

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 16, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Greater Chennai Corporation – to allow its project contractors pay the Deposit money ‘online’ soon**
- ✓ The Commissioner of Corporation, D Karthikeyan, announced that the EMD, Earnest money deposit, which is 1% of the total contract value – can be paid ‘online’ soon
- **Chennai Corporation – renames ‘Fraser Bridge Road’ into ‘TNPSC Road’**
- ✓ The move follows the announcement made by K Pandiarajan, Minister of Tamil Development – to rename all the roads of the state in Tamil
- ✓ The TNPSC Road is located in VOC Nagar of Royapuram zone in Chennai corporation
- **A Space science technology gallery lab cum training centre – was opened in a Government School in Puduppalayam, Edappadi, Salem**



- ✓ This is the first time in the entire country that such a centre was inaugurated in a Government school
- ✓ It was developed with the assistance of ISRO

STATES

- **Jammu & Kashmir – to have the country’s first ‘Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants’**
- ✓ The foundation stone for the institute was laid by Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and Shripad Yesso Naik (Ayush Ministry)



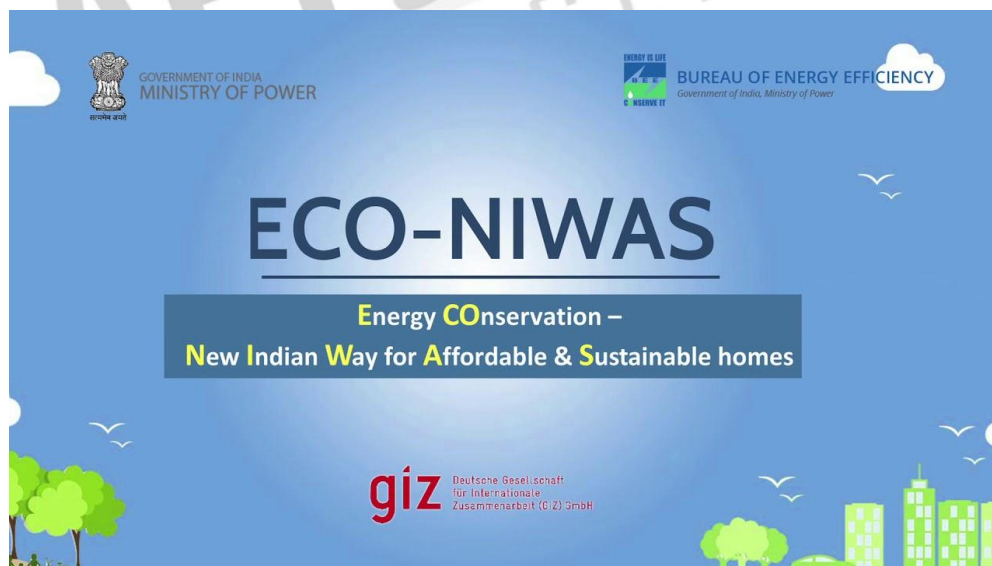
- ✓ It will be located in Bhaderwah in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir
- ✓ The institute, to be set up at a budget of Rs 100 crore, will provide research in medicinal plants and promote their cultivation

NATIONAL

- **India’s first Railway University – was dedicated to the nation in Vadodara - by Piyush Goyal, Railways Minister and Vijay Rupani, CM of Gujarat**



- ✓ The university, named 'the National Rail and Transportation Institute' (NRTI) - is the third in the world after Russia and China
 - ✓ The deemed university had earlier started its functioning from the Teachers day on September 5, 2018
 - ✓ It has enrolled its first batch of 103 students from 20 states in two fully-residential, three-year undergraduate courses (62 for BSc in Transportation Technology and 41 in BBA in Transportation Management) in September 2018
 - ✓ Ashok Lohani, Chairman of Railways Board, has been named the Vice Chancellor of the University
 - ✓ The actual annual fee of NRTI for one year is Rs 91,000, whereas the first batch of the students had a 50% scholarship in the yearly course fee of Rs 75,000
 - ✓ The Railways Ministry has sanctioned a budget of Rs 421 crore for the university and its curriculum development for the next 5 years
 - ✓ The university will also start the Master Degree programmes from the academic session 2019-20 in Transportation and Systems Design, Transport Systems Engineering, Transport Policy and Economics, and others
 - ✓ The university building's construction has been designed on the lines of 'Pratap Vilas Palace' of the erstwhile Gaekwad state
- **ECO Niwas 2018, a new Energy conservation building code for residential buildings – launched by Ministry of Power** - on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day 2018 (December 14) in New Delhi

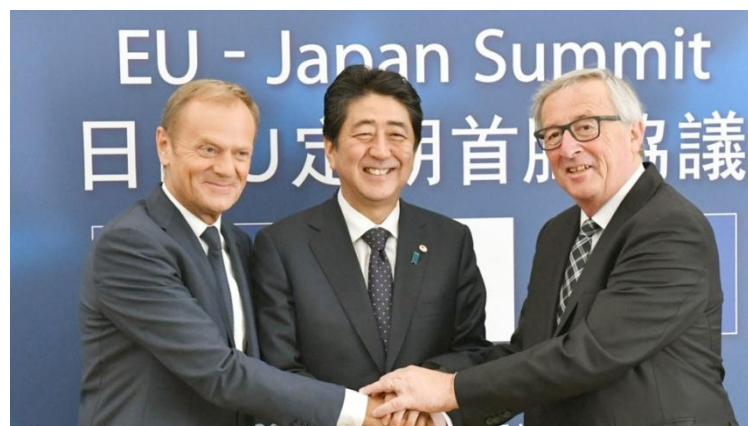


- ✓ The new code promotes energy efficiency in the design and construction of homes
- ✓ It will potentially save energy of about 125 billion units of electricity per year by 2030, which is equivalent to about 100 million ton of (Carbon dioxide) CO₂ emission

- ✓ By 2030, the energy demand in the building sector would have risen from around 350 billion units in 2018 to approximately 1000 billion units
- **National Green Tribunal – sets aside the Tamil Nadu G.O. to permanently close the Sterlite Copper smelter unit in Tuticorin and allows it to resume operation** – in its order on December 15, 2018
- ✓ A bench of NGT, headed by chairperson A K Goel directed Tamil nadu pollution control board (TNPCCB) to issue ‘authorisation’ orders, subject to the compliance of appropriate conditions for environmental protection – within 3 weeks from the date of order
- ✓ The NGT directed Vedanta Group, the owner of Sterlite, to comply with the recommendations suggested by the 3-member panel, headed by Tarun Agarwal, former Chief justice of Meghalaya high court
- ✓ The tribunal also accepted the offer made by the Vedanta group to invest Rs 100 crore in social welfare measures in nearby villages, including maintenance of schools and villages over a period of 3 years
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government responded to the verdict saying it would go on appeal against the order in the Supreme Court
- ✓ The State Government had sealed the unit earlier on May 28, 2018

INTERNATIONAL

- **Australia – becomes the 3rd country to recognize ‘Jerusalem’ as the Capital of Israel after US and Guatemala**
- ✓ But, unlike the other 2 countries, it recognizes only the western Jerusalem and said that the Eastern Jerusalem would be recognized only after the settlement between Israel and Palestine
- ✓ It also said that it won’t move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem unless the peace settlement is made between the two countries
- **European Union (EU) – approves ‘World’s largest’ Free-trade agreement (FTA) deal with Japan**



- ✓ The new 'EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement' - will eliminate all tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers between both the economies
- ✓ It will come into effect from February 1, 2019
- ✓ It is expected to boost the exports of EU by 34% and Japan by 29% leading to benefits for both the economies

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) - held in New Delhi**



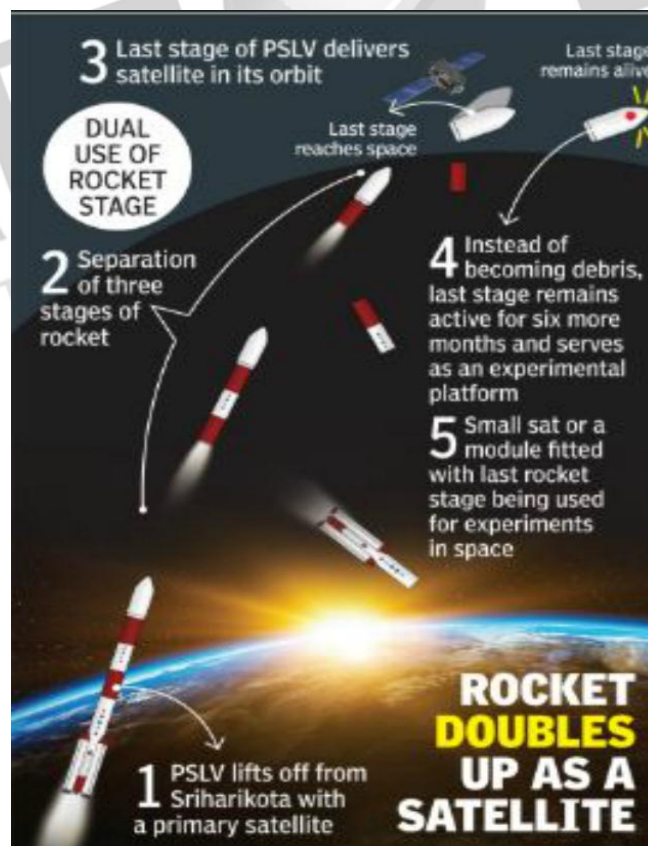
- ✓ Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and her Russian counterpart, General Sergei Shoigu participated in the meeting
 - ✓ The commission was set up in 2000 to discuss range of issues regarding military equipment and defence cooperation between both the countries
 - ✓ The First meeting of the IRIGC-MTC was held in Moscow in 2001
 - ✓ The next meeting will be held in Russia in 2019
- **4th edition of WHO Global forum on medical devices – held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**



- ✓ The 3-day event was the first time the forum is being held in India
- ✓ During the event, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, dedicated the 'AP Medtech Zone' to the nation
- ✓ Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, announced setting up of a 'National Medical Devices Promotion Council' under the 'Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion' (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- ✓ He also announced that Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP will be the head of the Council, which will be assisted by AP Medtech Zone for technical support
- ✓ The inaugural Global Forum was held in Bangkok in 2010, the 2nd in Geneva in 2013, and the 3rd also in Geneva in 2017

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **ISRO – to make the 'Dead rocket' come 'Alive' in space – for the first time in history**
- ✓ It is currently working on a new technology where it will use the last stage of the PSLV rocket for Space experiments



- ✓ For the demonstration, it is planning to send PSLV C44 rocket in January 2019, which will carry a Microsat as the Primary satellite

- ✓ This microsat will have inbuilt batteries and solar panel, which will keep the last stage of the rocket 'active' for a period of 6 months for more experiments in space

AWARDS

- **Shree Saini, an Indian-American – wins Miss India Worldwide 2018 in New Jersey, United States**



- ✓ Sakshi Sinha (Australia) and Anusha Sareen (UK) were crowned as the first and second runner-ups respectively
- ✓ This is the 27th edition of the annual global pageant for Indian-origin girls, which saw the participation of Indian-origin girls from 17 countries
- ✓ India's Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, another Indian-American from Haryana - was crowned as Mrs India Worldwide 2018, during the event
- ✓ It is organized by 'India Festival committee' of New York, headed by Dharmatma Saran
- ✓ The next edition of the pageant will be hosted in Mumbai next year

