

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 12, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Supreme Court - directed the Tamil Nadu government and the state poll panel, on December 11, to conduct the upcoming local bodies elections on the basis of the data collected from 2011 census, instead of the 1991 census**
 - ✓ Earlier, the apex court had put 'on hold' the elections for the local bodies in 9 new districts on December 6 to complete the legal formalities such as delimitation and reservation within the next four months.
 - ✓ However, on December 11, the bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde modified its earlier order and asked the delimitation commission to conclude the delimitation exercise within 3 months instead of 4 months in the nine reconstituted districts.
 - ✓ It, however, allowed the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission (TNSEC) to proceed with the elections to all panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels in the remaining 31 revenue districts in the state as per the notified schedule
 - ✓ According to Rule 6 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Reservation of Seats and Rotation of Reserved Seats) Rules, quota has to be provided to women and SC and ST candidates.
- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has issued a notification regarding the reservation of offices of the Mayors of municipal corporations in the state.**
 - ✓ The offices of the Mayors had been reserved for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (general), Scheduled Castes (women) and women (general) in the urban local bodies
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has reserved 8 out of the 15 Mayoral posts in the State for women, including one for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes

- ✓ Mayor of Greater Chennai Corporation will represent the general category.
- ✓ Vellore Corporation is reserved for Scheduled Castes (women) and Tuticorin corporation is reserved for Scheduled Castes (general).
- ✓ The mayoral seats of Trichy, Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Dindigul, Madurai, Coimbatore and Erode corporations are reserved for women (general).
- ✓ The rest, comprising of Salem, Tirupur, Thanjavur, Hosur and Avadi corporations, will be represented by members of general category.
- ✓ Half of the seats will be represented by women members
- ✓ This applied to all the posts in local bodies, including ward members of panchayats, panchayat unions, district panchayats, presidents of village panchayats, ward members and chairmen of municipalities and town panchayats.
- ✓ The state government had earlier amended the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 and other municipal laws in February 2016 to increase the reservation for women in the local bodies from 33% in 50%

◆ **The Greater Chennai Corporation- has decided to form committees at the zonal level to monitor restored water bodies periodically to remove encroachments and prevent inflow of sewage**

- ✓ A monitoring committee will be set up in each zone, comprising of an assistant engineer, a sanitary inspector and other staff who will be reporting to the zonal officer.
- ✓ There are 15 zones in the city corporation.
- ✓ Besides their regular work, the committee members will be responsible for proper maintenance of the restored water bodies.
- ✓ The Corporation had restored more than 130 water bodies within city limits this year, after identifying 210 water bodies for desilting and restoration
- ✓ In the remaining water bodies, work is expected to begin by the end of January

◆ **IIT Madras - has signed an agreement with STL, a global Data networks innovator, for sponsoring a chair professorship in 5G**

- ✓ According to the signed MoU, STL and IIT Madras will work together in research and advancements in 5G communications technology.
- ✓ The chair occupant will be a full-time IIT faculty and will be chosen in the first quarter of 2020 through institute's comprehensive review and selection process.
- ✓ The chair occupant will work towards the development of 5G by integrating IIT Madras' research and domain knowledge with STL's industry expertise in 5G and end-to-end network connectivity.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has constituted a three-member pay grievance redressal committee**

- ✓ It will be headed by former chief justice of Delhi high court, Justice D Murugesan
- ✓ The panel will make specific recommendations to the government on the various representations and anomalies.

- ✓ The setting up of panel follows a Supreme Court order on a batch of civil appeals that directed the government to submit a report /recommendation for taking fresh decision regarding enhancement/reduction of the pay scales/grade pay of 52 or more categories of 20 or more government departments.
- ✓ The other members of the panel include Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, commissioner K Phanindra Reddy and revenue administration, disaster management and mitigation commissioner J Radhakrishnan.

STATES

◆ **The Andhra Pradesh cabinet - cleared a bill on December 11 that proposes the death penalty in cases of sexual abuse against women**

- ✓ The bill seeks to complete the entire investigation and trial in 7 and 14 working days respectively and reduce the total judgment time to just 21 days from the existing four months
- ✓ At present, there is no provision for capital punishment in Indian laws for rape convicts.
- ✓ Under the existing laws, the maximum sentence in sexual violence cases will be life imprisonment.
- ✓ Once the bill is passed, Andhra Pradesh will become the first state in India to have death penalty for rape cases.
- ✓ The new bill, the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (amendment) Act, 2019, will be called the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act
- ✓ It will be introduced in the state assembly on December 12.
- ✓ The bill also proposes the death penalty for sexual abuse of children on the lines of the amended Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2019 which was cleared by Parliament earlier this year.
- ✓ Besides, the state cabinet has proposed to increase the quantum of jail term from the present 3-5 years to 10 years to imprisonment till the death in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) cases
- ✓ The cabinet, chaired by chief minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, has decided to make amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to expedite the trial in cases of sexual abuse against women.
- ✓ The cabinet has also approved the setting up of fast track courts under the Andhra Pradesh Special Courts for Specified Crimes against Women and Children Act, 2019
- ✓ It has also been decided to set up Special courts to handle the sexual offences against women and children in all districts.
- ✓ The Special courts will be empowered to handle all the cases including the harassment of women through social media, acid attacks, rape, gang rape, sexual abuse of all forms.

- ✓ Also, spreading malicious information about women through social media posts would henceforth be considered as cognizable offence under IPC 354(e).
- ✓ The bill proposes 2 years jail term for first offence through social media and 4 years for subsequent offence.
- ✓ The proposed laws seek to amend relevant provisions in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

◆ **The Kerala cabinet - approved a revised pain and palliative care policy on December 11**

- ✓ It is aimed at improving the healthcare system in the state to meet the palliative care requirements along with the community support.
- ✓ Kerala was the first state in the country to announce a pain and palliative care policy in 2008
- ✓ The state government is planning to revise the essential drug list, to include drugs and supplies meant exclusively for palliative care.
- ✓ These drugs will be available in all government hospitals with a trained doctor.
- ✓ The state is planning to put proper documentation to avoid their inappropriate use
- ✓ It will also put mechanisms in place for effective delivery of medicines and supplies through home visits by either government or accredited non-governmental agencies.
- ✓ Community health centres (CHCs) will be the first referral centres for the palliative care.
- ✓ They will have separate beds for in-patient palliative care.
- ✓ A division of palliative medicine will be set up in all medical colleges and district hospitals in the initial phase, as part of community medicine.
- ✓ The state will also make NGOs and community based organisations (CBOs) as 'active partners' in the palliative care movement by giving them accreditation.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Personal Data Protection Bill - was referred to a Joint select committee of Parliament**

- ✓ Communications and IT Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad moved a resolution, soon after introducing the bill, which was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ The panel will be led by a Speaker-recommended MP
- ✓ It comprises of 20 members from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Meenakashi Lekhi, S SAhluwalia, PP Chaudhary, Sanjay Jaiswal, Rajyavardhan Rathore, Kirit Solanki, Heena Gavit, Tejasvi Surya, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Arvind Dharmapuri and Ajay Bhatt were named as members from the treasury benches
- ✓ Gaurav Gogoi, S Jothimani, P V Mithun Reddy, Srikant Shinde, B Mehtab, K Kanimozhi, Ritesh Pandey and Saugata Roy were named from the opposition.
- ✓ The panel is expected to complete its report before the end of the Budget session, which usually begins in the last week of January.

◆ **Rajya Sabha – passes the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 11**

- ✓ It intends to control the use and possession of weapons in the country and to reduce their rash and illegal usage, which can endanger another person.
- ✓ The bill provides for life imprisonment for illegal possession of weapons or a fine of one lakh rupees or both
- ✓ It also aims to extend the validity of arms licenses from three years to five years.
- ✓ The new bill allows license holders to own maximum two guns
- ✓ A provision of punishment of 7 to 14 years has been made for the acquisition, possession or carrying of prohibited ammunition without a license
- ✓ The bill also proposes maximum punishment of life in jail for the makers of illegal arms if convicted.
- ✓ It provides for stringent punishment measures against those who transport the illegal arms from one place to another and use them.
- ✓ It prohibits using firearms in public gatherings such as religious places, marriages or other functions, which endangers human life or personal safety of others
- ✓ The bill has also proposed that serial number should be written on each bullet to monitor the use of the bullets.
- ✓ The bill seeks to modify the Arms Act, 1959
- ✓ The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on November 29, 2019.
- ✓ India has about 35 lakh gun licenses with Uttar Pradesh topping the list with 13 lakh people possessing licenses to carry weapons

◆ **The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill - is passed by the Rajya Sabha with 125 votes in favour and 99 against on December 11**

- ✓ The current strength of the Upper House is 240 and the support of 121 MPs is needed to get a majority
- ✓ The bill grants a path of citizenship for Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014
- ✓ At present, it is mandatory for a person to stay here for at least 11 years to get citizenship of India
- ✓ The new bill reduces the residency limit to six years
- ✓ Now, the bill will become a law after getting the President's assent
- ✓ The bill, which seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, was passed by the Lok Sabha on December 9
- ✓ This bill was first introduced in Lok Sabha in 2016.

◆ **The Lok Sabha - passed the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Authority Bill, 2019 on December 11**

Transaction hub

- An international financial services centre (IFSC) provides jurisdiction for carrying out international financial services domestically

- The first IFSC in India was set up at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar

- The Finance Minister says there is no limit on the number of IFSCs that can be set up



- ✓ It seeks to establish an authority to develop and regulate the financial services market in all the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India, which were set up under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
- ✓ The unified authority would act as a single window of regulation.
- ✓ The IFSC Authority will comprise nine members including a Chairperson, all of whom will be appointed by the Union government with a fixed tenure of 3 years.
- ✓ The Authority will regulate all financial products including securities, deposits and contracts of insurance, financial services and financial institutions that were approved previously by appropriate regulators such as RBI or SEBI in an IFSC.
- ✓ All the laws of land, including the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, would apply and would be audited by the CVC and the CAG.
- ✓ The International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019, was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 25, 2019
- ✓ The bill was earlier withdrawn from the Rajya Sabha, as a finance bill is usually only tabled in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ The bill had received approval from the Union Cabinet in February 2019.
- ✓ Currently, the banking, capital markets and insurance sectors in IFSC are regulated by multiple regulators.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to amend 14 Acts, including the SEBI Act, the IRDA Act and the PFRDA Act

◆ Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar - introduced the Code on Social Security, 2019, in the Lok Sabha on December 11

- ✓ The Bill seeks to amend and consolidate laws relating to the social security of employees, subsuming eight Central laws.
- ✓ The eight Central Labour Acts namely - Employees' Compensation Act, 1923; Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981; Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Act, 1996 and Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 - are to be subsumed under the new law.

- ✓ The new code will have the option for the reduction of Provident Fund contribution by employees in some sectors from 12% to 10%
- ✓ The reduction will not apply to employers and has been done mainly to increase the take-home pay (Net salary) of employees.
- ✓ The Bill also proposes to set up a social security fund using the funds available under corporate social responsibility (CSR), to extend welfare benefits such as pensions and death and disability benefits.
- ✓ The Bill also has a provision to provide gratuity for fixed-term contract workers on a pro-rata basis.

◆ **Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gahlot – introduces the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha on December 11**

- ✓ The Bill seeks to impose six months' imprisonment or a fine of ₹10,000 or both on those who abuse parents, in-laws or senior citizens under their care
- ✓ It has provisions for the elderly to claim maintenance
- ✓ It calls for mandatory registration of senior citizens care homes and other such institutions, which will have to comply with prescribed minimum standards

◆ **Visva-Bharati, started by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921 – is all set to shift its weekend from Wednesday-Thursday to Saturday-Sunday for better functioning and communication with UGC and Ministry of HRD**

- ✓ Even though the formal announcement is yet to be made, the change is expected to be effected from the beginning of 2020.
- ✓ The shift, if it happens, will mark a major departure from tradition.
- ✓ Santiniketan, in keeping with the Brahmo Samaj practice, has always observed Wednesday — and not Sunday — as the weekly holiday.
- ✓ When Central universities began to have two days off in a week, Visva-Bharati first chose Sunday as the additional day-off before settling for a Wednesday-Thursday weekend
- ✓ Visva-Bharati is the only Centre-run University in West Bengal

COMMITTEES

◆ **The report of the Justice (retired) G T Nanavati commission, which probed the communal violence in Godhra - was tabled in the Gujarat state assembly on December 11**

- ✓ In 2014, the commission had cleared the then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi of any of his role in the 2002 post-Godhra riots
- ✓ The report also cleared the ministers and officials of the then Gujarat government of their roles in the riots which claimed 1,025 lives across the state,

after a train compartment was razed by a mob, killing 59 pilgrims returning from Ayodhya.

'ALLEGATIONS MEANT TO MALIGN CM'

PANEL'S OBSERVATIONS

- In 2008, Nanavati Commission had said the Sabarmati Express train carnage in Godhra had been orchestrated by a conspiracy
- Second part of report states that the riots were 'aftermath' of Godhra carnage on February 27, 2002 in which 59 kar sevaks died
- Some VHP, Bajrang Dal members responsible for violence
- No evidence of attacks being either inspired or instigated or abetted by any state minister or religious group or a party
- False allegations made to malign then CM Narendra Modi for 2002 riots, says report



- Then DCP intelligence, Sanjiv Bhatt, 'was not telling the truth' about his presence in the Feb 27 meeting held at then CM's residence. Bhatt submitted a false document to prove his statement
- R B Sreekumar (then ADGP, intel) 'disgruntled officer', says panel
- Call detail record CDs submitted by Rahul Sharma (DCP, control room, during the riots) were 'copies and thus unreliable'

- ✓ The commission has categorically rejected the claims of three “whistleblower” IPS officers — Sanjiv Bhatt, Rahul Sharma and RB Sreekumar — who had alleged the involvement of the Modi government in the communal violence.
- ✓ Five years ago, the two member commission comprising former Supreme Court judge Justice G.T. Nanavati and former Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Akshay Mehta, had submitted the second part of its report, which probed into the 2002 post-Godhra riots.
- ✓ The first part, submitted in 2008, dealt with the Sabarmati Express violence that took place in Godhra in which 59 karsevaks were killed on February 27, 2002
- ✓ Even though the first and second parts were submitted 11 and 5 years ago, they were made public only after being tabled in the assembly on December 11

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle 'PSLV-C48', in its 50th flight on December 11 - launched the country's fourth radar imaging earth observation satellite — RISAT-2BR1— and 9 other foreign satellites precisely into a 576km orbit.**



- ✓ These nine satellites, from Japan (1), Italy (1), the US (6) and Israel (1), were launched as part of a commercial arrangement with New Space India Ltd..
- ✓ It included Duchifat-3 satellite, which has been jointly developed by students from Israel's Herzliya Science Center and Shar Hanegev High School.

- ✓ Weighing just 2.3 kgs, it is a third remote sensing satellite made by Israel's school students
- ✓ After the launch of RISAT-2BR1, the count of satellites carried by the workhorse of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) now goes up to 63 of Indian origin and 319 from 33 countries in the last 26 years
- ✓ PSLV has visited almost all places in space, which included placing the satellites in low earth orbit, polar orbit and GTO (geosynchronous transfer orbit) apart from the satellites to Moon and Mars
- ✓ It is the 75th launch mission from Sriharikota spaceport
- ✓ In the 26 years of PSLV journey, it has had five variants and its payload capability was enhanced from 850kg to 1.9 tonne.
- ✓ It has so far lifted 52.7 tonnes of payload into space, out of which 17% of mass comes from customer satellites
- ✓ Around 16 minutes after liftoff from the now refurbished first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, PSLVC48 launched 628kg RISAT-2BR1 into its orbit.
- ✓ The satellite, with a mission life of five years, follows the successful launch of RISAT-2B in May 2019.
- ✓ ISRO will be launching the remaining 2 satellites in the RISAT series in the coming months to complete the quartet of the so-called 'spy satellites'
- ✓ RISAT-2BR1 carries an Xband synthetic aperture radar, a desi version of Israel's Tec-SAR satellite, with an imaging resolution of 0.35m, much better than RISAT-2B's 0.5X0.3m resolution
- ✓ With various applications including forestry, agriculture and disaster management support, the satellite may, along with Cartosat-3, also be used for military reconnaissance
- ✓ On November 27, PSLV-C47 launched Cartosat-3, an advanced earth observation satellite, into the orbit.
- ✓ The PSLV's first successful mission, PSLV-D2 carrying IRS-P2 remote sensing satellite, was on October 15, 1999
- ✓ The PSLV has failed only twice — the maiden flight of the PSLV D1 carrying IRS-1E on September 20, 1993 and the PSLV C-39 in August 2017.
- ✓ Till now, the rocket had a track record of 48 successful missions.

◆ **Scientists from IIT-Bombay - have developed technology to make changes in a patient's immune system to cure cancer.**

- ✓ Researchers made use of gene and cell therapies to reengineer immune cells to attack and kill cancer cells in the body
- ✓ Such immunotherapy using CAR T-cells can be made available for Rs15 lakh, if the technology is developed in the country.
- ✓ The similar form of treatment for cancer costs around Rs3-4 crore in US.
- ✓ The treatment is less painful than surgery, chemotherapy or radiation, with lesser chances of a relapse.

- ✓ The therapy, which is effective in the treatment of cancer, especially leukaemia, is currently not available in India.
- ✓ T-cells (a type of white blood cell or WBC), which are an integral part of the human immune system, can identify tumours and destroy them.
- ✓ However, in advanced stages, the cancer cells adapt to the presence of T-cells and therefore remain undetected.
- ✓ The new approach in immunotherapy, called CAR (chimeric antigen receptors) T-cell therapy, aims to restore their ability to detect and kill cancer cells.
- ✓ CARs are protein that assists T-cells to recognise and attach to protein or antigen, which are present on cancer cells.
- ✓ These proteins help destroying cancer cells.

◆ **The world's first fully electric commercial aircraft – took off from the Canadian city of Vancouver on its inaugural test flight on December 10**



- ✓ The e-plane — a 62-year-old, six-passenger DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver seaplane — was retrofitted with an electric motor.
- ✓ The flight lasted less than 15 minutes.
- ✓ Armed with fuel efficiency, e-planes can help save millions in maintenance costs as electric motors require drastically less upkeep apart from putting an end to the polluting emissions.

DEFENCE

◆ **A joint military exercise, Iron Union-12 - was recently commenced between the ground troops of UAE and the USA**

- ✓ The drill will see both the sides taking part in military collaboration to enhance combat and tactical skills
- ✓ It will emphasize to develop joint military cooperation to combat terrorism

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Actor Suniel Shetty- has been appointed the brand ambassador of the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA)**



- ✓ The National Anti-Doping Agency monitors the doping control program in the sports within the country.
- ✓ In the last one year more than 150 players of the country have failed in the dope test.
- ✓ The National Anti-Doping Laboratory has been suspended by the WADA earlier this year
- ✓ Currently, the dope samples collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency from the athletes will have to be tested outside India.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Pakistan's Aleem Dar - will break Steve Bucknor's record of most Test matches as an umpire during the first Test between Australia and New Zealand.**



- ✓ The 51-year-old Dar stands in his 129th Test match as on-field umpire since his debut in Dhaka in 2003 during England's tour of Bangladesh.
- ✓ Dar took up umpiring after a decade of playing First Class cricket in Pakistan
- ✓ He has officiated in 207 ODIs and is only two matches away to overtake the record of 209 matches held by Rudi Koertzen of South Africa
- ✓ Dar started his international career in 2000 during Pakistan's home ODI series against Sri Lanka

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **International Mountains Day – December 11**



- ✓ This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of mountains and to explore the opportunities for the development of mountains
- ✓ Theme 2019 - "**Mountains matter for Youth**"
- ✓ The first International Mountains Day was observed on 11 December 2003
- ✓ To highlight the importance of mountains, the United Nations declared 2002 as the UN International Year of Mountains.
- ✓ As per the United Nations, mountains are home to 15% of the world's population and 25% of the world's animals and plants.

WORLD'S NEWEST COUNTRY – BOUGAINVILLE – A REPORT

◆ Bougainville – votes to become World's newest country, after getting independence from Papua New Guinea

- ✓ In a referendum conducted, around 1,76,928 people — comprising 98% of voters — had voted for independence with just 3,043 supporting the option of remaining part of Papua New Guinea with more autonomy.

It must be a hectic time for those that track the birth of nations. After the reported Hindu homeland of Kailasaa conceived by fugitive swami Nithyananda comes news of another new country on the global map. And this one's more real, even though Bougainville does have some way to go before celebrating actual independence from Papua New Guinea. Around the world, there are several cases of communities and regions looking to attain independent statehood, Catalonia and Kurdistan being prominent examples. But how does a country become known and recognised as such?

South Pacific Island Chain With Huge Mineral Wealth And A 20-Year Wait To Be Free...

It is control of Bougainville's Panguna mine, which in 1970s contributed nearly half of Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s export income through gold and copper mining, that triggered a bloody civil war between the islanders who felt they were deprived of a fair share of that wealth and PNG forces that finally led to the referendum of 2019, in which 98% of 180,000 voters chose freedom from PNG



The civil war, which killed 20,000 people, ended in 1998. As part of the peace accord, Bougainville was in 2001 promised a referendum within 20 years

Bougainville

Population: 300,000

Area: 8,990 sq.km

Main city: Buka

GDP per capita: \$1,100

Bougainville is named for French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, after whom the flowering vine Bougainvillea (with the extra 'a') is also named

...But Referendum Result Doesn't Mean It Becomes A New Country Instantly

That's because the referendum result is non-binding. This means Papua New Guinea and Bougainville will have to engage in negotiations for secession. The final call on whether Bougainville can break away rests with PNG parliament

PNG may not mind a long-drawn out talks process given possible concern that Bougainville's secession would set a precedent for other provinces

Indeed, experts say Bougainville could become an inspiration for other independence movements in the Pacific, from West Papua, seeking to secede from Indonesia, to New Caledonia, which will hold a referendum next year on breaking away from France

How Does A Country Come To Be: It's Neither Simple, Nor Easy

- For all practical purposes, in the 20th century, the idea that underpins a nation is that of "self-determination". It is even enshrined as a right in the UN Charter of 1945
- But since a nation state has to exist physically and not just as an idea, some of its key components have to be a people, a territory and a government
- So, when the idea of self-determination has a people, a territory and a provisional government to back it, conditions are created for a nation state to declare itself to the world
- And here comes another key factor: recognition by other countries, or recognition by the United Nations. There are quite a few territories over that enjoy limited or no recognition, Kosovo and Taiwan being prominent ones
- Also, winning independence means redrawing the map of a country, something that prima facie can violate laws of territorial integrity and generally makes the international community reluctant to extend support or recognition

Source: NYT, media reports

...And Not All Referendums End In A New Country Being Born

No New Country	Referendum Yr	New Country
	1957	Guinea
	1961	Samoa, Jamaica
	1962	Algeria
	1964	Rhodesia, Malta
Comoros (3 Is.)	1974	Comoros (1 Is.)
Aruba	1977	Djibouti
	1979	St Vincent & the Grenadines
Quebec	1980	
New Caledonia	1987	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
	1990	Slovenia
	1991	
Montenegro	1992	Bosnia & Herzegovina
	1993	Eritrea
Quebec, Bermuda	1995	
Nevis	1998	
	1999	East Timor
	2006	Montenegro
	2011	South Sudan
Scotland, Sint Eustasius	2014	
South of Brazil	2016	
Puerto Rico, Kurdistan, Catalonia	2017	
	2019	Bougainville (Pending approval)

Note: Dates are of referendum held, not of new country formed; eg. The East Timor referendum was held in 1999 but the independent country came into being in 2002

World's Newest Countries

South Sudan	July 9, 2011 (Date Formed)
Kosovo	Feb 17, 2008
Montenegro	June 3, 2006
Serbia	June 5, 2006
East Timor	May 20, 2002
Palau	Oct 1, 1994
Eritrea	April 27, 1993
Czech Rep.	Jan 1, 1993
Slovakia	Jan 1, 1993

195
Total number of countries (193 UN members and two non-members). This is excluding Bougainville