

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 27, 2018**

**TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu Vanniyakula Kshatriya Public Charitable Trusts and Endowments (Protection and Maintenance) Bill 2018 – gets the approval of the President, Ram Nath Kovind**
  - ✓ The new bill proposed by the Government - aims to create a board to maintain and administer public charitable trusts and endowments created by vanniyar community members
  - ✓ The establishment of a board will prevent misuse, misappropriation of properties and income by people for causes other than those for which these endowments were created
- **Baduga tribal Community in Nilgiris district – celebrates their annual ‘Heddaiyamman’ festival**



- ✓ During the festival, thousands of devotees in traditional white dress of the community will walk across villages to worship Baduga goddess
- ✓ People observe 48 days fast and walk in religious processions, holding up a holy shaft which symbolizes the miracle of the presiding deity
- ✓ It is celebrated in places like Kannerimukku and Kerbetta near Kotagiri and Hallu Kerai near Coonoor - apart from various villages including Petthala, Beragani, and Ketti

- **Directorate of Tamil Etymological Dictionary – to release three dictionaries for the youth by March 2019** – in order to preserve Tamil words for the future generations
  - ✓ The 3 dictionaries are –
    - ✓ Maanavar Ilakkiya Thamizh Agara Mudali (students' literary Tamil dictionary)
    - ✓ a glossary of Tamil equivalents for words from other languages
    - ✓ Nadaimurai Tamil Peragara Mudali (contemporary Tamil dictionary)
  - ✓ Each dictionary consists of 400 pages and over 10,000 words
  - ✓ The Tamil term 'Agarathi' is known as 'Agaramudali' in chaste Tamil
  - ✓ The 45-year old Directorate also planning to update 31 volumes of the Tamil etymological dictionary by Devaneyya Paavaanar, a multi-linguist from 1974 to cater to current needs
- **Aadi Sai Vijaykaran, a 13 years old- class VIII student from KC High School in Chennai - became the first Indian to win the Junior Debate Championship - at the World Scholar's Cup held at Yale University, USA**



- ✓ The Theme for the cup - 'An Entangled World: diplomacy, human relationships, the science of memory, and literature, art and music'
- **Tamil Nadu government - to close noon-meal centres with less than 25 students across the state**
  - ✓ The move aims to shuffle the workforce and food from centres in schools with low enrollment to centres with a higher number of beneficiaries
  - ✓ The scheme has more than 50 lakh beneficiaries at 43,200 centres in Tamil Nadu
  - ✓ It was introduced by the former CM, K Kamaraj in primary schools in 1962 and later expanded to all the class students upto Class X under the new name 'Nutritious noon meal scheme' by the former CM, M G Ramachandran in 1982

- **Government – constitutes a 6-member committee under Dr S Madhavi, Additional director of medical services – to enquire into the case of negligence in transfusion of HIV-infected blood to a pregnant woman**

➤ Donor first identified HIV positive in 2016 when he donated blood at a camp at Sattur in Virudhunagar dist	information over phone. The man didn't turn up and the counsellor did not follow through
➤ A counsellor at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre at the Sattur GH called him up. But since he was in Bengaluru, he was asked to report to the centre as counsellors are advised not to convey such sensitive	➤ The man donated blood for the second time on Nov 30, 2018 again at Sattur GH for being used by his relative. Since it was not used, a lab technician labelled it safe and sent it to Sivakasi GH where it was given to pregnant victim

- **M V Le Laperouse, an ultra-modern cruise vessel – becomes the first luxury ship to berth in the newly built 'modernized cruise terminal' at the Chennai port**

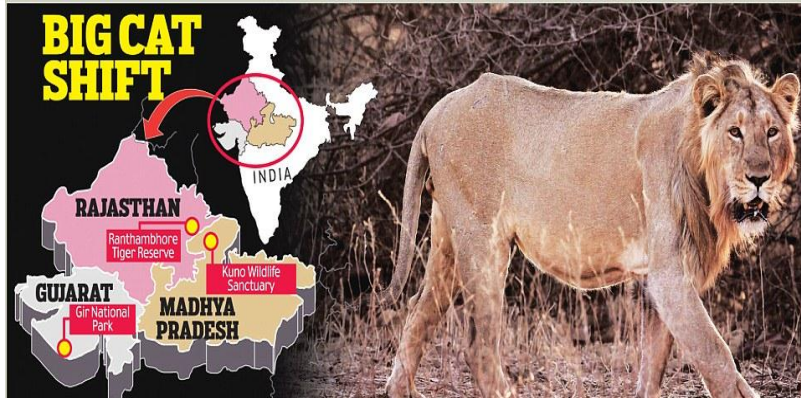


- ✓ This was the maiden visit of the Romania-built vessel this year
- ✓ It came from Trincomalee in Srilanka with 151 passengers and 113 crew members and sailed to Port Blair in Andaman
- ✓ The new cruise terminal, recently inaugurated in October 2018, was built at a cost of Rs 17.24 crore

## STATES

- **Andhra Pradesh – to get its own High court at its new capital Amravati - from January 1, 2019**
  - ✓ After the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, both the states were being served by the common high court at Hyderabad
  - ✓ The new 'High court of Andhra Pradesh' at Amravati will be led by Justice Ramesh Ranganathan, who is presently the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court
  - ✓ The creation of the newest high court brings the total number of such courts nationwide to 25

➤ **Madhya Pradesh – notifies ‘Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary’ as a National park**



- ✓ The move would enable translocation of lions from Gir in Gujarat to Kuno park
- ✓ Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary, now extended by 413 sq km, has been developed for translocation of Asiatic Lions project
- ✓ At present, Kuno Palpur Sanctuary is spread over 345 sq km of area, which is not sufficient for the translocation of lions
- ✓ Asiatic lions are present only in Gir National Park of Gujarat

## **NATIONAL**

➤ **Coal India Ltd (CIL) - to use ‘Made-in-India’ 205-tonne ‘Electric dumper’ for the very first time in the country**

- ✓ It was manufactured by BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.), a state-owned undertaking
- ✓ It is on trial at one of the largest CIL subsidiaries - Northern Coalfields (NCL) Amlohri coal mine



- ✓ The current ‘electric dumper’ supply to CIL is dominated by Russia’s Belaz, Tata Hitachi and Caterpillar
- ✓ These high-capacity dumpers used for mining operations come at prices upwards of Rs 15 crore each

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) - is planning to establish 'Pod hotel' near the Mumbai Central railway station**



- ✓ Each pod will be 5 feet by 7 feet with all the essential comforts for a 7-8 hour stay time for passengers
  - ✓ The pod will also have dining facilities, lounge areas, changing rooms and washrooms
  - ✓ IRCTC is awaiting approval from Western Railway before sanctioning a feasibility study for the project
  - ✓ Mumbai already has a pod hotel, Urbanpod, which opened in Andheri in 2017
  - ✓ Usually, the rate for a pod is around Rs 2,500
- **Indian Railways – to use 'USTAAD', an Artificial Intelligence-Powered Robot – to ensure safety on trains in the Central Railways Zone**



- ✓ USTAAD - Undergear Surveillance Through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid
- ✓ It was built by the mechanical branch of Central Railways Nagpur division
- ✓ The robot will click photos and record videos of the train, under the gears and then send the footage to engineers for maintenance and repair
- ✓ It will examine the coaches in real-time through an HD camera and then channel them over WiFi

➤ **Election Commission – prohibits the usage of all kinds of ‘Tobacco’ in Polling booths during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind guideline issued by the EC prohibits not just smoking but also the use of chewable tobacco in all polling booths in the country
- ✓ The presiding officer of each polling booth will be nominated as the nodal officer for ensuring tobacco-free status at their booths.
- ✓ The move comes after the Delhi government's Health Department urged the Election Commission to declare all polling stations as tobacco-free zones rather than just smoke-free

## INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Israel – legalizes the medical use of Marijuana**

- ✓ It joins other countries like Thailand, Canada which have passed similar laws recently
- ✓ Israel will become the third country behind Canada and Netherlands to take its medical marijuana global
- ✓ iCAN, Israel's medical cannabis company, predicts that the global demand will reach \$ 33 billion in the next five years

➤ **Palestine – to apply for Full membership at the United Nations in January 2019**

- ✓ The country is a non-member observer state at the UN since 2012
- ✓ Palestinians would require the support from at least 9 out of the 15 member states of UN Security Council - in order to secure the full membership
- ✓ In October 2011, UNESCO voted to admit Palestine as a full member, becoming the first UN agency to do so

## COMMITTEES

➤ **RBI – constitutes an 6-member expert committee under ‘Bimal Jalan’, former RBI Governor - to review its Economic Capital Framework**



- ✓ The committee will arrive at the ideal level of reserves RBI should hold - in consultation with the Union Government – and decide how much to be transferred to the Government
- ✓ Former deputy RBI governor, Rakesh Mohan will be its vice chairman
- ✓ Economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, RBI central board members Bharat Doshi, Sudhir Mankad and deputy governor NS Vishwanathan will be the other members of the committee
- ✓ The committee will submit its report by the end of March
- ✓ RBI had earlier constituted 3 different panels to review its economic capital framework -- headed by YH Malegam, Usha Thorat and V Subrahmanyam

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Rajesh Subramaniam, an Indian-American – named President and CEO of FedEx, Multinational courier delivery giant from US**



- ✓ Subramaniam is currently serving as the executive vice-president, chief marketing and communications officer of FedEx Corporation
- ✓ He replaces David L Cunningham at the company headquarters in Tennessee
- ✓ He is expected to assume his new role from January 1, 2019
- ✓ Subramaniam, who has been with Fed Ex for more than 27 years, is from Thiruvananthapuram and holds a graduate degree from IIT-Bombay

## AWARDS

- **Manju Mehta, eminent Sitar Player – conferred with the ‘Tansen Samman’ – for her contribution in the field of Hindustani classical music**



- ✓ The award was presented by Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister on the inaugural function of Tansen Music festival in Gwalior on December 25
- ✓ She was given a cash award of Rs 2 lakh and a memento
- ✓ Manju Mehta learnt music from legendary sitar maestro, Late Pandit Ravi Shankar
- ✓ She runs Saptak School of Music at Ahmedabad in Gujarat
- ✓ Tansen Award
- ✓ Tansen award was instituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ Ustad Abdul Haleem Jafar Khan, Sitar Maestro – was the first recipient of the prestigious honour in 2000
- ✓ Renowned classical musician, Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar – was honoured with the Tansen Samman for 2017
- ✓ Tansen Music Festival
- ✓ The Tansen Music Festival is organised every year by the MP culture department in the memory of Tansen, the Court musician of Akbar
- ✓ It is held in Gwalior for the past 94 years

## SPORTS

- **Heena Sidhu, former World No 1 shooter – equals women's 10m air pistol qualification world record – at the National selection trials**



- ✓ Her score of 587 equalled the world record - held by reigning Olympic and world champion, Anna Korakaki of Greece
  - ✓ Youth Olympic Games winner Manu Bhaker came in second with a score of 579
- **CA Kuttappa – takes over as India's new chief boxing coach**



- ✓ He succeeds veteran boxing coach, SR Singh, who has now retired
- ✓ The 39-year-old, 2018 Dhronacharya awardee, who was an assistant coach earlier, is credited with developing some of the country's best boxers such as Vijender Singh, M Suranjay Singh and Shiva Thapa
- ✓ CA Kuttappa has been coaching the Indian men's boxing team since May 2009
- ✓ Prior to that, he was serving as a Subedar in the Indian Army



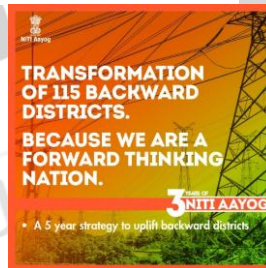
- **Ricky Ponting, former Australian cricket captain - became the 25th Australian cricketer to be officially inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame - at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**



- ✓ He became the third player to be inducted into the hall of fame in 2018 after India's Rahul Dravid and England's Claire Taylor
- ✓ The total number of hall of fame members now stands at 87
- ✓ Ponting was a three-time World Cup winner, including 2 World Cups as captain in 2003 and 2007
- ✓ He is the highest run scorer for Australia in both Tests and ODIs, with 13,378 runs in the longest format and 13,704 runs in the 50-over format

## **RANKINGS**

- **Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) – released by NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant**



- ✓ The ranking details the incremental progress achieved by 111 aspirational districts between June 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018 across six key development sectors -- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure
- ✓ The rankings are based on the data that is publicly available through the Champions of Change Dashboard, which includes data entered on a real-time basis at the district level
- ✓ The rankings, for the first time, considered inputs from household survey conducted by NITI Aayog's knowledge partners, TATA Trusts & the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- ✓ Of 115 aspirational districts, only 111 participated in the survey
- ✓ Three aspirational districts from West Bengal did not participate, while one district of Kerala could not take part because of floods
- ✓ The aspirational district programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 5, 2018
- ✓ The first Delta Ranking for the Aspirational Districts was released in June 2018

## *Rankings*

<b>MOST IMPROVED DISTRICTS</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Virudhunagar</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nuapada</b>	<b>Odisha</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Siddharthnagar</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Aurangabad</b>	<b>Bihar</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Koraput</b>	<b>Odisha</b>

<b>LEAST IMPROVED DISTRICTS</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>107</b>	<b>Kiphire</b>	<b>Nagaland</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Giridih</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Chatra</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Hailakandi</b>	<b>Assam</b>
<b>111</b>	<b>Pakur</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>

<b>'FAST MOVERS' DISTRICTS</b>		
<b>District, State</b>	<b>June 2018 Rank</b>	<b>October 2018 Rank</b>
<b>Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ranchi, Jharkhand</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Jamui, Bihar</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>25</b>

