

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 8, 2018

### TAMIL NADU

- India's first Underwater Museum – is planned 7 km off the coast of Puducherry

#### A NEW HOME TO MARINE LIFE

➤ INS Cuddalore, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, will be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26m

➤ The 60-metre-long and 12-metre-wide vessel will be a destination for scuba diving and snorkelling

➤ There will be trails and routes for divers to swim in and out of the ship as they watch a colourful marine ecosystem grow



- ✓ The vessel had sailed nearly 30,000 nautical miles in 3 decades of service as a Minesweeper
- ✓ The project is undertaken jointly by two Chennai-based national laboratories – National Institute of Ocean Technology and National Centre for coastal research along with the Puducherry Government
- **Tamil Nadu Government – to provide 3-cent plot - for all encroachers in Government lands in rural areas**
- ✓ The six month plan by the Government provides an alternate house site pattas to evict all the squatters on Government lands

## RESETTLEMENT PLANS

> Those who have encroached upon govt poramboke land for more than five years are eligible for free house pattas of three cents each

> The family's annual income should be less than ₹1 lakh

> Free pattas will be provided in the same village

> If the annual income is above ₹1 lakh, the collectors will consider giving pattas by



collecting the cost of the land based on the existing guidelines

> The collectors will see if the encroachers can be resettled in slum clearance board tenements

- ✓ Each relocated family will get a three cent plot and financial aid to construct house or an individual house in slum clearance board tenements
- ✓ The families could be accommodated in various Government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) in which the Rs 1.7 lakh is shared by the Centre and the State or Chief Minister's Solar powered Green-house scheme, which guarantees 300 sq ft house at Rs 2.1 lakh
- **Seeni Viswanathan, noted Bharati scholar – to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award' from the Tamil Nadu Governor, Banwarilal Purohit in Ettayapuram**

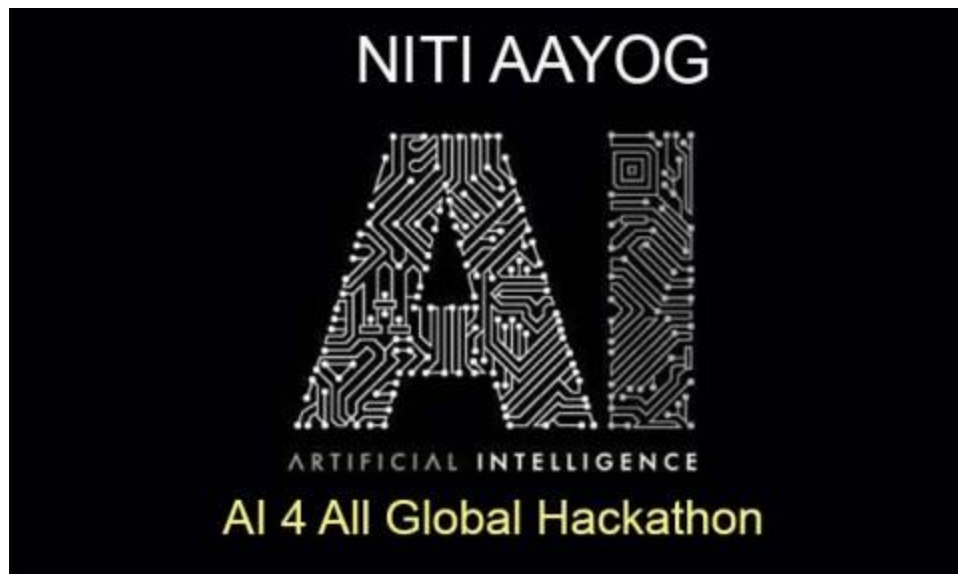


- ✓ The award is sponsored by the daily, Dinamani and awarded by the New Indian Express group
- ✓ It will be conferred annually to senior Bharati scholars
- ✓ 85-year old Seeni Viswanathan receives the inaugural award on the eve of 137<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Bharathiyar in his birthplace, Ettayapuram

- ✓ He has compiled the entire set of works of nationalist poet, Subramania Bharati in chronological order of 16 volumes, running over 10,000 pages
- ✓ He has also written 45 research articles based on Bharatiyar's literary works

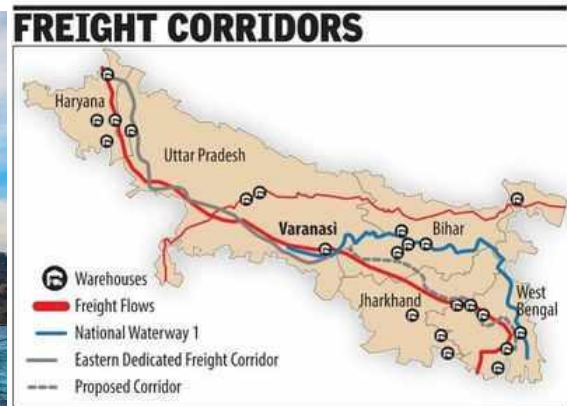
## NATIONAL

- **Government empowered Panel – selects 19 more institutions (7 Public and 12 Private) for Institutions of Eminence (IoE) status**
- ✓ The 2<sup>nd</sup> report of the panel was submitted to the HRD Ministry
- ✓ The 7 Public institutions recommended by the panel are –
  - ✓ Banaras Hindu University
  - ✓ Tezpur University
  - ✓ Savithribai Phule Pune University
  - ✓ University of Hyderabad
  - ✓ Aligarh Muslim University
  - ✓ Aligarh, Punjab University
  - ✓ Andhra University
- ✓ The 12 Private institutions recommended are –
  - ✓ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu
  - ✓ VIT, Vellore
  - ✓ Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi
  - ✓ Shiv Nadar University, Noida
  - ✓ Azim Premji University, Karnataka
  - ✓ Ashoka University, Haryana
  - ✓ Krea University, Andhra Pradesh
  - ✓ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar
  - ✓ OP Jindal Global University, Haryana
  - ✓ Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore
  - ✓ Institute of Public Health Sciences, Telangana
  - ✓ Satya Bharti University, Haryana
- ✓ In the first list, the committee recommended 8 public institutions of which 3 were granted the IoE status (IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IISc-Bangalore)
- ✓ The 3 private institutions that were granted the IoE status in the first list were – BITS-Pilani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education and Jio Institute (Under Greenfield category)
- **Germany - offers a massive aid package of Rs 720 crore to flood-hit Kerala**
- ✓ The package also has a technical grant of Rs 24 crore to provide international expertise in the Public works department to construct roads and bridges
- **NITI Aayog – launches 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon', a hackathon on Artificial Intelligence**



- ✓ It is organized in partnership with Perlin, a Singapore-based AI start up
- ✓ NITI Aayog had earlier announced the hackathon at the AI Conference held in Mumbai in November 2018
- ✓ Recently, NITI Aayog had organized its first Hackathon 'MoveHack' in August 2018 on the sidelines of the 'Global Mobility Summit 2018'

➤ **Ministry of Shipping – approves Rs 156 crore Freight Village in Varanasi**



- ✓ It will be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) adjoining the Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga
- ✓ It will serve as a cargo hub with all the logistical facilities available for transportation and distribution of goods
- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation – had announced its decision to allow Non Insured Persons to avail medical services from under-utilised ESIC Hospitals**
- ✓ The non insured persons are required to pay user charges at a subsidized cost of Rs 10 for OPD consultation

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) – approves the sale of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**
- ✓ Both the companies are Central Public Sector Enterprises under the Ministry of Power
- ✓ REC – provides finances to promote rural electrification in India
- ✓ It was established in 1969 with its headquarters in New Delhi
  
- **Union Cabinet – approves MoU between India and Tajikistan - on Cooperation on Peaceful uses of Space Technology for Development**
- ✓ The agreement was signed earlier on 8th October 2018 at Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- ✓ It was signed by President, Ram Nath Kovind and President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon during the visit to Tajikistan
  
- **Annual ‘Startup India Venture Capital Summit’ – was held in Goa on December 7, 2018**



- ✓ It was organized by The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Government of Goa
- ✓ Theme - ‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India’
- ✓ The summit aims to bring more investments to the Startup sector from around the world
- ✓ It is conducted in line with the state’s goal to feature in the Top 25 start-up destinations in Asia by 2025
  
- **Union Cabinet – approves the construction of Shahpurkandi Dam on river Ravi in Punjab**
- ✓ For this purpose, it has allocated Rs. 485.38 crore over the next five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23

- ✓ The dam will be helpful for irrigation in the states of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir
- **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) – to provide a loan of \$500 million for Water supply projects in Tanzania**
- ✓ The agreement for the same was signed earlier on May 10, 2018
- **Central Government – approves ‘SCord’, Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre – to tackle smuggling**
- ✓ The centre will function under the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
- ✓ It will formulate a national anti-smuggling policy to tackle Smuggling on real time basis.
- ✓ BSF, Assam Rifles, ITBP, SSB and Coast Guards would remain as the members of SCord
- **Kolkata-Patna Inland waterway – has been announced as the country’s 2<sup>nd</sup> dedicated Container Cargo waterway on National Waterway -1 on River Ganga**
- ✓ The announcement follows the success of the shipping of container cargo from Kolkata to Varanasi earlier
- ✓ Ministry of Shipping is developing 1390 kms on National Waterway – 1 under ‘Jal Marg Vikas Project’ from Haldia to Varanasi with World Bank’s assistance at an estimated cost of Rs 5369 Crore

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Panama – becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Central American nation – to join China’s ambitious ‘Belt and Road’ (BRI) Initiative**
- ✓ The move comes after the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Panama

## PERSONALITIES

- **Heather Nauert, a former FOX News anchor – nominated as the next US ambassador to the United Nations**



- ✓ Heather is the State Department Spokeswoman since April 2017
- ✓ She was also named as the acting undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs this year
- ✓ Earlier, she worked for Fox News from 1998 to 2005 and after two years, during which she worked for the ABC, returned to Fox in 2007
- ✓ She eventually became an anchor on "Fox & Friends", the US president's favourite show.
- ✓ She replaces outgoing Indian-American, Nikki Haley who announced in October 2018 that she is leaving the post by the end of the year after 2 years in office
- ✓ Nikki Haley was the first Indian-American ever appointed to a Cabinet position by any US President

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **China – to launch the World’s first-ever ‘Chang’e-4 mission’ to explore the dark far side of the moon on December 8, 2018**



- ✓ The mission will be launched aboard a Long March 3B rocket
- ✓ Chang’e-4 is a lander-rover combination with a scheduled 27-day journey
- ✓ The lander weighs 2400 pounds and the rover 300 pounds
- ✓ To facilitate communication between Chang’e 4 mission and the Controllers on Earth, China had earlier launched a Relay satellite named ‘Queqiao or Magpie Bridge’
- ✓ China had conducted its first crewed space mission in 2003, making it only the 3<sup>rd</sup> country after Russia and the US to do so

## DEFENCE

- **Clean Sea 2018, a regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise – conducted by Indian Coast Guard at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
  - ✓ The exercise has been conducted to assess the preparedness of various stakeholders in responding to the oil spills, as per the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan
  - ✓ Indian Coast Guard Ships, Viswasth, Vijith, Rajveer, Rajshri, 4 interceptor boats and Dornier and Chetak helicopters participated in the exercise
  - ✓ The ICG currently has 3 pollution response centres at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair
- **7<sup>th</sup> edition of ‘Hand-in-Hand 2018’ exercise – to be conducted by the armies of India and China – from December 10 to 23 at Chengdu, China**



- ✓ The annual bilateral military exercise last took place in Pune in 2016
- ✓ It was called off in 2017 due to the doklam stand-off between both the countries
- ✓ The inaugural edition of the exercise was conducted in 2007 followed by 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2015



## ECONOMY

- Amazon – rolls out its new social commerce platform ‘Spark’ in India



- ✓ Spark is part of ‘amazon.in’ site and connects with people who share the similar interests
- ✓ It was earlier launched in US around mid last year

## APPOINTMENTS

- Krishnamurthy Subramanian – appointed as the new Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)

**THE NEW CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER**

**Krishnamurthy Subramanian**

- | Associate Professor, ISB
- | Current Member, SEBI Committee
- | Board Member, Bandhan Bank
- | Board Member, NIBM
- | Board Member, RBI Academy
- | PhD from Chicago Booth

A portrait of Krishnamurthy Subramanian, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and a patterned tie.

- ✓ The 47-year old Subramanian, one of the youngest to be appointed to the post, is an Associate professor at the Hyderabad-based ‘Indian School of Business’ (ISB)
- ✓ His tenure will be for a period of 3 years
- ✓ He succeeds Arvind Subramanian who stepped down in June 2018 citing family commitments and returning to academia in the US

- ✓ He holds a PhD from Chicago University's Booth School of Business and one of his guides was Raghuram Rajan, who was the CEA before Arvind Subramanian and a former governor of RBI
- ✓ He had earlier worked as a consultant with JPMorgan Chase in New York and also served in a management role at ICICI Ltd.,
- ✓ He is an electrical engineer from IIT, Kanpur and an alumnus of IIM Kolkata, where he was a top ranker in his batch

## AWARDS

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India - has been conferred the 'Skoch Award for National Significance'**
- ✓ The award was received by Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable Energy Shri Anand Kumar
- ✓ The award recognizes the significant role played by the Ministry in installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in the country
- ✓ Currently, India ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the world in wind energy capacity and 5<sup>th</sup> in solar & total renewable energy
- **Rattan Lal – won the 'Glinka World Soil Prize 2018' of UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome – for his contribution to sustainable soil management**



- ✓ Lal is the current President of the International Union of Soil Science
- ✓ He is also a distinguished university professor of soil science at the Ohio State University
- ✓ The award named after the pioneering Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka, is considered the highest honour in the profession of soil sciences
- ✓ The first World Soil Day Award was given to "Practical Action", Bangladesh for organizing the best World Soil Day celebration in 2017
- ✓ The award is sponsored by the Government of Thailand

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ➤ International Civil Aviation Day – December 7



- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of the countries
- ✓ Theme - “Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind”
- ✓ The day was established in 1994 as part of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations
- ✓ It was officially declared by the UN in 1996

## REPORT

- **Top 10 Fastest Growing Cities in the World from 2019 to 2035 – Report released by Oxford Economics**
- ✓ The Top 10 Fastest Growing Cities in the World from 2019 to 2035 are all expected to be from India
- ✓ Gujarat’s Surat tops the list followed by Uttar Pradesh’s Agra

<b>TOP 10   FASTEST GROWING CITIES IN THE WORLD, 2019-35</b>				
Rank	Growth (y/y 2019-35)	City	GDP 2018*	GDP 2035*
1	9.2	Surat	28.5	126.8
2	8.6	Agra	3.9	15.6
3	8.5	Bengaluru	70.8	283.3
4	8.2	Hyderabad	50.6	201.4
5	8.4	Nagpur	12.3	48.6
6	8.3	Tiruppur	4.3	17
7	8.3	Rajkot	6.8	26.7
8	8.3	Tiruchirappalli	4.9	19
9	8.2	Chennai	36	136.8
10	8.2	Vijayawada	5.6	21.3

\*GDP: \$tn, constant 2018 prices Source: Oxford Economics

- ✓ The GDP of Asian countries will be 17% higher than all North American and European countries put together, by 2035
- ✓ India will remain as the 6th largest wealth market in the world (in terms of total wealth held) after USA, China, Japan, Germany and the UK by 2035

### Largest Cities

Four Chinese cities will make the world's biggest 10 by 2035

Rank by 2035 GDP	Changes from 2018
1. New York	—
2. Tokyo	—
3. Los Angeles	—
4. London	—
4. Shanghai	4 ▲
6. Beijing	7 ▲
7. Paris	-2 ▼
8. Chicago	-2 ▼
9. Guangzhou	10 ▲
10. Shenzhen	10 ▲

Source: Oxford Economics

Bloomberg

- ✓ Mumbai was termed as the world's 12th richest city with a total wealth of \$950 billion

