

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 14, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Government – to take over IRT-Perundurai Medical College and Hospital in Erode from the 2019-20 academic year**
 - ✓ The transport corporations are unable to administer the institution with dwindling funds
 - ✓ The state now has 2900 medical seats in its 22 government medical colleges
 - ✓ The state government had allotted 344.36 acres for the Institute of Road Transport to set up the medical college in 1986
 - ✓ In 2017, the college got the Medical council of India nod for admitting 100 students

- **Tamil Sangam – to open its branch in Manipur on January 23, 2019**
 - ✓ It will be inaugurated in Moreh city of Manipur
 - ✓ It was constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore
 - ✓ A statue of Thiruvallur will also be unveiled on the occasion

- **The first Container Mainline vessel – flagged off from V O Chidambaranar Port in Tuticorin – by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping and Road Transport & Highways and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Edappadi K Palaniswami, Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ Thus, it becomes the 2nd port in the state to handle motherships
- ✓ M V Wan Hai 510, a mainline vessel operated by Wan Hai Lines Limited berthed at the Port in Tuticorin
- ✓ This mainline service enables direct import and export to the Far East countries like Singapore, China etc., without the dependence on Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ✓ The mainline vessel connects two Malaysian ports, Penang and Port Klang and Chinese ports, Hong Kong, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo and Shekou

NATIONAL

- **Government – introduces ‘Dam Safety Bill 2018’ in the Lok Sabha**
- ✓ The new legislation provides a robust legal and institutional framework under Central and state governments for the safety of dams
- ✓ It was introduced by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal
- ✓ The Bill provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams - for prevention of dam failure related disasters
- ✓ The Bill also proposes the setting up of the following authorities to resolve the dam-related issues --
 - ✓ National Committee on Dam Safety
 - ✓ State Committee on Dam Safety
 - ✓ National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)
 - ✓ State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA)
- ✓ According to bill, dam owner is responsible for dam safety and hence the owner state should prepare an Emergency action plan and emergency Flood warning system
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly had earlier passed a resolution to oppose the Dam Safety Bill on 26 June, 2018
- ✓ Tamil Nadu’s apprehensions relate to four dams, including Mullaperiyar, Parambikulam, Thunakadavu and Peruvaripallam, which are located in Kerala, but owned, operated and maintained by the Tamil Nadu government
- ✓ India, with over 5254 larger dams and 447 under construction, is the third country behind USA and China to have maximum number of dams

- **Government – to set up ‘National Medical Devices Promotion Council’ – to promote the medical devices sector**
- ✓ It will act as a facilitating and developmental body for Indian Medical Devices Industry
- ✓ It will function under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ✓ It will be headed by Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- ✓ It will get technical support from Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone, Visakhapatnam

- **India – to prepare ‘Elephant distribution map’ for the first time ever in the country**
 - ✓ Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is carrying out the project by locating the elephants with the help of Global positioning systems (GPS)
 - ✓ The map will track the movement of pachyderms across the country enabling to study the migration patterns and fluctuations in their numbers in any region
 - ✓ Ericsson – to start Research & Development (R&D) centres in artificial intelligence and automation in Chennai and Bengaluru
 - ✓ The Sweden-based Networking and communications company plans to hire around 150 people over the next year
 - ✓ The centres are part of the company’s ‘Global Artificial Intelligence Accelerator’ program, in which it plans to employ over 300 people globally
 - ✓ Ericsson already has R&D centres in Chennai, Bengaluru and Gurgaon working on a range of issues
 - ✓ It is collaborating with IIT, Delhi on a 5G lab currently
 - ✓ India – signs a loan agreement of \$60 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) – to reduce floods and riverbank erosion in Assam
 - ✓ The loan was provided as part of \$120 million ‘Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program’ that got approved by the ADB board in October 2010
 - ✓ The loan will have a 20-year term, including a grace period of 5 years.

- **Government – notifies revised guidelines for ground water extraction on December 12, 2018**
 - ✓ The revised guideline intends to ensure a more robust ground water regulatory mechanism in the country
 - ✓ They will be in effect from June 1, 2019
 - ✓ Key points
 - ✓ Introduction of the concept of ‘Water Conservation Fee’, the fee charged on extraction of ground water - which varies as per the type of industry, category of the area and quantum of ground water extraction
 - ✓ Usage of Recycled and treated sewage water by industries
 - ✓ Action against ground water contaminating and polluting industries
 - ✓ Mandatory roof top rain water harvesting
 - ✓ Mandatory water audit by industries abstracting ground water
 - ✓ Mandatory fitting of digital measuring instruments based on the quantum of extraction
 - ✓ Exemptions granted to agricultural users, projects for Armed Forces, Defence and Paramilitary Forces Establishments and Government water supply agencies
 - ✓ The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 – is responsible for ground water development and management in the country

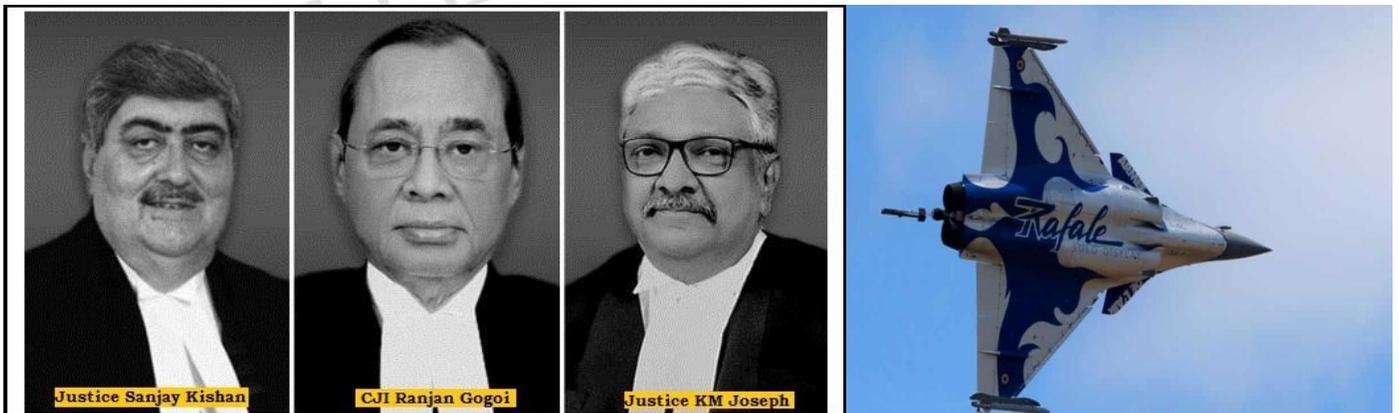
- **Samadhan, a Multi-Disciplinary Training Centre (MTDC) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission - was inaugurated by Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (I/C)**



- ✓ It is an industrial training institute set up on PPP (Public-Private partnership) mode with the MSME Ministry
- ✓ It will provide industry and business related guidance and knowledge to entrepreneurs, industries and institutions

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **Supreme Court – dismisses all petitions demanding a CBI-monitored probe into the Rafale jet deal**



- ✓ The bench consisting of CJI Ranjan Gogoi as chairman and other two members Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph gave clean chit on three aspects –
 - ✓ Purchasing of 36 Rafale jets instead of 126,
 - ✓ Pricing of Rafale jets
 - ✓ Selection of Indian offset partners

- ✓ Rafale Jet Deal – Time-Line
- ✓ 2007 – The tenders for 126 Medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) fighters were released by the UPA government, based on the demand by the Indian Air Force
- ✓ January 2012 - Dassault Aviation, a French company made the lowest bids for their aircraft Rafale
 - ✓ According to conditions, out of the required 126 jets, 18 fighters were to be imported in a fly-away condition.
 - ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) was supposed to manufacture the remaining 108 jets with assistance from Dassault
- ✓ 2014 - HAL and Dassault signed a workshare agreement, but it never went through.
 - ✓ The Congress party claimed that it had negotiated a deal with the price of Rs 526.1 crore per jet
- ✓ April 2015 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced government's decision to buy 36 Rafale fighters in a flyaway condition – during his visit to Paris, France
- ✓ June 2015 - Defence ministry officially withdrew the 126 aircraft deal tender released in 2007
- ✓ January 2016 – A MoU on the purchase of Rafale jets was signed between India and France during the visit of French President François Hollande on the occasion of Republic Day
 - ✓ A final deal was signed between India and France for 36 Rafale jets for €7.87 billion (approximately Rs 59,000 crore) in 2016
 - ✓ As per the deal, the delivery of jets would start from September 2018
- ✓ October 2016 - Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence and Dassault Aviation announced a joint venture
 - ✓ Under the agreement, Dassault was mandated to make compensation investments (offsets) in India worth 50% of the value of the purchase

INTERNATIONAL

- **Japan – selects Chinese-character of ‘Disaster’ – as a defining symbol for the year 2018**



- ✓ The symbol was chosen in a public vote, in which 21,000 out of 193,000 picked it to define the year
- ✓ A kanji symbol for peace came second
- ✓ The year 2018 saw the country hit by deadly floods, earthquakes and heatstorms
- ✓ "North" won the vote in 2017 after North Korea's missile launches, and "gold" in 2016 after the Rio Olympics
- ✓ Chinese characters, or kanji, are used widely in Japanese as well as other alphabets
- ✓ At the end of every year, the people of Japan vote for the Chinese character they think embodies the key events of the previous 12 months.

COMMITTEES

- **Government – constitutes a GoM (Group of Ministers) under Arun Jaitley, Finance minister - to review the recommendations of P K Sinha Committee on stressed power projects**
- ✓ Other members of the GoM
 - ✓ Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport Minister
 - ✓ Suresh Prabhu, Commerce Minister
 - ✓ Dharmendra Pradhan, Oil Minister
 - ✓ Piyush Goyal, Railways Minister
 - ✓ R K Singh, Power Minister
- ✓ As per a report of Department of Financial Services, 34 coal-based thermal power projects, mostly private, with a total capacity of 40,130 MW, were considered 'stressed' by the Ministry of Power

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Virgin Galactic's carrier airplane 'WhiteKnightTwo' – becomes the first US commercial passenger rocket ship to reach edge of the space – since the end of America's space shuttle programme in 2011**



- ✓ The airplane was carrying the 'SpaceShipTwo' passenger spacecraft
- ✓ A 90-minute flight costs \$250,000
- ✓ The Virgin Galactic is owned by British billionaire, Richard Branson

- **Akademik Lomonosov - the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant – installed in Russia by Rosatom, country's atomic energy corporation**



- ✓ It has 2 reactors with a combined capacity of 70MW
- ✓ Once the tests are completed by March 2019, it will be transported to its final destination to the port of Pevek in Russia's extreme north-eastern region of Chukotka
- ✓ It will be useful to provide continuous power in remote areas of Russian Arctic regions
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Rosatom are also the equipment suppliers and consultants for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Brijendra Pal Singh – to be appointed as the new President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and the Chairman of Governing Council**



- ✓ He served as chairman of FTII academic council and vice chairman of governing council

- ✓ Singh, an FTII alumnus (1970-73), specialized in film cinematography – is the producer-director of popular TV serial, CID, which is running for a record 21 years in Sony TV
 - ✓ He is named in Limca book of world records - for taking a continuous shot of 111 minutes marking the completion of six years of crime drama, CID
 - ✓ He replaces Anupam Kher in the office until March 2020
 - ✓ Anupam kher resigned from the post in October 2018 due to international commitments
 - ✓ Film and television Institute of India (FTII) is an autonomous body established in 1960 under the aegis of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- **Bharat Bhushan Vyas – joins UPSC as a member**



- ✓ The oath of office and secrecy was administered to Vyas by UPSC chairman, Arvind Saxena.
- ✓ Vyas had resigned as one of the four advisors to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on December 12
- ✓ He served in J&K and the Centre in various capacities and retired as chief secretary, Jammu and Kashmir.

AWARDS

- **Winners of the Lokmat Parliamentary Awards at Lokmat National Conclave 2018, New Delhi**

Category	Winner
Lifetime achievement award	NCP chief and Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar
	Veteran BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi
Best Parliamentarian Award	Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha

	Ghulam Nabi Azad
	BJP MP Nishikant Dubey
Best Debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha)	Actor-turned-politician Hema Malini
Best Woman parliamentarian in Lok Sabha	MP Rama Devi
Best Woman parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha	DMK leader Kanimozhi
Best Debut woman parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha)	Chhaya Verma

- ✓ Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President gave away the awards to the 8 winners



- ✓ They were honoured for their contribution in strengthening parliamentary democracy
- ✓ The awards were sponsored by Lokmat media group, headed by Vijay Darda
- **2018 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards, Incheon, Korea**



- ✓ India's Manika Batra became the first ever Indian Table Tennis player to be awarded the 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award
- ✓ Indian coach Massimo Costantini (Italy) also won 'Table Tennis Star Coach' award



- ✓ This is Massimo's second stint as India's table tennis coach and he is behind the tremendous success of Indian Table tennis team
- ✓ Manika Batra's achievements in 2018
- ✓ In Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Manika guided India to their first-ever gold medal in the Women's Team event and then went on to win a first gold in women's singles category.
- ✓ She also bagged silver medal with Mouma Das in women's doubles and a bronze with Sathiyam Gnanasekaran in the mixed doubles category
- ✓ At the Jakarta Asian Games, along with Achanta Sharath Kamal, she bagged a mixed doubles bronze to make another first for the country in the sport
- ✓ She also reached her career-best ranking of 52 this year and became India's highest ranked female player

SPORTS

- **India – loses World cup Hockey quarter finals to Netherlands by 1-2 goals in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**



- ✓ India last made the semifinals of the world cup hockey in 1975
- ✓ India has lost to The Netherlands in all 6 of their previous clashes in the WC, with the last one being a 6-1 loss in 2006.
- ✓ The Netherlands will now play two-time defending champions Australia in one of the semi final

- ✓ Earlier, Olympic silver medalist Belgium qualified for the semis for the first time defeating two-time champions Germany 2-1 goals
- ✓ They will face England in the other semi final of the tournament
- ✓ Hockey World cup
 - ✓ 2014 – Winners – Australia ; Venue – The Hague, Netherlands
 - ✓ India won the World cup only once in 1975 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 - ✓ Pakistan is the most successful team having won the tournament four times followed by three wins to Australia and Netherlands
 - ✓ In the current 2018 world cup, china is appearing for the very first time
- **International Cricket Council (ICC) – signs a contract with Pernod Ricard India Pvt Ltd, the makers of whisky brand ‘Royal Stag’ – as official global partner for the next 5 years**



- ✓ The sponsorship deal is estimated to be \$5-6 million per year

REPORT

- **Four Indian PSU’s were ranked among World’s Top 100 Producers for the very first time – which includes**
 - ✓ Indian Ordnance Factories (37th Rank)
 - ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (38th Rank)
 - ✓ Bharat Electronics Limited (64th Rank)
 - ✓ Bharat Dynamics Limited (94th rank)
 - ✓ These four companies have sold arms worth \$7.52 Billion in 2017
- ✓ The global arms market is dominated by US companies which have a massive 57% of the market share, followed by Russia (9.5%), United Kingdom (9%) and France (5.3%)
- ✓ As of 2017, Lockheed Martin is world’s largest arms producer company with arms sales of \$ 44.9 billion with Boeing being the second
- ✓ The rankings were released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden

