

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 18-12-2019

International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day is celebrated on 18 December to raise awareness about the protection for migrants and refugees.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is calling an international community to come together and remember the migrants and refugees who have lost their lives or have disappeared while reaching a safe harbor.

Government promises broadband access in all villages by 2022; launches National Broadband Mission.

The government promised broadband access in all villages by 2022, as it launched the ambitious National Broadband Mission entailing stakeholder investment of Rs 7 lakh crore in the coming years.

The mission will facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas. It also involves laying of incremental 30 lakh route km of Optical Fiber Cable and increase in tower density from 0.42 to 1 tower per thousand of population by 2024.

The mission unveiled by Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will also aim at significantly improving quality of services for mobile and internet.

“By 2022, we will take broadband to all the villages of India. The number of towers in the country which is about 5.65 lakh will be increased to 10 lakh,” Prasad stated. The mission also envisages increasing fiberisation of towers to 70 per cent from 30 per cent at present.

GEM launches National Outreach Programme – GEM Samvaad.

A national outreach Programme, GeM Samvaad, was launched by Anup Wadhawan, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Chairman, GeM in New Delhi.

The outreach programme will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers in order to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace while catering to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers.

GeM has more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services

Indian Railways starts selling drinking water made from air, costs just Rs. 5 per litre.

The ‘atmospheric water generator’ is called ‘Meghdoot’

‘Meghdoot’ harvests water directly from air through a series of step

In a first-of-its-kind initiative by Indian Railways, South Central Railway has installed an ‘atmospheric water generator’ kiosk at Secunderabad Railway Station.

The ‘atmospheric water generator’ is called ‘Meghdoot’.

This technology is developed under ‘Make in India’ by Maithri Aquatech. The kiosk produces around 1,000 litres per day.

“Conserve Water, Conserve Life: Railways introduces ‘Meghdoot’ device to harvest water directly from air, which is then filtered & remineralised for drinking.

World’s first liquid hydrogen carrier ship launches in Japan

Japan’s Kawasaki Heavy Industries debuted the world’s first marine carrier that transports liquefied hydrogen, using technology that will vastly expand cargo capacity of the green energy source

.A crowd of 4,000 people gathered at Kawasaki’s shipyard in Kobe for the naming and launch ceremony of the Suiso Frontier — a name adopting the Japanese word for hydrogen. The vessel, measuring 116 meters long, will be fully completed next fall

The carrier will transport to Japan hydrogen produced in Australia from cheap coal, with trial shipments due to begin before March 2021.

Sridhar Patra appointed NALCO CMD

Sridhar Patra was appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of NALCO. Patra is at present Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

He has been appointed as the CMD of NALCO till the date of his superannuation, i.e. October 31, 2024.

Amitabha Bagchi wins 2019 DSC Prize

The 8th edition of the IME Nepal Literature Festival, at Pokhara, concluded with the announcement of the winner of DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019. The \$25,000 award went to Amitabha Bagchi for his 2018 novel, Half the Night is Gone.

The six shortlisted books included one translated work (Manoranjan Byapari’s There’s Gunpowder in the Air, translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha), a novel by Pakistan-born author Jamil Jan Kochai and another by Sadia Abbas, who grew up in Pakistan and Singapore, besides fiction by Indian authors.



IAF Phase of Indo – Russian Tri- Services Exercise Indra 2019 in Pune, Gwalior, Babina and Goa

Exercise INDRA – 2019 is the second edition of Joint Tri Services Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces which is being conducted from 10-20 December 2019s imultaneously at Pune and Gwalior for Air Force elements. IAF is undertaking service specific and joint missions during the exercise. Russian Federation Air Force (RFAF) element is participating in the exercise along with IAF counterparts.

Kargil to Kohima Ultra Marathon- ‘Glory Run’

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff Indian Air Force felicitated a team of 25 Air Warriors at Air Force Station, New Delhi for a unique achievement – a running expedition from Kargil to Kohima- aptly named as K2K Ultra Marathon-Glory Run.

The event commemorating the 20th year of Kargil Victory was flagged off from the Kargil War Memorial at Drass on 21 Sep 19.

The expedition also saw the Air Warriors break the mental barriers of Age and Gender, and spread awareness on Pedestrian safety and Fit India Movement. The ceremonial Flagging In of the Glory Run Warriors at Air Force Station New Delhi by the CAS IAF on Vijay Diwas(Dec 16th)

Brah Mos Missile Successfully Test-fired from Odisha’s Chandipur

Supersonic cruise missile Brah Mos was successfully test-fired from a base in Odisha’s Chandipur.

The land-attack version of the missile was test-fired from a mobile autonomous launcher at Launch Complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur. The BrahMos missile is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile capable of being launched from submarines, ships, fighter jets or land.

Smriti Mandhana in ICC women’s ODI and T20 teams of the year

India opener Smriti Mandhana was named in both the International Cricket Council’s ODI and T20 teams of the year, capping off a memorable season.

Australia's Alyssa Healy was chosen as the T20 cricketer of the year following her record-breaking 148 against Sri Lanka earlier this year. The ODI cricketer of the year honour went to Australia's Ellyse Perry, who scored 441 runs at an average of 73.50 and took 21 wickets at 13.52. Perry also pocketed the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint award for being the cricketer of the year across formats.



A star & planet get Indian names: 'Bibha' after woman scientist & 'Santamasa' in Sanskrit.

A white yellow star in Sextans constellation and its Jupiter like exo-planets, which were hitherto named HD 86081 and 86081b, will now have Indian names. The International Astronomical Union announced that the star will be called Bibhā, the planet will be called Santamasa. The star has been named in honour of a pioneering Indian woman scientist Dr Bibha Choudhury, who discovered the subatomic particle pi-meson. Bibha also means 'a bright beam of light' in Bengali.