

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 17, 2018

NATIONAL

- **Union Government – notifies Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018**



- ✓ The rules allow phone calls and internet on flights and ship voyage within the country
- ✓ Highlights
- ✓ Any Indian or foreign airline company having permission to enter the Indian airspace can apply for an in-flight license
- ✓ The IFMC, In-flight and maritime connectivity, can be provided by using telecom networks on the ground as well as using satellites, after taking due permission from the Department of Space
- ✓ An airline company will be authorized to provide in-flight connectivity services for a period of 10 years after meeting all the requirements
- ✓ The airline can provide mobile communication service on the flight only after attaining a height of 3000 meters in the Indian airspace- to avoid interference with terrestrial mobile networks.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Mount Soputan Volcano – erupts twice on the same day (December 16) on Sulawesi island in Indonesia**



- ✓ It is one among the most active volcanoes of Indonesia, which is led by Java Island's Kelud and Merapi volcanoes
- ✓ Indonesia is highly prone to earthquakes and volcanoes as it is located in the 'Pacific Ring of fire'
- ✓ The Ring-of-Fire, also called as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is the place where many major and minor tectonic plates meet
- ✓ The movement of these tectonic plates leads to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and formation of deep trenches in the ocean
- ✓ The Mariana trench, world's deepest ocean trench, is also located in the Ring-of-Fire

DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy – to set up a 'Information Fusion Centre' for the Indian Ocean region – at the 'Information Management and Analysis Centre'- in Gurugram, Haryana**
- ✓ The proposed center will facilitate information exchange regarding 'White shipping' or Commercial shipping – within the Indian ocean region and boost maritime security
- ✓ So far, around 21 countries have signed 'White shipping' agreement with India and only these countries will be able to utilise the service of the proposed center
- ✓ India had also signed the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) agreement, regulated by Italy, for information exchange between commercial ships in high seas

APPOINTMENTS

- **Ranil Wickremasinghe – sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the second time**



- ✓ He was earlier ousted from the position on October 26, 2018 and replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa
- ✓ Overall, Ranil has been sworn in as the Prime minister for the fifth time which is a record in Sri Lanka
- ✓ He was the leader of United National Party since 1994
- ✓ He was appointed as the PM on January 8, 2015

AWARDS

- **Catriona Elisa Gray from the Philippines - was crowned as the Miss Universe 2018 at Thailand**



- ✓ She was crowned by Demi Leigh Nel-Peters from South Africa, the 2017 Miss Universe
- ✓ India's Nehal Chudasama failed to enter the Top 20 in the competition, which saw the participation of 94 contestants
- ✓ The last Miss Universe winner from India was Lara Dutta in the year 2000
- ✓ Tamaryn Green (South Africa) and Sthefany Guterrez (Venezuela) were the first and second runner-up respectively in the competition
- ✓ Spain's Angela Ponce created history as the first transgender woman to participate in the beauty pageant
- ✓ Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia participated for the first time in this year's event
- ✓ For the first time, the competition was judged by an all-women jury
- ✓ The event took place on December 17, 2018 at Nonthaburi Province in Thailand

OBITUARY

➤ **Geeta Iyengar, acclaimed Yoga Guru (74 years)**



- ✓ Geeta, the daughter of renowned yoga guru B K S Iyengar, was one of the directors of the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune
- ✓ She had also authored the famous book, “Yoga — A Gem For Women” that contributed immensely in yoga techniques for women
- **A Sivalingam (94 years), Inventor of Tamil telegraphy – passed away in Trichy**



- ✓ He had earlier developed Tamil telegraphy in 1955 and was helpful in putting it to public use in 1956
- ✓ Born in 1924, he joined the postal department as telegraph clerk in 1944
- ✓ He was also called Tamil Thanthi Sivalinganar

SPORTS

- **P V Sindhu – becomes the 1st Indian women to win the BWF World Tour Finals**



- ✓ Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Olympic silver medalist, defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, the 2017 World champion, in the finals
 - ✓ This is the first title for Sindhu in the year 2018 and 14th title overall
 - ✓ She won silver medal this year at the World Championships 2018, Thailand Open 2018, Asian Games 2018, Commonwealth Games 2018 and India Open
 - ✓ The BWF World Tour Finals is an annual badminton competition which features the players with most points from all BWF events in that calendar year
 - ✓ Shi Yuqi of China won the Men's Singles title defeating Kento Momota of Japan
- **75th edition of National Squash Championships 2018, Noida**
 - ✓ **Joshna Chinappa – wins National Squash Women's singles title**



- ✓ She defeated Urwashi Joshi in the final to win her 16th national title
- ✓ With this win, she equals the record of Bhuvaneshwari Kumari of winning 16 titles
- ✓ Joshna is the first Indian squash player to win the British Squash Championship in 2003 in U-19 category
- ✓ She is also the youngest Indian women's national Squash champion
- ✓ She partnered with Dipika Palikal Karthik at the 2014 Commonwealth games and won the country's 1st ever squash gold medal in women's doubles
- ✓ In the Men's event, **Mahesh Mangaonkar** defeated Vikram Malhotra – to win the singles title for the first time in his career

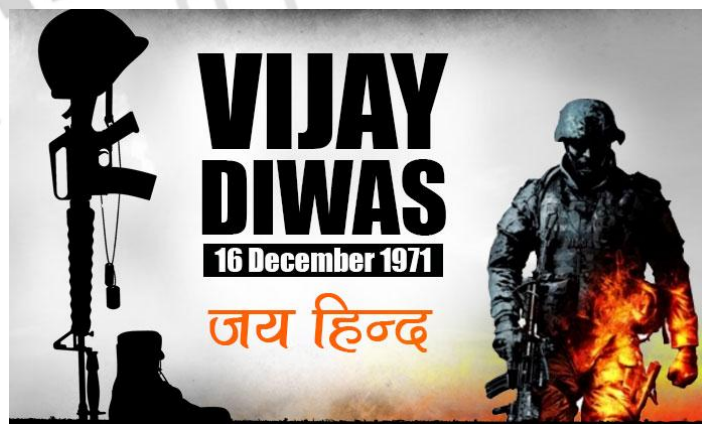
- **Belgium – wins their first ever World Cup Hockey 2018 title - by defeating Netherlands in the final in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**



- ✓ Belgium had earlier won silver medal in Rio Olympics, 2016 and finished runner-up in the 2017 Euro Hockey Championships
- ✓ Australia defeated England to secure third place
- ✓ India finished at sixth place in the tournament
- ✓ Arthur Van Doren (Belgium) was awarded as the Best Player of the tournament
- ✓ Blake Govers (Australia) and Alexander Hendrickx (Belgium) scored most number of goals (7) in the tournament
- ✓ Spain won the Fairplay award in the tournament

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Vijay Diwas – December 16**



- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the war of Independence of Bangladesh in 1971
- ✓ At the end of the war, Bangladesh was created out of East Pakistan

