


**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 22, 2018**

**TAMIL NADU**

- India and Japan – signs MoU for loan agreement to Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2)

**PROJECT COST CUT BY ₹11,300 CRORE**

PHASE- 2		CURRENT STATUS
Total distance   107.55km		➤ Soil test under way on 52.01km priority corridor from CMBT to Sholinganallur with 57 stations ➤ Detailed design being prepared ➤ 800 notices issued for land acquisition
Total stations   116		
<b>Corridor 3   Madhavaram-SIPCOT</b> 46.1 km (50 stations including 22 elevated stations from Indira Road Junction to SIPCOT2 station)		
<b>Corridor 4   CMBT- Lighthouse</b> 17.1 km (20 underground stations)		
<b>Corridor 5   Madhavaram-Sholinganallur</b> 45.2 km (46 stations)		

- ✓ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) - had sanctioned Japanese Yen (JPY) 75.519 billion (Rs 4760 crores) for the 107.55 km Phase 2 of the project
- ✓ Since 2008, JICA had funded Rs 11,000 crore in loans for developing around 52.4 km of the metro rail network
- ✓ Phase-2, initially estimated to cost Rs 85,047 crore, was later cut by nearly Rs 11,300 crore
- ✓ Phase-2 is expected to link all four corners of the city with the core area
- ✓ In addition, Japan will provide JPY 15.000 billion for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India apart from allocating JPY 14.978 billion for Dairy Development project in the country

## SCHEMES

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme 'Field-level' campaign – to be launched in 3 states from first week of January 2019**



- ✓ As part of the campaign, around 900 cultural programmes would be organized in various districts of Maharashtra, 100 programmes in Goa and 30 programmes in UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli respectively
- ✓ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)
- ✓ The scheme was launched on January 22, 2015 with an initial funding of Rs 100 crore
- ✓ It aims to address the issue of the declining child sex ratio (CSR) and intends to improve the welfare services for girls
- ✓ The Child sex ratio, i.e. number of girls per 1000 of boys between 0-6 years of age, is constantly declining – it was 945 in 1991, 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011
- ✓ It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development
- ✓ Olympics 2016 bronze medallist, Sakshi Malik was made brand ambassador for BBBP on 26 August 2016
- ✓ Dr. Rajendra Phadke is the National Convener of BBBP

## NATIONAL

- **Union Government – has authorized 10 'Central Agencies' to monitor 'any' computer system in the country**
- ✓ They are – Intelligence Bureau, Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, CBI, National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Research and Analysis Wing, Directorate of Signal Intelligence (in Jammu & Kashmir, the North-East and Assam) and the Delhi Police

- ✓ These agencies now has the ‘Power’ to intercept, monitor and decrypt the data in “any” computer system in the country – after obtaining approval from the concerned state government or Union home secretary
  - ✓ The notification in this regard was issued by the Cyber and Information Security Division under the Home ministry on December 20
  - ✓ The notification complies with Section 69 of the IT Act, 2000 under which comes the Rule 4 of Information Technology (Procedures and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009
  - ✓ The rules for intercepting and monitoring computer data were earlier framed in 2009
- **Union Government – introduces Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018 - to amend the Companies Act, 2013**
- ✓ The proposed bill seeks to further improve the ease of doing business, ease burden of the special courts and modify punishments
  - ✓ It will replace the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, that was promulgated on November 2, 2018
  - ✓ These amendments were based on the recommendations of a government-appointed 10-member committee under Injeti Srinivas, Corporate Affairs Secretary - to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013
  - ✓ The committee was constituted on July 15, 2018 and asked to submit its report within 30 days to the Central Government
- **‘World Herbal Forest’ project of Patanjali – inaugurated at Morni Hill in Haryana (near Chandigarh)**



- ✓ Haryana CM, Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled the project, which is a collaboration between the Haryana Government and Patanjali
- ✓ Covering a vast 52,000 acres of land, the project would develop a medicinal plants forest – to boost Ayurvedic industry in the country

- ✓ During the first phase of the project, around 50,000 plants, each of 20 medicinal varieties, are being sown

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

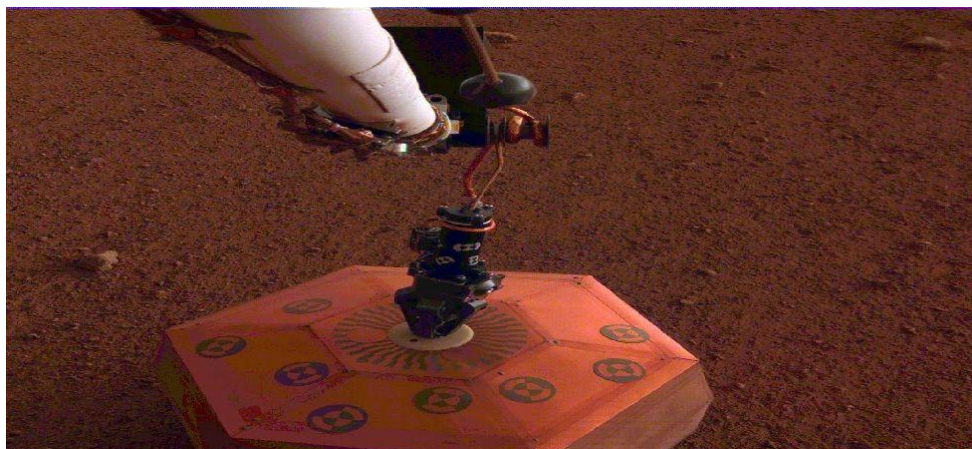
- **15<sup>th</sup> edition of Global SME Business Summit – held in New Delhi**



- ✓ The 2-day summit was organised by the Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace
- ✓ Theme - 'Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains'
- ✓ During the event, Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) announced that the Government would set up 20 more Technology centres to help MSMEs
- ✓ Currently, 10 such centres are operational in the country at various states

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA's 'Insight' places its first instrument, a seismometer (SEIS) on the Planet Mars**



- ✓ The seismometer, world's first ever instrument placed on another planet's surface, will listen for quakes and wobbles in the Red planet
- ✓ Insight - Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport
- ✓ It was launched by NASA on 5 May 2018 and landed on Mars on 26 November 2018, covering a distance of 483 million km

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Mahesh Narayanan – appointed as the new Country Manager for LinkedIn**



- ✓ LinkedIn is a professional networking platform owned by Microsoft
  - ✓ Before this appointment, Mahesh worked with Saavn (Music and audio streaming service) and spearheaded Google India's mobile advertising business from 2010 to 2013
- **Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) – appointed as the next President of South Asian Fencing Body**



- ✓ The appointment will be for a period of 4 years
- ✓ Rajeev Mehta is also the incumbent President of Fencing Association of India (FAI)
- ✓ The First South Asian Fencing Championship 2019 will be held in Chhattisgarh
- ✓ Fencing has been included in the next South Asian games to be held in August 2019 in Nepal

## AWARDS

- **C.R.I. pumps – wins the prestigious ‘National Energy Conservation Award 2018’ in the pumps category for the fourth time**



Ministry of Power, Government of India has awarded the **National Energy Conservation Award**.  
Mr. G. Selvaraj, Joint Managing Director of C.R.I. Group received the award from  
Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of Lok Sabha & Shri. Raj Kumar Singh, Honorable Minister of State.

- ✓ They are one of the leading manufacturers of energy efficient pumps (5-star rated) in the country
- ✓ C.R.I. is the highest contributor for the EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) projects in the country by replacing the old inefficient pumps
- ✓ C.R.I. group joint Managing Director, Mr. G. Selvaraj received the award on behalf of the group

## RANKINGS

- **India’s Top 10 Police Station rankings – released by Rajnath Singh, Union Home minister**

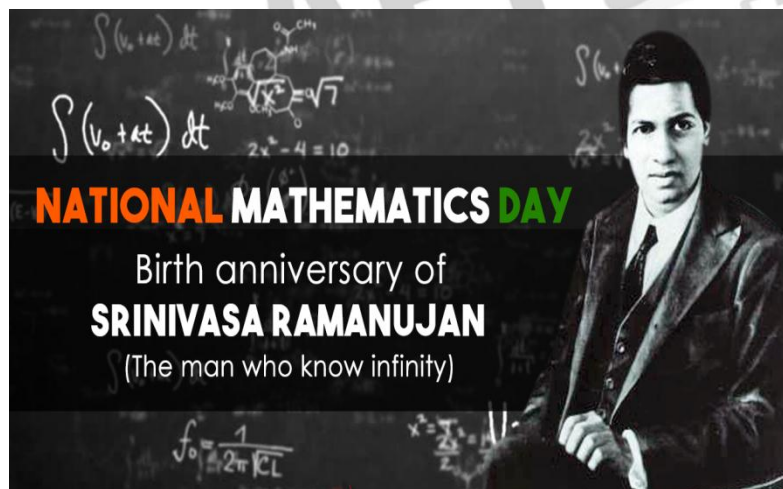


### ✓ Top 5

- ✓ 1 - Kalu Police station (Rajasthan)
  - ✓ 2 - Campbell Bay (Andaman and Nicobar)
  - ✓ 3 - Farakka (West Bengal)
  - ✓ 4 - Nettapakkam (Puducherry)
  - ✓ 5 - Gudageri (Dharwad district of Karnataka)
- ✓ The rankings were based on the number of cases solved in the last year apart from the analysis of their efficiency and courtesy levels

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Mathematics Day – December 22



**RAMANUJAN'S MAGIC SQUARE**

22	12	18	87
88	17	9	25
10	24	89	16
19	86	23	11

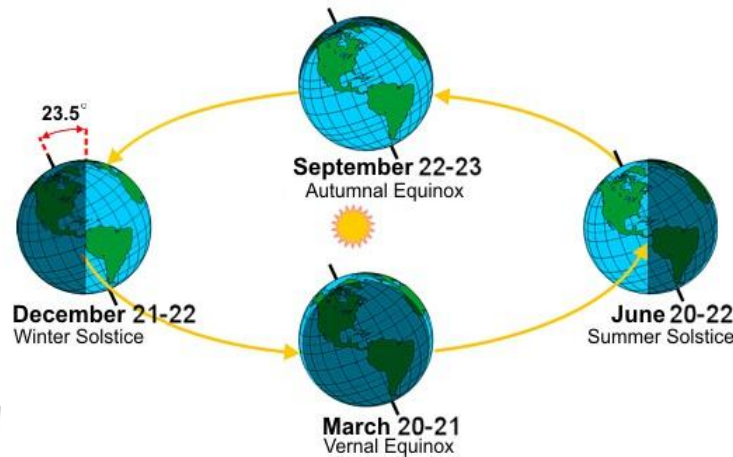


Sum of numbers of any column = 139.  
 Sum of Diagonal elements = 139.  
 Sum of any (2x2) square = 139.  
 What an interesting Square by Srinivasa Ramanujan!

- ✓ The observance of this day celebrates the contribution of Srinivasa Ramanujan, acclaimed Indian Mathematician, to the field of Mathematics
- ✓ This year, the country is celebrating the 131<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of the genius mathematician
- ✓ The day is observed since 2011
- ✓ Earlier, Year 2012 was declared as 'National Mathematics Year' by the Union Government

- ✓ Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 (Erode, Tamil Nadu) and died on 26 April 1920
- ✓ He achieved expertise in Mathematics at a very young age
- ✓ His papers were published in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society in the year 1911
- ✓ The number 1729 is famously known as the Hardy-Ramanujan number
- ✓ The famous Ramanujan Magic square with his date of birth at the first row was another proof to his ingenuity

➤ **Winter Solstice and Summer Solstice – December 21**

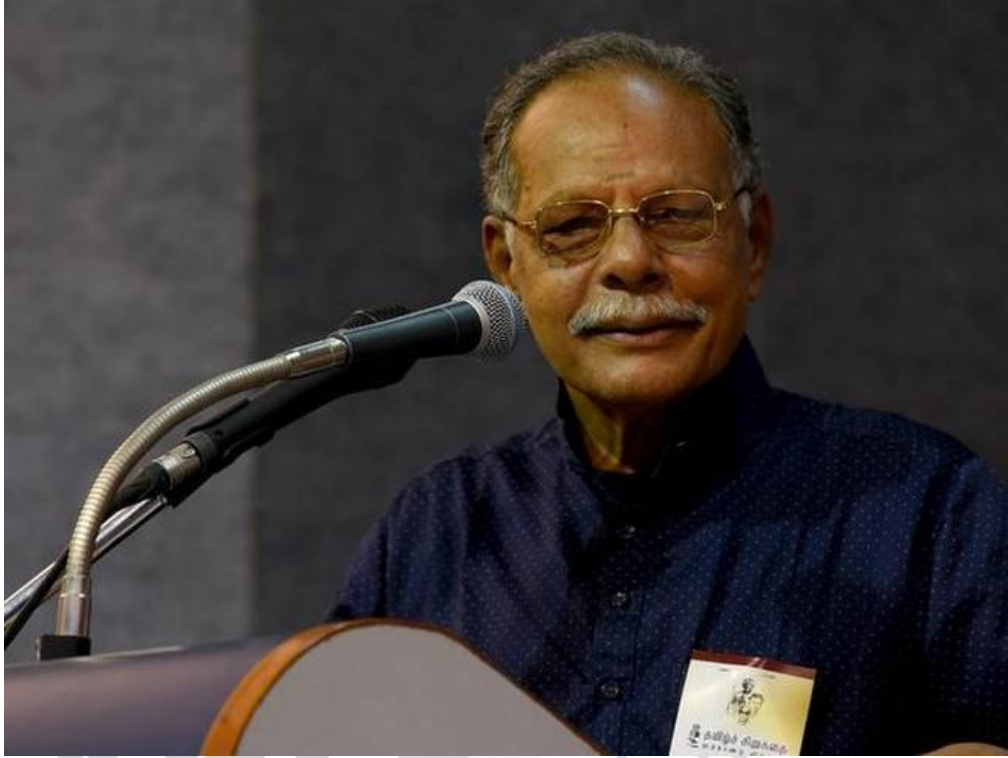


- ✓ Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year – was observed in the Northern hemisphere
- ✓ Summer Solstice, the Longest Day of the year - was observed in the Southern Hemisphere
- ✓ They are caused due to the tilt of the Earth and its elliptical path around the sun
- ✓ The roles are reversed on June 21<sup>st</sup> when the Northern Hemisphere observes Summer Solstice and Southern Hemisphere observes winter solstice
- ✓ These 2 solstices were also called as June solstice and December solstice
- ✓ The days of the year with the most and fewest daylight hours are called the solstices
- ✓ The summer solstice, which happens on June 21 or 22 each year, has the longest daylight time. It's also the first day of summer
- ✓ The winter solstice, on December 21 or 22, has the shortest daylight time, and officially kicks off winter



# OBITUARY

## ➤ Prapanchan, path-breaking Tamil novelist (73 years)



- ✓ Prapanchan is the pseudonym of S Vaidyalingam, who was born in Puducherry in 1945
- ✓ Prapanchan had written 'Vaanam Vasapadum' in the tamil magazine 'Dinamani Kadhir' in 1993
- ✓ He introduced Modern historic fiction to Tamil with his novel 'Vaanam Vasapadum' that won him a Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995
- ✓ The historic novel was set in the times of Ananda Ranga Pillai (1709-1761), a dubash who served the French East India company
- ✓ The novel was based on the private diaries maintained by Pillai from 1736 to 1761 which gave an insight about enormous source of history of 18th Century India
- ✓ His first short story, "Enna Ulagamada" was published in 'Barani', a Tamil magazine in 1961
- ✓ Prapanchan, author of 46 books, was influenced by the self-respect movement
- ✓ His play 'Muttai' features in the syllabus of Delhi University
- ✓ His short story collection 'Netru Manidhargal' is a subject in many colleges

## பெற்ற விருதுகள்

- 1982: தமிழக அரசு விருது (ஒரு ஊரில் இரண்டு மனிதர்கள்)  
1983: இலக்கியச் சிந்தனை விருது (பிரம்மம்-சிறந்த சிறுகதை விருது)  
1986: தமிழக அரசு விருது (நேற்று மனிதர்கள்)  
1987: புதுவை அரசு விருது (ஆண்களும், பெண்களும்)  
1991: இலக்கிய சிந்தனை விருது (மானுடம் வெல்லும்)  
1995: சாகித்ய அகாதெமி விருது (வானம் வசப்படும்)  
1996: பாரதிய பாஷா பரிஷத் விருது (வானம் வசப்படும்)  
1998: தினத்தந்தி ஆதித்தனார் விருது  
1998: புதுவை அரசின் கலைமாமணி விருது  
2006: புதுவை அரசின் தமிழ்மாமணி விருது  
2007: சிறந்த எழுத்தாளர் விருது (தென்னிந்திய புத்தகப் பதிப்பாளர்கள் மற்றும் தமிழக அரசு)  
2014: க.நா.சு. வாழ்நாள் சாதனையாளர் விருது  
2016: வாழ்நாள் சாதனையாளர் விருது (தமிழ்நாடு முற்போக்கு கலை இலக்கிய மேடை, தேனி)

- ✓ Some of his acclaimed novels include Vaanam vasappadum, Mahanadhi, Manudam vellum, Sandhya, Kagidha Manidhargal, Kaneeral Kappom, Penmai velga, Padhavi and Erodu Thamizhar uyirodu
- ✓ His short story collections include Netru Manidhargal, Vittu Viduthalayagi, Iruttin Vaasal and Oru ooril irandu manidhargal
- ✓ He has also written several Plays which include Muttai and Akalya