

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 2, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The prison department – has proposed to launch PATTAM programme in all central prisons in the state to rehabilitate young and first-time offenders.**
- ✓ The initiative PATTAM, referring to 'Personality and attitude transformation by therapeutic management', will be launched on October 2 as part of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations
- ✓ The initiative is aimed at preventing the first time offenders from repeating the crimes and turning into habitual offenders
- ✓ It was successfully implemented earlier in Saidapet sub-jail and Puzhal central prison – II
- ✓ With the initiative providing results, the department has now decided to expand the programme to other central prisons at Vellore, Cuddalore, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Palayamkottai, and Trichy.
- ✓ The programme is launched as part of the department's reformation and rehabilitation initiatives.
- ✓ It will focus on young and first-time offenders, aged between 18 and 24 years, who have committed petty crimes, to bring down recidivism
- ✓ The department has trained 40 life convicts as paralegal volunteers under the programme.
- ✓ Based on their educational qualification and good conduct during their incarceration, the department trained them as resource persons to run the programme in central prisons.
- ✓ They would be supported by Prisoner Reform Intervention Support Mission (PRISM), an NGO.
- ✓ The programme is the brainchild of justice P N Prakash of the Madras high court.
- ✓ Since its launch in August 1 2018, more than 2,900 people have been covered.
- ✓ Recidivism is less than 3% among the first-time offenders covered under the programme.

- ✓ The Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration in Vellore awarded it as the best innovative and effective programme in 2019-2020.
- **The World Bank - has approved a \$150 million package to support the Tamil Nadu government's vision of developing Chennai as a world class city that is more green, liveable, competitive and resilient to climate change.**
 - ✓ This will be implemented through the Chennai city partnership project.
 - ✓ The project will help strengthen institutions, improve financial situation of service agencies and provide significant improvements in the quality of water supply, sewerage, mobility, health and solid waste management in Chennai.
 - ✓ The World Bank has estimated the population in the Chennai metropolitan area at 1.1 crore.
 - ✓ The program aims to increase the number of water and sewerage connections in the city apart from improving its quality
 - ✓ It also seeks to expand green modes of public mobility which includes buses, walking and cycling, enhance disease surveillance and improve and widen the cover of primary health services
 - ✓ Further, the project envisions the integration of planning and management of civic services through a water regulatory authority and a Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority
 - ✓ It will also focus on improving the financial performance of service organisations like Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).
 - ✓ Under the program, the World Bank will work with GoTN to jointly create a more climate-friendly, resilient and inclusive model for managing urban growth
 - ✓ The program will also focus on helping Chennai reduce waste and enhance resource recovery, thereby emphasizing on reuse, recycling, and recovery.
 - ✓ It will also enhance the operational and financial sustainability of the city's solid waste management system.
- **Two roads in Trichy, Royal Road and Lawsons Road - were renamed after Major M Saravanan, a posthumous awardee of Vir Chakra for his gallantry in the Kargil war.**



- ✓ Trichy Corporation has erected new signboards mentioning Major Saravanan road by replacing the old names of the roads in Cantonment.
 - ✓ Royal Road branches off from Trichy Central bus stand and Lawsons road branches off from the MGR statue near district court.
 - ✓ Royal road is in K Abishekapuram zone and Lawsons in Ponmalai zone.
 - ✓ The two roads with a combined length of 1.5 km were clubbed and henceforth be addressed with the new name
 - ✓ The memorial of Major Saravanan situated in front of St John's Vestry school in Trichy
- **Archaeologists – have discovered a 700-year-old stone inscription, belonging to the King Kulasekhara Pandian period, near Soorakulam bordering Sivaganga and Pudukottai districts.**



- ✓ The stone inscription mentions about the registration of land donated by Uiyavanthan Etti from the village to the temple of the Thiru Sivanamudaya Nayanar Temple during the seventh year of regime of Kulasekhara Thevar (Pandian).
- ✓ It was found on the southern side of a dilapidated four-pillared mandapam near a railway tunnel on the Soorakulam to Nattarasankottai route.
- ✓ The block on which the inscription is found measures 4ft tall and 1ft wide.
- ✓ The temple mentioned in the inscription precedes the era of Kulasekhara Pandian and is said to have been constructed by Maravarman Sundarapandian.
- ✓ This mandapam may have functioned as a choultry for travellers or pilgrims, where they rested during their journeys.
- ✓ It was said the inscription was made in the seventh year of the regime of Maravarman Kulasekhara Pandian who is said to have ruled between AD 1268 and AD 1311.
- ✓ Hence, it may be deciphered that this inscription was made in the year 1275 AD.

NATIONAL

- **On October 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the second phase of Swachhta, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and urban rejuvenation mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0**



- ✓ During the event, the PM stressed to make cities and town “completely free of garbage” while giving full credit to sanitation workers and rag-pickers terming them as the “mahanayaks” (great actors) for the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ The missions aim to make cities and towns garbage free and water secure
- ✓ They involve cumulative expenditure of Rs 4.3 lakh crore, which is over two-and-half times more than the total expenditure on the first phase of these two missions.
- ✓ Launching the schemes, the PM said the country is moving towards 100% access to clean drinking water.
- ✓ On AMRUT 2.0, he said it aims at “improving sewage and septic management” and making cities water-secure.
- ✓ The PM also said cleanliness is a great campaign “for everyone, every day, every fortnight, every year, generation after generation” and it isn’t confined to a day, fortnight or month.
- ✓ Invoking B R Ambedkar, the PM said the two missions will eliminate inequality among people who have shifted to cities from their villages.
- ✓ He cited how improvement in sanitation in Gujarat attracted more tourists and urged states to take steps to improve cleanliness and sanitation.
- ✓ The PM also urged municipal leaders and officers to promote PM Svanidhi scheme, which entitles street vendors to get subsidised loans for their business.
- ✓ The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister in August 2019 to provide clean tap water to all households
- ✓ At the time of its launch, only 17% (32.3 million) of the country’s rural households had a tap water supply.
- ✓ As on date, about 8.26 crore (43%) rural households have tap water supply in their homes.

- ✓ The initiative has been implemented in partnership with states with a budget of Rs. 3.6 crore
- ✓ Later, Rs. 1.42 crore has been further given to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) “as a tied grant under the 15th Finance Commission for water and sanitation in villages for the period 2021-2022 to 2025-2026.”
- **On October 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch a dedicated fund – ‘Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh’ (RJJK) to tap donors for rural India water plan**
 - ✓ Through the fund, any individual, institution, corporate, or philanthropist can contribute to help provide tap water connection in rural households, school, ‘anganwadi’ centre, ‘ashramshala’, and other public institutions.
 - ✓ Any individual or institution, be it in India or abroad, can contribute to the fund
 - ✓ It will be a registered public charitable trust set up by department of drinking water and sanitation, under the ministry of jal shakti
 - ✓ The contribution can also be made for providing tap water in schools, anganwadi centres, tribal residential schools and health-cum-wellness centres
 - ✓ This is expected to further speed up the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with private participation
 - ✓ It will also help the mission achieve its goal of providing functional tap water connections to all rural households in the country by 2024
 - ✓ The fund would help in carrying forward the JJM as a people’s movement.
 - ✓ It will promote research and development, innovation and use of technology in ensuring tap water in rural households.
 - ✓ The fund will also help build the capacity of the local village community to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain their water supply schemes.
 - ✓ The audit of the RJJK account will be carried out annually by an independent auditor empanelled with the comptroller and auditor general of India (CAG).
 - ✓ The Centre has said that donations to “Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh” are eligible for 50% deduction under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
 - ✓ This is applicable for the assessment year 2021-22 and subsequent years
 - ✓ The Prime Minister will also launch an exclusive JJM App on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, wherein people can register their grievances to ensure greater transparency and accountability
- **On October 1, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) - declared the popular comic book character ‘Chacha Chaudhary’ as the mascot of the Namami Gange — Ganga Rejuvenation programme.**
 - ✓ The NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos
 - ✓ The move is expected to help in creating awareness about the river Ganga cleaning activities.
 - ✓ The content will be designed with an objective of bringing about behavioural change amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers.



- ✓ The total estimated budget for the project is Rs. 2.26 crore
- ✓ Initially, the comics will be launched in Hindi, English and Bengali
- ✓ 'Ganga ki Baat, Chacha Choudhary Ke Sath' will be launched as a public engagement activity under overall public outreach activities of Namami Gange mission

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) summit between India and the United States - was held from September 27 to October 01 at New Delhi.**
- ✓ The summit was organised to develop protocol for the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the nations.
- ✓ The Summit was led by Designated Security Authorities (DSAs) namely Anurag Bajpai and David Paul Bagnati from Indian and US sides respectively.
- ✓ During the summit, both the sides agreed in-principle to establish the Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group.
- ✓ This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies.
- ✓ ISA is the part of India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
- ✓ It was signed at the second 2+2 dialogue in Washington in December 2019 to facilitate the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the countries
- ✓ GSOMIA was signed between India and US in 2002 to allow militaries to share intelligence gathered by them.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A new species of freshwater eel - was discovered from a well in Mumbai by Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's younger son Tejas Thackeray and the team at Thackeray Wildlife Foundation**
- ✓ It belongs to genus Rakthamicthys that is endemic to India and named 'Rakthamicthys Mumba', the Mumbai blind eel, as a tribute to the city it was found in



- ✓ Thackeray collected 10 specimens from the well for the study.
- ✓ The word 'Mumba' in its name is derived from Marathi language, which denotes Mumba Aai, a deity worshipped by Mumbaikars.
- ✓ The eel was located in a 40-foot deep well located on the premises of a blind school at Jogeshwari West, Mumbai
- ✓ Besides Thackeray, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India including Jayasimhan Praveenraj, Anil Mohapatra, Annam Pavan-Kumar collaborated in making this discovery.
- ✓ Thackeray's younger son is a wildlife enthusiast and has been involved in discovering other species in the past, including of gecko, snake and crab.
- ✓ The new freshwater bright-pink coloured species is a completely blind subterranean freshwater fish and the first from Maharashtra & the Northern western Ghats
- ✓ The eel is also without any fins, scales and has different gill aperture.
- ✓ As per the scientists, this blind eel has a genetic distance of 21.6 – 22.8% from other known species of Rakthamichthys, which makes it the 5th species from this genus to have originated from India.

AWARDS

- **Seven-year-old Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar from Malleswaram, Bengaluru – won the Children's Peace Image of the Year-Global Peace Photo Award.**



- ✓ She is the only Indian to have won this honour
- ✓ The annual prize honours the work of photographers on human efforts towards a peaceful world and is given in partnership with UNESCO and the Austrian Parliament.

- ✓ Aadhyaa and her mother travelled to Vienna for the awards ceremony at the Austrian Parliament, where she received a medal and €1,000.
- ✓ Themed 'Lap of Peace', the photograph by Aadhyaa, a Class II student of Vidyaniketan in Hebbal won the award in the children's category.
- ✓ Five winners were selected from the adult category and one from children's category from among 16,396 entries from 114 countries

SPORTS

- **Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana - became the first Indian woman to score a century in a pink-ball Test on October 1, 2021 in Gold Coast, Australia**
- ✓ This is also the first century by an Indian woman on Australian soil and only the second Test hundred by an Indian against the Aussies.
- ✓ Sandhya Agarwal's 134 in 1984 was the first Test hundred for India against Australia.
- ✓ Mandhana made 127 off 216 balls with the help of 22 boundaries and a six at the Carrara Oval



➤ Opener Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to score a day/night Test century on Day 2 of the historic pink-ball Test against Australia at Carrara Oval.

➤ This is Mandhana's maiden Test ton and is also the first century by an Indian woman on Australian soil

➤ The southpaw, not out on 80 overnight, scored 127 in

Smriti is the 2nd woman to hit a D/N Test ton after Australia's Ellyse Perry (213* vs Eng at Sydney in 2017)

216 balls, hitting 22 fours & a six. At stumps, India were 276/5 in 1st innings after rain halted play

➤ Smriti (25) now has a hat-trick of records: the highest individual score for Indian women in Australia in all three formats (102 in ODIs & 66 in T20Is)

➤ The Mumbaikar also broke a 72-year record for the highest score by a visiting player in women's Tests in Australia. The previous best was by England's Mary Hide (124 n.o) in 1949

➤ Smriti is the 2nd Indian cricketer to post a day/night Test ton after Virat Kohli's 136 in the country's first-ever pink-ball Test (vs Bangladesh in Kolkata in 2019) **P 16**

- ✓ With the hundred, Mandhana entered an elite list of Indian women Test centurions, and became the ninth player from India to reach the triple digit mark.
- ✓ Further, the century is the highest for a visiting player in women's Tests in Australia.
- ✓ The previous highest score was Molly Hide's unbeaten 124, for England, in Sydney in 1949.
- ✓ Mandhana is the only woman with Test and ODI hundreds against Australia in Australia, having scored her maiden ODI century in Hobart in 2016.