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Institute Of Civil Services

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9th May 2025



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9th May 2025

Mains Manthan

- If Rohingya are foreign, Central govt can deport them (**Page No – 1**)
- MMR shows a declining trend, reveals latest data (**Page No – 16**)

Prelims Saarthi

- Nipah Virus

If Rohingya are foreign, Central govt. can deport them, says SC

Why in News?

- Rohingyas declared foreigners by SC

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – International Relations

If Rohingya are foreign, Central govt. can deport them, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday observed that if the Rohingya are found to be 'foreigners' under the Foreigners Act, they will be dealt with by the Centre in accordance with law.

A three-judge Bench, headed by Justice Surya Kant, was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's power to deport Rohingya refugees. The petitioners said as persons identified as 'refugees' by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), they have constitutional protection against deportation to Myanmar.

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves and advocate Prashant Bhushan, claimed non-refoulement, saying they would be tortured and killed if they were deported to Myanmar, which has anyway declared them 'stateless'.

The apex court was informed that some refugees with UNHCR cards were deported on Wednesday night

The lawyers referred to media reports claiming that some of their clients, along with women and children, all of whom were UNHCR cardholders, were picked up and deported on Wednesday night.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted that India was not a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees. He referred to an interim order passed by the Supreme Court that the government's power under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act to issue orders to "prohibit, regulate, restrict entry or departure of foreigners" was absolute and unlimited, especially when national security concerns were in play.

Justice Dipankar Datta agreed with Mr. Mehta's submissions that though right to life and due process (Article 21) and the right to equality (Article 14) of the Constitution were available to all, the fundamental right to reside or settle in any part of India under Article 19(1)(e) was only available to Indian citizens. "You do not have a right to settle here," Justice Datta addressed the petitioners.

"If they [refugees] have a right to stay here, it will be acknowledged. However, if they do not have a right, they will be deported as per the procedure prescribed in law," Justice Kant remarked.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in detail in July.





Key Takeaways from the Article

- **Supreme Court's Observations:**

- ◆ The Court emphasized that if the **Rohingya refugees** are **foreigners** under the **Foreigners Act**, they can be **deported** by the **Central government** as per legal provisions.
- ◆ The **Court** will hear the case in more detail in **July**.



- **Arguments from Petitioners:**

- ◆ Petitioners argue that as **UNHCR recognized refugees**, the **Rohingyas** have constitutional protection against deportation.
- ◆ They invoked the **principle of nonrefoulement**, claiming they would face **torture** or **death** if deported back to **Myanmar**.

Article 21 of Indian Constitution: Right to Life

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law."

This right has been held to be the heart of the Constitution, the most organic and progressive provision in our living constitution, the foundation of our laws.

Article 21 can only be claimed when a person is deprived of his "life" or "personal liberty" by the "State" as defined in Article 12.

Violation of the right by private individuals is not within the preview of Article 21.

Meaning of Right to Life

'Life' in Article 21 of the Constitution is not merely the physical act of breathing. It does not connote mere animal existence. It has a much wider meaning which includes right to live with human dignity, right to livelihood, right to health, right to pollution free air, etc. Right to life is fundamental to our very existence without which we cannot live as human being and includes all those aspects of life, which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete, and worth living. It is the only article in the Constitution that has received the widest possible interpretation. Under the canopy of Article 21 so many rights have found shelter, growth and nourishment. Thus, the bare necessities, minimum and basic requirements that is essential and





- **Government's Defense:**

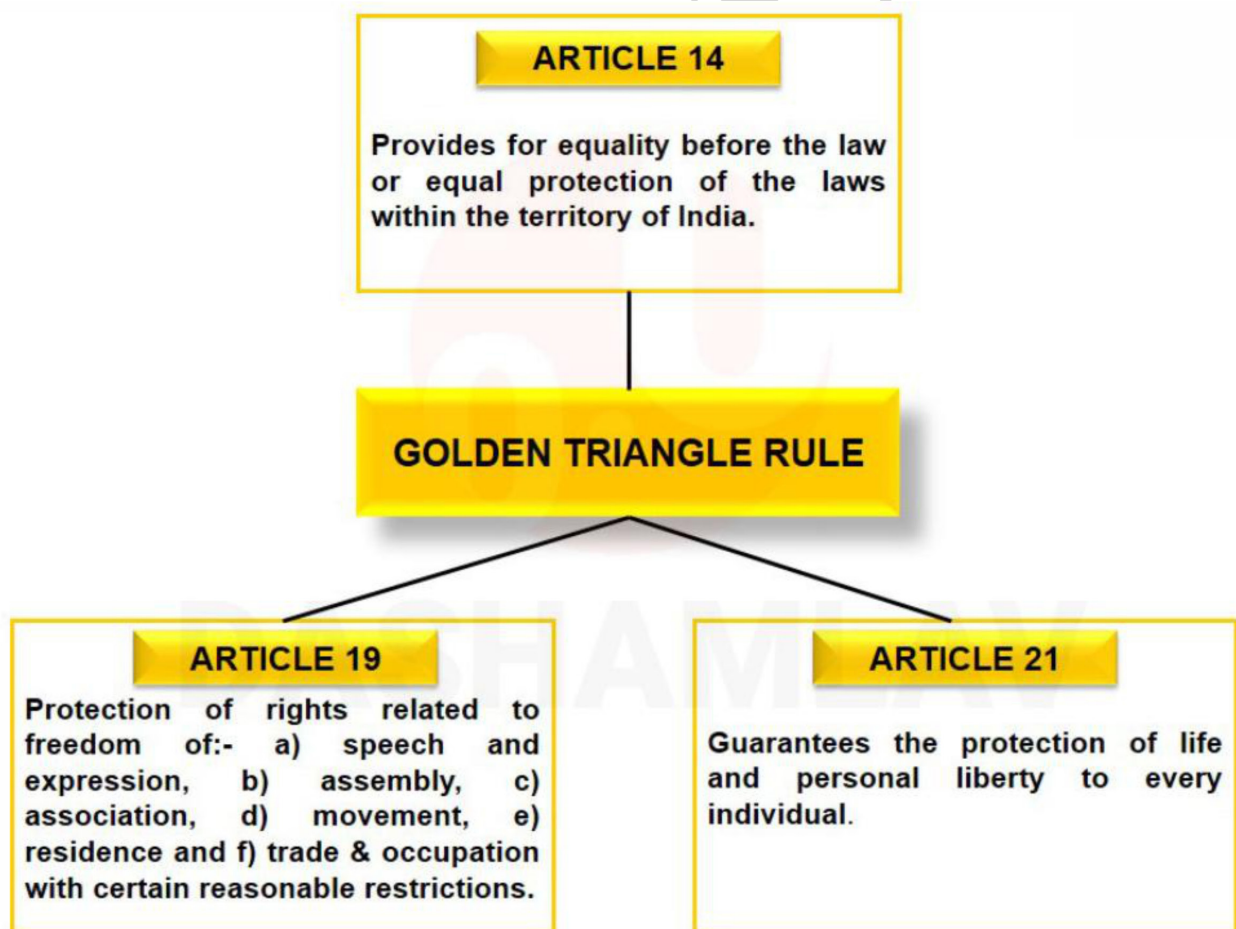
- ◆ **India** is not a **signatory to the UN Refugee Convention**, and therefore, the government's actions on **deportation** are not legally bound by the principles of the convention.
- ◆ The **Foreigners Act** gives the government absolute authority to control the entry and exit of **foreign nationals**, especially in matters related to **national security**.

Article 21

• Article 21 of Indian Constitution provides for "**Protection of Life and Personal Liberty**" and reads as "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."

- **Constitutional Rights and Limits:**

- ◆ **Article 21** (Right to Life) and **Article 14** (Right to Equality) apply to all individuals, but the **right to reside** or settle in India (Article 19(1)(e)) is **exclusive to Indian citizens**.
- ◆ The Court clarified that the **Rohingyas**, if found to be foreigners, do not have the **right to settle in India**.





MMR shows a declining trend, reveals latest data

Why in News?

- MMR Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

MMR shows a declining trend, reveal latest data

The highest MMR is seen in the 20-29 age group and second highest in the 30-34 age group; the maternal mortality ratio in a region is a measure of the reproductive health of women

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21 from 97 in 2018-20, and 103 in 2017-19, show the latest data released by the Office of the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India.

The data show the highest MMR occurs in the 20-29 age group, and the second highest in the 30-34 age group.

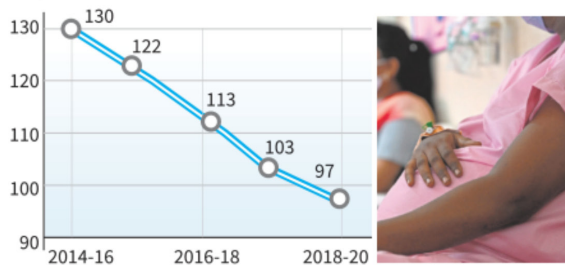
Several States, including Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106), have high MMRs.

The Registrar-General arrives at estimates on fertility and mortality using the Sample Registration System, one of the largest demographic sample surveys in the country.

The MMR is a measure of the reproductive health of women in a region.

Drop in maternal death rate

The chart shows the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), which is the number of maternal deaths during a given period per 100,000 live births



Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

Every day in 2023, over 700 women died of preventable causes related to pregnancy, says WHO

One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period as reported.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim at reducing global MMR to to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

Many women in the reproductive age span die from complications during and following pregnancy and childbirth, or abortion.

"Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the dura-

tion and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The data state that maternal deaths, being a rare event, require prohibitively large sample sizes to provide robust estimates.

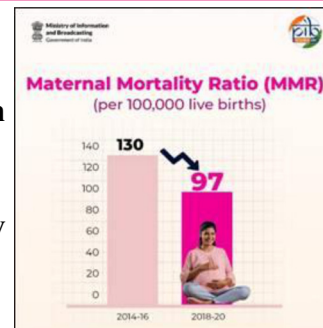
The WHO notes that every day in 2023, over 700 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

"A maternal death occurred almost every 2 minutes in 2023. Between 2000 and 2023, the MMR...dropped by about 40% worldwide. Just over 90% of all maternal deaths occurred in low- and lower-middle-income countries in 2023. Care by skilled health professionals before, during and after childbirth can save the lives of women and newborns," the WHO said.

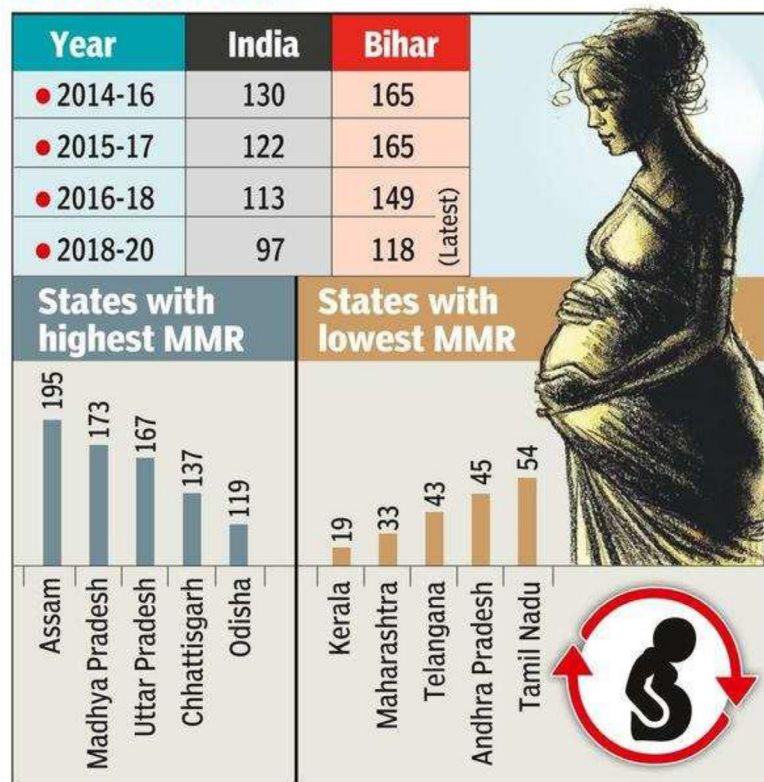


Key Takeaways from the Article

- **Declining MMR in India:**
 - ◆ India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) dropped to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21, from 103 in 2017-19.
 - ◆ The **highest MMR** is recorded in the **20- 29 age group**, followed by the **30-34 age group**.
- **States with High MMR:**
 - ◆ Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106) show **high maternal mortality rates**.
- **Fertility and Mortality Estimates:**
 - ◆ The Registrar-General of India uses the **Sample Registration System (SRS)** to estimate fertility and mortality rates in the country.

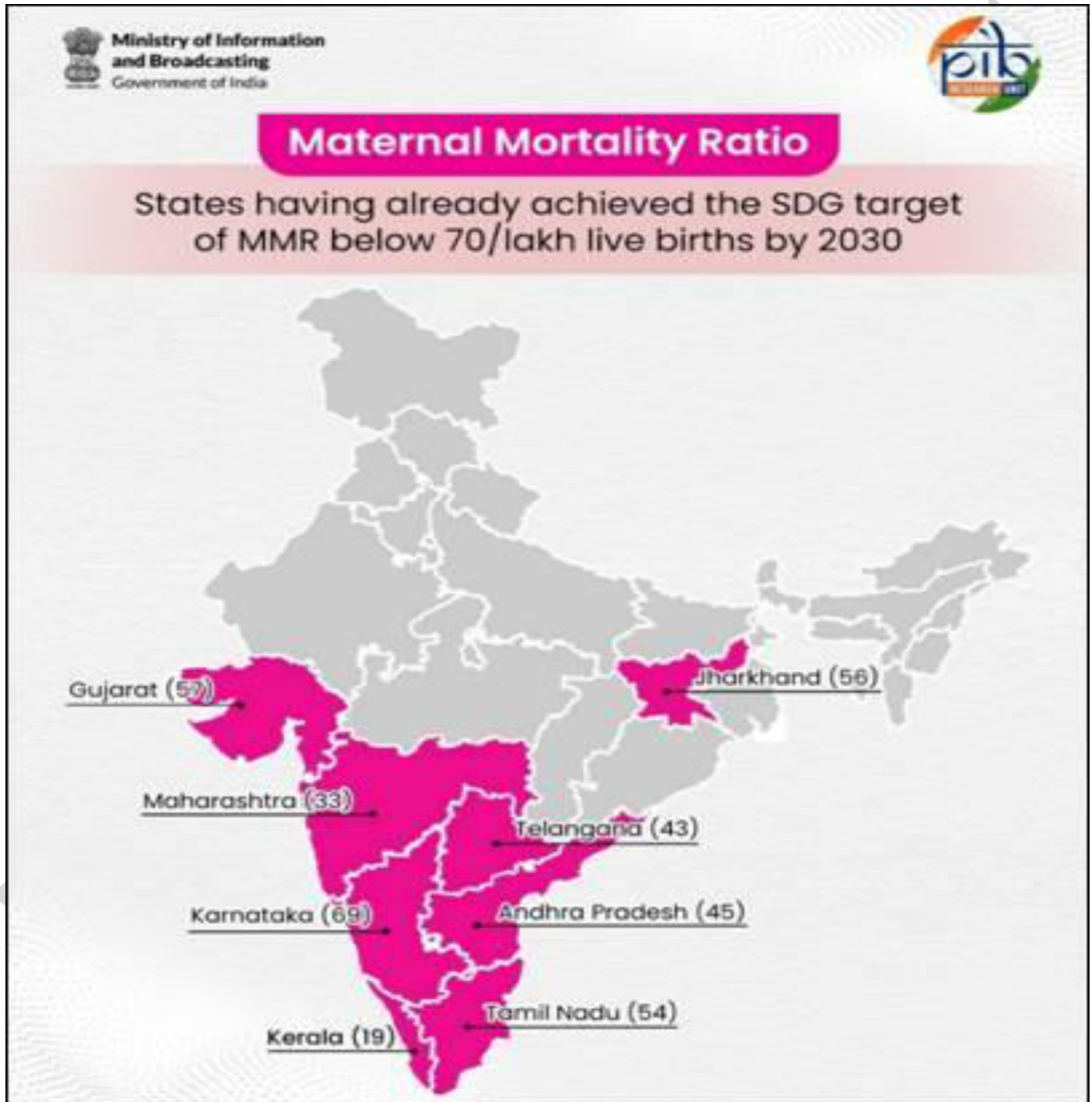


MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE





- **Global Context – WHO’s Findings:**
 - ◆ **Over 700 women** die every day from **preventable causes** related to **pregnancy** and **childbirth**, with **90% of deaths** occurring in **low and lowermiddle-income countries**.
 - ◆ The **WHO** aims to reduce the global **MMR to under 70** by **2030** as part of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.





Nipah Virus

- ♦ **Origin:** First identified in **1999 in Malaysia**, later outbreaks occurred in **Bangladesh and India** (Siliguri, 2001).
- ♦ **Transmission:** Spread through **bat saliva, contaminated food**, and person-to-person contact. Often linked to consumption of fruits contaminated by bat saliva.
- ♦ **Symptoms:** Includes fever, headache, muscle aches, nausea, dizziness, and neurological issues like encephalitis, leading to coma.
- ♦ **Treatment:** No vaccine or specific treatment; **supportive care** is used, with **Ribavirin** possibly reducing mortality.

Nipah resurfaces in Kerala district

The Hindu Bureau

MALAPPURAM

Nipah has resurfaced in Malappuram district of Kerala with a 42-year-old woman testing positive for Nipah virus. She is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Perinthalmanna, prompting health officials to take preventive action and raise alert levels.

The woman was admitted to the hospital a week ago with Nipah-related symptoms, including fever and convulsions.

Health Minister Veena George said here on Thursday that emergency surveillance measures

were being imposed to prevent the spread of the virus.

The source of the woman's infection remains unclear. Health officials started investigating possible links to consuming local fruit as she has limited outdoor exposure.

Health officials are tracing the woman's contacts from the past week to prevent potential spread. Initial relief came as seven high-risk individuals closely connected to her tested negative for Nipah on Thursday.

The district administration has advised people to wear masks in public to

prevent the spread of the virus. Restrictions have been imposed within a three-km radius of the woman's residence in Valanchery municipality.

District Medical Officer R. Renuka said people should avoid eating fruits partly eaten by birds and bats.

Fruit-eating bats have been found to be the main carrier of Nipah virus.

Nipah was reported for the first time in Kerala in 2018. Since then, Nipah outbreaks were reported almost every year, mostly in Malabar. Last year, Malappuram district witnessed two Nipah deaths.

