

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 10, 2018**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **University of Madras – appoints Professor K Ravichandran as the new Director of Institute of Distance Education (IDE)**



- ★ It had also appointed Professor K Pandian, Department of Inorganic Chemistry, as a full-time Controller of Examinations (CoE)



- ★ Prof Pandian is a specialist in Nanotechnology, surface science and catalyst and polymer science, while Prof Ravichandran is an expert in analytical chemistry
- ★ Both these positions were vacant for the last three years

◆ **India's 1<sup>st</sup> Police booth with Bio-toilet - inaugurated at the Coimbatore Medical college Traffic signal on Avinashi Road**



- ★ Coimbatore based Park Group, in collaboration with Pathfinder Business Analysis Private Limited, is setting up the facility at a cost of Rs 4 lakhs
- ★ The firm is also planning to set up 2 more such units at Singanallur traffic signal and SITRA on Avinashi Road.

## STATES

◆ **Kerala – to provide free education and vocational training to the children of fishermen who died or went missing in the 2017 Ockhi cyclonic storm**

- ★ For the purpose, the Government had allocated Rs 13.92 crore and identified 194 students as beneficiaries
- ★ This Project will continue till 2037

## NATIONAL

◆ **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai – to roll out anti-corrosive, Stainless steel body ‘Diesel electric multiple unit’ (DEMU) train to Sri Lanka**



- ★ The train can travel at a maximum speed of 100kmph and can accommodate around 800 passengers
- ★ The DEMU is powered with a 1800HP on board engine with a three-phase AC transmission system that requires less maintenance
- ★ ICF has been exporting coaches and coach components to countries such as Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria and Uganda since the 1971-72 period

## PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Snehlata Shrivastava, the first woman Secretary General of the Lok Sabha – gets an extension of one year from December 1, 2018 up to November 30, 2019**



- ★ She was due to retire on November 30 2018
- ★ She had earlier served as Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice and as Special/Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance
- ★ She had also handled senior positions in the Madhya Pradesh government, including Principal Secretary in the departments of Culture and Parliamentary Affairs

## DEFENCE

- ◆ **SIMBEX – The naval exercise between India and Singapore starts in India off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**



- ★ The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the exercise will be held between November 10 and 21
- ★ The first harbour phase of the exercise will be held at Port Blair followed by Sea Phase in Andaman Sea
- ★ Second harbour phase will be held at Visakhapatnam followed by the final sea phase in Bay of Bengal
- ★ This will be the largest edition since 1994 in terms of scale and complexity of the exercise
- ★ The previous edition of the exercise was held off Singapore in the South China Sea in May 2017

◆ **Indian Army – gets 3 new artillery weapons - M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers, K9 Vajra, and a ‘Composite Gun Tractor’ for towing some existing guns in service**



- ★ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman formally inducted the weapons at the Deolali artillery centre in Nashik.
- ★ This is the first major induction since the Bofors were inducted in the 1980s
- ★ M777 howitzers are US-made light weight guns
- ★ K9 Vajras are South Korea-made self-propelled artillery guns
- ★ The 100 numbers of K9 Vajras will be inducted at a cost of Rs 4,366 crore and will be completed by November 2020
- ★ There will be 7 regiments of M777 howitzers which will be received fully within 2 years
- ★ The M777 is currently operational in Australia, Canada, and Saudi Arabia and has also been deployed in the war in Afghanistan
- ★ The K9 Vajra has been assembled in Larsen & Toubro and will also be produced by L&T for the Indian Army.

# APPOINTMENTS

## ◆ Ashok Kumar Gupta – appointed as Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI)



- ★ He replaces Sudhir Mital, acting Chairman
- ★ Gupta is former IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre
- ★ He will be in office till October 25, 2022 or till he attains 65 years
- ★ CCI
  - Established – Oct 2003 under The Competition Act, 2002
  - Ministry - Ministry of Cooperate Affairs
  - Objective - to eliminate practices that adversely affect competition in industries, thereby protecting consumer's interest

## ◆ Prasana Kumar Dash, Akhilesh Ranjan and Neena Kumar – appointed as new members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)



**P.K. Dash**  
Member, CBDT



**Akhilesh Ranjan**  
Member, CBDT



- ★ All three members belong to 1982-batch of the Indian Revenue Service
- ★ With these appointments, CBDT now has full strength of five members and chairman
- ★ The two other members of CBDT are IRS officers Aditya Vikram and P C Mody while the board's Chairman is Sushil Chandra
- ★ CBDT is supreme body in India for framing and enforcing policies related to direct taxes
- ★ It is a statutory authority established under The Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963

## AWARDS

### ◆ **Swati Chaturvedi – wins ‘Reporters without Borders’ (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage**



- ★ Chaturvedi, who works as a freelance journalist, won the award for her book ‘I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the Bharatiya Janata Party’s Digital Army’, an expose on the BJP’s IT cell
- ★ The award was presented to her at the Getty Images Gallery in London’s Fitzrovia on November 8

## SPORTS

### ◆ **11<sup>th</sup> Asian Airgun Championship, Kuwait**

- ★ **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary - shattered the junior world record and won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal**



- ★ India's junior shooting squad thus ended the championship with a tally of 11 medals, including 4 golds

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

## ◆ World Science Day for Peace and Development – November 10



- ★ The day highlights the important role that science plays in our society
- ★ It was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002
- ★ Theme 2018 - "*Science, a Human Right*"

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