

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 29, 2018

TAMIL NADU

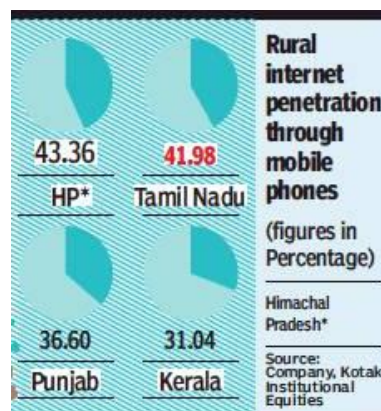
- **Tamil Nadu Government – names its ‘Lokayukta’ Search Committee**
- ✓ The search panel will select the Chairperson and four other members of the Lokayukta body in the state
- ✓ The committee will be headed by retired Madras high court judge, Justice K Venkataraman



- ✓ Former advocate general R Krishnamoorthy and former IPS officer A Pari will be the other members of the Lokayukta search committee
- ✓ The state government had earlier introduced the Lokayukta Bill (Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018 (Tamil Nadu Act 33 of 2018)) in July 2018
- **Dr Sudha Seshayyan – appointed as the 10th vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University**



- ✓ She will be heading the university for a period of 3 years
 - ✓ She replaces Dr S Geethalakshmi, who retired from service few days ago
 - ✓ The Governor, Banwarilal Purohit, who is the Chancellor of the University handed over the appointment order to her at the Raj Bhavan
 - ✓ Dr Sudha has more than 30 years of teaching experience.
 - ✓ She is currently the Director and Professor of Institute of Anatomy, Madras Medical College
 - ✓ Dr Sudha, who came first in her postgraduate examination, had earlier served as the vice principal of Madras Medical College
 - ✓ She was earlier conferred with the Best administrator award by Dr MGR Medical University
 - ✓ She has also contributed extensively for medical journals and has served on the editorial review board for Gray's Anatomy
 - ✓ The selection panel for the vice-chancellor comprised of Dr Sithy Athiya Munavarah (Government nominee and convenor), Dr Sembon David (Senate nominee) and Dr Mohan Kameshwaran (Governing council nominee)
 - ✓ The search committee had submitted 3 shortlisted names for an interview with the Governor on December 27 - after interviewing 10 doctors from the list of 41 applicants
- **Tamil Nadu – is ranked 2nd in the entire country – in smartphone connectivity in rural areas**



- ✓ The maximum number of smartphones with net connection in rural areas is in Himachal Pradesh, as per the data presented by the Union communication ministry in Lok Sabha
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edapaadi K Palaniswamy – launches a coffee table book titled “Defying the Paradigm N Srinivasan: Fifty years of an extraordinary journey”**



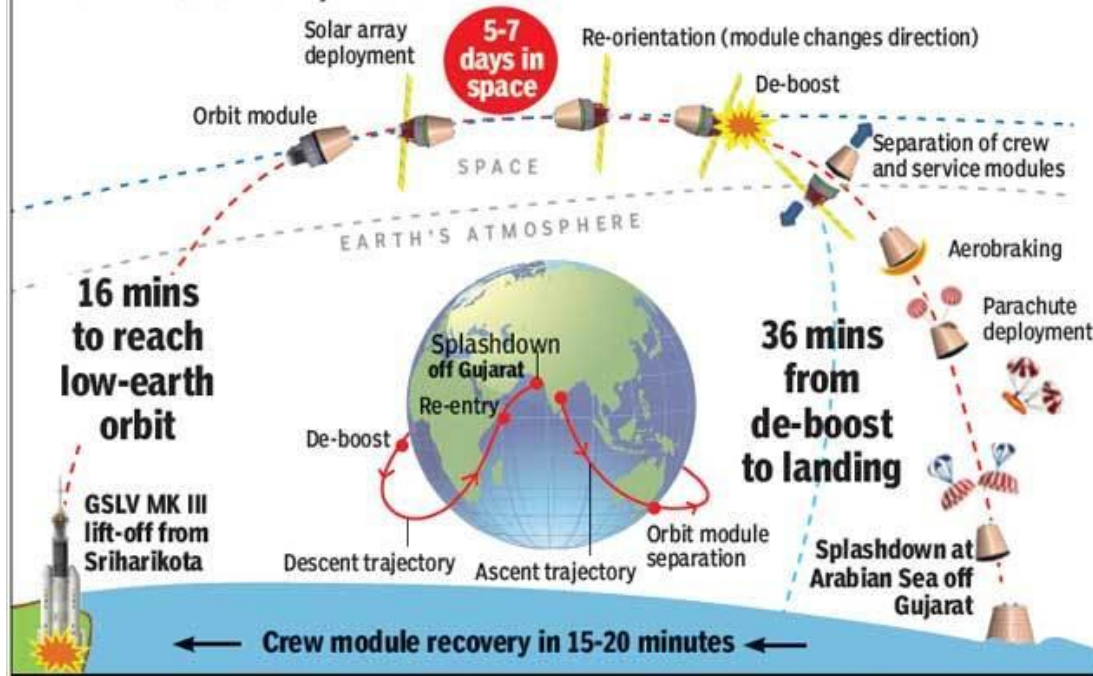
- ✓ The book chronicles the 70-year journey of India Cements and its Chairman N Srinivasan’s five-decade association with the company and cricket
- ✓ The coffee table book was authored by Kalyani Candade and its first copy was received by cricketer MS Dhoni
- ✓ The function was attended by a galaxy of cricketers including former captains Chandu Borde, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and other cricketers

NATIONAL

- **Union Cabinet – approves a budget of Rs 10,000 crore for Gaganyaan project**

MANNED MISSION

An advanced GSLV Mk III will lift off with a crew-service module (orbital module) carrying three Gagannauts from Sriharikota. Module will reach space within 16 minutes of launch where crew will hold experiments. During the return journey, orbital module will reorient itself. Crew and service modules will get separated at 120 km and both will fall on Earth. Crew module will make a splashdown in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast



- ✓ The Gaganyaan project aims to send 3 astronauts (Gaganyatris or Vyomnauts) to space for a minimum of 7 days – marking the country's first manned mission
- ✓ ISRO intends to achieve the mission from the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh in 2022
- ✓ The mission will use India's GSLV Mk III three-stage rocket for the launch
- ✓ The IAF agency, Institute of Aerospace Medicine, will be responsible for selecting the astronauts
- ✓ India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi announced the Gaganyaan mission during his Independence Day speech delivered on August 15
- ✓ When completed, this would make India only the 4th nation to send a human to space after the United States, Russia and China
- ✓ Before the planned space flight in December 2021, ISRO will undertake 2 manned test flights, one in December 2020 and another in July 2021
- ✓ India's first and the only astronaut, Wing Cdr Rakesh Sharma visited outer space on April 2, 1984 on a Russian spacecraft, Soyuz T-11 as part of Soviet 'Interkosmos' mission
- ✓ He spent 7 days, 21 hours and 40 minutes aboard the Salyut 7 orbital station along with two Soviet astronauts, Yury Malyshev and Gennadi Strekalov
- ✓ India had earlier launched its Mangalyaan mission in 2013 to the planet Mars at a budget of Rs 450 crore

- **Union Cabinet – approves amendments to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**
 - ✓ The amendments were made to Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15 and 42 of the POCSO Act, 2012, to address child sexual abuse
 - ✓ The amendments, proposed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under Section-4, Section-5 and Section-6, calls for stringent punishments including the death penalty for committing sexual crimes against children
 - ✓ The jail term ranges from a minimum of 10 years to maximum of 20 years along with a maximum of life imprisonment or even the death penalty
 - ✓ The amendments are also proposed in section-9 to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters
 - ✓ Sections 14 and 15 of the POCSO Act, 2012 are also proposed to be amended for a jail term for propagating child pornography and fine for not reporting it
 - ✓ The Act defines child as any person below the age of 18 years
 - ✓ Earlier in April 2018, the government had issued an ordinance to provide for the death penalty for those convicted of raping girls below 12 years of age and life term for raping a girl below 16 years of age

- **India – has strongly ‘objected’ the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s travel warning advisory due to an outbreak of the Zika virus - to tourists visiting Rajasthan and surrounding states**
 - ✓ It had cautioned pregnant women against travelling to such areas
 - ✓ The US health agency classified its alert under Level 2, which requires “enhanced protection” (Level 1 means “usual precautions” and Level 3 advises against “non-essential travel”)
 - ✓ The government took exception to the use of the word “endemic” in the advisory as Zika outbreaks were not rampant in the country
 - ✓ India have asked the US agency to withdraw or modify the alert – sending the proof of all research done on the Zika strain in India

- **Central Government – had instituted a new ‘Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puruskar’ award**

**Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda
Prabandhan Puruskar**

Annual Awards for excellence in Disaster Management

Important Dates :
Last date of filing applications : 30 Dec 2018
Date of announcement : 23 Jan 2019

- ✓ The new awards will recognise the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in the country in the field of disaster management
- ✓ Three eligible institutions and individuals will be given the annual award with cash incentives
- ✓ If the awardee is an institution, it will be given a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh and the prize money will be utilised for disaster management-related activities only
- ✓ If the awardee is an individual, the person shall receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh
- ✓ Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award
- ✓ The inaugural awards will be announced on January 23, 2019, on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

➤ **Prime Minister's Uttar Pradesh Visit on December 29**

- ✓ Inauguration of 6th International Rice Research Institute
- ✓ Prime Minister - dedicated the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center to the nation



- ✓ It will serve as a hub for rice research and training in South Asia and SAARC region
- ✓ The institute will help farmers of the region to develop varieties of paddy which will grow in minimum water and also the sugar free and high nutrition value rice

- ✓ The Institute is built at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM to visit IRRI headquarters in Manila, Philippines in November 2017
- ✓ One District, One Product Regional Summit
- ✓ Prime Minister – inaugurated the One District, One Product Regional summit, which was held at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul (Trade Facilitation Centre & Crafts Museum) in Varanasi



- ✓ The 'One District, One Product' scheme is aimed at enhancing the skills of local people and increasing the reach of the indigenous trades, crafts and products from small towns and small districts in the state
- ✓ Other assignments
- ✓ The PM laid the foundation stone of a medical college at Ghazipur
- ✓ He also released a commemorative postal stamp on Maharaja Suheldev in Ghazipur
- ✓ Another important announcement will be regarding the SAMPANN software which is developed to ease the problems of pensioners

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Bagbazar-O-Rosogolla Utsob, a 3-day festival – inaugurated at Bagbazar, Kolkata – to mark the 150th year of invention of Rosogolla**
- ✓ During the occasion, a postal stamp and a statue of Nabin Chandra Das, the inventor of Rosogolla, was unveiled

- ✓ Earlier, West Bengal got the GI tag for 'Banglar Rosogulla' on November 14, 2017 and to mark the occasion, the state observes 'Rosogulla' day on November 14 every year

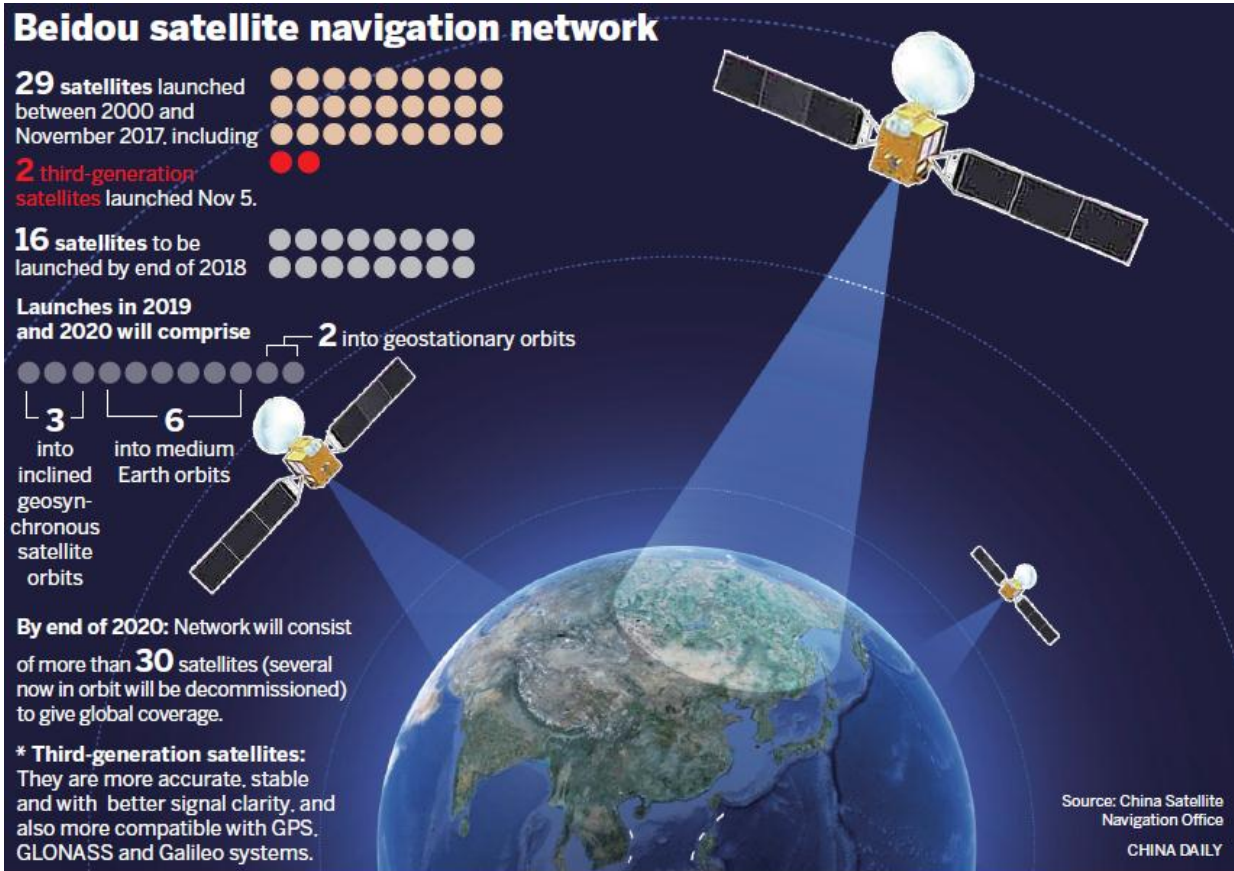


- ✓ Odisha contested the claim of West Bengal for the GI tag, but lost the race eventually
- ✓ Now, Odisha has applied to get GI tag for a variant of Rosogolla, 'Odishara Rosogolla'

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **China's 'Beidou' navigation satellite system – becomes fully operational and begins its 'Global' service – much ahead of its scheduled service in 2020**
- ✓ The system is considered as a rival to the widely-used American, GPS
- ✓ With this, Beidou now becomes one of four global navigation satellite systems, alongside America's GPS, Russia's Glonass and Europe's Galileo
- ✓ Pakistan has become the first country to use the BeiDou system ending its dependence on the Global Positioning System (GPS)
- ✓ BeiDou systems
- ✓ Named after the Chinese term for the 'Big Dipper', the BeiDou system started serving China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012
 - ✓ Beidou-1 had 3 satellites mainly for Chinese region before it was decommissioned in 2012
 - ✓ Beidou-2 has 10 satellites, providing services in China from December 2011 and in the Asia-pacific region from December 2012
 - ✓ Beidou-3 with 19 satellites till now had already started providing its global services from December 27, 2018

- ✓ A total of 19 BeiDou-3 satellites during 10 missions were sent into space between November 2017 and November 2018
- ✓ China is planning to send 11 more BeiDou-3 satellites and one BeiDou-2 satellite by the year 2020



- ✓ By the end of 2018, there were a total of 33 BDS satellites operating in orbit for BeiDou
- ✓ This included 15 BDS-2 satellites and 18 BDS-3 satellites
- ✓ India has developed its own navigational system called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC

