

# *Weekly Current Affairs: 15 May- 21 May*

*BankExamsToday.Com*



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5/23/2017*

## Important Days

### ***National Dengue Day: 16 May***

- It is transmitted by a mosquito called Aedes Aegypti. It occurs in two forms.
- The first form is, Classical Dengue fever also known as break bone fever because of the severe pain it develops in patients' joints.
- The second form is Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever which is not only painful but also deadly. It usually results in abnormal bleeding from nose, gums or as blood in urine.

### ***World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May***

- Theme 2017: Big Data for Big Impact
- The theme highlighted the technological developments that have facilitated the emergence of Big Data.

### ***World Metrology Day: May 20***

- Theme 2017: Measurements for transport.
  - This theme was chosen because transport plays such a key role in the modern world.

## National Events

### ***Base Year Revised***

- The government has revised the base year of wholesale price index (WPI) and index of industrial production (IIP) to 2011-12 from 2004-05.
- WPI has been changed six times so far since 1942 and this happens to be the 7th revision.

### ***Public Affairs Index 2017***

- Kerala tops the Public Affairs Index released by Government of India.
- Tamil Nadu Secured 2nd position
- Punjab topped in the essential infrastructure category while Gujarat was at the top in the category of economic freedom.

### ***Videsh Sampark***

- Tamil Nadu became the first state to host the first outreach programme of the Ministry of External Affairs 'Videsh Sampark',

### ***India's Longest River Bridge***

- India's longest river bridge Dholasadiya which is 9.5 km long and built on Brahmaputra river in Assam will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on May 26.

### ***Maa For Mid-Day Meal***

- Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to form a six member committee called Maa to keep an eye on the quality of mid-day meal.
- The committee will comprise of six women from different sections whose children are studying in a particular school.

### ***IIT Kharagpur to make Varanasi Smart City***

- IIT Kharagpur has collaborated with the British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into a smart city.

### ***Narmada Seva Mission***

- PM Modi launched Narmada Seva Mission to conserve river Narmada which is called lifeline of Madhya Pradesh.

### ***Mumbai- The Busiest Airport.***

- According to a report, Mumbai Airport named the busiest single-runway airport which handles 757 flights everyday.

### ***Adiyogi' bust in Guinness Book***

The 112 feet tall Adiyogi bust has been declared world's largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records..

### ***National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction***

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- The theme of the Second meeting of NPDRR is "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030".

### ***Bengali Mandatory in West Bengal***

- West Bengal government has made Bengali compulsory in all schools, including private English medium schools of the State.

### ***Ernst and Young's Renewable Energy Index***

- India has been placed 2nd in Ernst and Young's renewable energy country attractiveness index by EY.

### ***Clean Money Portal Launched***

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched the 'Operation Clean Money' portal that aims "to create a tax-compliant society".
- The portal will identify those who have made deposits or purchases not in line with the declared income.

### ***Scheme for Ornamental Fish Breeding***

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has launched a subsidy scheme Ornamental Fish Assistance Scheme for setting up of breeding units of colourful aquarium fishes and marketing societies in various states to facilitate their export.
- Through this Scheme, MPEDA provides subsidy for the ornamental fishery to registered Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Marketing Societies.

### ***EPFOs Citizens Charter 2017 launched***

- The Minister of State for Labour & Employment(IC), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched EPFOs Citizens Charter 2017 and e-court management system in Bangalore
- Citizens Charter 2017 is an attempt to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO and make service delivery system and grievance redressal mechanism more efficient so that it delivers goods and services to its all stakeholders in a time bound manner with a reduced timeline from earlier timeline of 30 days.

### ***New Coal Linkage Policy Approved***

- A new coal linkage policy to ensure adequate supply of the fuel to power plants through reverse auction received approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- It will ensure the organised fuel supply.

### ***AP Amends Public Services Act***

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislature passed a Bill to appoint Olympics silver medal winning shuttler PV Sindhu as a Group-1 officer in the government, by amending the state public services Act.

### ***Railway Station Survey***

- In a report released by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh was rated the cleanest station among the 75 busiest stations in the country, followed by Secunderabad, Jammu, Vijayawada and Anand Vihar railway stations.
- The Darbhanga station in Bihar was rated as the dirtiest. Varanasi railway station, situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, was placed 14th.

### ***Indian Army Received First Modern Artillery***

- India received its first set of modern artillery from US after bofors scandal which badly hit the artillery modernisation of the Indian Army.
- 145 M-777 ultra-light howitzers arrived India.

### ***First Smaresh Meeting of NITI Ayog***

- The first meeting of the National Steering Group and other knowledge partners was held in NITI Aayog under the co-chairmanship of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO and Shri Ratan P Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog.

- The meeting was aimed at bringing together 32 premier educational and policy research institutions to catalyse the development process, enhance institutional capacity development and a field level interface with the community for New India 2022.

### ***Faculty Exchange Agreement Between New Delhi & Dhaka Approved***

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today gave its ex-post facto approval to the Faculty Exchange Agreement signed between the National Defence College, New Delhi and National Defence College, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
- The objective of the Agreement is to institutionalise regular exchange programmes and establish sustainable mechanisms between the two National Defence Colleges

### ***Indian Agricultural Research Institute***

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam.
- The proposal of Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) / Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the scheme, the establishment of the "Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)-Assam" seeks to set up the Institute on 587 acre of land provided by the Govt. of Assam.
- IARI-Assam would be a Post-Graduate Institution of higher learning in Agricultural Education.

### ***GST Rates Announced***

- The Goods and Services (GST) Council agreed on the fitment of almost all commodities in the various tax slabs under the new indirect regime to be rolled out on July 1.
- Milk, cereals (unpackaged and unbranded), and jaggery- Exempted
- sugar, tea, coffee (except instant), and edible oil - 5%
- Common use items such as soap, toothpaste, and hair oil- 18%
- Coal- 5%
- Consumer durables- 28%
- Capital goods and industrial intermediaries- 18%

### ***Turbo Megha Gets UDAAN License***

- Turbo Megha Airways has become the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government scheme for subsidized regional flights.

### ***NGT Bans Open Defecation in Yamuna***

- The National Green Tribunal or NGT has banned open defecation and dumping of waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna river and announced an environment compensation or penalty of Rs. 5,000 for those who violated the rule.
- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also constituted a committee headed by Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the execution of work

## ***International Events***

### ***Amul Sponsor New Zealand***

- Gujarat-based dairy giant Amul will be the prime sponsor of the New Zealand cricket team in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy that starts on June 1 in England.

### ***Edouard Philippe PM of France***

- French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Edouard Philippe, a relatively unknown 46-year-old lawmaker, as prime minister
- It is the first time in modern French political history that a president has appointed a prime minister from outside his camp without being forced to by a defeat in parliamentary elections.

### ***Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission Headquarter***

- The headquarters of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of Organization of Islamic Cooperation was inaugurated at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- headquarters will help promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Muslim world

### ***Ujala Will Light UK***

India launched the process to export 'Ujala' -- Hindi for light -- to the United Kingdom with affordable 'Made in India' LED bulbs.

- The programme has already turned India into the world's LED capital, accounting for 10-12% of the global market 4 billion bulbs.

### ***G20 Labour & Employment Summit***

- Germany chaired for the G20 Labour & Employment Ministers for the year 2017.
- Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya led the Indian delegation

### ***World Health Organisation's world health check***

- Australia is one of the "world leaders" for life expectancy, ranked only behind Japan, Singapore and Switzerland, according to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest world health check.
- Clean, pollution-free cities and a low smoking rate are contributing factors in Australia's exceptional life expectancy.

### ***"SIMBEX-17 Commenced***

- Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of the Republic of Singapore and India SIMBEX-17 commenced in the South China Sea
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Sahyadri, Jyoti and Kamorta and one P8-I Maritime Patrol and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft participated in this.

### ***India imposed Anti-Dumping Duty on China***

- India has imposed anti-dumping duty on a Chinese chemical used in the pharma industry and aluminium foil to protect domestic industry from cheap imports.
- While an anti-dumping duty of up to \$1.63 per kg was imposed on aluminium foil, up to \$8.71 per kg duty was slapped on imports of amoxicillin, used in pharmaceuticals. The duty on both the products would be effective for a period of five years,

### ***Year of Polar Prediction for Arctic***

- The World Meteorological Organization has launched the Year of Polar Prediction, which will aim to improve predictions of weather, climate and ice conditions in the Arctic and Antarctic.
- During the Year of Polar Prediction—spread out from mid-2017 to mid-2019—scientists plan to observe, model and improve forecasts of weather and climate systems.

### ***Global Burden of Disease Study***

- India ranked 154 in the Global Burden of Disease Study published by Lancet
- India ranks above Pakistan, which has scored 43. This reports also targets the growing inequality between countries

### ***Hassan Rouhani wins Iran's Presidential Elections***

- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected with an emphatic victory
- Mr Rouhani, a moderate who agreed a deal with world powers to limit Iran's nuclear programme, pledged to "remain true" to his promises.

## ***Sports***

### ***Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut became the first pair of women cricketers to score 300 runs in ODI***

- Deepti became first Indian to score over 150 and now has the second highest individual score in ODIs after Belinda Clarke's 229. Raut made 109.

### ***Rafael Nadal wins Madrid Open 2017***

- Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem 7-6 (10-8) 6-4 to win his fifth Madrid Open title and move into the world's top four.
- The Spaniard has now won three straight titles, after his Barcelona Open and Monte Carlo Masters victories, while his record on clay this year is 15-0

### ***Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix***

- Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix by defeating Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel's
- He attained overall lead in the Formula One championship to six points with a quarter of the season completed.
- Force India Formula One team drivers Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon finished in the fourth and fifth spot respectively

### ***Ramit Tandon Wins SYA Title***

- US-based Indian squash player Ramit Tandon has won his maiden professional title with a convincing win over compatriot Kush Kumar in the SYS Open

### ***Mohammad Anas smashed the national record***

- Kerala quartermiler Mohammad Anas smashed the national record in men's 400m race by finishing the race in 45.32 seconds.
- He secured a gold medal at the third leg of the Indian Grand Prix Athletics Meet

### ***Debasish Biswas Climbed Mt Lhotse***

- Indian climber Debasish Biswas and a woman climber from New Zealand successfully climbed 8516 meter high Mt Lhotse
- John Snorri Sigursson (Iceland) and Cian O Brolchain (Ireland) also climbed at Mt. Lhotse. John and Cian became the first mountaineer from their respective countries to summit Mt Lhotse.

### ***MS Dhoni sets record in IPL 2017***

- Rising Pune Supergiant player MS Dhoni set the record for most catches by a wicketkeeper in T20s, taking his 124th catch against Delhi Daredevils.
- Dhoni went past former Sri Lankan keeper Kumar Sangakkara's record of 123 catches.

### ***Bajrang Punia wins gold at Asian Wrestling Championship***

- Bajrang Punia registered a victory over Seungchul Lee of Korea in men's 65kg freestyle and bagged a gold
- Sarita, in women group, grabbed silver in 58 kg category.

### ***Arjun Maini wins GP3 Series***

- Jenzer Motorsports' Indian driver Arjun Maini, who is supported by JK Racing and TVS, created history as he became the first Indian to win a race in the GP3 Series with a dominant victory.

### ***Para Athletics Grand Prix***

- India claimed a gold and a bronze at the China World Para Athletics Grand Prix being held in Beijing.
- Ramudri Someshwara Rao won a gold medal in the 200m race and Hokato Sema bagged a bronze in shot put.

### ***India topped ICC Test Ranking***

- India topped the recent ICC test ranking
- South Africa secured the second place while Australia is at third position

### ***Moscow FIDE Grand Prix***

- Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna registered his first win at the Moscow FIDE Grand Prix

### ***India won compound Gold in Archery World Cup***



- The Indian men's compound team struck gold on the penultimate day of the archery World Cup stage 1 championship in Shanghai,
- India were represented by Abhishek Verma, Chinna Raju Srither and Amanjeet Singh.
- India beat Colombia 226-221 for the gold.

### **Banking & Finance**

#### ***UCO Bank faces business restrictions***

- Public sector lender Uco Bank is facing business restrictions from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following mounting losses
- It has become the second lender to face business restrictions after IDBI Bank

#### ***HDFC Life tied up with Catholic Syrian Bank***

- HDFC Life has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank to distribute its individual life insurance products to the private lender's customers.
- HDFC Life will offer its leading range of individual life insurance, health and pension products to the Catholic Syrian Bank's 1.5 million customer

#### ***IIM-K launched LIVE***

- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) has launched its Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE), a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center.

#### ***Paytm Payments Bank set to open***

- Paytm Payments Bank Limited will begin its banking operations from May 23rd, 2017.
- As per the Central bank's guidelines, the company will transfer its wallet business to the newly incorporated payments bank entity under a payments bank licence awarded to Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

#### ***Mahindra Bank enabled end to end trade financing***

- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has enabled end to end trade financing for one of its clients by utilising the blockchain technology thereby reducing the time taken for a letter of credit (LC) to few hours from 20 to 30 days.
- Kotak partnered with Deloitte and used the blockchain technology to complete LC transactions with JP Morgan Singapore as Partner bank

#### ***BSNL partnered with Mobikwik***

- Delhi-based Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has reportedly signed agreements with Facebook, Mobikwik, and Disneyland India

- The tie-up aims to increase BSNL's foothold amongst Indian consumers with its Internet and value-added services.

### **Index & Ranking**

Brand Finance's annual study

### **Top Five**

- Airtel : (brand value: \$7.7 billion),
- LIC : brand value: \$6.8 billion),
- Infosys: Brand Value \$6.2 billion,
- SBI: Brand Value \$5.5 billion,
- Reliance: Brand Value \$4.8 billion

### **LinkedIn Study: India's Top Employers**

- Flipkart
- Amazon
- One97 Communications Ltd
- Paytm
- Ola

## **Science & Technology**

### **First human antibodies for Ebola virus**

a team of scientists from academia, industry and the government has discovered the first natural human antibodies that can neutralize and protect animals against all three major disease-causing ebolaviruses.

### **Earth-like' planet may have water,**

- An 'Earth-like' planet orbiting our closest neighbouring star, Proxima Centauri, about 4.2 light years away may have liquid water and the potential to support alien life, a new study has found.
- The planet Proxima B was discovered in August last year, and is thought to be of similar size to Earth, creating the possibility that it could have an 'Earth-like' atmosphere.

### **NASA, ISRO Team Up To Inspect 'Oldest Civilisation' Site In Haryana**

- Teams of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would inspect the excavation being carried out at an archaeological site in Haryana's Fatehabad district to verify claims of it being the oldest civilisation in the world.
- Archaeologists have recovered artefacts pre-dating the Harappan Civilisation from the site, located in village Kunal in Fatehabad district.

### **World's Smallest Satellite For NASA**

- An 18-year-old boy from Tamil Nadu has created the world's smallest satellite, naming it 'KalamSat'.
- Developed by Riftah Sharook KalamSat weighs only 64 grams and is named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam
- Sharook's satellite will be launched by NASA on June 21 from Wallops Island.
- KalamSat was selected through a competition, 'Cubes in Space,' which was jointly organised by NASA and an organisation, 'I Doodle Learning.'

### Books & Authors

#### *Metaphysics, Morals and Politics'*

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of book 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics' from Prof. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhy

#### *M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger*

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, released a two-part book series on the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.
- The series is titled - **M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger**. Several Union Ministers and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

#### *"India's Indira: A Centennial Tribute"*

- President Pranab Mukherjee has received the first copy of book "India's Indira: A Centennial Tribute" in New Delhi.
- Mukherjee has also written a chapter in the book, which was released by vice-president M Hamid Ansari.
- Senior leader Anand Sharma has edited the book.

### Awards & Honours

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Aravind Kumar Rengan                                  | National Science Academy (INSA) Young Scientist 2017.                       |
| The Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Association | Navratan Legend Award   |
| Institute of Techonology (IIT) Delhi Team             | Startups National Award 2017  |
| Pawan Kumar Chamling                                  | First Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Govardhan Eco Village                         | Smart Village Award by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) |
| Bharti Airtel                                 | Aon Best Employer India 2017   |
| Krishna Kumari                                | Florence Nightingale award   |
| Anshu Jamsenpa                                | first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest four times                 |
| Shrinivas Kulkarni                            | Dan David prize  |
| Purnima Barman & Sanjay Gubbi                 | Whitley Award (Green Oscar)  |
| David Letterman                               | Kennedy Center's 2017 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.           |
| The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) | Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace  |
| Sanjeev Gupta                                 | CEO of the Year (UK)   |

## Appointments

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|------------------------|--|
|                        |  |
| Renu Satti             | CEO of Paytm Payment Bank                |
| Debjani Ghosh          | Additional Director of Yes Bank          |
| Air Marshal PN Pradhan | Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff |

