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DECEMBER

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TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

DECEMBER - 15.12.2018



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Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone: 8939144344, 8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Plot No: 47/60, "AK" Block,
7th Main Road, Anna Nagar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 040.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 020.

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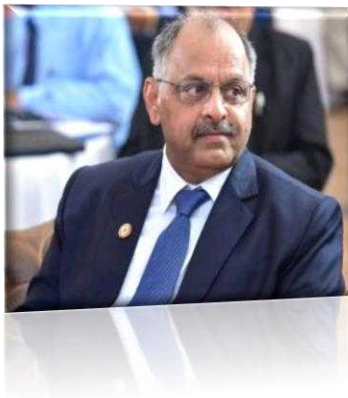
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NATIONAL NEWS

- The government has constituted a **seven-member** panel to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies. The panel would be headed by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) chairman **B P Sharma**.
 - The other members of the panel are Financial Services Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises Secretary and Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- The Indian Coast Guard has launched '**Operation Oliver**' as 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**.
- India's Minister of **Defense Nirmala Sitharaman** met with **Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu** marking the 18th meeting of the **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC)**.
 - India and Russia agreed to extend bilateral cooperation on defence joint-venture (JV) manufacturing projects.
- To give a fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector, **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu**, announced setting up of a **National Medical Devices Promotion Council** under the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 - The announcement was made at the occasion of the **4th WHO Global Forum** on Medical Devices, at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone, in Vishakhapatnam.
- **Ministry of Power** has launched the **ECO Niwas Samhita 2018**, an **Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R)**.
 - It aims to benefit the occupants and the environment by promoting energy efficiency in design and construction of homes, apartments and townships.
- **India's first private sector unit** for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was inaugurated by Telangana's Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali at Adani Aerospace Park in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **Nepal** government banned Indian currency above **Rs 100**. New Indian note of **Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200** denominations were banned as the Nepal government has not yet legalised them in the market.
- **Ireland's parliament** has passed a landmark legislation to make abortion legal for the first time in the Catholic-majority country with **66.4%** voting in favour of new legislation to allow for the termination of pregnancies.

APPOINTMENT

- **Ashok Kumar Singh**, Lok Sabha Secretariat Service, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat has assumed charge as **Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**.
 - The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- **Producer-director Brijendra Pal Singh** was appointed as the **new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** and chairman of the institute's governing council by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

AWARDS

- **Noted English author Amitav Ghosh** has been honoured with **Jnanpith Award for 2018**, an award for outstanding contribution to literature. He has become the **first English author to be honoured with the award**.
 - Ghosh, one of the most prominent contemporary Indian writers, is known for a series of novels such as **“Shadow Lines”, “The Glass Palace”, “The Hungry Tide”**, and Ibis Trilogy — “Sea of Poppies”, and “River of Smoke”.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **NASA's (OSIRIS-REx)** spacecraft has found evidence of water on asteroid **Bennu**. Data obtained from the spacecraft's two spectrometers **OSIRIS-REx Thermal Emission Spectrometer (OTES)** and **OSIRIS-REx Visible and Infrared Spectrometer (OVIRS)** reveal the presence of molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together, known as "hydroxyls."

SPORTS

- The **21st Usha National Athletics** Sports Championship for the Blind held in New Delhi in the presence of champion boxer **Vijender Singh**.
 - The championship witnessed six new national records in javelin, long jump, discuss, 100m race and shotput and three new meet records in 100 meet race, javelin and shotput.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **National Energy Conservation Day 2018-December 14**
 - **National Energy Conservation Day 2018** was celebrated throughout the country under the aegis of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under Ministry of Power.
 - The objective to celebrate the National Energy Conservation Day is to drive mass awareness about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation.