

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 16, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) Madurai – has fitted Global Positioning System (GPS)-based public information systems in 30 Government buses – as a Pilot Project**



- ✓ Speakers fitted inside these buses will announce bus stops to passengers with a Pre-recorded voice messages
 - ✓ The initiative was launched in association with Silicon Harvest, a private firm
 - ✓ Each unit was bought at a cost of Rs 25,000
- **A new 'Institute of Diabetology' block – was inaugurated in Stanley Medical College Hospital, Chennai by C Vijayabaskar, Minister for Health and D Jayakumar, Fisheries Minister**



- ✓ The new block, a three-storied building, was built at a cost of Rs 8.64 crore
- ✓ The facility can treat 40 in-patients and holds equipment to conduct Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Test for diabetes
- ✓ World Diabetes day was observed on November 14
- **Agnikul Cosmos, incubated in IIT, Madras - selected by Airbus, global aerospace giant, for the fourth batch of its accelerator programme**



- ✓ It was co-founded by Srinath Ravichandran (CEO) and Moin SPM (COO) in 2017
- ✓ It is housed in IIT-M's National Center for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD)
- ✓ The Bengaluru-based startup is one among the 24 global enterprises selected by Airbus, which includes five other Indian entrants
- ✓ Agnikul designs and builds launch vehicles that are capable of carrying around 100 kilograms of weight to lower earth orbits

- ✓ AgniKul is in the process of developing its Agnibaan orbital launch vehicle
- ✓ Agnikul's launch vehicles provide smaller satellite operators with a more flexible option rather than relying on space giants such as ISRO and SpaceX
- ✓ It was selected out of 495 applications from 64 countries
- ✓ Airbus runs its BizLab programme out of Madrid (Spain), Toulouse (France), Hamburg (Germany) and Bengaluru (India)
- ✓ Agnikul will be a part of the accelerator program from the Bengaluru campus
- ✓ The only other Indian launch vehicle startup, Bangalore-based Bellatrix Aerospace, is working on its launch vehicle Chetak

STATES

- **Maharashtra – The 2nd Mega Food Park in the state, 'Paithan Mega Food Park', was inaugurated** by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing Industries



- ✓ It is coming up at Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district
- ✓ The first park was inaugurated in Satara district in March 2018
- ✓ The 3rd Mega food park is already sanctioned and developed in Wardha district
- ✓ Projects under the Food parks are merged under comprehensive flagship scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana' (Launch – 2017)
- **Delhi Government – to open 13 Fitness testing centres for Auto rickshaws**
- ✓ The state currently has only one testing unit at Burari, for about 95,000 autos in the capital

➤ **Delhi – Aadi Mahatsav festival begins**



- ✓ The 15-day festival will witness the participation of more than 600 artisans from 23 states
 - ✓ 14 dance troupes will also perform in the Mahotsav
 - ✓ Theme - 'celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce'
 - ✓ The show will also have a fashion show for tribal textiles and tribal cuisines
- **Meghalaya - 3rd India International Cherry Blossom Festival celebrated at Shillong, Meghalaya**



- ✓ The 4-day festival celebrates the unique autumn flowering of the Himalayan Cherry Blossoms
- ✓ The festival saw the presence of Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu along with several Japanese cultural events

- ✓ During the festival, the Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma, handed over the Meghalaya Entrepreneurship Recognition Award (MEG-ERA) to Perastill R Sangma, an entrepreneur from Garo Hills
- ✓ Cherry Blossom is a widely popular flower in Japan as well
- **Odisha – launches ‘Biotechnology policy 2018’ for the state – to make it a biotech investment destination in the country**
- ✓ The announcement came during the ‘Make in Odisha Conclave’ held in Bhubaneswar
- ✓ Odisha government had signed an agreement with ITES, Singapore to building a 64 acre skill development centre named ‘Odisha Biotech Park’ in Bhubaneswar
- ✓ For this project, Bharat Biotech has shown interest to invest Rs. 500 crore to set up a vaccine manufacturing unit over an area of 33 acres.

NATIONAL

- **NITI Aayog – constitutes ‘Himalayan State Regional Council’ – for the development of Himalayan region**
- ✓ It will have Dr V K Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog as its Chairman
- ✓ The council has been created to implement the action points, based on the earlier reports of 5 working groups, which were set up by the NITI Aayog in June 2017
- **Union Ministry of Tourism – inaugurates 2 new North East projects in Arunachal Pradesh – under ‘Swadesh Darshan Scheme’**



- ✓ The projects were jointly inaugurated by K J Alphons, Union Minister of State (IC Tourism and Pema Khandu , Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ Swadesh Darshan Scheme
 - ✓ Launch – 2015
 - ✓ Objective – to develop theme-based tourist circuits
 - ✓ Progress – So far, 13 thematic circuits are identified
 - ✓ Circuits - Buddhist Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit
- **Sri Ramayana Express – flagged off by the Indian Railways – from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi**



- ✓ The 800-seat tourist train will run on Ramayana circuit covering major places related to the Hindu epic
- ✓ It will start from Ayodhya and reach Rameswaram within 16 days
- ✓ The fare of the train is fixed at Rs 15,120 per person
- ✓ The tour will have 2 components, one in India and another in Sri Lanka
- ✓ The Passengers opting for Sri Lanka leg of the tour will be flown to Colombo from Chennai with separate charges
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development – announced that the government will refund the employers the salaries for the first 7 of the 26 weeks of maternity leave for women, earning more than Rs 15,000 a month**
 - ✓ The decision covers both the government as well as the private sector
 - ✓ Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 10, 2018 to double the maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
 - ✓ Rajya Sabha passed the bill in August 2017

- **India Post – launches its own e-commerce Portal**
- ✓ The full fledge operations of the service will begin after mid-December 2018
- ✓ India Post will utilise its parcel business network for this purpose

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **4th International Congress on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine – begins in New Delhi**



- ✓ Inaugurated by - Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space
- ✓ It was held along with the Asia Pacific Geriatric Medicine Network Conference at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- ✓ Theme - 'Future of Geriatric Medicine practice – Are you Ready?'
- ✓ Objective - To improve old age care around the world

PERSONALITIES

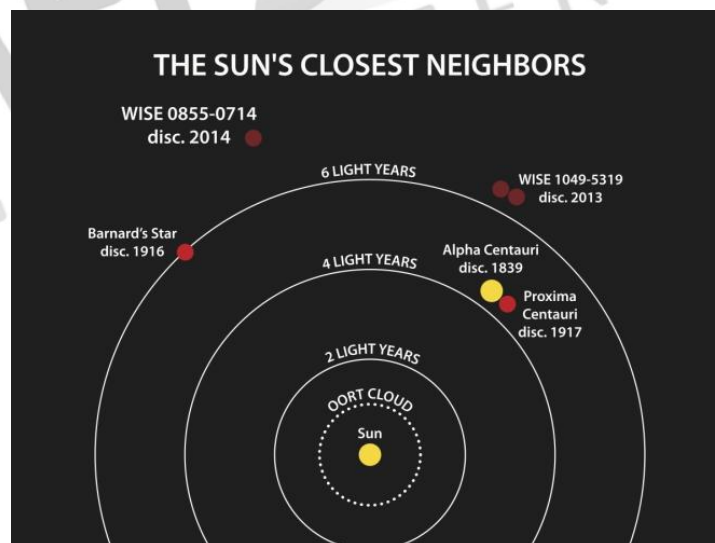
- **Ananth Naryanan, CEO of Myntra Group and Dipanjan Basu, CFO of Myntra Group – had reportedly quits the Myntra Group**



- ✓ The move comes in the wake of Co-founder of Flipkart, Binny Bansal's exit following a serious personal misconduct issue
- ✓ Kalyan Krishnamurthy was announced earlier as the new CEO of Flipkart
- ✓ Myntra Group, the fashion-focused e-tailer was founded by Mukesh Bansal, the co-Founder of Flipkart
- ✓ Myntra was taken over by Flipkart group

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Barnard's Star B, a 'Super-earth' planet– was discovered orbiting the closest single star to Sun**



- ✓ The red dwarf, small and cooling planet was identified at 6 light years away from Earth
- ✓ It was weighing 3.2 times heavier than Earth
- ✓ The planet is the second nearest to Earth outside the solar system and orbits its host star once every 233 days
- ✓ It has a surface temperature of -170 degrees Celsius (-274 Fahrenheit) — far too cold to support life

- ✓ Despite being close to Sun, it receives only about 2% of energy than what Earth gets from the Sun

DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy – has successfully refitted the Maldivian Coast Guard Ship ‘Huravee’ in Visakhapatnam and handed over to Maldives Coast Guard**



- ✓ The ship was refitted within four-months after major repairs
- ✓ It was originally commissioned as ‘INS Tillanchang’, a Trinkat class patrol vessel
- ✓ It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata in March 2001
- ✓ The ship was gifted to Maldives by Government of India in April 2006

APPOINTMENTS

- **Oyo, hospitality Firm – appoints Aditya Ghosh, former IndiGo President as the CEO for India and South Asia Operations – effective from December 1**



SPORTS

- **Pankaj Advani – wins 3rd straight IBSF Billiards crown in the 150-up format and Crowned World Champion for the 20th time in Yangon, Myanmar**



- ✓ He defeated Myanmar's Nay Thway Oo in the final
 - ✓ The 33-year old Advani had won his 1st IBSF crown in his hometown, Bengaluru in 2016 before doing the same in Doha last year
- **Aabid Hamid, a 15-year-old Kashmiri student - has won gold medal - at the World Kick Boxing Championship in Argentina**



- ✓ He won the Gold medal in the 52kg category
- ✓ He was part of nine-member Team India and won the only Gold medal for the country
- ✓ Eight other players including three from Kashmir won silver medals

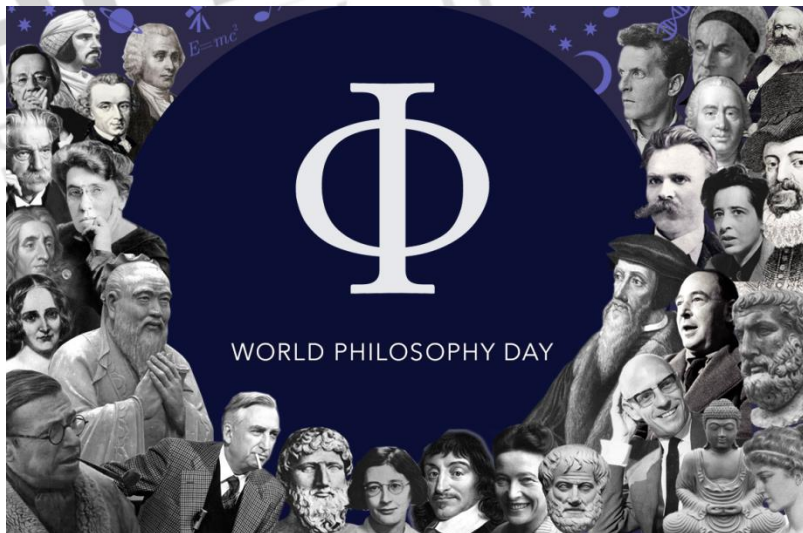
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Press Day – November 16



- ✓ The day commemorates the beginning of functioning of Press Council of India from November 16, 1966 with Justice J R Mudholkar, then a Judge of Supreme Court, as Chairman
- ✓ The Press Council of India was established in July 4, 1966 as an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body
- ✓ The day is symbolic of free and a responsible Press in the country

➤ World Philosophy Day – November 15



- ✓ The day highlights the value of philosophy for the development of human thought both for individuals and the society.
- ✓ The day was established by UNESCO in 2005
- ✓ The day is observed every year on the third Thursday of November.

REPORT

➤ Status of Open Defecation in the country

- ✓ To declare the Country as Open Defecation-free (ODF), the Government had set a target of October 2, 2019, when Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary will be celebrated

ODF Status of Various States

S.no	States/UTs	Month/ Year
1.	Sikkim	2008
2.	Himachal Pradesh	October 2016
3.	Kerala	November 2016
4.	Uttarakhand	June 2017
5.	Haryana	June 2017
6.	Chhattisgarh	October 2017
7.	Maharashtra	October 2017
8.	Madhya Pradesh	October 2017
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	December 2017
10.	Meghalaya	January 2018
11.	Gujarat	February 2018
12.	Rajasthan	March 2018
13.	Andhra Pradesh	June 2018
14.	Mizoram	July 2018
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	September 2018
16.	Tamil Nadu	October 2018
17.	Punjab	October 2018
18.	Nagaland	October 2018

19.	Manipur	October 2018
20.	Chandigarh	September 2017
21.	Daman and Diu	December 2017
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2018
23.	Andaman& Nicobar Islands	May 2018
24.	Lakshadweep	2018
25.	Puducherry	October 2018

- ✓ The rural Jharkhand was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on November 15, 2018 during a regional review meeting of the eastern states held in Kolkata, West Bengal
- ✓ West Bengal currently has rural sanitation coverage of 97% and is on track to becoming ODF by December 2018.
- ✓ States to be declared ODF soon
 1. West Bengal
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Assam
 4. Tripura
 5. Karnataka
- ✓ All the north-eastern states have committed to declare themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF) by December 2018

