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Important Current Affairs 12th November 2017 with PDF

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Important Current Affairs 12th November 2017

- **First woman President of Nasscom**
 - National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) has named Debjani Ghosh as its President-Designate, who will succeed R Chandrashekhar after completion of his tenure in March next year.
 - Ghosh, former managing director of Intel South Asia, will be the first woman President of Nasscom.
 - Ghosh has been a member of Nasscom's Executive Council and a trustee of Nasscom Foundation.
- **Second national judicial pay commission**
 - Union cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the appointment of 2nd national judicial pay commission for subordinate judiciary.





- Commission will decide on a salary hike for almost 21,000 judges of the subordinate judiciary level.
- Commission is to be headed by retired justice of Supreme Court, J.P.Venkatrama Reddi. R. Basant, a former judge of Kerala high court is also a member of the commission
- **Creation of National Testing Agency**
 - The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of a National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
 - Its creation will relieve CBSE which conducts exams like the NEET and AICTE of the burden of conducting entrance tests.
 - The NTA will begin by conducting exams managed by the CBSE and gradually conduct other examinations too.
- **1.3 lakh Indians book ticket to Mars**
 - More than 1.3 lakh Indians have booked a flight to Mars which is a part of National Aeronautics & Space Administration's InSight mission.
 - US had the most number of people sending their names followed by China & India
 - InSight, scheduled to land on Mars on 26 Nov, next year, will be the 1st mission to look deep beneath the Martian surface, studying planet's interior by listening for marsquakes
- **Cooperation in Indo-Pacific Region**
 - Officials from India, Australia, the US and Japan met and discussed issues relating to cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - It is seen as a first move to set up a quadrilateral grouping to pursue common interests in the strategically key area.
 - The move to set up the quadrilateral comes in the backdrop of growing Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea.
- **First Nordic-Baltic youth film festival**



- The first Nordic-Baltic youth film festival will begin in Delhi on 13th November, showcasing a diverse mix of some of the most celebrated and Oscar nominated movies from the region.
- The festival will give the Indian audience an opportunity to connect with these countries and strengthen the cultural bond.
- The festival will open with Land of Mine from Denmark, an Oscar-nominated film.
- **Mumbai to host ABA Summit**
 - For the first time, Mumbai will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association.
 - The 2 day conference will be held in the megapolis from November 16 & will be hosted by State Bank, with the theme of 'Asia's turn to transform.
 - Founded in 1981, ABA serves as a forum for advancing the cause of the banking industry and promote regional economic cooperation across the continent.
- **Twitter doubles length of display name**
 - Twitter has more than doubled its count for users' display names from 20 to 50 characters.
 - It comes days after the social media giant ended the iconic 140-character tweet limit.
 - The change comes as a relief to many users who have bigger names or want to add colour to their names.
- **P-notes investment drops to 8-year low**
 - Investments in Indian capital market through participatory notes (P-notes) plunged to an 8 year low of Rs1.23 lakh crore at September-end.
 - P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas players who wish to be part of Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.



- Over past few months, Sebi has taken several measures to stop misuse of the P-notes.
- **Varanasi is the most polluted city**
 - A report by the Central Pollution Control Board has found that the air quality of holy city Varanasi is most polluted among the 42 cities monitored recently.
 - Varanasi's Air Quality Index was at an alarming 491, followed by Gurugram at 480, and Delhi at 468.
 - Stubble burning by farmers in Punjab & Haryana are speculated to have added to the factors causing pollution in northern belt of India.
- **Air India gets ₹1,500-cr loan from BOI**
 - Air India has received a loan worth of ₹1,500 crore from Bank of India to meet urgent working capital needs.
 - In the last nearly three months, at least two public sector lenders - Bank of India and Punjab National Bank have provided loans to the airline.
 - Air India is surviving on taxpayers' money under the bailout package extended by the previous UPA government in 2012.
- **Federal Bank gets RBI nod to open office**
 - Federal Bank has obtained RBI approval to open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore.
 - With the opening of these offices, the Bank will be able to widen its services to NRI diaspora and also enhance the international visibility of the Bank.
 - The bank has been the preferred banker for NRIs and the NRI friendly measures have resulted in increasing inflow of foreign remittances.
- **UNESCO confirms Azoulay as the new chief**
 - UNESCO's member States have voted to confirm nomination of former French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay as the body's new leader



- Her nomination was confirmed in Oct by members of the agency's board, making her the organization's 2nd woman director-general
- Azoulay is the successor of Irina Bokova, who served as UNESCO's 1st female director-general & who is expected to finish her term in Nov.
- **Not to pursue Islamic banking in India**
 - RBI has decided not to pursue a proposal for introduction of Islamic banking in the country.
 - Islamic or Sharia banking is a finance system based on the principles of not charging interest, which is prohibited under Islam.
 - Taking into account, wider & equal opportunities available to all citizens to access banking & financial services, RBI has decided not to pursue the proposal further.
- **MS Dhoni launches global cricket academy**
 - Mahendra Singh Dhoni has inaugurated his first global cricket academy in the bustling metropolis of Dubai.
 - The facility named the MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA) will have coaches from India to train the wards.
 - It is a joint venture of Dubai-based Pacific Sports Club and Aarka Sports Club which has been in operation for a couple of months at the Springdales School in Al Quoz.
- **Delhi govt 'defers' odd-even**
 - Delhi govt has called off the odd-even scheme, which was to be implemented from 13th Nov, after the National Green Tribunal ordered withdrawal of exemptions under it.
 - The decision came in view of the directive by NGT, which ordered withdrawal of all exemptions, including to two-wheeler riders & woman-only vehicles.
 - Trucks and two- wheelers are the major polluters in Delhi.
- **Ashok Khale passes away**



- Veteran cyclist Ashok Khale, who was recently injured in an accident on the Sion-Panvel highway, died in a hospital during treatment.
- Khale, won several medals for cycle-riding in state and national-level championships and was also the recipient of the Shiv Chhatrapati award.
- He had represented India in Giro d'Italia event and was also called as the King of the Ghats.
- **Modi leaves to attend ASEAN Summit**
 - PM Modi has left for Philippines, where he will participate in various bilateral & multilateral programmes, including India- ASEAN Summit.
 - Modi would also take part in celebrations of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, RCEP Leaders' Meeting & ASEAN Business & Investment Summit.
 - The 10-member grouping ASEAN & India comprise a total population of 1.85 bn people which is 1/4th of global population.
- **Surendra Kumar Sinha resigns**
 - Bangladesh Chief Justice Surendra Sinha has resigned amid criticism over a Supreme Court verdict which scrapped Parliament's power to remove judges on grounds of misconduct & incapacity.
 - Sinha whose term was scheduled to expire in Jan next year is the 1st top judge of the country to step down.
 - SC has issued a statement saying he is facing 11 charges including money laundering & corruption.
- **Home Ministry sets up two new divisions**
 - Union Home Ministry has formed 2 new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalization & cyber crime
 - CTCR wing will focus on tracking & assessing online reach of global terrorist outfits & devising strategies to counter their propaganda
 - CIS division will monitor online crimes & threats including cyber fraud, hacking & suggest ways to minimize & fight them



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