

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL

- Name the two international organisations that India plans to join

Ans: APEC and SCO

- ▶ **APEC is Asia Pacific Economic Forum.** It is a 21 nation grouping of Pacific Rim countries.
- ▶ **SCO is Shanghai Co-operation Organisation.** Russia, China and most of the central states are its members.
- ▶ Both Russia and China endorsed India's membership for APEC and SCO.

Saudi Arabia's Operation Decisive Storm

- Saudi Arabia along with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and several other countries launched military operation code named **Operation Decisive Storm** against Houthi rebels in Yemen.
 - ▶ Capital of Yemen : Sana

European Union (EU) extends sanctions against Russia

- European Union **agreed to extend sanctions** by **six months** against Russia for annexing Crimea with Russia in March 2014 and shooting down of Malaysian Airline Flight MH 17 over Eastern Ukraine. The US also imposed sanction against Russia for the same.
- The west says Russian forces are in Ukraine supporting the rebels, a charge Russia denies.

Rosetta Mission reveals evolution of Comets

- European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission helped its Philae lander touch down on the surface of 67 P/ Churyumov - Gerasimenko (C-G). The study will help scientist to understand better how comet forms, how their surface evolve overtime, how to potentially predict their lifespans.

Global Gender Gap Report 2014

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released its annual gender survey report. India is ranked **114 out of 142 countries**.
- Sex ratio in India (2011 Census) is **943** ie. There are **943 females** per every **1000 males** in India.
- Highest sex ratio among Indian States : **Kerala : 1084**
- Lowest sex ratio among Indian States : **Haryana : 877**
- Through a verdict on 15 April, 2014 Supreme Court ordered to recognise a third gender in India (ie., neither male nor female)

Global Hunger Index 2014

- In the latest Global Hunger Index 2014, India improved its position to 55th in 2014 from 63rd in 2013.
- World Food Day - **October 16**.

Sweden recognises Palestine

- **Sweden** on October 30, 2014 became the first European Union (EU) country to officially recognise the **State of Palestine**.
- Since November 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence, the term the State of Palestine refers only to the **West Bank** and **Gaza**.
- As of **30 October 2014**, 135 of the 193 members of UNO have recognised the State of Palestine. India has also recognised Palestine.
- On **29 November 2012** the UN General Assembly passed a motion changing Palestine entity status to **non-member observer state**.
- **Yasser Arafat** was the Leader of PLO (Palestine Liberation organisation) for a prolonged period. He passed away in **2004**.
- President of Palestine National Authority : **Mahmoud Abbas**

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Sixth BRICS Summit

- BRICS is an international initiative of five emerging economies in the world.
- The Sixth BRICS Summit was held in **Fortaleza, Brazil** on July 15, 2014. The top leaders of all member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated in this summit. The main theme of this summit was **'Inclusive Growth: Sustainable Solutions'**.
- India's Representative of Sixth BRICS Summit: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**
- Next BRICS Summit will be held in **Russia** in **2015**.

Five new Security Council Members

- **Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Venezuela and Spain** on **October 16, 2014** were elected as the new non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year term by the UN General Assembly.
- The term of newly elected members began from **January 1, 2015**.
- The total number of UN Security Council is **15**. Five permanent and 10 non-permanent members.

24th Asean Summit

- The 24th ASEAN Summit, held from May 10 to 11, 2014 in **Nay Pyi Taw**, the capital of **Myanmar** reflected the country's growing role in the regional association. The meeting was chaired by **U. Thein Sein**, President of Myanmar.

22nd APEC Summit in Beijing

- The 22nd Asia - Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Summit was held in Beijing, China from November 9 to 11, 2014. It was attended by leaders of 21 Pacific Rim member economies, including US President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Modi visits Seychelles

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited

Seychelles as part of three-nation tour for cementing strategic partnership with island courtiers of Seychelles, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Pope Francis declares John XXIII, John Paul II, Saints

- Pope Francis declared his two predecessors, **John XXIII** and **John Paul II**, saints on April 27, 2014 before hundreds of thousands of people in **St. Peter's Square**, an unprecedented ceremony made even more historic by the presence of retired **Pope Benedict XVI**.
- **Father Chavara, Sister Alphonsa** from Kerala were also declared **saints** by Pope in **2014**.
- Never before have a reigning and a retired popes celebrated Mass together in public.
- **Pope Benedict XVI abdicated papacy in 2013**
- **China overtakes India to become No.1 Gold Consumer**
- The **World Gold Council** (WGC) Gold Demand Trends report published on February 18, 2014, has ranked China as a top gold consumer in world in **2013**, overtaking India.
- **China** is the leading producer of gold in the world.

Nitaqat

- Nitaqat ("ranges" or "zones") is a Saudization programme introduced by the Saudi Ministry of Labour.

NASA's Curiosity discovers Nitrogen on Mars

- NASA's Curiosity Rover for first time has found evidence of nitrogen in Mars.

Hubble spots ocean on Ganymede

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has spotted massive saltwater ocean under the icy crust of Jupiter's largest moon Ganymede.

Dawn completes its orbit around Ceres

- NASA's Dawn space probe has completed its orbit around dwarf planet Ceres which is the largest object in the Solar System between **Mars** and **Jupiter**.

- **Dawn space probe was launched** in 2007 by NASA to study the two massive protoplanets of the asteroid belt: Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres
- Dawn space probe is the first NASA exploratory mission to use ion propulsion to enter orbits.

Global Arms Trade Treaty

- The Global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that lay down international rules for the \$ 85 billion global arms trade came into effect on December 24, 2014.
- ATT is the first major arms agreement since the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. ATT was signed by 130 countries and ratified by 60 countries.
- India has not signed the Treaty as it was among the 23 nations that abstained from voting in 2013.

World's first electric satellites

- World's first electric satellites were successfully lifted off by a Space Exploration (SpaceX) Technologies rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, United States.

Maze Tower Dubai

- Dubai's Maze Tower was listed in the Guinness World Record on January 21, 2015 as the world's largest vertical maze.
- The 55 story tall Maze Tower is located in the Dubai Financial District.

China has launched a massive Silk Road infrastructure project

- China has launched a massive Silk Road infrastructure project worth \$79.8 billion in the northwest province of Gansu as part of its ambitious Silk Road plan.

Oxford Dictionary added words

- Recently Oxford dictionary has added words **ride-share, unboxing, bioprinting** and **vishing** related to Technology in the new list.
- Oxford dictionary defined these words as **Ride-share-**to participate in an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private

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vehicle driven by its owner, for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by means of a website or app.

- **Bioprinting-** The use of 3D printing technology with materials that incorporate viable living cells. For e.g. to produce tissue for reconstructive surgery.
- **Unboxing-** An act or instance of removing a newly purchased product from its packaging and examining its features, typically when filmed and shared on a social media site.
- **Vishing-** It is like phishing, but using phone calls or voice messages instead of emails to trick people in revealing sensitive information.

World's first 3 Dimensional (3D) printed jet engine

- Researchers from Australia's Monash University have created world's first 3 Dimensional (3D) printed jet engine. The first of its kind 3D printed engine was developed by team of researchers from **Monash Centre for Additive Manufacturing** in partnership with spin-out company **Amaero Engineering**.

Pakistan test fires Burraq & Barq

- Pakistan successfully tested its first indigenously built all-weather armed drone named **Burraq** and a laser guided missile named **Barq**.

Pak launches Shaheen !!!

- Pakistan on 9 March 2015 successfully conducted the first test of surface-to-surface **Shaheen-III** ballistic missile off the Arabian Sea. The missile, also called **White Falcon-III** in English has been developed by Pakistan

IS Destroys City of Hatra

- Islamic State (IS) militants have destroyed the ruins at the ancient city of Hatra located in south-west of Mosul in Northern Iraq. City of Hatra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was founded 2,000 years ago, in the days of the Parthian Empire.

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EU adopts climate change targets

- The European Union (EU) has formally adopted climate change targets for December 2015 **UNFCCC Paris Conference**. Adopted climate change target includes a 40 per cent cut in emissions by 2030.

Pakistan test fires cruise missile Raad

- Pakistan successfully tested the indigenously developed air launched cruise missile 'Raad'. It has a range of 350 km.

India vote against NPT

- India on October 31, 2014 voted against the provisions of UN draft resolution that called on all those countries including India that have not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to accede to it as non-nuclear weapon state. India hasn't signed NPT because its provisions are highly discriminatory. Besides India, Pakistan and Israel have not signed in NPT.

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled at Parliament Square in London

- A historic bronze statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the Parliament Square in London. It was unveiled jointly by British Prime Minister David Cameron and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Facebook acquires TheFind.com

- Facebook has acquired the shopping search engine TheFind. With the acquisition, the social networking giant Facebook has signaled its future plans to move into the e-commerce.

'Jihadi John' is an IT programmer from London

- One of the world's most wanted terrorist, code named "Jihadi John", has been identified as a British national, a resident of west London. The masked ISIS killer, who has featured in several beheading videos of Western hostages, is Mohammed Emwazi.

H -1B visa

- United States (US) has 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.

New Development Bank

- Union Cabinet on 25 February 2015 gave its approval for establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). This decision was taken in Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

What is IS or ISIS?

- IS is **Islamic state**. It is also known as **ISIS** which means **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria**. It is a Jihadist rebel group that controls territory in Iraq and Syria and part of middle east. Recently IS has beheaded 21 of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority on a Libyan beach
- IS is being considered one of the deadliest **Jihadi group** in the world at present.

Awards

The 87th Academy (OSCAR) Awards

- Award ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles.
- Best Picture- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).
- Best Actor- Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything).
- Best Actress- Julianne Moore (Still Alice).
- Best Director- Alejandro G. Iñárritu for Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).

Bangladesh wins Women in Parliaments Award

- Bangladesh has won the prestigious Women in Parliaments (WIP) Award for regional leadership in the South and Southeast Asia

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category for closing the gender gap in politics. Bangladesh is only country in the world where the Prime Minister, Parliament speaker, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the house, and a major opposition leader are all women.

UN establishes Awards after Nelson Mandela

- The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on **June 7** to commemorate **Nelson Mandela**, the south African anti-apartheid hero by establishing an international award under his name to honour his achievements.
- The **UN Nelson Mandela Award** will be given to individuals for their contribution to implement UN's objectives and principles.
- The official name of the award will be '**The United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize**' which came into effect in November 2014.

Rabindranath Tagore honoured in UK Parliament

- Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest poets of the Commonwealth, was on April 3 2014 jointly honoured by India, Bangladesh and the UK in the UK's house of commons in London.
- Rabindranath Tagore won a Nobel Prize in 1913 for Literature. He was a versatile literary genius. He is a joint literary heritage of India and Bangladesh.
- He enjoys huge amount of honour and respect in England also for his enormous contribution to literature in English and Bangla Language.

Miss Universe 2014

- **Paulina Vega**: Paulina Vega of Colombia was crowned Miss Universe 2014 on January 25; 2015. First runner up Nia Sanchez (USA)

International Mother Language Day (Bhasha Divas)

- International Mother Language Day (Bhasha Divas) is observed across the world, on 21 February every year. 2015 Theme: "Inclusion in and through education: Language counts". The year 2015 is the 15th anniversary of International Mother Language Day.

Bill Gates retained the title of the world's richest person

- Microsoft Co-founder, Bill Gates retained the title of the world's richest person in the Forbes 2015 billionaire list.
- Mr. Gates has topped the list for 16 of the last 21 years, with a net worth of \$79 billion and Mexico's telecommunications mogul Carlos Slim Helu is at second place.

India at 136th rank in press freedom

- In recently released World Press Freedom Index (WPF), India was placed at 136th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press freedom in 2015.

Mohamad Nasheed sentenced for 13 years

- Former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed was sentenced to 13-year imprisonment by country's criminal court under the anti-terrorism laws.

Shinawatra impeached

- Former Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was impeached on January 23, 2015 by an army backed parliament for corruption.

Snowden gets three year residency in Russia

- Edward Snowden, who leaked secret information about the US spying programmes on **August 1, 2013** has been granted an extension to stay in Russia for three more years. Snowden recently formally requested

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Russia's government to extend his temporary asylum.

- ▶ **Whistleblowing** defined as “making a disclosure that is in the public interest”.
- ▶ Julian Assange of WikiLeaks is another example for a whistleblower.
- **In which country was over 700 people sentenced to death penalty?**
Ans: Egypt.
 - ▶ Over 700 followers of Mohammed Morsi, former President and leader of banned Muslim Brotherhood were sentenced to death penalty for the illegal activities when the President was in power.
- **Which Militant Group kidnapped 276 school girls on April 14, 2014 in Nigeria.**
Ans: Boko Haram
- **Who is known as Blade runner?**
Ans: Oscar Pistorius. (South Africa).
 - ▶ He participated in Athletics in Olympics with artificial limbs. He was arrested for murdering his girl friend by shooting.
- **Which aeroplane was allegedly shutdown over Ukraine by the Rebels on July 17, 2014?**
Ans: Malaysian Airline Boeing 777 killing 298 people on board.
- **Which country annexed the strategy Crimean Peninsula belonging to Ukraine?**
Ans: Russia
- **In a landmark referendum on September 18, 2014 which part of United Kingdom voted against independence.**
Ans: Scotland
- **US President Barack Obama announced the redemption of normal relations with which country after more than half a century?**
Ans: Cuba
- **Mention the West African countries facing the threat of Ebola Virus attack?**
Ans: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali.

- **Which country's parliament is called Rada?**
Ans: Ukraine. Ukraine left NAM (Non Aligned Movement) as a part of effort to join NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).
- **Launch of which rocket put India in the selected club of 6 nations to possess cryogenic engine technology?**
Ans: GSLV-D5 on January 5, 2014
- **Which is the first country in the world to put a spacecraft into Mars Orbit on its maiden attempt.**
Ans: India.
 - ▶ India succeeded in putting Mangalyan on the orbit of mars on September 24, 2014.
- Zero Discrimination Day was observed on **March 1, 2015.**
 - ▶ Butterfly is the symbol of observation. It aims to reject all kinds of discrimination in the world.
 - ▶ The most discriminated people in the world are HIV infected community
 - ▶ World Aids Day is observed on December 1
- **Solar Impulse 2** is the first solar powered plane which made round the world tour.
- **New Zealand** and **Fiji** are the countries planning to drop Union Jack from their flag.
 - ▶ Union Jack is the official flag of the UK.
- **Lithuania** became the latest country to adopt **Euro** as its **currency**. It is 19th country in the world to adopt Euro.
- **Two Years Eight Months and 28 Nights** is a book written by **Salman Rushdie**.
 - ▶ **Satanic Verses** and **Midnight Children** are his major books.
- **The Universe is a Single Atom: The Convergence of Science and Spirituality** is a book written by **Dalai Lama**
- **Taxi** directed by **Jafar Panahi** won the Golden Bear at Berlin International film festival in February 2015.

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- **Leslee Udwin** produced the controversial BBC Television film on **India's Daughter Nirbhaya**.
- **Sarath Fonseka** became the first Sri Lankan to receive the highest military rank of **Field Marshal**.
- **Earth Hour** is observed on **last Saturday on March** from **2007** onwards. On this day lights are switched off between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm. **WWF** along with **Sydney Morning Herald** came up with the idea of Earth Hour.
- **Empowering women, empowering humanity; picture:** It is the official UN theme of women's day on **March 8, 2015**
- Managing Director of IMF is **Christine Lagarde**. She visited India in March 2015.
- **US** is the largest exporter of **Arms** in the world.
 - **Russia** is in the second place in atomic export and now China has taken third position replacing **Germany**.
- **Pi Day** is observed on **March 14**. This is because Three important numbers in PI are **3 (March) 14**.
- NASA's Kepler Space Telescope has so far discovered how many exo planets?
Ans: **1000**
- Who is setting up Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?
Ans: **21 Asian Countries** including India and China.
- Name the long range surface to air missile jointly developed by India and Israel
Ans: **Barak-8**
- Name the first satellite to land on a comet?
Philae.
 - The robotic spacecraft was put on a comet by European Space Agency's **Rosetta Mission** on **November 12, 2014**.
 - Name of the Comet is **67 P/ Churyumov - Gerasimenko**
- International Internet Day is observed on **October 29**.
 - It is on this day in 1969 a message was sent electronically through internet
- World Toilet Day is observed on **November 19**
- The venue of World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) to be held in **2018**.
Ans: **Hyderabad**.
 - This will be the **1st WCIT** to be held in **India**. The theme of the 2018 WCIT is Future of Enterprises.
- Who was elected as the finnish female President of Croatia.
Ans: **Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic**
 - Capital of Croatia: Zagreb
- What is EEU?
Ans: **Eurasian Economic Union**.
 - It came to existence on **January 1, 2015**. Its members are Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.
- Name the French Magazine Office which was attacked by terrorist on **January 7, 2015**.
Ans: **Charlie Hebdo**.
 - 12 Staff was killed in the attack.
- What is TFA?
Ans: **Trade Facilitarian Agreement**
 - TFA is WTO's ever multilateral accord.
 - It was approved by WTO's 160 member nations in **Geneva** after months of deadlock.
- **Vistara** is the joint venture outline of **Tara Sons** and **Singapore Airline**.
- **Ranbaxy** a well known Pharma Company has been merged with **Sun Pharma**.
- Which country has became 181st member of MIGA
Ans: **Bhutan**
 - MIGA is Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.
- **World Yoga Day** is observed on **June 21**.
 - It was declared by United Nations.

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Awards

President confers Bharat Ratna on Vajpayee & Malaviya

- President Pranab Mukherjee on 27 March 2015 conferred country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna on former Prime Minister (PM) **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and on 30th March he conferred Bharat Ratna to the family of **Malaviya**.
- Union Government had chosen Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with late educationist and freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malviya (posthumously) for the prestigious award on **December 24, 2014**.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on 25 December 1924. He became the Prime Minister of India three times.
- Union Government has declared his birthday (**December 25**) as **Good Governance Day**.
- Madan Mohan Malaviya have been conferred Bharat Ratna **posthumously** and his family members received it 68 years after of his death.

62nd National Film Awards 2014

- The 62nd National Film Awards for year 2014 was announced on 24 March 2015
- **Court** directed by Chaitanya Tamhane was selected as the Best feature film.
- **Mary Kom** (Hindi) directed by **Omung Kumar** was selected as the Best Popular film providing wholesome entertainment.
- Best Actor- **Vijay** for Nanu Avanalla Avalu (Kannada).
- Best Actress- **Kangana Ranaut** for Queen (Hindi).
- Best Direction-**Srijit Mukherji**, Director of Chotushkone (Bengali).
- Best Film on Social Issues- **Chotoder Chobi** (Bengali) directed by Kaushik Ganguly.
- Best Supporting Actor- **Bobby Simhaa** for film Jigarhanda (Tamil).

- Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director- **Aditya Vikram Sengupta** for Asha Jaoar Majhe (Bengali).
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration – **Chotoder Chobi** (Bengali) directed by **Kaushik Ganguly**.

Madhav Gadgil wins Tyler Prize 2015

- Renowned Indian Ecologist Madhav Gadgil has won the prestigious Tyler Prize 2015 for Environmental Achievement.
- Madhav Gadgil was the chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) which is famously known as **Gadgil Commission**. Madhav Gadgil is second Indian to receive this prize. First was Father of Indian Green Revolution **MS Swaminathan** in 1991. He was awarded for his contribution to improve crop yields in India.

Dadasaheb Phalke 2014

- Veteran actor and film producer Shashi Kapoor has been named for the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2014. He is the 46th film personality to receive this honour.
- 2013 Winner : **Gulzar**, Hindi lyricist
- 2012 Winner : **Pran**, Hindi actor
- 2004 : **Adoor Gopalakrishnan**
- 1969 : First winner : **Devika Rani**

Veerappa Moily wins Saraswati Samman

- Senior Congress leader and Former Union Minister Mr. M. Veerappa Moily wins the Saraswati Samman 2014 for his Kannada poem '**Ramayana Mahanveshanam**'

Family Life wins The Folio Prize

- Indian-American novelist **Akhil Sharma's** novel **Family Life** has won the prestigious Folio Prize 2015. His first novel was **An Obedient Father** published in 2000. It has won the prestigious PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award in 2001.

Indian Women in Forbes List

- Six Indian women entrepreneurs and busi-

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nesswomen have been named by Forbes magazine as among the **50 'Power Business-women'** from Asia.

- Indians included in the list are: Arundhati Bhattacharya- Chairperson of State Bank of India (SBI). Forbes list referred her as the first lady of Indian banking and as chair of the Indian behemoth with 225 million customers.
- **Chanda Kochchar**- MD & CEO of ICICI Bank. Forbes list referred her as India's second-most-powerful banker after Bhattacharya
- **Akhila Srinivasan**- MD of Shriram Capital.
- **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw**- Chairman & MD of Biocon.
- **Shikha Sharma**- CEO of Axis Bank
- **Usha Sangwan**- MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

Oscar entry to Liar's Dice

- Hindi film **Liar's Dice** directed by Malayali actress - turned director **Geethu Mohandas** has been nominated to the 87th Academy awards (2015 OSCARS) as India's official entry for the best foreign film award by a 12 member Jury chaired by T. Hariharan. The film is starred by Geethanjali Thapa and Nawazuddin Siddiqui deals with the distress of migration.

Social Media Person of the year

- **Who has been selected for Social Media Person of the year award 2015 in India?**

Ans: Amitabh Bachchan.

- **Who is the acclaimed creator of the cartoon *Common Man*?**

Ans: R.K. Laxman. He passed away on January 26, 2015.

Economy

- **What is the new base year adopted in India for the National Account Calculation Methodology?**

Ans: 2011-12 from 2004-05

- **What is the per capita income of an Indian**

based on the base year 2011-12

Ans: Rs. 6699 per month for 2013-14

Union Budget 2015-16

- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented Union Budget 2015-16 in the Parliament.
- It was the first full year Budget of the NDA government under leadership of Prime Minister of Narendra Modi and the second budget of Arun Jaitley as Finance Minister.

Railway Budget 2015-16

- Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** on 26 February 2015 presented the Railway Budget 2015-16 in the Parliament.

14th Finance Commission

- 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.
- Government has accepted FC's recommendation to increase the devolution of tax receipts from the Centre to the states to **42 percent**. Previously, 13th FC had pegged the States' share at 32 per cent.
- Chairman of the Commission 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.
- **Spectrum auction fetches Rs.1.10 lakh crore to Union Government:** The Union government has fetched about 1.10 lakh crore rupees after the auctioning of a telecom spectrum. The spectrum auction concluded on 25 March 2015 after rigorous bidding.
- **RBI has cut down repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.5 percent :** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 March 2015 has cut down repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.5 percent from 7.75 percent, with immediate effect. Howev-

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er, RBI has kept the cash reserve ratio (CRR) unchanged at 4 percent.

Union government to close down 5 PSUs

- Union Government has announced that 5 sick public sector undertakings (PSUs) will be closed. It was announced by Union Heavy Industries Minister Anant Geete while replying to a question in the Lok Sabha. The 5 sick PSU to be closed include HMT and its three units, Hindustan Shipyard. Government also announced that while closing these PSUs, their employees will be provided with very good VRS package.
- **Railways launches RuPay pre-paid debit card service :** Indian Railways has launched RuPay pre-paid debit card service for the railway passengers. The service was launched by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in collaboration with the Union Bank of India (UBI) and the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)
- RuPay is India's own card payment gateway network like Master Card and Visa. It provides an alternative system for banks to provide debit card service.
- **National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP):** Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP).

Prime Minister launches PRAGATI

- Narendra Modi Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 March 2015 launched Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform.
- PRAGATI is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform aimed at addressing grievances of common man. It also aims at simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important union government programmes and projects as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana

- The Government on September 25, 2014 announced Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, which would work towards empowerment of the population through enhancement of livelihood opportunities.
- **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DUGJY):** Central Government launched **DUGJY** to provide access of electricity to rural household across the country. Government merged Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikarana Yojan (RGGVY) with Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

Pharma Jan Samadhan Scheme

- Union Government has launched Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme, for redressal of grievances of consumers related to drug pricing and availability of medicines.
- **NPCI links 15 cr. bank accounts with Aadhaar :** March 7, 2015 National Payments Corporation (NPCI) has successfully linked 15 crore Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) accounts with the Aadhaar numbers. With this achievement NPCI has moved a step closer to map its target of linking all 17 crore DBT accounts with Aadhaar numbers by 30 June 2015.
- **Madhya Pradesh got National Award for MNREGA work :** Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the 10th national award for excellent work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).
- **Soil Health Card (SHC):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched nationwide Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme in Suratgarh town of Sriganganagar district, Rajasthan. During the launch PM gave slogan- Swasth Dharaa. Khet Haraa (Healthy Earth, Green Farm).
- **Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015:** The 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit was held in January 2015 in Gandhinagar with the intention of attracting foreign investment to the state.
 - ▶ Anandiben Patel is the Chief Minister of Gujarat

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- **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Caste & Green Business Scheme:** Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched two schemes to support the Scheduled Castes on January 16, 2015. They are Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Green Business Scheme. Under Venture Capital Fund Scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 15 crore for a period of 6 years will be provided to 30 SC entrepreneurs in a year. Under the Green Business Scheme loan for unit cost upto Rs. 1 lakh at concessional rate of interest will be provided to Scheduled Castes.
 - **BBBP - Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**
- Prime Minister Modi launched a small deposit scheme **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** for girls under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign in Panipat, Haryana on January 22, 2015. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana will enable parents to open bank accounts of girls who are under 10 years of age, it will fetch an interest rate of 9.1% and provide income tax rebate. Minimum deposit needed is Rs. 1000.
- Account can be opened at Post Office or authorised branches of commercial banks. The amount can be withdrawn for higher education or marriage of the girl on attaining 18 years of age.
- **Delhi Government launches India's first E-ration card service:** APJ Government has launched First E-ration card service in India. It was launched by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 27 March 2015.
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission :** A nationwide scheme to promote conservation and development of indigenous breeds of cows in a focussed and scientific manner was launched on July 28, 2014 by the Government of India. The Rashtriya Gokul Mission is a focussed project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.
- Vechur Cow with an average length of 124 cm and height of 87cm is the smallest cattle breed in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. It is named after Vechoor, a village in Kottayam district.
- **Re-investigation of the 1984 Anti-Sikh riot cases :** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) for re-investigation of the 1984 anti-Sikh riot cases mainly in Delhi and other States. Three-member SIT will be headed by Pramod Asthana, an IPS officer of 1986 batch.
- **First National Tribal Festival 'Vanaj':** 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.
- **World's most performing airport:** 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. This award recognises and rewards the best airports in the world based upon Geneva-based ACI's ASQ passenger satisfaction survey.
- **National Deworming Day: 10 February:** 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.
- **Sub-groups of Chief Ministers within NITI Aayog:** 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.
- **Bihar tops in Growth : CSO:** According to the

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- latest data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on September 9, 2014, Bihar is the fastest growing State while Tamil Nadu is the worst performer. Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew 14.48 percent during 2012-2013, the only State that clocked a double - digit growth rate during the year.
- Kerala's CSO figure is not available for 2012-2013. During 2011-2012 its growth was 9.51%. According to economic review 2013, by State Planning Board Kerala's GDP growth is 8.2% in 2012-13 against the national average of 5%.
 - **Kerala, Goa become the first States to ensure Bank A/c for all families:** According to the Finance Ministry's statement on November 14, 2014, Kerala and Goa became the first states in the country to provide one basic bank account to every household, achieving the primary goal of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in two -and - a - half months of its launch.
 - **Make in India :** Make in India is an international marketing strategy, conceptualized by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on 25 September 2014 to attract investments from businesses around the world, and in the process, strengthen India's manufacturing sector.
 - **What is Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?**
 - Clean India Mission (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) is a national level campaign by the Government of India covering 4041 towns to clean streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.
 - It was officially launched on **2, October 2014** at **Rajghat**, New Delhi by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
 - The campaign is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive and 3 million government employees and schools and college students of India participated in the event.
 - **NITI Aayog :** NITI Aayog: National Institution for Transforming India Aayog
 - NITI Aayog is a policy think-tank of Union Government of India that replaces Planning Commission of India and aims to involve the states in economic policy-making in India.
 - Union Government of India had announced formation of NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.
 - Chairman : **Prime Minister.**
 - Vice Chairman (Present) : **Arvind Panagariya**
- ### Science & Technology
- #### Idukki - First District with complete Broadband coverage
- **Idukki district** in Kerala has been linked to **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** on January 12, 2015. It was linked to NOFN as part of Digital India Project of the Union Government. With this Idukki District became the first district of India to have complete rural broadband coverage.
 - **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** is a project to provide broadband connectivity to cover 2 lakh Grama Panchayats of India at a cost of Rs. 20000 crore. The project is funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and is estimated to be completed in 2 years.
 - **India's first CNG Powered Train:** India's first CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) powered train was inaugurated on Rewari - Rohtak link of Northern Zone. **CNG Diesel Electronic Multiple Unit (DEMU)** is based on dual fuel. That is diesel and CNG.
 - **Suresh Prabhu :** Union Minister of Railways.
 - **First e-cabinet meet in India:** Towards a totally paperless cabinet meetings, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his council of ministers conducted a meeting called e-cabinet in Hyderabad on September 15. It is the first paperless and e-cabinet meeting in India.
 - Chandra Babu Naidu is the leader of Telugu Desam Party.
 - Presently Andhra Pradesh shares its capital Hyderabad with Telangana for the next 10 years. Andhra Pradesh propose to built its

new capital on the southern banks of river Krishna in Guntur district.

- **Sreekrishna Committee** : Formation of Telangana

What is e-governance?

- Electronic governance or e-governance is the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for delivering government service, exchange of information communication transactions, integration of various stand alone systems and services between government to customer (G2C) government to business (G2B) government to government (G2G) as well as back office processes and interactions within the entire government frame work.
- Through e-governance government service will be made available to citizens in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner.

India's Polar Vehicle operationalised

- India's first Polar Remotely Operated Vehicle (PROVe) was successfully operationalised for research in North Antarctica by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). PROVe was operationalised, after it had undergone series of trials in Antarctica in the past two months since its deployment by the NIOT researchers. It has been deployed in Priyadarshini Lake located on the Schirmacher Oasis which is a major source of water for Maitri, India's second base in Antarctica.
- **27 Indian Satellites Operational:** Union Government has announced that as many as 27 Indian satellites are currently operational. Among the 27 operational satellites, 11 are communication satellites, 12 are earth observation satellites, 3 are navigational satellites and 1 is Mars orbiter mission. Union Government also announced One more satellite will be launched in March 2015, while 3 more are in the pipeline. India is also taking leading role in launching satellites for the SAARC nations. Currently 95 Ku-band (a part of K band) transponders onboard indigenous

communication satellites are being utilised for various communication applications. India also has perfected the science of weather forecasting. Thus accurately predicting cyclone and other natural calamities in recent times.

- **Mangalyaan on Time's List:** India's Mangalyaan, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been listed among the 25 best innovations of 2014 by the Time magazine. According to the news report dated November 22, 2014, the magazine said, "Nobody gets Mars right on the first try. The US didn't, Russia didn't, and the Europeans didn't. But on September 24, 2014 India did". It also pointed out that India had spend just \$ 74 millions for building the space craft, which was less than the budget for the Hollywood film Gravity. The list also includes: the real - life hoverboard; wireless electricity - witricity; 3-D printer devices; Apple's smart - watches and the selfie stick.
- **Union Government launches Twitter Samvad** : Union Government has launched a new digital platform 'Twitter Samvad' in association with social networking giant Twitter. The digital platform was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 24 March 2015. Twitter Samvad service aims to boost the nation's e-governance plans and facilitate direct communication between leaders, government agencies and citizens.
- **TRAI removed the interconnection usage charges:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has 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 has reduced network IUC on calls made from mobile phones by about 30 percent to 14 paise per call from 20 paise earlier. The main aim to remove IUC is to boost fixed line phone connections in the country and lower tariffs of calls for the customers.
- **National Solar Mission:** Union Cabinet on 25 February 2015 approved the implemen-

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tation of the scheme for setting up of 15,000 Mega Watt (MW) Grid-connected Solar Photo Voltaic Power projects under the National Solar Mission.

- It will be implemented under the National Solar Mission through state-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited and its subsidiary NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Limited.
- **Mobile Number Portability:** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 25 February 2015 has 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.
- **Kudamkulam India's 1st Nuclear Plant to produce 1000 MW Power:** This is the first nuclear power plant in the country to touch 1000 MW of power generation. The Russian - designed Voda Voda Energo Reactor achieved the final milestone nearly eight months after power generated at the plant was connected to the grid. Kudamkulam nuclear powerplant is set up in Tamil Nadu with Russian help.
- **Param Yuva II among the Most Power Efficient Supercomputers:** The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has achieved a significant milestone with PARAM Yuva II supercomputer being ranked 1st in India, 9th in the Asia Pacific Region and 44th in the world among the most power-efficient computer systems according to the Green 500 List announced at the Supercomputing Conference (SC2013) in Denver, Colorado, USA.
- **Ennore Port renamed as Kamaraj Port:** The Union Cabinet has given its approval for renaming Ennore Port Ltd (EPL) after freedom fighter and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, this is the second port to be renamed by the Shipping Ministry after freedom fighters in recent times, the first one being VO Chidambaranar Port Trust in Tuticorin, in February 2011. There are 13 major ports in India at present.
- **Bangalore city Railway Station becomes the First Station in India to have Wi Fi facility:** Bangalore city railway station has become the first station in the country to have Wi Fi facility for providing high speed internet to passenger.
- **Rotavac Vaccine Launched:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 March 2015 launched the first indigenously developed and manufactured Rotavirus vaccine- Rotavac. The vaccine will boost India's efforts to combat infant mortality due to diarrhoea.
- **Delhi tops Infant Mortality Rate among Metros:** According to 'Save the Children' global report titled 'Ending newborn deaths, ensuring every baby survives' released on February 25, 2014, the National Capital Delhi had the worst Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), between 2010 and 2012, among the four metropolitan cities with 30 newborns dying for every live 1,000 births; while Chennai has lowest of 15 per 1000 live births.
- Kerala has the least child mortality rate among Indian states
- **India 78th in Talent Competitiveness:** India has been ranked 78th globally in terms of talent competitiveness of its human capital, indicating acute shortage of skilled workforce.
- Switzerland tops the rank.
- **Largest solar power plant of India inaugurated in MP:** India's largest solar power plant was inaugurated at Bhagwanpur in Jawad tehsil, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh by the then Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, on February 26, 2014.
- **Sikkim becomes first State with over 100% sanitation:** As per an official statement released on February 10, 2014, Sikkim has earned the mark of first State in the country to achieve over 100% sanitation with

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6,10,577 inhabitants having latrines with high sanitation and hygiene standards.

- **E-Visa facility for 43 countries:** India on November 27, 2014 launched electronic visa (e-Visa) facility for tourists from 43 countries to boost tourism sector and offer hassle free travel to foreign visitors.
- **ICICI Bank launches country's first Contactless Card:** ICICI Bank launched the country's first contactless debit and credit card on January 7, 2015 that uses near field communication technology, enabling one to make payment by just waving the card near merchant terminals instead of swiping it.

M.M. Malavya Nation Mission

- The Union Government launched Madan Mohan Malavya Nation Mission on Teachers and Teaching on December 25, 2014. Narendra Modi launched the mission at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. It was launched with an outlay of Rs. 900 crore during 12th Five Year Plan.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on December 25, 2015 launched Mission Indradhanush to achieve full communication coverage for all children by 2020. This mission aims to cover all those children who are either unvaccinated or are partly vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases including - diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B.
- The mission was launched on Good Governance Day that mark the birth anniversary of late Madan Mohan Malavya and birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **India celebrated 66th Republic Day:** India celebrated its 66th Republic Day on 26th January 2015, in New Delhi, India.
- Chief guest: **Barack Obama** the US President.
- Obama was the first ever US President to attend the parade as Chief Guest.
- **Section 66 A of IT Act unconstitutional:** The Supreme Court (SC) on 24 March 2015 struck

down the Section 66A of the Information and Technology Act 2000 calling it unconstitutional and untenable.

- Section 66A of IT Act 2000 gives power to government authorities to issue directions to block public access of any information through any computer resource. It also allows authorities to arrest a person for posting allegedly offensive content on websites and imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.
- **Supreme Court rejects reservation to Jats under OBC quota:** Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the notification issued by Union Government to include Jats in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBC) for the benefit of reservation.

What is NJAC ?

- National Judicial Appointment Commission. On December 31, 2014 Indian president signed National Judicial Appointment Commission Bill 2014 (124th Amendment Bill to Indian constitution).
- It paved the way for the setting up of NJAC which will appoint and transfer judges to the supreme court and the 24 High courts. The Bill grants constitutional status to the NJAC which will be headed by the chief justice of India. NJAC will end the collegium system of appointment to judges.
- **High Court Cannot Entertain Plea against AFT:** Supreme Court has barred High Courts (HCs) from entertaining pleas under writ jurisdiction against the verdicts of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) in disputes pertaining to Armed forces. SC ruling also set aside the order of Delhi High Court which had allowed the writ petition against army personnel.
- **Govt serves legal notice to BBC for airing Nirbhaya film 'India's Daughter':** Union government served a legal notice to BBC after the channel ignored its advice and broadcast the controversial interview of Delhi gang-rape convict. Government has also asked vid-

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- eo sharing website YouTube to remove the documentary as it is “very sensitive”.
- BBC aired the documentary, containing the controversial interview of a convict in the December 16, 2012 gang rape despite a Delhi court prohibiting it.
 - Officials had said that home ministry is also planning legal action against British filmmaker **Leslee Udwin** for allegedly violating stipulated permission conditions.
 - **AG Comes under RTI:** Delhi High Court in its ruling has held that Attorney General of India comes under the ambit of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
 - This ruling reversed the previous decision of the Central Information Commission (CIC) which had held that Attorney General does not come under RTI Act.
 - Functions performed by the AG under Article 76 (2) of the Constitution of India are in the nature of public functions. So the office of Attorney General is a public authority and comes under the ambit of section 2(h) of the RTI Act.
 - In 2012, CIC bench had ruled that the Attorney General of India is only a person and cannot be considered an authority under the RTI Act.
 - **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015:** Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015. This bill will replace an ordinance promulgated in this regard and amend the Citizenship Act, 1955. Key provisions of the Bill - It merges Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders.
 - **Parliament Passed Insurance Bill 2015: FDI cap now 49 % from 26 %:** Parliament has passed Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The bill hikes Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in the insurance sector to 49 percent from present 26 percent. It also adds provision for the establishment of Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council. These councils will act as self-regulating bodies for the insurance sector.
 - **Cabinet Approves Black Money Bill:** Union Cabinet has cleared the black money bill to curb the menace of black money in the country. Decision in this regard was taken at the cabinet meeting in New Delhi.
 - **New Museum in Rashtrapati Bhavan:** Hon'ble President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a museum at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 1, 2014. The Story of the presidential palace is narrated in the museum through sound, light and video animation. Edwin Lutens is the architect of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India in New Delhi.
- ### World's tallest Temple
- Foundation stone was laid for 210 metre high Chandrodaya Mandir in the holy city of Uttar Pradesh, Vrindavan by Hon'ble President Pranab Mukherjee on November 16, 2014. The temple dedicated to Lord Krishna will be thrice the height of Qutub Minar. It will be one of the most expensively built temples in the world by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) at the cost of Rs. 300 crore. The temple has a built - up area of 540,000 sq.ft, footprint of about 5 acres and it rises to a height of about 700 feet.
 - **Delhi, World's Second most Populous City in the world:** The 2014 revision of the World Urbanisation Prospects by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s Population Division, released on July 11, 2014, lists Delhi as the world's second most populous city with 25 million inhabitants. Tokyo remains the world's largest city with 38 million inhabitants.
 - **World's tallest bridge in Manipur:** The world's tallest bridge is coming up in Noney in the north eastern state of Manipur. The 141-metre-tall bridge will be built by the NF Railway Construction Organisation. This bridge will be higher than the presently tall-

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est bridge, Mala-Rijeka Viaduct on Belgrade - Bar railway line in Europe at 139 metres.

- **World's first Natural World Heritage Centre in Dehradun:** Taking a significant step towards conservation of natural heritage sites, the foundation stone of the world's first Natural World Heritage Centre was laid on August 30, 2014 at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in Dehradun. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Category 2 centre on 'Natural World Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region' would be established with the objective of achieving a more balanced representation of properties from Asia and the Pacific on the World Heritage List.

World Heritage Day : April 18

- As of 2014, 1007 sites are listed in UNESCO world heritage sites. Italy has the largest number of heritage sites (50 sites). India has 32 world heritage sites.
- **First Butterfly Garden opens in Nandankanan Zoo:** The first butterfly garden in Odisha was inaugurated on February 20, 2014 in Nandankanan Zoological Park, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Rajasthan state animal Camel

- The government is in process of drafting a new law to prevent slaughter, illegal trade and transportation of camel.
- Camel is known as the ship of the desert
- Elephant is the state animal of Kerala, Karnataka and Jharkhand.
- **Haryana Government ban Cow slaughter:** Haryana Government has passed Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Bill, 2015 that bans cow slaughter. It was unanimously passed in budget session of state with voice vote.
 - ▶ where cow slaughter is not banned, permit will be not issued.

2226 Tigers in India in 2014

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has reported 30% increase in tiger population from 1706 in 2010 to 2226 in 2014.
- India now has 70% of the tiger population in the world.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973.
- **Delhi has worst air in the World - WHO:** An air quality database of 1,600 cities and 91 countries, released on May 7, 2014 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) revealed that Delhi has the most polluted air in the world.
- **Which North Eastern State was added to the Railway Map in India recently?**
 - **Meghalaya.** The first passenger train between Meghalaya's Mendipather and Guwahati (Assam) covering a distance of 131 km was inaugurated in January 2015.
 - ▶ With this, Meghalaya the only state among the Seven Sisters of North East without a railway line, has been brought into the Railway Map of India
- **Telangana:** The 29th state of india :**Telangana.** Formation: On 2 June 2014 Capital: **Hyderabad.** The First Chief Minister of Telangana : **K. Chandrasekhara Rao** of Telangana Rashtra Samithi
- **Arvind Kejriwal sworn-in as Delhi CM:** Arvind Kejriwal was 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 6 Cabinet Ministers were sworn in.
- In 2015 Delhi Assembly elections, AAP staged a historic victory by sweeping 67 of the 70 seats. This will be Arvind Kejriwal's second term as Delhi Chief Minister. Earlier in February 2014, he had resigned after running a 49-day government with the support of Congress.
- **Mufti Mohammad Sayeed sworn-in as Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir**
- Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on 1 March 2015

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was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Peoples Democratic Party-Bhartiya Janta Party (PDP-BJP) coalition government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Nitish Kumar: Bihar Chief Minister

- Nitish Kumar has sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar for the 4th time. Governor of Bihar Keshri Nath Tripathi administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at the oath taking ceremony held at Raj Bhawan in Patna..
- **Baldev Sharma : new chairman of National Book Trust (NBT):** Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has appointed Baldev Sharma as chairman of National Book Trust (NBT). He will succeed veteran Malayalam writer **A. Sethumadhavan** who had resigned six months earlier before completion of his term.
- **Dr M.O. Garg: Director General (DG) of the CSIR:** Dr M.O. Garg has taken charge as Director General (DG) of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). He will replace PS Ahuja who had held this post since May 2014.
- **LC Goyal: Union Home Secretary:** LC Goyal has 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 Sinh in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam.
- **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar: new Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs:** Union Government has appointed Subrahmanyam Jaishankar as the new Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (i.e. Foreign Secretary).
- He will be replacing incumbent Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh whose tenure was curtailed with immediate effect.
- **A.S. Kiran Kumar:** Chairman of ISRO. He succeeded Dr. K. Radhakrishnan.
- **Forge Your Future :** Book written by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- **Which Committee submitted its report on**

restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI)

Ans: Shanta Kumar Committee

- **Which committee submitted its recommendation on the review of environment laws.**

Ans: T.S.R. Subramaniam.

- ▶ He was appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climatic change to review environment laws.

Gadgil & Kasthurirangan Committees

- **Prof. Madhav Gadgil** was the **Chairman** of the Environmental Research Commission on Western Ghats appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest of India.
- His report on Western Ghats was widely criticised for its pro environment friendly stand and not in tune with the ground realities. Later **Dr. Kasthurirangan** was appointed to study and recommend ecological threat faced by Western Ghats. He recommended for declaring over 37% of Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive area. His report has also invited criticism.

VALUE POINT

- The mission that would be launch by the Government to create interest among the students in Science and Mathematics
- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan**
- ▶ The Abhiyan seeks to create curiosity, excitement and spirit of innovation and exploration amongst school children, by encouraging higher education institutions to assist secondary and elementary schools in the study of Science and Mathematics.
- The ministry that launched a National **Toll Free Helpline (1800-11-0031)** to assist the alcoholic drug dependent persons on 7th Jan'15
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**
- ▶ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction and rehabilitation of victims of alcoholism and drug abuse.

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- The 13th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas- a three day event began at Gandhingar in Gujarat on 7th Jan'15
 - ▶ It is the world's largest annual gathering of people of Indian origin aimed at enhancing networking and reinforcing the economic and cultural bonding.
 - ▶ **There are an estimated 25 million people of Indian origin residing outside India.**
 - ▶ India is also the single largest recipient of remittances from abroad at 70 billion dollars.
- Trade unions of which sector went on a five-day strike on 6th Jan'15 that was termed as the biggest industrial action for any sector since 1977
 - ▶ **Coal Industry**
- The train that has now started running from Kolkata to Dhaka with its own rake from 4th January 2015
 - ▶ **Maitree Express**
 - ▶ The Government has decided to run one additional trip of Kolkata-Dhaka Cantonment Maitree Express each week. On the completion of six months, this arrangement will get reversed and Bangladesh Railway rake will start running from Dhaka Cantonment from 5th July 2015 every Sunday and from Kolkata every Monday in the existing timings, in addition to the existing days of service on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- The person appointed as the Vice Chairman of **(National Institution for Transforming India) NITI Aayog** on 5th Jan'15?
 - ▶ **Shri Arvind Panagariya, Economist.**
 - ▶ He was an Economics professor at Columbia University in New York.
 - ▶ Full Time Members will be Shri Bibek Debroy, Economist, and Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Former Secretary Defence R&D.
- The programme, under which Prime Minister launches scheme for LED distribution in Delhi on 5th Jan'15?
 - ▶ **Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)**
 - ▶ Consumers can register either through the programme website (www.eeslindia.org/Delhi-Launch) or by sending an SMS to a designated number.
- The theme of the 102nd Edition of the Indian Science Congress inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Mumbai
 - ▶ **Science and Technology for Human Development.**
- RBI has relaxed KYC rules on certain companies, due to practical difficulties and constraints in getting KYC documents at frequent intervals. Name the company
 - ▶ **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC).**
- The part of biggest telescope that will be developed by India
 - ▶ **Iris**
 - ▶ India is all set to make sensors and actuators that will keep the huge mirror of the biggest telescope in place.
- The month on which, there will be no communication of ISRO with the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)?
 - ▶ **June'2015**
 - ▶ The blackout will be from June 8 to 22 because the Sun will come between Earth and Mars, blocking the view of the Red Planet.
- The new name given to Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)
 - ▶ **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.**
 - ▶ The amendment was done to IRD Act, 1999 by adding the word 'India'.
- Name the committee formed to ensure safety of the people from India's north east in Delhi and other major cities
 - ▶ **Bezbaruah Committee**
 - ▶ The Bezbaruah Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of M P Bezbaruah in February '2014.
- Senior bureaucrat **Sindhushree Khullar** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog with effect from 1 January 2015.

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- LPG consumers across the country will get cash subsidy directly into their bank accounts from 1st Jan'15 so that they can buy the cooking fuel at market price. What is another name of Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG

PAHAL

- ▶ The ambitious plan was launched in June 2013 but abruptly stopped earlier last year following court orders, on the issue of requirement of unique identification number (Aadhaar) for availing the cash subsidy.
- ▶ Now the Scheme has been modified to exclude the requirement Aadhaar for availing the cash subsidy.
- Name the Mobile safety app for women to be launched in Delhi on 1st Jan'2015?

'HIMMAT'.

- ▶ Himmat mobile app allow users to call the police control room and also trigger a 30-second audio and video recording at the press of the phone's power button.
- Indian space scientist and head of Indian Space Research Organisation who is one of the 2014 top ten scientists chosen by the prestigious journal Nature - **Dr. K. Radhakrishnan**
- The offshore patrol vessel built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata, which has become the first warship to be exported by India (Country to which exported: Mauritius)-**CGS Barracuda**
- The public sector company which has been conferred the PSE Excellence Award 2014 for R&D and Technology Development in the Maharatna & Navratna CPSEs Category by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)- **BHEL**
- The Indian woman boxer who has been handed a one-year ban by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) for refusing to accept her bronze medal at the Asian Games 2014-**L. Sarita**
- The Tata Group founder on whom PM Narendra Modi will release commemorative coins to mark his 175th birth anniversary

Jamsetji Nusserwanji

- ▶ The coins in the denomination of 100 and five rupees will be released 6th Jan'15 by the Prime Minister in New Delhi.
- ▶ Jamsetji was born on 3rd of March, 1839 in Navsari, a small town in south Gujarat and founded Tata Group, India's largest business conglomerate.
- The Indian who has been named by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as the head of the UN department that provides dedicated support to peacekeeping missions around the world, making him one of the highest ranking Indian officials in the world body?

Atul Khare, Senior Indian Diplomat

- ▶ He will succeed Bangladesh's Ameerah Haq as the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Department of Field Support (DFS).
- The theme of Indian government's calendar for 2015 which was released by the Information and Broadcasting Minister Shri Arun Jaitley- **Clean India Green India**
- Well-known writer and critic in Kannada language, who died on 22nd August 2014 - **U.R. Ananthamoorthy**
 - ▶ Jnanpith Award winner (1994) and Padma Bhushan (1998).
- **What is PMJDY ?**
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.** It is an ambitious programme for financial inclusion to cover all unbanked house hold in India by January 26, 2015.
- The new Director General of Central Bureau of Investigation who has been appointed following retirement of former chief Ranjit Sinha - **Anil Sinha**
- The first and only Muslim Chief Minister of Maharashtra who passed away on 02 Dec 2014
- **A.R. Antulay**
- The Indian film star whose ancestral home in Peshawar was declared as National Heritage by the Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

Dilip Kumar

Current Affairs

- The Chief Justice of Kerala High Court who was sworn in as the 42nd Chief Justice of India by the President of India –
Handyala Lakshminarayanawamy Dattu
- The veteran BJP leader who was appointed as the Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha
Shri L.K. Advani
- Renowned mandolin player and composer of carnatic music, who died on September 19, 2014 : **U. Srinivas**
 - He was awarded Padma Shri in 1998 and Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2009.
- The Indian village in Jehanabad district of Bihar which in July 2014 became the country's first village to be powered entirely by solar power
Dharnia.
- The Indian city which has become the world's second most populous city with 25 million population after Tokyo (with a population of 38 million) as per a report by U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Delhi.
- The person who has been chosen to be appointed the next United States Ambassador to India filling the vacant post since the resignation of Nancy Powell in March 2014 (He is the first Indian-American chosen for the post)
Richard Rahul Verma
- The place in Rajasthan at which India's first skill development centre was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in August 2014
Jaipur
- The state which became the first in the country to ratify the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2014 passed by Parliament last month
Rajasthan
- The Bill needs to be endorsed by at least 15 States before it can be sent for Presidential assent and brought into effect.
- The place in Uttar Pradesh from where Sulabh International launched its "Toilet for Every House" campaign in Sep 2014
Katra Sadatganj, Badaun Dist
- Who is the chairman of Law Commission ?
Justice A.P. Shah
- The state which has adopted the camel as its State Animal with an aim to check its dwindling numbers
Rajasthan
- The annual bi-lateral Naval exercise of India and United States which were conducted in July 2014 with Japan being a special invitee this year
Malabar
- The 3D mobile game launched by the Indian Air Force in a bid to attract generation-next youth to pursue a career in the air force is named
Guardian of the Skies (GOTS)
- The operation launched by Army to provide relief to flood affected people of Jammu and Kashmir was codenamed
Operation Megh Rahat
- Ahmedabad based premier design institute which was accorded the status of institution of national importance by an act of parliament, making it the 41st institute to have such a status
National Institute of Design.
- The institute at which foundation stone for world's first Natural World Heritage Centre was laid
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
- The ancient Indian University which started its first academic session in Rajgir, Bihar, more than 800 years after it was destroyed
Nalanda University
- The mission launched by Government of India to promote conservation and developments of indigenous breeds of cows in a focused and scientific manner is named
Rashtriya Gokul Mission
- The minimum broadband speed notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Current Affairs

(TRAI) by amending the Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal Regulations, 2012 has been raised from 256 kbps to

512 kbps.

- The 240-Megawatt Uri-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP) located near the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district of Kashmir which was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is located on the river

Jhelum

- The number of languages covered by .bharat domain name launched by Government of India in the Devanagari script

Eight

- ▶ Bodo, Dogri, Hindi, Konkani, Maithili, Marathi, Nepali, and Sindhi

- The indigenous research vessel built by ABG Shipyard intended to carry out monsoon experiments and underwater exploration in the deep sea basins of Andaman by the scientists of National Institute of Oceanography which was flagged off from Visakhapatnam on 27 July is named

RV Sindhu Sadhana

- The Indian atomic power station which has become the second nuclear plant in the world, after Pickering Nuclear Generating Station at Ontario, Canada to run continuously for 739 days

Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

- Which Day is observed as National Unity Day?

October 31. 139th birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

- ▶ He was instrumental in the unification of India.
- ▶ He is known as Bismark of India and also the Iron Man of India.

- **What is KVP?**

Kisan Vikas Patra

- ▶ Union Government has relaunched KVP and offered to double the investment in 100 months. The scheme offers 8.7% annual return.

- The railway station in Tamil Nadu which has become the first station in India to get free wi-fi network

Chennai Central

- The residence of Shri Jamshetji Tata in Mumbai which has been awarded UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage awards

Esplanade House

- The state Legislative Assembly that celebrated its 50th anniversary on 29th Nov'14

Nagaland

- The Indian telecom company that has launched mobile security value added service that will allow its customers to track location of their lost mobile phones

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

- ▶ BSNL is offering the solution M-secure, in association with Beyond Evolution. Through M-secure solution user can remotely manage data contained in his or her lost mobile handset.

- The book written by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee that was published in the December'14

The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years

- The State Bank of India's Mutual Fund scheme launched on 26th Nov'14 aimed at attracting investments from Muslim populations of India

Shariah Equity Fund

- ▶ The fund has been approved by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, an authority that oversees the observance of Muslim civil laws in India.

Current Affairs

- The country in which Bharti Airtel launched its first commercial 4G Service in Africa on 26th Nov'14

Seychelles

- ▶ Seychelles became the first countries amongst sub-Saharan Africa to commercially deploy this cutting-edge technology.
- ▶ The new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha with effect from 1st December 14

Anoop Mishra, Senior IAS Officer.

- ▶ He is a 1978-batch IAS officer and held several positions in the Centre as well as in the Uttar Pradesh government.
- **AS Kiran Kumar**, current director of Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, was appointed as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 - ▶ He is credited with developing key components of India's **Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan missions**.
 - ▶ He was awarded the **Padma Sri in 2014**.
- The bank that became first in India to fully own an insurance business

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- ▶ It happened after Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave permission to set up a wholly-owned non-life insurance company called Kotak General Insurance.
- ▶ It will be the 29th non-life company in the country.
- The Indian Ornithologist, whose name was given to the new species of bird Muscicapa flycatcher on 25th November 14.

Navjot Sodhi

- ▶ The bird found in Sulawesi Island of Indonesia was named as Muscicapa Sodhi.
- The organisations for which RBI granted banking licence in India in 2014 ?

IDFC and Bandhan

- The Indian icon appointed Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia by United Nations Women on 25th November 14

Sania Mirza, Indian Tennis player

- The helicopter presented to Nepal at an army

function in Kathmandu on 25th Nov'14 by PM Narendra Modi

Dhruv Helicopter.

- ▶ It is an utility helicopter developed and manufactured by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The objective of the "Swachh Bharat Kosh" launched by the government on 25th November 14.

To achieve the objective of cleanliness across the country.

- ▶ The fund will be utilised to build toilets in schools of rural and urban areas to achieve the objective of cleanliness.
- Which Bus Service will run a luxury Volvo bus on the Delhi-Kathmandu route and was flagged off by on 25th Nov'14?

Delhi Transportation Corporation Service.

- ▶ DTC had received a proposal from Prime Minister's Office for starting this service corresponding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Nepal for the SAARC summit.
- The first non-UPSC member in history to be appointed as UPSC chairman

Deepak Gupta.

- ▶ He is a retired IAS officer of Jharkhand Cadre.
- The Indians saints who were canonized by Pope Francis in a mass gathering of tens of thousands of worshippers at Saint Peter's Square on 23rd Nov'14

Father Kurisakose Elias Chavara (1805-1871) and Sister Euphrasia Eluvathingal.

- ▶ Both were from Kerala and members of the ancient Syro-Malabar Catholic Church (1877-1952). If a dead person is canonised, it is officially announced by the Catholic Church that he or she is a Saint.
- The centre launched by the Indian Navy on 23th November 14 to plug the gaps in maritime security that were uncovered after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack

Information Management and Analysis Centre, IMAC.

Current Affairs

- ▶ IMAC will be the nerve centre for the Navy and Coast Guard for coastal surveillance and monitoring. It will also be the single point centre inter-linking the newly formed coastal radar chain.
- The stock exchange that has been derecognized by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in Nov'14?

Delhi Stock Exchange

- ▶ SEBI observed that the activities of DSE were carried out in a manner which didn't protect interest of the investors.
- The village adopted by Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar on 16th Nov'14 under the 'Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana' programme

Puttamrajuvari Kandrika village, Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.

- The Indian who has been chosen among 50 Global leaders, business chiefs and pop icons as contenders for the title 'Person of the Year 2014' by Times Magazine

Narendra Modi

- ▶ Last year Pope Francis was chosen as the Person of the Year 2013.
- With which bank, ING Vysya bank merged after the deal was approved on 20th Nov'14?

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- ▶ This merger would be first merger since 2010 in private sector banking space when Bank of Rajasthan was acquired by ICICI Bank.
- The states and union territories that have achieved 100% banking inclusion under the under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Kerala, Goa, Chandigarh, Puducherry & Lakshwadeep.

- The first male ever chosen as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia

Farhan Akhtar, Bollywood Actor, Director & Producer.

- The chemicals that have been found in the

medicines, which were distributed, to the women who underwent sterilization surgeries at the government-run health camps in Chhattisgarh

Zinc Phosphide.

- ▶ Ciprocin 500mg tablets distributed to women after operations were contaminated with Zinc Phosphide.
- ▶ Zinc Phosphide is commonly used to kill rodents.

- "Bal Swachhta Mission" is launched by the government in the nation on

14th Nov'14.

- ▶ Bal Swachhta Mission will mark Jawahar Lal Nehru's 125th birth anniversary.
 - The mobile application launched by former cricketer Kapil Dev on 12th Nov'14
- ### 'SloPho'
- ▶ It is a social platform that will allow users to win prizes in games, contests, polls & quizzes on daily basis.

- The officer appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes

Anita Kapur, Senior IRS Officer.

- ▶ She succeeded K V Chowdhary who has retired on 31stOct'14.
- **India becomes world's largest consumer of antibiotics** : According to the "Global Trends in Antibiotic Consumption, 2000-2010, study report released on 14 July, India has emerged as the world's largest consumer of antibiotics with a 62% increase in popping habits over the last decade.

- **Indian-Americans form 3rd largest Asian population in US** : According to the report on demographics of the Asian-American population released on 24 April by the Center for American Progress, Indian-Americans numbering 3.34 million is the third largest Asian community in the United States, after China and Philippines.

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- **Tessy and Vijayalakshmi become the first Women Directors in IIT Council :** Tessy Thomas is the Project Director for Agni-IV missile in Defence Research and Development Organisation. She is the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath was the first to initiate newer areas of research to revitalize the growth of modern neuroscience in India.
- **R Chandrashekhar : New NASSCOM President :** Former Telecom Secretary (Government of India), R Chandrashekhar on 5 January took over as the President of Information Technology trade body Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies).
- Noted English author and journalist **Khushwant Singh** died on 20 March in New Delhi.
 - ▶ **Train to Pakistan** is his well known book
- India was officially declared '**Polio Free**' by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- **Supreme Court set up social justice Bench** to deal with social issues particularly those related to women, children and underprivileged. The apex court set up the bench to assemble every Friday.
- **Laxmikant Parsekar** is the new Chief Minister of Goa. He is from BJP.
- **Deepak Gupta** - New Chairman of UPSC.
- India reelected to UN Economic and Social Council.
 - ▶ India on October 29, 2014 was reelected to United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- **UNHRC:** United Nations Human Rights Council.
 - ▶ India on October 21, 2014 was selected to UNHRC for a period of 2015 - 2017.
- The country's **first Mono rail** was inaugurated in Mumbai in 2014.
- **What is HRIDAY?**
 - Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana. It was launched on January 21, 2015 by Union Ministry of Urban Development. It seeks to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country.
 - **National Payment Corporation** is India's Umbrella body for all retail payment systems that has reached a new milestone with successful linking of 15 crore bank accounts with Aadhaar.
 - ▶ RuPay is the Indian domestic card scheme conceived and launched by the National Payment Corporation of India. It was created to fulfil the RBI's desire to have a domestic, open loop and multilateral system of payment in India.
 - ▶ RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions and complete with Master Card and Visa in India.
 - **Operation Sureksha** has been launched 2015 by Kerala Police to nab criminals and gundas.
 - **Article 66 A** of the Information Technology Act and Kerala Police Legal Act of **118 D** are made illegal by Supreme Court as they are against the personal freedom of Indian Citizens.
 - Kailash Satyarthi founded **RUGMARK**. This sign signify that the product is Child Labour Free.
 - ▶ Satyarthi is the winner of Nobel Prize for Peace 2014.
 - ▶ He is the founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan and a well known advocate of rights of children.
 - **IRNSS-ID** is India's navigation satellite. It was launched on board **PSLV - C 27**.
 - ▶ IRNSS - Indian Navigation Satellite systems plans to have 7 satellites. Out of which 4 are already placed in orbit. They are IRNSS-1A, IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C and IRNSS-1D.

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- What is popularly known as **Jam Trinity** Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhar and Mobile.
- 102nd Indian Science Congress was held in Mumbai on **January 3, 2015**.
- **Ratan Tata** heads the newly formed **Kayakalp Council** which will recommended innovative methods and processes to Indian Railway.
- **Aditi Arya** from Gurgaon is Miss India 2015
- **Arvind Panagariya** heads the task force to define Poverty and prepare a road map to allieviate it.
- Vikas Swarup is the new spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs. He is the author of the novel Q and A which was made into hollywood film **Slumdog Millionaire**.
- **Twitter Samvad** is the new Platform launched by the Union Government for direct communication among leader, Government Agencies and citizen through Tweets and text messages.
- **Amaravathi** on the banks of river Krishna near Vijayawada will be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
 - ▶ When Telangana was formed on **June 2, 2014** as the 29th state of India, Hyderabad was made the common capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for 10 years.
 - ▶ After this period **Hyderabad** will be exclusive capital of Telangana. By that time Andhra Pradesh will be building **Amara-vathi**, its capital.
- **Nazim Ahamad Zaidi** is the New Chief Election Commission of India. He succeeded H.S. Brahma.
 - ▶ He assumed office on April 19, 2015.
- **D. Jayakanthan** passed away: The notable Tamil Writer and winner of Jnapitham D. Jayakanthan passed away.
- India buys **36 Rafel Fighter**: India decided to buy 36 Rafel Fighter planes from France.
- Which Rating Agency has lifted India's economic rating from stable to positive.
Ans: **Moody's**
- **Manu Ki Baat** is the Monthly Radio Programme of the Prime Minister of India in which he address the nation.
- **Mudra Bank** (Micro Units Development Refinance Agency Bank) has been set up to promote micro entrepreneurs.
 - ▶ Mudra Bank was launched by **Modi** on April 8, 2015.
- **The Red Sari** is the biography of Sonia Gandhi written by **Javier Moro**.
- **Pawan Chamling** was, the Sikkim Chief Minister who became the longest serving Chief Minister of an Indian State.
 - ▶ He was sworn in as the **CM** of **Sikkim** for the 5th consecutive time.
 - ▶ He surpassed the record held by Jyothi Basu of West Bengal.
- **Operation Smile** is the Project Undertaken in National level to search and find out children disappeared due to various reasons.
- **Maruthi Alto** became the largest sold small car in India in 2014.
- Which train has been flagged off in honour of former prime minister of India **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
Sushasan (Good Governance) **Express**.
 - ▶ It runs between Gwalior and Gonda via Hazrat Nizamuddin and Lucknow.
 - ▶ **Gwalior** is the birth place of Vajpayee. It was flagged off on Decvember 25, birthday of Vajpayee and this day is observed in India as **Good Governance day**.
- Operation All out has been launched against which militant group in India.
Ans: **Bodo Militant** in **Assam**.

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- Who is the new American Ambassador to India.
Ans: **Richard Rahul Verma**
 - **Dr. S. Jaishankar** is Indian Ambassador to USA.
- **Dr. A Surya Prakash** is the Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board.
- What is the position of India in world Steel production?
Ans: **4th position.**
 - **China** is in the first position. **Japan** and **USA** is second and third.
- What is the new name of the Department of Disabilities Affairs under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment?
Ans: **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.**
- Name the finish woman to assume Director General of Civil Aviation in India.
Ans: **M. Sathiyavathy**
- **Sitara Devi** who passed away in November 2014 is well known exponent of
Ans: **Kathak**
- **Hornbill Festival** is celebrated in the State of **Nagaland.**
 - Hornbill is the state bird of **Kerala** and **Arunachal Pradesh.**

REGIONAL

- **Veteran singer Bombay S Kamal passes away**
Veteran singer and music composer Bombay S. Kamal passed away on 17 March 2015 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala at the age of 85. He was suffering from respiratory ailments.
Speaker G Karthikeyan passed away
- Senior Congress leader and Kerala Assembly Speaker G Karthikeyan passed away in Bangalore, Karnataka. He was 66. Karthikeyan died while he was undergoing treatment in Bangalore after he was diagnosed with liver cancer.

Shakthan Kerala Speaker

- Congress legislator and deputy speaker N Shakthan was elected as the new speaker of the Kerala Assembly on 12 March 2015.

Kerala Tourism's campaign' wins silver prize in Golden Gate Award at ITB-Berlin

- Kerala Tourism Kerala Tourism has won silver prize in the prestigious Golden Gate Award at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin (ITB-Berlin) – 2015. Kerala Tourism received the prize in the category of multi-media-campaign for its global multimedia 'The Great Backwaters campaign' in the television-commercial medium.
- **Supreme Court Strikes down Kerala Dam Law** : Upholding Tamil Nadu's right to raise water level of Mullaperiyar Dam upto 142 feet, the Supreme Court on May 7, 2014 struck down a law passed by Kerala in 2006 to prevent TN from increasing the water level in the Dam from 136 feet to 142 feet.
- **Tirur declared digital literate**: Tirur municipality in Malappuram district has been declared totally digital literate. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy announced that Tirur had become the first municipality in India to complete the e-governance digital literacy programme. As many as 13,000 families in 38 wards of the municipality were made digitally literate through a two-month campaign spearheaded by 1,200 National Service Scheme volunteers.
- **27th Kerala Science Congress** was held at **Alappuzha** in January 2015.
- **M.T. Wins Thakazhi Award**: M.T. Vasudevan Nair won Thakazhi Literary Award of cultural department of Kerala Government.
- **Dr. Meena Kumari Report**: Dr. Meenakumari's report is related to **fishing.**
- **Thomas Unniyadan** is the new **Chief Wip** of Kerala Government. He succeeded P.C. George.
- **Visit Kerala** is the new tourism promotion

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project of Kerala to attract more tourist to the state.

SPORTS

- **Kumar Sangakkara retires from Test Cricket**
Former Sri Lankan cricket captain and ace batsman Kumar Sangakkara on 8 March 2015 announced that he will retire from Test cricket after playing three-match series against India in August 2015. Sangakkara already has retired from One-Day International (ODI) and Twenty-20 cricket. He had retired from Twenty-20 cricket format after Sri Lanka won the T20 World cup in 2014.
- **Sangakkara Score 4 Consecutive ODI Century:** Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara became first batsman to score four consecutive one-day international (ODI) centuries in a Cricket World Cup.
- **A B Villiers :** 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 against West Indies held at Sydney and also broke the previous record of Australia's Shane Watson by 19 balls. AB De Villiers in the innings scored 162 runs from 66 balls and it comprised of 8 sixes and 17 fours.
- **AB de Villiers hit fastest century:** A.B. de Villiers of South Africa smashed the fastest century in ODI taking just 31 balls against West Indies on January 18, 2015. He broke the record of Corey Anderson (New Zealand) 100 in 36 balls.
- **Double Century in world Cup:** 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 against Zimbabwe

Martin Crowe: ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

- Former cricket captain of New Zealand Martin Crowe was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He is 79th male member of the

Hall of Fame.

- **Martin Guptill hits highest score of 237 in Cricket World Cup:** New Zealand's Martin Guptill created a Cricket World Cup record by scoring highest score of 237 runs not out.
- **Sachin Tendulkar inducted into Laureus Sports Academy:** Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on 15 April 2015 was inducted into the prestigious Laureus Sports Academy.
- **Brand ambassador for ICC World Cup 2015: Sachin Tendulkar:** Bharat Ratna awardee and doyen of cricket Sachin Tendulkar has been named as the brand ambassador for ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
- **Roger Federer of Switzerland won the ATP Tennis Championship:** Men's singles Roger Federer of Switzerland won the ATP Tennis Championship Men's single title held in Dubai. In the final match, he defeated Novak Djokovic of Serbia by score of 6-3, 7-5.
- **Carolina Marin wins Women's Singles Title in All England Open Badminton Championships :** Carolina Marin of Spain has won the prestigious Women's Singles Title in the All England Open Badminton Championships 2015. In the final match she defeated India's Saina Nehwal.
- **Saina Nehwal:** First Indian woman badminton player to reach finals of All England Badminton Championship. In the semifinal match she had defeated China's Sun.
- **All England Open Badminton Championships** is one of the oldest as well as the prestigious badminton tournaments of the world.. Indian badminton legends Prakash Padukone (in 1980) and P Gopichand (in 2001) have won this prestigious title in Men's Singles category.
- **Mary Kom will retire from boxing after the Rio Olympic Games 2016:** MC Mary Kom has announced that she will retire from boxing after the Rio Olympic Games 2016.

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- **Australian Open 2015 Winners: Men's Singles:** Novcek Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Andy Murray (England)
- **Women's Singles:** Serena Williams (USA) defeated Maria Sharapova (Russia).
- **Mixed Doubles:** Leander Paes (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) defeated Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic
- England and Wales host 2019 One Day International World Cup.
- Which country won Davis Cup 2014.
Ans : **Switzerland**
- Which country won Champion Trophy Hockey 2014.
Ans: **Germany.**
 - ▶ They defeated Pakistan in the final at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo wins FIFA Ballon d'Or award for the third time:** Cristiano Ronaldo has won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award for year 2014. He has earned this title of world's best football player for a third time. Earlier he was conferred with award in 2008 and 2013.
- **Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes dies after head injury:** Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes died after he had suffered a severe head injury due to a bouncer during a match. He was 25.
- **Magnus Carlsen defeats Anand: Retains World Championship:** Norway's Magnus Carlsen retained his title of World Chess champion by defeating Indian opponent Viswanathan Anand in the 11th round of their title match held in Sochi, Russia.
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya elected as President of the BCCI:** Jagmohan Dalmiya was unanimously elected as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He was elected as President at the BCCI Annual General Meeting held at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Dalmiya will succeed N. Srinivasan who was barred from contesting BCCI Presidential election by Supreme Court over the corruption and IPL spot fixing scandal.
- **Services clinched 69th Santosh Trophy football title 2015:** Services on 15 March 2015 have won 69th Santosh Trophy football title 2014-15. In the final Services defeated host Punjab by score of 5-4 at Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana, Punjab.
 - ▶ Santhosh trophy was Founded in : 1941. Trophy is named after the late Maharaja Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhary of Santosh (that is now in Bangladesh).
- **India win's Women's FIH Hockey World League Round Two:** India on 15 March 2015 has won FIH Women's Hockey World League Round Two competition title. In the final match played at Major Dhyan Chand stadium in New Delhi, Indian women team defeated Poland team by score of 3-1 goals. It should be noted that Women's Hockey World League Round Two, Indian team was victorious with clean sweep i.e. winning all the six matches played over in this tournament.
- **Kidambi Srikanth wins Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold 2015:** India's ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth on 15 March 2015 won badminton's prestigious \$120,000 Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold title in Men's singles category. In the final match he defeated Denmark's defending champion Viktor Axelsen by score of 21-15, 12-21 and 21-14. With this victory, Kidambi Srikanth became first Indian to win this prestigious title in Men's singles category.
- **Union Government appoints MC Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador for the North East:** Union Government has selected legendary boxer and five-time world boxing champion MC Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador for the North East Region.
 - ▶ Autobiography: **Unbreakable**
- **Karnataka Retains Ranji Trophy:** Defending champion Karnataka on 12 March 2015 won Ranji Trophy for season 2014-2015. Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu by an innings and 217 runs in the final day of match played at the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. With this

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victory, Karnataka clinched eight Ranji title. Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship in India.

- **Champions of Hero Hockey India League:** Ranchi Rays wins Champions of Hero Hockey India League. 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.
- **Stephen Constantine** has been appointed as the new head coach of Indian National Football Team.
- India Badminton star who was elevated to Rank No. 1 in World Badminton Ranking is **Saina Nehwal**.
- **K. Srikanth** of India became the first indian to win \$ 1,20,000 Swiss Open Grand Prix Badminton Championship.
- **Sania No.1:** Sania Mirsa of India Ranked No. 1 in World Tennis Doubles.
 - ▶ She is the First Indian to come to No. 1 position in World Tennis.
- **Services** became overall champion in the National Game 2015 with 159 medals including 91 gold. Kerala received 2nd position with 162 medals out of which 54 are gold.
- **Suresh Kalmadi** has been made the Life President of Asian Athletic Association for his work in developing athletics.
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni becomes first Indian Captain to register 100 ODI wins:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni has become first Indian Cricket team Captain to register the 100 One Day International (ODI) match wins. He was able to achieve this feat after Indian team defeated Bangladesh in the 2015 ICC World Cup quarter-final match.
- **India to host ICC World Twenty20 in 2016:** India is going to host International Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 in 2016.
- **Justice Mukkul Mudgal Committee:** The Committee, which was constituted to conduct an independent inquiry over allegations of corruption, betting and spot-fixing in IPL matches
- **BCCI re-appoints Rajeev Shukla as IPL Governing Council chairman:** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has re-appointed Rajeev Shukla as chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council. Previously, he was IPL chairman till 2013 but had resigned from the post after the IPL 'spot-fixing' scandal. Former Indian Cricket team Captain Sourav Ganguly was also selected in the IPL Governing Council.
- **35th National Games mascot Ammu the Great Hornbill in Limca Book of Records:** 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.
- **Indian men & women teams win 5th Kabaddi World Cup:** Indian women and men Kabaddi teams have won the 5th Kabaddi World Cup in their respective matches in the final held at Badal village in Sri Mukatsar district of Punjab.
- **Champakulam won 62nd Nehru Trophy:** Champakulam breasted the tape at the 62nd Nehru trophy Boat Race at Punnamada Lake on 9th august 2014 narrowly beating defending champion Sree Ganesan in a pulsating contest. The Nehru Trophy Boat Race, the most colorful water sport in Kerala, is conducted at PUNNAMADA LAKE in Alappuzha on the second Saturday of August every year and this prestigious cultural event of Kerala has been attracting people from all over the world. Kerala was the 18th consecutive overall chmapionship in the National School Meet held at Ranchi in 2015.
- **Thumba Stadium** is the new Kerala Cricket Association Stadium build in Trivandrum.

New Appointments in India 2015

- National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) : **Narendra Modi**, Chairman
- Lok Sabha, Speaker : **Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan**
Lok Sabha, Secretary-General : **T. K. Viswanathan**
- Rajya Sabha, Chairman : **Mohammad Hamid Ansari**
- Rajya Sabha, Deputy Chairman : **P. J. Kurien**
- Rajya Sabha, Leader of House : **Arun Jaitley**
- Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition : **Ghulam Nabi Azad**
- Rajya Sabha, Secretary-General :
■ **Shumsher K. Sheriff**
- National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) : **Arvind Panagariya**, Vice-Chairman
- Chief Election Commissioner : **Syed Nasim Zaidi**
- Comptroller and Auditor-General of India : **Shashi Kant Sharma**
- National Human Right Commission (NHRC) : **Justice K. G. Balakrishnan**, Chairperson
- Cabinet Secretary : **Ajit Kumar Seth**
- Principal Secretary to Prime Minister : **Nripendra Misra**
- National Commission for Backward Classes : **Justice V. Eshwaraiah**, Chairman
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) : **Ms. Shanta Sinha**, Chairperson
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes : **Dr. P. L. Punia**, Chairman
- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) : **Dr. Rameshwar Oraon**, Chairman
- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) : **Deepak Gupta**, Chairman
- National Commission on Farmers (NCF) : **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**, Chairman
- National Security Adviser and Special Adviser to PM (Internal Security) : **Ajit Kumar Doval**
- National Investigation Agency (NIA) : **Sharad Kumar**, Director-General
- Railway Board : **A. K. Mital**, Chairman
- Intelligence Bureau (IB) : **Dineshwar Sharma**
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) : **Anil Kumar Sinha**, Director
- Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) : **Rajinder Khanna**, Director
- National Security Guard (NSG) : **Jayanto Narayan Choudhury**, Director-General
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) : **Prakash Mishra**, Director-General
- Border Security Force (BSF) : **Devendra Kumar Pathak**, Director-General
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) : **Arvind Ranjan**, Director-General
- Railway Protection Force. (RPF) : **P. K. Mehta**, Director-General
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) : **Parkash Mishra**, Director-General
- Sashastra Seema Bal : **B. D. Sharma**, Director-General
- Indian Coast Guard : Vice-Admiral **Anurag G. Thapliyal**, Director-General
- Defence Intelligence Agency : **Lt. Gen. Avtar Singh**, Director-General
- University Grants Commission (UGC) : **Prof. Ved Prakash**, Chairman
- Defence Research and Development Organisation. (DRDO) : **Dr. Avinash Chander**, Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and Secretary
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government : **Dr. R. Chidambaram**
- Space Commission and ISRO : **A. S. Kiran Kumar**, Chairman
- Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy : **Ratan Kumar Sinha**, Chairman
- National Commission for Minorities : **Naseem Ahmad**, Chairperson
- Staff Selection Commission (SSC) : **Amitava Bhattacharya**, Chairman
- Indian Council of Medical Research : **Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch**, Director-General
- India and Census Commissioner : **C. Chandramouli**, Registrar-General
- Law Commission : **Justice D. K. Jain**, Chairman

Current Affairs

- Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) : **Dr. B. N. Suresh**, President
- National Forest Commission : **Justice (Retd.) B. N. Kirpal**, Chairman
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) : **T. Nanda Kumar**, Chairperson
- Border Roads Organisation : **Lt. General AT Parnaik**, Director-General
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) : **Dr. Raghuram Rajan**, Governor
- Press Council of India : **Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad**, Chairman
- Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) : **Ravindra Pisharody**, Chairman
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) : **R. K. Tewari**, Chairman
- Central Board of Excise and Customs : **Mrs. J.M. Shanti Sundharam**, Chairman
- Competition Commission of India : **Ashok Chawla**
- Central Administrative Tribunal : **Justice Syed Rafat Alam**, Chairman
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) : **R.S.T. Sai**, CMD
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) : **R. S. Sharma**, CMD
- GAIL : **B. C. Tripathi**, CMD
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) : **S. Behuria**, Chairman
- Oil India Ltd : **Sunil Kumar Srivastava**, CMD
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) : **Dr. Satbir Bedi**, Chairperson
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) : **U. K. Sinha**, Chairman
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) : **Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**, Chairman
- State Bank of India (SBI) : **Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya**, Chairman
- Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) : **M. S. Raghavan**, Chairman
- Company Law Board : **Justice Dilip Raosaheb Deshmukh**, Chairman
- India's Permanent Representative to UN : **Asoke Kumar Mukerji**
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) : **S. K. Roy**, Chairman
- Central Water Commission : **Ashwin Pandya**, Chairman
- National Commission for Women : **Ms. Lalitha Kumarmangalam**, Chairperson
- 14th Finance Commission : **Dr. Y. V. Reddy**
- National Statistical Commission : **Dr. Pronob Sen**, Chairman
- Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) : **Pahlaj Nihalani**, Chairperson
- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) : **Dr. Rakesh Tewari**, Director-General
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) : **Dr. Jyotsna Suri**, President
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) : **Dr. Rahul Khullar**, Chairman
- Enforcement Directorate : **Dr. Rajan Katoch**, Director
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) : **R. V. Verma**, Chairman
- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre : **Dr. Sekhar Basu**, Director
- Indian Olympic Association : **N. Ramachandran**, President
- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) : **Prof. B.K.Tripathi**, Acting Director
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) : **Ajay S. Shriram**, President
- Prasar Bharti Board : **Dr. A. Surya Prakash**, Chairman
- Investment Commission : **Ratan Tata**, Chairman
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) : **Jagmohan Dalmiya**, President
- NASSCOM : **R. Chandrasekaran**, Chairman
- National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) : **Ramesh Sippy**, Chairman
- United News of India : **Ravindra Kumar**, Chairman
- Press Trust of India (PTI) : **Mahendra Mohan Gupta**, Chairman
- Indian Newspaper Society (INS) : **Kiran B. Vadodaria**, President
- The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) : **Rana Kapoor**, President