

# CLATGyan Compendium – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

1<sup>st</sup> December

- Toeing the UPA line, the NDA government has refused to make the files on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose public, saying the revelations would “prejudicially affect” 41 such files.
- The Russian film Leviathan by Andrey Zvyagintsev bagged the Golden Peacock award, with a cash component of Rs. 40 lakh, for best film at the closing ceremony of the 45th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Israeli director Nadav Lapid bagged the award for best director for his film The Kindergarten Teacher. The special jury and centenary award went to Indian film Ek Hazarachi Note directed by Shrihari Sathe.
- The U.K.’s first bus powered entirely by human and food waste has gone into service between Bristol and Bath. Engineers believe the bus can provide a sustainable way of public transport — cutting emissions in polluted towns and cities. The 40-seater Bio-Bus, which runs on gas generated through the treatment of sewage and food waste, does not affect urban air quality as it produces less quantity of emissions than traditional diesel engines. The bus can travel up to 300 km on a full tank of gas, which is generated at the Bristol sewage treatment works run by the company GENeco.
- China and Pakistan have kicked off their multi-billion dollar ‘Economic Corridor’ project that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) by laying the foundation of a fenced four-lane motorway, setting in motion a mammoth project connecting the two countries. The 60-km-long, 4-lane fenced Hazara Motorway in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will cost \$297 million and will take two years to complete.
- Two-time World Championship bronze medallist P. V. Sindhu lifted her first title of the season by successfully defending the \$1, 20,000 Macau Grand Prix Gold Trophy after seeing off Kim Hyo Min of Korea in the women’s singles final.
- Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi has recommended the repeal of an 18-year-old law on arbitration procedures in tune with the government’s larger push to provide a business-friendly environment for foreign investors. The country’s top law officer, whose opinion was sought by the Ministry on the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, advised replacement of the present law with a new one stressing timely settlement of business disputes and fixing greater onus on arbitrators against delay.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December

- The world's nations gathered in the Peruvian capital Lima in a renewed push for a deal to roll back carbon emissions threatening future generations. The 12-day talks under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) take place amid grim scientific warnings and a surge in interest in sealing a pact in Paris in December 2015.
- Tabare Vazquez has won the second round of the presidential election in Uruguay and will be taking office on March 1, 2015.
- China has sentenced Kalsang Yarphel, a popular Tibetan singer to four years in prison for calling on Tibetans to unify and speak their language, reports said, highlighting tight cultural controls in the region.
- Agni-IV, India's strategic missile, is set to launch from the Wheeler Island on the Odisha coast. The importance of the launch lies in that the Strategic Forces Command's (SFC) missile unit will fire the missile. Agni-IV can carry a nuclear warhead weighing one tonne. The missile will carry only conventional explosives. The Defence Research and Development Organisation developed it. Agni-IV, weighing 17 tonnes and 20 metres long, has already been inducted into the Army after the DRDO successfully test-fired it three times in a row in November 2011, September 2012 and January 2014. The missile has a range of more than 4,000 km.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> December

- Veteran actor and director Deven Verma, who graced Bollywood for four decades with endearing roles in classic domestic comedies, died in his home.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved the appointment of Anil Sinha as the new Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief, hours after Ranjit Sinha relinquished office on superannuation.

## 4<sup>th</sup> December

- The Times Higher Education BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings 2015, covering 18 countries, has placed China on top with 27 universities in the top 100. India now has four universities in the top 40 – IISc, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Roorkee and Punjab University, Chandigarh – and seven more in the top 100.
- The Supreme Court set up a special Bench, called the Social Justice Bench, comprising two judges devoted to the delivery of speedy justice in a range of social issues related

to the downtrodden and socially marginalised groups. A brainchild of Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu, the Social Justice Bench will be headed by Justice Madan B. Lokur and also have Justice U.U. Lalit. The Bench would start functioning from December 12. The Bench will sit every Friday at 2 p.m.

- India has marginally improved its ranking on the global Corruption Perception Index this year. With a score of 36, India now ranks 85 among 175 countries, with countries such as Sri Lanka, Thailand and Burkina Faso for company. Denmark ranks first, as it did in 2013, while Somalia and North Korea share the bottom spot. India ranks better than all its South Asian neighbours, except Bhutan.
- GSAT-16, the communications satellite being put in orbit for ISRO from French Guiana on December 5, will significantly improve the national space capacity with 48 transponders. This is also the highest number of transponders packed into an Indian spacecraft so far.
- China's Internet icon Jack Ma is unleashing the power of e-commerce in the country's Xinjiang province — a move that could help counter extremism in the restive border region. The Alibaba group, Mr. Ma's brainchild, is now geared up to tap the economic potential of Xinjiang and other neighbouring areas to develop e-commerce, cloud computing and big data.
- Grandmaster B. Adhiban scored his fifth victory on the trot, beating Ukraine's Yuriy Kuzubov, to grab the joint fifth spot after the seventh round of the Qatar Masters International Open Chess tournament.
- East Zone proved to be a hard nut to crack and won the Deodhar Trophy after 11 seasons. The game swung back and forth in a tantalising manner, but East struck crucial blows in the closing stages of the match to beat West by 24 runs in the final.

5<sup>th</sup> December

- RBI notified norms to set up Trade Receivable Discounting System (TReDS) trading platform for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) receivables. TReDS is a scheme for setting up and operating the institutional mechanism to facilitate the financing of bills of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers, including government departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

- RBI relaxed the norms for Pre-paid Payment Instruments (PPI) and doubled the limit of PPI from 50000 rupees to one lakh rupees. This would help in limiting cash transaction in the system.
- Air India and National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) signed a MoU for implementation of the monetisation of assets of Air India at various locations on joint venture basis.
- India joined the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Project as a Full Member. India has joined an elite group of countries to build the largest telescope in the world at Mauna Kea in Hawaii.
- Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza Khan was appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan.
- Indian-American scientist Arun Majumdar was appointed as the US Science Envoy and will join office with three other US Envoys.
- Infosys appointed Stanford Professor John W. Etchemendy as an independent member on its Board of Directors.
- Raninder Singh became the first Indian to get elected as a member of the International Shooting Sport Federation's Executive Committee. He is the President of National Rifle Association of India.
- 43<sup>rd</sup> Navy Day was observed on 4<sup>th</sup> December. It is celebrated every year to commemorate the success of Operation Trident of Indian Navy on Karachi Harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- High Level Committee on Review of Environmental Laws headed by TSR Subramanian submitted its report to Union Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The committee recommended formulating a new umbrella law to streamline the process of environment clearances for development projects in the country.
- Researchers led by Professor Gene K Beare developed world's fastest 2D camera at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. The camera can capture events up to 100 billion frames per second and it may have wider application in areas like biomedicine, astronomy and forensics.

6<sup>th</sup> December

- US football team goalkeeper Tim Howard won the 2014 US Player of the Year award for his work with the US national team.
- The International Criminal Court withdrew the case against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta who was tried on count of charges of crimes against humanity for his involvement in ethnic violence that erupted post the 2007 elections. There was lack of evidence and hence Kenyatta's culpability could not be proved beyond reasonable doubt.
- Mahaparinirwan Diwas was observed across India on 6<sup>th</sup> December and on this day, followers of B R Ambedkar paid tribute to him. This day is observed to mark the death anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- First World Soil Day was observed by Food and Agriculture Organisation. The year 2015 was declared as UN International Year of Soils.
- MRF Limited of India will be the global partner for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. This decision was announced by International Cricket Council.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was named as the Asian of the Year 2014 by Singapore's leading newspaper The Straits Times for being a development-focussed leader.
- A movie titled Bhopal: A prayer for Rain, World's Deadliest Industrial Disaster was released worldwide to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- The United Nations Environment Programme released the first Adaption Gap Report which serves as a preliminary assessment of global adaptation gaps in finance, technology and knowledge.
- Arun Duggal was appointed as the non-executive Chairman of the credit rating agency ICRA.
- Physicist Ashton Carter was nominated as the next defence secretary of US Department of Defence. He will replace Chuck Hagel.
- UN observed International Volunteer Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The theme of the IVD 2014 was People's Participation. Make change happen, volunteer!

## 7<sup>th</sup> December

- Observing that Muslim girls who attain puberty or complete 15 years of age are eligible for marriage under the Muslim law, the Gujarat High Court has upheld the marriage of a minor girl from the community.
- Typhoon Hagupit slammed into the central Philippines' east coast, knocking out power and toppling trees in a region where 650,000 people have fled to safety, still haunted by the massive death and destruction wrought by a monster storm last year.
- American journalist Luke Somers and a South African hostage were killed during a failed attempt by U.S. Special Forces to free them from al-Qaeda militants in Yemen.

## 8<sup>th</sup> December

- China launched a Nuclear Power Expansion Scheme to expand its large network of nuclear plants. This was announced by National Development and Reform Commission of China.
- According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Warren Buffet became the second richest person in the world replacing Carlos Slim, business magnate of Mexico. Bill Gates is the richest person in the world.
- Lok Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 to repeal obsolete Acts. The Bill passed by voice vote seeks to repeal 90 laws and pass amendment to two laws.
- Karnataka cabinet approved Child Protection Policy for Safe Schools in Karnataka. The cabinet approved the policy in wake of several child abuse incidents in school with an intention to provide safety to children in schools.
- Samsung appointed Pranav Mistry as Global Vice-President. He will be the youngest person to be elevated to head the Samsung Electronics.
- Armed Forces Flag Day was observed across the nation on 7<sup>th</sup> December. It is named so because on this day, a fund is collected by issue of special flags.
- Lok Sabha passed the School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014. It was passed by a voice vote. These institutes will be located in New Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada.
- India set the Guinness Record for largest human formation of a national flag in the world. Around 50000 volunteers from Chennai gathered at YMCA grounds to form the human Tricolour with Chakra.

- Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara became the fourth batsman to complete 13000 One-Day International (ODI) runs.
- Indian Blind Cricket team won the fourth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup 2014 by defeating defending champions Pakistan.
- A Boeing 787 aircraft completed the world's first flight using green diesel as Aviation Biofuel. Green Diesel is a sustainable biofuel made from vegetable oils, waste cooking oil and animal fats.
- Ritu Mallya was appointed as Director of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers (MCF) board replacing Vijay Mallya after the State Bank of India advised the company that it will be difficult for them to lend money to MCF with a wilful defaulter on the board.
- Veteran Carnatic vocalist Nedanuri Krishnamurthy died while undergoing treatment for lung cancer.
- Indian Communication Satellite GSAT-16 was launched successfully from the Kourou space port in French Guiana and was launched by European Ariane-5 launch vehicle VA221 of Arianespace.

9<sup>th</sup> December

- Ministry of Railways inaugurated Wi-Fi broadband services at the New Delhi railway station. It is being executed by RailTel, a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Railways.
- The RBI notified revised Foreign Direct Investment policy in Railways, Infrastructure and Defence sectors. Foreign investment ceiling in defence sector was increased to 49% and in rail infrastructure it was permitted 100%.
- Azim Premji was awarded Swiss Ambassador's Award in Mumbai. He was awarded for inspirational and socially responsible leadership.
- The United States and NATO ended their combat mission in Afghanistan. The mission ended with lowering of flags by the NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command in a ceremony held in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Andhra Pradesh Government signed a MoU with Singapore for the development of its new capital that is set to come up near Vijayawada region.
- Hockey Olympian Grihanandan Singh who won two Olympic gold medals at the 1948 London Olympics and at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics with the Indian team died in New Delhi.

- Subramanian Committee on Leveraging the Post Office Network submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The objective of the Committee was to transform the Post Office Network in keeping with changing market trends and competition.
- The world's first handcrafted herbal Holy Quran was unveiled in Dubai. It is made from about 200 medicinal plants. It has been made by the Islamic arts and calligraphy company Heddem Arts and has been crafted over 23 years by a Turkish Unani doctor.
- Gwladys Nocera of France won the Hero Women's Indian Golf Open 2014. Vaishavi Sinha of India finished at 5<sup>th</sup> position.
- President Pranab Mukherjee launched the Karnataka Mobile One App (M One app) in Bengaluru. The app will provide a platform for m-governance in the State and is first such initiative of India. Citizens will be able to pay electricity bills, book train and bus tickets, recharge their phones, receive traffic updates, track income tax refund and book cabs.

10<sup>th</sup> December

- Intel Centre, a US based think tank released Country Threat Index (CTI) ranking 45 countries in terms of terrorist and rebel threat to a country. The country that tops the most dangerous countries list is Iraq.
- President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe sacked Vice-President Joice Mujuru on corruption charges and for plotting to kill the President.
- Richest man of Russia Alisher Usmanov was in news when he decided to return the Nobel Prize medal to James D Watson which bought for 4.8 million US dollars at an auction from him.
- International Anti-Corruption Day was observed by the United Nations on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The day was observed to raise public awareness about corruption and what people can do to fight it. The theme for this year was Break the Corruption Chain.
- Bhutan became the 181<sup>st</sup> member of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). MIGA is a political risk insurance and credit enhancement arm of the World Bank Group.
- Human Rights Day was observed globally on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The theme for this year was Human Right 365.



- The advanced version of Mark-II Pinaka Rocket was successfully test fired from the Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE) at Chandipur about 15 km from Balasore in Odisha. It was test-fired using a multi-barrel launcher. The Pinaka rocket also known as the Weapon Area System (WAS) can fire rockets with a range of 40-65 km.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) successfully commissioned a 28 MW Nyaborongo Hydro Electric Project in Rwanda on turnkey basis.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 2013 Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index. The theme of the 2013 Index is Reducing Barriers to Economic Growth and Job Creation. Out of the 140 economies assessed in the 2013 Index, Switzerland topped the list in terms of travel and tourism competitiveness. India is placed at the 65<sup>th</sup> position.
- The US-based Uber taxi service was in news as Delhi Government banned its services. The company was blacklisted following the alleged rape of a 27 year old MNC executive by one of the drivers.
- Indian-American Richard Rahul Verma's nomination as the next US Ambassador to India was confirmed by the US Senate. He became the first Indian-American to be the US Ambassador to India. He will replace Nancy Powell.
- The first Arabic translation of Indian Constitution was launched in Cairo.

11<sup>th</sup> December

- The Web Index 2014 was released by the World Web Foundation to measure the Internet's contribution to social, economic and political progress in the world. Denmark topped the web index rankings. India stood at 48<sup>th</sup> rank.
- Randhir Singh was appointed as an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee. He is a former Secretary General of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) who served the association from 1987 to 2012. He is also a former shooter who took part in five Olympics.
- Samsung Electronics Ltd announced the appointment of HyunChil Hong as the President of Southwest Asia Headquarters.
- The pioneer of home video game console Ralph Henry Baer died in Manchester following a brief illness. He was famously known as the Father of Video Games due to his contributions to the video game industry.

- The report titled 2015 Outlook: Global Credit Conditions was released by the Moody and according to this report, the economy of India is expected to grow to 5 to 6 percent and pick up pace in 2015.
- Child rights campaigner of India Kailash Satyarthi and Education activist of Pakistan Malala Yousfzai received the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2014. Both received medal and prize money 1.4 million US dollars from the Norwegian Nobel Committee at Oslo, Norway.

12<sup>th</sup> December

- Ebola fighters collectively were named as the TIME's Person of the Year 2014. They were selected for their tireless acts of courage and mercy, for buying the world time to boost its defences, for risking, for persisting, for sacrificing and saving the thousands of lives from Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).
- Australian Cricketer David Warner completed 1000 Test runs in 2014. He became the first opener to achieve the feat in one calendar year since England skipper Alastair Cook in 2012.
- Google announced to shut down its news linking services in Spain over new intellectual property law. As per the law, publishers will soon be forced to pay for re-publishing headlines or snippets of news to Internet sites.
- Anurag Jain, a senior IAS officer was appointed as the Joint Secretary in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of India.
- Tata Power acquired 540-megawatt thermal power plant in Maharashtra for 3000 crore rupees. It was acquired from the promoters of IRB Infrastructure.
- E-commerce major Snapdeal acquired Gift Recommendation Platform Wishpicker. Wishpicker is an online gift retailer which provides gift ideas from across the internet through intelligent gift recommendation engine.
- Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritania was appointed as the new head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).
- Fidel Castro was awarded the Confucius Peace Prize 2014 for his important contributions in eliminating nuclear war after his retirement.
- Delhi HC banned Xiaomi to sell phones in India over patent issue with Ericsson.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the Farmers Debt Redemption Scheme to give debt relief to every eligible farmer.

- India and Russia signed 20 agreements during the 15<sup>th</sup> India-Russia Annual Summit held in New Delhi.
- The Indian Air Force launched the second phase of its 3D mobile air combat game, Guardians of the Skies (GOTS). The IAF focused on getting a realistic picture of its flying operations.
- Union Home Ministry removed Section 309 of Indian Penal Code decriminalizing attempt to suicide. The 20<sup>th</sup> Law Commission had recommended to decriminalize attempt to suicide.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> December

- Ruhi Singh of India won the Miss Universal Peace & Humanity 2014 at Beirut, Lebanon. She is the first person to win this pageant from India.
- Maharashtra Government declared Dahi Handi as adventurous sport to make it a safe sport. It involves making a human pyramid and breaking an earthen pot filled with buttermilk tied at a height on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami.
- Asha Bhosle was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 11<sup>th</sup> Dubai International Film Festival. She received the award for her decades of dedication to the Indian Film Industry.
- ICICI Bank launched India's first credit card with a unique transparent design and a distinctive look. It has been named ICICI Bank Coral American Express Credit Card.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> December

- Amidst high drama, West Bengal Transport and Sports Minister Madan Mitra was produced before a city court which remanded him in custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till December 16. Though a battery of lawyers pleaded for Mr. Mitra's bail, the Magistrate in-Charge rejected the bail petition. The CBI arrested the Minister and charged him with criminal conspiracy, breach of trust and deriving undue financial benefits from the Saradha group.
- Climate talks seemed to be headed for an inconclusive finish as parties objected to the lack of transparency and consultative process before the latest five-page draft was released.
- China has tested a hypersonic strike vehicle, signalling that Beijing is working on a new ultra high speed weapon system that can breach the existing missile shield of the United

States. The Chinese defence ministry has confirmed an earlier assertion of U.S. defence officials that Beijing had tested Wu-14, a hypersonic glide vehicle.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> December

- Fortune 500 List of Indian Companies 2014 was released by the Fortune Magazine and among these companies, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) tops the list followed by Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries Ltd.
- World Diamond Conference was held in New Delhi. It was organised by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in association with Union Ministry of Commerce and World Diamond Mark Foundation. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin, Russian President.
- Indian film Jal was nominated for Oscar contenders in two categories namely Best Picture and Best Original Score. It tells the story of Bakka, a person gifted with a special ability to find water in the desert.
- National Energy Conservation Day was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> December.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a book titled Born Again on the Mountain by Arunima Sinha. She is the first Indian amputee and first female amputee to climb Mount Everest.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became longest serving Chief Minister of India. He completed 20 years in the office and has been the CM since 1994. Earlier, Jyoti Basu was the longest serving CM and was the CM of West Bengal.
- Anerood Jugnauth was appointed as Mauritius Prime Minister.
- Miss South Africa, Rolene Strauss was crowned Miss World 2014 in London, UK.
- Germany won Hockey's Champions Trophy for the year 2014. The final match was played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. They defeated Pakistan and it was their 10<sup>th</sup> Champions trophy.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> December

- HDFC Bank launched mobile banking facility Bank Aap ki Muththi Mein which turns a mobile phone into a bank branch.
- The Union Government of India banned Islamic State of Iraq and Syria under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected for another four year term.

- The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission headed by former RBI Governor YV Reddy submitted its report to the President of India. The panel has given its view on the devolution of tax receipts from the Centre to the States between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- Dineshwar Sharma was appointed as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.
- The International Criminal Court upgraded the status of Palestine to Observer State.
- Viswanathan Anand of India won his maiden London Classic Chess title. He defeated British Grandmaster Michael Adams.
- Maleeha Lodhi was appointed as the 16<sup>th</sup> Pakistan Ambassador to the UN. She will succeed Masood Khan.
- Indian-American physician Vivek Hallegere Murthy was appointed as the 19<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of America. He will serve as the US top spokesperson on public health issues and will be the youngest and first Indian-American to hold the post.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> December

- Victory Day was celebrated in Bangladesh on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The day observes the liberation of Bangladesh from the Pakistan forces in the 1971 War of Liberation in which about three million people were killed.
- The RBI increased RTGS (real time gross settlement) business hours from 7:30 hours to 12 hours. With this, now the business hours for RTGS will be 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays.
- Rory Mcllroy of Ireland was named as the 2014 Race to Dubai European Tour Golfer of the Year. He won the award for the second time in three seasons.
- Madhya Pradesh government increased the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by 4%. Now, 27% tax would be levied on diesel and 31% on petrol in the state.
- The International Boxing Association banned the Indian boxer Laishram Sarita Devi for one year for not accepting her bronze medal at Asian Games 2014 medal ceremony. She was also fined one thousand Swiss Franc for the act. Citing wrong judgement from referees, Sarita at the podium ceremony of Asian Games tried to give her medal to her opponent as a mark of protest.
- Tehreek-e-Taliban carried out a massacre in the Army-run school in Peshawar, Pakistan. At least 141 people were killed and several others injured. Presently,

Pakistan's military is carrying out Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Khybe-I against militants of the nation.

- Vijay Diwas was observed across the country on 16<sup>th</sup> December. On this day, the nation remembers martyrs who laid down their lives during the Indo-Pak War of 1971.
- Union Government announced that members of the minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh will be given five years visa as part of government's effort to address their grievances and accord citizenship in future. Earlier, they were granted one-year visa.
- Pro-democracy activist of China Xu Youyu won the Olof Palme Human Rights Prize for the year 2014. He received the award for his strong-principled work for democracy, social justice, human rights and freedom of speech which has universal meaning.
- Google released its annual Year in Search Report 2014 revealing the search habits of Google users worldwide over the last 12 months. The top 10 global trending searches had Robin Williams topping the list and the Ebola crisis was the topmost trending global news. Jennifer Lawrence topped the list of top 10 trending people globally.
- Lok Sabha passed the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014. The Bill seeks to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011.
- AR Rahman was nominated for the Oscar Awards for the year 2015 in the Music Original Score Category for three films namely, Million Dollar Arm, The Hundred Foot Journey and Kochadaiiyaan.
- The Survey of India released a revised geographical map of Hyderabad to show an expansion from all the sides compared to the last revised map released in 2002.
- Indian-origin Shriti Vadera was appointed as the Chairman of Santander UK, a major British bank. She will be the first woman to head a major British Bank.
- The Rio 2016 Olympics and Paralympics Games mascots have been named as Vinicius and Tom, respectively. The names were chosen by a public vote that was conducted. Mascot Vinicius is a yellow feline animal similar to cat and represents Brazil's rich fauna and wildlife. Tom is a blue and green figure with leaves that covers its head and presents country's diverse and rich flora.

18<sup>th</sup> December

- Minorities Rights Day was observed across the world on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to create awareness on rights of minorities.
- Indian-American Amit Priyavadan Mehta was appointed as the federal judge in the District of Columbia by the US Senate. He is the first Asian Pacific American to occupy this position.
- Hariom Singh won Gold medal in the Men's 50-metre Rifle Prone event at the 58<sup>th</sup> National Shooting Championships held in Pune. Aditya U Singh of Air Force won Silver while Abhinav Bindra won Bronze. Gagan Narang finished fourth.
- Druzhba-Dosti is a term used for vision statement of India and Russia over the next decade during the 15<sup>th</sup> Indo-Russia Annual Summit held in New Delhi.
- Empays, a provider company of multi-bank payment systems announced that its Instant Money Transfer services has received authorisation from the RBI. This certificate enables its IMT payment system to access clearing and settlement arrangements between member-banks directly under the RBI, making it work across banks.
- The Supreme Court of India directed the Union Government to complete fencing work along the Indo-Bangladesh border within three months. The direction was given to check the cross-border influx of illegal Bangladesh nationals into Assam.
- Paul McGinley won Sport Personality Coach of the Year 2014 at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards in Glasgow, he was awarded for guiding the European team to win the Ryder Cup. Lewis Hamilton was awarded the Sports Personality of the Year. Cristiano Ronaldo was awarded the Overseas Sports Personality of the Year.
- Tashi Malik and Nungshi Malik from Dehradun, Uttarakhand became the world's first twin and sibling to climb the highest peaks of the seven continents.
- Reverend Libby Lane was appointed as the first female bishop of the Church of England. She will become the new Bishop of Stockport.
- China developed a long-range and non-lethal Pain Beam weapon named Poly WB-1. The weapon can be used to break up riots or protests from a distance.
- Marathi film Kapus Kondyachi Goshta (The Unending Story) was nominated in the Best Picture Category of the 87<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards popularly known as the Oscars. The film is based on the real-life story of four sisters in a small village near Nagpur.

- Lok Sabha passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014 to amend the Companies Act, 2013. The main objective of the bill is to ease the process of doing business in India.
- RBI imposed monetary penalty on ICICI Bank and Bank of Baroda for violation of its instructions regarding norms on Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti Money Laundering (AML).

19<sup>th</sup> December

- The US President Barack Obama signed Ukraine Freedom Support Bill, 2014 passed by the US Congress. With this, the Bill has now become Ukraine Freedom Support Act, 2014. The Act authorizes more sanctions on Russia for its role in the Ukraine crisis.
- Michael Garcia resigned as Independent Chief Ethic Investigator of Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Ethics Committee.
- Helios Travel launched Magic Cabs in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Magic Cabs service has its own fleet of taxis that can be accessed through a combination of voice calls, online reservations and mobile application.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution referring North Korea to the International Criminal Court for human right abuses and for charges of crimes against humanity. 50 countries abstained from voting. China and Russia voted against the resolution along with Belarus, Cuba, Iran, Syria and Venezuela.
- Veteran Gandhian and freedom fighter Chunibhai Vaidya passed away at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He actively participated in Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement. He wrote a book titled Assassination of Gandhi: Facts and Falsehood.
- GSLV Mark-III-X was in news because ISRO launched it successfully from the Satish Dhawan Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It is the heaviest rocket of India weighing 630 tonnes and was launched on an experimental mission along with human Crew module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment (CARE). It was launched with an aim to check its atmospheric stability with luggage of about four tonne and to study re-entry characteristics of the crew module.
- United Nation Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Disengagement of Forces agreement in Golan Heights until June 2015. It extended the mandate so that the UNDOF personnel are able to carry out unimpeded delivery of its equipment and the temporary use of alternative ports of entry and departure.



- TVS Chairman Venu Srinivasan was made the Honorary Citizen of Busan, Korea. He was conferred with the citizenship for his efforts to enhance friendship and cooperation between India and Republic of Korea.
- Veteran poetess and Pakistan-born Imtiaz Dharker was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2014 for her latest poetry collection Over the Moon.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority imposed monetary penalty on Canara, HSBC, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Life Insurance Company Ltd and Anand Rathi Insurance Brokers for violating regulatory norms.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014 to legalise e-rickshaws by bringing them under the ambit of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- The UN sent a team of international experts to help Bangladesh in cleaning up the Sundarbans oil spill. The team belonging to the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) was sent on a request from Bangladesh government.
- The US Senate unanimously passed a resolution recognising Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai as symbol of peace. They are the joint winners of Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2014.

20<sup>th</sup> December

- Indian origin Vasant Srinivasan was inducted into an Australian national body Australian Multicultural Council which advises the Australian government on multicultural affairs and policy programmes.
- Restaurant search service of Italy Cibando was acquired by online restaurant search firm Zomato.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and an international team of planetary scientists found an evidence in meteorites on Earth that indicates Mars has a distinct reservoir of water or ice near its surface. The finding were published in the journal Earth and Planetary Science Letters.
- Pakistan became Associate Member State of CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research).
- Union Finance Ministry approved 8.75 percent interest rate on Provident Fund deposits for the year 2014-15.

- Union Government introduced the Constitution (122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2014 in the Lok Sabha. The introduction of this Bill will facilitate the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in India.
- The Bombay High Court appointed a team of 17 lawyers to function as Commissioners of Court to help in removing the illegal hoardings. The court also ordered that all civic bodies should have a toll-free number to enable people to register complaints against illegal hoardings.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested an indigenously built 1000 kg glide bomb. The bomb successfully hit a target 100 km away in the Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast. The bomb was dropped by an Indian Air Force aircraft in the ocean.

21<sup>st</sup> December

- India's official entry Liar's Dice is out of Oscars' race after it failed to make the cut in the Academy's shortlist in the best foreign film category.
- Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the highest ever polling since the 1970s, registering an impressive 65 per cent overall turnout for the five phase-polls to the Assembly, the Election Commission said. Jharkhand too saw a record overall voter turnout at 66 per cent for the five phases, with 71.25 per cent voters turning up to vote in the final phase.
- Rajinder Khanna will be the new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency. The government also appointed Prakash Mishra, Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry, the new Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- The Ministry of External Affairs has penalised diplomat Devyani Khobragade for failing to inform the government appropriately about her children's U.S. passports, even as it has launched another inquiry into interviews that Ms. Khobragade has given to media organisations including The Hindu in the past few weeks. A panel headed by the Ministry's Joint Secretary of Cypher, NGO and Vigilance (CNV), A.K. Chatterjee, however, ruled against her after a nine-month enquiry.
- Israeli aircraft hit Gaza for the first time since an August truce ended a 50-day war after a rocket hit the Jewish state, witnesses and the army said. The Israeli army said the air strike in the southern Gaza Strip had "targeted a Hamas terror infrastructure site".

- U.S. President Barack Obama warned North Korea it would face retaliation for a crippling cyber-attack on Sony Pictures over an irreverent film comedy that infuriated Pyongyang. Mr. Obama said the movie giant had “made a mistake” in cancelling the Christmas Day release of *The Interview*, a madcap romp about a CIA plot to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.
- Eoin Morgan has replaced Alistair Cook as England’s World Cup captain, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced.
- Nicol David extended her record of world titles to eight when she saved four match points to overcome third-seeded Egyptian Raneem El Weleily, 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 14-12, 11-5.
- Saina Nehwal and K. Srikanth suffered contrasting defeats in the semifinals and this brought the curtains down on India’s campaign at the BWF World Super Series Finals badminton tournament.

22<sup>nd</sup> December

- Union Government released a calendar for the year 2015 with the theme Clean India Green India.
- Shiva Keshavan won Silver at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Luge Championships being held in Nagano, Japan.
- Sachin Tendulkar was appointed as the ambassador of Cricket World Cup 2015.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) bagged a 16.96 million Euro contract for a thermal power project in Turkey. This will be its maiden entry in the Turkish Power Market.
- Jyotsna Suri, Chairperson of Bharat Hotels was elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- Losar, the Buddhist festival of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, started on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014. It marks the beginning of a new year in Ladakh.
- India celebrated National Mathematics Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014. This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of great Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The Surat Municipal Corporation announced that it had partnered with Microsoft India to transform Surat into a smart city.

- India won the Men and Women title of Kabaddi World Cup 2014. This was the fifth Kabaddi World Cup.
- Extreme Accuracy Tasked Ordnance (EXACTO) is a 0.50 caliber round bullet that can change direction mid-air to reach its target.

23<sup>rd</sup> December

- The World Trade Centre India Services Council (WTCIS) and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) signed an agreement to promote and develop small businesses in the country.
- India exported CGS Barracuda offshore patrol vessel (OPV) to Mauritius. This is the first warship ordered by a foreign country from the shipyard of India. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The results of the 2014 Presidential elections of Tunisia were declared and Bejj Caid Essebsi of Nidaa Tounes party won the elections with around 55% of the votes.
- The Advisory Group for Integrated Development of Power, Coal and Renewable Energy headed by Suresh Prabhu submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Power and Coal. The Group has suggested measures for enhancement of coal production in the short, medium and long term.
- Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was in news recently as the Union Home Ministry has decided to remove this Section, thus decriminalizing attempt to suicide. A person would have had to face upto one year in prison and a fine. The 20<sup>th</sup> Law Commission had recommended decriminalising attempt to suicide and removing the section. France was the first country to decriminalise attempted suicide after the French Revolution.
- Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to define non-cooperative borrowers. It has also fixed the cut off limit for classifying borrowers as non-cooperative borrowers.
- Gujarat will host the 13<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from 7<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> January. This edition will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa. The chief guest would be Guyana President Donald Ramotar.
- Senior IPS officer Prakash Mishra has been appointed as the Directorate General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

- Federal Bank CEO Shyam Srinivasan was appointed as the Chairman of the reconstituted Indian Banks' Association committee on Member Private Sector Banks for 2014-15.
- Reserve Bank of India licensed Ford Credit India to operate as a non-banking financial company (NBFC).
- The European space mission Rosetta was named as the most important scientific Breakthrough of the Year 2014 by Science journal. Rosetta landed its three-legged Philae module on the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko 10 years after the spacecraft was launched.
- The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) was in news recently as the Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the plans to launch the scheme. This scheme aims to develop tourism and job creation.
- Stem cell scientist of Japan Haruko Obokata who was at the heart of the stem cell scandal has resigned as she was not able to replicate her breakthrough discovery of STAP (stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency) technique for making stem cells quickly and cheaply.

24<sup>th</sup> December

- The Central Government constituted a committee to look into various grievances relating to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The Committee comprises Justice G. P. Mathur (Retired Supreme Court Judge) as Chairman and J. P. Aggarwal, Joint Secretary (Judicial) in the Home Ministry as Member Secretary.
- Students and academia of the IITH are immersed in developing 5G cellular wireless communication technology, which would be on a par with global standards.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered registration of a First Information Report and a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into allegations of forced castration of sadhus at the Sirsa-based ashram of Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, head of Dera Sacha Sauda.
- Veteran director K. Balachander, who was known in the South Indian film circles as 'Iyakkunar Sigaram' (a peak among directors), breathed his last. Mr. Balachander was the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2010. He has directed over 100 films in all major South Indian languages.

25<sup>th</sup> December

- Senior IAS officer S. Bhattacharya has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Ltd. (CIL).
- The Union government has approved an amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act to increase the number of seats in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from 50 to 58.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 102nd Indian Science Congress in Mumbai on January 3, it was officially announced. Preparations are in full swing at the University of Mumbai's Kalina Campus to host the event from January 3 to January 7, 2015.

26<sup>th</sup> December

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominated a few more prominent personalities, including former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly, first woman IPS officer Kiran Bedi and stand-up comedian Kapil Sharma as brand ambassadors for the "Clean India" campaign which he kicked off on Gandhi Jayanti day.

27<sup>th</sup> December

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Friday effected yet another round of postings of bureaucrats, approving appointments at senior positions. (Go through the appointments)  
Alok Kumar- Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission.  
Anant Kumar Singh-Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry  
Raghvendra Singh-Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.  
T. Vijayakumar-Director-General, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology  
M.J. Joseph-Director-General, Bureau of Indian Standards  
D.V. Prasad-Additional Secretary in the Women and Child Development Ministry.  
Deepak Kumar-Additional Secretary in the Labour Ministry  
Deepak Shetty-Director-General (Shipping)  
Vijaya Shrivastava-Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser to the Health Ministry.  
Ajay Narayan Jha-Additional Secretary with the Department of Expenditure

Alok Shrivastava-Additional Secretary with the Shipping Ministry.

- Aviva Life Insurance said it has appointed Trevor Bull as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director for its operations in India.
- The Mumbai Police have bagged an award for steps to tackle cyber-crime and build capacities to address the investigation needs of online space. The city police bagged the Excellence in Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Agencies' award instituted by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and the Data Security Council of India (DSCI).
- The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct the Rajasthan government to ban sale of opium as Punjab was suffering due to the neighbouring State government's policy to earn profit from sale of this commodity.
- Ten years after a massive tsunami triggered by an earthquake smashed the coastline of around 14 nations, India announced a contribution of \$1 million to a UN fund for strengthening early warning systems for natural disasters. The contribution, made to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian countries, is expected to boost ESCAP's efforts to strengthen early warning systems through regional and South-South cooperation.

28<sup>th</sup> December

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh advocated framing of an anti-conversion law and urged all political parties to think about it seriously.
- Residents of Myanmar's commercial hub Yangon went to the polls for the first municipal elections in six decades, with voters enthusiastic for change even though many knew little about the candidates or their policies.
- Ankita Raina defeated Great Britain's Katy Dunne 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the NECC-ITF women's \$25,000 tournament at the Deccan Gymkhana.
- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) may soon become active with Union Law Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda saying that 15 States had ratified the Constitution (121st Amendment) Bill, 2014, giving Constitutional status to the Commission. The NJAC Bill, passed by Parliament in August, had to be ratified by at least half the State legislatures before it got the Constitutional status. The NJAC, once it came into existence, is expected to usher in transparency in judicial appointments in

the highest courts and end the highest judiciary's two-decade-old grip over appointments of judges through the collegium system. It further would restore an equal role for the executive in higher judicial appointments.

- Rescuers struggled to get help to the tens of thousands of people affected by Malaysia's worst flooding in decades as angry victims accused the government of being slow in its response. From the air, parts of Kota Bharu, the State capital of badly-affected Kelantan, resembled a vast, muddy lake, with row after row of rooftops peeking out of the murky waters.
- To mark the centenary of the First World War and the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 13th edition of the Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) will screen a selection of anti-war films underscoring the themes of peace and harmony to drive home a strong pacifist message.

29<sup>th</sup> December

- Rajan Devadas, one of the most admired Indian-American photojournalists whose lenses chronicled U.S.-India relations for more than half-a-century, died of cardiac arrest at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington. For several decades, he worked as an official photographer of the Indian Embassy in Washington.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party leader Raghuvar Das was sworn in as Chief Minister of Jharkhand in Ranchi. Governor Syed Ahmed administered the oath of office. Mr. Das is the first Chief Minister of the State from outside a tribal community.
- Latvia takes over as European Union (EU) president, putting it on the front line of negotiations with neighbouring Russia over the deadly crisis in Ukraine.
- The "Norman Atlantic" left the Greek port of Patras at 1530 GMT and made a stop at Igoumenitsa, before heading to the Italian port of Ancona when the fire took hold. The ship's Greek operators ANEK Lines did not say how the fire started. In an update at 1630 GMT, the Italian navy said 317 of the 478 passengers and crew were still aboard the ferry.

30<sup>th</sup> December

- The Cabinet amended the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. Under the 2013 Act,



compensations were hiked up to four times and twice the market value in rural areas and urban areas, respectively. Section 105 of the existing Act has been amended to include 13 statutes previously exempted from the rigours of payment of compensation. These Acts were listed in the Fourth Schedule of the existing Act. The present amendments bring all those exempted 13 Acts under the purview of this Act for the purpose of compensation as well as rehabilitation and resettlement. Therefore, the amendment benefits the farmers and the affected families.

- Oxford Dictionaries chose 'vape', an abbreviation of vapour or vaporise, as word of the year. Merriam-Webster Inc., chose the word 'culture', which dominated headlines this year, on topics ranging from 'celebrity culture' to 'rape culture' to 'company culture'. 'Photobomb', defined as "to intrude into the background of a photograph without the subject's knowledge", was Collins English Dictionary's top word; Chambers Dictionary's choice was 'overshare', which means "to be unacceptably forthcoming with information about one's personal life"; and the Global Language Monitor named 'heart emoji', the ideograph for love, as its word of 2014.

31<sup>st</sup> December

- In a minor reshuffle of governors, Aziz Qureshi, Governor of Uttarakhand, was transferred to Mizoram for the remainder of his term. Meghalaya Governor Krishan Kant Paul will replace Dr. Qureshi for the remainder of his term. West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi will discharge the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya, in addition to his own duties.
- The former Editor of the Hindustan Times and the Indian Express Boobli George Verghese died due to prolonged illness in Gurgaon. He was a Magsaysay Award winner and Information Adviser to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In his later years, he was associated with the Centre for Policy Research and The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).
- The third flight-trial of Agni-V strategic missile, which was to take place any day between January 11 and 15, 2015 from Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast, has been postponed. The lift-off is likely to take place in the last week of January or early February 2015.

- After Lucknow, Metro rail will run in Kanpur, Agra, Meerut and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The Cabinet gave its nod for conducting a feasibility study and preparing a detailed project report (DPR) of the schemes.
- To promote Uttarakhand as a birdwatching destination, the second spring bird festival will be organised in the State from February 5 next year. Forest Department data say the State has an amazing bird diversity with 687 species representing more than half the avifaunal diversity of India. The State government organised the first festival at the Asan Conservation Reserve this year. The 2015 venue is the Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve, in the Ramnagar Forest Division of Kumaon, with over 350 species.
- Saiyid Hamid, educationist, reformist, author and the tallest figure in Muslim academia, died on at Majeedia hospital. Mr. Hamid was the last surviving ICS officer in India. He was recently conferred Sir Ross Masood Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 for Excellence in Leadership, Education, Community and Public Service by the Vice President of India, who is also an ex-vice chancellor of AMU.
- Public sector Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN), a company that owns and operates India's largest hydropower project, on Tuesday signed a pact with Hindustan Salt Ltd. to develop ultra-mega hybrid renewable energy park in Gujarat. The park will be developed on the land of Hindustan Salt in Kharaghoda.