



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 11, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi – launched Rs 2,647 crore, Phase II modernization of Chennai airport - through video conference from Tirupur on February 10



- ✓ He also inaugurated the construction of a new terminal at Trichy airport.
- ✓ The proposed expansion of Tuticorin airport to operate A320 narrow-body planes is also underway
- ✓ In Chennai, an integrated terminal is being built between the existing domestic and international terminals, which will augment the peak hour capacity of the airport to 6,900 passengers

- ✓ The AAI has set the target of 42 months to complete the construction of the integrated terminal in Chennai
- **Chennai - received 10 cusecs of water from the Telugu-Ganga project that draws water from Krishna river**
- ✓ Water from the Krishna river reached Uthukottai on February 10 and will eventually reach Poondi reservoir in the coming days
- ✓ As per the agreement, around 12tmcft should reach Chennai every year
- ✓ Chennai receives water now from the Veeranam water supply scheme, Nemmeli desalination plant and also water from quarries and agricultural wells apart from the dead storage in reservoirs at Red Hills and Poondi.
- ✓ At present, around 450mld is supplied to residents

## STATES

- **Meghalaya – to rename the Dikkibandi stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker, Late P A Sangma**



- ✓ The construction of the stadium, formerly known as MP stadium, was initiated by late P A Sangma during his tenure as a member of Parliament from Tura.
- ✓ P A Sangma was also the former Chief minister of the state (1988-1990), elected from Tura constituency many times
- ✓ He formed the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999 along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar
- ✓ He contested the elections for the post of President of India in 2012 and lost the elections to Pranab Mukherjee
- **Odisha's Keonjhar district police – to provide Rs 100 as cash reward for the good drivers who obey traffic rules**



- ✓ The initiative, a first-of-its-kind in the country, will offer cash and certificates - for the drivers who are making amendments after they were caught overspeeding, drunken driving or flouting traffic rules

## NATIONAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi –unveiled the statue of Tripura’s last ruler, Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya at the Agartala airport



- ✓ During the visit, the PM also inaugurated the new complex of Tripura Institute of Technology at Narsingarh
  - ✓ Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya, who ruled Tripura during 1923-47, is considered as the father of modern Tripura
  - ✓ The entire planning of present-day Tripura was initiated during his rule including planning of the capital city of Tripura, Agartala
  - ✓ He was responsible for the construction of Tripura's first airport at Agartala, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest airport in the entire northeast now
- **A dedicated “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” – was launched by Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on February 8 - with a budgetary contribution of Rs 97.85 Cr from Central Government**



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change - approved the project and allocated Rs 59 crore to be spent across 3 financial years FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21
  - ✓ In addition, the Gujarat Government will fund the specialised veterinary hospitals and full-fledged ambulances for lions
  - ✓ The Asiatic Lion, endemic to Gir landscape of Gujarat, is one of the 21 critically endangered species identified by the Ministry for taking up recovery programmes
  - ✓ Asiatic Lions are listed in the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby necessitating the highest degree of protection
  - ✓ At present, there are about 700 lions presently in the Gir Forest
- **Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment - inaugurated the International Labour Organization (ILO) centenary celebrations in India - at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida on February 8**



- ✓ ILO is a unique agency of the United Nations Organization (UNO) which is tripartite in nature and works on the principal of collaboration among government, employers and workers
- ✓ ILO was established in 1919 and India was its founding member
- ✓ India has ratified 47 out of 189 ILO conventions during the century.
- ✓ Out of eight core conventions, India have ratified six and two conventions (C-138 and C-182), which were related to child labour
- ✓ As part of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ILO is implementing 7 centenary initiatives, namely
  - ✓ The future of work initiative
  - ✓ The end to poverty initiative
  - ✓ The end to poverty initiative
  - ✓ The green initiative
  - ✓ The standards initiative
  - ✓ The enterprises initiative
  - ✓ The governance initiative
- **Government - to launch a special drive to reach out to all farmers with more Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) – in order to bring all landholding cultivators within the institutional credit system**



- ✓ The Indian Banks Association issued an advisory to all banks - asking them to waive processing, documentation, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other service charges for KCC

<p>Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 </p> <p>No. of active card holders   <b>6.95 crore</b></p> <p>No. of landholder farmers   <b>14.57 crore</b></p> <p>KCC is issued on the basis of land holdings</p>	<p>➤ Cards help farmers avail credits from banks for purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other production needs </p> <p>➤ Govt. provides interest subvention of 2% and prompt repayment incentive of 3% to farmers, making the credit available to them at 4% per annum</p>
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- ✓ The move is expected to save around Rs 2000 to Rs 5000 for a farmer applying the cards through banks
- **Anil Ambani's Reliance Realty - to develop a 30-million-sqft smart Fintech hub at Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City (DAKC) in Navi Mumbai – at a budget of Rs 14,000 crore**
- ✓ The project would be built in phases to complete 15 million sqft in the next 10 years
- ✓ It would host office spaces for fintech, banking, insurance, NBFC, IT and ITeS sectors, providing more than 2.5 lakh jobs
- ✓ DAKC is a 132-acre campus that housed the now bankrupt Reliance Communications (RCom)
- ✓ Reliance Realty is an independently managed subsidiary of RCom

# INTERNATIONAL

- **Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi - took over as the next chair of the African Union (AU)**



- ✓ The post of AU's chair rotates annually between the five regions of the continent
- ✓ He will be taking over from outgoing chair, Rwandan President Paul Kagame
- ✓ It is the first time since the AU was founded in 2002 that Egypt assumes the top seat of the body
- ✓ Egypt was removed from the 55-member pan-African body in 2013 following a military coup that overthrew the country's democratically elected leader, Mohamed Morsi and brought Sisi to power, but the decision was revoked later
- **Abu Dhabi – adds 'Hindi' as the third official language to be used in 'Courts'**
- ✓ The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department has added Hindi as the third official language alongside Arabic and English
- ✓ The Indian community in the UAE, numbering 2.6 million, is the largest expatriate community in the emirate - constituting 30% of the total population
- **Geneva – bans the wearing of religious symbols by elected officials and public employees**
- ✓ The residents of Geneva had voted for a new 'secularism law' on February 10, seeking to define limits to religious expressions in the public sphere

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the 13th International Oil and Gas Conference, PETROTECH-2019 - at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh - on February 11, 2019**



- ✓ The three-day event is the country's biggest hydrocarbon conference with the participation from over 95 Energy Ministers and 7000 delegates from around 70 countries
- ✓ It is organized by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✓ The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of PETROTECH was inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi between 5 and 7 December, 2016
- ✓ India is the third largest consumer of crude oil and petroleum products after United States and China

# DEFENCE

- **India - received the first batch of 4 Chinook helicopters from United States on February 10 at the Mundra port in Gujarat**



- ✓ The Chinook CH-47F (I) helicopters, manufactured by Boeing Company, will be stationed at Chandigarh air base of the Indian Air Force
  - ✓ These choppers will provide a big boost to the heavy-lift capabilities of the air force apart from carrying heavy cargo like road construction equipment over difficult terrain
  - ✓ The Chinooks can carry goods and cargo of up to 9.6 tonnes each
  - ✓ India had signed a \$3 billion contract for the purchase of 15 Chinook and 22 Apache attack helicopters in 2018
  - ✓ These helicopters are expected to replace the Russia-made Mi-17 medium-lift helicopters, the Mi-26 helicopters and Mi-35 attack helicopters
- **India – has successfully tested its own propulsion technology named the ‘Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology’**
  - ✓ The mission to produce indigenous propulsion technology was started in 2013 with a funding of Rs 500 crore to boost the development of long-range air-to-air missiles
  - ✓ The Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) at Hyderabad was the lead agency for the project
  - ✓ This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> trial of the technology, with the first trial held in May 2018
  - ✓ The Ramjet technology helps to power the missiles at high supersonic speeds (above Mach 2) for engaging targets at long ranges
- **8<sup>th</sup> edition of ‘Cutlass Express’, the annual multinational maritime exercise – concludes in Djibouti on February 7**



- ✓ The nine-day exercise, inaugurated on January 28, includes various workshops in Mozambique, Seychelles and Djibouti.
- ✓ Maritime forces from East Africa, West Indian Ocean nations, Europe and the United States have participated in the exercise
- ✓ Representing India, Indian Talwar-class frigate INS Trikand (F 51) participated in the exercise
- ✓ The exercise is aimed at identifying and addressing illicit trafficking, piracy, illegal fishing as well as search and rescue situations
- ✓ Canada, Comoros, Djibouti, France, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Portugal, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, the Netherlands and the United States participated in the exercise
- ✓ The exercise is one of 3 Africa-focused regional, “Express” series exercises - sponsored by U.S. AFRICOM and facilitated by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet.

## ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India - cleared an interim dividend of Rs 28,000 crore to the Government - based on a limited audit for the current year**
- ✓ The official declaration on the same is expected to be declared after the central bank’s board meeting on February 18.
- ✓ This was in addition to the Rs 40,000 crore surplus already paid out by the central bank last year.
- ✓ However, the Reserve Bank of India will not immediately transfer surplus capital, which is set aside as reserve over the years, to the government

➤ RBI had retained ₹13,190cr towards risks and reserves during 2016-17

➤ It retained another ₹14,190cr in 2017-18

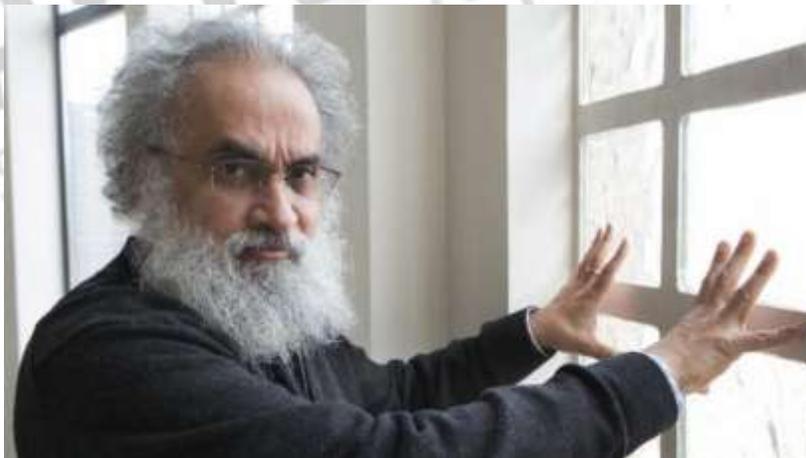
➤ Together, the retained amount is ₹27,380cr



- ✓ On the issue of capital reserve framework, a separate committee under Bimal Jalan has been constituted
- ✓ The Jalan committee, which will decide on the appropriate level of reserves for RBI, is expected to submit its report by March 31.

## AWARDS

- **Noted Indian historian, Sanjay Subrahmanyam - has won Israel's prestigious Dan David Prize 2019**



- ✓ He was awarded for his work on inter-cultural encounters between Asians, Europeans and people of North and South America during the early modern era.
- ✓ Subrahmanyam, son of strategic analyst K Subrahmanyam and brother of former foreign secretary S Jaishankar, won the award in the category of 'past time dimension' for his work in macro history.
- ✓ He shares the \$1million award with Prof Kenneth Pomeranz of University of Chicago.

## SPORTS

- Britain's Jamie Chadwick - scripted history in the MRF Challenge - by becoming the first female driver to win the championship in its 7 seasons so far



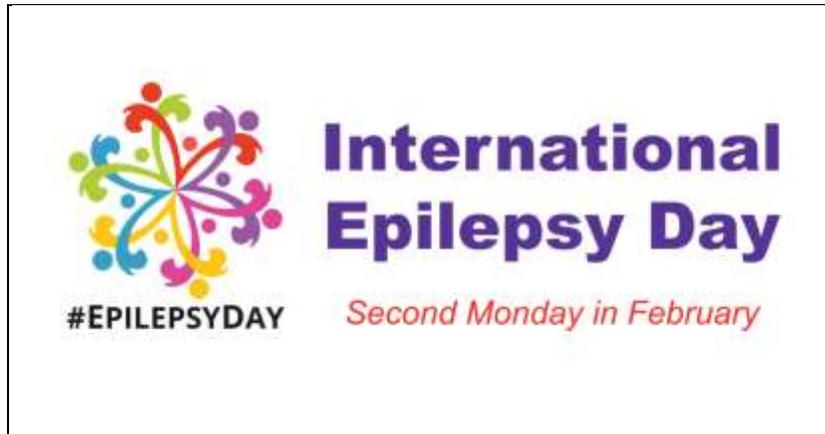
- ✓ Belgium's Max Defourny won the second spot and Finland's Patrick Pasma took the third place in the race that took place near Chennai
- **Indian Railways – wins the 9<sup>th</sup> Senior National Men's Hockey Championship (A division) in Gwalior**



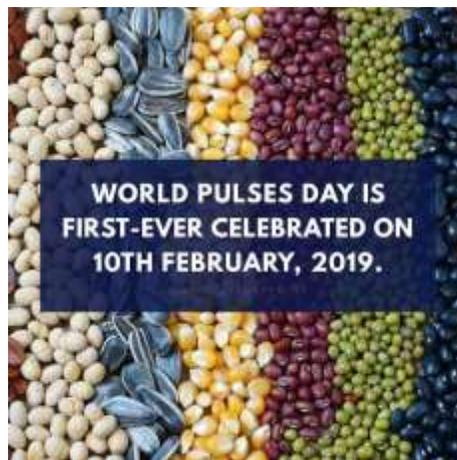
- ✓ In the final, the Railway Sports Promotion Board had defeated Hockey Punjab to lift the title
- ✓ In the bronze medal match, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board beat Punjab and Sind Bank

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ➤ International Epilepsy Day – February 11



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to promote awareness of epilepsy in more than 120 countries each year
  - ✓ Every year on the second Monday of February, people join together to celebrate and highlight the problems faced by people with epilepsy and their families
  - ✓ The Day is a joint initiative by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)
  - ✓ ILAE, founded in 1909, is the association of physicians and other health professionals working to treat the disease
  - ✓ IBE, founded in 1961, is the global voice of people with epilepsy, their families and those who care for them
  - ✓ Epilepsy is a group of neurological disorders characterized by epileptic seizures
- **1<sup>st</sup> World Pulses Day – February 10**



- ✓ The day is observed by the United Nations to highlight the contribution of Pulses for sustainable food production and towards food security and nutrition surrounding these healthy, nutritious, protein-rich, nitrogen-fixing legumes
  - ✓ Earlier, UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has celebrated the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses
  - ✓ Pulses are a type of leguminous crops that are harvested solely for their dry seed
  - ✓ Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses
- **National Deworming Day – February 10**
- ✓ As part of this programme, all the schools and anganwadis in various districts/states's would administer Albendazole tablets to children and adolescents aged between 1 to 19 years
  - ✓ A child not dewormed on National Deworming Day due to absenteeism or sickness will be dewormed on 'mop-up day' which would be observed on February 14
  - ✓ As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) data, more than 22 crore children in ages of 5- 14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms



- ✓ The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the nodal agency for the implementation of the National Deworming Day
- ✓ Only two States namely Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have reported less than 20% prevalence of the worms in the entire country

