



General Awareness Bullet - 2015

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(Comprehensive summary of general awareness topics across May 2015)



RBI in the News





Current Rates:

1. Repo Rate	7.50% (unchanged)
2. Reverse Repo	6.50% (unchanged)
3. CRR(Cash Reserve ratio)	4.00% (unchanged)
4. SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	21.50% (unchanged)
5. MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	8.50% (unchanged)
6. Bank Rate	8.50% (unchanged)

1. RBI allows amounts up to Rs. 2,000 in '**Tap and pay**' transactions without PIN – The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to enable transactions in contactless cards for values up to Rs 2,000 without requiring a separate PIN authentication. '**Tap and Pay**' refers to the use of near-field communication technology in payment cards where, instead of traditional swiping of the card and punching in payment details, all the customer has to do is wave a card in front of an acceptance device in order to pay the bill.
2. The Reserve Bank of India has granted its approval to the National Payments and Settlement Corporation of India (NPCI) to tie up with China Union Pay as well as with Japan Credit Bureau. This move will enable Chinese and Japanese tourists in India to use Indian ATM and POS terminals to settle their payment transactions. The tie up with China Union Pay is to be operationalized by March, 2016. The Reserve Bank-promoted NPCI, which offers payment services in the local market, is also launching its international debit card in June this year.
3. RBI to curb impact of frauds on Banks – The RBI will soon establish a Central Fraud Registry as part of an early warning system. The idea is to set up a structure for quick sharing of information about the unscrupulous borrowers and help banks fight bad loans. The Registry will work under the supervision of RBI. The CBI and the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) have shown interest in sharing their databases with banks, which in turn can be fed into this centralized searchable database that can be accessed by banks. According to RBI data, as of December 2014, the gross NPAs (non-performing assets) of PSU banks stood at Rs. 2,60,531 crore.
4. The RBI has advised all public sector banks and some private and foreign banks to appoint an internal ombudsman. The internal ombudsman would be designated Chief Customer Service Officer. The RBI has mandated that the CCSO should not have worked in the bank in which he/she is appointed as CCSO. This initiative has been taken up by RBI to improve the quality of customer service and for prompt redressal of customers' complaints.
5. Infra debt funds can now finance more projects - The RBI has increased the scope of projects that can be financed under the NBFC-infrastructure debt fund (NBFC-IDF) route, by allowing funding of projects in the public-private partnership (PPP) segment as well as in the non-PPP segment without a tripartite agreement as long as those projects have completed one year of operations.
6. India's foreign exchange reserves grew by \$ 262.4 million to touch a new record high of \$ 352.13 billion for the week ending on May 8, 2015 against \$ 351.86 billion for the previous week, according to RBI weekly data.



Financial/Banking News

1. Fitch has projected India's GDP growth at 8% for the current fiscal year.
2. HDFC has emerged as the only Indian company among the world's 10 biggest consumer financial services firms, after giants like American Express, Visa and Master-card.
3. The Government has agreed to the demand of the Congress of forming a select committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Goods and Services Tax bill. The panel consisting of 21 members will be headed by the BJP MP Bhupendra Yadav.



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4. India's largest private sector bank, ICICI bank, has launched its first branch in Shanghai, China. The branch was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
5. SBI launches contactless card payment - The bank has launched the sbiINTOUCH Contactless Debit Card and SBI Signature Contactless Credit Card for quick, secure and hassle-free payments at merchant outlets.
6. According to new data from the General Insurance Council (GIC), New Delhi has emerged as the number one in general insurance density (or per capita insurance premium) and in insurance penetration (or percentage of population covered) in the country during 2013-14.
7. The HDFC Bank has partnered with Apollo Hospitals to launch a co-branded medical benefits card, which allows corporates to disburse medical allowance to their employees and has insurance cover for accidents. The bank claimed that this is a first-of-its kind product in the country.
8. According to data from the General Insurance Council (GIC), Maharashtra topped the country in generating non-life premium during 2013-14.
9. The IDBI Bank is set to expand its branch network to 2,000 by the end of the current year (from the 1,740 now), besides rolling out e-huts to provide services to people in rural areas.
10. India and China accounted for 54 percent of the total global gold consumer demand - According to a Gold Demands Trends report prepared by the World Gold Council, India and China accounted for 54 percent of the total global gold consumer demand in the first quarter of this year.
11. The State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with digital payments company, PayPal, to facilitate cross-border trade and payments. This will be SBI's first such tie-up for remittances and payments.
12. The State of Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with e-commerce company Snapdeal – As per the scheme, SBI will provide loans to small and medium enterprises at easier interest rates and the data regarding sellers will be provided by Snapdeal. This move is meant to help MSMEs in India.
13. Five of the world's largest Banks to pay fines - According to the US Attorney General Loretta Lynch, five of the world's largest banks are to pay fines totaling \$ 5.7 billion for manipulating the foreign exchange market. They are JPMorgan, Citigroup, Barclays, RBS and UBS.
14. The Government has cleared 21 FDI proposals based on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.
15. ICICI Bank launches VRS - India's largest private sector bank has launched voice recognition services (VRS) which authenticate customers based on their speech patterns.
16. MUDRA bank has partnered with 19 state and regional level coordinators to reach small entrepreneurs. MUDRA bank's effort is likely to transform small enterprises into a Rs. 11 lakh crore industry.
17. The Switzerland Government has started releasing names of Indians holding accounts in Swiss banks. The latest names which were made public include Sneh Lata Sawhney, Sangita Sawhney, Gurjit Singh Kochar, Syed Mohamed Masood and Chaud Kauser Mohamed Masood.
18. The Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) banking group, in a bid to enhance its presence in the Indian Banking Sector, is set to open its first rural branch in Bengaluru by early 2016.

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19. Finance Ministry Arun Jaitley states that the Indian Economy is in recovery mode after data showed that the economy grew at 7.3 per cent in 2014-15.
20. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced the creation of a National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) - The initial corpus of the National Investment Infrastructure Fund is likely to be between Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 10,000 crore.
21. Finance Minister inaugurates New Bank Note Paper Line in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh. This establishment is a part of the indigenization of the Bank Note paper undertaken by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).
22. The new service tax of 14%, which was announced by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget for 2015-16, will come into effect from 1st June, 2015.

Important Committees

1. SS Ahluwalia appointed Chairman of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
2. AP Shah Panel – The A P Shah panel has been constituted by the finance ministry to look into the applicability of the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on foreign institutional investors (FIIs) before April 2015. The panel will be headed by A P Shah.





Appointments and Personalities – India& Abroad

New Appointments in Important Institutions

1. New Chief of Central Industrial Reserve Force (CISF) - Surendra Singh
2. New Development Bank of the BRICS Nation - K V Kamath
3. National Safety Council - K Satish Reddy
4. Interim Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - Justice Cyriac Joseph.
5. Controller General of Accounts (CGA) - M J Joseph
6. MD & CEO of Syndicate Bank - Arun Shrivastava
7. New DRDO chief - S Christopher
8. Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister - G Satheesh Reddy
9. New Director General of Doordarshan (News) - Veena Jain
10. New Chancellor of Nalanda University, Bihar - George Yeo
11. New president of Japan's SoftBank Corp. - Nikesh Arora



New Heads of other Countries and important appointments in India

1. Muhammadu Buhari becomes the fifth President of Nigeria: ex-military ruler Muhammadu Buhari defeated Mr. Goodluck Jonathan
2. New governor of Meghalaya - V Shanmuganthan
3. New governor of Tripura - Tathagata Roy
4. New governor of Jharkhand - Draupadi Murmu
5. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh - Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa
6. Governor shifted from Arunachal Pradesh to Mizoram - Nirbhay Sharma
7. Governor shifted from Jharkhand to Manipur - Syed Ahmed



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Summits/Conferences around the World:

1. The 6th National Conference on Nuclear Energy was held in New Delhi, India. The Conference was organized by ASSOCHAM with the theme, 'Nuclear Energy - A Clean Energy option'.

Obituaries

India	
1. Baleshwar Ram	Veteran Congress Leader
2. Suchitra Bhattacharya	Bengali Writer
3. Mrinal Datta Chaudhari	Economist, Academic and Policy Advisor
WORLD	
1. Ruth Rendell	Renowned crime writer
2. Philip S. Goodman	American film, television, stage writer, producer and director
3. Dave Goldberg	CEO of SurveyMonkey
4. Alexandre Lamfalussy	Economist and founding father of the European single currency
5. Elizabeth Wilson	Veteran Hollywood actress
6. B.B. King	Renowned Guitarist, Blues legend and once ranked as the third greatest guitarist of all time.
7. Bob Belden	Veteran jazz saxophonist, composer, arranger and producer.
8. John Nash Jr.	Mathematician, Nobel Prize in Economics

New Books & Authors

1. **The Melancholy of Resistance** by László Krasznahorkai.

Persons in the News

1. SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI Bank head Chanda Kochhar, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar - Shaw and HT Media Chair Shobhana Bhartia are the four Indian women among the Forbes list of World's 100 most powerful women.

2. Manabai Bandopadhyay became the first transgender college principal in India and probably in the world.

Awards & Honours

1. RedInk Lifetime Achievement Award conferred on Prannoy Roy, the executive co-chairman of NDTV.

2. Airports Council International (ACI) adjudged Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) as the world's best airport for the year 2014, under the category of airports handling 25 to 40 million passengers per annum.

3. Japan's highest civilian award conferred on CNR Rao - The Emperor of Japan conferred the country's highest award, the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star,' on C N R Rao for his outstanding contributions to science and Indo-Japanese science cooperation.

4. Syrian journalist and rights activist Mazen Darwish conferred the UNESCO - Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015.

5. Pt. Haridutt Sharma Award - Senior journalist Anuradha Prasad has been conferred the Pt. Haridutt Sharma Award for her contribution in the field of Journalism, Writing and Social Services. Presently, she is the Editor - in - Chief of News - 24, a Hindi News Channel.

6. The Encore Award - The 2014 Encore Award has been conferred on Indian author Neel Mukherjee for his novel, *'The Lives of Others'*.

7. Laszlo Krasznahorkai, visionary Hungarian writer, has won the sixth Man Booker International Prize (2015).

8. Indian filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Masaan' has bagged the International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci) award at the 68th Cannes International Film Festival.

9. CEAT Cricket Awards 2014 -15 -Ajinkya Rahane,won the CEAT Indian Cricketer of the Year award while the Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakara bagged the International Cricketer of the Year award.

List of other award winners:

- (i) International Lifetime Achievement Award: Kapil Dev
- (ii) International Cricketer of the Year: Kumar Sangakkara
- (iii) Indian Cricketer of the Year: Ajinkya Rahane
- (iv) International Batsman of the Year: Hashim Amla
- (v) International Bowler of the Year: Rangana Herath
- (vi) T20 Player of the Year: Dwayne Bravo
- (vii) Popular Choice Award: Kieron Pollard
- (viii) Special Performance of the Year Award: Rohit Sharma



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- (ix) Domestic Cricketer of the Year: R Vinay Kumar
(x) Young Player of the Year: Deepak Hooda.

10. Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award - Atal Bihari Vajpayee
11. World No Tobacco Day Award - S. S. Negi, the Health and Family Welfare Minister of Uttarakhand.

Important News - India & Abroad

1. Microsoft has announced '**Edge**' as its next web browser. Microsoft had dubbed this, Project Spartan, a code name given by the company. The browser is intended to replace the Internet Explorer (IE) in future.
2. Karnataka High Court acquitted AIADMK supremo Jayalalithaa in the 19-year-old disproportionate assets case.
3. Indian-origin Priti Patel gets a cabinet rank as Prime Minister David Cameron promoted her as the new Employment Minister of Britain.
4. E-commerce centre launched in Delhi - The government of India launched a dedicated e-commerce Centre in New Delhi to cater to e-commerce business enterprises.
5. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a seven-month-long festival of Indian culture, "Namaste Russia," with a view to strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.
6. Francois Hollande became the first French president to visit Cuba since 1898 and the first Western head of state on the island since the thaw in its relations with Washington.
7. North Korea's Defence Minister Hyon Yong-chol executed - It is reported that Hyon had fallen asleep during an event attended by Kim Jong-un and had not carried out instructions.
8. Expelled President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi was sentenced to death by an Egyptian court over his part in a mass prison break that took place during the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.
9. Despite a slowing economy, China overtook the United States as the world's top importer of crude oil for the first time in April. Saudi Arabia is the world's top crude exporter. Its state-owned oil firm has an over 10% market share in China and it expects its Chinese operations to grow with Chinese demand.
10. Indian-origin Harbhajan Kaur Dheer became the first Asian woman to be elected as mayor in the United Kingdom (UK).
11. Tata Power has launched the 'Act for Mahseer', a sustainable programme focused at conservation of the Mahseer, an endangered species of fish.

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12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese Premier Le Keqiang launched the State and Provincial Leaders' Forum in Beijing and institutionalised bilateral cooperation at the provincial level. This is for the first time that India has launched such a forum with any country.
13. India announced a \$1-billion credit line to Mongolia for infrastructure development as the two countries upgraded their ties to "Strategic Partnership" and agreed to deepen defence cooperation besides exploring potential for tie-ups in areas like the civil nuclear sector.
14. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided to ease foreign direct investment norms for NRIs and overseas citizens of India (OCI) as it aims to increase capital flows into the country.
15. A report by a Chinese research institution has ranked India in 6th place in the top rankings of space-faring nations.
16. AIADMK Chief Jayalalithaa took oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister for the fifth time on 23rd May 2015.
17. The Republic of Ireland voted in favour of same-sex marriages, making it the first country to legalise same-sex marriage through popular vote.
18. The World Bank has offered a credit of 250 million dollars to the Government of Bihar to improve its school Education Programme.
19. China is all set to launch the gold sector fund involving countries along the ancient Silk Route. The fund led by the Shanghai Gold Exchange (SGE) is expected to raise 100 billion yuan.
20. On the occasion of the completion of the first year of the NDA Government, PM Modi launched Doordarshan's 'Kisan TV' at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan. The tagline of the news channel is 'DD Kisan - Badalte Bharat ki Shaan'.
21. The Delhi high Court has allowed Greenpeace India to operate two of its domestic accounts to accept domestic contributions which may be utilized for the routine functioning of the organization.
22. State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 report released - A majority of 72 out of the 129 nations monitored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have achieved the Millennium Development Target of halving the prevalence of under-nourishment by 2015 while developing regions as a whole missed the target by a small margin.
23. 2012 Manesar workers protest to be the subject of a documentary - A 132-minute documentary by film-maker Rahul Roy titled, 'The Factory' is set to show the aftermath of the 2012 factory workers' protest at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant.
24. Kolkata - Agartala bus service via Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital, starts from 01st June, 2015.

Important News – India – States

1. BHEL commissions Bijlee Utpadan's thermal unit in Bihar - Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited, BHEL, has commissioned a thermal unit of Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited, KBUNL, in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.
2. NTPC signed a pact with Jharkhand Govt. for Patratu power unit - NTPC plans to establish a joint venture with Jharkhand Bidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd for the project as well as for the revival of the Patratu Thermal Power Station (PTPS) in Jharkhand.
3. Punjab has become the first state to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the state. The Prime Minister had formally launched the nationwide 'Soil Health Card' Scheme from Suratgarh, Rajasthan in February this year, with the aim of maintaining the health structure of soil & educating farmers to use right quantity of fertilisers to prevent soil from becoming arid.
4. Indian Oil, GAIL sign MoU with Adanis for LNG terminal in Odisha - Indian Oil Corporation and GAIL (India) Ltd. have signed an MoU with Dhamra LNG Terminal Pvt. Ltd (DLTPL) for an onshore regasification terminal in Odisha.
5. Haryana Government will set up an international level museum at Panchkula to display significant archaeological finds.
6. Rajasthan government has started LED home lighting scheme under Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme. It will install more than two crore LED Lights across the state.
7. The Maharashtra state has received an approval letter for the state's first Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) to be set up in Nagpur. The information was shared by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
8. India will host the Paragliding World Cup in Himachal Pradesh for the first time, which will see participation from over 50 countries.
9. Meghalaya has achieved 100 percent success in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna. All households in the state have been successfully covered under the scheme. More than 5.53 lakh households have been covered with 1.55 lakh new bank accounts.
10. Draupadi Murmu was sworn in as the first woman Governor of Jharkhand. With this, Murmu became the ninth Governor of Jharkhand.
11. Maharashtra Government has decided to make amendments to Factories Act 1948, thus making the way for women employees to work in night shifts.



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12. Himachal Pradesh sets up satellite tracking system to check forest fires - The launch of the satellite tracking system will enable the state forest department to keep a constant vigil on forests as the satellite tracking system will promptly send an SMS alert to state forest officials on the occurrence of any fire in a forest or its vicinity.
13. A team of Columbia Engineering researchers led by the Indian-American scientist, Latha Venkataraman, have created a single-molecule electronic device with the potential of many real world technological applications for nanoscale devices.
14. AFSPA withdrawn from Tripura - Stating that insurgency is on the wane, the Tripura Government has revoked the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Important Agreements/ Deals/ Acquisitions/ Mergers: India & Abroad

1. Future Retail & Bharti Retail merge with each other - Future Retail and Bharti group's Bharti Retail will be merged with each other. Future Retail will host the retail ops of both the companies; Future Enterprises will host the infrastructure, investments and assets.
2. The Public Service Broadcaster of India, Doordarshan and China Central Television (CCTV) have signed an agreement for exchange of art, culture and development television programmes. The exchange of programmes will begin by the end of 2015 and both networks will also take up co-production works for this initiative.
3. The Tajikistan Foreign Minister Aslov Sirojiddin Muhridinovich arrived in India on a five-day visit. The visit comes after PM Modi signalled India's willingness to join a Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan Trade and Transit Agreement as the fourth partner.
4. Indian technology giant Infosys has announced the establishment of its first centre outside India in China at Gui-zhou province, with an investment of about \$120 million to tap the burgeoning Chinese market.
5. India & China inked 24 agreements - Some agreements signed between India and China are as follows:
 - (a) An MoU on education exchange programme and 'Space Cooperation Outline'.
 - (b) Four agreements on sister-state and sister-city relations between Karnataka and Sichuan province; Chennai and Chongqing; Hyderabad and Qingdao; and Aurangabad and Dunhuang.
 - (c) An agreement on setting up a Mahatma Gandhi skill centre in Ahmedabad.
 - (d) A broadcast tie-up between Doordarshan and China's state-run CCTV.
 - (e) Protocol for establishment of consulates in Chengdu and Chennai.
 - (f) Two MoUs between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Yunnan Minzu University and another with Fudan University were signed on the establishment of a yoga college and centre for Gandhian and Indian studies respectively.
 - (g) Other key agreements are on developing China India think-tanks, maritime cooperation and ocean sciences.
6. India and South Korea inked seven agreements to boost bilateral ties. The agreements signed between both countries are as follows:
 - (a) The Double Taxation Avoidance Convention signed in 1985 has been revised with a view to avoiding the burden of double taxation on taxpayers in the two countries.
 - (b) Agreement signed to cooperate in audio-visual co-production, which would enable co-production of films, animation and broadcasting programmes.
 - (c) The two nations also signed an MoU for cooperation between the National Security Council Secretariat of India and the Office of National Security of South Korea.
 - (d) Another MoU was signed on cooperation in the field of electric power development and new energy industries.

- (e) The two nations also signed an MoU to strengthen and encourage cooperation on youth matters through participation in events and activities through exchanges, international conferences, seminars, youth camps, festivals, etc.
- (f) The two sides also signed a Framework of Cooperation (FOC) in the Field of Road Transport and Highways.
- (h) An MoU on cooperation between the two countries in the fields of maritime transport and logistics including through sharing of technologies, information and experiences, the training of seafarers, exchange of experts and port operations, etc. was also signed.

7. India & Mongolia have signed 13 agreements. The agreements were signed in the presence of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mongolian counterpart Chimed Saikhanbileg. Some of the agreements are:

- (a) Air services agreement between the governments of India and Mongolia.
- (b) Agreement between the governments of India and Mongolia on cooperation in the field of animal health and dairy.
- (c) Treaty between India and Mongolia on the transfer of sentenced persons.
- (d) An MoU between the governments of India and Mongolia on cooperation in traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy.

8. ArcelorMittal has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India's leading steel company, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), with the objective of setting up an automotive steel plant.

9. The e-commerce major, Snapdeal, has acquired a Hyderabad based mobile technology startup, 'MartMobi', for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition was aimed at strengthening Snapdeal's mobility platform for merchant partners.

10. The Union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the agreement on coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh permitting coastal movement of goods between the two nations.

Important Schemes launched by State/Union Govt. of India

1. Prime Minister Modi launches 3 social security schemes -

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana: It is a new life insurance plan which will offer Rs 2 lakh cover at Rs 330 premium every year.
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana: The scheme will offer a renewable one year accidental death cum disability cover of Rs. 2 lakh at Rs. 12 premium every year. The insured will get Rs. 1 lakh in case of partial permanent disability.
- (c) Atal Pension Yojana: This scheme is meant for those people in the un-organized sector who are outside a formal pension net so far. Under this scheme, subscribers will get guaranteed minimum pension from the age of 60. The pension could be Rs. 1000, Rs. 2000, Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 per month, depending on the size of the contribution. Aadhar number is not mandatory for joining the pension scheme. Age limit: The pension scheme would allow subscribers of ages 18 to 40.

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- Govt. approves Rs. 20,000-crore budget for Namami Gange scheme - The government has approved Rs. 20,000 crore budget for "Namami Gange" programme, which integrates the efforts to clean and protect the River Ganga in a comprehensive manner.

Science & Defence News

- India ranks 13th in terms of generation of electricity from nuclear sources as per the latest data published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). India's current installed nuclear power capacity is 5780 MW.
- NASA is developing a '*robotic eel*' that could explore the icy water of Jupiter's moon Europa and power itself with energy derived from local magnetic fields. The goal is to enable amphibious exploration of gas-giant moons like Europa.
- Canada has announced its plans to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. The government has formally submitted its target to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The government of India has allocated Rs. 5,000 crore for the growth of Department of AYUSH, that comprises Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
- India on 18th May 2015 assumed Presidency of the 68th World Health Assembly (WHA).
- A report by a Chinese research institution has ranked India in the 6th place in the ranking of space-faring nations.
- India was ranked at 24th position out of 70 countries in the first Environmental Democracy Index 2015. The index is topped by Lithuania at the first position, Latvia at the second and Russia at the third position.
- According to the Department of Science and Technology, India has jumped to sixth from tenth position, in terms of publishing scientific research papers in different journals.
- India and Singapore kick off joint naval exercise - SIMBEX - 15 is a bilateral naval exercise which was conducted between the Indian and the Singaporean Navies from May 23rd to May 26th, 2015.
- After eliminating Polio, India set to win battle against tetanus at childbirth - After eliminating Polio, India is set to win the battle against tetanus at childbirth, which is known to have claimed the lives of 2 lakh adults and children every year at its peak.
- The Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has stated that 90 per cent of the world's chemical armaments stockpile has been destroyed.
- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has launched a cyber-security task force with the aim of transforming India into a cyber-security research and training hub.

Sports Scan

Cricket News

1. Jonathan Trott announces retirement from International cricket - England batsman Jonathan Trott has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect after a disappointing tour of the West Indies.
2. Team India has moved to 4th place in the latest ICC Test rankings.
3. Joe Root and Charlotte Edwards were named as England men's and women's cricketers of the year 2014-15 respectively.
4. Mumbai Indians won the IPL 8 final against Chennai Super Kings by 41 runs.

Football News

1. The BRICS Under - 17 football tournament to be held in India in 2016 - According to the apex industry body ASSOCHAM, an MoU is set to be signed tomorrow with Brazilian representatives in New Delhi.
2. FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke confirmed that Russia and Qatar will host the Football World Cups in 2018 and 2022 respectively.

Boxing

1. Floyd Mayweather Jr defeats Manny Pacquiao - In a boxing fight that was the most highly watched and revenue generating, American boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. defeated Manny Pacquiao from Philippines on a unanimous decision to win the unified World Welterweight title of World Boxing Council, World Boxing Organisation and World Boxing Association.
2. Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, a 15 year old from Punjab, won two gold medals at the Women's World Junior Boxing Championship in Taipei.

Tennis News

1. Andy Murray defeated Rafael Nadal in the final to win the Madrid Masters Men's Singles Title.
2. Rohan Bopanna (India) and Florin Mergea (Romania) defeated Marcin Matkowski (Poland) and Nenad Zimonjic (Serbia) by 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), [11-9] to win the 2015 Madrid Open Men's Doubles title.
3. Casey Dellacqua (Australia) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Russia) defeated the Spanish pair Garbie Muguruza and Carla Suárez Navarro by 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), [10-5] to win the 2015 Madrid Open Women's Doubles title.
4. Russian tennis player, Maria Sharapova clinched her third Rome Masters Tennis title after defeating Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain by 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the final.
5. World no 1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic lifted his fourth Rome Masters Tennis title after defeating Roger Federer 6-4, 6-3 in the final.
6. The Hungarian-French pair of Timea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic defeated the Indo-Swiss pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-3 in the final to win the Rome Masters title.



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7. The Uruguay - Spain pair of Pablo Cuevas and David Marrero defeated the Spanish pair of Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez in the final to win the men's double Rome Masters title.

Shooting

1. Gagan Narang won the bronze medal in the 50 metre Rifle Prone Event of the ISSF World Cup at Fort Benning, USA. He has thus earned himself a quota place for the 2016 Rio Olympics. After Jitu Rai and Apurvi Chandela, Narang is the third Indian shooter to make the Rio cut.
2. Abhinav Bindra became the fourth Indian shooter to win a quota place for the Rio Olympic Games 2016.
3. Gurpreet Singh became India's fifth shooter to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics games.

Badminton News

1. Saina Nehwal regains no. 1 spot in world badminton rankings.

Chess

1. Indian youngster, Chess player Tejaswini Sagar won her maiden world title bagging the gold in the under-15 category of World School Chess Championship.

Shot Put

1. Vikas Gowda picks bronze in Shanghai IAAF Diamond League – The ace Indian discus thrower won a bronze medal in the second leg of the prestigious IAAF Diamond League series in Shanghai on Sunday. The 31-year-old Gowda hurled the disc to a distance of 63.90 metres to make the cut.

Formula one

1. Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg of Germany won the Spanish Grand Prix Formula 1 World Championship title by winning the final race held at Barcelona in Spain.

International/National Days in May

1. 1st May - International labour Day
2. First Tuesday of May - It is observed as Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), the theme being, '*You Can Control Your Asthma*'.
3. 3rd May - World Press Freedom day
4. 11th May - National Technology Day
5. 22nd May - International Day for Biological Diversity
6. 23rd May - World Turtle Day

All the Best!

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