

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 06, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **‘Siemens Centre of Excellence’ (CoE) in manufacturing – was inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Human Resource Development at the National Institute of Technology, Trichy**



- ✓ The centre, set up at a budget of Rs 190 crore, had signed its first MoU with BHEL to develop an electric bus at an outlay of Rs 1.2 crore
 - ✓ The centre with 10 state-of-the-art laboratories was funded by German-based company, Siemens (with 90% grant)
 - ✓ For the first two years, Siemens will operate the centre and later on it would be handed over to NIT
- **Government – announces 24x7, toll-free telephone number of ‘1077’ to contact ‘District collector office’ and ‘1913’ to contact ‘Chennai corporation’ – for flood related informations and queries**

NATIONAL

- **Government – signs \$110 million loan with Asian Development Bank – to upgrade rural roads in Madhya Pradesh** under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
 - ✓ It is the 2nd tranche of the \$500 million loan approved by ADB in Dec 2017 for the ‘Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme’ for India
 - ✓ Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme
 - ✓ It aims to upgrade around 12000 km of rural roads across 5 states, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal
 - ✓ Asian Development Bank
 - ✓ Established - 19 December 1966
 - ✓ Headquarters – Manila, Philippines
 - ✓ Members - 67 members (48 from Asia-Pacific region including India)

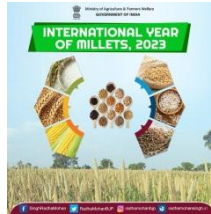
- **NASSCOM – launches its ‘Centre of Excellence’ for ‘Internet of Things’ (IoT) at Gurugram, Haryana**



- ✓ The Centre, established in association with the Haryana Government, will serve as platform for technology collaboration between industry, academia, start-ups and the government
- ✓ NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies)
 - ✓ It is the apex body of IT Companies in India
 - ✓ Headquarters – New Delhi
 - ✓ Regional offices - Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram
 - ✓ It is registered under the Indian Societies Act, 1860

INTERNATIONAL

- **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations – announced to celebrate 2023 as ‘International Year of Millets’ – agreeing to the request of India**



- ✓ The year now falls within the UN ‘Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025’
- ✓ India is celebrating the year 2018 as the ‘National Year of Millets’

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit**
 - ✓ **India – signed a \$5.43 billion (Rs 40,000 crore) deal - to procure 5 advanced ‘S-400 Triumpf’ missile systems from Russia**
 - ✓ The system is expected to be delivered by 2020
 - ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin is on a two-day visit to India

DEAL		
<p>Contract</p> <p>5 squadrons of S-400 Triumpf anti-aircraft\ missile systems from Russia</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>\$5.43 billion (₹40,000 crore). 1st instalment 15%; others linked to deliveries</p>	<p>Delivery</p> <p>1st in 2 years. All 5 in 4.5 years</p>
PLAN	OTHERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IAF will integrate S-400 with its IACCS (integrated air command and control system) network of sensors & weapons ➤ Missile shield will have inner ring of S-400, with outer layer of under-development indigenous two-tier ballistic missile shield against 1,500-km range missiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ China inducting 6 S-400 batteries under \$3 billion deal with Russia in 2014 ➤ Turkey to get S-400 from 2019 under \$2.5 billion deal. Saudi Arabia & Qatar also in negotiations 	

- ✓ Apart from S-400 missile system deal, India and Russia exchanged 8 agreements with each other for collaboration in the areas of Foreign affairs, Economic development, Railways, Transport, Space, Nuclear field, MSME sector and Fertilisers
- ✓ India-Russia cooperation is based on the 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the countries
- ✓ S-400 Triumph
 - ✓ It is the upgradation of S-300 missile systems
 - ✓ It is a surface-to-air missile system that can target enemies' aircraft in the sky from the ground surface
 - ✓ It is Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system
 - ✓ It has an operational range of 380 km
 - ✓ The S-400 missile system was manufactured by 'Almaz-Antey' and has been in service in Russia since 2007

➤ **India – to be the 'Guest of Honour' at Mexico's 'International Cultural Fest' for the very first time**

- ✓ The 46th edition of Cervantino International Festival will kick off on October 10 in the heritage city of Guanajuato in Mexico
- ✓ It will conclude on October 28, 2018
- ✓ The festival started in 1953 with a focus on theatre, had India participating regularly since 1979
- ✓ The cultural festival is named after the great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes -- called the "Spanish equivalent of William Shakespeare"

PERSONALITIES

➤ **P S Narasimha, Senior Advocate – resigns as Additional Solicitor General – citing personal reasons**



- ✓ Recently, Sandeep Sethi had stepped down as additional solicitor general
- ✓ The post of solicitor general has been lying vacant since December after the resignation of Ranjit Kumar
- ✓ Now the Supreme court has only 6 ASG's, Maninder Singh, Tushar Mehta, Pinky Anand, Atmaram Nadkarni, Aman Lekhi and Vikramjeet Banerjee

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Parker Solar Probe – completes its first ‘flyby’ of Venus at a distance of 2,415 kms** – during the first Venus ‘Gravity assist’ of the mission
 - ✓ These gravity assists will help the spacecraft tighten its orbit ‘closer and closer’ to the Sun
 - ✓ The probe, launched on Aug 12, will make six more Venus gravity assists and 24 total passes by the Sun until it makes its closest approach at 3.8 million miles to the sun
 - ✓ The record of entering 27 million miles to the sun was currently held by Helios 2 set in 1976
 - ✓ The probe is named after Eugene Parker, a solar physicist, who in 1958, first predicted the existence of ‘Solar wind’, a stream of charged particles and magnetic fields that flow continuously from the Sun
 - ✓ It is the first spacecraft of NASA to be named after a living person
 - ✓ The Parker solar probe is the first human mission to study outer corona of Sun over a period of 7 years
 - ✓ It is designed and built by NASA’s Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
 - ✓ It is fitted with thermal protection system (TPS) or heat shield made of ‘Reinforced carbon-carbon composite’ that will allow it to survive temperatures

ECONOMY

- **Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19 – Released by Reserve Bank of India**
 - ✓ Repo Rate – 6.5%
 - ✓ Reverse Repo Rate – 6.25%
 - ✓ Marginal Standing facility and the Bank Rate – 6.75%
 - ✓ Terminology
 - ✓ Repo rate is the rate at which money is lent by RBI to commercial banks
 - ✓ Reverse repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) borrows money from commercial banks within the country
 - ✓ MSF is a rate at which RBI lends money to scheduled banks

APPOINTMENTS

- **Pankaj Sharma – appointed as Ambassador and India’s Permanent representative to ‘United Nations Conference on Disarmament’ in Geneva**



- ✓ He succeeds Amandeep Gill
- ✓ He is the current Joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in Ministry of External Affairs
- ✓ UN Conference on Disarmament
 - ✓ Established – 1979
 - ✓ Objective – to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements
 - ✓ Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland
 - ✓ Total Members – 65

- **R N Ravi – appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor**



- ✓ He is the current Chairman of Joint Intelligence committee
- ✓ He is also the government's interlocutor for the ongoing talks with Naga insurgent group ‘National Socialist Council’ of Nagaland to shape up ‘Naga Peace Accord’
- ✓ Ravi will be the third deputy to NSA, Ajit Doval after former Research and Analysis Wing chief, Rajinder Khanna and serving diplomat, Pankaj Saran
- ✓ The post of NSA was created in November 1998 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government
- ✓ Brajesh Mishra was first to be appointed NSA of India
- ✓ India’s Security Structure
 - ✓ National Security Council, headed by PM and National Security Advisor as its secretary

- ✓ A Strategic Policy Group - headed by the cabinet secretary and the chiefs of the armed forces, the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing as its members
- ✓ A National Security Advisory Board - does long term analysis and provides perspectives on issues of national security

➤ **Rakesh Sharma – is appointed as CEO and MD of IDBI Bank for a period of 6 months**



- ✓ He succeeds B Sriram, who's tenure ends in Sep 2018
- ✓ Sharma was the former MD of Canara Bank till July 2018
- ✓ Prior to his appointment in Canara Bank, Sharma was heading Lakshmi Vilas Bank
- ✓ It has to be recalled that LIC had got the nod to increase its stake upto 51% in IDBI Bank

➤ **Vikram Limaye - was appointed as Chairman of the 'Working Committee' and Director on the Board of the 'World Federation of Exchanges' (WFE)**



- ✓ Vikram is the current Managing Director and CEO of National Stock Exchange of India
- ✓ His appointment was made at the 58th General Assembly and Annual Meeting of WFE in Athens, Greece
- ✓ WFE also admitted 6 new members this year, including Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)
- ✓ Nandini Sukumar – is the current CEO of WFE, established in 1961 with its headquarters at London

- **Vineet Nayyar - has been appointed as the Vice-chairman and Managing Director (MD) of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)**



- ✓ Nand Kishore was appointed as the chairman of the audit committee and GC Chaturvedi as the chairperson of the Remuneration Committee
- ✓ The appointments were made by the new board of IL&FS, formed on 1st October 2018, headed by Uday Kotak

SPORTS

- **Virat Kohli – creates a new record by scoring 1000 runs in Test cricket for 3 consecutive years (2016, 2017 and 2018)**



- ✓ He is also the only captain in the history to score 1000 runs in three consecutive years
- ✓ Kohli scored 1215 runs in 2016 and 1059 runs in 2017 respectively
- ✓ He also became the quickest Indian batsman to score 24 Test centuries in 123 innings, overtaking Sachin Tendulkar (125 innings), even though the world's quickest is still Australia's Donald Bradman (66 innings)

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Space Week – October 4 to 10



- ✓ World Space Week is officially defined as "an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition."
- ✓ On December 6, 1999, The United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event
- ✓ It includes 2 landmark events -- the launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957; and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967
- ✓ Theme 2018 - "*Space Unites the World*"

➤ Wildlife Week in India – October 2 to 8



- ✓ It was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to safeguard the lives of wildlife through critical action

