

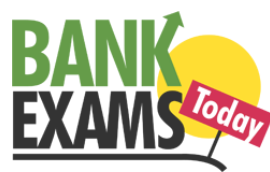
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Current Affairs 2015

By Ramandeep Singh

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Index

Politics	2-11
Sports	12-14
Business and Economy	14-18
Awards and Books	18-20
Appointments	20-22
Science and Technology	22
Deaths	23
Cheques - Types and Crossing of Cheques	23-25
Contactless Cards in India - Tab and Go	25
List of Reports published by International Organizations	25-26
State Bank Of India - Key Facts and Latest Schemes	26-27
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – Facts	27-28
GDP, GNP and National Income – Explained	28-30
Narasimham Committee on Financial System	30-31
Noble Prize Winners 2015	31-32
Goods and Services Tax (GST) - India's Biggest Tax Reform	32-35
RBI slashes Key Policy Rates	35-36
Key Economic Indicators in Indian Economy	36-38
Wildlife Sanctuaries in India list	38-42
Digital India Program - All you need to know	42-43
Currency war : Currency Devaluation and its Impact	43
Mitra Shakti Military Exercise – 2015	43-44
Joint Military Exercises of India 2015	44-45

Politics

International Affairs

Japan-US-India trilateral meeting held in New York

Japan-US-India trilateral meeting held in New York, USA on 30th September 2015 and have decided to coordinate policies of China.

Leader Summit on Peacekeeping held in New York

Leader Summit on Peacekeeping held in New York on 28th September 2015 on the margins of annual high level debate of UNGA. PM of India and USA also attended the Summit.

Palestine became 1st non-member country of United Nations who raised its flag

Palestine became 1st non-member country of United Nations who raised its flag on 30th September 2015 at UN Headquarter New York as hosted by President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas.

25 years of reunification of Germany conducted on 03rd October 2015

25 years of reunification of Germany conducted on 03rd October 2015. Earlier in the year 1990, East Germany and West Germany reunited. Chancellor of Germany is Angela Merkel and President of Joachim Gauck. Capital and Currency of Germany is Berlin and Euro respectively.

ISIS blows up Palmyra's Arc of Triumph

ISIS blows up Palmyra's Arc of Triumph on 05th October 2015. It was UNESCO World Heritage site. Oasis town of Palmyra is also known as 'Pearl of the Desert'.

Pedro Passos Coelho became the Prime Minister of Portugal

Governing Centre Right Coalition Parties won the general elections of Portugal and Pedro Passos Coelho became the Prime Minister while President of Portugal is Anibal Cavaco Silva. Capital and Currency of Portugal is Lisbon and Euro respectively.

Malaysia ordered shut down of schools for two days

Due to choking smog, Malaysia ordered shut down of schools in the country on 04th October 2015 for two days. Education Minister of Malaysia is Mahdzir Khalid. In Malaysia, smog was caused due to smoke on Sumatra Island. Prime Minister of Malaysia is Najib Razak. Capital and Currency of Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur and Ringgit respectively.

Heavy fortified 'Green Zone' of Baghdad opened for public for 1st time in 12 years

Heavy fortified 'Green Zone' of Baghdad opened for public for 1st time in 12 years on 04th October 2015. The Green Zone lies on West bank of Tigris River, Karkh, Baghdad. The zone also known as 'International Zone of Baghdad. Prime Minister of Iraq is Haider al-Abadi while President is Fuad Masum. Capital and Currency of Iraq is Baghdad and Dinar respectively.

California signed 'Right to Die Bill for Terminally Ill People'

On 05th October 2015 California signed 'Right to Die Bill for Terminally Ill People' into the law after the doctor's supervision. California became 5th State in the country after Oregon, Washington, Vermont and Montana who signed the law.

BRICS countries signed the joint declaration

BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have issued a joint declaration to ensure to legal migration amongst the countries. 7th BRICS Summit 2015 held in Ufa, Bashkortostan, Russia. 8th BRICS Summit 2016 will be held in New Delhi, India. 9th BRICS Summit 2017 will be held in China.

5th Indo-China Joint Military Exercise namely 'Hand-in-Hand 2015' started in China

5th Indo-China Joint Military Exercise namely 'Hand-in-Hand 2015' started at Kunming Military Academy of Yunnan, China will be held between 12th to 23rd October 2015.

V20 Group (Finance Ministers of 20 countries) launched

To fight with climate change, V20 Group (Finance Ministers of 20 countries) launched on 08th October 2015 at Lima, Peru during the annual meeting of International Monetary Fund and World Bank held at Lima, Peru. V20 Climate Risk Pooling Mechanism launched on the event. India will not be the part of V20 Group.

'ASCmei.T' mobile app launched by University of Southampton, Britain

'ASCmei.T' mobile app launched by University of Southampton, Britain on 02nd October 2015 with the aim to aware the people with autism.

K.P. Sharma Oli became Prime Minister of Nepal

K.P. Sharma Oli became Prime Minister of Nepal on 09th October 2015. He led Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML).

Jioji Konrote became President of Fiji

Jioji Konrote became President of Fiji on 11th October 2015. He also known as 'George Konrote'. Prime Minister of Fiji is Frank Bainimarama. Capital and Currency of Fiji is Suva and Dollar respectively.

European Union launched 2nd phase of Operation Sophia (Naval operation) Mediterranean Sea

European Union launched 2nd phase of Operation Sophia (Naval operation) in Mediterranean Sea on 07th October 2015 to fight human traffickers as launched by EUNAVFOR MED.

India-China joint military training exercise namely 'Hand-in-Hand' started

India-China joint military training exercise namely 'Hand-in-Hand' started on 12th October 2015 at Kunming, China.

China operationalized the Zam Hydropower Station on Bhramputura River in Tibet

China operationalized the Zam Hydropower Station on Bhramputura River in Tibet on 12th October 2015. The dam is considered as World's highest altitude hydropower station. It will produce 2.5 bn kw hours of electricity.

Alexander Lukashenko became President of Belarus for 5th time

Alexander Lukashenko became President of Belarus for 5th time on 11th October 2015 while Prime Minister of Belarus is Andrei Kobyakov. Capital and Currency of Belarus is Minsk and Ruble respectively.

'Select USA' the roadshow started by USA

On 13th October 2015, the roadshow started by USA 'Select USA' held in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata with the aim to offer the companies invested in USA. The campaign started by US Department of Commerce. It was earlier initiated in 2011. It is important to noting that Thummalapally is 4th fastest source of investment in USA.

China overtaken USA in terms of population of middle class

According to report on global wealth by Credit Suisse, China overtaken USA in terms of population of middle class and became World's largest country.

Malabar Naval Exercise started between India, USA and Japan

Malabar Naval Exercise started between India, USA and Japan on 13th October 2015 in Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean.

Pranab Mukherjee became 1st President of India to address Parliament of Israel 'Knesset'

Pranab Mukherjee became 1st President of India to address Parliament of Israel 'Knesset' on 13th October 2015 also the 1st visited Israel. President and Prime Minister of Israel is Reuven Rivlin and Benjamin Netanyahu respectively. Capital and Currency of Israel is Jerusalem and Shekel respectively.

Portugal became 1st European country to sign up MoU on establishment of Nalanda University

Portugal became 1st European country to sign up MoU on establishment of Nalanda University on 09th October 2015. The University was established in 427 AD during the reign of Gupta King 'Sakraditya'.

Pakistan signed an agreement with Russia for 1100 km gas pipeline project

Pakistan signed an agreement with Russia for 1100 km gas pipeline project on 15th October 2015 lies from Lahore to Karachi. The project will complete by December 2017. Earlier, both the countries signed the defence deal also.

Onsari Gharti Magar became 1st female House Speaker of Nepal

Onsari Gharti Magar appointed as House Speaker of Nepal on 16th October 2015. She became 1st female Speaker in Nepal.

Indonesia signed an agreement with China to build high speed railway network

Indonesia signed an agreement with China to build high speed railway network in Indonesia as announced on 16th October 2015.

Malaysia proposed to invest \$30bn in India

Malaysia proposed to invest \$30bn in India as announced on 15th October 2015 as announced by Construction Industry Development Board, Malaysia. Malaysia will invest mainly in urban development and housing projects and in smart cities projects also.

'Koppu' (Lando) hit Northern Philippines

Typhoon namely 'Koppu' (also known as Lando) hit Northern Philippines on 18th October 2015.

Parents of St. Therese canonized by the Pope Francis

Parents of St. Therese of France canonized by the Pope Francis on 18th October 2015 became 1st couple for their service to Church. St. Therese is popularly known as 'Little Flower' in the World.

Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay became non-permanent members of United Nations Security Council

Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay became non-permanent members of United Nations Security Council on 15th October 2015 for two years begin on 01st January 2016.

Justin Trudeau of Liberal Party became 2nd youngest Prime Minister of Canada

Justin Trudeau (43 years) of Liberal Party became 2nd youngest Prime Minister of Canada on 19th October 2015. The 1st youngest was Joe Clark (40 years) of Conservative Party. Record 19 India-origin candidates have won the election in which 16 are related with Punjab.

United Nations completed 70 years of its establishment

United Nations completed 70 years of its establishment on 24th October 2015. Earlier, on 24.10.1945, United Nations established.

Hurricane Patricia struck Mexico

Hurricane Patricia, the powerful storm, struck the Pacific Coast of Mexico on 23rd October 2015 having speed of 190mph.

Ashok-Alexander Sridharan sworn-in as Mayor of Bonn, Germany

Ashok-Alexander Sridharan, an Indian origin became Mayor of Bonn, Germany on as sworn-in on 21st October 2015. Bonn is 18th most populated city in Germany.

USA designated Brett McGurk as Special Presidential Envoy to US-led coalition fighting ISIS

USA designated Brett McGurk as Special Presidential Envoy to US-led coalition fighting ISIS as announced on 23rd October 2015.

Vice-President of Maldives Ahmed Adeb arrested

Vice-President of Maldives Ahmed Adeb arrested on 24th October 2015 on suspicion of links to a blast on President's boat occurred on 28th September 2015 earlier. President of Maldives is Abdulla Yameen.

National Affairs

Indian Government cleared the 1st batch of projects under AMRUT



Indian Government cleared the 1st batch of projects under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for 89 cities from 3 States as announced by Urban Development Ministry worth Rs.2786 Crore.

Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval areas divided

Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval areas divided by Indian Government into two separate headquarters as announced on 21st October 2015 with the aim to seek better vigilance on the sea border with Pakistan.

Commemorative stamp on Dr.B.R. Ambedkar released on his 125th birth anniversary

The commemorative stamp on Dr.B.R. Ambedkar released by the Government of India on 30th September 2015 on his 125th Birth anniversary. He called as 'Father of Indian Constitution' and awarded with Bharat Ratna in the year 1990.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of 'Amravati'

The foundation stone of new capital of Andhra Pradesh 'Amravati' laid by PM Modi on 22nd October 2015 which is being modeled after 'Singapore'. Amravati was the capital of Satavahanas, the great Andhra King ruled from 2nd BC to 3rd AD. The ceremony performed at Village Uddandarayunipalem, Guntur.

17th All India Government Whips Conference held in Visakhapatnam

17th All India Government Whips Conference held in Visakhapatnam on 29th and 30th September 2015.

4 Brand Ambassadors Pranav Mistry, Satwat Jagwani, Krati Tiwari and Ankit Fadia appointed for Digital India Programme

4 Brand Ambassadors Pranav Mistry, Satwat Jagwani, Krati Tiwari and Ankit Fadia appointed by India on 29th September 2015 for Digital India Programme with the aim to mass awareness.

World's highest Terrestrial Research Centre built by DRDO

World's highest Terrestrial Research Centre built by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) in Changla, Ladakh on 04th October 2015 located at 17,600 feet. Director General of DRDO is J. Manjula.

'Khadi Utsav' organized by the State Government of Gujarat in Ahmedabad

'Khadi Utsav' organized by the State Government of Gujarat in Ahmedabad on 02nd October 2015 on the eve of 146th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The State also announced 25% discount on Khadi products produced in the Gujarat and 15% on produced in any other State.

26th Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia started

26th Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia started on 03rd October 2015 at Andaman Sea. It is important to noting that it is first ever bilateral exercise between the countries.

India will spend about Rs.70,000 Crore for the development of major parts of the country

Government of India will spend about Rs.70,000 Crore for the development of major parts of the country under Sagarmala Project as announced by Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Jairam Gadkari in the meeting National Sagarmala Apex Committee.

National Green Tribunal ordered to levy environmental tax on trucks entering Delhi

National Green Tribunal ordered to levy environmental tax on trucks entering Delhi under Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

3 new AIIMS will be established in India

3 new AIIMS will be established in India as decided by govt. of India on 06th October 2015 i.e. Nagpur, Manglagiri (Andhra Pradesh) and Kalyani (West Bengal) costs about Rs.5000 Crore. under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016 will be held in New Delhi

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016 will be held in New Delhi during the period 08th to 10th January 2016. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2015 organized in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

National War Memorial will be established in Delhi

National War Memorial will be established in Delhi as announced by the Government of India on 07th October 2015. It will be established at National War Museum at Princess Park, India Gate.

1st Rajasthan Startup Policy 2015 launched

1st Rajasthan Startup Policy 2015 launched on 08th October 2015 with the aim to start the ecosystem in the State as launched by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

India's 1st Dolphin Community Reserve to come up in West Bengal

India's 1st Dolphin Community Reserve to come up in West Bengal with the aim to protect Mammal, Gangetic River Dolphins as announced by Chief of State Wildlife Board Azam Zaidi.

High-risk area boundary of maritime piracy shifted

High-risk area boundary of maritime piracy shifted from India's western coastline shifted from 78 degree East to 65 degree East longitude.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust will be establish in Mumbai

The foundation stone of India's largest container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust laid in Mumbai by PM Narendra Modi on 11th October 2015 costs about Rs.7900 Crore.

Tamil Nadu banned Ketoprofen drug to save vultures

Tamil Nadu banned Ketoprofen drug to save vultures on 12th October 2015 in 3 districts Erode, Coimbatore and Nilgiris. It is a non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug.

National Mission for Green India for 4 states Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand approved

National Mission for Green India for 4 states Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand approved by Union Environment Ministry.

Environment Compensation Charge on commercial vehicles imposed by Supreme Court of India

Environment Compensation Charge on commercial vehicles imposed by Supreme Court of India on 12th October 2015 while entering in Delhi during the period 01st November 2015 to 29th February 2016.

India approved Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar

India approved Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar on 13th October 2015 for Revised Cost Estimate costs about Rs.2904.04 Crore with the aim to promote economic and commercial relations between the countries. President of Myanmar is Thein Sein. Capital and Currency of Myanmar is Naypyidaw and Kyat respectively.

DRDO's Missile Complex renamed as APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex

DRDO's Missile Complex renamed as APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex on the eve of his 84th birth anniversary situated in Hyderabad. He had joined Missile Complex in 1982. He remained 11th President of India during 2002 to 2007.

Supreme Court allowed the voluntary use of Aadhaar Card for four schemes

Supreme Court allowed the voluntary use of Aadhaar Card for four schemes i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, scheme related to Pension and PF.

Arjun Vajpai and Bhupesh Kumar climbed an untouched mountain peak 'Mount Kalam'

Indian Mountaineers Arjun Vajpai and Bhupesh Kumar climbed an untouched mountain peak namely 'Mount Kalam' named it after APJ Abdul Kalam on 21st October 2015 situated in Spiti Valley, Near Bara Shigri Glacier, Himachal Pradesh. They became 1st people to climb 6180 meter peak. Earlier in 2010, Arjun Vajpai became youngest Indian to climb Mount Everest (16 years). He scaled 17 peaks in India.

Indian Railways will get electricity from open market

For the first time, Indian Railways will get electricity from open market as announced on 15th October 2015. North Central Railways became 1st to purchase electricity under an agreement with Adani Power Ltd. ADL will supply 50 mw power at Rs.3.69 per unit for the next 3 years.

Supreme Court of India declared National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) unconstitutional

Supreme Court of India declared National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) as unconstitutional on 16th October 2015 as decided by five-Judge Constitutional Bench of SC.

Rajasthan notified 5% quota for Gujjars and other SBCs

Rajasthan notified 5% quota for Gujjars and other SBCs as announced on 16th October 2015 under Rajasthan Special Backward Classes Reservation Act, 2015. The State also provide 14% reservation to economically backward classes.

Maharashtra became 2nd State to declare drought his State after Karnataka

Maharashtra became 2nd State to declare drought his State on 17th October 2015 as 14708 village came under deficient by over 50%. The 1st one State was Karnataka who declare the State drought hit in August 2015.

Uttar Pradesh announced Rs.50000 monthly pension to Yash Bharti awardees

Uttar Pradesh announced Rs.50000 monthly pension to Yash Bharti awardees as announced on 20th October 2015. The award was established in 1994 given in literature, fine arts, folk and classical music and sports. Journalist Vinod Mehta awarded with Yash Bharti Samman 2015.

Karnataka and Gujarat lifted ban on Maggi Noodles

Karnataka and Gujarat lifted ban on Maggi Noodles as announced on 19th October 2015. Maggi Noodles is Nestle India's popular instant food brand.

Tunnel Technology Institute will be set up at Margao, Gao

Tunnel Technology Institute will be set up at Margao, Gao by Konkan Railway as announced by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 19th October 2015. The institute titled as 'George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology'.

Urvashi Rautela became Miss Diva 2015

Urvashi Rautela became Miss Diva 2015 as announced on 18th October 2015 event held in Mumbai while Natasha Assadi became 1st runner up and Naveli Deshmukh was 2nd runner up.

MCOCA passed in Maharashtra

Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) passed in Maharashtra against the hoarders and black marketers as approved on 20th October 2015. Earlier, the law was enacted in 1999.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Ventakeswara Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Hub in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Ventakeswara Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Hub in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh on 22nd October 2015. It will become 1st dedicated mobile manufacturing electronics hub of India under Make in India initiative. On this occasion, Fast Track Task Force (FTTF) also launched to promote mobile handset manufacturing eco-system in India.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of new capital city of Andhra Pradesh 'Amravati' which is located on the bank of river Krishna. Krishna is 4th largest river in India after Ganges, Godavari and Narmada. It is 1400 km long.

Indian Police Foundation and Indian Police Institute inaugurated in New Delhi

Indian Police Foundation and Indian Police Institute inaugurated in New Delhi under Societies Registration Act 1860 as inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

1st Car Free Day observed in Delhi

1st Car Free Day observed in Delhi on 22nd October 2015 with the aim to encourage the people to use public transport between 7 AM till 12 Noon connecting Red Fort to India Gate via Delhi Gate and ITO. On 22nd day of every month observed as 'Car Free Day' as decided by Government of Delhi.

Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) of Indian Air Force established at Walong, Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh

An Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) of Indian Air Force established at Walong, Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh as inaugurated on 23rd October 2015. It is important to noting that this was in operations in 1962 Indo-China War which is situated at 20km south of China border.

Induction of women as IAF fighter pilots approved

Induction of women as IAF fighter pilots approved by Union Defence Ministry on 24th October 2015. It is important to noting that earlier on 08th October 2015, IAF celebrated its 83rd formation day.

New Schemes

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) launched

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) launched by the Government of India on 29th September 2015. It will enable the educational institutions to set the objective parameters.

NOC Online Application Portal and Processing System launched

NOC Online Application Portal and Processing System (NOAPS) for the National Monument Authority launched by the Minister of Culture Mahesh Sharma on 29th September 2015.

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot on 24th September 2015.

'Citizen Portal' launched by the State Government of Odisha

'Citizen Portal' launched by the State Government of Odisha on 02nd October 2015 namely 'www.citizenportal-op.gov.in'. The portal will provide services under issuance of FIR copies, character certificates etc.

2nd phase of Mission Indradhanush launched by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

2nd phase of Mission Indradhanush launched by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 04th October 2015 in 352 cities. The mission covered 7 diseases i.e. Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Polio, Tuberculosis, Measles and Hepatitis B.

'Amo Doli Programme' in Odisha

The healthcare programme 'Amo Doli Programme' launched by the State Government of Odisha on 04th October 2015 in naxal-affected area Rayagada District.

50% subsidy on seeds provided by Telangana

50% subsidy on seeds provided the State Government of Telangana as announced on 04th October 2015.

KISAN Project and Hailstorm App launched by the Government of India

KISAN Project and Hailstorm App launched by the Government of India on 05th October 2015 called as Crop Insurance by using Space Technology and Geoinformatics.

Operation Valsalya launched by Kerala

Operation Valsalya launched by the State Government of Kerala to find out the missing children as announced on 09th October 2015. It is important to noting that about 69 children have been kidnapped or abducted in the State till June 2015 while 116 in 2014.

Mission Abaas launched by Odisha

Mission Abaas launched by the State Government of Odisha on 11th October 2015 with the aim to provide affordable houses to urban poor.

'Bill Banvao, Inaam Pao' scheme launched by Government of Delhi

'Bill Banvao, Inaam Pao' scheme launched by Government of Delhi on 13th October 2015 to aware the people for purchase. The maximum prize is Rs.50,000/-.

'mSehat' launched by Uttar Pradesh

The mobile app 'mSehat' launched for health workers by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh on 13th October 2015.

Rameswaram will be developed under AMRUT Project

Rameswaram, the birth place of Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 15th October 2015 included as 498th town under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Total 500 cities selected to be developed under AMRUT Project.

‘My Brick My Amaravati’ launched by Andhra Pradesh

The scheme titled as ‘My Brick My Amaravati’ launched by Andhra Pradesh on 15th October 2015 under each citizen invited to purchase e-bricks for Rs.10 each. CM will be laid the foundation of the capital ‘Amaravati’ lies between Vijayawada and Guntur.

Swadhar Greh scheme launched by Haryana

Swadhar Greh scheme launched by the State Government of Haryana on 18th October 2015, will provide economic and social security to women in distress.

New Integrated Licensing Policy 2015 announced by Haryana

New Integrated Licensing Policy 2015 announced by the State Government of Haryana as announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on 23rd October 2015 with the aim to develop Hyper and High Potential Urban Complexes.

Festivals and Days held

International Translation Day observed 30th September 2015

International Translation Day observed in all over the World on 30th September 2015 under the theme ‘The Changing Face of Translation and Interpreting’.

International Day for Older Persons (Senior Citizens Day) observed on 01st October 2015

International Day for Older Persons (Senior Citizens Day) observed on 01st October 2015 under the theme ‘Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment’. Vayoshreshtha Samman given to distinguished senior citizens.

International Day of Non-Violence observed on 02nd October 2015

International Day of Non-Violence observed on 02nd October 2015 i.e. on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is also referred as Gandhi Jayanti.

World Habitat Day observed on 05th October 2015

World Habitat Day observed on 05th October 2015 under the theme ‘Public Spaces for All’. The day organized on first Monday of October. The day was firstly celebrated in the year 1986.

National Anti-Drug Addiction Day observed on 02nd October 2015

National Anti-Drug Addiction Day observed on 02nd October 2015 on the eve of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

World Egg Day observed on 09th October 2015

World Egg Day observed on 09th October 2015 in all over the World as inaugurated by National Egg Co-ordination Committee with the aim to aware the people about the nutritional value of eggs. Egg white consists 87% water and 13% protein.

World Post Day observed on 09th October 2015

World Post Day observed on 09th October 2015 in all over the World. On this day in the year 1874, Universal Postal Union was established in Bern, Switzerland.

International Day of Girl Child observed on 11th October 2015

International Day of Girl Child observed on 11th October 2015 under the theme ‘The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030’. In 2011, on the resolution of Canada, UNGA approved it as International Day of Girl Child.

World Food Day observed on 16th October 2015

World Food Day observed on 16th October 2015 under the theme 'Social Protection and Agriculture'. Firstly, the day was celebrated in 1981.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed on 17th October 2015

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed on 17th October 2015 under the theme 'Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination'.

World Statistics Day observed on 20th October 2015

World Statistics Day observed on 20th October 2015 under the theme 'Better Data, Better Lives'. 1st World Statistics Day was observed in 2010.

World Polio Day observed on 24th October 2015

World Polio Day observed on 24th October 2015 in all over the World. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched the day in 1988.

Reports

G-20 summit 2018 will be held in India

G-20 summit 2018 will be held in India while 2016 held in China and 2017 held in Germany and 2015 is in Antalya, Turkey.

India became World's largest cotton producer

According to data released by International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), India became World's largest cotton producer on 30th September 2015. India produced 6.51 mn tonnes cotton.

Union Agriculture Ministry launched the report

According to the report of Union Agriculture Ministry, there is 12.5% food items contain unapproved pesticides as the report released on 02nd October 2015. The survey held under the scheme 'Monitoring of Pesticide Residues'.

'The World's Women 2015' released by United Nations

According to the report 'The World's Women 2015' released by United Nations, mortality rate among Indian girls below the five years of age higher than the boys. Moreover, Global Maternal Newborn Health Conference held in Mexico.

Agreements

India signed 18 agreements with Germany

India signed 18 agreements with Germany in various sectors at 3rd Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultations. The MoUs are MoU on Solar Energy, MoU on Aviation Security etc.

12 Pacific Rim countries sign Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement

12 Pacific Rim countries sign Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement on 05th October 2015. The countries are Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Darussaleam, Japan, Canada, USA, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia and New Zealand. The agreement will cover 36% of the global economic output.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed between India and Maldives

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed between India and Maldives on Criminal matters on 20th October 2015 as approved by Union Cabinet of India. The President of Maldives is Abdulla Yameen. Capital and Currency is Male and Rufiyaa respectively.

Sports

Abhishek Verma won Silver Medal at Archery World Cup

Abhishek Verma became 1st Indian to win Silver Medal at Archery World Cup on 25th October 2015 while Mario Cardoso of Mexico won Gold Medal. Abhishek Verma won Gold Medal in Asian Games 2014.

Heena Sidhu won Gold Medal in 10 m Air Pistol event in Asian Air Gun Championship

Heena Sidhu won Gold Medal in 10 m Air Pistol event in Asian Air Gun Championship on 30th September 2015. She was India's 1st Pistol Shooter to ranked No.1 in the World. India topped the championship with 17 medals included 6 Gold Medals.

Sportzlive appointed as Official Marketing Partner for 2nd Indian Badminton League 2016

Sportzlive (company situated in Delhi) appointed as Official Marketing Partner for 2nd Indian Badminton League 2016 on 30th September 2015 held during 02nd January to 17th January 2016 as approved by Badminton Association of India.

Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis won Wuhan Open Women's Doubles title

Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis won Wuhan Open Women's Doubles title on 04th October 2015. This is 7th World Tennis doubles title won by Indo-Swiss couple in the year 2015. The other six are Indian Wells Open, Miami Open, Charleston Open, Wimbledon, US Open and Guangzhou Open. While Venus Williams of USA won Women's singles title of the event.

Luis Leao Pinto of Portugal won MTB Himalaya Title

Luis Leao Pinto of Portugal won MTB Himalaya Title 2015 on 04th October 2015 in Solo men's category for the 2nd time as received the crown titled as 'King of the Himalaya' while Catherine Williamson of UK won Open Women's Solo category. The event also known as Asia's Premier Mountain Biking Race as sponsored by Hero Cycles India held in Himachal Pradesh.

FIBA Asian Basketball Championship won by China

FIBA Asian Basketball Championship won by China on 03rd October 2015 after defeating Philippines held at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Sergey Karjakin of Ukraine born Russian won World Cup Chess Championship

Sergey Karjakin of Ukraine born Russia won World Cup Chess Championship held at Baku, Azerbaijan on 06th October 2015. He has the record for being World's youngest Chess Grandmaster at just 12 years 7 months. Earlier, in 2014 he won Norway Chess Tournament.

Women's European Volleyball Championship won by Russia

Women's European Volleyball Championship won by Russia on 04th October 2015 after defeating Netherlands. Hans Nieuwerkerke of Netherlands awarded with Fair Play Award.

Deborah Herold (Cyclist) became 1st ever Indian to win five Medals at Taiwan Cup

Deborah Herold (Cyclist) became 1st ever Indian to win five Medals at Taiwan Cup on 07th October 2015. She is tribal girl from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won China Open Women's Doubles title of Tennis

Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won China Open Women's Doubles title of Tennis on 09th October 2015. It is 8th title won by the pair. The list is: Indian Wells Open, Miami Open, Charleston Open, Wimbledon, US Open, Guangzhou Open, Wuhan Open and China Open.

Men's singles title of China Open won by Novak Djokovic

Men's singles title of China Open won by Novak Djokovic of Serbia, Women's singles title won by Garbine Muguruza of Spain, Men's doubles title won by Vasek Pospisil of Canada and Jack Sock of USA, Women's doubles title won by Sania Mirza of India and Martina Hingis of Switzerland.

Ajay Jayaram won Dutch Open Grand Prix Badminton tournament

Ajay Jayaram won Dutch Open Grand Prix Badminton tournament on 11th October 2015, became 1st India to win Badminton Grand Prix tournament under 11x5 scoring system. Earlier, he won Korea Open Badminton tournament also. He won 3 international titles yet i.e. New Zealand Open, Thailand Open and Czech Open.

Lewis Hamilton won Russian Grand Prix of Formula 1

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes Driver) of Britain won Russian Grand Prix of Formula 1 on 11th October 2015. It is his 9th title in 2015. The list is: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, China, Italy, Japanese, Russia and UK. He became 1st British driver won highest number of titles.

Punjab National Bank won Beighton Cup of Hockey

Punjab National Bank won Beighton Cup of Hockey on 11th October 2015 after defeating Indian Oil Corporation. The Cup was established in the year 1895, it is considered as the oldest hockey tournament. The event is organized by Bengal Hockey Association.

Shweta Rathore qualified for World Bodybuilding Championship to be held in Thailand

Shweta Rathore became 1st Indian female won Silver Medal in 49th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Championship held in Uzbekistan on 07th October 2015. Now, with this win, she qualified for World Bodybuilding Championship held in Thailand.

Zaheer Khan retired from International Cricket

Zaheer Khan retired from International Cricket as announced on 15th October 2015. He had played 2 Tests and taken 311 wickets and 282 wickets in 200 ODIs. He became 4th highest wicket taker of India after Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev and Harbhajan Singh.

Xuerui Li of China won women's singles title of Denmark Open Badminton Title

Xuerui Li of China won women's singles title of Denmark Open Badminton Title on 18th October 2015 after defeating P.V. Sindhu while Chen Long of China won men's singles title. The event formerly known as Danish Open.

Great Britain won Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey title

Great Britain won Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey title on 18th October 2015 after defeating India played in Malaysia. The event established in 2011 named after Sultan of Johor. India won two titles in 2013 and 2014.

Saketh Myneni of India won Vietnam Open Tennis title

Saketh Myneni of India won Vietnam Open Tennis title on 18th October 2015 after defeating Jordan Thompson. Saketh Myneni won two titles till now earlier, he won Indore Open.

Virender Sehwag retired from International Cricket

Virender Sehwag retired from International Cricket on 19th October 2015. He scored 8273 ODI runs in 251 matches and scored 8586 runs in 104 Test matches. He awarded with Arjuna Award in 2002, Test Player of the year 2010, Padma Shree in 2010.

Novak Djokovic won Shanghai Rolex Masters Tennis title

Novak Djokovic won Shanghai Rolex Masters Tennis title on 18th October 2015. It is his 3rd Shanghai title in last 4 years. He ranked at No.1 position in World ranking.

Kuwait Football Association suspended by FIFA

Kuwait Football Association suspended by FIFA on 16th October 2015 for government interference. Kuwait is ranked at No.128 in FIFA Ranking.

Seong-Jin Cho of South Korea won International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition

Seong-Jin Cho of South Korea won International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition on 20th October 2015 held in Poland. The event was started in 1927 held every 5 years.

Carolina Marin of Spain became No.1 in World Ranking

According to the report of Badminton World Federation Carolina Marin of Spain became No.1 in World Ranking. Earlier, Saina Nehwal of India was No.1 in World ranking as announced on 22nd October 2015.

1st Paragliding World Cup started in Himachal Pradesh

1st Paragliding World Cup started in Bir Billing, Near Baijnath, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh on 22nd October 2015. Snow leopard is the official mascot of the event, flagged off by Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju.

1st World Indigenous Games started in Palmas, Brazil

1st World Indigenous Games started in Palmas, Brazil on 22nd October 2015 as flagged by President of Brazil Dilma Rousseff.

Business and Economy

India emerged as most favoured nation in FDI

According to the data on FDI in 1st half of 2015 released by Financial Times, London, India emerged as most favoured nation in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) with 31 Capex (billion dollars) followed by China and USA.

Britain signed nuclear deal with China

Britain signed nuclear deal with China on 21st October 2015 with the aim to build 1st nuclear power plant in UK since 1980 as signed during the visit of President Xi Jinping. Prime Minister of Britain is David Cameron.

Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) Bank started its operations in India with 23 branches

Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) Bank started its operations in India on 01st October 2015 with 23 branches in Mumbai, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh initially.

Asian Development Bank will provide \$120mn to India-Bangladesh Electricity link upgradation

Asian Development Bank will provide \$120mn to India-Bangladesh Electricity link upgradation as announced on 01st October 2015. The Headquarter of ADB is in Manila, Philippines and Head is Takehiko Nakao and has 67 member countries.

Maharashtra imposed 'drought tax' to tackle the drought situation

The State Government of Maharashtra imposed 'drought tax' to tackle the drought situation of the State. Since the year 1973, it happened 1st time in the State.

India has pledged to reduce greenhouse gases emissions

India has pledged to reduce greenhouse gases emissions intensity of the GDP by 33-35% as announced by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javdekar.

GAIL has 10% stake in TAPI project

In Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has 10% stake as announced on 04th October 2015. The project is 1735 km long lies between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Under the project natural gas of Caspian Sea will be transport in four nations. In India it lies through Fazilka, Punjab.

Advantage Healthcare India 2015 launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Advantage Healthcare India 2015 launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 05th October 2015 as announced in International Summit on Medical Value Travel held.

UCO Bank registered as highest increase in gross Non-performing Assets

UCO Bank registered as highest increase in gross Non-performing Assets in the fiscal year 2014-15 as announced on 04th October 2015 and became the worst performer in the list of public sector banks.

Annual meeting of Boards of Governors of World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund held at Lima, Peru

The annual meeting of Boards of Governors of World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund started on 06th October 2015 at Lima, Peru. World Bank has 188 member countries.

India will grow at 7.5% in 2015

According to the report of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), GDP of India will grow at 7.5% in the year 2015 as announced on 06th October 2015.

Indian Government approved the protocol on Double Taxation Avoidance

Indian Government approved the protocol on Double Taxation Avoidance with Israel and Vietnam as announced on 07th October 2015.

Self-portrait of Amrita Shergill sold for Rs.17 Crore in London

Self-portrait of Amrita Shergill sold for Rs.17 Crore in London on 08th October 2015 in the auction held at House Sotheby's. Earlier, in 1931 Boris Taslitzky of France received the painting. She also known as 'India's Frida Kahlo'.

Forbes released top 50 rich families of the World

According to the report of Asia's Richest Families list released by Forbes on 07th October 2015, Lee (Byung-Chull) family of South Korea topped the list with \$26.6bn. Top family of India is Ambani family with \$21.5bn ranked at 3rd position. Moreover, Premji family and Mistry family of India ranked at 7th and 10th positions respectively.

India granted \$5 mn to Palestine as Budgetary Assistance

India granted \$5 mn to Palestine as Budgetary Assistance on 12th October 2015 as President of India visited Palestine, Jordan and Israel. Prime Minister of Palestine is Rani Hamdallah and Capital is Ramallah.

African Development Bank decided to triple annual climate financing

African Development Bank decided to triple annual climate financing to about \$5 bn by the year 2020 as announced by its President Akinwumi Adesina on 09th October 2015. It has 80 member countries.

BSE became World's fastest stock exchange

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became World's fastest stock exchange with a median response time of 6 micro seconds. Ashish Kumar Chauhan is its Managing Director and CEO.

TRAI made mandatory to compensate for call drops

From 01st January, 2016, each telecom company will compensate to consumer Rs.1 for call drops as made mandatory by TRAI on 16th October 2015 as per the 9th amendment. The Chairman of TRAI is Ram Sewak Sharma.

Jharkhand signed an agreement with Gail India Ltd.

Jharkhand signed an agreement with Gail India Ltd. on 15th October 2015 to create gas and city gas distribution infrastructure of Urja Ganga Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline.

'Abof.com' launched by Aditya Birla Group

Online fashion store 'Abof.com' launched by Aditya Birla Group on 16th October 2015.

RBI signed an agreement with Central Bank of UAE

RBI signed an agreement with Central Bank of UAE for supervisory information exchange on 18th October 2015.

Fiscal balance turned surplus in August 2015 for the 1st time in last 8 years

Fiscal balance turned surplus in August 2015 for the 1st time in last 8 years as announced by Controller-General of Accounts as the revenue increases and expenditure decreases.

India among the top 10 investors in USA in 2015

According to the report on cross border Merger and Acquisition Index released by Baker & McKenzie on 18th October 2015, India is among the top 10 investor in USA in 2015.

'Vivo' the mobile company of Brazil, assigned the title sponsorship of IPL

'Vivo' the mobile company of Brazil, assigned the title sponsorship of Indian Premier League on 18th October 2015 as announced by BCCI.

Import Duty on Wheat increased by 10% to 25%

Import Duty on Wheat increased by 10% to 25% as announced on 19th October 2015 which will be valid till 31st March 2016.

RCAM signed an agreement with Goldman Sachs

Reliance Capital Asset Management (RCAM) signed an agreement to acquire Goldman Sachs mutual funds business in India worth Rs.243 Crore as announced on 21st October 2015.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed between India and Maldives

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed between India and Maldives on 21st October 2015 in criminal matters with the aim to boost the efficiency in investigation of crime.

India imposed anti-dumping duty on auto parts of China

India imposed anti-dumping duty on auto parts of China on as announced on 22nd October 2015 for the period of 5 years.

Japan offered soft loan to India for bullet train project

Japan offered soft loan to India for bullet train project on 22nd October 2015 worth \$15bn (Rs.90,000 Crore) viz. Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor (505 km) as announced by Japan International Cooperation Agency.

RBI allowed banks to fix interest rates on Gold Deposit Scheme

RBI allowed banks to fix interest rates on Gold Deposit Scheme on 22nd October 2015 under Gold Monetisation Scheme. Gold Deposits will have the terms 1-3 years, 5-7 years and 12-15 years.

Agreements

New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV) Convergence signed an agreement with Taboola

New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV) Convergence signed an agreement with Taboola worth Rs.100 Crore on 30th September 2015. Under the agreement, Taboola will serve as exclusive and content discovery partner in the sections of NDTV.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone signed an agreement with L&T

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) signed an agreement with L&T for Kattupalli Port Operations on 02nd October 2015. Kattupalli Port situated in Tamil Nadu.

India signed an agreement with Ecuador

India signed an agreement with India-Ecuador to establish Ecuador Joint Economic and Trade Committee on 08th October 2015.

Future Group signed an agreement with Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved

Future Group signed an agreement with Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved on 09th October 2015 to sell Patanjali FMCG products.

Etihad Airways signed an agreement with IBM worth \$700mn

Etihad Airways signed an agreement with IBM worth \$700mn on 13th October 2015. Etihad Airways is 2nd largest airline of UAE headquartered at Khalifa, Abu Dhabi having CEO James Hogan.

Rajasthan signed 27 MoUs under Housing for All scheme

Rajasthan signed 27 MoUs under Housing for All scheme on 13th October 2015 worth Rs.12478 Crore. The State became 1st to implement it.

'Arun Jaitley chosen as 'Finance Minister of the Year, Asia'

According to the 'Emerging Markets', Arun Jaitley chosen as 'Finance Minister of the Year, Asia' on 13th October 2015 while Atiur Rahman of Bangladesh chosen for 'Central Bank Governor of the Year, Asia'.

Tata Housing signed an agreement with Facebook

Tata Housing signed an agreement with Facebook on 14th October 2015 to sell the homes online. Tata Housing launched the campaign 'Social Sell' on Facebook. Earlier, Tata Housing signed an agreement with Housing.com and Snapdeal.com.

Grant Agreement on GIPL signed between Poland and Lithuania

Grant Agreement on GIPL signed between Poland and Lithuania on 15th October 2015 with the aim to end the energy isolation of Baltic Sea region. It became 1st gas interconnector between Eastern Baltic Sea and Continental Europe. It has total length of about 534 km.

Ashoka Buildcon signed an agreement with National Highways Authority of India

Ashoka Buildcon signed an agreement with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on 24th October 2015.

Reports

Global Competitiveness Index 2015 released by World Economic Forum

According to Global Competitiveness Index 2015 released by World Economic Forum on 30th September 2015 on 140 countries. Switzerland topped the list for 7th consecutive year while India ranked at 55th position as compared to 71st position in the last year.

World Bank released the report

According to the report of World Bank released on 05th October 2015, 10% World's population will be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2015 for the first time. Headquarter of World Bank and President is Washington DC and Jim Yong Kim respectively. World Bank raised new International poverty line to \$1.90 from \$1.25.

IMF released the report

According to the report released by International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's growth forecast for the year 2015-16 is 7.3%. The Headquarter of IMF is in Washington D.C. and Managing Director is Christine Lagarde.

Awards and Books

'Hungry Bengal: War, Famine, Riots and End of Empire, written by Janam Mukherjee released

The book titled as 'Hungry Bengal: War, Famine, Riots and End of Empire, written by Janam Mukherjee released on 30th September 2015. The book depicts the history of Bengal before and after independence.

Kartik Chandran awarded with MacArthur Fellow

Kartik Chandran, an Indian-American Associate Professor named as MacArthur Fellow on 30th September 2015. He also awarded with National Academies of Science Fellowship, National Science Foundation Career Award etc.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier won Right Livelihood Award 2015

Sheila Watt-Cloutier won Right Livelihood Award 2015 on 01st October 2015. She shared the prize with Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesara of Uganda and Dr.Gino Strada of Italy.

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2015 presented in Mumbai

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2015 presented on 30th September 2015 in Mumbai. It is important to noting that Forbes is business magazine of USA. CEO of Forbes is Michael Perlis, founder is B.C. Forbes and founded in the year 1917. The list is:

- Best CEO of Multinational Company – Uday Shankar, Star India Pvt. Ltd.
- Best CEO of Public Sector – Arundhati Bhattacharya, State Bank of India
- Best CEO of Private Sector – C.P. Gurnani, Tech Mahindra Ltd.
- Lifetime Achievement Award – R.C. Bhargava, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.
- Entrepreneur for the Year – Uday Kotak, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Ratan Tata awarded with UK City of Coventry

Ratan Tata awarded with UK City of Coventry on 01st October 2015. Moreover, Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, an Indian-American Prof. was also awarded with the award. Earlier in the year 2000 Ratan Tata awarded with Padma Bhushan and in 2008 awarded with Padma Vibhushan.

Zenia Bhumgara became 2nd Indian awarded with Merlin Award by International Magicians Association

Zenia Bhumgara became 2nd Indian who awarded with Merlin Award by International Magicians Association on 30th September 2015. 1st Indian who received the award is Prodip Chandra Sorcar, Jr.

Youyou Tu of China, Satoshi Omura of Japan and William Campbell of Ireland awarded with Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine

Youyou Tu of China, Satoshi Omura of Japan and William Campbell of Ireland awarded with Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine on 04th October 2015.

'Ruled or Misruled: Story and Destiny of Bihar' written by Santosh Singh

The book titled as 'Ruled or Misruled: Story and Destiny of Bihar' written by Santosh Singh released on 30th September 2015. The book depicts the matter on hope and construction under Nitish Kumar.

Shashi Kapoor awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award of Jagran Fest

Shashi Kapoor awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award of Jagran Fest on 05th October 2015 held in Mumbai. Shoojit Sircar awarded with Best Director for the film 'Piku'.

Trichy Municipal Corporation awarded with Skoch Award

Trichy also known as Tiruchirapalli Municipal Corporation won Skoch Smart Governance Award on 21st September 2015 for effective solid waste management.

Takaaki Kajita of Japan and Arthur B. McDonald of Canada jointly won Nobel Prize in Physics

Takaaki Kajita of Japan and Arthur B. McDonald of Canada jointly won Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 as selected by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. They awarded in the field of 'Neutrinos'.

Nayantara Sahgal will return her Sahitya Akademi Award

On 06th October 2015 Nayantara Sahgal, Sahitya Akademi Awardee in 1986, announced to returning her award to protest against the failure to safeguard the Indian cultural diversity. In 1986, she was awarded for English Novel 'Rich Like Us (1985). She is the Niece of former PM Jawahar Lal Nehru. Earlier, Uday Prakash also announced to returning the Award.

Noble Prize in Chemistry announced

Tomas Lindahl of UK, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar of USA awarded with Nobel Prize in Chemistry for DNA studies on 06th October 2015.

'The Clintons War on Women' written by Roger Stone and Robert Morrow released

The book titled as 'The Clintons War on Women' written by Roger Stone and Robert Morrow released on 07th October 2015.

Svetlana Alexievich of Ukraine won Nobel Prize in Literature

Svetlana Alexievich of Ukraine won Nobel Prize in Literature on 07th October 2015. She also awarded with Swedish PEN Prize in the year 2007.

'The Courage to Act-A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath released

The book titled as 'The Courage to Act-A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath' written by Ben S. Bernanke released on 07th October 2015.

Nulagi, an Indian Film won Popular Choice Award at Climate CoLab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Nulagi, an Indian Film won Popular Choice Award at Climate CoLab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology on 07th October 2015.

National Dialogue Quartet, Tunisia won Nobel Peace Prize 2015

National Dialogue Quartet, Tunisia (Nobel Committee of Norway) won Nobel Peace Prize 2015 for contribution in building pluralistic democracy in wake of 2011 Jasmine Revolution.

Angus Deaton of Scotland won Nobel Prize in Economics

Angus Deaton of Scotland won Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

I.V. Sasi awarded with J.C. Daniel Award

I.V. Sasi, the famous film maker of Malayalam, awarded with J.C. Daniel Award on 12th October 2015. Earlier in 1982, his film 'Aaroodam' awarded with Nargis Dutt Award. The award is given by Kerala annually in the field of Department of Cultural Affairs.

Marlon James of Jamaica won Man Booker Prize 2015

Marlon James of Jamaica won Man Booker Prize 2015 on 13th October 2015 for his novel 'A Brief History of Seven Killings'. He became 1st Jamacian to win the Prize. The award was established in 1969.

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred with Honorary Doctorate by Al-Quds University, Ramallah, Palestine

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred with Honorary Doctorate by Al-Quds University, Ramallah, Palestine on 13th October 2015.

Dalip Kaur Tiwana returned her Padma Shri award

Punjabi Writer Dalip Kaur Tiwana became 1st Writer to return 'Padma Shri' award on 13th October 2015 to protest against communal tension in the country. She awarded with Padma Shri in 2004 and Sahitya Akademi in 1971.

Kailash Satyarthi awarded with Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award

Kailash Satyarthi awarded with Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award on 13th October 2015. Earlier, he awarded with Nobel Peace Prize and became 8th India.

Lobsang Sangay awarded with Presidential Medal

Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of Tibet awarded with Presidential Medal by Salisbury University, USA on 14th October 2015 for promoting peace.

Indian short film 'An Old Dog's Diary' awarded at London Film Festival

Indian short film 'An Old Dog's Diary' awarded at London Film Festival on 18th October 2015. London Film Festival was established in the year 1957.

'Smita Patil: A Brief Incandescence' written by Maithili Rao released

The book titled as 'Smita Patil: A Brief Incandescence' written by Maithili Rao released on 18th October 2015 i.e. her 60th birth anniversary.

K. Chockalingam won Paul H. Appleby Award

K. Chockalingam, famous criminologist, won Paul H. Appleby Award on 20th October 2015 as presented by Indian Institute of Public Administration. He is the founder of Indian Society of Victimology (ISV).

'Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India' written by Sam Pitroda released

The book titled as 'Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India' written by Sam Pitroda released on 19th October 2015. The book depicts the journey of Satnarayan Gangaram Pitroda who also called as 'Father of Indian Telecom Revolution'.

Robert Mugabe awarded with Confucius Peace Prize by China

Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe awarded with Confucius Peace Prize by China on 22nd October 2015. Earlier in January 2015, he appointed as Chairman of African Union. It is important to noting that Zimbabwe became separate from UK in 1980.

Appointments

Shashank Manohar appointed as unopposed as President of BCCI

Shashank Manohar appointed as unopposed President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 04th October 2015. BCCI established in the year 1928 earlier known as Calcutta Cricket Club.

Dr. Anup K. Pujai gets additional charge of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Dr. Anup K. Pujai gets additional charge of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on 01st October 2015. He is Secretary of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise.

Jack Dorsey appointed as CEO of Twitter

Jack Dorsey appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter for 2nd time. Earlier, he appointed in the year 2007.

Ashish Bahuguna gets additional charge of CEO of FSSAI

Ashish Bahuguna gets additional charge of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India on 04th October 2015. Earlier, he was Chairman of FSSAI.

Hoesung Lee of South Korea appointed as Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC)

Hoesung Lee of South Korea appointed as Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) on 07th October 2015 as R.K. Pachauri of India resigned due to involved in sexual abuse scandal. The Headquarter of IPCC is in Geneva, Switzerland established in 1988 by UNEP and WMO. It has 195 member countries.

Shekhar Basu appointed as Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission

Shekhar Basu appointed as Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy on 08th October 2015. The Commission was established in the year 1948.

Allah Rakha Rahman appointed as Ambassador for Seychelles

Allah Rakha Rahman of India (famous composer) appointed as Cultural Ambassador for Seychelles on 08th October 2015. He awarded with 2 Academy (Oscar) Awards, 2 Grammy Awards, BAFTA Awards and Golden Globe Award. Recently he awarded with Hridayanath Mangeskar Award for his contribution of Indian Music.

Issa Hayatou appointed as Interim President of FIFA

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) suspended the its President Sepp Blatter along with Vice-President Michel Platini and Jerome Valcke on 08th October 2015. Moreover, FIFA banned Chung Mong-joon for six years. Now, Issa Hayatou of Cameroon (Head of Africa's Football Confederation) will became Interim President of FIFA.

Telenor India appointed Sharad Mehrotra its CEO

Telenor India appointed Sharad Mehrotra as its CEO on 12th October 2015. The Headquarter of Telenor India is in Oslo, Norway.

Alkesh Sharma appointed as CEO and MD of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation

Alkesh Sharma appointed as CEO and MD of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation on 12th October 2015 as announced by Appointments Committee of Cabinet. The corridor will pass through six states Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Kundhavi Kadiresan appointed as Assistant Director General of UNFAO

Kundhavi Kadiresan appointed as Assistant Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific on 14th October 2015 while the Director General of FAO is Jose Graziano da Silva. Its Headquarter is in Rome, Italy.

M.K. Surana appointed as CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

M.K. Surana appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. on 16th October 2015.

Shreehari Aney appointed as Advocate General of Maharashtra

Shreehari Aney appointed as Advocate General of Maharashtra on 16th October 2015 under the provisions of Article 165 of the Indian Constitution.

Vijay Kumar Malhotra appointed as President of All India Council of Sports (AICS)

Vijay Kumar Malhotra appointed as President of All India Council of Sports (AICS) on 19th October 2015. AICS is an advisory body established in July 2015.

AB de Villiers, Cricketer of South Africa appointed as Brand Ambassador of MRF

AB de Villiers, Cricketer of South Africa appointed as Brand Ambassador of MRF Ltd. (Tyre manufacturing unit) on 20th October 2015. He is ODI Captain of South Africa.

Justice Tinlianhang Vaiphei appointed as acting Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court

Justice Tinlianhang Vaiphei appointed as acting Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court on 19th October 2015.

Anil Kumble appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Raipur Rangers'

Anil Kumble appointed as Brand Ambassador of Champions Tennis League team 'Raipur Rangers' as announced on 20th October 2015. The team owned by Abhishek Mishra and Chinmay Tiwari.

Alok Rawat appointed as first ever male member of National Commission of Women

Alok Rawat appointed as first ever male member of National Commission of Women (NCW) on 21st October 2015. Lalitha Kumaramangalam is the Chairperson of NCW.

Naseer Khan Januja appointed as National Security Advisor of Pakistan

Naseer Khan Januja appointed as National Security Advisor of Pakistan on 22nd October 2015.

Science and Technology

20th Satellite for BeiDou Navigation System launched by China

20th Satellite for BeiDou Navigation System launched by China on 30th September 2015 by using Long March-3B.

DNA sequencing based blood test developed by researchers of University of California, San Francisco

DNA sequencing based blood test developed by researchers of UCSF on 28th September 2015 with the aim to diagnose Ebola and other pathogens led by Charles Chiu, University of California, San Francisco.

Nano technology based treatment for Fungal Keratitis developed by the Scientists of CCMB

Nano technology based treatment for Fungal Keratitis developed by the Scientists of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) on 26th September 2015.

China successfully launched 20th Satellite for BeiDou Navigation System

China successfully launched 20th Satellite for BeiDou Navigation System on 30th September 2015 using Long March 3-B carrier rocket. It is 2nd generation of navigation system of China.

INS Astradharani commissioned into Indian Navy

INS Astradharani commissioned into Indian Navy on 06th October 2015. It is 1st totally indigenously designed and built Torpedo launch and recovery vessel.

'Science Express Climate Action Special' (Climate Change Special) started in India

The special train named as 'Science Express Climate Action Special' (Climate Change Special) started in India on 15th October 2015. The train will run till 07th May 2016 and run across Patiala, Ambala etc. About 190 countries would meet in Paris in December 2015 in Global Climate Summit.

Trident Juncture Military Exercise in Italy launched by NATO

Trident Juncture Military Exercise in Italy launched by North Atlantic Treaty Organization on 19th October 2015.

Deaths

Edida Nageswara Rao died

Edida Nageswara Rao, the famous Cinema Producer of Andhra Pradesh, died on 04th October 2015. It is important to noting that Telugu Cinema also known as 'Tollywood'.

Ravindra Jain died

Ravindra Jain, the famous Music Director, died on 09th October 2015. He directed the music in various famous songs like Ram Teri Ganga Maili in the year 1985. He also awarded with Filmfare Award for Best Music for this song, also awarded with Lata Mangeshkar Lifetime Achievement Award for Maharashtra and Padmashri in the year 2015.

Manorama died

Manorama, the famous Tamil Actress died on 10th October 2015. She awarded with Padma Shri in 2002, also awarded with National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1989.

Former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Radhakrishna Hariram Tahiliani died

Former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Radhakrishna Hariram Tahiliani, died on 14th October 2015. He was 11th Chief of Naval Staff.

Ashwini Kumar, the Honorary Member of International Olympic Committee, died

Ashwini Kumar, the Honorary Member of International Olympic Committee, died on 20th October 2015. He was remained President of Indian Hockey Federation for about 16 years and remained President of Punjab Olympic Association for 12 years also.

Cheques - Types and Crossing of Cheques

Section 6 of the Negotiable Instrument Act defines a cheque as, "A bill of exchange drawn on a specified banker and not expressed to be payable otherwise than on demand."

A cheque is a kind of bill of exchange or an unconditional order in writing, addressed by customer with signature to the bank to pay a certain amount to the bearer or as per order.

* Bills of Exchange - It is written and signed order directing the person named in it to pay a certain amount of money only to, or to the order of a certain person or to the bearer.

PARTIES TO CHEQUE

- **DRAWER** - The person who signs the cheque and order for payment
- **DRAWEE** - It is always bank on which cheque is drawn and is ordered to pay the amount of cheque.
- **PAYEE** - The person to whom the cheque is payable. (In many cases, drawer and payee can be the same person.)

TYPES OF CHEQUES

(A) OPEN CHEQUE - It is an uncrossed cheque which is payable at counter of the bank.

It can be Bearer Cheque or Order Cheque.

- **BEARER CHEQUE** - When a cheque is payable to a person whose name appears on the cheque or to the bearer i.e. to the person who presents the cheque to the bank for

encashment, is called bearer cheque. It can be transferred by mere delivery and do not need endorsement.

- **ORDER CHEQUE** - When a cheque is payable to person named in the cheque or to his order, is called Order Cheque. When the word Bearer is cancelled, the cheque becomes the order cheque. It can be transferred only by endorsement and delivery.

(B) CROSSED CHEQUE - It is the cheque on which two parallel transverse lines are drawn across the top left, with or without the word :

- (i) ' & Co.'
- (ii) Not Negotiable
- (iii) A/c Payee

It cannot be encashed at the counter of the bank, can only be credited to the account of the payee.

(C) STALE CHEQUE - The validity of cheque is for three months. If cheque is not presented within the three months, it got expired and becomes the Stale Cheque or Out-dated cheque.

* Earlier the validity of cheque was for six months, it has been reduced to three months, with effect from April 1, 2012.

(D) ANTE- DATED CHEQUE - A cheque contains the date on which it is drawn. If it bears a prior date or back date, it is called Ante-Dated cheque. Bank will honour this cheque until it exceed the three months, i.e. stale period of cheque.

(E) POST-DATED CHEQUE - If the cheque bears the date later than the date on which it is drawn, is called Post-Dated Cheque. This cheque can not be honoured before the date written on it.

(F) MULTILATED CHEQUE - A cheque which is torn into pieces is called Multilated cheque.

CROSSING OF CHEQUES

Crossing of Cheques means to draw two lines transverse parallel on left hand corner of the cheque. It directs the bank to deposit the money directly into the account and not to be pay cash at the bank counter.

MODES OF CROSSING

Below are the modes of crossing of cheques and the effect of crossing of cheques:

(1) GENERAL CROSSING - When a cheque bears two transverse parallel lines at the left hand of its top corner. Words such as 'and company' or any other abbreviation (such as & co.) may be written between these two parallel lines, either with or without words 'not negotiable', is called General Crossing.

Effect - Payment can be paid through bank account only, and should not be made at counter of paying bank.

(2) SPECIAL CROSSING - When a cheque bears the name of the bank in between the two parallel lines, with or without the words 'not negotiable' is called Special Crossing.

Effect - The bank will pay to the banker whose name is written in between the crossing lines.

(3) RESTRICTIVE CROSSING / ACCOUNT PAYEE CROSSING - In this, crossing of cheques is done by writing Account Payee or Account Payee only in between the crossing lines.

Effect - Payment will be credited to the account of payee named in the cheque.

(4) DOUBLE CROSSING - When a cheque bears two special crossing, is called Double Crossing. In this second bank act as agent of the first collecting banker. It is made when the banker in whose favour the cheque is crossed does not have branch where the cheque is paid.

Contactless Cards in India - Tab and Go

Nowadays, many banks have launched contactless ATM/Debit cards or also know as Tab and Go ATM /Debit cards.

What is contactless card and how it is different from earlier ATM/Debit card we use

Contactless ATM or Debit card uses Near field communication (NFC) or Radio frequency technology(RFID) for making instant payments in secure way at Point of Sale terminals. In this there is not need to swap the card at POS or merchant outlets but just have to wave or tap the card near the contactless card reader for making payments. This card provides more secure way for making payments as there is no need to give the card to other person to swap, and card never leaves your hand ,so provide protection against fraud or stealing .

To increase the use of chip enable contactless cards and to provide hassle free transactions RBI has come up with guidelines,

For any low value transactions up to Rs2000 there is no need for additional factor of verification for contactless card ,means a customer using contactless card it is not mandatory for him to enter PIN at POS for transactions up to Rs2000 he can simply make payments by just waving the card at POS terminal and transactions above Rs 2000 it is mandatory to enter PIN for authentication.

All contactless card should be EMV chip enable.

Advantages of Contactless card

- Provides more secure way for making payments at POS terminals.
- Faster processing of transactions-As card holder can completed low value card transactions by contactless card in less amount of time.
- Convenience in card transactions.

First bank to launch the contactless card in India was ICICI bank,It has launched two contactless card named Coral contactless credit card and Expressions wave debit card followed by Axis bank and SBI bank(sbiINTOUCH).With ease in use and more secure, more and more banks will come up with contactless card to provide their customers fast way of making card payments.

List of Reports published by International Organizations

Sr.	Name of Report	Organization
1.	World Investment Report	UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Current Affairs 2015

2.	Human Development Index	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
3.	Gender Inequality Index	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
4.	Millennium Development Goals	UNO (United Nations Organization)
5.	Global Financial System Report	BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)
6.	Global Innovation Index Published	INSEAD
7.	World Development Report	IBRD (World Bank)
8.	Ease of Doing Business	IBRD (World Bank)
9.	Global Talent Competitiveness Index	INSEAD
10.	Intellectual Property Rights	WTO (World Trade Organization)
11.	The Energy Report & Living Planet Report by	WWF (World Wildlife Fund)
12.	Carbon Emission Index was Published by	UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
13.	Global Terrorism Index	IEP (Individualized Education Programme)
14.	Global Peace Index	IEP (Individualized Education Programme)
15.	Global Money Laundering Report	FATF (Financial Action Task Force)
16.	World Economic Outlook	IMF (International Monetary Fund)
17.	Global Competitive Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)
18.	Travel & Tourism Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)
19.	Environmental Performance Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)
20.	Global Information Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)
21.	Levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report	UN Inter-agency Group
22.	India State of Forest Report	Forest Survey of India
23.	Interest Subvention Report 2015-16	Reserve Bank of India
24.	Change the World List Data	Fortune

State Bank Of India - Key Facts and Latest Schemes

STATE BANK OF INDIA, government-owned corporation is India's oldest and largest commercial bank.

ESTABLISHMENT

- In 1806, SBI was commenced as Bank of Calcutta. (2 June, 1806)
- In 1809, the bank was renamed as Bank of Bengal. (2 Jan, 1809)

- In 1921, the bank was known as Imperial Bank of India. (27 Jan, 1921)

Note - Imperial Bank of India was formed by merger of three presidency bank - Bank of Bombay (founded in 1840) , Bank of Madras (founded in 1843) and Bank of Bengal (founded in 1809) under Imperial Bank of India Act 1920.

- On **1st July 1955**, Imperial Bank of India became **STATE BANK OF INDIA** under State Bank of India Act, 1955.

SUBSIDIARIES

State Bank of India (Subsidiary Bank Act) was passed in September, 1959 by the government.

There are five banking subsidiaries of State Bank of India:

1. State Bank of Hyderabad (First Subsidiary of SBI)
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (Merged in 1963)
3. State Bank of Mysore
4. State Bank of Patiala
5. State Bank of Travancore

Note - State Bank of Saurashtra and State Bank of Indore were merged with SBI in 2008 and 2010 respectively. There were originally eight subsidiaries acquired in 1959.

KEY FACTS

- Headquarters of SBI - **Mumbai**
- Chairperson - **Arundhati Bhattacharya**
- Owner - **Government of India**
- Slogans - **The Banker To Every India; Pure Banking, Nothing Else; With You, All The Way; A Bank Of The Common Man; The Nation's Bank On Us.**

SCHEMES AND APPS BY SBI

- **SBI Buddy** - Mobile Wallet App - Used to send money and booking for movies, flights, hotels and can be used for shopping as well,
- **Youth for India** - Indian Rural Fellowship Programme
- **Twitter Handle Account** - To connect with technically proficient generation in better way.
- **Tab Banking Facility** - The staff will visit the customer place and complete the formalities for account opening using Tabs.
- **State Bank Freedom App**- We can transfer funds , internet banking, balance enquiry, check Mini Statement, Cheque book request, Demat Enquiry service and Payment of Bills.
- **Composite Index** - To look forward economic trends.
- **E- KYC**
- **Boutique Financing Scheme** - For women owners of Fashion Boutique
- **State Bank Anywhere** - Retail Internet Banking
- **SBI Quick** - Receive account balance and mini statements by sending a SMS or giving a missed call
- **MCash** - To claim funds sent by SBI customers

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) – Facts

China recently hosted the signing in ceremony of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to bridge the gap between infrastructure finance and development. The signing in ceremony took place in Beijing with 50 countries becomes its founding members.

This multilateral finance institution is different from other world financial institutions as AIIB will only fund the financial assistance for infrastructure development in Asian countries. This step by china is also seen as to challenge the **hegemony of IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank which are dominated by America, Europeans and Japan.**

As of now 50 countries has signed the Article of Agreement as founding members of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank including Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

America, Japan opted to stay out, not to join AIIB.

The AIIB, main focus on :

Development of infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia, including energy and power, transportation and telecommunications, rural infrastructure and agriculture development, water supply and sanitation, environmental protection and urban development etc.

The AIIB head quartered will be located at Beijing, Mr. Jin Liqun appointed as president designate of the AIIB and have initial authorized capital stock of \$100 billion. The voting rights will be based on country's economy not on contribution. China will be 26.06 percent of voting rights followed by India which will have 7.5 percent and Russia with 5.92 percent.

With the establishment of AIIB gives a big boost in infrastructure development of Asian countries as they can now avail loans from their Asian counterpart as against to World Bank or IMF which provide loans with stringent conditions.

GDP, GNP and National Income – Explained

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total flow of goods and services provided by the economy over a specified time period, normally one year.

- Outputs of goods and services are valued at market price and their values aggregated to obtain the GDP. The value of all intermediate goods (Goods used to produce other goods) is excluded and only the value of the goods used for final consumption or investment goods (capital) or exchanges in stocks are included.
- The income arising from investments and possessions owned abroad is not included and only the value of the flow of goods and services produced in the country is estimated.
- When deduction is made for the 'wear and tear' of capital or what is known as depreciation or capital consumption, from GDP, we get the Net Domestic Product (NDP).
- When we add the GDP the net earnings from abroad (the income accruing to domestic residents from investments abroad – the income earned in the domestic market accruing to foreigners abroad), we get the Gross National Product (GNP).
- When such net earnings are adding to the Net Domestic Product (NDP), we have the Net National Product (NNP). The NNP at factor cost is the National Income (NI) of the country.

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's territory in a specific time period.
- GDP is usually calculated on an annual basis. It includes all of private and public consumption, government outlays, investments and exports less imports that occur within a defined territory.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **GDP (At market price)** = GDP at factor cost + Net indirect taxes.
- **Net National Product (At market price)** = GNP at market prices – Consumption of fixed capital (Depreciation).
- **Net National Product (At factor cost)** = NNP at market prices – Net indirect taxes = National Income.
- **Per Capita Income** is derived by dividing the total National Income of a country by its total population.
- **Per Capita Income** = National income / population
- An increase in National income in real terms does not necessarily mean an increase in the Per Capita Income. It rather depends on the rate of population growth.
- National income figures give picture of the economy of a nation and also provide the respective contributions of the different sectors economy. In addition details of changes in savings, investment and consumption.
- In India, an accounting year is from April 1st of a calendar year to March 31st of the next calendar year.
- The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) prepares the annual national accounts.

FACTORS DETERMINE NATIONAL INCOME

National resources / human resources / organization of the factors of production / population size or extent of foreign trade / political system stability / technical knowledge and infrastructure / external factors-loans and favourable terms of trade.

QUESTIONS TO REVISE

What is meant by the Current Account of the country?

The Current Account of the Country: It relates to the trade of goods and services (exports and imports), profits gained on investments and remittances by those working overseas.

Current account deficit means that the total of imports is greater than the total exports which make the country a debtor to the world.

The government constituted a committee on the banking sector reforms. Can you name it?

The government constituted a committee on the banking reforms under the chairmanship of M Narasimham in 1997 with the objective internal autonomy for Public Sector Banks in their decision making process to strength India's financial system and make it internally competitive.

What is Lead Bank Scheme?

The Reserve Bank of India introduced the Lead Bank Scheme in 1969 under which designed banks were made key instruments for local development and were entrusted with the responsibility of identifying growth centers, and co-ordinate approach for credit deployment in each district.

Narasimham Committee on Financial System

A high level committee on Financial System (CFS) was constituted by Government of India in 1991 to examine all aspects relating to structure, organization, function and procedures of the financial system under the Chairmanship of M. Narasimhan.

The Narasimham Committee's recommendations aimed at ensuring

- A degree of operational flexibility of the banks.
- Internal autonomy for Public Sector Banks in their decision making process.
- Considerable professionalism in banking operations.

The major recommendations of the (CFS) or Narasimham Committee I were the following:

- The Banking supervision should be strengthened and its character must be drastically changed i.e., prudential regulations.
- The government accepted these recommendations and through the RBI issued guidelines for income recognition, asset classification and provisioning and adopted the Basel Capital adequacy standard.
- Establishment of a four tier hierarchy for the banking structure with 3 or 4 large Banks including State Bank of India. At the top and Rural Banks at the bottom mainly engaged in financial agriculture and related activities.
- Phased achievement of 8% capital adequacy ratio as recommended by Basel Committee.
- Abolition of branch licensing policy.
- Competition among financial institutions which will adopt a syndicating or participating approach rather a consortium approach.
- Prudential guidelines should govern the functioning of financial institutions.

NARASIMHAM COMMITTEE ON BANKING SECTOR REFORMS

The Government constituted another committee on the banking sector reforms under the chairmanship of M. Narasimhan in 1997.

The following are the major recommendation of Narasimhan Committee II on the banking sector reforms.

1. Creation of stronger banking system by merging public sector Banks and the financial institutions.
2. Stronger Banks and development financial institutions should be merged while weaker and unviable one should be moved up.
3. 10% increase of capital-to-risk weighted adequacy ratio.
4. Do away with budgetary, recapitalization of public sector banks.
5. Strengthening the legal framework for loan recovery.
6. All banks to cut down their net Non Performing Assets (NPAs) to below 5% by 2000 and to 3% by 2002.
7. Continuation of licensing to both Domestic and foreign Private Banks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Define Financial Inclusion.

Financial inclusion means providing to the large inbanked population of India access to financial products and services like deposit accounts and credit facilities, financial advisory services. Steps taken so far promotion for financial inclusion have been the co-operative movement, nationalization of bank, lead bank scheme, regional rural banks, and self help groups and last but not the least no frill accounts.

What is Balanced Growth of an economy?

Growth of an economy in which all aspects of it especially factors of production, grow at the same rate.

What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of all final goods and services currently produced within the domestic territory of a country in a year.

Difference between economic Growth and Economical Development.

Economic growth is the process whereby the real per capita income continues to grow in the long run whereas the economic development is the process whereby the real per capita income increases in the long run along with reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Discuss Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a development that does not deplete resources irreversibly. It is a process of development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Noble Prize Winners 2015

Noble Prize Winners 2015	
National Dialogue Quartet of Tunisia	Peace Prize
Svetlana Alexievich of Ukraine	Literature
Arthur B. McDonald of Canada and Takaaki Kajita of Japan	Physics
Paul L. Modrich (USA), Tomas Lindahl (Sweden) and Aziz Sancar (Turkey)	Chemistry
Satoshi Omura (Japan), Tu Youyou (China) and William C. Campbell (Ireland)	Physiology or Medicine
Angus Deaton of Scotland	Economic Sciences

Noble Prize - Everything you need to know

Nobel Prize

Current Affairs 2015

Year of institution	1901
Founder	Alfred Bernard Nobel
Date on which awarded	December 10
Number of disciplines awarded (6)	1. Physics 2. Chemistry 3. Literature 4. Peace 5. Economics 6. Physiology or Medicine

- It is the most coveted international award of the World.
- It is supported by The Nobel Foundation which was set up in 1900 under the will of Alfred Bernard Nobel (1833-96).
- It was instituted by the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Bernard Nobel (1833-96).
- These awards are presented annually on December 10, death anniversary of the founder and is presented by Swedish King.
- Apart from Economics, all other five categories have been given award since 1901. Economics Nobel Prize was instituted in 1967 and was first given in 1969. It is called the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics.

Twice recipients of Nobel Prize

Same subjects		Different subjects	
Fredric Sanger	Chemistry (1958)	Linus Pauling	Chemistry (1954)
Fredric Sanger	Chemistry (1980)	Linus Pauling	Peace (1963)
John Bardeen	Physics (1956)	Marie Curie	Physics (1903)
John Bardeen	Physics (1972)	Marie Curie	Chemistry (1911)

Indian Nobel Prize Winners

Name	Subject	Year
Rabinder Nath Tagore	Literature	1913
Dr. C.V. Raman	Physics	1930
Dr. Hargobind Khurana	Medicine	1968
Mother Teresa	Peace	1979
Dr. S. Chandrashekhar	Physics	1983
Dr. Amartya Sen	Economics	1999
V.S. Naipaul	Literature	2001
Kailash Satyarthi	Peace	2014

Goods and Services Tax (GST) - India's Biggest Tax Reform

Indirect Tax = Tax the burden of which is indirectly put on us!

We buy garments – there'll be VAT. We eat at KFC – there'll be the sneaky VAT and Service Tax! We are not paying these taxes as an Assessee - the respective tax departments don't know it is us who are paying the taxes for what specific goods/ service we took – it is collected from the mass, every one who buys or uses a service, at the same rate, irrespective of a person's income level.

You buy a pack of biscuits or a person under BPL – both pay indirect tax – and most of the times you don't even know or pay attention as to how much you are paying in indirect taxes!

It could be very easily more than what you pay for your income tax!

What is the scenario today?

Currently India (I mean us the consumers) is reeling under a lot of different indirect taxes – excise duty, VAT, Service Tax, sales tax etc.

Some are levied by the Central Government, while others by the State Government – as India has a 'federal' system of Governments – i.e. two governments, one in the centre and the ones in the states.

Excise and Service tax are central government levied indirect taxes. VAT and Sales tax are State Government levied indirect taxes.

Excise Duty is a tax on the manufacturing of excisable goods. Thus if a manufacturer, manufactures those goods which the central government has deemed to be 'excisable' good(s) – then the manufacturer will have to pay excise duty on those goods.

Service Tax is a tax on 'services rendered' which are not in the 'negative list'. Thus – all services rendered are under the blanker of service tax – except for those which are mentioned in the negative list!

VAT – or Value Added Tax is a stage wise levy of tax on value addition – thus at every stage of 'value addition' VAT is levied and passed on to the next person in the chain of changing hands.

Sales Tax is a tax on sale of goods – interstate and intrastate.

The rules and regulations and compliance procedures of all are different – and complex and tedious – and we're only talking about the popular four indirect taxes!

To bring all these varied and sometimes overlapping taxes under one umbrella and to plug the loopholes that invariably comes with such multiple and confusing and dual taxation system – the concept of GST was formulated.

Goods and Service Tax or GST

GST is a combined or 'one' tax on both goods and services – incorporating the concept of 'value addition' – extending from manufacturing to consumption.

GST is the new 'it' word in today's economic scene – with economists and Finance Ministers to tax payers and Chartered Accountants all eyeing the 2016 roll out with either eager, optimistic, skeptical or doubtful outlooks!

But until GST is a 100% reality – we the students need to know the 101s of what on earth GST is? What is this GST? Is it a three headed tax monster out to chew and drool on our life styles and expendable incomes?

The Salient Features of GST:

- GST will combine the best of all indirect taxes to bring a compact, singular and easy system for levy, collection and assessment of indirect taxes in India.
- Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers and their 'thinkers' are the ones nailing down the details for proper introduction and application and back-end operational requirements, infrastructural requirements, databases, consumer education, and most importantly the procedural compliances during transition stage etc.
- Most important feature - Tax Input Credit under GST – will be available for set-off at every stage.

Input Credit means, if you've paid tax on purchase of any good(s) or procurement of any service(s) and – when selling your goods or services you're required to further pay tax – you can set off your tax payment liability with the tax already paid by you when you procured your inputs.

Example: You are 'special muffin manufacturer'. You buy a whole lot of special ingredients to manufacture your muffin – say you bought multi flavoured syrups for the flavours – you had to pay tax (indirect you see!) to procure the syrups.

Now you used these syrups and made your muffins (this is value addition – without the process of baking, adding of ingredients there would be no muffin) – you sell them – but you got to pay tax on the 'manufactured' muffins!

So you paid tax when you bought the ingredients (input tax) and when you manufactured/ sold them you paid tax again (output tax) – here, you will get the credit of the input tax paid to decrease your liability of output tax.

This is the Input tax credit system simplified for understanding.

- GST will be levied at every stage of value addition.
- Value addition would mean – applying effort on the goods or services to make worth more. By undergoing a certain process, or set of activities – 'value' is being added to the goods or services.
- Under GST – the rate of tax – 'Revenue Neutral Rate' or RNR – is set to not exceed 27% combining both central and state tax rates.
- It will bring more people under the indirect taxes net thereby increasing revenue and also dealing with tax evasion and black money issues.
- Meanwhile a higher rate of Service Tax @ 14%, adding Education Cess to Excise Duty and taking off items from the exempted list are nothing but measured steps towards applying GST – which is slated for a 1st April 2016 release – after having missed numerous past deadlines!
- More specifics on GST will become available as the Government will approach the 2016 deadline so keeping abreast with the development is important.

Pros of GST -

- Easier to understand for the taxpayers and will simplify compliance
- Uniformity of rules and regulations of levy, assessment, collection and rates will mean easier administration and proper collection and voluntary compliance
- Bringing India at par with international taxation standards.
- Increase in revenue for the Governments.

Cons

- States will have revenue sharing issue

- If the dual rate and control system which is existing under the current taxation schemes in India not properly combined – then the purpose of GST is defeated. It'll be the same ol' Service Tax/ Excise Duty and VAT bur under a different name!

That is all folks on GST worth knowing – for bank and insurance exam purposes!

For the successful candidates of IBPS SO (written), SBI Clerical (final), and SSC CGL 14 (Tier 1) – a big congratulations – and for the hopefuls of IBPS PO and Clerical '14 (finals) – keep the prayers on full mode!

Update 9 May 2015

Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, better known as the GST (goods and services tax) Bill passed on Lok Sabha, now it will be presented in Rajya Sabha. As it is a constitutional amendment, at least 50% attendance is required and 2/3 of the votes are required in favour of amendment.

Update 10 October 2015

"Missing the April 1, 2016, deadline does not mean going to 1st April 2017. GST can be implemented anytime during the year" - CBEC

GST can be implemented anytime during 2016. In 2015 Parliamentary sessions, Congress didn't let the Government to pass the bill.

RBI slashes Key Policy Rates

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its policy interest rate. Let's Know more about it.

- On Tuesday, The Reserve Bank of India cut its policy interest rate to a 4 - 1/2 year low of **6.75%**.
- It is deemed as bigger than expected move.
- By cutting 50 basis point to a four year low of 6.75%, the effect is that commercial banks to reduce their loan rates faster.
- This is the fourth cut rate since January 2015.

RBI Policy Rates		
	Current	Previous
Repo Rate	6.75% (w.e.f. 29/09/2015)	7.25% (since 02/06/2015)
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75% (w.e.f. 29/09/2015)	6.25% (since 02/06/2015)
Marginal Standing Facility	7.75% (w.e.f. 29/09/2015)	8.25% (since 2/6/2015)
Bank Rate	7.75% (w.e.f. 29/09/2015)	8.25% (since 2/6/2015)
CRR	4% (w.e.f. 09/02/2013)	4.25% (since 30/10/2012)
SLR	21.5% (w.e.f. 03/02/2015)	22% (since 09/08/2014)

Key Features:

New RBI Monetary Policy is seems to be better because following are some areas in which reforms has been seeking:.

- After changes in RBI's monetary policy Global Growth has moderated especially in emerging market economies (EMEs),
- Further global trade has deteriorated
- Increment in downside risks to growth.
- Slowing global trade volumes, depressed commodity prices, weakening currencies and capital outflows in EMEs.
- It is expected that Exports will be grown up.
- Reduce Inflation.
- GDP decrease from 7.6% to 7.4% due to slower global growth, lack of investment in the private sector and constraints in bank lending etc.

Key Economic Indicators in Indian Economy

In India, we say that, our banking system is one of the robust and rugged systems. Do we have to believe that or not that's later part of discourse? But before that, we need to comprehend some economic vitals to gain an insight into what actually is going around us. For that matter, we don't need to be an expertise in number crunching rather general knowledge would do a way better.

So, what are these key economic indicators?

Economic indicators are statistical tools to understand the economic activity of an entity. What entity? Entity could be any organisation, a firm, an industry of some kind or on a larger context a country. These indicators are handy when one needs to seize the economic health of an entity. These furnish a basis to do analysis of economic performance and of future performance of an organisation.

So, if a firm is in red or doing slack business then these indicators would show the same i.e. unsatisfactory figures. Economic indicators include various indices, earnings reports, and economic summaries. So, what do these economic indicators constitute?

These are unemployment rate, attrition or quits rate (quit rate in U.S. English), consumer price index and wholesale price index (a measure for inflation), consumer leverage ratio, industrial production, bankruptcies, gross domestic product (Nominal and PPP), broadband internet penetration, stock market prices, money supply changes, Foreign exchange reserve (One of the most paramount indicators for India).

Unemployment Rate:-

The **unemployment rate** is a measure of the prevalence of **unemployment** and it is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of **unemployed** individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. During periods of recession, an economy usually experiences a relatively high **unemployment rate**.

In country like USA, Federal employees' job security is so great that workers in many agencies are more likely to die of natural causes than get laid off or fired. According to a vetted report, the federal government fired 0.55% of its workers in the budget year 11,668 employees in its 2.1 million workforces. Research shows that the private sector fires about 3% of workers annually for poor performance. At present, USA has 5.3 percent unemployment rate.

India has presently 3.6 pc unemployment rate reckoned annually. Unemployment Rate in India decreased to 4.90 percent in 2013 from 5.20 percent in 2012 and then to 3.6 percent in

2014. Unemployment Rate in India averaged 7.32 percent from 1983 until 2013, reaching an all time high of 9.40 percent in 2009 and a record low of 4.90 percent in 2013. Unemployment Rate in India is reported by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India. Everyone knows what is GDP and GNP but still let's get a small walk through those two vital indicators.

GDP

Gross Domestic Product is calculated either by measuring all income earned within a country, or by measuring all expenditures within the country, which should approximately be the same.

GNP

Gross National Product uses GDP, but adds income from foreign sources, less income paid to foreign citizens and entities.

GNP can be either higher or lower than GDP, depending on whether or not a country has a positive or negative result from net foreign inflows and outgo.

Though GNP is still calculated, the United States shifted to GDP as its primary economic measure in 1991, in part because most countries in the world use GDP to measure the size and direction of their economies. As a result, GNP numbers are less common than GDP figures. Those definitions aforementioned can be learned upon getting by heart and can be blurted out when an interview would ask. But, if we are economically sound then we should intent on comprehending the subtle part of GDP and GNP.

Now, what is that?

GDP and GNP are calculated based on very specific time periods. But not all the information is available at the same time. This forces the Bureau of Labor Statistics (the agency that reports official GDP in the US) to rely on estimates, resulting in revisions after the fact. Unreported income is another flaw, and one that is not easily remedied. Individuals may under-report income to minimize income tax liability, which will understate the GDP. This can be a problem between countries as well, since under-reporting of income is more prevalent in some countries than in others. Still another problem — given that GDP and GNP is often used to measure economic strength from one country to another — is that reporting tends to be less reliable in some countries than in others. This is especially likely in less developed countries, leading to under-estimates of true national economic output. The lack of comparable reporting from one country to another has given rise to two methods of computing either **GDP or GNP, nominal and purchasing power parity, or PPP.**

Nominal is measuring the size of a nation's economy on the basis of its economy in local currency, converted to dollars (typically). The conversion is based on currency exchange rates in the currency market. PPP ignores currency exchange rates, and measures the economy of countries based on the cost of a common basket of goods and services. For example, housing costs more in the US than it does in India, so housing in India will get a boost in compiling GDP or GNP on the basis of PPP. As a rule, PPP will result in a relatively higher GDP or GNP in a country where costs are lower. PPP adjusts for the fact that a house in the US may cost \$200,000, while a similar home in India may be only \$50,000. It attempts to even out price variations between countries.

As an example, under nominal, in 2015, India's GDP 2,067,501 millions of USD or \$ 2.04 trillion and using PPP, India's GDP is \$ 7,375,900,000,000 — or about 3.6 times higher

Herein below are some figures pertaining to economy of India.

Markets	ast	Reference	Frequency
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Current Affairs 2015

Currency	65.43	Oct/2015	Daily
Stock Market (Sensex)	26933	Oct/2015	Daily
GDP	26933	Oct/2015	Yearly
GDP	2067 USD Billion	Oct/2015	Yearly
GDP Growth rate	7 %	Dec/2014	Quarterly
GNP	56739 INR Billion	Dec/2014	Yearly
GDP Per Capita	1263 USD	Dec/2014	Yearly
GDP Per Capita PPP	5565 USD	Dec/2014	Yearly

Foreign Exchange Reserves:-

Foreign Exchange Reserves in India decreased to 349980 USD Million in September 25 from 352020 USD Million in the previous week. Foreign Exchange Reserves in India averaged 188027.95 USD Million from 1998 until 2015, reaching an all time high of 383643 USD Million in December of 2009 and a record low of 29048 USD Million in September of 1998. Foreign Exchange Reserves in India is reported by the Reserve Bank of India.

Before summing all these up, let's get back to the question which was mooted earlier in the beginning of this very article. Is our banking system robust and rugged? Well, answer is perplexing. We can't say "YES" emphatically or also "NO" either. Reasons are quiet apparent, MUDRA, a heap-praised scheme, has just started operating. But this scheme is going to create an insurmountable problem in long run. How? Providing loans to weaker sections of society without any collateral is a giant blunder. Economically backward people without proper skill set would never use that money to do wonders in their life and at the same time would flunk to repay the loan to bank. That's a desperate attempt to woo people for vote bank but in long run we can't bank on these schemes as this is going create a big hole in bank's pocket. NPA and all, I think I should leave it to the wisdom of readers.

Wildlife Sanctuaries in India list

S.No.	WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES IN INDIA	LOCATION	Area
1.	Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary	Jammu and Kashmir	141km ²
2.	Jim Corbett National Park	Uttarakhand	1318.54 km ² (including core area 520 km ² and buffer area 797.72 km ²)
3.	Sunderbans Wildlife Sanctuary	West Bengal	10,000 km ² (60% in Bangladesh and Remainder in India)
4.	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	950 km ²

Current Affairs 2015

5.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	430 km ²
6.	Ranthambore National Park	Rajasthan	392 km ²
7.	Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary / Bharatpur National Park	Rajasthan	29 km ²
8.	Sasan Gir National Park	Gujarat	1,412 km ²
9.	Kanha National Park	Madhya Pradesh	940 km ²
10.	Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary	Kerala	305 km ²
11.	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	0.3 km ²
12.	Sariska National Park	Rajasthan	866 km ²
13.	Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	895 km ²
14.	Annamalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	958 km ²
15.	Campbell Bay National Park	Great Nicobar Island	426 km ²
16.	Dudhwa National Park	Uttar Pradesh	490.3 km ²
17.	Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve	Uttarakhand	630.33 km ²
18.	Hemis National Park	Jammu & Kashmir	4,400 km ²
19.	Bandhavgarh National Park	Madhya Pradesh	446 km ²
20.	Pench National Park	Madhya Pradesh	257 km ²
21.	Kanchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	1,784 km ²
22.	Bandipur National Park	Karnataka	874 km ²
23.	Wandur National Park/ Mahatama Gandhi Marine National Park	Andaman Island	281.5 km ²
24.	Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary	Karnataka	866.41 km ²
25.	Valley Of Flowers National Park	Uttarakhand	87.50 km ²
26.	Panna National Park	Madhya Pradesh	542.67 km ²
27.	Balpakram National Park	Meghalaya	200 km ²
28.	Similipal National Park	Odisha	2,750 km ²
29.	Kudremukh National Park	Karnataka	600.32 km ²
30.	Eravikulam National Park	Kerala	97 km ²
31.	Bannerghatta National Park	Karnataka	104.3 km ²
32.	Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary	Kerala	90.44 km ²
33.	Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	350 km ²
34.	National Chambal Sanctuary	Rajasthan	5,400 km ²
35.	Orang National Park	Assam	78.81 km ²
36.	Nameri National Park	Assam	200 km ²

Current Affairs 2015

37.	Gorumara National Park	West Bengal	80 km ²
38.	Nokrek National Park	Meghalaya	47.48 km ²
39.	Namdapha National Park	Arunachal Pradesh	1,985 km ²
40.	Gulf Of Kutch National Park	Gujarat	162.9 km ²
41.	Silent Valley National Park	Kerala	236.74 km ²
42.	Gulf Of Mannar Marine National Park	Tamil Nadu	560 km ²
43.	Betla National Park	Jharkhand	979 km ² approx.
44.	Desert National Park	Rajasthan	3,162 km ²
45.	Harike Wetland	Panjab	41 km ²
46.	South Button Island National Park	Andaman Islands	5 km ²
47.	Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary	Telangana	812 km ²
48.	Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary	Bihar	681.99 km ²
49.	Palamau Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand	1,026 km ²
50.	Mudumalai National Park	Tamil Nadu	321 km ²
51.	Galathea National Park	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	110 km ²
52.	Middle Button Island National Park	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	64 km ²
53.	Interview Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	133 km ² approx.
54.	Landfall Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	29.28 km ²
55.	Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve	Andhra Pradesh	3,568 km ²
56.	Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary	Andhra Pradesh	357.6 km ²
57.	Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary	At the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu	481 km ²
58.	Pocharam Forest & Wildlife Sanctuary	Telangana	130 km ²
59.	Pakhui Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh	862 km ²
60.	Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary	Arunachal Pradesh	218 km ²
61.	Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary	Assam	20.99 km ²
62.	Pong Dam Sanctuary	Himachal Pradesh	475 km ²
63.	Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary	Karnataka	431 km ²
64.	Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh	1,197 km ²
65.	Gangotri National Park	Uttarakhand	2,390 km ²

Current Affairs 2015

66.	Palani Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park	Tamil Nadu	737 km ²
67.	Rajaji National Park	Uttarakhand	820 km ²
68.	Nagarahole National Park	Karnataka	642.39 km ²
69.	Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra	625.4 km ²
70.	Papikonda National Park	Andhra Pradesh	1,012.86 km ²
71.	Valmiki National Park	Bihar	Forest area is about 900 km ² out of which the Valmiki Sanctuary is 880 km ² and spread of the National Park is about 335 km ²
72.	Pakhhal Wildlife Sanctuary	Telangana	860 km ²
73.	Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary	Telangana	635.40 km ²
74.	Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary	Bihar	1,342 km ²
75.	Changtang Wildlife Sanctuary	Jammu & Kashmir	4,000 km ²
76.	Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	1,411.6 km ²
77.	Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary	Uttarakhand	599.93 km ²
78.	Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary	Arunachal Pradesh	4,149 km ²
79.	Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	175 km ²
80.	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chhattisgarh	551.55 km ²
81.	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat	607.70 km ²
82.	Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat	4,954 km ²
83.	Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary	Gujarat	444.23 km ²
84.	Biligiriranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary	Karnataka	540 km ²
85.	Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary	Karnataka	526.96 km ²
86.	Ratapani Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	688 km ²
87.	Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary	Chhattisgarh	608.55 km ²
88.	Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary	Karnataka	492.46 km ²
89.	Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary	Kerala	285 km ²
90.	Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary	Maharashtra	423.55 km ²
91.	Gautala Autramghat Sanctuary	Maharashtra	260 km ²
92.	Nalbana Bird Sanctuary	Odisha	15.53 km ²
93.	Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary	Rajasthan	422.95 km ²
94.	Shenbagathoppu Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife	Tamil Nadu	480 km ²

	Sanctuary		
95.	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary	Bihar	50 km stretch of Ganges River
96.	Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	4926.28km ²

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Digital India Program - All you need to know

Last week PM Narendra Modi visited Silicon Valley. Silicon Valley is the hub of IT industry of the world. Let's know about Digital India program :-

The Narendra Modi Cabinet gave approval for Digital India Program on 20 Aug 2014 an ambitious programme to “transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy”.

Conceptualized by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity), Digital India Program will be put into operation from the current year till 2018.

Common Support Infrastructure:

1. Setting up of common and support IT infrastructure such as:
2. State Wide Area Networks (SWANs),
3. State Data Centres (SDCs),
4. Common Services Centres (CSCs) and
5. Electronic Service Delivery Gateways

To Reach 800 Million Rural Citizens till 2019 Government Have to Build Massive Digital Infrastructure

1. A \$17-billion government program to build a national optical fiber network that will connect India's village-level governments or gram panchayats, seek to cover the entire country in three years and could be a game changer,
2. The entire country will be covered by broadband within three years and the internet will reach the remotest villages

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes to make sure so as to

1. A Smartphone in the hands of every citizen by 2019.
2. Currently, nearly 74% of the population has mobile phones, most of which though is in the hands of urban India.
3. All the services can be provided through a mobile handset, in particularly, health, education, all government services and retail

The government will create an enabling platform that will aid in delivering government services to citizens as well as services in the field of education, healthcare, entertainment and e-commerce. General Public services like land records and caste certificates will be made available online on demand online when this program will complete.

In combination among state governments, 20-hour e-literacy training programs in local languages will be conducted in 200,000 community service centres across the country.

Foreign Connections:-

1. The government also plans to hire at least 10 (CIOs) Chief information officer to oversee the Digital India program in key ministries, and create four other senior positions for dealing with adoption of standards and security aspects.
2. CISCO An American network equipment maker wanted to access benefits of cluster manufacturing.
3. Face book also expressed his interest to government of india in delivering governance programmes such as e-education.

Currency war : Currency Devaluation and its Impact

The term Devaluation was in news recently as China devalued its currency .

What is devaluation and what its impact on the China and World economy ?

Devaluation means when the one's country reduce the value of its currency with respect to those good , services and monetary units with which currency can be exchanged. This is done to increase export as export become cheaper when one country devalued its currency and import to that country become costlier .For E.g.1\$ cost 65 rupees for country XYZ but after devaluation 1\$ might be cost Rs70, so after devaluation country XYZ export to different countries become cheaper because have to pay less dollar for XYZ goods become cheaper and import become costlier as to import have to shed more money for import so it can also increase import bills one one's country.

Why China Devalued the yuan

Recently China has devalued the value of its currency Yuan upto 4% against dollar which produced ripple effects in financial markets. As China export to other countries is declining and its economy is getting slower ,So in a surprise move People Bank of China (PBoF) devalued the value of yuan against dollar as in China government uses the U.S dollar as a benchmark against which they manage their currency value.A weaker currency will help China exporter to sell their goods abroad and put American and other countries companies at disadvantage which export goods to China as their goods becomes costlier in China , so this move by PBoC will put pressure on Central Banks of different countries to help their own exporters. So it will reignite the currency war .

IMPACT ON INDIA

1. Put Pressure on Indian Exporter

As India and China compete for several export items like textiles ,gems so cheaper Chinese export will add to disadvantage of Indian exporters .

2. Dumping of Chinese goods in Indian market

Due to yuan depreciation there is fear that it will help china dump cheap goods in Indian market which will impact domestic manufacturers.

Mitra Shakti Military Exercise - 2015

In continuation of military level contacts between armies of two nations, India and Sri Lanka conducting join military exercise in Aundh Camp in Pune from 29-Sept-2015 to 11-oct-2015 named as Mitra Shakti-2015.This exercise will be held for 14 days This is third such exercise between the armies of two nations.

The main objective of this exercise is to :-

- Develop trust , confidence and share expertise, knowledge between the two armies .
- Develop mutual rest and mutual understanding between the armies of two nations.
- Develop military to military level contacts and share their expertise .

India is doing such type of military exercise with many countries but this exercise is very important from the point of two nations as the two militaries, which are often called upon to engage in anti terrorism operations including those under the UN mandate.

Last year Mitra shakti 2014 military exercise was held at Colombo .These types of military exercise is very important to maintain peace, security and prosperity and to built defense ties.

Joint Military Exercises of India 2015

List of Joint Military Exercises :-

Country 1	Country 2	Forces	Exercise Name
India	United states	Naval	Malabar
India	United states	Army	Yudh abhyas
India	United states	Airforce	Redflag
India	United states	Army	Cope
India	France	Airforce	Varuna
India	United kingdom	Army	Ajeya warrior
India	UK	Airforce	Garuda
India	UK	Airforce	Indradhanush
India	Mongolia		Nomadic elephant
India	China		Hand in hand
India	Sri lanka	Military	Mitra shakti 2015 (latest ready to begin)
India	Srilanka	Navy	Slinex
India	Singapore	Navy	Simbex
India	Thailand		Maitree
India	Russia		Indra
India	Australia	Maritime	Ausindex 2015 (latest)
India	Kazakhstan		Khanjar2015 (latest)
India	Uk		Konkan2015 (latest)

Current Affairs 2015

India	Nepal		Surya kiran 8 (latest)
India	Maldieves		Ex ekuverin 2015 (latest)
China	Pakistan		Shaheen (eagle) 2 drill
US	South korea		Able response (bio chemical)
US	Malaysia	Naval	Carat malaysia 2015