

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 21 MAY 2016

### INTERNATIONAL

- 1. India and Slovenia have signed Protocol amending the India-Slovenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.**

India and Central European country Slovenia have signed a protocol to amend an existing double taxation avoidance treaty.

  - ❖ This agreement will widen the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information.
  - ❖ The protocol was signed by Indian ambassador to Slovenia Sarvajit Chakravarti, and Slovenian Finance Minister Dusan Mramor on behalf of Slovenia.

iv. The framework is likely to help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries and also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.

**Slovenia**

  - ☞ Capital: Ljubljana
  - ☞ Currency: Euro

**Instant Review**

Which country has signed a pact to avoid dual taxation with India: Slovenia  
What is the currency of Slovenia: Euro
- 2. Taj Mahal in top 5 tourist attractions in the world and Second position in Asia: Survey**

Most Iconic wonders of the world, The Taj Mahal has been surveyed as top five tourist spots in the world and Second in Asia. Survey was conducted by Travel Planning and Booking site TRIP advisor

  - ❖ Machu Picchu in Peru is the first in list while Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi remain second.
  - ❖ Trip Advisor India Country Manager Nikhil Ganju expressed that India has a rich Cultural History and Architectural landmarks that built and recognized on the world stage.

**Instant Review**

Which is the number one tourist spot in the world: Machu Picchu in Peru  
Which Indian tourist spot is fifth best tourist spot in the world: Taj Mahal  
What is the ranking of Taj Mahal in Asia: 2nd
- 3. International Buddhist conference begins in Nepal to remember the Buddha Birthday Anniversary**

A two-day International Buddhist conference to remember the 2,560th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha began.

  - ❖ Inauguration by Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli
  - ❖ Theme: Lumbini, Nepal: the birth place of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace
  - ❖ One of the Monks from India who delegated the conference expressed that India's Emperor Ashoka and Indian Scholar BR Ambedkar have played major role in spreading the message of Lord Buddha

**Instant Review**

International Buddhist Conference has begun in which country: Nepal  
Who is the Prime Minister of Nepal: KP Sharma Oli
- 4. Beijing-New Delhi Yoga Conference opens in China**

Chinese yoga practitioners gathered in large numbers over 1,000 for a group performance in Kunming in China to open the China-India Yoga Conference.

  - ❖ The five day conference to be held between May 18 and 22 will feature activities including courses from Indian yoga masters and yoga introductions for communities.
  - ❖ The Yoga gathering was organised by the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese affairs offices and the China-India Yoga College in Kunming.

**China**

  - ☞ Capital: Beijing
  - ☞ Currency: Renminbi
  - ☞ President: Xi Jinping

### NATIONAL

- 5. Assembly Elections 2016 Results: 5 states**

**Assam**

  - ❖ Bharatiya Janata Party gains the position for the First Time

# IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- ❖ Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi conceded defeat and appreciated BJP chief ministerial candidate Sarbananda Sonowal
- ❖ No of Constituencies won: 87 out of 126

## **Kerala**

- ❖ Left Parts wins the Election
- ❖ CPI (M)-led LDF regained power in Kerala by majority and succeed over ruling Congress-headed UDF
- ❖ LDF won 91 of the 140 assembly seats

## **Tamilnadu**

- ❖ AIADMK retains the position
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa headed AIADMK to a second five-year term
- ❖ No of Constituencies won by AIADMK: 134 out of 232

## **West Bengal**

- ❖ Mamtabanerjee retains the position
- ❖ Mamata Banerjee -led TMC is heading for a continuous victory in the Assembly elections
- ❖ TMC Won 211 out of 294

## **Puducherry**

- ❖ Congress and DMK alliance succeed over N.R Congress
- ❖ Congress alliance made 17 successes out of 30 seats

## **Instant Review**

Which party has secured victory in Assam assembly elections: BJP

Which party has come in power in West Bengal: TMC

Who is the chief minister of west Bengal: Mamta Benerjee

## **6. President of India inaugurated IOC in Rashtrapati Bhavan**

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an Intelligent Operations Centre and launched a Mobile App 'Monitor' for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- ❖ This facilities will help the residents of the Estate become more socially responsible, aware and collaborative.
- ❖ The solution designed by IBM which helps collect and make sense of the rich data streaming in from several sources within the Estate to provide intelligent insights.
- ❖ This application is a collaboration tool of the Intelligent Operation Center. This will help residents and Energy, Water, Horticulture, Waste and Security supervisors to collaborate in a smarter way for their observations

## **Instant Review**

Intelligent Operations Centre is inaugurated at which place: Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

## **TRADE / BANKING**

## **7. Nepal SBI Bank launches payment gateway**

SBI's subsidiary Nepal SBI Bank has launched payment gateway to facilitate online trade and non-trade transactions between the Himalayan nation and India.

- ❖ Under this payment gateway customer of Nepal SBI Bank can utilise various features of mobile banking and other value added services.
- ❖ The Payment Gateway was inaugurated by SBI Managing Director B Sriram,• and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae

## **8. PNB reports Q4 loss of Rs 5,370 crore, biggest in Indian banking history**

New Delhi based Punjab National Bank has reported a net loss of Rs 5,370 crore in the March quarter, the biggest ever quarterly loss in India's bank history. As the bank has had reported a net profit of Rs 307crore in the last year quarter.

- ❖ PNB's gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) poured to 12.9% in the fourth quarter, as against 8.47% in the December quarter.
- ❖ In terms of absolute figures the gross NPAs for the quarter stood at Rs 55,818 crore, as against Rs 34,338 crore in the same quarter.

## **Punjab National Bank**

- ☞ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ☞ CEO: Usha Ananthasubramanian
- ☞ Tagline: The Name you can Bank Upon

## **Instant Review**

# IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Which Bank has registered highest ever quarterly loss: PNB

## 9. Nomura exits mutual fund JV with LIC

Tokyo based Nomura financial Services Company has wholly withdrawn its mutual fund joint venture with LIC of India. In the aftermath LIC Nomura Mutual Fund has now been renamed LIC Mutual Fund.

- ❖ Upon this LIC holds a 45 per cent stake and LIC Housing Finance a 20 per cent stake in the venture, however Japanese firm, Nomura owns 35 per cent shares.

### LIC

- ☞ Founded: September 1, 1956
- ☞ Headquarters: Mumbai
- ☞ Chairman: S.K Roy

## 10. Apple announces opening of its map development centre in Hyderabad

Tech giant Apple has opened a new development center in Hyderabad which will focus on development of Maps for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch.

- ❖ This move from the company will create up to 4,000 jobs.

### Apple

- ☞ Headquarters: California
- ☞ CEO: Tim Cook

### Instant Review

Apple will open its map development centre in which city: Hyderabad

Who is Apple CEO: Tim Cook

## APPOINTMENTS

## 11. A V S Ramesh Chandra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania

IFS officer A V S Ramesh Chandra Presently High Commissioner of India to Uganda, has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania.

- ❖ He Joined Indian Foreign Service in August 1989. He did Master's Degree in Veterinary Science majoring in Dairy Technology from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (APAU) in Hyderabad.

### Romania

- ☞ Capital: Bucharest
- ☞ Currency: Leu

### Instant Review

Who has been appointed as India's new ambassador to Romania: AVS Ramesh Chandra

## SPORTS

## 12. Women's 4x100m relay team breaks national record at IAAF Meet

The Indian women's relay team in 4x100m category broke the 18-year-old National record to finish in 4th position at the IAAF World Challenge in Beijing China.

- ❖ The 4x100m women relay team comprising Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, HM Jyoti and Merlin Joseph clocked 44.03s to finish the race in the fourth spot.
- ❖ This new record was set up by breaking the 18-year-old record of 44.43s created by the quartet of Saraswati Dey, Rachita Mistry, EB Shyla and PT Ushain 1998 in Japan.

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