

December 3rd news:

International:

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

India was on 1st December re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under Category B at an assembly of the body at its headquarters in London.

Indian High Commissioner to the UK Y K Sinha represented India at the assembly where India secured the second-highest number of votes (144) from member-countries, just after Germany's 146 and ahead of Australia's 143.

The other countries to make the cut included France (140), Canada (138), Spain (137), Brazil (131), Sweden (129), The Netherlands (124) and the UAE (115).

India has been one of the earliest members of the IMO, having ratified its convention and joined it as a member-state in the year 1959. India has been elected to the Council of the IMO ever since it started functioning, except for a two-year hiatus during 1983-1984.

The IMO Council plays a crucial role in deciding various important matters within the mandate of the IMO, in relation to the global shipping industry and its work strategy and budget

National:

Draft law on Triple Talaq sent to States

Over three months after the Supreme Court “set aside” the practice of instant triple talaq or talaq-e-biddat, the Centre has drawn up a draft law which makes it a “cognizable and non-bailable” offence, punishable with three years jail and a monetary fine.

The draft law — Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act — also allows a woman who has been given instant triple talaq to move court, seeking “subsistence allowance” for herself and dependent children, as well as custody of minor children. A Bill to this effect is likely to be tabled in the winter session of Parliament. The draft law was sent to states

The proposed law, which empowers Muslim women, applies to instant triple talaq in “oral, written, electronic or any other form”. Any declaration of talaq-e-biddat by a Muslim man shall be “illegal and void”, says the draft law.

The terms of the proposed legislation were finalised after discussions, by a Group of Ministers (GoM) which included Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley and Ravi Shankar Prasad.

In a landmark verdict on August 22, the Supreme Court had “set aside” the centuries-old practice of instant triple talaq in which Muslim men divorce their wives by uttering talaq three times in quick succession.

Three of the five judges on the Constitution Bench — Justices Rohinton F Nariman, Uday U Lalit and Kurian Joseph — called the practice un-Islamic and “arbitrary” and disagreed with the view that triple talaq was an integral part of religious practice.

Bilateral:

Indo-UK army exercise kicks off

Exercise Ajeya Warrior-2017', a 14-day training exercise of the Indian and British armies, kicked off on 1st December at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges near the Sriganganagar-Bikaner highway. The training contingent comprises one company (about 120 personnel) each from the 20th Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles and the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The exercise, third in the series, started with an address by Lt Col Sangram Yadav and Major David Granfield. The first exercise was conducted at Belgaum (Karnataka) in 2013. An Indian Army contingent had visited the UK in 2015 for the second exercise.

The aim of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral relations and enhance interoperability while sharing experiences between the two armies, defence spokesperson Lt Col Manish Ojha said.

Economy:

Cabinet gives nod to set up Rs. 9,000-cr nutrition mission

The government has approved the establishment of a National Nutrition Mission to address serious incidence of malnutrition and stunting among infants in the country.

According to Minister for Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi, the decision to launch the Rs. 9,000-crore nutrition mission was taken by the Cabinet. The mission has set an ambitious goal of reducing incidence of stunting among children from 38.4 per cent now to 25 per cent by 2022

The mission will be jointly launched by the ministries of WCD, Health and Family Welfare and Water Resources, together with NITI Aayog.

The mission, to be launched in January next year, will be rolled out in 162 backward districts in six States, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh initially, and will be expanded further to 315 districts in the current financial year, the Minister said. The rest of the country will be covered over the next two years.

The mission will strive to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, and low birth weight by 2 per cent and anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) by 3 per cent annually over the three-year mission period.

Persons in news:

Shri Sunil Kumar Chourasia: Indian Ordnance Factories Service Officer (IOFS), has been appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

w.e.f. 1st December 2017. Previously, he was Member, OFB and was in charge of Material & Components division.

Diya Mirza: Actor-activist Dia Mirza appointed UN (United Nations) Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India. As a Goodwill Ambassador, she will work with the UN to further spread the message on priority areas including clean air, clean seas, wildlife protection and climate change. UN Environment head, Erik Solheim congratulated Dia Mirza to the programme.

Dia Mirza joined the prestigious list of UN Environment Goodwill Ambassadors, which includes Hollywood stars such as Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Angelina Jolie, Katy Perry and Emma Watson.

Surya Prakash: The government has appointed A Surya Prakash as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board for a second consecutive term till February 2020. An order issued by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry said the appointment has been made by the President on the recommendations of a selection committee. The selection committee that recommended his re-appointment was led by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu. His first term as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati had ended on October 28.

Mary kom: Five-time world champion M C Mary Kom has resigned as the national observer for Indian boxing. Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had recently made it clear that active sportspersons will not be considered for the position.