

January 2015

- Union Government changes the name of 65-year-old Planning Commission as "NITI Aayog" or National Institution for Transforming India with some major changes in the structure.

Key People in NITI Aayog:

Chairman: Narendra Modi

Vice Chairman: Arvind Panagariya (took charge on 13th January 2015)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Sindhushree Khullar

Full Time Members:

- Bibek Debroy (Economist)
- V. K. Saraswat (former DRDO chief)

Ex-Officio members

- Rajnath Singh (Union Minister)
- Arun Jaitley (Union Minister)
- Suresh Prabhu (Union Minister)
- Radha Mohan Singh (Union Minister)

Special Invitees

- Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister)
- Smriti Zubin Irani (Union Minister)
- Thawar Chand Gehlot (Union Minister)

- Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara became the fastest cricketer to reach 12000 Test runs. He achieved the milestone in 224th innings.
- Serena Williams of US won the women's single title of Australian Open 2015
- PETA announced to create India's first fenced elephant sanctuary near Bengaluru
- Union Government released Commemorative Postage stamps with Swachh Bharat Mission as theme to mark the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Rajnath Singh launched women safety mobile app 'Himmat'.
- PM Narendra Modi released coins on Jamsetji Tata.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off first CNG-based train in Haryana.
- Zomato Media Pvt Ltd acquired Turkey-based firm Mekanist
- ErosNow tied up with RailTel to provide Streaming Services to Rail Passengers
- ICC lifted the five-year ban imposed on Pakistan's fast bowler Mohammad Amir
- Saina Nehwal won women's single of Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold Badminton Tournament 2015
- Wing Commander Puja Thakur became first lady officer to lead Inter-Service Guard of Honour
- Major Mukund Varadarajan, Naik Neeraj Kumar Singh posthumously awarded with Ashok Chakra
- PM Narendra Modi launched Sukanya Samridhi Yojana under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.
- Supreme Court's decision on IPL Spot fixing.

- Supreme Court gave verdict that N. Srinivasan can't contest BCCI polls till he gives up commercial interest in CSK.
- The Apex court said No BCCI administrator can have commercial interests. Srinivasan held miniscule share in India Cements misleading since his family directly or indirectly holds much more.
- The court-appointed Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee, also comprising senior advocates L. Nageswar Rao and Nilay Dutta, had found Srinivasan's son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan guilty of indulging in betting during IPL 2013 despite being a CSK team official.
- Japan committed 2620 crore rupees Overseas Development Assistance loan to India
- Kerala to get first International Institute of Music
- WhatsApp unveiled a new service for sending messages from a Web browser
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna made it to Guinness World Records
Out of the total account opened, 5.68 crore accounts belonged to male and 5.82 crore account belonged to females. In percentage terms, 49.37 % accounts belonged to male while 50.63% accounts belonged to females
- Former PM Manmohan Singh adopted Pachim Bekeli Gaon Panchyat under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
- National Immunization Day for the year 2015 observed on 18 January
- Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 16 January 2015 launched two schemes to support Scheduled Castes Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Green Business scheme.

February 2015

- Highlights of the Union Budget 2015-16
 - 100 percent tax deduction for contribution to Swachh Bharat Fund
 - Service tax hiked by 14 percent
 - Yoga was included in the ambit of charitable purposes under the Income Tax Act
 - People will have to quote their PAN for all purchases above 1 lakh rupees
 - AIIMS will be set up in five states namely Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam
 - Centres for film production will be created in Arunachal Pradesh
 - National skill development mission to be launched
 - By 2022 there is plan to produce 175000 MW renewable energy
 - Visa on arrival extended to 150 countries
 - 1000 crore rupees more allocated to Nirbhaya fund
 - GARR will be deferred by 2 years
 - 7-year imprisonment for non-filing of return on foreign asset
 - Undisclosed income to be taxed on maximum marginal rate
 - To enable minority youth, a new scheme named **Nayi Manzil** will be started
- Israel to provide assistance in cleaning up Ganga.
- Parliament of Thailand bans commercial surrogacy.

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the Wi-Fi facility at Ahmedabad Railway Station. With this, Ahmedabad Railway station joined the Wi-Fi enabled Railway stations like Bangalore, New Delhi and CST Mumbai.
- The Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party swept to power with 67 seats in the 70-member Delhi Assembly.
- 3rd Tortoise Festival organised at Hajong Lake in Assam.
- WHO approved ReEBOV Antigen rapid test kit to identify Ebola-infected patients
- The list of winners of 87th Academy Awards

Best Picture: Birdman

Best Director: Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for Birdman

Best Actor: Eddie Redmayne for The Theory of Everything

Best Actress: Julianne Moore for Still Alice

Best Supporting Actor: JK Simmons for Whiplash

Best Supporting Actress: Patricia Arquette for Boyhood

- International Mother Language Day observed on February 21
- India's first air quality checking Mobile App SAFAR-Air launched.
- Bihar Government decided to grant 35% reservation for women in Non-Gazetted jobs.
- Ritika Singh, Shradha Prasad, Taranjeet Singh Bhatia are the three Indians who were chosen for third round for one-way trip to Mars under Mars One mission.
- Veteran cartoonist, columnist and political activist Rajinder Puri passed away on 15 February 2015 in New Delhi following a brief illness.
- India signed Grant Agreement of 8 million US dollars with World Bank for funding SLACC Project.
- Saurav Ganguly awarded Honorary Life Membership of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- Chhattisgarh Government awarded for Renewable Power Development in the State
- Virat Kohli became first Indian cricketer to score century against Pakistan in World Cup.
- RWB released the World Press Freedom Index 2015: India ranked at 136th position.
- National Games mascot Ammu, the Great Hornbill entered the Limca Book of Records for its play, Kalikkunna Kuttikalkkayi Bharatham Kathirikkunnu (India Awaits Children Who Play) in which Ammu is featured.
- Microsoft acquired Sunrise for 100 million US dollars.
- PM launches Soil Health Card scheme targeting 14 crore farmers.
- National Sports Awards Schemes Revamped.

Following major amendments have been made.

- Selection Committee for Arjuna Award will be headed by Retired Judge of Supreme Court/ High Court.
- A sportsperson of eminence/ sports administrator/ sports expert belonging to para sports will be member in
- Selection Committee for Arjuna Awards.

- Not more than one sportsperson of eminence/ coach from a particular sports discipline shall be a member of the Selection Committee to avoid any bias in favour of a particular discipline.
- Nomination agencies are expected to send nominations of most deserving sportsperson(s)/ coach(es) irrespective of whether sportspersons/ coaches have applied to them for awards.
- For Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards and Dronacharya Awards, the weightage for performance in sports events has been reduced from 90% to 80%.
- Weightage of marks to be given by the Selection Committee for factors like profile and standard of sports events has been increased from 10% to 20%.
- Facebook, Reliance Communications Ltd tied up to provide free Internet access to people.
- ICICI Bank launched India's first digital bank, Pockets.
- Union Health minister declared 10 February as National Deworming Day.
- Vinod Mehta awarded with Yash Bharti Samman 2015 by UP Government.
- First World Ocean Science Congress held in Kochi in February 2015.
- List of Top Grammy Awards 2015

Category	Album	Artist
Best album of the year	Morning Phase	Beck Hansen
Best record of the year	Stay With Me	Sam Smith
Best song of the year	Stay With Me	James Napier, William Phillips & Sam Smith
Best new artist	-	Sam Smith

- Loksabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan's name was included in LIMCA book of records as she is the only woman in India to represent the same constituency on the same party ticket eight times in a row.
- Twitter, Google signed a deal to make tweets searchable.
- Micromax became India's biggest and world's third largest smartphone vendor.
- SMAP: NASA's first satellite to collect global soil moisture.
- Haryana Government launched e-registration of properties in all tehsils of the State.
- Bihar decided to provide free education to SC, ST and girl students till PG.
- Railway Minister launched Wi-Fi broadband services at Ahmedabad station.
- Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed takes oath as J&K chief minister.

March 2015

- Lok Sabha passed Insurance Laws Amendment Bill, 2015.
- Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara creates a new record by scoring 4 consecutive centuries in a cricket World Cup.
- Karnataka team wins the Ranji Trophy final by defeating Tamil Nadu in the finals at Wankhede Stadium
- The former Prime Minister of Britain David Cameron and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley jointly unveil the bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Parliament Square in London.
- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India is the largest importer of arms with 15% of global weapons imports between 2010–2014.
- World's only 'no-fuel' solar-powered aircraft 'Solar Impulse-2' off for Varanasi from Ahmedabad.
- India-born scientist and Nobel Laureate Dr. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan will take over as the President of the prestigious Royal Society at the end of the year.
- Martin Guptill of New Zealand scores 237 not out against West Indies which is the highest individual score in World Cup history.
- Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor will be conferred the Dada Saheb Phalke award this year for his contribution to Indian cinema.
- Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew dies at the age of 91.
- The Supreme Court has scrapped Section 66(A) of the Information Technology Act, a law that was seen as a major infringement of the freedom of speech online because it allowed the arrest of a person for posting "offensive" content.
- Kangana Ranaut wins the best actress National Award for the film Queen. Kannada actor Vijay won Best Actor for Nanu Avanalla Avalu. Queen also won Best Hindi Film.
- Former Footballer Michel Platini re-elected as the President of UEFA for the third time.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee receives India's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna in 2015
- Delhi's Aditi Arya was crowned as Femina Miss India World 2015 at Yashraj Studios in Mumbai.
- India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna conferred posthumously upon educationist Madan Mohan Malviya at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Australia wins the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup after defeating New Zealand by 7 wickets in MCG. Mitchell Starc named as player of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
- ISRO won Gandhi Peace Prize 2014
- Dolly Shivani Cherukuri became the youngest Archer to enter India Book of Records.
- Rajendra Singh, the Water Man of India, named as the 2015 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate.
- Snapdeal acquired logistics firm GoJavas to strengthen its delivery operations.
- HDFC Bank launched mobile app Chillr to instantly transfer money to any person in India.
- Prime Minister launched India's first indigenously developed rotavirus vaccine Rotavac.
- Services won the 69th edition of Santosh Trophy of Football.
- United Arab Emirates won the bid to host AFC Asian Cup 2019.
- Aapki Beti Humari Beti scheme launched in Haryana.
- Online Taxi-service aggregator Olacabs acquired TaxiForSure .
- Jagmohan Dalmiya unanimously elected as President of BCCI.

April 2015

- Amaravati will be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh
- Rajeev Shukla has been appointed the new chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mudra Bank to cater to small businesses.
- Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi is set to become the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India later this month.
- Sim Bhullar became the first player of Indian descent to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA) league as he made his debut for Sacramento Kings.
- The Union Government evacuated around 4000 Indians from the war zone of Yemen under Operation Raahat.
- India Beat South Korea by 4-1 on penalties to Win Bronze Medal in Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Cup.
- Indian movie "Mary Kom" has won the Best Film award and has been endowed with the Bronze Horse Award in the Stockholm International Film Festival Junior (SIFFJ).
- New York Times wins prestigious Pulitzer prizes for West Africa Ebola coverage.
- Indian Military and Para Military forces launched a massive rescue operation in Nepal under the name of "Operation Maitri".
- NASA has launched a project named The Nexus for Exoplanet System Science (NExSS) that will lead the search for signs of life beyond our solar system.
- Seychelles became 161st Member of WTO.
- Mukesh Khanna appointed as Chairperson of Children's Film Society of India.
- Raja Rajeswari became the first India-born woman to be sworn in as Judge of New York City.
- China won the World Team Chess Championship in Tsaghkadzor.
- Yashwant Sinha honoured with Officier de la Légion d'Honneur by French Government.
- Lin Dan of China won men`s title of Badminton Asia Championships 2015.
- India crowned champions for the first time at 22nd President's Cup Boxing Tournament.
- Switzerland tops the list of World Happiness Index 2015.
- KPMG elected Lynne Doughtie as first women CEO and Chairman.
- IOC President Thomas Bach named ambassador of HeForShe by UN Women.
- ICICI Bank launched payment service Tap-n-Pay.
- Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand declared as India's 48th Tiger Reserve.
- International Mother Earth Day observed on 22nd April 2015 with theme It's Our Turn to Lead.
- Japanese Maglev train set the world speed record of 603 kmph.
- Ancient Indian sculpture Parrot Lady presented to PM Narendra Modi by Canadian PM.
- NASA named Asteroid 316201 after Malala Yousafzai, the winner of 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Godrej Nature's Basket joined hands with Amazon for selling its products.
- Thane named as National Earth Hour Capital 2015 by WWF.
- Snapdeal acquired mobile recharge service FreeCharge.
- Spiders belonging to Thomisidae family named after Telangana state.

May 2015

- The 14th edition of Indo-French naval exercise VARUNA concluded on 2nd May'15 in the presence of Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar, along with Vice Admiral SPS Cheema, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command reviewing the progress of the exercise from on board French Navy's Aircraft Carrier, Charles de Gaulle. The Indian Navy and the French Navy have been conducting naval exercises since 1983 and following the establishment of a strategic partnership, these exercises were christened as VARUN in 2001.
- Seychelles became the 161st member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). With this, Seychelles archipelago of 90000 inhabitants became one of its smallest members.
- Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as the new President of Nigeria
- Georgia won the Women's World Team Chess Championship by defeating Russia. Mariya Muzychuk was declared the world champion 2015.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Doordarshan's farmer-centric channel known as DD Kisan.
- Ireland becomes the first country to Legalize Gay Marriage by Popular Vote.
- Nursultan Nazarbayev was re-elected as the President of Kazakhstan in May 2015
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on 1st May'15 launched free medicine scheme 'Niramaya' at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. The state government has made a budgetary allocation of Rs.200 crore for distribution of free medicine.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the 50th Jnanpith Award on eminent Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade.
- Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz appointed his nephew Mohammed bin Nayef as the new Crown Prince and as a Deputy Prime Minister.
- The Black Money Bill was passed in Lok Sabha in May 2015
- Actor and filmmaker Shashi Kapoor received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award by Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley at Prithvi theatre in Mumbai.
- The World Economic Forum released the Human Capital Report 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. India occupied the 100th position among the 124 countries surveyed in the Index. Finland topped the list
- President of the United States (US) Barack Obama entered Guinness Book of World Record for reaching a million followers in a span of mere 5 hours after going live. Barack Obama debuted on Social Media Platform Twitter with @POTUS account.
- The government has limited fiscal deficit for 2014-15 at 4% of GDP, lower than the revised estimate of 4.1% announced in February.
- A case was lodged in Barabanki court in Uttar Pradesh against Nestle India over inadequate safety standards of its product Maggi.
- On May 30 2015 Sepp Blatter was re-elected as FIFA President for a fifth term.
- Union Cabinet approved a proposal to ban employment of children aged under than 14 in all kinds of commercial enterprises.

- Yaduveer Raj Urs, was crowned as the new Maharaja of Mysuru, a titular and nominal head of the 600-year-old Wadiyar dynasty in southern India.
- State Bank of India joined its private sector rivals to launch contactless cards using latest near field communication (NFC) technology.
- 79-year-old Blatter won another four-year term as FIFA President after he secured 133 votes in 209 (206 were valid votes) FIFA member federation.
- Mumbai Indians (MI) on 24 May 2015 won the eight edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2015 by defeating Chennai Super Kings (CSK).
- Sevilla Football Club (FC) on 27 May 2015 won Europa League title. In the final clash at National Stadium Warsaw, Poland, Sevilla defeated Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk football club, 3-2.
- Indian film Masaan has won the prestigious critics prize in the Un Certain Regard category at the 68th Cannes Film Festival after it was premiered on May 20, 2015. The film is directoral debut of Neeraj Ghaywan who is an SIBM Pune alumnus.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 25 May 2015 announced the complete operationalisation of the GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN).

June 2015

- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was on 5 June sworn in as President of Mauritius.
- African countries signed a historic The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) that facilitates creation of Africa's largest free-trade zone.
- India joined the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (AEOI) on 3 June in Paris, France, along with Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Indonesia and New Zealand.
- India's first indigenously-built largest aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was on 10 June successfully undocked at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Cochin district of Kerala.
- President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to re-promulgation of land ordinance for third time as per provisions of Article 123 of Indian Constitution.
- Former Indian cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and V V S Laxman have joined the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI's) newly-constituted Cricket Advisory Committee.
- Meena Hemchandra was appointed as the Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Union Government has launched Khoya Paya web platform for people to directly report, track and upload information on missing children.
- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was voted as the Best Test Player of the 21st century in an online poll titled Top-100 Test players' list since 2000. The result of poll conducted by Cricket Australia's website, cricket.com.au was released in the fourth week of June 2015.
- Nadia district in West Bengal won the United Nations Public Service Award 2015 in the category of improving delivery of public services for or eliminating open defecation in the district.
- Sepp Blatter resigned as President of FIFA amid the corruption scandal.

- Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) launched the country's first consumer complaint mobile app named ASCIonline. ASCI launched this consumer friendly app with an aim to address the issue of misleading advertisements.
- Indian Railways rechristened Ahmedabad Haridwar Mail Express also known as 'Haridwar Mail' as Yoga Express
- G7 Summit 2015 was held at Schloss Elmau in Bavaria, Germany from 7 June to 8 June 2015.
- India by celebrating the first International Yoga Day in Rajpath, New Delhi created two Guinness World Records (GWRs) on 21 June 2015.
- Greece became the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt. It became a defaulter after it missed the deadline for payment of 1.7 billion dollar (1.5 billion euro) to IMF.
- The United States and Cuba formally agreed to restore diplomatic ties that had been severed for 54 years.
- The Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) notified an order to make the Universal Account Number (UAN) mandatory for all employers covered under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952.
- Every year World Environment Day (WED) is observed on 05 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. The theme for the year 2015 is Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.
- The world's first electric passenger aircraft named BX1E was manufactured in China.
- Astronomers have named a newly discovered galaxy as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7) after Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.
- World number two Roger Federer has won the Halle Open ATP title in Germany. In the final match he defeated Andreas Seppi of Italy by 7-6, 6-4 score
- Sunil Chhetri became first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals.
- A book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled Modi –Incredible emergence of a star was written in Chinese language by Tarun Vijay.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh on 15 June 2015 launched an Augmented Reality (AR) application named Sakaar to highlight the achievements of the Department of Space.
- Harriette Thompson, a 92 year 65 days old cancer survivor, on 31 May 2015 became the oldest woman to finish a marathon.
- Rajasthan has become number one state in the country in terms of total installed capacity of solar energy.