

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 16, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) - has proposed a tariff of ₹ 6.54 per unit for 2020-21 and ₹ 6.79 per unit for 2021-22 for the purchase of biomass power by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco).**
 - ✓ The total capacity of renewable power in Tamil Nadu is 12180 MW, out of which biomass power constitutes 265.59 MW.
 - ✓ As per the earlier order for biomass power in March 2018, which expired on March 31 2019, the tariff is fixed at ₹ 5.89 per unit for 2018-19 and ₹ 6.11 per unit for 2019-20.
 - ✓ Biomass refers to the process of getting energy by burning organic material that comes from plants and animals

STATES

- ◆ **Gujarat Police - was honoured with ‘President’s Colour’ by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu at a ceremony held in Karai Police Academy in Gandhi Nagar on December 15**



- ✓ This honour is the biggest honor given by the President to the Armed Forces, Para Military Forces and State Police Forces.

- ✓ Gujarat Police has become the 7th such police force in the country which has received this honour for its services and courage.
- ✓ Gujarat Police will wear 'President's Colour', also called as Nishaan, an emblem - on the left sleeve shoulder of its uniform on special occasions, such as a parade.
- ✓ The Gujarat Police, established on May 1, 1960, is the eighth-largest police force in the country with about 85,000 civil police and 22355 armed police personnel.
- ✓ Till now Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Assam had received this honour.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Income tax department – announced that it is mandatory to link PAN with Aadhaar by December 31, 2019**

- ✓ The deadline to link PAN with Aadhaar was extended till December 31 by the central board of direct taxes (CBDT) through an order issued earlier in September 2019.
- ✓ Earlier, the deadline for the linkage was fixed as September 30.
- ✓ The CBDT is responsible for framing the policy for Income tax department.
- ✓ The Supreme Court, on September 26, 2018, had declared that the Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid and held that the biometric ID would be mandatory for the filing of I-T returns and allotment of PAN
- ✓ According to Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act, every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar and he/she must intimate his Aadhaar number to tax authorities
- ✓ Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number, which is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to every Indian resident
- ✓ PAN is a 10-digit personal account number, allotted to people by the Income Tax Department.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The annual UN climate conference, COP 25 – concluded in Madrid, Spain without reaching any decisive deal**



- ✓ The climate talks took place even after 43 hours beyond the official deadline
- ✓ This was the longest ever extension in the history of UN climate conference
- ✓ However, it could not arrive at any decision regarding the 3 key issues — rules on carbon markets, 'ambition' and long-term finance, which are now pushed to the next round of talks in Glasgow, UK in 2020
- ✓ The final declaration dealt with the "urgent need" to cut greenhouse gases as per the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate change accord.

- ✓ Only 73 countries, accounting for just 13% of total global emissions, have so far agreed to reach 'net-zero' emission goal by 2050 through higher reduction targets by next year.
- ✓ Most of the countries in the 'high ambition' list are developing and island nations, whose emissions are negligible compared to big emitters like the US, China and India.
- ✓ However, this year, majority of the members are not willing to reduce their emissions at the pace suggested by the conference.
- ✓ India was on track to meet its Paris Agreement targets and it would consider new ambition only when stock-take of the current targets took place in 2023.
- ✓ The Paris agreement of 2015 specified the goal of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.
- ✓ So far, the world is heading towards a 3 to 4 degree Celsius rise, with potentially severe consequences for many countries.
- ✓ The tagline of COP 25 – 'Time for Action'

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **Isro – to develop a mobile launchpad for the proposed small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) class of vehicles**

- ✓ It has requested ₹120 crore from the Centre for a new launchpad for SSLV, which will be part of the new spaceport proposed in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The mobile launchpad is aimed at enhancing Isro's launch capabilities.
- ✓ Isro, at present, carries out all launches from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), which is at about 100km from Chennai.
- ✓ Set up in 1971, SDSC will continue with PSLV and GSLV launches
- ✓ The cost of a fully integrated PSLV launch vehicle is ₹200 crore.
- ✓ Isro may also involve private players for development of rockets.
- ✓ Isro will be offering the private sector at least ₹1,000 crore to build five PSLVs, as per the expression of interest (EOI) issued in August
- ✓ China has already started using mobile launchers — developed for its military — to put into space seven civilian satellites recently
- ✓ The Chinese satellites were launched using KZ-1As rockets, a lightweight solid fuel projectile, which was developed by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation

◆ **Nasa - has unveiled the 'most powerful rocket ever built' — a 65-metre-tall rocket dubbed the Space Launch System (SLS).**



- ✓ The rocket is intended to send humans back to the Moon as part of Nasa's Artemis mission, which will be launched in 2022.
- ✓ The rocket consists of some of the most sophisticated hardware ever built for spaceflight
- ✓ In terms of timeline, Nasa aims to launch the SLS on an unmanned mission to the moon in 2020, before launching a manned flight around the moon in 2022.
- ✓ Finally, it aims to land humans back on the moon in 2024
- ✓ When the SLS takes off, it will produce 8.8 million pounds of thrust — which is an enormous power generated than by any rocket ever before.
- ✓ If the launch to the Moon is a success, the SLS could be used to send humans to Mars in near-future

AWARDS

- ◆ **Senior scientist from Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) J Daniel Chellappa - received Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) leadership award 2019 at Hyderabad**



- ✓ He received the award from Telangana minister, Mohammed Mahmood Ali
- ✓ Chellappa was feted for his leadership and efforts in spreading indigenous technologies to the common man through corporate social responsibility (CSR) and other initiatives.
- ✓ Chellappa is credited with creating awareness about technologies that provide safe drinking water, food processing and restoration of water bodies, among others.
- ✓ He is also a mentor of students and young scientists.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Pakistani opener Abid Ali - became the first batsman to score hundreds on both Test and ODI debuts**



- ✓ Abid Ali scored an unbeaten 109 in the first test against Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi, which is hosting the Pakistan's first home test match since the 2009 attack on the visiting Sri Lanka team
- ✓ Abid was one of 15 batsmen to score a hundred on their one-day international debut, since its inauguration in January 1971.
- ✓ He scored his debut ODI century against Australia in Dubai in March this year
- ✓ None of the these 15 batsman also scored a century on their debut in Test cricket, which was started in 1876
- ✓ Abid is the 11th Pakistani batsmen to score a century on Test debut.

◆ **Grandmaster Koneru Humpy - finished second in the FIDE women's Grand Prix (WGP) which concluded in Monaco on December 14**



- ✓ Humpy registered 4 wins, 1 loss and 6 draws during the course of the competition.
- ✓ India's D Harika was placed sixth with 5.5 points
- ✓ Alexandra Kosteniuk finished first in the event
- ✓ The top-two finishers in the WGP — which comprises a series of four tournaments — qualify for the women Candidates tournament which will be held in the first half of 2021.
- ✓ Humpy will next be seen in action at the World Rapids in Moscow later this month.

◆ **Lakshya Sen - clinched his fifth title of the year winning the Bangladesh International Challenge in Dhaka.**



- ✓ In the final, Lakshya prevailed over Leong Jun Hao of Malaysia
- ✓ Lakshya's winning streak began with the Belgian International in September.
- ✓ Later, he had also won the Dutch Open Super 100, SarrLorLux Super 100 in October before triumphing at Scottish Open last month
- ✓ Indians have also won two silver medals in Dhaka.
- ✓ Men's doubles duo of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila and Women's doubles duo of K Maneesha and Rutuparna Panda secured silver in the event

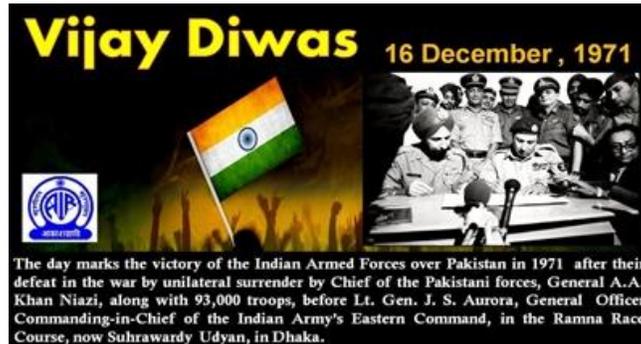
◆ **Tasnim Mir – defeated Tara Shah to clinch the U-15 girls singles final at the Asia Junior (U-17 & U-15) Badminton Championships at Surabaya in Indonesia on December 15**



- ✓ Never in the history of Indian badminton, two girls played the singles final of a major international tournament.
- ✓ Before the start of the tournament, Gujarat's Tasnim was labelled as the favourite to win the title.
- ✓ The Pune-based Tara started brilliantly, before losing the decider set to hand over the victory to Tasnim

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ Vijay Diwas - December 16



- ✓ The day commemorates India's victory over Pakistan in 1971, by signing of 'Instrument of Surrender'
- ✓ On this day, Bangladesh was born and it celebrates its independence day on December 16 every year.
- ✓ Bangladesh was part of Pakistan, which was called 'East Pakistan', prior to 1971
- ✓ India supported Bangladesh against the oppression of military ruler of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan in 'East Pakistan'.
- ✓ The Government of India decided to go for war with Pakistan on December 03, 1971, to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus
- ✓ India fought the war under the leadership of Field Marshal Manekshaw
- ✓ On 16 December 1971, about 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered before the Indian Army Commander, Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Arora in Dhaka.
- ✓ The Government of India sealed the date of NRC of Assam as 24th March, 1971, as it was on this day the war officially started
- ✓ After this day, the surge of immigrants from Bangladesh into Assam and other nearby states increased following the firing of civilians by the Pakistan Army

◆ The United Nations (UN) - has declared May 21 as International Tea Day on the recommendations of India

- ✓ However, Tea producing nations such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, Malaysia and many more countries are celebrating this day already on December 15
- ✓ International Tea Day was started in New Delhi on December 15, 2005



- ✓ The season of quality tea production starts in May in most of the tea producing countries
- ✓ The purpose of International Tea Day is to create awareness about the condition of tea producers and tea workers apart from encouraging the improvement of their social status

