

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS 22 APRIL 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India ranked 133 in World Press Freedom Index

India ranks abysmally low at 133 among 180 countries, in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index which says Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems “indifferent” to the threats posed to journalists.

- ❖ The 2016 ‘World Press Freedom Index’ released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), is led by Finland, which retained its top spot for the sixth consecutive year, followed by the Netherlands and Norway

NATIONAL

2. Cabinet approves signing the Paris Agreement

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for signing the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties held in Paris in last December.

- ❖ Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will sign the agreement from India side on 22 April 2016 at the high level signature ceremony convened by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

3. Government merges Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India

The Union Government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India. They merged another two sport projects which were launched during UPA Government

- ❖ Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)
- ❖ National Sports Talent Search Scheme (N-STSS)

4. Ceasefire in Nagaland extended by one year

Union Government and National Socialist Council of Nagaland, under the leadership of N. Kitovi Zhimomi and M.B Neokpao Konyak have mutually agreed to extend the Cease Fire Agreement by another year with effect from April 28.

- ❖ The agreement targets to bring lasting peace in the state of Nagaland with the involvement of Naga people.

TRADE / BANKING

5. India to Purchase 145 M777 Howitzers for US\$ 750 Million

India is expected to buy 145 M777 Howitzers for \$750 million to prepare its Mountain Strike Corps. The decision to buy ultra-light Howitzers produced by UK based BAE Systems under the Make In India

- ❖ The Decision was taken at a meeting between Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar and his US counterpart Ashton Carter. The price notified by the US in 2012 was \$694 million. But the Gun maker seeking price revision of 10% hike from the earlier price

AWARDS

6. The 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winners

Awarded for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature and musical composition in United States

- ❖ The winner in the public service category of the journalism is awarded a gold medal.

Winners of 2016

- ✓ Public Service – Associated Press
- ✓ Breaking News Reporting – Los Angeles Times Staff
- ✓ Investigative Reporting – Leonora LaPeter Anton and Anthony Cormier of the Tampa Bay Times and Michael Braga of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune
- ✓ Explanatory Reporting – T. Christian Miller of Pro Publica and Ken Armstrong of The Marshall Project
- ✓ Local Reporting – Michael LaForgia, Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner of the Tampa Bay Times
- ✓ National Reporting – The Washington Post Staff
- ✓ International Reporting – Alissa J. Rubin of The New York Times
- ✓ Feature Writing – Kathryn Schulz of The New Yorker
- ✓ Commentary – Farah Stockman of The Boston Globe
- ✓ Criticism – Emily Nussbaum of The New Yorker

APPOINTMENT

7. Law appoints new President, Prime Minister

Communist Party chief Bounnhang Vorachit was appointed as the country’s new president and foreign minister Thongloun Sisoulith as the prime minister of Laos by Laos’s National Assembly

- ❖ The National Assembly has elected president, with more than two-thirds of the votes

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Laos

Capital: Vientiane

Currency: Lao kip

8. Centre appoints A. Ajith Kumar as Rubber Board Chief

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of A. Ajith Kumar, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, to the post of chairman, Rubber Board, Kottayam. The post has been lying vacant since August 2014.

❖ He has been appointed for a period up to May 31, 2018.

9. BCCI appoints media veteran Rahul Johri as CEO

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Rahul Johri as its new CEO, in line with the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee.

❖ Before this assignment, Johri was executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia at Discovery Network.

❖ Johri will join the Board on June 1st. He will be responsible for the stakeholder management and building robust strategies for further promoting the sport.

BCCI

Established: 1928

President: Shashank Manohar

Secretary: Anurag Thakur

Headquarters: Mumbai

SPORTS

10. India's Durga Thakur Promoted as FIH International Umpire

India's Durga Thakur has been promoted to International outdoor umpire by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

DEATH

11. Renowned Hollywood actress Doris Roberts passed away

Renowned Hollywood actress Doris Roberts (90-years) passed away in Los Angeles in her sleep.

She was best known for playing meddling mother Marie Barone in US sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond (1996–2005).