



December - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh was crowned as Miss World 2019 at a beauty pageant held in London, UK.
 - She received her crown from Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon, the winner of Miss World 2018.
- ❖ The shuttle train service between Lahore and Wagah railway station resumed operation on December 2019 after a gap of 22 years.
 - The train service was operational in 1947 till 1997 but was closed due to certain operational and security reasons.

NATIONAL

Accessible India Campaign

- ❖ The Accessible India Campaign (AIC) also known as the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan was launched in December 2015 by Prime Minister.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The project is aimed to make the country accessible for people with disabilities.
- ❖ The government has announced that deadline of AIC has been extended from December 2019 to March 2020.

Nirbhaya Fund – status

- ❖ According to Government data, the States and Union Territories have utilised less than 20% of the budget allocated to them under the Nirbhaya Fund by the Central government between 2015 and 2018.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu used only 3 % (the fund allocated was Rs 190.68 crore and utilisation Rs 6 crore).

No	Top 5 States/UTs	Worst 5 states/UTs
1	Chandigarh (59.83%)	Manipur (0%)
2	Mizoram (56.32%)	Maharashtra (0%)
3	Uttarakhand (51.68%)	Lakshadweep (0%)
4	Andhra Pradesh (43.23%)	West Bengal (0.76%)
5	Nagaland (38.17%).	Delhi (0.84%)

About Nirbhaya Fund



- ❖ The fund is created by Ministry of Finance in 2013 with a corpus of Rs 1000 crore.
- ❖ It is aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.
- ❖ It is a non-lapsable corpus fund.
- ❖ It is being monitored by Empowered Committee of Officers under Secretary of Women and Child Development Ministry.

Voice over Wi-Fi

- ❖ Bharti Airtel has introduced Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi), a first for India.
- ❖ It uses high speed Internet connection, available via broadband, to make and receive high definition (HD) voice calls.
- ❖ Users don't have to pay extra for these calls as it is using a Wi-Fi network.
- ❖ Wi-Fi Calling is aimed especially for areas where cellular networks are not strong.

INTERNATIONAL

TECH 2019 - UNESCO and MGIEP

- ❖ The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) collaborated with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace (MGIEP) conducted the TECH 2019.
- ❖ The TECH is to discuss the use of digital technology for learning and teaching.
- ❖ TECH stands for Transforming Education Conference for Humanity.
- ❖ The event also focused on the group of countries called 'Friends of UNESCO MGIEP', which is aiming to promote digital technology in a sustainable.
- ❖ The Vizag declaration on 'Guidelines for Digital Learning' was also focused on this event.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Wind flow pattern on Mars - NASA

- ❖ The scientists of NASA have mapped global wind circulation patterns in the upper atmosphere of Mars (red planet).
- ❖ The study was published in the journal Science.
- ❖ It was based on the data collected by MAVEN, two days per month from 2016 to 2018.



- ❖ The researchers believe the wind waves on Mars, called “orthographic waves,” lasted so long with no changes.

STATES

First Virtual Police station – AP

- ❖ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Jaganmohan Reddy inaugurated the first Virtual Police Station at the Andhra University (AU) in Visakhapatnam, AP.
- ❖ The concept of Virtual police station was initiated by AU Vice Chancellor Prasad Reddy with an aim to provide security to students.
- ❖ The system includes an inbuilt complaint monitoring and action-taken mechanism.

Trakea software - by Haryana Police

- ❖ The Haryana Police Department has adopted a unique barcoding software.
- ❖ It is the country's first police force to have introduced this unique barcoding for forensic reports.
- ❖ The software is used to ensure that 1000s of digital forensic reports are stored safe and secure.
- ❖ It offers a fool proof security to the samples collected from the crime scene and to develop a tamper-free tracking system of these reports.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2020 Crystal Award – WEF

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the Winners of 26th Annual Crystal Award for the year 2020.
- ❖ WEF's 2019 Crystal Award Recipients
 - Jin Xing – China,
 - Theaster Gates – Chicago,
 - Lynette Wallworth - Australia,
 - Deepika Padukone - Indian actress.

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- ❖ WEF was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation.



- ❖ Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The reports published by the WEF are
 - Global Competitiveness Report,
 - Global Gender Gap Report,
 - Global Risks Report,
 - Global Travel and Tourism Report.

Time's person of the year - Greta Thunberg

- ❖ Time magazine has chosen Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate crisis activist, as person of the year 2019.
- ❖ She is known for “#FridaysforFuture” movement.
- ❖ It is an annual issue of the United States news magazine - Time.
- ❖ Thunberg (16) is the youngest individual to be recognized.
- ❖ This marks the third year in a row in which Time has named a person who was not a world leader.

1	Greta Thunberg	Climate activist	Person of the Year
2	Bob Iger	Chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company	Businessperson of the Year
3	The Public Servants	Federal workers of the US	Guardians of the Year
4	United States women's national soccer team	Women's Soccer	Athlete of the Year
5	Melissa Jefferson (Lizzo)	Singer	Entertainer of the Year



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Energy Conservation Day – December 14

- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, spearheads the celebrations.
- ❖ The day is celebrated since 1991 and its objective of the day is to demonstrate achievements of government in saving energy and conservation.
- ❖ Initiatives to Promote Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency viz,
 - Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC)

- Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT)
- UJALA scheme

About BEE

- ❖ Founded - 1 March 2002.
- ❖ Headquarters - New Delhi.
- ❖ Act - Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- ❖ It is a statutory body.
- ❖ Responsible for - promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

National Energy Conservation Week

- ❖ National Energy Conservation Week celebrated from 14th to 20th December annually.

International Tea Day – December 15

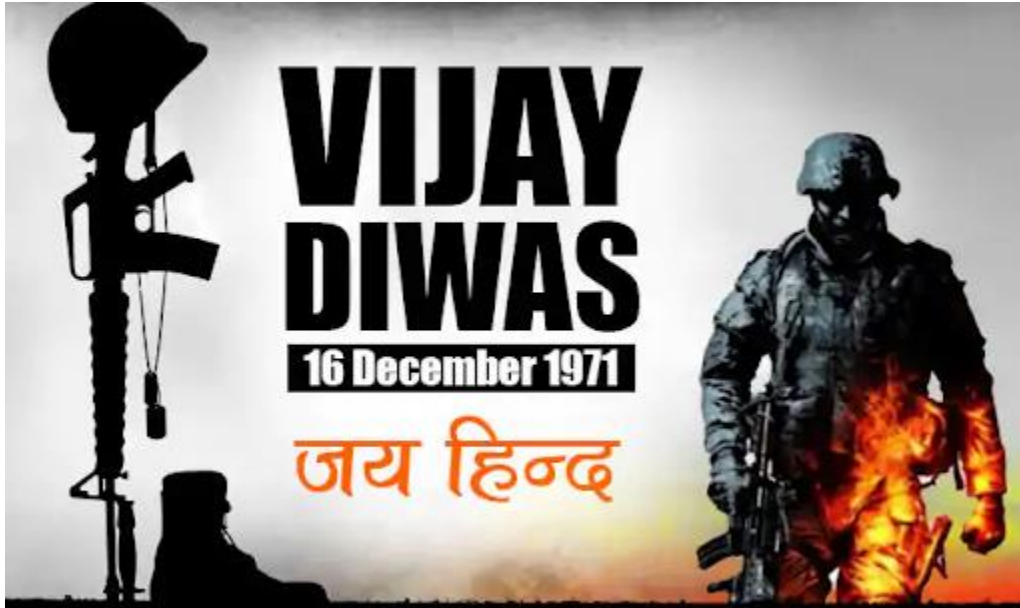
- ❖ International Tea Day is annually celebrated in India since the year 2005 on December 15.
- ❖ The main aim of the day is to improve the condition of workers in tea plantations.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has already designated May 21 as International Tea Day by India's move.



Vijay Diwas – December 16

- ❖ The 49th anniversary of Vijay Diwas (Victory Day) was celebrated on December 16, 2019 to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971.

- ❖ The day is celebrated to honour the martyrs of the 1971 war between the two countries.
- ❖ This historic victory led to creation of Bangladesh.
- ❖ Bangladesh celebrated this day that marked its liberation from Pakistan.
- ❖ Indian Army contingent participated in Dhaka parade of 2019 for the first time.



MISCELLANEOUS

Nuad Thai massage - UNESCO's intangible Heritage list

- ❖ UNESCO has recognised the “Nuad” Thai massage of Thailand as a part of its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ❖ The Nuad massage teachings focus on directing blood circulation around problem areas that help in solving muscle aches.
- ❖ The list was established in 2008 when the Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.

