



December - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and Sweden have joined hands to set up a healthcare innovation centre to promote research, broadly in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
 - The year 2019 marks Sweden-India Year of Health marking 10 years of India-Sweden cooperation in healthcare.
- ❖ UAE and the United States commenced 'Iron Union 12' - a joint military exercise to enhance combat and tactical capabilities.

NATIONAL

The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Amit Shah introduced this Bill.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the merger of the Union Territories (UTs) of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu into a single UT.
- ❖ The merger of the two UTs will be done for better administration and check duplications of various work.
- ❖ At present, with this merger, the number of UTs are eight.

Amendment of the Constitution:

- ❖ The Bill amends the First Schedule of the constitution to merge the territories of the two UTs: (a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and (b) Daman and Diu.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the Fourth Schedule to allocate two Lok Sabha seats to the merged UT.
- ❖ Jurisdiction of High Court: High Court of Bombay will continue to extend to the merged UT.
- ❖ Services under the UTs: Every person employed in connection with the affairs of the existing UTs will provisionally serve the merged UT.



Gandhi Encyclopedia

- ❖ Ministry of Culture has approved 'Gandhi Encyclopedia' for the for promotion of appropriate Gandhian philosophy.
- ❖ The project is to be implemented by National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata.

About the National Council of Science Museums (NCM):

- ❖ It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ It was established in 1978 and is headquartered in Kolkata.

International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming systems for BIMSTEC

- ❖ The 'International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems' for BIMSTEC countries has begun in New Delhi.
- ❖ This has been organized by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ❖ The objective of the seminar is to enable improvement of tropical small holder farming system that are resilient to climate change and will provide greater productivity and ensure food security.
- ❖ Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

About BIMSTEC



- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising of seven member states viz. Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- ❖ This sub-regional organisation came into being on 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.

NAVARMS - 19

- ❖ The 4th edition of International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems 'NAVARMS-19' was scheduled to be held at Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), Development Enclave, New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 edition is: "Make in India – Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives".
- ❖ Indian Navy in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been conducting 'NAVARMS' since 2007.
- ❖ NAVARMS is the only international seminar and exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems conducted in India.

Best Police station list

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has prepared a list of best performing police stations in the country.
- ❖ Aberdeen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the best police station in India, followed by Balasinor in Gujarat and Ajk Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Theni in Tamilnadu ranks 4th in the list.
- ❖ These rankings were based on a range of parameters such as addressing the number of offences at a police station.

State	District	Police Station	Ranking
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman	Aberdeen	1
Gujarat	Mahisagar	Balasinor	2
Madhya Pradesh	Burhanpur	Ajk Burhanpur	3
Tamil Nadu	Theni	AWPS Theni	4
Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	Anini	5

INTERNATIONAL

39th GCC Summit

- ❖ 39th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ At the end of the summit, the council issued the 'Riyadh Declaration'.
- ❖ The 40th session of the GCC summit will be held in the UAE.

About Gulf Cooperation Council

- ❖ The GCC is a political and economic alliance of countries in the Arabian Peninsula.
- ❖ It was established in 1981 to foster socioeconomic, security, and cultural cooperation.
- ❖ Members of GCC: United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait.

World's New Nation: Bougainville

- ❖ South Pacific Archipelago of Bougainville voted to become independent of Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ Bougainville would become the world's newest and possibly the smallest independent country.
- ❖ The Panguna mine (also known as the Bougainville Copper Mine) holds some of the world's largest reserves of copper.
- ❖ It is the world's largest open-cut copper mine.
- ❖ The most widely spoken language in the country is Halia.
- ❖ The country is yet to prove its recognition in the United Nations.



World's leading Sports Tourism Destination – Abu Dhabi

- ❖ Abu Dhabi has been selected as the World's leading Sports Tourism Destination for seventh time in a row.
- ❖ This time the coveted award was conferred at 26th edition of World Travel Awards (WTA), being held in Muscat, Oman.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RISAT-2BR1 launch

- ❖ India's 50th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) - C48 has successfully launched on 12 December, 2019.
- ❖ It carried RISAT-2BR1 along with nine commercial satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ❖ This successful mission is the 75th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ❖ It is a radar imaging earth observation satellite.
- ❖ It provides services in the field of agriculture, forestry and disaster management.
- ❖ Its mission life is 5 years.
- ❖ The nine customer satellites were from Israel, Italy, Japan and the USA.
- ❖ These satellites were launched under a commercial arrangement with New Space India Limited (NSIL).



ENVIRONMENT

IUCN added 1840 new species to the Red List of Threatened Species

- ❖ The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added about 1,840 new species to its updated “Red List of Threatened Species”.
- ❖ Red List of Threatened Species is a catalogue of plants and animals that risk extinction.
- ❖ The group released its Red List update in the middle of COP25 climate talks in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ Latest update showed that 37% of Australia’s freshwater fish species were threatened with extinction due to rising temperatures.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sunil Shetty - brand ambassador of NADA

- ❖ National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has selected Bollywood actor Sunil Shetty as its brand ambassador.
- ❖ NADA is India’s anti-doping body.
- ❖ It also promotes anti-doping research and education as well as cooperates with other anti-doping organisations besides World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

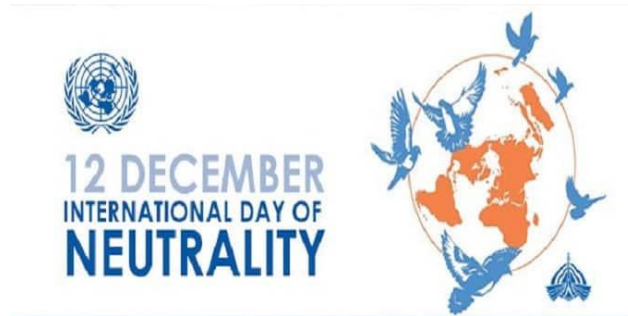


IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Neutrality – December 12

- ❖ It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on December 12 of the same year.

- ❖ The day aimed to promote the use of preventive diplomacy.
- ❖ The UN conducts aimed to enhance public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations.
- ❖ The rights and duties of a neutral country are defined in the Hague Convention of 1907.



International Universal Health Coverage Day - December 12

- ❖ The day was adopted on December 12, 2017 at the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness in providing strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage.
- ❖ Theme: The theme for the UHC Day 2019 campaign is: "Keep the promise."

