

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 18, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – launched the distribution of ‘Satellite phones’ to 80 fishermen groups involved in deep sea fishing**

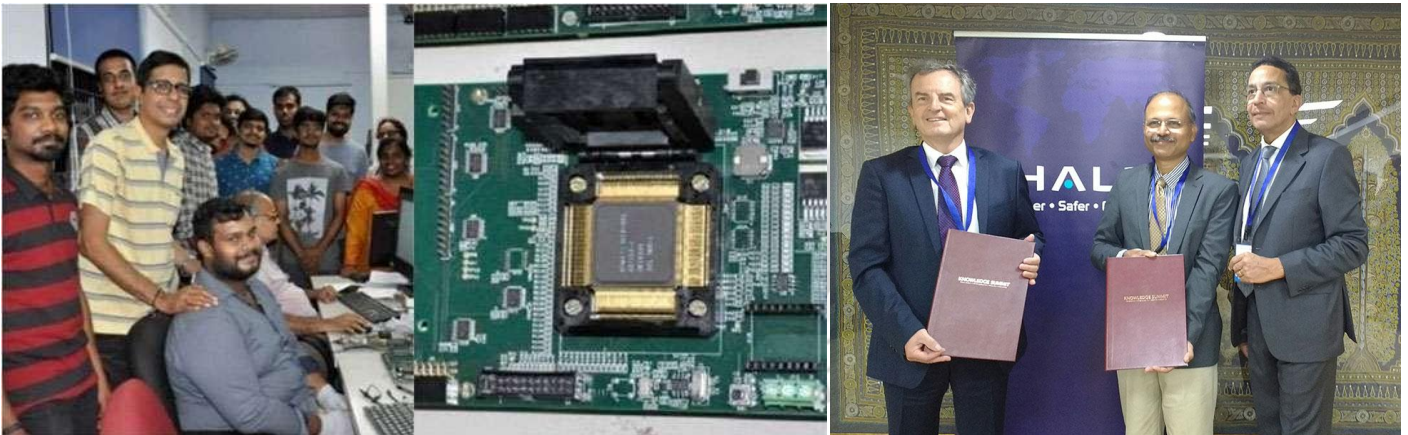


- ✓ Thus, the state becomes the first in the country to provide satellite phones to its fishermen for assisting them in their navigation while sailing high seas
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has designed the ‘NaVIC’-powered receivers, which will produce a ‘beep’ sound on receiving the alerts
- ✓ 200 such receivers have been delivered to the State by Antrix Corporation, a commercial arm of ISRO
- ✓ With NaVICs, fishermen can be alerted about any weather or natural disaster - through messages sent through Bluetooth technology to Android-based smartphones with the fishermen
- ✓ The system will function with the help of India Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS), which consists of 8 satellites
- ✓ The alerts will be in Tamil language
- ✓ The devices are provided free-of-cost to the fishermen

✓ NavIC – An Introduction

- ✓ NavIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India
- ✓ It is the Indian version of American GPS (Global positioning system)
- ✓ It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1,500 km from the shore
- ✓ It will provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Service (SPS) which is provided to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorised users

➤ **IIT, Madras – to collaborate with Thales, a France-based digital firm – for taking up Joint research programs in areas such as Defence, aerospace and transportation**



- ✓ IIT-M with work with Thales to design 'SHAKTI' processors
- ✓ SHAKTI processors are the country's first indigenous microprocessor that can be used in smartphones, surveillance cameras and smart meters

➤ **Tamil Nadu – to launch an 'ATM-like vending machine' to dispense medicines - to patients with chronic illness like diabetes and hypertension**



- ✓ These machines will be placed soon at Government medical college hospitals and urban primary health centres in the pilot phase
- ✓ The machines will be programmed to read bar-coded prescriptions and dispense medicines
- ✓ Similar machines were already installed in Rajasthan

STATES

- **Maharashtra's Pune district court – becomes the first court in India to allow e-payments of court fee, judicial deposits, fines and penalties**
- ✓ The new facility is started in the Shivajinager district and sessions court.
- ✓ The e-payments will be collected at 'https://pay.ecourts.gov.in/epay/'
- ✓ The new move would help to end the long queues on court premises to pay cash.
- ✓ The person making the e-payment will get a unique Case number record (CNR), which remains unchanged throughout the case history

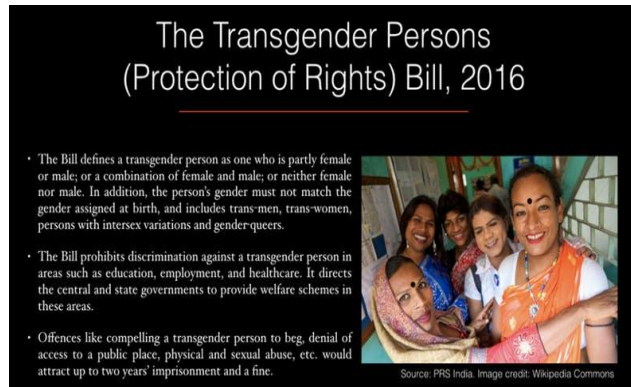
NATIONAL

- **Union Government – approves two new AIIMS in Tamil Nadu and Telangana**

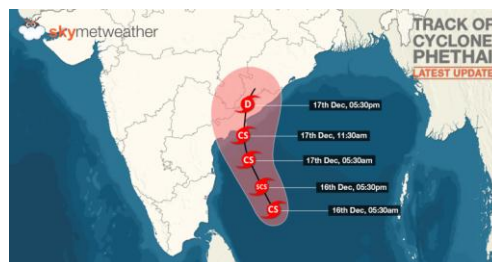
The infographic features a yellow background with a large green cross in the center. At the top left is the logo of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. At the top right is the logo of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The main title is 'Cabinet Approves Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)'. Below this, a red banner contains the text 'Continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)'. A blue arrow points to the heading 'Each New AIIMS to Add', followed by a bulleted list: 'State of the art OTs and diagnostics facilities', '15-20 Super Specialty Departments', and 'Around 750 Beds'. An illustration shows a female doctor in a white coat sitting at a desk with a laptop, talking to a male patient. The website 'www.mohfw.gov.in' is at the bottom left.

- ✓ The new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be set up under 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana' scheme with a period of 45 months
- ✓ The institutes will have 15-20 super speciality departments with 750 beds, offering 100 under-graduate medical seats and 60 BSc Nursing seats
- ✓ AIIMS in Tamil Nadu (at Thoppur, Madurai) was announced in the 2015-16 budget, while the one at Telangana (at Bibi Nagar) was approved in April 2018
- ✓ A budget of Rs 1264 crore has been allocated for the AIIMS in Tamil Nadu and Rs 1,028 crore for the one in Telangana
- ✓ Apart from the AIIMS in Delhi, there are 6 other AIIMS functioning currently in Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Raipur, Patna and Rishikesh
- ✓ The centre had also announced setting up of 13 more AIIMS excluding the new announcement in 2 states

➤ Lok Sabha – passes Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016



- ✓ The new bill aims to empower the transgender community by providing them a separate identity
 - ✓ The bill, introduced in the parliament 2 years ago, has been passed with 27 amendments
 - ✓ Highlights
 - ✓ It defines a Transgender as one who is partly female or male
 - ✓ It states that the person's gender must not match the assigned gender at birth
 - ✓ Every transgender person in the country must obtain an identity certificate as 'Proof' to avail all the rights under the Bill
 - ✓ The identity certificate would be granted by the District Magistrate on the recommendation of a Screening Committee
 - ✓ It directs the central and state governments to provide welfare schemes to the Transgender community
 - ✓ The Bill also provides for the punishment of up to two years' imprisonment and a fine for any sort of abuse of the Transgender
- **Cyclone Phethai – crosses coast at East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh on December 17**



- ✓ It was the 6th named cyclone to hit the southern peninsula so far in this North east monsoon season
- ✓ The previous five named cyclones are Sagar, Mekunu, Luban, Titli and Gaja
- ✓ The name 'Phethai' was given by Thailand, indicating the gem, Zircon

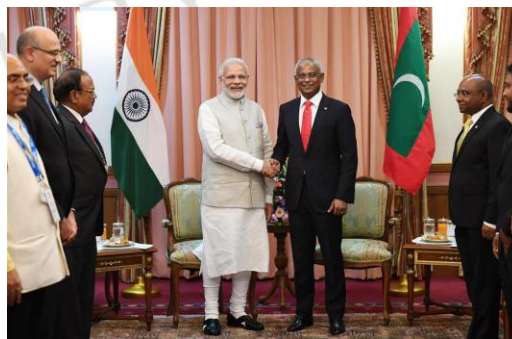
- **India's largest Cancer hospital, the National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar in Haryana – will commence its Out Patient Department services on December 18, 2018**



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
(Jhajjar Campus)



- ✓ The hospital, considered as the country's largest public-funded hospital project, was built at a cost of Rs 2035 crore
- ✓ The hospital would be started in 3 phases with the kicking off of OPD services and 250 beds during the period of January-March 2019
- ✓ It will be followed by the increase in indoor admission upto 500 beds by December 2019 and within another year, the hospital would be fully functional
- ✓ The hospital will be managed by AIIMS, New Delhi
- **India – to give economic assistance worth \$1.4 billion to Maldives**



- ✓ The aid was announced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi after his meeting with Ibrahim Solih, President of Maldives in New Delhi
- ✓ The assistance will be in the form of budgetary support, currency swap and concessional lines of credit
- ✓ Both the countries signed 4 agreements, including one for facilitating visa arrangements
- ✓ and the rest in areas of cultural cooperation, agri-business improvement and in information & communications technology
- ✓ Maldives has recently joined the group of Indian ocean Rim Association countries

- **Union Government – extends ‘Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana’ (PMUY) to all poor households in the country**



- ✓ Hereafter, it will not be mandatory to be part of the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) list or the 7 identified categories - to be eligible for the scheme
 - ✓ The PMUY is the government’s flagship programme to provide free LPG connections, which was launched in May 2016
 - ✓ It targets around 80 million families by the year 2020 (and 50 million by 2019)
 - ✓ Till now, 58.5 million connections have been given across 715 districts under the scheme
- **Kaiga Atomic Power station (Karnataka) – creates World record for continuous operation for 941 days**



- ✓ The previous world record was held by Unit 2 of Heysham of the United Kingdom, which worked non-stop for 940 days
- ✓ The Kaiga station is the third largest nuclear power plant in India, after Tarapur (Maharashtra-1400 MW) and Rawatbhata (Rajasthan-1180 MW)
- ✓ It has been functioning since 2000 with a total capacity of 880 MW
- ✓ It supplies electricity to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- ✓ The same unit of Kaiga Power plant had set a world record in October 2018 when it functioned non-stop for 894 days

➤ **IIT, Bhubaneswar – wins the first edition of 'The Grand India IoT Innovation Challenge' by Tata Communications**

- ✓ Prajjawala from IIT Bhubaneswar received Rs 5 lakh as the winner for his Internet-of-Things (IoT) based solution – to store, track and analyse data related to consumers' LPG consumption
- ✓ The second place winner was the "Dominators" team from the Army Institute of Technology – which had developed an IoT device that can be plugged to a streetlight, creating a heat map of mosquitoes
- ✓ The third place was jointly held by “Sanrakshak” team from Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Chennai and the "Short Circuits" team from BITS Pilani
- ✓ Sanrakshak developed affordable sensors to provide real-time data on the occurrence of faults on the railway lines
- ✓ Short Circuits dealt with power deficiency issues by accessing the energy stored in electric vehicles, when not in use.
- ✓ The challenge, spread over a 4-month period, was organised in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

➤ **India - allows Huawei, Chinese telecom giant – to participate in 5G trials in the country**

- ✓ The other companies invited for the trials are Nokia, Ericsson and Samsung

COURT VERDICT

➤ **Madras High Court – bans ‘online’ sale of medicines – till the Government notifies rules regulating it**

- ✓ Justice Puspha sathyanarayana, hearing the various petitions on the issue, directed the Government to notify the proposed ‘Drugs and Cosmetics Amendment Rules, 2018’ not later than January 31, 2019

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **United Nations – adopts ‘Global compact on Refugees’ – with its member nations supporting it overwhelmingly**



- ✓ Only United Nations and Hungary voted against the agreement while 181 countries voted in favour with the Dominican Republic, Eritrea and Libya abstained in the voting
 - ✓ The new 'Compact' deal would provide more strong support to those fleeing their countries and for the countries that take them in
 - ✓ Recently, it has to be recalled that the 'Global Compact for Safe, orderly and Regular Migration', was formally adopted by 164 Governments at an international conference in Marrakech, Morocco
 - ✓ Refugee - People who are forced to leave their country of origin under fear
 - ✓ Migrant - people who make a conscious choice to leave their country to seek a better life elsewhere.
- **Justice – is the 2018 Word of the year – chosen by Merriam-webster Dictionary**



- ✓ The selection follows the word 'toxic' chosen by Oxford Dictionaries and 'misinformation' chosen by Dictionary.com earlier
- ✓ As per the dictionary, there was an increase of 74% in the searches for the word 'Justice' in the year 2018 when compared with 2017
- ✓ The word 'Justice' was used in many phrases like racial justice, social justice and obstruction of justice
- ✓ The Word of the Year for 2016 was 'Surreal' and for 2017 was 'Feminism'
- ✓ Merriam-Webster is a US company famous for its dictionaries
- ✓ The company started publishing the list of most used words - since 2003

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2018 – concludes in Katowice, Poland (December 2-14, 2018)**



- ✓ It is the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)

- ✓ The meeting, which saw the participation of delegates from 200 nations, was presided by Polish President, Michal Kurtyka
 - ✓ The next COP25 will take place in Chile
 - ✓ US President Donald Trump announced to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris agreement on June 1, 2017
 - ✓ Highlights of Katowice Package
 - ✓ All the nations, including the US, agreed on the rules to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement that will come into effect in 2020
 - ✓ The rules are regarding various measures taken by the countries to reduce the carbon-emissions
 - ✓ The primary objective of the 2015 Paris agreement - is to limit the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- **1st ever 2-day 'National Workshop on Explosive Detection 2018' - was inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, Maharashtra**
 - ✓ OPX-Revelator, a portal electronic explosive detector, developed by HEMRL was unveiled in the workshop
 - ✓ It is capable of detecting more than 25 explosives hidden in different forms

PERSONALITIES

- **Ashok Gehlot – sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Rajasthan for the third time on December 17, 2017**



- ✓ Sachin Pilot was also sworn in as the 5th ever Deputy CM of the state
- ✓ Governor, Kalyan Singh administered the oath to both the leaders
- ✓ He replaces Vasundhara Raje Scindia, who was the first and only woman CM of the state
- ✓ The Indian National Congress won 99 seats out of 199 seats and formed the government
- ✓ Gehlot entered into politics in early 1970s and served as Union Minister in Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Narsimha rao governments
- ✓ His first term as Rajasthan CM was from 1998 to 2003 and the second term was from 2008 to 2013
- ✓ Sachin pilot has also served as Minister of Corporate Affairs under Manmohan Singh in the Union cabinet

➤ **Bhupesh Baghel – was sworn in as the third Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on December 17**



- ✓ Governor, Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office to the leader
- ✓ He replaces BJP's Raman Singh, the longest-serving Chief Minister of any state who served the state for 15 years (2003-2018)
- ✓ Baghel became the state Congress chief in October 2014
- ✓ After the formation of Chhattisgarh in 2000, he served as a Revenue Minister in the Ajit Jogi Government until 2003, when the BJP came to power
- ✓ The Indian National Congress won 68 seats out of 90 seats winning the majority to form the government

➤ **Kamal Nath – sworn in as the 18th Chief minister of Madhya Pradesh on December 17**



- ✓ Governor, Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office to the veteran congress leader
- ✓ The Indian National Congress won 114 seats out of 230 seats and with the support of BSP (2 seats), SP (1 seat) and independents (4), it had achieved the majority of 115 seats to form the government
- ✓ He was elected as the president of the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee in May 2018
- ✓ Nath was first elected to the 7th Lok Sabha in 1980 with Indira Gandhi's famous remark that he was her 'Third son' – edging out Moraji Desai's Janta party alliance
- ✓ He has been elected for 9 times from Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency of Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ He has served as Union Minister in various capacities under Manmohan Singh Government
- ✓ He replaces Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was the longest serving Chief Minister of the state with 13 years in office (2005 to 2018)

- **Sonam Kapoor – has been named as the Person of the Year 2018 by PETA India**



- ✓ Sonam, a vegan, is an advocate for animal rights and keeps animal skin out of her handbag line for her fashion brand, Rheson
- ✓ In 2016, she was named PETA India's Hottest Vegetarian Celebrity and won a Compassionate Business Award from the group in 2017
- ✓ The winner of the PETA 2017 Person of the Year Award was Anushka Sharma
- ✓ PETA India, based in Mumbai, was launched during January 2000

DEFENCE

- **Indra Navy-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian Navies – concludes on December 16 in the Bay of Bengal**



- ✓ The first edition of the annual exercise was conducted in May 2003 in India
- ✓ Indian Navy's INS Ranvir, INS Satpura, INS Kadmatt, IN Ships Kuthar and Khanjar and INS Jyoti participated in the exercise
- ✓ The last edition of Indra Navy took place in 2016 in the Bay of Bengal

APPOINTMENTS

- **Madhavi Goradia Divan, noted Advocate – was appointed as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) by the Union Government**



- ✓ She remains in office till June 30, 2020 and will represent the Government of India in the Supreme Court
 - ✓ She is the third woman to hold the post of ASG, following Senior advocate Indira Jaising and Pinky Anand
 - ✓ Madhavi began her legal career from the Bombay High Court and later moved to Supreme Court, where she represented the states of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat
 - ✓ She played a great role in getting Triple Talaq getting criminalised by the Supreme Court of India in August 2017
- **FICCI - New Appointments**
 - ✓ **Sandip Somany – was elected as the President of FICCI** (The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)



- ✓ He is the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of HSIL Limited
 - ✓ He was previously working as the Senior Vice President, FICCI
 - ✓ **Sangita Reddy**, Joint Managing Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group was elevated as the **Senior Vice President** of the chamber for 2018-19
 - ✓ **Uday Shankar**, Chairman and CEO of Star India, joined FICCI as the **next Vice President**
- **Ramphal Pawar – appointed as the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**
 - ✓ He is the current Joint Secretary in National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

AWARDS

- **Ashok Amritraj – honoured with ‘French Knight of the National Order of Merit’ award in Mumbai – for his contribution to Cinema production and Indo-French film industry**



- ✓ Ashok is a longtime film producer and founder of ‘Hyde Park Entertainment’
- ✓ He was also the former CEO of National Geographic Films and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador
- ✓ Amritraj has produced more than 120 movies - after a successful professional tennis career
- ✓ He is the producer of hollywood films such as ‘Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance’ with Nicholas Cage, ‘99 Homes’ starring Andrew Garfield and Robert Rodriguez’s ‘Machete’
- ✓ He’s worked with acclaimed directors ranging from Barry Levinson to James Ivory

SPORTS

- **Virat Kohli – becomes the second fastest player to score 25 test centuries – at Perth during the second test match with Australia**



- ✓ Kohli has taken 127 innings to reach the mark which is three innings fewer than Sachin Tendulkar (130)
 - ✓ Only Don Bradman has taken fewer innings (68) to reach the 25-centuries mark
 - ✓ During the knock, Kohli also equalled Tendulkar's record of 6 centuries in Australia – the most by an Indian
- **Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep - named 2018 ITF world champions – by The International Tennis Federation (ITF)**



- ✓ World No 1, Djokovic receives the honour for the sixth time
- ✓ He won four titles including Wimbledon and the US Open this year
- ✓ For Halep, this is the first honour by the ITF
- ✓ She was ranked World No 1 for 40 weeks in this year
- ✓ USA's Mike Bryan and Jack Sock will receive the award in Men's double category
- ✓ Bryan receives the honour for the 12th time and Sock for the 1st time

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Migrants Day – December 18



- ✓ The resolution to observe the day was passed by the United Nations General Assembly on 4th December 2000
 - ✓ Theme 2018 - “Migration with Dignity”
- **UAE – to celebrate the year 2019 as the ‘Year of Tolerance’** – to announce that the country is welcoming and tolerant of all religions



Etihad Tolerance Day celebrations at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi.

- ✓ Earlier, the country had announced 2018 as the ‘Year of Zayed’ and 2017 as the ‘Year of Giving’
- ✓ In November 2018, a World Tolerance Summit was held in Dubai
- ✓ Pope Francis will visit Abu Dhabi in February 2019 and conduct a mass at Zayed sports city with around one lakh people expected to attend
- ✓ The Special Olympic World Games will be held in Abu Dhabi from March 14-21 in 2019

