

December – 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The government announced the appointment of **Atul Sahai** as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of **New India Assurance** (NIA) for a five-year period replacing G Srinivasan.
- ❖ The 2 day 175th Meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (**OPEC**) **Conference** & one day **5th OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting** was concluded in Vienna, Austria.
 - The next OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting will convene in Vienna, Austria in April, 2019.
- ❖ The 3-day Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018, jointly organized by Punjab, Haryana and Indian Army was held at Chandigarh.
- ❖ The London's Westminster Magistrates Court has ordered the extradition of Vijay Mallaya to India.

TAMIL NADU

India's first underwater museum

- ❖ The Indian Navy has agreed to gift **INS Cuddalore**, a **decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel**, to the Union territory of Puducherry for the creation of country's 1st underwater museum.
- ❖ It would be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26 m and 7 km off the Pondicherry coast to act as an underwater marine museum.
- ❖ This would enhance tourism in the Union Territory of Pudhucherry.
- ❖ The vessel was decommissioned in March 2018.

NATIONAL

Global Venture Capital Summit 2018

- ❖ The annual 'startup India Venture Capital Summit' for the year 2018 was held at Goa.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative by

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and
- The Government of Goa.
- ❖ The summit aims to attract more global capital into the country.
- ❖ The theme of the Summit was ‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.’
- ❖ The partners for this initiative were
 - International Finance Corporation (IFC), a sister organisation of the World Bank Group,
 - Invest India and
 - the Indian private equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA).

SCord to tackle smuggling

- ❖ The Union Government has approved Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord) under the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to tackle Smuggling.
- ❖ SCord will help India to formulate a national anti-smuggling policy to tackle the smuggling on real time basis.
- ❖ Border Agencies
 - BSF (Border Security Force)
 - Assam Rifles,
 - ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police)
 - SSB (Sashtra Seema Bal) and
 - Coast Guards

would be member of SCord and all the organizations be coordinate with each other on real time basis.

INDRA NAVY Exercise

- ❖ The **10th Edition** of the bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) was held at Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ The aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the 2 navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security.
- ❖ This year’s exercise would be held in two phases,

- The Harbour phase would be held at Visakhapatnam and
- The Sea phase would be held at Bay of Bengal.

INTERNATIONAL

New framework to combat international terrorism

- ❖ The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched a new framework named as UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.
- ❖ The objective of new framework is to combat the international terrorism and coordinate efforts across the peace and security, human rights.
- ❖ It is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 organizational entities, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation.
- ❖ The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism will act as the Coordination Committee and will oversee the implementation of the Compact.

World's 100 most powerful women

- ❖ The Forbes has recently released the World's 100 Most Powerful Women of 2018.
- ❖ Four Indians who were featured in the list were:
 - IT stalwart Roshni Nadar Malhotra (51st)
 - Biotechnology pioneer Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (60th)
 - Media tycoon Shobhana Bhartia (88th) and
 - Actor Priyanka Chopra (94th)
- ❖ The **15th edition** of the list has been topped by the German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** who retains the top spot for the 8th consecutive year, and 13 times in total.
- ❖ She is followed by the UK Prime Minister Theresa May, for the 2nd year in a row.
- ❖ The 2018 list spanned more than 6 generations of influential women.
 - Taylor Swift - The youngest honouree at 28 (securing 68th)



- Queen Elizabeth II - the oldest at 92 (securing 23rd).

THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN 2018



#1 Angela Merkel



#2 Theresa May



#3 Christine Lagarde



#4 Mary Barra



#5 Abigail Johnson



#6 Melinda Gates



#7 Susan Wojcicki



#8 Ana Patricia Botín



#9 Marilyn Hewson



#10 Ginni Rometty

ECONOMY

Conference on 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code'

- ❖ A conference on the theme
 - 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India – New Paradigm for Stressed Assets'was held at the Indian Consulate in New York.
- ❖ The conference was organized by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) jointly with the Consulate General of India, New York, USA.

STATES

Kannur international Airport

- ❖ The Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu jointly inaugurated the Kannur International Airport Ltd (KIAL).
- ❖ With this, Kerala has become the first state in the country to have four international airports.
- ❖ The other 3 airports were at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Miss World 2018

- ❖ Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon won the Miss World 2018 crown at the 68th edition of the prestigious Miss World grand event held in the Chinese city, Sanya.
- ❖ The 26-year-old Vanessa was crowned by the Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar of India.
- ❖ Nicolene Pichapa from Thailand was adjudged runner up in Miss World 2018.



Shaktikanta Das - 25th Governor of RBI

- ❖ India's former economic affairs secretary and current member of the Finance Commission Shaktikanta Das is to be appointed as next RBI Governor.
- ❖ He will be the 25th Governor of the apex bank of the country and will serve as governor for the term of three years starting from December 11 of 2018.
- ❖ He replaced Urjit Patel, who resigned from the post due to personal reasons.

IMPORTANT DAYS

UNICEF Day – 11 December

- ❖ The UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) headquartered in New York celebrated its 71st foundation day on 11 December 2018.
- ❖ On 11 December 1946, the UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ It was created to provide long-standing charitable and developmental support to children and mothers in the evolving countries.

MISCELLANEOUS

National Rail Museum signs MoU with Madame Tussauds Wax Museum

- ❖ The National Rail Museum of the Railways Ministry has signed a MoU with the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, Delhi to develop tourism in the Delhi -NCR (National Capital Region) region.
- ❖ This is the first ever Public-Private museum collaboration in the country.
- ❖ As per the MoU, a special discount of 35% will be provided to the visitors of the National Rail Museum, when they visit Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in New Delhi.
- ❖ Similar discounts were also provided for school children.
- ❖ Madame Tussauds Wax Museum is the first ever wax museum in India.
- ❖ It was the 23rd wax museum of the renowned Madame Tussauds in London, inaugurated in 2017.



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