

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 14-17-12-2019

National Energy Conservation Day

Energy conservation day is celebrated on December 14 since 1991 every year.

Energy conservation is the effort made to reduce the consumption of energy by using less of an energy service.

In order to create mass awareness on the importance of conservation and efficiency of energy, BEE observed National Energy Conservation Week from 9th to 14th December 2019

International tea day

It is being observed every year on December 15. The aim of International Tea Day is to raise awareness of tea trade. The debut International Tea Day took place in New Delhi, India back in 2005. In the year 2015, the Indian government proposed the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to make the day a bigger observance around the world.

In India people consumes 837,000 tonnes of it every year.

Vijay Diwas: 16 December

The nation celebrates Vijay Diwas to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war. Rich tributes are being paid to the martyrs who laid down their lives during the war. It was on this day in 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93 thousand troops, had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini.

The end of the war also resulted in subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

Uttarakhand to get a 'Centre of Excellence for Skilling' in Uttarkashi

Uttarakhand will soon get a 'Centre of Excellence for Skilling' in Uttarkashi district.

A skill university will also come up to train youths of the hill state.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will send experts for discussing avenues for promotion of skill development and entrepreneurship. The team will look into areas and aspects which require skill development such as wellness, healthcare, tourism and adventure sports.

Edelweiss AMC launches India's 1st corporate bond 'Bharat Bond ETF'

Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of Edelweiss Capital Limited (ECL) has launched India's 1st Corporate Bond ETF (exchange trade fund) called the Bharat Bond ETF.

The ETF is a government initiative and Edelweiss AMC was given the mandate to design and manage the product.

Here they can invest up to 2 lakhs. At the same time, the minimum amount for anchor investors has been fixed at Rs 10 crore.

Mandatory to link PAN-Aadhaar by Dec 31: Income Tax Department

The Income Tax Department has said that it will be mandatory to link Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar by the end of december month. This will facilitate to reap seamless benefits of income tax services. The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar was extended till the 31st of December, by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through an order issued in September this year. Earlier, the deadline was 30th of September.

Former PM Abdelmadjid Tebboune declared as the President of Algeria

Former Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune was declared the winner of Algeria's presidential election.

Tebboune – who also served as housing minister under Abdelaziz Bouteflika – the former president forced to step down in April following mass protests.

Thai massage could get UNESCO status as 2,000-year-old skill goes global

2,000-year-old skill – the body-folding, sharp-elbowed techniques of Thai massage, which could be added to UNESCO's prestigious heritage list.

Nuad Thai is an intense form of massage in which the body is pulled and rotated well with the help of the thumb, elbow, knees and feet. This massage targets many acupuncture points of the body, which improves blood circulation. It also aims to cure muscle pain.

Jamaican's TONI ANN SINGH takes the crown of miss world 2019.

Jamaican TONI ANN SINGH was crowned as miss world 2019 and said she wanted to use her title to work for sustainable change for women and their children.

The 23 year old was declared as he 23-year-old Jamaican was declared the winner at a televised event, hosted by British television personality Piers Morgan, held at ExceL London.

Deepika Padukone receives the Crystal Award 2020 for its awareness of mental health

Deepika Padukone has been very active on mental health issues and her own battle with clinical depression for the past two years.

The Bollywood actress launched the Live Love Laugh Foundation in 2015 to reduce the stigma around mental health and raise awareness of mental illnesses such as depression. For her contributions, Deepika will be honored with the 26th annual Crystal Award. She is the only Indian actress to appear in the list of winners of Davos 2020

England cricketer Ben Stokes has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019.

The all-rounder was man of the match as England won the World Cup for the first time with a dramatic super over victory against New Zealand at Lord's.

Stokes, 28, also hit an unbeaten 135 in the one-wicket third Ashes Test triumph against Australia at Headingley.



Viswanathan Anand launches autobiography 'Mind Master'

Indian chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand's autobiography 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life' was released in Chennai.

The book was co-authored by sports journalist Susan Ninan.

Anand was born in Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu and is a former World Chess Champion. He became the first grandmaster from India in 1988.

India donates solar-powered lamps to marginalised Palestinian children

India has donated solar powered study lamps to Palestinian elementary school children from a marginalised Bedouin community to spread the principles of self-sufficiency and raise awareness towards the adverse effects of climate change.

The lamps were donated as part of the 150th Gandhi Jayanti Students Solar Ambassador Workshop. The solar powered study lamps supplied by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay aims at making the student beneficiaries for the future propagators of renewable energy.

UNESCO removes 'anti-Semitic' Belgian carnival from heritage list

Belgian carnival has been removed from UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list after officials found the "recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representations" to be incompatible with its principles.

Aalst Carnival was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), but has been widely condemned by Jewish organizations.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity announced Friday it would remove the Aalst Carnival from its heritage list.

Moody's slashes FY20 growth forecast to 4.9% on weak household consumption

Moody's Investors Service has lowered India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for the 2019-20 fiscal year to 4.9 per cent from 5.8 per cent, citing weak household consumption.

The rating agency stated that slower economic growth over the past few quarters would dent the debt repayment capacity of households and hurt retail loan quality.

Private-sector among the key drivers of the slowdown.

India joins elite club to enable free 24x7 NEFT funds transfer facility

India moved to round-the-clock payment transfer system effectively joining only a handful of countries globally to do so. On top of it, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that effective from January 1, banks should not charge anything to their savings account holders for

availing such a facility through online or mobile modes. The facility got activated, and banks have started offering their customers round-the-clock NEFT services, except for a half an hour branch

So far, Australia, Hong Kong, Mexico, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, South Korea, Singapore, South Africa, and China have such payment system after midnight in some cases.

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane to be next Indian Army Chief

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane, who is currently Vice Chief of Army Staff, has been named as next Indian Army Chief.

He is also the Colonel of the Regiment of the Sikh Light Infantry.

Naravane will replace General Bipin Rawat, who became Army Chief on December 31, 2016.

3 days “International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems” for BIMSTEC countries held in New Delhi

‘International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems’ for BIMSTEC countries is being held in

It has been organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare.

The objective of the seminar is to share experiences to enable the improvement of tropical smallholder farming systems for greater productivity and resilience to climate change.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an approach to help farmers respond effectively to climate change and ensure food security.

It has three main objectives:

Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes;

Adapting and building resilience to climate change; and

greenhouse gas emissions mitigation

It is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is a multi-stakeholder platform that seeks to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience amidst climate change.