

CURRENT AFFAIRS 31st MAY 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India, Australia sign MoU to enhance R & D capabilities in biotech

- ❖ India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research and development (R&D) capabilities in biotechnology by launching a joint funding call.

NATIONAL

2. PM Narendra Modi flagged off trains to Mizoram, Manipur including Kamakhya-Vaishno Devi Katra weekly train

Prime Minister and Railway Minister flagged off passenger train services to Mizoram and Manipur on the newly-laid broad gauge line and Kamakhya -Vaishno Devi Katra weekly train which was announced during Railway Budget 2014-15.

- ❖ The Prime Minister and Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu were present during Flag off using remote control from Shillong.

3. First Time in History, Polls Cancelled On 2 Tamil Nadu Assembly Seats

The Election Commission of India has decided to call off the elections to the two Tamil Nadu constituencies such as Thanjavur and Aravakurichi that was postponed ahead of the May 16 polls in Tamil Nadu. This move is first in India's electoral history.

- ❖ The pronouncement comes after ECI's found malpractices through large scale distribution of money and gifts to electors by the candidates and political parties.
- ❖ The Commission gone with such the decision later considering reports of observers, special teams of central observers, report of the special team of observers to the two constituencies.

Tamil Nadu

Capital: Chennai

CM: J. Jayalalitha

4. NGT imposes Rs.50 lakh fine on East Coast Railway

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of `50 lakh on East Coast Railway for operating a illegal railway siding without consent of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) at Jakhapura railway station near Kalinga nagar in Odisha's Jajpur district.

- ❖ The Kolkata bench of NGT that was hearing the case asked the railway board to deposit the fine amount at the Jajpur Collectorate within 2 months as environmental compensation for five years for operation of the railway siding.

5. India's first integrated web portal to promote Net Zero Energy Buildings launched

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched India's first integrated web portal designed to promote and mainstream Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) in India.

6. Lakshadweep becomes first UT to sign 24 × 7 'Power for All' document

- ❖ Lakshadweep became first Union Territory (UT) in the country to sign 24×7 Power for All document.

TRADE / BANKING

7. Government cancelled all defence tenders bagged by Finmeccanica

The Union government has decided to cancel all ongoing tenders for defence equipment won by Italy's Finmeccanica.

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- ❖ Firm is being investigated for bribery in the Agusta Westland VVIP chopper deal. This was Announced by Defence Minister Manohar Parikkar.

8. World Steel Association reported that India among top 10 steel importers in 2015

According to the data released by the Global Industry body World Steel Association, India become the world's third largest steel producer, was among the top 10 importers of the alloy in 2015. India is 3rd largest steel producer.

- ❖ India imported more than China in 2015 while India exported 6 mt of steel in 2015 which was fraction of China Exported during the year at 111.6 mt

AWARDS

9. President Pranab Mukherjee Presents Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars

The President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars for the year 2016 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi.

- ❖ The award presented annually since 2013 to Government school teachers from Punjab Government's High & Higher Secondary Schools receive this award for their contributions in the field of education.
- ❖ This award carries one lakh cash prize, certificate of excellence, a robe of honour and a medal.

10. Real Madrid FC wins 2016 UEFA Champions League

Real Madrid FC won the 2016 UEFA Champions League for the record 11th time by defeating Atletico Madrid FC by 5-3 goals in penalty shootout.

- ❖ In the final played, both teams scored 1-1 goals in regulation period leading to draw.

SPORTS

11. IPL 9 Final: David Warner, Ben Cutting help SRH win maiden IPL title

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated the Royal Challengers Bangalore to seal their maiden IPL trophy in their first shot at the title.

- ❖ Going first up at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium and rattling off an imposing 208 for 7, Warner and Co. took the Gayle storm in their stride to peg the Challengers to 200 for seven for an eight-run victory.

IPL 9

- ☞ Orange Cap - Virat Kohli 973 runs (16 matches)
- ☞ Purple Cap - Bhuvneshwar Kumar took 23 wickets (17 matches)
- ☞ Most Valuable player - Virat Kohli 356.5 points
- ☞ Most sixes - Virat Kohli (38)
- ☞ Fair Play Award –Sunrisers Hyderabad

BOOKS

12. Indian Author Aditi Krishnakumar wins 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award

- ❖ Indian author Aditi Krishnakumar has won the prestigious 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award. She has won the award for her 32,000-word manuscript titled Codex: The Lost Treasure Of The Indus. The manuscript will be now published by Scholastic Asia.

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