

## July 2015

- On July 1, 2015 India gave clearance to Bangladesh to open its fifth diplomatic mission in India.
- The new Deputy High Commission was opened in Guwahati, the capital of Assam.
- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on July 1, 2015 launched new automation software, ARPAN 3.0 for the over 12 lakh soldiers of the Indian Army which would provide them easy access to their service records including pay and leave details and transfer and postings among others.
- Army launched “Operation Shiva” on Jul 2, 2015, to ensure smooth conduct of about two-month long annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Supreme Court on July 6, 2015 directed that unwed mothers can get birth certificates issued for their biological children merely by furnishing an affidavit to this effect.
- The government of Meghalaya entered into collaboration with Microsoft India to launch ‘Smart Classroom’ programme in the state in July 2015.
- India halved its incidence of extreme poverty, from 49.4% in 1994 to 24.7% in 2011 ahead of the deadline of 2015 set by the United Nations, shows the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report 2015 released on July 2015.
- The World Bank has ranked India’s rural employment guarantee programme, MNREGA, as the world’s largest public works one, providing social security net to almost 15 per cent of the country’s population.
- The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme as the second-largest unconditional cash transfer social security programme in the world ranked by World Bank.
- The government increased minimum wage across the country to Rs 160 a day from Rs 137 with effect from 1 July, 2015.
- In the month of July the Indian Government allowed foreign investors to conduct business through more than one joint venture in India.
- The Andhra Pradesh government is going to establish an ‘Energy University’ with focus on research orientation and development of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable sources.
- According to the Union Tourism Ministry data, tourist arrivals in India registered a double-digit growth in 2014 over the previous year. Tamil Nadu remained the favorite destination for domestic and foreign visitors.
- After dithering for long, the Gujarat government issued a notification in July 2015, making voting in local body elections compulsory under the controversial Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment), Act 2009 (2014).
- Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked USD 300 million loan pact with the government to support the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in July 2015.
- With Greece’s failure to repay the roughly 1.6 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) to the IMF, Greece became the first developed country to fall into arrears on payments to the fund. The last country to do so was Zimbabwe in 2001.

- As per the Russian space agency, Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, has set a new record for most time spent in space, with a total of 803 days.
- The World Health Organization announced that Cuba has become the first country in the world to stamp out transmission of HIV and syphilis from a mother to her child in July 2015.
- Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, in a national address in July 2015 declared the state of emergency for a renewable period of 30 days after 38 tourists, mainly Britons, died in an attack in the resort city of Sousse.
- Chile won the Copa America title for the first time in its history after a dramatic penalty shootout against Lionel Messi's Argentina in the final in Santiago on July 4, 2015.
- France's Champagne vineyard where the world's famous sparkling wine is produced is now among UNESCO 'World Heritage' sites.
- The heads of state of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are meeting in the Russian city of Ufa for seventh BRICS Summit, to start the BRICS Development Bank in Shanghai, which will be headed by Indian banker K.V.Kamath for the first six years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin resolved to take strategic bilateral ties forward and discussed India's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- In the month of July, 2015, India was accepted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a six-member regional grouping, to which Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered to work in combating terror and boosting trade by easing barriers.
- India launched its heaviest commercial space mission ever with its polar rocket PSLV-C28 successfully putting five British satellites into the intended orbit after a flawless take off from the Satish Dhawan space Centre in July 2015.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) floated by the BRICS nations, formally started its operations at its headquarters in Shanghai.
- INSAT-3D, India's Advanced Weather Satellite, completed two successful years in orbit.
- China to connect world's largest telescope to supercomputer. When it is completed in 2016, the 500-metre aperture spherical telescope (Fast) will be the world's largest, overtaking Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory, which is only 300 meters in diameter.
- Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has become the first State transport corporation to have a vehicle tracking system for inter-city buses.
- Software major Microsoft has agreed to support 'digital villages' in Maharashtra and develop a 'smart MIDC' apart from setting up a cyber-security centre in Pune.
- Indian Coast Guard commissioned 'ICGS Rani Durgavati', the 3rd Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) of its kind. The IPV designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
- The Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) was launched by Late Former President A P J Abdul Kalam. The primary aim of RAA, is to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for science and mathematics in school children.

- World Population Day was observed on 11 July 2015 with theme Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies.
- Official air quality data for the first half of this year shows that Delhi indeed face high levels of pollution but Kanpur, Varanasi and Chennai are worse in terms of air pollution.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the National Skill Development Mission to train 400 million Indians by 2022.
- Telangana declared ‘Bonalu’ as the State festival and announced that total expenditure of the ‘Bonalu’ festivities will be officially borne by the state government.
- Hindustan University was chosen as Best Private University of the Year at a corporate summit organised by All India Technical and Management Council (AITMC).
- Indigenously designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) Visibility Measuring System, “Drishti” has been installed at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.
- Delhi Metro has launched a smart card recharge facility at ICICI Bank’s Business Correspondent Networks (outlets) across the national capital.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for restructuring the Integrated CoastalZone Management (ICZM) project, which is aimed at protecting and conserving the coastal environment.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority have clarified that (non-resident Indians (NRIs) can invest in National Pension System (NPS) to get a social security cover.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the government’s flagship Deendayal Upadhyaya Rural Electrification Programme on July 25, 2015 in Patna.
- National Broadcasting day was observed on 23rd July, 2015. On this day in 1927, Indian Broadcasting Company began organized radio broadcasting from Bombay station.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of malnourished children in the country with 74.1 per cent of those under the age of five suffering from anaemia and 60 per cent from malnutrition.
- UNESCO announced that Conakry the capital of Guinea in West Africa will be the World Book Capital for 2017.
- Seven Indian companies, including Reliance Industries and Tata Motors, are among the world’s 500 largest companies, according to a list compiled by Fortune that has been topped by retail giant Walmart.
- The President has nominated Prof. Richard Hay and Mr. George Baker as members of the Anglo-Indian Community to the Lok Sabha.
- The first loan to be issued by the New Development Bank (NDB) of the five-nation BRICS bloc in April next year would be in Chinese currency Renminbi (RMB).
- The world's first malaria vaccine named Mosquirix, was given the green light by London-based European Medicines Agency.
- World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted banking license to Infrastructure financing firm IDFC Ltd for undertaking banking business in the country under Section 22(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- As promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, e-tourist visa facility will be rolled out to Chinese nationals beginning July 30, 2015.

## August 2015

- India women's team wins silver in World Archery Championship
- Spices Board launches Subsidy Scheme to boost production and export
- CERN formally confers its Associate Membership to Pakistan
- India to host 2nd Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)
- Joshna Chinappa wins WSA Victorian Open title of squash
- New "secret" planetary system with 3 super-Earths discovered
- Dipa Karmakar wins bronze medal at 6th Senior ART Gymnastics Asian Championships
- Union Government extends term of Rajan S Katoch as Director of ED for 3rd time
- IOC gives Olympic Sport recognition to 'Frisbee'
- Roland Folger new Mercedes-Benz India head
- 193 UN members reach agreement on New Sustainable Development Agenda
- NDDB wins special achievement in GIS Award
- Airtel acquires YTS for mobile payment solutions
- Hindi litterateur Kashinath Singh chosen for Bharat Bharti literary award 2014
- Ex-Jalore EO Rajan Vishal chosen for Election Commission's award
- Reliance MediaWorks completes sale of multiplex business to Carnival Group
- Ministry of Rural Development launches 'SAMANVAY' portal for Gram Panchayats
- Lok Sabha passes SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill
- Mathematician Dr. Amalendu Krishna wins 2015 Ramanujan Prize
- Alibaba invested INR 4000 crore in Paytm
- US FDA approves first anti-epilepsy pill manufactured with 3D printer
- US FDA hikes fee for generic drug approvals
- India, Mozambique ink MoU to boost ties in New and Renewable Energy sector
- Union Cabinet approves proposal to sign agreement with UNESCO
- Union Cabinet gives nod to hiving off BSNL towers to a new company
- Visa to test new mobile payments service app mVisa in India
- Central Government liberalises single-brand retail norms for non-resident entities
- Union Cabinet gives nod to Direct Release of Wages into bank accounts of MNREGA workers
- Airtel commercially Launches India's first 4G services across 290 cities
- Snapdeal to invest Rs 637 cr in R&D and launched Findmystyle.in website
- Union Cabinet gave nod to decentralise chartering arrangements to empower PSUs
- NASA inks US \$490 million contract with Russia for ISS travel

- Snapdeal appoints Amitava Ghosh as Vice President-engineering
- Lok Sabha passes Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015
- Egypt launches Suez Canal expansion
- RBI allows banks to merge, shift or close branches in urban areas
- PM Modi declares August 7 as National Handloom Day to mark Swadeshi movement
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed first Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with 'Rollback' provision.
- India imposed anti-dumping duty on Vitamin-C imports from China
- DRDO developed poly-herbal medicine to treat Leucoderma
- Government to impose 10 per cent import duty on wheat
- DRDO transfers Technology to L&T to develop Lakshya
- Tripura Legislative Assembly passes resolution on abolishing death penalty
- India to boycott Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference 2015 meeting
- Thomas Cook (India) Ltd acquires Kuoni's travel business in India and Hong Kong
- Union Government to allow Aadhaar enrolments of NRIs, PIOs, OICs
- Accenture appoints Rekha Menon as Chairperson of its India operations
- 70th anniversary of Atomic bomb dropping on Nagasaki observed
- BHEL commissions 500 MW thermal unit at VindhyaChal STPS
- India tops in Beef export: US-DoA
- Telecom Minister launches mobile app 'Disha' to aid digital literacy in Bihar
- Poet, freedom fighter Kayyara Kinhabba Rai passes away
- Govt caps kerosene subsidy at Rs 12 per litre and Rs 18 per kg for LPG
- Xiaomi ties up with Foxconn to set up facility in Andhra Pradesh through 'Make in India' initiative
- 10 August: World Bio-Fuel Day
- Google unveils restructuring under new parent company Alphabet Inc
- ICICI Bank launches 'Saral-Rural Housing Loan' Scheme for weaker sections
- China devaluated Yuan by 2 per cent largest since 1994
- Sanjay Jalona appointed as MD and CEO for L&T Infotech
- Facebook awarded \$21 million to Indian app developers under FbStart initiative
- Maharashtra Government forms Cabinet sub-committee to tackle drought crisis
  - Headed by state Agriculture Minister Eknath Khadse
  - State Rural Development Minister Pankaja Munde
  - Water Supply Minister Babanrao Lonikar
  - Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar.
- Jethabhai Patel elected Chairman of GCMMF, the marketing organisation of Amul
- Union Cabinet approves MoU between India, Nepal for construction of petroleum pipeline

- PAHAL scheme enters into Guinness Book of world records
  - Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh (PAHAL) scheme
  - The scheme was formally launched as Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG subsidy in 2013 in 291 districts under the aegis of Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It was modified and christened as PaHal in November 2014 and was launched in 54 districts.
  - Later it was extended nationwide on 1 January 2015. Under the scheme, subsidized liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders are sold at market rates and consumers are entitled to receive LPG subsidy directly into their bank accounts.
  - It is done either through bank account or Aadhaar linkage. Currently it covers more than 9.75 crore LPG consumers across the country.
  - The scheme aims at eliminating duplication or bogus LPG connections and its diversion. It also seeks to meet substantive savings in LPG subsidy.
- Assam passes Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015
- Abhishek Verma wins gold medal in Archery World Cup
- Gujarat Government declares ban on use of plastic in state
- Badminton World Championship 2015: Saina Nehwal wins silver medal
- Taj Mahal becomes first monument in world to have Twitter account
- Hero Cycles acquires leading UK-based Avocet Sports
- China successfully tests power system for largest space rocket
- Sachin Tendulkar to be Maharashtra's Tiger ambassador
- SBI launches mobile wallet app 'Buddy'
- Lenovo to make Smartphones in Chennai with Flextronics under Make in India initiative
- Olympic champion Sebastian Coe elected new IAAF president
- Centre to declare Rishikesh, Haridwar as Twin National Heritage Cities
- Historian Babasaheb Purandare conferred with Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2015
- Hindustan Unilever Sun Pharma Industries and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) among the world's top 100 innovative Companies: Forbes
- Scientists find way to take CO<sub>2</sub> from Air and make Carbon nanofibers
- Cochin Airport becomes world's first to operate completely on Solar Power
- Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in PM of Sri Lanka
- Golfer Aditi Ashok first Indian to win Ladies British amateur stroke-play Championship
- Roger Federer wins seventh Cincinnati Masters title of Tennis
- South, North Korea reach agreement to defuse crisis
- Tata Trusts ink MoU with Andhra Pradesh Government to develop 264 Smart Villages
- Amol Palekar appointed as Chairman of India's Oscar jury

- Government announces Dronacharya, Dhyan Chand, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar awards 2015
  - Dronacharya Award 2015
    - i. Naval Singh- Athletics Para-sports coach.
    - ii. Anoop Singh- Wrestling coach.
    - iii. Harbans Singh- Athletics coach.
    - iv. Swantantr Raj Singh- Boxing coach.
    - v. Nihar Ameen- Swimming coach.
  - Dhyan Chand Award 2015
    - i. Romeo James- Hockey.
    - ii. Shiv Prakash Mishra- Tennis.
    - iii. P.P Nair- Volleyball.
  - Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2015
    - i. Directorate General of Military Training (DGMT) – for identifying and nurturing of young talent in sports.
    - ii. Coal India Limited (CIL) – for encouraging sports through Corporate Social Responsibility.
    - iii. Haryana State Police- For employing sportspersons and sports welfare measures.
    - iv. Sports Coaching Foundation (SCF)- For development of sports.
- Novak Djokovic appointed as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- GSAT-6 communication satellite successfully placed in orbit

## September 2015

- India's ace shooter Gurpreet Singh won the silver medal at 2015 Asian Air Gun Championship held in New Delhi.
- Union Government launched Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy-2015 to promote greening of National Highway corridors across the country. The policy was unveiled by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
- M.R. Poovamma and Babita Kumari have been conferred with prestigious Arjuna Award 2015 for their individual achievements in sports. The award was presented to them by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Youth affairs and Sports Sarbananda Sonowal in New Delhi. M.R. Poovamma has been conferred with this award for her contributions in Athletics and Babita Kumari in the field of Wrestling.

- Search engine giant Google has announced to provide high-speed public Wi-Fi in 500 Indian railway stations. To set up public Wi-Fi hotspots, Google is working with the Indian Railways and RailTel, a government-owned provider of telecommunications infrastructure to the railways.
- Reliance Defence has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Emirates Defence Industries Company (EDIC) in defence sector. The MoU seeks to boost partnership between both countries for manufacturing, knowledge transfer, services and technology development from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Both companies will partner to jointly explore the opportunity for manufacturing and building capabilities in Aviation, defence vehicles and associated areas.
- Union Government has inked a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for US 123.51 million dollars for Infrastructure Development Investment Program. The 3-tranche loan will be used for upgrading tourism infrastructure and services in three states Punjab, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- India's first dedicated satellite for astronomy research Astrosat has been successfully launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It was launched along with 6 foreign satellites by the ISRO's work horse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C30 (PSLV-C30)
- Mathematician Dr. Jacob Tsimerman from Canada has been chosen for the prestigious 2015 SAstra Ramanujan Prize.
- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has won 2015 IBSF World Billiards Championship (Time Format) in Adelaide, Australia. It was his overall 14th World title.
- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain won 2015 Japanese Grand Prix title of Formula One.
- Indo-Swiss tennis pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the women's doubles title of 2015 Guangzhou Open Tennis Tournament.
- United Nations on 25 September 2015 unanimously adopted an ambitious agreement on the outcome document New Sustainable Development Agenda for the next 15 years i.e. till 2030.
- The document in this regard was adopted in 70th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and was announced by its President Mogens Lykketoft at the UN headquarters in New York.
- German auto maker Volkswagen AG has appointed Matthias Mueller as its new chief executive officer (CEO).
- Former Indian Cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly was appointed as President of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).
- Union Government has given its approval for implementation of Integrated Air Command & Control System (IACCS) project of Indian Air force (IAF) with allocation of 8,000-crore rupees. Decision in this regard was taken by Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the proposal forwarded by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

- Alexis Tsipras of left wing Syriza party has sworn in as the Prime Minister of Greece. He was administered oath to the office by the President Prokopis Pavlopoulos. It is second time; Alexis Tsipras has sworn in as the PM of Greece. Earlier in January 2015, he had sworn in for first becoming youngest PM of Greece since 1865 at the age of 40.
- Telecom service provider Uninor has rebranded itself as Telenor in India. The company also has changed its tag to 'Ab life full paisa vasool' from 'Sabse Sasta'. For the rebranding exercise, the company is going to spend around 100 crore rupees.
- Sherif Ismail has sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Egypt. He was administered oath to the office by President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi.
- Nepal has adopted new Constitution marking the country's transition to a secular and democratic republic. The new Constitution was unveiled by Nepalese President Ram Baran Yadav at a special ceremony held in Parliament at Kathmandu.
- India's Ajay Jayaram has won silver medal in 2015 Korea Open Badminton tournament in the Men's singles category.
- Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel from Germany has won 2015 Singapore Grand Prix of Formula One.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to provide 24x7 power supply to every house.
- Union Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) for the welfare of people affected by mining related operations.
- The Union Cabinet has approved Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural mission (SPMRM) for its ambitious bid to spur social, economic and infrastructure development in rural areas. In this regard, Union Government has earmarked over 5,000 crore rupees for the mission to develop 300 clusters over next three years across the country.
- Hungarian Government has declared a state of emergency in its two regions of Csongrad and Bacs-Kiskun to cope with the influx of refugees. It was declared by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. This move could pave the way to bringing in Hungary's military to patrol the frontier bordering Serbia to stop illegal influx.
- Malcolm Turnbull has sworn-in as Australia's new Prime Minister. He became the 29th Prime Minister of the country and was administered oath to the office by Governor-General Peter Cosgrove.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been selected for the United Nations Champions of the Earth award.
- Healthcare firm Practo has acquired hospital management software firm Insta Health Solutions for 12 million dollars.
- Union Government has announced to extend e-Tourist Visa Scheme to 37 more countries to attract maximum foreign tourists in the country. It was announced by Secretary of Union Tourism

Ministry Vinod Zuthsi while addressing a function of Indian Association of Tour Operators in New Delhi. With this extension, the total 150 countries will come under the ambit of e-Tourist Visa Scheme from present 113 countries.

- JK Tyre has signed a binding agreement with Kesoram Industries to acquire its Haridwar unit. This agreement seeks to buy 100% equity in Kesoram Industries tyre unit in Uttarakhand in a decal value of 2,200 crore rupees. It should be noted that Kesoram sells its tyre under the Birla Tyres brand.
- The Union Cabinet has allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route for white label ATM operations (WLAO). Decision in this regard was taken in Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. This decision will expedite and ease FDI inflows in WLAO further giving a fillip to the government's ambitious effort to promote financial inclusion in the country, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY).
- Union Cabinet cleared National Offshore Wind Energy Policy to generate electricity from offshore windmills located in areas within Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country.
- The Union Cabinet approved introduction of Gold Monetization Schemes (GMS) in a bid to lure away Indians from buying physical gold. The approved schemes are Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) and the Gold Metal Loan (GML) Scheme.
- Ace Indian Golfer Anirban Lahiri has become the first Indian to qualify for the prestigious President's Cup of Golf.
- Indian weightlifter Deepak Lather won a gold medal in fifth Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) held in Apia, Samoa.

## October 2015

- Heena Sindhu wins gold medal in women's 10 metre air pistol event in the Asian Air Gun Championship.
- William Campbell (Ireland), Satoshi Omura (Japan) and Youyou Tu(China) jointly win the 2015 Nobel Prize in Medicine for their work in parasitic diseases.
- India and Germany signed 18 MoUs in key areas of defence, manufacturing, trade, intelligence and clean energy during the first day visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
- Jack Dorsey appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter.
- The 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded to Taakaki Kajita of Japan and Arthur B. McDonald (Canada) for their work in neutrino oscillations.
- FIFA suspends President Sepp Blatter and UEFA President Michael Platini for 90 days
- Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet has won the Nobel Peace Prize 2015 for its contribution to the building of democracy in Tunisia.
- South Africa wins the three match international T20 series against India 2-0.
- Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis win the China Open.

- British Economist Angus Deaton wins the 2015 Nobel Prize in Economics for his “analysis of consumption, poverty and welfare”.
- Younis Khan becomes the highest Test run scoring batsman for Pakistan during the first match against England in Abu Dhabi overtaking Javed Miandad’s previous best of 8832 runs.
- Indian pacer Zaheer Khan retired from international cricket. Zaheer Khan has picked up 311 wickets in 92 tests and 282 wickets in 200 ODIs.
- Marlon James won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction for “A Brief History of Seven Killings”.
- Nobel Peace Prize Winner Kailash Satyarthi has been conferred with the prestigious humanitarian award for this year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Amravati, the new Capital State of Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian archer Abhishek Verma becomes the first Indian to win a silver medal in the Archery World Cup Final.
- Indian gangster Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje aka Chota Rajan was arrested in Indonesia.
- Oscar winning music composer AR Rahman was honoured with the fifth Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award.
- Bidya Devi Bandhari elected as the first woman president of Nepal.
- China ends its “one-child policy” to counter the ageing workforce issues allowing all couples to have two children.
- A Russian plane carrying 217 passengers crashes in Egypt in which most passengers are feared dead.

## November 2015

- Great Britain wins the Davis Cup title for first time in 79 years.
- The 3rd Test match between Australia and New Zealand starts in Adelaide which is the **first Test match played in Daynight format** in 138 years of its history.
- The Government has decided to observe **26th November as 'Constitution Day'**. On the day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950.
- Marathi actor Prashant Damle selected for the **Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award**.
- Aditi Chauhan has become the first Indian woman to win the **Asian Woman Footballer of the Year in England by English Football Association (FA)**.
- Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar chief minister for **third time**.
- The Delhi Cabinet approved the **Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015**.
- India's first female Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 98th Birthday is observed as National Integration Day in India.

- **The Seventh Pay Commission** headed by Justice A K Mathur submitted its report to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and recommended a **23.5 per cent hike** in the pay and minimum salary of 18000 Rs for central government employees.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju conferred with **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champion for the Asia Region by United Nations**. He became the first Indian to be conferred with this honour.
- Actor Saeed Jaffrey died at the age of 86. Saeed Jaffrey is the first Indian to have received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his contributions to drama.
- Australian paceman Mitchell Starc becomes the fastest and only bowler to bowled at more than 160 kilometres per hour in Test match. He bowled 160.4 kilometres per hour (99.7 mph) in the second Test against New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth.
- Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party wins historic majority in Myanmar Polls which will allow it to elect a president and form a Government.
- Narendra Modi becomes the first Prime Minister to address British Parliament.
- India and the United Kingdom sign deals worth 9 billion Pound in the field of civilian nuclear, defence and cyber security.
- India successfully test fired its nuclearcapable strategic ballistic missile **AgniIV**.
- Nestle India relaunched Maggi noodles in India after five months banned over presence of unsafe levels of lead.
- Nigeria wins the **2015 FIFA U17 World Cup** in Chile after defeating Mali by 20.
- Wasim Jaffer becomes the first Indian to scores 10000 runs in Ranji Trophy Cricket.
- Indian Army successfully test fired the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile in Rajasthan's Pokhran test range.
- All services will be expensive by 0.5 per cent from November 15 as the government decided to impose cess on all taxable services.
- The Tamil Nadu Government cancelled the registration of Greenpeace India as a society.
- Justin Trudeau sworn in as the **new Prime Minister of Canada**.
- Justice TS Thakur has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of India after the retirement of HL Dattu on December 2.
- Punjabi language recognised as the third Language in Canada's House of Commons after English and French.
- IPL Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sundar Raman resigned from his post.
- India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis wins the Martina Navratilova Doubles Trophy after defeating the Spanish pair of Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro in Singapore.

## December 2015

- India became the first country to buy Uranium from Australia without being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Union Government unveiled the National Biotechnology Development Strategy (NBDS) 2015-2020 to establish India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub.
- China successfully launched its most sophisticated observation satellite Gaofen-4, as part of high-definition (HD) earth observation Gaofen project. *Gaofen-4 is China's first geosynchronous orbit high-definition optical imaging satellite and world's most sophisticated HD geosynchronous orbit remote sensing satellite.*
- Russia's Rostech State Corporation signed a one billion US dollar deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters.
- Gujarati litterateur Raghuveer Chaudhary selected for the 51st Jnanpith award.
- Reliance Jio launched 4G (4th Generation) telecom service using LTE (Long Term Evolution) Technology.
- Andhra Pradesh Government signed an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Microsoft India on technology initiatives for governance.
- IAS officer Amitabh Kant appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- China officially abandoned its One Child Policy. The new law allows couples to have two children from January 1, 2016.
- Indian luger Shiva Keshavan won a silver medal at the 2015 Asian Luge Championship held in Nagano, Japan.
- Tech Mahindra launched first of its kind 'Tap N Pay' contactless digital payment wallet MobiMoney using the NFC ecosystem.
- Australian cricketer Steve Smith named **Cricketer of the Year(2015)** at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards ceremony in Dubai.
- Union Government launched two mobile applications namely **Crop Insurance** and **AgriMarket Mobile** to benefit farmers .
- Philippines became the first Asian country to approve the sale of the world's first ever dengue vaccine Dengvaxia in the country.
- Jet Airways appointed Amit Agarwal as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- IAS officer Pawan Kumar Agarwal was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Food Regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- New Zealand cricket team captain Brendon McCullum announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket viz., tests, ODIs and twenty20.

- The US lifted a 40 year ban on oil exports marking a historic shift for the booming US oil industry.
- Barcelona FC won the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup.
- Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach crowned as the 64<sup>th</sup> Miss Universe.
- Afghanistan officially became the 164th member nation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- India's biggest Wildlife Rescue Centre named as *Gorewada Zoo and Wildlife Rescue Centre* commissioned at Gorewada near Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched three separate indices on three corporate houses of India viz. Tata, Aditya Birla and Mahindra Group. (*Nifty Tata Group Index, Nifty Aditya Birla Group Index and Nifty Mahindra Group Index*.)
- Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri won the Order of Merit crown of Asian Tour(2015).
- Typhoon Melor hit central Philippines.
- Chief Justice of Patna High Court Justice L Narasimha Reddy appointed as Head Judicial Committee on One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme.
- Actor Dilip Kumar (93) was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan Award.
- Wipro was awarded the Aegis Graham Bell Award(2015) for developing a solution for the Internet of Things (IoT)
- Author **Salman Rushdie** was awarded the 2015 Mailer Prize for Lifetime Achievement.
- Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet (NDQ) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Time magazine named German Chancellor Angela Merkel as Person of the Year 2015 for her role in Europe's crises over migration and Greek .
- Australia won the 2014-15 Men's Hockey World League.
- Kaher Kazem appointed as President and Managing Director, General Motors (GM) India operations.
- Union Government launched Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign for universal accessibility to persons with disabilities.
- Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to start Rotavirus vaccination project under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- The Delhi Assembly unanimously passed the Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015.
- The first India International Science Festival (IISF) was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi campus. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur sworn in as 43rd Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- 6 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to be set up in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Karnataka.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) included China's Yuan into its elite reserve currency basket.
- China hosted the first Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) media summit in Beijing for creating an alternative media platform for the 5 emerging economies.