

CLATGyan Compendium – 1st June 2015 to 30th 2015

1st July

- President Pranab Mukherjee arrived in Sweden on the first leg of his five-day state visit to Sweden and Belarus, during which a number of key agreements on sustainable development, scientific research are likely to be signed. It is the first ever visit to Sweden by any Indian head of State. The President will meet Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, and the Leader of Opposition, Anna Kinberg Batra besides number of meetings with the King and the Queen.
- Sanjay Gupta took over as Chairman and Managing Director of Engineers India Ltd, the state-owned engineering and consultancy, procurement and construction (EPC) company in hydrocarbons and petrochemicals replacing A K Purwaha who superannuated recently.
- Arun Jaitley in his Budget had proposed to raise service tax from 12.36% (including education cess) to 14%. Jaitley had proposed to raise the service tax rate to 14% to facilitate a smooth transition to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which the government wants to roll out from April 2016. Some of the key services that will attract higher tax and hence become costlier are: railways, airlines, banking, insurance, advertising, architecture, construction, credit cards, event management and tour operators.
- K. Sivan, Distinguished Scientist, ISRO, assumed office as the 12th Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) taking over from M.S. Dathan who has retired from service. Dr. Sivan joined ISRO in 1982 in the PSLV project and has contributed towards mission planning, design, integration, and analysis. He also headed the Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) project.
- Former cricket greats Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, and VVS Laxman joined the BCCI in a newly-constituted advisory panel to guide the board in all matters related to the game. It is learnt that the board wants batsmen to specifically speak to Tendulkar before any tough international assignment. Ganguly might well be consulted for preparing a blueprint for success of the team overseas with Laxman working on the bench-strength and the new talent coming in through the system.

2nd June

- The Reserve Bank of India has reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 7.5% to 7.25% with immediate effect. The cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks remained unchanged at 4.0% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).

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- Bangladesh has honored former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for his outstanding support for the country's independence from Pakistan in 1971 when he was a Lok Sabha member. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also approved a proposal to honour the families of the members of Indian armed forces for sacrificing their lives for the cause of Bangladesh's independence.
- The Reserve Bank of India has marked down the projection for output growth for 2015-16 from 7.8% in April to 7.6%. The RBI stated that strong food policy and management would be important to help keep inflation and inflationary expectations contained over the near term.
- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has launched a BIS App to register complaints against sub-standard quality of ISI marked products and Hallmark jewellery. Operation of godowns under Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been made online to increase transparency in the functioning of the corporation.
- Ericsson has partnered with Sterlite for the smart city initiative. Under the agreement, Ericsson will collaborate with Sterlite to design a roadmap and deploy solutions. The alliance will design, deploy, integrate and manage solutions in areas like communications, public safety, smart grid solutions and intelligent transport. Sterlite is working closely with the Government to drive smart sustainable city initiatives and supports Digital India programme.
- Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was sworn-in as the 19th Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. He is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from 1968 batch. He is the former Chief Secretary of Assam and had retired from service in 2004. Mr. Rajkhowa has authored a book, Central Vigilance Mechanism with special reference to P.S.E's, and also had contributed by writing number of articles to leading newspapers.

3rd June

- The USA Senate passed the USA Freedom Act today by 67-32, marking the first time in over thirty years that both houses of Congress have approved a bill placing real restrictions and oversight on the National Security Agency's surveillance powers. The Bill ends a system exposed by former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden. The spy agency collected and searched records of phone calls looking for terrorism leads but was not allowed to listen to their content.
- Former security contractor Edward Snowden won a Norwegian prize for freedom of expression. The Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression said the 31-year old fugitive had won the Bjornson Prize named after a Norwegian Nobel literature laureate "for his work protecting privacy and for shining a critical light on US surveillance of its citizens and others." Snowden was awarded

Sweden's Right Livelihood Award in 2014 but chose to accept it by video link rather than leaving his exile in Russia.

- Irwin Rose, a biochemist who shared the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering a way that cells destroy unwanted proteins the basis for developing new therapies for diseases such as cervical cancer and cystic fibrosis has died at the age of 88 years. Rose, along with Israelis Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko, won the Nobel for discovering how plant and animal cells marked old and damaged proteins with a “kiss of death” molecule the polypeptide ubiquitin.
- Jaipur Metro, touted as one of the fastest built metro systems in the country has been thrown open to the public. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje flagged off the inaugural train on 9.6 km long route from Mansarovar to Chandpole. Jaipur Metro commenced its regular commercial operations from all its 9 stations-- Mansarovar, New Aatish Market, Vivek Vihar, Shyam Nagar, Ram Nagar, Civil Lines, Railway Station, Sindhi Camp and Chandpole.
- US Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter arrived in India. During his visit, he will hold meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The two countries will be signing the Defence Framework Agreement (DFA) that will define the US-India defence cooperation over the next decade. The two sides will also assess the progress made in the following pathfinder projects— next generation Raven Minis UAVs, roll-on roll-off kits for C-130s, mobile electric hybrid power source and Uniform Integrated Protection Ensemble Increment.

4th June

- The Loan and Project Agreements for World Bank (IBRD) has entered into an agreement for assistance of US\$ 400 million for Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project were signed between the Government of India/ Government of Tamil Nadu and World Bank. The objective of the project is to improve urban services in participating Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in a financially sustainable manner and to pilot improved urban management practices in selected cities.
- India and the US signed a new strategically important 10-year defence framework pact envisaging joint development and manufacture of defence equipment and technology including jet engines, aircraft carrier design and construction. Both the sides have also finalised two project agreements for hi-tech mobile power source and next generation protective suits for chemical and biological warfare.
- The government has appointed the former Intelligence Bureau Chief Asif Ibrahim to a key post in the Prime Minister’s office. Mr. Ibrahim, who retired in December 2014, will be the PM’s ‘Special Envoy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism,’ with a charter to liaise with governments in West Asia, Af-

Pak and South East Asia. He started work on the government's new counter radicalisation strategy in 2014, which was triggered by the Islamic State takeover of parts of Iraq and Syria.

- AB de Villiers won as many as five awards, including the South African Cricketer of the Year for a second consecutive time at a gala function, hosted by Cricket South Africa (CSA) in Johannesburg. The 27-year-old batsman was named the ODI Cricketer of the Year, Cricketers' Cricketer of the Year, SA Fan's Cricketer of the Year and also got the 'So Good Award' for scoring the fastest century in the history of ODI cricket against the West Indies in December 2014. Morne van Wyk won the T20 Cricketer of the Year, Dale Steyn received the Delivery of the Year and Rilee Rossouw was named the SA Newcomer of the Year.
- Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalithaa announced a financial aid of Rs 41 crore for farmers in the Cauvery delta region to improve the kuruvai cultivation (short-term cultivation) which includes financial assistance to farmers and free supply of micro nutrients. Farm machines will be leased out to farmers free of cost. The ground water level had gone up considerably due to good rain in the area and the scheme is seen as an attempt to make use of that fact.

5th June

- Infosys Limited has announced the appointment of R. Seshasayee as Non-Executive Chairman of the Board with immediate effect taking over from K.V. Kamath who will be stepping down from his position as Chairman of the Board and as an Independent Director of the Company. This takes place consequent to his nomination as President of the BRICS New Development Bank. Mr. Seshasayee's other board positions include Non-Executive Vice Chairman of Ashok Leyland Ltd. and Chairman of IndusInd Bank Ltd.
- Prince Harry has been knighted by his grandmother the Queen as a sign of her personal esteem. The fifth in line to the throne was made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The Order was founded in April 1896 by Queen Victoria as a way of rewarding personal service to her, on her own initiative rather than by ministerial recommendation and remains entirely within the Sovereign's personal gift.
- Essel Group formed a 50:50 joint venture (JV) with the Rajasthan government to set up solar parks in the state. The solar parks will be set up in Bikaner and Jaisalmer regions. The project is entitled to have a cost outlay of around 4,000 crores.
- A 'green' integrated business city pioneered by the Mahindra Group has drawn a road map of becoming climate positive in 10 years, a distinction which will place India on the world map. The Mahindra

World City Jaipur (MWCJ), spread across 3,000 acres on the Delhi-Mumbai corridor, has become the first project in Asia — and sixth in the world — to commit to a carbon-positive road map as part of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. It is projected to reduce 8 lakh tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in about 10 years to become climate-neutral.

- E-commerce giant Snapdeal and Tata Housing, which have partnered to sell homes online, have announced their largest transaction worth Rs. 1.1 crore hours after commencing the sale of premium and luxury apartments. The real estate category of Snapdeal has grown 400 per cent in the last six months and currently comprises a portfolio of residential projects from developers across India which includes Tata Value Homes, Tata Housing, DLF, Sobha Developers, Godrej Properties, Mantri Developers, and Purvankara.

6th June

- India and Bangladesh sealed a historic agreement that will settle a 41-year-old land boundary dispute through exchange of territories, removing a major irritant in bilateral ties. The exchange of documents paves way for the operationalization of the 1974 India-Bangladesh LBA that provides for exchange of 161 enclaves between the two countries. A total 111 border enclaves will be transferred to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 that will become part of India. Under the agreement, India will have an advantage of 500 acres and 10,000 acres will go to Bangladesh.
- South Korea has successfully test fired a ballistic missile; The Hyunmoo-2B is an upgraded version of the Hyunmoo-2A, capable of hitting targets anywhere in North Korea. The test demonstrated improved ballistic missile capability that can strike all parts of North Korea swiftly, and with precision, in the event of armed aggression or provocation.
- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his wife Bhuvaneswari performed bhoomi pooja at around 8.49 a.m. for the new capital — Amaravati — at Mandadam village in Guntur district. The ancient city of Amaravathi is being developed separately from the new capital zone as a heritage town with funds from the Centre.
- The government appointed S Christopher, 59, as Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development-cum-Director General, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) while G S Reddy, 51, has been appointed as scientific advisor to the Defence Minister. DRDO has been functioning without a full-time head since January 31, when Avinash Chander resigned.
- Reliance Power has signed an agreement to invest \$ 3 billion in setting up a mega power plant and a floating LNG import terminal in Bangladesh which faces acute power shortages. Reliance Power will

set up a 2 million tonnes a year floating LNG import terminal as well as 3,000 megawatt power plant in Bangladesh. The company will invest in an integrated facility comprising of 3,000 MW of LNG based combined cycle power plant and LNG Terminal with a Floating Storage and Re-gasification Unit (FSRU).

- BCCI has announced Rahul Dravid as the coach of India A team and Indian U 19 cricket team. Dravid had a short stint as mentor of the Indian team before the series in England last year and several players spoke highly of their interactions with the former India captain.

7th June

- Former Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, K.V. Chowdary has been appointed as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner, while the senior-most Information Commissioner, Vijai Sharma, is the new Chief Information Commissioner. A selection panel headed by the Prime Minister, which includes leader of the principal opposition party, and senior cabinet ministers selects the CVC, CIC, vigilance commissioners and information commissioners. The Central Vigilance Commission is headed by a CVC and comprises of two vigilance commissioners.
- Yes Bank's shareholders approved the re-appointment of Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO of the bank with a majority vote of 99.97%. Shareholders also re-appointed M R Srinivasan as non-executive non-independent director with a majority vote, who was previously the chairman of Yes Bank. Also, Diwan Arun Nanda and Ajay Vohra have been appointed as independent directors.
- Indian Oil Corp, nation's largest oil firm, plans to invest about Rs 15,000 crore in raising capacity at its Panipat refinery in Haryana by 34% to 20.2 million tonnes (MT) by 2020. Panipat Refinery was commissioned in 1998 with a capacity of six MT per annum. The refining capacity was doubled to 12 MT in 2006 and then raised by a further three MT to 15 MT in 2010. IOC owns and operates eight refineries and has only a few weeks back added ninth refinery at Paradip in Odisha.

8th June

- Tintu Luka bagged her maiden gold in a major international event by winning the women's 800m finals as India finished with five medals on the final day of competitions to sign off third in the 21st Asian Athletics Championships held in Wuhan, China. India secured a medal haul of 4 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze in the championships to finish third behind China (15, 13, 13) and Qatar (7, 2, 1). Japan (4, 3, 11) and Bahrain (3, 3, 2) finished fourth and fifth respectively.

- Deutsche Bank has appointed John Cryan as its new CEO after co-chief executives Anshu Jain and Juergen Fitschen resigned following criticism from investors. John Cryan, 54, has been on the bank's supervisory board since 2013 and was a former chief financial officer of UBS. Making Anshu Jain directly responsible for cutting Deutsche Bank's costs by 4.7 billion euros (\$5.2 billion), selling its Postbank retail business and paring back its investment bank put huge pressure on the former trader.
- IRCTC's has entered a tie-up with SpiceJet and Go Air which enables a train traveller whose ticket is wait-listed to cancel the train ticket and instead get on to a flight of either airline by paying some incremental fee. There are no fixed sectors to which the scheme applies, no fixed number of tickets either airline must make available to IRCTC and no fixed rates. SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh pointed out that this tie-up is promising for the airline and he expects "significant" passenger volumes to be generated through this scheme.
- Serena Williams emerged with a 20th grand slam title victory over the Czech Lucie Safarova. The American is now two short of Steffi Graf, the open era leader, and four off Margaret Court, the all-time leader
- Stan Wawrinka played magnificently in a victory at Roland Garros bringing an end to Novak Djokovic's 28-match winning streak as he claimed his second Grand Slam title. The victory makes him only the second Swiss to win at Roland Garros after Roger Federer, the man he beat in the quarter-finals.

9th June

- The country's low-cost Mangalyaan Mars orbiter mission which is in rendezvous with the Red Planet for an extended period has been presented with the Space Pioneer award for the year 2015 by the US' National Space Society. The ISRO spacecraft was launched on its nine-month-long odyssey on a homegrown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013 and had escaped the earth's gravitational field on December 1. The spacecraft is under 'solar conjunction' at Mars, which means the spacecraft, which is orbiting Mars, is behind the sun as viewed from the Earth.
- The sprawl of the National Capital Region (NCR) just got bigger as the nod has been given for the inclusion of Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh and the Jind and Karnal districts of Haryana as part of the conurbation. With the inclusion of Jind and Karnal in NCR, 57 per cent of the state's area had become part of the entity.
- Tackling pollution and oil spills in and around Mumbai will now become much easier, as Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the India's first of

its kind State-of-the-Art Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre for Mumbai & JNPT Harbour. The OSRC which is equipped with State-of-the-Art equipment in operational readiness for combating Tier-I oil spill upto 700 tones, ensures adequate protection to the public health and welfare and to the marine environment. The area of operation includes the water limits of the Mumbai Port Trust MbPT, JNPT and ONGC's facilities at Nhava and Uran.

- Senior IPS officer R C Tayal has been appointed as the new chief of the elite counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG). He is presently serving as the Special Director General in paramilitary CRPF and is heading its formation in Jammu and Kashmir. NSG was raised in 1984 as a federal contingency force with a specific aim to undertake counter-terror and counter-hijack operations and it was later tasked to protect high-risk VVIPs.
- Anantjeet Singh Naruka beat Lari Pesonen of Finland 12-11 in the skeet match for gold in the 7th International junior shotgun cup that concluded in Orimattila, Finland After having qualified at the bottom with a modest score of 110, Anantjeet kept getting better, as he wriggled his way through to the gold medal match by winning a three-way tie in the shoot-off to challenge the Finn.
- In a major policy shift, the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has decided to park 5 per cent of its funds in the equity market. Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said the decision was in line with the suggestions made by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that the EPFO invest up to 15 per cent of its funds in the equity market.
- ICICI Bank's board has approved the appointment of MK Sharma as non-executive chairman for a period of five years who will replace KV Kamath who would shortly step down from the board consequent to his nomination as the first president of the BRICS New Development Bank. Mr Sharma was formerly the vice chairman of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL).

10th June

- Delhi Jal Board vice chairman Kapil Mishra will succeed Jitender Tomar as Delhi's law minister. Mr Tomar had stepped down after being arrested over allegations that he had faked his law degree. Mr Mishra, the legislator from northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar, was placed in the crucial Jal Board to help realise the Aam Aadmi Party's election promise of providing cheap water to Delhiites.
- The government has approved interest-free loans for cash-strapped sugar mills to help them pay nearly 30 per cent of the record Rs 21,000 crore they owe to cane farmers, many of whom are struggling with huge debts as the first country-wide drought in six years looms. Sugar cane prices, meanwhile, have jumped over the years due to the populist policies of state governments to raise minimum support

prices for farmers. Mills in India, the world's biggest sugar producer after Brazil, have been lobbying the government for months seeking relief as prices of the sweetener have fallen below the cost of production due to ample supplies.

- Microsoft has kick-started rebranding of Nokia Priority Stores as Microsoft Priority Resellers with India becoming the first country among Microsoft's global markets to roll out the new look for its retail outlets. While existing Nokia stores would transform into Microsoft Priority Resellers, housing only Microsoft products, the multi-branded retail stores will be rechristened as Microsoft Mobile Resellers.
- After fighting tooth and nail with online retailers, the apex body of small traders, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), has decided to launch its own e-commerce portal in the next three months. Named 'e-Lala', the proposed portal will provide a direct interface between sellers and consumers and there will be no third agency which will be involved in any transaction, thereby eliminating the commission component which the sellers need to pay. BC Bhartia is the chairman of CAIT.
- Stepping up action against illicit fund-raising in a big way, SEBI has cracked down on nearly 200 such activities in last one year relating to fraud against gullible investors and recovered Rs. 25 crore. The Securities Laws Amendment Act, which was notified by the government in August 2014, empowers SEBI to pass orders for attachment of properties, arrest of defaulters and to access call data records.

11th June

- The Union Cabinet headed by the PM has approved the signing of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement. Based on the lines of SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA), the agreement seeks to regulate the vehicular traffic of passenger, personal and cargo amongst BBIN countries. BBIN agreement aims to promote safe, environmentally sound and economical efficient road transport in the sub-region of BBIN. It also seeks to help each member country to create an institutional mechanism for regional integration.
- Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar was appointed Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) a premier research institute of Union Government based in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was named appointed to the top post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is ex-officio Chairman of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) functioning under Union Ministry of Science and Technology. He has made significant contributions in diverse areas of organic chemistry with a special emphasis total synthesis of biologically active natural products, on chiral chemistry and pharmaceutical products.

- African countries have signed a historic Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) that facilitates creation of Africa's largest free-trade zone covering 26 countries in an area from southernmost tip of African continent i.e. Cape Town (South Africa) to Cairo (Egypt) in the north. The pact intends to ease the movement of goods across 26 member countries which represent more than half the continent's GDP. TFTA pact combines existing three trade blocs among the African nations viz Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).
- An Indian-origin US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has been presented with the Pride of the Community Award by a prominent Hindu advocacy group. He received the award by the Hindu American Foundation at its 12th Annual Day reception at Capitol Hill. HAF also awarded Anantanand Rambachan, Professor of Religion at St Olaf College, Dharma Seva award; Harpreet Singh Mokha of the Department of Justice, the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Pluralism; and Senator Mark Kirk and Rep Joe Crowley, HAF's Friend of the Community awards.
- Manu Prakash, who amazed the world last year by building a paper microscope, has now come up with a computer that works by moving water droplets. Prakash is an assistant professor of bioengineering at Stanford University and he has developed the water computer with the help of two of his students.
- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the only Indian sportsman in Forbes magazine's 100 highest-paid athletes in the world. Dhoni has been ranked 23rd on the Forbes list of The World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2015 dropping a notch from his ranking of 22 last year. His total earnings stood at \$31 million, including amount from salary/winnings at \$4 million and endorsements worth \$27 million.

12th June

- The second border haat (rural market) was opened for common people at Kamalagar in Sipahijala district of Tripura bordering Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh. This market is set up at the zero line of the international border with one part on the Indian side and the other in Bangladesh.

About the haat

Initially it will facilitate bilateral trade of 16 shortlisted locally produced goods. These goods include agricultural and horticultural crops, spices, minor forest products excluding timber, fish and dry fish, dairy and poultry products, cottage industry items, wooden furniture, handloom and handicraft items. People residing within a distance of 5 km from along the border are entitled to do business at the haat which will take place once in a week initially. No local taxes would be levied on the goods sold in

the haats and currencies of both the countries would prevail. The first border haat was inaugurated on Srinagar- Purba border area in January 2015 by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Nirmala along with her Bangladeshi counterpart 2015.

- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has announced that in past one decade renewable energy targets have quadruple globally. It was mentioned IRENA Renewable Energy Target Setting report which was released by IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin on the side lines of IRENA's 9th Council meeting in Dubai. IRENA is an intergovernmental organization to promote adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy. It is a global hub for renewable energy cooperation and information exchange within its member nations.

More on the report findings

As per report, 164 countries have adopted at least one type of renewable energy target compared to 43 countries in 2005. All nations are adopting renewable energy targets to meet multiple objectives including energy security, environmental sustainability and socio-economic benefits. The majority of 150 countries have focused committed renewable energy targets on the electricity sector. The numbers of countries setting renewable targets for the heating and cooling sector have increased to 47 from 2 countries in 2005.

- Reserve Bank of Indian has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to invest in chit fund to encourage flow of capital into the country. Decision in this regard was taken after RBI had revised the extant guidelines for subscription to the chit funds in consultation with the government. Henceforth, NRIs on non-repatriation basis will be allowed to invest in chit fund without any ceiling. However, the subscription to the chit funds by NRIs will be mandatorily brought in through normal banking channel, including through an account maintained with a bank in India. Earlier in May 2000, RBI had barred NRIs from investing in a company or firms engaged in the business of chit fund. Apart from this decision, RBI also extended the scheme allowing airline companies to raise external commercial borrowings (ECB) for working capital as a permissible end-use under the approval route. Now, the ECB scheme will continue till March 31, 2016.
- Legendary English actor, singer and writer Sir Christopher Lee passed away in London at the age of 93. The veteran actor was famously known as the master of horror for his famous villainy acting roles in numerous movies such as Dracula, The Wicker Man, James Bond, Lord of the Rings trilogy etc.

Film career

His on screen acting career began in 1947 after he had the Rank Organisation where he was trained as an actor. His career spanned more than 7 decades. His famous acting roles include Francisco

Scaramanga in *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974), Saruman in *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy (2001–2003), *The Hobbit* film trilogy (2012–2014), Count Dooku *Star Wars* trilogy (2002 and 2005) and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008). He also is known for his best performance portraying of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the biopic *Jinnah* (1998).

- Union Government has scrapped customs import duties for drugs and test kits used to treat Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). This decision will help to cut prices of AIDS drugs across the country and thus help directly in Government's national program to fight the disease. Apart from drugs certain diagnostic kits and equipment are also exempted from tax. In India more than 2.1 million HIV/AIDS patients are provided with daily antiretrovirals for free from state-run distribution centres which are operated by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).
- C. S. Verma had relinquished the charge as Chairman and Managing Director on completion of his tenure and Steel Secretary Rakesh Singh has assumed the charge till a regular incumbent is appointed for the state-owned SAIL steel giant. Mr. Verma was appointed CMD of the country's largest steel producer for a 5-year term in June 2010 by the previous UPA government, and was eligible for an extension till he attained the superannuation age of 60 years in September 2019. This makes him the first 'Maharatna' PSU head to be denied an extension during the current NDA regime.
- The US government has opened an investigation against two of the biggest Indian outsourcing companies, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys for possible violations of H1-B visa rules. The company had recently laid off more than 500 technology workers amid claims that many of those laid off were made to train their replacements who were immigrants on the temporary work visas brought in by the Indian firms. The move by the Labour Department comes days after the NYT had reported that hundreds of employees at entertainment giant Walt Disney were laid off and replaced with Indians holding H1-B visas.

13th June

- Dick Costolo resigned as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter Inc. after serving the company for five years. Twitter co-founder and Square Inc's CEO Jack Dorsey will take over as the Interim CEO of the company and will stay until a replacement is found. Costolo joined the company in 2009 as its Chief Operating Officer. In 2013, he helped the company to go public and recently he struggled to attract new users to the service.

- The Andhra Pradesh government has launched 'Mee Bhoomi', a digital depository of land records. The portal, <http://meebhoomi.ap.gov.in/>, makes all land details along with Adangal/Pahani and 1-B details, available to the people. It also lists details of land owners, area, assessment, water source, soil type, nature of possession of the land, liabilities, tenancy, and crops grown. One can also view individual/ village adangal and 1B details on the website. Making the portal mobile-friendly, the government has also launched an Android app.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of 50 lakh on Future Generali Life Insurance Company. The regulator, which had examined 34 charges on a variety of aspects related to business, said the company had violated many norms, including not settling 'huge' number of claims in respect of the group insurance schemes, continuation of corporate agency even after expiry of licence, use of unlicensed entities for procuring business and distribution of gift vouchers procured from Big Bazar, one of the group companies.
- China launched a freight train service between its northeastern city of Harbin and Europe, opening a new trade route to Europe covering a distance of nearly 10,000 kms. The train left Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province, carrying 49 containers of domestic goods such as electronic products and auto parts worth US\$ three million from northeast and north China as reported by a local news agency.
- Former West Indies fast bowler Wes Hall was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame to become the fourth cricketer to receive the honour this year after Betty Wilson, Anil Kumble and Martin Crowe. Hall is now the 18th cricketer from the Caribbean to be bestowed with the award.
- Haryana's Bibipur village, which wants 'The Women's World' added to its name, has come out with a unique idea to continue its efforts to create gender-neutral atmosphere in the state. The village panchayat has decided to organize a best selfie with daughters' contest to honour the winning family with a trophy, certificate and Rs 2,100 as cash prize. The contest rules ask for the pictures to be sent to the village sarpanch on Whatsapp within the given time period of the competition.

14th June

- Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V K Singh inaugurated first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University in Kunming, China. The Yoga College was established in lines with the MoU for establishing the Yoga College signed during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in May 2015. This college seeks to provide certification courses in the Indian spiritual art with them Indian teachers who are going to help in curriculum development and training.

- World Blood Donor Day was observed across the world on 14 June to raise the public awareness about the need for safe blood donation. The theme of this year's campaign is 'Thank you for saving my life'. This year's campaign encourages donors all over the world to donate blood voluntarily and regularly with the slogan Give freely, give often. Blood donation matters. The objective of celebrating the day is to spread awareness about the need for safe and secure blood supplies and provide an opportunity to draw public attention to the importance of blood donation for saving lives.
- As per report by British Petroleum (BP) Energy Company, United States (US) became the world's largest oil producer in 2014 surpassing Saudi Arabia with production of 11.6 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) i.e. 15.9% more oil in 2014. While, Saudi Arabia was placed second position as it had produced 11.5 million bpd in 2014. Russia was placed at third position with 10.8 million bpd oil production. US also has surpassed Russia as the world's largest producer of natural gas while China remained the world's largest growth market for energy in 2014
- Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has sacked Dr. Bimal K Roy as the Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). He was removed from the office on charges of indiscipline one-and-a-half months before the end of his term. He will be replaced by Professor Sanghmitra Bandyopadhyay as the Director of ISI. With this appointment she has become the first woman to lead the institute.
- Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) was set up in Chennai by the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Tamil Nadu state government. The MRC aims at providing migrants and overseas Indian workers with information, advice, counseling and guidance on all aspects of overseas employment. It is the fourth such MRC in India set up by MOIA. The first MRC was established in 2008 in Kochi, Kerala by MOIA. Later, fully functional MRCs in Hyderabad (Telengana & Andhra Pradesh), Gurgaon (Haryana) were established.
- The Bibek Debroy committee has suggested measures for restructuring the Railway Board and its departments so that policy making is separated from day-to-day operations. Some of the recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee include-
 - Establishment of an independent regulator Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) with a separate budget and to be independent of the Ministry.
 - Railway Budget should be phased out with gross budgetary support to Indian Railways.
 - No privatisation of Indian Railway but allowed participation of private sector in the railway projects.
 - State governments should be asked to entirely fund the Government Railway Police (GRP).

- The recommended changes should be implemented only by Union Railways ministry in the first five years including the resolution of the social cost issue.

15th June

- State-run BSNL has launched free roaming which allow all its mobile customers across the country to receive incoming calls at no cost. “Now BSNL mobile customers will not need to carry multiple SIMs and handsets during roaming. “In fact, it is like a dream of ‘One Nation One Number’ coming true,” BSNL CMD Anupam Shrivastava said in a statement.
- Shri Ameising Luikha took over as Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises in the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Prior to this he was working as Secretary, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
- Former Governor of Himachal Pradesh, ex-Union Minister and Congress leader Sheila Kaul died after a brief illness on 14 June 2015 at the age of 100 years. Kaul, sister-in-law of Jawaharlal Nehru, was oldest surviving former Parliamentarian. She was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for five times in 1971, 1980 and 1984 (from Lucknow) and in 1989, 1991 (from Rae Bareli).
- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has signed an MoU with India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) to speed up 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' agenda for electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) and IT. The aim is to create a common agenda that will guide the Government and industry to construct policies and an environment leading to the creation of ESDM and IT products, solutions and brands out of India. Under the MoU, both industry associations will bring key stakeholders and partners from industry, Government, academia and investment community closer and identify key areas of investment.
- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has launched the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP). The INIP has become the 27th such insurance pool in the world as countries such as France, Russia, South Africa and the U.S. have put in place such similar risk transfer mechanisms. It will cover the risks of liability of nuclear operators and suppliers under Section 6(2) and Section 17 of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages (CLND) Act, 2010 respectively.
- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Kalraj Mishra on 15 June 2015 launched a digital Employment Exchange for Industries (EEX) portal eex.dcmsme.gov.in which seeks to connect employers and job seekers. The portal will help in linking Make in India initiative with Skilled India one. The employers and job seekers can now register at www.eex.dcmsme.gov.in. Nearly, two lakh

job seekers have already registered themselves with the EEX. This online portal will enable industrial units in finding suitable manpower and will help job seekers in finding suitable jobs.

June 16th

- Sunil Chhetri becomes the first person to score 50 international goals for the Indian football team
- In basketball, The Golden State Warriors defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers to win the NBA Finals trophy, their first since 1975.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) suspended the recognition of the National People's Party (NPP). The Meghalaya State Party is headed by former Lok Sabha Speaker, P.A. Sangma.
- The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the Global Peace Index for 2015. Iceland was declared to be the most peaceful country and India was 143rd on the list.
- Hindi writers Babusha Kohli and Upasana were awarded the 10th Navlekhan Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for their works, the poem Prem Gilhari Dil Akhrot and novel Ek Zindagi Ek Ek Script Bhar respectively.
- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) constituted a five-member ad-hoc committee to manage the process of finding a group to organise and run boxing in India.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) plans to introduce mobile wallet (m-wallet) over the next two months with State Bank of India as its banking partner.
- An Egyptian court has sentenced former president Mohamed Morsi to life in prison on charges of spying for Palestinian group Hamas, Lebanese group Hezbollah, and Iran.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) have inked a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic for the economic benefit of the entire region.
- An augmented reality application named 'Saakar' was launched by the Union Government to showcase the achievements of the Department of Space.

June 17th

- Charles Correa, a famous contemporary architect, a Padma Shri and Padma Vibushan awardee and designer of various works worldwide passed away on June 16th.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the 'Narendra Modi Mobile App' to provide instant updates and a chance to receive direct communication from him

CLATGyan Compendium – June 2015

- The “Housing for All by 2022” Mission gets cabinet approval. Among other things, the mission focuses on slum rehabilitation, affordable housing and subsidies for beneficiary led individual housing construction
- Nine people died after a mass shooting at the Methodist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, sparking international outrage.
- Japan voted to lower the voting age for citizens from 20 to 18.
- State owned telecommunications entity Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced plans to set up 40,000 Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) hot spots across the country.
- Archana Ramasundaram was appointed the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- Kolkata based Bandhan Financial Services, received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India to start operations as a full-fledged bank, becoming the first new private sector lender in more than a decade.
- China and Australia signed the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) at Canberra in Australia.

June 18th

- A minimum of 38 people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram on two villages in Niger.
- Union Cabinet approved increasing India’s solar power capacity target under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) to 1 Lakh Mega Watt (MW) by 2022.
- In a recently released report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the Asia Pacific region overtook Europe as the second richest region in the world
- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on 18 June 2015 launched a weather alert service named NOWCAST
- India's junior boys and cadet girls won the team championship titles at the South Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships.
- According to the Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey, the Central Business District (CBD) in New Delhi was the fifth costliest office market in the world.
- Bharat Ratna recipient CNR Rao was conferred with Japan’s highest civilian award ('Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star') for promoting academic interchange and mutual understanding in science and technology between the two countries.
- India has been ranked third in Anti-Doping Rule Violations Report for the year 2013 released by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

June 19th

- China has produced the world's first electric passenger aircraft to gain an airworthiness certificate, named the “BX1E”.
- State Bank of India launched net based forex transactions platform 'eforex' that enables customers to obtain and book forex transactions and rates online.
- The country's second largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank launched a 10-second paperless instant loan plan for its existing customers.
- India and Tanzania signed six MoUs in the field of tourism, education and hydrography to deepen bilateral cooperation.
- ISRO announced that it would provide navigational support to Indian Railways through its GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system.

June 20th

- The Jharkhand Government banned sale of thermocol plates in a move aimed at promoting the use of leaf plates in the state.
- B Jayant Baliga, a US-based Indian-origin scientist, is being awarded Russia's top technology award in recognition of his work as a major development in energy management which brought about huge increase in efficiency and major savings.
- Historian-author Ramachandra Guha has been selected for Japan's prestigious Fukuoka Prize in the Academic category
- Cristiano Ronaldo, one of the great stars of football world has a Galaxy named after him (CR7), an honour bestowed by the European Southern Observatory (ESO).
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observed the World Refugee Day on June 20th. The theme for this year was “With courage let us all combine”
- Serbia were crowned the world Under-20 champions after beating Brazil in the finals.
- The Haryana government has launched a Village Mentoring Project (VMP) to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on the girl child.

June 21st

- Roger Federer wins the 2015 Gerry Weber Open tennis title in Halle, Germany.
- The first International Yoga Day was celebrated across the globe on the 21st of June. The National Yoga Day is celebrated on 3rd June 2015

- Carnatic vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyam has been awarded the Sangita Kalanidhi award for this year.
- Nico Rosberg wins the 2015 F1 Austrian Grand Prix, ahead of his teammate Lewis Hamilton.
- “Harmony of the Seas”, the world’s largest cruise ship made its maiden entry into water in France and is expected to take its maiden voyage shortly.
- NSE to begin overnight investment facility from 22 June 2015, enabling enable traders, especially small investors, to invest even for a single night in liquid funds.
- Jordan Speith wins his second major championship of the year by winning the 2015 U.S. Open (golf).
- India slips to the 61st place in the list of foreigners’ money that is stashed in Swiss banks.

June 22nd

- Union Ministry of Finance issued draft proposals for facilitating electronic transactions in the country.
- India on has decided to be a partner country in the major Industrial Fair named INNOPROM 2016 to be held at Yekaterinburg, Russia in July 2016.
- Three Indians won the inaugural Queen's Young Leaders Award in the UK for taking the lead in transforming the lives of others and making a lasting difference in their communities. These winners are Ashwini Angadi, Devika Malik and Akshay Jadhao.
- Telecommunications and Internet major SoftBank Corp, Bharti Enterprises Limited and Foxconn Technology Group formed a Joint Venture (JV) named SBG Cleantech Limited aimed at promoting the adoption of clean and safe energy in India.
- The European Union has extended economic sanctions against Russia by a minimum of 6 months.
- Maharashtra government declared Blue Mormon as the state butterfly, the first such announcement in the country.
- Sri Lanka, China began joint military training exercise code named 'Silk Route- 2015'.
- Taliban launched an attack on the Afghan parliament and suffered seven casualties after a two hour gunfight.
- Bangladesh registered a first ever bilateral ODI series win against India.
- After 53 years, Nathu La pass opened by China for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- Hundreds of Syrian refugees return from Turkey to the border town of Tell Abyad after the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant are expelled by Kurdish People's Protection Units.
- At least 20 people are killed after a suspected Boko Haram female suicide bomber attacks a fish market in Nigeria's north-eastern city of Maiduguri.

- Japan announces plans to resume whaling in the Antarctic during the summer period in the southern hemisphere.
- A United Nations report finds evidence that both Hamas and Israel had committed war crimes during the period of conflict last year.
- Kerala government declares June 22 as ‘Snake Bird Day’ to protect the species that is also known as the Indian darter.

June 23rd

- Typhoon Kujira makes landfall in the Hainan province of South China causing large scale evacuation and reinforcements
- In an attempt to help investors and companies in IPO’s SEBI announced various measures aimed at simplifying IPO norms.
- In similar news aimed at alleviating hassles for the public, the Income Tax department has notified the new set of Income Tax Return (ITR) forms that are shortened and simplified starting from the assessment year 2015-16.
- Sister Nirmala Joshi, who succeeded Mother Teresa as the head of the Missionaries of Charity passed away.
- Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar has been voted as the best test player of the 21st century, in a poll conducted by Cricketing Australia on their official website
- The Indian Railway Team won the World Railway Championship 2015 in Tennis and Volleyball.
- The Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti launched Bhuvan Ganga, a mobile application and a web portal to aid the National Mission for Clean Ganga

June 24th

- Steffi Graf was appointed the Ayurveda brand ambassador of Kerala by the Kerala government, a move aimed under the ‘Visit Kerala’ scheme to increase tourism
- Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has been conferred with Colombia’s highest civilian award, Orden de la Democracia Simon Bolivar en el grado de cruz Caballero.
- The Union Cabinet gives approval for setting up 6 new Indian Institutes of Managements (IIMs) in the country.
- The Union Cabinet on 24 June 2015 approved renaming of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) as Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).

CLATGyan Compendium – June 2015

- Zaheer Abbas was named as the President of International Cricket Council (ICC) during the ICC Annual Conference in Barbados.
- Rajasthan becomes the number one state in the country in terms of total installed capacity of solar energy, having around 1150 MW of installed capacity.
- Boston Marathon bombing accused Dzhokar Tsharnev is formally sentenced to death in a federal court.

June 25th

- India pledges an aid of USD 1 billion dollars as assistance for its massive reconstruction program from the ravaging earthquakes.
- Over 42 people are shot dead by two suspected Boko Haram gunmen, in two attacks on villages in Nigeria's Borno state.
- The government of South Korea announces that it would give all financial support necessary in the ongoing Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak.
- The death toll from the ongoing heat wave in Pakistan rises to over 1000 in the Sindh region
- India leads South Asia in inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during 2014, as per United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD's) World Investment Report 2015.
- The Supreme Court of the United States of America (SCOTUS) in King v. Burwell upholds key elements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) that was a matter of huge debate and was integral to Obama's legislative reforms.
- The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation approved a proposal for setting up a second international airport at Jewar in the National Capital Region.
- Union Government requested the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan to encourage supply of free milk in the Mid-Day Meal to school children.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three urban development schemes- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission and Housing for All (Urban) in New Delhi.
- State Bank of India appoints Anshula Kant as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the organisation.

June 26th

- President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Punyabhushan Award on Prataprao Pawar, Chairman of Sakal Media Group (SMG) in Pune.

- Sri Lankan President, Maithripala Sirisena dissolved the Parliament on 26 June 2015 in an effort to consolidate power and push through political reforms.
- India and United States have signed a series of agreements on health in order to enhance cooperation in the health sector.
- Union Government has exempted builders from obtaining prior green nod for construction of Universities, School, College and Hostel facilities.
- A minimum of 27 people were killed and around 227 injured in a suicide bombing at the Shia Imam Sadiq mosque in Kuwait, for which ISIL claims responsibility.
- The Islamic State kills 146 civilians in Kobani, the largest massacre since the incident to start the conflict.
- Two hotels in Sousse, Tunisia were under attack by an unknown number of assailants. Over 37 have been killed and another 36 injured
- In Obergefell v. Hodges, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court of the United States of America (SCOTUS) declares state bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional and effectively legalizes it across the United States
- Satnam Singh Bhamara became the first Indian to be drafted to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA)

June 27th

- Andhra Pradesh government forms the Krishi cabinet, a cabinet subcommittee to focus on challenges to make agriculture and its allied activities profitable and sustainable.
- Australia has decided to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as a founding member.
- India emerges as the most attractive destination for foreign investment among a list of 110 countries, the ranking for which was based on an index for baseline profitability
- The ICC has amended ODI rules to get rid of catchers within the first ten overs, removed the batting power play, among a host of other changes that come into effect on or after July 5.
- Veselin Topalov emerges the victor of the Norway Chess Tournament, after holding on to his half point lead over Vishwanathan Anand by playing a quick draw with him in the final rounds.
- Italy initiated International arbitration proceedings against India, after the failure of direct proceedings with the Indian Government over the issue of the killings by two Italian marines

- The 28th Moortidevi Award 2014 was awarded to the work “Vyomkesh Darvesh” written by noted Hindi writer Vishwanath Tripathi.

June 28th

- While expressing concerns over the declining sex ratio in India, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned and encouraged innovative campaigns such as the “Beti Bachao, Beti Pado” and the ‘Selfie with Daughter’ campaign to rectify the same.
- According to research published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Indian Railways and the Indian Army are the 8th and 9th largest employer in the world with 1.4 and 1.3 million employees respectively.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)’s indigenously designed and developed Light Combat Helicopter, the TD-3 attained a milestone by successfully completing the hot weather flight trials.
- A committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal has recommended that there be a ban on the use of fresh water from the Yamuna River so as to maintain the minimum environmental flow of the river.
- The Reserve Bank of India in its bi-annual Financial Stability Report reported caution to the surge in high frequency algorithmic trading.
- The Government of India plans to set up a Rs. 500 crore Venture Capital (VC) fund for encouraging the domestic pharma industry.
- Bahrain-based GFH Financial Group signed an agreement with Indian conglomerate Adani Group for developing a Mumbai Economic Development Zone (MEDZ).
- An unmanned American SpaceX rocket dubbed Falcon-9 broke apart in flames mere minutes after lifting off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- The World Resources Institute (WRI) estimates India to be the fourth largest carbon emitter in the world in terms of per capita emission. China is the first.

June 29th

- India and Thailand sign five Agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoU’s) during the 7th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission in Bangkok.
- The first phase of the Chennai Metro Rail service was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.

CLATGyan Compendium – June 2015

- Delegates of over 50 countries signed the 60-article agreement that lays down the legal framework for the formation of the China led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- Daily yoga has been made compulsory for the 10 lakh individuals that constitute the central paramilitary forces, per a directive by the Union Home Ministry.
- The Nadia district in West Bengal was won the UN Public Service Award 2015 for the category of eliminating open defecation in the district, and in doing so has become the first open defecation free district in India.
- Vijender Kumar signs an agreement that changes his status to a professional boxer and thus excludes him from participating for India for next year's Olympics or thereafter.
- A robot, though primarily out of human error, killed a man at a Volkswagen production plant in Baunatal, Germany, thus sparking huge debate over automation and the attached responsibilities.

June 30th

- Bharti Airtel is now the world's third largest mobile operator with over 300 million subscribers.
- A survey report published by the Beijing Times indicated that over 30 percent of the Great Wall of China has disappeared over time.
- Bangladesh and China sign a pact to build an underwater tunnel under the Karnaphuli River for an estimated cost of over USD 1 billion.
- A leap second is added to the clock for the first time in 3 years.
- Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta wins the Commonwealth Chess Championship 2015.
- Madhya Pradesh has launched a program for e-registration of property documents, named "Sampada"