

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 15, 2018**

**TAMIL NADU**

- **State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) – has linked its ‘online’ bus booking services to Red Bus and Bus India**



- ✓ Soon, Paytm will also be added to this list
  - ✓ SETC operates over 1,100 long-distance buses in Tamil Nadu across 250 routes in neighbouring Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh
  - ✓ In July, SETC had adopting a flexi-fare model — reducing fares during weekdays
  - ✓ Later, boarding points were shifted to Egmore and Adyar from Koyambedu as a part of its efforts to attract more passengers
- **A new Government-backed Tamil Education channel – to be inaugurated from Pongal festival in the state – in Arasu Cable TV**
  - ✓ It will focus on providing advises to students regarding school education department schemes, competitive exams, scholarship exams and various entrance exams
  - ✓ Kerala already has a similar channel for the state’s school and education department
  - ✓ An Integrated Educational Channel Centralised Studio will come up at Anna Centenary Library’s 8<sup>th</sup> floor for the purpose
  - ✓ A budget of Rs 1.35 crore has been allotted for the purpose

- **A new veterinary research centre – to come up at Thailaivasal Coot Road in Salem**
- ✓ Spanning 800 acres, the proposed international level research centre will provide practical sessions regarding livestock development and management
- ✓ The announcement for the same was made by Tamil Nadu CM, Edappadi K Palaniswami

## STATES

- **Jammu & Kashmir – becomes the first state in the country to have a ‘Law’ banning sexual exploitation of women by those in authority or a public servant**
- ✓ The Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 - seeks to amend the Ranbir Penal Code, whereby specific offence under section 354 E is being inserted - to provide for the offence of 'Sextortion'
- ✓ Indian Penal code is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and in its place a similar criminal law, 'Ranbir Penal Code', applies in the state
- ✓ It came into effect from 1932
- ✓ It was introduced by Ranbir Singh during the Dogra Dynasty and prepared by Thomas Babington Macaulay
- **Punjab assembly – passes resolution seeking 33% reservation of Women in Parliament and State legislative assembly**
- ✓ The bill would reserve 180 seats out of 543 seats in Lok Sabha and 1370 seats out of 4109 seats in State Assembly
- ✓ The resolution was moved by Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, urging the Centre to enact it



- ✓ India ranks 148th out of 193 countries in terms of the percentage of women in Parliament

- **Jharkhand – was selected for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category by the Union Ministry of Agriculture**
  - ✓ The state was awarded for producing best quality rice in the year 2016-17.
  - ✓ The award, carrying Rs 2 crore cash prize and a citation, will be given away in February 2019
  - ✓ The award recognizes the effort of farmers using advanced techniques to boost agriculture in the state
  
- **Telangana – to launch the country's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned air vehicles (UAV) at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad, Telangana**
  - ✓ It was built by the Adani Group and Israel-based Elbit Systems at an initial cost of \$15 million (excluding the cost of land)
  - ✓ The 50,000 square feet facility will develop Hermes 900 medium altitude long-endurance UAVs – being the first such facility outside Israel
  - ✓ The plant will later also make the Hermes 480 UAVs
  
- **Ministry of road transport and highways – introduces a structural health monitoring (SHM) system - for a 2.3-km bridge between Okha and Bet Dwarka in Gujarat – to monitor the stability of bridges**
  - ✓ The first-of-its-kind system comprises sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) – to check the load carried by the bearings, malfunction of the bearings and the weight displacement
  - ✓ Like in Denmark, the ministry was also planning to engage regular bridge inspectors in India

**Sensors to be put on new bridges on National Highways**

- Pressure sensors to determine the load carried by the bearings
- Inclination sensors (inclinometers) to measure bearing rotations, detect malfunctioning bearing or other structures
- Inductive sensors to determine thickness of the bearings' sliding material
- Wire displacement sensors to measure bearing movements
- Tuned mass dampers (TMD) sensors to reduce oscillations from induced vortex shedding
- GPS sensors to measure positions (3 coordination) of the bridge



- ✓ The National Highways maintains 1.72 lakh bridges in the country

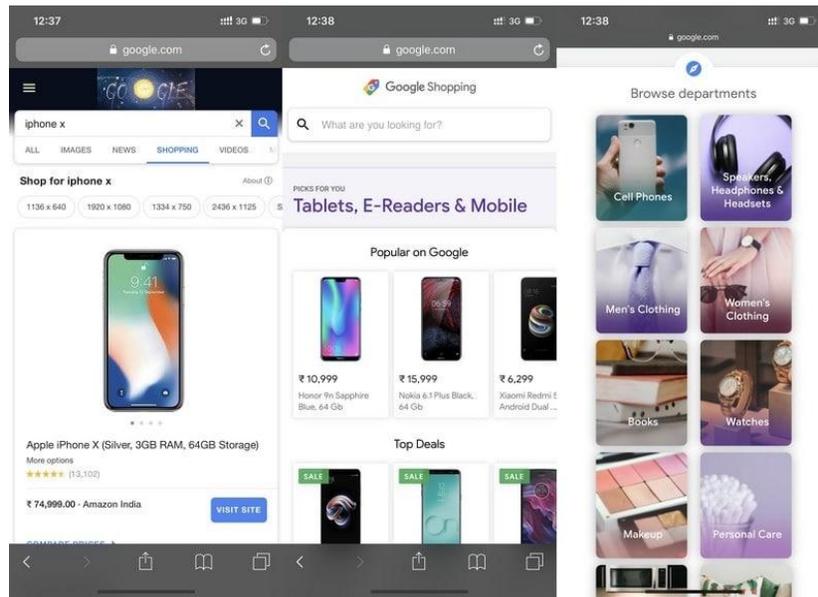
# NATIONAL

- **India Post – launches the ‘Internet facility’ for the customers of Post office savings bank account holders**



- ✓ It was launched by Manoj Sinha, Union Minister for Communication (independent charge)
  - ✓ With the new portal, Customers can transfer funds ‘Online’ from one Post office Saving Bank Account to other easily
  - ✓ It also provides a new ‘online’ marketplace for sellers to sell their products
  - ✓ The Indian postal system was launched on April 1, 1854
  - ✓ It is divided into 23 postal circles
  - ✓ The first stamp in Asia was issued in India in July 1852 by Bartle Frere
  - ✓ The PIN (Postal Information Number) code was introduced on August 15, 1972
  - ✓ Totally, there are 9 PIN regions, with 8 denoting geographical regions and one reserved for Army Postal Service
- **3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ‘Women Transforming India’ awards – to be organised by NITI Aayog on December 16, 2018**
  - ✓ During the occasion, NITI Aayog will also launch the upgraded portal of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)
  - ✓ M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President will present the awards this year to 15 selected recipients
  - ✓ Theme for awards 2018 - ‘Women and Entrepreneurship’
  - ✓ The awards were launched in 2016 to recognize the exceptional ‘entrepreneurial’ women
  - ✓ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) was launched on 1st January 2015 to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the policy making process
  - ✓ It replaced the Planning Commission of India, which was launched on March 15, 1950, with Jawaharlal Nehru as the Chairman
  - ✓ Rajiv Kumar is the current Vice Chairperson and Amitabh Kant is the present CEO of NITI Aayog

- **Google – launches ‘Google Shopping’, a dedicated search engine for better online shopping experience**



- ✓ The new shopping experience has been launched on three platforms - ‘Shopping’ tab on Google Search, Google Lens app on mobile devices and a brand new Shopping home page
- ✓ Along with finding products, it also allow users to filter through offers and review prices across multiple retailers.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Sweden – bans outdoor smoking in most of the public places including playgrounds and train station platforms**
  - ✓ The Riksdagen, the Swedish Parliament has now extended the smoking ban to most of the places from July 1, 2019
  - ✓ With the decision, smoking in outdoor restaurants will also be banned
  - ✓ Currently, smoking in the country is only allowed in designated smoking areas in public places even though it has been banned in bars and restaurants
  - ✓ The Scandinavian country aims to be smoke-free by 2025
- **Nepal – bans Indian currency notes above Rs 100 denomination**
  - ✓ The move will affect the Indian tourist and Nepali people working in India, who carry the currency in Nepal for transaction
  - ✓ People have been using the new Indian currency of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations in Nepal for nearly two years now, after the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 in 2016

## COMMITTEES

- **Government – creates a seven-member panel headed by B P Sharma - to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies**
- ✓ B P Sharma is the current Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB)
- ✓ BBB was created in 2014 to select MD's and chairman for public sector banks

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **4<sup>th</sup> edition of Kochi-Muziris biennale – inaugurated in Kochi, Kerala**
- ✓ The 108-day long celebration of Arts is one of the biggest event for Art lovers in the country, showcasing 94 artists in 10 venues across the state
- ✓ Theme - “Possibilities for a Non- Alienated Life”
- ✓ The Biennale this year has a specialty – it has its first woman curator in Anita Dube, an accomplished contemporary artist



- ✓ It has the distinction of world's first biennale with more than half of the participants being women artists
- ✓ The biennale was launched in December 2012, on the lines of Venice biennale, based on the ideas of contemporary artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyaz Komu
- ✓ The event is conducted by Kochi Biennale Foundation along with the support of Government of India

## PERSONALITIES

- **Kamal Nath – to be sworn in as 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on December 17, 2018**



- ✓ Nath, who has held several portfolios in the Manmohan singh-led Union cabinet (2004-2014), was also a nine-time Lok Sabha member from Chhindwara
- ✓ He was appointed the Pro Tem Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014

- ✓ In November 2012, he was awarded the "ABLF Statesman Award" at the Asian Business Leadership Forum Awards 2012
- ✓ The Congress, which won 114 seats, has secured support of 121 MLAs, including SP (1) and BSP (2) and four independents, to cross the majority mark of 116 seats in the 230-member assembly
- ✓ The state Madhya Pradesh was formed on November 1, 1956 from erstwhile Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal State
- ✓ Shivraj Singh Chouhan of BJP, who lost the recent elections, is the longest serving Chief Minister of the state with 13 years in office (2005-2018)

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **ISRO – to launch GSAT-7A communication satellite – aboard GSLV-F11 on December 19, 2018 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**
- ✓ The GSLV Mk II rocket will inject the GSAT-7A into a geosynchronous transfer orbit
- ✓ The mission, designated F11, will be the rocket's 13th flight (F11 – F stands for Operational Flight, whereas D indicates Developmental flight)
- ✓ It is India's 35th communications satellite to be built by ISRO
- ✓ It is configured on ISRO's standard I-2000 kg or the I-2K, bus
- ✓ The satellite has a mission life of eight years
- ✓ It will provide communications capability to Ku-band users over the Indian region
- ✓ GSLV Mk II is ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle and has three stages
- ✓ The satellite will be a dedicated communication satellite to be used for the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- ✓ It has to be recalled that India's heaviest communication satellite weighing 5854 kg, GSAT-11, was launched recently on December 5, 2018 from French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-246 rocket

## **DEFENCE**

- **Operation Oliva – launched by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) – to safeguard Olive Ridley sea turtles**



- ✓ The annual mission will ensure the safe mid-sea journey of the breeding turtles in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area, Devi river mouth, and Rushikulya beach of Odisha

## AWARDS

### ➤ Amitav Ghosh, renowned English fiction writer – selected for Jnanpith Award 2018



- ✓ He becomes the first English writer to win this year's 54<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award for his contribution to literature
- ✓ Born in Kolkata in 1956 to a Bengali-Hindu family, he lives currently in New York with his wife Deborah Baker
- ✓ His most recent book, "The Great Derangement; Climate Change and the Unthinkable, a work of non-fiction", was released in 2016
- ✓ He is the author of several path-breaking novels which include "Shadow Lines", "The Glass Palace", "The Hungry Tide", and Ibis Trilogy -- "Sea of Poppies", "River of Smoke" and "Flood of Fire", which chronicled the Opium trade between India and China run by the East India Company
- ✓ Mr Ghosh won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his book 'The Shadow Lines' in the year 1988
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Shri in 2007
- ✓ He was elected as 'Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature' in 2009 and named 'Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow' in 2015
- ✓ Ghosh will also receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Times Litfest in December 2018
- ✓ The Circle of Reason, written in 1986, was his first novel
- ✓ Jnanpith award was instituted in 1961 with G S Kurup, renowned Malayalam writer being its first recipient

### ➤ International Film Festival of Kerala concludes in Thiruvananthapuram



- ✓ The Iranian feature film 'The Dark Room' won the top most 'Suvarna Chakoram' – The Golden Crow Pheasant Award
- ✓ Lijo Jose Pellissery took home the Silver Pheasant for his film, Ee. Maa. Yau (Malayalam)
- ✓ Pellissery also won the NETPAC award for Best Asian Film in Competition
- ✓ The awards were instituted in 1996 with several national and international films premiering in the event every year

## RANKINGS

### ➤ Largest beneficiary states of Ayushman Bharat scheme

- ✓ Till November 2018, West Bengal, Bihar and Chhattisgarh emerged the largest beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat –
  - ✓ West Bengal was allotted a total of Rs 193.34 crore
  - ✓ Bihar got an allocation of Rs 188.27 crore
  - ✓ Chhattisgarh was allotted an amount of Rs 114.43 crore
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Scheme (or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or National Health Protection Scheme or Modicare)
  - ✓ Launch – April 14, 2018
  - ✓ Coverage – Rs 5 lakhs per family per year
  - ✓ Target – 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (50 crore beneficiaries)
  - ✓ CEO – Dr Indu Bhushan
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Health centre - launched at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh on April 14, 2018

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Energy Conservation Day – December 14



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to create awareness on the importance of energy efficiency and conservation
- ✓ It was first observed on December 14, 1991 – when the 'National Energy Conservation Awards' was given away to industries - for reducing energy consumption

