

CURRENT AFFAIRS 23rd JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. **Martian crater named after Nepal quake-hit village Langtang**

The International Astronomical Union named a 9.8 kilometers wide crater on Mars as Langtang, a popular trekking site in Nepal.

- ❖ Langtang is one of the villages of Nepal that was worst hit by the 25 April 2015 earthquake. As per reports, at least 215 people were killed in the village after the quake triggered an avalanche.
- ❖ The researcher behind the move, Dr. Tjalling de Haas, said that he chose this name because his colleague had worked there while studying Himalayan glaciers. It was his base camp for a long period, so we said maybe it is a nice tribute.

2. **India, Thailand sign 2 agreements to boost ties**

India and Thailand have signed two agreements in culture and educational sectors to boost bilateral ties.

- ❖ The agreements were signed in New Delhi during the three-day official state visit of Thailand Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha to India.

NATIONAL

3. **Assam Government launches Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra initiative to link primary schools to colleges**

The Assam Government has launched a unique initiative 'Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra' to link primary schools to high schools to colleges. Initially, it will be launched at in Sivsagar district of the state and later will be implemented across the state.

- ❖ The purpose of the programme is to change the mindset of the teachers, as in some places in states teachers of a school considered it below their dignity to teach the lower level students.

4. **Punjab Government launches Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**

The Punjab government has launched a special fund "Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund" to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C.

- ❖ With this initiative, Punjab became the first Indian state to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C. The fund will have an initial corpus of 20 crore rupees.
- ❖ This fund will provide all the residents of Punjab affected by Hepatitis C free treatment.

5. **Union Government bans the use of cancer-causing chemical potassium bromate as food additive**

The Union Government has banned the use of potassium bromate (KBrO₃) as a food additive on the recommendation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- ❖ Early in May 2016, FSSAI in its recommendation asked health ministry to remove potassium bromate, a cancer-causing chemical, from the list of permissible food additives.

6. **South India bank launches Remit2 India Service**

- ❖ South India Bank has announced the launch of its Remit2India Service.
- ❖ It is a secure online money transfer service for NRIs.
- ❖ The new arrangement facilitates faster, cost-effective remittance from the US to SIB accounts in India.

TRADE / BANKING

7. **Union Government approves 100% FDI in Aviation, Defence and e-commerce sectors**

The Union Government has radically liberalized the foreign direct investment (FDI) norms by permitting 100 % FDI under government approval route for almost every sector including defence to give impetus to job creation and ease of doing business in the country.

- ❖ Current 49% FDI in broadcasting sector has now been extended to 100 % with the amendments in rules.
- ❖ While, FDI in defence will only be allowed for small arms and their parts, according to Arms Act, 1959.

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

8. SBI in 'Hall of Shame' of banks funding cluster bomb makers

State-run banking behemoth SBI has been named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs.

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian entity on the list, which includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse.
- ❖ They invested over \$28 billion in seven producers of cluster munitions between June 2012 and April 2016.

9. Jaitley releases silver coin to mark Martyrdom Day of Banda Singh Bahadur

- ❖ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has released a commemorative silver coin on the occasion of 300th Martyrdom Day of Sikh General Banda Singh Bahadur.

APPOINTMENTS

10. Virginia Raggi became first female mayor of Rome

Virginia Raggi, a leading member of the populist anti-corruption Five Star Movement (M5S) was elected as Rome's first female mayor.

- ❖ She is also the first candidate from that party, M5S to be elected to Rome's mayoralty. A lawyer and local councilor, Raggi was elected to the post in the Italian capital after winning 67% of the vote in a runoff ballot against the Democratic Party's (PD) Roberto Giachetti.

SPORTS

11. BCCI suspends Goa Cricket Association officials for misappropriation of organization funds

The BCCI has suspended and issued show-cause notices to the top Goa Cricket Association officials, who were arrested for alleged misappropriation of organization funds.

- ❖ GCA president Chetan Desai and secretary Vinod Phadke, who are also part of important committees of BCCI, along with treasurer Akbar Mulla were arrested earlier this week by police for alleged misappropriation of Rs 3.13 crore belonging to the organization.

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