

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 10, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The state tourism department - is planning to revive the oceanarium project at Mamallapuram and introduce a light show depicting the Pallava dynasty**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has sent a proposal seeking financial assistance from the Centre, as the project requires about Rs 250 crore of funding.
 - ✓ Last year, the Union ministry of tourism had identified 17 locations, including Mamallapuram, to be developed under Iconic Tourist Sites Development Project.
 - ✓ Earlier, the state government had announced a world class marine aquarium at Mamallapuram in 2013, but the plan hasn't materialized till now.
- ◆ **Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) - has introduced automatic GPS-based public address systems (PAS) in 50 government buses in Chennai.**



- ✓ With the facility, the passengers can get the names of the approaching bus stops, destination and approximate time taken to reach them by means of 6 speakers in each bus, similar to the model metro rail follows.
- ✓ Of the 75 systems planned, 50 were already fit in new red buses in the city
- ✓ A system was developed to make announcements in Tamil.
- ✓ In between the announcements, advertisements were also provided.
- ✓ For these advertisements, the firm has to pay Rs 1,250 per bus every month, according to tender norms.
- ✓ With less investment in the facility, MTC is able to generate revenue up to Rs 62,500 a month now

◆ **Parandur in Kancheepuram district - is now being considered as a favourable site for the city's second airport.**

- ✓ Nearly 4,700 acres have been identified at Parandur and 12 adjoining villages for the airport site
- ✓ The proposed site is nearly 60 km from the existing airport
- ✓ It will take a passenger about an hour and a half to travel from the existing airport to Parandur.
- ✓ Recently, the State government had requested a team of officials from AAI to visit two sites — Mamandur and Parandur.
- ✓ The new airport will be built in PPP mode

◆ **For the first time in two decades, engine number 37398, a steam locomotive - was operated in a commercial capacity along the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) section between Coonoor and Udhagamandalam**



- ✓ Over the last two decades, the oil-fired steam locomotives were operated only between Mettupalayam and Coonoor.
- ✓ Diesel locomotives were used to complete the final leg of the journey, from Coonoor to Udhagamandalam

◆ **SRM Institute of Science and Technology - has won the STEM (Society for Technology Management) Impact Award recently**

- ✓ The award is given for the innovation of a cost-effective microbial fuel cell for bioelectricity generation from tannery effluents
- ✓ SRMIST is the only privately funded university to receive this award, others being IIT Kanpur and two CSIR labs.
- ✓ SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, has received six other recognitions in last two months, including Green metric award, AICTE-CII IndPact award, FICCI honour, and three Swachhata awards.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill – was passed in Lok Sabha on December 9 with a 311-80 majority**



- ✓ The bill seeks to offer Indian citizenship for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, on grounds of religious persecution, who have entered the country before December 31, 2014.
- ✓ Introducing the bill, Home minister Amit Shah said that 3 states in the north-east — Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur — were fully excluded from the purview of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and they are covered by the inner line permit (ILP) system that imposes restrictions on non-locals as per the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.
- ✓ For the first time, Manipur would be brought under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, thereby excluding it from the provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
- ✓ Citizens from other states can visit 'ILP' areas for limited period with special 'permit' but are barred from taking up jobs, open businesses or settle down in these areas.
- ✓ Three other states — Nagaland, barring Dimapur where ILP is not applicable; Meghalaya, barring Shillong, and Tripura, barring nontribal areas not covered by Sixth Schedule of the Constitution — are also insulated from the provisions of the bill.
- ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955

◆ **Rajya Sabha – passes the Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 on December 9**

- ✓ It provides for the regulated recycling of ships, which is in accordance with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 adopted by the International Maritime Organisation.
- ✓ The bill spells out rules for existing facilities and is applicable to all ships registered in India or entering Indian waters, apart from warships and other government ships.

Building Blocks

RECYCLING OF SHIPS BILL, 2019 MAKES WAY FOR..

Better handling of hazardous waste

Legal provisions for green recycling

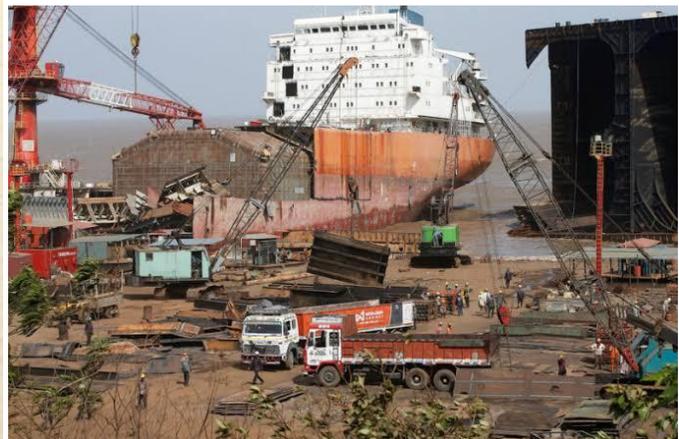
EU, Japan come forward to promote industry here

Better safety conditions for workers

Annual growth of 20% expected

We want to double ship recycling industry in India... Employment generation capacity of the industry will also increase

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA
SHIPPING MINISTER

- ✓ The ships should not have hazardous material, for which a national authority would be created to carry out checks.
- ✓ India accounted for 30% of the ship breaking that happens currently, with 300 ships being recycled here every year.

◆ **The government - has decided to allow introduction of “road trains” on select routes**



- ✓ It has also identified various points to encourage multi-container transport on the road to reduce logistics cost.
- ✓ This mode of freight transportation is popular in countries, including Australia, United States and in Europe, to carry huge quantity of cargo.
- ✓ Road trains consist of a conventional prime mover — a truck — pulling two or more trailers.
- ✓ One ‘road train’ in India can replace at least 3 trucks and is expected to assist the movement of freight.
- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been developing “economic corridors” on priority to connect major manufacturing hubs.
- ✓ According to the draft notification released by the Government, the length of road trains will be 25 metres and there will be a maximum limit of 3 trailers being pulled by a single truck

◆ **A Bill seeking to extend by 10 years reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha – was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 9**

- ✓ The legislation also propose to remove the provision of nominating two members of the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha
- ✓ The reservation given to SCs, STs and the Anglo-Indian community for the past 70 years is to end on January 25, 2020.
- ✓ According to the 2011 census, there are 296 members of the Anglo Indian community in the entire country
- ✓ The Bill was then cleared for introduction by voice vote to be taken up for consideration and passing later.

◆ **US retail giant, Walmart- unveiled the globally first-of-its-kind programme to link micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with its supply chain and plans to create the first hub in India by March 2020.**



- ✓ Under the Vridhhi Supplier Development Programme titled 'Walmart Vridhhi', the company aims to train around 50,000 Indian small businesses to "Make in India" for global supply chains.
- ✓ The company intends to create 25 such hubs across the country
- ✓ Walmart operates a wholesale business in India and owns e-commerce company Flipkart
- ✓ Between Amazon India and CII, the two groups will conduct activities such as a series of awareness workshops, road shows, and e-commerce training at industrial clusters.

◆ **Aberdeen police station located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands - has been chosen as the Topmost Police station in the country for the year 2019**

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently released the list of top 10 police stations in the country

India's 10 Best Police Stations



The Centre on Friday released a list of India's 10 best police stations. The exercise was started on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015. He had instructed that parameters be laid down for grading police stations and assessing their performance. Here's the list:

| Police Stations (rank-wise) | District | State |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Aberdeen | Andaman | Andaman & Nicobar Islands |
| 2 Balasinor | Mahisagar | Gujarat |
| 3 Ajk | Burhanpur | MP |
| 4 Theni | AWPS Theni | TN |
| 5 Anini | Dibang Valley | HP |
| 6 Baba Haridas Nagar, Dwarka | — | Delhi |
| 7 Bakani | Jhalawar | Rajasthan |
| 8 Choppadandi (M) | Karimnagar | Telangana |
| 9 Bicholim | North Goa | Goa |
| 10 Bargawa | Sheopur | MP |

15,579

Police stations were in the race for the top 10, which was selected through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback

The ranking process started after shortlisting best-performing police stations on the basis of their record in addressing –

**Property-related offences
Crime against women
Crime against weaker sections**



IN THE FINAL stage 19 parameters were identified to evaluate the standards of service delivery and identify techniques of improvement in policing

80% WEIGHTAGE was given to overall policing; 20% for infrastructure and approachability of personnel and citizen feedback

5,461 Respondents, covering around 60 people at each shortlisted location, were approached for feedback

- ✓ The ranking of police stations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the DGPs conference in 2015 in Kutch of Gujarat
- ✓ A total of 15,579 police stations were selected from all states for the ranking by the Ministry
- ✓ These rankings were based on a range of parameters such as addressing the number of offences related to property disputes, crime against women and crime against weaker sections at a police station.
- ✓ The top three police stations in India for 2018 are Kalu (Bikaner, Rajasthan), Campbell Bay (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Farakka (Murshidabad, West Bengal).
- ✓ The Periakulam police station in Theni district has been put on the eight spot in the top 10 list for the year 2018.

◆ **The Ministry of Tourism - has recently announced the creation of 'Rural Circuit' under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.**

- ✓ Two projects, one for Bihar and another for Kerala have been sanctioned yet under the scheme.
- ✓ This project is being promoted by the Ministry to develop India's tourist destinations as a viable resource of investment.

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Saudi Arabia - has decided to abolish its traditional rule that requires separate entrances and seating areas for men and women in public places.**

- ✓ Earlier, all restaurants in Saudi Arabia were required to have one entrance for women and families and another entrance for men dining on their own.
- ✓ Unrelated men and women were not allowed to mix in public places.
- ✓ However, the new change is not compulsory, as traditional Saudis believe gender segregation in public as a religious requirement.
- ✓ Recently, in August 2019, Saudi Arabia decided to allow Saudi women to travel abroad freely without the approval of a male guardian
- ✓ The new changes are a part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision 2030 to create a liberal Saudi Arabia and make the kingdom more tourist and recreation-friendly to attract more foreign investments.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ **India and France - to soon launch a Joint Naval patrolling mission in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to protect their strategic interests**

- ✓ The navies from the two countries are expected to sign an agreement next year for sharing classified information to achieve better operational cooperation in the region

- ✓ India is planning to deploy its P-8I (long-range maritime patrol) aircraft to carry out joint patrol in southern Indian Ocean
- ✓ On the proposed India-French pact, it would be a rare occasion for France to have such an arrangement with a non-Nato country like India
- ✓ The move assumes significance as China is expanding its maritime influence in the IOR, through bases like the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, Gwadar port in Pakistan and its first overseas military facility in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.
- ✓ India and France held their biggest-ever Varuna naval exercise off Goa and Djibouti in May 2019

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - to launch the 50th flight of PSLV 'PSLV-C48' from Sriharikota spaceport on December 11 at 3.25 pm**

PRIDE OF PLACE

PSLV C-48

Will be **50th** flight of PSLV

75th launch vehicle mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

37th launch from first launch pad

2nd flight of PSLV with 'QL' variant

The launch vehicle's primary payload **RISAT-2BRI**

RISAT2BRI

- > A radar imaging earth observation satellite developed by Isro
- > Weight | **628kg**
- > Altitude | **576km**
- > Payload | X-band radar with **0.3m** resolution
- > Inclination | **37 degrees**
- > Life | **5 yrs**

APPLICATION

- > Agriculture
- > Forestry
- > Disaster management support
- > Military reconnaissance

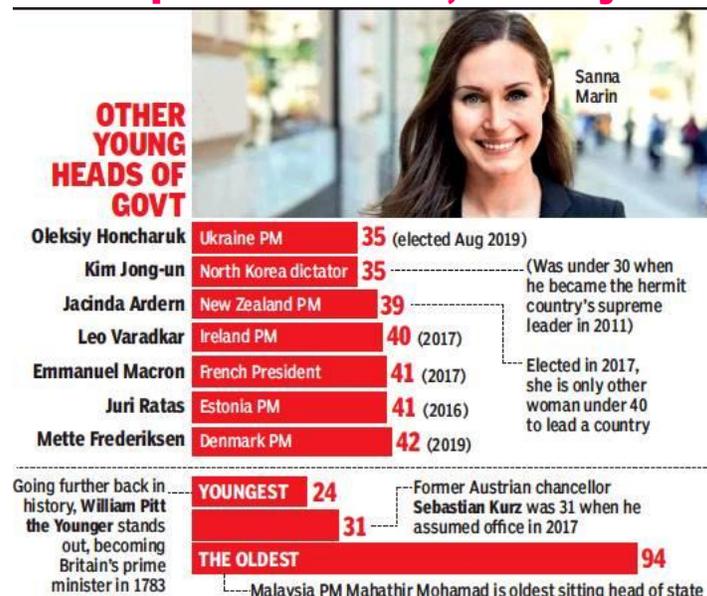
OTHER PAYLOADS

- > Nine satellites from Japan, Italy, US and Israel

- ✓ It marks the 75th launch vehicle mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in the 25th year of PSLV's first successful mission
- ✓ Isro's workhorse, PSLV rocket will launch the country's fourth radar imaging earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR, that carries an Xband synthetic aperture radar, a desi version of Israel's TecSAR satellite
- ✓ The imaging resolution of the satellite is at 0.35m, much better than its predecessor RISAT-2B which can capture images at a 0.5X0.3m resolution.
- ✓ The biggest advantage of a radar imaging satellite compared to other optical imaging remote sensing satellite is that it has the ability to penetrate through thick cloud cover any time of the day to capture images.
- ✓ PSLV-C48 will also carry 9 other satellites from Japan, Italy, USA and Israel.
- ✓ Isro has announced that the radar has various applications including agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.
- ✓ In agriculture, the growth of a particular crop can be monitored at every stage while in forestry, deforestation and regrowth of trees and can be monitored
- ✓ It is also believed that RISAT2BR1 and the Cartosat-3 launched on November 27, will also be used for military reconnaissance
- ✓ PSLV's first launch- PSLVD1- was on September 20, 1993 carrying IRS-1E, which was a failure.
- ✓ Since its first successful launch -PSLV-D2- on October 15, 1994 when it placed IRS-P2 remote sensing satellite, the rocket has a track record of 47 successful missions.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Finland's next prime minister, Sanna Marin - becomes the youngest leader of a government in the world at 34 years, overtaking Ukraine's 35-year-old prime minister, Oleksiy Honcharuk.**



- ✓ Marin will head a five-party, center left coalition, after she was elected as the leader of the Social Democratic Party, the largest party in the coalition.
- ✓ All of her four coalition partners have women leaders — and three of them are in their early 30s.
- ✓ Marin will be Finland's third female government leader.
- ✓ A lawmaker since 2015, Marin is the party's vice-chairwoman and was minister for transport and communications in the outgoing government.
- ✓ Iceland's Vigdis Finnbogadottir was the first woman to be democratically elected as Head of state in 1980.
- ✓ Finland currently holds the presidency of the European Union till the end of 2019.

AWARDS

◆ **Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa - was crowned Miss Universe on December 8, 2019 among 90 contestants from various countries**

- ✓ She was crowned by her predecessor Catriona Gray of the Philippines in Atlanta, Georgia, US
- ✓ With the victory, Zozibini Tunzi has become the first wearer of the new Mouawad crown.
- ✓ The 68th Miss Universe 2019 runner-ups included Miss Puerto Rico Madison Anderson as the first runner-up and Miss Mexico Ashley Alvidrez as the second runner-up.
- ✓ India's Miss Universe 2019 representative Vartika Singh was knocked out of the pageant after securing a place in the Miss Universe 2019 Top 20
- ✓ Thus, she becomes the third Miss Universe winner from South Africa, after Leila Lopes from Angola (2011) and Trinidad's Janelle Commission (1977)

SPORTS

◆ **Russia – was handed over a four-year ban from international sports events by the World Anti-Doping Agency's executive committee on December 9 over a longstanding doping scandal.**

- ✓ The WADA's punishment includes specific bans on Russian sports and government officials and prohibits it from hosting international events

RUSSIA AT 2012 LONDON OLYMPICS

Initial Count:
Medals: **82** | Rank: **4**
Final count*:
Medals: **68** | Rank: **4**

*After several athletes were stripped of medals for doping

2016 RIO OLYMPICS

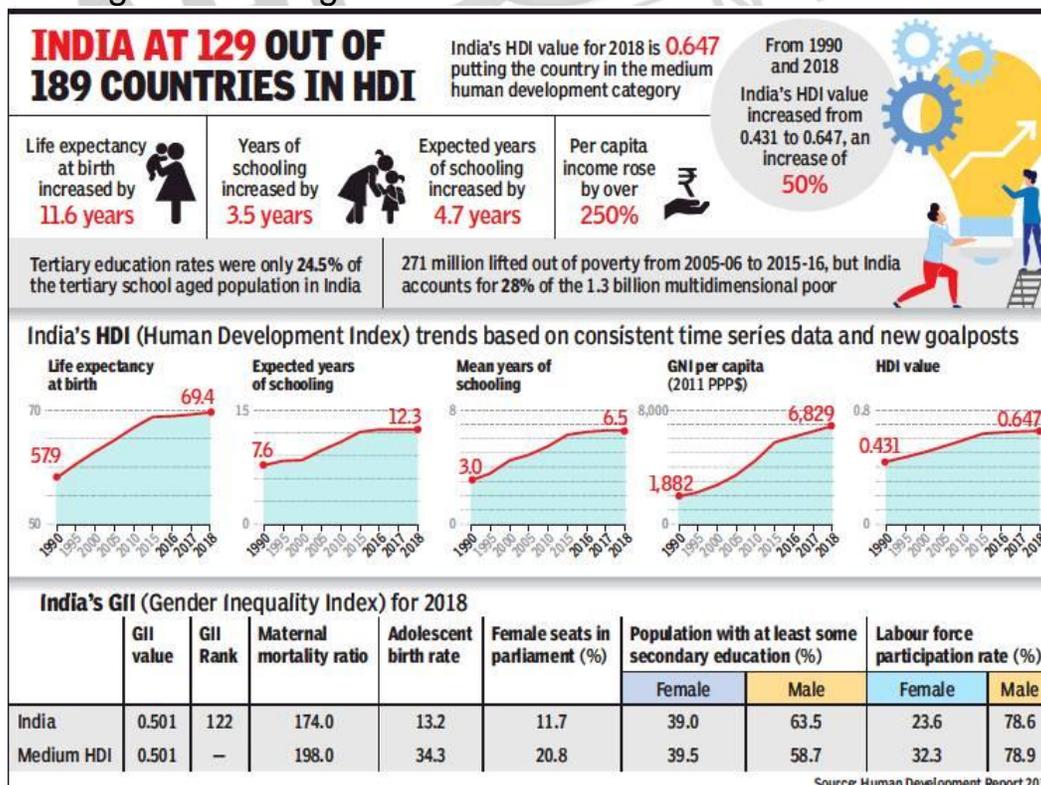
Medals: **56** | Rank: **4**
Russian track & field athletes were banned from participating in Rio due to dope sanctions

- ✓ The ruling means that Russia's flag, name and anthem will not appear at the next summer's 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the 2022 football World Cup in Qatar and the Beijing Winter Olympics of 2022
- ✓ Russian athletes can still compete in major events, but only if they have cleared all doping tests or proved that their data was not manipulated
- ✓ Earlier, Russian state authorities were accused of tampering with a Moscow laboratory database to protect the beneficiaries of a state-powered doping program with high sophistication and scope.
- ✓ Russia is accused of sponsoring a scheme in which Russian anti-doping experts and members of the country's intelligence service secretly replaced urine samples tainted by performance enhancing drugs with clean urine at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

RANKINGS

◆ India - was ranked at 129th position among 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) released by the UNDP as part of its Human Development Report 2019

- ✓ Last year India was ranked at 130th position
- ✓ Norway, Switzerland and Ireland occupied the top three positions in that order.
- ✓ Germany is placed fourth along with Hong Kong, and Australia secured the fifth rank on the global ranking.



- ✓ India's HDI from 1990 to 2018 shows a rise of 50% (0.431 to 0.647) with life expectancy at birth increasing by 11.6 years and gross national income per capita increasing by over 262% in this 28-year period.
- ✓ India has been ranked in the 'above the average' (0.634) category for countries in the medium human development group and also among other south Asian countries.(0.642)
- ✓ As per the report, India has lifted 271 million out of poverty from 2005-06 to 2015-16, but still around 28% of the 1.3 billion poor remains in India
- ✓ The life expectancy at birth for males was 68.2 and for females it was 70.7.
- ✓ The report also suggested that India is only marginally better than the South Asian average on Gender Development Index (0.829 versus 0.828)
- ✓ As per the report, South Asia was the fastest growing region in human development progress witnessing a 46% growth over 1990-2018, followed by East Asia and the Pacific at 43%.
- ✓ HDI measures long-term progress on three dimensions of human development - life expectancy, education and per capita income.

◆ **India - has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.501, ranking it 122 out of 162 countries in the 2018 Gender Inequality Index**

- ✓ Gender Inequality Index (GII) projects gender based inequalities in three dimensions - reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity
- ✓ The gender index shows that more 50% of the people have a high intensity bias against gender equality and women's empowerment, globally.
- ✓ The HDR 2019 indicates that more Indian men and women have shown biases in terms of gender social norms.

◆ **Maharashtra - topped the list of states with the highest employable talent in the country, followed by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh**

- ✓ Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune stood out as the most employable cities.
- ✓ Bengaluru, New Delhi, Pune, Lucknow and Chennai have maintained their presence in the top 10 list over the past 6 years.
- ✓ Nashik and Guntur which was present in the list last year were replaced by Mangalore and Coimbatore in this year's list.
- ✓ Maharashtra moved up from 9th position and Tamil Nadu was up from 10th position last year
- ✓ States that registered a fall in their ranking were West Bengal (2nd last year) and Haryana which could not make into the top 10 list this year
- ✓ MBA-holders were ranked as the highest employable among various course graduates with an employability score of 54%
- ✓ The position was held by engineers the previous year.
- ✓ Employability of B Pharma, B com, B A and Polytechnics have witnessed an increase at about 15%.
- ✓ These findings were observed by the 7th edition of the India Skills report 2020, which will be released on December 10.

- ✓ The report assessed 300,000 candidates from 35 educational Institutes across 28 states and 9 union territories who appeared for the test.
- ✓ The report has been prepared by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Association of Indian Universities (AIU), consulting firm, People Strong and online talent assessment firm, Wheebox.

◆ **United States - dominates the global arms market by accounting for 59% of the total market turnover.**

- ✓ This was revealed in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) recent report about sales of arms worldwide
- ✓ As per the report, the profit of 100 biggest arms manufacturers rose to \$20 billion in 2018 and the US market has risen by 7.2% which is about \$246 billion.
- ✓ Russia remains at the second on the list of arms production while the UK was ranked third with 8.6% and 8.4% of shares respectively
- ✓ Lockheed Martin Corporation, Boeing and Northrop Grumman Corporation were ranked as the first, second and third arms manufacturer respectively.
- ✓ Overall, 80 among Top-100 companies were based in the United States
- ✓ The remaining 20 companies were situated in Japan (6), India (3), Israel (3), South Korea (3), and Turkey (2) and one each in Singapore, Australia, and Canada.
- ✓ In 2018, combined arms sales of the top three Indian weaponry manufacturing companies, listed in top-100, have seen a decline of 6.9%.

| Indian Companies in SIPRI's top 100 arms-producing companies list | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Company Name | Rank-2018 | Arms Sales-2018 |
| Hindustan Aeronautics | 38 | \$2740 mn |
| Indian Ordnance Factories | 56 | \$1650 mn |
| Bharat Electronics | 62 | \$1460 mn |

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **International Human Rights Day 2019 – December 10**

DECEMBER 10
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to recognize and empower human rights, which includes economic, social, cultural rights and international commitments on civil and political rights.
- ✓ In India, the human rights law came into existence on September 28, 1993
- ✓ After that, the Indian Government constituted the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on October 12, 1993.
- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Youth Standing Up for Human Rights'

- ✓ This day has been observed since the day the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
- ✓ In December 1993, the day was announced by UN General Assembly to be celebrated annually.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION COLLAPSE - REPORT

Why WTO's on the verge of collapse

After today, the World Trade Organisation will no longer be able to fulfill its role as the arbiter of global trade disputes. The WTO's powerful appellate body – which upholds, modifies or reverses ruling in trade disputes— is set to lose two judges, who finish their terms on December 10, leaving the panel with just one member. The Trump administration has blocked new appointments to the appellate body, claiming it has overstepped its mandate. The US has also threatened to block the WTO's budget, which could cause the international organisation with 164 members to entirely shut down on January 1, 2020

WTO GOVERNS \$23 BILLION IN TRADE

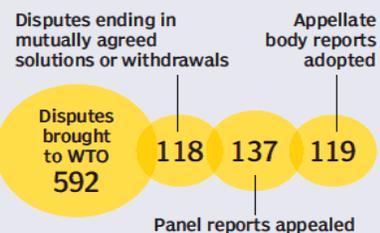
- WTO was founded in 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was established in 1947
- While GATT mainly dealt with trade in goods, WTO also covers trade in services and intellectual property, and introduced procedures for dispute settlement
- WTO rules govern nearly \$23 billion in global trade
- It's based out of Geneva



DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM CENTRAL TO WTO

- WTO's dispute settlement procedures, often called the "crown jewel" of the body, allow for member states to seek action against other members for violating WTO rules
- Dispute settlement begins with consultations to give the involved parties the opportunity to resolve the dispute themselves
- If consultations fail, the complainant can seek the establishment of a panel, which will receive submissions from both parties and submit a report of its findings
- Here's where the appellate body (AB) comes into play. If a panel report is appealed by any involved party, AB hears appeals and then makes the final and binding decision in disputes. The body has a sanctioned strength of seven, but judge retirements left vacancies that were not filled, leading to the current situation

CASES HEARD OVER 25 YEARS



BUT US, CITING UNFAIR TREATMENT, HAS SCUTTLED WTO



➤ Currently, the appellate body only has three judges, which is the quorum required to decide on disputes

➤ Since 2018, US has refused to approve appointments to fill vacancies on the appellate body. All appointments require unanimous agreement among WTO members

➤ The terms of two judges – US' Thomas Graham and India's Ujal Singh Bhatia – will end on December 10, leaving China's Hong Zhao as the only remaining member

➤ The US move has effectively defanged the WTO's dispute settlement procedure – if any party in a dispute appeals the initial decision, without enough judges in AB, the dispute will remain indefinitely unresolved

➤ Not only has the US blocked appointments, it has also threatened to block the WTO's budget, which could force the body to shut operations entirely on January 1, 2020

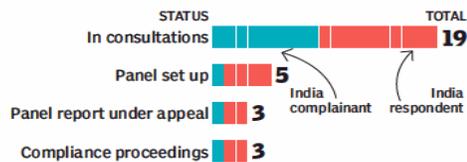
A CRIPPLED WTO COULD HURT INDIAN INTERESTS



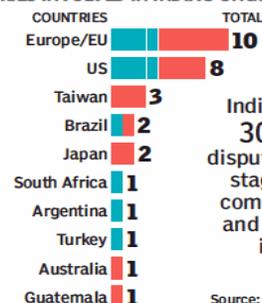
➤ India has several disputes that will be left in limbo if the AB collapses

➤ Ongoing disputes include US and Japan complaining of excessive import duties and India pulling up the US for its steel and aluminium tariffs, and fee hikes for non-immigrant visas, including the H-1B

STATUS OF INDIA'S ONGOING WTO DISPUTES



COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN INDIA'S ONGOING DISPUTES



India has at least 30 ongoing disputes at various stages. India is a complainant in 12 and a respondent in 18 disputes

Source: WTO, media reports

CAB – SOME CLARIFICATIONS

◆ **What is Citizenship (Amendment) bill?**

- ✓ The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), passed in Lok Sabha, seeks to change the basis of Indian citizenship by legalising religious discrimination.
- ✓ It seeks to amend the definition of illegal immigrant for Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist and Christian immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who have lived in India without documentation.
- ✓ They will be given fast-track Indian citizenship in six years, much earlier than the current 12 years of residence that has been the standard eligibility requirement for naturalization

◆ **What is the government's logic?**

- ✓ The government's logic is that these minority groups have escaped religious persecution in Muslim-majority nations.
- ✓ However, the logic is not consistent – neither the bill protects all religious minorities, nor does it apply to all neighbours.
- ✓ The Ahmedia Muslim sect and even Shias face discrimination in Pakistan.
- ✓ Similarly, Rohingya Muslims and Hindus face persecution in neighbouring Burma, and Hindu and Christian Tamils in neighbouring Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The government responds that Muslims can seek refuge in Islamic nations, but has not answered the other questions

◆ **Will it stand constitutional challenge?**

- ✓ Effectively, the CAB excludes Muslim identity by declaring India a welcome refuge to all other religious communities.
- ✓ It seeks to legally establish Muslims as second-class citizens of India by providing preferential treatment to other groups.
- ✓ This violates the Constitution's Article 14, the fundamental right to equality to all persons.
- ✓ This basic structure of the Constitution cannot be reshaped by any Parliament.
- ✓ And yet, the government maintains that it does not discriminate or violate the right to equality

◆ **Wasn't partition also on basis of religion?**

- ✓ In Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that this would not have been necessary if the Congress has not accepted Partition on the basis of religion.
- ✓ However, India was not created on the basis of religion, but Pakistan was.
- ✓ Only the Muslim League and the Hindu Right advocated the two nation theory of Hindu and Muslim nations, which led to Partition.
- ✓ All the founders of India were committed to a secular state, where all citizens irrespective of religion enjoyed full membership.
- ✓ Either way, this logic for the CAB also collapses because Afghanistan was not part of pre-Partition India

◆ **What about the North-East?**

- ✓ After the CAB faced resistance in the North-east, the region has been largely left out of its scope.
- ✓ Areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and states with an Inner Line Permit system will not remain as a part of CAB.
- ✓ Any person “declared foreigner” in these areas cannot apply for Indian citizenship even if he/she is from one of the 6 religious communities identified by the bill

◆ **What part does the Sixth Schedule play?**

- ✓ The Sixth Schedule lists special provisions for administration of North-east’s tribal areas, covering all of Mizoram and Meghalaya, and parts of Assam and Tripura.
- ✓ In Tripura, it’s the area under the jurisdiction of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous Development Council.
- ✓ In Assam, it’s three small tribal-majority pockets in Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and Bodoland Territorial Area Districts.
- ✓ Since exemptions in CAB will only apply to these areas and not the entire state, it will add to the complexity of the identity politics in the region

◆ **What is the Inner Line Permit system?**

- ✓ The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system draws legitimacy from a colonial-era law — the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 — introduced to protect the economic interests of the British crown.
- ✓ To enter three states in the northeast — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram — any outsider, including Indian citizens, needs an ILP.
- ✓ Only indigenous communities can settle, own land and get jobs in these areas.
- ✓ Because of these restrictions, which are already in place, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would not have applied to these states anyway.
- ✓ In the northeast, only Manipur remained outside the purview of both the ILP system and the Sixth Schedule and, therefore, the exemptions.
- ✓ On December 9, the Centre decided to extend ILP to Manipur as well

◆ **So, now a nationwide NRC?**

- ✓ Yes. The government wants to carry out a nation-wide register of citizens (NRC), similar to that took place in Assam.
- ✓ However, Assam’s NRC revealed the arbitrariness and mass exclusion due to the lack of paperwork with the ‘regular’ citizens itself.
- ✓ If the CAB’s automatic immunity to Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists and Christians is taken into consideration, this will lead to widespread isolation of Muslims.

