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DECEMBER

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TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- **The first international conference on “Sexual Exploitation of Children in Digital Era”** will be held in Kolkata on December 14-15 to spread awareness among people. The global meet comes close on the heels of reports that India accounted for around 2.4 million instances of online child sexual abuse last year.
- **The Agriculture Ministry** launched **online portal Ensure** to connect with direct benefit transfer and provide simple, useful and transparent system to the beneficiary.
 - Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Shri **Radha Mohan Singh** launched the portal **ENSURE- National Livestock Mission- EDEG developed by NABARD** and operated under the **Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries**.
- A two day National conference ‘**AYUSHCHARYA**’ on Dinacharya (Daily Regimen) and **Ritucharya** (Seasonal Regimen) for public health promotion was organized by **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in New Delhi.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Government announced creation of **an umbrella university** named after former Prime Minister **late AtalBihari Vajpayee**. The University would be the **controlling authority** of all the **medical and dental** colleges and **nursing** institutions in the state.
 - This would help in bringing transparency in entrance and examination system and would enhance quality of medical education.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind is on a state visit to Myanmar. He dedicated** – India assisted project ‘**Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education**’ (**ACARE**) – to the people of Myanmar.
 - The project focuses on Genetics, Post Harvest Technology, Participatory Knowledge Management and capacity building for farmers in Myanmar. The President also dedicated the **Rice Bio-Park to the people of Myanmar**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Akademik Lomonosov, the world’s first “floating” nuclear power plant (FNPP)** for installation in remote areas, has been started and brought to 10 per cent of its capacity, Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom announced.
- Signed an ascension pact to the **30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN)** at Italian Naval Headquarters in **Rome, Italy**.
 - This agreement will give India an access to the information on ships passing through the Indian Ocean Region, that will help in keeping tabs on the security forces.

APPOINTMENT

- **Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi** became the **Vice-Chair** of the **UN Panel of Auditors** for a term of 2 years ending on **June 30, 2020**. The decision was taken in the panel's annual meeting in **New York** which was held from 3 to 4 December 2018.
 - Presently, the panel consists of 11 countries — India, Germany, Chile, Canada, France, Italy, Philippines, Ghana, Indonesia, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

AWARDS

- India's **Gujarat** got a United **Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** award for women's leadership with low cost and sustainable technology to tackle storms.
- Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, who was murdered in October at his country's Istanbul consulate, has been named **Time magazine's "Person of the Year"** alongside several other journalists.
 - The magazine has also honoured Philippine journalist **Maria Ressa**, Reuters reporters **Wa Lone and KyawSoeOo**, currently imprisoned in Myanmar among others.

ECONOMY

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in its supplement report "**Asian Development Outlook (2018)**" has retained India's FY19 growth forecast at **7.3%** and **7.6%** in FY20 despite downside risks posed by stress in the non-banking sector, limited fiscal space as well as escalating trade tensions.

SPORTS

- **ManikaBatra** became the **first ever Indian table tennis player** to be decorated with the '**Breakthrough Table Tennis Star**' award at the prestigious **ITTF Star Awards in Incheon, South Korea**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **UNICEF Day 2018 – 11 December 2018**
 - On **11th December 2018**, UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) Headquartered in New York celebrated its 71st foundation day.
 - On 11 December 1946, UNICEF was created by United Nations General Assembly to provide long-standing charitable and developmental support to children and mothers in evolving countries.