

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MAY 2015

Awards

The Indian state which has posthumously conferred the Tarana-e-Hind award to the famous Urdu poet Muhammad Iqbal, author of 'Saare Jahan Se Achcha' (received by his grandson Waleed Iqbal) – **West Bengal**

The veteran filmmaker who has been chosen to be awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Kuala Lumpur next month – **Subhash Ghai**

The Hungarian writer who has been awarded the 2015 Man International Booker prize (awarded once in two years, is in recognition of a writer's body of work and overall contribution to fiction rather than to a single novel, unlike Man Booker Prize for Fiction) – **Laszlo Krasznahorkai**

The Chairman of Indo-Arab League and also the Chief Editor of Urdu daily Rahnuma-e-Deccan who has become the first Indian to be awarded 'Star of Jerusalem', the highest civilian honour of Palestine – **Syed Vicaruddin**

The novel written by Neel Mukherjee which has won the £10,000 Encore Award for the year's best second novel – **The Lives of Others**

The Syrian activist and journalist who has been awarded Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2015 by UNESCO for his work as president of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression – **Mazen Darwish**

The Indian airport which has been awarded the Best Airport Award in the 25-40 million category Airport Service Quality by Airports Council International – **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**

The well-known historian, writer and theatre personality who has been chosen to be conferred the Maharashtra Bhushan award by Maharashtra Government – **Babasaheb Purandare**

The French satirical magazine which has been awarded Freedom of Expression Courage Award by American PEN Center – **Charlie Hebdo**

The Indian film directed by Neeraj Ghaywan which has won the prestigious critics prize in the Un Certain Regard category at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival – **Masaan**

The French drama film directed by Jacques Audiard which has been awarded the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival – **Dheepan**

Banking

The private sector bank which has launched a service where customers can make transactions using just their voice – **ICICI Bank**

The public sector bank which has decided to roll out e-huts across the country to provide services to people in rural areas – **IDBI Bank**

The Indian private sector bank which has opened its first branch in China in the city of Shanghai, inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **ICICI Bank**

The public sector bank which has launched contactless debit card operating on Near Field Communication (NFC) technology – **State Bank of India**

The non-executive chairman of ICICI Bank and Infosys (former CEO and MD of ICICI Bank) who has been chosen to head the BRICS Bank – **K.V. Kamath**

Persons

The Swiss football administrator who has been elected the eighth President of FIFA for the fifth time in a row (Prince Ali bin Hussein of Jordan was his opponent in the elections) – **Joseph S. Blatter**

The former Singapore Foreign Minister who has been chosen to be the new Chancellor of the Nalanda University replacing Nobel laureate Amartya Sen (He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2012 in the field of public affairs.) – **George Yeo**

The former MLA and minister from Odisha who has been sworn in as the first woman Governor of Jharkhand – **Draupadi Murmu**

The American Hall of Fame blues singer, songwriter and guitarist who passed away at the age of 89 on May 14, 2015 – **Riley B. King** (stage name B.B. King)

The former President of Egypt who has been sentenced to death over his part in a mass prison break in 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak – **Mohammed Morsy**

The 27 contested letters referred to as Black Spider memos, which are set to be released to the public by the British Government have been written by – **Prince Charles**

The committee constituted by Govt of India to look into the issue of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on FIIs is headed by – **Justice A.P. Shah**

The Chairman of Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, who has been appointed as the new chairman of the National Safety Council (NSC) – **K. Satish Reddy**

Obituary

The well-known crime and mystery writer and creator of fictional Chief Inspector Wexford who passed away on 02 May 15 – **Ruth Rendell**

The acclaimed journalist and Magsaysay Award recipient of 1961 for journalism and literature who passed away on 01 May 2015 – **Amitabha Choudhary**

The British six-time motorcycle Grand Prix road racing champion known as Iron Duke who passed away on 01 May 2015 – **Geoff Duke**

The eminent historian, economist and author of acclaimed book Planter Raj to Swaraj who passed away on 07 May 15 – **Amalendu Guha**

Sports

The IPL team captained by Rohit Sharma which has won the IPL-8 T20 tournament by defeating Chennai Super Kings in the finals at Eden Gardens in Kolkata – **Mumbai Indians**

The state which has been chosen by Indian Olympic Association to host the 12th South Asian Games in November-December 2015 – **Kerala**

The Indian tennis player who has won the Madrid Open Men's Double title along with his partner Florin Mergea defeating Nenad Zimonjic and Martin Matkowski in the finals – **Rohan Bopanna**

The venue of 19th Federation Cup National Senior Athletics Championship held from 01.05.15 to 04.05.15 – **Mangaluru, Karnataka**

The US city which hosted the boxing duel in which the American boxer Floyd Mayweather defeated Manny Pacquiao (from Philippines) in what is being as the richest fight of all times – **Las Vegas**

Discoveries

The country in which scientists have discovered a new human ancestor species Australopithecus deyiremeda that lived alongside the famous 'Lucy' (Australopithecus afarensis) up to 3.5 million-years ago – **Ethiopia**

The African country in which the oldest stone tools estimated to be about 3.3 million years old have been discovered (the surpass the next oldest tools found at Gona, Ethiopia estimated to be 2.6 million years old.) – **Kenya**

World's first warm-blooded fish which has been discovered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA is named – **Opah**

The new species of caecilian (limbless) amphibian discovered by scientists from the Government College, Chittur, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), and Natural History Museum, London, in the southern part of the Western Ghats and named after a river in Kerala – **Gegeneophis Tejaswini**

Places

The city in which the first ever Global Mobile App Summit was held from 28 to 29 May 2015 and GMASA Awards given to app developers – **Chennai**

The country where researchers have successfully developed the first automated teller machine (ATM) with facial recognition technology to reduce the risk of theft – **China**

The country which has been removed by the United States of America from its list of state sponsors of terrorism (it now has only 3 countries – Iran, Syria and Sudan in the list) – **Cuba**

The north-eastern state which revoked the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) which had been in force in the state since February 1997 – **Tripura**

The valley in the Gangotri National Park in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand which has been opened to tourists for the first time after 1962 – **Nelong Valley**

The historic city in Syria and a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has been seized by Islamic State militants – **Palmyra**

The Iranian port on the coast of Gulf of Oman for the development of which India and Iran have signed an inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – **Chabahar**

The African country which has been declared Ebola free by World Health Organization after no new case was reported for 42 days – **Liberia**

Defence

The military exercise launched by Golden Arrow division of Indian Army in the plains of Punjab to practice the Army, Air Force and BSF in conducting joint operations is named – **Exercise Agnibaan**

The Russia-made seventh Sindhughosh class diesel electric submarine which was launched after retrofitting at Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Visakhapatnam – **INS Sindhukirti**

The type of fighter aircraft which was used by the Indian Air Force in a trial on Yamuna expressway to use it as a runway in an emergency – **Mirage 2000**

The indigenously developed surface-to-air missile with a range of 25 km which has been inducted into the Army (Developed by DRDO and built by BDL) – **Akash**

The regiment of the Indian Army whose contingent of 75 men participated in the Victory Day (May 9) parade in Moscow – **Nine Grenadiers**

The place in Gujarat at which a strategically important naval base INS Sardar Patel was commissioned by the Chief Minister Anandiben Patel – **Porbandar**

Space

The Russian rocket carrying Mexican satellite MexSat-1 launched from Baikonour Cosmodrome which crashed soon after launch in Siberia – **Proton-M**

The unmanned Russian spaceship with food and fuel supplies for the International Space Station which failed to reach the ISS and crashed back into the Earth ended burning up in the atmosphere – **Progress-59**

Miscellaneous

The word (symbol) which has been named children's word of the year by Oxford University Press (OUP) – **Hashtag (#)**

The year by which Indian is likely to become a water-scarce country due to demand supply mismatch as per a report published by EA Water – **2025**

Bonsucro certification which was recently awarded to EID Parry (India) Ltd is certification of standard related to – **Sugar production**

India's first private greenfield airport developed by Bengal Aerotropolis (BAPL) with the technical expertise from Singapore based Changi Airports International at Durgapur, West Bengal which recently began its operations is named – **Kazi Nazrul Islam airport**

The iconic Rajabai Clock Tower which was reopened after 2 years of restoration work by Tata Consultancy Service is located in the campus of – **Mumbai University**

The two public sector undertakings in which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved divestment of 10% and 5% respectively – **IOC and NTPC**

Women of Algiers, the painting which set a record for an artwork sold at an auction, by selling for \$179.3 million at an auction by Christie's was the work of – **Pablo Picasso**

The number of lions in the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat (in 4 districts - Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Amreli and Bhavanagar) as per the latest census data – **523**

The university of Belgium which has honoured India's world renowned poet Rabindranath Tagore by erecting his statue presented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in the university premises – **Catholic University of Leuven**

The political party led by Mr. David Cameron which has won the recent general elections in the United Kingdom – **Conservative Party**

Edu-cloud, a cloud-computing based solution for digital classrooms and virtual learning in schools has been launched by – **Microsoft**

The rank of India in the 2015 Mothers' Index Rankings in the report. The Urban Disadvantage prepared by Save the Children and launched by Union Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla – **140**

The State of Food Insecurity in the World - Report by FAO for 2014-16

Number of Undernourished People

1. India - 194.6 million (15.2%)
2. China - 133.8 million (9.3%)
3. Pakistan - 41.4 million (22%)
4. Ethiopia - 31.6 million (32%)
5. Bangladesh - 26.3 million (16.4%)

Global - 795 million

India Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement

1. India and Bangladesh signed the Land Boundary Agreement in 1974 to find a solution to the complex nature of border demarcation.
2. The agreement was implemented in its entirety, except for three outstanding issues pertaining to (i) undemarcated land boundary of approximately 6.1 km in three sectors viz. Daikhata-56 (West Bengal), Muhuri River-Belonia (Tripura) and Lathitila-Dumabari (Assam); (ii) exchange of enclaves; and (iii) adverse possessions.
3. The Protocol (2011 Protocol) to the Agreement was signed on September 06, 2011, between the External Affairs Minister of India and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries to address long pending land boundary issues.
4. The protocol has been ratified by the two countries recently.
5. The 2011 Protocol has been prepared with the full support and concurrence of the State Governments concerned (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal).
6. Under the protocol, 111 Indian enclaves (population 37,334) inside Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi (population 14,215) ones inside India will be exchanged. No displacement of people is involved since people living in the enclaves do not want to leave the land and they have been given the right to stay where they are.
7. Bangladesh will get 2,777 acres of land, while India will get 2,267 acres in settlement of adverse possessions.

Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2015

1. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
2. Hillary Clinton
3. Melinda Gates
4. Janet Yellen, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, USA

5. Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors
6. Christine Lagarde, IMF Chief
7. Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil
8. Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook COO
9. Susan Wojcicki, YouTube CEO
10. Michelle Obama, US First Lady
15. Indra Nooyi, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo
30. Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson, State Bank of India
35. Chanda Kochchar, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank
84. Padmasree Warrior, Chief Technology & Strategy Officer of Cisco Systems
85. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairman and MD of Biocon Limited
93. Shobhana Bhartia, Chairperson and Editorial Director of the Hindustan Times Group

Ceat Cricket Awards 2015

- International Lifetime Achievement Award - Kapil Dev
- International Cricketer of the Year – Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)
- Indian Cricketer of the Year – Ajinkya Rahane
- International Batsman of the Year – Hashim Amla (South Africa)
- International Bowler of the Year – Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka)
- T20 Player of the Year – Dwayne Bravo (West Indies)
- Popular Choice Award – Kieron Pollard (West Indies)
- Special Performance of the Year Award – Rohit Sharma
- Domestic Cricketer of the Year – R Vinay Kumar
- Young Player of the Year – Deepak Hooda

John Nash - American Mathematician

Born : 1928

Death : 23 May 2015 in a car crash in New Jersey

Nobel Prize : Shared the 1994 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences with game theorists Reinhard Selten and John Harsanyi.

Abel Prize : in 2015 (the prize is often described as Mathematician's Nobel Prize)

Biography : A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nasar. A film by the same name was directed by Ron Howard with Russel Crowe in the role of John Nash.

Indians in the list of Whitley Award Winners 2015 (also known as Green Oscars)

Whitley Award donated by WWF-UK - Ananda Kumar, for using innovative communication systems to enable human-elephant coexistence in southern India.

Whitley Award donated by The William Brake Charitable Trust - Pramod Patil for Community conservation of the great Indian bustard in the Thar Desert.

Awards are given by - London based organisation Whitley Fund for Nature

2015 General Elections of United Kingdom

Held on : 07 May 2015

Held to elect : 56th Parliament

No of Constituencies : 650

Seats Won : Conservative - 331, Labour - 232, SNP - 56 and Liberal Democrat - 8

Prominent Leaders : Conservative - **David Cameron**, Labour - **Ed Miliband**, SNP - **Nicola Sturgeon** and Liberal Democrat - **Nick Clegg**

New Governors

Jharkhand - Droupadi Murmu

Arunachal Pradesh - J.P. Rajkhowa

Tripura - Tathagata Roy

Meghalaya - V. Shanmuganathan

Mizoram - Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma

Manipur - Syed Ahmed

2015 Forbes 2000 Companies - Indian Companies in the list

Reliance Industries - Rank 142

State Bank of India - Rank 152

ONGC - Rank 183

Tata Motors - Rank 263

ICICI Bank - Rank 283

Indian Oil - Rank 349

HDFC Bank (376), NTPC (431), Tata Consultancy Services (485), Bharti Airtel (506), Axis Bank (558), Infosys (672), Bharat Petroleum (757), Wipro (811), Tata Steel (903) and Adani Enterprises (944)

Abbreviations in news

METIS - Materials Exposure and Technology Innovation in Space