

General Studies-1

Chola period Dance Panel Found

A rare dance panel of Nayak period and an inscribed pillar of Chola period have been found on an abandoned brick mound at Pathalapettai near Kiliyur in Tiruchi.

About Dance Panel:

- The dance panel is depicted on a stone slab that measures 1.21 metres in length and 33 centimetres in height.
- Four pairs of well dressed male and female dancers, holding some object in one of their hands, are seen engaged in a ritualistic dance in the panel.
- Three pairs are shown hugging each other while the last pair is dancing keeping a distance between. All of them are decked with ornaments and different head gears.
- The female deity with a flower in the right hand seen between the first two pairs and the pot depicted between the last two pairs denote the ritualistic nature of the dance.

About The Pillar:

- A round pillar found at the spot has an inscribed base. The base has a Tamil inscription of Chola paleography with a few Grantha letters used in between.
- Though seven lines are visible, the last two are not readable. The inscription records that a certain Rejaladeviyar Sativinjei, queen of Iladevayan, had gifted that pillar.
- A sketchy figure of a Mugalinga is seen sculpted on the first half of the pillar, suggesting its conversion into a Linga.

About Silappatikaram:

- It is one of the Five Great Epics of Tamil Literature according to later Tamil literary tradition. A poet-prince from Kodungallur near Kochi, referred to by the pseudonym Ilango Adigal, is credited with this work.
- The epic revolves around Kannagi, who having lost her husband to a miscarriage of justice at the court of the Pandyan Dynasty, wreaks her revenge on his kingdom.

First offshore wind energy project in Gujarat

The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has called for 'Expression of Interest' (EoI) for the first offshore wind energy project of India.

About Project:

- There is a proposal to set 1000 MW offshore wind energy project in Gulf of Khambhat, off the coast of Gujarat.
- The proposed area is located 23-40 km seaward side from Pipavav port. MNRE plans to install at least 5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022.
- The first offshore LiDAR was installed in Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat for measurement of wind resource and NIWE is collecting wind speed data from November, 2017 onwards.
- Areas off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are two identified areas for development of offshore wind power. The second LiDAR would be installed off Tamil Nadu coast by September, 2018. In addition NIWE is planning to set up few more LiDARs for assessment of offshore wind resources.

Benefits:

- At global level, it has been observed that, offshore wind energy while being better than onshore wind in terms of efficiency is also becoming competitive and comparable in terms of tariffs.
- With the announcement of this first offshore wind energy project, the Government is attempting to develop this sector in India and envisages to replicate similar success as on-shore wind power sector.
- This would help the country towards attaining energy security and achievement of National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) targets.
- It would also help in India's target of installing 40Gw Wind energy system by 2030 as per Commitment to Paris Agreement.

About National institute of wind energy:

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has been established in Chennai in the year 1998, as an autonomous R&D institution by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.

It is a knowledge-based institution of high quality and dedication, offers services and seeks to find complete solutions for the kinds of difficulties and improvements in the entire spectrum of the wind energy sector by carrying out further research..

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Project Dhoop

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a nationwide campaign today (April 9) at National Bal Bhawan in Delhi to spread awareness about availing Vitamin D through natural sunlight and consuming fortified food among school-going children.

About Project:

- Project Dhoop's Noon Assembly is an innovative and effective concept to ensure that school students get adequate Vitamin D through sunlight.
- Project Dhoop urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time, mainly between 11am and 1pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- School uniforms need to be designed in a way that at least face and arms are exposed to sunlight, which would be equivalent to 18 per cent of body surface, and the exposure has to be at least for 30-40 minutes.
- There is a popular belief that morning sunshine is the best for our bones, however, it is actually the sunshine from 11am to 1pm that is most beneficial in increasing Vitamin D levels in human body because of the best ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation

Other Sources Of Vit-D

Opting for fortified foods (with +F symbol) is a simple and inexpensive way to address micronutrient deficiencies.

Both fortified milk and fortified edible oil are now readily available across the country.

Causes Of Vit-D Deficiency:

Vitamin D deficiency occurs due to overuse of sunscreen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working all day in an air-conditioned atmosphere, and other factors.

About FSSAI:

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards , 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

Functions:

- Framing of Regulations to lay down the Standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and specifying appropriate system of enforcing various standards thus notified.
- Laying down mechanisms and guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies engaged in certification of food safety management system for food businesses.
- Laying down procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories and notification of the accredited laboratories.
- Collect and collate data regarding food consumption, incidence and prevalence of biological risk, contaminants in food, residues of various, contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of rapid alert system.
- Provide training programmes for persons who are involved or intend to get involved in food businesses.
- Contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.
- Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards.

Online dashboard to monitor public grievances on real time basis

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched an online dashboard developed by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) here today.

- The dashboard will monitor public grievances on real time basis and periodically review progress of systemic reforms.

- The systemic reforms and their monitoring metrics, catering to grievance issues are highlighted on the dashboard.
- This will enable concerned Ministries/Departments to monitor implementation of these reforms.
- Emphasis was also laid on gaining experience from Anubhav portal launched by Govt. last year.

About Anubhav Portal:

A platform for retirees to share **experience** of working with the Government. This facility provides a sense of fulfilment and **satisfaction** to the retirees and also create a data base of useful **suggestion** and information.

An annual **award** scheme has been instituted to encourage the retiree to submit his valuable experience/ suggestions through write-ups.

Partner's Forum:

A Delegation of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) including Shri J. P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and incoming Board Chair of PMNCH and renowned actor and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Priyanka Chopra called on the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today, to invite him about the upcoming Partners Forum 2018 which will be hosted during 12-13 December, 2018 at New Delhi.

About Partner's Forum:

- The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health is an alliance of organisations in 77 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, as well as health influencing sectors.
- The PMNCH Partners' Forum serves as a regular global platform for the renewal of commitment to the mission and purpose of the Partnership, for global high level advocacy and for achieving broad consensus on the strategy and priorities of the Partnership. Participation at the Forum comes from all constituencies and members of the Partnership.
- *A Partners' Forum has earlier been hosted by India in 2010.*

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New fund for small and medium defence enterprises

The Indian government is planning to set up a new fund for small and medium defence enterprises. It will be a dedicated Defence and Aerospace SME fund,

The fund will be registered with SEBI and minority stake can be taken up by investors.

The fund will help channelise investments to the two defence corridors, in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

About SEBI:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

The Preamble of the Securities and Exchange Board of India describes the basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India as "...to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

Asian Development Bank

Why In News?

India's economic growth is expected to rise to 7.3 per cent in 2018-19 and further to 7.6 per cent in the next financial year, the highest among Asian economies, on the back of goods and services tax (GST) and banking reforms, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

It, however, highlighted the need for coordinated action on skill development, labour regulation, social protection, and income redistribution as new technologies alter the skills required of the workforce and might cause unemployment as some firms downsize or close.

About ADB:

What is it?

It is a regional development bank established on 22 August 1966 and is headquartered in Philippines. It aims to facilitate economic development of countries in Asia. It also aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty.

The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, formerly known as the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East) and non-regional developed countries.

Voting:

ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with member's capital subscriptions.

Board of Governors:

- It is the highest policy-making body of the bank.
- It is composed of one representative from each member state.
- The Board of Governors also elect the bank's President who is the chairperson of the Board of Directors and manages ADB.
- The Alternate Board of Governors are nominated by Board of Governors of ADB's 67 to represent them at the Annual Meeting that meets formally once year to be held in a member country.

Loans:

It offers both Hard Loans and Soft loans. The ADB offers "hard" loans from ordinary capital resources (OCR) on commercial terms, and the Asian Development Fund (ADF) affiliated with the ADB extends "soft" loans from special fund resources with concessional conditions.

