

CURRENT AFFAIRS 29 & 30 MAY 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Indian-American Rishi Nair wins 28th annual National Geographic Bee Competition

Indian American student Rishi Nair won the prestigious National Geographic Bee competition 2016.

- ❖ As National Geographic Bee champion, Nair received a 50000 US dollars college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. He also won a trip to Alaska and Glacier Bay National Park.
- ❖ This is the fifth consecutive year that an Indian-American has won the prestigious national tournament. In 2015, Karan Menon had won the competition.

2. China signs two agreements with Sudan to build nuclear reactor.

China has signed two agreements with Sudan, its close ally in Africa to build 600-megawatt atomic reactor

- ❖ It was the first of its kind project to be built by China in African country.
- ❖ The two framework agreements in this regard have been signed by state-owned China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) with Sudan.

3. Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev to lead Yoga Session at UN

Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev will lead a yoga session at the UN on the occasion of the second International Yoga Day next month.

- ❖ International Yoga Day will be commemorated on the 21st of June.
- ❖ Yoga for the Sustainable Development Goals will be the theme of this year's Yoga Day.

NATIONAL

4. First bullet train to run in India by 2023: Suresh Prabhu

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu said the first bullet train will run in India in 2023 heralding a new era in train operations in the subcontinent.

- ❖ The bullet train is expected to cover 508 km between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in about two hours, running at a maximum speed of 350 kmph and operating speed of 320 kmph.
- ❖ Passengers will get the thrill of riding under the sea while travelling between Mumbai and Ahmedabad on the first bullet train of the country. The 508 km long Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor will have a 21 km tunnel under the sea.

5. Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry framed Policy guidelines for Online Central Government advertisements

Information & Broadcasting Ministry decided to frame Policy guidelines and criteria for Central Government advertisements on websites.

- ❖ Empanelment of suitable agencies: Websites are owned and operated by companies that are incorporated in India
- ❖ Websites are owned by foreign companies be empanelled if such companies have • branch office are registered and operating in India for minimum one year.

6. Telangana Survey enters Limca Book

- ❖ The Intensive Household Survey by the Telangana government conducted on August 19, 2014, has entered the Limca Book of Records as the most intensive household survey by a State.

7. I & B Ministry frames guidelines for Online govt ads.

The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has framed policy guidelines for central government advertisements on websites.

- ❖ All online ads from the Centre would now be routed via the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), which would em panel eligible websites.

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- ❖ Further, DAVP will fix the rates of advertisements and would also be responsible for their strategic placement.

8. New Timetable of Railways to come into effect from 1st Oct.

The new timetable of Railways will come into effect from October 1 this year as against July 1.

- ❖ Since the public transporter is introducing some major changes in the train schedules.
- ❖ A Railway Ministry official said that the existing timetable will continue to be valid upto September 30 this year and all trains will run as per the schedule of existing time table upto September-end.
- ❖ Generally, the new timetable becomes operational from July 1.

TRADE / BANKING

9. Govt. approves over Rs 5500 Cr investment to improve infrastructure in six states

The Centre has approved an investment of over 5534 crore rupees for basic urban infrastructure in six states under Atal Mission.

- ❖ The States are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand and Meghalaya. The decision was taken by the Apex committee of Urban Development Ministry under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, AMRUT in New Delhi.
- ❖ An official release said, the investment will be made for providing household water taps, improving water supply, sewerage networks, urban transport and provision of open and green spaces in one hundred eleven Atal Mission cities of these states.
- ❖ The Apex Committee also approved the release of central assistance of 520 crore rupees for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, JNNURM scheme.

10. India's growth to rise to 8 percent in FY2019: Fitch

According to the US based global rating agency, Fitch, India's economic growth rate will leisurely accelerate to 8% by fiscal year ending March 2019, driven by the gradual implementation of structural reforms, higher disposable income and improvement in economic

- ❖ Fitch also expects India's GDP to grow 7.5% in fiscal year ending March 2016 and improve to 7.7% in the current fiscal year and further to 7.9% in the fiscal year ending Union HRD Ministry launches Bharatavani Portal.

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- ❖ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, AMRUT in New Delhi.

APPOINTMENTS

12. Mamata Banerjee sworn-in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for a second term

Trinamool Congress Mamata Banerjee sworn in as the chief minister of West Bengal for the second consecutive time along with 42- member ministry.

- ❖ Mamata Banerjee was administered oath of office and secrecy by state Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi.
- ❖ Second time consecutive won in 2016 election by Mamata Banerjee lead the Trinamool Congress with 211 out 294 seats which is two thirds majority mark.

13. Sanjay Bangar appointed as India's head coach for Zimbabwe tour

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has named Sanjay Bangar as India's head coach for the team's tour to Zimbabwe

- ❖ Abhay Sharma has been appointed as the fielding coach for the side.
- ❖ The former India all-rounder will be Head coach for the tour to Zimbabwe, which comprising 3 One-Day International matches and 3 T20 International matches to be played in Harare.

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14. Union Government approves NIMZ in Kalinganagar, Odisha

The Union Government has given its final approval to setting up of National Investment & Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in Kalinganagar, Odisha.

- ❖ It will come up on a massive area of 163 square kilometres and on completion will be the third NIMZ of India.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has approved fund of Rs. 4241 crore.

AWARDS

15. Sunil Bharti Mittal receives this year's Harvard Alumni award

Telecom Tycoon's Bharti Enterprises founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has awarded with Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award for this year.

- ❖ Mittal has served on the Harvard Business School Board as a Dean's Advisor since 2010.
- ❖ The award presented annually since 1968. It is the highest honour the Harvard Business School confers on its alumni who have contributed significantly to their companies and communities.

16. Indian – American Students Sweep National Geographic Bee Contest

- ❖ Indian-American Rishi Nair (12-years) a sixth grader from Florida took top honors at the 28th annual National Geographic Bee held at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington.

17. Sonia Lather Storms into final of World Boxing C'ship

- ❖ Sonia Lather advanced to final of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship at Astana in Kazakhstan.

18. Para athlete Saroha wins gold in record breaking performance

- ❖ Sonia Lather advanced to final of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship at Astana in Kazakhstan.

19. Aditi Krishnakumar wins 'Scholastic Asian Book Award'

- ❖ Indian woman author in Singapore Aditi Krishnakumar (31-years) has won the 'Scholastic Asian Book Award' for her manuscript rooted in Indian history.
- ❖ She won the ten thousand Singapore dollar award this week for her manuscript "Codex: The Lost Treasure Of The Indus".
- ❖ The Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) is the joint initiative of the National Book Development Council of Singapore and Scholastic Asia.

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