

October 17, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Union Public Services Commission (UPSC), which has been carrying out the noble task of selecting and providing India with the best administrative talent for the past 99 years, is proudly celebrating its Centenary.
 - i. One of India's great strengths is unity in diversity, and the Union Public Service Commission carries out the unique task of selecting candidates from across the country—cutting across race, language, caste, and religion—and providing the nation with civil servants from those varied backgrounds.
 - ii. Our Indian Constitution has various provisions for the establishment of democracy and social justice. One such is the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC).
 - iii. This commission conducts examinations for various jobs including Indian Civil Services, Medical Services, Engineering Services, Economic Services, Forest Services and Internal Security. Currently, the organization selects over 1,000 candidates for the Indian Civil Services every year.
 - iv. As far as the history of the Indian civil service is concerned, it was during the 1790s AD, under the rule of the British East India Company, that the Governor General of Bengal, Lord Cornwallis, created a structurally organized civil service.
 - v. The next Lord Wellesley founded William's College in Calcutta in 1800 to train civil servants.
 - vi. However, in 1806, the training was transferred to the East India Company's college at Haileybury in Britain.
 - vii. Later, a Board of Control was formed for the Civil Services Examination.
 - viii. Until 1853, the directors of the East India Company largely appointed civil servants. There was a demand in India that the civil service in India should be managed by Indians.
 - ix. A significant change occurred in 1853 during the reign of Lord Dalhousie. A committee headed by Lord Macaulay recommended that the selection of staff should be through competitive examination. Accordingly, the Board of Control held its first competitive examination in 1856.
 - x. According to the Civil Services Act of 1861, a European or Indian who had resided in India for 7 years could be appointed to positions of authority.
 - xi. After the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885, pressure for Indianization in civil service increased.
 - xii. In 1886, the Aitchison Committee divided the Indian civil service into three: Imperial, Provincial, and subordinate Services.
 - xiii. A committee headed by Lord Islington, formed in 1912, held that only 5% of Indians were in civil service in India and proposed that a 25% quota should be given to Indians.
 - xiv. The Indian Council Act of 1919 recommended the establishment of a Public Service Commission.
 - xv. Subsequently, the Royal Commission on Civil Services, chaired by Lord Lee in 1923,

divided the civil services into three: All India Services, Central Services, and Provincial Services. On the recommendation of this commission, the present-day Public Service Commission was set up on 1.10.1926 under the Chairmanship of Sir Ross Barker.

- xvi. It began as an experiment under British colonial rule, with limited powers.
 - xvii. The Government of India Act, 1935 elevated it to the Central Public Service Commission, giving Indians a greater role in the administration.
 - xviii. With the adoption of the Constitution in 1950, the Civil Services Commission of India assumed its present status as the Union Public Service Commission.
2. Kancha Sherpa (92), the last surviving member of the team that first climbed Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, in 1953, has died.
 - i. Kancha Sherpa was part of the 35-member team that led New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his guide Tenzing Norgay to the summit of Mount Everest.
 - ii. Kancha was one of the three Sherpas who went to the last camp before Hillary and Tenzing reached the summit.
 3. Four-time Olympic gold medalist and Australian swimmer Arianna Titmus (25) has announced her retirement.
 4. The Supreme Court has dismissed the State Government's appeal challenging the Telangana High Court's interim stay on the Government order providing 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies.
 - i. The Supreme Court also ordered that the reservation system that was previously practiced in Local Government elections should be followed.
 - ii. The Telangana Government issued an order on September 26, claiming to fulfill its election promise of providing 42 percent reservation to Backward Classes in local bodies.
 - iii. The Telangana High Court issued an interim stay on this order on October 9.
 - iv. Subsequently, on October 9, the State Election Commission announced that it would suspend the local body election notification issued on September 29.
 - v. Last year, the Congress-led Government in Telangana passed two bills in the Assembly and sent them to the Governor, stipulating a 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies, employment, and education.
 - vi. The Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a protest in New Delhi on August 6 demanding the immediate assent of these bills by the President.
 5. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuraya said that they will never allow actions that threaten India's security to be carried out from Sri Lankan soil.
 - i. Harini Amarasuraya, who is on a three-day visit to India, spoke at a program held at Hindu College, a subsidiary of Delhi University. She completed her degree in sociology from this college in 1994.
 - ii. Harini Amarasuraya, who is on her first visit to India after taking office as Prime Minister, met and held consultations with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.
 6. A Senior Central Government official said that the preview exercise for the first phase of

Census 2027 will begin from November 10 and continue till November 30.

- i. In this regard, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan said that under the digital self-registration system, citizens can register their details themselves from November 1 to 7.
 - ii. The 16th Census will be conducted in two phases, starting in 2026 and ending in 2027.
 - iii. The first phase of the census, which will begin on April 1, 2026, will collect information on the process of listing houses, the condition of the houses, and the assets and amenities of each house.
 - iv. The second phase of the census, which will begin on February 1, 2027, will collect information on the number of people in each household, socioeconomic status, culture, and other factors. This work will involve 34 lakh enumerators and observers, along with 1.3 lakh officials with census equipment.
 - v. For the first time, a dedicated website will be introduced for citizens to self-register for this census.
7. Javari Temple - Located in Khajuraho Temple Complex. It is one of the World Heritage Site located in Madhya Pradesh.
- i. Attorney General - R.Venkataramani
 - ii. Chief Justice of India - B.R.Gavai
 - iii. Solicitor General of India - Tushar Mehta
8. The Prime Minister Modi offered prayers at the famous Brahmarambika Udanurai Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple in Srisailam. This temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines and one of the 52 Shakti Peeths. This place is unique because the Jyotirlinga and the Shakti Peeth are located in the same temple.
- i. Prime Minister Modi also visited the Sri Shivaji Spurthi Kendra in Srisailam. Established to commemorate the visit of Emperor Shivaji Maharaj to Srisailam Temple in 1677, this center has models of Pratapgarh, Rajgarh, Raigarh, and Shivneri forts on all four sides. There is a meditation hall along with a statue of Shivaji.