

December – 18

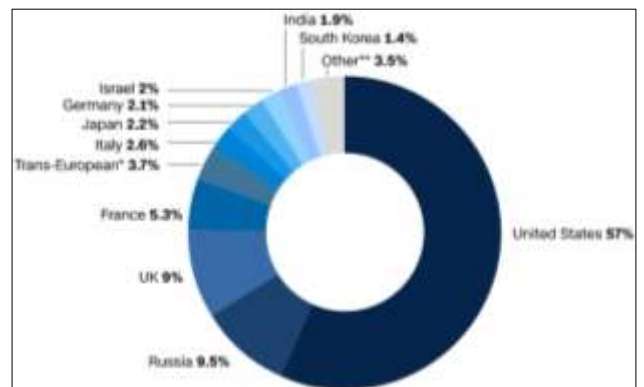
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Australia became one of the few countries to formally recognize West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel while it will not move its embassy from Tel Aviv until a peace settlement is reached.
- ❖ The IPS officer Ramphal Pawar has been appointed as the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ Ashok Kumar Singh, Lok Sabha Secretariat has assumed charge as Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
- ❖ On the occasion of Vijay Diwas (16 Dec), Sports Minister Col Rajyavardhan Rathore flagged off a special marathon 'Soldierathon' at JLN Stadium in New Delhi in the honour of Martyrs and wounded Soldiers.
- ❖ The India Post has started internet facility to the customers of the Post office savings bank account.

NATIONAL

SIPRI Report

- ❖ The recently released rankings by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) have placed 4 Indian PSU's among world's top 100 arms producers.
- ❖ Those 4 Indian Public Sector Undertakings are,
 - Indian Ordnance Factories (37th Rank)
 - Hindustan Aeronautics (38th Rank)
 - Bharat Electronics (64th Rank)
 - Bharat Dynamics (94th rank)
- ❖ This was for the first time that four Indian companies have ranked in top 100 arms producers' companies of world.
- ❖ India's current share in total global arms sales stands at less than 2%.



National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED -2018)

- ❖ The first ever National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED -2018) was held at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ HEMRL developed OPX-Revelator was unveiled in the workshop.
- ❖ It is a portable, miniaturised, electronic detector capable of detecting almost all the explosives widely used by anti-social elements and in Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

INTERNATIONAL

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- ❖ Ranil Wickremesinghe has once again become the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after the end of the weeks-long political crisis in the island nation.
- ❖ Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was ousted as Prime minister of Sri Lanka on 26th October 2018.
- ❖ He was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Mr. Rajapaksa resigned on 15th December 2018 after he failed to prove majority in the Sri Lankan Parliament.
- ❖ Ranil Wickremesinghe has been sworn in as the Prime minister for the 5th time which is a record in Sri Lanka.

STATES

UN Climate Action Award

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh based startup HelpUsGreen has been honoured by UN for its works to clean River Ganga by recycling tonnes of floral waste.
- ❖ The UN presented the award to the 14 other countries along with India at the Nations Climate Action award ceremony during the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland.
- ❖ It uses Flower cycling technology to recycle the floral wastes from the temples and produces charcoal free incense, organic vermicompost and biodegradable packaging material.

J&K passes the law on Sexual Exploitation

- ❖ The State Administrative Council of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik has passed a law to ban sexual extortion of woman in offices.
- ❖ The Governor Satya Pal Malik's administration in Jammu & Kashmir has approved an amendment to the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).
- ❖ With this, J&K has become the first State in the country to bring a law to prevent people in power from exploiting subordinates sexually.

Note

- ❖ The Indian Penal code (IPC) is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and in place of IPC, a similar criminal law Ranbir Penal Code applies in the state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Miss India Worldwide 2018

- ❖ The Indian-American Shree Saini has been crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018 at 27th annual global pageant held in the Fords City of New Jersey of USA.
- ❖ It is organised by the New York-based India Festival Committee (IFC).

Mrs. India Worldwide 2018 Category

- ❖ India's Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, (Haryana), was declared as the winner in the Mrs. India Worldwide 2018 category and crowned at the 27th annual global pageant.
- ❖ Jeya Priya Pandian from Malaysia and Kavita Malhotra Pattani from the USA were declared the 1st and 2nd runner ups of the Mrs India Worldwide 2018.
- ❖ The next edition of the Miss India Worldwide will be held in Mumbai in 2019.

French Knight of the National Order of Merit

- ❖ The Film Producer Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit.
- ❖ It was awarded to him for his contribution to the world of cinema and the Indo-French film industry.
- ❖ The award was presented to him at the closing ceremony of 2-day Indo-French Professional Meeting for the Film and Television Industry held in Mumbai, India.

Jnanpith award - 2018

- ❖ The Renowned English fiction writer Amitav Ghosh has been selected for Jnanpith award, 2018.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Shri in 2007 and was elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2009.
- ❖ Jnanpith award was instituted in 1961.
- ❖ The Bhartiya Jnanpith recognises Indian litterateurs who write in one of the 22 Indian languages listed in the Schedule Eight of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ He was also named Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow in 2015.
- ❖ Famous Malayalam writer G.S. Kurup was the first winner of Jnanpith award.



Women Transforming India Awards

- ❖ The Third edition of Women Transforming India Awards was recently organized by the Government think- tank NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The theme for this year awards is 'Women and Entrepreneurship' and 15 winners have been selected.
- ❖ The awards were launched in 2016 to recognize the exceptional women who are working hard and making difference in lives of others.

SPORTS

2018 ITF world champions

- ❖ The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that
 - Serbia's Novak Djokovic (**Men's Singles**) and
 - Romania's Simona Halep (**women's Singles**)as the ITF World Champions for the year 2018.
- ❖ Djokovic receives the honour for the sixth time.
- ❖ It is the first year Simona Halep has been recognised. She also won the 2018 WTA Shot of the Year.
- ❖ The ITF World Champions will receive their awards at the 2019 ITF World Champions Dinner in Paris, during Roland Garros.

Men's Doubles Category

- ❖ The USA's Mike Bryan and Jack Sock will receive the award.
- ❖ It will be the 12th time Bryan has received the award but for the first time Sock has been honoured.
- ❖ Women's Doubles Category - Barbora Krejckikova and Katerina Siniakova.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Tea day – 15 December

- ❖ The International Tea Day is observed annually on December 15.
- ❖ It is aimed to draw the global attention of governments and citizens to the impact of global tea trade on workers and growers in the tea producing countries.
- ❖ It was observed since 2005 in tea producing countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania.
- ❖ The first International Tea Day was celebrated in New Delhi in 2005.

Vijay Diwas – 16 December

- ❖ Vijay Diwas, also called as Victory Day, is celebrated on every 16th December in India.
 - ❖ 16th December 2018 marked the 47th anniversary of its victory over Pakistan in the war of Independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971.
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