

CURRENT AFFAIRS 26th JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Mahasthangarh declared as the SAARC cultural capital for 2016-17

Mahasthangarh, the 3rd century BC archaeological site in Bogra, Bangladesh, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17.

- ❖ As a SAARC cultural capital, the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, foods and dances from October 2016 to September 2017.

2. Day of the Seafarer 2016 observed with theme At Sea For All

Day of the Seafarer 2016 is being observed across the world on 25 June 2016. The theme for the year is At Sea for All.

- ❖ The themes highlight the point that seafarers serve at sea not just for the shipping industry or for their own career purposes but for all of us.

3. Brexit wins as Britain votes to leave European Union in historic referendum

The United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union after a historic referendum.

- ❖ The United Kingdom has voted by 52 % to 48 % to leave the European Union after 43 years in a historic referendum.
- ❖ Meanwhile because of the referendum, the pound fell to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985 as the markets reacted to the results.

NATIONAL

4. Union Government launches India's first pilot programme to run two-wheelers on CNG in New Delhi

Union Government has launched a pilot programme to run two-wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in New Delhi to curb air pollution in cities.

- ❖ The project was jointly launched by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at the CGO Complex CNG station.

TRADE / BANKING

5. RBI releases framework on payments systems

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its much awaited 'Vision-2018' document.

- ❖ The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018' aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a 'less-cash' India and ensuring access to mobile banking services to even basic phone users.
- ❖ RBI expects the Vision to result in a continued decrease in the share of paper-based clearing instruments.

6. Tech Mahindra Ltd acquires UK-based BIO Agency Ltd

Technology services provider Tech Mahindra Ltd (TechM) has acquired UK-based digital transformation firm The BIO Agency Ltd for 4.5 crore pound (45 million).

- ❖ Tech Mahindra will acquire 100 percent of shares of the company. The move will help Tech Mahindra to strengthen its digital portfolio in providing better digital strategy, services and customer experience.
- ❖ The acquisition is expected to be in July this year.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Syria's President Assad names new prime minister Imad Khamis

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad named electricity minister Imad Khamis as the new prime minister of the war-ravaged country.

- ❖ Assad tasked Khamis with forming a new government, the official news agency SANA reported.
- ❖ He is to submit his proposal for new ministerial appointments in the coming days.

- ❖ The 54-year-old engineer replaces Wael al-Halqi who had held the post since August 2012.

AWARDS

8. IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal awarded 2015 GD Birla Award

IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal has been awarded the twenty-fifth GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2015.

- ❖ He has been bestowed with this award for his significant contributions have been in the area of Mechanics.
- ❖ He is Professor at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur.

DEATHS

9. Neil O'Brien, India's first quizmaster, dies

Neil O'Brien, the pioneer of quizzing in India, passed away on June 24 at his home in Kolkata.

- ❖ A former member of Lok Sabha, O'Brien was also a three-time nominated AngloIndian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist.
- ❖ He was the chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and managing director of Oxford University Press, India.

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