

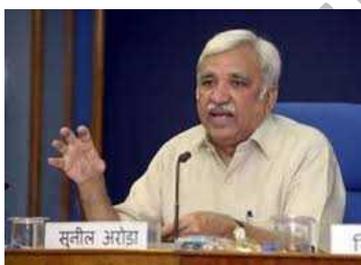
1-4 December 2018 Current Affairs



1) The 13th Meeting of the Group of Twenty (20) concluded on 1 December 2018. This annual meeting of 19 of the world's largest economies and the European Union (European Union) was held in which city? – **Buenos Aires (Argentina)**

Explanation: Argentinian capital Buenos Aires hosted the 13th edition of Meeting of the Heads of State of G20 on 30 November 2018 and 1 December 2018. The heads of state of nineteen G20 countries and leaders of the European Union (EU) attended the meet. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented Indian in the Summit.

- During this meet the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the successor treaty to the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was signed on 30 November 2018. Talks between the U.S. and China related to resolving the escalating 2018 China-United States trade war were also a central issue of the summit.



2) Who took over as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India on 2 December 2018? - **Sunil Arora**

Explanation: Sunil Arora, a retired 1980-batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, took over as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on 2 December 2018. He succeeded O.P. Rawat, who demitted office on 1 December 2018 on completion of his tenure. Arora was the senior-most Election Commissioner in the Election Commission.

- He had held several key posts in the government. At the Secretary level, he served in the Information and Broadcasting Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ministries. He also had stints with other ministries in various capacities. He was Joint Secretary in the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Indian Airlines CMD for five years.

3) What was India's economic growth rate during July-September 2018 quarter, as was disclosed by the Union Finance Ministry on 30 November 2018? – **7.2%**

Explanation: India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate slowed to 7.1% in the July-September quarter, weakening from 8.2% in the previous quarter. The rate of economic growth in the same quarter last year had been 6.3%.

- Higher fuel prices and a weak rupee were seen as the primary factors dragging growth, while an uneven and sub-par monsoon, flooding in some areas amid a late withdrawal of the monsoon rains, and instances of crop damage and pest attacks hurt the farm sector.



4) During November 2018 which state became India's first Indian state to launch a single emergency number? – **Himachal Pradesh**

Explanation: Himachal Pradesh on 28 November 2018 became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number "112" which will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state.

- Under the project, one ERC has been established in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centres covering the entire state. The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women helpline (1090) services to provide emergency services via single emergency number 112.

- The service is part of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which includes a '112 India' mobile app integrated with panic button of smartphones and ERSS state website for ease of citizen in availing immediate assistance.



5] Violent protests erupted in French capital Paris on 1 December 2018 resulting in severe riots and death of three persons while hundreds were injured. What is the main reason for these protests? – **The proposed increase in fuel prices**

Explanation: The violent protests and riots in Paris erupted as part of the ongoing “Yellow Vests” movement that sprang up during November 2018 as a response to hikes in car fuel taxes. The change in fuel taxes, which are due to be introduced on 1 January 2019, will see tax on diesel will go up by 6.5% and petrol tax will rise by 2.9%.

- The protests became violent on 1 December 2018 as thousands of protestors from France’s poor rural regions started mobilizing around Seine River in Paris and commenced a march.

- All around France, the protests left three dead and more than 260 wounded, with more than 400 arrested. These riots were Paris’ most violent in recent times. President Emmanuel Macron on 2 December 2018 visited the affected areas.



6] What is the objective of the “Heart Attack Rewind” campaign started by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) from 1 December 2018? – **To create awareness against bad cholesterol**

Explanation: In keeping with the WHO plan to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fat from the global food supply by 2023, Indian food regulator FSSAI on 1 December 2018 launched "Heart Attack Rewind" campaign aiming to do away with the 'bad

cholesterol' from the food supply by 2022, a year ahead of the global target.

- The current permitted level of industrially-produced trans-fat is 5% in India which has to be cut down to 2% by weight to make the country trans-fat free. FSSAI is trying to reduce the industrially produced trans-fatty acids to less than 2% by the year 2022 in a phased manner.

- Trans-fats are known to increase the risk of coronary artery heart disease and stroke. Globally, trans-fat intake leads to more than 5,00,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease every year.

5-7 December 2018 Current Affairs



1] What is the name of India’s heaviest and most advanced communication satellite that was launched from Kourou in French Guiana on 5 December 2018? - **GSAT-11**

Explanation: India’s heaviest and most advanced communication satellite GSAT-11 was launched from the European spaceport at Kourou in French Guiana in the early hours of 5 December 2018. It was placed into its orbit by Ariane 5 VA246 rocket of the European Space Agency.

- The 5,854-kg GSAT-11, built by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is expected to enable much faster Internet services than now to users down home over the next 15 years. It will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country. It will also provide a platform to demonstrate new generation applications.



2) What is the name of the middleman involved in the alleged Rs. 3,700-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal bribery case, who was extradited to India from the United Arab Emirates on 4 December 2018? – James Michel

Explanation: A British national James Michel, alleged to have been involved in the Rs. 3,700-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal bribery case, was extradited to India from the UAE on 4 December 2018.

- Under the guidance of National Security Advisor AjitDoval, the entire extradition operation was coordinated by CBI Director In-charge M. NageswaraRao.

- Michel was arrested by the Dubai Police in February 2017 on the basis of an Interpol Red Notice issued against him. His role in the purchase of 12 helicopters surfaced in 2012 as a middleman for swinging the deal in favour of AgustaWestland and making illegal payments to Indian public servants.



3) Which country will leave the membership of oil cartel OPEC on 1 January 2019, as was announced on 2 December 2018? – Qatar

Explanation: The small, gas-rich state of Qatar on 2 December 2018 announced that it will leave the powerful oil cartel Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) on 1 January 2019 after nearly 60 years of membership.

- For a year and a half, Qatar has been under an economic embargo by some of its neighbors including

OPEC's de facto leader, Saudi Arabia. The withdrawal decision reflects Qatar's desire to focus its efforts on plans to develop and increase its natural gas production.

- Qatar will be the first Middle Eastern country to pull out of OPEC, which only deals with crude oil production. It is the world's leading exporter of liquefied natural gas, accounting for about 30% of global demand.

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4) Who became the first player in more than a decade other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to win Ballon d'Or for 2018 on 3 December 2018? - Luka Modrić

Explanation: Croatian midfielder Luka Modrić who led Croatia to their first-ever FIFA World Cup final, won this year's Ballon d'Or on 3 December 2018. This is the first time since 2007 that neither Cristiano Ronaldo nor Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or.

- Former Brazil and AC Milan forward Kaka, in 2007, was the last player other than Messi or Ronaldo to win it.

- 33-year old Modric won his third successive Champions League in May 2018 before helping Croatia to a first World Cup final in July 2018.

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8 December 2018 Current Affairs



1) Who was appointed the new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) by the Union Government on 7 December 2018? - Krishnamurthy Subramanian

Explanation: Krishnamurthy Subramanian, currently an associate professor at the Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB), was appointed as the new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for a period of three years by the Union Government on 7 December 2018.

- He has been a part of expert committees on corporate governance for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and on the governance of banks for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- He replaces Arvind Subramanian, who had resigned from his position due to personal reasons in August 2018.

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2) The World's First-in-Human Telerobotic Coronary Intervention operation was performed in which Indian city on 5 December 2018? – Ahmedabad

Explanation: On 5 December 2018 India achieved an important breakthrough in the history of medical science with the World's First-in-Human Telerobotic Coronary Intervention by Dr. Tejas Patel, Chairman and Chief Interventional Cardiologist of the Apex Heart Institute at Ahmedabad. This is the World's first-ever such operation conducted from a remote location outside of the catheterization lab.

- Dr. Patel performed this operation while sitting in a console at the famous Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar and performed angioplasty on a middle-aged woman who was in the operating theatre of his Apex Hospital, some 32 km away. The procedure, driven by cutting-edge technology, carried out by an internet-enabled robotic arm at the cath lab in the operation theatre.

- The success of this study paves the way for large-scale, long-distance telerobotic platforms across the globe.

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3) Which country became the first country from the Latin American region to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)? – Panama

Explanation: Panama has become the first Latin American country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Panamanian counterpart, Juan Carlos Varela signed more than a dozen deals on 5 December 2018 during the Chinese Premier's visit to Panama. China established diplomatic relations with Panama last year.

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) is an ambitious development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

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4) Which airline company on 6 December 2018 became India's first airline to have 200 aircraft in its fleet? – IndiGo

Explanation: IndiGo became India's first airline to have 200 aircraft in its fleet. This happened as the airline inducted 4 new aircrafts in its fleet on 6 December 2018.

- IndiGo, the Gurgaon-based no-frills carrier, which enjoys over 40 per cent of the total domestic traffic, had inducted the 100th aircraft on 24 December 2015. The airline, founded by Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal, started operations in August 2006 with a Delhi-Imphal flight.

- The airline's fleet now comprises 123 A320neos (current engine option), 61 A320neos (new engine option) as well as 12 regional jets ATR. It currently offers over 1,200 flights to 63 domestic destinations, which include 49 domestic and 14 international ones.

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5) Which public-sector undertaking will acquire the Centre's 52.63% holding in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), as was decided by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 6 December 2018? - **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**

Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday gave an in-principle approval to the strategic sale of the Centre's 52.63% holding in Rural Electrification (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC), along with transfer of management control.

- The government has a total 58.3% stake in REC, remainder of which is part of Bharat 22 ETF and CPSE ETF. The move will help the Centre meet its disinvestment target of Rs. 800 billion for FY19.

- PFC, the power sector's leading financier, is battling threats from non-performing power assets that now close to 14,000 Mw. REC, on the other hand, has been at the helm of the Centre's key projects.

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9-11 December 2018 Current Affairs



1) In a surprising development RBI Governor Urjit Patel resigned from his post with immediate effect on 10 December 2018. He was theGovernor of the RBI? - **24th**

Explanation: 55-year old Urjit Patel was the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and was appointed for a 3-year term during September 2016. He is the second RBI governor to relinquish the post under Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's watch. Economist Raghuram Rajan had announced in June 2016 he won't seek an extension when his term ends in September 2016.

- Patel had more than eight months of the first three-year tenure left and was eligible for a second term as was given to several of his predecessors, barring Rajan. He resigned citing personal reasons.

- Relations between the RBI and the Union Government have reportedly soured since October 2018 after the Finance Ministry started consultations under the never-before-used Section 7 of the RBI Act, which empowers the government to direct the central bank to undertake certain policy measures in public interest.

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2) Which new international airport in Kerala was inaugurated on 9 December 2018 with which the state became the first in India to boast of as many as four international airports? - **Kannur**

Explanation: Union Minister Suresh Prabhu and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Kannur International Airport in Malabar area of Kerala state on 9 December 2018. With this the total number of international airports in Kerala rose to four and thus becoming the first state in India to have earned this distinction.

- The three other international airports in Kerala are in Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode.

- The first flight from Kannur International Airport was an Air India Express flight with 180 passengers to Abu Dhabi. The international flights operating from this airport will include those to the UAE, Oman and Qatar. The airport has also been connected to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

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3) The Union Government brought about what important change in the National Pension Scheme (NPS), as was announced on 10 December 2018? – It granted exempt, exempt and exempt (EEE) status to NPS

Explanation: The Union Cabinet has approved changes to National Pension Scheme (NPS) which will make the pension plan at par with other schemes like PPF and EPF. The government granted NPS exempt, exempt and exempt (EEE) status, which means that like PPF (Public Provident Fund) or EPF (Employee Provident Fund) investment at the investment stage, accumulation and withdrawal stage will be tax free.

- Earlier, NPS only enjoyed exempt, exempt and taxable or EET status, meaning that on withdrawal NPS was partially taxable. These changes were approved by the Cabinet in its meeting on 6 December 2018 but their announcement was delayed due to state elections.

- It is also worth mentioning that the government has raised government contribution in NPS from the present 10% to 14% for the Central Government employees.



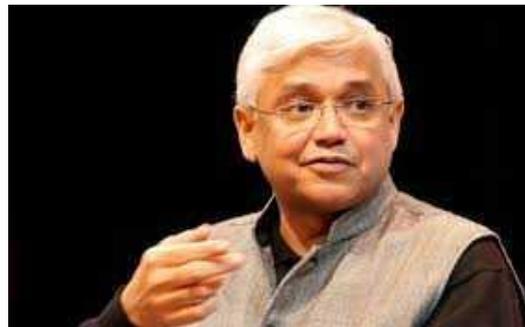
4) Who became the first-ever woman to be hired by private-equity behemoth SoftBank as partner at its \$100 billion Vision Fund? - Kirthiga Reddy

Explanation: SoftBank hired Facebook executive Kirthiga Reddy as a partner at its \$100 billion Vision Fund, the first woman to join a group of just a dozen that oversees the world's biggest pool of technology investments.

- Reddy has joined SoftBank Investment Advisors, which manages the giant fund globally, to focus on frontier and enterprise technology globally. She will work closely with Senior Managing Partner Deep Nishar.

- The Vision Fund has committed more than \$65 billion to acquire stakes in the likes of Uber, WeWork Cos. and China's DidiChuxing.

12-17 December 2018 Current Affairs



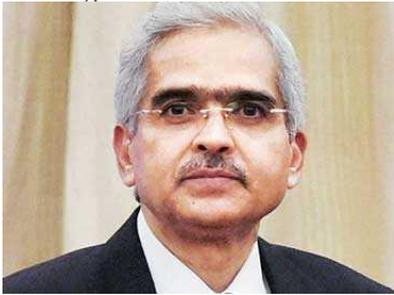
1) Who was chosen for this year's Jnanpith Award, the most prestigious prize for literature in India, as was announced on 14 December 2018? - Amitav Ghosh

Explanation: Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh has been selected this year's Jnanpith Award, a literary award given to an author for "outstanding contribution towards literature". This announcement was made by in a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by eminent novelist, scholar and Jnanpith laureate Pratibha Ray on 14 December 2018.

- 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, River of Smoke*, and *Flood of Fire* - chronicling the Opium trade between India and China run by the East India Company.

- He spent his formative years in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, while he studied in Delhi, Oxford and Alexandria.

- Jnanpith Award is known as the most prestigious literary prize in India. Some of the biggest Indian writers have been awarded with this prestigious literary recognition. Major names among the 58 recipients include literary icons Krishna Sobti, Kedarnath Singh, ShrilalShukla, NirmalVerma, GirishKarnad, Mahasweta Devi, Amrita Pritam and U.R. Ananthamurthy.



2) Who was appointed the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 11 December 2018, just a day after Urjit Patel quit the post? – **Shaktikanta Das**

Explanation: Day after Urjit Patel quit from the RBI governor's post citing personal reasons, Shaktikanta Das was appointed as the new RBI Governor on 11 December 2018. He is the 25th Governor of India's central bank.

- Das is a retired IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre of 1980 batch. He had previously served as the secretary of the economic affairs. He is currently a member of the 15th Finance Commission of India, and has represented the country at the G-20 as a Sherpa.

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3) P.V. Sindhu defeated which Japanese player in the World Super Series women's singles finals on 16 December 2018 to become first Indian player to win BWF World Tour Finals? – **Nozomi Okuhara**

Explanation: Indian badminton ace P.V. Sindhu became the first-ever Indian player to win BWF World Tour Finals as she defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the World Super Series women's singles finals in Guangzhou (China) on 16 December 2018.

- She defeated Okuhara, the defending champion, by 21-19 and 21-17 to claim her first-ever BWF gold medal. Prior to this in 2018, P.V. Sindhu has won silver at the World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Thailand Open and India Open.

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4) Who was nominated for the post of the Chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) by

the Union Government on 13 December 2018? – **B.P. Singh**

Explanation: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has nominated current Vice Chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Brijendra Pal Singh (B.P. Singh) as the new President of the FTII Society and Chairman of Governing Council.

- Singh is the creator, director and producer of popular television series CID and Aahat. An alumnus of the institution, he replaces Anupam Kher, who announced in October 2018 that he will be stepping down owing to a "busy schedule".

- The post of President of the FTII Society and Chairman of Governing Council has been mired in controversy since 2015 when Gajendra Chauhan was appointed to the position. The news sparked mass protests from students of the institution who felt that his appointment was politically motivated.

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5) Indian Navy during December 2018 inducted which first-of-its-kind system with which it joined a select group of naval forces in the world to have this system? - **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) System**

Explanation: The Indian Navy on 12 December 2018 inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) System at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. It is used to rescue crew members stranded in submarines that get disabled.

- The DSRV can be operated at a depth of 650 meters and can hold around 15 people. The need for DSRVs became known when the Indian Navy's INS Sindhurakshak sank in 2013; it was one of the worst accidents in Indian Navy history claiming 18 lives.

- The DSRV is currently deployed on mother ship INS Sabarmati, provided by the Shipping Corporation of India, which will be placed in Mumbai.

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18-24 December 2018 Current Affairs

1) Belgium defeated Netherlands 3-2 via a penalty shoot-out to win the FIH Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 16 December 2018. With this Belgium became theteam to win men's hockey world cup – **Sixth**

Explanation: Olympic silver medallists Belgium became the sixth team to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup as it defeated three-time champions Netherlands 3-2 in shootout in an intense final played on 16 December 2018.

- After both teams failed to score in regulation time, Belgium edged past Netherlands to clinch the World Cup. For Belgium, Florent Van Aubel struck twice in the shootout while Victor Wegnez was on target once. Arthur Van Doren (Belgium) was named the Best Player of the tournament.

- Belgium became overall the sixth team to hold the prestigious trophy. Other 5 champions are – Pakistan (in 1971, 1978, 1982 and 1994), Netherlands (1973, 1990 and 1998), Australia (1986, 2010 and 2014), Germany (2002 and 2006) and India (1975). Earlier Australia defeated England 8-1 to win the third place. Hosts India finished at sixth spot.

- This was the 14th edition of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup and was held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from 28 November to 16 December 2018.



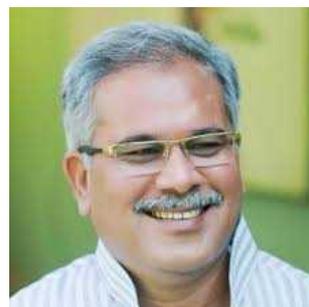
2) Who took oath as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 17 December 2018? – **Kamal Nath**

Explanation: On 17 December 2018 Veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath took oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Kamal Nath is also the chief of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC). Governor Anandiben Patel administered the

oath of office and secrecy to him in the presence of Congress president Rahul Gandhi and others.

- It is worth mentioning that the Congress dislodged the ruling BJP from power after scoring a historic victory in the recently held assembly elections. Congress won 114 of the 230 seats while BJP won 109 seats. BSP, which won 2 seats, has supported the Congress.

- Kamal Nath replaced BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was Madhya Pradesh's Chief Minister since 29 November 2005.



3) Who became new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on 17 December 2018 and replaced BJP's Dr. Raman Singh? – **Bhupesh Baghel**

Explanation: Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel took oath as the chief minister of Chhattisgarh in Raipur on 17 December 2018. Senior leaders Tamradhwaj Sahu and TS Singh Deo were also sworn in as ministers. Congress had won 68 seats, while Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had to settle at 15 in the Assembly elections, the results of which were announced on 11 December 2018.

- Baghel became third Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. State's second Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh had been state's Chief Minister since 2 December 2003.



4) Ashok Gehlot took oath as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan on 17 December 2018. This is Gehlot'stenure as state's Chief Minister – **Third**

Explanation: Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot took oath as Rajasthan's Chief Minister in a grand oath ceremony held at the historic Albert Hall in capital Jaipur on 17 December 2018. Rajasthan state Congress president Sachin Pilot was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

- This is Gehlot's third term as state's Chief Minister. His first term was between 1998 and 2003 while his second term was between 2008 and 2013. It is worth mentioning that Congress won 99 of the 200 seats in Rajasthan Assembly while the ruling BJP could muster just 73 seats. BSP won 6 seats.

- Gehlot replaced BJP's VasundharaRaje, who was holding CM's post since 12 December 2013.



5) Who took over as Mizoram's Chief Minister for third term on 15 December 2018? – Zoramthanga

Explanation: Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga was sworn in as Mizoram's new Chief Minister on 15 December 2018. This was his third stint as chief minister of the north eastern state, having led the MNF government in Mizoram in 1998 and 2003.

- Zoramthanga replaced Congress' LalThanhawla, who is Mizoram's longest serving Chief Minister having served for over 22 years. He was occupying CM's seat for two terms since 11 December 2008. The MNF came to power in Mizoram capturing 26 of the 40 seats in the state assembly.

6) What was the name of the severe cyclonic storm that struck Andhra Pradesh on 17 December 2018? – Phethai

Explanation: Phethai was the name given to the severe cyclonic storm that struck Andhra Pradesh on 17 December 2018. The storm made landfall at Katrenikona in East Godavari district. However, Phethai weakened rapidly and was later categorized just as a cyclone.

- It resulted in death of at least 3 persons in Andhra Pradesh while the agricultural damage in the state was adjudged around Rs. 243.54 crore (US\$34 million).

25-31 December 2018 Current Affairs



1) India's longest rail-cum-road (double-decker) bridge was inaugurated by Prime Minister NarendraModi over the Brahmaputra in Assam on 25 December 2018. This bridge is situated at which place? – Bogibeel

Explanation: Country's longest rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh in Assam was inaugurated on 25 December 2018 by Prime Minister NarendraModi. This 4.94-km-long double-decker bridge will remove communication bottlenecks to several districts in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The bridge, which begins at Dibrugarh and ends at Dhemaji districts of Assam, will connect parts of Arunachal Pradesh by road as well as the railway. It is being called the Bogibeel Bridge. It will cut down rail distance (between Dibrugarh in Assam to Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh) to below 200 km from 700 km now.

- The bridge took 33 years to build after it was promised as a part of the Assam Accord in 1985. It took 12 years for then Prime Minister H D DeveGowda to lay its foundation stone in 1997, and another five years to start work, with then Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee inaugurating construction in 2002. The construction itself has taken 16 years.



2) What is the name of the memorial of former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee that was dedicated to the nation on his 94th birth anniversary on 25 December 2018? – **SadaivAtal**

Explanation: “SadaivAtal” is the name given to the memorial of former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee that has been built in New Delhi. It is situated near the RashtriyaSmritiSthal, where his funeral took place on 17 August 2018. Vajpayee passed away on 16 August 2018 after a prolonged illness.

- Sadaiv (always) Atal memorial will be managed by a trust headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.



3) Over 400 persons were killed and over a thousand injured due to a massive tsunami in Indonesia’s Sunda Strait on 22 December 2018. This tsunami was triggered due to eruption in which volcano? - **Anak Krakatau volcano**

Explanation: On 22 December 2018, a tsunami was triggered following eruption and partial collapse of the Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait area of Indonesia. At least 429 people were killed and 1,459 were injured. The tsunami was caused by an undersea landslide that followed an eruption of Anak Krakatau, the "Child of Krakatoa".

- The vast archipelago of Indonesia, which sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, has suffered its worst annual death toll from disasters in more than a decade. Earthquakes flattened parts of the tourist island of Lombok in July and August, and a double quake-and-tsunami killed more than 2,000 people on Sulawesi island in September 2018.

4) Which public sector entities were the most profitable and the most loss making central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) during 2017-18, as was disclosed in the Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18 on 27 December 2018? – **Indian Oil (most profitable) and BSNL (most lost making)**

Explanation: Indian Oil Corporation was the most profitable central public sector enterprises (CPSE) for year 2017-18 while BSNL was the worst performing CPSE for the same duration. This was disclosed in Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18 that was tabled in Parliament on 27 December 2018.

- The three star performers, including Indian Oil Corporation, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and NTPC, contributed 13.37%, 12.49% and 6.48% to the total profit earned by CPSEs during 2017-18. Coal India and Power Grid Corporation occupied the fourth and fifth spot in the list. The top ten profit making CPSEs accounted for 61.83% of the total profit earned by all the 184 profit making state-owned firms during the year.

- The three worst performing PSUs, including BSNL, Air India and MTNL, contributed 52.15% of the total loss incurred by CPSEs in 2017-18.

5) The Union Cabinet on 28 December 2018 approved a plan to list which six government-owned companies? - **Telecommunication Consultants Ltd, RailTel Corp India Ltd, National Seed Corp India Ltd, Tehri Hydro Development Corp Ltd, Water & Power Consultancy Services Ltd and FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals Ltd**

Explanation: The Union Cabinet on 28 December 2018 gave approval to list Telecommunication Consultants Ltd, RailTel Corp India Ltd, National Seed Corp India Ltd, Tehri Hydro Development Corp Ltd, Water & Power Consultancy Services Ltd and FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals Ltd. However, the timing of the proposed listing was not elaborated.

- The Cabinet also decided to dilute its stake in Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd (KIOCL) through a share sale. The government faces the risk of missing its divestment target for the year, having garnered less than half the 800 billion rupees targeted amount.

6) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 26 December 2018 constituted a committee to look into its Economic Capital Framework. Who is heading this committee? – **BimalJalan**

Explanation: Former RBI Governor BimalJalan is heading the committee to look into the central bank's Economic Capital Framework that was constituted by the RBI on 26 December 2018. This committee was constituted in consultations with the Union Government.

- The committee also comprises former RBI Deputy Governor Rakesh Mohan, central board members Bharat Doshi and SudhirMankad, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg and RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan. It is expected to submit its report within 90 days of its first meeting.

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EDGE ACADEMY