forest workers, farmers) are potentially at risk for infection by contact with infected ticks.
- Seasonality is another important risk factor as more cases are reported during the dry season, from November through June.

**Diagnosis:**Diagnosis can be made in the early stage of illness by molecular detection by PCR or virus isolation from blood. Later, serologic testing using enzyme-linked immunosorbent serologic assay (ELISA) can be performed.

**Prevention:**Doctors say there is no specific treatment for KFD, but early hospitalisation and supportive therapy is important. Supportive therapy includes the maintenance of hydration and the usual precautions for patients with bleeding disorders. A vaccine does exist for KFD and is used in endemic areas of India. Additional preventative measures include insect repellents and wearing protective clothing in areas where ticks are endemic.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**If you don't like how things are, change it. You are not a tree.**