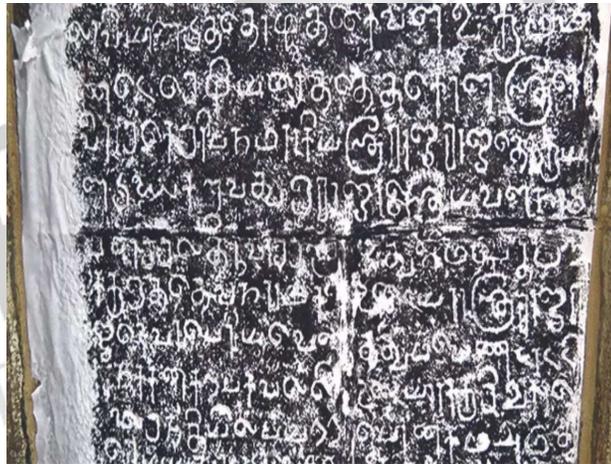


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-OCTOBER 27, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- A 10th century stone inscription belonging to the period of Raja Raja Chola I - was discovered in a Siva temple in Thiruvasi village near Trichy recently



- ✓ The inscription was found on the wall of the Marrurai Varathisvarar temple
- ✓ It details the endowment made towards the temple and temple workers by a maid who served in the palace of the Chola emperor, Raja Raja Chola I.
- ✓ The inscription with 293 lines in Tamil mentions a maid named 'Nakkan Karpagavalli', attached to the larger quarters (periya velam) of Raja Raja Chola I palace.
- ✓ She had gifted 201 kalanju of gold and some fertile land that could provide 16 kalam (measurement unit) of paddy every year to the Marrurai Varathisvarar temple.
- ✓ The maid, Karpagavalli made the donations to arrange for five endowments to the temple.
- ✓ The gold was shared among 23 workers of the Thiruvasi temple and five workers of the Amaleeswarar temple situated nearby.
- ✓ Kalanju refers to an ancient unit of measurement in practice

# STATES

- **Chhattisgarh's Raipur - is all set to host the second edition of the "National Tribal Dance Festival" to promote, preserve, and showcase its rich tribal culture and heritage**



- ✓ As many as 59 tribal dance troupes from 27 states and 6 Union Territories of the country, and 7 from foreign countries, including Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Syria, Mali, Palestine, and Kingdom of Eswatini, will take part in the dance festival
  - ✓ The three-day festival, between October 27 and 30, is organised under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government
  - ✓ An exhibition and other programmes focusing on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former deputy PM Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will be held on October 31, the death anniversary of two leaders.
  - ✓ The artists from tribal areas of Bastar, Dantewada, Koriya, Korba, Bilaspur, Gariabandh, Mainpur, Dhura, Dhamtari, Surguja and Jashpur in Chhattisgarh will present their own distinctive history, culture and traditions during the festival.
  - ✓ The dance performances in the event will be held in two categories namely, wedding ceremonies and other prominent rituals.
  - ✓ The event will conclude with the statehood celebration on November 1
  - ✓ Chhattisgarh came into existence on November 1, 2000 after the bifurcation of Madhya Pradesh.
  - ✓ In 2019, the first edition of the National Tribal Dance Festival witnessed participation of tribal communities from across 25 states of India and 6 guest countries with the presence of over one lakh people.
- 
- **The Rajasthan Police - has issued a circular prohibiting construction of shrines inside police stations and police offices on October 25**
  - ✓ The order was issued under Rajasthan Religious Buildings and Places Act, 1954
  - ✓ The Act forbids the use of public places for religious purposes.

- ✓ The order has been issued following complaints about construction of shrines inside police buildings.

## NATIONAL

- **India's infant mortality rate (IMR) - has dropped from 50 to 30 between 2009 and 2019, according to data released by the sample registration system (SRS).**

**DECLINE SLOWED IN LAST 5 YEARS**  
**KERALA AT PAR WITH THE US, MP WORSE THAN SUDAN**

		2019	2014	2009
	<b>India</b>	30	39	50
<b>BEST STATES</b>	Kerala	6	12	12
	Delhi	11	20	33
	Tamil Nadu	15	20	28
	Maharashtra	17	22	31
<b>WORST STATES</b>	Chhattisgarh	40	43	54
	Assam	40	49	61
	Uttar Pradesh	41	48	63
	Madhya Pradesh	46	52	67

Source: SRS various bulletins, Census office

- ✓ Still, India's IMR is still worse than Bangladesh's and Nepal's, both with an IMR of 26, though better than Pakistan's (56).
- ✓ The data revealed that the decline has slowed in the last five years in most states
- ✓ Also, the latest data indicates enormous difference between states
- ✓ Accordingly, Kerala has an IMR equal to that of the US and Madhya Pradesh faring worse than Yemen or Sudan.
- ✓ After Kerala, Delhi has the lowest IMR of 11, followed by Tamil Nadu with 15, among the larger states.
- ✓ All states have shown improvement in IMR from the year before.
- ✓ Among larger states showing accelerating improvement are Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.
- ✓ States which have witnessed the greatest slowing down in improvement of their IMR are Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Globally, the lowest IMR of 2 has been recorded in Finland, Norway, Iceland, Singapore and Japan.
- ✓ IMR is widely accepted as a crude indicator of the overall health scenario of a country or region.
- ✓ IMR is defined as the number of babies less than a year old who die for every thousand live births in a given period of time

➤ **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia – virtually flagged off the first direct flight between Shillong and Dibrugarh on October 26, 2021**



- ✓ The direct flight service was commenced on the Shillong – Dibrugarh route under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) of the Government of India.
  - ✓ Due to the non-availability of any direct mode of transportation, people were compelled to cover a long 12-hour journey by road & train to travel between Shillong and Dibrugarh
  - ✓ The budget airline 'Indigo' was awarded the Shillong - Dibrugarh route during the UDAN 4 bidding process.
  - ✓ The airline will deploy its 78-seater ATR 72 aircraft.
  - ✓ Shillong is known as Scotland of East due to the presence of rolling hills, caves, tallest waterfalls, beautiful landscapes and its rich heritage and culture.
  - ✓ Shillong is famous for Elephant falls, Shillong Peak, Umiam lake, Sohpetbneng Peak, Don Bosco Museum, Laitlum Canyons among others.
  - ✓ Till date, 389 routes and 62 airports (including 5 heliports and 2 water aerodromes) have been operationalized under the UDAN scheme.
  - ✓ UDAN 4.1 scheme was launched in 2020.
  - ✓ Under this phase, 78 new routes were approved to enhance connectivity across remote & regional areas like Agatti, Kavaratti, and Minicoy islands of Lakshadweep.
  - ✓ Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched in the year 2016, as a regional connectivity scheme by the Ministry of Civil Aviation
  - ✓ The scheme aims to create affordable, economically viable and profitable flights across the regional routes.
- **India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) - signed a \$4.5 million loan for improving urban mobility in Mizoram**
- ✓ The project readiness financing (PRF) agreement seeks to support project preparation and design activities in improving urban mobility in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram.

- ✓ Aizawl has severe traffic congestion on narrow road widths, which adversely impacts road safety, efficiency in movement of people and goods, and environmental sustainability



- ✓ The proposed project will conduct feasibility studies and prepare detailed reports to adopt sustainable urban mobility solutions
- ✓ Under PRF, a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) will be developed for Aizawl.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and HDFC – have announced a tie up to offer home loans to nearly 4.7 crore customers of IPPB**
- ✓ IPPB will provide the home loan products of HDFC Bank through its country-wide network of 650 branches and more than 1,36,000 banking access points or Post offices
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the strategic alliance was signed between IPPB and HDFC Ltd on October 25
- ✓ IPPB will offer housing loans through nearly 190,000 banking service providers (Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks) in unbanked and underserved areas, where there is little or no access to finance
- ✓ As per the MoU, credit, technical and legal appraisals, processing and disbursement for all home loans will be handled by HDFC Ltd while IPPB will be responsible for sourcing of loans
- ✓ The alliance aims to make housing loans available and accessible, using a digitally enabled agent banking channel
- ✓ IPPB is specialised division of Indian Post working under the jurisdiction of Department of Post of Ministry of Communications.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh – delivered the inaugural address at the 8th India-Sweden Innovation Day meet on October 26**
- ✓ The one-day event was conducted on the theme 'Accelerating India Sweden Green Transition' by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



- ✓ The meet was divided into nine parts to discuss various aspects of climate change and the possible solutions to bring about a green transition.
- ✓ During his address, the Minister said that India and Sweden cooperation in Energy Sector will go a long way in achieving the ultimate goal of fossil fuel free economy.
- ✓ Cooperation in the energy sector was identified as an important area during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Stockholm in April 2018, said the Minister
- ✓ The Department of Science & Technology and the Swedish Energy Agency have worked out and launched a Call for Industrial R&D proposals in clean energy sector
- ✓ The Joint Call for Science and Technology projects was announced by Prime Ministers of both countries during their bilateral meeting on 5th March 2021
- ✓ The ICMR India and Swedish FORTE have also agreed to launch a new call in 2021-2022 on broad themes viz., public health, prevention, and health promotion
- ✓ The Science and Technology cooperation between two countries was initiated through the Indo-Swiss Inter-Governmental Agreement signed at Stockholm on 9th December 2005.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) – released the seventeenth edition of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Bulletin on October 25**
- ✓ The United Nations Agency has been tracking the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from 1990 to 2020
- ✓ As per the latest bulletin, presence of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record last year despite the economic slowdown due to Covid-19
- ✓ The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the most important greenhouse gas, reached 413.2 parts per million in 2020 and is 149% of the pre-industrial level, as per the report

- ✓ Similarly, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is 262% and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is 123% of the levels in the year 1750, when human activities started disrupting Earth's natural equilibrium.
- ✓ When compared with 1990 level, greenhouse gases spiked by 47% now, with carbon dioxide responsible for almost 80% of this hike.
- ✓ The WMO greenhouse gas bulletin coincides with the release this week of the United Nations Climate Office's updated findings on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- ✓ The NDCs represent various countries' climate action plans, including goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### OMINOUS RISE

413.2ppm

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level in 2020, 149% higher than pre-industrial levels

47% increase in greenhouse gases since 1990; CO<sub>2</sub> accounts for 80% of these

Lockdowns due to Covid had only a temporary effect on emissions

- ✓ All available NDCs of more than 190 countries indicated an increase of about 16% in global GHG emissions in 2030 compared to 2010.
- ✓ The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3°C warmer and sea level was 10-20 metres higher than now.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand - was appointed as the new Defence Minister of Canada in the latest cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau**



- ✓ Anand, 54, will replace long-time defence minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan, who has been appointed as Minister of International Development Agency

- ✓ Anand has a deep background as a corporate lawyer and has worked extensively on corporate governance
- ✓ Anand served as Canada's vaccine minister and was in charge of the country's efforts to secure COVID-19 vaccines
- ✓ In her role as former Minister of Public Services and Procurement, she played a very public role in the Liberal response to the health crisis.
- ✓ Anand, along with Sajjan and Bardish Chagger were the three Indo-Canadian ministers in the dissolved Cabinet who emerged victorious in the parliamentary polls last month.
- ✓ The Canadian military is facing intense public and political pressure to change its culture and create better systems

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Day for Audiovisual Heritage - October 27



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the need to take urgent measures to safeguard and to acknowledge the significance of audiovisual documents
- ✓ In 2005, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization (UNESCO) designated October 27 as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.
- ✓ The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) commemorates the adoption of 21st General Conference of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images by the United Nations General Assembly in 1980
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Your Window to the World.'
- ✓ It is a joint initiative by UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Association (CCAAA) to recognise audiovisual institutions
- ✓ Audiovisual documents record, capture and activate the different stories of ordinary people through digital storytelling in different forms such as films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programs.

