

CURRENT AFFAIRS 18 MAY 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. 2016 Red Flag Aerial combat exercises conclude in Alaska

The Air Forces of India and the U.S. concluded the 2016 Red Flag aerial combat exercises at Alaska in the U.S.

- ❖ A successor to the Cope Thunder exercise series, the main phase of the Red Flag exercises had commenced on 28 April 2016 with a mix of combat and support elements from the Indian Air Force (IAF), US Air Force (USAF) and US Navy (USN).
- ❖ The four-week long aerial combat exercises were held at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, United States of America. This was the second time India had participated in such an exercise after 2008.
- ❖ Exercise Red Flag is an advanced aerial combat training exercise hosted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.
- ❖ Red Flag – Alaska is held at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. It is a successor to the previous COPE THUNDER exercise series in the Western Pacific and Alaska.

NATIONAL

2. Rajasthan to be 1st state to issue ads to appoint V-Cs

Rajasthan becomes India's first state to issue newspaper advertisements to select vice-chancellors for state universities to ensure better-qualified candidates apply for the job and greater transparency in the process.

- ❖ The move will replace the existing convention riddled with delays and allegations of political favouritism of direct appointment of V-Cs.
- ❖ Applicants must mention general personal information, educational qualification, subject of expertise, details of work at administrative posts and academic publications.

Rajasthan

- ☞ **Capital: Jaipur**
- ☞ **Governor: Kalyan Singh**
- ☞ **Chief Minister: Vasundhara Raje**

3. 15 days Swachh Office drive launched across the country

Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu launched a 15-day special 'Swachh Office Drive' for ensuring cleanliness at all Government offices across the country as an intensive thematic campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission.

- ❖ The Minister also planted a Neem sapling at Nirman Bhawan and inspected the building for about an hour for an on the spot assessment of sanitation.
- ❖ The Ministry's suggestions include ensuring water supply at 45 litres per head per day, one toilet for every 25 persons, urinals to be provided based on employee strength, removal of stains every week, checking electrical fittings twice a week, acid cleaning and scrubbing of toilets daily, schedule of inspections etc.

APPOINTED

4. Justice Mukul Mudgal appointed as deputy Chairman of FIFA Governance Committee

- ❖ Justice Mukul Mudgal has been appointed as Deputy Chairman of FIFA Governance Committee

5. FIFA admits Kosovo, Gibraltar as new members

- ❖ FIFA admitted Kosovo and Gibraltar as new members, allowing them to play qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup, but Serbia vowed to take legal action to reverse its former province's admission.

AWARDS

6. UR Rao becomes first Indian to be awarded IAF's 'Hall of Fame' Award

Former ISRO Chairman and space scientist Prof. Udupi Ramachandra Rao became the first Indian to be given 'Hall of Fame' Award by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

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SPORTS

8. Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis Win Italian Open

India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis clinched the Rome Masters title, defeating their Russian opponents 6-1, 6(5)-7, 10-3 in the women's doubles final.

- ❖ This win is their fifth title for the year after Sydney, Brisbane, Saint Petersburg and Australian Open.
- ❖ It is their 14th title together all over.

9. India women settle for silver after losing to Malaysia in Asian Squash Team Championship

Indian women's squash team ended with a silver medal its Asian Team Championship campaign as they lost to Malaysia by 0-2 margin in the summit clash in Taipei.

- ❖ Earlier the team has won bronze-medal finish in the earlier edition of the championship. Sachika lost in straight games 7-11 6-11 10-12 to Sivasangari Subramaniam in the first match.
- ❖ India's top seed Joshna Chinappa provided a tough fight to Delia Arnold, who finally prevailed with 9-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9 victory.
- ❖ She had lost to Delia Arnold in the earlier meeting of the two teams.

10. Max Verstappen becomes youngest Formula 1 winner

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen became Formula One's youngest race winner aged 18 by winning the Spanish Grand Prix.

- ❖ Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was second and teammate Sebastian Vettel third. Verstappen's teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, finished fourth.
- ❖ He became the winner after Mercedes teammates Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg crashed into each other on the first lap.

11. Andy Murray wins 2016 Italian Open title

- ❖ Andy Murray from Britain has won the 2016 Italian Open Title of Tennis in the men's singles category.
- ❖ He defeated Novak Djokovic (world No. 1) for the first time on the clay court by 6-3, 6-3 score in the final match played in Rome (Italy).

12. Sudha breaks 3000 m steeplechase

Rio Olympics qualified sprinter, Sudha Singh set a new national record in the 3000 meter steeplechase category by clocking 9 minutes and 26.55 seconds in the IAAF Diamond League race in Shanghai.

BOOKS

13. President of India receives first copies of books "Tagore's Vision of the Contemporary World" and "Tagore and Russia"

India's President Pranab Mukherjee will receive the first copies of books "Tagore's Vision of the Contemporary World" and "Tagore and Russia" at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- ❖ Both books are being published by Delhi based Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) also contains papers presented at international conferences organized by ICCR in New Delhi and Moscow in 2011 as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore.

DEATHS

14. Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan passes away

Gujarat-born Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan has passed away at the age of 87. He was India's oldest living Test cricketer in Ahmedabad.

- ❖ The left-handed batsman made his international debut against Pakistan in 1952 in which he scored 110 in the first innings.
- ❖ He scored 1802 runs, with 4 hundreds and 7 fifties in 43 first class games, besides taking 73 wickets at an average of 34.05.

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