



## General Awareness Bullet - January 2015 (Comprehensive summary of general awareness topics across January 2015)

Dear PaGaLGuY readers,

The General Awareness Bullet is a comprehensive summary of important news and events that took place in January 2015.

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This bullet is relevant for Banking, SSC, and all Insurance Exams.

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### RBI in News

#### 1. RBI announces sixth bi - monthly monetary policy review -

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the sixth bi - monthly policy review on 3rd Feb 2015 and kept interest rates (Repo Rate) unchanged but reduced the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) by 50 basis points to 21.5% from 22%.
- **Why did RBI reduce the SLR?**  
In order to create space for banks to expand credit, the SLR is being reduced from 22.0% of NDTL to 21.5%. Banks should use this headroom to increase their lending to productive sectors on competitive terms so as to support investment and growth.

#### **Know About SLR -**

##### **A. What is Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)?**

It is the amount a commercial bank needs to maintain in the form of cash, gold, or government approved securities (Bonds) before providing credit to its customers. SLR is determined and maintained by the RBI in order to control the expansion of bank credit.

**Background:** The maximum and minimum limits for the SLR were 40% and 25% respectively in India. Following the amendment of the Banking regulation Act (1949) in January 2007, the floor rate of 25% for SLR was removed. Presently, the SLR is 21.5%.

**Penalty:** If any Indian bank fails to maintain the required level of Statutory Liquidity Ratio, then it becomes liable to pay penalty to Reserve Bank of India in respect of that default, the penal interest for that day at the rate of three per cent per annum above the Bank Rate on the shortfall. If the default continues on the next succeeding working day, the penal interest may be increased to a rate of five per cent per annum above the Bank Rate for the concerned days of default on the shortfall.

##### **B. How is SLR determined?**

SLR is determined as the percentage of total demand and percentage of time liabilities. Time Liabilities are the liabilities a commercial bank is liable to pay to customers on their anytime demand.

##### **C. What is the need of SLR?**

With SLR, the RBI can ensure solvency of a commercial bank. It is also helpful to control expansion of Bank Credits. By changing the SLR rates, RBI can increase or decrease bank credit expansion.

#### D. What happens when RBI increases or reduces the SLR Rate?

**When RBI decreases SLR**, banks have more money with them to lend to their customers, thus banks charge their customers a lower rate of interest when it comes to home and auto loans.

**When RBI increases SLR**, Banks have less money with them to lend to their customer, thus banks charge their customers a higher rate of interest when it comes to home and auto loans.

#### Current Rates:

1. Repo Rate	7.75% (unchanged)
2. Reverse Repo	6.75% (unchanged)
3. CRR	4% (unchanged)
4. SLR	21.5% (changed from 22%)
5. MSF	8.75% (unchanged)
6. Bank Rate	8.75% (unchanged)

- RBI inks deal with European Central Bank (ECB)** - RBI and European Central Bank (ECB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of central banking. The aim of the deal is to exchange of information, policy dialogue and technical cooperation between the two institutions.
- RBI allows Banks to act as Insurance brokers:** According to RBI guidelines, banks can now start insurance businesses and undertake insurance agency or broking businesses departmentally and/or through subsidiaries. Bank can also act as corporate agents without seeking prior approval from the RBI. However, they will have to comply with IRDA guidelines.
- RBI has increased the limit for foreign exchange (FOREX) remittances under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) from \$125,000 to \$250,000 (Rs. 1.5 crore) per person per year. Under the LRS, Indians can open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with banks outside India for carrying out transactions, without permission from the RBI.
- RBI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brazil's Central Bank - **Banco Central do Brasil (BCB)** on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information.
- RBI has lifted a ban on carrying Indian bank notes of Rs 1,000 and 500 denominations to and from Nepal and Bhutan. RBI had imposed this restriction since May, 2000. The Indian central bank, however, has put a limit on carrying such notes at Rs 25,000 per person.



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### Important Committees in News:

Committee	Objective
1. R Gandhi Committee	To reexamine and recommend appropriate sets of businesses, size, conversion and licensing terms for the urban cooperative banks (UCB) sector.
2. Shanta Kumar Committee	On restructuring of Food Corporation of India. The Committee has recommended reduction in coverage of population from 67% to 40% under the National Food Security Act.
3. G.P. Mathur Committee	To examine the possibility of constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for reinvestigation of the 1984 anti - Sikh riot cases.
4. T S R Subramanian Committee	To leverage the post office/ to transform the Post Office Network in keeping with changing market trends and competition.
5. Ashok Lahiri Committee	To interact with trade and industry on tax - related issues on a regular basis.

## Summits/Conferences around the World:

### 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2015

Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Guyana President Donald Ramotar was the chief guest of the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

The event was held in Gandhinagar to mark the centenary of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa in 1915. Mahatma Gandhi was named the 'Sarva Sreshtha Pravasi Bhartiya' or the foremost Indian diaspora member.

The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was suggested by the L. M. Singhvi Committee, a High Level Committee (HLC) on the Indian Diaspora, which was set up by the Govt. of India. After receiving the report, Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayee announced on January 8, 2002 that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas'(PBD) will be celebrated every 9 January from 2003 onwards. The date was chosen because Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915 and led India to independence. The government of India holds the conference from 7th - 9th January every year. It is organized by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2014 was held in New Delhi.

### Other Important Summits/Conferences

Summit / Conference	Venue
1. 8th India - Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue 2015	New Delhi
2. World Economic Forum annual Summit 2015	Davos, Switzerland
3. World Diamond Conference 2014	New Delhi
4. 8th India - Republic of Korea Joint Commission meeting	South Korea
5. 19 <sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit 2016	Islamabad, Pakistan
6. G20 Leaders Summit 2014	Brisbane, Queensland (Australia)
7. 15 <sup>th</sup> G - 20 Summit 2015	Turkey
8. 16 <sup>th</sup> G - 20 Summit 2016	China
9. 4 <sup>th</sup> Nuclear security summit 2016	United States
10. 7 <sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit 2015	Ufa, Russia
11. IBSA Summit 2015 (IBSA = India - Brazil - South Africa)	New Delhi, India

## Financial/Banking News

1. World Bank projects 6.4% economic growth in India in 2015.
2. International Monetary Fund projects 6.4% economic growth in India in 2015.
3. YES Bank signs MoU with Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and Wells Fargo to increase lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves reached US\$ 322.135 bn. for the week ended January 16.
5. International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that India will grow 6.5% in 2016 and will surpass China in its latest World Economic Outlook report. IMF also forecast India growth rate for 2015 at 6.3% which will up from 5.8% in 2014.
6. India's top private sector Bank HDFC was named among 50 most valuable banks in 2014 with a market capitalization of US\$ 41.58 bn. It was ranked at 45th position. The top 50 list is compiled by Relbanks. State Bank of India was ranked at 51 and ICICI Bank was ranked at 55th position. Well Fargo of the USA is the largest bank in the world based on market capitalization with US\$ 284.39 bn. which is followed by Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and JP Morgan Chase & Co.
7. Canara Bank has been conferred with the Niryat Bandhu Silver Trophy in the banks category for its support services rendered for promotion of exports.
8. 'China beats India in November FII inflows': HSBC
9. Among Asian economies, China regained the top position as the 'most loved' market, pushing India down to second position in the region, while Thailand was placed at the third spot, it said.
10. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan of up to US\$200 million with YES Bank Ltd which will provide financing assistance to low income women borrowers and small - scale farmers in rural India.


### ICICI Bank in News

- ✓ ICICI Bank introduced its banking services on Twitter, which will help customers transfer money through the micro - blogging Web site.


#### **Key points:**

- i. Savings account customers can register their Twitter account with a onetime password and link their account number.
  - ii. To avail this benefit both the recipient and sender need to have a Twitter account.
  - iii. Customer can send up to Rs. 5,000 per transaction with a limit of Rs. 10,000 per day. Online NEFT charges will apply. This facility also enables customers to view their account balance, view the recent transactions and recharge mobile pre - paid through Twitter.
- ✓ India's first contact - less debit & credit cards were launched by ICICI Bank. The cards, which are based on the near field communication (NFC) mechanism, will allow customers to manage their accounts without having to insert or swipe the cards at the point of sale terminal. The card is similar to the Metro card used in Metro trains. You can simply tap it on the terminal and pay for your purchases.
  - ✓ ICICI Bank launched its own version of Digital Village Project by adopting the Akodara Village in the Sabarkantha district of Gujarat.


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### State Bank of India (SBI) in News

- ✓ Reliance partnered with SBI for Payment Bank Licence. RIL will be the promoter and SBI will be the joint venture partner with equity investment of up to 30%.
- ✓ SBI has signed a loan agreement for 100 mn. Euro (about Rs. 700 crore) with European Investment Bank (EIB). SBI will utilize this loan to support the development of the private sector in the country, in particular for small and medium - sized enterprises (SMEs). It will be also utilized for developing social and economic infrastructure as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- ✓ SBI launched 'Chota ATMs' in Kerala: SBI partnered with Ezetap, the mobile point - of - sale service provider, has launched 'Chota ATM' in Kerala. 'Chota ATM' will allow kirana store owners, taxi drivers, small businessmen, and traders who are dealing with customers to turn their mobile device into both a cash withdrawal point as well as a credit/debit card payment terminal.
- ✓ 'SBI Quick' facility was announced by SBI, which aims to allow customers to get their balance or a mini statement of their accounts on their mobile phones. To avail of the facility, customers have to register by sending an SMS (REG <space> account number) to '9223488888' from the mobile number of the customer, which is registered in the bank's records for savings bank/ current account/ overdraft/ cash credit accounts. They will get an instant confirmation through SMS, the bank said in a statement.
- ✓ SBI Cards tied up with Future Group company Fashion at Big Bazaar (FBB) to offer a co - branded credit card 'Styleup'. The new Styleup card offers a lifetime flat 10% discount on fashion apparel, fashion accessories and footwear at all FBB and Big Bazaar stores and the customers will also get 10 times the rewards on all Big Bazaar purchases besides other discounts and rewards. SBI Cards is the only free - standing credit card company in the country.
- ✓ SBI will launch an Islamic equity fund next month aimed mainly at the country's 170 million Muslims. India is only the second country outside the Islamic world where a state - owned bank is offering a Sharia - compliant fund. The U.K. issued sovereign Islamic bonds in June. India's stock exchanges have between 600 and 700 companies that are Sharia - compliant.
- ✓ SBI launched 'mPassBook' facility on its smartphone application anywhere' mobile application, for its retail banking users, which is an electronic application of a physical passbook for savings bank and current account holders.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank in News

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank launched Jifi Saver, a social savings bank account that can be managed via Twitter and Facebook. 'Jifi Saver will take care of online shopping, on - the - go transactions, financial planning, etc. It also offers all benefits and functionalities of a regular savings bank account,' Kotak said in a statement.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank launched Facebook - based funds transfer platform 'KayPay'. KayPay is a bank agnostic payment product for Facebook users to send money to each other.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first bank to get the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) permission to set up a wholly - owned non - life insurance company. The bank is already the promoter of a life insurance company in partnership with Old Mutual of South Africa. RBI guidelines allow a bank to hold max 50% in an insurance joint venture. However, RBI has allowed some exceptions, like SBI and ICICI Bank. In both these partnerships, the banks hold 74%.

## Banking Schemes

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana entered the Guinness Book of World Records:** Financial inclusion initiative Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records, by opening nearly 11.50 crore bank accounts in the shortest period of time. The Guinness Book of World Records has also recognized the achievements made under PMJDY and has given a certificate stating that the most bank accounts opened in one week as part of the financial inclusion campaign is 1.8 crore.

### Key Facts:

'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' Scheme for financial inclusion launched was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 to help the poor open bank accounts.

- ✓ The slogan of the scheme is "Mera Khata - Bhagya Vidhaata"
- ✓ The scheme aims to open minimum 15 Crore Bank accounts by 15 Aug. 2015
- ✓ Every person will be eligible to receive an accident insurance cover of up to Rs. 1 Lakh. HDFC Ergo General Insurance will provide the accident cover under the scheme
- ✓ An additional Rs. 30,000 life insurance cover will be provided for those opening bank accounts before January 26, 2015. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) will provide the life insurance cover
- ✓ The scheme will provide Rs 5,000 overdraft facility for Aadhar - linked accounts, and Ru Pay Debit Card for all account holders
- ✓ A minimum monthly remuneration of Rs 5,000 will be given to the business correspondents who will provide the last link between account holders and the bank

## Appointments and Personalities - India & Abroad

### New Appointments in the Financial Sector

- ✓ New Indian Overseas Bank CMD - R Koteeswaran
- ✓ New MD and CEO of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) - Animesh Chauhan
- ✓ New MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank - Kishore Kumar Sansi
- ✓ New MD and CEO of United Bank of India - P. Srinivas
- ✓ New Chief Economic Advisor - Arvind Subramanian

### New Appointments in Important Institutions

- ✓ New Home Secretary - LC Goyal. He replaced Anil Goswami.
- ✓ New Foreign Secretary - S Jaishankar. He replaced Sujatha Singh.
- ✓ New Chief Election Commissioner of India - Harishankar Brahma. He replaced V.S. Sampath.
- ✓ New ISRO Chief - A.S. Kiran Kumar. He replaced K. Radhakrishnan.
- ✓ New Chairman of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) - Pahlaj Nihalani. He replaced Leela Samson.
- ✓ New Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi - Shekhar Sen.
- ✓ New Security Secretary in the Union Cabinet Secretariat - Divya Prakash Sinha.
- ✓ New Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) - Anupam Shrivastava.
- ✓ New Urban Development Secretary - Madhusudhan Prasad. He replaced Shankar Agarwal.
- ✓ Chairman of NITI Aayog - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ First Vice - Chairman of NITI Aayog - Arvind Panagariya
- ✓ First Chief Executive officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog - Sindhushree Khullar
- ✓ New President of FICCI - Jyotsna Suri. He replaces Sidharth Birla
- ✓ New CMD of Coal India - S. Bhattacharya
- ✓ New Chairman of ICRA (India rating agency) - Naresh Takkar
- ✓ New Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) - T Suvarna Raju
- ✓ New Chief of Indo - Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) - Krishna Chaudhary
- ✓ New Chief of CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) - Prakash Mishra



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### New Governors

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh - Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh took over the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh. He replaced Urmila Singh.
- ✓ Uttarakhand - K.K. Paul

### New Ambassadors to India

- ✓ Nepal - Deep Kumar Upadhyay
- ✓ United States of America (USA) - Richard Rahul Verma. He replaced Nancy Powell, who had resigned in March 2014 after whom Kathleen Stephen served as the chargé d'affaires.
- ✓ China - Le Yucheng. He replaced Wei Wei
- ✓ Bangladesh - Syed Muazzem Ali. He replaced Tariq A Karim

### Event Chief Guests

- ✓ 66<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade 2015 - US President Barack Obama. He is the first President of United States to attend the Republic Day Parade of India.
- ✓ 13<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas - Guyana President Donald Ramotar

### New Heads of Countries

- ✓ New Prime Minister of Mali - Modibo Keita. He replaced Moussa Mara.
- ✓ New President of Sri Lanka - Maithripala Sirisena. He replaces Mahinda Rajapaksa.
- ✓ New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka - Ranil Wickeramasinghe.
- ✓ New Prime Minister of Mauritius - Anerood Jugnauth. He replaced Navinchandra Ramgoolam
- ✓ Japan - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re - elected for another four - year term.
- ✓ Tabare Ramon Vazquez Rosas won the Uruguay Presidential Election in 2014. He will become the new President of Uruguay on 1 March 2015.
- ✓ New President of Croatia - Kolinda Grabar - Kitarovic. She is the first female President of Croatia.
- ✓ New President of Italy - Sergio Mattarella. He replaced Giorgio Napolitano.
- ✓ New President of Zambia - Edgar Lungu
- ✓ New President of Romania - Klaus Werner Iohannis. He replaces Traian Basescu.
- ✓ Brazil - Dilma Rousseff was re - elected as President for her 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia - Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul - Aziz Al Saud took over as King of Saudi Arabia after the demise of King Abdullah in January 2015.



### Other Appointments

- ✓ New Chief Justice of Sri Lanka - Kanagasabapathy J Sripavan. He replaced Shirani Bandaranayake.
- ✓ New Chief Justice of Bangladesh - Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha

### Obituaries

India	
1. R.K. Laxman	Eminent cartoonist
2. Jaswant Singh Rajput	Former Hockey Olympian
3. Justice RK Patra	Former judge of the Odisha High Court, he was probing the multi - crore rupee chit fund scam.
4. M D Hatkananglekar	Renowned Marathi literary critic & writer.
5. Rajni Kothari	Eminent political scientist and scholar.
6. Hara Patnaik	Veteran Odia actor and director
7. Ghelubhai Naik	Legendary social activist and freedom fighter
8. Rajkumar Manisana	Former Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court
9. Perin Romesh Chandra	Freedom fighter
10. Mayuresh Pawar	Netball player, he died due to drowning while taking a bath at the Shanghumugham beach in Kerala during Day 2 of the 35th National Games.
11. K. Balachander	South India filmmaker
12. Piratla Venkateswarlu	Veteran Journalist
13. Grihanandan Singh	Hockey Olympian

14. Nedunuri Krishnamurthy	Veteran Carnatic vocalist, Sangeet Kalanidhi
15. V. R. Krishna Iyer	Eminent jurist and former Supreme Court judge
16. Nand Chaturvedi	Noted Hindi poet
17. GS Gangaram Laxman Taleka	Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Associate General Secretary
18. Narayanan Lakshmi Balakrishnan	Malayalam film actor
19. Upendra Jethalal Trivedi	Gujarati film actor
20. V R Gowariker	Former ISRO Chairman
21. Boobli George Verghese	Noted journalist
22. Deven Varma	Veteran actor - filmmaker
<b>WORLD</b>	
1. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud	King of Saudi Arabia
2. Luise Rainer	American film actress and the first back - to - back Oscar winner
3. Geoff Pullar	Former England cricketer
4. Phil Hughes	Australian cricketer

## Resignations/Retirements

<b>India</b>	
1. Jayanthi Natarajan	Former Union Environment Minister and Congress leader
2. Leela Samson	Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Chairperson
3. Avinash Chander	Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), removed by the government.
4. Sujata Singh	Foreign Secretary, removed by the government.
5. Anil Goswami	Union Home Secretary, removed by the government.
6. K. Radhakrishnan	Retired as ISRO chief
7. Raghunath K. Shevgaonkar	Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi
8. Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Retired from Test cricket but will continue as Captain of the Indian Cricket Team in other forms of cricket – One Day & T20
9. Terry Walsh	Indian Hockey coach
<b>World</b>	
1. Brett Lee	Retirement from all formats of cricket
2. Giorgio Napolitano	Announced his retirement as President of Italy

## New Books & Authors

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
1. The Red Sari ‘The Red Sari’ an unauthorized biography of Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi.	Javier Moro
2. Neither a Hawk nor a Dove	Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri
3. An Unfinished Agenda: My Life in the Pharmaceutical Industry	Late Dr K Anji Reddy
4. The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years	Pranab Mukherjee (President of India)
5. Born Again on the Mountain	Arunima Sinha
6. My Name is Abu Salem	S Hussain Zaidi
7. Black Tornado: The Three Sieges of Mumbai 26/11	Sandeep Unnithan
8. Your Dreams Are Mine Now: She Showed Him What Love Was	Ravinder Singh
9. Next China - India War - World's First Water War - 2029	Sundarajan Padmanabhan

## Personalities in News

India	
1. Pooja Thakur	She became first woman officer to lead the Guard of Honour which was inspected by the U.S. President Barack Obama at Rashtrapathi Bhavan
2. N Srinivasan	The Supreme Court of India ban N Srinivasan to contest Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) elections as long as he is involved in a 'conflict of interest' situation as an owner of IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK).
3. Venu Srinivasan	TVS chairman was conferred with Honorary Citizen of Busan, Korea
4. Madhu Kinnar (Transgender)	Won Mayoral election from Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) Municipal Corporation. She scripted history by becoming the first transgender to get elected as mayor in the state.
World	
1. Paulina Vega	Miss Universe 2015, and second winner from Colombia
2. Rolene Strauss	Miss World 2014, from South Africa
3. Larry Page	CEO and co - founder of Google, named Business Person of the Year 2014



## Awards & Honours

- DSC Prize for 2015** - Indian - American author Jhumpa Lahiri won DSC Prize for Literature for her book, **The Lowland**.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Award** - Eminent Indian - American entrepreneur and philanthropist Frank Islam was conferred with the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for his contribution to the legacy of the great leader through his efforts in international service and civil engagement.
- The Hindu Prize for 2014** - Ashok Srinivasan won The Hindu Prize 2014 for his debut novel 'Book of Common Signs'.
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2014** - Well - known Sanskrit scholar Prabhu Nath Dwivedi conferred with Sahitya Akademi Award 2014 for Sanskrit language. He was awarded for his work 'Kanakalochanaha' a collection of 16 short - stories based on various social issues.
- Giraffe Hero Award 2015** - Renowned Indian RTI activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal conferred with the Giraffe Hero award 2015 by a US - based NGO The Giraffe Heroes Project.
- Vyas Samman 2014** - Veteran Hindi scholar and writer Dr Kamal Kishore Goyanka has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for the year 2014. He was chosen for his research work 'Premchand Kee Kahaniyo Kaa Kaalkramanuser' Note: Vyas Samman is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation in recognition of the Hindi literary work published in past 10 years.
- Governor of the Year Award 2015** - Reserve Bank of India chief Raghuram Rajan conferred as the 'governor of the year' award for 2015. The award was announced by the British magazine Central Banking for 'his deep understanding of the root causes of economic problems of the country combined with an impressive leadership style.'
- 2015 Space Pioneer Award** - The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Team of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) won the 2015 Space Pioneer Award in the Science and Engineering category. The Mars Orbiter Mission team is located in Bangalore and is headed by Mylswamy Annadurai.
- Shrilal Shukla Sahitya IFFCO Award 2014** - Mithileshwar conferred with Shrilal Shukla Sahitya IFFCO Award 2014. The award is instituted by the fertilizer cooperative firm IFFCO in the memory of the great Hindi novelist and writer Shrilal Shukla in the year 2011. Mithileshwar is a Hindi novelist and belongs to Bhojpur district in Bihar.
- JGBS - Top Rankers' Excellence Award** - Former Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) R.K. Tyagi conferred with the JGBS - Top Rankers' Excellence Award for CEO of the year 2014.



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11. **Social Media Person of the Year Award 2015** - Amitabh Bachchan awarded with the Social Media Person of the Year Award 2015 by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
12. **Business person of the year for 2014** - According to Fortune magazine Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and co - founder of Google, Larry Page has emerged as the 'business person of the year' for 2014.
13. **Bharat Ratna Award 2014 - Madan Mohan Malviya** (posthumously) - **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** (Former Prime Minister of India) conferred with Bharat Ratna Award 2014. Madan Mohan Malviya was an Indian educationist and politician notable for his role in the Indian independence movement, as the four time president of Indian National Congress, and the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Bharat Ratna was previously awarded in 2013 to Sachin Tendulkar & Prof. CNR Rao
14. Time magazines '**Person of the Year 2014**' - Ebola fighters. The uncountable doctors, nurses and caregivers at the forefront of battling one of the worst ever outbreaks of the deadly Ebola virus, were collectively named as Time magazine's 2014 'Person of the Year'.
15. Time magazines **reader poll** 'Person of the Year 2014' - Narendra Modi (PM of India),
16. **Asian of the Year' award** - Narendra Modi (PM of India), award was given by Singapore leading daily newspaper 'The Straits Times'.
17. Yash Chopra Memorial Award conferred to - Amitabh Bachchan

## Padma Awards 2014

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Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, were announced recently. The awards are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. '**Padma Vibhushan**' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; '**Padma Bhushan**' for distinguished service of high order and '**Padma Shri**' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of Padma Awards to 104 persons as per the list below. The list comprises of 9 Padma Vibhushan, 20 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. 17 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 17 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 4 posthumous awardees.



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. LK Advani - Public Affairs - Gujarat                      | 6. Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami                    |
| 2. Amitabh Bachchan - Art - Maharashtra                      | Rambhadracharya - Others - Uttar Pradesh              |
| 3. Prakash Singh Badal - Public Affairs - Punjab             | 7. Prof Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan - Science and      |
| 4. Dr D Veerendra Heggade - Social Work - Karnataka          | Engineering - Tamil Nadu                              |
| 5. Mohammad Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar - Art - Maharashtra | 8. Kottayan K. Venugopal - Public Affairs - Delhi     |
|  | 9. Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan (Foreigner) - Trade and |
|  | Industry - France/UK                                  |

### Padma Bhushan

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Jahnu Barua - Art - Assam                                | 11. Dr Ashok Seth - Medicine - Delhi                               |
| 2. Dr Vijay Bhatkar - Science and Engineering - Maharashtra | 12. Rajat Sharma - Literature and Education - Delhi                |
| 3. Shri Swapan Dasgupta - Literature and Education - Delhi  | 13. Satpal - Sports - Delhi  |
| 4. Swami Satyamitranand Giri - Others - Uttar Pradesh       | 14. Shivakumara Swami - Others - Karnataka                         |
| 5. N Gopalaswami - Civil Service - Tamil Nadu               | 15. Dr Kharag Singh Valdiya - Science and Engineering - Karnataka  |
| 6. Dr Subhash C Kashyap - Public Affairs - Delhi            | 16. Prof Manjul Bhargava (NRI/PIO) - Science and Engineering - USA |
| 7. Dr (Pandit) Gokulotsavji Maharaj - Art - Madhya Pradesh  | 17. David Frawley (Vamadeva) (Foreigner) - Others - USA            |
| 8. Dr Ambrish Mithal - Medicine - Delhi                     | 18. Bill Gates (Foreigner) - Social Work - USA                     |
| 9. Sudha Ragunathan - Art - Tamil Nadu                      | 19. Melinda Gates (Foreigner) - Social Work - USA                  |
| 10. Shri Harish Salve - Public Affairs - Delhi              | 20. Saichiro Misumi (Foreigner) - Others - Japan                   |



### Padma Shri

1. Dr Manjula Anagani - Medicine - Telangana
2. S Arunan - Science and Engineering - Karnataka
3. Kanyakumari Avasarala - Art - Tamil Nadu
4. Dr Bettina Sharada Baumer - Literature and Education - Jammu and Kashmir
5. Naresh Bedi - Art - Delhi
6. Ashok Bhagat - Social Work - Jharkhand
7. Sanjay Leela Bhansali - Art - Maharashtra
8. Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora - Literature and Education - Assam
9. Dr Gyan Chaturvedi - Literature and Education - Madhya Pradesh
10. Prof (Dr) Yogesh Kumar Chawla - Medicine - Chandigarh
11. Jayakumari Chikkala - Medicine - Delhi
12. Bibek Debroy - Literature and Education - Delhi
13. Dr Sarungbam Bimola Kumari Devi - Medicine - Manipur
14. Dr Ashok Gulati - Public Affairs - Delhi
15. Dr Randeep Guleria - Medicine - Delhi
16. Dr KP Haridas - Medicine - Kerala
17. Rahul Jain - Art - Delhi
18. Ravindra Jain - Art - Maharashtra
19. Dr Sunil Jogi - Literature and Education - Delhi
20. Prasoon Joshi - Art - Maharashtra
21. Dr Prafulla Kar - Art - Odisha
22. Saba Anjum - Sports - Chhattisgarh
23. Ushakiran Khan - Literature and Education - Bihar
24. Dr Rajesh Kotecha - Medicine - Rajasthan
25. Prof Alka Kriplani - Medicine - Delhi
26. Dr Harsh Kumar - Medicine - Delhi
27. Narayana Purushothama Mallaya - Literature & Education - Kerala
28. Lambert Mascarenhas - Literature and Education - Goa
29. Dr Janak Palta McGilligan - Social Work - Madhya Pradesh
30. Veerendra Raj Mehta - Social Work - Delhi
31. Tarak Mehta - Art - Gujarat
32. Neil Herbert Nongkynrih (Art), Meghalaya
33. Chewang Norphel - Others - Jammu and Kashmir
34. TV Mohandas Pai - Trade and Industry - Karnataka
35. Dr Tejas Patel - Medicine - Gujarat
36. Jadav Molai Peyang - Others - Assam
37. Bimla Poddar - Others - Uttar Pradesh
38. Dr N Prabhakar - Science and Engg - Delhi
39. Dr Prahalada - Science and Engg - Maharashtra
40. Dr Narendra Prasad - Medicine - Bihar
41. Ram Bahadur Rai - Literature and Education - Delhi
42. Mithali Raj - Sports - Telangana
43. PV Rajaraman - Civil Service - Tamil Nadu
44. Prof JS Rajput - Literature and Education - Uttar Pradesh
45. Kota Srinivasa Rao - Art - Andhra Pradesh
46. Prof Bimal Roy - Literature and Education - West Bengal
47. Shekhar Sen - Art - Maharashtra
48. Gunvant Shah - Literature and Education - Gujarat
49. Brahmdev Sharma - Literature and Education - Delhi
50. Manu Sharma - Literature and Education - Uttar Pradesh
51. Prof Yog Raj Sharma - Medicine - Delhi
52. Vasant Shastri - Science and Engg - Karnataka
53. SK Shivkumar - Science and Engg - Karnataka
54. PV Sindhu - Sports - Telangana
55. Sardara Singh - Sports - Haryana
56. Arunima Sinha - Sports - Uttar Pradesh
57. Mahesh Raj Soni - Art - Rajasthan
58. Dr Nikhil Tandon - Medicine - Delhi
59. H Thegtse Rinpoche - Social Work - Arunachal Pradesh
60. Dr Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi - Medicine - Gujarat
61. Huang Baosheng - Others - China
62. Prof Jacques Blamont - Science and Engg - France
63. Late Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin - Others - Maharashtra (Posthumous)
64. Jean - Claude Carriere - Literature and Education - France
65. Dr Nandrajan 'Raj' Chetty - Literature and Education - France
66. George L Hart - Others - USA
67. Jagat Guru Amrta Suryananda Maha Raja - Others - Portugal
68. Late Meetha Lal Mehta - Social Work - Rajasthan (Posthumous)
69. Tripti Mukherjee - Art - USA
70. Dr Dattatreyudu Nori - Medicine - USA
71. Dr Raghu Rama Pillarisetti (Medicine), USA
72. Dr Saumitra Rawat - Medicine - UK
73. Prof Annette Schmiedchen (Literature and Education), Germany
74. Late Pran Kumar Sharma alias Pran - Art - Delhi (Posthumous)
75. Late R Vasudevan - Civil Service - Tamil Nadu (Posthumous)

## 21st LifeOk Screen Awards

Shahid Kapoor won three awards at the 21st Annual LifeOK Screen Awards announced on 15th January 2015 in Mumbai: Best Actor (Male), LifeOK Hero (Male) and Best Jodi with Tabu, all for 'Haider'. PK also bagged two awards: Rajkumar Hirani and Abhijat Joshi were given the prize for 'Best Dialogue' and Manoshi Nath and Rishi Sharma were acknowledged with an award for 'Best Costume'.

### List of Awards


1. Best Actor (male) - Shahid Kapoor (Haider)
2. Best Actress (female) - Priyanka Chopra (Mary Kom)
3. Best Film - Queen
4. Best Director - Vikas Bahl (Queen)
5. Hero of the Year (male) - Shahid Kapoor (Haider)
6. Hero of the Year (female) - Alia Bhatt (Highway)
7. Best Actor (male) in the popular choice category - Shah Rukh Khan for Happy New Year
8. Best Actor (female) in the popular choice category - Deepika Padukone for Happy New Year
9. Best Supporting Actor (female) - Tabu for Haider and Seema Pahwa for Ankhon Dekhi
10. Best Actor Supporting Role (Male) - Inamul Haq for Filmistaan
11. Best Jodi award - Shahid with Tabu for Haider
12. Entertainer of the Year - Sajid Nadiadwala
13. Best Music - Mithoon and Ankit Tiwari for Ek Villain
14. Best Lyrics - Kausar Munir for song Suno Na Sangemarmar of Youngistan
15. Most Promising Debut Director - Nitin Kakkar for Filmistaan
16. Best Promising Newcomer (male) - Tiger Shroff for Heropanti
17. Best Promising Newcomer (female) - Patralekhaa for Citylights
18. Best Dialogue - Rajkumar Hirani, Abhijat Joshi for PK
19. Best Screenplay - Sandeep A Varma for Manjunath
20. Best Story - Rajat Kapoor for Ankhon Dekhi
21. Best Action - Heropanti
22. Best Film Marketing - 2 States
23. Lifetime Achievement Award - Hema Malini

### The awards were also announced for Marathi films and the winners include


1. Best Actor (male) - Dilip Prabhavkar for Vitti Dandu and Nandu Madhav for Tapal
2. Best Actor (female) - Usha Naik for Ek Hazarachi Note
3. Best Marathi Film - Vitti Dandu produced by Leena Devre, Ajay Devgn and Kajol
4. Best Director - Laxman Utekar for Tapal

In 2014, Deepika Padukone for Ram - Leela and Farhan Akhtar for Bhaag Milkha Bhaag won the Best Actress and Best Actor awards at the 20th Screen Awards. Best Director Award was won by Shoojit Sircar for Madras Cafe while the Best Film Award was won by Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.


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## Important News - India - Nation

1. **India Celebrates 66<sup>th</sup> Republic Day 2015** - India celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 26 January 2015. First Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January 1950 when India became a Republic with Constitution of India coming into force on this day. The Theme of 66<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade 2015 was 'Women Empowerment (Nari Shakti)'. Chief Guest Barack Obama became the first President of United States to attend the parade as a Chief Guest. Ashok Chakra Awards were conferred to Major Mukund Varadarajan and Naik Neeraj Kumar Singh posthumously during the event.
2. **Israel to open centres of excellence for farmers** in India to encourage research in agriculture sector and for the growth of animal husbandry. During Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit - 2015, Israel Agriculture Minister Yair Shamir said, Israel was likely to open these centres in the states of Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

- Piramal Enterprises Ltd has acquired** Coldstream Laboratories Inc a specialty pharmaceutical contract manufacturer in \$30.65 million (about Rs. 180 crore) deal. Piramal Enterprises Limited, formerly known as Piramal Healthcare Limited, is the flagship company of Piramal Group. The company has the following business units: Piramal Healthcare, Piramal Life Sciences, Piramal Capital & Decision Resources Group.
- Unemployment rate in India rises to 4.9 % in 2013 - 14:** The unemployment rate in the country rose to 4.9% in 2013 - 14, mainly on account of increase in joblessness in rural areas. In 2012 - 13, it was 4.7%. On the positive side, the unemployment rate dropped in urban areas to 5.5% from 5.7% in the previous fiscal.
- SunEdison to set up 250 MW solar power capacity in rural areas:** US - based solar energy company SunEdison will set up 250 MW of solar power generation capacity through 5,000 rural projects in India. The company will tie up with India's Omnigrad Micropower Company (OMC) to accomplish this project. The projects will come up over the next three to five years at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,000 crore.

## Important News - India - States

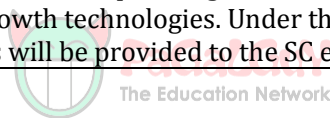
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- Kerala became the first state to have first Hi - speed Rural Broadband Network:** India's first Hi - speed Rural Broadband Network (National Optical Fibre Network) was commissioned by the government in the Idukki district of Kerala. Under this programme, all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country will be connected on optical fibre. The aim of this service is to offer people friendly services like E - health, E - Commerce and E - Education.
- Madhya Pradesh won national award for excellent work in MGNREGA:** Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the 10th national award for excellent work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act - MGNREGA. This award has been given to Madhya Pradesh for convergence of MGNREGA and other schemes for construction of permanent assets and for excellent work in providing opportunities for earning permanent income. Madhya Pradesh is at the top in construction of permanent assets through MGNREGA convergence in the country.
- Kerala to get first International Institute of Music:** An International Institute of Music will be soon open in Kerala, which will be founded and built by Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his family trusts.
- PETA to build India's first fenced elephant sanctuary near Bengaluru:** People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has announced to create India's first fenced elephant sanctuary near Bengaluru. This will be the first fenced elephant sanctuary in India which will be built near Bannerghatta Biological Park in Karnataka.
- Arunachal Pradesh becomes the first state in the country to launch web-based education programmes for all schools.** The programme was formally launched by the state Chief Minister Nabam Tuki. The system is a solution built for teachers and students through Chrome books to bring the power of the web into classroom. The State government has started the programme in collaboration with Google. Christened as Chief Minister Global Education Programme, the education system would initially be launched in 50 to 100 schools in the state.
- Uttarakhand becomes No. 2 in tiger population:** Uttarakhand has ranked second among Indian states in terms of tiger population after Karnataka in India. Uttarakhand has registered 340 tigers - a rise of 113 tigers since the last census (227) becoming the second state in the country. Karnataka with 406 tigers became the first state with highest number of tigers in the country.
- Baba Ramdev appointed as brand ambassador of Haryana:** Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev has been appointed as the brand ambassador by the Haryana State Government. The appointment was a part of government of Haryana's ambitious plans to promote yoga and ayurveda in Haryana state.
- Netherlands & Thailand to help Sikkim in development of floriculture:** Sikkim has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Netherlands and Thailand for development of floriculture in the state. Both countries will provide expertise and technology in the development of Cymbidium and other floriculture.
- World Bank assistance for building toilets in Chhattisgarh:** World Bank will extend financial aid to build toilets in tribal-dominated villages of Chhattisgarh under the Centre's flagship 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'
- Inox Wind to set up wind turbine manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh:** Gujarat Fluorochemicals subsidiary Inox Wind Ltd (IWL) will set up a single location integrated wind turbine manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district. The plant will be set up with an investment of over Rs. 300 crore. Inox Wind Ltd (IWL) will set up 400 MW of projects in Madhya Pradesh making it the largest developer in the state.
- Karnataka, SunEdison sign agreement:** The Karnataka government and SunEdison have signed an agreement to develop 5 gigawatts of renewable energy within 5 years.
- International Kite Festival held in Rajasthan:** Eighteen international kite flyers from USA, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, participated in the festival.
- Amitabh Bachchan was named as the Brand Ambassador of the AP health sector.
- UK Deputy High Commission will be set up in Ahmedabad:** Deputy High Commission will be set up in Ahmedabad to facilitate the Gujarati diaspora living in the UK.

- 15. Governor Rule imposed in Jammu & Kashmir:** Governor's rule was imposed in Jammu & Kashmir, after political parties failed to assemble the necessary numbers in the 87 member Assembly for staking claim to form the government. Governor's rule was imposed in the state under Section 92 of Jammu and Kashmir Constitution which allows the Governor to declare it in case of failure of Constitutional machinery in the state. It has been imposed in the state for the sixth time since 1977.
- 16. Dandi Kutir Museum inaugurated in Gujarat:** On the occasion the 13th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art Dandi Kutir, a museum on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhinagar. Dandi Kutir is located inside a 41-metre high salt-mound as a symbol of Gandhi's famous Dandi march against the salt tax provisions imposed by the British regime in March 1930.
- 17. Former PM Manmohan Singh Adopted Pachin Bekeli Gaon:** Under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana scheme former Prime Minister of India has adopted Pachin Bekeli Gaon Panchyat which is located in Kamarpur district in Assam.
- 18. India has signed three Memorandums of Understanding, MoUs, with the United States for building smart cities in Visakhapatnam, Allahabad, and Ajmer.**
- 19. India and Australia signed MoU for skill and infrastructural development in sports.**
- 20. India to grant \$ 60 million LoC to Guyana:** India will offer 60 million dollars Line of Credit - LoC to Guyana for its road infrastructure projects.

### Important Schemes launched by Govt. of India

1. 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao' campaign	Campaign which aims to save and empower the girl child.
2. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan scheme	To create awareness amongst students in Science and Mathematics.
3. Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)	To preserve, rejuvenate rich cultural heritage of India. The cities include Ajmer, Amrawati, Varanasi, Mathura, Gaya, Puri and Dwaraka.
4. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes	It is a Social Sector Initiative to be implemented nationally in order to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Casts who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies. Under the scheme, financial assistance upto 15 crore rupees will be provided to the SC entrepreneurs for a period upto 6 years.



## Sports Scan

### Cricket News

1. Australian cricketer Steve Smith won the Allan Border Medal 2015 for best Australian cricketer of the past year.
2. Sean Abbott wins Bradman award 2015.
3. South African captain AB de Villiers scored fastest century in one day international match against West Indies. He scored 100 runs in just 31 balls and breaks the record of Corey Anderson of New Zealand who scored 100 in 36 balls. He also scored fastest half century (50 runs) in 16 balls and breaks the record of previous best mark (50 in 17 balls) of Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya against Pakistan in 1996.
4. International Cricket Council (ICC) lifted the five-year ban imposed on Pakistan's fast bowler Mohammad Amir.
5. Sachin Tendulkar was appointed as ambassador of Cricket World Cup 2015
6. India won the Blind Cricket World Cup by defeating Pakistan in the final.
7. Deodhar Trophy 2014: East Zone defeated West Zone to win the title.
8. Duleep Trophy 2014: Central Zone defeated South Zone to win the title.
9. Virat Kohli is named the new captain of the Indian Test team.
10. MRF Tyres of India announces its association as the Global Partner for ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
11. Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara became the fastest to score 12000 Test runs.
12. United Arab Emirates (UAE) captain Khurram Khan became the oldest player to score a century in One-Day Internationals (ODI). He scored the winning century against Afghanistan in Dubai on 30 November 2014
13. Pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar is selected for the Polly Umrigar Award for the 2013-14 season.
14. Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar conferred with C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for 2014
15. Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson was declared ICC Cricketer of the Year as well as the ICC Test cricketer of the Year.



### ICC World Cup Cricket Venues:

ODIs	
1. Australia & New Zealand	2015
2. England	2019
3. India	2023

Tests	
1. England (First ever)	2017
2. India	2021
T20Is	
1. India	2016
2. Australia	2020

### Football News

1. Cristiano Ronaldo has won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award for 2014. He was chosen world's best football player for a third time in a row.
2. Real Madrid and Colombia star James Rodriguez won the best goal award for the year 2014.
3. Bengaluru FC defeated Dempo Sports Club to lift maiden Federation Cup football title 2015.
4. Cristiano Ronaldo received 2013 - 14 European Golden Boot award

### FIFA (Football) World Cup venues

Venue	Year
1. Russia	2018
2. Qatar	2022

- Note: **Germany defeated** Argentina by 1-0 to lift the 2014 FIFA World Cup title.

### Hockey News -

1. Paul van Ass appointed new coach of Indian men's hockey team. He replaced Terry Walsh of Australia.
2. Hockey Champions Trophy 2014 - Germany beat Pakistan to win the title.
3. Sultan of Johor Cup title (Hockey) 2014 - India (juniors) defeated Great Britain to retain the title.



### Hockey World Cup venue



Venue	Year
1. India (Men's)	2018
2. England (Women's)	2018

- ✓ Hockey World Cup 2014 - Men's Title - Australia defeated Netherland.
- ✓ Hockey World Cup 2014 - Women's Title - Netherland defeated Australia.

### Tennis News


1. Viktor Troicki of Serbia defeated Mikhail Kukushkin in a straight set 6-2 6-3 to win the Sydney International title.
2. Sania Mirza and Bethanie Mattek-Sands defeated Abigail Spears and Raquel Kops-Jones to win the doubles title at the Sydney International Tennis Tournament.
3. Roger Federer won the Brisbane International Title 2014. He beat Pat Rafter Arena to clinch his 83rd career title, to become the third man, after Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl, to secure 1,000 ATP wins.
4. Maria Sharapova won the Brisbane International Title 2014. She defeated Ana Ivanovic to clinch her 34<sup>th</sup> career title.
5. Stanislas Wawrinka won the Chennai Open Title 2014. He defeated Aljaz Bedene in the final.
6. Novak Djokovic won the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Finals
7. Roger Federer defeated Gilles Simon to win Shanghai Masters.

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Australian Open 2015		
Category	Winner	Runner - up
Men's Single	Novak Djokovic	Andy Murray
Women's Single	Serena Williams	Maria Sharapova (Russia)
Mixed Doubles	Leander Paes & Martina Hingis	Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic

Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open Men's Singles Title for the fifth time. He won his 8th Grand Slam title in his career. Serena Williams won the Australian Open Women's Singles Title for the sixth time. She won her 19th Grand Slam title in her career.

### Badminton News

1. Saina Nehwal defeated reigning World Champion Carolina Marin of Spain to retain the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships.
2. PV Sindhu won the Macau Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton title for the second consecutive time. She defeated Korean Kim Hyo Min.
3. China open singles title - female: Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal defeated Akane Yamaguchi of Japan to win the title.
4. China open singles title - male: K Srikanth defeated Lin Dan of China to win the title.

### Other Sports News

1. Saloni Dalal became the youngest player to win the bronze medal in the 200 m breaststroke event in the 35th National Games 2015.
2. France lifted the World Handball title by defeating Qatar by 25 - 22 in the final. With this win France has won the World Championships title for the fifth time, which is a record in handball.
3. India's open water swimmer Bhakti Sharma set a world record by swimming 1.4 miles in 52 minutes in one degree temperature in the Antarctic Ocean. She broke the earlier records of British open water swimmer Lewis Pugh and American swimmer Lynne Cox.
4. Kabbadi World Cup 2014 - Indian Men's & Women won the title of Kabbadi World Cup 2014. In the Men's final, India defeated Pakistan and in the Women's final, India defeated New Zealand.
5. S Shrikrishna defeated Ishpreet Singh Chadha to win the National Sub-Junior Billiards title 2015.

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