

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

1st March

- Trai (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) directs Vodafone to stop '111' services forthwith. The Trai numbering plan does not authorise any telecom operator to allot or use numbers from 111 to 115. Vodafone uses 111 number for customer care/balance enquiry etc.
- Baldev Sharma, editor Panchajanya magazine appointed as Chairman, National Book Trust. Baldev Sharma replaces Sethumadhavan.
- A Space Exploration Technologies rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Sunday to put the world's first all-electric communications satellites into orbit.
- Three major steel PSUs — SAIL, RINL and NMDC — have proposed a marginal 1.4 per cent cut in their capital expenditure at Rs. 12,889 crore in the next fiscal towards modernisation and expansion plans.
- The Coal Ministry today received 107 applications from PSUs like NTPC, SAIL, DVC and NLC for allocation of 43 coal blocks to be given to state-run firms. The government is now allotting 43 mines to PSUs. Of the 43 mines, 42 are for power sector and one is for steel sector. The Palma II mine in Chhattisgarh got nine applications, the highest for a single block.
- Congress leader Ajay Maken will be the chief of the party unit in Delhi where Congress suffered a wipe-out in Assembly polls in the national capital. The decision is expected to be announced in a day or two, sources said, indicating that some other changes could also be announced which includes replacing Punjab Congress chief Pratap Singh Bajwa.
- Boris Nemtsov, a charismatic former deputy prime minister-turned-Russian Opposition leader, was shot and killed in Moscow on Saturday, officials said. Nemtsov's death comes just a day before a planned protest against President Vladimir Putin's rule. The Kremlin said that Putin would personally oversee the investigation.

2nd March

- Globally, Christy Walton, who inherited a stake in retailer Wal-Mart, retained the title of world's richest woman at \$41.7 billion, followed by Liliane Bettencourt, the principal heiress to the L'Oreal cosmetics fortune in the second place with \$40.7 billion.
- The third richest woman is Alice Walton (\$39.4 billion), daughter of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and sister-in-law to Ms. Christy Walton.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said loans to sanitation, health care and drinking water facilities and renewable energy would come under the priority sector ambit, as would incremental loans made to exports, with certain ceilings. It suggested foreign banks with 20 and above branches may be given time up to March, 2018, in terms of extant guidelines and submit their revised action plans. Other foreign banks, that is, with less than 20 branches, may be given time up to March, 2020, to comply with the revised targets as per action plans submitted by them and approved by the RBI.
- Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Sadhvi Prachi kicked up another controversy by calling for a boycott of films starring Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan and Salman Khan and asking right-wing Hindu outfits to tear posters of their films and make a bonfire of them. Ms. Prachi also accused Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa of proselytising in the name of religious services.
- In a major reshuffle ahead of possible elevation of Rahul Gandhi as party president at the AICC session next month, Congress on Monday appointed five new PCC chiefs and one regional Congress Committee President, handing over Ajay Maken the state leadership in Delhi, Ashok Chavan in Maharashtra, Ghulam Ahmed Mir in Jammu and Kashmir Bharatsinh Solanki in Gujarat and Uttam Reddy in Telangana. Also, Sanjay Nirupam was made the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee chief.
- The Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Sunday waded into the controversy relating to religious conversions, saying there was nothing wrong in its 'ghar vapsi' programme and called for a law to check "forced" conversions.

3rd March

- Jagmohan Dalmia elected as President of BCCI (board for control of cricket in India). He will hold the office till 2017. He was earlier President of the BCCI during 2001-04.
- Dilip Shanghvi's Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and global pharmaceutical major GSK, on Tuesday, announced an agreement, whereby Sun will acquire GSK's opiates

business in Australia. According to the agreement, the current GSK opiates business, including related manufacturing sites in Latrobe (in the State of Tasmania) and Port Fairy (in the State of Victoria) and its portfolio of opiates products along with inventory, will transfer to a subsidiary of Sun Pharma. GSK's product portfolio consists of poppy-derived opiate raw materials, used primarily in the making of analgesics to treat moderate to severe pain.

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the killing of Bangladeshi writer and blogger, Avijit Roy. He was brutally killed by some unknown people in Dhaka. While expressing her displeasure, she also spoke about the right to freedom of expression and speech.
- The long-pending Insurance Bill – that seeks to increase the Foreign Direct Investment cap in the sector to 49 per cent — was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday despite Opposition objecting to its introduction on the ground that the Rajya Sabha had not allowed its withdrawal. The Opposition contention was that the Government was trying to set a new precedent that violated the very structure of the bicameral system of Parliament that India has adopted.
- Babu Ram Bhattarai, Nepal's former PM's visit has given rise to speculation that Nepali opposition leaders are reaching out to India after efforts to formulate the new constitution collapsed last month. The Maoist party and the rest of the 30-member opposition coalition walked out of the talks over the government's decision to go for a vote over disputed issues in the constituent assembly rather than consensus, as the opposition demanded.
- A top woman leader of the banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been arrested by the Sri Lankan police at an airport here while she was trying to board a flight to Paris. 41-year-old Burugesu Pahiradi, the former chief of the women's wing of the LTTE's Sea Tigers, was arrested on Monday at the international airport here by the Terrorist Investigations Division (TD) of the police. She was nabbed while she was trying to leave the country for France, police said.

4th March

- A top Indian-American physician has been selected for the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Chair to India. The Ahmedabad-based HL Trivedi Institute of Transplantation Sciences will host Dr. Rahul Jindal for the duration of the chair. Dr. Jindal is Professor of Surgery and Global Health at the Uniformed Services University

of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Awards in the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

- The 'Mercer 2015 Quality of Living rankings' evaluated local living conditions in more than 440 cities around the world for the assessment that placed Vienna on top. "Hyderabad (138) and Pune (145) rank higher for quality of living than Mumbai (152) and New Delhi (154). "Considerable population increases in Mumbai and New Delhi in recent decades have increased existing problems, including access to clean water, air pollution and traffic congestion," the report said.
- AAP's founder members Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav were voted out of its political affairs committee (PAC), with 11 people out of 19 voters seeking their exit.
- In a sign of global arenas opening up to Indian laws, Japan has written to the Centre inviting Indian lawyers and law firms to practice Indian laws on its shores. The Union Law Ministry has passed on the letter to the Bar Council of India (BCI), the country's top regulator for legal education and practice, to study the offer and report back on to what extent the offer can be reciprocated from India's side.
- The much awaited spectrum auction, wherein 8 companies are bidding to acquire airwaves in four bands, started on Wednesday. The auction is the biggest ever sale of 2G and 3G airwaves which may fetch the government over Rs. 82,000 crores. A total of 380.75 MHz of spectrum in three bands — the premium 900 MHz band, 1,800 MHz and 800 MHz — is put on sale besides 5 MHz in the 2,100 MHz band across 17 out of 22 telecom areas in the country.
- Misao Okawa, declared oldest person alive, celebrates her 117th birthday. Quips that 117 years did not seem long enough.
- An Australia court on Wednesday ruled that the two DJs broke the law in a hoax call to a UK hospital treating a pregnant Kate Middleton, paving way for the country's media watchdog to take an action against their radio station. An India-born nurse, Jacintha Saldanha, 46, had accepted the hoax call from the 2Day FM DJs, Michael Christian and Mel Greig purporting to be Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II, before passing it on to a colleague who divulged details of Kate's morning sickness.

5th March

- Maharashtra scraps reservations in education and jobs for Muslims. The earlier State govt. announced 5% quota for Muslims in the State.
- The number of women law makers (parliamentarians) across the world has doubled in the last 20 years, according to International Parliamentary Union – IPU’s head Martin Chungong.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second most followed on internet. First is US President Barak Obama, according to Time magazine survey.
- ‘Mudra’ bank – Micro Units Development Refinance Agency to be set up by Government of India. Mudra bank’s objective to refinance micro finance institutions – MFIs.
- One-rupee notes are all set to come back into circulation as the government has decided to restart printing the currency after more than two decades. The RBI said the notes to be issued would be legal tender as provided in The Coinage Act 2011.
- The U.S. Justice Department will not prosecute a white former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black 18-year-old, but in a scathing report released on Wednesday faulted the city and its law enforcement for racial bias. Federal officials concluded there was no evidence to disprove former officer Darren Wilson’s testimony that he feared for his safety, nor was there reliable evidence that Michael Brown had his hands up when he was shot.

6th March

- National Payments Corporation of India – NCPI links 15 crore bank accounts with Aadhar. Beneficiaries of all types of govt. Subsidies are expected to be brought under the linkage.
- The Human Resources Development Ministry has set up a committee to probe alleged misappropriation of funds received under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan by an NGO run by activist Teesta Setalvad, who is facing heat along with her husband in a separate case of embezzlement. The three-member committee is to be headed by Supreme Court lawyer Abhijit Bhattacharjee and comprise Gujarat Central University Vice Chancellor SA Bari and senior HR Ministry official Gaya Prasad as its members.
- The government has initiated backchannel talks with political parties to build a consensus on the controversial Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land

Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2015, to replace the Ordinance. The Bill has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

7th March

- Kashmiri separatist leader Masarat Alam ordered to be released by the new government of J&K. This raises controversy among various political parties and intellectuals.
- A hostile trio of Pakistan left-arm fast bowlers took full advantage of a pitch freshened by rain to hand pre-tournament favourites South Africa their second defeat in the cricket World Cup at Eden Park on Saturday. Man-of-the-match Sarfraz Ahmed equalled the world record for catches by a wicketkeeper in a one-day international with six dismissals, taking his final catch as rain swept across the ground.

8th March

- Saina Nehwal was defeated in the All England Open Badminton championships 2015 by Spain's Carolina Marin, at Birmingham, UK.
- One year completed to the mysterious disappearance of MH308 on its way to (Malaysian Airlines flight) Kaulalampur to Beijing.
- Nigeria's militant group Boko Haram has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, which rules a self-declared caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria, the jihadist monitoring group SITE said on Saturday.
- Flights today resumed from Nepal's only international airport here as it reopened four days after a Turkish Airlines Airbus A-330 skidded off the runway and veered onto the grassy shoulder after losing balance during landing on Wednesday. The jet was removed successfully with the help of Indian Air Force technicians but left nearly 50,000 travellers stranded, affecting the upcoming tourist season, one of the main source of foreign exchange for the Himalayan nation.

9th March

- ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) chief Fadi Chehade visits India. ICANN is a non-profit organisation, a global body that oversees operation and administration of the internet domain names system.
- Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu tops in girls' education. MP, UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkand, Meghalaya, Nagaland lag behind. As per a report by Ministry of HRD, Govt of India and UNICEF.

- PM Narendra Modi launches the first indigenous rotavirus vaccine at New Delhi. Rotavirus causes diarrhoea in infants, with high fatality. Bharat Biotech international, a Hyderabad based company produces the rotavirus vaccine.

10th March

- Ministry of corporate affairs – MCA, govt. of India announces top 10 corporates having assets ranging from 89,000 crore of rupees to 368,000 crore of rupees. Reliance Industries Ltd. tops the list followed by Coal India and HDFC.
- Solar Impulse-2, the world's first solar flight circumventing the globe without a drop of fuel landed at Ahmedabad. The Swiss aircraft is piloted by Bertrand Picard and Andre Boschberg. The flight will cover 25 flight days over five months completing 35,000 kilometers.
- Stating that even under common parlance the office of the Attorney General of India has always been understood to mean a “constitutional authority,” the Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to accept that this office was outside the ambit of the Right to Information Act and further directed it to reconsider the RTI application that it had rejected on these grounds.
- Noting its unhappiness with the Uttar Pradesh government, the Supreme Court on Monday came to the brink of ordering a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in its utilisation of funds meant for compensatory afforestation at the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) in Agra. Justice Thakur considered directing a CBI probe into the “irregularities,” but said the court would give the government one last opportunity to fulfil its commitment to plant saplings to replace trees felled across the land spread over several hundred hectares.

11th March

- The ban on beef in Maharashtra was raised in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, with some members saying it will affect the social fabric of the nation. Raising the issue during zero hour, Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said the Maharashtra Government has banned the “poor man's protein”.
- In a sensational twist to the Hindalco coal block allocation case, a special court here on Wednesday summoned former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as an accused while summarily rejecting the CBI closure report. The court observed that there were enough “incriminating circumstances” to prosecute Dr. Singh for criminal conspiracy.

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday ordered the release of 86 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody as a goodwill gesture ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island.
- Utah lawmakers have passed a bill that would make it the only U.S. state to allow firing squads for carrying out a death sentence if there is a shortage of execution drugs. The state Senate voted 18-10 on Tuesday to reinstate the firing squad more than a decade after abandoning the practice.

12th March

- Narendra Modi the first Indian PM in 34 years to visit Seychelles.
- LIC to invest Rs. 1.5 lakh crore over a period of five years in Indian Railways. A MoU was signed to this effect between LIC and Railways.
- Parliament passes Insurance Bill that allows FDI in the insurance sector upto 49%. Earlier the limit was upto 26%.
- Karnataka retains Ranji Trophy by defeating Tamil Nadu.

13th March

- Narendra Modi first Indian PM to visit Sri Lanka after gap of 28 years. Scheduled to tour 2 days in SL.
- The last visit by Indian PM was in 1987 by Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv was attacked by an SL navy man during courtesy guard of honour.
- Indian Railways launch toll-free helpline number 132.
- Park Street rape survivor Suzette Jordon, 40, who left behind her brutal experience to turn an activist for women's issues, died here after a brief illness on Friday. Ms. Jordon had been admitted to a State-run hospital with meningo-encephalitis. She is survived by two teenage daughters. In February 2012, she was allegedly raped in a moving car on Park Street in an upscale area of the city. She had to go through three tormenting years as many raised questions about the veracity of her version. While she brushed aside the snide remarks by police officers when she went to file a complaint, she stood her ground even when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described it as Sajano Ghatana (a fabricated incident).
- The North Atlantic island of Iceland has withdrawn its bid to join the European Union, with the government saying that its interests are best served outside the 28-nation EU.

14th March

- Central Government's Asset Register shows that its office equipment worth Rs. 40,731 crore. Residences and offices 44,283 crore. Followed by bridges and roads combined 21,960 crores etc. (This is the estimate for the period ending 31.3.2014).
- Mahatma Gandhi's statue unveiled in Britain's Parliament Square by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (the highest decision making body) on Saturday re-elected Bhaiyyaji Joshi as the Sarkaryvaha (general secretary) of the organisation for a third consecutive term till March 2018. Ending speculations in media about the possible elevation of RSS's Sah-Sarkaryvaha (additional general secretary) Dattatreya Hosbale as the general secretary, RSS Sah-Prachar Pramukh J. Nandkumar made the announcement of Mr. Joshi's re-election at a press conference in Nagpur.
- Olympic medal winning boxer MC Mary Kom is being appointed as the brand ambassador of the Northeast to showcase the potential of the region which offers Rs. 2.4 trillion business opportunities across various sectors. An official announcement in this regard would be made soon, Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh said.

15th March

- New Zealand makes it up with Maori Tribals, the indigenous inhabitants of the island. NZ government ends 150 year discrimination, settles with 128 million US dollars' worth money.
- 2G spectrum auction crosses Rs. 1 lakh crore mark.
- Kidambi Srikanth, Hyderabad, wins Swiss Grand Prix Gold Badminton Championship by defeating Viktor Alexson of Denmark.

16th March

- Services won the 69th edition of Santosh Trophy of Football and defeated hosts Punjab. With this, Services won the Santosh trophy for the fourth time. Earlier it had won the trophy in 2013, 2012 and 1961.

- Pioneer of Israeli Cinema Lia van Leer died. She was the founder of Israel Film Archive, Jerusalem Cinematheque, Haifa Cinematheque and the Jerusalem Film Festival.
- PHD Research Bureau released a Survey on working women in Delhi. The survey focused on the problems faced by working women which adversely affect their performance and career growth. The results of the analysis have been divided into three categories: Work Life Balance, Health Concerns and Workplace Health provisions.
- Veteran Gandhian Narayanbhai Desai died. He was the son of Mahatma Gandhi's diarist Mahadev Desai who also was the personal secretary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Development officers working in LIC are not workmen under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947: SC. The decision was given by a SC bench comprising of Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Prafulla C Pant said that there was no flaw in the judgment rendered by the Allahabad HC.
- Powerful Cyclone Pam hit south Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu. The cyclone Pam, a category five tropical storm, brought destructive 270 kilometre-per-hour winds and torrential rain along with it.
- World Consumer Rights Day 2015 observed with the theme "Helping consumers choose healthy diets." The theme for WCRD 2015 is Helping consumers choose healthy diets and it was taken up by the Consumers International (CI) to focus on unhealthy diets that involve four of the ten biggest causes of death worldwide
- Facebook acquired shopping search engine TheFind. Both Facebook and TheFind cast the acquisition as a way to lift the digital advertising business of Facebook
- Kidambi Srikanth won the Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold title of Badminton. World Number 4 Srikanth defeated World Number 6 Viktor Alexson of Denmark 21-15, 12-21, 21-14 to win the men's single title of the men's championship.

17th March

- Supreme Court quashed the Union Government's decision to include Jats in the Central OBC list. As per the Mandal Commission's recommendation though Caste is a prominent factor it cannot be the sole factor of determining the backwardness of a class.
- SIPRI released Trends in International Arms Transfers 2014 report. According to it, India is the world's largest importer of weapons and military equipment, accounting for 15 percent of global imports, with Russia being its majority supplier.

- Union government launched new body NCCF to develop national forest certification system. NCCF will develop national forest certification system and standards till 2016. National forest certification system would also help in combating climate change.
- Union Ministry of DoNER announced to appoint Mary Kom as brand ambassador of NE region. She as the brand ambassador of the Northeast will showcase the potential of the region which offers 2.4 trillion rupees business opportunities across various sectors.
- Wipro appointed Abid Ali Neemuchwala as COO and Group president to streamline processes and allow dealing with strategic priorities at the company.
- Supreme Court cautioned government officials not to insist on Aadhaar. SC asked the Union Government to write to all the state governments to ensure that the officials adhered to the apex court order of September 2013 wherein it had held that Aadhaar was not mandatory for the people.
- Mirach decided to file 400 million US dollar defamation suit against Sahara Group. Mirach Capital alleged that the failed financing deal with the Sahara Group has caused irreparable harm and shaken investor confidence.
- Ashu Suyash appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CRISIL. She will succeed Roopa Kudva and will take charge from June 2015. Rupa Kudva was the MD and CEO of CRISIL from 2007 to September 2014. She had joined CRISIL in 1992.
- Haryana Assembly passed Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Bill, 2015. It prohibits the slaughter of cow and its progeny and imposes punishment of up to 10 years with a fine ranging from 30000 rupees to one lakh rupees for any violation.

March 18th

- HDFC Bank launched mobile app Chillr to instantly transfer money to any person in India. Chillr is a first-of-its kind application that is linked directly to customers' bank accounts and is exclusively for customers of HDFC Bank
- India to host seventh Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016. This will be the first AMCDRR to be hosted by India in the post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, though India had hosted the Second AMCDRR in 2007.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mauritius. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit joined the National Day celebrations in Mauritius as the guest of honour and also visited the Ganga Talao in Mauritius.
- Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan. The conference was hosted by the Government of Japan in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), as secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.
- Tripura Biodiversity Board launched a project to link conservation to economic concerns. The project aims to strengthen the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004.
- Union Government appointed VK Mathur, Girija Shankar as Chairmen of Allahabad, Chennai bench of DRAT. VK Mathur was appointed as the Chairman of Allahabad bench of DRAT while Girija Shankar was appointed as Chairman of Chennai bench of DRAT.
- China-backed AIIB to be joined by France, Germany, Italy. France, Germany and Italy have followed the UK in joining the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Seychelles. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Plaque and Operationalisation of Radar for the CSRS India-Seychelles Cooperation Project in Seychelles.
- Anil Kakodkar resigned from the post of Chairman of Board of Governors of IIT Bombay. Prior to his appointment as the Chairman of the IIT Bombay's Board of Governor in 2006, he served as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from 2000 – 2009. From 1996 – 2000 he served as the Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay.
- Tropical grass Darbha identified as an eco-friendly food preservative by SASTRA University. The finding evolved from the study conducted on the grass Darbha which was jointly undertaken by the Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB) and the Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM) of the SASTRA University under the supervision of Dr. P Meera and Dr. P Brindha respectively.

- Lewis Hamilton of Britain won Australian Grand Prix of Formula One. This was the 34th overall Grand Prix win for Hamilton and first Australian Grand Prix win for since 2008.
- BJP MLA Kavinder Gupta elected as Speaker of 12th Legislative Assembly of J&Gupta is a BJP MLA from Gandhinagar constituency of Jammu region and he replaces the Pro-tem Speaker Muhammad Shafi of the regional National Conference.
- Rajya Sabha passed Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015 by voice vote. The bill is seeking to increase foreign investment limit in local insurers to 49 percent from 26 percent and will replace the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014.
- Union Cabinet approved the Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Bill, 2015. Concealment of income and assets and evasion of tax in relation to foreign assets will be prosecutable with punishment of rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years. Also, such offences have been made non-compoundable.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sri Lanka. This was the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Sri Lanka since 1987. He also became the first Indian Prime Minister to make journey to Jaffna and Talaimannar region of Sri Lanka.
- Union Environment Ministry revoked suspension of Goa mines. This revocation paved a way for resumption of iron ore extraction in 72 mines of total 89 in the state. The remaining mining areas are located within the one-kilometre radius of wildlife sanctuaries.

19th March

- Eco-restoration project for Kinnerasani Sanctuary in Telangana announced. The project will be implemented in 716 hectares of land under the Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary limits in Kothagudem Mandal with an estimated cost of 60 lakh rupees.
- Maharashtra Government announced to rename Girgaum Chowpatty as Swaraj Bhoomi. Girgaum Chowpatty is the oldest and most famous beach of Mumbai, Maharashtra. It remains one of the best spots from which to see the sunset in Mumbai.
- Air Marshal Sohail Aman appointed as Chief of Pakistan Air Force. His appointment was approved by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and he will take the charge immediately from incumbent Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt.
- NGT directed Indian Railways to impose a fine of 5000 rupees for littering on railway property. The order was given with an aim to implement the genesis of Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan and was passed by a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar.

- Air-to-Air missile Astra successfully test fired from ITR Chandipur in Odisha. Indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile, Astra, was successfully test fired from a Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft on 18 MARCH2015.
- Lok Sabha passed the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The Bill seeks to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, which established central and state warehousing corporations for the purpose of warehousing agricultural produce and other commodities.
- Lok Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 with a voice vote on 18 MARCH2015 which repeals 35 outdated laws either partially or completely.
- Lupin to acquire additional 40 percent stake in S Africa's Pharma Dynamics. With this acquisition, Lupin has 100 per cent stake in the company. Pharma Dynamics will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lupin.
- Sri Lankan duo Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara retired from ODI cricket. The duo veteran cricketers of Sri Lankan cricket team announced retirement from ODI format of game after their team lost World Cup quarter-final to South Africa in Sydney.
- Haryana Government decided to issue UIDAI-like numbers for cows. The scheme will establish identity of cows, their security and provide them benefits of health schemes.

20th March

- NYU announced Prison Education Programme to Educate US Prisoners. The programme offers credit-bearing, university courses that will enable students to earn an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from the university.
- Union Ministry of Environment to launch National Air Quality Index in April 2015. The National Air Quality Index is a simple, composite, and easy to understand measure of air quality.
- Cher Wang Co-founder of HTC Corporation takes over as CEO. Peter Chou will remain at HTC and will start a new role as the head of the HTC Future Development Lab, a new division of the company responsible for coming up with new products.
- Indian Parliamentary Diplomacy- Speaker's Perspective written by Meira Kumar released. The book contains number of lessons from the observations of former Speaker Meira Kumar.

- CII signed agreement with NUS to improve India's rating on ease of doing business. The MoU aimed to enhance the ease of doing business and bring the rating of India amongst the top 50 countries from the present 142nd slot as per World Bank Report.
- Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser died. He was the 22nd Prime Minister of Australia and the Leader of the Liberal Party from 1975 to 1983.
- Dehradun-Varanasi Janta Express derailed near Rae Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. Two coaches of the Dehradun-Varanasi Janta Express derailed at Bachhrawan railway station near Raebareilly district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni became first Indian Captain to register 100 ODI wins. Dhoni achieved 100 wins in 178th ODI and joined the Australian pair of Ricky Ponting (165 wins) and Allan Border (107 wins).
- Snapdeal acquired logistics firm GoJavas to strengthen its delivery operations. Snapdeal has been scouting for acquisitions in mobile technology and supply chain space. Snapdeal counts global eCommerce giant eBay, Temasek, Myriad, Tybourne, Blackrock Inc and Premji Invest among its investors.
- Ramachandran appointed as vice-chair of International Relations Commission of ANOC. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president N Ramachandran was appointed vice-chair of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) international relations commission.
- Hyderabad International Airport handled record 10 million passengers in 2014-15. The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad clocked 10 million passengers in the financial year 2014-15. It also registered highest growth in passenger traffic and cargo volume among all the international airports in the country.
- Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan named as President of Britain's Royal Society. Ramakrishnan shared the 2009 chemistry Nobel Prize for discovering the precise structure of ribosomes - the molecular machines that manufacture proteins inside all living cells - with Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath.
- Indian Railways roped in Ratan Tata to lead Kaya Kalp council. Innovation council Kaya Kalp is formed to suggest innovative ways to transform the Indian Railways.

21st March

- The first international conference on counter-terrorism was held in Jaipur for three days from MARCH19 2015 to MARCH21 2015 to discuss emerging policy and

technological issues related to counter-terrorism activities. The central theme of the Conference is Integrated Approach to Counter-Terrorism.

- Lata Mangeshkar won the Laadli Voice of the Century award. Legendary Singer Lata Mangeshkar dedicated the award to the women in the country, and said she would like to be called Lata Laadli, just as she is called Lata didi.
- Delhi High Court restrained Glenmark from manufacturing its anti-diabetes drugs Zita and Zita-Met. A bench of justices S Ravindra Bhat and Najmi Waziri said company has prima facie infringed the patent of the US drug major Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD).
- Martin Guptill scored the highest-ever score of 237 in Cricket World Cup history. Martin Guptill scored second double century of the World Cup. The first World Cup double century was scored by Chris Gayle, which is also the fastest ODI double century in history of ODI cricket.
- Marathi Folk legend Shahir Krishnarao Sable died. Shahir Sable was an accomplished singer, writer, playwright, performer, Loknatya (Folk Theater) producer-director.
- International Day of Forests observed with the theme Forests and Climate Change. The theme for the 2015 International Forestry Day is Forests and Climate Change which highlights forest-based solutions to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, and more broadly forests and sustainable development.
- Pakistani cricketers Misbah-ul-Haq, Shaib Afridi retired from ODI cricket. They retired after the World Cup quarter-final match against Australia played at Adelaide, Australia. In the quarter-final, they lost to Australia by six-wickets.
- Union Cabinet approved Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to impart skill training to youth. The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on 19 MARCH 2015 with an objective to provide skill training to youth.
- Union Cabinet approved 33% women reservation in police forces of all Union Territories. The reservation would apply to all existing vacancies in police forces of the UTs and any vacancy arising later and also covers reserved categories like SCs, STs and OBCs.
- Amitabh Bachchan roped in as Brand Ambassador for Campaign against Hepatitis B. The campaign against Hepatitis B is a part of the Union Government's ambitious child immunization programme named Mission Indradhanush, against seven vaccine-preventable diseases.

- World Sparrow Day observed with the theme I Love Sparrows. The day is observed to raise awareness of the house sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.

22nd March

- Renault Nissan Automotive India appointed Colin Macdonald as Managing Director. He will be responsible for the operations of the Renault-Nissan Alliance factory at Oragadam, near Chennai.
- Conference on Counter-Terrorism deliberated on CBRN Terrorism. The conference discussed policy and technological strategies to curb CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Terrorism
- National Action Plan for Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities was launched in New Delhi on 21 MARCH 2015 to enable persons with disabilities to get employment, access markets for their products and learn cutting-edge skills.

23rd March

- Former Army Chief Sarath Fonseka became first Field Marshal of Sri Lanka. Under his leadership, the 26-year Sri Lankan Civil War came to an end in 2009 in which the rebels Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were defeated by the Sri Lankan army.
- SEBI Board approved SEBI (International Financial Services Centres) Guidelines, 2015. The guidelines for IFSCs aim to provide an enabling environment for setting up of capital market infrastructure like stock exchanges, clearing houses, depository services, etc., in such centres
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the women doubles title of BNP Paribas Tennis Open. Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis, the Indo-Swiss women pair of Tennis defeated the Russian pair of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina 6-3, 6-4 in the final played at Indian Wells, USA.
- World Meteorological Day 2015 observed with the theme Climate Knowledge for Climate Action. The theme of the WMD highlights the growing necessity to disseminate knowledge related to Climate Change and actions to be taken to contain it.
- World Water Day 2015 observed with the theme Water and Sustainable Development. The theme for the World Water Day (WWD) 2015 talks about how water links to all areas we need to consider creating the future we want.

- SEBI Board approved SEBI (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities by Municipality) Regulations, 2015. The regulations will enable the resources starved municipalities across the country to mobilise financial resources from capital market.
- Rajendra Singh, the Water Man of India, named as the 2015 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Patron of the Stockholm Water Prize, will present the prize to Rajendra Singh at a Royal Award Ceremony during World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2015.
- Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of Singapore died. Lee was respected as the architect of Singapore's prosperity who stepped down as Prime Minister of Singapore in 1990 by handing over the power to Goh Chok Ting.
- Novak Djokovic won Indian Wells Open Tennis Men's Singles title. In Men's Singles title, Serbian Novak Djokovic defeated the Swiss player Roger Federer 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2. While, Simona Halep of Romania defeated former Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 to win the Women's Singles title.

24th March

- Indian Railways launched RuPay pre-paid debit cards. The RuPay pre-paid card was launched by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the Railways' tourism and catering arm, in collaboration with the Union Bank of India.
- Union Ministry of Health and Welfare launched Media Campaign for Mission Indradhanush. The campaign was launched for creating awareness regarding the importance to fully immunize every child against all vaccine preventable diseases in the country.
- Madhav Gadgil and Dr. Jane Lubchenco won Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement 2015. They were named for the award for their leadership and engagement in the development of conservation and sustainability policies in the United States, India and internationally.
- Union Cabinet approved the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015. The bill is intended to repeal 758 Appropriation Acts passed by the parliament between 1950 and 2012.
- World Tuberculosis Day 2015 observed globally. The World TB Day is annually celebrated on 24 MARCH to commemorate the day on which Dr. Robert Koch discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus in 1882.

- Supreme Court declared Section 66A of Information Technology Act, 2000 as unconstitutional. The Supreme Court stated in its order that the section is in contravention to the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression provided under the Article 19(1) of the constitution.
- President's award for Sanskrit, Pali/Prakrit, Arabic and Persian language conferred. The scheme for award of Certificates of Honour was introduced in the year 1958 to honour the scholars of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian Languages. The scheme was extended to cover Pali/ Prakrit in 1996.
- PM announced to set up Shaheed Bhagat Singh PG Institute for Horticulture Research & Education. Hussainiwala is a village in Firozpur district in Punjab, India, where Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were cremated on 23 MARCH 1931 and it is at this place National Martyrs Memorial stands.
- Maharashtra Government announced to make Sale of Gutka a non-bailable offence. The accused will be booked under Section 328 of the IPC, which is non-bailable and could lead to imprisonment for a term which may extend up to 10 years with fine.
- Indian-American Renu Khator elected as Chairperson of Board of Director of ACE. She was elected as the Chairperson of the ACE's Board during the ACE's 97th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. She succeeded James H. Mullen Jr and she will serve for a period of one year.
- Shashi Kapoor selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2014. He also appeared in notable British and American films like The Householder, Shakespeare Wallah, Bombay Talkie, Heat and Dust, Siddhartha and Muhafiz.

25th March

- Vikramjit Singh Oberoi appointed as Managing Director of EIH Limited. Currently, Vikram Oberoi is a Joint MD and Chief Operating Officer (COO). He joined EIH's board first as a non-executive director in December 1993 and became an Executive Director in July 2004.
- Union Government sanctioned 2000 crore rupees under NDRF for drought-hit districts of Maharashtra. The 2000 crore rupees will be spent to meet the expenses of emergency response, relief and rehabilitation measures in the drought affected areas of the state.
- Indian Navy commissioned three Immediate Support Vessels (ISVs) in Vishakhapatnam. These ISVs will be operated from Vishakhapatnam and will augment

the Navy's capabilities to protect the porous maritime borders and offshore assets like petroleum and natural gas production sites.

- Google Inc appointed Ruth Porat as Chief Financial Officer. She succeeded Patrick Pichette who announced his retirement on 10 MARCH 2015. Currently, she is working as Chief Financial Officer at Morgan Stanley.
- Dolly Shivani Cherukuri became the youngest Archer to enter India Book of Records. Dolly Shivani Cherukuri became the youngest Indian to score 388 points over five and seven-metre distances in the recurve segment.
- Indian-American author Akhil Sharma won The Folio Prize 2015 for novel Family Life. He was presented with the winner trophy by Jean-Marc Rathe of The Folio Society and a cheque of 40000 pound at the awards ceremony held in London.
- Flight 4U 9525 of Germanwings Airbus A320 crashed in French Alps. At the time of crash, A320 Aircraft, flight 4U 9525, was flying from Barcelona to Dusseldorf. Authorities recovered the Black box of the Airbus 320 from the crash site.
- Artist Bharti Kher conferred with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters of France. She was awarded for her contribution in contemporary art landscape. Kher's artworks span several mediums like painting, sculpture and installation.
- China announced to shut down last coal-fired power plant in Beijing by 2016 to cut pollution. These four major coal-based power plants will be replaced by four gas-fired stations with capacity to supply 2.6 times more electricity than the coal plants.
- 18th Round of Talks between India and China on the Boundary Question held in New Delhi. The India was represented by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China was represented Yang Jiechi, State Councillor of China.
- Amitav Ghosh among the 10 finalists shortlisted for 2015 Man Booker International Prize. Kolkata born, Ghosh is the only Indian who was shortlisted in the final list of this prestigious award. In 2008, he narrowly missed out the Prize, when he was shortlisted for his work Sea of Poppies.
- Gujarat Philatelic Exhibition Gujpex-2015 inaugurated in Ahmedabad. The exhibition is organized by the Gujarat postal circle to show case collection of stamps on various themes and to promote the hobby of philately.
- US agreed to keep 9800 troops in Afghanistan through the end of 2015. The decision on the change of plan was announced at a press conference in Washington between President Barack Obama and President Ashraf Ghani.

- Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries sanctioned 17 Mega Food Parks. So far 42 Mega Food Parks (MFPs) have been sanctioned that includes newly sanctioned 17 MFPs and already operational 25 MFPs. These parks are aimed at creating infrastructure facilities to reduce food wastage and create value addition.
- Scientists at ANU found the world's largest asteroid impact zone in Warburton basin, Australia. The study claims that the 400-kilometer (250-mile) wide area is buried deep in the earth's crust and consists of two separate impact scars.
- Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud Party won the Israel Elections 2015. In the elections the incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's party secured 29 seats. It was followed by center-left Zionist Union party of Isaac Herzog which secured 24 seats and Joint Arab List or Hadash party came at third place
- Twitter Samvad launched for direct communication between Government and Citizens. Through Twitter Samvad, the government bodies can have a direct communication with citizens on a daily basis via Tweets and SMS on their mobile devices.
- 62nd National Film Awards announced. The Hindi film Haider starring Shaheed Kapoor won five awards and the film Queen won two awards which included Best Actress Award for Kangana Ranaut.

26th March

- Delhi HC became the first court in India to set up commercial courts for speedy disposal of cases. Chief Justice of Delhi HC G Rohini designated four benches to act as commercial courts.
- KM Mani appointed as chairman of the Empowered Committee of State FM'S on GST. The Union Finance Ministry approved his appointment on 24 MARCH 2015. The post is vacant since former Jammu and Kashmir finance minister quit the position in December 2014.
- Novel titled Family Life written by Akhil Sharma won the Folio Prize 2015. The book tells the story of Ajay Mishra who moves from Delhi to the United States as a child in the late 1970s.
- Ministry of Railways constituted Ajay Shankar Committee to review PPP Cell functioning. The Committee will recommend measures to make the cell more effective, customer friendly and result oriented.

- Dalal Street Investment Journal presented the 6th PSU Awards. Dalal Street Investment Journal (DSIJ) presented the awards to fifteen PSUs under various categories in recognition of performance excellence and their contribution to the economy.
- Renowned Hindi poet Gopaldas Neeraj won the Rashtriya Kavi Pradeep Samman for the year 2012-13. 90-year-old poet Neeraj won the award for his immense contribution in the field of literature.
- India's first Polar Remotely Operated Vehicle operationalised in North Antarctica. PROVe has been deployed in Priyadarshini Lake located on the Schirmacher Oasis, which is a major source of water for Maitri, India's second base in the Antarctica.
- Vice president released book title Faces and Places written by Prof. Deepak Nayyar. The book brings together a selection of the author's photographs that have been taken over the past four decades.
- Saudi Arabia launched military operation against Houthi rebels in Yemen. The coalition of 10 countries, including the Gulf Cooperation Council has launched the strike and currently, the action is confined to airstrikes on various targets around Yemen, but the other military assets were being mobilised.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the National Super Computing Mission. The mission aims to develop High Performance Computing (HPC) facilities indigenously and setting up a supercomputing grid connecting academic and Research and Development institutions across the country.
- Cipla launched generic of drug Sofosbuvir under the brand name Hepcvir for treating Hepatitis C. The drug will be available in Indian market till the end of MARCH2015.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PRAGATI platform for redressal of grievances. PRAGATI is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform aimed at addressing grievances of common man. It aims at simultaneously monitor and review Union Government programmes and projects as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- NASA's Curiosity rover discovered biologically useful Nitrogen on Mars. The discovery adds to the evidence that suggests ancient Mars was habitable for life. The findings were made by a team of NASA scientists using the SAM instrument suited on the rover.
- India and Qatar inked six agreements to increase commercial and economic exchanges. India and Qatar signed an agreement on transfer of sentenced persons, allowing Indian

convicts in Qatar to complete their remaining sentence in India and Qatar convicts in India to complete remaining sentence in Qatar.

27th March

- Fortune released the list of 2015 roster of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. The list included Prime Minister of India at 5th rank and Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi at the 28th rank.
- President presented Bharat Ratna award to Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The award giving ceremony is usually held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, but an exception was made keeping in mind the poor health of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Delhi Government launched India's first e-ration card Service. In this service, E-ration card will be linked with Aadhaar cards and it would enable the beneficiaries of Public Distribution System (PDS) to get the cards online from the government's web portal without hassles.
- ISRO won Gandhi Peace Prize 2014. The Indian space agency successfully launched Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and at a very cost effective price of 450 crore rupees.
- Nobel Laureate John Nash won Abel Prize 2015 for work on partial differential equations. He will share the Prize with Louis Nirenberg, Professor Emeritus at New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. They both will share the prize money of 760000 US dollar.
- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade observed. Women and slavery was chosen as the theme for the year 2015 in a tribute to the many women who suffered and died during the slave trade.
- ADB sanctioned 300 million US dollars under SCRIP for road construction in NBNE region. The SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program aims to achieve regional integration among the members of the SASEC group by improving regional connectivity within the North Bengal-North Eastern Region in India.
- UN unveiled Arc of Return for victims of transatlantic slave trade. The arc was unveiled at the UN headquarters in New York by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

28th March

- Railway Minister flagged off first goods train from Lumding to Silchar in Assam. Lumding is a town and a municipal board in Nagaon district in Assam, while, Silchar is the headquarters of Cachar district of Assam.
- TC Goyal to retire from the post of Managing Director of DLF Limited. He had joined the company in 1981 and was elevated to the position of managing director in 1998. Goyal successfully steered the company in various phases of its growth and expansion.
- Union Government announced 430 crore rupees project for production of Geo-textile in NE region. The Geo-textile is very helpful in protecting the infrastructure like roads, especially in the regions like the North East which receive excessive rain.
- ADB released Asian Development Outlook 2015. Asian Development Outlook of ADB also projected that India's growth rate will surpass China in FY2015 and FY2016. In FY2015 India is expected to grow at the rate of 7.8 percent and 8.2 percent in FY 2016.
- Supreme Court stayed AFT's decision to quash Army's 2009 Promotion Policy. A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice TS Thakur stayed the operation of the 2 MARCH2015 decision of the AFT that quashed its 2009 promotion policy titled Command Exit Model, calling it discriminatory.
- RBI signed Currency Swap Agreement with Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The Reserve Bank of India on 25 MARCH2015 signed a 400 million US Dollars currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The agreement is valid for a period of three years from the date of signing.
- Union Government sanctioned 250 crore rupees to Andhra Pradesh to set up Polavaram SPV. The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be the implementing agency of the Polavaram Multi-Purpose Irrigation project which was accorded national status by the Union Government in 2014.
- India and ADB signed 300 million US dollar loan agreement to improve connectivity in NE Region. The agreement was signed in New Delhi and the funds will be utilized to improve road connectivity in the North Bengal-North Eastern Region.
- CNN IBN announced Indian of the Year Award 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi won the Indian of the Year Award 2014 while Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley won the award in Politics category and N Chandrasekaran, CEO, Tata Consultancy Services, won the award in Business category.

- Union Ministry of Coal launched Electronic Coal Projects Monitoring Portal (e-CPMP). It is an institutional mechanism to automate the entire tracking of issues related to stalled projects from submission of a new project to commissioning on time.
- Book titled Food for All written by Uma Lele. The book surveys the food and agricultural development assistance delivered by five major international organizations since their establishment to gauges their relevance, effectiveness, and impacts in a dramatically changed world.
- Land customs station inaugurated at Zokhawthar in Mizoram along the Indo-Myanmar border. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a land customs station at the Indo-Myanmar border trade centre at Zokhawthar in Champhai district of Mizoram.
- Vikas Swarup appointed as MEA spokesman. Swarup will replace incumbent Syed Akbaruddin and will take the charge on 18 April 2015, a day after the return of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his tour to France, Germany and Canada.

29th March

- Hockey India conferred inaugural Hockey India Annual Awards. The awards of over 2.80 Crore rupees were presented in a ceremony at New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Katsushi Inoue appointed as President and CEO of Honda Cars India. Currently, he is working as General Manager in Marketing Planning office in Japan. He has been associated with Honda Motor Co for over 29 years.
- Balbir Singh Senior conferred with Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award of Hockey India. Balbir Singh Senior was a member of three Olympic gold medal winning Indian team, viz., London Olympics (1948), Helsinki Olympics (1952) and Melbourne Olympics (1956).
- Japan organised World's first Otaku Expo. The Expo was organized as a part of a special comic book fair held every five years, which attracts about half a million visitors.
- ISRO successfully launched IRNSS 1-D Navigational Satellite. The satellite is the fourth of the seven satellites constituting the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS). The satellite will provide navigation, tracking and mapping services.
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation approved the creation of Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. The fund is meant to extend financial assistance to government agencies

to procure perishable horticulture produce from farmers and provide them to consumers at affordable rates during price volatility.

- Former Union Minister and veteran Congress Party leader Paty Ripple Kyndiah died. He had served as the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) in 2004 under the UPA-I government led by Manmohan Singh.
- Earth Hour 2015 observed globally from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm local time. The tagline for the Earth Hour 2015 is Change Climate Change and it was observed across 172 nations and territories and around 1400+ iconic landmarks of the world switched off the lights.
- Madan Mohan Malaviya posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna. Pandit Malaviya was born on 25 December 1861 in Allahabad. He studied in Calcutta University and became a school teacher and later a lawyer and even a newspaper editor. He was the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Hindu Mahasabha.

30th March

- Michael Clarke retired from ODI cricket. Clarke, nicknamed Pup, played his debut ODI match on 19 January 2003 against England at Adelaide; while, he played his debut ODI match on 6 October 2004 against India at Bangalore.
- Aditi Arya won the fbb Femina Miss India 2015 title. She was crowned Miss India 2015 in the 52nd edition of the beauty contest held in Mumbai.
- Australia defeated New Zealand to win ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. James Faulkner was declared as the man of the match, while, Mitchell Starc was declared as man of the series. Grant Elliott became only the fifth man to register a half-century in the semi-final and final of the same World Cup.
- Union Cabinet gave approval for the concept and institutional framework of Sagarmala Project. Sagarmala Project's main objective is to promote port-led direct and indirect development and to provide infrastructure to transport goods to and from ports quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively.
- Saina, Srikant won India Open Super Series Badminton Women's & Men's Singles titles. In the title clash, Saina defeated Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand 21-16, 21-14. Srikanth defeated Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 18-21, 21-13, 21-12.

31st March

- WJP released Open Government Index 2015 Report. The Index used four dimensions to assess openness in government functioning. India is placed at the 37th position among 102 countries surveyed.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs proposed initiatives for women security under Nirbhaya Fund. The initiatives are setting up Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) and Investigative Units on Crime Against Women (IUCAW). The third initiative is intended to prevent and monitor obscene online content.
- God's Bankers authored by Gerald Posner released. Posner through this book has tried to present the secret side of the 200-year history of Vatican finances and the Vatican Bank, the Catholic Church's completely independent financial institution.
- Union Cabinet gave its approval for the Approach and Key Components of e-Kranti. The Mission of e-Kranti is to ensure a Government wide transformation by delivering all Government services electronically to citizens through integrated and interoperable systems via multiple modes.
- Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba took over charge as Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command from Vice Admiral SPS Cheema at the Naval base in Kochi.
- Daniel Vettori retired from all forms of International Cricket. Daniel Vettori is the eighth player in Test history to take 300 wickets and score 3000 runs. He is the youngest player to represent New Zealand in Test cricket, having made his debut in 1996–97 at the age of 18.
- Himachal Pradesh Government launched India's first e-Vidhan Mobile app. The e-Vidhan system will help the state to save 8 crore rupees per annum that is spent on the paper.