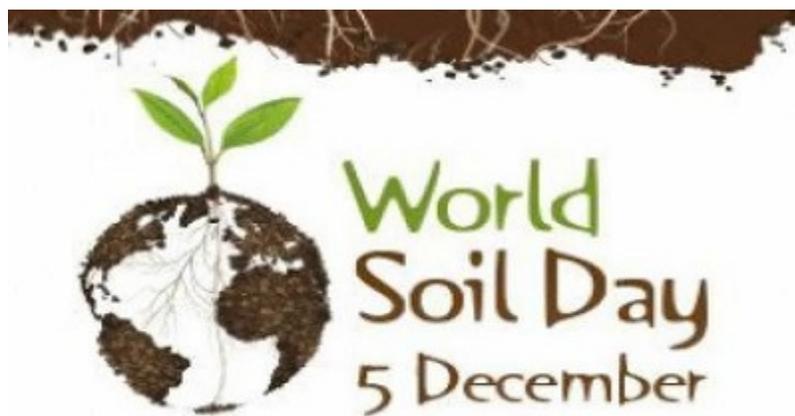


## CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

*Dec 05, 2018*

**Today is World Soil Day**



- Today is World Soil Day. The day is observed annually on 5th December to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources.
- The **theme** for this year's World Soil Day is - '**Be the Solution to Soil Pollution**'.
- Vice President said it is time that people should move towards nature and organic farming and must learn to protect the purity of soil and mother earth.

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Soil holds three times as much carbon as the atmosphere and can help meet the challenges of a changing climate.
- It said, 815 million people are food insecure and 2 billion people are nutritionally insecure, but it can be mitigated through soil.
- 95 per cent of food comes from soil and 33 per cent of the global soils are already degraded.

### **Soil Health Card Schemell Govt initiative**

- The Centre has launched nationwide **Soil Health Card Scheme** to take care of Soil Health for the first time in a uniform manner to evaluate the soil fertility across the country.
- According to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, over 15 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers across the country.
- Soil health card provides information to the farmers on fertility status of their soil and enables them to apply soil health card based recommended dosages of fertilizers including micro-nutrients, bio-fertilizers, manures as well as soil ameliorants.

It is helpful in checking the declining fertility of agriculture land and improve the fertility of soils to increase productivity besides enhancing farmers income.

### **EX SHINYUU Maitri-2018**

The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) is in India for a bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 with Indian Air at A F Station Agra.

**Theme:**

- The theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
- The focus of the exercise is set for the **IAF and JASDF** crews to undertake Joint Mobility/ HADR operations. Display of heavy loading/ off loading are also planned to be practiced during this exercise.

**India, UAE sign two agreements, including one on currency swap**



India and the United Arab Emirates have signed two agreements, including one on currency swap, during visit of the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Abu Dhabi.

She yesterday held exhaustive discussions with her UAE counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed to step up bilateral cooperation in areas like security, defence, counter-terrorism, trade and energy.

Both the leaders co-chaired the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission

Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation.

- **What is Currency Swap?**

Currency Swap is such a pact between two countries that allows trading in their own currency and payments to import and export trade at pre-determined exchange rate without bringing in a third benchmark currency like the US dollars.

- The second agreement would enable both sides to undertake development projects in Africa.
- MrsSwaraj also called on Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He emphasized the special nature of India-UAE relations thanks to the leadership of Prime Minister NarendraModi. He stressed the importance that both nations attached values of peace and tolerance.
- MrsSwaraj interacted with the Indian community and appreciated their contribution in enhancing relations with the UAE, which hosts a 33 lakh-strong Indian community - the largest number of Indians outside India.

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- **India's heaviest satellite GSAT-11 successfully launched by Ariane-5 rocket to provide better broadband services**



- The ISRO launched GSAT-11 satellite and put it successfully in earth orbit from Kourou Launch Zone, French Guiana in South America today.
- ISRO used the Ariane-5 VA246 heavyweight rocket of Arianespace for this mission.
- The GSAT-11 advanced communications satellite, produced by ISRO, will deliver multi-spot beam coverage over the Indian mainland and nearby islands bringing significant advantages to the user community.
- It will operate from 74 deg. East. The GSAT-11 weighing 5,854 kg is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO.
- The GSAT-11 is the next generation high throughput communication satellite that will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country.

- It will also provide a platform to demonstrate new generation applications such as in flights internet connectivity. The satellite is expected to have a lifespan of 15 years.

### **US re-establishes permanent diplomatic mission in Somalia for first time in 27 years**

- The United States has reestablished a "permanent diplomatic presence" in Somalia for the first time in 27 years.
- The new move is viewed as another step forward in formalizing US diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu.
- The United States has based its diplomatic mission to Somalia in the capital of neighbouring Kenya since 2013, from where US diplomatic staff travel to Somalia to conduct official business

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### **US gives Russia 60 days to comply with nuclear treaty**



- United States has warned Russia that it will withdraw from a major **Cold War treaty limiting mid-range nuclear arms**, if Moscow does not dismantle missiles within 60 days.
- US Secretary of State Mike said that the US will no longer be bound by the **1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty**, unless Moscow withdraws a new system that has threatened to trigger an arms race.
- The US and NATO say Russia's 9M729 system, also known by the designation SSC-8, violates the INF treaty, which banned ground-launched missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometres.
- NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said it was time to prepare for demise of the deal.
- In October, President Donald Trump declared the United States would pull out of the treaty and build up America's nuclear stockpile "until people come to their senses"

