

CURRENT AFFAIRS 30th JUNE 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Gudni Johannesson wins Iceland's presidential election

Gudni Johannesson has won the Iceland's presidential election. He is a history professor who ran as an independent in the election and was able to secure 39.1% of the vote.

- ❖ He will succeed Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, who served 20 years as head of state.
- ❖ The elections were held in the backdrop of the Panama Papers leak in April, which implicated several top officials of the country.

2. India ranked 105th on WEF's Human Capital Index

India has been ranked 105th out of 130 countries on the World Economic Forum's Human Capital Index, which measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth.

- ❖ Finland topped the index while other countries like China (71) and Bangladesh (104) were ranked above India.
- ❖ The index has been released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) with the title 'New Champion'.

World Economic Forum

☞ Founded: 1971

☞ Headquarter: Cologny, Switzerland

3. India signed the SCO's Memorandum of Obligations

India has signed a memorandum of obligation in Tashkent to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- ❖ The document was signed by Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs Sujata Mehta at the SCO summit which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Pakistan is also being inducted into SCO as a full member.
- ❖ The SCO had set the ball rolling to make India a member of the bloc during its summit in Ufa in July last year when administrative hurdles were cleared to grant membership to India, Pakistan and Iran.

4. Panama Canal opens after nine years of reconstruction works

The 77 Km long Panama Canal was opened for navigation, June 26, in a festive ceremony after nine years of reconstruction works.

- ❖ The cost of reconstruction works was estimated originally at \$5,25 billion. The Chinese container ship Cosco Shipping Panama was the first vessel that entered the canal from the side of the Atlantic Ocean.

5. Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road

Sweden inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road. With this, the country has become one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.

- ❖ The test was conducted on parts of road E16. It involved a current collector on the roof of the truck cab feeding the current down to a hybrid electric motor in the truck.
- ❖ The experiment is based on the government's goal of energy efficiency and a fossil fuel-free vehicle fleet by 2030. It will also contribute to strengthening Sweden's competitiveness.

NATIONAL

6. Majuli in Assam becomes India's first island district

Majuli was in news on 27 June 2016 as the Government of Assam approved its up gradation as a district. With this approval, Majuli has become the first island district in the country.

- ❖ The approval was given by the State Cabinet in its first meeting after the formation of the government on 24 May 2016.
- ❖ At present, Majuli is a Mohkuma, a sub division of the Jorhat District and represented by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the Assembly.

7. Odisha government launched Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a new scheme Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana with an aim to provide education loan at 1 % interest to students for pursuing higher studies.

- ❖ Odisha government will provide a cost of 500 crore rupees from its own resources for this purpose.

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- ❖ Under this scheme, poor students aspiring to pursue professional and technical education can now avail themselves of study loan up to 10 lakh rupees at 1% interest rate.

APPOINTMENTS

8. N S Vishwanathan appointed as the new deputy governor of RBI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has cleared the appointment of NS Vishwanathan as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

He would succeed H R Khan, who will retire on July 3.

He is currently working as an executive director at the RBI since April 2014.

AWARDS

9. Social entrepreneur Zubaida Bai wins UN honour for corporate sustainability initiative

Zubaida Bai, Indian social entrepreneur, in the fourth week of June 2016 was named among the top 10 Local SDG Pioneers for 2016.

- ❖ The 2016 Local SDG Pioneers is a part of the United Nations Global Compact's Making Global Goals Local Business campaign.
- ❖ The Local SDG Pioneers programme seeks out individuals who are demonstrating how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can enable business to unlock economic, social and environmental gains for the world.

BOOKS

10. PM releases book titled “The Birds of Banni Grassland”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book titled “The Birds of Banni Grassland” in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Book is a compilation of the research work, relating to more than 250 species of birds found in the Banni area of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ❖ The book was presented to the Prime Minister by the Scientists of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology.
- ❖ The Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, located at Bhuj, has been studying the plant, bird and marine life in the Rann of Kutch for over 15 years.

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