

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 4, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Presidency Higher secondary school for Girls, Egmore – becomes the state's first Smart Classroom in the Government schools**



- ✓ The classroom, designed by a Japanese Firm, was inaugurated by K A Sengottaiyan, School Education Minister
 - ✓ He also released the new shades of School uniform for Government school students studying in Class I to X
 - ✓ Elementary kids will have a 'Green shade' uniform and Middle school students will have 'Sandal shade' uniform from the next academic year
- **Hon'ble CM – handed over National Quality Assurance Standards and Kayakalp state awards – to 13 state-run District hospitals and Primary health centres**



- ✓ These include Usilampatti (Madurai), Pennagram (Dharmapuri), Padmanabapuram (Kanyakumari), Erode, Cuddalore, Namakkal, the Nilgiris and upgraded PHC's at Morappur (Dharmapuri), Sayalkudi (Ramanathapuram), Vadalur (Cuddalore), Mugaiyur (Villupuram) and Mecheri (Salem) and Palayampudhur PHC in Dharmapuri
- ✓ In addition, Kayakalp Cleanliness Award was presented to headquarters hospitals in Cuddalore and Manapara (Trichy) along with government hospitals in Arupukottai and Mugaiyur Primary health centre
- **Madras High court – appoints Senior advocate, Vaigai – as Amicus curiae –** to study the conditions of prisons and advise improvisation of medical and other facilities to avoid prison suicides



- **Chennai Music academy – to confer ‘Lifetime achievement award’ to Gatam maestro, Vikku Vinayakram on Oct 10, 2018**
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Shri in 2002 and Padma Bhushan in 2014
- ✓ In the year 2012, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour in the performing arts was conferred to him by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy for Music, Dance and Drama



- ✓ He was the first South Indian musician to win the Grammy Award for Best World Music Album for his participation in Mickey Hart's *Planet Drum*, in which he played ghatam and morsing
- ✓ In 1997, Music academy conferred ‘Sangeetha Kala Acharya’ Award to the exponent

- **University Grants commission (UGC) – grants ‘Recognition’ to majority of the ‘Distance education’ courses in University of Madras, Tamil Nadu Open University, Anna University**
- ✓ It had also approved 15 courses of Tamil University and five courses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (deemed university)
- ✓ Earlier, UGC has recognised only three distance education courses out of fifty-three programmes in Madras University and one course out of three at Anna University
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Open University gets recognition to 82 distance education courses, from the earlier 38 courses
- ✓ Anna University has additionally got approval for two more courses MBA and MCA in the revised list

SCHEMES

- **Andhra Pradesh – ‘Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham’ scheme launched in Amaravati, Capital city of the State on Oct 2, 2018 by the CM, N Chandrababu Naidu**

MUKHYAMANTRI YUVANESTHAM

- Registration 14th Sept. onwards
- Monthly ₹ 1,000/- & skill development training to unemployed youth
- Eligible age group: 22 yrs to 35 yrs

- ✓ According to the scheme, an amount of Rs. 1000 will be given as monthly unemployment allowance to eligible jobless youth of the state
- ✓ It would also provide skill training to 10 lakh youth and 260 training partners have been appointed for this purpose
- ✓ The training partners are from various countries including Singapore, UK and Germany
- ✓ The Government had earlier launched a dedicated website ‘www.yuvanestham.ap.gov.in’ for the enrolment of the scheme on Sep 14, 2018

STATES

- **Assam – hosted the 3rd highest national flag and tallest from the average city elevation in the entire country – during the birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**



- ✓ The 319.5 feet flag pole is the highest in the country with respect to the average elevation of the city
- ✓ Considering only the height of the flag pole, it is ranked the third highest in the country after the one on Indo-Pakistan border at Attari (360 ft) and Pimpri Chinchwad Bhakti Shakti Chawk, Pune (351 ft)
- **Bihar – India's 1st 'National Dolphin Research Center' to come up at Patna, Bihar**
 - ✓ It will be set up next month on the banks of the Ganga river in the Patna University premises
 - ✓ It will play an important role in the conservation efforts and research to save the endangered mammal
- **Manipur – becomes the 23rd Open Defecation Free (ODF) state in India – as per the CM of Manipur, N Biren Singh**
 - ✓ It is the 5th North-Eastern state to get the tag
 - ✓ He also launched the Google Toilet Locator to enable locating nearest public toilet for use
 - ✓ Sikkim had earned the distinction of becoming India's first open defecation free state way back in December 2008
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya – are the next 10 States/UTs to become ODF in the entire country

- **Puducherry – was declared ‘Open Defecation Free’** at a function on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by the Lieutenant Governor, Kiran Bedi



NATIONAL

- **Union Cabinet – approves the creation of ‘Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC)’ as ‘Nodal Agency’ for the Re-development of Railway stations in the country**
 - ✓ IRSDC will prepare the overall strategic plan and business plans for individual/group of stations, ensuring the ‘cost neutrality’
- **Union Cabinet – approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russia – on cooperation in Road transport and MSME sector**
 - ✓ The MoU will be signed during the upcoming visit of Russian President to India
- **Union Cabinet – approves the setting up of ‘National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)’ in Sehore District, Madhya Pradesh**
 - ✓ Earlier, it was announced that the institute will be set up at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, which is moved to Sehore now
 - ✓ NIMHR will be the first-of-its-kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation
- **Union Cabinet – approves ‘Bhopal Metro Rail project’ connecting 2 corridors of total length, 27.87 km**
 - ✓ It also approved ‘Indore Metro Rail project’ for a length of 31.55 km in Indore
 - ✓ ‘Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Co Ltd’ has been specially constituted for the implementation of these Projects in the state

- **'International Gandhi Peace Prize' – was not awarded for the 4th Successive year after 2014**
- ✓ The annual award is conferred to individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods
- ✓ The award, which is given on the Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, was last conferred to ISRO in 2014
- ✓ The awards were launched in 1995 on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ The award carries Rs 1 crore (10 million) in cash, a plaque and a citation

- **India & Asian Development Bank – signs \$150 million loan – to establish India's first Global Skills Park in Madhya Pradesh**
- ✓ It will be the First Multi-Skills Park in India to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education And Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce

- **Indian Railways – has launched a new Project 'Utkrisht' -to upgrade 140 rakes of Mail/Express trains in the first phase**
- ✓ The project includes
 - ✓ Installing 'Swachh Rail Toilet',
 - ✓ Fitting of energy-efficient LED lights
 - ✓ Providing Braille signage & night glow stickers
 - ✓ Fitting LED panel photo frame in first AC coaches, new types of bottle holders and big size mirrors
 - ✓ Equipping with new types of fire extinguishers
- ✓ The first train to have been revamped - 12311/12312 'Howrah-Kalka Mail' of Eastern Railway which will be coloured in 'beige and maroon'

- **IIT-Kharagpur - was named the 'National coordinating institute' of the 'Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration' (SPARC) under the 'Ministry of Human Resource Development'**
- ✓ The Ministry also launched a dedicated web portal for SPARC- 'www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in', which will be active from October 4 to November 15
- ✓ SPARC Scheme
- ✓ It aims to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by promoting academic and research collaboration between Indian and foreign institutions
- ✓ 28 foreign countries have been targeted in the first phase of the scheme
- ✓ Launch – 2018
- ✓ Budget – Rs 418 crore for 2018-20

- **Min of Civil Aviation – releases the ‘Policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers’ at airports called “Digi Yatra”**
- ✓ It will be operational on a pilot basis from Bangalore and Hyderabad International Airports by the end of February 2019
- ✓ Airport Authority of India (AAI) intends to roll out the programme initially at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune & Vijayawada by April 2019

- **Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of Supreme Court – ruled out ‘Urgent and early’ hearings in the cases except in ‘Hanging and Eviction’ related ones**
- ✓ This is part of his proposed radical changes in Case management of the Apex court

INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan – announces that its ally, Saudi Arabia will not be a part of \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – in a major decision shift**
- ✓ Earlier Pakistan said Saudi Arabia will be the third “strategic partner” of China’s flagship project under the controversy-hit Belt and Road Initiative

PERSONALITIES

- **Sanya Richards-Ross, Athlete - has been named as the ‘event ambassador’ for the ‘Airtel Delhi Half Marathon’ that will be held on 21st October 2018**



- ✓ She is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and a seven-time medalist at the World Championships
- ✓ Sanya is the fastest American woman in the history of 400m with her record of 48.70s timing set at the IAAF World Cup 2006

➤ **Chanda Kochhar – quits as the CEO and MD of ICICI Bank on Oct 4, 2018**



- ✓ Kochhar, who heads ICICI Bank since May 2009, is also stepping down from the board of directors of its units
- ✓ In 1984, Kochhar joined the 'Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India' (ICICI) as a management trainee
- ✓ She became 'Assistant General Manager' in 1994 and later 'General Manager' in 1998
- ✓ In April 2001, she took over as executive director
- ✓ In 2006, Kochhar was appointed as deputy managing director of ICICI Bank
- ✓ From 2007 to 2009, she was the bank's chief financial officer (CFO) and joint managing director
- ✓ She also serves as the President of the International Monetary Conference and Deputy Chairman of the Indian Banks Association
- ✓ She was the co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in 2011
- ✓ Kochhar is also a member of the India–Russia Business Leaders Forum and the US-India CEO Forum
- ✓ Kochhar is the chairperson of the board of governors at IIT Vadodara
- ✓ She is also on the boards of the National Institute of Securities Markets and Institute of International Finance
- ✓ Kochhar has been a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade & Industry, the Board of Trade and High-Level Committee on Financing Infrastructure
- ✓ Kochhar received an honorary doctorate from Carleton University, Canada in 2014
- ✓ She was conferred with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in 2011
- ✓ She has also been ranked as most powerful women and professional by multiple publications including Fortune, Forbes and TIME magazine

- **Sandeep Bakhshi** , the current COO of the bank since June 2018 - has been named as ICICI's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer



- ✓ Bakhshi has been appointed for a period of five years until October 3, 2023
- ✓ He is a former head of the life insurance arm at ICICI Bank

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Japan's Hayabusa2** - launched the French-German Robot '**Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout** or **MASCOT**'- towards asteroid **Ryugu's** surface
- ✓ MASCOT, weighing 10 kg, is an immobile robot equipped with various sensors with a battery life of 16 hours
- ✓ Hayabusa2 mission was launched in December 2014 to study the origins of the solar system
- ✓ It will return to Earth with samples in 2020

DEFENCE

- **India – launches 'Operation Samudra Maitri' in Central Sulawesi Province of the Republic of Indonesia** – to help victims of earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia
- ✓ India has sent two IAF Aircrafts, C-130J and C-17 along with medical personnel and relief material
- ✓ Also, 3 Indian Naval Ships – INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul are set for sail to carry out humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations
- **Indian Air force – successfully conducts the flight trials of 'Astra' - Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile** - from September 26 to October 3, 2018 at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, Odisha
- ✓ These final development trial tests make the missile ready for induction in service in 2019
- ✓ Astra is developed by DRDO as a 'Single stage Solid fuelled' Missile
- ✓ It weighs 154 kg and has a payload of 15 kg conventional explosives
- ✓ It can strike both short range (up to 20km) and long range (up to 80 km) targets
- ✓ It has various electronic counter-measure systems making it hard to detect
- ✓ It has a maximum speed of Mach 4 (four times speed of sound)

APPOINTMENTS

- **Facebook – names ‘Adam Mosseri’ as the new CEO of Instagram**



- ✓ He replaces Kevin Systrom who resigned recently
- ✓ Adam Mosseri was previously the Vice President of Product at Instagram
- ✓ He had joined Facebook in 2008
- ✓ Instagram was founded in 2010 by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger
- ✓ It was sold to Facebook for \$1 billion in 2012

- **Government – inducts Sachin Chaturvedi and Revathy Iyer – on the central board of the RBI**

- ✓ It had cut short the term of Nachiket Mor, in the meanwhile and removed him
- ✓ Following his removal, S K Marathe, former chief of Saraswat Co-operative Bank is the only banker on the central board
- ✓ Chaturvedi is the Director general at the Research and Information system for Developing countries, New Delhi
- ✓ The appointments were made under Section 8 (1) (b) of the RBI Act, empowering the Government to appoint 4 directors from each of the 4 local boards of the RBI

AWARDS

- **2018 Nansen Refugee award – conferred to Dr Evan Atar Adaha – by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland**



- ✓ Dr. Evan Atar Adaha is a surgeon from South Sudan
- ✓ He was awarded for his 20-year medical service to refugees of Sudan and South Sudan
- ✓ He was presented the award by Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

SPORTS

- **Prithvi Shaw – becomes the Youngest Indian to score a Century on his debut Test**



- ✓ Prithvi, at the age of 18 years and 329 days – reached the historic mark in 99 balls against West Indies at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot
- ✓ The previous record for the youngest Indian to make half-century on debut was held by Abbas Ali Baig, who scored a half-century against England in Manchester in 1959 at the age of 20 years 131 days
- ✓ Prithvi is also the third-fastest centurion on Test debut
- ✓ **Top 2 fastest Centurions**
 - ✓ Shikhar Dhawan (India) – 85 balls – against Australia in 2013 at Mohali
 - ✓ Dwayne Smith (West Indies) – 93 balls – against South Africa in 2004 at Cape Town
- ✓ Prithvi has also become the seventh-youngest Test centurion on his debut
- ✓ **Top 6 Youngest Test Centurions**
 - ✓ Mohammad Ashraful (17 years, 61 days) – Bangladesh
 - ✓ Mushtaq Mohammad (17 years, 78 days) – Pakistan
 - ✓ Sachin Tendulkar (17 years, 78 days) – India
 - ✓ Hamilton Masakadza (17 years, 352 days) - Zimbabwe
 - ✓ Imran Nazir (18 years, 154 days) - Pakistan
 - ✓ Saleem Malik (18 years, 323 days) – Pakistan
- ✓ Prithvi Shaw – also became the first man to score hundreds on Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Test debut
- ✓ **Prithvi Shaw's mini timeline**
 - ✓ 14 yrs – Scores 546 for school record
 - ✓ 17 – Makes FC debut
 - ✓ 17 – Century in Ranji & Duleep Trophy debut
 - ✓ 18 – Leads India U19 to WC title
 - ✓ 18 – Has 5 FC 100s, plays IPL
 - ✓ 18 years, 329 days – plays his maiden Test and scores century on debut

REPORT

➤ **10th edition of Agriculture Census data for 2015-16 - Released by Agriculture Ministry**

Data	2015-16	2010-11
Average size of operational holding	1.08 hectares (ha)	1.15 ha in 2010-11
Total number of operational holdings	146 million in 2015-16	138 million in 2010-11
Total operated area (Both cultivable and non-cultivable)	157.14 million ha	159.59 million ha
Percentage share of female – in terms of operational holders	13.87%	12.79%
Percentage share of Female – in terms of operated area	11.57%	10.36%

✓ **State wise Rankings**

✓ **Total operated area**

- ✓ Rajasthan (20.87 million ha)
- ✓ Maharashtra (19.88 million ha)
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (17.45 million ha)
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (15.67 million ha)
- ✓ Karnataka (11.72 million ha)

✓ **Highest increase in number of operational holdings**

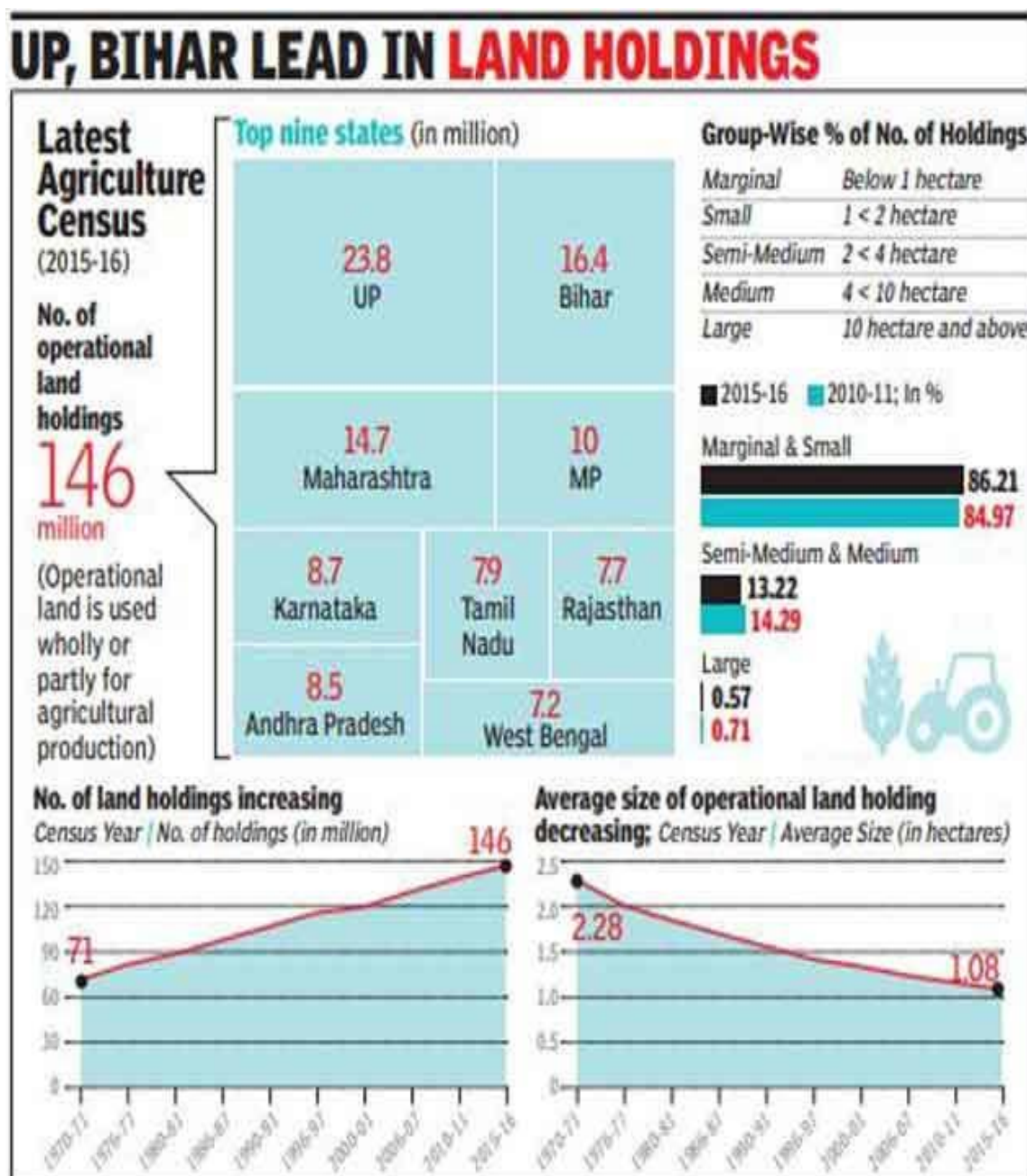
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (12.74 %)
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh (11.85 %)
- ✓ Rajasthan (11.12 %)
- ✓ Kerala (11.02 %)
- ✓ Meghalaya (10.9 %)
- ✓ Karnataka (10.78 %)
- ✓ Nagaland (10.5 %)

✓ However, the sharpest fall has been in Goa (28.17 %) and lowest in Manipur (0.09 %)

✓ As per the census, 14 states — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil

Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal — account for 91.03 % of total number of operational holdings and 88.08 % in terms of area

- ✓ The Agriculture Ministry said the first census was conducted with reference year 1970-71
- ✓ So far, nine censuses have been done and this is the 10th in series
- ✓ The last census was conducted in 2010-11
- ✓ Agriculture Census in India is conducted at five-year intervals to collect data on structural aspects of farm holdings.
- ✓ An Operational holding has been defined as all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production



OBITUARY

- **Gita Uplekar, the Woman holding the lamp in the iconic 'Glow of Hope' Painting (102 years)**



- ✓ The painting, a watercolour masterpiece by S.L. Haldankar, is now housed in the Jaychama Rajendra Art Gallery at the Jaganmohan Palace in Mysuru, Karnataka
- ✓ A buyer from France was ready to buy the painting for Rs 8 crore, but the gallery did not part with the portrait, which was bought from Haldankar for Rs 300
- ✓ It was painted in 1945-46 by Haldankar within a span of 3 days
- ✓ It has been wrongly attributed to legendary painter Raja Ravi Verma
- ✓ The girl in the painting was Gita Uplekar, Haldankar's third daughter