

CLATGyan Compendium – 1st January 2015 to 31st January 2015

1st January

- AK Mittal was appointed as the new Chairman of the Railway Board, succeeding Arunendra Kumar
- ISRO Chief Kopillil Radhakrishnan retires. Shailesh Nayak becomes the interim chief.
- National Judicial Accountability Commission Bill, 2014 comes into effect after the President signs it.

What is NJAC?

- Appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary
 - 99th constitutional amendment (121st Constitutional Amendment Bill)
 - New Article, Article 124A provides for composition of NJAC
 - Now, the President in consultation with the NAJC will appoint the judges. Earlier, the President was responsible for appointment of judges.
 - Will Comprise of CJI, two senior most judges after CJI, Union Minister of Law, two eminent personalities one of whom would be nominated from Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes, minorities, OBCs or women.
- M Sathiyavathi became the new Director General of Civil Aviation.
 - Union Minister of Health and Family affairs proposes to make Health a fundamental right, similar to education.
 - Beji Caid Essebsi becomes the first freely elected President of Tunisia. He won against the interim president, Moncef Murzouki (he was the interim president since the 2011 election).
 - RK Srivastav took over as the Chairman of Airport Authority of India. He succeeded Sudhir Raheja.
 - “Himmat” is a new app designed by the Union Government for women’s safety.
 - Open Defecation free country became the national slogan for 2014.
 - National Institution for Transforming India Aayog replaces the Planning Commission of India as the new think tank for the Indian Government. The Prime Minister will head

the Aayog. Arvind Panagariya will be the Vice Chairperson and Sindhushree Khullar was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

How is it going to be different from the Planning Commission?

- It is only an advisory body and the Finance Minister will now control the power to allocate funds that was previously vested with the Planning Commission.
- State government will play an important role. Governing Council has state chief ministers and lieutenant governors.
- It does not have the power to impose policies.
- Nilesh Jayantilal Samani, an Indian Origin, was awarded the knighthood.

2nd January

- Little Jimmy Dickens, an American country music singer dies at 94.
- VR Gowarikar, a former ISRO Chief dies in Pune. He was famous for giving India its very first weather forecasting model.
- 18km long Jaffna-Kankasanthurai track in Sri Lanka was restored by the Indian Railway's Construction company (IRCON)
- Kumar Sangakara becomes the fastest player to score 12000 runs in Test Cricket
- Richard Rahul Verma becomes the first Indian American to be appointed as US envoy to India.

3rd January

- Boxing India recently got recognized as the national federation for representing boxing. The Union Sports Ministry allowed Boxing India to use its names and emblems for the same.
- Know-Your-Customers (KYC) rules for Non-Banking Companies (NBFCs) were relaxed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Government accepts recommendations of Bezbaruah Panel. It is a panel that was formed by the Union Government to recommend measures for safety and security of people from the North-eastern regions in Delhi and other metro cities. The panel was set up in February 2014 and its recommendations were accepted in January 2015.

- The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank launched Digital Village Project in Akodara Village of Gujarat. The project aimed to provide services ranging from cashless banking to digitised school teaching.
- Kiran Bhai Vadodaria was elected as the new President of Indian Newspaper Society. He succeeds Ravinder Kumar.

4th January

- Andy Murray won the ATP World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi.
- Israel stopped the transfer of tax collected from Palestinians to the Palestinian Liberation Authority Government.
- This year's International Hindi conference will be hosted by New Jersey in April 2015.
- OT Anilkumar won 7th Chennai Open, FIDE (FIDE is World Chess Federation)
- Students of Southampton University have planned a Project LettuceOnMars. As the name suggests, they plan to grow Lettuce on Mars by 2018.
- Jiji Thompson resigned as the Sports Authority of India. He has been replaced by Injeti Srinivas
- Sudhirth Bhattacharya became the CMD Coal India Limited succeeding S Narsing Rao.
- AFSPA got extended in Assam for another year.

5th January

- Union Petroleum Ministry launched LPG Schemes to benefit the BPL families. 5kg of cooking oil will be provided to these families.
- S Srikrishna won the National Sub-Junior Billiards title.
- An Indian based Neutrino Observatory (INO) in Tamil Nadu will soon be set up.

What is Neutrino Observatory? The INO will host experiments such as the neutrino-less double beta decay. Neutrinos are fundamental flavours belonging to same lepton family. It comes in 3 different flavours.

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on 29 December 2014 launched GreenPHABLET for small farmers. GreenPHABLET is a customised low-cost combination of phone and tablet computer. GreenSIM powered the device. This will help the farmers regulate the price of their crops, know the latest rates, provide details about the weather etc.

- According to a latest study by NASA, tropical forests have started absorbing more CO₂ than before in response to increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere.
- A new android app called the “Snoopsnitch” that can detect International Mobile Subscribers Identity catchers and warn smartphone users in case their devices are giving up their personal information and connecting to fake base stations (IMSI catchers), user tracking, and SS7 attacks so as to inform people that someone is spying on them.
- Nomura has predicted Indian Economic growth at 5.5% for the Financial Year 2015-16

6th January

- WeBank becomes the first Chinese online bank. It was setup by Tacent Holdings Limited.
- Bihar Government increased the duration of Maternity Leave from 135 to 180 days. It also created a provision for 730 days of child care leave.
- Fortune Magazine named Larry Page, Co-founder of Google as Businessperson of the Year.
- Facebook acquired a voice recognition start-up Wit.ai
- Avijit Ghosh took over the charge of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), which is a PSU. He succeeded R. Misra.
- Supreme Court refuses to immediately hear plea challenging NJAC
- Amitabh Bachchan named the brand ambassador of Andhra Pradesh health sector.
- Popov Ivan of Russia won 7th Chennai International Open Grandmaster Chess title.
- A commemorative coin to mark the 175th birth anniversary of Tata group founder Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata was released.
- Pakistan Parliament passed the 21st Constitution Amendment Bill 2015 and the Pakistan Army Bill 2015. With the coming up of this bill, military can now be established in the country to try military personals. Both the houses unanimously passed these two bills.
- President signed an ordinance that amended the Citizenship Act. It provides for a lifelong visa facility to OCIs and PIOs.

7th January

- Punjab bans the sale of loose cigarettes and tobacco.

- 102nd Science Congress was held in Mumbai
- Raosaheb Danve becomes the new BJP chief in Maharashtra
- Palestine decided to join the international Criminal Court on 1 April
- Two Earth like Planets namely Kepler 232b and Kepler 442b were discovered.
- India will host the 42nd World Bridge Championships that will be held in Chennai from 26 September 2015 to 10 October 2015.
- Atul Khare will succeed Ameerah Haq of Bangladesh as the United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General, Department of Field Support (DFS).
- Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot launched National toll free helpline for drug dependent prisoners.
- Supreme Court held that Board of Control for Cricket in India would have to pay service tax for recording cricket matches, as it was a “service provider.”
- A gun assault on the Paris office of a satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo took place.

Charlie Hebdo is a satirical weekly newspaper that publishes cartoons, polemics and jokes. Some of its cartoons depicted Islam in bad light. In 2006, they drew a cartoon of Muhammad, whose depiction is forbidden in Islam. Later, they also published some nude caricatures of Prophet Muhammad. On 7 January, two brothers, Said and Cherif Kouachi of Al Qaeda’s military base in Yemen broke into the office of the magazine and killed 11 people while injuring several other. Following this, a meeting of all the world leaders was held in France where slogans like “I am Charlie” were became common for public rallies and to fight for the freedom of press.

8th January

- Jharkhand will soon get a second High Court bench in Dumka. Jharkhand Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Union Government to set up a high court bench in the second capital of the state, Dumka.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated Dandi Kutir museum in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Modibo Keita was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mali. He succeeded Mousa Mara
- “The Lunchbox” was nominated for British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2015 under non-English best film category. It is directed by Ritesh Batra.

- Commemorative Postage Stamp to mark 100 Years of Mahatma Gandhi's Return from South Africa to India was released.
- A President's rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir after Governor NN Vohra's Recommendation.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly election were held in five phases in December 2014. In the Assembly election, People's Democratic Party (PDP) won 28 seats, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 25 and National Congress (NC) won 15 seats. The political parties failed to form government after no party was able to muster the majority of 87 seats required to form the government. Even the attempts of PDP and BJP to cobble up a coalition did not fructify.

Hence the Governor recommended Presidential Rule after Caretaker Chief Minister Omar Abdullah requested Governor Vohra to relive from his duties.

Constitutional Provision of Presidential Rule.

Article 356 of the Constitution empowers the President to issue proclamation; if he is satisfied that situation has arisen in which the government of state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of constitution.

However, in case of Jammu and Kashmir, for the imposition of President Rule, Section 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution is invoked. Jammu & Kashmir State Governor issues governor's rule proclamation after obtaining consent of the President of India.

If it is not possible to revoke Governor's rule before within six months of imposition, President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution of India is imposed. But for all practical purposes, there is no difference between the two provisions.

- Vistara airline, a joint venture of Tata-SIA, started its flight operation in India. Vistara flight took off with its first flight from Delhi to Mumbai.
- Mithripala Sirisena of United National's Party won presidential elections 2015 of Sri Lanka. He won the Election against the former President, Mahinda Rajapaksa of United People's Freedom Party.
- KK Paul becomes the new Governor of Uttarakhand. He has replaced Aziz Qureshi.
- Delhi Metro Railway authority launched a bicycle-sharing scheme for Metro users.

- Indian Immunological Limited launched, Raksha Blu, the first vaccine for bluetongue disease in India.

9th January

- Chinese President Xi Jinping presented Chinese nuclear physicist Yu Min with the State Preminent Science and Technology Award 2014.
- Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari presented the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2015 to sixteen during the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award was constituted by the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to honour the contributions of Non-Resident Indians in their respective profession.

10th January

- An app was introduced for women's safety while travelling on trains. The app is called 'm-indicator' which allows women to avail immediate help from Railway Police with just an SMS.

11th January

- Stanislas Wawarinka won the Chennai Open by defeating Aljaz Benede.
- The Sultanpur National Park in Gurgaon, Haryana was shut down for one week after 47 migratory birds were found dead in the park.
- US will be hosting an Anti-terror summit in February 2015
- Roger Federer won Brisbane International tennis Title by defeating Milos Raonic.
- The director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR) MYS Prasad was selected for the Vikram Sarabhai memorial award 2015.
- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) won the Presidential elections in Croatia.
- Justice Surinder Kumar Sinha was appointed as the 21st Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

12th January

- 12 January declared as National Youth Day.
- Cristiano Ronaldo won the 2014 Ballon d'or Award.

- Kiran Kumar became eighth Chairman of ISRO after succeeding K Radhakrishnan who retired on 31 December 2014.
- Indian professional golfer Anirban Lahiri voted as the 2014 Players' Player of the year in Asian Tour for his successful exploits on the Asian Tour.
- Dima Hasao District of Assam got its first broad gauge railway track. The train in its first ever journey covered 98 km from Patharkhula station to New-Haflong station.
- RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan received the Governor of the Year for 2015.
- The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Team of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) won the 2015 Space Pioneer Award in the Science and Engineering category.
- Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu inaugurated India's first compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered train from Rewari to Rohtak
- Madagascar Prime Minister Kolo Roger and his government resigned from their position. The President accepted their resignation, however, the reason for resignation was not disclosed.

13th January

- First ever Border haat of Tripura along the India-Bangladesh border opened at Srinagar-Feni border.
- Japan approved its largest ever defense budget.
- Idukki district of Kerala becomes first ever district to have complete rural broadband coverage.
- Tamil novelist Perumal Murugan's book Madhorubhagan (One Part Woman) caught under controversies for description of Hindu's half-female god, Ardhanareeswara.
- Bangalore FC won the first ever football Federation Cup. They beat Goa by 2-1.
- Joseph Vaz becomes the first ever saint from Sri Lanka to be canonised by Pope Francis.
- A.S. Kiran Kumar is the new Secretary of the Department of Space as also Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization and the Space Commission. He was earlier the director of Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad.

14th January

- Prabhu Nath Dwivedi was named as the winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2014 for Sanskrit language.

- Bhakti Sharma, the open water swimming champion of India set a world record by swimming 1.4 miles in 52 minutes in one degree temperature in the Antarctic Ocean.
- Critically endangered forest owl (Athene blewitti) was sighted in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The appointment committee of Cabinet approved appointment of Anupam Shrivastava as the CMD of BSNL.
- Amitabh Bachchan received the Social Media Person of the Year Award.
- Brett Lee retired from all forms of Cricket.

15th January

- 67th Army Day celebrated.
- Hari Shankar Brahma was appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of Election Commission. He succeeds Veeravalli Sundaram Sampath.
- Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification Leela Samson resigned from her office.
- Baba Ramdev was appointed as the State ambassador of Haryana.
- A US-based NGO The Giraffe Heroes Project conferred renowned Indian RTI activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal with the Giraffe Hero award 2015.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh handed over the first set of Resident Identity Card (RIC) readers to Navy Chief Admiral R K Dhowan and Coast Guard Director General Vice-Admiral A G Thapliyal. These RIC readers will be used by maritime security agencies to check identity cards of the residents of coastal area issued under RIC Scheme.
- e-Panchayat project of J&K was selected for the National Award for e-Governance for the best district-level initiative in Citizen-Centric Service Delivery through ICT. The e-Panchayat project was launched in 2013-14 in Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen 147 Panchayats. Under the project, a decentralised regime of Panchayats has been established with service delivery shifted from block level to Panchayat level.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed Englishman Stephen Constantine was as the head coach of Indian men's football team.
- Former CBI chief, AP Singh resigned as a UPSC member.

16th January

- Anupam Shrivastava has been appointed the chairman and managing director (CMD) of state-run BSNL from January 15. Mr. Shrivastava has been appointed CMD of BSNL for a period of five years or till the time of superannuation at the age of 60 years.
- Following the International Table Tennis Federation's announcement in August 2014 that plastic composite balls would be used for all its events instead of the traditional celluloid balls, the Table Tennis Federation of India has decided to adopt the same for all its tournaments in the forthcoming season.
- In an effort to make the travel of passengers and tourists more comfortable on Konkan Railway route, the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) inaugurated a 'Phone Grievance Registration System' (PGRS) on 16th January, 2015. The PGRS on Konkan Railway route will enable passengers travelling on the route to register their grievances pertaining to various issues 24/7 on a toll-free number.
- After being defeated in Sri Lanka's presidential polls, the former President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday gave up leadership of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). President Maithripala Sirisena, who contested against Mr. Rajapaksa and won with 51.28 per cent of the votes, assumed charge as the party's leader.
- British singer Sarah Brightman is expected to blast off in October for a 10-day stay on the International Space Station, becoming the eighth tourist and first professional singer to visit the orbital outpost, a \$100 billion research laboratory that flies about 418 km above Earth. One tourist, Microsoft co-founder Charles Simonyi, made two trips.
- The existing promoters of the SpiceJet, the Marans of Sun Group, have decided to pass on the ownership and control of the airline to Ajay Singh, who co-founded the airline in 2005.
- R.K. Tyagi, Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, was on Friday conferred the JGBS Top Rankers Excellence Award for the CEO of the year. The award is instituted by JGBS or Jindal Global Business School and executive search firm Top Rankers' Management Consultants, both based in Delhi. Dr. Tyagi was recognised for playing a key role in 2014 in launching a series of HR, R&D and other initiatives in HAL.

17th January

- Citing reports of tensions surrounding its release in some other parts of the country, the Punjab government on 17th January, 2015 decided to "stop with immediate

effect” the screening of the film Messenger of God, featuring the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief, Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh.

- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar handed over the first series-production version of the Light Combat Aircraft to the Indian Air Force. The IAF looks set to get the final battle-ready version of the Light Combat Aircraft only around December this year, which means a further six-month delay in the 25-year-old aircraft project, which was expected to be achieved in June this year.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation on 17th January, 2015 arrested Shib Narayan Das, Director of Kolkata-based firm Saradha Realty, in connection with the multi-crore rupee chit fund scam. CBI apprehended Das in Kolkata and seized a fully-loaded .38 calibre revolver from him. It was Das who had allegedly suggested to the Chairman of Saradha group Sudipta Sen to start a chit fund company and lure investors to deposit in their schemes in 2008. Sources allege that after founding the Saradha group on July 8, 2008, Sen had appointed Das as the Director and shareholder.
- Pankaj Advani wins his 7th National senior billiards Championship title in Kolkata at Bengal Rowing Club on 17th January, 2015. He defeated Dhruv Sitwala 5-0.
- China mourns at the Beijing home of Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Communist party chief ousted in 1989 for opposing a military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his death. Memorial attracts more than in previous years as 10-year anniversaries are considered particularly significant in China.
- Piramal Enterprises (PEL) a leading player in custom research and manufacturing services (CRAMS) has invested US \$ 30.65 million (around Rs. 189 crore) to buy Coldstream Laboratories Inc. in an all-cash deal. Coldstream is a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) focused on the development and manufacture of sterile injectable products.
- Leander Paes captured 55th title of his career as he triumphed at the Heineken Open in Auckland with new partner Raven Klaasen while Rohan Bopanna clinched the Apia International with Canada’s Daniel Nestor in Sydney.
- Serbian Viktor Troicki took a big step on his comeback trail after a doping ban by defeating Mikhail Kukushkin 6-2 6-3 in the men’s single to win the Sydney International.

- India's Sania Mirza won her first title of the season and 23rd of her career when she and Bethanie Mattek-Sands defeated Americans Abigail Spears and Raquel Kops-Jones in the doubles final of the Apia International on Friday.
- Ashok Srinivasan won The Hindu Prize 2014 at the Lit for Life 2015 for his debut collection of 13 short stories, Book of Common Signs. The prize was given away by Justice Leila Seth.
- A.N. Jayaram, former Additional Solicitor-General of India and former Advocate-General of Karnataka, passed away in Bangalore on 16th January, 2015.

18th January

- Mark Knowles was announced the FIH Player-of-the-year 2014. On the women's side, Dutch midfielder Ellen Hoog was named Player-of-the-Year. Dutch goalkeepers Jaap Stockmann and Joyce Sombroek were named Goalkeepers-of-the-year. The men's and women's Rising-stars-of-the-year were both from Argentina — Gonzalo Peillat and Florencia Habif. Dutch women's team coach Max Caldas was women's Coach-of-the-year and Australian legend Ric Charlesworth was men's Coach-of-the-year.
- Stephen Constantine has been confirmed the head coach of the National men's football team. His previous stint as head coach of India, and his achievements with Rwanda helped the All India Football Federation decide in his favour. The Englishman, who will also be in charge of the U-23 side, has agreed to a two-year contract.
- The 11 Uzhavar Sandhais in Salem district created a record of sort by crossing Rs. 70 lakh sales turnover on Friday. About 1,200 farmers had brought 271 tonne vegetables to the Sandhais on Friday and they fetched a sale of Rs. 70.3 lakh.
- Insanity cannot be the sole ground for release of a murder convict from jail as he may use the leeway given to him to commit another murder, the Supreme Court observed while hearing a bail plea. A Bench led by Justice T.S. Thakur on Friday orally observed that rather than letting out such a person, he should be placed in a mental hospital for treatment.
- Once in every 12 years, tens of millions of Hindus gather in Allahabad for what is thought to be the largest religious meeting in the world — the Maha Kumbh Mela. The turnout for Pope John Paul II's Sunday Mass on January 15, 1995, in the Philippine capital's Rizal Park the same venue where Pope Francis will appear this Sunday is

considered the largest for the head of the Roman Catholic Church. Vatican officials estimated the crowd at between 2 million and 5 million people.

- A.B. de Villiers took 31 balls to smash the fastest century in ODIs as South Africa crushed West Indies by 148 runs at The Wanderers.
- Ethiopia's Tesfaye Abera wins the 12th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon men's race. The defending champion in the women's, Dinknesh, made it a sweet double for her country by making the race all her own from the 21 km mark.
- Noted writer and senior citizen Angara Surya Rao will receive the 'Jaladi Atmeeya Puraskaram' at Gurajada Kalakshetram at the monthly cultural programme 'Vinoda Vallari'. He will be honoured with a cash reward of Rs. 10,116 and a memento at the felicitation programme.

19th January

- The government put in place an entirely new censor board with producer Pahlaj Nihalani as its chairperson. Mr. Nihalani, known for the 1990s blockbusters Shola aur Shabnam and Aankhen, produced "Har Ghar Modi-The Power House of India," a fan-song for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, last year.
- According to a report by Oxfam released on the eve of the Global Economic Forum opening in Davos, if wealth concentration grows at the present rate, in two years 1 per cent of the global population will earn more than the remaining 99 per cent. Global wealth inequality has reached staggering proportions with 1 in 9 people not getting enough to eat and over a billion on less than \$ 1.25 a day.

20th January

- Marking its first acquisition in India, Twitter announced acquisition of Bangalore-based mobile marketing start-up ZipDial.
- The Periyar Tiger Reserve, spread over 925 sq.km. in Kerala, bagged the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) biennial award for encouraging local public participation in managing the reserve.
- India's strategic missile, Agni-V, will be test-fired from the Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast, on January 31. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which has developed the missile, will launch it from a canister mounted on a road-mobile launcher, which is a TATRA truck. A gas generator at the bottom of the

canister will push the 17-metre long, 50-tonne Agni-V out of the canister. The missile, which can take out targets situated more than 5,000 km away, can carry a nuclear warhead weighing 1.1 tonnes.

- The Nishagandhi Puraskaram, 2015, will be bestowed on Bharatanatyam exponent Padma Subrahmanyam, the inaugural day of Kerala Tourism's nine-day Nishgandhi dance and music festival. The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000, citation, and statuette, is being presented for her contribution to Indian classical dance.
- Rs. 1-crore award for villages attaining balanced sex ratio. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi announced a Rs. 1-crore award for any innovative village attaining a balanced sex ratio.
- The retirement age of Haryana government employees now stands reduced to 58 years from 60 years as the Punjab and Haryana High Court has upheld the decision of the Manohar Lal Khattar government to the effect.
- Three Russian Olympic gold medalists in race walking were tested positive for abuse of using performance improving drugs, the Russian Anti-Doping Agency. Sergey Kiryapkin and Olga Kaniskina were banned for three years and two months, while Valery Borchin received a ban for eight years from October 15, 2012. Their performance results were also annulled, according to the agency's decision.

21st January

- The Board of Directors of Kasturi and Sons Ltd. (KSL), publishers of The Hindu and Group publications, at its meeting on January 20, unanimously appointed Malini Parthasarathy as the Editor of The Hindu effective February 1, 2015.
- In its latest World Economic Outlook report released, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that India will grow 6.5 per cent in 2016, overtaking China which, it projected, will slow down to 6.3 per cent. For 2015, the IMF forecast India will grow at 6.3 per cent, up from 5.8 per cent in 2014. China's 2014 growth rate was 7.4 per cent.
- California eighth-grader Shubham Banerjee (13 years old) has launched a company to develop low-cost machines to print Braille. Tech giant Intel Corp. recently invested in his start-up, Braigo Labs.
- T. Suvarna Raju took over as the 17th chairman of the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), following his predecessor R.K. Tyagi's retirement.

- Amazon to take JLF closer to book lover: Amazon In., India's largest online store, has partnered with Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) to bring the festival closer to book lovers across India.
- Uttarakhand becomes No. 2 in tiger population: Uttarakhand with 340 tigers is second only to Karnataka, which has 406. This is all the more creditable as the hill state has only one tiger reserve. According to the latest census released, the tiger population in the country is estimated to be around 2,226, a rise of over 30 per cent since the last count in 2010.
- 11.50 cr. bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana : The Guinness Book of World Records had recognised the achievements made under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world, says the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitely
- 'Abhayam' for those in distress launching the help in distress mobile application, Home Minister N. Chinarajappa said that help was just a click away. The application was designed by Bangalore-based IT company Logic Shore. The application facilitates the reportage of crime within seconds and help women in distress.
- EU lifts 7 months ban on Indian mangoes. However, the ban has been lifted only on mangoes. Ban on taro, bitter gourd, snake gourd and eggplant remains in force. The EU accounts for more than 50 per cent of total exports of fruits and vegetables from India. The U.K. is the main destination, followed by the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.
- Government to allocate 36 coal blocks to PSUs. Of these 36 coal blocks, one mine will be given to the steel sector while the rest will be given to the power sector.
- Toyota tops in global vehicle sales, beats VW, GM. The company suffered a setback in 2011, when its production was hit by the earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan but it made a comeback as No. 1 in 2012. GM had been the top-selling automaker for more than seven decades until being surpassed by Toyota in 2008.
- Poet and linguist Puthussery Ramachandran has been chosen for this year's Prof. S. Guptan Nair Award. The award, instituted to honour teachers who have made scholarly interventions in cultural and academic life, carries a cash prize of Rs.15, 000 and citation.
- Visit Kerala Year 2015 to be observed from April. Kerala Tourism's Visit Kerala 2015, a new initiative to promote the destination and products and thereby increase footfalls, will be kicked off on April 1 with a series of events ranging from arts to sports. The

focus of the year that will conclude in April 2016 will be to strengthen the promotion of tourism products, including Ayurveda, Responsible Tourism, Spice Route, and Muziris Heritage.

22nd January

- The Telangana government Friday began the work on T-Hub, which promises to be India's biggest incubation facility. Telangana Information Technology Minister K. Tarakarama Rao laid the foundation stone for the facility at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Gachibowli in Hyderabad. Expected to be operational by June 2015, it would be the largest centre for start-up and entrepreneurship activities in the country.
- Arantxa Sanchez regained the senior National women's billiards title
- The world's first-ever terminal for animals is set to open at the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York in 2016 and it will transport 70,000 animals a year once the \$48 million facility becomes operational. The 178,000-square-foot state-of-the-art animal handling and intelligent air cargo facility, aptly called 'The Ark', will be built at a cost of \$48 million and will be constructed at the current site of Cargo Building 78.
- Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand has been selected by Election Commission of India (ECI) for 'National Special Award for Best Electoral Practices 2014'. The award is being presented to him for his work in the area of 'Expenditure Monitoring and Tackling Money Power' during the General Elections 2014.
- Doctors at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute implanted India's first Subcutaneous Implantable Defibrillator (S-ICD) on a 48-year-old heart patient from Bihar. The S-ICD system is approved for patients who are at a risk of sudden cardiac death due to life threatening ventricular arrhythmias and those who do not require a pacemaker.

23rd January

- Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, the powerful U.S. ally who joined Washington's fight against al-Qaeda and sought to modernise the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom with incremental but significant reforms, including nudging open greater opportunities for women, has died. Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud has been named his successor. He has served as the Governor of capital Riyadh for nearly 50 years. He is known to be a mediator of disputes within the sprawling royal family. Salman, 79, had increasingly

taken on the duties of the king over the past year as his ailing predecessor and half-brother, Abdullah, became more incapacitated.

- Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra ousted after the military-appointed legislature voted to ban her from politics for five years and the prosecutor announced plans to indict her on criminal charges in connection with a money-losing rice subsidy program. The twin actions by the legislature and the Attorney-General against Ms. Yingluck are widely seen as an attempt by the military junta to cripple the political machine founded by Ms. Yingluck's brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, another ousted prime minister, and prevent them from returning to power.
- Indian-American author Jhumpa Lahiri won the \$50,000 DSC Prize for Literature, one of South Asia's top literary awards for her book, *The Lowland*. The Prize celebrates writing on the South Asian region from writers across the globe and is given to the best novel or translations into English of a work on or about the region.
- Haryana Governor Prof Kaptan Singh Solanki took over the additional charge of Governor of Punjab. Mr. Solanki was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court Shriavax Jal Vazifdar at Punjab Raj Bhavan, an official spokesman said. He took the oath in Hindi.
- Chandrapur in the Vidarbha region became the third "alcohol-free" district.
- NIFT-TEA College of Knitwear Fashion has bagged the silver trophy instituted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) for the Best Institute in the women skill development category at the national-level.
- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union's long-term lending institution, signed a loan agreement for Euro 100 million to be utilised for on-lending to private businesses in the country. The loan will be utilised to support the development of private sector, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social and economic infrastructure as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in India.
- India's biggest incubation hub to come up in Hyderabad. Expected to be operational by June 2015, it would be the largest centre for start-up and entrepreneurship activities in the country.
- Justice Mukul Mudgal was "mighty pleased" with the Supreme Court taking steps to cleanse sports administration in the country by declaring that the Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI) has a public profile and not private. As Justice Mudgal noted, the BCCI would have to be more accountable now.

- A telescope aboard a prolific Sun-watching NASA spacecraft has captured its mind-boggling 100 millionth image of the Sun. The Atmospheric Imaging Assembly, or AIA, on NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) uses four telescopes working parallel to gather eight images of the Sun — cycling through 10 different wavelengths — every 12 seconds. In the almost five years since its launch in 2010, SDO has provided images of the Sun to help scientists better understand how the roiling corona gets to temperatures some 1000 times hotter than the Sun's surface, what causes giant eruptions such as solar flares, and why the Sun's magnetic fields are constantly on the move.
- Accountancy and business advisory firm Baker Tilly International has partnered with Desai Haribhakti (DHC) to set up a global centre of excellence (GCE) in India to provide skills and employment to thousands of young professionals.
- Biocon Ltd plans to make a public offer of its research arm Syngene by the second half of next financial year. The board has inducted two additional independent directors — Israeli drug maker Teva's former CEO Jeremy M. Levin; and Harvard Medical School Professor Vijay K. Kuchroo.
- Remarking that it is Myanmar's responsibility to take its nationals back, a senior U.S. official has said that the international community needs to put more pressure on Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya issue.
- Ousted Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will face criminal charges in the Supreme Court and a possible jail term. Yingluck was removed from office for abuse of power in May last year, days before a military coup. The charge against the country's first female premier, concern her role in scheme that paid farmers above market prices for rice and cost Thailand billions of dollars.
- The new king of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, served as the Governor of capital Riyadh for nearly 50 years. Salman, 79, had increasingly taken on the duties of the king over the past year as his ailing predecessor and half-brother, Abdullah, became more incapacitated. King Abdullah died before dawn on Friday aged 90.
- Civil Rights activist Irom Sharmila who was released after the suicide attempt charge against her was quashed, continued her fast unto death from Thursday night in Imphal. She has been on fast unto death since November 4, 2000 demanding the repeal of the

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 which gives carte blanche to the security forces while combating the insurgents.

24th January

- Justice N. Paul Vasanthakumar, judge of the Madras High Court, has been elevated as the Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. He is likely to assume office on February 2.
- Judicial officials in Egypt said an appeals court has ordered a retrial in an internationally criticized mass trial, overturning 37 death sentences.
- The 225 passengers stranded in Budapest after a London-Mumbai Air India flight which was diverted to the Hungarian capital for technical reasons were flown to Mumbai and Delhi on two flights late on Friday afternoon, airline officials said.
- Seven people killed in Baghdad, due to twin bombings in Western Baghdad and Zafaraniyah district.
- Pankaj Advani won his seventh senior National snooker title beating Varun Madan by six frames to three in a well-fought final of the BRC Gloster National billiards and snooker championship at the BRC. MP's Ameer Kamani won her maiden senior snooker title defeating defending champion Vidya Pillay of Karnataka.
- Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain has decided to confer Tamgha-i-Shujaat (Medal of Bravery) on 145 students and staff members of the Army Public School in Peshawar who were killed in a terrorist attack Dec 16.
- A day after being released from jail, rights activist Irom Chanu Sharmila was arrested once again on Friday under the same charge of attempt to commit suicide by continuing her indefinite fast.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, along with his wife Dimple, an MP, will welcome U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle during their much-awaited trip to Taj Mahal in Agra.
- Left Parties protest against Obama's visit to India
- Hundreds of Muslims rallied in Sydney on Friday night to protest negative media coverage of Islam and the French magazine Charlie Hebdo's depictions of the Prophet Mohammed. Some of the 800-strong demonstrators in the Muslim enclave of Lakemba held placards with the slogan Je suis Muslim, French for "I am Muslim."

- Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is now the world's oldest monarch following the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Abdullah (90), who passed away on Friday, was two years older than the Queen, who will be 89 in April this year. She is one of the eight octogenarian monarchs in the world, the others including the King of Thailand and the Emperor of Japan.

25th January

- BJP patriarch L.K. Advani, Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and actors Amitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar are among the nine Padma Vibhushan awardees, the second highest civilian award of the country. Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, nuclear scientist M.R. Srinivasan, philanthropist Veerendra Heggade and Sanskrit scholar Rambhadracharya and Karim Al Hussiani Aga Khan are the other awardees of the Padma Vibhushan.
- Harish Salve, journalists Swapan Dasgupta, Rajat Sharma, former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami, constitutional expert Subhash Kashyap and Carnatic vocalist Sudha Raghunathan, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda Gates, and Fields Medal winner Manjul Bhargava have also been named for the Padma Bhushan.
- Economist Bibek Debroy, lyricist Prasoon Joshi, among the 75 people to be conferred with the Padma Shri award. IT honcho Mohandas Pai, badminton player P.V. Sindhu, woman cricketer Mithali Raj, filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Arunima Sinha, the first woman amputee to climb the Mount Everest, are the other prominent names on the list.
- India and United States signed three Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) to give a boost to the Centre's flagship 'smart cities' scheme. The U.S. has agreed to partner with Indian in developing three smart cities in Allahabad, Ajmer, and Visakhapatnam. As per the pacts, the U.S. will assist the cities in project planning, infrastructure development, feasibility studies and capacity building.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a piece of Indo-US history, a copy of the first telegram from the United States to India's Constituent Assembly in 1946, to President Barack Obama. The telegram was sent by then Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson to Sachchidananda Sinha, the provisional Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. Mr. Modi presented the copy after he received President Obama at the Hyderabad House

for high level delegation level talks on various issues. The copy was the reproduction of the telegram which was read out at the inaugural sitting of the Constituent Assembly of India on December 9, 1946.

- Poet Arundhati Subramaniam won the inaugural Khushwant Singh Memorial Prize for Poetry for her work When God is a Traveller.
- Central African Republic's Minister for Youth and Sport was kidnapped by gunmen in the capital, Bangui, as he returned from church, an official said.
- Buoyed by the market response to its Tizen OS-based smartphone in India, tech giant Samsung plans to manufacture the 'Z1' at its Noida facility soon. The South Korean firm, which is the world's largest smartphone player, had launched the device earlier this month in India. India is the first market globally, where the Z1 was launched at Rs 5,700, targeted at first-time smartphone buyers.
- The 6th National Voter's Day was observed in several districts and taluks, all over the country.

26th January

- Google paid tribute to 66th Republic Day with a special doodle done up as a tableau, showcasing the stretch of the ceremonial boulevard from Raisina Hill to India Gate, the centrepiece of the traditional parade.
- Six prominent personalities from the Northeast, including National Award winning Assamese filmmaker Jahnu Barua and 'Forest Man of India' Jadav Payeng, were chosen for this year's Padma awards. While Barua, a former Padma Shri, was named for the Padma Bhushan, Assam's tribal environmentalist Payeng, noted Assamese writer Lakshmi Nandan Bora, Manipur's medicine expert Sarungbam Bimola Kumari Devi, musician Neil Herbert Nonkynrih from Meghalaya and social worker H. Thegtse Rinpoche from Arunachal Pradesh will get the Padma Shri.
- Sahyadri Industries Ltd., joined the PM's Swachh Bharat Mission with the launch of Cemply Swachalay, first-of-its-kind and fast to build green toilets. The company plans to install one lakh toilets in Chennai during 2015-16. These toilets can be installed in any terrain and are ready in less than an hour, said a company release.
- Indian IT bellwether Wipro Ltd. has won a multi-year strategic infrastructure management contract from Allied Irish Banks plc (AIB), a leading bank in Ireland.

- Legendary cartoonist and creator of the Common Man, R.K. Laxman, one of post-Independence India's greatest caricaturists, died of a cardiac arrest at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune, on the 26th evening.. He was 93.
- Nuclear-capable Agni missiles - a highlight for the past several years - were missing as U.S. President Barack Obama witnessed India's military might and cultural diversity on what proved to be a rainy and cold 66th Republic Day. In doing so, Mr. Obama became the first U.S. President to be the chief guest at the parade as President Pranab Mukherjee took the salute at the parade.
- The 66th Republic Day saw many firsts. 1. All-women contingents of the Army, Navy and Air Force march through Rajpath for the first time. 2. The first time that a U.S. President is Chief Guest for the parade. 3. The President and the chief guest arrived in different motorcades, a departure from the standard practice of arriving together. 4. CRPF shows off Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) used in anti-Naxal operations. 5. The long-range advanced MiG-29K fighter jet on display
- Perumal Murugan has been urged to resume writing, in a seminar organised jointly by the Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram and Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artistes Association (TNPWAA).

27th January

- The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry's Republic Day print advertisement on omitted the words "socialist, secular" in the image of the Preamble to the Constitution triggering a furore and signature campaigns over social media platforms. The words "socialist, secular" were introduced in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act in 1976.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation paid its tributes to iconic cartoonist R.K. Laxman by posting online his cartoon "common man reaching Mars", the last of his works, which he had sent to the space agency after the success of the historic Mars Mission.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will spell out the functional roadmap of the newly created NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog at its first meeting being scheduled on February 6, 2015.
- Facebook and its Instagram photo-sharing site, suffered temporary outages around the world for up to an hour and the company said later that an internal software networking

error was to blame. The outage at Facebook appeared to spill over and temporarily slow or block traffic to other major Internet sites, according to web and mobile user reports from around the globe. A hacker group associated with other recent high-profile attacks sought to take credit for the outages, but Facebook denied in a statement that any outside party was responsible.

- A potentially historic blizzard could dump up to 60 centimetres of snow on a large part of the U.S. Northeast, crippling a region that has largely been spared so far this winter, the National Weather Service said. Thousands of flights were cancelled. The National Weather Service said the storm, known as a nor'easter, would bring heavy snow, powerful winds and widespread coastal flooding. A blizzard warning was issued for a 400-km stretch of the Northeast, including New York and Boston.

28th January

- Google gets competition in new search engine. Finnish researchers have developed a new search engine that outperforms current ones and helps people search more efficiently. Developed at the Helsinki Institute for Information Technology HIIT, the SciNet search engine is different because it changes internet searches into recognition tasks by showing keywords related to the user's search in topic radar.
- The International Customs Day 2015, organised in commemoration of formation of World Customs Organisation (WCO) on January 26, 1953, was celebrated at Custom House, Tuticorin.
- After analysing over four years of data from NASA's Kepler spacecraft, a team of astronomers has discovered a star that is 11.2 billion years old and has at least five Earth-size planets. The paper describes Kepler-444, a star that is 25 percent smaller than our Sun and is 117 light years from Earth. The star's five known planets have sizes that fall between Mercury and Venus.
- The National Investigation Agency has arrested four more Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men in connection with the Bardhaman blast case. They have been identified as Dalim Sheikh, Motiur Rehman, Habibur Rehman Sheikh and Gyasuddin. The agency had launched a hunt for Dalim Sheikh, after it located four houses allegedly built by the outfit members, including him, on government land in Muluk Village of Birbhum in West Bengal. Two suspected terrorists of the JMB were killed in the blast at Khagragarh in West Bengal's Bardhaman town on October 2, 2014.

- Excavations have begun at the two Harappan sites of Binjor in Rajasthan, close to the India-Pakistan border, and Rakhigarhi in Haryana.
- Japanese auto giant Suzuki Motor Corporation plans to invest Rs.8,000 crore in Gujarat by setting up three manufacturing units with a total capacity of 7.50 lakh vehicles annually
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and stock exchanges have put their surveillance systems on 'high alert' in view of the government's estimated Rs.24, 000-crore mega share sale in Coal India Ltd. (CIL).
- Apple Inc. quarterly results smashed Wall Street expectations with record sales of big-screen iPhones in the holiday shopping season and a 70 per cent rise in China sales, powering the company to the largest profit in corporate history.
- Tata International Metals Americas, a division of Tata International Ltd, said it would acquire U.S.-based Totem Steel International's steel trading business. Tata International is a global trading and distribution company with a network of offices and subsidiaries spanning more than 39 countries.
- The country's largest mortgage lender - State Bank of India (SBI) - has decided to raise equity capital of Rs.15,000 crore to meet the increased capital needs for matching the anticipated growth in business, the bank said. The bank said the equity issue is also to maintain its capital adequacy ratio (CAR) at 12 percent from fiscal 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- An Indian-origin anaesthesiologist is among five medical personnel who have been slapped with a multi-million dollar lawsuit in connection with the death of American actress and comedian Joan Rivers. The lawsuit has been filed in New York State Supreme Court by Rivers' daughter Melissa Rivers against New York clinic Yorkville Endoscopy, the Frontier Healthcare, which has partial ownership of the clinic as well as Rivers' personal physician Gail Korovin, doctor Lawrence Cohen, anaesthesiologists Renuka Bankulla, Robert Koniuta and Suzanne Scarola.

29th January

- After signing agreements for investments estimated at Rs. 5,000 crore in the information and communication technology sector, Uttar Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav will host a special summit for non-resident Indians to boost inflow of funds to the State. From February 28, Agra will host the two-day U.P. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.

NRI, especially those hailing from the State, have been invited to make them aware of various investor-friendly initiatives that the government has taken. Chief executive officers of various multinational companies and Ambassadors of various nations will take part in the event.

- In a step that could significantly push the bar for quality online education in the country, IIT Bombay has embarked on a commendable mass online education programme that will provide free online courses and give access to high quality, IIT-style education to Indian students in Indian languages. On the Republic Day, Prof Devang Khakhar, Director of IIT Bombay, launched three Mass Open Online Courses (MOOC) in computer programming, thermodynamics, and signals and systems from the institute's IIT-BombayX platform developed in collaboration with edX, a not-for-profit initiative by MIT and Harvard.
- Top seed Serena Williams beat fellow American Madison Keys 7-6(5) 6-2 to reach the Australian Open final. Williams will now face Maria Sharapova for the title after the Russian second seed beat compatriot Ekaterina Makarova earlier on Rod Laver Arena
- Charles Townes, Nobel winner for co-inventing laser, dies aged 99
- McDonald's CEO Don Thompson is stepping down as the world's biggest hamburger chain fights to hold onto customers and transform its image. The company said Thompson, who has been CEO for two-and-a-half years, will be replaced by Steve Easterbrook, its chief brand officer. Easterbrook has led efforts related to marketing and menus and served as president of McDonald's Europe
- Online restaurant discovery firm Zomato has acquired Turkey's restaurant search service Mekanist in an all-cash deal. The acquisition, whose value was not disclosed, is its seventh in the last six months. Zomato's restaurant coverage will increase from about 27,500 restaurants in Istanbul and Ankara to more than 50,000 restaurants across Turkey, it said in a statement.
- Eminent singer and theatre director Shekhar Sen has been appointed the new chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the country's premier institution for the performing arts.

30th January

- China has taken a firm step to beef up its energy security by inaugurating a pipeline that will bring crude oil from a deep-water port in Myanmar, along a transit route that will bypass the strategic Malacca Straits.

- Britain on Friday marked 50 years since the state funeral of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill, with the boat which carried his coffin in 1965 retracing its journey down London's River Thames.
- Apartheid death-squad leader Eugene de Kock, dubbed 'Prime Evil' for his role in the torture and murder of scores of black South African activists in the 1980s and early 1990s, was granted parole on Friday after more than 20 years in prison.
- Taking Gmail and other email apps head on, Microsoft has launched a new Outlook app for iOS and Android devices. The new app is basically a replacement for San Francisco-based email startup Acompli that was acquired by Microsoft for \$200 million in December last year, New York Daily News reported.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has taken steps to appoint women as daily deposit collectors, also known as pigmy deposit collectors, to ensure their greater participation in furthering financial inclusion.

31st January

- Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini became the first all Italian pair to win a grand slam men's doubles title in almost 60 years when they beat Frenchmen Pierre-Hughes Herbert and Nicolas Mahut 6-4 6-4 at the Australian Open.
- Paul van Ass was appointed as the head Coach of Indian men's hockey team succeeding Terry Walsh.
- Kanagasabapathy J Sripavan was sworn in as 44th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka succeeding Shirani Bandaranayake who resigned one day after she was reinstated as Chief Justice.
- Krishna Chaudhary was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and will replace Subhas Goswami.
- The Commemorative Postage Stamps on the theme of Swachh Bharat Mission were released at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to mark the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 18th National Conference on e-Governance was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat with the main theme being "Digital Governance – New Frontiers."
- Churches in England opposed the proposed changes to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990 that would allow IVF babies to be born with DNA from three different people. This would be done through a technique called Mitochondrial Donation.