

CLATGyan

CLATGYAN'S GK COMPENDIUM FOR SEPTEMBER, 2014

September 1

- World Junior Chess Championships to be held in Pune in October, Maharashtra Government grants rupees 50 lakhs to this cause, Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan to be the Patron for this FIDE event.
- China interrogates Microsoft officials over monopoly and anti-trust allegations, Microsoft is just one among many other global corporate to come under China's scanner.
- Imran Khan, a cricketer-turned Pakistani politician was, along with another politician Tahir-ul-Qadri booked under Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Law for allegedly taking part in activities against the State.
- Al-Thinni re-instated as the Prime Minister by the Libyan Parliament. Earlier, he resigned due to disagreement with the then ruling alliance which was dominated by Islamist extremists.
- Popular film director Bapu a.k.a. Sattiraju Lakshminarayana passes away at the age of 80 years. Also a renowned cartoonist-painter, directed 51 films including 12 in Hindi.
- Nalanda University, ancient India's temple of learning, reopened on Monday 1st September 2014. It will begin functioning on its new campus in Rajgir, Bihar.
- Sulabh International kicked up 'toilet for every house' drive, a nation-wide campaign taking cue from PM Narendra Modi's call for Swach Bharat. The campaign started from Badaun, UP by the NGO's founder Bindeshwar Pathak.

Sept. 2

- Internet Governance Forum – IGF convened under the aegis of UN begins its consultations at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Japan to invest Rs. 2.1 trillion (Rs. 2.1 lakh crore) in India over 5 years. Announced by the Japanese PM Shinjo Abe at the Indo Japanese talks, wherein Indian PM Narendra Modi took part.
- 'Rice Bucket' challenge pioneer Ms Manjulatha Kalnidhi, (38) honoured with Karamveer Chakra Award and the Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by iCONGO, an international confederation of NGOs and the UN. Award will be presented at New Delhi in March 2015.
- United Bank of India-UBI declares Vijay Mallya, an industrialist, entrepreneur, as 'wilful defaulter'.

Sept. 3

- PM concludes his 5-day trip to Japan, says red carpet will replace 'red tape' a clear signal that international investors are more welcome.
- 17-day annual Manimahesh pilgrimage comes to an end. Over six lakh devotees took part at Manimahesh lake located at an altitude of 13,500 ft. In Himachal Pradesh.
- A batch of 27 students from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad, designed a 'real life' project to help the visually challenged perform routine banking transactions independently.
- Ice Bucket Challenge (to diagnose amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – ALS).
- INS Sumitra a new generation naval offshore patrol vessel (NOPV) commissioned by the Navy Chief Admiral Robin K Dhowan at Chennai. This largest OPV will be the fourth in its class, built on an in house design of the Goa Shipyard.
- Supreme Court declines to give relief to Vijay Mallya and Kingfisher Airlines in the matter of declaration of 'wilful defaulter case' by the United Bank of India.
- The oldest surviving Test cricketer Normon Gordon passes away at the age of 103. He was fast bowler of South Africa.

Sept. 4

- Andhra Pradesh to get its new Capital near Vijayawada, the city on the bank of Krishna river. Incidentally, it has a history of more than 2000 years that Andhras ruled at Amaravati, near Vijayawada.
- Japanese new cabinet gets five women, a first of its kind in its political history. PM Shinzo Abe inducts them, so as the fairer sex represents more than quarter of the 18 member cabinet.
- First Muslim woman to be appointed as Education Minister of France – Ms Najat Vallud Belkacem (36) born in Morocco.
- PM Modi inaugurates Indian IT giant TCS' training programme in Tokyo. The first batch of 48 trainees will proceed to India for 6-8 week training course.

Sept. 5

- \$5.6 million worth bronze idol of Lord Nataraja of Sripuranathan temple and another worth \$300,000 returned to India by the visiting Australian PM.
- Danish toymaker 'Lego' becomes the biggest in the world overtaking Mattel of US. Mattel is famous for its 'barbie doll' toys.

Sept. 6

- India, Australia sign civil nuclear deal. In a major step towards realising its nuclear energy ambitions, India reaches pact with Australia, after series of negotiations since 2012. This will enable India to get uranium, production of radio isotopes, nuclear safety and other areas of coopn.
- Former chief justice of India – Palanisamy Sathasivam (65) sworn in as Governor of Kerala. He is the first CJI to become Governor of an Indian State.

- Tens of thousand to continue to suffer unprecedented floods in J&K.
- Al-Qaeda, terrorist group, condemned by the Darul Uloom Deoband, which has substantial influence in South Asia. Deoband was among the first seminaries to have issued 'Fatwa' against terrorism.
- The Competition Commission of India – CCI starts probe into the public sector general insurance companies affairs. These include – the New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance, United Insurance and National Insurance Corporations. The complaint is that the four companies dealing in health insurance business were not allowing third party administrators or TPAs to work independently. The probe is being conducted by the CCI under section 3 of the Competition Act.
- Sania Mirza clinched her third mixed doubles Grand Slam crown as she and her partner Bruno Soares (Brazil) won the final US Open at New York. Sania's previous titles came with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi with the duo winning in 2009 and 2012 Australian and French Open respectively.

Sept. 7

- PM Modi decides to scrap obsolete laws. Some unwanted laws include: The Police Act of 1861 (mandates that policemen should take off their hat or helmet in deference to royalty), The Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 (requires a person to report to the collector if he or she finds any 'treasure' whose value exceeds Rs. 10), The Currency Ordinance, 1940 (gave birth to one rupee notes, which were printed to meet wartime expenditure. The notes have gone out of use, but the ordinance is still in force), The Bombay Police Act of 1951 (disallows more than 20 couples at a time on any discotheque dance floor in the city), Section 56 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989 (gives the Railways the power to refuse a ticket to a person suffering from leprosy).
- There are 192 laws on the statute for over 100 years. No. of central statutes estimated at 3,000. Oldest law on the statute book : 178-year old Bengal Indigo Contract Act and Bengal districts Act (1836). No. of State level laws anywhere between 25,000 to 30,000.

Sept. 8

- Rajasthan Atomic Power Station – RAPS creates record among Indian nuclear power reactors by continuous run of 765 days. This record is second to Canada's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station which continuously ran for 894 days.
- Hutti Gold Mines Ltd., the country's only producer of primary gold, sold 1 crore 17 lakh 15 thousand tonnes of gold ore tailing – GOT to a pvt. firm. GOT is the waste material after separating gold from the gangue of ore.
- No legal bar on States designating official language – says SC on a petition by the UP Hindi Sahitya Sammelan against the 1989 amendment to the UP Official Languages Act, 1951.
- Dronavalli Harika wins bronze at the 2013-14 FIDE women's Grand Prix Chess tournament held at Sharjah.

Sept. 9

- J&K flood relief continues. In a first move, naval commandoes join 20,000 odd armed forces personnel in the rescue operations.
- FDI in multi-brand retailing will not be allowed; New IPR (intellectual property rights) policy soon. Says Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitaraman.

- India signs free trade agreement FTA with ASEAN. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar Thailand and the Philippines are the ASEAN nations.
- R. Kamal Bawa, president of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Professor of University of Massachusetts, Boston, US, one of the three winners of MIDORI prize for promotion of global biodiversity. Award carries citation, and cash of \$100,000.
- World No.1, Serena Williams won 18th grand slam title at the US Open beating Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

Sept. 10

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visits Chinese President Xi Jinping at Beijing prior to Xi's visit to India.
- ISRO scientist TN Suresh becomes the first Indian to take the flight to stratosphere, the second layer of the Earth's atmosphere. He reached the altitude of 17,100 meters by MiG-29 aircraft. He claimed to have spent Rs. 15 lakh rupees for this tour.
- IISc, Bangalore develops molecular 'sniffer dog' to detect explosives. A highly sensitive fluorescent polymer that scouts out a class of commonly used explosives TNT and other nitroaromatic compounds.
- Bihar is the fastest growing State, while Tamil Nadu is the worst performer among the list of non-special category States whose GSDP for the year 2012-13 shows 10.73 and 3.39 percentage respectively.
- RBI sets upper age limit for MDs/CEO of private banks at 70 (from the current limit of 65 years).
- PMO clears a contingent of 679 for Incheon Asiad Games beginning 19th September. This includes 516 athletes and 163 officials. India is participating in 28 disciplines including football, handball, volleyball and sepaktakraw.

Sept. 11

- Union Cabinet clears disinvestment in Coal India, ONGC and NHPC which may fetch Rs. 43,000 crores.
- Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture to be named Vistara. Vistara will begin operations on domestic sector.

Sept. 12

- Agni-1, surface-to-surface nuclear weapons capable ballistic missile was test fired for its 700 km strike range from Wheeler Island, Odisha.
- President Obama orders air strikes on IS militants operating in Syria and Iraq. Ten-nation Arab countries support US in this mission.

Sept. 13

- Maharashtra and Haryana, both congress ruled States for the last 15 and 10 years respectively, go to polls on October 15. Counting of votes on 19 October.

- For the first time, VVPAT (voter verified paper audit trail) introduced in 13 and 6 Assembly Segments of Maharashtra and Haryana respectively.
- India's Arctic observatory – IndARC, country's first underwater moored observatory deployed in the Kongsfjorden Fjord, half-way between Norway and the North Pole. The observatory is anchored at a depth of 192 meters in the Arctic ocean.
- Japan became world's first to conduct surgery to implant "iPS" stem cells in a human body in a major boost to regenerative medicine.

Sept. 14

- India will soon get Super Cyber Intelligence body, announces IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. Rs. 800 crores will be spent on this project, later to be known as National Cyber Security and Coordination Centre – NCSC. Ministry of Home, Defence and IT to be part of this project.
- Ministry of HRD advises for common admission norms for Central Universities in the country. A study group set up to go into this proposal will submit its report within a month.

Sept. 15

- Andhra Pradesh becomes first to conduct 'paperless' cabinet meeting. Ministers discussed the agenda with the help of Ipods, Laptops.
- ISRO advances launch of GSAT-16 by six months. The 3100 kg spacecraft meant to support public and private television and radio services, large-scale internet and telephone operations was originally planned to be flown up around June 2015 on a European Ariane-5 launcher.
- *Strictly Personal-Manmohan and Gursharan* authorised by former PM Manmohan Singh's daughter Daman Singh launched. Ex PM purported to claim himself 'clean' during his tenure.

16th September

- A series of misleading author listings for B.R. Ambedkar's seminal text *The Annihilation of Caste* on web portals has generated a lot of flak against writer and columnist Arundhati Roy and publisher S. Anand. The webpage of VersoBooks.com, a U.K.-based publisher of the book advertised it as *Annihilation of Caste: The Annotated Critical Edition* by B.R. Ambedkar and Arundhati Roy. The listing on Amazon.co.uk made no mention of the annotated version and simply announced the title as: *The Annihilation of Caste* (Hardcover – October 7, 2014) by Arundhati Roy (author), B.R. Ambedkar (author).
- Ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India, India and Vietnam have called for freedom of navigation in the disputed South China Sea. The two sides called for collective commitment of the parties concerned to abide by and implement the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and to work towards the adoption of a Code of Conduct on the basis of consensus.
- Congress MP T. Subbarami Reddy, a former Union Minister, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha. As an important Parliamentary Committee which was first constituted in the 1960s, it

reviews all rules, regulations, by-laws, schemes and other statutory instruments issued by various Ministries.

- Chinese President Xi Jinping will arrive in Sri Lanka on a significant visit to the island nation, during which Beijing and Colombo are expected to firm up a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The Union Cabinet at its meeting gave its nod for launching the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) with “core and flexible components.” It is aimed at addressing the gaps in health services by supporting AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) care and education, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.
- Bangladesh approved a law setting a two-year jail term for anyone involved in marrying a girl aged under 18, in a bid to cut the country’s notoriously high child marriage rate.
- Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott shifted his office to a tent in an isolated Aboriginal community, keeping a promise made when he came to power. Mr. Abbott vowed to spend a week each year in a remote indigenous location when he was sworn in 12 months ago, seeking to be the “Prime Minister for Aboriginal affairs”.
- Hoping to lure feature phone users in India, who form 70 per cent of the mobile market in the country, to upgrade to smartphones, Google, launched the first Android One devices in India with prices starting from Rs.6,399. The first three phones have been launched by domestic handset makers Karbonn, Micromax and Spice. Interestingly, India is the first country where the technology giant has rolled out these devices.
- The Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board, named T. Suvarna Raju as the next Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. He replaces R.K. Tyagi.
- Microsoft will acquire the maker of the popular game Minecraft for \$2.5 billion. The technology company said it would buy Stockholm-based game maker Mojang. It is the most popular online game on Xbox, and the top paid app for Apple’s iOS and Google’s Android operating system in the U.S.
- Dattatreya Dhankawde of the Nationalist Congress Party was elected Pune Mayor defeating Yogesh Tilekar of the Bharatiya Janata Party by 42 votes.

17th September

- The Ukrainian and European Parliaments simultaneously ratified a landmark pact at the heart of the ex-Soviet country’s bloodiest crisis since independence. The vote on an accord that decisively steers Ukraine towards the West came just moments after Parliament agreed to offer limited self-rule to the pro-Russian east to try to end a bloody five-month separatists uprising.
- The International Economic Association (IEA) has appointed Kaushik Basu, who is the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of World Bank, as President-elect of the association.
- Pardeep won the standard pistol junior men’s bronze medal in the 51st World shooting championship in Granada, Spain.
- Reigning National champion K. Srinivas and Rashmi Kumari won the men’s and women’s singles titles respectively in the fourth World Cup carrom championship in Maldives.

18th September

- Surinder Koli, death-row convict in the Nithari killings was shifted to Dasna jail in Ghaziabad for security reasons.
- The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has drawn up a Rs. 120-crore relief and rehabilitation package for Jammu and Kashmir to help the State deal with the situation arising out of the floods. The money will be provided through various programmes, including “Seekho aur Kamao,” and “Jan Vikas Yojana,” scholarships, concessional finance for setting up micro-enterprises, construction of health centres and educational institutions under the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan, skill upgrade and bridge courses for madrasa students.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping will announce the opening of a new and more convenient route for pilgrims to Mansarovar and Mount Kailash via Sikkim, rather than Uttarakhand, in Delhi. The new route will now traverse through the city of Shigatse to the pilgrimage spot situated at a height of 19,500 feet, part of the Tibetan Autonomous Region.
- The Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court has commuted the death sentence of top Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee to “imprisonment till death” for crimes against humanity during the country’s Liberation War in 1971.

19th September

- Coup leader Voreqe Bainimarama was on the verge of sweeping a historic vote to become Fiji’s first elected leader in eight years, as international observers gave the ballot a stamp of approval.
- Kritika Biswas (21), the daughter of an Indian diplomat formerly in the country’s New York consulate, won a significant legal victory from the City, which has agreed to a \$225,000 settlement along with an acknowledgment that she was an Honours Student on February 8, 2011, when she was wrongfully arrested and held in jail for a day.
- Taking cognisance of media reports that life-saving medicines for people living with HIV have gone out of stock in metros such as Delhi and Mumbai and various States, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare seeking a report within two weeks.
- The organisers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s much-touted address to the diaspora community in New York City on September 28 announced that the 20,000-capacity Madison Square Garden (MSG) stadium has been completely sold out and is currently oversubscribed.
- Having contributed to the eradication of polio in India, the Gates Foundation is now planning to work with the new Indian government to wipe out kala azar. The second largest parasitic killer in the world after malaria, kala azar is concentrated in 52 districts in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

20th September

- The White House confirmed that U.S. President Barack Obama intends to nominate Richard Rahul Verma to the post of Ambassador to India. If confirmed, Mr. Verma will be the second Indian-American in a top State Department role directly responsible for Washington’s diplomatic engagement with India, alongside Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs.
- The second Board of Inquiry (BOI) constituted by the Defence Ministry to probe the feasibility of reusing INS Sindhurakshak has recommended decommissioning of the

kilo-class submarine. In its report, the BOI said “the submarine is not seaworthy and hence not fit to sail again.” In August 2013, a massive fire broke out on Sindhurakshak followed by a series of explosions, killing all 18 Navy personnel, including three officers, aboard. The 3,000-tonne submarine sank in the South Breakwater in Mumbai’s naval dockyard within hours of the incident.

- Scotland’s pro-independence leader Alex Salmond resigned as first minister and leader of his political party, hours after Scots voted to remain in the United Kingdom. The referendum’s result prevented a rupture of a 307-year union with England, bringing a huge sigh of relief to Britain’s economic and political establishment.
- Nearly eight years after its global launch, beverage giant Coca-Cola has finally brought the low-calorie cola ‘Coca Cola Zero’ to India.
- Larry Ellison, CEO of tech giant Oracle, has stepped down from his post, handing over the reins of the firm he co-founded in 1977 to executives Safra Catz and Mark Hurd. Mr. Ellison will serve as Executive Chairman of Oracle’s board as well as Chief Technology Officer. Jeff Henley, who has served as Oracle’s Chairman for the last 10 years, was appointed Vice-Chairman of the board.
- Robert Downey Jr. and Judi Dench Mark will be honoured at 2014 BAFTA Los Angeles Jaguar Britannia Awards, along with Mark Ruffalo, Emma Watson and Mike Leigh.

21st September

- A 28-year-old Bangalore-based architect has been named “young leader of tomorrow” by Time magazine for his pioneering work in designing affordable flood-proof houses for slum dwellers. Alok Shetty is among “leaders of tomorrow” who are “working hard to change their worlds today,” Time said as it named six inspirational young persons in its first class of “next generation leaders.” Mr. Shetty, working with the Bangalore-based nonprofit Parinaam Foundation, is designing homes for hundreds of slum dwellers whose makeshift houses flood during the heavy rains and become breeding grounds for diseases like malaria.
- Narula brothers, Achin and Sarthak, became the first ever contestants to win the highest prize of Rs. 7 crore in reality game show ‘Kaun Banega Crorepati’, hosted by Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan.
- Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and Zimbabwean partner Cara Black bagged the women’s doubles title at the WTA Toray Pacific Open with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Spain’s Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro.

22nd September

- The Union Sports Ministry has informed boxer Manoj Kumar that he will receive this year’s Arjuna award. The Arjuna award selection committee did not consider Manoj for the award after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) erroneously informed the panel that the boxer had failed a dope test. The panel stuck to its choices even after it became clear that Manoj had never tested positive. An aggrieved Manoj moved the Delhi High Court, where the government admitted that the pugilist also deserved to get the honour. After reconsidering the case, the Ministry decided in giving the award to Manoj.
- Former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani was declared Afghanistan’s next President, hours after signing a power-sharing deal with his rival Abdullah Abdullah that ended a prolonged standoff over the disputed result. Allegations of massive fraud in the June 14 vote sparked political crisis as both candidates claimed victory, paralysing the

country at a key moment with U.S.-led troops winding down their 13-year war against the Taliban. Mr. Abdullah will now nominate his choice for the new post of “Chief Executive Officer” (CEO), which will be similar to Prime Minister — setting up a tricky balance of power as Afghanistan enters a new era.

- Lewis Hamilton regained the Formula One drivers’ world championship lead when he claimed victory in the Singapore Grand Prix after his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg was forced to retire with electronic problems.
- In changes proposed to the MGNREGA, Union Minister of Rural Development Nitin Gadkari has proposed that the permissible labour to material ratio of expenses be changed from the current 60:40 to 51:49. Even as the current upper limit in expenditure is not being met, the government wants to increase this from 40 to 49 per cent. Mr. Gadkari has also proposed to restrict MGNREGA to the poorer parts of the country. While the Minister made the proposal – which will require amending the Act – last week, the Ministry, since July, has been focusing on implementing the scheme in 2,500 backward blocks under its Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise.
- A shocked community of Indian doctors here and elsewhere has sought Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan’s intervention to stop the appointment of the “disgraced” former Medical Council of India (MCI) chief Ketan Desai as president of the World Medical Association for 2016. Former MCI chief is awaiting trial in corruption cases.

23rd September

- The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) submitted a confusing affidavit to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), saying State governments in the Western Ghats region may, after undertaking demarcation of Eco-sensitive Areas (ESA) by physical verification, propose the exclusion/inclusion of certain areas in the draft notification dated March 10, 2014. This draft notification issued by MoEF was based on the ESA demarcated by the High level working group (HLWG) headed by K. Kasturirangan.
- The test-firing of the propulsion system on India’s spacecraft to Mars for four seconds (September 22, 2014) turned out to be an unalloyed success. What buoyed up the Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) engineers was that the propulsion system, called 440 Newton engine or the Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM), ignited after it had remained idle for the last 300 days during the voyage of India’s orbiter to Mars. The LAM was last fired on December 1, 2013 when the spacecraft was slung-shot from its earth-orbit into sun-centric orbit and its odyssey through space to Mars began.
- Pakistan named a new head of its main intelligence agency, considered the second most powerful official in the military after the Army Chief. The naming of Rizwan Akhtar, considered a close confidante of Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, as Director-General of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency comes as a protest movement to topple the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif enters its second month.
- The Indian trio of Rahi Sarnobat, Anisa Sayyed and Heena Sidhu won the women’s 25m pistol team bronze in the 17th Asian Games at the Ongnyeon Shooting Range.
- Roger Federer has been confirmed as Rafael Nadal’s replacement for the Indian Aces in the inaugural International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) that begins on November 28. Federer joins Pete Sampras, Gael Monfils, Ana Ivanovic, Sania Mirza, Rohan Bopanna and Fabrice Santoro in the franchise owned by Micromax. Indian Aces has identified South Africa Davis Cup captain John-Laffnie de Jager as its coach-manager.

24th September

- The largest gathering of world leaders on climate change opened at the United Nations amid calls for action to put the planet on course toward reversing global warming. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is hosting the summit of 120 leaders, the first high-level gathering since the Copenhagen conference on climate change ended in disarray in 2009. Mr. Ban kicked off the summit alongside former U.S. Vice-President and climate crusader Al Gore, Hollywood celebrity Leonardo DiCaprio, Chinese actress Li Bingbing and Rajendra Pachauri, head of the U.N. climate panel, which won the Nobel peace prize in 2007. The summit talks are separate from the negotiations held under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will culminate with the Paris conference in December 2015. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the first international agreement to reduce emissions, has commitment periods, the last of which expired in 2012. But it has since been renewed. However the protocol was never ratified by the United States.
- ICICI Bank launched a new product to serve the Indian diaspora and cater to their non-financial needs. The top private lender said 'NRI Advantage' entitles customers to avail of exclusive discounts/special offers. It is targeted at NRI Premia, NRI Pro and NRI savings account holders. The product delivers a host of discounts for healthcare requirements, gifting family as well as friends, assistance for service needs and India-based shopping wants of NRIs, among others.
- Abhinav Bindra wins bronze at the 17th Asian Games at Incheon, South Korea.
- Noting that the State should be concerned about its missing citizens, the Supreme Court asked the Centre to submit the current status of the 54 Indians prisoners of war (PoW) believed to be languishing in Pakistan jails as per a list prepared by the Indian government way back in 1985. A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha was hearing a batch of petitions raising the lack of information about prisoners of war believed to be held captive in the various jails of the neighbouring country. The petitions include one by the father of Captain Saurabh Kalia, a Kargil hero, who was captured along with five other soldiers of his patrolling team in May 1999 and another by one Sarwa Mitter about the beheading and mutilation of bodies of two Indian soldiers in 2013.
- Liar's Dice , directed by Geetu Mohandas, was the unanimous choice of the 12-member selection committee, headed by Malayalam filmmaker T. Hariharan, as India's entry for the Oscars. No Indian film has won the Academy Award so far and only three films — Lagaan, Salaam Bombay and Mother India — have made it to the top five finalists in past years.

25th September

- The Supreme Court asked the Union government to give it a "commitment" that the Ganga would be cleaned in a phased manner. The court said it would keep a close watch on the executive's efforts to rejuvenate the 2,500-km river. Also, the governments in the five river-basin States — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal — should rise above political differences and chip in to save the river. The government submitted a 10-year, three-stage plan to clean the river to a Bench comprising Justices T.S. Thakur and R. Banumathi.
- The Enforcement Directorate recorded the statement of the chairman-cum-managing director of Aeromatrix, suspected to be a front company with which VVIP chopper deal case accused Gautam Khaitan was earlier associated.

- Nicola Sturgeon announced her bid to replace pro-independence leader Alex Salmond as head of the Scottish National Party (SNP) and the regional government.
- Edward Snowden was among the winners of a Swedish human rights award, sometimes referred to as the “alternative Nobel,” for his disclosures of top secret surveillance programs. The former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor split the honorary portion of the 2014 Right Livelihood Award with Alan Rusbridger, editor of British newspaper The Guardian, which has published a series of articles on government surveillance based on documents provided by Mr. Snowden. The 1.5 million kronor (\$210,000) cash award was shared by Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir, Basil Fernando of the Asian Human Rights Commission and U.S. environmentalist Bill McKibben.
- Boxing India (BI) has applied for membership of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and recognition from the Sports Ministry. Supervised by two AIBA officials the new BI body was elected on Sept. 11. After granting provisional membership, AIBA asked the newly-elected BI to become a member of the national Olympic committee, which is the IOA.

26th September

- Bamiyan, the Afghan town which shot into prominence when the Taliban blew up two ancient statues of the Buddha in 2001, has been selected to be the SAARC cultural capital for a year beginning April 2015. Dhaka will be the SAARC cultural capital in 2016-17. Finalising the cultural capitals for the next two years was part of the Delhi Resolution which was adopted at the conference while preparing a road map on cultural ties till 2017. The year 2016-17 will also be declared the SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage.
- The flush of the successful Indian Mars manoeuvre will take a while to wear off. Team ISRO has, meanwhile, got down to brass tacks and expects to get one of its biggest projects off the mark this calendar year — GSLV-Mark III. Success of this heavy-lift, four-tonne satellite launcher is imperative to make India capable of launching its future communication satellites from its soil.
- Cricket legend Kapil Dev has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement award at a ceremony in the House of Lords in London. The award, constituted by the Indo-European Business Forum, was presented to Dev for his contribution to the sport and for his work to uplift poor.
- The draft National Council for Teacher Education (Recognition Norms & Procedure) Regulations, 2014, came in for stiff resistance from some members of the Council at its meeting. What has particularly upset a section of educationists is the bid to change the curriculum of the Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.El.Ed).
- Eric Holder, the first ever African-American Attorney General of the U.S., was set to resign from his role after nearly six tumultuous years as the Obama administration’s top legal official, a tenure that won him both rare approbation from liberal quarters and severe criticism from opponents across the aisle.
- The government said it had begun the process of reviving five ailing PSUs and is working on one-time settlement, involving voluntary retirement scheme entailing a cost of Rs.1,000 crore for employees of six state-run units not capable of revival. The state-run units, which have been identified by the government for revival, include

HMT Machine Tools; Heavy Engineering Corporation; NEPA; Nagaland Paper & Pulp Co; and Triveni Structural.

- For the first time, the 100 richest tycoons in India are all billionaires with Mukesh Ambani topping the league for the eighth consecutive year, according to Forbes . With a net worth of \$23.6 billion, up \$2.6 billion from last year, RIL Chief Mukesh Ambani topped the list for the eighth consecutive year.
- Sawarn Singh, competing in his maiden Asian Games, gave it his all to win a bronze in the single sculls event at the Chengju Tangeum Lake, Incheon, South Korea.
- The Indian shooting team comprising Shagun Chowdhary, Shreyasi Singh and Varsha Varman bagged a bronze in women's double trap, but Gurpreet Singh narrowly missed out on a medal in his event at the 17th Asian Games.

27th September

- Spacecraft specialists from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are getting ready to uplink the commands and switch on two more scientific payloads on India's spacecraft to Mars i.e. the Mars Orbiter Mission. The two scientific instruments that will become operational are the Methane Sensor for Mars and the Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer. The former will look for signs of methane in the Martian atmosphere, which is an indicator of possible microbial life there, and the latter will map Mars' surface composition and its mineralogy.
- The Indian men ended their campaign in the pistol events with a silver in the 25m centre fire event while the women exited from the 50m rifle 3-position without success at the Asian Games. The men pistol shooters Vijay Kumar, Pemba Tamang and Gurpreet Singh clinched the second place with a total score of 1740.
- Pakistan retained the women's cricket gold at the Asian Games, overcoming a spirited Bangladesh by four runs in a rain-affected final.

28th September

- The Indian squash players wrapped up a historic performance in the Asian Games, clinching an unprecedented men's team gold after the women's side settled for its first ever silver. With a silver and a bronze through Saurav Ghosal and Dipika Pallikal respectively in the individual events, the squash players signed off with their best ever medal haul in the Games.
- Women grapplers Vinesh Phogat and Geetika Jakhar bagged a bronze medal each in the 48kg and 63kg freestyle events respectively, as India made an impressive start in its wrestling campaign at the Asian Games.

29th September

- London Olympic bronze medallist Yogeshwar Dutt ended a 28-year gold drought for India in wrestling as he accounted for the country's fourth yellow metal in the 17th Asian Games after beating Zelimkhan Yusupov of Tajikistan in men's 65kg freestyle.
- Indian race walking's wonder girl Khushbir Kaur won a sensational silver in the 20km at the 17th Asian Games. It was the country's first-ever women's silver in the event at the Asiad.
- President's rule was imposed on poll-bound Maharashtra, a day after the Union Cabinet recommended its imposition.

- The retired diplomat and former Foreign Secretary, Syed Muazzem Ali, has been appointed the new Bangladesh High Commissioner to India. Mr. Ali will replace Tariq A. Karim, who has been in office for the past five years.

30th September

- Britain's new press regulator, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO), is going to be asked to consider whether a tabloid sting operation that prompted a junior Minister to resign broke the newspaper code of conduct, in its first real test following the phone-hacking scandal.
- Nearly a week after it was revealed for the world, BlackBerry Passport has made its way to the Indian shores. The Passport, whose name is in line with its passport-like dimensions, will be available from October 10 onwards, and is priced at Rs.49,990. At this price, the 4.5-inch square screen device is the most expensive one in the Canadian firm's portfolio. This is also the first phone in its line-up to run on the latest BlackBerry 10.3 OS, which brings features such as BlackBerry Assistant and access to Amazon Appstore, giving users access to over two lakh top Android apps.
- Bajrang accounted for a silver and Narsingh Pancham Yadav won a bronze to cap off India's freestyle wrestling competition on a high, with the country earning five medals from the mat, including a gold in the 17th Asian Games.
- Seema Punia took the lead from the third round and improved in the next to beat the field hollow and win the gold comfortably in discus throwing at the Asiad Main Stadium in Incheon, South Korea.
- The world's largest passenger aircraft flew non-stop on the world's longest route with Qantas, the Australian airlines, launching the A380 between Sydney and Dallas. The plane will fly for almost 16 hours.

