

CURRENT AFFAIRS 17th JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Jupiter-like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting two stars discovered

Scientists have discovered a Jupiter-like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting a system of two stars, making it the largest such cosmic body ever found.

- ❖ The planet Kepler-1647b, located in the constellation Cygnus, was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University (SDSU) in the US.
- ❖ Researchers said that the Kepler-1647 is 3700 light-years away and about 4.4 billion years old, roughly the same age as the Earth.

2. Isreal elected to chair UN committee

Isreal has been elected to chair a UN committee for the first time in the world body's 71 years history.

- ❖ Israel has got 109 votes in secret voting. None of the member has voted against Israel.

Israel

- ✓ Capital: Jerusalem
- ✓ Currency: Shekel

NATIONAL

3. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Child Labour Tracking System

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS). The system was launched to keep a track of rescued child labour for their proper rehabilitation.

- ❖ Besides, CM Nitish Kumar also announced that he had in principle accepted the Charter of Demands submitted by the rescued child labour.
- ❖ A committee headed by Chief Secretary for implementation of children's demands will also be set up.
- ❖ Even if children are rescued from working as child labour, there is no guarantee that they would not be forced to work. Therefore, there is need for tracking those children who have been rescued besides, monitoring such children as to what they are doing.

4. Annual 45 – day fishing ban in Tamil Nadu begins

45 day fishing ban in the western coastal zone of Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu will come into force today.

TRADE / BANKING

5. Cabinet approves SBI takeover of units

A cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the takeover by State Bank of India (SBI) of several subsidiaries.

- ❖ As earlier proposed, SBI wants to take over five units that had been running at arms-length, as well as state-run Bharatiya Mahila Bank.
- ❖ The merged entity will create a banking giant, which can compete with the largest in the world with an asset base of almost Rs 37 lakh crore, with 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs as on December 2015.
- ❖ SBI alone has close to 16,500 branches, including 198 foreign offices spread across 36 countries.

6. Florida bank issues first US credit card for use in Cuba

A small regional Florida bank, Stonegate Bank has made history by issuing the first credit card that can be used in Cuba. That could make it easier for Americans to travel and work on an island largely.

- ❖ Until now, Americans have generally had to bring cash to Cuba and change it either at state institutions that impose a 10 percent penalty on the dollar or in informal exchanges with locals.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Ranu Langthasa appointed as first woman chairperson of NCHAC in Assam

Ranu Langthasa was unanimously appointed as the chairperson of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) in Assam on 13 June 2016.

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- ❖ With this, she also became the first women chairperson to be appointed to the post since the formation of Autonomous Council in 1950s.
- ❖ The NC Hills Autonomous Council can be described as a state in miniature having all the paraphernalia of a Government like Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.
- ❖ On the 29 April 1952, the Dima Hasao District Council came into being as an autonomous body under the provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

8. Peter Thomson elected as the President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly

Fijian diplomat Peter Thomson has been elected as the President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- ❖ In the secret ballot election for the post, Peter Thomson defeated Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus by 94 to 90 votes, with one abstention.
- ❖ Thomson will begin his tenure in September 2016 at the commencement of the 71st session of UNGA and will replace incumbent President Mogens Lykketoft.

Fiji

- ✓ Capital: Suva
- ✓ Currency: Dollar

AWARDS

9. President Mukherjee receives the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast

President Pranab Mukherjee has been awarded the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast, 'the National Grand Crois'.

- ❖ The award was bestowed upon Pranab Mukherjee during his two days visit to Ivory Coast on the second leg of his three-nation African tour.

Ivory Coast

- ✓ Capital: Yamoussoukro
- ✓ Currency: Franc

10. Margaret Atwood awarded 2016 PEN Pinter Prize

Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood has been awarded with the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.

- ❖ She is a winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature.
- ❖ She has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once for her novel The Blind Assassin.
- ❖ The PEN Pinter Prize is an annual literary award launched in 2009 by English PEN.
- ❖ It was launched in honour of the late Nobel Literature Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter.

11. Indian Diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah wins Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016

Pune-based diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah was conferred with the Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016.

- ❖ The award was given by American Diabetes Association (ADA) for his pioneering research on diabetes in South Asia.

SPORTS

12. Dhoni becomes first Indian keeper to complete 350 ODI dismissals

- ❖ Mahendra Singh Dhoni has become the first Indian wicket keeper and fourth in the world to complete 350 dismissals in One-Day International (ODI) cricket

DEATHS

13. Renowned Hindi Writer Mudrarakshasa passed away

- ❖ Renowned Hindi novelist and critique Mudraraksha (82-year) has passed away due to old age related causes in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

***** ALL THE BEST *****