

## **November 12<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Trump, Putin issue joint statement on fighting ISIS in Syria**

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin informally met on the sidelines of a regional economic summit in Vietnam Saturday and agreed to an extensive statement on the conflict in Syria.

The statement, which reaffirms the leaders' commitment to defeat ISIS in the country, stresses the need to keep existing military communications open and agrees that the bloody conflict does not have a military solution

### **National:**

#### **MHA forms two new divisions to check radicalisation, cyber fraud**

The Union home ministry now has two new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalisation and cyber crime. The dedicated wings, to be called the counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation (CTCR) division and cyber and information security (CIS) division have been created as part of an administrative rejig of the ministry that also includes merger of some of its existing divisions.

While the CTCR wing, which is basically modified version of the home ministry's internal security-II (IS-II) division, will focus on tracking and assessing the online reach of global terrorist outfits like the Islamic State and devising strategies to counter their propaganda, the cyber security division will monitor online crimes and threats, including cyber fraud and hacking, and suggest ways to minimise and fight them.

#### **CERT-In**

The **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

CERT-In is nodal agency for information technology security under aegis of Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Electronics and IT. It was established in 2004. Its mandate is to protect Indian cyberspace and software infrastructure against destructive and hacking activities. It also responds to computer security incidents, report on vulnerabilities and promote effective IT security practices throughout country. It also issue guidelines, vulnerability notes, advisories, and whitepapers regarding to information security practices, prevention,

### **Economy:**

#### **APEC ministers vow to fight protectionism**

Asia-Pacific ministers meeting in Vietnam this week pledged to fight protectionism and embrace the World Trade Organization, issuing a statement a day after President Donald Trump criticised the WTO as hurting US economic interests.

The move comes after days of haggling by trade representatives over the framework of a blockbuster Pacific trade pact abandoned by Trump straight after he took office. The statement, which highlighted the importance of multinational trade agreements, underscored how the US president's protectionist tilt risks isolating America on the global trade stage.

In contrast, in the ministerial statement released on 11<sup>th</sup> November ministers said they "recognise the work of the WTO in ensuring international trade is rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent, predictable and inclusive." They committed to "cooperate to improve the functioning of the WTO

In an interview in Vietnam this week, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo warned the Trump administration's decision to block new appointments to the watchdog's appellate body is compromising the ability of the system to resolve disputes

#### **APEC :**

**Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world; to defuse fears that highly industrialised Japan (a member of G8) would come to dominate economic activity in the Asia-Pacific region; and to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.

An annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting is attended by the heads of government of all APEC members except Republic of China(Taiwan) (which is represented by a ministerial-level official under the name Chinese Taipei as economic leader). The location of the meeting rotates annually among the member economies, and a famous tradition, followed for most (but not all) summits, involves the attending leaders dressing in a national costume of the host country. APEC has three official observers: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. APEC's Host Economy of the Year is considered to be invited in the first place for geographical representation to attend G20 meetings following G20 guidelines

#### **Awards:**

**UNHCR:** The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017 as an acknowledgement of its exceptional work worldwide. The Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, which is instituted in 2005, will be presented to the UNHCR on December 10, 2017.