

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-OCTOBER 30, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Blue Cross of India (BCI) and Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation - have tied up to launch the first dedicated animal crematorium facility in Chennai**
- ✓ The facility will be inaugurated on October 30 by L Ganesh, chairman, Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation.



- ✓ The crematorium, located at the BCI facility in Velachery, will be open all days of the week
- ✓ It is a gas-fired crematorium for which ESSCO Furnaces Private Limited has provided the furnace after getting the clearance from the TNPCB.
- ✓ A dedicated link on the foundation's website will also be created, so that pet owners can book a slot.
- ✓ A non-denominational shrine has also been set up in the premises for conducting any last rites by the pet parents

NATIONAL

- **The ministry of women and child development - has invited suggestions from all stakeholders to the draft amendments to revise the existing Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016**

- ✓ The draft amendments have added provisions for enabling the district magistrates and additional district magistrates to pass adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- ✓ The power to issue adoption orders are with the courts under the existing rules.
- ✓ As per the new rules, the DM and ADM play a key role in monitoring of child care institutions and care of children in need of care and protection.
- ✓ Comments and suggestions about the rules can be made till November 11.
- ✓ The Model Rules 2021 will replace the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016
- ✓ They have been prepared in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 that was passed in Parliament in July this year.
- ✓ As per the amended provisions of the Act, any child care institutions (CCIs) shall be registered after considering the recommendations of the district magistrate.
- ✓ The DM shall independently evaluate the functioning of district child protection units, child welfare committees, juvenile justice boards, specialised juvenile police units, and CCIs.
- ✓ The DM is also empowered to review the reports submitted by Child Care Institution and Specialised Adoption Agency and take measures to expedite the process of adoption of children declared legally free for adoption.
- ✓ It is also proposed that the “Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System” may be deleted from the existing rules so that the central government can create a new portal in near future.
- ✓ When any offence under the Act is committed by a care home including a Specialised Adoption Agency, the committee or the board may pass appropriate orders to recommend the cancellation of the registration and withdrawal of recognition of such institution or agency to the DM.
- ✓ The DM may ensure transfer of children and closure of guilty institution within 7 days under intimation to State Government

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - began his engagements in Italy on the sidelines of the 16th G20 Summit in Rome.**



- ✓ The PM had a meeting with European Council president Charles Michel and the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen on October 29
- ✓ Leaders of India and the EU reviewed India-EU cooperation covering political and security relations, trade and investment and economic cooperation as well as Roadmap 2025 agreed at the last summit
- ✓ They also discussed climate change, Covid-19 pandemic and contemporary global and regional developments of interest to both sides.
- ✓ This was the PM's first official engagement after he arrived in Italy to participate in the G20 Summit.
- ✓ The 15th India-EU summit, held in virtual mode in July 2020, was attended by PM Modi, Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen.
- ✓ In 2020, India was the EU's 10th largest trading partner accounting for 1.8% of EU's total bilateral trade in goods.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India's manned ocean mission 'Samudrayaan' - was launched on October 29 at Chennai**
- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched the mission on NIOT's 28th foundation day
- ✓ As part of the mission, Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is developing a manned submersible, Matsya 6000, to carry three people down to a depth of 6,000 metres.
- ✓ Samudrayaan is part of India's Rs 4,077crore Deep Ocean Mission.
- ✓ Under the mission, three researchers will get into the submersible and dive into the Indian Ocean to look for precious minerals, study marine life and investigate tectonic boundaries within the next 3 to 5 years

DIVING DEEP

INDIA'S MANNED OCEAN MISSION 'SAMUDRAYAAN' IN A NUTSHELL

➤ Samudrayaan launched as part ₹4,077cr deep ocean mission

➤ National Institute of Ocean Technology is developing a manned submersible, Matsya 6000, at a cost of ₹350cr

➤ The battery-powered submersible will be capable of carrying three people up to 6,000m depth and has an endurance of 12 hours and an additional 96 hours in case of emergency



➤ It will be fitted with sensors and other instruments to explore deep sea resources

➤ Sea trials at 500m shallow water depth is expected to take place in two years

➤ It will be ready for qualification trials by December 2024

- ✓ With the launch, India joins the elite club of select nations USA, Russia, Japan, France and China having such underwater vehicles.
- ✓ This also opens up a new chapter to explore ocean resources for drinking water, clean energy and blue economy.
- ✓ The vehicle will help look for polymetallic manganese nodules, hydrothermal sulphides, cobalt crust, gas hydrates in the Indian Ocean
- ✓ It will also investigate tectonic boundaries of Sumatra and chemosynthetic biodiversity in high temperature hydrothermal vents and low temperature methane seeps.
- ✓ The spherically-shaped submersible that would go into the deep sea vehicle will be made of special grade titanium alloy of 80mm thickness and 2.1m diameter.
- ✓ The vehicle will have a battery-powered propulsion system with endurance of 12 hours and an additional 96 hours in case of emergencies.
- ✓ The deep sea vehicle is capable of reaching 6000m depth and will be ready for qualification trials by December 2024

DEFENCE

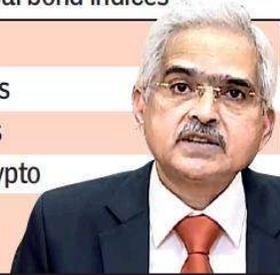
- **The first of the two new 4,000-tonne guided-missile frigates being built in Russia for India - was “launched” into water on October 28 at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad.**
- ✓ The first warship is likely to be commissioned by mid-2023 as INS Tushil (Sanskrit for protector shield), while the second will be ready by end-2023.
- ✓ In October 2018, India had signed an umbrella agreement with Russia for the procurement of four Grigorovich or Talwar-class frigates.
- ✓ The first two frigates are to be imported from Russia for around ₹8,000 crore
- ✓ The next two will be built at the Goa shipyard with transfer of technology at an overall cost of around ₹13,000 crore
- ✓ All the four frigates will be armed with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, apart from other weapon systems and sensors.
- ✓ They will add to the six such Russian stealth frigates, three Talwar-class and three Teg-class warships, already inducted into the Indian Navy from 2003-04 onwards.

ECONOMY

- **The Centre has re- appointed Shaktikanta Das - as RBI governor for a period of three years from December 20, or until further orders.**
- ✓ Completion of the term will make Das the longest-serving governor in over seven decades and second-longest in RBI’s history.
- ✓ The appointments committee of the cabinet issued its order on Das late on October 28.
- ✓ The longest-serving RBI governor is Benegal Rama Rau—for 7 years and 197 days between July 1, 1949 and January 14, 1957.

EXITING STIMULUS KEY CHALLENGE

STRENGTHS		SUCCESSSES	
➤ Has ability to carry people along. Consultative, pragmatic		➤ Responded quickly to pandemic, prevented defaults	
➤ Experience in policymaking, dealing with global institutions		➤ Ensured banks were adequately capitalised	
➤ Can take tough decisions if needed (Bar on HDFC Bank, action against Amex/Mastercard)		➤ Managed government borrowing without disruption	
		➤ Improvement in asset quality	
WORK IN PROGRESS			
1	New regulatory framework for non-banking fin cos	2	New unified supervisory system
3	Broadening market for gilts, inclusion of India in global bond indices		
CHALLENGES			
➤ Exiting stimulus without disrupting markets			
➤ Enabling divestment of public sector banks			
➤ Launching digital currency & regulating crypto			
➤ Regulating fintech, some of which are operating on the borders of regulation			



- ✓ Das had taken charge as governor on December 11, after his predecessor Urjit Patel resigned a year ahead of the completion of his term.
- ✓ Immediately before Das took charge, the relationship between RBI and the government dropped to a low after Patel and his deputy Viral Acharya's battle with the government over the independence of the apex bank.
- ✓ Das' reappointment comes following his tactful handling of the economic crisis in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

APPOINTMENTS

- The government has appointed Justice Ashok Bhushan, a former judge of the Supreme Court, as chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).



- ✓ It has also appointed Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar, former chief justice of Manipur HC, as president of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ✓ The appellate tribunal NCLAT is going to have a permanent chairperson after a gap of almost 19 months.
- ✓ Its first chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhaya had retired on March 14, 2020, and since then it was functioning with acting chairpersons.
- ✓ The NCLT, which is handling important insolvency-related matters, was functioning without a permanent president after the retirement of Justice M M Kumar on January 5, 2020.

SPORTS

- **Karnataka - crowned as the overall champions at the Senior National Aquatic Championships on October 29 in Bengaluru.**
- ✓ At the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre, they ended the campaign with 36 medals comprising 17 gold, 10 silver and nine bronze.



- ✓ This is Karnataka's 30th overall championship title at the Senior Nationals. Maharashtra finished second followed by Delhi.
- ✓ On the final day, in the 200m freestyle, Srihari Nataraj clinched the gold with a new National record, surpassing Sajan Prakash's mark clocked in 2018.
- ✓ Delhi's Kushagra Rawat won three gold medals with three national records to his name in this meet
- ✓ In the 100m butterfly, Sajan of Kerala Police bettered his own record to win the gold.
- ✓ Based on the performances at the Nationals, a four-member team will represent India at the FINA World Short Course Championships in Abu Dhabi later this year.
- ✓ The team comprises Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash who have qualified with 'A qualifying time' while Kushagra Rawat has made the team with 'B qualifying time'.
- ✓ Young sensation Ridhima Veerendra Kumar too joins the contingent, having been selected with the highest FINA points from the senior Nationals.

- **Tajamul Islam, 13, the first Kashmiri girl to represent India in kickboxing, won gold medal in the U-14 category in the World Kickboxing Championship held in Cairo.**



- ✓ Tajamul Islam, hailing from a Bandipora village, beat Argentina's Lalina in the final.
- ✓ The meet that started on October 18 ended on October 24.
- ✓ Thirty Indian players took part in various categories

INDIA'S DECLINING VILLAGES – A REPORT

- **For the first time since the 1981 Census, India - has seen a decline in the number of villages due to accelerating urbanisation.**
- ✓ This was revealed in a recently released government handbook for census officers

CHANGE QUICKER IN MORE URBANISED STATES

The more urbanised states like Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana have seen a steady decline in the number of villages since 1991. West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are also on this list

States/UTs with steady decline in number of villages

	1991	2001	2011	2021
Tamil Nadu	16,780	16,317	15,979	15,893
West Bengal	40,889	40,783	40,203	40,018
Kerala	1,384	1,364	1,018	756
Punjab	12,795	12,729	12,581	12,444
Chhattisgarh	20,378	20,308	20,126	20,038
Haryana	6,988	6,955	6,841	6,575
Jharkhand	32,620	32,615	32,394	32,109
Delhi	209	165	112	41

Puducherry, Goa, Dadra-Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Chandigarh also have a similar trend

GENERAL TREND OF URBANISATION

States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha that are among the least urbanised have also seen an overall decline in the number of villages since the 1991 Census. The overall trend in large states suggests the number of villages might continue to decline in the coming decades and there will be rapid growth of urban centres

Not steady but overall decline in number of villages since 1991

	1991	2001	2011	2021
Uttar Pradesh	107,327	107,440	106,774	105,197
Madhya Pradesh	55,842	55,392	54,903	54,961
Andhra Pradesh	28,000	28,123	27,800	27,378
Bihar	45,077	45,113	44,874	44,749
Gujarat	18,509	18,544	18,225	18,208
Uttarakhand	16,623	16,805	16,793	16,416
J&K	6,705	6,652	6,553	6,598
Odisha	51,057	51,352	51,313	51,035

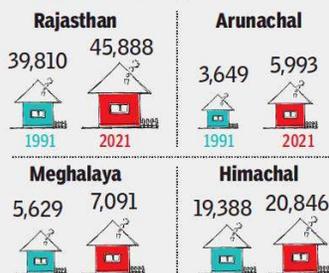
Lakshadweep has a similar trend

- ✓ Barring 1981, the number of villages has increased in each subsequent census year.
- ✓ This indicates that the country's urban population increased mainly due to the growth of already existing cities rather than more rural areas getting urbanised and being reclassified as cities.
- ✓ But 1981 was an exception as it saw the highest proportionate increase in the urban population between two census years, accompanied with a massive decline in villages.

VILLAGES INCREASE IN NE

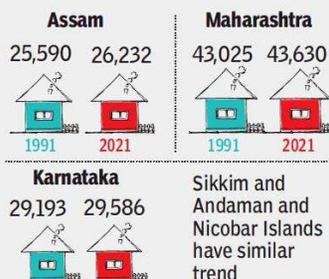
Nearly all Northeast states saw a rise in number of villages. Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Himachal have also seen a steady increase

States/UTs with steady increase in number of villages



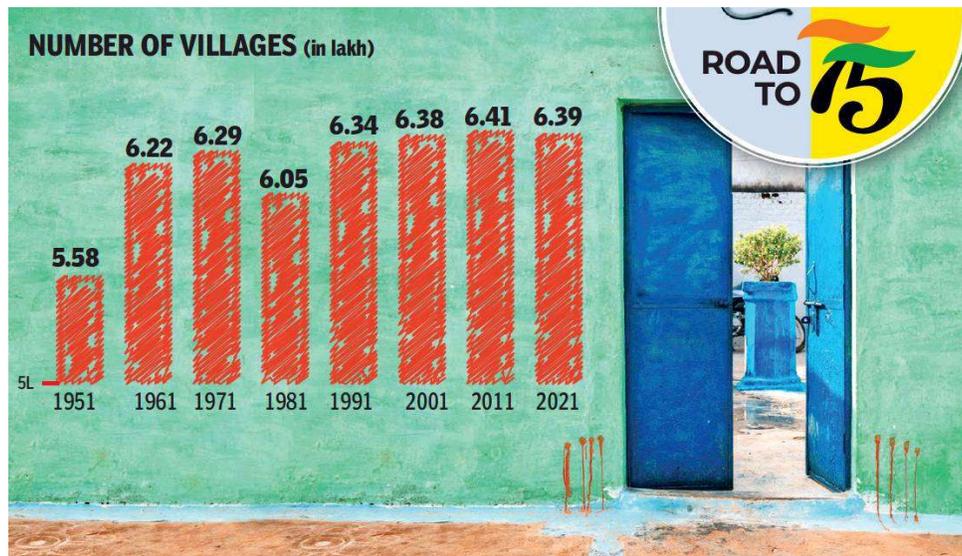
Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura also show a similar trend

Not steady but overall increase in number of villages since 1991



Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have similar trend

Graphic: Anil Dinod; Source: Census



- ✓ The 1991 Census saw a significant increase in villages.
- ✓ The pattern of change since 1991 is more consistent and points at a phase of rapid urbanisation.

APP
STUDY CENTRE