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About Bank of Baroda Probationary Officer Exam:- This BOB PO Exam is going to be held for admission to 1 year full-time post graduate diploma course in Banking and Finance from Manipal University or any other Institute in other part of the country, as decided by the bank comes with the assurance of a full-fledged Banking career with Bank of Baroda on successful completion of the course.

No. of Students Intake :- 1200

Pattren Of Exam:-

Sr.no	Subject	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks
1.	Reasoning	50	50
2.	Numerical Ability	50	50
3.	English	50	50
4.	General Awareness	50	50
	Total	200	200

Date of Examination :- 18-4-2015

Duration:- Two Hours

Note:- This is the 1st part of the capsule and 2nd part will be Released on or before 4th April, 2015. This capsule contains GK Updates till 24 March,2015. Complete current affairs of till date and related study material will be covered in the next part capsule.Stay Connected with sscjunction.com for the latest updates.

BANKING AND BUSINESS NEWS

1. Government has decided to separate the post of Chairman and Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in public sector banks. In pursuance of the decision, the government has appointed four Managing Directors and CEOs of following 4 PSU banks:

- **Koteeswaran** was named as MD and CEO of **Indian Overseas Bank**.
- **Srinivas** was named as MD and CEO of **United Bank of India**.
- **Animesh Chauhan** was named MD and CEO of **Oriental Bank of Commerce**.
- **Kishore Sansi** was named MD and CEO of **Vijaya Bank**.

Above 4 MD's and CEO's will have tenure of 3 years or till the date of superannuation, whichever is earlier.

2. Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit filed a civil lawsuit in federal court against Indian company **C-Cubed Solutions** for misusing its name and registered trademarks by providing fraudulent technical support services to unsuspecting consumers. Microsoft decided to sue these entities after they had received more 65,000 customer complaints regarding fraudulent tech support scams since May 2014.
3. ICICI Bank has launched its own '**digital village**' project while adopting an entire village in Gujarat to provide services ranging from cashless banking to digitised school teaching. It was launched presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochar to mark 60-year-celebration of the ICICI group's existence.
 - Digital village has three themes -- **cashless, comprehensive and connected**.
 - Village, named Akodara, in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat incidentally happens to be the same place where Modi started Gujarat's first animal hostel in 2011 when he was the Chief Minister of the state
4. Know-Your-Customers (KYC) rules for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) relaxed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per RBI notification, the KYC exercise will be required to be done in three ways and they are:-
 - For High-risk individual and entities**– in at least every 2 years
 - For medium risk individuals and entities** - in at least every 8 years
 - For low risk individuals and entities** – in at least every 10 years
5. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed an information sharing agreement with United States (US) banking regulators for better coordination with them in supervising financial institutions.
6. India's largest private sector bank Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank has launched country's first '**contactless' debit and credit cards**.
 - These cards will provide its customers to make electronic payments by waving the cards near the merchant terminal instead of dipping or swiping.

- These cards are based on **the Near Field Communication (NFC)** technology and powered by MasterCard contactless and Visa payWave technologies.
- 7. Kotak Mahindra Bank received its shareholders nod for merger of Bengaluru-headquartered ING Vysya Bank with itself. It was approved by the 99.30 per cent in number representing 99.93 per cent in value of the shareholders present.
- 8. Tata's Vistara airline started domestic flight operation in India. Vistara airline is a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines (SIA).
- 9. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information with Brazil's Central Bank- Banco Central do Brasil (BCB). This MoU was signed by Anthero de Moraes Meirelles, Deputy Governor for Supervision, BCB and S.S. Mundra, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India
- 10. Technology giant Microsoft unveiled virtual assistant- **Cortana** for Windows Phone handsets. Cortana is female voice-controlled application uses Microsofts search engine Bing and data stored on the handsets to make personalised recommendations and carry out tasks. It named after AI system in the firm's Halo video game franchise.
- 11. India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI), signed a loan agreement for 100 million euro (about Rs 700 crore) with European Investment Bank (EIB). This agreement facilitated by SBI Capital Markets, a subsidiary of SBI.
- 12. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued draft regulations to facilitate full mobile number portability (MNP).
- 13. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted ban on carrying Indian bank notes of Rs 1,000 and 500 denominations to and from Nepal, Bhutan. However, RBI has put a limit of carrying such notes at Rs 25,000 per person.
- 14. US technology giant Apple, has reported the biggest quarterly profit of 18 billion US dollar.
- 15. **Hike Messenger**, a home-grown chat application has **introduced free voice-calling feature** called Hike Calls to its users. Hike Messenger has introduced this service, after it had acquired free calling application company – Zip Phone earlier in January 2015. This feature launched in beta on Android operating system, which contributes to over 90 percent of Hike's user base. While, the iOS and Windows versions will be released later. Hike Messenger was launched on 12th December 2012 and is **a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and Softbank**. In August 2014, Hike had hit 35 million users.
- 16. Union government announced to sell up **to 10 per cent stake** in state owned Coal India Limited (CIL). It will help the government to raise revenue of 24,000 crore rupees. Government is planning to divest 5 per cent stake in the company via share sale and the remaining 5 per cent through the green-shoe option. Currently, the government holds 89.65 per cent stake in CIL.
- 17. India's online restaurant search and discovery service provider **Zomato announced the acquisition of Turkey's restaurant search company Mekanist**. With this acquisition, Zomato has increased its coverage from about 27,500 restaurants in Istanbul and Ankara to more than 50,000 restaurants across Turkey.

18. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a high-powered panel on urban cooperative banks (UCB). It will be headed by RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi. This high-powered panel will re-examine and recommend appropriate set of businesses, size, conversion and licensing terms for the UCB sector.
19. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement on 2 february. In its bi-monthly monetary policy statement, RBI not changed its main lending rate i.e.Repo Rate and cash reserve ratio (CRR). But changed statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) of scheduled commercial banks. RBI has been decided to:
- **Repo rate**- unchanged at 7.75 per cent.
 - **Cash reserve ratio (CRR)** - unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).
 - **Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR)** - reduced the SLR of scheduled commercial banks by 50 basis points from 22.0 per cent to 21.5 per cent of their NDTL.
 - **Reverse repo rate** – unchanged at 6.75 per cent.
 - **Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate**- remains unchanged at 8.75 per cent.
 - **Bank Rate** – remains unchanged at 8.75 per cent.
 - Earlier on 15 January 2015, RBI had changed repo rate by 25 basis points from 8.0 percent to 7.75 percent.
20. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy review enhanced the limit for foreign exchange (FOREX) remittances under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to \$250,000 (Rs. 1.5 crore) per person per year. This limit doubled compared to earlier limit of \$125,000 per person per year.

February, 2015

21. According to market research firm Canalys report, India's Micromax Mobile overtaken Korean tech giant Samsung as the largest seller of smartphones in India for the first time. As per Canalys report, Micromax accounted for 22% of India's smartphone market share in the October-December 2014 quarter (Q4, 2014). While, Samsung's market share fell down to 20%.
22. Union Government is planning to infuse Rs. 6,990 crore in 9 Public Sector Banks (PSB's) for enhancing their capital and meeting the global risk norms. 9 PSBs are: **State Bank of India (Rs 2,970 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 1,260 crore), Punjab National Bank (Rs 870 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 570 crore), Syndicate Bank (Rs 460 crore), Allahabad Bank (Rs 320 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 280 crore), Dena Bank (Rs 140 crore) and Andhra Bank (Rs 120 crore).**
23. India's Reliance Communications Limited (RCOM) partnered with social networking giant Facebook to offer free internet access. Both companies have launched Internet.org, a Facebook-led initiative to bring internet to everyone in the world.
24. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval to increase the Authorised Share Capital of the **National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)**. As per this decision, NMDFC's Authorised Share Capital has doubled from Rs. 1500 crore to Rs. 3000 crore.

25. **The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank**, launched India's first digital Bank on mobile phones, named **Pockets**. This service will enable users to instantly send money to any e-mail id, mobile number, friends on Facebook and bank account. Anyone, including those who are not customers of ICICI Bank, can download the e-wallet from Google Playstore. This wallet uses a virtual VISA card which enables the users to transact on any website or mobile application in India.
 26. US technology giant **Apple Inc. became the first company to reach a market value of \$700 billion**. It was able to hit this milestone after its shares rose 1.9 per cent and closing at \$122.02, which in turn increased company's market value to \$710 billion.
 27. **Twitter has bought Indian mobile marketing start-up ZipDial** (It is Bengaluru based startup, founded in 2011 co-founded by Valerie Wagoner) It will be first Indian technology product startup to be bought by Twitter. This deal is expected to cost Twitter around \$34-35 million (Rs 215 crore). ZipDial's mobile marketing platform gives information about businesses to users when they place a missed call.
 28. Indian pharmaceutical giant, **Cipla has been awarded \$188.95 million (around Rs. 1,172 crore) Contract by Global Fund to supply ARV (anti-retroviral) drugs**. Cipla selected as a Panel Supplier for a supplier partnership agreement. This contract is effective from 1 January 2015 and will run for a period of three years i.e. till 2018.
 29. Kerala-based business conglomerate **Muthoot Group launched the Friends for Life project in partnership with World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature-India**. This project aims at effective management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) to protect the habitats of Asian elephants in six states as 4 priority landscapes and 1 priority site earmarked by WWF-India. Priority landscapes include North Bank landscape in Arunachal Pradesh, Kaziranga and Karbi-Anglong in Assam, Terai Arc landscape in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Western Ghats landscape in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and also some parts of northern West Bengal. This project was launched in Kochi as part of the Muthoot's Haathi Mera Saathi Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative
 30. India's software services giant **Infosys announced to acquire to acquire US-based automation technology firm Panaya**. In this regard, Infosys signed a definitive agreement to fully acquire Panaya for an enterprise value of \$200 million (1200 crore rupees) in cash.
 31. State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Army on the Defence Salary Package (DSP). Signed MoU is revised version of the first MoU which was signed on DSP between two parties in 2011 and was valid for a period of three years. The revised MoU meets the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and their families.
- March, 2015**
32. Online cab aggregator **Olacabs has acquired TaxiForSure** for \$200 million cash and equity deal. Olacabs was founded in 2010 by two IIT Bombay graduates, Bhavish Aggarwal (CEO) and Ankit Bhati. Its headquarter is located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 33. Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have signed an agreement to keep inflation below 6%.

34. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 March 2015 has cut down repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.5 percent from 7.75 percent, with immediate effect. However, RBI has kept the cash reserve ratio (CRR) unchanged at 4 percent. After this change now current rates are
- **Repo Rate- 7.5%**
 - **Reverse Repo Rate- 6.5%**
 - **Bank Rate- 8.5%**
 - MSF- 8.5%
 - CRR- 4%
 - **SLR- 21.50%**
35. Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel and world's largest telecom operator China Mobile have signed a partnership memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work jointly on evolving high technologies like 4G, 5G and procuring telecom devices and equipment. The MoU was signed by China Mobile Chairman Xi Guohua and Bharti Airtel founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal.
36. Anil Ambani-led **Reliance Infrastructure acquired Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering** in an all-cash deal.
- Reliance Infra will first invest Rs 819 crore to acquire 17.66 per cent stake from the promoters and subsequently an additional 26 per cent stake at Rs 1,266 crore.
 - While, Anil Ambani will take over as chairman of Pipavav Defence with full management control.
 - Reliance Infra with this acquisition has joined a growing list of Indian companies entering the defence sector in a big way.
37. Country's third largest software services firm **Wipro partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to develop a cyber value-at-risk (VAR) framework.**
38. Infosys had signed a five-year agreement with Dutch company TNT to help it simplify and transform its technology applications.
39. The app, developed in-house by the Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) Marine Fishery Advisory Services team is for the benefit of fishermen. There are plans to make available the app on Google Play store and on INCOIS website.
40. RBI eased the norms for home loans for up to Rs 10 lakh by allowing banks to include stamp duty and registration charges to the cost of a unit.
41. Country's second largest software services firm Infosys set up a 250-seater BPO arm centre at Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, aimed at serving the aviation sector. The 12,000-square feet centre, developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth administration and state-owned PRIDCO, will initially deliver order-to-cash business processes for clients in the aviation sector.
42. State Bank of India sold 4 per cent stake in the largest credit information company Credit Information Bureau India Ltd (Cibil) for an estimated Rs 72 crore. **Cibil is the largest and the oldest credit bureau in the country having entered the market in 2000.**
43. The Union government advised PSU banks to step up lending to minorities with a view to ensuring that they get loans in proportion to their population. In term of population, Muslims constitute the largest community, followed by Christians. Third largest minority group is that of the Sikhs.

44. The Income Tax Department has slapped a Rs. 20,495-crore tax demand on Cairn India for failing to deduct withholding tax on alleged capital gains made by its erstwhile promoter, Cairn Energy.
45. **Facebook** has acquired the shopping search engine **TheFind**. With the acquisition, the social networking giant Facebook has signaled its future plans to move into the e-commerce. The acquisition aims to improve Facebook ads experience and lift its digital advertising business. The technology of TheFind will be integrated into Facebook in order to make ads more relevant and better for consumers.
46. Online marketplace major **Snapdeal** **picked up minority stake in logistics firm GoJavas** as it looks to further strengthen its delivery operations in the country. Snapdeal, which has more than 60,000 sellers on board and more than 40 million registered users, has been dependent on third party services such as **Blue Dart, GoJavas, Ecom Express** for handling deliveries in the country.
47. Hitachi India Ltd and Siemens Ltd signed an MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to form a consortium that would create pilots and replicate them throughout the country for setting up 100 smart cities.
48. US-based Mirach Capital said it is initiating a \$400 million defamation lawsuit against the Sahara group. The crisis-hit group had alleged that Mirach and its CEO Saransh Sharma's criminal conduct and lack of financial capabilities to honour such huge commitments led to the breaking down of the deal.
49. HDFC Bank has launched **Chillr**, a mobile app that allows users to instantly transfer money to any contact in their phonebook 24 hours a day and seven days a week.
 - HDFC Bank partnered with MobME, a Kochi-based technology firm, to launch this app.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Union government blocked access to 32 websites for carrying anti-India views and spreading banned terrorist outfit Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) propaganda, after following an advisory given by an anti-terrorism team.

They were **blocked by Department of Telecom(DoT)** under Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and under Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.
2. Delhi police has launched women safety mobile application '**Himmat**'. It was launched by the Union home minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.
 - It is an android based mobile app.
 - After downloading the app, new user has to register them with the Delhi Police website by sharing their name, mobile number and that of a minimum of two relatives/friends.
 - In case of emergency, user can send an alert by shaking her phone or by pressing the power button/soft button.

3. Union government has renamed Planning commission as National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. The renaming of the Planning Commission is being seen as the first step towards replacing it with a new-age institution.
- It will serve as a '**Think Tank**' of the government i.e. a directional and policy dynamo.
 - It will also provide governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy formulation.
 - Composition
 - **Chairperson**- Prime Minister.
 - **Governing Council**- It will consist of- Chief Ministers (of States) and Lt. Governors (of Union Territories).
 - **Regional Council**- It will be formed on need basis. It will comprise Chief Ministers (of States) and Lt. Governors (of Union Territories).
 - **Vice-Chairperson**- To be appointed by the Prime Minister.
 - **Members**- Full time Basis and Part time members- Maximum of 2. They will from leading universities research organizations and other relevant institutions on a rotational basis.
 - **Ex Officio members**- Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
 - **Special invitees**- They will be nominated by the Prime Minister and will be experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees.
 - **Chief Executive Officer**- Appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Secretariat- If deemed necessary.
4. Gujarat government announced its new industrial policy for 2015. This industrial policy aims to make state a global manufacturing hub by playing a pivotal role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' dream.
5. A suspicious fishing boat carrying explosives from Pakistan was intercepted by Indian Coast Guard in Arabian Sea near Indo-Pak maritime boundary but it sank after the crew on board set it on fire. The incident came a month after sixth anniversary of the Mumbai terror attack.
6. Union Government launched Management Information System (MIS) to check progress and implementation of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) scheme in different states. It was launched by Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Minister M Venkaiah Naidu.
7. Union Government extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958** for another one year in Assam and has declared the entire 'state of Assam' as a '**Disturbed Area**'. Besides Assam, government has declared the area falling within 20 km wide belt along the border of Assam with Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya as *Disturbed Area*.
8. Sixty-six wild tiger deaths reported in the country in 2014. Two tiger deaths occurred on the last day of the year. As per the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the highest number of wild tiger deaths reported from the forests of Tamil Nadu –15, followed by Madhya Pradesh –14.

9. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) decided to prepare a Tea Atlas in India's North Eastern State Assam. This atlas seeks to create a comprehensive database of the tea gardens and socio-economic condition of its workers in state.
10. International Hindi Conference-2015 (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी सम्मलेन-2015) will be hosted by **New Jersey, United States** in April 2015. **Theme** of 2015 edition of this conference is **Expanding World of Hindi: Possibilities and Challenges**.
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Programme for LED-based Home and Street Lighting in New Delhi for energy conservation by reducing energy consumption and Described LED bulb as a '**prakash path**' (way to light).
12. The Centre nominated cricketer V.V.S. Laxman, chess player Koneru Humpy, playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam as brand ambassadors of Swachh Bharat campaign.
13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative coins to honour Tata Group founder Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. PM released coins in the denomination of 100 and five rupee to mark Jamsetji Tata's 175th birth anniversary.
14. Central government launched the sale of subsidised 5-kg LPG cylinders scheme for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and others. It was launched by **Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Bhubaneswar, Odhisa**.
15. President Pranab Mukherjee signed the ordinance that amend's **Citizenship Act, 1955**. Citizenship Act amendments will benefit PIO and will give them benefits like life-long visa and exemption from appearing before the local police station on every visit etc.
16. Punjab become first state in India, to completely ban the sale of loose cigarettes (even as single sticks) and loose tobacco.
17. Pakistan government enacted new law, to create constitutional military courts to try and punish terrorists. This new law came into effect after it was signed by Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain.
18. Nobel Peace Prize winner **Kailash Satyarthi dedicated his prize to the nation**. He presented his medal to President Pranab Mukherjee in a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan and it has been put up for display at Rastrapati Bhavan Museum
19. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated **the Dandi Kutir museum** in Gujarat's capital of Gandhinagar. It is a state-of-the-art three-storey museum, based upon the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. It was inaugurated on the occasion of the 13th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and 7th edition of Vibrant Gujarat.
20. The **19th National Youth Festival** begun in Guwahati, Assam. This festival coincides with the 152nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. **Theme of this edition of youth festival is Youth for Clean, Green and Progressive India**.
21. President Pranab Mukherjee signed an ordinance to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 as per Article 123 of Constitution. This ordinance will pave the way for plying of e-rickshaws on roads of Delhi.
22. Union Government merged Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card-holders with Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card-holders. PIO card-holders henceforth are deemed to be OCI card-holders with effect from 9th January 2015. Now only OCI cards facility with enhanced benefits will exist to provide maximum possible benefits to Indian Diaspora.

23. 3 day **Flamingo Festival** has begun at the famous brackish water of Lake Pulicat in Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary located at Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. It was hosted in Doravari Satram mandal, in Nellore district. This festival provides a unique opportunity for people, particularly ornithologists, environmentalists, bird watchers, forest and tourism officials
- To study the bio-diversity of Pulicat and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary
 - To initiate measure to conserve the bio-zones for future generations in this area.
24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. Inaugural ceremony was attended by United Nations General Secretary and US State Secretary John Kerry.
25. People from 11 countries have taken part in **First Buddha Heritage Walk in Bihar**. In this heritage walk over 500 pilgrims from 11 countries (from Japan, China, South Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, and India) walked through a **13-km-long forest trail**. They walked through the trail which Lord Gautam Buddha had taken to reach Rajgir from Bodh Gaya around 2,543 years ago. It was organized by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC).
26. **United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** inaugurated Gujarat's second canal-top 10-MW solar power project. It is located on 5.5 km from Vadodara branch of Sardar Sarovar project canal. It is implemented by Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL).
27. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley adopted 4 villages in Vadodara district in Gujarat as part of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. He adopted following 4 villages; **Karnali village, Pipaliya village, Validia village and Baglipura village**.
28. **Sun Temple at Konark, Odhisa** declared Adarsh Monument tag by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**. Along with Sun Temple, three other monuments of eastern India were given Adarsh Monument tag are Hazarduari Palace in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, Vaishali-Kolhua in Bihar, Rang Ghar in Sibsagar (Sivasagar) district of Assam.
29. **Idukki district of Kerala** has become first district in India to have high speed Rural Broadband Network i.e. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Internet connectivity (largest rural connectivity project of its kind in the world).
30. India and Bangladesh inaugurated third border haat in Srinagar-Purba on the Tripura-Bangladesh border.
31. **India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) powered train between Rewari and Rohtak in Haryana**. It was flagged off by Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu at Rewari junction of the Northern Railway zone.
32. **Tribal Food Festival-2015** begun in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram.
33. Union Cabinet gave nod for conducting FM Phase-III auction and renewal of Private FM Radio licenses from Phase-II to Phase-III in 69 existing cities for 135 channels.
34. President Pranab Mukherjee launched the Pulse Polio Immunization(PPI) Programme by administering polio drops to children at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. It launched by President ahead of the **National Immunization Day which is observed on 18 January**.

35. Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani laid the foundation stone **for Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Visakhapatnam** at Gambheeram village of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.
36. Andhra Pradesh government signed a pact with the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to boost sustainable farming in the state.
37. Union Government reconstituted Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). In this regard, government has appointed 1 chairperson and 9 board members. **Filmmaker Pahlaj Nihalani appointed chairperson.** He will be office in for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- 38. Punjab government launched e-stamping project in the state.** It was launched by state Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal. This project seeks to computerise revenue departments of the state in order to remove malpractices and end leakage of government revenue. It also seeks to make revenue transactions safe and secure. At present, e-stamping has been initiated as a pilot project in five districts of state. They are **Mohali, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Bathinda.**
39. Maharashtra Government declared mineral rich **Chandrapur** district (in Vidarbha region) as **dry district.** Thus imposing ban on the sale, purchase, production and consumption of liquor in the district.
40. As per tiger census report 2014 released by Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, the population of tigers in India increased from 1,706 in 2011 to 2,226 in 2014.
41. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) entered into **Guinness book of World Records.** In one week, 18,096,130 bank accounts were opened as part of the financial inclusion campaign from 23rd to 29th August, 2014. It was achieved by the Department of Financial Services (Government of India).
42. Japanese automaker **Toyota Motor Corp.** topped in global vehicle sales in 2014 by selling 10.23 million vehicles, beating Volkswagen and General Motors.
43. The High Level Committee (HLC) for Restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) chaired by Shanta Kumar submitted its report to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
44. National Voters' Day (NVD) observed on 25th January. This year i.e. 2015 is fifth National Voters' Day and **theme of this year is Easy Registration, Easy Correction.**
45. Wing Commander Pooja Thakur became the first woman officer to lead the ceremonial Guard of Honour at Rashtrapathi Bhavan. On 25 January 2015, she led the ceremonial Guard of Honour which was inspected by the U.S. President Barack Obama at Rashtrapathi Bhavan.
46. India will provide fund of Rs 1500 crore to Nepal's Pancheshwar multi-purpose project on Mahakali river for countering the Kheri floods in Uttar Pradesh.
47. For the first time in the history of India's Republic Day, all-women contingent from the three forces Army, Air Force and Navy marched down in the parade.
- **Army contingent** was led by **Capt Divya Ajith.**
 - **Navy contingent** was led by Lieutenant Commander **Priya Jeyakumar.**
 - **Air Force contingent** was led by Squadron Leader **Sneha Shekhawat.** Each contingent had 148 women personnel.

48. Gujarat Technological University (GTU) launched e-Raksha Research Centre to curb rising menace of cybercrimes. Gujarat Technological University (GTU) headed by the state government and came into existence on the 16th of May, 2007.
49. **Maharashtra government** announced that, September 17 (on Vishwakarma Jayanti) will be observed as Industries Day in each district.
50. Maharashtra government has issued Letter of Intent (LoI) to buy Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's London house to the Indian High Commission in United Kingdom (UK).
51. Supreme Court (SC) directed search engines like **Google India, Yahoo and Microsoft's Bing** to block advertisements on sex determination and strictly comply with the laws. This ruling was given by SC bench comprising of Justices Dipak Misra and Prafulla C. Pant on public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Dr. Sabu Mathew George in 2008.
52. **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** made packaging of foodgrains & sugar in jute material mandatory for jute year 2014-15. In this regard CCEA mentioned that packaging with jute material will be mandatory for minimum 90 per cent of production in case of food grains and 20 per cent in case of sugar production. With this decision, government is seeking to help the jute sector which generates a lot of livelihoods for farmers and workers.
53. The World Bank released report Scaling the Heights: Social inclusion and sustainable development on Himachal Pradesh. It was released by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil in Shimla. **This was first of its kind report prepared by the World Bank for Himachal Pradesh.** The report reveals that state has effectively balanced economic growth with social inclusion.
54. Gujarat government launched Taluka Planning Atlas (TPA) project. Taluka Planning Atlas (TPA) project undertaken by the state planning department with the help of director of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG). TPA aims to help the local administration in taking effective decisions about the development in respective regions.
55. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** launched Mass Open Online Courses (MOOC) in three subjects, computer programming, thermodynamics, and signals and systems in collaboration with edx a not-for-profit initiative by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University.
56. Maharashtra government gave nod to confined genetically modified (GM) food trials in state. In this regard, state government granted no-objection certificates (NOC) for open field trials of 5 genetically modified (GM) crops. They are rice, chana (chickpeas), maize, brinjal and cotton.
57. Union Government has released set of three Commemorative Postage Stamps on Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission). This set of 3 stamps was released by Union Ministry for Communications & Information Technology and issued by Department of Posts.

February, 2015:

58. **29th Surajkund International Crafts Mela** begun **Faridabad district of Haryana** was inaugurated by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar along with Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Raman Singh.
- The **theme state** this year is **Chhattisgarh**.

- **Lebanon is the Partner Nation** of this year's Mela and it will be open till 15 February 2015. 17 other countries also participated in this mela this year.
59. Wildlife SOS in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh (UP) Forest Department and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched Jackal Research & Translocation Project in UP. Under this project, study and translocation of 30-35 wild jackals from Akbar's Tomb in Sikandra, Agra to safe natural habitat will be undertaken.
60. **India's 1st solar fenced elephant sanctuary will come up near Bengaluru, Karnataka.** It was announced by an international animal rights and conservation group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
61. The **17th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav has begun in New Delhi.** It is a theatre festival, organized by National School of Drama (NSD). It was inaugurated by Culture Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma and National Award-winning actor and NSD alumnus Om Puri.
62. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) launched **cash on delivery (CoD) system for rail ticketing.** With this initiative, passengers can now book a rail ticket online and get it delivered at home where the payment can be made. IRCTC launched this CoD scheme on pilot basis. Initially, this service will be available in more than 200 cities.
63. **Haryana government launched e-registration of properties** in all tehsils and sub-tehsils of the state. It launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Previously in January 2015, pilot project of this system was implemented successfully in eight tehsils.
64. Bihar government decided to provide free education to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and girl students till Post Graduation (PG) level in the state. This decision was taken at the state cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi.
65. **Maharashtra Government** is planning to revamp the **Jeevan Amrut Yojana (blood-on-call) scheme** to make it more beneficial to people. State government is seeking to strengthen the network of blood storage units in rural areas instead of current mechanism of transporting blood through motorcycles.
66. **Kolkata become India's first Wi-Fi-enabled metro city** as the service was launched from Park Street in city. This 4th Generation (4G) free Wi-fi service was launched by West **Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.** The whole city is expected to come under Wi-Fi coverage by mid-April in 2015. Private telecom operator, Reliance Jio is providing the 4G enabled service Wi-fi s in the city.
67. Two beneficial algal species *Ulva paschima* Bast and *Cladophora goensis* Bast were discovered off the west coast of India. These species have excellent carbon capture properties i.e. ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They were discovered by Dr. Felix Bast and two research students working with him.
68. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi constituted three sub-groups of Chief Ministers within National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. It was announced by PM while he was chairing the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- **First sub-group-** It will study the 66 centrally-sponsored schemes and recommend which schemes should continue, which should be transferred to states, and which to discontinue.

- **Second sub-group**- It will focus on skill development and creation of skilled manpower within states.
 - **Third sub-group**- It will decide on the institutional mechanisms to be evolved for Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, so that cleanliness becomes a part of life in perpetuity.
69. Union Government's **Sukanya Samridhi Yojna under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign has begun in Jaunpur district in the state of Uttar Pradesh**. The first account under the scheme was opened in the name of a three-year old girl Vedika Tiwari in this district by her parents.
70. Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared the results of Delhi Legislative Assembly election 2015. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) head Arvind Kejriwal with 67 seats emerged as the largest party in the house of 70 seats. BJP won only 3 seats.
71. **First World Ocean Science Congress (WOSC) concluded in Kochi, Kerala**. The four-day-long event had started in Kochi on 5 February 2015.
- Themes of WOSC-2015: Protect Oceans for Posterity and Blue Economy.
72. First **National Deworming Day** was observed on **10 February**. On the eve of the National Deworming Day, Union Ministry for Health & Family Welfare launched the National Deworming initiative launched by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
73. Four new fish species named **Puntius nelsoni, Puntius nigronotus, Systemus chryseus and Systemus rufus have been discovered in Kerala**. They were discovered by Mathews Plamoottil, a zoology professor at Baby John Memorial Government College in Kollam.
74. Union government warned States to complete Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) before 15 March 2015. If states fail to complete the exercise before 15th March, the central assistance to states for building rural houses and welfare pensions will be blocked.
75. **35th National Games mascot Ammu- the Great Hornbill, has made into the Limca Book of Records**. It made into the record books owing to a play Kalikkunna Kuttikalkkayi Bharatham Kathirikkunnu (India Awaits Children Who Play) in which Ammu is featured as lead role, this play is about a mascot, which had been staged in most number of schools. By 9 April 2014, the play had been staged in 147 schools across seven districts of Kerala.
76. **Himachal Pradesh** government launched Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Project in the state. This project will enable the State Police to raise the benchmark of professional efficiency besides catching interstate criminals more quickly. It was launched by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh from State Police Headquarters in Shimla.
77. **Fourth River festival** begun at **Bandrabhan bank of Narmada River in Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh**. Three day festival inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. **Theme** of this year's river festival is River, its catchment area, chemicals and crisis. In this year's festival more than 100 participants will discuss topics like effects of chemicals used in agriculture on forests, wild life and human beings. Success stories on natural farming will also be part of discussion.
78. The **23rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**. This year the theme of fair is Suryodaya: Emerging Voices from Northeast India. Singapore has been accorded the Guest of Honour Country status for this edition of fair

while the Focus Country is South Korea. The nine-day event has been organised by National Book Trust (NBT).

- The Delhi Book Fair is India's oldest book fair organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. First Delhi Book Fair Was held in March 1972 and was inaugurated by then President of India VV Giri.

79. Nearly 56,000 cases were disposed of by the **third National Lok Adalat** in a single day. It also saw disbursement of Rs 265 crore as claims towards final settlement in bank recovery and cheques bounce cases. The third National Lok Adalat was organised on 14 February 2015 throughout India involving the Supreme Court, high courts, districts courts and taluka-level courts, except in Assam and Uttar Pradesh. It was organised under the patronage of Chief Justice of India (CJI) H L Dattu and the leadership of Supreme Court Judge Justice T S Thakur.
80. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **Permanent Judicial Museum at Bombay High Court** located on the ground floor of the heritage building of court. This museum is conceived and set up as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration (150th year) of the Bombay High Court.
81. Union Ministry of Finance imposed an anti-dumping duty on imports of graphite electrodes used in steel plants for five years. The imposed duty ranges between \$278.19 and \$922.03 per tonne. Anti dumping duty is duty imposed by government on imported products which have prices less than their normal values or domestic price.
82. **10th edition of Aero India show has begun at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.** It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Aero India Show is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru at the Yelahanka Air Force Station.
83. The **first National Tribal Festival 'Vanaj'** concluded on 18 February 2015 in New Delhi. It was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram on 13 February 2015 at the Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
84. Bihar government has announced 35% reservation for women in non-gazetted government jobs in group C and D grade.
85. Union Government launched a single window government-to-business (G2B) portal- e-Biz (www.ebiz.gov.in) for 11 Central government services to bring transparency and ease of doing business in the country.
86. Union Government approved various highway projects in states of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh worth over Rs 8,600 crore. The work for these approved road projects will be under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V.
87. Union Government launched Consular Grievances Monitoring portal named **MADAD (Help) - Because You Are Us**. MADAD an e-portal will help Indian citizens living abroad to file consular grievances online on the services offered by the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.
88. **3rd Tortoise Festival** organised on the banks of **Hajong Lake in Dima Hasao district of Assam** by Dima Hasao Environment and Forest Department. This festival aims to create awareness among the villagers surrounding villages of Hajong Lake about the safety of the

endangered tortoise species available in the area. Hajong Lake is popularly known as the tortoise lake, is a natural habitat of the few unique tortoise.

89. As per World Bank's recently released report Building Resilience for Sustainable Development of the Sundarbans, environmental damage in the climate change-hit islands of Sundarbans is costing India Rs. 1,290 crore each year. **This report was jointly prepared by World Bank in collaboration with the West Bengal government.**
90. Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports amended National Sports Awards Schemes. The amended schemes include Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dhyan Chand Award and Dronacharya Awards. These amendments were based upon several suggestions made by selection committee for Arjuna Awards headed by Kapil Dev.
91. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) removed the interconnection usage charges (IUC). Earlier, IUC of 20 paise was charged for calls made from landline to landline or landline to mobile. TRAI also reduced network IUC on calls made from mobile phones by about 30 percent to 14 paise per call from 20 paise earlier.
92. Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders **Amendment Bill, 2014**. It was unanimously passed by a voice vote. The bill seeks to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in three states- Haryana, Karnataka, Odisha and one Union Territory- Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
93. Union government accepted recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission (FC) as per its agenda of cooperative federalism. The accepted recommendations are for the five-year period 2015-16 to 2019-20.
- The 14th Finance Commission was constituted in January 2014. Commission's chairman was former RBI governor Y V Reddy. In December 2014, Commission had submitted its report to the President Pranab Mukherjee..
94. Union Cabinet gave nod for creation of two additional benches of the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR- Income Tax). Two additional benches of the AAR will be established in New Delhi and Mumbai.
95. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) amended regulation to allow Pan-India Mobile Number Portability (MNP). In this regard, TRAI has issued 6th amendment to the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulation, 2009. It will come into effect from 3rd May 2015. MNP enables mobile telephone users to retain their mobile telephone numbers when changing from one mobile network operator to another.
96. **Haryana government** decided to increase the cash reward under the inter-caste marriage scheme from 50,000 to 1 lakh rupees.
97. **First Assamese dictionary** for Science and Technology terms was released recently. It was released by Dr Alok Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University.

March, 2015

1. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave approval for a fresh Mine Counter Measure Vessel (MCMV) project worth over Rs 32,000 crore. This decision was taken by DAC meeting chaired by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. MCMV project will build specialized vessels for the Indian Navy as per Make in India policy at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in collaboration with a foreign manufacturer.

2. **Mufti Mohammad Sayeed** sworn-in as Chief Minister of Peoples Democratic Party-Bhartiya Janta Party (PDP-BJP) coalition government of Jammu & Kashmir. As a person he became 9th Chief Minister of J&K and 12th Chief Minister as tenure wise. **Deputy Chief Minister-** Nirmal Singh (BJP).
3. Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP). For the authentication purpose, **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) data of electors will be linked with Aadhar data.**
4. **World's largest and tallest** Indian national flag was unfurled on 3 March 2015 at Town Park in Faridabad, Haryana.

Features of Flag:-

- It has dimension of 96 feet by 64 feet and weighs 48 kilograms.
- Flag was hoisted at a height of 250 feet (75 meters). Thus, making it the world's largest and the highest hoisted Indian flag in the world.

It was unfurled by **Bhartiya Janta Party President Amit Shah**. On this occasion Haryana Chief Minister **ML Khattar** and Bollywood **Actor Ranbir Kapoor** were also present. The unfurling event was organised by **Nav Chetna Trust**.

5. Union Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways launched a website **Shipping Samvad**. It was launched by Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
6. President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to the **Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 1995**. It received assent nearly after 19 years it was passed by State Assembly in 1995.
7. Maharashtra government **scrapped 5 per cent job quota** for Muslims in the state. In this regard Devendra Fadnavis led BJP-Shiv Sena government released a Government Resolution (GR). The GR also states that an ordinance to provide 5 per cent job quota had lapsed on December 2014.
8. Parliament passed the **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015**. It was passed by Rajya Sabha on 4 March and earlier by Lok Sabha on 2 March 2015. This bill will replace an ordinance promulgated in this regard and amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.
9. **Nepal and India** launched a direct bus service linking cultural cities Kathmandu and Varanasi. Kathmandu-Varanasi-Kathmandu bus service was launched under the ambit of Motor Vehicle Agreement between India and Nepal signed during 18th SAARC Summit.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two units each of 600 Mega Watt (MW) capacity in **Shree Singaji Thermal Power Project in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh**. Shree Singaji Thermal Power Plant is a coal-fired project. It is owned and developed by Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company Limited (MPPGCL).
11. Time Magazine has named Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi among the list of **30 most influential people on the internet**.
12. National Payments Corporation (NPCI) linked **15 crore Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) accounts with the Aadhaar numbers**. With this achievement NPCI has moved a step closer to map its target of linking all 17 crore DBT accounts with Aadhaar numbers by 30 June 2015.
13. Union Government has released '**Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls Education**' a web-based tool for advancing girls education. It was unveiled by the Department of School

Education and Literacy in the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) in New Delhi. The web based tool developed with the support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to identify low performing geographical pockets for girls on specific gender related education indicators.

14. **North East India's first Kisan Call Centre (KCC) was opened in Agartala, Tripura.** It was launched by **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar**. The call centre is financed by Tripura government and will be run by experts of agriculture, fisheries, horticulture and animal husbandry from a private enterprise.
15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first indigenously developed and manufactured Rotavirus vaccine- **Rotavac**. The vaccine will boost India's efforts to combat infant mortality due to diarrhoea. This is the third such vaccine available globally against Rotavirus.
16. 8th edition of India-Nepal Combined Exercise **Surya Kiran VIII** concluded on 8 March 2015 at **Salijhandi in Nepal**.
17. **World's first solar powered aircraft** on global journey-**Solar Impulse 2** successfully landed in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The aircraft was piloted by Swiss pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg from its first halt Muscat, Oman.
 - Solar impulse started its 35000 km long journey from Abu Dhabi (UAE). Its first halt was in Muscat (Oman).
 - **Flight route and Stops-** It will stop in Ahmedabad and Varanasi in India, Mandalay (Myanmar), Chongqing & Nanjing (China).
18. On 10 March 2015, **46th Raising Day** of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) observed. On the occasion of CISF Raising Day, President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted all the CISF officers, soldiers, civilians, ex-servicemen and their families.
19. Delhi High Court in its ruling has held that Attorney General of India comes under the ambit of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. This ruling reversed the previous decision of the Central Information Commission (CIC) which had held that Attorney General does not come under RTI Act.
20. Union Government announced that **5 sick public sector undertakings (PSUs)** will be closed. It was announced by Union Heavy Industries Minister Anant Geete while replying to a question in the Lok Sabha. The 5 sick PSU that will be closed include HMT and its three units, Hindustan Shipyard. Government also announced that while closing these PSUs, their employees will be provided with very good VRS package
21. Parliament has passed the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2015**. It was first passed in Lok Sabha on 3 March 2015 and later in the Rajya Sabha on 11 March 2015.
22. Country's literacy rate rased to 72.98 per cent in 2011 compared to 64.84 per cent in 2001. It was informed by HRD Minister Smriti Irani
23. Parliament has passed **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015**. It was first passed in Lok Sabha on 4 March 2015 and later in Rajya Sabha on 12 March 2015.
24. The **World Wildlife Day** was observed on 3 March 2015. The 2015 **theme of the day is Wildlife crime is serious , let's get serious about wildlife crime**.
25. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar completed his **SAARC Yatra** of four nations on 4 March 2015. His SAARC Yatra started on 1 March 2015 and ended on 4 March 2015. He undertook the SAARC Yatra with an aim to firm up India's ties with members of the grouping while reviewing regional and bilateral cooperation. During the Yatra, he visited four countries namely **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan**.
26. **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** released a documentary film India's Daughter. The documentary film has been **directed by Leslee Udwin**. The film is based on

the Delhi gang rape and murder of the 23-year-old female named Nirbhaya that took place on 16 December 2012. The film was simultaneously released **in Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and Canada.**

- A Delhi court has restrained the media from publishing, broadcasting, telecasting or uploading the interview on the internet.
27. **Artificial glacier in the form of Ice stupa inaugurated at Phyang village in Ladakh** region of Jammu and Kashmir. Phyang village is a desert region of Ladakh.
- The purpose of building such stupa is to store water to green the entire desert of Phyang which has an area of 1500 acres.
 - The Ice stupa with a height of 50 feet will store roughly two million liters of water while another 6 million liters of water absorbed in the ground will add moisture to the earth for tree plantation.
28. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched a web portal , **www.inampro.nic.in**. INAM-PRO, which stands for platform for infrastructure and materials providers, will monitor the supply of cement and hasten the process of orders by prospective users and agencies with the respective cement manufacturers.
29. Retirement fund body EPFO's trustees decided to raise the age limit from 58 to 60 years for vesting of pension.
30. Maharashtra government would be developing a new city - '**NAINA**' - over an area of 600 sq km around the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport.
- As a part of the smart city mission of the Centre, the state government will develop 30 towns, focusing on "**themes**" such as **education, medical, entertainment, industry**, etc.
31. Law Commission of India in its 255th report on electoral reform pitched for stronger Election Commission of India (ECI). The report submitted to Ministry of Law and Justice by Law Commission Chairman Justice A P Shah.
32. **IMF Chief Christine Lagarde** is on a two-day India visit. During her visit, she met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and key leaders including Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan. **IMF has previously expected a 6 percent growth for India.**
33. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 March 2015 flagged off the **first train from Thalaimannar to Madhu Road in North Sri Lanka.**
34. Union Government has selected legendary boxer and five-time world boxing **champion MC Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador for the North East Region.** It was announced by Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh
35. Union Government merged Green India Mission (GIM) with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Scheme.
36. Researchers have found Endophytic alga belonging to *Ulvella leptochaete* species thriving in the Indian Ocean. This species of alga is originally inhabitant to the seas around the British Isles and the East China Sea.
37. Haryana Government passed **Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Bill, 2015** that bans cow slaughter.
38. Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the notification issued by Union Government to include Jats in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBC) for the benefit of reservation.
39. Parliament passed **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders Amendment Bill, 2015.** The bill was first passed in Rajya Sabha on February 24, 2015 and later in Lok Sabha on March 17, 2015. The Bill amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the

Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962. The Bill adds the following communities to the list of Scheduled Castes:

- **Haryana:** Kabirpanthi, Julaha.
- **Karnataka:** Bhovi, od, odde, Vaddar, Waddar.
- **Odisha:** Dhoba, Dhobi, Dom, Dombo, Duria Dom, Katia, Kela, Nalua Kela, Khadala and Turi.
- **Dadra and Nagar Haveli:** Chamar.

40. Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has revoked 3 year-old suspension of environmental clearances (ECs) of mines in Goa. It was announced by Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar.
41. Election Commission announced that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and ballot papers will carry photographs of candidates from 1 May 2015. This move of EC seeks to avoid voters being misled by several namesakes in the election fray
42. The Lok Sabha passed the **Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2015**. The Bill seeks to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962.
43. National Green Tribunal (NGT) announced a fine of Rs 5,000 on individuals spotted littering or throwing waste on the railway platforms and tracks. It was announced by a NGT bench, headed by Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar.
44. Union Ministry of Railways constituted '**Kaya kulp**' Council, an innovation council for Indian Railways. The council was constituted by Union Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu in order to fulfill the promise made in the Railway Budget Speech.
45. Union Government on 19 March 2015 launched Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) AcE Fund to accelerate growth of entrepreneurs in Biotechnology. It was announced by Minister of State (MoS) for Science and Technology (S&T) and Earth Sciences Y.S. Chowdary on the occasion of the **third foundation** day of **BIRAC in New Delhi**.
46. Parliament passed **Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015**. It was first passed in Lok Sabha on 4 March 2015 and later in Rajya Sabha on 20 March 2015. This bill will replace the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) second ordinance, 2014.
47. Parliament passed **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015**. The bill was first passed in Rajya Sabha and later in Lok Sabha on 20 March 2015.
48. Union Cabinet approved 33 percent reservation for women in police forces of all seven Union Territories (UTs) including Delhi Police.
49. Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC) gave coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) nod to the **6,000-MW Mithivirdi Nuclear Power Plant** of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat. The clearance was granted by MoEFCC for constructing an intake and outfall facility in the plant.
50. **World Water Day** is marked on 22 March. It is observed to preserve and ration consumption of water. The **theme** for this year is '**Water and Sustainable Development**'.
51. **India has become the third-largest steel producer** in the world by overtaking United States (US) in first two months of year 2015. It was revealed in the Data compiled by World Steel Association (WSA). China topped the position followed by Japan.
52. Maharashtra Government announced to **rename Girgaum Chowpatty as Swaraj Bhoomi** to honour veteran freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
53. The environment ministry will be launching the National Air Quality Index, a simple, composite, and easy to understand measure of air quality, on April 6.
54. Megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** roped in as the **brand ambassador for Union Government's campaign against Hepatitis B**, a critical public problem in India.

55. India will host the **seventh** Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in 2016.
56. The Gender Park, an institution under the state department of Social Justice, is organising the three-day International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE -I) here with the support of UN Women from November 12-14.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Tropical storm **Jangmi** hit Surigao del Sur province on northern Mindanao in Philippines. This tropical storm is locally known as Seniang.
2. India and Pakistan exchanged the list of their nuclear installations and facilities under the agreement on Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between India and Pakistan. This bilateral agreement signed between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto, bars both nations from carrying out any surprise attack on each other's nuclear installations and facilities.
3. **Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras** dissolved the country's parliament ahead of snap elections. Dissolution of Parliament comes after it failed to elect the President in the third and final round of voting.
4. Indian Railway's construction company (IRCON) restored the rail track between Jaffna and Kankasanthurai in North Sri Lanka. This 18 kilometer track passes through the high security zone which was freed from the control of Tamil tigers in 2009.
5. Japanese automaker Honda agreed to pay US 70 million dollars in fines to the US authorities for failing to report safety issues involving its cars. It was announced by the US regulator National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) after Honda had accepted liability for the breach on safety issues.
6. United States designated Maulana Fazlullah, chief of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) - an outfit of Pakistan's Taliban as global terrorist.
7. A British-built space probe **Beagle 2** has been found on the surface of Mars, 11 years after it was thought that it was lost on Mars. It was discovered in the high-resolution images taken by HiRISE camera mounted on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO).
8. According to US scientists, year 2014 was the hottest year on record, with global average temperature increasing about 0.8 degrees Celsius since 1880. It was revealed by two separate analyses carried out by NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
9. **Mali** Government declared country Ebola free. It was announced after no new case of deadly virus reported in last 42-day period.
10. First successful organ donation from a newborn baby taken place in UK
11. According to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2015 report, **India's growth in terms of GDP is expected to reach 5.9 per cent in 2015 and 6.3 per cent in 2016.**
12. European Union (EU) decided **to lift seven-month-long ban on the import of mangoes** from India. In this regard, a European Commission committee unanimously voted to lift the

ban. The ban was lifted after an audit carried out by the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office in India in September 2014.

13. President Mansour Hadi of Yemen along with Prime Minister Khaled Bahah .
14. **Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is now the world's oldest living monarch.** Currently she is 88 years old. Earlier, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz was oldest living monarch.
15. **Colombia's Paulina Vega crowned 63rd Miss Universe.** Miss USA Nia Sanchez from Las Vegas named a runner-up, along with Miss Ukraine Diana Harkusha.
16. US President Barack Obama become the first American President to be Chief Guest on Republic Day celebrations. He is also the first American President to visit India twice (earlier he had visited India in November 2010).
17. Church of England has consecrated Reverend Libby Lane as its **first female bishop** in a ceremony held at York Minster (a Gothic cathedral) in northern England.
18. India challenged a World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel's ruling that challenges country's ban on United States (US) poultry product imports. In this regard, India has appealed to the Dispute Settlement Board (DSB) of the WTO.
19. Astronomers discovered a star that is 11.2 billion years old and has at least five Earth-size planets. It was discovered by team of astronomer's after analyzing data from NASA's planet-hunting Kepler spacecraft for over four years.

February, 2015:-

20. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched **Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite** to observe soil moisture. It was launched from the Delta 2 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
21. Russia, India and China called for an early conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the **RIC Forum held in Beijing**. India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Chinese foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian foreign Minister Sergey Levrov had participated in the meeting.
22. As per United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, China has overtaken the United States (US) as the top destination for foreign direct investment (FDI).
23. **Britain became the first country** in the world to allow the creation of babies with **DNA from three people** after MPs voted for the controversial procedure.
24. A symposium, Towards Zero Poaching in Asia concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is five-day anti-poaching symposium started on 2 February 2015, hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal.
25. A painting of two Tahitian girls named as **Nafea Faa Ipoipo (When Will You Marry) by the French artist Paul Gauguin** sold for 300 million dollars. It makes the painting as **the most expensive work of art** ever sold. This painting was painted in 1892 and was sold to a museum in Qatar.
26. China took a firm step to implement its vision of the **Silk Road Economic Belt** — an initiative to integrate the economies of Asia and Europe along the Eurasian corridor — by putting into operation its \$40 billion infrastructure fund for this purpose.
27. **World's first humanoid robot-staffed hotel is set to open in Nagasaki, Japan in July 2015.** The Henn-na Hotel which means Strange Hotel will be employing Robots as its

staff and other advanced technologies in order to significantly reduce operating costs. The hotel will come up with a Huis Ten Bosch theme park which is named after a town of Netherlands.

28. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a unanimous resolution to resolve the political and security crisis in Yemen.
29. China opened new embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.
30. United States (US) and Turkey signed an agreement to train and arm moderate Syrian opposition forces taking on Islamic State (IS) militants.
31. Thailand's parliament under ruling military junta has passed a legislation banning commercial surrogacy. **Provisions of new law:-**
- Completely bans foreign couples seeking to have children through Thai surrogate mothers.
 - Only married Thai couples or couples with one Thai partner who have been married at least three years can seek surrogacy.
32. United States (US) announced to provide work permits to spouses of H-1B visa holders from 26 May 2015. Under existing US laws, spouses of H-1B visa holders are not eligible to work. This announcement is expected to benefit thousands of talented and professional spouses who settled in US but are unable to work.
33. Researchers from **Australia's Monash University created world's first 3 Dimensional (3D) printed jet engine**. The first of kind 3D printed engine was developed by team of researchers from Monash Centre for Additive Manufacturing in partnership with spin-out company Amaero Engineering.

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34. China launched a massive **Silk Road infrastructure project** worth \$79.8 billion in the northwest province of Gansu as part of its ambitious Silk Road plan. The Silk Road projects are part of China's ambitious Silk Route plan, which involves maze of roads and ports connecting Asia, Europe and Africa.
35. **Oxford dictionary** has added words *ride-share*, unboxing, bioprinting and vishing related to Technology in the new list.
- Oxford dictionary defined these words as:-**
- **Ride-share-** to participate in an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private vehicle driven by its owner, for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by means of a website or app.
 - **Bioprinting-** The use of 3D printing technology with materials that incorporate viable living cells. For e.g. to produce tissue for reconstructive surgery.
 - **Unboxing-** An act or instance of removing a newly purchased product from its packaging and examining its features, typically when filmed and shared on a social media site.
 - **Vishing-** It is like phishing, but using phone calls or voice messages instead of emails to trick people in revealing sensitive information.
36. Sri Lanka's newly elected government temporarily suspended construction work of China's ambitious port city project in Colombo with immediate effect. Colombo Port City project is the

single-largest foreign direct investment in Sri Lanka worth 1.5 billion dollar. The project was inaugurated in September 2014, by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

37. The European Union (EU) formally adopted climate change targets for December 2015 UNFCCC Paris Conference. Adopted climate change target includes a 40 per cent cut in emissions by 2030.
38. Islamic State (IS) militants destroyed the ruins at the ancient **city of Hatra** located in south-west of Mosul in Northern Iraq. City of Hatra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was founded 2,000 years ago, in the days of the Parthian Empire.
39. Global food prices fell to a nearly five-year low in February this year on increased supply of key food items and strong US dollar, according to the United Nations food agency FAO.
40. Former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in prison.
41. Historic bronze statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the **Parliament Square in London**. It was unveiled jointly by British Prime Minister David Cameron and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
42. Powerful **cyclone Pam** slammed the south Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is located north east of Australia to south west of Hawaii Islands.
43. Three nations from **European Union (EU) France, Germany and Italy** have agreed to join the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) after the United Kingdom (UK) decided to join the bank.

APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA

1. 1982 batch UT cadre IAS officer **M Sathiyavathy** first women appointed as Director General (DG) of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). She will succeed Prabhat Kumar.
2. **A K Mittal** appointed as New Railway Chairman and he will succeeded Arunendra Kumar
3. IAS officer **R K Srivastava** took charge as the new chairman of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. He is a 1984-batch Jharkhand-cadre IAS officer and has replaced Sudheer Raheja.
4. **R Koteeswaran** taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of public sector Indian Overseas Bank.
5. 1985 batch IAS Sutirtha Bhattacharya taken charge as full-time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited (CIL).
6. **Economist Arvind Panagariya has been appointed as Vice-chairman** of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

Other Appointments of NITI Aayog:

- **Full-Time Members:** Bibek Debroy- Economist. V.K. Saraswat- Former Secretary Defence R&D.
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** - Sindhushree Khullar.
- **Ex-officio members:** Rajnath Singh- Union Home Minister. Arun Jaitley- Union Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting Minister. Suresh Prabhu- Union Minister of Railways. Radha Mohan Singh- Union Minister of Agriculture.

- **Special Invitees:** Nitin Gadkari- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping. Thawar Chand Gehlot-Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. Smriti Zubin Irani- Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD).
7. **Amitabh Bachchan is appointed as the brand ambassador for health sector in Andhra Pradesh.** It should be also noted that, actor Amitabh Bachchan is also brand ambassador of Gujarat Tourism since 1 February 2010.
 8. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Dinesh Oraon was unanimously elected as the Speaker of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. He is a member of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly from Sisai constituency of Gumla district.
 9. M. Karunanidhi re-elected as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party's President for the 11th time. It is a state political party in South Indian state of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory (UT) Puducherry.
 10. Aziz Qureshi sworn-in as the Governor of Mizoram.
 11. Union Government appointed Pournima Gupte as member (actuary) of Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDA).
 12. **Alur Seelin Kiran** appointed chairman of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. He will replace K Radhakrishnan.
 13. **Harishankar Brahma** as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** of India. He will be 19th CEC of India and succeed V S Sampat.
 14. Haryana government announced yoga guru Ramdev as its brand ambassador.
 15. Haryana governor Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki took over the additional charge of Governor of Punjab. He will be 34th governor of Punjab.
 16. Vodafone appointed Sunil Sood as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its India operations. He will be first Indian CEO of Vodafone. He will replace Martin Pieters will step down on 1 April 2015.
 17. Saraswathi Menon, an eminent Indian academician named on advisory panel to Review UN Peace-Building Architecture..
 18. **Edgar Lungu sworn in as Zambia's sixth President.**
 19. K Durga Prasad as the special director general (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).He is IPS officer of 1981 batch from Andhra Pradesh cadre.
 20. Rajasthan Governor **Kalyan Singh** sworn in as the 26th Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He was given an additional charge of Himachal Pradesh after then governor Urmila Singh, completed the full five year term on January 24.
 21. Union Government appointed **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** as the new Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (i.e. Foreign Secretary).He replaced Sujata Singh.
 22. Eminent singer, composer, lyricist and actor **Shekhar Sen** appointed as the **chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)**. This post was vacant since September 2014, after then Chairman Leela Samson had resigned.
 23. Senior IPS officer Krishna Chaudhary appointed the new Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
 24. T Suvarna Raju took charge as chairman of state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He will replace RK Tyagi's following his retirement.
 25. Anish Aggarwal taken charge as Director (Pipelines) at nation's largest oil refining and marketing company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
 26. Dr.Nandita Chatterjee take charge as the new Secretary in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA). She will succeed Anita Agnihotri.

27. **LC Goyal took charge as the Union Home Secretary.** He replaced Anil Goswami who had resigned following a controversy over the arrest of former Union Minister Matang Sinh in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam.
28. India's largest mobile vendor, Micromax appointed Shubhajt Sen as its chief marketing officer (CMO).
29. **Dr M.O. Garg** has taken charge as Director General (DG) of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). He will replace PS Ahuja.
30. German sportswear major Adidas Group appointed Damyant Singh as its Brand Director in India. He will succeed Tushar Goculdas.
31. Vodafone India appointed Naveen Chopra as Chief Operating Officer (COO).
32. M Ravindran taken over as the Chairman of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).
33. Micromax Informatics appointed Ashish Agrawal as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO).
34. **Arvind Kejriwal sworn-in as 8th Chief Minister of Delhi.** Along with Arvind Kejriwal following 6 Cabinet Ministers were sworn in Manish Sisodia, Asim Ahmed Khan, Sandeep Kumar, Satyendar Jain, Gopal Rai and Jitender Singh Tomar.
35. Balasubramaniam Venkataramani appointed as new MD & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). He will replace then MD & CEO Manoj Vaish.
36. Punit Renjen appointed as the Chief executive officer (CEO) of accounting giant Deloitte's global operations. He will succeed Barry Salzberg and assume his new role of Deloitte Global CEO from 1 June 2015.
37. Retired IAS officer Maheshwar Sahu from Gujarat appointed as an independent director on the board of Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). With this appointment, he joins RIL as one of the eight independent directors on its 14-member board.
38. Eminent scientist Tapan Misra has been appointed the Chief of ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad Gujarat.
39. **Nitish Kumar has sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar for the 4th time.**
40. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA **Ram Niwas Goel** elected Speaker of the Delhi Assembly. He was elected from Shahdara constituency located in north Delhi.
41. **Justice Amitava Roy** sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court (SC).
42. **Jagmohan Dalmiya** elected as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He will succeed N. Sirinivaasn
43. Senior IFS officer, **Arun Singh** named as **new Indian Ambassador to US.** Prior to this announcement he was serving as India's Ambassador of France. Arun Singh will replace S Jaishankar, who was appointed as Foreign Secretary.
44. Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) appointed **Baldev Sharma** as chairman of National Book Trust (NBT).
45. Walmart India has appointed Ashwin Mittal as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He will replace incumbent CFO Jill Anderson.
46. Union Government appointed 9 Executive Directors (EDs) in Public Sector Banks (PSBs). Their appointment approved by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on recommendation of selection panel headed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan. **Following 9 Executive Directors (ED) of PSBs were appointed**
 - **K. Sahoo-** ED of Allahabad Bank.
 - **Pawan Kumar Bajaj-** ED of Indian Overseas Bank.
 - **Ravi Shankar Pandey-** ED of Syndicate Bank.
 - **Kishore Piraji Kharat-** ED of Union Bank of India.

- **C.Lodha**- ED of Central Bank of India.
 - **Charan Singh**- ED of UCO Bank
 - **Venkata Rama Moorthy**- ED of Bank of Baroda.
 - **P. Marathe**- ED of Bank of India.
 - **Harideesh Kumar B**- ED of Canara Bank.
47. N Shakthan elected as the new speaker of the Kerala Assembly. He is MLA from Kattakada constituency in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.
48. **Ficci appoints Arvind Virmani** as Economic Mentor.
49. IAS officer Kewal K Sharma is appointed as Chief Secretary of Delhi.
50. Indian-American physician Rahul Jindal selected for the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Chair.
51. Wipro, India's third-largest software services appointed Abid Ali Neemuchwala as the Group President and Chief Operating Officer (COO).
52. **Ashu Suyash** appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL). She will succeed Roopa Kudva.
53. **Kavinder Gupta** elected as Speaker of the 12th Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
54. Colin Macdonald appointed as Managing Director (MD) of Renault Nissan Automotive India (RNAIPL). He will assume charge on 1 April 2015.

APPOINTMENTS IN WORLD

1. **Tulsi Gabbard and Dr. Ami Bera** sworn in for their second consecutive term in **US House of Representatives**
2. **Atul Khare** named as UN Under Secretary-General for Field Support, Department of Field Support (DFS). He will succeed Bangladesh's Ameerah Haq.
3. **Maithiripala Sirisena sworn-in as 7th President of Sri Lanka.** Sri Lanka's Supreme Court Judge K. Sri Pawan administered the oath of office to Maithiripala Sirisena at oath taking function held at the Independence Square in Colombo. While, **United National Party (UNP) leader Ranil Wickramasinghe was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister.**
4. **Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha** appointed as **first Hindu Chief Justice of Bangladesh** by President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
5. Sri Lanka's President Maithiripala Sirisena has appointed Kanagasabapathy J Sripavan as Chief Justice. K Sripavan is 2nd Tamil took oath as the 44th Chief Justice and replaces Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake
6. United States (US) President Barack Obama appointed Indian CEO Ajay Banga as member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN.)
7. Taiwanese smartphone maker HTC appointed Faisal Siddiqui as new regional President of HTC South Asia. He will replace current president Jack Yang.
8. **Croatia's first female President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic** sworn. She is Croatia's fourth president since its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.
9. Rashad Hussain, an Indian-American appointed United States (US) Special Envoy and Coordinator for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications.
10. Sri Lanka's President Maithiripala Sirisena appointed Major general Chrisantha de Silva as the new Sri Lankan Army chief. De Silva is the 21st Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.

11. Japanese automaker Honda Motor Co has appointed Takahiro Hachigo as its new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will assume charge in June 2015 and replace Takanobu Ito
12. Indian-origin lawyer, Kannan Ramesh appointed as Judicial Commissioner to Singapore's Supreme Court bench.
13. Sunil Sabharwal, an independent Indian-American investor re-nominated as Alternate Executive Director at International Monetary Fund (IMF).
14. U.S. President Barack Obama nominated veteran diplomat David Hale as the next ambassador to Pakistan.
15. India's Dr. Alka Beotra nominated as a member of the World Association of Anti-Doping Scientists' (WAADS) executive board.
16. Sohail Aman appointed as Chief of Pakistan Air Force (PAF).
17. Nobel Laureate **Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan** confirmed as President Elect of the UK's Royal Society. His appointment was confirmed by the society's council met on 19 March 2015 and will assume the charge on 1 December 2015.

RETIREMENTS

1. Indian Space Research Organisation's chairperson K Radhakrishnan retired by carrying the crowning glory of the much-hailed India's mission to Mars.
2. Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano resigned from office.
3. Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Leela Samson has resigned.
4. Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar Jitan Ram Manjhi has resigned. His resignation was accepted by Governor of Bihar Keshri Nath Tripathi. He had resigned from office, before the trust vote. Jitan Ram Manjhi was 23rd CM of Bihar, elected in May 2014 by the Janata Dal (United) Party legislators.
5. Union Minister Minister of State (MoS) for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Raosaheb Dadarao Danve. Raosaheb Danve resigned from the Union Council of Ministers following the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJPs) one-man, one-post principle after he was appointed President of Maharashtra in January 2015.

OBITUARIES

1. Eminent journalist Boobli George Verghese died . He was an information adviser to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1966 to 1969. In 1975, Verghese was given the Ramon Magsaysay award for his contribution to journalism.
2. Former ISRO chief and renowned Scientist Dr. Vasant Ranchod Gowarikar(81) passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. He is considered as the 'Father of the Indian Monsoon Model'.
3. Well known social worker Veteran Gandhian and freedom fighter Ghelubhai Naik passed away in Dangs district of Gujarat.
4. Eminent political scientist, scholar and former Planning Commission member Rajni Kothari passed away in New Delhi. He was 86.

5. Popular Telugu comedian and director Mylavaram Surya Narayana passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana.
6. **Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz passed away.** He was 93-year old patriarch. Abdullah's brother Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is his successor and new King of Saudi Arabia. Salman in turn, has named his half-brother Muqrin as the new crown prince and his heir.
7. Renowned Marathi literary critic, writer and translator Madhukar Dattatreya Hatakananglekar passed away in Sangli district of Maharashtra. He was 89.
8. Famous Greek singer Demis Roussos passed away in Athens, Greece. He was 68.
9. **Eminent cartoonist, illustrator and humorist Rasipuram Laxman passed away in Pune.** He was 94. He is best known for creation of iconic character **The Common Man**, for his daily cartoon strip, You Said It in The Times of India (TOI).
10. Veteran Malayalam actor Mala Aravindan passed away in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He was 76.
11. Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) founder Subhash Ghisingh passed away in New Delhi. He was 78.
12. **Renowned chemist Carl Djerassi** passed away in San Francisco, United States (US). He was 91. He was famously known as **the father of the birth control pills** for his contribution to the development of oral contraceptive birth pills.
13. Acclaimed Indian sculptor and artist Mrinalini Mukherjee passed away in New Delhi. She was 65.
14. Veteran Marathi theatre artist and film actor Atmaram Bhende passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. He was 91.
15. Renowned Telugu novelist Kesava Reddy passed away in Nizamabad district of Telangana. He was 68.
16. Former Home Minister of Maharashtra, **Raosaheb Ramrao Patil** passed away in Mumbai. He was 57 years old and was suffering from oral cancer.
17. **French actor Louis Jourdan** passed away in Los Angeles, United States. He was 93. He was best known for his role in the **multi-Oscar winning musical film Gigi**.
18. Veteran journalist, cartoonist and political activist Rajinder Puri passed away. He was 80.
19. Veteran multilingual film producer Daggubati Ramanaidu passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was 78 and was suffering from prostate cancer.
20. Eminent filmmaker from Odisha Nirad Mahapatra passed away in Mumbai. He was 67.
21. Adya Sharma, a cultural icon and pioneer of mobile theatre in Assam passed away in Nalbari town, Assam. He was 86.
22. **First Hindu Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Rana Bhagwandas** passed away in Karachi, Pakistan. He was 72 year old.
23. Popular Tamil director R.C Sakthi passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 76.
24. Veteran cinematographer and multilingual director Aloysius Vincent passed away on 25 February 2015 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 86.
25. Acclaimed US actor Leonard Nimoy passed away on 27 February 2015 in Los Angeles.
26. Former Bihar Chief Minister (CM) Ram Sundar Das passed away.

27. Noted Gandhian **Narayan Desai** passed away in Surat, Gujarat. He was 90. He is son of Mahatma Gandhi's personal secretary and biographer Mahadev Desai.
28. **Lia van Leer**, pioneer of Israeli cinema passed away on 13 March 2015 in Jerusalem, Israel. She was 90.
29. Bard and Marathi folk legend **Krishnarao Ganpatrao Sable** passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was 92.
30. First Prime Minister (PM) of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew passed away on 23 March 2015. He was 91.

AGREEMENTS

1. Government signed a loan agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for 75 million dollars and 1.8 million dollar grant for Karnataka Integrated Urban Water Management Investment Program (KIUWMIP). This loan fund will be used in the three towns of Byadagi, Davanagere and Harihar of Karnataka under the KIUWMIP.
2. BHEL will set up first Supercritical Thermal Power Plant (1x 800 mw) in newly formed state of Telangana. The company has bagged contract worth Rs. 3,810 crore.
3. Union cabinet approved setting up of India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project in Bodi West Hills, Tamil Nadu. It is an underground project, jointly supported by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
4. **Union Urban Development Ministry, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Bill and Milinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)** agreed to partner in Swachh Bharat programme
5. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Collaboration to develop indigenous technologies to enhance oil.
6. India and United States have agreed to cooperate in the field of Information and Communications Technology and Electronics (ICTE) to facilitate Union government's ambitious Digital India programme (DIP).
7. India and United States (US) have signed three Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) on smart cities. These MoU's seeks to give a boost to Union governments flagship smart cities scheme, by building smart cities **in Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Ajmer in Rajasthan. Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh.**
8. Maharashtra government has signed MoU with engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for setting up closed-circuit television (CCTV) based surveillance in Mumbai.
9. **Gujarat State Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation (GSHHDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with global e-commerce giant eBay.** The main objective of this MoU is to expand sales base of handloom and handicraft products of Gujarat to online market from current retail shop sales.
10. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a Rs. 1,090-crore contract for supplying 14 Dornier-228 (Do-228) aircraft's to the Indian Air Force (IAF). These 14 aircraft's will be manufactured by the HAL's Transport Aircraft Division at Kanpur.
11. State owned Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) signed a MoU with public sector Indian Rare Earth Ltd (IRE) to set up a mineral separation plant in Odisha's Ganjam district..

12. Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) and Rajasthan Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing solar parks in state with a capacity of 10,000 MW.
13. India signed a loan grant agreement worth US \$8 million with World Bank for Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaption to Climate change (SLACC) Project.
14. **India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation, Cultural cooperation during Sri Lanka's newly elected President Maithripala Sirisen four-day visit to India.** Sri Lanka has signed first such bilateral agreement on civil nuclear cooperation. Following agreements signed between India and Sri Lanka
 - **Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy-** It will facilitate the transfer and exchange of knowledge and expertise, resources in peaceful uses of Nuclear energy between both nations. This agreement also includes capacity building and training of personnel for nuclear security, radioactive waste management and nuclear and radiological disaster mitigation and environmental protection.
 - **Programme of Cultural cooperation between both nations for years 2015-18** –It seeks to enhance cooperation in different fields like arts, visuals arts, cultural documentation, archeology, handicrafts etc between both nations.
 - **MoU on establishment of Nalanda University-** It will enable Sri Lanka to participate in India's Nalanda University project.
 - **Work Plan 2014-15 under MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture-** It will facilitate bilateral cooperation in Agro Processing, Agricultural extension, horticulture, agricultural machinery, training in farm mechanization, livestock diseases, etc. between relevant institutes and organizations from both countries.
15. Indian telecom giant **Bharti Airtel** Limited partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide health, education and youth-focussed content to its customers in 17 African countries.
16. **India's Kalyani Group announced a joint venture (JV) with Rafael Advanced Defence System of Israel.** It was announced by Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Kalyani Group Baba Kalyani. It will be the first such venture under the new Foreign direct investment (FDI) limits in defence sector. The joint venture will be a 51:49 partnership basis.
17. **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) joined hands with Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI),** to provide vocational training to unemployed youth. In this regard memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two bodies in the presence of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Kalraj Mishra.
18. India signed loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 50 Million dollars to boost power generation capacity in Assam.
19. India's second largest private power producer Tata Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's largest coal producer Siberian Coal Energy Company (SUEK) in the energy sector.
20. Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Gujarat Forest Department inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for conservation of Asiatic lion and its habitat.
21. **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) partnered with e-commerce giant Amazon.in** to provide convenient online shopping experience and sell

various products. With this tie-up, IRCTC is going to offer its customers (especially Indian railways passengers) with seamless online shopping opportunities in addition to booking travel tickets and hotel accommodations.

22. Indian telecom giant Bharti Airtel and world's largest telecom operator China Mobile have signed a partnership memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work jointly on evolving high technologies like 4G, 5G and procuring telecom devices and equipment. The MoU was signed by China Mobile Chairman Xi Guohua and Bharti Airtel founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal.
23. India and Spain signed an agreement on **Mutual Protection of Classified Information**. This agreement provides the framework for enhanced cooperation in the defence sector between both countries.
24. Indian Railways 2015 inked an MoU with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to raise Rs 1.5 lakh crore for financing the development of its various commercially viable infrastructure projects.
25. Reserve Bank of India has agreed for a \$1.5 billion currency swap agreement with the Sri Lankan central bank to help the island nation keep its currency stable.
26. India and Kyrgyzstan signed MoU to strengthen bilateral cooperation on textile and clothing. The MoU was signed by Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Santosh Kumar Gangwar and his counterpart Minister of Energy and Industry of Kyrgyzstan Kubanychbek Turdubaev in New Delhi.
27. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) inked Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to commercialise ayurvedic medicines and technologies developed at CCRAS.

SPORTS NEWS

Tennis:-

1. **Andy Murray** has won the **ATP World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi**. His win comes after world number one Novak Djokovic withdrew from the final match citing reason of illness.
2. **Swiss Tennis Roger Federer recorded 1000 titles** wins in men's professional circuit career after winning Brisbane International Tennis title. In his 1,000 career match, he defeated Milos Raonic with score of 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.
 - It should be noted that Roger Federer is third tennis player to win more than 1000 titles. Other two tennis player are Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl.
3. **India's Sania Mirza along with her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands** has won doubles title at the **Sydney International Tennis Tournament 2015**. Indo-American in the finals defeated top-seeded Americans Abigail Spears and Raquel Kops-Jones by score of 6-3, 6-3.
4. **Sydney International Tennis tournament 2015:**
 - **Viktor Troicki of Serbia has won the men's single title**. In the finals, he defeated Russia's Mikhail Kukushkin by score of 6-2, 6-3. It is Viktor Troicki's 2nd career title. His first title was 2010 Kremlin Cup.

- **Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic has won the women's single title.** In the finals, she defeated Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic by score of 7-6, 7-6. It is Petra Kvitova's 15th career title. She is two times Wimbledon Champion (2011 and 2014) and currently ranked World no. 4.

5. Australian open 2015 winners:

- **Men's Singles: Novak Djokovic** (Serbia) Beat Andy Murray (UK). He won the Australian open title fifth time.
- **Women's Singles: Sarena Williams** (US) Beat Maria Sharapova (Russia). She won her consecutive 6th Australian Open title.
- **Men's Doubles: Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini** became the first all Italian pair to win a Grand open. They Beat french pair of Pierre Herbert and Nicolas Mehut.
- **Women's Doubles: B.Mattek-Sands(US) and L.Safarova (Czech Republic)** beat Yung-Jan Chan (TPE) and Jie Zheng (China)
- **Mixed Double: Leander Paes (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)** beat Kristina Maldenovic (France) and Daniel Nestor (Canada) in a 2 set game of (6-4,6-3).

6. Winners of Dubai ATP Championship 2015:-

- **Men's Singles :- Roger Federer** of Switzerland defeated **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia. It was Roger Federer's seventh win in Dubai ATP Tennis men's single's title. Earlier, he had won in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012 and 2014.
- **Women's singles:-Romanian's Simona Halep** defeated **Karolína Plíšková** of Czech Republic.
- **Men's doubles:-** Rohan Bopanna (India) and Daniel Nestor (Canada) defeated Aihsan-Ul-Haq Qureshi (Pakistan) and Nined Zimonjic (Serbia).
- **Women's doubles:-** Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France) defeated Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain) and Carla Suárez Navarro (Spain).

7. Winners of 2015 Indian Wells Open Tennis Titles (BNP Paribas Open):-

- **Men's Singles Title:** Serbia's **Novak Djokovic** defeated Switzerland's **Roger Federer**. With this win Djokovic won his fourth Indian Wells Open title and overall 50th tour-level title.
- **Women's Singles Title:-** Romania's **Simona Halep** defeated Serbia's **Jelena Jankovic**. It was Halep's third WTA titles in 2015 apart from Shenzhen Open and Dubai Open.
- **Women's Double Title:- Sania Mirza** (India) and **Martina Hingis** (Switzerland) pair defeated Russian pair **Ekaterina Makarova** and **Elena Vesnina**. It was Sania Mirza's second title of the season 2015 and 24th overall.
- **Men's Double Title:- Vasek Pospisil** (Canada) and **Jack Sock** (US) pair defeated Italian pair **Simone Bolelli** and **Fabio Fognini**.

Cricket:-

8. **Kumar Sangakkara, the Sri Lankan Wicket Keeper batsman became the fastest player to reach 12,000 Test runs.** Sangakkara has accumulated his runs in 224 innings,

compared to India's Sachin Tendulkar and Australia's Ricky Ponting, who both needed 247 innings to surpass the mark.

9. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Indian squad for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
 - **Indian squad for the ICC CWC – 2015** MS Dhoni (Captain & Wicket Keeper), Virat Kohli (Vice Captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Stuart Binny, Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Axar Patel, R Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Md. Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma.
 - **ICC Cricket world cup 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 will be the 11th edition and in total 49 matches will be played across 14 venues.** It starts on 14th February 2015 in Christchurch and co-host New Zealand team will play against Sri Lanka. On the same day in Melbourne, Australia will play against England.
10. Indian cricket team unveiled new eco-friendly ODI jersey ahead of the triangular series starting in Australia on 16 January 2015. It was unveiled in Melbourne. It is made out of 100% recycled polyester obtained from 33 recycled plastic bottles.
11. South African cricketer **AB de Villiers hit the fastest century and half-century in one-day internationals (ODI) against West Indies.** Overall in this match, he made 149 off 44 balls.
 - **Fastest century:** He made the century in just 31 balls and broke earlier record of New Zealand's Corey Anderson who had hit the century in 36 balls in 2013-14.
 - **Fastest half-century:** He also made fastest half-century, off 16 balls breaking Sri Lankan cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya's previous record who had made half-century in 17 balls.
12. Australian cricketer **Sean Abbott** won **Bradman young cricketer of the year award 2015.** While, **Steve Smith** awarded the **Allan Border Medal** and being named both Test and one day player of the year. Sean Abbott is the bowler, who was unwittingly at the centre of the tragic death of Phillip Hughes.
13. **India is going to host International Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 in 2016.** India will host the World Twenty20 from 11 March to 3 April 2016. While, Ireland and Scotland will host the qualifiers between 6-26 July, 2015.
14. The International Cricket Council (ICC) cleared bowling action of Pakistan's cricketer Saeed Ajmal. He can now resume bowling in international Cricket.
15. West Indies opener batsman **Chris Gayle created history by becoming the first batsman to score a double century in the World Cup.** He made this record by scoring 215 runs off just 147 balls in a Pool-B match against Zimbabwe held at Manuka Oval stadium in Canberra, Australia.
16. South African cricketer AB De Villiers hit the fastest 150 in one-day internationals (ODI's). He achieved this feat in 64 balls in World Cup Pool B match against West Indies held at Sydney.
17. Former cricket captain of New Zealand **Martin Crowe** inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He is 79th male member of the Hall of Fame.

- Martin Crowe is third cricketer from New Zealand to be inducted in the Hall of Fame after Sir Richard Hadlee and Debbie Hockley.
18. India Cements transferred the Indian Premier League (IPL) team- Chennai Super Kings Cricket (CSK) franchise to its new subsidiary **Chennai Super Kings Cricket (CSKC) Limited**.
 19. Former Sri Lankan cricket captain and ace batsman **Kumar Sangakkara** announced that he will retire from Test cricket after playing three-match series against India in August 2015.
 20. Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara became first batsman to score four consecutive one-day international (ODI) centuries in a Cricket World Cup.
 21. Karnataka won Ranji Trophy for season 2014-2015. Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu in the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. With this victory, Karnataka clinched eight Ranji title.
 22. Mahendra Singh Dhoni become first Indian Cricket team Captain to register the 100 One Day International (ODI) match wins. He was able to achieve this feat after Indian team defeated Bangladesh in the 2015 ICC World Cup quarter-final match by 109-run in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Australia.
 23. New Zealand's **Martin Guptill** created a Cricket World Cup record by scoring highest score of 237 runs not out. He achieved this feat in match against West Indies in the 2015 ICC World Cup quarter-final played at WestpacTrust Stadium, Wellington.
 24. Pakistani cricketers, Misbah-ul-Haq and Shaid Afridi retired from the One Day International (ODI) format of cricket. They retired after the World Cup quarter-final match against Australia.

Badminton:-

25. Union Sports Ministry recommended badminton player Saina Nehwal's name for Padma Bhushan award.
26. **Syed Modi India Grand Prix Gold badminton title 2015:**
 - **India's Parupalli Kashyap** has won, In the final match he defeated Kidambi Srikanth to win the men's singles title held at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Indian ace **shuttler Saina Nehwal** won in the women's singles category. She defeated world champion Carolina Marin (Spain) at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. With this win she has retained this title which she had won in 2014.
27. **Carolina Marin Martin** of Spain won the prestigious Women's Singles Title in the All **England Open Badminton Championships 2015**. In the final match she defeated India's **Saina Nehwal**. With this victory, Carolina Marin became the first Spanish player to win this prestigious title. Saina Nehwal is first Indian woman badminton player to reach finals.

28. winners in Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold 2015:-

- **Men's Singles title**-India's ace shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** defeated Denmark's defending champion **Viktor Axelsen**.
- **Women's singles title**- China's Sun Yu defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbumrungpan.
- **Men's doubles title**- China's Cai Yun and Lu Kai pair defeated Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong.
- **Women's doubles title**- China's Bao Yixin and Tang Yuanting pair defeated Japan's Ayane Kurihara and Naru Shinoya.

- **Mixed doubles title-** China's Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong pair defeated China's Liu Cheng and Bao Yixin.

Football:-

29. **Cristiano Ronaldo won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award** (world's best football player) for year 2014. While in women's section, **Germany's midfielder Nadine Kessler** awarded FIFA Women's World Player of the Year title.
30. **Services** lifted the 69th Santosh Trophy football championship after edging out hosts Punjab 5-4 via tie-breaker in a nail-biting summit clash at Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana.

Other Sports News:-

31. Union Sports Ministry given nod to Boxing India (BI) as the new governing body for the sport. Haryana government unveiled new sports policy named Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015. It was announced Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at function organized at Rohtak. New sports policy substantially increases the award money given to winners of international and national sports events.
32. India's open water **swimmer Bhakti Sharma** set a new world record by swimming 1.4 miles in 52 minutes in one degree temperature in the Antarctic Ocean.
33. Malaysia's female professional squash **player Nicol David** set a new record by topping the world squash rankings for 106th month. She is first Asian to achieve this milestone and overtaken previous 105th month record set by four time world champion Susan Devoy from New Zealand which was set in February 1993.
34. Indian **golfer Anirban Lahiri won the Malaysian Open 2015**. In the final 4th round, he defeated Austria's Bernd Wiesberger at the Kaula Lumpur Golf Club and Country Club.
35. **Ranchi Rays won the third edition of Champions of Hero Hockey India League (HHIL) 2015**. In the final match they defeated Jaypee Punjab. With this Jaypee Punjab Warriors took second position followed by Delhi Waveriders in third position. **Awards from the Hero Hockey India League (HHIL):-**
- **2015 Hero Goal of the Day-** Barry Middleton of Ranchi Rays.
 - **Man-of-the-Match-** Tyler Lovell of Ranchi Rays.
 - **Hero Most Valuable Player of the Tournament-** Ashley Jackson of Ranchi Rays Dhruv Batra
 - **Motivator of the Tournament-** PR Sreejesh.
 - **Ponty Chadha Trophy for Upcoming Player of the Tournament-** Harmanpreet Singh of Uttar Pradesh Wizards.
 - **Airtel Award for Most Goals in the Tournament-** Jaypee Punjab Warriors.
 - Hockey India League is organized by Hockey India. Number of teams is Five which are franchisee based. Teams have players from India and around the world. The event is sanctioned by International Hockey Federation (FIH).
36. Olympic bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal attained a new high as she climbed to a career-**best second** in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings.
37. **India** won the final of the **Hero women's Hockey World League Round 2** with a margin of 3-1 against Poland at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium.

Upcoming Sports Events and there Venue:-

- AFC Asia Cup 2015- Australia

- FIFA Women's World Cup, 2015- Canada
- South-East Asian Games- Singapore
- European Games- Baku, Azerbaijan
- IBSA World Games 2015- Seoul, South Korea
- T- 20 Cricket World Cup 2016- India
- Test Cricket World Cup 2017 – England (First Time)
- Olympics 2016 summer- Rio De Janeiro (Brazi)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. French **economist Thomas Piketty** has turned down (refuse) France's top award, the Legion D'Honneur. He is the bestselling author of book **Capital in the 21st Century**, which examines income inequality in society. Earlier in 2014, cartoonist Jacques Tardi had turned down this award.
2. **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman 2015** awarded to 15 prominent non-resident Indians (NRI's) on the concluding day of 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.

Recipients of awards are:-

- **Satyanarayan Nadella**- CEO of tech giant Microsoft.
- Donald Rabindernauth Ramaotar- He is President of Guyana and awarded for his work for the Indian diaspora in Guyana.
- Mala Mehta- For her contribution to Hindi language. She is founder of Indo-Australian Bal Bharatiya Vidyalaya in Thornleigh suburb in Sydney. Since its establishment, she has been pursuing the growth of Hindi in Australia.
- Rajaram Sanjaya- He is India-born Mexican scientist. He is winner of the '2014 World Food Prize' for developing 480 wheat varieties that have been released in 51 countries.
- Kanwaljit Singh Bakhshi- He is Member of Parliament (MP) from New Zealand. He is also known for work he had done for the Indian diaspora in New Zealand.
- Essop Goolam Pahad- He is a South African politician. He was Minister in the Presidency from 1999 to September 2008 in South Africa.
- Mahendra Nanji Mehta- Uganda-based businessman of Indian origin. Professor Nathuram Poori -He is founder of Purico Group are also chosen for their contribution to Indian diaspora.
- Lord Raj Lumba- He is a philanthropist and founder of clothing company Rinku Group. He is a Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom.
- **Kamlesh Lulla**- He is chief scientist for Earth observation in the Human Exploration Science Office at the Johnson Space Centre at NASA.
- Nandini Tandon- She has been given this award for her work in life sciences and Healthcare and IT in USA and India along with other emerging markets.
- Rajmal Parakh
- Duraikannu Karunakaran
- Shah Bhartkumar Jayantilal

- Ashraf Palarkunnummal
3. Prominent Chinese theoretical **physicist Yu Min** awarded State Preeminent Science and Technology Award for 2014. Chinese President Xi Jinping gave him the award in the ceremony held at Great Hall of the People in Beijing. He is famously known as China's 'Father of Hydrogen bomb'.
 4. **72nd edition of Golden Globe Awards** organized at **Beverly Hills, California**. The winners of various awards in 72nd Golden Globe Awards are as follows:
 - **Best Motion Picture Drama:** Boyhood
 - Best Motion Picture Musical/Comedy: The Grand Budapest Hotel
 - **Best Director in Motion Picture-Drama:** Richard Linklater for Boyhood
 - Best Actor in Motion Picture-Drama: Eddie Redmayne for The Theory of Everything
 - Best Actress in Motion Picture-Drama: Julianne Moore for Still Alice
 - Best Actor in Motion Picture or Musical or Comedy: Michael Keaton for Birdman
 - Best Actress in Motion Picture Musical or Comedy: Amy Adams for Big Eyes
 - Best Actor in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: K. Simmons for Whiplash
 - Best Actress in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: Patricia Arquette for Boyhood
 - Best Original Score Motion Picture: Jóhann Jóhannsson for The Theory of Everything
 - **Best Foreign Language Film:** Leviathan (Russia)
 5. Hindi writer **Dr Kamal Kishore Goyanka** selected for the prestigious **Vyas Samman for the year 2014**. He has been chosen for his research work '**Premchand Kee Kahaniyo Kaa Kaalkramanusar Adhyayan**'
 6. British magazine Central Banking announced **Raghuram Rajan** as the **Governor of the Year in the Central Banking Awards for 2015**.
 7. Sanskrit scholar **Prabhu Nath Dwivedi** conferred with prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Award 2014** for Sanskrit language. He was chosen for his work Kanakalochanaha- a collection of 16 short-stories based upon various social issues eroding the system.
 8. **M.Y.S. Prasad**, director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota Range (SHAR), selected for the prestigious **Vikram Sarabhai memorial award 2014-15**. This award presented by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).
 9. **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** won National e-Governance award 2014-15 for its best district level initiative in the country.
 10. **Frank Islam**, an eminent Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist presented with the prestigious **Martin Luther King Jr Award**. It is an annual award started in 1991.
 11. Hyderabad Police Commissioner (PC) **CV Anand** conferred with the Election Commission of India's (ECI's) National Special Category Award for the Best Electoral Practices- 2014.

12. Periyar Tiger Reserve located in Kerala won the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) biennial award for encouraging local public participation in managing the reserve.
13. Indian American Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jhumpa Lahiri** won prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2015. She has received the prestigious \$50,000 DSC Prize for her book, **The Lowland**.
14. **Poetess Arundhati Subramaniam** won the inaugural **Khushwant Singh Memorial Prize** for her work **When God is a Traveller**. Her name was announced at Jaipur Literature Festival.
15. Two army personnel, **Major Mukund Varadarajan and Naik Neeraj Kumar Singh** awarded the highest peacetime military honour, **the Ashok Chakra posthumously** by President Pranab Mukherjee. The awards were received by their wives at the 66th Republic Day celebrations
16. **Padma Vibhushan:**

- LK Advani- Public Affairs- Gujarat
- Amitabh Bachchan- Art- Maharashtra
- Prakash Singh Badal- Public Affairs- Punjab
- Dr D Veerendra Heggade- Social Work- Karnataka
- Mohammad Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar- Art- Maharashtra
- Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya- Others- Uttar Pradesh
- Prof Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan- Science and Engineering- Tamil Nadu
- Kottayan K. Venugopal- Public Affairs- Delhi
Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan (Foreigner)- Trade and Industry- France/UK

Padma Bhushan:

- Jahnu Barua- Art- Assam
- Dr Vijay Bhatkar- Science and Engineering- Maharashtra
- Shri Swapan Dasgupta- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Swami Satyamitranand Giri- Others- Uttar Pradesh
- N Gopaldaswami- Civil Service- Tamil Nadu
- Dr Subhash C Kashyap- Public Affairs- Delhi
- Dr (Pandit) Gokulotsavji Maharaj- Art- Madhya Pradesh
- Dr Ambrish Mithal- Medicine - Delhi
- Sudha Ragunathan- Art- Tamil Nadu
- Shri Harish Salve- Public Affairs- Delhi
- Dr Ashok Seth- Medicine- Delhi
- Rajat Sharma- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Satpal- Sports- Delhi
- Shivakumara Swami- Others- Karnataka
- Dr Kharag Singh Valdiya- Science and Engineering- Karnataka

- Prof Manjul Bhargava (NRI/PIO)- Science and Engineering- USA
- David Frawley (Vamadeva) (Foreigner)- Others- USA
- Bill Gates (Foreigner)- Social Work- USA
- Melinda Gates (Foreigner)- Social Work- USA
- Saichiro Misumi (Foreigner)- Others- Japan

Padma Shri

- Dr Manjula Anagani- Medicine- Telangana
- S Arunan- Science and Engineering- Karnataka
- Kanyakumari Avasarala- Art- Tamil Nadu
- Dr Bettina Sharada Baumer- Literature and Education- Jammu and Kashmir
- Naresh Bedi- Art- Delhi
- Ashok Bhagat- Social Work- Jharkhand
- Sanjay Leela Bhansali- Art- Maharashtra
- Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora- Literature and Education- Assam
- Dr Gyan Chaturvedi- Literature and Education- Madhya Pradesh
- Prof (Dr) Yogesh Kumar Chawla- Medicine- Chandigarh
- Jayakumari Chikkala- Medicine- Delhi
- Bibek Debroy- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Dr Sarungbam Bimola Kumari Devi- Medicine- Manipur
- Dr Ashok Gulati- Public Affairs- Delhi
- Dr Randeep Guleria- Medicine- Delhi
- Dr KP Haridas- Medicine- Kerala
- Rahul Jain- Art- Delhi
- Ravindra Jain- Art- Maharashtra
- Dr Sunil Jogi- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Prasoon Joshi- Art- Maharashtra
- Dr Prafulla Kar- Art- Odisha
- Saba Anjum- Sports- Chhattisgarh
- Ushakiran Khan- Literature and Education- Bihar
- Dr Rajesh Kotecha- Medicine- Rajasthan
- Prof Alka Kriplani- Medicine Delhi
- Dr Harsh Kumar- Medicine- Delhi
- Narayana Purushothama Mallaya- Literature & Education- Kerala
- Lambert Mascarenhas- Literature and Education- Goa
- Dr Janak Palta McGilligan- Social Work- Madhya Pradesh
- Veerendra Raj Mehta- Social Work- Delhi
- Tarak Mehta- Art- Gujarat

- Neil Herbert Nongkynrih (Art), Meghalaya
- Chewang Norphel- Others- Jammu and Kashmir
- TV Mohandas Pai- Trade and Industry- Karnataka
- Dr Tejas Patel- Medicine- Gujarat
- Jadav Molai Peyang- Others- Assam
- Bimla Poddar- Others- Uttar Pradesh
- Dr N Prabhakar- Science and Engg- Delhi
- Dr Prahalada- Science and Engg- Maharashtra
- Dr Narendra Prasad- Medicine- Bihar
- Ram Bahadur Rai- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Mithali Raj- Sports- Telangana
- PV Rajaraman- Civil Service- Tamil Nadu
- Prof JS Rajput- Literature and Education- Uttar Pradesh
- Kota Srinivasa Rao- Art- Andhra Pradesh
- Prof Bimal Roy- Literature and Education- West Bengal
- Shekhar Sen- Art- Maharashtra
- Gunvant Shah- Literature and Education- Gujarat
- Brahmdev Sharma- Literature and Education- Delhi
- Manu Sharma- Literature and Education- Uttar Pradesh
- Prof Yog Raj Sharma- Medicine- Delhi
- Vasant Shastri- Science and Engg- Karnataka
- SK Shivkumar- Science and Engg- Karnataka
- PV Sindhu- Sports- Telangana
- Sardara Singh- Sports- Haryana
- Arunima Sinha- Sports- Uttar Pradesh
- Mahesh Raj Soni- Art- Rajasthan
- Dr Nikhil Tandon- Medicine- Delhi
- H Thegtse Rinpoche- Social Work- Arunachal Pradesh
- Dr Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi- Medicine- Gujarat
- Huang Baosheng- Others- China
- Prof Jacques Blamont- Science and Engg- France
- Late Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin- Others- Maharashtra (Posthumous)
- Jean-Claude Carriere- Literature and Education - France
- Dr Nandrajan 'Raj' Chetty- Literature and Education- France
- George L Hart- Others- USA
- Jagat Guru Amrta Suryananda Maha Raja- Others- Portugal
- Late Meetha Lal Mehta- Social Work- Rajasthan (Posthumous)

- Tripti Mukherjee- Art- USA
 - Dr Dattatreyaudu Nori- Medicine- USA
 - Dr Raghu Rama Pillarisetti (Medicine), USA
 - Dr Saumitra Rawat- Medicine- UK
 - Prof Annette Schmiedchen (Literature and Education), Germany
 - Late Pran Kumar Sharma alias Pran- Art- Delhi (Posthumous)
 - Late R Vasudevan- Civil Service- Tamil Nadu (Posthumous)
17. **Madhya Pradesh** has been awarded the **10th national award** for excellent work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MNREGA**).
18. India's Dr. Zakir A. Naik won the prestigious 2015 King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) in category of Service to Islam.
19. Journalist **Vinod Mehta** conferred **Yash Bharti Samman** by Uttar Pradesh Government. Yash Bharti Samman is Uttar Pradesh's highest civilian award.
20. The **68th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)** held at the Royal Opera House in London. This year the BAFTA awards were conferred for the outstanding performances in films and documentaries screened at British Cinemas in 2014. Winners of the 68th Annual BAFTA Awards:-
- **Best Film:** Boyhood.
 - Outstanding British Film: The Theory of Everything.
 - Best Director: Richard Linklater (Boyhood).
 - **Best Actor: Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything).**
 - **Best Actress: Julianne Moore (Still Alice).**
 - Best Supporting Actor: K. Simmons (Whiplash).
 - Best Supporting Actress: Julianne Moore (Still Alice).
 - Best Original Screenplay: The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Adapted Screenplay: The Theory of Everything.
 - Best Editing: Whiplash.
 - Best Cinematography: Emmanuel Lubezki (Birdman).
 - Best Production Design: The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Costume Design: The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - **Best Original Music: The Grand Budapest Hotel.**
 - Best Makeup and Hair: The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Sound: Whiplash.
 - Best Visual Effects: Interstellar.
 - Best Film Not in the English Language: Ida.
 - **Best Animated Film: The Lego Movie.**
 - Best Documentary: Citizenfour.
 - Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director, or Producer: Stephen Beresford (Writer) and David Livingstone (Producer).
 - Best British Short Film: Boogaloo and Graham.
 - Best British Short Animation: The Bigger Picture.

- The EE Rising Star Award: Jack O'Connell.
 - Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema: BBC Films.
 - **Most awards: The Grand Budapest Hotel (5).**
 - **Most nominations: The Grand Budapest Hotel (11).**
21. The **57th Annual Grammy Awards** announced at the **Staples Center in Los Angeles, California**. This year two Indians have won Grammy Awards. They are:-
- **Ricky Kej**- His collaborated album Winds of Samsara won the **Best New Age Album Trophy**.
 - **Neela Vaswani**- She won award in Children's Album category for her album I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education And Changed The World (Malala Yousafzai).
22. Amartya awarded the inaugural Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize 2015.
23. Eminent Marathi writer **Bhalchandra Nemade** selected for **Jnanpith Award 2014**. He is the 4th Marathi writer to receive the honour and is the 50th recipient of Jnanpith award. He has received Sahitya Akademi Award (1990) for his critical work **Teeka Svayanwar**. He is also recipient of Padma Shri (2011).
24. Freedom fighter and National Flag designer **Pingali Venkayya** was honoured by naming All India Radio(AIR) Vijayawada (in Andhra Pradesh) building after him.
- a. In this regard, Union Minister for Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs, M. Venkaiah Naidu unveiled the statue of Pingali Venkaiah, in the premises of AIR Vijayawada.
 - b. On this occasion, minister also released a book on the biography of Pingali Venkayya, translated into Hindi by Mr.Venna Vallabha Rao.
25. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU) selected for the prestigious **Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Award 2015**.
26. **Chhattisgarh** won award for being one of the **best-performing states in the renewable energy segment in India**. Principal Secretary of Chhattisgarh's Energy department, Aman Singh was presented this award by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the first Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet (RE-Invest) 2015 held in New Delhi.
27. Two women scientists chosen as joint recipients of **Dr.Y. Nayudamma Memorial Award 2014**. The award is being conferred on them jointly for their significant contributions in the fields of missile technology and remote sensing. Recipients are
- **Tessy Thomas**- Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory of DRDO and Project Director (Mission) Agni V.
 - **Geeta Varadan**- Director Advanced Data Processing Research Institute of ISRO. This is the first time in history of this award that two eminent women scientists are being awarded concurrently.
28. Filmmaker **Nagesh Kukunoor's film Dhanak** honoured with The Grand Prix of the Generation Kplus International Jury for the best feature-length film at the 65th Berlin International Film Festival (also known as the Berlinale).

29. Airport Council International (ACI) ranked **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport of Delhi** as the world's most performing airports in the 25-40 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category. For this achievement, IGI has won the annual ASI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award for the year 2014.
30. Former India Captain and ace spinner **Anil Kumble inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**. He will be 77th inductee into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
31. Purnendu Dasgupta, an Indian-American won 2015 American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Analytical Chemistry J. Calvin Giddings Award.
32. **The 87th Academy Awards ceremony or Oscar Awards**, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) was held at **the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles**. The Academy Awards (commonly referred as Oscars) were presented in twenty four categories. They are:-
- **Best Picture- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).**
 - **Best Actor- Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything).**
 - **Best Actress- Julianne Moore (Still Alice).**
 - Best Supporting Actor- J. K. Simmons (Whiplash).
 - Best Supporting Actress- Patricia Arquette (Boyhood).
 - Best Director- Alejandro G. Iñárritu for Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).
 - Best Original Screenplay- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).
 - Best Adapted Screenplay- The Imitation Game.
 - Best Original Song- Glory (Selma).
 - Best Original Score- The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Production Design- The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Editing- Whiplash.
 - Best Cinematography- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).
 - Best Sound Editing- American Sniper.
 - Best Sound Mixing- Whiplash.
 - **Best Foreign Language Film- Ida (Poland).**
 - Best Documentary Feature- CitizenFour.
 - Best Documentary Short Subject- Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1.
 - Best Live Action Short Film- The Phone Call.
 - Best Visual Effects- Interstellar.
 - **Best Animated Feature Film- Big Hero 6.**
 - **Best Animated Short Film- Feast.**
 - Best Makeup and Hairstyling- The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Best Costume Design- The Grand Budapest Hotel.
 - Most awards: Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) and The Grand Budapest Hotel (Both received 4 awards).
 - Most nominations in 87th Academy Awards- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) and The Grand Budapest Hotel (both 9 nominations).

33. 44 Armoured Regiment of Indian Army honoured with President's Standards for its meritorious and distinguished service to the nation for more than three decades. The honour given by Chief of the Army Staff General Dalbir Singh on behalf of the President Pranab Mukherjee at function held at Suratgarh military station in Srigangangar district of Rajasthan.
34. **Ratan Tata** honoured with **Doctorate of Automotive Engineering by the Clemson University**.
35. An Indian-origin **scientist Gurpreet Singh** won **prestigious \$500,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award**. He won this award for his research on Scalable liquid exfoliation processing of ultrathin two-dimensional metal dichalcogenides nanosheets for energy storage devices.
36. **Hifikepunye Pohamba**, outgoing Namibian President won the world's most valuable individual award- **Mo Ibrahim prize for African leadership** for year 2014.
37. Three South Asian women selected for the prestigious International Women of Courage Award for the year 2015 by the United States. They are
- **Captain Niloofar Rahmani** from Afghanistan Air Force.
 - **Nadia Sharmeen**- Journalist and women's rights activist from Bangladesh.
 - **Tabassum Adnan**- founder of Khwendo Jirga from Pakistan.
 - The award presented by United States Department of State annually on international women's day and was established in 2007.
38. President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee awarded **Stree Shakti Puraskar 2014** to six illustrious women on International Women's Day for their distinguished services for the upliftment of women. The award was given in six categories.
- Awardees of Stree Shakti Puraskar 2014 are:-**
- **Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award:** Sister Mariola (Rajasthan).
 - **Rani Lakshmibai Award:** Seema Prakash (Madhya Pradesh).
 - **Rani Rudramma Devi Award:** Astha Sansthan- NGO (Rajasthan).
 - **Mata Jijabai Award:** Chandraprabha Bokey (Maharashtra).
 - **Kannagi Award:** P. Bhanumati (Kerala).
 - **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award:** Anay Rahit Zindagi- NGO (Goa)
39. Kerala Tourism won silver prize in the prestigious **Golden Gate Award** at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin (ITB-Berlin) – 2015. Kerala Tourism received the prize in the category of multimedia-campaign for its global multimedia '**The Great Backwaters campaign**' in the television-commercial medium.
40. Senior Congress leader and Former Union Minister **Mr. M. Veerappa Moily** will receive the **Saraswati Samman 2014** for his Kannada poem '**Ramayana Mahanveshanam**'. The award would make Mr. M. Veerappa Moily the second Kannada author to receive the honour after S. L. Bhyrappa (2010).
41. Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji awarded with the **National Award** for the Best Representation of the Cause of Safety, Security and Protection of Women and Girl Child by National Institute of Gender Justice (NIGJ). Rani is the first ever film personality to be felicitated with this prestigious award.

42. Indian researcher **Minoti Apate** named as New South Wales (NSW) Woman of the year 2015. Apate was named for the award for her contributions to the field of medical research, Indian community and the tertiary education.
43. The fourth National Photography Awards were conferred on 13 eminent photojournalists in New Delhi on 20 March 2015. The awards conferred by Secretary (Information & Broadcasting) Bimal Julka. The awards were given in 5 categories including Life-Time Achievement Award, Amateur Photographer of the Year, Special Mention Category for both Amateur and Professional segments. The **theme for 4th edition Professional Photographer category was “Hamara Bharat Swachh Bharat”** and for the Amateur Category was “*Mother and Child*”. The jury for this edition of awards was headed by well-known photographer Anil Risal Singh.

Following are the recipients of awards in various categories

- **Life-Time Achievement Award-** Surendra R. Patel.
 - **Professional Photographer of the Year-** Swarup Duta.
 - **Amateur Photographer of the Year-** Sasikumar.
 - **Special Mention Award in Professional Category-** Jayesh Navinchandra Shah, Atul Vasant Ghag, Pravin Rawat, Arvind Kumar Jain, Umesh Nikam.
 - **Special Mention Award in Amateur Category-** Joydeep Mukherjee, Akhil Hardia, Nimai Chandra Ghosh, Mukesh J. Thakkar, Tabeenah Anjum Qureshi.
 - **Given by-** Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to eminent photojournalists in different categories.
44. Renowned water conservationist and environment activist **Rajendra Singh** conferred with 2015 Stockholm Water Prize.
45. Pranab Mukherjee on 21 March 2015 conferred one Kirti Chakra awards and 11 Shaurya Chakra awards on armed forces personnel. Among these 11 awardees three were conferred posthumously for gallantry.
- **Kirti Chakra-** Captain Jaidev of Parachute Regiment.
 - **Shaurya Chakra (Posthumously)** – Subedar Prakash Chand, Lieutenant Commander Manoranjan Kumar, Major Abhijai of Corps of Engineers.
 - **Shaurya Chakra-** Major Mukul Sharma, Commander Gosavi Kaustubh Vijaykumar, Major R Vamshi Krishnan, Rifleman Manga Ram, Wing Commander Huvey Upadhyaya, Major Abhishek Kumar, Major Satnam Singh, Naik Ansaigra Basumatary.
 - **Kirti Chakra-** It is the second highest peace time gallantry award.
 - **Shaurya Chakra-** It is the third highest peacetime gallantry award.
46. Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani named Young Global Leader from India by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
47. Former Sri Lankan Army Chief **Sarath Fonseka** conferred the highest military rank of Field Marshal by the Government. He was awarded this title by President Maithripala Sirisena at a state ceremony held in the Colombo.
48. The 62nd National Film Awards for year 2014 announced. Court directed by **Chaitanya Tamhane** selected as the Best feature film. **Mary Kom** (Hindi) directed by Omung Kumar selected as the Best Popular film providing wholesome entertainment.

The 62nd National Film Awards in the various categories are as follows:-

- **Best Actor-** Vijay for Nanu Avanalla Avalu (Kannada).
- **Best Actress-** Kangana Ranaut for Queen (Hindi).
- **Best Direction-** Srijit Mukherji, Director of Chotushkone (Bengali).

- Best Film on Social Issues- Chotoder Chobi (Bengali) directed by Kaushik Ganguly.
- Best Supporting Actor- Bobby Simhaa for film Jigarthanda (Tamil).
- Best Supporting Actress- Baljinder Kaur for film Pagdi The Honour (Haryanavi).
- Best Children's Film- Kaakkaa Muttai (Tamil) and Elizabeth Ekadashi (Marathi).
- Best Child Artist- Vignesh & Ramesh for Kaakkaa Muttai (Tamil).
- Special Jury Award- Bhaurao Karhade, Director of Khwada (Marathi).
- Best Cinematography- Sudeep Chatterjee for film Chotushkone (Bengali).
- **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director**- Aditya Vikram Sengupta for Asha Jaoar Majhe (Bengali).
- **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration** – Chotoder Chobi (Bengali) directed by Kaushik Ganguly.
- Best Writing on Cinema- Silent Cinema: (1895-1930) authored by Pasupuleti Purnachandra Rao.
- Best Music Direction Songs - Haider Background Score - Nineteen Eighty Three (Malayalam)
- **Best play back singer (male)**- Sukhwinder Singh for the song Bismil from Haider
- Best play back singer (female)- Uttara Unnikrishanan for the film Saivam (Tamil)

About National Film Awards

- The National Film Awards are most prominent most prominent film award ceremonies in India.
- Established- 1954. Since then awarded annually.
- These awards are presented by the President of India in the official ceremony.

RANKINGS & BOOKS

1. India ranked 78th globally in Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2014 list of 93 countries in terms of talent competitiveness of its human capital. Top 5 in GTCI list: Switzerland (1st), Singapore (2nd), Luxembourg (3rd), United States (4th) and Canada (5th).
2. India topped in the list of Credit Suisse emerging consumer scorecard 2015, among the 9 emerging economies. Ranking of other countries: Brazil (2nd), Indonesia (3rd), Saudi Arabia (4th), China (5th), Turkey (6th), Mexico (7th), Russia (8th) and South Africa (9th).
3. Hindol Sengupta's book **Recasting India: How Entrepreneurship is Revolutionizing the World's Largest Democracy**, shortlisted for the U.S.' prestigious Hayek Prize, 2015.
4. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) released third annual international intellectual property (IP) index list. In this list India is placed at 29th rank among the 30 countries. While, US has been placed at the top in the list and Thailand at last position.
5. In recently released World Press Freedom Index (WPF), India placed at 136th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of **press freedom in 2015**. In WPF 2015, India shown improvement from its rank of 140 in 2014. However, India's absolute score has declined from 40.34 to 40.49. Top 3 countries: Finland (1st), Norway (2nd), Denmark (3rd).

6. Six Indian women entrepreneurs and businesswomen named by Forbes magazine as among the 50 'Power Businesswomen' from Asia. Indians included in the list are:-
 - **Arundhati Bhattacharya**- Chairperson of State Bank of India (SBI).
 - **Chanda Kochchar**- MD & CEO of ICICI Bank. Forbes list referred her as India's second-most-powerful banker after Bhattacharya
 - **Akhila Srinivasan**- MD of Shriram Capital.
 - **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw**- Chairman & MD of Biocon.
 - **Shikha Sharma**- CEO of Axis Bank.
 - **Usha Sangwan**- MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
7. Microsoft Co-founder, Bill Gates retained the title of the world's richest person in the Forbes 2015 billionaire list. **As per the Forbes' 29th annual ranking of the world's billionaires 2015. Total number of billionaires in the world:** 1826 with combined net worth of \$7.05 trillion. The US leads the list of billionaires in the world with 536 billionaires, followed by China (213), Germany (103), India (90) and Russia (88).
 - **Top 5 billionaires:** Bill Gates (\$79 billion), Mr. Carlos Slim Helu (\$77.1 billion), Mr. Warren Buffett (\$72.7 billion), Mr. Amancio Ortega (\$64.5 billion) and Mr. Larry Ellison (\$54.3 billion).
8. **Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharmaceuticals**, with a net worth of \$21.5 billion, surpassed Mukesh Ambani as the **world's richest Indian**, two days after the Reliance Industries Ltd. chief was ranked India's wealthiest for the eighth consecutive year. A real-time update by the business magazine Forbes reworked the rankings. On the global rich list, Mr. Shanghvi moved up to the 37th position, while Mr. Ambani slipped to the 43rd.
 - Earlier Forbes released its annual rich list for 2015, ranking Mr. Ambani at the 39th position and Mr. Shanghvi at the 44th. Azim Premji of Wipro was ranked 48th, from which he has moved up one place now.
9. **Savitri Jindal** among five Indian women in Forbes billionaires list. Among Indian women, Savitri Jindal and family was ranked 283 on the list with a net worth of \$5.3 billion in 2015, up from \$4.9 billion in 2014. Indu Jain who chairs media conglomerate Bennett, Coleman & Co, was placed at the 603 rank globally. Her net worth stands at \$3.1 billion.
10. **Harvard University of United States (US)** again topped in World Reputation Rankings 2015 published by Times Higher Education. US alone has 8 universities in the top ten rankings. While, UK has 2 universities in the top 10 ranking. **Top 3 Universities in World Reputation Rankings 2015 are:**
 - Harvard University (US).
 - University of Cambridge (UK).
 - University of Oxford (UK).
11. Former Lok Sabha **Meira Kumar's** book entitled "**Indian Parliamentary Diplomacy – Speaker's Perspective**" released. The book was released by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

NEW SCHEMES

1. Union Government launched Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Scheme to encourage budding and existing entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes (SCs). It was launched by Union Social Justice Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot in Delhi.
2. Union government has launched a **Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)** scheme to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country. Union governments ambitious Rs 500 crore HRIDAY project launched by Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi. In the initial phase, 12 heritage cities have been identified which will be rejuvenated and developed under HRIDAY. The 12 cities are: **Amritsar, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Ajmer, Mathura, Dwarka, Badami, Velankanni, Kanchipuram, Warangal and Amaravati.**
3. Union Government launched **ambitious Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao(BBBP) campaign** to save and empower girl child. The scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Panipat in Haryana. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), is the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme. While, Centre has provided initial corpus of 100 crore rupees for it. It will be implemented in 100 districts of the country, including 12 districts of Haryana.
4. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports **revised the Scheme of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**. This scheme was introduced by government in 2009 to encourage involvement of corporates and sports promotion boards in the development of sports in the country. Revised Scheme of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar According to the revised plan, this scheme will be given in following four categories.
 - They are Identification and nurturing of budding/young talent.
 - Encouragement of sports through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
 - Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures.
 - Sports for Development.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched nationwide **Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme in Suratgarh** Under town of Sriganganagar district, Rajasthan. During the launch PM gave slogan- **Swasth Dharaa. Khet Haraa** (Healthy Earth, Green Farm).
 - This scheme Centre plans to target over 14 crore farmers in the next three years. In financial year 2014-15, around 3 crore farmers will be covered to check the excess use of fertilisers.
 - Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme announced by NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its first budget presented in July 2014.
 - In the budget, government allotted Rs. 100 crore for issuing cards under the scheme. Government also had allotted additional Rs. 56 crore to set up 100 mobile soil testing laboratories across India.
6. Haryana Government launched '**Aapki Beti Humari Beti**' Scheme. It was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at **Panchkula district** of state.

Facts about Aapki Beti Humari Beti scheme:-

- This scheme aims to combat the problem of declining child sex ratio in Haryana. It will be implemented in both rural and urban areas of the state.
- This scheme covers first-born girl child in Scheduled Caste (SC) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families on or after January 22, 2015. The girl child born in these families is eligible to receive Rs. 21,000.
- It also covers all second girl child born on or after January 22, 2015 of all families. In this case the girl child is eligible to receive Rs. 21,000.
- While, in families where twin girls or multiple girls are born, each girl child will get Rs. 21,000.

Along with this scheme, Haryana Government also launched '**Haryana Kanya Kosh**' for the welfare and development of girl child and women in the state. **Multi Sectoral Nutrition Programme** was also launched to address the maternal and child nutrition in five districts of state. They are **Narnaul, Palwal, Mewat, Kaithal and Fatehabad**.

7. Maharashtra government has launched **Bhagyashree scheme** for girls. The scheme replaces state government's previous Sukanya scheme. Bhagyashree scheme was launched by was launched **by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** along with the **actress Bhagyashree who is brand ambassador of the scheme**.
 - Under the Sukanya scheme, the state government was to earmark an amount of Rs. 21,200 for each girl child born in a Below the Poverty Line (BPL) family.
 - While the Bhagyashree scheme aims at providing one lakh rupee on maturity after the girl completes 18 years of age.
 - State government is seeking to link the Bhagyashree scheme with the Union Government's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
8. Union Government launched **Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme**, for redressal of grievances of consumers related to drug pricing and availability of medicines. It was launched by Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Ananth Kumar in New Delhi.

About Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme

- The scheme is a web-enabled system created by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
 - It seeks to serve as a robust E-governance tool for protection of interests of consumers through effective implementation of the price of drugs.
 - The scheme will provide consumers with an online facility to redress their complaints related to over-pricing of medicines, non-availability of medicines and refusal of supply for sale of any medicine without good and sufficient reason.
 - After receiving the complaint, NPPA will initiate action on any complaint within 48 hrs.
 - The scheme also seeks to create awareness among the people and act as a deterrent against black-marketing, spurious medicines and inflated cost of drugs by creating pharma-literacy initiative.
9. The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** to provide skills training to youth across the country.

About Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- The PMKVY Scheme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- It will provide skills training to youth, including class 10 and 12 drop outs and aims to cover about 24 lakh people.

- The target for skilling under the scheme will be associated with Union Government's flagship programmes such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and National Solar Mission.
- The skill training will involve soft skills, good work ethics, personal grooming, behavioural change for cleanliness etc.
- Inspection of training under PMKVY will be done by Sector Skill Councils and the respective State Governments.
- The skill training will be undertaken on the basis of demand assessed on the basis of skill gap studies conducted by the NSDC for the period 2013-17.
- **Fund Allocation-** The scheme will be implemented with an outlay of 1, 500 crore rupees. Of the total 1,500 crore rupees, about 1,120 crore rupees will be spent on skill training of 14 lakh youth.
- 150 crore rupees allocated for training of youth from the North-East region.

SUMMIT AND MEETINGS

1. **8th edition of The World Future Energy Summit 2015** has begun in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
2. The **5th General Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** held in Abu Dhabi. In total it has 138 Members. India is one of the 33 Permanent members of IRENA.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet and Expo (Re-Invest) 2015 in New Delhi**. Germany is the partner country for Re-Invest 2015 and over 2500 delegates including exhibitors from 45 countries are participating in the three day event.
4. The **5th India- Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC)** meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The JTC meeting was co-chaired by Minister of Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and Myanmar Union Minister of Commerce U Win Myint. Both sides had intensive interaction and exchanged views to find ways and means to enhance the bilateral trade and investment ties.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Indian Science Congress 2015** at the Mumbai University. The theme of 102nd Congress is Science and Technology for Human Development.
6. Government of West Bengal is organising **Bengal Global Business Summit – Bengal Leads**. The State is seeking investment in sectors such as urban infrastructure and housing, IT software and hardware, food processing, horticulture and floriculture, MSME and textiles.

Upcoming Summits:-

- G20 Summit 2016 – Turkey
- 4th Nuclear Security Summit 2016 – United States
- 7th BRICS Summit 2015- Ufa, Russia
- IBSA Summit, 2015- New Delhi, India

- 4th BIMSTEC Summit- Nepal
- 17th NAM Summit2015 - Caracas (Venezuela)

DEFENCE, ARMY EXERCISE AND SPACE

1. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested an advanced electronic warfare (EW) suite. It was tested onboard of the **country's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas-PV1**.
2. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh handed over Resident Identity Card (RIC) readers to Navy Chief Admiral R K Dhowan and Coast Guard Director General Vice-Admiral A G Thapliyal. It aims to strengthen coastal security measures in 9 states and 4 Union Territories which have a sea-line running along their borders.
3. First indigenously-built Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at ceremony held at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
4. For the first time, a canisterised version of **Agni-V missile** successfully test-fired from Wheeler Island off Odisha coast. This was the third successful flight test of the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and the first canister trial.
5. Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) Ra'ad.
6. The Naval Prototype 2 (NP2) of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas undertook its successful maiden flight in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
7. Indian Coast Guard inducted a high-speed patrolling ship **Amogh** into its fleet. Amogh will be stationed off Paradip coast in Odisha. It can travel at maximum speed of 63 km per hour. The ship has facilities like firing gun, rubber boats including one motor-run, GPS system and upgraded radar system.
8. **Unmanned SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** successfully launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida on its third attempt.
9. Indian Navy had conducted Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster relief (HADR) exercise in Lakshadweep Islands (Kavaratti, Aggatti, Kalpeni and Androth). HADR was Indian Navy's large scale exercise to test its readiness for handling a tsunami like disasters in order to provide immediate succour and relief to the affected people.
10. India successfully test-fired its 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Navy's indigenously built destroyer INS Kolkata. INS Kolkata was commissioned by the Indian Navy on 16 August 2014. The ship was indigenously built by Mazagon Dockyards Limited under Project 15-Alpha series.
11. India successfully test-fired its nuclear **capable Prithvi-II surface-to-surface missile** from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha. Test- It was conducted by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) and monitored by the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
12. Union Government announced 27 Indian satellites are currently operational. It was announced by Minister of State for Prime Minister Office (PMO) & Department of Space

Jitendra Singh said during Question Hour of Lok Sabha. Among the 27 operational satellites, 11 are communication satellites, 12 are earth observation satellites, 3 are navigational satellites and 1 is Mars orbiter mission.

13. **Indian Navy's Theatre Level Readiness and Operational Exercise (TROPEX) exercise** concluded. TROPEX-2015 was a month long exercise aimed at validating the Indian Navy's Concept of Operations and the area of operations spanned the Arabian Sea and Northern Indian Ocean.
14. World's first electric satellites successfully lifted off by a Space Exploration (SpaceX) Technologies rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, United States. The satellites are owned by the French satellite provider Eutelsat and Asia Broadcast Satellite (ABS).
15. NASA's **Dawn** space probe completed its orbit around dwarf planet **Ceres** which is the largest object in the Solar System between Mars and Jupiter. With the completion of orbit, Dawn probe become first spacecraft to visit dwarf planet. Dawn has taken 7.5 years to reach the orbit of Ceres
16. Pakistan successfully conducted the first test of surface-to-surface **Shaheen-III** ballistic missile off the Arabian Sea. The missile, also called **White Falcon-III** in English developed by Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and NESCOM along with its subsidiary NDC.
17. In a breakthrough, Japanese researchers successfully transmitted electric power wirelessly to a pinpoint target using microwaves, an advance that brings space-based solar power closer to reality.
 - According to Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or Jaxa, the researchers were able to transform 1.8 kilowatts of electric power into microwaves and transmit it with accuracy into a receiver located 55 metres away.
 - In space-based solar power generation, sunlight is gathered in geostationary orbit and transmitted to a receiver on Earth.
18. Pakistan successfully tested first indigenously built all-weather armed drone named **Burraq** and a laser guided missile named Barq. By successfully testing of Burraq, Pakistan became the 9th country in the World to develop an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) domestically.
19. NASA launched four identical spacecraft on a billion-dollar mission to study the explosive give-and-take of the Earth and sun's magnetic fields.
20. NASA's **Hubble Space Telescope** spotted massive saltwater ocean under the icy crust of Jupiter's largest moon Ganymede.
21. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to collaborate with other space agencies on inter-planetary explorations. It was announced by Minister of State (MoS) in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh in the Lok Sabha. Presently ISRO is having talks with space agencies of the United States of America, Russia and France to collaborate for inter-planetary explorations.
22. India's indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile **Astra** was successfully tested from a Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft. The test was undertaken at the Integrated Test Range located at Chandipur in Odisha.

35TH NATIONAL GAMES OF INDIA 2015

The **2015 National Games of India**, is being held from 31 January 2015 to 14 February 2015 across seven districts in Kerala, India. Kerala is hosting 2nd time the national games after it hosted the 27th National Games in 1987.

Motto: *Get Set Play*

Opening Ceremony: The opening ceremony of 35th National games Kerala was hosted at Green field stadium **Karyavattam, Trivandrum on 31 January 2015** at 6.00 PM.

Union minister of urban development **Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated** the opening ceremony of national games 2015. The **Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy**, the Sports Minister, Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, the Union Minister of State for Sports, Sarbananda Sonowal, IOA president N. Ramachandran and **M.P Shashi**

Tharoor presided over the function.

Brand Ambassadors: Former cricket captain **Sachin Tendulkar** was selected as the goodwill ambassador for the games. As part of his role as the face of National Games, Sachin also made an appearance at **Run Kerala Run on January 20th**.

Mascot: The mascot of the 35th National Games is "**Ammu**", The Great Hornbill, or the Great Indian **Hornbill**, the State bird of Kerala.

Games Village: The Games Village go well with the concept of '**Green Games**' as it is **environmental friendly**, light weight, energy efficient and faster to construct. The Games Village is a '**miniature India**' as this venue is supposed to be the most vocal and visual representation of India's national integration at the Games.

Sports Event: There are 33 sports disciplines in 2015 Kerala Games. **Yachting is newly included event**. Aquatics (50 disciplines) and Athletics (44 disciplines) are the biggest and most popular events in Kerala Games 2015, Shooting (38 disciplines) is another big event. Apart from this The National Games Secretariat (the "NGS"), Nodal Agency of the State Government of Kerala, mandated with the responsibility of organizing the 35th National Games of India is launching an information **app on Android platform titled "National Games Kerala 2015"**. Using this app cell phone users can easily know the schedule of events, results and current medal tally.

History of National Games: The **Games** were held every two years from 1924 as Indian Olympic Games and were **renamed** as National Games when they were first held in Bombay in 1940. It started by a famous person Sagnik Poddar who reads in St. Stephen's School. **Winner:- Serviecs SCB got highest gold medals followed by Kerala.**

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2015-16

Three Key achievements:

1. Financial Inclusion - Rs.12.5 crores families financially mainstreamed in 100 days.
2. Transparent Coal Block auctions to augment resources of the States.
3. Game changing reforms on the anvil:
 - ◆ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
 - ◆ Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile (JAM) - for direct benefit transfers.

STATE OF ECONOMY:

1. **CPI inflation projected at 5%** by the end of the year.
2. Monetary Policy Framework Agreement with RBI, **to keep inflation below 6%**.
3. GDP growth in 2015-16, projected to be between 8 to 8.5%
4. The fiscal deficit targets **are 3.9%, 3.5% and 3.0% in FY 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 respectively.**
5. Direct Transfer of Benefits to be extended further with a view to **increase the number of beneficiaries from Rs.1 crore to Rs.10.3 crore.**
6. Target of **Rs.8.5 lakh crore of agricultural credit** during the year 2015-16
7. **Rs.5,300 crore** to support micro-irrigation, watershed **development** and the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'.
8. **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna** to cover accidental death risk of **Rs.2 Lakh for a premium of just Rs.12 per year.**
9. **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** to cover both natural and accidental death risk of Rs.2 lakh at premium of Rs.330 per year for the age group of 18-50.
10. **5 new Ultra Mega Power Projects**, each of 4000 MW, in the Plug-and-Play mode.
11. **Rs.1000 crores** to the **Nirbhaya Fund**
12. **Visas on arrival** to be increased to **150 countries.**
13. An IIT to be set up in Karnataka and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad to be upgraded in to a full-fledged IIT.
14. **New All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) to be set up in J&K, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam.** Another AIIMS like institutions to be set up in Bihar.
15. A **post graduate institute of Horticulture Research & Education** is to be set up in Amritsar.
16. **3 new National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research in Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Chattisgarh and one institute of Science and Education Research is to be set up in Nagaland & Orissa each.**
17. **University of Disability Studies** will be established in Kerala.
18. In Arunachal Pradesh, **Centre of film production, animation and gaming** will come

- up.
19. For **Infrastructure sector Rs. 70,000 crores allocated**. Projects in rail road and irrigation bonds will be tax free.
 20. For **Rural Infrastructure Development Bank, Rs. 25,000 crore** allocated.
 21. **Target of renewable energy capacity revised to 175000 MW till 2022**, comprising 100000 MW Solar, 60000 MW Wind, 10000 MW Biomass and 5000 MW Small Hydro.
 22. **Forward Markets commission to be merged with SEBI.**
 23. **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), to be established** with an **annual flow of Rs.20,000 crores** to it. Tax free infrastructure bonds for the projects in the rail, road and irrigation sectors

BUDGET ESTIMATES:

- >**Gross Tax receipts** are estimated to be **Rs. 14,49,490 crore**.
- >**Total Expenditure** has accordingly been estimated at **Rs.17,77,477 crore**.
- >**Fiscal deficit** will be **3.9 per cent of GDP** and Revenue Deficit will be 2.8 per cent of GDP.

TAX PROPOSAL:

- >implement **GST from next year**.
- >**No change in rate of personal income tax**.
- >Proposal to **reduce corporate tax from 30% to 25% over the next four years**, starting from next financial year.
- >**Wealth-tax replaced with additional surcharge of 2 per cent on super rich** with a taxable income of over Rs.1 crore annually
- >**PAN being made mandatory** for any purchase or sale **exceeding Rs. 1lakh**.
- >Evasion of tax in relation to foreign assets to have a punishment of rigorous imprisonment upto 10 years, be non-compoundable, have a **penalty rate of 300%** and the offender will not be permitted to approach the Settlement Commission.
- >**Non-filing of return/filing of return** with inadequate disclosures to have a punishment of rigorous **imprisonment upto 7 years**.
- >**General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) to be deferred by two years**.GAAR to apply to investments made on or after 01.04.2017, when implemented.
- >Domestic transfer pricing threshold limit increased from Rs.5 crore to Rs.20 crore.
- >Excise duty on footwear with leather uppers and having retail price of more than Rs.1000 per pair reduced to 6%.
- >Education cess and the Secondary and Higher education cess to be subsumed in Central Excise Duty.

- >Time limit for taking **CENVAT credit on inputs and input services increased from 6 months to 1 year.**
- >**Service-tax** plus education cesses **increased from 12.36% to 14%** to facilitate transition to GST.
- >Online central excise and service tax registration to be done in two working days.
- >**100% deduction for contributions, other than by way of CSR contribution, to Swachh Bharat Kosh and Clean Ganga Fund.**
- >**Clean energy cess increased from Rs.100 to Rs.200 per metric tonne of coal,** etc. to finance clean environment initiatives.

Benefits to middle class tax-payers:

- >Limit of deduction of **health insurance premium increased from Rs.15000 to Rs.25000,** for **senior citizens limit increased from Rs.20000 to Rs.30000**
- >**Senior citizens above the age of 80 years,** who are not covered by health insurance, to be allowed deduction of Rs.30000 towards medical expenditures.
- >Deduction limit of Rs.60000 with respect to specified disease of serious nature enhanced to Rs.80000 in case of senior citizen.
- >Additional deduction of **Rs.25000 allowed for differently abled persons.**
- >Limit on deduction on account of contribution to a pension fund and **the new pension scheme increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh.**
- >Additional **deduction of Rs.50000** for contribution to the new pension scheme u/s **80CCD.**
- >**Payments to the beneficiaries including interest payment on deposit in Sukanya Samriddhi scheme to be fully exempt.**
- >Service-tax exemption on Varishtha Bima Yojana.
- >Yoga to be included within the ambit of charitable purpose under Section 2(15) of the Income-tax Act.

Defence:

- >Rs.2,46,726 crore allocated for Defence. It is **9.87 per cent greater than last year.**
- >Make in India campaign will take into consideration for speedy manufacturing of Defence equipments.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RAILWAY BUDGET 2015-16

Financial Performance for the year 2014-15

- Total Receipts were ` 1,39,558 crore
- Total Expenses - 1,30,321 crore,

- Operating ratio - 93.6%

Budget Estimates for 2015-16

- Total receipts - 1,64,374 crore
- Total expenditure - 1,49,176 crore.
- Operating ratio - 88.5%

Highlights

- There will be no hike in passenger fares in the year 2015-16.
- No new trains.
- Social service obligation rose from 9.4% of Gross Traffic Receipts in 2000-01 to 16.6% in 2010-11.
- Bullet train to be introduced in Mumbai-Ahmedabad route.
- CCTVs to be installed to monitor cleanliness.
- eTicketing system to be upgraded. Right 2000 tickets can be booked per second. It is proposed to increase this limit to 7200 per second. This system will be able to handle 1,20,000 users simultaneously.
- Ultrasonic system to be installed to detect problems in tracks.
- 17,000 toilets to be replaced by bio-toilets.
- Track capacity to be increased to 1.38 lakh km.
- Railways to raise finances via PPP, FDI.
- 4,000 women constables to be recruited in RPF.
- Battery operated cars to be provided at major stations for Physically disable people.
- Nation wise helplines to be installed. Toll free number -182 (It will be active from 01-03-2015).
- Tickets can be booked 4 months prior to travel, earlier it was 2 months.
- Senior citizens to get lower births.
- Entry gates will be broader.
- Disposable bags will be provided for sleeper passengers.
- Mechanical designing of new engines that would consume less fuel.
- Water vending machines to be installed at stations.
- e-Tickets will be available in lical language.
- WiFi facility will be provided at railway stations.

Important Dignataries:-

- Chief Justice, Supreme Court- HL Dattu
- Speaker, Lok Sabha- Sumitra Mahajan
- Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha- M. Thambidurai
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India- Shashikant Sharma
- Chief Election Commission- HS Brahma
- Chairman, UPSC- Deepak Gupta
- Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha- PJ Kurien

Bureaucrats:-

- National Security Advisor- Ajit Kumar Doval
- Cabinet Secretary- Ajit Seth

- Home Secretary- LC Goyal
- Finance Secretary- Rajiv Maharishi
- Foreign Secretary- S. Jaishankar
- Defence Secretary- RK Mathur
- Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)- Anil Kumar Sinha
- Chief, Intelligence Bureau (IB)- Dineshwar Sharma
- Chief, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)- Rajendra Khanna
- Director General, NIA- Sharad Kumar

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S FOREIGN VISIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Seychelles:-

Narendra Modi is first Prime Minister to visit Seychelles in 34 years. Previously, late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had visited the country in 1981.

Key facts

- Both nations agreed to set up joint working group to promote ocean based economy i.e. on Blue Economy. In this regard, India committed to provide all help to Seychelles.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced free visa on arrival (VoA) and free visas for three months facility to the citizens of Seychelles.
- Four agreements and MoUs were signed between both the countries. They were signed in the fields of **renewable energy, hydro graphic survey, electronics navigation and infrastructure development** at the island of Seychelles.
- These agreements and MoU's were signed by Secretary (West) Navtej Sarna from Indian side in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Seychelles James Alix Michel.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated a **Coastal Surveillance Radar system** (SSRS). The surveillance system has set up in Seychelles with the help of India.
- India also announced to provide 2nd dossier aircraft to the island nation to enhance maritime security.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mauritius:-

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to island nation as part of three-nation tour of Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka for cementing strategic partnership with these island countries. India and Mauritius have inked 5 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to give new impetus to bilateral co-operation. These MoUs were signed in Port Louis, Mauritius.

Following MoUs were signed

MoU in the field of Ocean Economy-

- It will provide an extensive framework for cooperation in the field of Ocean Economy between two countries for sustainable development in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It includes mutually beneficial cooperation for exploration and capacity development in the field of marine resources, green tourism, fisheries, research and development of ocean technology, exchange of experts and other related activities.

Programme for Cultural Cooperation between both nations for the year 2015-18

- The programme will provide enhanced bilateral cooperation between both nations in this field for the term 2015-2018. It will enhance people-to-people participation between the two countries
- The programme envisages exchange of cultural troupes, organization of cultural exhibitions, preservation of cultural heritage, training in fine arts, promotion of Indian languages, exchange of students, etc.

Protocol between both countries for the importation of fresh mango from India

- The aim of this Protocol is to facilitate Mauritius with importation of world-renowned Indian mangoes. This protocol is between India's Union Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security of Mauritius.

MoU for the Improvement in Air and Sea Transportation Facilities at Agalega Island of Mauritius

- It provides provisions for setting up and upgradation of infrastructure for improving sea and air connectivity at Agalega Island of Mauritius and Outer Island.
- These facilities will help to enhance the capabilities in safeguarding interests of the Mauritian Defence Forces in the Outer Island.

MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy

- It will promote cooperation in the field of traditional system of health and medicine between the both countries.
- It envisages exchange of experts, joint R&D and recognition of the traditional systems of health and medicine, supply of traditional medicinal substances, in both countries.
- It also aims to promote and popularization of the various Indian traditional systems of AYUSH.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Sri Lanka:-

Following are the main highlights of visit:-

- It is the first standalone bilateral visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987.
- Lanka IOC and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation have agreed to jointly develop the Upper Tank Farm of the China Bay Installation in Trincomalee on mutually agreed terms.
- Early commencement of work on the ground in the Sampur Coal Power Project. This landmark project would meet Sri Lanka's energy needs.
- The facility of "Tourist Visa on Arrival – Electronic Travel Authorization" Scheme to Sri Lankan citizens from the Sinhala and Tamil New Year on 14 April 2015.
- Air India will soon start direct flights between New Delhi and Colombo.
- Cooperation in developing a Ramayana Trail in Sri Lanka and a Buddhist Circuit in India.
- Organization a Festival of India in Sri Lanka later this year. Sri Lanka is where Buddhism has truly flourished. We will be organizing an exhibition showcasing our Buddhist heritage as part of this festival.
- The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in youth affairs is an important long term investment in our relationship.
- A fresh Line of Credit of up to US\$ 318 million for the railways sector. This will be used to procure rolling stock, and to restore and upgrade existing railway track.
- Assistance for the construction of the Rabindranath Tagore auditorium at Ruhuna University in Matara.

- The Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka have agreed to enter into a Currency Swap Agreement of US\$ 1.5 billion. This will help keep the Sri Lankan rupee stable.
- Modi became the first PM to visit Jaffna

During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 March 2015 flagged off the first train from Thalaimannar to Madhu Road in North Sri Lanka.

It marks the completion and restoration of the prestigious project of Indian Railways to restore the North-South Rail link of Sri Lanka after decades of civil war. The North-South Rail link was completely destroyed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) militants during the civil war in 1980s.

Key facts

- The rail project connects the Sri Lanka's Jaffna province to capital Colombo and a branch line connects Thalaimannar to the main rail line.
- The project has been implemented by Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) International, a subsidiary of Indian Railways.
- Indian Government had provided line of credit to this project as part of India's bid to establish better connectivity between SAARC nations.

This project will also play significant role in establishing connectivity between both nations as ferry service soon will be started from north-western Sri Lankan town of Talaimannar (the closest point to India) and Rameshwaram.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Anuradhapura shrine

- Prior to inaugurating this rail service, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the sacred Bodhi tree in Anuradhapura shrine.
- This is first time that an Indian Prime Minister is visiting Anuradhapura.
- The sacred Bodhi tree at Anuradhapura shrine was planted as a sapling of the original Bodhi tree, under which Lord Gautam Buddha had achieved enlightenment.
- It was planted 2000 years ago in Anuradhapura shrine which is considered as one of the most sacred places in Buddhism.

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CENSUS 2011

Census 2011 is the 15th Census of India since 1872. The motto of census 2011 was 'Our Census, Our future'.

1. 2011 Census Commissioner of India: **C Chandramuli**
2. Total population of India according to 2011 census – **121 crore.**
3. The most populous state of India – **Uttar Pradesh**
4. Least populous state in India: **Sikkim**
5. State has highest rural population – **Uttar Pradesh**
6. State has lowest rural population - **Sikkim**
7. State has highest urban population – **Maharashtra**
8. State has lowest urban population - **Sikkim**
9. The rate of growth of population of India: **17.64**
10. Literacy rate in India : **74.04%**
11. Male Literacy rate in India : **82.14%**
12. Female Literacy rate: **65.46%**
13. Most literate state in India – **Kerala (93.9%)**
14. Least literate state in India – **Bihar (63.82%)**

15. Most literate Union territory in India – **Lakshadweep (92.2%)**
16. Least literate Union territory in India – Dadar and Nagar Haveli
17. State has high density of population – **Bihar (1102)**
18. State has low density of population – **Arunachal Pradesh (17)**
19. The number of districts in India according to census 2011 – **640**
20. State has highest sex ratio – **Kerala (1084/1000)**
21. State has lowest sex ratio – **Haryana**
22. Density of Population of India - 382
23. Sex ratio of India – **940/100**
24. Union territory has highest sex ratio - **Pondicherry**
25. Union territory has lowest sex ratio - **Lakshadweep**
26. State has highest fertility rate in India – **Meghalaya**

List of Important Days

Sr.no.	Date	Day
1.	12 th January	National Youth Day (Birthday of Swami Vivekanand)
2.	15 th January	Army Day
3.	24 th January	National Girl Child Day
4.	25 th January	National Tourism Day/ voters Day
5.	30 th January	National Martyrs Day & World anti Leprosy Day
6.	4 th February	World Cancer Day
7.	28 th February	National Science Day
8.	8 th March	International Women's Day
9.	9 th March	World Kidney Day (celebrated on 2 nd Thursday of march)
10.	15 th March	International Consumer Day
11.	20 th March	World Sparrow Day & International Happiness Day
12.	21 st March	World Forestry Day
13.	22 nd March	World Water Day
14.	23 rd March	World Meteorological Day
15.	24 th March	World T.B Day
16.	2 nd April	World Autism Day
17.	7 th April	World Health Day
18.	21 st April	Civil Service Day
19.	22 nd April	World Earth Day
20.	24 th April	Panchayat Divas
21.	1 st May	International Labour Day
22.	3 rd May	World Press Freedom Day
23.	11 th May	National Technology Day
24.	21 st May	Anti Terrorism Day (death date of Rajiv Gandhi)
25.	31 st May	Anti Tobacco Day / No Smoking Day
26.	5 th June	World Environment Day
27.	1 st July	Doctors Day
28.	11 th July	National Technology Day
29.	6 th August	Hiroshima Day
30.	9 th August	Nagasaki Day

31.	12 th August	International Youth Day
32.	29 th August	National Sports Day
33.	5 th September	Teachers Day
34.	8 th September	World literacy Day
35.	14 th September	Hindi Divas
36.	15 th September	Engineers Day
37.	16 th September	Ozone Day
38.	2 nd October	International non-violence Day
39.	8 th October	Air force Day
40.	9 th October	World Post Day
41.	24 th October	United nation Day
42.	17 th November	Students Day
43.	18 th November	Adults Day
44.	19 th November	Citizen Day
45.	27 th November	National Law Day
46.	1 st December	AIDS Day
47.	4 th December	Navy Day
48.	10 th December	Human Rights Day
49.	14 th December	National Energy Conservation Day
50.	22 nd December	National Mathematics Day
51.	24 th December	National Consumer Rights Day
52.	25 th December	Good Governance Day (Birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpai)
53.	21 st June	International Yoga Day

Countries	Capital	Currency
Austria	Vienna	Euro
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso
Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afgan-afgani
Azerbaijan	Baku	Manat
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka
Belarus	Minsk	Ruble
Belgium	Brussels	Euro
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum
Brazil	Barsilia	Real
Cambodia	Phnom penh	Riel
Canada	Ottawa	Canadian Dollar
Chile	Santiago	Peso
China	Beijing	Yuan
Colombia	Bogota	Peso
Costa Rica	San jose	Costa Rican Colon
Croatia	Zagreb	Kuna
Cuba	Havana	Peso
Czech Republic	Prague	Koruna
Denmark	Copenhagen	Krone
Egypt	Cairo	Pound

Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Ethiopian Birr
Fiji	Suva	Dollar
Finland	Helsinki	Euro
France	Paris	Euro
Germany	Berlin	Euro
Ghana	Accra	Cedi
Greece	Athens	Euro
Hungary	Budapest	Forint
Hong-kong	Victoria	Dollar
Iceland	Reykjavik	Euro
India	New Delhi	Indian Rupee
Indonesia	Jakarta	Rupiah
Iran	Tehran	Rial
Iraq	Baghdad	Dinar
Ireland	Dublin	Euro
Israel	Jerusalem	Sheqel
Italy	Rome	Euro
Japan	Tokyo	Yen
Jordan	Amman	Dinar
Jamaica	Kingston	Dollar
Kazakhstan	Astana	Tenge
Kenya	Nairobi	Shilling
Korea North	Pyongyang	Won
Korea South	Seoul	Won
Kuwait	Kuwait City	Dinar
Latvia	Riga	Euro
Lithuania	Vilnius	Euro
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Euro
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Ringgit
Maldives	Male	Rufiyaa
Mauritius	Port Louis	Rupee
Mexico	Mexico city	Peso
Myanmar (Burma)	Nay Pyi Taw (Rangoon)	Kyat
Namibia	Windhoek	Dollar
Nepal	Kathmandu	Rupee
Netherlands	Amsterdam	Euro
New Zealand	Wellington	Dollar
Nigeria	Abuja	Naira
Norway	Oslo	Krone
Oman	Muscat	Rial
Pakistan	Islamabad	Rupee
Peru	Lima	Nuewo Sol
Philippines	Manila	Peso
Poland	Warsaw	Polish Zloty
Portugal	Lisbon	Euro
Qatar	Doha	Riyal

Russia	Moscow	Ruble
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Riyal
Seychelles	Victoria	Rupee
Sierra Leone	Freetown	Leone
Singapore	Singapore	Dollar
South Africa	Cape Town	Rand
South Sudan	Juba	Pound
Spain	Madrid	Euro
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Rupee
Sweden	Stockholm	Krona
Switzerland	Bern	France
Syria	Damascus	Pound
Taiwan	Taipei	Dollar
Tajikistan	Dushanbe Tanzania	Somoni
Thailand	Bangkok	Bhat
Turkey	Ankara	Lira
Uganda	Kampala	Shilling
Ukraine	Kyiv	Hryvnia
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Abu Dhabi	Dirham
United States of America	Washington D.C	Dollar
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong
Yemen	Sanaa	Rial
Zambia	Lusaka	Kwacha
Zimbabwe	Harare	Dollar
United Kingdom	London	Pound

Head and Headquarter of International Organisation

International Organisation	Headquarter	Head
UNO (United Nations Org)	New York	Ban Ki-Moon
UNICEF	New York	Anthony Lake
UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade & Development)	Geneva	
WHO (World Health Org)	Geneva	Margaret Chan
ILO (International Labour Org)	Geneva	Guy Ryder
WMO (World Meteorological Org)	Geneva	Michel Jarraud
World Intellectual Property Org	Geneva	Francis Gurry
IMF (International Monetary Fund)	Washington D.C	Chirstine Lagrade
World Bank	Washington D.C	Dr. Jim Yong Kim
UNESCO(United Nations Educational Scientific and	Paris	Irina Bokova

cultural Org)		
OECD (Org. for Economic Cooperation and Dev.)	Paris	Jose Angel Gurría
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Dev. Org)	Vienna	Mr. Li Yong
FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization)	Rome	José Graziano da Silva
ICJ (International Court of Justice)	The Hague	Ronny Abraham

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