

# Indexes, Reports and Lists released in May

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## ***World's most polluted cities list of WHO: Indian Government claims pollution dipped in 2017***

- As per the data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 14 Indian cities figure in a list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. While, in terms of PM10 levels, 13 cities in India figured among the 20 most-polluted cities of the world in 2016.
- The particulate matter PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health. However, PM2.5 is more dangerous than PM10.
- To the contrary, Indian Government, in its response to the air pollution data released by the WHO, claimed that various pollution-control measures have led to decline in the pollution levels in 2017.
- As per the data released by WHO, Delhi's PM2.5 level in 2016 was at 143 microgrammes/cubic metre, making it the sixth most polluted city in the world.
- However, as per India's Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, Delhi's PM2.5 level was 134 microgrammes/cubic metre in 2016 and 125 microgrammes/cubic metre in 2017, showing an improvement.

## ***India is fifth largest military spender in the world: SIPRI***

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on May 2, 2018 released a report claiming that the world's military expenditure rose to USD 1739 billion in 2017, a marginal 1.1 percent increase from 2016.
- As per the report, India is the fifth largest military spender in the world. India spent USD 63.9 billion on its military in 2017, a 5.5 percent increase in the expenditure from 2016 and a 45 percent increase since 2008.
- The total global military expenditure accounted for 2.2 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product in 2017.
- The increase in global military expenditure has been largely due to the substantial growth in spending by countries in Asia, Oceania and the Middle East, such as China, India and Saudi Arabia.
- The top 5 military spenders in 2017 were the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India.
- India and China, together, accounted for 60 percent of the total global defence expenditure of USD 1739 billion in 2017.
- China's military expenditure rose again in 2017 with a total military spending of USD 228 billion in 2017; while, Russia's military spending (USD 66.3 billion) fell for the first time since 1998.
- The US military spending of USD 610 billion was 2.7 times greater than that of China. The US military spending remained constant between 2016 and 2017.
- The total military spending by all 29 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members was USD 900 billion in 2017, accounting for 52 percent of world spending.

## ***India slips to 11th spot in AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index 2018***

- Global consultant AT Kearney on May 3, 2018 released the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018, an annual survey which tracks the impact of political, economic and regulatory changes on the FDI preferences of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the country.
- The United States (US) topped the index, followed by Canada at 2nd and Germany at the 3rd place.
- The index ranked India at 11th spot, three places down from the previous year. In the year 2017, India was ranked 8th. It is the first time since 2015 that India has been pushed out of the top 10.
- However, India retained its position as the second highest ranked emerging market on the Index. A variety of recent reforms by the Union Government have made the country more business friendly, such as the abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in 2017 and liberalisation of FDI thresholds for the retail, aviation and biomedical industries.

### ***India slips to 6th spot in business optimism index; weakest since 2014: Grant Thornton survey***

- With business sentiment at the "weakest" in four years, India slipped to the 6th position globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year, says a survey.
- Business optimism is however at an "all-time high" globally with the index at net 61 per cent, the highest figure recorded in 15 years of research, as per Grant Thornton's quarterly global business survey released in May.
- Noting that business sentiment in India has been the weakest since 2014 in the first quarter, the advisory firm said the confidence has been shaken since the third quarter of 2017 with weakening currency and a surge in oil prices.
- With a score of 89, India is at the sixth place in the index. The top five nations are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the US. The conclusions are based on a quarterly global business survey of 2,500 businesses in 37 economies.

### ***India ranked 4th in Asia-Pacific on power index***

- The inaugural Asia Power index by the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank, has ranked India at the 4th position among 25 nations in the Asia Pacific region.
- The index measures the overall power of 25 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region including nations such as Pakistan, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.
- The index measures a country's overall power through its weighted average across eight measures of power - economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defence networks and cultural influence.
- India was ranked fourth on the parameters of economic resources, military capability and diplomatic influence. It was ranked fifth on resilience.

### ***Business Optimism Index 2018: India slips to 6th position in first quarter of 2018***

- India was ranked 6th in the first quarter of 2018 on Business Optimism Index released as part of Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR).
- The report was prepared based on the results of a survey of 2500 businesses in 37 economies.
- The top five nations are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and US.

### ***Forbes World's Most Powerful People list 2018: PM Modi ranked 9th, Xi Jinping tops***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked among the 10 most powerful people in the world in the 2018 World's Most Powerful People list that is topped by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- As per the World's Most Powerful People list, that was released on May 8, 2018, Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian businessman to feature in the list of 75 most powerful people.
- PM Modi (9th rank) and Mukesh Ambani (32nd rank) are the only two Indians on the Forbes World's Most Powerful People list.

### ***India saw 82 internet shutdowns in 2017-18; highest in south Asia: UNESCO***

- People in South Asian countries experienced at least 97 instances of Internet shutdown, a barometer on freedom of press and expression, between May 2017 and April 2018, with India alone accounting for 82 such cases, according to a UNESCO report.
- According to the Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18, released recently by the UNESCO-International Federation of Journalists, Pakistan witnessed 12 instances of Internet shutdown, while Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported one such case each.
- Internet shutdown and deliberate slowdowns are increasing the world over and are now also a barometer on press freedom and freedom of expression controls. South Asia has witnessed the highest number of Internet shutdowns globally, with India earning the dubious crown for the country with the highest number of Internet shutdowns, the report said.

### **WHO releases REPLACE guide to eliminate trans-fatty acids from food by 2023**

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 15, 2018 released REPLACE, a guide for the elimination of industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the global food supply by 2023.
- As per WHO, every year, trans fat intake leads to more than 500000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease.
- Industrially-produced trans fats are contained in vegetable fats like margarine and ghee, and are often present in snack food, baked foods, and fried foods.
- Manufacturers often use them as they have a longer shelf life than other fats.
- There are two main sources for trans fats - natural sources such as dairy products and meat of ruminants such as cows and sheep; and industrially-produced sources such as partially hydrogenated oils.

### **What does REPLACE stand for?**

1. REview dietary sources of industrially-produced trans fats.
2. Promote the replacement of industrially-produced trans fats with healthier fats and oils.
3. Legislate or enact regulatory actions to eliminate industrially-produced trans fats.
4. Assess and monitor trans fats content in the food supply.
5. Create awareness of the negative health impact of trans fats.
6. Enforce compliance of policies and regulations.

### **WHO publishes its first Essential Diagnostics List**

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 15, 2018 published its first 'Essential Diagnostics List', which is a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose the most common conditions along with a number of global priority diseases.
- The list aims to address people's inability to access diagnostic services, which results in them failing to receive the correct treatment.
- Speaking on the same, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that an accurate diagnosis is the first step to getting effective treatment. "No one should suffer or die because of lack of diagnostic services, or because the right tests were not available," he added.
- The essential diagnostics list concentrates on in-vitro tests like tests of blood and urine.
- It comprises 58 tests for detection and diagnosis of a wide range of common conditions.
- It also comprises 55 tests for the detection, diagnosis and monitoring of 'priority' diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis B and C, human papillomavirus and syphilis.

### **Swachh Surveskshan 2018: Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh are Top 3 cleanest cities of India**

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Puri on May 16, 2018 released the results of the Swachh Surveskshan 2018. Indore has emerged as the cleanest city again in India for second year in a row.
- Indore and Bhopal have managed to retain their positions as the top 2 cleanest cities, as that of previous year.

### **List of national level awardees**

Category	Place
India's Cleanest City - No. 1	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
India's Cleanest City - No.2	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
India's Cleanest City - No.3	Chandigarh

India's Cleanest big City	<b>Vijaywada</b> , Andhra Pradesh
India's Fastest Mover big City	<b>Ghaziabad</b> , Uttar Pradesh
India's Best City in Citizens Feedback	<b>Kota</b> , Rajasthan
India's Best City in Innovation & Best Practices	<b>Nagpur</b> , Maharashtra
India's Best City in Solid Waste Management	<b>Navi Mumbai</b> , Maharashtra
India's Cleanest Medium City	<b>Mysuru</b> , Karnataka
India's Fastest Mover Medium City	<b>Bhiwandi</b> , Maharashtra
India's Cleanest Small City	<b>New Delhi Municipal Council</b>
India's 'Fastest Mover' Small City	<b>Bhusawal</b> , Maharashtra
Cleanest State Capital	<b>Greater Mumbai</b> , Maharashtra
Fastest Mover State Capital	<b>Jaipur</b> , Rajasthan
Best State Capital in Citizens Feedback	<b>Ranchi</b> , Jharkhand
Best State Capital in Innovation & Best Practices	<b>Panaji</b> , Goa
Best State Capital in Solid Waste Management	<b>Greater Hyderabad</b> , Telangana

### **Key highlights**

- Chandigarh was ranked as the third cleanest city, moving up from Rank 11 in 2017.
- Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was named as the fastest moving big city of the Swachh Survekshan 2018, moving up to Rank 36 from the previous 351 in 2017.
- Jharkhand was declared as the best performing state, followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- In terms of sanitation coverage, around 2133 cities and urban local bodies have been certified as ODF and 2679 cities have self-declared themselves as ODF and await certification.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 was organised by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) with an aim to estimate levels of cleanliness across cities in the country.
- This cleanliness survey was undertaken by 2700 assessors between January 4 to March 10, 2018.

### **Amitabh Bachchan most engaging Indian actor on Facebook**

- Superstar Amitabh Bachchan has been voted the most engaging Indian actor on Facebook in a new survey.
- According to Score Trends, the 75-year-old actor has over 30 million followers on the popular social networking site.
- The survey ranked Bachchan at number one position with 100 points on Facebook, closely followed by Salman Khan with 95 points and Shah Rukh Khan with 68 points.
- The 'Padmaavat' actor Ranveer Singh was ranked fourth with 52 points and Akshay Kumar was ranked fifth with 49 points.

### ***'India sixth wealthiest country with total wealth of USD 8,230 bn'***

- India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the US is the richest nation globally, says a report.
- According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, the US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$62,584 billion, followed by China (\$24,803 billion) at the second place and Japan (\$19,522 billion) at the third place.
- "Total wealth" refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each country. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities. We exclude government funds from our figures. Larger countries have an advantage due to higher populations.
- Other countries in the top 10 wealthiest list includes the UK (\$9,919 billion), Germany (\$9,660 billion), India (\$8,230 billion), Australia (\$6,142 billion), Canada (\$6,393 billion), France (\$6,649 billion) and Italy (\$4,276 billion).

### ***India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of healthcare access: Lancet Study***

- As per Lancet's Global Burden of Disease study, India ranked 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare on the Healthcare Access and Quality Index (HAQ Index).
- However, despite such low rankings, India saw improvements in healthcare access and quality since 1990.
- India lags behind its neighbours such as China (48th rank), Sri Lanka (71st rank), Bangladesh (133rd rank) and Bhutan (134th rank).
- However, India's health index was better than that of Nepal (149th rank), Pakistan (154th rank) and Afghanistan (191st rank).
- The five countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016 were Iceland (97.1 points), Norway (96.6), the Netherlands (96.1), Luxembourg (96.0), and Finland and Australia (each with 95.9).
- The countries with the lowest scores were - Central African Republic (18.6), Somalia (19.0), Guinea-Bissau (23.4), Chad (25.4), and Afghanistan (25.9).
- China and India had the widest disparities in healthcare access and quality with 43.5 and 30.8 point differences, respectively.

### ***India ranks 44th in IMD's competitiveness rankings***

- India ranked at 44th place in terms of competitiveness in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- As per the rankings, the US is the most competitive economy, followed by Hong Kong and Singapore in the second and third place.
- Out of the 14 Asian countries on the list, India ranked 12th.

### ***HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri figures in Barron's top 30 global CEO list***

- HDFC Bank's managing director Aditya Puri has figured in the top 30 global CEOs list published by Barron's.
- The international publication has included Puri in this prestigious list for the fourth consecutive year, HDFC Bank said in a statement.
- Puri's name figured with Jeff Bezos of Amazon; Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway; Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase; Larry Page of Alphabet; Reed Hastings of Netflix; Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, it said.
- Even after 24 years at the helm, Puri, 67, elicits effusive praise from investors, with descriptions ranging from, one of the most impressive CEOs we have come across," the statement quoting Barron's said.
- The career banker methodically built a start-up into India's second-largest private-sector bank by market value, it said.