

December – 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ **The Punjab Legislative Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution for seeking **30% reservation for women** in Parliament and State legislative assembly.
- ❖ The 18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC) which works under the Ministry of Finance notified the **Korean Won** and **Turkish Lira** in the **List of Currencies for Exchange Rate** in order to decrease the transaction cost and enhance the ease of doing business.
- ❖ The 4th WHO (World Health Organization) Global Forum on Medical Devices “Increasing access to medical devices” concluded at Andhra Pradesh’s Medtech Zone in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - It was the first time the WHO Global Forum on Medical devices was held in India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Power launched the **ECO Niwas Samhita 2018**, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R) on the occasion of the National Energy Conservation Day 2018 (December 14) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) awarded the hosting rights of the 2020 Asia cup to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in a meeting held in Bangladesh Capital Dhaka.
- ❖ T.C. Barupal was appointed the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea. He is presently the Consul General of India, Zanzibar of Tanzania.
- ❖ Tata Steel Limited had been declared as the winner of the Prime Minister’s Trophy for the ‘Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant’ in the country for the performance year 2016-17.
 - It thus makes it the 4th consecutive year for Tata Steel being honoured with this coveted award.

NATIONAL

Panel to select MD for PSU insurance firms

- ❖ The government has constituted a seven-member panel to select the Managing Directors of public sector insurance companies.

- ❖ The panel would be headed by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) chairman B P Sharma.

Operation Oliva

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard has recently launched 'Operation Oliva'.
- ❖ It has been launched as the part of its annual mission to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea turtles in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area, Devi river mouth, and Rushikulya beach of Odisha.
- ❖ The turtle conservation programme is executed in a joint coordination with the forest department of Odisha.

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal bans Indian currency notes above Rs 100

- ❖ The Nepal government has banned the Indian currency above Rs 100.
- ❖ The New Indian notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations were banned as the Nepal government has not yet legalised them in the market.
- ❖ The move can affect the Indian tourist and Nepali people working in India, who carry the currency in Nepal for transaction.

ECONOMY

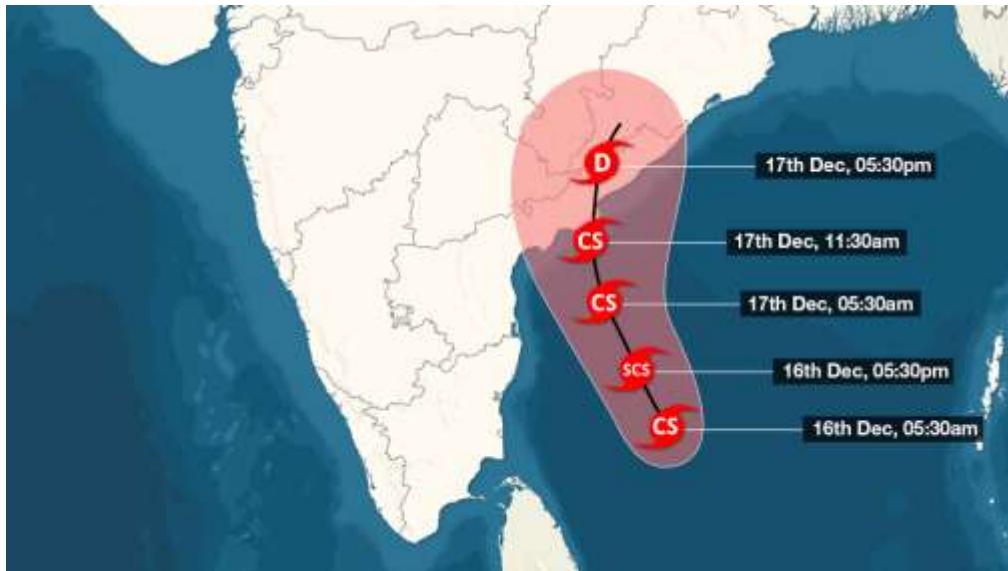
'World's largest' free trade deal

- ❖ The European Parliament approved a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union (EU), covering 635 million people and almost one-third of the world's economy.
- ❖ The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement will remove duties on almost all agricultural and industrial products as well as open up the service sector and procurement.

ENVIRONMENT

Cyclonic Storm Phethai

- ❖ The Cyclonic Storm Phethai is the sixth named cyclone of 2018 North Indian Ocean Cyclone season.
- ❖ The previous five named cyclones are Sagar, Mekunu, Luban, Titli and Gaza.



- ❖ Cyclone Pethai has emerged as a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal around 900 kms off Chennai on 15 December 2018.
- ❖ The name was given by Thailand.

STATES

Mizoram Chief Minister - Zoramthanga

- ❖ The President of Mizo National Front (MNF), Mr. Zoramthanga sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram for the third time at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.
- ❖ MNF dethroned Congress by winning 26 seats in the 40-member legislative assembly. Congress bagged 5 seats whereas BJP won just 1 seat.
- ❖ Mr Tawnluia sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Mizoram.



Kochi-Muziris Biennale

- ❖ The 4th Edition of the India's largest contemporary art exhibition Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB) was held recently in Kochi.
- ❖ It was held with a theme "Possibilities for a Non-Alienated Life" featuring a dynamic range of multi-media artworks.
- ❖ The Biennale was curated by Anita Dube and it was the first Biennale in the world where half of the participating artists are women.

Jharkhand gets "Krishi Karman" award

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture had selected Jharkhand for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category.
- ❖ The award which carries a cash prize worth Rs 2 crore and a citation.
- ❖ As a gesture of appreciation to the farmers of the state for achieving the milestone,
 - two progressive farmers, i.e. one male and one female, would also be given 'Agriculture Minister's Krishi Karman Award'.
- ❖ Each of the farmers would receive a cash award of Rs 2 lakh along with citation.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Miss Universe 2018 Title

- ❖ Catriona Elisa Gray from the Philippines was crowned as the Miss Universe 2018 which was held at in Nonthaburi Province, Thailand.



- ❖ She was crowned by Demi Leigh Nel-Peters from South Africa, the Miss Universe 2017 title winner.
- ❖ India was represented by Nehal Chudasama in the beauty pageant.
- ❖ Tamaryn Green from South Africa and Sthefany Guterrez from Venezuela were the first runner-up and second runner-up at Miss Universe 2018 competition.

Interesting facts

- ❖ Spain's Angela Ponce created history as the first transgender woman to participate in the Miss Universe beauty pageant.
- ❖ The event was hosted by Emmy Award-winning comedian Steve Harvey.
- ❖ The countries of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia participated for the first time in the Miss Universe competition.
- ❖ For the first time, the competition was judged by an all-women jury.

SPORTS

National Squash Championship

- ❖ The 75th edition of the National Squash championship was held recently in Noida.
- ❖ Joshna Chinappa won the National Squash Women's Singles title after she defeated Urwashi Josh.
- ❖ It was her 16th National title and with this win, she has equalled the record of Bhuvaneshwari Kumari of winning 16 titles.
- ❖ Mahesh Mangaonkar defeated Vikram Malhotra in the final match to win Men's Singles title.
- ❖ This is the maiden title for Mahesh Mangaonkar.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers – 17 December

- ❖ The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is observed annually on December 17 by sex workers, their advocates, friends, families and allies.
- ❖ The day calls attention to,
 - Hate crimes committed against sex workers worldwide, as well as
 - The need to remove the social stigma and discrimination that have contributed to violence against sex workers and indifferences from the communities they are part of.
- ❖ First observed in 2003, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was founded by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA (SWOP-USA), an American sex worker rights organization.
- ❖ The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) adopted the red umbrella as a symbol of resistance to discrimination in 2005.

International Migrants Day – 18 December

- ❖ The International Migrants Day is observed on 18th December annually to recognize the efforts, contributions, and rights of migrants worldwide.

- ❖ The Theme for the year 2018 is - “Migration with Dignity”.
 - ❖ The resolution to observe the day was passed by the UN General Assembly on 4th December 2000.
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