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December 12, 2023

Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.**
- ➔ The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification and chain of custody certification.
- ➔ Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for its overall management.



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370:

(Importance level-5/5)

- **The CJI-led Constitution Bench said that Article 370 was enacted due to wartime conditions in J & K and served a transitional purpose.**
- The Supreme Court held that J & K did not retain any internal sovereignty and that the concurrence of J & K Government was not required. SC also directed the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the J & K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024.



Bank of India:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Bank of India launched 'Nari Shakti Savings Account'. The 'Nari Shakti Savings Account' is conceptualized as a financial savings tool to support working women with an independent source of income enabling them to become self reliant.**
- The savings account offers personal accident insurance cover as high as Rs.100 lakh discounted health insurance and wellness products, rebates on locker facilities for gold etc.

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Bhajan Lal Sharma:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Bhajan Lal Sharma, a prominent figure in Rajasthan's political landscape, is set to become the state's next Chief Minister. At 56 years old, he brings a wealth of political experience and accomplishments to the position.**
- ➔ Bhajan Lal Sharma's ascension to the position of Chief Minister marks a significant development in Rajasthan's political landscape. His electoral triumph, coupled with his extensive political background, reflects the BJP's strategic choice for leadership.
- ➔ As he takes on the responsibilities of the state's top office, all eyes will be on the new leadership to address the challenges and contribute to the development of Rajasthan.

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Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a significant move towards bolstering the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in India, Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).
- ➔ The collaboration aims to set up more than 500 EV charging points across the country, with a focus on creating a robust intercity charging network. The strategic collaboration between Tata Power and IOCL has a primary objective of building a reliable and expansive intercity charging network.

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Russian President Putin:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Russian President Putin inaugurated the vessels which are named the Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander the Third at Sevmarshipyard in Severodvinsk in the country's northwestern Archangelsk region.
- ➔ He oversaw the raising of navy's flag on the newly built nuclear submarines. Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear tipped Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles.

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Diwali Power of One Awards:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and 3 veteran diplomats were here honoured with the annual 'Diwali Power of One Awards'.**
- ➔ This award is hailed as the 'Oscars of diplomacy'. The other awardees are Bosnia and Herzegovina representative to the UN Ambassador Mirsada Colakovic, South Korea representative to the UN Ambassador Kim Sook, 72nd UN General Assembly president Miroslav Lajcak.

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Myanmar:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Myanmar has surpassed Afghanistan to become world's largest source of opium in 2023 after a third consecutive year of expanding cultivation fueled by the country's civil war, the United Nations said in a new report.
- ➔ After the Taliban imposed a ban on drugs in 2022, opium cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 95%, leading to a global shift in the opium supply to Myanmar.

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Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, observed annually on December 12, serves as a global reminder of the essential need for a healthcare system that provides equitable and comprehensive health care with financial protection for all.**
- ➔ Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012, the day emphasizes the importance of progressing towards universal health coverage as a vital international development priority.
- ➔ The theme for UHC Day 2023, “Health For All: Time for Action,” underscores the urgency for leaders to implement policies ensuring equitable access to essential health services without financial hardship.

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**UNIVERSAL
HEALTH
COVERAGE
DAY**

International Day of Neutrality:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **The International Day of Neutrality, observed annually on December 12, holds paramount significance in promoting global peace, sovereignty, and the resolution of conflicts through diplomatic means.**
- Recognized by the United Nations, this day sheds light on the importance of countries adopting a neutral stance in international affairs to maintain impartiality and contribute to global security.
- The genesis of the International Day of Neutrality can be traced back to Turkmenistan, a Central Asian country recognized as a permanent neutral state by the UN since December 1995.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved Turkmenistan's proposal on February 2, 2017. Consequently, on December 12, 2017, the International Day of Neutrality was officially proclaimed, emphasizing the connection between peacekeeping efforts and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Baku:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **In a surprising turn of events, the long-standing stand-off between Azerbaijan and Armenia has found an unexpected resolution, setting the stage for Baku, Azerbaijan, to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in 2024.**
- The resolution emerged as part of a prisoner swap settlement, underscoring the intricate relationship between geopolitical dynamics and global efforts to combat climate change.
- Baku, known for being home to one of the world's first oil fields developed over 1,200 years ago, will become the focal point for climate discussions in 2024. This choice is particularly noteworthy as it follows the COP28 held in Glasgow, a city pivotal to the industrial revolution and the birthplace of the modern steam engine.

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