

CURRENT AFFAIRS 29th JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. China launches first Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution

China in the fourth week of June 2016 launched its first dark sky reserve in Ngari Prefecture, Tibet.

- ❖ The purpose of the dark sky reserve is to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations. The reserve covers an area of 2500 square kilometres.
- ❖ It was jointly launched by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the regional government of Tibet.

NATIONAL

2. PM Narendra Modi launches Smart city Mission Projects in Pune

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Smart City Mission' involving 83 projects from 20 different cities in the country.

- ❖ The Smart City Mission' projects included 14 projects of Pune (Maharashtra) and 69 projects from 20 different shortlisted cities in the country to be implemented at a cost of 1,770 crore rupees.
- ❖ These projects are related to water supply projects, sewage treatment plants, solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission and development of green and open spaces under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- ❖ It also includes housing projects for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and area development and technology based pan-city solutions under Smart Cities Mission.

3. Union HM Rajnath Singh inaugurates 22nd meeting of Eastern Zonal Council at Ranchi

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- ❖ Chief Ministers of Jharkhand Raghuwar Das and of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, along with other Ministers and very senior officers from various Ministries of the Central Government, and governments of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal are taking part in the meeting.
- ❖ The meeting started with the review of the progress of implementation of the recommendations made by last year Eastern Zonal Council of 2015 that was held at Patna.

TRADE / BANKING

4. AIIB approves first loans for projects in four countries

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved first set of loans totaling US 509 million dollars to finance projects in four countries namely- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Tajikistan.

- ❖ These loans for the four projects were approved in Board of Directors meeting of AIIB held at its headquarters in Beijing, China.
- ❖ AIIB was founded last year with an authorized capital of \$ 100 billion. China is the largest shareholder with 26.6 percent of the voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 percent share. Russia's share in the bank is 5.93 percent, while Germany's 4.5 percent.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- ☞ Founded: 2016
- ☞ Headquarters: Beijing

APPOINTMENTS

5. **Lalchand Rajput appointed Afghanistan cricket coach**
Former India batsman Lalchand Rajput was named head coach of the Afghanistan national cricket team, replacing ex-Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq who resigned from the post in April.
6. **Sujoy Bose appointed as CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**
Sujoy Bose has appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
7. **Anju Bobby George & Pullela Gopichand taken as members of Khelo India**
Anju Bobby George and Pullela Gopichand have been named as the members of Khelo India. Khelo India is a national programme launched by the Union Government for the development of sports in the country.
 - ❖ George, India's lone athletics World Championship medal winner and Gopichand, the chief national badminton coach are the two sportsperson who were included in the seven-member committee of Khelo India. The committee will be headed by Sports Secretary Rajiv Yadav.

AWARDS

8. **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar awarded Honorary Fellowship in UK**
National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) have awarded Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with an Honorary Fellowship in the UK for his contributions to world peace and culture.
 - ❖ As per NISAU statement, the organization is proud to honour Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his immense contribution to furthering world peace & working towards a violencefree society, for his social and cultural contributions to India and for furthering Yoga, Meditation and Spiritual Studies in a global context.

SPORTS

9. **Argentina women win record seventh FIH Champions Trophy title**
The Argentina women's team has claimed a record seventh International Hockey Federation (FIH) Champions Trophy title with a 2-1 win over reigning World and Olympic champions, the Netherlands, in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.
 - ❖ The Netherlands hit back with a high-quality penalty corner flick from Eva de Goede just after half time, but Argentina held on to win their third successive Champions Trophy title.
 - ❖ Best player: Carla Rebecchi (Argentina)
 - ❖ Best junior player: Maria Granatto (Argentina)
 - ❖ Best goalkeeper: Joyce Sombroek (Netherlands)

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