

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MAY 2016

Awards

The Indian music composer who has been conferred with Japan's Fukuoka prize for 2016 for his outstanding contribution towards creating, preserving and showcasing South Asian traditional fusion music – **A.R. Rahman**

The Indian author who has been awarded the 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) for her manuscript **Codex: The Lost Treasure Of The Indus** – **Aditi Krishnakumar**

The Indian industrialist who has been awarded the Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award for 2016 – **Sunil Mittal**

The tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh which has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2016 for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme under the category, "conservation of threatened species" – **Pakke Tiger Reserve**

The British film maker who has been awarded the 2016 Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival for his film I, Daniel Blake – **Ken Loach**

The Chief Minister of Sikkim who has been conferred the Yug Kavi Siddhicharan Award by Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli for his commendable contributions in promoting Nepali literature in India – **Pawan Chamling**

The former Chairman of ISRO who has become the first Indian to be honoured with the Hall of Fame award by the International Aeronautical Federation – **Prof. U.R. Rao**

The South Korean author who has been awarded the Man Booker International Prize for his book The Vegetarian – **Han Kang**

The Indian author who has won the regional Commonwealth Short Story Prize for 2016 for the Asia region for his fiction story 'Cow and Company' – **Parashar Kulkarni**

Appointments

The new Chief of Naval Staff who has taken over from Admiral R.K. Dhowan – **Admiral Sunil Lanba**

The former Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs who has appointed the new Chief Minister of Assam – **Sarbananda Sonowal**

The Member of Parliament from Hamirpur (H.P.) who has been elected the President of Board of Control for Cricket in India – **Anurag Thakur**

India's first woman Indian Police Services officer who has been appointed the Lt Governor of Puducherry – **Kiran Bedi**

The former President of the BCCI who has been chosen to be the first independent Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) – **Shashank Manohar**

Sports

The English cricketer who has become the youngest (and the first Englishman) to score 10000 runs in test cricket – **Alastair Cook**

The team which has won the 2016 season of Indian Premier League (VIVO IPL 2016) defeating Royal challengers, Bangalore in the finals at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore – **Sunrisers Hyderabad**
[Note: Player of the series and most runs : Virat Kohli and most wickets: Bhuvaneshwar Kumar]

The team which has won the 2016 Federation Cup football tournament defeating Aizwal F.C. in the finals – **Mohun Bagan**

The European country which has become the first European nation to win the Thomas Cup badminton tournament defeating Indonesia in the finals of the 2016 tournament – **Denmark**

The country which has won the Uber Cup badminton tournament defeating South Korea in the finals at Kunshan Sports Centre Gymnasium, China (India stood at the third position) – **China**

The winners of Italian Open 2016 tennis tournament Men's and Women's singles titles respectively – **Andy Murray and Serena Williams**

The team which has won the Senior National Men's Hockey Championships defeating Punjab in the finals at Etawah (U.P.) – **Railways**

The Egyptian squash player who has become the youngest ever women's squash champion defeating Laura Massaro of the United Kingdom at Naza PSA Women's World Championship in Kuala Lumpur – **Nour El Sherbini**

The team which has won the Asian Circle Style Kabaddi Cup 2016 defeating India in the finals held at Wah cantonment in Paksitan – **Pakistan**

Days and Themes

The theme of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2016 observed on 29 May 2016 – **Honouring Our Heroes**

The theme of International Day for Biological Diversity observed on 22 May 2016 – **Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods**

The theme of World Hypertension Day observed on 17 May 2016 – **Know your numbers**

The theme of International Day of Families observed on 15 May 2016 – **Families, Healthy Lives and Sustainable Future**

The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2016 observed on 10 May – **Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds**

The theme of International Labour Day 2016 observed on 01 May 2016 – **Celebrating the International Labour Movement**

Defence

The bilateral Air Force exercise between India and United Arab Emirates being conducted at Al-Dhafra Air Base in UAE from 24 May 16 to 03 Jun 16 is named – **Exercise Desert Eagle - II**

The first Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft built by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd which was commissioned into the Indian Navy (it is named after an island in the Andamans) – **INS Tarmugli**

The Advanced Air Defence interceptor missile developed by DRDO which was successfully tested on the Abdul Kalam Island located in Odisha is named – **Ashwin**

The fighter aircraft of British origin which has been decommissioned by the Indian Navy – **Sea Harrier**

The Samarth class off-shore patrol vessel (5th in a series of 6 OPVs) which was launched by Goa Shipyard at Vasco – **ICGS Shaurya**

The military training exercise being held by the Indian Army to validate battle readiness and operational effectiveness of the Pivot Formation and Rapid Division in Suratgarh is named – **Chakravyuh-II**

The first of Scorpene class submarines built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd Mumbai (MDL) which underwent its first sea trials is named – **Kalvari**

Persons

The 11-member committee constituted by the Central Government to recommend measures to increase India's combat capabilities of the armed forces and re-balance the overall defense expenditure is headed by – **Lt Gen D B Shekatkar (retd)**.

The French astrophysicist known for his discovery of the rings of Neptune who passed away on 16 May 2016 – **Andre Brahic**

India's oldest living test cricketer who passed away on 16 May 2016 – **Deepak Shodhan**

The Senegalese UN official who has been appointed the first woman Secretary General of FIFA – **Fatma Samoura**

The Indian banker, Executive Vice-chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank who is the only Indian to be list in the Forbes Most Powerful People in the Financial World – **Uday Kotak**

Technology

The indigenously developed fecal incontinence management system, developed by M/s. Consure Medical, New Delhi, launched by the Govt of India is named (Fecal incontinence (FI) is a medical condition marked by inability to control one's bowel movements) – **Qora**

The mobile application launched by the President Dr. Pranab Mukherjee to turn the President's Estate into a smart township is named – **Monitor**

The special electronic grievance redressal system launched by the Income Tax department to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints is named – **e-Nivaran**

Miscellaneous

The public sector bank which has reported a loss of Rs 5,367 crore for the quarter ending 31 Mar 2016, the highest ever for any Indian bank – **Punjab National Bank**

The tropical cyclone which caused widespread rains in Sri Lanka, India and later in Bangladesh was named – **Cyclone Roanu**

The places between which the Uttar Pradesh has decided to develop a 200-km long bicycle highway to encourage eco-tourism – **Agra and Lion Safari in Etawah**

The Government of India has released Commemorative Coin of Rs. 100/- and a Circulation Coin of Rs. 10/- as a part of his 475th birth anniversary celebrations of this ruler of Mewar – **Maharana Pratap**

The state which has granted minority status to the Jain community – **Gujarat**

The high-powered committee appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee the functions of Medical Council of India is headed by – **Former CJI R M Lodha**

The place in Uttar Pradesh from which the Prime Minister has launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (a scheme to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years) – **Ballia**

The Income Declaration Scheme 2016

Open from 1st June 2016.

To remain in force up to 30 Sep 2016

Payments towards taxes, surcharge & penalty must be made latest by 30th November, 2016

Purpose: Provides an opportunity to all persons who have not declared income correctly in earlier years to come forward and declare such undisclosed income(s).

Rate of taxation: Income declared by the eligible persons, would be taxed at the rate of 30% plus a 'Krishi Kalyan Cess' of 25% on the taxes payable and a penalty at the rate of 25% of the taxes payable, thereby totalling to 45% of the income declared under the scheme.

- The scheme shall apply to undisclosed income whether in the form of investment in assets or otherwise, pertaining to Financial Year 2015-16 or earlier.
- Where the declaration is in the form of investment in assets, the Fair Market Value of such asset as on 1st June 2016 shall be deemed to be the undisclosed income under the Scheme. However, foreign assets or income to which the Black Money Act 2015 applies are not eligible for declaration under this scheme.
- Assets specified in the declaration shall be exempt from Wealth tax.
- No Scrutiny and enquiry under the Income-tax Act or the Wealth tax Act shall be undertaken in respect of such declarations.
- Immunity from prosecution under the Income-tax Act and Wealth Tax Act is also provided along with immunity from the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 subject to transfer of asset to actual owner within the period specified in the Rules.
- Non-payment of total taxes, surcharge & penalty in time or declaration by misrepresentation or suppression of facts shall render the declaration void.
- The circumstances in which the Scheme shall not apply or where a person is held to be ineligible are specified in section 196 (Chapter IX) of the Finance Act, 2016.
- Non declaration of undisclosed income under the Scheme, will render such undisclosed income liable to tax in the previous year in which it is detected by the Income tax Department. Other penal consequences will also follow accordingly.

Mission 11 Million

It is a programme formulated by the Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs which will be launched in coordination with FIFA in about 30 cities across the country. The aim of the programme is to popularize and promote the sport of Football in order to make the FIFA U-17 World Cup (to be held in India in 2017) a huge success. The primary objective of the programme is to engage more than 11 million children in activities relating to Football. The programme is likely to be launched in October, 2016.

RAIL HUMSAFAR SAPTAH

The Ministry of Railways has decided to undertake a week long RAIL HAMSAR SPTAAH' from 26th May to 1st June, 2016 to highlight Railway achievements during the last two years. Each day of the week will focus on a particular theme and hence the days have been named as

26th May – Swachhta Diwas

27th May – Satkar Diwas

28th May – Sewa Diwas

29th May – Satarkata Diwas

30th May – Saamanjasya Diwas

31st May – Sanyojan Diwas

1st June – Sanchar Diwas

Launch of RLV-TD

Reusable Launch Vehicle – Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD)

Objectives of RLV-TD:

- Hypersonic aero thermodynamic characterisation of wing body
- Evaluation of autonomous Navigation, Guidance and Control (NGC) schemes
- Integrated flight management
- Thermal Protection System Evaluation

Launch date: **23 May 2016**

Launch station: **Sriharikota**

Brief Details: In this experimental mission, the HS9 solid rocket booster carried the RLV-TD. After a successful flight of 91.1 second, HS9 burn out occurred, following which both HS9 and RLV-TD mounted on its top coasted to a height of about 56 km. At that height, RLV-TD separated from HS9 booster and further ascended to a height of about 65 km.

From that peak altitude of 65 km, RLV-TD began its descent followed by atmospheric re-entry at around Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound). The vehicle's Navigation, Guidance and Control system accurately steered the vehicle during this phase for safe descent. After successfully surviving a high temperatures of re-entry with the help of its Thermal Protection System (TPS), RLV-TD successfully glided down to the defined landing spot over Bay of Bengal, at a distance of about 450 km from Sriharikota, thereby fulfilling its mission objectives. The vehicle was successfully tracked during its flight from ground stations at Sriharikota and a shipborne terminal. Total flight duration from launch to landing of this mission of the delta winged RLV-TD, lasted for about 770 seconds.

National Intellectual Property Rights Policy

The Union Cabinet recently approved the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Vision Statement: An India where creativity and innovation are stimulated by Intellectual Property for the benefit of all; an India where intellectual property promotes advancement in science and technology, arts and culture, traditional knowledge and biodiversity resources; an India where knowledge is the main driver of development, and knowledge owned is transformed into knowledge shared.

Mission Statement:

Stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced intellectual property rights system in India to:

foster creativity and innovation and thereby, promote entrepreneurship and enhance socio-economic and cultural development, and

focus on enhancing access to healthcare, food security and environmental protection, among other sectors of vital social, economic and technological importance.

Objectives:

The Policy lays down the following seven objectives:

1. IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion - To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.
2. Generation of IPRs - To stimulate the generation of IPRs.
3. Legal and Legislative Framework - To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest.
4. Administration and Management - To modernize and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration.
5. Commercialization of IPRs - Get value for IPRs through commercialization.
6. Enforcement and Adjudication - To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.
7. Human Capital Development - To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

These objectives are sought to be achieved through detailed action points. The action by different Ministries/ Departments shall be monitored by DIPP which shall be the nodal department to coordinate, guide and oversee implementation and future development of IPRs in India.

The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy will endeavor for a Creative India; Innovative India: रचनात्मक भारत; अभिनव भारत.

Most Polluted Cities – Report by WHO

As per PM 2.5 Pollution		As per PM 10 Pollution	
Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Zabol (Iran)	1.	Onitsha (Nigeria)
2.	Gwalior (India)	2.	Peshawar (Pakistan)
3.	Allahabad (India)	3.	Zabol (Iran)
4.	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	4.	Rawalpindi (Pakistan)
5.	Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia)	5.	Kaduna (Nigeria)
6.	Patna (India)	6.	Aba (Nigeria)
11.	Delhi (India)	10.	Gwalior (India)

Adoption of United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for adoption of United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics recently.

The adoption of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will bring professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency in methods of collection, compilation and dissemination of official statistics, besides adopting international standards.

The ten Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as endorsed by the UN General Assembly, are set out below:

Principle 1: Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

Principle 2: To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3: To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4: The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5: Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on Respondents.

Principle 6: Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Principle 7: The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

Principle 8: Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Principle 9: The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10: Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

Current Affairs Questions

1. 01 May is the statehood day of which of the following states?

- (a) Maharashtra and Karnataka (b) Gujarat and Rajasthan
(c) Maharashtra and Gujarat (d) Karnataka and Kerala

2. To encourage which of the following sports has the programme Mission 11 Million launched by the Govt of India?

- (a) Football (b) Kabaddi (c) Cricket (d) Athletics

3. Which of the following companies has been in news for having to pay compensation to its consumers who developed cancer after using its talcum powder?

- (a) L'oreal (b) Johnson & Johnson (c) Proctre & Gamble (d) Nivea

4. Who of the following has become the first Indian to be honoured with the Hall of Fame award by the International Aeronautical Federation?

- (a) K. Radhakrishnan (b) K. Kasturirangan (c) U.R. Rao (d) Shailesh Nayak

5. Which country recently was faced with evacuation of more than 1,00,000 people as a result of wildfires covering over 1000 sq km?

- (a) Canada (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) Mexico

6. In which city was the final of 2016 season of Indian Premier League, In which Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Royal Challengers, played?

- (a) Pune (b) Hyderabad (c) Kolkata (d) Bangalore

7. Who of the following film makers was recently honoured by the Swiss government with the installation of a bronze statue?

- (a) Manmohan Desai (b) Shyam Benegal (c) Yash Chopra (d) Satyajit Ray

8. Which of the following has become the first European country to win the Thomas Cup badminton tournament?

- (a) Denmark (b) The Netherlands (c) Austria (d) Switzerland

9. Sadiq Khan was recently sworn in the Mayor of which of the following cities?

- (a) Mumbai (b) London (c) New York (d) Sydney

10. Who of the following has been awarded the 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award?

(a) Uma Krishnaswami (b) Vivek Bhanot (c) Aditi Krishnakumar (d) Parashar Kulkarni

11. Which animal has been officially designated as the National Mammal of the United States of America?

(a) Bison (b) Bull (c) Bear (d) Okapi

12. Recently a gorilla named Harambe was killed by zoo officials to save a child who fell into its enclosures. In which zoo did the incident happen?

(a) Cincinnati Zoo (b) Philadelphia Zoo (c) Columbus Zoo (d) Cleveland Zoo

13. PfSPZ vaccine is being used to prevent which of the following diseases?

(a) Hepatitis (b) Malaria (c) AIDS (d) Ebola

14. Who of the following has been awarded the Man Booker International Prize 2016 for his book The Vegetarian?

(a) Elena Ferrante (b) Orhan Pamuk (c) Yan Lianke (d) Han Kang

15. In which country is Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp located?

(a) Somalia (b) Syria (c) Kenya (d) Greece

16. Exercise Desert Eagle-II was a bilateral Air Force exercise conducted by India and –

(a) UAE (b) Qatar (c) Bahrain (d) Iran

17. Which of the following animals were sighted for the first time in Kargil after the 1999 war?

(a) Brown Bears (b) Hangul (c) Bactrian Camel (d) Yak

18. At what speed did the RLV-TD, India's indigenous reusable launch vehicle make its atmospheric re-entry after attaining a peak altitude of 65km?

(a) 2 mach (b) 3 mach (c) 4 mach (d) 5 mach

19. Which of the following is the world's largest aircraft which made its first landing in India?

(a) Airbus A380-800 (b) Boeing 747
(c) Antonov An-225 Mriya (d) Boeing 787 Dreamliner

20. Who of the following has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ceat Cricket Awards 2015-16?

(a) Kapil Dev (b) Dilip Vengsarkar (c) K Srikanth (d) Anil Kumble

21. In which of the following recent cases did the Supreme Court uphold the constitutional validity of criminal defamation and said that the freedom of press is not absolute?

(a) Swaraj Abhiyan v. Union of India (b) Subramaniam Swamy v. Union of India

(c) Jeeja Ghosh v. Union of India (d) Arvind Kejriwal v. Union of India

22. Tsai Ing-wen has recently taken over as the first female President of which of the following countries?

(a) Taiwan (b) Thailand (c) South Korea (d) Vietnam

23. In which of the following cities is the Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha Gurudwara located?

(a) Amritsar (b) Ottawa (c) Sydney (d) Tehran

24. Which of the following carcinogenic chemicals has been recently found in bread and refined flour products like pizzas and burgers?

(a) Potassium cyanide (b) Potassium bromate (c) Phenol fluoride (d) Titanium dioxide

25. Talgo is a manufacturer of high speed trains based in which country?

(a) Germany (b) South Korea (c) Taiwan (d) Spain

Answers

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (c) 11. (a) 12. (a) 13. (b)
14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (a) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (c) 20. (b) 21. (b) 22. (a) 23. (d) 24. (b) 25. (d)