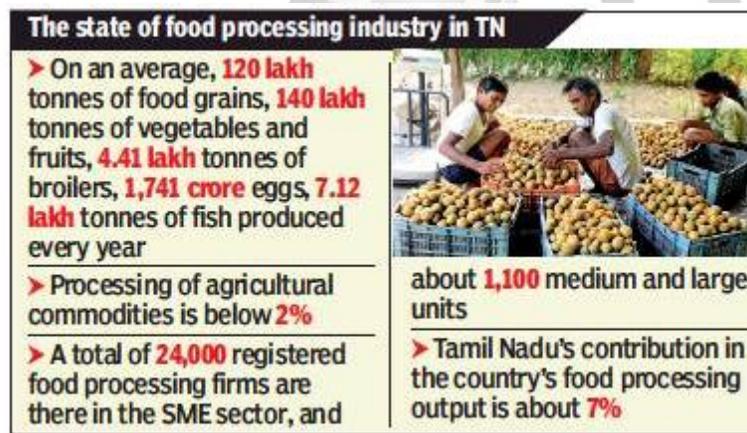


**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 13, 2018**

**TAMIL NADU**

- Tamil Nadu CM, Edappadi K Palaniswami – unveils ‘Food processing policy’ on December 12, 2018



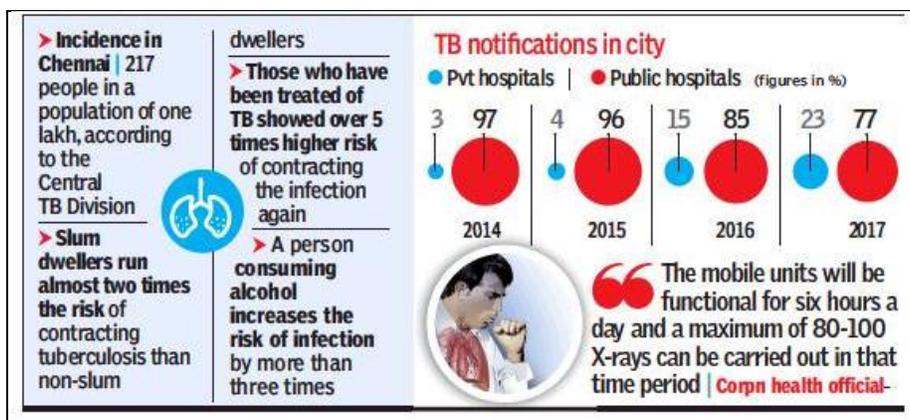
- ✓ The policy aims at increasing farmers' income, reducing wastage of food products and value addition to farm products
- ✓ It also encourages setting up of food processing industries by agro-entrepreneurs, availing financial assistance from the Union government and interest grants provided by the State Government (3% per annum for term loans availed for fixed capital investment and 5% per annum for Women/SC/ST entrepreneurs)
- ✓ The state has planned to increase the percentage of processed food, especially that of fruits and vegetables to 10%
- ✓ A single clearance desk at Directorate of industries and commerce will help small scale industries, while TN Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau will be the facilitator for large industries.

- **Tamil Nadu Government – to provide free vaccination for senior citizens in old age homes ‘free-of-cost’ – for the first time in the country**
- ✓ The initiative is aimed at bringing down the prevalence of pneumonia among the elderly
- ✓ A sum of 1.75 crore has been set aside by the government for the programme
- ✓ The social welfare department has identified 4,133 elderly people in more than 104 homes across the state to be covered in the drive
- **Tamil Nadu CM, Edappadi K Palaniswami – unveils a new web portal ‘www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in’ – to monitor the progress of ‘Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor project’**



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. எடப்பாடி கே. பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் இன்று (12.12.2018) தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், சென்னை – கன்னியாகுமரி தொழிற்துட திட்டத்திற்கான <http://www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in> என்ற வலைதளத்தை துவக்கி வைத்தார்கள்.

- ✓ The project is developed with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – to scan Chennai people for Tuberculosis from January 2019 – using seven mobile units**



- ✓ The move, aiming to create 'TB-free' Chennai, will have the mobile vans stationed near slums, shelters, and orphanages to serve the poor
  - ✓ These mobile units will be fitted with X-ray scanners and semi-auto analyzers for rapid screening of the disease
  - ✓ The machines can detect TB bacteria - Mycobacterium tuberculosis - in less than two hours
  - ✓ Each unit will have a field supervisor, lab technician and radiography staff, besides other paramedical staff
  - ✓ The test also checks resistance to Rifampicin, the drug most commonly used to treat TB
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – begins the trial of 'Online' corrections to birth and death certifications in Adyar Zone**



- ✓ All corrections, except date of birth, can be made online
- **Proteus 235, first-of-its-kind proton therapy facility in India and southeast Asia – run by Apollo Hospitals – gets the licence from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**



- ✓ The therapy will offer treatment for cancer patients with proton beam of 226MeV
- ✓ The Proton therapy irradiates diseased tissues more effectively when compared to conventional gamma or x-ray radiation therapy
- ✓ It is used to treat deep-seated tumours and paediatric cancers

- **Jayashree, a 38-year old woman – delivers a boy at 5.12 kg – at the state-run Kasturba Hospital, Triplicane**
- ✓ The doctors in the hospital performed the delivery of Chennai's heaviest baby through the normal means, without opting for C-section
- ✓ The condition of overweight is known as 'macrosomia' (children with birth weight above 4kg)
- ✓ At least 1800 out of 1 lakh babies are born over weight every year, as per Dr Vijaya, Hospital Director

## STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh Government – to establish 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee State Medical University'**
- ✓ The proposed Umbrella medical university, under the name of former PM of India, will control all the medical and dental colleges and nursing institutions in the state
- ✓ The university would be established on the lines of APJ Abdul Kalam University, which regulates all the Engineering colleges in the state

## NATIONAL

- **Ministry of Commerce – releases the first ever 'Agriculture Export Policy 2018'**



- ✓ Vision
  - ✓ To harness the export potential of Indian agriculture through suitable policy instruments and to make India a global power in agriculture and raise farmers' income
- ✓ Highlights
  - ✓ The policy aims to strengthen India's march to become a \$5 trillion economy before 2025
  - ✓ It plans to boost services sector contribution to \$3 trillion, manufacturing to \$1 trillion and Agriculture to \$1 trillion – to make the country a \$5 trillion economy

- ✓ The Ministry has created a corpus of \$1 billion to boost 12 champion sectors in services – which includes Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT and ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services
- ✓ It aims to boost India's agricultural exports to \$60 billion by 2022 and to achieve Agriculture Ministry's target of \$100 billion
- ✓ The recommendations in the policy are grouped in two categories – Operational and Strategic recommendations
- ✓ The Commerce Ministry has identified 15 strategic overseas locations where the Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOs) are proposed to be created
- ✓ These locations include Astana (Kazakhstan), Beijing (China) Cape town (South Africa), Dubai (UAE), Frankfurt (Germany), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Jakarta (Indonesia) Lima (Peru), London (U.K.), Melbourne (Australia), Mexico City (Mexico), Moscow (Russia), New York (USA), Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Tokyo (Japan)
- ✓ Earlier, on December 6, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the creation of country's first Agriculture Export Policy
- **India – signs 30-member 'Trans Regional Maritime Network'- 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
- ✓ India already has bilateral White Shipping Agreements with 36 countries
- ✓ This agreement was signed by CMDE KM Ramakrishnan
- ✓ Ministry of Transport – to allow 16-18 year olds to obtain license and drive e-scooters
- ✓ The ministry intends to change motor vehicle rules within a fortnight - to end the menace of illegal driving by underage teens
- ✓ The maximum motor power of these vehicles will be capped at four kilowatts
- ✓ They will have a maximum driving speed of 70 kmph

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – makes the Personal Accident cover along with the Motor Insurance not ‘Mandatory’ for Cars and two wheelers – from January 1, 2019**
- ✓ In September 2018, the regulator had make it mandatory for vehicle owners (both bikes and cars) to buy personal accident cover of Rs 15 lakh for a yearly premium of Rs 750, when they buy motor insurance
- ✓ Earlier, the minimum coverage was Rs 1 lakh, which was revised to Rs 15 lakh based on the directive of Madras High Court  
The revision is announced because many owner-drivers already have existing personal accident covers and many have more than one vehicle
- **Editors Guild of India – suspends the membership of M J Akbar, Journalist-turned-politician, Tarun Tejpal, former Editor-in-chief of Tehelka – over allegations of sexual misconduct**
- ✓ Earlier, MJ Akbar resigned as the Minister of State for External Affairs on October 17, 2018 - following the revelations under #MeToo movement
- ✓ The #MeToo campaign first began as a hashtag on Twitter in 2017, when Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was accused of sexual harassment

## COURT VERDICT

- **Delhi High Court – bans the sale of ‘Online’ medicines by e-pharmacists across the country with immediate effect – on December 12, 2018**
- ✓ The HC bench comprising Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao delivered the judgement while hearing a PIL filed by Delhi-based dermatologist, Zaheer Ahmed
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the Ministry of Health had framed the draft rules on sale of drugs by e-pharmacies in September 2018 to regulate online sale of medicines
- ✓ As per the new rules, registration of the e-pharmacy portal was made mandatory

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **AYUSHCHARYA , a conference on Dinacharya (Daily Regimen) & Ritucharya (Seasonal Regimen) for public health promotion - was organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi**



- ✓ The 2-day conference concluded on December 11
- ✓ It was part of 3<sup>rd</sup> National Ayurveda Day which was celebrated on November 5, 2018 on the occasion of the Dhanawantari Jayanti or Dhanteras with the theme “Ayurveda for Public health”

- ✓ During the occasion, various concepts such as Dinacharya, Ratricharya and Ritucharya were discussed
- ✓ Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for AYUSH - released the Dinacharya booklet and AYUSHCHARYA Calendar-2019 in the conference
- **AdventureNext 2018 – concluded in Madhya Pradesh**
- ✓ The 3-day, first-of-its-kind event, was organized by The Adventure Travel Trade Association in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Tourism
- ✓ Theme – ‘Pulse of Tomorrow’
- ✓ Partner – Jharkhand Tourism

## PERSONALITIES

- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – hands over the National Tricolor – to Arunima Sinha, who is undertaking an expedition to Antarctica to climb its tallest peak, Mount Vinson Mansiff**



- ✓ Arunima will fly this flag on top of 4892-metre Mount Vinson Massif, when she scales the peak
- ✓ Arunima – A story of grit
- ✓ In April 2011, Arunima, a national-level volleyball and football player, lost her leg after being thrown out by thieves while resisting a robbery
- ✓ Then, she was fitted with a prosthetic leg a few days later in AIIMS, Delhi
- ✓ Later in 2011, she contacted Bachendri Pal, the first woman to scale Mount Everest and trained under her
- ✓ In 2013, after a 52-day climb on the top of 8848-metre Mount Everest, she became the first woman amputee to scale the highest peak in the world
- ✓ Arunima is undertaking the goal of her life ‘Mission Seven Summit’ - to scale the tallest mountain in every continent – a feat that was never attempted by any woman amputee
- ✓ Arunima already climbed Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro in May 2014, Russia's Mount Elbrus in July 2014, Australia's Mount Kosciuszko in April 2015 and Argentina's Mount Aconcagua in December 2015
- ✓ In 2013, Premlata Agarwal became the first Indian woman to scale the Seven Summits.
- ✓ Arunima bagged Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award in March 2015
- ✓ Recently, she was conferred with the honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK – for her inspirational achievements

## DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy – inducts its first ‘Deep submergence Rescue vehicle’ (DSRV) - at western naval dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra**



- ✓ DSRV is used to rescue crew members stranded in ‘disabled’ submarines
  - ✓ They can be operated at a depth of 650 meters and can hold around 15 people
  - ✓ Indian Navy had earlier commissioned 2 DSRV’s in March 2016 at a cost of 193 million pounds
  - ✓ The second DSRV will be deployed at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam by April 2019
  - ✓ The Indian Navy currently has 16 conventional submarines of the Sindhughosh, Shishumar, Kalvari classes along with the nuclear powered submarines
  - ✓ The vehicles are developed by Scotland-based JFD, a part of James Fisher and Sons Plc in March, 2016
  - ✓ With this, India joined select list of international navies (US, Russia, Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore UK, Sweden and Australia) to possess the technology
- **“India-Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)” – a military drill with over a dozen African countries – is planned to be held in Pune from March 18-27, 2019**
  - ✓ India is in defence cooperation talks with countries like Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
  - ✓ It has to be recalled that India, South Africa and Brazil - held the sixth edition of the IBSAMAR naval exercise off Simons Town in October 2018

## ECONOMY

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB) – retains India’s forecast at 7.3% for current fiscal (2018-19) and 7.6% for the next financial year (2019-20)**
- ✓ The GDP growth of India dropped to 7.1% in Q2 of FY 2018-19 (ending March 31, 2019) from 8.2% in Q1 due to rising oil and food prices
- ✓ ADB – was established in December 1966 with its headquarters in Manila, Philippines
- ✓ It is responsible for the promotion of social and economic development in Asia by eradicating poverty

# APPOINTMENTS

- **K Chandrasekhar Rao, President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) - was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Telangana for a second straight term on December 13, 2018**



- ✓ Governor ESL Narasimhan administered the oath to the chief minister
  - ✓ TRS had bagged 88 seats in the 119-member state assembly in the recently held elections and secured a simple majority on its own to form the Government
  - ✓ 64-year old K Chandrasekhar Rao is the first Chief Minister of Telangana, a new state that was separated from Andhra Pradesh in 2014
  - ✓ He founded TRS in 2001 and led the campaign to create a separate Telangana state
  - ✓ He recommended dissolving the state assembly six months ahead of the completion of term and went for early polls in 2018
- **Zoramthanga, President of Mizo National Front (MNF) – to be sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 15, 2018 in Aizawl**



- ✓ He was invited to form the next Government by the state Governor, Kummanam Rajasekharan
- ✓ MNF had won 26 seats in the 40-member House and secured a majority
- ✓ 74-year old Zoramthanga will become the new Chief Minister of the state for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time - after two consecutive terms from 1998 to 2008
- ✓ His party defeated the 5-time Chief Minister, Lal Thanhawla of Congress, who lost both the seats he was contesting from
- ✓ He took over as the leader of MNF in 1990 after the passing away of its founder Laldenga

## AWARDS

- **Help-UsGreen, an Indian private project – wins 2018 UN ‘Momentum for Change’ Climate Action Award**



- ✓ It is one of 15 ground-breaking projects from around the world to win the award at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland
- ✓ The initiative collects flowers from various places across cities in Uttar Pradesh and recycles them to produce natural incense, organic fertiliser and biodegradable packaging material
- ✓ The project, employing 1,260 women at present, helps prevent pesticides from entering the river through temple waste
- ✓ Over 11,000 tonnes of temple waste has been recycled under the project so far
- ✓ The project aims to provide livelihood to 5,100 women and recycle 51 tonnes of temple waste daily by 2021
- ✓ Help-UsGreen is the brain child of Ankit Agarwal and Karan Rastogi

## SPORTS

- **Steel Authority of India’s Hockey Academy - wins 115th Aga Khan Gold Cup Hockey tournament**



- ✓ In the final, it had defeated Army XI Danapur by 2-1 at Major Dhyan Chand hockey stadium in New Delhi.
- ✓ SAIL Hockey Academy is run by SAIL’s Rourkela Steel Plant.
- ✓ Aga Khan Gold Cup is one of the oldest hockey tournament in the country

- **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) – upgrades the contract of Sushil Kumar and Sakshi Malik – from ‘B’ category (worth Rs 20 lakhs) to ‘A’ category (worth Rs 30 lakhs)**



- ✓ Only Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Pooja Dhanda had been initially offered Grade ‘A’ contract
- ✓ This is the first time that athletes in an Olympic sport have been awarded annual contracts by their federation
- ✓ Overall 144 wrestlers were awarded contracts by the federation in November 2018
- ✓ For the first time, the Indian wrestlers would also be provided with an insurance to cover their injury costs’ during international events

## **RANKINGS**

- **Climate Change Performance Index 2019 – released on the sidelines of COP24 UN Summit in Katowice, Poland**
- ✓ The index was produced by three international environmental research institutes - New Climate Institute, Climate Action network and Germanwatch – based on 4 categories – Green house gas emissions (40%), renewable energy (20%), energy use (20%) and climate policy (20%)
- ✓ No countries were in the top three ranks because none did well in all categories assessed
- ✓ India was ranked at 11<sup>th</sup> place with Sweden topped as the 4th country (for the second time as on 2017) followed by Morocco in the 5th position
- ✓ The Countries Ranked at bottom are - Saudi Arabia (60), USA (59), Iran (58), Korea (57), Chinese Taipei (56), Australia (55), Canada (54), Russian Federation (52), Turkey (50), Japan (49)
- ✓ Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar were not assessed.

Rank		Country	Score**	
1.*	–	–	–	
2.	–	–	–	
3.	–	–	–	
4.	–	Sweden	76.28	
5.	▲	Morocco	70.48	
6.	▼	Lithuania	70.47	
7.	▲	Latvia	68.31	
8.	–	United Kingdom	65.92	
9.	▲	Switzerland	65.42	
10.	▲	Malta	65.06	
11.	▲	India	62.93	
12.	▼	Norway	62.80	
13.	▼	Finland	62.61	
14.	▼	Croatia	62.39	
15.	▲	Denmark	61.96	
16.	▲	European Union (28)	60.65	
17.	▲	Portugal	60.54	
18.	▲	Ukraine	60.09	
19.	▲	Luxembourg	59.92	
20.	▲	Romania	59.42	
21.	▼	France	59.30	
22.	▼	Brazil	59.29	
23.	▼	Italy	58.69	
24.	▲	Egypt	57.49	
25.	▲	Mexico	56.82	
26.	▼	Slovak Republic	56.61	
27.	▼	Germany	55.18	
28.	▲	Netherlands	54.11	
29.	▼	Belarus	53.31	
30.	▲	Greece	50.86	

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) – December 12



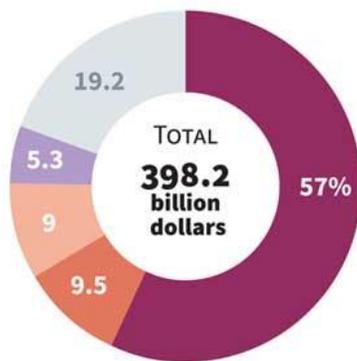
- ✓ The observance of the day intends to achieve Universal health coverage, i.e. all people can access the quality health services without suffering financial hardship
- ✓ Theme 2018 - “Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action”
- ✓ The observance of the day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2017

# REPORT

- **World's Top 100 Arms Production companies and nations 2017 – a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish think-tank**

## World arms market

% of arms sales in 2017



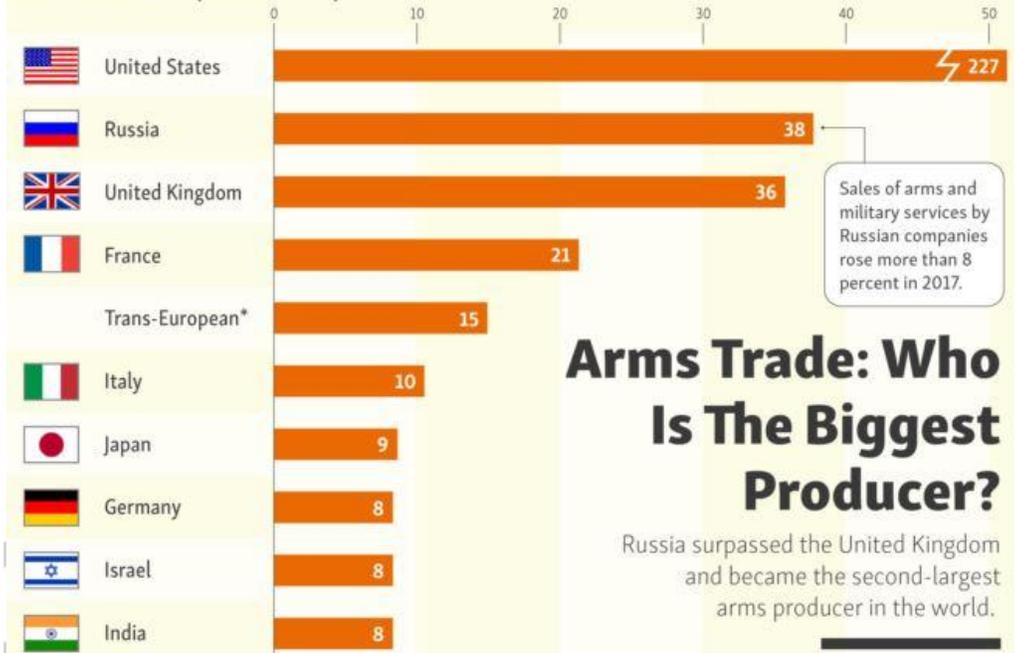
United States France  
Russia Britain Other countries

\*China isn't included in the study due to lack of data

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)



Arms sales in 2017 (billion dollars)



## Arms Trade: Who Is The Biggest Producer?

Russia surpassed the United Kingdom and became the second-largest arms producer in the world.

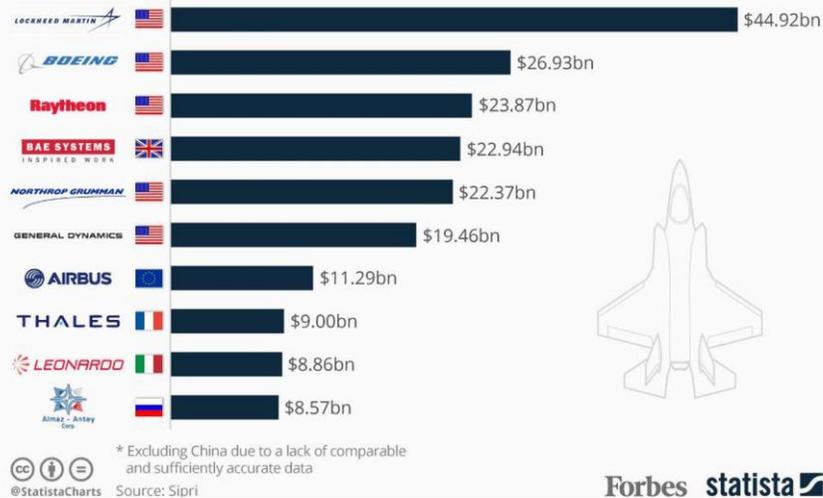


\*Companies whose ownership and control structures are located in more than one European country  
Note: Numbers rounded | Kristyna Foltynova | Source: SIPRI, 2018  
RFE/RL Graphics

- ✓ Russia has become the second largest arms producer in the world, followed by US at No. 1 spot
- ✓ It had displaced UK, which occupied the second position since 2002
- ✓ For the first time, a Russian company appeared in the list of the top 10 arms producers - Almaz-Antey, which increased its sales by 17% in 2017 to \$8.6 billion
- ✓ The U.S. continues to be the global leader in arms sales with 42 companies with 57% of total sales - included in the Top 100 list in 2017
- ✓ The world's largest weapons producer is LockheedMartin, with sales of \$44.9 billion (£35.4 billion) in 2017 alone

## Lockheed Martin Is The World's Largest Arms Producer

Top arms-producing and military services companies in 2017\*



- ✓ In the SIPRI Top 100 ranking, 10 Russian companies are involved, accounting for 9.5% of the Top 100 total
- ✓ Meanwhile, Britain, the largest arms producer in Western Europe, fell to third position, with sales of \$35.7 billion
- ✓ BAE Systems is ranked the fourth-biggest company in Sipri's Top 100 list
- ✓ The institute also noted that sales by Turkish companies rose by 24% in 2017
- ✓ China is not included in the SIPRI study because company figures are unavailable