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SSCJUNCTION.COM NICL EXAM GK CAPSULE

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# **NICL EXAM GK CAPSULE**

**About NICL:** National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) is a state owned general insurance company in India. The company headquartered at Kolkata was established in 1906 and nationalised in 1972. Apart from being a leading insurance provider in India, NICL also serves Nepal.

**Products and Services:** NICL has a range of coverage policies targeting different sectors:-

- Personal Insurance policies include medical insurance, accident, property and auto insurance coverage
- Rural Insurance policies provide protection against natural and climatic disasters for agriculture and rural businesses
- Industrial Insurance policies provide coverage for project, construction, contracts, fire, equipment loss, theft, etc.
- Commercial Insurance policies provide protection against loss and damage of property during transportation, transactions, etc.

**Pattern of NICL Exam:**

Sr.no	Subject	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks
1.	Reasoning	40	50
2.	Numerical Ability	40	50
3.	English	40	50
4.	General Awareness	40	50
5.	Computer knowledge	40	50
	Total	200	250

**Online Examination:-** Various Dates in April.

**NOTE:** This is the 1st part of the capsule and 2<sup>nd</sup> part will be Released after the declaration of NICL Exam Dates. This capsule contains GK Updates till 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2015. Complete GK for NICL Exam will be covered in the next capsule. Stay Connected with [sscjunction.com](http://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.
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 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.

### 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. 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 has announced its new industrial policy for 2015. It was announced by Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel. 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 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*.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Indian Science Congress 2015 at the Mumbai University. The theme of 102nd Congress is Science and Technology for Human Development. The Congress sessions aims to bring together eminent scientists, research scholars to popularize science and foster a scientific temperament
8. 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.
9. Sixty-six wild tiger deaths were 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 was reported from the forests of Tamil Nadu —15, followed by Madhya Pradesh —14.
10. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has 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.
11. Freedom fighter and National Flag designer Pingali Venkayya was honoured by naming All India Radio(AIR) Vijayawada (in Andhra Pradesh) building after him.
  - 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.
  - On this occasion, minister also released a book on the biography of Pingali Venkayya, translated into Hindi by Mr. Venna Vallabha Rao.
12. 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**.
13. 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).



14. The Centre on Monday nominated cricketer V.V.S. Laxman, chess player Koneru Humpy, playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam and several other icons as brand ambassadors of Swachh Bharat campaign.
15. 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.
16. 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.**
17. President Pranab Mukherjee has 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.
18. Punjab become first state in India, to completely ban the sale of loose cigarettes (even as single sticks) and loose tobacco.
19. Pakistan government has 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.
20. 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
21. 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.
22. 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.**
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
  27. 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).
  28. 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).
  29. 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, Valida village and Baglipura village**.
  30. Sun Temple at Konark, Odhisa has been the coveted with 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.
  31. **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).
  32. India and Bangladesh inaugurated third border haat in Srinagar-Purba on the Tripura-Bangladesh border.
  33. 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.
  34. **Tribal Food Festival-2015** begun in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram.
  35. Union Cabinet gave its 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.
  36. President Pranab Mukherjee launched the Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) Programme by administering polio drops to children at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. It was launched by President ahead of the **National Immunization Day which is observed on 18 January**.
  37. 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.

38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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.**
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. 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).
44. Japanese automaker **Toyota Motor Corp.** topped in global vehicle sales in 2014 by selling 10.23 million vehicles, beating Volkswagen and General Motors.
45. The High Level Committee (HLC) for Restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) chaired by Shanta Kumar has submitted its report to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
46. Every year National Voters' Day (NVD) is observed on 25th January. This year i.e. 2015 is fifth National Voters' Day and **theme of this year is Easy Registration, Easy Correction.**
47. Wing Commander Pooja Thakur become 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.
48. 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.
49. 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.

50. Gujarat Technological University (GTU) launched e-Raksha Research Centre to curb rising menace of cybercrimes. Gujarat Technological University (GTU) is headed by the state government and came into existence on the 16th of May, 2007.
51. **Maharashtra government** announced that, September 17 (on Vishwakarma Jayanti) will be observed as Industries Day in each district.
52. 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).
53. 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.
54. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has 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.
55. 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.
56. Gujarat government launched Taluka Planning Atlas (TPA) project. Taluka Planning Atlas (TPA) project has been 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.
57. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has 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.
58. Maharashtra government has given nod to confined genetically modified (GM) food trials in state. In this regard, state government has granted no-objection certificates (NOC) for open field trials of 5 genetically modified (GM) crops. They are rice, chana (chickpeas), maize, brinjal and cotton.
59. 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:**

60. **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.
61. Wildlife SOS in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh (UP) Forest Department and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is launching 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.
62. **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).
63. 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.
64. 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.
65. Haryana government launched e-registration of properties in all tehsils and sub-tehsils of the state. It was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Previously in January 2015, pilot project of this system was implemented successfully in eight tehsils.
66. 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.
67. **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.
68. Kolkata has 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.
69. 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.

70. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has 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.
71. 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.
72. 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.
73. **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.
74. 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.
75. 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.
76. 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.
77. **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.
78. 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.

79. Fourth River festival has begun at Bandrabhan bank of Narmada River in Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. Three day festival was 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.
80. **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.
81. Nearly 56,000 cases were disposed of by the third National Lok Adalat in a single day. It also saw disbursal 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.
82. 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.
83. Union Ministry of Finance has 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. Anty dumping duty is duty imposed by government on imported products which have prices less than their normal values or domestic price.
84. **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.
85. 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.



86. Bihar government has announced 35% reservation for women in non-gazetted government jobs in group C and D grade.
87. Union Government launched a single window government-to-business (G2B) portal- e-Biz ([www.ebiz.gov.in](http://www.ebiz.gov.in)) for 11 Central government services to bring transparency and ease of doing business in the country. The portal was unveiled to public by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.
88. 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.
89. 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. It was launched by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the MEA headquarters in New Delhi.
90. 3rd Tortoise Festival was 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.
91. 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.
92. 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.
93. 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.
94. 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.
95. Union government has 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. Commissions chairman was former RBI governor Y V Reddy and its members were Sushma Nath, M. Govinda

Rao, Abhijit Sen, Sudipto Mundle. In December 2014, Commission had submitted its report to the President Pranab Mukherjee.

96. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav presented Rs 3.02 lakh crore annual budget of state on 24 February 2015. In annual budget state government has given main thrust on agriculture, education, power, health, roads and infrastructure development.
97. Union Cabinet on 25 February 2015 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.
98. 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.
99. Haryana government has decided to increase the cash reward under the inter-caste marriage scheme from 50,000 to 1 lakh rupees.
100. First Assamese dictionary for Science and Technology terms was released recently. It was released by Dr Alok Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University.

### International News

1. Tropical storm **Jangmi** has hit Surigao del Sur province on northern Mindanao in Philippines. This tropical storm is locally known as Seniang.
2. India and Pakistan on 1st January 2015 have 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 has 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. First ministerial meeting of the Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) concluded in Beijing. It was two-day meeting and was co-chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Costa Rican counterpart, Manuel Gonzalez Sanz.
7. United States designated Maulana Fazlullah, chief of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)- an outfit of Pakistan's Taliban as global terrorist.
8. 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).
9. New travel and trade rules between the United States (US) and Cuba have come into effect on 16 January 2015. It is considered as biggest policy shift between the two countries in more than 50 years after restrictions were imposed on travel and trade.
10. 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).
11. Mali Government declared country Ebola free. It was announced after no new case of deadly virus was reported in last 42-day period (i.e. two incubation periods of 21 days for Ebola virus).
12. First successful organ donation from a newborn baby taken place in UK
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. President Mansour Hadi of Yemen along with Prime Minister Khaled Bahah and his cabinet have resigned. Yemen government's resignation comes after the President agreed to the demands of Shia Houthi rebels, who had stormed his palace and private home in Sana'a (Capital of Yemen) earlier. However parliament speaker Yahia al-Rai refused to accept the President's resignation.
16. **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.
17. Colombia's Paulina Vega was crowned 63rd Miss Universe. Miss USA Nia Sanchez from Las Vegas was named a runner-up, along with Miss Ukraine Diana Harkusha.
18. In Greece, anti-austerity Syriza party has won general election. In this election Syriza party has won about half the seats in Parliament.
19. 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).
20. 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. With this consecration, Church of

England ended its 500 year old male dominated tradition and considered as a historic move towards widening female participation in the Church.

21. India has 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.
22. Astronomers have 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:-**

23. 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.
24. Russia, India and China have 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 Lavrov had participated in the meeting.
25. 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). US was on top as foreign investment destination for past 11 years i.e. since 2003.
26. 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.
27. Tunisia Parliament has approved the first historic coalition government after the Arab spring. In this regard, 166 out of 204 Members of Parliament (MPs) voted in favor of the new cabinet proposed by the Prime Minister Habib Essid.
28. A symposium, Towards Zero Poaching in Asia concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal on 6th February 2015. This is five-day anti-poaching symposium started on 2 February 2015, hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal.
29. A painting of two Tahitian girls named as Nafea Faa Ipoipo (When Will You Marry) by the French artist Paul Gauguin has been 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.
30. China has taken 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.
31. **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.

32. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a unanimous resolution to resolve the political and security crisis in Yemen. In this regard, Resolution 2201 (2015) was adopted unanimously, at 15 nations UNSC's emergency meeting.
33. China opened new embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. It is the largest overseas diplomatic mission of China. An opening ceremony of this embassy was held on 13 February 2015, during China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi's three day visit to Pakistan.
34. United States (US) and Turkey signed an agreement to train and arm moderate Syrian opposition forces taking on Islamic State (IS) militants. The deal was inked by Turkey's foreign ministry undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu and US ambassador to Ankara John Bass.
35. 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.
36. 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 have settled in US but are unable to work.
37. 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.

### Appointments

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, become the chief aviation regulator for period of three years till 2017.
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) for 5 years. He is a 1984-batch Jharkhand-cadre IAS officer and has replaced Sudheer Raheja.
4. R Koteeswaran has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of public sector Indian Overseas Bank.
5. Veteran Indian-origin civil servant Joseph Yubraj Manuel Pillay was reappointed as the Chairman of the Presidential Council of Advisers (CPA) by Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam.



6. 1985 batch IAS Sutirtha Bhattacharya has taken charge as full-time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited (CIL). The post of full time CMD was vacant for past six months after then full-time CMD S Narsing Rao had resigned from the post in May, 2014 to join Telangana government.
7. **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.
  - **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).
8. **Tulsi Gabbard and Dr. Ami Bera** sworn in for their second consecutive term in **US House of Representatives**.
  9. **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.
  10. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Dinesh Oraon was unanimously elected as the Speaker of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. He is the 10th Speaker of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly He is a member of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly from Sisai constituency of Gumla district.
  11. Atul Khare named as UN Under Secretary-General for Field Support, Department of Field Support (DFS). He will succeed Bangladesh's Ameerah Haq.
  12. 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.
  13. **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 a 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.** Maithiripala Sirisena was declared elected in Presidential elections after he had defeated incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa by more than 4 and a half lakh votes.
  14. Governor's rule imposed in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) after caretaker Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had resigned.
  15. Aziz Qureshi sworn-in as the Governor of Mizoram.
  16. Sindhushree Khullar as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.

17. Eminent Economist Arvind Panagariya has taken charge as first Vice-Chairman of the newly-created National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
18. Union Government appointed Pournima Gupte as member (actuary) of Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDA). With her appointment, IRDA got an actuary after a gap of three years. Since 2011, this post was lying vacant after R Kannan retired from IRDA.
19. **Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha was appointed as first Hindu Chief Justice of Bangladesh** by President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
20. Hindi **writer Dr Kamal Kishore Goyanka** has been selected for the prestigious **Vyas Samman for the year 2014**. He has been chosen for his research work '**Premchand Kee Kahaniyo Kaa Kaalkramanusar Adhyayan**'.
21. Alur Seelin Kiran Kumar appointed chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He will replace K Radhakrishnan.
22. Harishankar Brahma as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. He will be 19th CEC of India and succeed V S Sampat.
23. Haryana government announced yoga guru Ramdev as its brand ambassador.
24. Haryana governor Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki took over the additional charge of Governor of Punjab. He will be 34th governor of Punjab.
25. 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.
26. Saraswathi Menon, an eminent Indian academician named on advisory panel to Review UN Peace-Building Architecture. She is among seven experts nominated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to conduct a policy and institutional review on UN's peace-building architecture and make recommendations.
27. **Edgar Lungu sworn in as Zambia's sixth President**. He was declared elected as President in elections held at 24 January 2015 to replace the late Michael Sata, who died in office in October 2014.
28. K Durga Prasad as the special director general (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He will be in office for next three years or till further orders, whichever is earlier. He is IPS officer of 1981 batch from Andhra Pradesh cadre.
29. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Manipur-tripura 1979 batch IPS officer Divya Prakash Sinha as secretary (security) in the cabinet secretariat.
30. 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.
31. Union Government appointed Subrahmanyam Jaishankar as the new Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (i.e. Foreign Secretary). He replaced Sujata Singh.
32. Sri Lanka's new government led by President Maithiripala Sirisena reinstated former Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake to her former position. She was impeached by the previous government of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.
33. 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.



34. Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe appointed as Chairman of African Union (AU). He will be 13th Chairman of African Union (AU) and succeed Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz for a one-year term.
35. Bibek Drboj and Former DRDO chief Vijay Kumar Saraswat taken charge as full time-member of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
36. Senior IPS officer Krishna Chaudhary appointed the new Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
37. T Suvarna Raju taken charge as chairman of state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He will be 17th chairman of HAL and will replace RK Tyagi's following his retirement.
38. Italy's parliament elected constitutional court judge Sergio Mattarella as the country's president. He will Italy's 12th president and succeed Giorgio Napolitano who had resigned earlier in January 2015 citing reason of poor health before his 2020 expiry term.

**February, 2015:-**

39. Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena has appointed Kanagasabapathy J Sripavan as Chief Justice. K Sripavan is 2<sup>nd</sup> Tamil took oath as the 44th Chief Justice and replaces Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake.
40. Anish Aggarwal taken charge as Director (Pipelines) at nation's largest oil refining and marketing company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
41. Dr. Nandita Chatterjee taken charge as the new Secretary in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA). She will succeed Anita Agnihotri.
42. Ajay Shukla taken additional charge as the Member (Traffic) in the Railway Board. He will replace D P Pande.
43. Infosys appointed Roopa Kudva as an independent member on its board of directors. At present, she is managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Crisil, a subsidiary of global rating agency- Standard & Poor's.
44. **LC Goyal taken charge as the Union Home Secretary.** He replaced Anil Goswami who had resigned following a controversy over the arrest of former Union Minister Matang Singh in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam.
45. Former US judge Mary McGowan Davis was appointed as the new head of United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC's) Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict.
46. Eminent Marathi writer **Bhalchandra Nemade** has been 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).
47. United States (US) President Barack Obama appointed Indian CEO Ajay Banga as member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN).
48. India's largest mobile vendor, Micromax appointed Shubhajit Sen as its chief marketing officer (CMO).
49. United Nation's Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Nickolay Mladenov of Bulgaria as new Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. He will replace Robert Serry of the Netherlands.

50. Dr M.O. Garg has taken charge as Director General (DG) of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). He will replace PS Ahuja.
51. Greek Parliament has elected Zoe Konstantopoulou, a member of the left wing party Syriza as its new President. She is second woman from Greek to be President of country after Anna Psarouda-Benaki who was elected in 2004.
52. German sportswear major Adidas Group appointed Damyant Singh as its Brand Director in India. He will succeed Tushar Goculdas, who was recently appointed as the Brand Director-Adidas Emerging Markets.
53. Vodafone India appointed Naveen Chopra as Chief Operating Officer (COO).
54. M Ravindran taken over as the Chairman of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).
55. Micromax Informatics appointed Ashish Agrawal as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO).
56. **Arvind Kejriwal sworn-in as 8th Chief Minister of Delhi.** Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at oath taking ceremony held at Ramlila Maidan, 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.
57. Balasubramaniam Venkataramani has been appointed as new MD & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). He will replace then MD & CEO Manoj Vaish.
58. 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.
59. Taiwanese smartphone maker HTC has appointed Faisal Siddiqui as new regional President of HTC South Asia. He will replace current president Jack Yang.
60. Former IAS officer Jawed Usmani took oath as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Uttar Pradesh (UP). He was administered oath to office by Governor of UP Ram Naik at a function at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow.
61. **Croatia's first female President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic** was sworn in on 15 February 2015. She is Croatia's fourth president since its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.
62. Rashad Hussain, an Indian-American appointed United States (US) Special Envoy and Coordinator for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications. He will hold both posts. Prior to this appointment, he was Special Envoy of the US to Organisation for Islamic Countries (OIC).
63. 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.
64. Eminent scientist Tapan Misra has been appointed the Chief of ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad Gujarat.
65. Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena has appointed Major general Chrishantha de Silva as the new Sri Lankan Army chief. De Silva is the 21st Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
66. **Nitish Kumar has sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar for the 4th time.**
67. 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.

68. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA **Ram Niwas Goel** was unanimously elected Speaker of the Delhi Assembly. He was elected from Shahdara constituency located in north Delhi. He defeated Bhartiya Janta Party's Jitender Singh Shunty by a margin of over 11,000 votes.
69. Ravi Chaudhary, an Indian American has been appointed as Executive director for Regions and Center Operations at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a key federal aviation post of United States (US).
70. Justice Amitava Roy sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court (SC).

### 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 has resigned from office. He has resigned citing reason of poor health ahead of his 2020 expiry term.
3. Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Leela Samson has resigned.
4. Thailand's military-appointed legislature has voted to impeach former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. This impeachment means she will be banned from politics for five years.
5. 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.

### 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 Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Kamala Sinha passed away in Syracuse, New York in US.
3. 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'.
4. Edward Brooke, the first black elected US senator passed away on 3rd January 2015. He was 95. He belonged to US's Republican Party.
5. Well known social worker Veteran Gandhian and freedom fighter Ghelubhai Naik passed away in Dangs district of Gujarat.
6. Egypt's best known actresses Faten Hamama passed away. She was 83. She was known as the Lady of the Arabic Screen and was a star of the golden age of Egyptian cinema.
7. Eminent political scientist, scholar and former Planning Commission member Rajni Kothari passed away in New Delhi. He was 86.
8. Popular Telugu comedian and director Mylavaram Surya Narayana passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He is popularly known as M.S.Narayana and had acted in over 700

Telugu movies. He had won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor- Telugu film Dookudu.

9. **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.
10. Renowned Marathi literary critic, writer and translator Madhukar Dattatreya Hatakananglekar passed away in Sangli district of Maharashtra. He was 89.
11. Famous Greek singer Demis Roussos passed away in Athens, Greek. He was 68.
12. **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).
13. Veteran Malayalam actor Mala Aravindan passed away in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He was 76. He was best known for his work as a comedian, character artist in Malayalam films and was also noted theatre personality. He was also the president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA).
14. Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) founder Subhash Ghisingh passed away in New Delhi. He was 78. He had spearheaded the Gorkhaland movement in the 1980s for a separate state for ethnic Gorkha people living in Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
15. 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.
16. Germany's former President Richard von Weizsaecker passed away. He was 94. He was in office as President for 10 years, from 1984 to 1994.

#### **February, 2015:-**

17. Acclaimed Indian sculptor and artist Mrinalini Mukherjee passed away in New Delhi. She was 65.
18. Veteran Marathi theatre artist and film actor Atmaram Bhende passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. He was 91.
19. Renowned Telugu novelist Kesava Reddy passed away in Nizamabad district of Telangana. He was 68.
20. Former Home Minister of Maharashtra, **Raosaheb Ramrao Patil** passed away in Mumbai. He was 57 years old and was suffering from oral cancer.
21. French actor Louis Jourdan has passed away on 14 February 2015 in Los Angeles, United States. He was 93. He was best known for his role in the multi-Oscar winning musical film Gigi of 1958 .
22. Veteran journalist, cartoonist and political activist Rajinder Puri passed away on 15 February 2015 in New Delhi. He was 80.

23. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Vice-President and former Odisha Minister Kalindi Charan Behera passed away at Bhubaneswar. He was 71.
24. Veteran multilingual film producer Daggubati Ramanaidu passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was 78 and was suffering from prostate cancer.
25. Eminent filmmaker from Odisha Nirad Mahapatra passed away in Mumbai. He was 67.
26. Adya Sharma, a cultural icon and pioneer of mobile theatre in Assam passed away in Nalbari town, Assam. He was 86.
27. **First Hindu Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Rana Bhagwandas passed away in Karachi, Pakistan.** He was 72 year old.
28. Popular Tamil director R.C Sakthi passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 76.
29. Veteran cinematographer and multilingual director Aloysius Vincent passed away on 25 February 2015 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 86.
30. Acclaimed US actor Leonard Nimoy passed away on 27 February 2015 in Los Angeles.

### Agreements

1. Government has 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. This cabinet meeting was headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. 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)** have 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 exploration in the presence of the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smriti Irani and the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi.
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). In this regard, Joint Declaration of Intent for cooperation was signed by Secretary in the Department of Electronics and IT- RS Sharma and US Ambassador to India- Richard Rahul Verma.



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.

#### **February, 2015:-**

8. Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for setting up closed-circuit television (CCTV) based surveillance in Mumbai. The MoU worth Rs 949 crore was signed by the company and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis 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) has 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. MoU signed by IDCO CMD Vishal K Dev and IRE CMD R N Patra in the presence of State Industries minister Devi Prasad Mishra in Odisha.
12. Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) and Rajasthan Government have 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. The agreement was signed by Joint Secretary in Union Ministry of Finance Tarun Bajaj and World Bank's India Country Director Onno Ruhl.
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, visual 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) was signed between the two bodies in the presence of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Kalraj Mishra.
  18. India has 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 has 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) has 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.

### Sports News

1. Union Sports Ministry given nod to Boxing India (BI) as the new governing body for the sport.
2. **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.

3. **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.
4. Union Sports Ministry has recommended badminton player Saina Nehwal's name for Padma Bhushan award.
5. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has 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 will start 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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. 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.
9. India's open water **swimmer Bhakti Sharma** has set a new world record by swimming 1.4 miles in 52 minutes in one degree temperature in the Antarctic Ocean.
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. **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.
12. **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.
13. 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.
14. **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. Kashyap won the final match by score of 23-21, 23-21.
  - Indian ace **shuttler Saina Nehwal** won Syed Modi International India Grand Prix Gold badminton title 2015 in the women's singles category. In the final match she defeated world champion Carolina Marin (Spain) by score of 19-21, 25-23, 21-16 held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. With this win she has retained this title which she had won in 2014
15. Australian cricketer **Sean Abbott** has won **Bradman young cricketer of the year award 2015.** While, Steve Smith was 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.
16. **India is going to host International Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 in 2016.** It was announced by ICC Board meeting chaired by Chairman N. Srinivasan held in Dubai. 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.
17. Australian open 2015 winners:
- **Men's Singles: Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** Beat **Andy Murray (UK)** in a 4 set game of (7-6, 6-7, 6-3, 6-0). He won the Australian open title **fifth time.**
  - **Women's Singles: Sarena Williams (US)** Beat **Maria Sharapova (Russia)** in a 3 Set Game of (6-3, 7-6(5)). 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** in a 2 set game of (6-4, 6-4)

- **Women's Doubles: B.Mattek-Sands(US) and L.Safarova (Czech Republic)** beat **Yung-Jan Chan (TPE) and Jie Zheng (China)** in a 2 set game of (6-4,7-6)
- **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).

### February, 2015:-

18. 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.
19. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has cleared bowling action of Pakistan's cricketer Saeed Ajmal. He can now resume bowling in international Cricket.
20. Indian **golfer Anirban Lahiri won the Malaysian Open 2015**. With this win Anirban Lahiri secured his breakthrough European Tour title. In the final 4th round he defeated Austria's Bernd Wiesberger by one shot at the Kuala Lumpur Golf Club and Country Club.
21. 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. This decision was taken by India Cements Vice-Chairman and Managing Director (MD) N Srinivasan led company's Board of Directors meeting held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
22. 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.
23. **Ranchi Rays won the third edition of Champions of Hero Hockey India League (HHIL) 2015**. In the final match they defeated Jaypee Punjab Warriors by score of 3-2 in the penalty shootout after 2-2 tie in regular time match. 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).

24. South African cricketer AB De Villiers has 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.

### 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. He has named for the award for his exceptional service to the space science.
- 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 has been 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 was awarded for his groundbreaking research which led to the development of China's first hydrogen bomb in 1967. He is famously known as China's 'Father of Hydrogen bomb'.
  4. **72nd edition of Golden Globe Awards** was 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 has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for the year 2014. He has been chosen for his research work 'Premchand Kee Kahaniyo Kaa Kaalkramanuser 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** has been 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), has been 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 has been presented with the prestigious **Martin Luther King Jr Award**. It is an annual award started in 1991.

11. Cyberabad Police Commissioner (PC) CV Anand has been 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 has 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 has 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** has 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** were 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 Vibhusha**

	Name of the Awardee	Discipline	State/Domicile
1.	<b>Shri L. K. Advani</b>	Public Affairs	Gujarat
2.	<b>Shri Amitabh Bachchan</b>	Art	Maharashtra
3.	<b>Shri Prakash Singh Badal</b>	Public Affairs	Punjab
4.	Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade	Social Work	Karnataka
5.	Shri Mohammad Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar	Art	Maharashtra
6.	Shri Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami	Others	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Prof. Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu

8.	Shri Kottayan K. Venugopal	Public Affairs	Delhi
9.	Shri Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan ( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Trade and Industry	France/UK

**Padma Bhushan**

1.	Shri Jahnu Baru	Art	Assam
2.	Dr. Vijay Bhatkar	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
3.	Shri Swapan Dasgupta	Literature and Education	Delhi
4.	<b>Swami Satyamitranand Giri</b>	Others	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Shri N. Gopalaswami	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu
6.	Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap	Public Affairs	Delhi
7.	Dr. (Pandit) Gokulotsavji Maharaj	Art	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Dr. Ambrish Mithal	Medicine	Delhi
9.	Smt. Sudha Ragunathan	Art	Tamil Nadu
10.	Shri Harish Salve	Public Affairs	Delhi
11.	Dr. Ashok Seth	Medicine	Delhi
12.	<b>Shri Rajat Sharma</b>	Literature and Education	Delhi
13.	Shri Satpal	Sports	Delhi



14.	Shri Shivakumara Swami	Others	Karnataka
15.	Dr. Kharag Singh Valdiya	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
16.	<b>Prof. Manjul Bhargav(NRI/PIO)</b>	Science and Engineering	USA
17.	Shri David Frawle ( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Others	USA
18.	<b>Shri Bill Gates(Foreigner)</b>	Social Work	USA
19.	<b>Ms. Melinda Gates(Foreigner)</b>	Social Work	USA
20.	Shri Saichiro Misumi( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Others	Japan

**Padma Shri**

1.	Dr. Manjula Anagani	Medicine	Telangana
2.	Shri S. Arunan	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
3.	Ms. Kanyakumari Avasarala	Art	Tamil Nadu
4.	Dr. Bettina Sharada Baumer	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
5.	Shri Naresh Bedi	Art	Delhi
6.	Shri Ashok Bhagat	Social Work	Jharkhand

7.	<b>Shri Sanjay Leela Bhansali</b>	Art	Maharashtra
8.	Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora	Literature and Education	Assam
9.	Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
10.	Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh Kumar Chawla	Medicine	Chandigarh
11.	Smt. Jayakumari Chikkala	Medicine	Delhi
12.	<b>Shri Bibek Debroy</b>	Literature and Education	Delhi
13.	Dr. Sarungbam Bimola Kumari	Medicine	Manipur
14.	Dr. Ashok Gulati	Public Affairs	Delhi
15.	Dr. Randeep Guleria	Medicine	Delhi
16.	Dr. K. P. Haridas	Medicine	Kerala
17.	Shri Rahul Jain	Art	Delhi
18.	Shri Ravindra Jain	Art	Maharashtra

19.	Dr. Sunil Jogi	Literature and Education	Delhi
20.	Shri Prasoon Joshi	Art	Maharashtra
21.	Dr. Prafulla Kar	Art	Odisha
22.	Ms. Saba Anjum	Sports	Chhattisgarh
23.	Smt. Ushakiran Khan	Literature and Education	Bihar
24.	Dr. Rajesh Kotecha	Medicine	Rajasthan
25.	Prof. Alka Kriplani	Medicine	Delhi
26.	Dr. Harsh Kumar	Medicine	Delhi
27.	Shri Narayana Purushothama	Literature and Education	Kerala
28.	Shri Lambert Mascarenhas	Literature and Education	Goa
29.	Dr. (Mrs.) Janak Palta McGilligan	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Shri Veerendra Raj Mehta	Social Work	Delhi

31.	<b>Shri Tarak Mehta</b>	Art	Gujarat
32.	Shri Neil Herbert Nongkynrih	Art	Meghalaya
33.	Shri Chewang Norphel	Others	Jammu and Kashmir
34.	Shri T. V. Mohandas Pai	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
35.	Dr. Tejas Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
36.	Shri Jadav Molai Peyang	Others	Assam
37.	Smt. Bimla Poddar	Other	Uttar Pradesh
38.	Dr. N. Prabhakar	Science and Engineering	Delhi
39.	Dr. Prahalada	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
40.	Dr. Narendra Prasad	Medicine	Bihar
41.	Shri Ram Bahadur Rai	Literature and Education	Delhi
42.	<b>Ms. Mithali Raj</b>	Sports	Telangana

43.	Shri P. V. Rajaraman	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu
44.	Prof. J. S. Rajput	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Shri Kota Srinivasa Rao	Art	Andhra Pradesh
46.	<b>Prof. Bimal Roy</b>	Literature and Education	West Bengal
47.	Shri Shekhar Sen	Art	Maharashtra
48.	Shri Gunvant Shah	Literature and Education	Gujarat
49.	Shri Brahmdev Sharma (Bhaiji)	Literature and Education	Delhi
50.	Shri Manu Sharma	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
51.	Prof. Yog Raj Sharma	Medicine	Delhi
52.	Shri Vasant Shastri	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
53.	Shri S. K. Shivkumar	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
54.	<b>Ms. P. V. Sindhu</b>	Sports	Telangana

55.	<b>Shri Sardara Singh</b>	Sports	Haryana
56.	<b>Ms. Arunima Sinha</b>	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
57.	Shri Mahesh Raj Soni	Art	Rajasthan
58.	Dr.Nikhil Tandon	Medicine	Delhi
59.	Shri H. Thegtse Rinpoche	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
60.	Dr.Hargovind Trivedi	Medicine	Gujarat
61.	Shri Huang Baosheng( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Others	China
62.	Prof. Jacques Blamont( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Science and Engineering	France
63.	Late Shri Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Others	Maharashtra
64.	Shri Jean-Claude Carriere ( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Literature and Education	France
65.	Dr. Nandrajan “Raj” Chetty ( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Trade and Industry	USA
66.	Shri George L. Hart ( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Others	USA
67.	Jagat Guru Amrta Suryananda Maha Raja ( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Others	Portugal



68.	Late Shri Meetha Lal Mehta ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Social Work	Rajasthan
69.	Ms. Tripti Mukherjee ( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Art	USA
70.	Dr. Dattatreyaudu Nori ( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Medicine	USA
71.	Dr. Raghu Rama Pillariseti ( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Medicine	USA
72.	Dr. Saumitra Rawat( <b>NRI/PIO</b> )	Medicine	UK
73.	Prof. Annette Schmiedchen ( <b>Foreigner</b> )	Literature and Education	Germany
74.	Late Shri Pran Kumar Sharma alias Pran ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Art	Delhi
75.	Late Shri R. Vasudevan ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu

### February, 2015:-

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 has won the prestigious 2015 King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) in category of Service to Islam.
19. Journalist **Vinod Mehta** has been 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** were 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 Sen has been awarded the inaugural Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize 2015.
23. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU) has been selected for the prestigious Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Award 2015.
24. **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.

25. Two women scientists have been 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.
26. Filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor's film Dhanak has been 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).
27. Airport Council International (ACI) has 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.
28. 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.
29. Purnendu Dasgupta, an Indian-American has won 2015 American Chemical Society (ACSs) Division of Analytical Chemistry J. Calvin Giddings Award.
30. **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).
31. 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.
32. **Ratan Tata** has been honoured with **Doctorate of Automotive Engineering by the Clemson University**.
33. 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.

### 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 Thawar 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 government's ambitious Rs 500 crore HRIDAY project was 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 has **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 was announced by NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its first budget presented in July 2014.
  - In the budget, government had 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.

### Summit and meetings

1. **8<sup>th</sup> edition of The World Future Energy Summit 2015** has begun in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
2. The **5<sup>th</sup> 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 has 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 was 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** was successfully test-fired on 31 January 2015 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.  
**February, 2015:-**
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** has been 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 has 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.

### **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 Ambassador:** 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 was started by a famous person Sagnik Poddar who reads in St.Stephen's School.

Teams	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Services SCB	91	33	35	159
Kerala	54	48	60	162
Haryana	40	40	27	107
Maharashtra	30	43	50	123
Punjab	27	34	32	93

## 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.

### List of Important Days

Sr.no.	Date	Day
1.	12 <sup>th</sup> January	National Youth Day ( Birthday of Swami Vivekanand)



2.	15 <sup>th</sup> January	Army Day
3.	24 <sup>th</sup> January	National Girl Child Day
4.	25 <sup>th</sup> January	National Tourism Day/ voters Day
5.	30 <sup>th</sup> January	National Martyrs Day & World anti Leprosy Day
6.	4 <sup>th</sup> February	World Cancer Day
7.	28 <sup>th</sup> February	National Science Day
8.	8 <sup>th</sup> March	International Women's Day
9.	9 <sup>th</sup> March	World Kidney Day (celebrated on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of march)
10.	15 <sup>th</sup> March	International Consumer Day
11.	20 <sup>th</sup> March	World Sparrow Day & International Happiness Day
12.	21 <sup>st</sup> March	World Forestry Day
13.	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Water Day
14.	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Meteorological Day
15.	24 <sup>th</sup> March	World T.B Day
16.	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	World Autism Day
17.	7 <sup>th</sup> April	World Health Day
18.	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Civil Service Day
19.	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	World Earth Day
20.	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Panchayat Divas
21.	1 <sup>st</sup> May	International Labour Day
22.	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	World Press Freedom Day
23.	11 <sup>th</sup> May	National Technology Day
24.	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Anti Terrorism Day ( death date of Rajiv Gandhi)
25.	31 <sup>st</sup> May	Anti Tobacco Day / No Smoking Day
26.	5 <sup>th</sup> June	World Environment Day
27.	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Doctors Day
28.	11 <sup>th</sup> July	National Technology Day
29.	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Hiroshima Day
30.	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Nagasaki Day
31.	12 <sup>th</sup> August	International Youth Day
32.	29 <sup>th</sup> August	National Sports Day
33.	5 <sup>th</sup> September	Teachers Day
34.	8 <sup>th</sup> September	World literacy Day
35.	14 <sup>th</sup> September	Hindi Divas
36.	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Engineers Day
37.	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Ozone Day
38.	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	International non-violence Day
39.	8 <sup>th</sup> October	Air force Day
40.	9 <sup>th</sup> October	World Post Day
41.	24 <sup>th</sup> October	United nation Day
42.	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Students Day
43.	18 <sup>th</sup> November	Adults Day
44.	19 <sup>th</sup> November	Citizen Day

45.	27 <sup>th</sup> November	National Law Day
46.	1 <sup>st</sup> December	AIDS Day
47.	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Navy Day
48.	10 <sup>th</sup> December	Human Rights Day
49.	14 <sup>th</sup> December	National Energy Conservation Day
50.	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	National Mathematics Day
51.	24 <sup>th</sup> December	National Consumer Rights Day
52.	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Good Governance Day (Birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpai)
53.	21 <sup>st</sup> 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
Jordon	Amman	Dinar

<b>Jamaica</b>	Kingston	Dollar
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Astana	Tenge
<b>Kenya</b>	Nairobi	Shilling
<b>Korea North</b>	Pyongyang	Won
<b>Korea South</b>	Seoul	Won
<b>Kuwait</b>	Kuwait City	Dinar
<b>Latvia</b>	Riga	Euro
<b>Lithuania</b>	Vilnius	Euro
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Luxembourg	Euro
<b>Malaysia</b>	Kuala Lumpur	Ringgit
<b>Maldives</b>	Male	Rufiyaa
<b>Mauritius</b>	Port Louis	Rupee
<b>Mexico</b>	Mexico city	Peso
<b>Myanmar (Burma)</b>	Nay Pyi Taw (Rangoon)	Kyat
<b>Namibia</b>	Windhoek	Dollar
<b>Nepal</b>	Kathmandu	Rupee
<b>Netherlands</b>	Amsterdam	Euro
<b>New Zealand</b>	Wellington	Dollar
<b>Nigeria</b>	Abuja	Naira
<b>Norway</b>	Oslo	Krone
<b>Oman</b>	Muscat	Rial
<b>Pakistan</b>	Islamabad	Rupee
<b>Peru</b>	Lima	Nuewo Sol
<b>Philippines</b>	Manila	Peso
<b>Poland</b>	Warsaw	Polish Zloty
<b>Portugal</b>	Lisbon	Euro
<b>Qatar</b>	Doha	Riyal
<b>Russia</b>	Moscow	Ruble
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Riyadh	Riyal
<b>Seychelles</b>	Victoria	Rupee
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Freetown	Leone
<b>Singapore</b>	Singapore	Dollar
<b>South Africa</b>	Cape Town	Rand
<b>South Sudan</b>	Juba	Pound
<b>Spain</b>	Madrid	Euro
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Colombo	Rupee
<b>Sweden</b>	Stockholm	Krona
<b>Switzerland</b>	Bern	France
<b>Syria</b>	Damascus	Pound
<b>Taiwan</b>	Taipei	Dollar
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Dushanbe Tanzania	Somoni
<b>Thailand</b>	Bangkok	Bhat
<b>Turkey</b>	Ankara	Lira

<b>Uganda</b>	Kampala	Shilling
<b>Ukraine</b>	Kyiv	Hryvnia
<b>United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>	Abu Dhabi	Dirham
<b>United States of America</b>	Washington D.C	Dollar
<b>Vietnam</b>	Hanoi	Dong
<b>Yemen</b>	Sanaa	Rial
<b>Zambia</b>	Lusaka	Kwacha
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Harare	Dollar
<b>United Kingdom</b>	London	Pound

### List of Countries Capital and Currency