

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS 26 MAY 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Obama lifts arms ban in his first visit to Vietnam

U.S. President Barack Obama lifted a decades-old arms export embargo on Vietnam during his first visit to the communist country, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner even as he pushes for better human rights from the one-party state.

- ❖ Mr. Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference, saying the move was intended to step toward normalizing relations with the former war enemy and to eliminate a “lingering vestige of the Cold War.”

2. World Humanitarian Summit held at Istanbul

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated the first world humanitarian summit Purpose: World leaders to be committed to improving the humanitarian responses to crises

- ❖ Venue: Istanbul
- ❖ Top 100 countries, companies and socialist took part in this summit.

3. India bans nationals from travelling to strife-torn Libya

Indian External Affairs Ministry has banned Indian nationals from travelling to Libya in view of prevailing security situation in the country, irrespective of the purpose of the visit.

- ❖ This decision has been notified to all immigration authorities by the Ministry of External affairs led by Sushma Swaraj.
- ❖ This move comes after reports of a Libyan former minister being killed in clashes between unity government forces and fighters of the ISIS group in Sirte.

Libya

- ☞ Capital: Tripoli
- ☞ Currency: Libyan dinar
- ☞ Prime minister: Fayez al-Sarraj

NATIONAL

4. Union Government announced 13 cities as Smart Cities

The Union government announced the names of 13 more cities that will be developed under the Centre’s “Smart City Mission.”

- ❖ Other cities are Warangal in Telangana, Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), New Town Kolkata, Bhagalpur (Bihar), Panaji (Goa), Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Imphal (Manipur), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Faridabad (Haryana).
- ❖ Seven cities — Patna (Bihar), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) — that were not among the 100 shortlisted for the competition will be able to participate in the next round.

5. NGT bans over 10-year-old light, heavy diesel vehicles in six Kerala cities

National Green Tribunal has banned light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are passed more than 10 years old, in six major cities in Kerala.

- ❖ The tribunal also directed the state government not to register any diesel vehicle in the capacity of 2000 CC and more, except public transport and local authority vehicles.
- ❖ The Bench directed the following cities where the ban will be in force, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kannur.

Kerala

- ☞ Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- ☞ Governor: Sathasivam
- ☞ Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

TRADE / BANKING

6. India signs loan agreement with World Bank for ‘Karnataka Urban Water Supply

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The Loan and Project Agreements for World Bank (IBRD) assistance of US\$ 100 million for the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization project were signed between Government of India/Government of Karnataka and the World Bank.

- ❖ The Project is aimed to provide city-wide access to a continuous piped water supply in the eligible cities in Karnataka and also to reinforce the service delivery arrangements across the city.
- ❖ It will hold four key components such as
 - (i) Capital Investment Program
 - (ii) Institution Building
 - (iii) Technical Assistance for Sector Development and (iv) Project Management.
- ❖ The project set to be executed over a period of 6 years, to begin with the twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad, with provision for other eligible cities to join the project later.

7. India Post payments bank to be operational from March 2017

Union IT & Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad informed that India Posts payments bank will start functioning from March 2017.

- ❖ The minister stated that the proposal to start the Payments will be kept before the cabinet and postal payments bank will become operational from next march.
- ❖ The ministry will invest about Rs.800 crore ,Rs.400 crore by the department and the remaining amount will be equity part which is aimed for financial inclusion.

APPOINTMENTS

8. Sarbananda Sonowal sworn in as Assam CM

BJP government formed the Legislative Assembly and Sarbananda Sonowal took charge as the Chief Minister of the state along with 11 ministers.

- ❖ Assembly Constituencies: 126
- ❖ Ruling Party: Bharatiya Janata Party
- ❖ Opposition Party: Indian National Congress
- ❖ Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
- ❖ Governor: Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya
- ❖ BJP Government has won 60 seats out 126 seats

SPORTS

9. FIFA's acting Secretary General Markus Kattner sacked

Football governing body's Deputy Secretary General Markus Kattner has been dismissed from his position with the immediate effect after a probe found violations in his fiduciary responsibilities in employment contract.

- ❖ German hailed Markus took over as acting general secretary after Jerome Valcke was sacked due to irregularities in his administration in the illegal sale of tickets for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

FIFA

- ☞ Founded: 1904
- ☞ Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- ☞ President: Gianni Infantino

DEATHS

10. Veteran CPI (M) Leader K Anirudhan passes away

Former MLA and active trade union leader K Anirudhan (92- years) has passed away at his residence at Vazhuthacaud.

AWARDS

11. Pankaj Advani creates history by winning Asian 6 Red Snooker title

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has created history in Abu Dhabi by clinching the Asian 6 – Red Snooker title.

12. Rio Medal Winner to be considered for Khel Ratna, Arjuna

- The sports Ministry has stated that the winners from the upcoming Rio Games will be considered for this year's Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards.

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